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A Note from the Editor

By Alaina McCallum

As 2017 comes to a close, this latest edition of the *Nantesense* serves as a reflection of this year's activities, as well provide information about upcoming events.

Currently, SNSCA has half a dozen annual events for membership to participate in: the crêpe dinner, French Fest, Nantes Park cleanup, SIFF movies, summer picnic, and the Annual General Meeting. In addition to these annual events, the Association is continually working to expand local cultural activities and strengthen involvement with Nantes.

On behalf of the Board, I want to extend a thank you for your continual support. The Association looks forward to seeing you at future events! Bonne année 2018!

La Chandeleur

On February 12th, we held our annual crêpe dinner at the Hangar Café in Georgetown. The food and hospitality was impeccable. Stacey Jehlik, International Affairs Director at City of Seattle, come to the event and shared with the membership about her role in supporting Seattle's 21 sister cities.

This year in celebration of la Chandeleur, SNSCA will again hold the crêpe dinner at the Hangar Café on Sunday, February 11th. More details are to come.

French Fest

The Seattle Center hosts a myriad of cultural events throughout the year. However, on Sunday, March 19th, Seattle celebrated *la Francophonie* with French Fest. Visitors to the Seattle-Nantes booth learned more about the Association by talking to members and participating a "Do you know Nantes?" quiz. Children colored images of Nantes such as the elephant from les Machines de l'île. Also, visitors bought French books to help support our scholarship program.





Nantes Park Cleanup

In celebration of Earth Day, members gathered at Nantes Park on April 29th to tend to the weeds and beautify the park. The weather was nice, and we were able to remove weeds from the flowerbeds and the pathway.

The next time you are in West Seattle, feel free to stop by Nantes Park at 51st and Admiral Way.



Enjoying French Films

The Seattle International Film Festival takes place throughout May and June, SNSCA helped sponsor three French films: *The Midwife*, *The Odyssey*, and *My Journey through French Cinema*. As part of our sponsorship, we received ten tickets to each showing. Members were able to enjoy French cinema in good company. SNSCA will again sponsor SIFF films in the spring; we hope to see at one of the screenings.

Scholarship Recipients

Following interviews in May, the Scholarship Committee was proud to announce three deserving scholarship recipients thanks to your generous donations. Marsella Quinones from the University of Washington received the Goldmark Scholarship. Laura Phillips from Seattle Pacific University received the Seattle-Nantes Scholars Scholarship. Sophia Mahr from Pacific Lutheran University received the Frances Bennett Scholarship.

To learn more about our scholarship program visit our website at www.seattle-nantes.org/scholarships.



Larry Laffrey presents the scholarship check to Marsella Quinones.



Monthly Board Meetings

The Board of SNSCA meets monthly to discuss local activities and work on strengthening the relationship between Seattle and Nantes. In general, the Board convenes on the first Wednesday of the month at the Greenwood Library; see the website to confirm the meeting location. If you are interested in joining the Board, contact us at seattlenantessca@gmail.com and come to a board meeting to learn more.



Left: In Seattle, the Board reviews the poster before sending it to Nantes.

Right: In Nantes, members of our Nantes counterparts hold up the poster. Photo courtesy of Maison des États-Unis

WWI Project

In conjunction with The Bridge, a French celebration of the 100th anniversary of the US entry into WWI, SNSCA compiled war stories and images. Susan Kegel edited a newsletter from which Tom Waite created a poster that he presented to Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville Sister City Association. The poster was displayed on a cruise along the Loire River and a sequential event honoring the US entry in the Great War. The Nantais were very appreciative the poster, which is currently housed in the Maison des États-Unis in Nantes.

This project is a wonderful example of one of the many ways we continue to strengthen our partnership with Nantes. The contents of the poster are visible in the special edition of the *Nantesense* from June 2017. The newsletter consists of stories of men who served in France in the infantry, in field hospitals, and in veterinary hospitals.



Photos courtesy of Michelle Beckman

Summer Picnic

On July 16th, members celebrated Bastille Day with a summer picnic and barbecue on the shore of Lake Washington. On the beautiful Sunday, members met at Madrona Park. The picnic is a delightful annual event that allows members to enjoy good food and company. It was great to have scholarship recipients Marsella Quinones and Laura Phillips as well as new member Patricia Smith attended the event in addition to longtime members. Attendees brought delicious food to share and something for themselves to barbecue. We thank Tom Redding for always helping to keep the coals hot for grilling.



Photos courtesy of Mike Menkin

Annual General Meeting

On Sunday, November 12th, the Annual General Meeting was held at Zouave Restaurant in the Ravenna neighborhood. The ambiance and food was excellent.

Meghan Schumacher, French teacher at West Seattle High School, and French student Camille from the town of La Ferté-Bernard were our special guests for the evening. Meghan spoke about the Passepartout program, which is a cultural and educational program based on reciprocity between two schools, one in Washington State and one in the region of Nantes. Camille spoke about her time so far in Seattle. She arrived just before Halloween and departed after Thanksgiving. She was hosted by a West Seattle student of whom she will host in the spring when the Seattleite goes to France to partake in the other half of the exchange.

Larry Laffrey led the election of the board members. Three board members were re-elected for a two-year term: Jean-Loup Baer, Margaret Johnson, and Alaina McCallum. In December, Michelle Beckman was appointed to the Board by a unanimous vote from board members. She was again elected to the Board by the membership.



SNSCA Cinerama

Come enjoy our first movie event on Sunday, January 21, 2018 from 1-4pm in West Seattle.

Please bring one or more French movies. We will vote on which one to watch. Bring family, friends, and a French-inspired finger food dish or drink to share. We will provide plates, cutlery, glasses, and napkins.

Thank you to Patricia Smith for hosting this event in her condo's community room.

Please contact Susan Kegel (susankegel@gmail.com) to let us know you are coming, what you are bringing, and find out the address.



Thomas Hugh Bennett

Tom was born December 30, 1935 in Oakland, CA and died November 17, 2017 in Edmonds, WA. Between these two dates he graced the world with his bright countenance, unbridled enthusiasm, piercing wit, and unwavering devotion to family.

He served on the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Board of Directors for several years and with SNSCA he set up a scholarship in his mother's name which awards money to college students interested in studying French.

A Memorial Service will be held Saturday, January 6th at 11:00 am at First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach. Lunch will follow. Memorial donations can be given in Tom Bennett's name to either First Lutheran Church of Richmond Beach or the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association.

For a complete obituary of Tom, visit www.becksfuneralhome.com.

Upcoming Events

JANUARY 6

Tom Bennett's memorial service

JANUARY 21

French film showing at Patricia Smith's condo

FEBRUARY 11

La Chandeleur crêpe dinner at the Hangar Café

MARCH 17

French Fest at the Seattle Center

Visit seattle-nantes.org for more

Membership Renewal

It is time to renew your membership dues for 2018. Thanks to your contributions, we are able to organize events and support exchanges. Could you please do so by either sending a check to:

SNSCA
5108 1st Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98107

Or using the **Donate** button on our website.



SNSCA Board Members

OFFICERS

President: Larry Laffrey

Vice-President: Margaret Johnson

Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Secretary: Alaina McCallum

MEMBERS

Jean-Loup Baer
Michelle Beckman
Susan Hulbert
Margaret Johnson
Susan Kegel
Larry Laffrey
Alaina McCallum
Tom Waite

RESPONSIBILITIES

Events Coordinator: Margaret Johnson

General Information: Larry Laffrey

Membership: Jean-Loup Baer

Newsletter Editor: Alaina McCallum

Scholarship: Alaina McCallum and Bunny Schmidley

Website: Alaina McCallum



French Immersion for Adults

For the third year in a row, our sister city counterpart in Nantes will be hosting a summer exchange for adults.

The program runs from June 25th to June 30th. Each morning participants will have three hours of class at the Université Permanente de Nantes. The activities in the afternoon will be organized by the Maison des États-Unis.

Classes and lunch will cost 250€. Members of the sister city in Nantes will provide free accommodation and meals. It will also be possible to extend your stay for a second week.

The sign up date is April 30, 2018. For more information, visit our website at www.seattle-nantes.org.