



Nantesense

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Newsletter | Dec 2023

Contents

Letter from the President 1

Year in Review 2

Summer Picnic 3

Nantes Park Walkway..... 4

WSGT Grant 5

AGM 6

Upcoming Events..... 7

Letter from the President

Dear All,

The newsletter has a new look – our new logo! Thanks to board member Julien Thibault for this beautiful design. I’m deducing that many like it a lot since our Facebook post about it got many more likes than almost anything else we have posted this year.

In addition to the events described later in this newsletter, I want to give you an update on our collaborative projects underway in Nantes. The Jardin de Seattle, originally planned for completion in spring 2024, has been pushed out to spring 2025 to coincide with our 45th anniversary of twinning. This gives them time to commission a work of art from a Seattle artist as the focal point of the new garden. The details of the call for artists are on our website <https://www.seattle-nantes.org/>

Our plans for our Floralties exhibit in spring 2024 with our partners Geocaching Pays de la Loire are firming up. Our stand was moved in November, due to a reorganization of the layout for our section of the show, and that requires a rework of the design since now visitors can approach the exhibit from all 4 sides, instead of 3. We are working with a local paysagiste to rethink the “focalisation” as well as deciding on the plants.

We have a few recent changes to the SNSCA board. Michelle Beckman is retiring from the board. Thank you, Michelle, for your service these past years and, especially, for your helpful perspective on so many things. Marsella Logan is taking over the membership duties; thank you, Marsella. David Asher is taking on new responsibilities, including as editor of the newsletter. Also, please welcome Bunny Schmidley back to the board.

Thank you for all your support and Bonne Année,

Susan Kegel



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2023 Year In Review

David Asher

- We had our first event of the year as we celebrated La Chandeleur with Crêpes, Cider, and Conversation at Lantern Brewing
- We had a busy booth at Seattle FrenchFest where we sold over 19 boxes of used French books
- The Seattle Pétanque Club invited us to an afternoon of pétanque in Lake Union Park
- We continued our regular upkeep and maintenance at Nantes Park
- After much anticipation, Nantes Park inaugurated its new paved walkway around the park, complete with Claude Ponti's creatures' footprint engravements
- We awarded two French study-abroad scholarships to Kian Power and Ousmane Berry, both students at Whitman College
- We celebrated Bastille Day with a summer potluck at Madrona Park
- We hosted two teachers from the American Section of the École Élémentaire Anatole de Monzie in Nantes
- We applied for a West Seattle Garden Tour grant to support the planting of fruit trees (in partnership with City Fruit) in Nantes Park
- We unveiled a new SNSCA logo that incorporates more “Nantes-blue”, a color associated with Seattle and Nantes
- We distributed a Call to Artists to solicit ideas for the focal art piece to be installed in the Jardin de Seattle in Nantes in Spring 2025
- The year concluded with our annual AGM at Ellen Taft's house, featuring Breton live music, local food, and fantastic wine



Bastille Day Summer Picnic

David Asher

This year marked a return to SNSCA's Bastille Day Summer Potluck after previously having the event with our friends at Lantern Brewing. For Bastille Day this year, SNSCA went to Madrona Park in Seattle as we embraced the spirit of Bastille Day with food, activities, and Nantes-themed trivia.

With Tom Redding managing the grill, members brought an assortment of food, side dishes, and activities for all to enjoy. A very special thank you to Susan Kegel for also bringing treats straight from Nantes! Afterwards, members participated in a Nantes-themed Giant Jenga trivia game designed by board member Alaina McCallum and competitive games of cornhole. Additionally, following our event with The Seattle Pétanque Club, SNSCA purchased its own pétanque set which made its debut at the picnic.

Amidst our celebration, we had the honor of presenting Jean-Loup Baer with a gift basket for his 15-year tenure on the Board. Jean-Loup's unwavering dedication to the organization has been instrumental over the past 15 years.

Merci to all who attended!



Nantes Park Walkway Update

David Asher

After a long delay, owing to a combination of hurdles from permit delays, worker strikes, and even needing to temporarily relocate a bus stop, SNSCA broke ground on the much-anticipated paving of the enclosed walkway in Nantes Park this past fall. We're proud to share that the walkway has now been fully paved and completed.

The newly paved walkway encircles the park's boundary, allowing visitors to stroll and appreciate the different installations that are featured in the park such as Claude Ponti's *Les Totémiques* and the Seattle-Nantes student tiles that were inaugurated last year.

Additionally, the walkway will serve as an art installation itself. Building upon the feedback solicited from community reviews, the walkway features engraved footprints from fantastical creatures found in Claude Ponti's imagination. Visitors are encouraged to use their imagination to identify the creatures!

This spring, we'll re-start projects to beautify the park through a series of weeding, gardening, and clean-up projects leading up to a walkway inauguration later this spring or early summer. We hope to see you there!



West Seattle Garden Tour (WSGT) Grant

David Asher

This year, SNSCA applied for a \$1500 grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour to plant 6-8 fruit trees in Nantes Park in the Spring of 2024, building upon a conversation that started last year at the inaugural annual Fruit Trees in the City conference in Nantes. SNSCA previously received a West Seattle Garden Tour grant in 2022 to support the student tile installations in Nantes Park.

By partnering with Seattle Parks and Recreation and City Fruit, this project aims not only to beautify the park but also to educate to community through workshops on planting, nurturing, and harvesting the trees. Our goal is to fill in gaps in the plantings at Nantes Park with useful plants, encourage others in Seattle to plant and maintain fruit trees in their yards, gather community around harvesting, and donate extra fruit each year to local food banks. The project will be open to everyone, and we encourage people to take fruit home during the harvest.

The latest step in the grant process was presenting our proposal to the West Seattle Garden Tour at their board meeting last month. We hope to hear back on the grant decision by early 2024 and plant the trees by the spring. Stay tuned for further updates!



Annual General Meeting (AGM)

David Asher

Last month we welcomed our membership to the 2023 Annual General Meeting (AGM). Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to Ellen Taft for graciously hosting. In total, we had 47 attendees come out to close out the year.

We were joined by local Breton band, Bara Gwin, who treated us to lovely sounds and music of Brittany. For their appearance, SNSCA donated \$200 to the International Committee for the Defense of the Breton Language (ICDBL), an organization dedicated to the support of the endangered Breton Language through education, awareness, and policy.

‘Bara Gwin’ is also a Breton term for ‘food and drink’, which there was in abundance at the AGM. We had baked goods from Bakery Nouveau, chicken from Ezell’s and spring rolls and spinach tofu from Ba Bar, in addition to a wonderful assortment of wines picked out by SNSCA President, Susan Kegel.

As required by SNSCA’s bylaws, we also conducted board member elections at the AGM. Congratulations to Alaina McCallum, Margaret Johnson, Julien Thibault for being re-elected to the Board, and a special congratulations to Bunny Schmidley for re-joining the board! Thank you all for your dedication to the organization.

It was a fantastic way to close out the year, and once again, a special thank you to Ellen Taft for extending her hospitality. We’re looking forward to many more exciting events in the New Year. Until then, happy holidays!



Monthly Board Meetings

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

Upcoming Events

January 3rd, 6:30pm

Board Meeting via Zoom

February 3rd, Time TBD

Crêpe Dinner Event

- Save the date for next year’s La Chandeleur Crêpe dinner event!
- Further details to be shared at the beginning of next year

SNSCA Board Members

OFFICERS

President: Susan Kegel

Vice-President: Alaina McCallum

Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Secretary: David Asher

AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Margaret Johnson

Larry Laffrey

Marsella Logan

Julien Thibault

Tom Waite

Bunny Schmidley

Membership Renewal

Thank you to all who have renewed your membership in SNSCA! Your support is crucial for our programs and scholarships.

We will start collecting the 2024 dues in January. If you wish to get a head start, please pay [online](#) or send your check made out to SNSCA to:

Marsella Logan
12550 120th Ave NE Unit 221
Kirkland, WA 98034

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