

**VIVE LA FRANCE SPRING 2018**  
**LE TRICENTENAIRE de la NOUVELLE- ORLEANS**

February 20th - **French influence in New Orleans Cuisine-**  
Presentation & Cuisine by **Nora Wetzel**

The presentation will include a brief history of some of our beloved menu items and their origins. We will also enjoy a light repas, researched & prepared by our outstanding chef, Nora.

**\* February 27<sup>th</sup> - \* THIS NIGHT ONLY -- Our class begins at 5:30 PM \***

**La Musique de la Louisiane: Bruce “Sunpie” Barnes & Bruce Daigrepoint present two faces & two expressions of our rich musical heritage.**

Discussion & Performances by **Bruce “Sunpie” Barnes & Bruce Daigrepoint**

Zydeco and Cajun: both types of popular dance music associated with southern Louisiana and its French-speaking communities. Both claim a French heritage, but how can we distinguish and best appreciate these two unique musical traditions? Let's leave that up to these two master New Orleans musicians as they share their reflections and some of their music.

March 6<sup>th</sup> - **Baroness de Pontalba: The Creole Carmen**  
Presented by **Jean Xavier Brager**

When New Orleans born aristocrat Baroness de Pontalba married her French cousin in 1811, their union could have stood as one of the many symbols of Louisiana and France's intertwined destinies. Instead, it turned into a battle of the sexes so fierce and malicious that its violence left the baroness both emotionally and physically impaired. Yet, overcoming domestic abuse, psychological torture, and greed, Pontalba remained, against all odds, not only one of the most revered and productive citizens of the Crescent City, but the example par excellence of a woman's resilience in a male-dominated society. This lecture will explore Pontalba's life in France and the U.S. and focus on how financial independence and creativity allowed this 19<sup>th</sup> century feminist icon to break free of the stifling codes of the patriarchy.

March 13th - **Making Groceries: Markets and Market Folk in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century**  
Presented by **Sally Reeves**

The public markets of New Orleans were once synonymous with urban life. From colonial times forward, the city put major stock into its market system, which became big business for the economy. It was an incubator for many of the city's old French restaurants and functioned as a major employer and free market forum until well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

March 20th **No class this week**

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**March 27th -                    French Cultural Influence in New Orleans Cemeteries**  
Presented by **Emily Ford**

New Orleans cemeteries are considered paramount among French cultural artifacts in New Orleans landscapes – but how did they get here and why? How have they endured? This lecture will begin with New Orleans cemeteries under French colonialism and expand into the nineteenth century with French-born and French-extracted artisans and stonecutters. Focusing on craftwork that endures in cemeteries today (some of which was imported directly from France), this cultural influence expanded to influence the death practices of other nationalities in New Orleans. From immortelles and chrysanthemums to society tombs and the men who built them, the lecture will conclude with twentieth century cemetery landscape changes that in themselves became new iterations of French influence in New Orleans cemeteries.

**April 3rd -                    Influence of Early French Wine & Spirit Imports to New Orleans**  
Tasting & Presentation by **Philippe Goudail**

The manifests of ships importing wine & spirits to the New Orleans in the early 1800s are examined to note possible influences on customary New Orleans potables, customs & cuisine. The property of François Seignouret, newly acquired by the Historic New Orleans Collection, is the source of these manifests. M Seignouret was a wine importer, a renowned furniture maker, the owner of a vineyard in Bordeaux and a veteran of the Battle of New Orleans.