Nantesense

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Newsletter • April 2026

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Letter from the President

By David Asher

Bon printemps! As our days start to get longer and the skies sunnier, SNSCA is in full swing as we gear up for an exciting spring and summer ahead. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership and have come out at our various programs throughout the year.

We will start the month with two exciting events. SNSCA has organized a no-host happy hour for members at DeLille en Ville in University Village on Sunday, April 12th at 4pm. The following weekend, we will have our first Nantes Park clean up of 2026 on Saturday, April 18th at 10am.

May 1st marks the *vernissage* (start of) an SNSCA-sponsored Franco-American artist exchange between Eric Fonteneau of Nantes and Suze Woolf of Seattle. Their exhibit "Citizens of Nature" will be on display at Base Camp Studios 2 in Belltown from May 2nd-24th. Be on the lookout for information on our members-only opening night event on Friday, May 1st.

Make sure to mark your calendars for Friday, June 26th at 12pm when France takes on Norway in the FIFA World Cup. SNSCA will have a joint watch party with our friends at Seattle-Bergen at Obec Brewery in Ballard to celebrate the occasion. More information on the event is included in our newsletter.

Lastly, thank you to all who have made for a great first quarter of the year with SNSCA. In January, we toured the French art exhibit "Farm to Table" at the Seattle Art Museum. In February, we continued one of the association's longstanding traditions of observing La Chandeleur with crêpes and wine at Evergreen Family Wines. In March, SNSCA sold nearly 700 used French books at our small but mighty French Fest booth - one of our largest scholarship fundraisers of the year.

And of course, we celebrated the Seattle Seahawks as the only Nantes sister city to win the Super Bowl - the other Nantes-US sister city is Jacksonville, Florida, who have yet to win their first title.

It's been a great first quarter of the year - and looking forward to what's next!

Happy Spring!

Tour at Seattle Art Museum

French Fest

Connect with Us

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Farm to Table Tour

By Judy Deignan

On Sunday, January 11, SNSCA was pleased to sponsor a complimentary guided tour of the naturalistic Farm to Table art exhibit at the Seattle Art Museum.

Twenty seven very happy members attended this tour led by one of the museum's distinguished docents, DeeJay. We were introduced to a selection of approximately 15 paintings borrowed from small museums or private collections.The featured artists included: Rosa Bonheur, Claude Monet, Léon L'hermite, Alfred Boucher, Narcisse Chaillou, Jean Béraud, Camille Pissaro, Alphonse Legros, and James Tissot.

Lively discussions followed each painting; "A Rat Seller during the Siege of Paris" was particularly unforgettable. By the end of the tour, almost everyone had chosen a favorite painting from the exhibit. This beautiful and intimate exhibit had something for every taste and imagination.

A very good time was had by all.

La Chandeleur

By David Asher

One of SNSCA's first events of the year is the annual La Chandeleur celebration, informally referred to as the "Crêpe Dinner." This year, SNSCA partnered with Evergreen Family Wines in Woodinville for an afternoon of crêpes, wine, and socializing with other members. Thank you to everyone who came out and to those who renewed their membership for 2026.

Each year SNSCA looks to try something a little different for the crêpe dinner - we've gone to restaurants, breweries, wineries, communal kitchens, and even virtual. Have a suggestion for 2027? Let us know! It's never too early to start brainstorming.

2026 Scholarship Recipients

By Alaina McCallum

The Scholarship Committee, Susan Hulbert, Marsella Logan, Bunny Schmidley, and I, were delighted by the number of candidates interested in SNSCA's scholarship program. This year, we recognized five scholars from four different local universities who demonstrated a passion for French through the application process of completing a personal statement, obtaining two references, submitting their transcript, and participating in an interview. Check out these amazing recipients!

Maddysen Creech is a Dr. Thomas Bennett Scholarship recipient from Pacific Lutheran University who will study in Aix-en-Province.

"As a French and Francophone studies major, I've chosen to dedicate my life to the French language. Because of this, I'm looking forward to the holistic, fully immersive opportunity that my stay in Aix-en-Provence will provide me. I'll get to see French life and culture through a myriad of different perspectives, all while being pushed to utilize my French to the highest degree possible in all facets of my life—something that just can't happen here in Washington, on an Anglophone campus."

Sophie Biernacki is a Dr. Thomas Bennett Scholarship recipient from the University of Washington who will study in Paris.

"I am excited to study abroad in France because I want to move beyond a general understanding of Paris and engage deeply with its medieval history, architecture, and intellectual life that once shaped Europe. The University of Washington's "Cultural and Environmental Memory in Paris" study abroad program especially appeals to me for the way it uncovers layers of the city through the study of societal history and ecological thought, using literature, film, museums, and the streets themselves as sites of analysis. Its discussion-driven, interdisciplinary approach aligns with my passion for the visual arts and my preference for learning through conversation, critical reading, and direct engagement with place. The Dr. Thomas H. Bennett Scholarship will allow me to live in and study Paris through immersive coursework, enabling me to engage with nuanced French discourse, making this experience a meaningful next step in my academic journey and a turning point in my global perspective."

Phoebe Amavisca is a Francis Bennett Scholarship recipient from Central Washington University who will study in Pau, France.

"I've never had the opportunity to leave the country before, but I've always wanted to see the world. I have particularly been interested in traveling to France since childhood. I am excited to have the opportunity to experience daily life in France while studying abroad during the 26-27 academic year. Most of all, I am extremely grateful to the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association for helping me on my journey to study the French language and culture!"

Adah Evans is a Goldmark Scholarship recipient from the University of Puget Sound who will study in Nantes.

"I am excited to study abroad in France because of the cultural integration and language skill development I will get to experience. As an International Political Economic major, I am curious to witness a global perspective from a European country. I hope this opportunity will strengthen my language proficiency as well as my viewpoint of international relations. I am also very excited to engage in local French customs, values, and everyday life."

Veronica Moldovanu is a Goldmark Scholarship recipient from the University of Washington who will study in Nantes.

"Pursuing both biochemistry and French, I have long been searching for a way to bridge the two disciplines. I am therefore incredibly excited to have the opportunity to be invited to the University of Nantes as an exchange student this coming fall so that I can test my abilities in the French language while also further expanding my knowledge in various scientific disciplines. It presents a wonderful challenge that perfectly satisfies my parallel interests in French and medicine, and I am thrilled for all the things - big and small - that I will learn through such an experience."

World Cup

By David Asher

Ready for some frieindly World Cup competition? Later this summer, Seattle-Nantes will be partnering with our friends at the Seattle-Bergen Sister City Association for a World Cup watch party at Obec Brewing in Ballard.

Who: France vs Norway

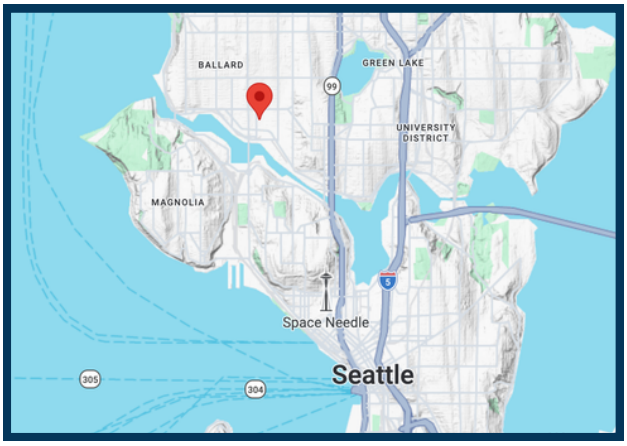
When: Friday, June 26, 2026 at 12pm

Where: Obec Brewing at 1144 NW 52nd St in Seattle

Why: Cause it's the freaking World Cup!!

Whether you call it soccer, le football (French), or fotboll (Norwegian), come out to support either team and our Seattle Sister Cities for this unique event. SNSCA is looking forward to our first joint-activity with SBSCA, and we thank the folks at SBSCA and Obec Brewing for their wonderful partnership.

See you there!



FrenchFest

By Susan Kegel

We had a marvelous turnout this year for our book sale at FrenchFest. We were busy all day, meeting people, talking about Nantes and SNSCA, and selling books to support our scholarships. We sold over 600 books and connected with four new members!

Our friends at La Chorale Francophone were singing on the stage in the afternoon. Artist Suze Woolf, in addition to exhibiting her works in the art walk area, gave a short preview on the stage about our upcoming exhibit that will feature her art with that of Nantais Eric Fonteneau.

Thank you to members Sallie Bodie, Jeanine Keefe, and Andy Kegel who helped make the event a success.

Suze Woolf's exhibit

Susan Kegel sharing about SNSCA during the opening

La Chorale Francophone

Membership Update

We are excited to welcome the following new members to Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association:

- **Marcia and Bill Cecil**
- **Melissa Gerhard**
- **Annie Agostini**
- **Amelia Cassidy**
- **Liliane Guillaum**
- **Joan Ifland**
- **Paulette Jarriaut**
- **Mary March**
- **Barb Mrozek**
- **Patricia Tangborn**
- **John Weiss**
- **Emily Goodin**
- **Melissa Gerhard**
- **Thema Bentley**
- **Dorothy David**
- **Anne Jess**
- **Simon Kupiata**

We appreciate our longtime and new members; it is through your contributions and participation that we are able to put on our programs throughout the year.

Join Us Today!

Meet fellow Francophiles and experience authentic French art, culture, and language in a way no tourist can. Members help shape what events and activities we offer. Your dues support all our programs and scholarships. Your participation keeps the association strong and lively.

Please renew your membership every January by check or online!

Individual Annual Dues
Student: $10
Senior Citizen: $15
Individual: $25
Family: $35
Sponsor: $50
Patron: $100
Donor: $250
Benefactor: $500

Corporate Annual Dues
Patron: $50
Donor: $100
Benefactor: $500

Dues can be paid online or by check.

Pay online at: seattle-nantes.org/membership.

Mail checks made out to SNSCA to:

Marsella Logan
11204 SE 192nd Pl
Kent, WA 98031

Mark your calendars! Upcoming Activities!

Sunday, April 12, 4-6:30pm: SNSCA Spring Happy Hour at DeLille en Ville

Saturday, April 18, 10am: Nantes Park Clean Up

Saturday, April 25, 7-9pm: La Chorale Francophone Spring Concert

Sunday, April 26, 3:30-5:30pm: La Chorale Francophone Spring Concert

Friday, May 1: Vernissage for SNSCA's art exhibit featuring Suze Woolf and Eric Fonteneau

May: Scholarship Awards Celebration

Saturday, June 13, 12-3pm: Pétanque, South Lake Union

Friday, June 26, 12pm: FIFA Cup France vs. Norway watch party at Obec Brewing

Sunday, July 12: Bastille Day Picnic, Ravenna Park

Saturday, August 22, 12-3pm: Pétanque, South Lake Union

September: Wine Tasting Fundraiser

Saturday, September 12: Nantes Park Clean Up

Saturday, October 24: Annual General Meeting

December: Holiday Market with the Alliance Française

Sunday, December 6: Holiday Party

SNSCA Board Members

OFFICERS

Co-President: Susan Kegel

Co-President: David Asher

Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Secretary: Alaina McCallum

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Deignan

Margaret Johnson

Marsella Logan

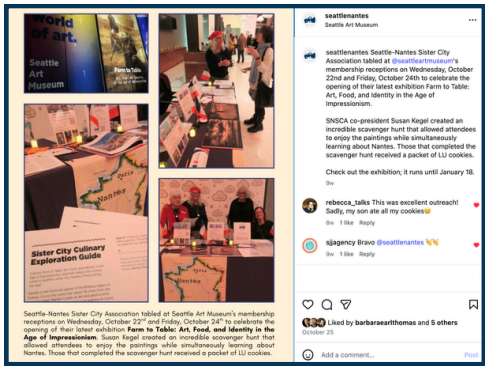
Bunny Schmidley

Inger Tangborn

Tom Waite

Monthly Board Meetings

The Board convenes on the first Wednesday of the month. We are meeting via video conferencing. If you are interested in attending a board meeting, contact us at **seattlenantessca@gmail.com**.



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