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## Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

We’ve had a busy spring! Inside this issue of our newsletter you will find articles about our most recent two events – pétanque and our second spring clean-up in Nantes Park – plus learn about this year’s scholarship recipients.

We also had a terrific evening hosting two teachers from École Élémentaire Anatole de Monzie. They were visiting Seattle to meet with colleagues in local schools who teach immersion and bilingual classes, to find out more about how we do that here and to share their own experiences with the American Section in their school. The students at Anatole de Monzie made us two beautiful posters with pictures of Nantes and a memory game. Ba Bar in South Lake Union was the perfect venue – great food, able to accommodate our group of 20, and free parking.

Our “stand” for Floralties 2024 is progressing nicely. Our partners at Geocaching Pays de la Loire have lots of great ideas. The overall theme of Floralties is “jeux de fleurs”. We are asking for a plot in the “jeux d’esprit” section of the show for our geocaching-based display. Our draft design is a picnic scene, with a blanket on the grass, a winding path, and flowers and shrubs around the perimeter with a picket fence at the back. The picnickers have been playing games of various kinds and the public can play too. For example, there is a set of dominoes on the blanket, but instead of the usual domino dots, the blocks will have Seattle-themed words coded in braille. The picket fence will be Morse code for more Seattle words. Explanatory text will be provided, of course, on a facsimile of a typical Seattle park sign, so that people passing by know how to play along. We have just submitted our proposed design.

Coming up very soon is our annual Bastille Day potluck, held this year at the usual place from pre-Covid days, Madrona Park in Seattle. We have reserved shelter 1 and the 3 tables near it, starting at 3:00pm with the grill ready at 3:30pm. Bring something to grill and a dessert or side dish to share. SNSCA will provide drinks and utensils. We will also be bringing a pétanque set and a few other games! Hope to see you all there,

Susan Kegel



## Pétanque

Susan Kegel

We enjoyed a lovely sunny and not-too-hot day for our first pétanque outing on the shores of South Lake Union. The Seattle Pétanque Club graciously hosted us, first teaching us the game and allowing us to practice a bit, before engaging in serious play. We had 3-4 games going simultaneously. The game is easy to learn and even those, like me, who have terrible aim can still score some points. It is also a very social game with plenty of time to chat and enjoy the other action in the park. We roped in a few passers-by who were curious. I especially enjoyed watching the club members throw the perfect shot to knock someone else's boule out of the target area. It was very fun and we all agreed we should do it again.



## Nantes Park

Susan Kegel

It's incredible how fast the weeds grow. Only slightly more than a month after thoroughly weeding Nantes Park, we went back to spread some mulch and discovered weeds over a foot high! Our valiant crew of eight were able to re-weed and then spread all the mulch. As we often do, we lucked out with good weather.

Our next park project is to plant some fruit trees in the fall. SPR has agreed to let us plant 5-6 dwarf trees to fill in some of the bare areas. We decided on fruit trees because the parks department in Nantes is also focusing on adding more fruit trees to their landscape with a kick-off conference in September about fruit trees in the city. City Fruit ([cityfruit.org](http://cityfruit.org)) will be participating in the conference and we are also partnering with them on our trees. They will help us host events for the neighborhood to learn about caring for fruit trees in the urban environment as well as harvesting parties where people can keep what they pick and the rest will be donated to local food banks. Our small orchard won't produce too much, but it will hopefully spark interest in urban agriculture, which is a hot topic right now for cities around the world.



## Scholarships

Alaina McCallum

Every year, Seattle-Nantes accepts applications through February for the three scholarships that we offer. This year, the Scholarship Committee met in March to conduct interviews with the strong applicants.

We are delighted to awarded Kian Power with the Goldmark Scholarship and Ousmane Berry the Dr. Thomas H. Bennett Scholarship. Both recipients are from Whitman College and have shared a few words to introduce themselves.



*Hello! My name is Kian Power and I am a junior at Whitman College, located in Walla Walla, Washington. I am majoring in both French and Biology and will be studying abroad in the fall of 2023 in Nantes, France. I was honored to be the 2023 Goldmark Scholarship recipient, and I am so grateful to be able to use this opportunity to accomplish my academic goals. Biology and French are my two main passions, and this year I worked to combine these interests by participating in a Western African snakebite research project. During this project, I translated English research documents into French to be used by Guinean and Congolese collaborators. I am hoping to continue this work of French biology research by taking a biology course at the local University of Nantes while I am studying abroad.*

*As a Goldmark recipient, I hope to help strengthen the ties between the wonderful cities of Seattle and Nantes, doing internships in Seattle whilst seeking to speak French wherever I can.*



*I am Ousmane Barry; I am an International undergraduate student that is currently a senior, majoring in Econometrics and Quantitative Economics with a minor in Data Science at Whitman College. I was born and raised in Guinea (Conakry). In 2016, in the middle of high school, I got a chance for a higher quality education and moved to Italy. After two years of struggling due to cultural differences, I successfully integrated myself thanks to the language skills I learned in my home country. I attended United World College of the Adriatic where I was exposed to much of the world, with 95+ countries represented and was integrated into the English learning environment for the first time. For past two years, I have been assisting the Whitman French Department by tutoring and supporting students interested in learning the French language, tradition, and culture. My supervisor at Whitman, Sarah Hulbert, shared this scholarship opportunity with me, and I am grateful I was awarded the Dr. Thomas H. Bennett Scholarship. I am studying abroad in Switzerland to complete a 6-month program in Banking, Finance, and Language. I am hoping to learn more about the cultures and customs of another francophone country. I am already preparing for how I will get involved with people and organizations aimed in helping and connecting societies.*

We look forward to keeping in touch with Kian and Ousmane during their study abroad experience and sharing it with the rest of the membership!

## 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](mailto:seattlenantessca@gmail.com).

## Upcoming Events

July 5, 6:30pm

### Board Meeting via Zoom

July 16, 3:00pm

### Bastille Day Potluck

Madrona Park, Shelter 1

- Bring something to grill and a dessert or side dish to share.
- The grill will be ready at 3:30.
- SNSCA will provide utensils, drinks, and games.

## SNSCA Board Members

### OFFICERS

**President:** Susan Kegel

**Vice-President:** Alaina McCallum

**Treasurer:** Susan Hulbert

**Secretary:** David Asher

### AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBERS

Michelle Beckman

Margaret Johnson

Larry Laffrey

Marsella Quinones

## Membership Renewal

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

If you haven't yet done so, please pay [online](#) or send your check made out to SNSCA to:

Michelle Beckman  
P.O. Box 46441  
Seattle, WA 98146

## Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook!

