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Visit the Seattle-Nantes  
Sister City Association  
online at  
[www.seattle-nantes.org](http://www.seattle-nantes.org)

## Nantes Focus for Annual Sister City Reception

**By Jean-Loup Baer**— Every year for the last few years the City of Seattle has organized a reception for its 21 sister cities and their members. The reception takes place in late April, in the Bertha Knight Landes Room in City Hall. Many of the city dignitaries (mayor and/or his representatives, council members) attend the evening. I went to last year's reception and was thoroughly impressed with the food, the entertainment, and the items available at the silent auction, as were the 300 other attendees.

Four sister cities are focused upon each year. In 2009, it will be our turn again (we were honored at the first reception 5 years ago). Along with Nantes, the three other cities this coming year will be Gdynia (Poland), Sihanoukville (Cambodia) and Surabaya (Philippines).

Suggesting recipes for the food at the reception, organizing the entertainment, staffing the reception with volunteers, and last but not least **providing items for a raffle and the silent auction** are responsibilities shared by the four cities of focus.

As you can imagine, submitting recipes

was a slam dunk, considering the culinary expertise of several members of our board. Tom Bennett took the initiative of contacting the city of Nantes, and it looks like they should be able to send a small Celtic music group. Of course that would be fantastic entertainment. Finding volunteers to staff the reception should not be difficult since several of you have offered help for this type of event. We'll be sure to call on you when the time comes.

Finding items for the silent auction and raffle remains. We need 5 or 6 items for the auction of value between \$50 and \$100 each, and one raffle item between \$25 and \$50. It would be nice if the items were related to Nantes or Brittany in first priority and to France in second priority, but this is not a requirement. If you have any items that you are willing to donate, please make a commitment to me ([jean-loup.baer@seattle-nantes.org](mailto:jean-loup.baer@seattle-nantes.org)) before February 1. The items are not due "physically" until March 15. We can pick up the donation at your home at your convenience.

We look forward to the reception, your involvement and your auction donations!

## Thanksgiving avec Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville

**de Mariette Cassourret**— Environ 150 personnes dont une trentaine d'étudiants américains originaires des états de Washington, Georgia, Massachusetts, Illinois and Idaho, se sont retrouvés pour célébrer Thanksgiving. «C'est très important de pouvoir être ensemble car chez nous c'est une fête familiale et cela nous permet d'oublier un moment que nos familles nous manquent», explique Jessica, étudiante en droit venue d'Atlanta.



*American students celebrating Thanksgiving in Nantes with teachers and friends, R to L: Mariette Cassourret, Carole Reux, Rachel Bocher, Anne-Marie Vlasak and Jean-Jacques Derrien*

sonville, présidée par Mariette Cassourret, avaient tout prévu pour organiser une soirée dans les locaux du lycée Talensac. Un groupe de jeunes Nantais «Penta Tonik » et deux musiciens de l'Idaho, Craig et John, ont animé le repas où la traditionnelle dinde avait une place de choix, coutume américaine oblige. Les jeunes Américains ont non seulement apprécié de fêter Thanksgiving avec les Nantais, mais ont été très sensibles et étonnés d'être « entourés à Nantes d'autant de gens pour célébrer une fête américaine ».

et John, ont animé le repas où la traditionnelle dinde avait une place de choix, coutume américaine oblige. Les jeunes Américains ont non seulement apprécié de fêter Thanksgiving avec les Nantais, mais ont été très sensibles et éton-



Les membres de l'association Nantes-Seattle- Jack-

## SNSCA Looking for Volunteers

SNSCA has many upcoming projects and would love your help – as little or as much as you can give is most welcome and appreciated. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Tom Bennett at [tom@seattle-nantes.org](mailto:tom@seattle-nantes.org). Some of the projects coming up include:

- Hosting Nantais – We have approximately 15 students coming to Seattle April 10-12, 2009. We will have a potluck April 10 to pick up students. They will need to be dropped off April 12 in Seattle.
- Film Festival – We hope to have a French film festival sometime in Jan or Feb.
- Sister City Reception at City Hall – April 23 is the annual sister city reception and Nantes is one of four featured cities this year.
- Bastille Day at Seattle Center – We need volunteers to man our booths that weekend.
- Board Members – We are looking for people who want to help guide our activities and be more involved in decision making.

## Thanksgiving with Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville

About 150 people gathered to celebrate Thanksgiving; among them were some thirty American students from the states of Washington, Georgia, Massachusetts, Illinois and Idaho. “It is very important that we can be together because back home it is a family celebration, and this party allows us to forget for a moment that we miss our families,” explains Jessica, a law student from Atlanta.

The members of the association Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville, whose president is Mariette Cassouret, had organized every detail of an evening party at the Lycée Talensac. “Penta Tonik,” a group of young Nantese and two musicians from

Idaho, Craig and John, entertained during the dinner. The traditional turkey was featured, as the American custom demands. The young Americans not only appreciated the opportunity to celebrate Thanksgiving with the Nantese, but were also surprised and thankful to be “surrounded by so many people gathering to celebrate in Nantes an American holiday.”



## French Pilgrims

**By Jean Leblon**— At Thanksgiving, we have once again commemorated the arrival at Plymouth in 1620 of the group of English Separatists who had escaped from harassment and persecution by the Church of England, first to the Netherlands then to America. They called themselves “Pilgrims.” We know the rest of the story, or myth. We don’t often hear of the fact that those pilgrims were not the first Europeans to seek on our continent a haven in which to worship freely. In 1564, a group of French Protestants – they called themselves Réformés or Calvinistes, disciples of Calvin, some of them known as Huguenots – set out to escape their persecution and massacre by the Catholic Church and the ruling monarchy, during the religious wars that raged throughout France

until 1598.

They landed in Florida on the banks of the River of May (now the St Johns River near Jacksonville), where they promptly thanked the Lord for having saved them from a dire destiny. They built houses, a mill and a bakery, and if we are to believe some drawings of the time, managed to make a little wine to drink as they smoked some discovered local leaves. They also built a small wooden enclosure that they called Fort Caroline, in honor of king Charles IX who attempted unsuccessfully to bring peace to France. No doubt, their spirit was one of hope and thanksgiving.

(continued on p. 8)

## SNSCA Annual General Meeting

By Chantal Baldacci and Tom Bennett—

Seattle Nantes Sister Cities Association held its AGM November 9th at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Ballard. It is a warm and inviting loca-



tion, relatively easy to find with lots of free parking. Several of our members are members of the Heritage Museum, even those not of Scandinavian descent, because it is a very good place to show visitors from out of town who want to learn more of the history of our city.

Reputed architect and ex-councilman, Peter



Steinbrueck, spoke about his impending trip to Nantes where he will be a featured speaker at a conference on sustainable energy. Not long ago,

a delegation from Nantes came to Seattle to observe what our city is doing along those lines.

Other honored guests included: Jack Cowan, Honorary Consul of France and Executive Director of the French American Chamber of Commerce, and his assistant Yannis Lambourdière; former city councilman Randy Revelle and his wife, Ann; and Susan Han, producer of the video of our sister-city relationship with Nantes, one of the first of what will eventually be 21 videos on each of Seattle sister-city relationships. The video played continuously during the evening.



Along with long-time members, were many new members to share the delicious potluck dinner and wine. The tables were beautifully decorated in blue and green. A giant gift basket was won by a lucky member sitting in the secretly marked seat!

Two board members were re-elected to two-year terms: Pamela-Ann Hughes and Chantal Baldacci. Chantal also announced our need for more volunteers and cheerfully directed eager members to a sign up sheet.



## Porc Cuit au Lait ~ Pork Cooked in Milk

Submitted by Pamela-Ann Hughes—

Serves 6-8

1 boneless pork loin, about 3lbs  
 1 large onion, peeled and roughly chopped  
 2 large cloves of garlic  
 1 tsp butter  
 2 tsp olive oil  
 1 tbsp fresh thyme, chopped, or 1 tsp dried  
 2 bay leaves  
 salt, pepper  
 3 cups whole milk

If the pork is a tied double loin, remove the string and separate. Cut one garlic clove into slivers. Making slits with a sharp knife, stuff garlic into pork. Season heavily with salt and pepper. Heat butter and oil in a heavy-bottomed pan just large enough to hold pork in one layer. Brown

the meat on all sides, over medium heat. Remove pork, add onions and brown for about 15 minutes, stirring often. Return pork to pot, add milk, bay leaves, thyme and remaining garlic. Slowly bring up heat and simmer, covered, for two hours, turning pork after an hour. Remove pork to heated platter. Discard bay leaves, and garlic (if you can



find it.) The remaining milk will look scary as it will have curdled slightly. Using a stick or counter blender, or a processor, puree until smooth. Check for seasonings and serve separately. Slice the pork thickly before serving.

Note: Any leftover sauce makes a great

base for pureed vegetable soup.



## A Christmas Tale

On Sunday, December 7, a group of members attended a showing of the French film *Un conte de Noël* (A Christmas Tale) starring Catherine Deneuve in the role of Junon, a calmly private cancer patient who is the matriarch of a large family reunited for the holidays after many years of separation for various and at times mysterious reasons. The complex relationships are never really simplified, but eventually confrontations and

some “re-pairings” create a feeling of comfort, at least temporarily.

Before curtain time, we met in the parlor of the theatre and sat together in the hall. We invite those who enjoy French films (they are usually subtitled) to come share them with us when schedules permit.



## Échange Talensac & West Seattle High School du 25 octobre au 8 novembre 2008

**de Isabelle Le Corguillé**— « And now, Ladies and Gentlemen... Barack Obama! ». C'était le mardi 4 novembre 2008 et nous y étions. Le hasard des dates nous aura permis, cette fois, de vivre les élections présidentielles américaines de l'intérieur, lors de notre séjour annuel à Seattle dans le cadre de l'échange entre notre établissement et West Seattle High School.

L'état de Washington, de tradition démocrate, avait déployé les grands moyens pour éviter l'arrivée d'un nouveau républicain à la Maison Blanche et les citoyens américains n'hésitent pas à afficher leurs opinions politiques: ainsi, comme bon nombre de leurs concitoyens, les professeurs du lycée arboraient-ils badges, autocollants et autres t-shirts à l'effigie de leur candidat préféré (Obama en majorité).

De même, pas de nains dans les jardins mais des pancartes, des balcons fleuris de portraits du candidat noir-et-blanc, partout des slogans « Yes We Can », « I love Obama », « Vote 4 McCain » et des drapeaux agités dans les rues pour inciter les automobilistes à exprimer leur préférence par des coups de klaxon ou des appels de phares, sur fond de battage médiatique 'à l'américaine'. L'effervescence était retombée le 5 novembre pour faire place à un soulagement palpable, la satisfaction de voir enfin un homme de couleur aux rênes du pays, 40 ans après le rêve du pasteur Martin Luther King Jr.



Et puis notre groupe, au beau milieu de toute cette agitation, ravi d'assister à un événement historique. Chaque élève aura vécu cette expérience au cœur d'une famille américaine et à l'école où chacun accompagnait son correspondant dans ses cours du matin avant de partir pour

les visites en ville l'après-midi. Au programme : musée de la Science, EMP (musée de la Musique et exposition permanente sur Jimi Hendrix, qui repose près de Seattle), aquarium, zoo, découverte de la ville et promenade sur un lac dans un véhicule amphibie, visite de Pioneer Square, centre historique de Seattle, du fameux 'Pike Place Market', marché couvert sur trois niveaux, pan-

orama sur la ville du 48ème étage d'un gratte-ciel, croisière sur un bras de mer, shopping etc. Quinze jours intenses donc, avec un voyage sans encombre de Nantes à Seattle via Paris, sur Air France, à l'aller comme au retour.

De nouveaux liens se sont tissés, d'autres intensifiés, des amitiés sont nées entre nos jeunes et leurs familles américaines et c'est maintenant à nous d'ouvrir les bras aux 'seattlites' qui arriveront à Nantes, leur ville jumelle, le 19 mars 2009. Pas d'élections présidentielles à leur offrir ici. Dommage. Nous n'aurions de toute façon pas eu de badge «I love Sarko» ou «Vive Ségolène » à leur offrir!



## Talensac & West Seattle High School Exchange

“And now, Ladies and Gentlemen... Barack Obama!” It was November 4, 2008 and we were there. By chance, the calendar allowed us, this time, to witness the American presidential elections from inside, during our yearly stay in Seattle as part of our exchange between our school and West Seattle High School.

The state of Washington, traditionally Democratic, had used all possible means to avoid sending another Republican to the White House and American citizens do not hesitate to let their political opinions be known: thus, like many of their fellow citizens, the high school teachers displayed buttons and badges, bumper stickers and t-shirts bearing pictures of their favorite candidate (a majority for Obama).

Likewise, in the front yards no gnomes but signs, balconies decorated with portraits of the candidate in black and white, everywhere slogans “Yes We Can”, “I love Obama”, “Vote 4 McCain” and flags waved in the streets to encourage the drivers to express their preference with their horn or their lights, in keeping with the American style media hype. The excitement had subsided on November 5 to be replaced by a noticeable sense of relief and satisfaction at finally seeing a man of color at the helm of the country, 40 years after pastor Martin Luther King Jr.’s dream.

For its part, our group, in the midst of all that hustle

and bustle, was delighted to attend a historical event. Each student will have lived through this experience in the center of an American family and at school where each accompanied his or her counterpart in their morning classes before going on the afternoon excursions in town. The program included: the museum of Science, EMP (Experience Music Project museum of music and permanent exhibit about Jimi Hendrix who is buried near Seattle), the aquarium, the zoo, discovery of the city and outing on the lake in an amphibious vehicle, visit of Pioneer Square, historical center of Seattle, of the famous Pike Place Market, a covered market on three levels, the panorama of the city from the 48th story of a skyscraper, a cruise on the sound, shopping, etc. Two tightly filled weeks, with an uneventful trip from Seattle to Nantes via Paris, coming as well as going.

New bonds were created, others were strengthened, friendships were born between our young people and their American families and it is now our turn to open our arms to the Seattleites who will come to Nantes, their twin city on March 19, 2009. We’ll have no presidential elections to offer them. Pity! In any case, we would not have had any badge such as “I love Sarko” or “Vive Ségolène” to offer them.



## Welcome New Members

These are the newest members who have joined us this fall. Welcome all! We encourage you to become involved in our activities.

Margaret Johnson

Cory Potts

Carolyn Rice

Jennie Tracy

## 2009 DUES ARE DUE

January 1st, 2009

for all members except  
those who joined initially  
at a Bastille Day booth.

Please go to  
[www.seattle-nantes.org](http://www.seattle-nantes.org)  
for details and form.

### French Pilgrims (cont'd from p. 3)

Alas! It was not to last. The Spanish had preceded the French on those shores. Ponce de Leon had arrived in 1513, and for 50 years Spain had attempted to lay claim to Florida, but its would-be settlers were repeatedly driven off by the native populations and had their ships intercepted by the French. In 1565 the Catholic king of Spain, Philip II, dispatched Admiral Pedro Menéndez with the order to hang and burn the French heretics. Menéndez assaulted Fort Caroline, massacred most of the French settlers, and a few weeks later, ordered the execution of more than 300 French shipwreck survivors at a site near St Augustine, now called fort Matanzas (from the Spanish word for "slaughter").

An article in a recent New York Times (<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/11/26/opinion/26davis.html>) deplores the fact that "With this, America's first pilgrims disappeared from the pages of history, ... their existence erased as readily as ... the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine was demoted to second-class status behind the later ... colonies of Jamestown and Plymouth."

While unfortunately the French settlement in Florida did not abide, it is still good to observe its memory. In a later issue we may speak further of the Huguenots and of the *Édit de Nantes*.



## Calendar of Events

January 7	Board meeting (open to members/guests)
February 4	Board meeting (open to members/guests)
TBA	Crêpe dinner (check website)

### 2009 OFFICERS

Acting President November: Jean Leblon  
December: Pamela-Ann Hughes  
Acting Vice President: Jean Leblon  
Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Hulbert  
Corresp. Secretary: Chantal Baldacci

### BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Association General Info: Chantal Baldacci  
Dollars for Scholars: Tom Bennett  
Events: Pamela-Ann Hughes  
Historian: Marie-Pierre Koban  
Hosting/Nantes Park:  
University/Scholarship: Jean Leblon  
Membership/Website: Jean-Loup Baer

### OTHER POSITIONS

Volunteer Coordinator:  
Newsletter Layout: Renee Schurtz  
Temp. Newsletter Editor: Jean Leblon