You are invited to join us for the Sixth Annual *Soirée en blanc*, sponsored by the Toulon Committee of Norfolk Sister City Association. The event will be held Thursday, August 8, 2019, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, rain or shine, at a secret (and breathtaking) outdoor location in Norfolk. The venue will open and registration will begin at 5:30 pm. This year, we are replacing our raffle with a silent auction. Bring your cash, checkbook, credit card – we can handle it all!

Napery, tableware, candles, and guest attire should be white. We provide the tables, chairs, tablecloths, ambience and music. You may bring alcoholic beverages for your consumption and to share with your dining partners age 21 and above. Guests are required to clean their tables and put all trash in the receptacles provided at the venue. We recommend bringing flashlights for cleaning up after dark.

This year, our theme is Honoring French Film, and we encourage those who want to participate to decorate their tables based on a French film of their choice. Prizes will be given to the top three tablescapes determined by our judges.

Norfolk Sister City Association members are welcome to purchase a table of ten seats for $250 or single tickets for $25 each. The non-member rate is $300 for a table of ten seats or $30 for single tickets.

You are welcome to bring everything you need for an elegant dinner en plein air, or you can purchase a scrumptious boxed supper provided by Baker’s Crust.

For more information visit and to register visit:
A grand time was had by all!

Congratulations to this year’s winners:
Critics’ Choice was Omar’s Carriage House representing Toulon, France with Aligot, Duck Confit, Andouille. Best Interpretation and Peoples’ Choice was awarded to Cuisine & Company representing Norfolk County, UK with Shepherd’s Pie. Chefs’ Choice was presented to Nawab Indian Cuisine representing Kochi, India Peppercom Curryleaf Prawns with Lemon Rice Pulao & Chutney.

The judges were organized by David Nicholson and included Matthew Korfhage; Tammy Jaxheimer; Jim Deming; Dedra Blount and Kip Poole.

Thank you to our Table Sponsors:

Edmund J. Weisberg, D.D.S., Edward J. Weisberg D.D.S., A Division of ADC

Atlantic Orthodontics

Old Dominion University

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The Center for Arthritis, and Rheumatoid Diseases, PC

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And our committee!
Dr. Cassandra Newby-Alexander; Mina Barberis; Emily Baker; Bob Batchler; Allan Bull; John Dixon; The Honorable David Lannetti; Jennifer Priest; Patty Ritzi; Alexis Smith and Janis Weisberg
Norfolk Sister City Association has moved!

After 15 years sharing space with Visit Norfolk, we relocated to 800 East City Hall Ave – the former site of Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court. We are reached through the Norfolk Public Schools Administration Building. Our phone number 757-627-0530 and email address, staff@norfolksistercities.org remain unchanged.

We extend since thanks to:
City of Norfolk
General Services
Facilities Management
Seven Venues
Brooks Transfer & Storage
Sheraton Norfolk Waterside
Norfolk Sister City Association Celebrates the 3rd Annual Taste of NSU

For the third year, Norfolk Sister City Association had the honor of supporting one of our oldest partners in their annual food celebration. This year’s event took place on May 30. Kenny Bullock, Anupama Keats; Clarence Perry; Sarah Peoples Perry; Joyce Pierce and Jennifer Priest joined the celebration.
Welcome our new Board President
Gary Bonnewell

Gary Bonnewell is a Certified Financial Planner, with a Masters Degree in Financial Planning and a recipient of the Morgan Stanley coveted Family Wealth Director designation. Gary has over 35 years of practice at Morgan Stanley and manages the Newport News office. Involved in numerous non-profits, Gary has served as Board Chair for Virginia Wesleyan University, Norfolk Collegiate School, and Chairman of the International Azalea Festival. (now NATOFest) Gary has visited 16 countries with plans to visit many more. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication Studies from Virginia Wesleyan University and in 2016 VWU awarded Gary an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters. A former member of the NSCA Board from 2009-2014, Gary served on the Kochi, India Twinning Committee.

Check out this In Person interview carried in the Compass last month!

NSCA made the Audience for the June 5
*Hampton Roads Show*

Thank you to our friends at WAVY TV 10 for permitting to serve as the audience for the June 5 allowing us to promote our 2019 summer exchange programs.

Board President led the way with Board members and volunteers Alexis Smith; Mina Barberis; Jennifer Priest; Markus Wegener; Charlene Christopher; Meredith Hobson and past program participants Daisy Wegener and Spencer Chupik.
Welcome our New Summer Intern

Please join us in welcoming our summer intern, Grace Lindey. Grace is a raising senior at Boston University. She is earning a degree in international affairs and hopes to work for an NGO following graduation. Grace is a graduate of Catholic High School and resides with her family in the Larchmont section of Norfolk.
Our Kochi, India Committee provided the 6th grade students at the Academy of International Studies at Rosemont a special program on Kochi, India. The program highlight was the presentation on classical Indian Dance, Kathakali made by Mrs. Sasikala Devidas. Mrs. Sasikala is an internationally--experienced classical dancer from our sister city, Kochi, India. Kathakali synthesizes instrumental music, vocal performance, choreography and intricate hand and facial gestures to express ideas and emotions and convey a story. Kathakali is known for the elaborate make-up, costumes and facemasks worn by the actor-dancers. What a great way to spend the next to last day of the school year!

Following the school presentation, Norfolk Sister City Association co-hosted a lunch and learn with Asian Indians of Hampton Roads at Nawab. Mrs. Sasikala delivered a detailed demonstration to 20 enthralled guests.
Thank you to our new Board President, Gary Bonnewell and his wife Debbie for hosting a lovey summer gathering at their home on June 20. Attending were Board members and community partners. Despite the thunderstorms, a grand time was had by all!
Upcoming Events – Save the Date

Soirée en blanc – Thursday, August 8. 6:30 pm- 8:30 pm - Don’t risk another sell out. Get your tickets and meal orders today!

Annual International Luncheon, Sunday, October 6, 12:30 pm Norfolk Yacht & Country Club. Our guest speaker is Dr. Noelle Gabriel, Chair, Norfolk Public Schools, School Board. Bring your wallet for our much-loved silent auction. Proceeds from the auction support our education programs and exchange scholarships. Tickets go on sale July 29.

Welcome to our new and returning members!

Harry Acuna
John & Sarah Ford
Vivian Babcock
James & Jean Gulick
Raylene Baumgart
Connie & Bruce Johnson
Lynwood Beckner
Meghan Manning
Gary Bonnewell
LaKaye Mbah
Barbara Boslego
Betty Meyer
Gloria Brown
Colleen Murphy
Sandra Bryant

Colleen Murphy
Sandra Bryant
Ralph Nahra
Guia Caliwagan
Cassandra Newby-Alexander
John Camp
Tim Persons
Jaysun Cousins
Sonal Rastogi
Regina Davis
John Rovenolt
Nicole De Jesus
Randy Stoker
Nora Dorsey
Markus Wegener