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Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

It's been another busy year for SNSCA, with the long-delayed celebrations of our 40th anniversary of twinning and the usual raft of events, some even in person! My end-of-the-year recap is below and on the next page you will find a report from my trip to Nantes this month in support of Councilmember Herbold's presentation to an international mental health conference. We are planning next year's events as you read this, but we already have confirmation that FrenchFest will resume in person in 2023 and we will be there with our bouquiniste offering! We also have some good news for our Nantes Park project – we have a confirmed contractor to do the final step of pouring the walkway and embedding the Claude Ponti creature footprints, aiming for March or April once the weather improves.

Happy New Year!



2022 Year in Review

- FrenchFest – we enjoyed virtual tours of the Chateau de Goulaine, Le Dilemme restaurant in Nantes, a Muscadet winery, and the salt marshes of Guérande along with a live cooking demonstration of beurre blanc.
- Nantes Delegation to Seattle – we hosted about 40 delegates from Nantes in April for a week of events and discussions.
- Nantes park Inauguration – we completed 2/3 of the Nantes Park Beautification and threw an excellent party with delicious food and live music, despite the weather.
- Seattle Delegation to Nantes – we took a group of 9 to Nantes in September hosted by our colleagues at La Maison des Etats-Unis.
- We awarded two scholarships to WA students studying French.
- We maintained the Seattle-Nantes geocache at the Olympic Sculpture Park, which received literally hundreds of visitors in a couple of days in August for an international geocaching event.
- We winned and dined a geocaching delegation from our colleagues at Geocaching Pays de la Loire.
- We celebrated with Beer, Books, and Bastille in person at Lantern Brewing.
- We stepped up our presence in Nantes Park with 4-5 weeding and mulching events between March and October.
- We closed the year out with another in-person event at L'Experience on Mercer Island.



News from Nantes

Susan Kegel



In early December, I had the privilege of returning to Nantes in support of Councilmember Herbold's presentation at the **Colloque International Ville & Santé mentale**. This was the first in a hoped-for biannual international conference on how cities can improve the mental health of their citizens, to be hosted by different cities around the world. The event was attended by about 850 people from 30 cities in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America, and North America. Our Seattle delegation was the only representative from the US. The two-day event featured presentations and round table discussions on four topics:

1. Urban planning, architecture, nature in the city and mental health
2. Work, economy, temporality and mental health
3. Art, culture, sport and mental health
4. Vulnerable populations and mental health

CM Herbold spoke during the 4th session, focusing on what Seattle and greater King County are doing with respect to the mental health issues of the homeless and youth populations, including among other things new funding in next year's city and county budgets, tiny house villages and JustCares initiatives, and the new 988 number.

You can find more information about the conference here, including several videos where the citizens of Seattle and other cities speak out about mental health issues in their cities:

<https://www.villes-et-sante-mentale.com/retour-sur-levenement/>

CM Herbold and I also met with a number of city officials and deputy mayors to discuss participatory budgeting, the Atlanpole start-up incubator, Nantes' creative district, and their gender-neutral-city initiative. In addition, I met with the team designing the new Jardin de Seattle and the Floralies 2024 committee. Stay tuned for more on both of those fledgling projects in the new year.

Finally, we had a lovely brunch to connect CM Herbold with the three associations that SNSCA is currently working with in Nantes: our long-time friends at La Maison des Etats-Unis, Geocaching Pays de la Loire, and France Etats-Unis. (France Etats-Unis is the organization that put together our SNSCA FrenchFest program this past year.)

Monthly Board Meetings

The Board convenes on the first Wednesday of the month. During these times of social distancing, we are meeting via video conferencing. If you are interested, contact us at seattlenantessca@gmail.com.

SNSCA Board Members

OFFICERS

President: Susan Kegel

Vice-President: Alaina McCallum

Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Secretary: David Asher

MEMBERS

David Asher

Jean-Loup Baer

Michelle Beckman

Susan Hulbert

Margaret Johnson

Susan Kegel

Larry Laffrey

Alaina McCallum

Marsella Quinones

Julien Thibault

Tom Waite

Upcoming Events

January 4, 6:30pm

Board Meeting via Zoom

February 11, TBD

Chandeleur Crêpe Dinner

February 8, 6:30pm

Board Meeting via Zoom

March 1, 6:30pm

Board Meeting via Zoom

March 19, 11am-5pm

FrenchFest, Seattle Center

