



Nantesense

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Newsletter, October 2016

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President's Letter

Dear friends,

In recent weeks, I have had the privilege of working with a number of my 'president peers' in planning the Seattle Sister Cities Reception scheduled for Thursday, October 6th. Watch for news about this event, a great program to be held at City Hall after a three-year hiatus!

As our Annual General Meeting approaches in November, please consider attending this gathering of our membership. We seek to grow our numbers by engaging more successfully with all of you, as well as with our Nantes counterparts. To that end, we will be sending out a survey to the membership before the end of the year. Thanks in advance for your reply!

I hope you had a wonderful summer!

Best wishes,

Larry Laffrey



February: La Chandeleur



March: French Fest



July: Annual Summer Picnic

A Note from the Editor

By Alaina McCallum

The newsletter provides the membership and the community with the opportunity to stay current with the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association's activities. In the coming editions, my goal as editor is to make the newsletter shorter but more frequent in order to improve communication.

Thank you for your continual support. I hope you enjoy all the Seattle-Nantes updates!

La Chandeleur

On February 6th, the membership gathered at the Hangar Café in Georgetown for our annual la Chandeleur crêpe dinner. There was an excellent turnout with both longtime members and guests.

The Association was honored to have Paul Neville, the International Affairs Director for the City of Seattle, attended the event with his wife. He gave a speech about his goals for Seattle sister cities.

The Hangar Café prepared a delicious assortment of crêpes, which were enjoyed between the eclectically decorated walls. The menu included a choice of a ham, turkey pesto, or caprese dinner crêpe and a Nutella or raspberry jam dessert crêpe. The dinner also included a beverage of choice; many enjoyed hard cider or wine.



Jean Leblon and Tad Davis. Photo courtesy of Michael Menkin.



Welcome New Members!

We welcome the following members who have joined the Association since the last newsletter. We hope to you at an upcoming event!

Michelle Beckman

Allison Hall

Adam Kline

Jean-Baptiste Dupont

Emer Coria-Islas

Kim Hayes

Emma VanOrden

Laura Phillips

Sierra Dodd

Jim White

Erina Horikawa

French Fest

The annual festival celebrating the French-speaking cultures brings together numerous French organizations, schools, and vendors from the Puget Sound area. This year it was held on Sunday, March 20th at Seattle Center. The SNSCA booth was located at the top of the stairs on the mezzanine level, which was more centrally located than in recent years. The information booth had an assortment of books and brochures where people were able to learn about Nantes and the Association as well as a board to test their knowledge about Nantes. The cork drawing also drew some attention, as winners could pick from an assortment of prizes. Attendees also enjoyed perusing the French book sale; the proceeds went toward supporting our scholarships. Thank you to all the SNSCA members who helped make French Fest a success by arriving early to set up the book sale and information table, selling books, informing Francophiles about the Association, and packing up at the end of the day.



Students visiting from Nantes



In April, SNSCA member Chantal Sullivan welcomed fifteen students and two teachers from Lycée Talensac, a high school in Nantes, to Auburn Mountainview High School. While being hosted by local families, the Nantais students attended classes at the high school and did sightseeing around the Puget Sound.

On Sunday, April 3rd, a potluck was held at Auburn Mountainview High School with the Nantais students, local families, and several SNSCA members. It was a great opportunity to welcome and recognize students from Nantes.

Scholarship Recipients

One of the tenets of the SNSCA is to promote cultural understanding. The scholarship program is one way the Association provides access to French culture and language to students in Washington. In May, Scholarship Committee co-chairs Jean Leblon and Bunny Schmidley along with members Susan Hulbert, Alaina McCallum, Marilyn Severson, and Ellen Taft reviewed applications and interviewed a number of scholarship candidates. At the end of May, the committee conducted interviews to award the scholarships.

The 2016 Seattle-Nantes Scholars Scholarship recipients are Elmer Coria-Islas, Allison Hall, Erina Horikawa, and Emma Van Orden. Sierra Dodd is studying in Nantes this autumn and received the 2016 Goldmark Scholarship.

If you would like to support the scholarship program, please click on the *Donate* button on the Seattle-Nantes website. Also, if you know of a student planning to study abroad in Nantes or study French at a Washington college, please send them to the Scholarship Page on the website.

Sierra Dodd shares some of her photos from Nantes!





Seattle International Film Festival

During the 2016 Seattle International Film Festival, SNSCA sponsored three films: *Come What May*, *The Innocents*, and *Summertime*. For each film, we had ten complimentary tickets for the membership.

Interestingly enough, all of the films we sponsored were period pieces. *Come What May* is set in 1940 and follows the emotional journey of a small French village that flees for the coast as the Nazis approached.

The Innocents takes place at the end of World War II in 1945 Poland. A young French Red Cross doctor is sent to Poland to help survivors of the war; however, the doctor finds a new mission ends up helping a group of pregnant Benedictine nuns.

The film *Summertime* is set in 1971 and follows the love story of a young farm girl who moves to Paris and meets a charismatic feminist. The couple learns that their love is not as accepted once they leave Paris and return to the countryside.

Annual Summer Picnic

More than 25 people attended the Annual Summer Picnic on Sunday, July 17th. There was a nice turnout with both longtime and new members. As in recent years, we had a shelter and several picnic tables on the shore of Lake Washington at Madrona Beach. The picnic tables were decorated with *bleu, blanc et rouge*, and everyone enjoyed good company and food. Everyone brought food to share for the potluck as well as something to put on the barbecue. Following the meal, Larry Laffrey led us in a moment of silence to remember those affected by the attack in Nice on Bastille Day.



Nantes Park

In mid-August, Larry Laffrey stopped by Nantes Park and saw the flowerbeds in full bloom.



Sister Cities Reception Preview

At the August board meeting, we opened some packages sent from Nantes Métropole. Nantes Métropole is an intercommunal structure that consists of 24 *communs* around Nantes; it is a similar equivalent to what King County is to Seattle. Some of the items will be going in a display case at Seattle City Hall during the Seattle Sister Cities Reception on October 6th.



News from Nantes



Foire internationale de Nantes



During the eleven-day international fair in April, Maison des États-Unis had a prime location table with flags, books, and photographs showcasing Seattle and other American cities.



Maison des États-Unis, which houses Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville Sister City Association, has a new home at Lycée Saint Felix-La Salle at 2 avenue des Pyrénées in Nantes.

Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 13th

Annual General Meeting at Orfeo at 4:30pm.

FEBRUARY

La Chandeleur crêpe dinner; details to come.

SNSCA Board Members

OFFICERS

President: Larry Laffrey

Vice-President: Margaret Johnson

Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Secretary: Alaina McCallum

MEMBERS

Jean-Loup Baer

Susan Hulbert

Margaret Johnson

Susan Kegel

Larry Laffrey

Jean Leblon

Alaina McCallum

Tom Waite

RESPONSIBILITIES

Events Coordinator: Margaret Johnson

General Information: Larry Laffrey

Membership: Jean-Loup Baer

Newsletter Editor: Alaina McCallum

Scholarship: Jean Leblon and Bunny Schmidley

Volunteer Coordinator: Margaret Johnson

Website: Alaina McCallum