



Alliance Française  
de Seattle

**Annual Report**  
2010-2011

Thank you to our Annual Meeting sponsors:



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Apéritif de fin de Trimestre - Mars 2011



Cours Joie de Vivre - Avril 2011

## Board of Directors

*As of April 29, 2011*

Margaret Ganong, President

Marie-Pierre Salem, Secretary

Christine Denis, Treasurer

Florent Maillet

Charles Tompkins

Linda Youngs

Karl Woelfer

## Message from the President...

Dear Members,

Since I became President of the Alliance Board in June 2010, many exciting things have happened. Some of them have been unexpected. We had the pleasure of hosting an impromptu visit with Charlotte Gainsbourg, which gave many people the opportunity to discover the *Alliance Française de Seattle*. We put on a successful gala dinner and silent auction at Chateau Ste. Michelle in October and hosted a special evening at SAM to coincide with the Picasso exhibition.



Near the end of the year, our Executive Director left the organization and was immediately and ably replaced by our school director, Marie-Ange Wood. Many of you, members and students alike, already knew Marie-Ange as a gifted and dedicated teacher and as an inspiring and efficient manager of the school. As Executive Director, Marie-Ange has worked to forge closer ties with local francophone and francophile organizations, including area schools, and is currently working hard on the first-ever Seattle version of the Garden Party, a tradition in France that coincides with its *Fête Nationale, le 14 juillet* or Bastille Day.

Marie-Ange chose Mélanie Rozes, who was an Alliance teacher, to manage communications and events. Mélanie has already begun innovating our cultural offering, forming a French choir that meets weekly and will soon be ready to perform in public! The world has become a global village and, as the number of French nationals in the Pacific Northwest has grown exponentially, the role and leadership of the Alliance is expanding to reflect this deep change. Our developing cultural and linguistic offerings also reflect this change, and we are constantly looking for ways to satisfy the needs and aspirations of the francophone and francophile communities.

We have an extremely competent and dedicated team in place at the Alliance, whose goal is to serve your needs while also challenging your assumptions about France and expanding your access to the French culture and language. They are open to suggestions for activities and sources of improvement, in terms of both the curriculum and special events. This is your Alliance and we are counting on you to make sure it remains a vibrant and stimulating place.

The board has selected three potential new members, each of whom brings a unique and different perspective and skills to the Alliance. All three would be a welcome addition to an already strong board and we hope to be able to count on input from all three in the near future.

*Je suis très heureuse de faire partie de l'Alliance Française de Seattle, qui est l'exemple par excellence d'une ressource qui sert à protéger et à promouvoir la diversité culturelle, ainsi qu'un lieu de convergence privilégiée des francophones et francophiles de notre région. Vive l'Alliance Française de Seattle !*

Margaret Ganong

*Présidente du conseil d'administration de l'Alliance Française de Seattle*

## Message from the Executive Director...

Chers Membres,

Allow me to introduce myself. I have been working at the Alliance since 2008, first as a teacher, then from June 2010 as the Educational Director, and since December as the Executive Director. I am honored to be in charge of this non-profit organization which, under previous successful leadership, continuously increased its presence in the Puget Sound area.



The year 2010 saw another “rebondissement” at the Alliance with the appointment of a new Executive Director, and a new Cultural and Communications Manager, both committed to staying true to the values of the Alliance Française. The numbers of students and members increased steadily through the Fall '10 and Winter '11 quarters, with many Francophone families coming back to the Alliance. Our Bébés Club, which started in September 2010, has become a rendezvous for moms and babies, and our new weekly Club de Lecture class is reading its third book in French already!

At the start of 2011, we worked in partnership with the French American Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific North West (FACCPNW), supporting their France Education Northwest regional dinner. Other joint events are planned. We have also started to create close links with other Alliance chapters and with the Délégation Générale in Miami. In fact, the Délégué Général des Alliances Françaises in the US, Jean-François Chenin, will be spending a day at the Alliance de Seattle in May. In response to requests from our members we have opened new classes in the afternoon. I am also delighted to announce that we have expanded our presence on the Eastside in partnership with the Bellevue Club; our first class started in April! This is the first step in rebuilding our presence beyond the Good Shepherd Center. Later this year I will be introducing new teaching methods and materials, to ensure that the Alliance remains *the place* to learn French in the Puget Sound.

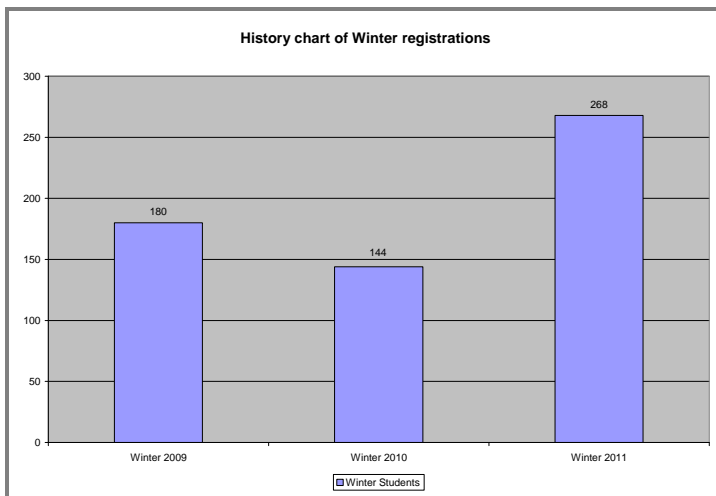
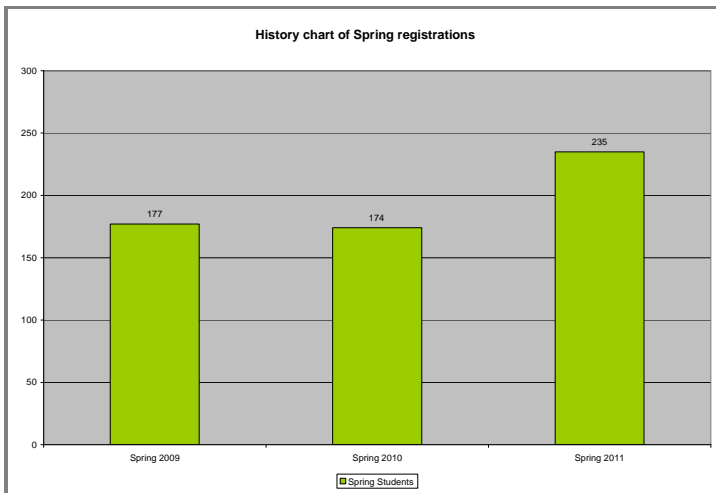
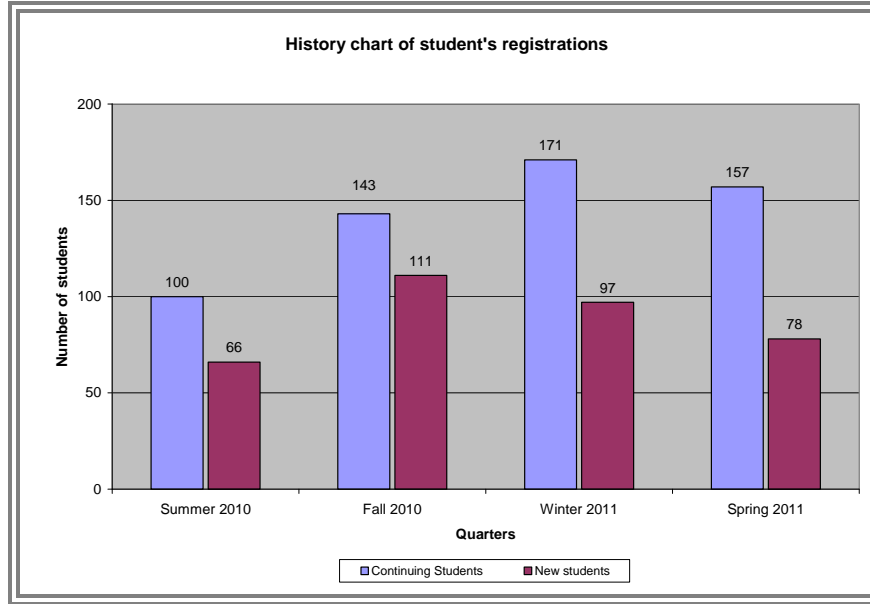
The Alliance Française is a center where members not only have the opportunity to learn and practice their French but also to discover Francophone cultures. Melanie Rozes, our new Cultural and Communications Manager, is now responsible for events and publishes our Monthly E-news letter, which is our regular link with you. She has already shown her creativity by putting together the first Alliance Française choir. I would also like to acknowledge our French interns. Mathilde Brunon, who has spent 9 months with us, will be going back to France to finish her degree at Sciences Po in Aix-en-Provence at the end of May. Fiona Le Brun just graduated with a degree in International Business from Sciences Po Toulouse and will be with us until the end of September. They have both done a superb job, and have shown enormous flexibility. They are much appreciated by our members and students. New interns will be joining us in the next few weeks.

In closing, chers membres de l'Alliance Française, I would like to thank you for your constant support and fidelity and encourage you to comment on all we do, your feedback is always greatly appreciated. Without you, the Alliance would not be what it is today: an important and friendly meeting place for Francophiles and the Francophone community in the Emerald City.

Merci et à très bientôt à l'Alliance!

Marie-Ange Wood

# Notre École....



# Alliance Events and Communications

## HIGHLIGHTS OF 2010 - 2011

### June, 2010

- Hommage à Claude Chabrol

### July, 2010

- Cycle Fest

### October, 2010

- Cabaret au Château
- Soirée Picasso au SAM

### November, 2010

- Hommage à Claude Chabrol

### December, 2010

- Marché de Noël

### January, 2011

- La Galette des Rois, with FEN
- AF Night at Teatro ZinZanni

### February, 2011

- Steve Smith of Rick Steves' presentation

### March, 2011

- Soirée Carnaval
- Soirée "Tous les Matins du Monde"
- Dîner Libanais at Karam's
- La Journée de la Francophonie
- Cara Black- Reading & Signing
- Apéritif de fin de trimestre

### Avril, 2011

- Presentation on Perpignan by Mathilde.

## Mélanie Rozes, Cultural Communications Manager



Chers membres,

It has been now four months since I became the Cultural Communications Manager for the Alliance Française de Seattle. I am truly honored to be part of such an enthusiastic and committed community of people.

I came to the Alliance with a vision to improve our outward communication and to develop economical means of increasing our visibility. To do so, we have relied largely on e-media in order to connect with our members and to attract new students and members. Our website features AF classes and events, monthly e-newsletters and regular e-postcards to allow us to keep 2000 people informed of the Alliance's activities.

Developing events and activities that bring together Seattle's francophones and francophiles is essential. That is why we are proud to announce the formation of the Chorale de l'Alliance Française. Rehearsals, which are held on Mondays, are under the direction of the wonderful Chris Mabe. The choir is holding their first performance very soon and I confess that I can hardly wait! We also launched an "Apéritif de Fin de Trimestre" event to thank our students, give them the opportunity to share their experiences, and allow them to interact with Alliance teachers in a more informal setting.

We are having an exciting spring lined-up and have more events to come : we've partnered with the Early Music Guild to create a week of French Baroque Music in Seattle; the Elliott Bay Book Company is offering a « Book of the Month » (picked by the Alliance Française from Francophone literature) for which AF members get a 20% discount; we are offering a « Paris on a Budget » evening in June; there will be a Garden Party to celebrate « le 14 Juillet»; and in September, Alexandre Saada, a French Pianist, will be performing at the Alliance.

Details about AF events can be found online at [www.afseattle.org](http://www.afseattle.org), in our e-newsletters, and on posters displayed throughout the Alliance facility.

We want the Alliance to be a vital part of the Puget Sound Community. I welcome your ideas on how to improve our outreach, as well as your thoughts on current programs. Please send your comments to [communications@afseattle.org](mailto:communications@afseattle.org).

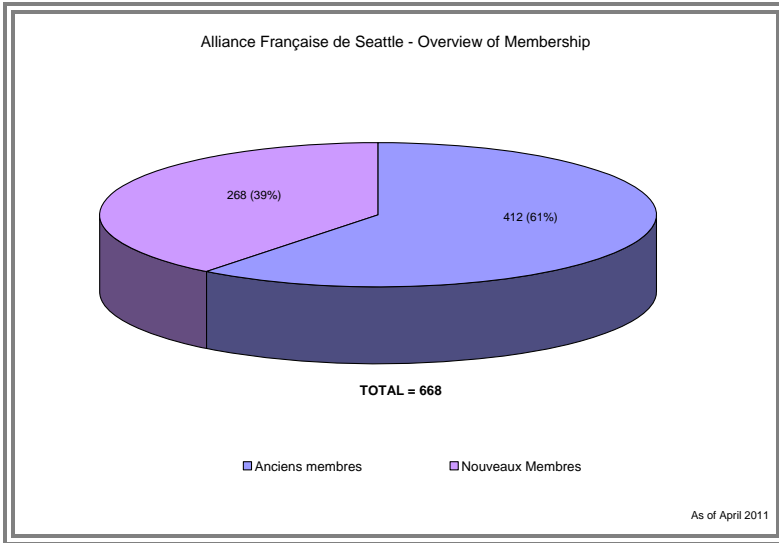
A bientôt à l'Alliance !

## Mathilde Brunon, Stagiaire à l'Alliance Française,



I'm a French student completing a five-year master's degree program in Aix-en-Provence. I have spent seven months at the Alliance Française de Seattle so far, and I have enjoyed every second of it. I feel truly lucky for this opportunity to share the daily work at the Alliance Française. It has been a perfect experience for learning more about American civilization while also staying in touch with French culture and language. The staff, teachers and students create a unique atmosphere of fun learning and cultural exchange. I have worked with the staff on the daily business of the Alliance and have helped organize events. I have learned a lot during my internship and have met wonderful people. I am proud to have been part of the Alliance Française de Seattle and hope to come back one day.

# Membership and Benefits



## Cara Black's Reading and Signing



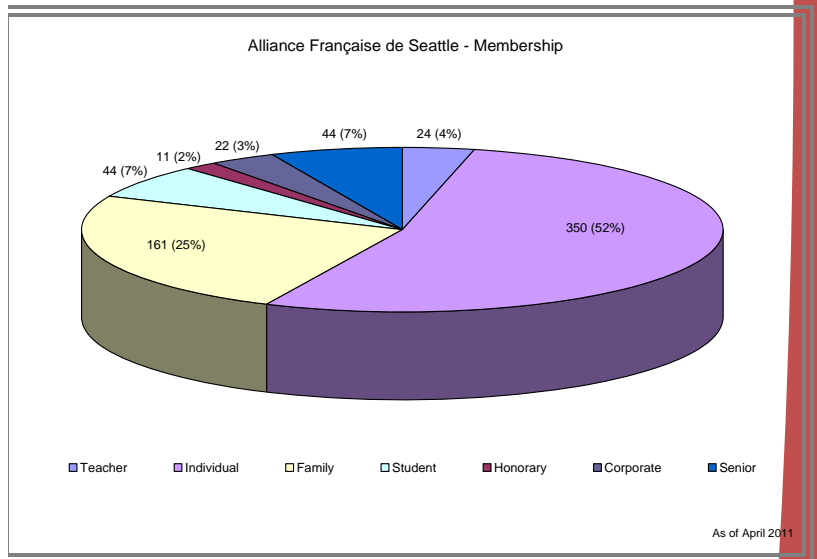
Whether you are a francophone, a Francophile, a language student or a parent wanting to share your French heritage with your children, membership in the Alliance Française is for you. Thank you for your continued support!

With more than 6,000 French nationals resident in Puget Sound, as well as an equal number of francophones, French influence in the Pacific Northwest is growing yearly.

As an Alliance member, you are also connected to the larger community of 135 Alliance Française chapters in the United States and more than 1,071 Alliance Française associations in more than 138 countries around the world.

## Membership and Benefits

- Discounted dining, shopping, media and France-themed magazines.
- Registration fee for classes is waived.
- Early registration privileges to events, including well-known French and francophone artists.
- Invitations and discounts to French-themed social and cultural events such as wine-tastings, dinners, book readings and more.
- Traditional events and celebration of French holidays
- Monthly E-news updates on events at the Alliance and in Seattle.
- Receive our Annual Report and invitation to the Annual Members' Meeting.
- Timely updates on our extensive, quality language classes.
- Significant discounts at French-themed retailers and restaurants.
- Free access and borrowing privileges from the Alliance's extensive médiathèque of French books and films.
- Join monthly meetings of activity groups: Play scrabble with us or enjoy our French movie with English subtitles with Ciné-Club.



## La Chorale de l'Alliance Française



# L'Alliance Française de Seattle, Notre Alliance

## Jill Jago, Student at the Alliance Française

It is now over two years since I plucked up the courage to take up French again after a 15 year hiatus. On the recommendation of a friend I called the Alliance and began with a week long intensive course. By Friday I was hooked! I immediately signed up for weekly classes and have never looked back. The quality of the instruction is outstanding - and after years of French in school and college I have a lot to compare it to! More serendipitously, what I had not expected are all the wonderful benefits that come with belonging to the Alliance. I have enjoyed several cultural events with new-found francophile friends including regional dinners and French films. I am very excited about the new partnerships with local book stores to spotlight French books, and it is with great reluctance that I have just reached the end of Paula McClain's wonderful "The Paris Wife." The Alliance has reconnected me with a part of my life that is very important to me and the friendships I have forged in the past two years will ensure that it stays that way. I can't encourage you all strongly enough to "explore the French in you!"



## Florence Bangué-Tandet, Teacher at the Alliance Française

I have been teaching at the Alliance Française since January 2011, and I must say I really enjoy coming every week to share my passion of the French language.

I am currently a MA-TESOL student at Seattle Pacific University, and teaching at l'Alliance is a great opportunity for me to apply what I learn in class.

I really like the spirit of the Alliance Française, where I meet people from very different backgrounds; from retired teacher to people getting prepared to go to France or persons having a French relative (husband, grand kids...), but in the end we all share a common interest: the French language and the French culture.

In summary, I feel privileged to teach at "l'Alliance" and I hope that my students learn from me as much as I learn from them!

## Charles D. Tompkins, Board Member

I am excited to be on the Board of the Alliance Française. I've been interested in French language and culture since my first visit to Montreal during the Summer Olympics of 1976. I still enjoy learning as much as I can about the language and francophone culture in all of its forms. When I moved to Seattle about ten years ago, the Alliance Française was one of the places I turned to in order to keep in touch with this passion of mine. I attended a course and came to hear lectures, watch films and taste wine on several occasions.

By joining the Board, I hope to formalize my contribution to this community in Seattle and to be more actively involved in promoting the aims of the Alliance. I have enjoyed the language and culture as a tourist, but also as a teacher. Perhaps this mix of personal experience and academic perspective will allow me to contribute in a meaningful way to the mission.



# Petite histoire de l'Alliance Française de Paris à Seattle...

## Histoire de la création de l'Alliance Française

- 1883 Creation of the Alliance by a group of eminent men, including the diplomat Ferdinand de Lesseps, the publisher Armand Colin, the writers Jules Verne and Ernest Renan, and the scientist Louis Pasteur, who all became members of the first board of the Alliance Française de Paris.
- 1884 First Alliance opened in Barcelona, and abroad in Senegal, Mauritius and Mexico.
- 1889 First Alliance in India, then in Melbourne, Australia.
- 1902 Creation of an Alliance in Montreal and of a Federation of Alliances in the US.
- 1904 There are 150 Alliance Française committees in France and 450 abroad.
- 1940 The Archives of the Alliance Française are carried to Berlin by the Nazis.
- 1943 General de Gaulle makes a speech in Algiers where he reaffirms the vocation of the Alliance.
- 1944 Reopening of the Alliance Française de Paris after the war.
- 2002 Worldwide modernization of the Alliance.
- 2007 The Fondation Alliance Française is formed.
- 2011 There are 1,701 Alliance Française committees worldwide and 135 in the USA.



## Histoire de la création de l'Alliance Française de Seattle

- 1918 Beginning of Le Cercle Français, originally informal reunions of French-speaking persons to stay connected with their mother tongue and culture.
- Mai 1987 Creation of the Alliance Française de Seattle, an organization allowing the opening of a school to learn French for English-speaking persons. President of the Board: Marie-Pierre Koban, Executive Director: Misa Bourdoiseau.
- 1987 Opening of the Alliance Française de Seattle at Lake Side.
- April 1993 Due to a growing number of students and to the desire for a more convenient place, the Alliance Française settles into the Good Shepherd Center, in Wallingford.
- Since The Alliance Française welcomes more students every year 1993 and organizes events for both Francophones and Francophiles.



## ...Au Good Shepherd Center ...

### Mark Willson, Building Operations Director at the Good Shepherd Center

#### Could you tell us a bit about yourself?

I grew up in New Mexico and have a fine arts degree from the University there in Albuquerque. I have always worked in the arts/ craft field, as a sign painter, carpenter, cabinet maker, and Stained Glass artist. In 1988 my wife and I moved in to the GSC as live in artist caretakers. I soon took a job as a maintenance guy here, along with Jeff, who is still with us, and my early focus was boiler operation and maintenance, as well as window repair and rehab, including the complete rebuilding of all the stained glass windows in the chapel. In 2000, I became the operations director. I continue to produce art work sporadically, including a piece in a group show orchestrated by one of our current 5<sup>th</sup> floor artist residents. Margot and I have managed to live in Europe twice since being married. Once, in 1986 and 1987, we lived in Barcelona for a year, focusing on learning Spanish and creating artwork. Second, almost twenty years later in 2005, we lived in Valencia for 6 months, this time taking our sixteen year old son along. The focus was a bit different than the first time, but it was very productive for me artistically. We are now avid social dancers and our son is attending the University of Washington.

#### Could you give us a brief history of the GSC?

The building was constructed in 1906 by the Catholic Church, more specifically the Sisters of the Order of the Good Shepherd. They operated it as a boarding school for girls until they had to close for lack of students in the mid seventies. The mythology is that it was a school for "Wayward" girls in trouble and unwed mothers. One of the nuns at the end told me no, that part was not true. If the girls were pregnant they were moved to another place in West Seattle that I don't remember the name of. The girls here were often troubled, sometimes orphaned, sometimes wards of the state. Often they couldn't live at home for whatever reason, unstable home life, abusive parent, or just lack of resources. I was told that the function this place and many others like it in those days provided, is more or less the same function that foster care provides today.

The Sisters sold in the mid seventies to a developer that reportedly had plans to tear it down and build a shopping center. The neighborhood and the Wallingford Community Council heard about it, and went to the City and the mayor intervened. Historic Seattle was brought in to operate and rehabilitate, and it was designated a Historic Landmark and protected. Historic Seattle took ownership in 1978.

Since then, the mission has been to slowly repair and rehabilitate, and to operate it as a self sustaining Community Center with a variety of tenants providing a variety of public and community services. We have had a wide range of programs here, including the Pacific Northwest Ballet. Currently we have a Senior Center, a private elementary school, and Seattle Tilth, a leader in the very strong Seattle urban agriculture and organic farming movement, along with almost thirty other tenants offering a wide variety of programs, including Alliance Francaise!

#### Do you have a funny story about the building to tell?

When Margot and I lived here and our son was very little, there is a story about a bird that flew into the window and a cat that was particularly excited about that and a Christmas tree, but space limitations require that I let you fill in the details yourself.

#### Do you remember when the AF moved to the GSC?

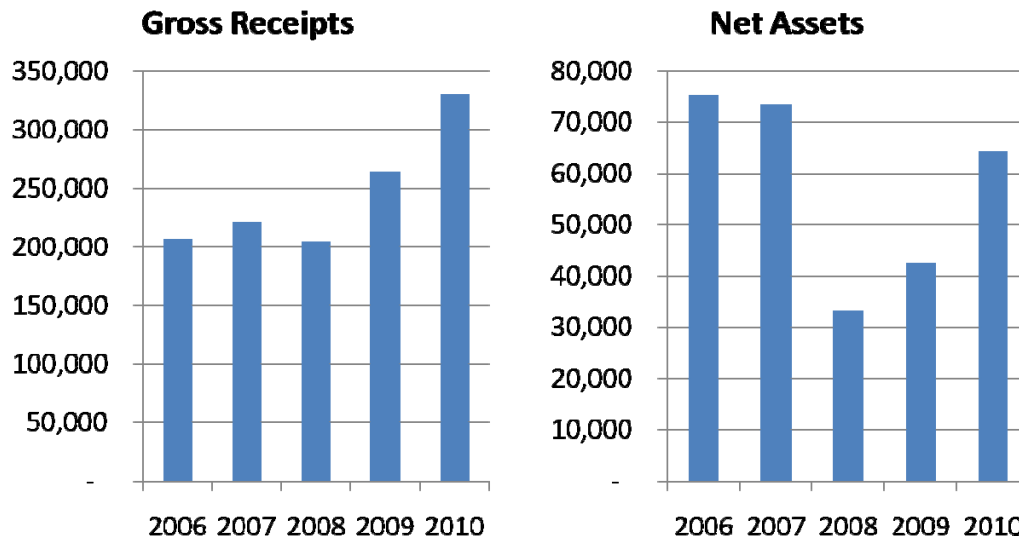
I remember it well. It was 1992 or 1993. The ballet had occupied the entire south wing of the building on floors one through four, and they moved out in 1992, to move to their current home, the Phelps Center at Seattle Center. When they first arrived in the late seventies, the spaces were taken "as is", and since there had been a great deal of deferred maintenance by the sisters up until then, by the time the ballet moved out, that whole wing was in severe disrepair. We did all the rehab in house with our own crew, and many of our longest tenured tenants, including AF, moved in right after we finished.

#### What does the AF represent for you?

I always thought they were a perfect fit for us here at the GSC. My own personal interest in language and culture made me enthusiastic about their tenancy from the beginning. They are a vibrant cultural organization that brings a variety of different people to the center for a variety of functions. Their frequent social and cultural events and the speakers and guests, sometimes high profile, that they bring to our community are a welcome addition and valued asset.

# Treasurer's Report

## Financial Highlights



\*Source: Form 990

### How Your Membership Supports the Alliance...

- We can continue to offer quality cultural programming with new and exciting opportunities for members.
- Our dedicated teaching staff and curriculum are able to give you the tools to *parler français*.

Invest In Making Our Alliance The Best Experience For You!

- In the near future, we would like to update our Médiathèque for our members. Our goal is to become *THE* resource for French media in the Seattle area.
- We love our home but costs are rising, including building fees and operating expenses.

At the Alliance Française of Seattle we offer our members excellent cultural and educational programming for an affordable price. Help us keep our costs down while we strive to make the Alliance the best for you.

Donate to the AF Seattle by going to our website and clicking on the Donate to AF Seattle button.



L'Alliance Française vous remercie de votre soutien !

*The Alliance Française de Seattle is a 501(c)(3), non-profit, tax-exempt organization, all donations are fully deductible as permitted by law.*



## Alliance Française de Seattle

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