



# Nantesense

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Newsletter | April 2024

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## Letter from the President

Happy Spring!

Watching all the trees budding out is getting me in the mood for the Floralties-Internationales extravaganza this May in Nantes, where SNSCA will represent Seattle, as we have done since 1989! That first exhibit in 1989 was titled “Garden in the City – Pacific Northwest Design”. Each year the Floralties committee picks a theme for the show. This year’s Floralties theme is “Jeux de Fleurs”, in homage to the Olympic Games being held this summer in France.

We have a 56-square-meter stand where we will be presenting a picnic in a Seattle park where people are enjoying our local game of geocaching. Yes, that’s right – the world-wide geocaching HQ is right here in Seattle. Visitors to our stand will be invited to solve puzzles about Seattle sprinkled throughout our flowering garden. Our title? Des-jeux-nés à Seattle. If that reminds you of another famous picnic scene in France then you have solved the first puzzle!

Lastly, we’d like to extend a special welcome to our new members this year. Thank you for your interest in the organization and we look forward to seeing you at our events!

- Antoine Drochon
- Stephanie Lesperance
- Emma Le Dû
- Our Teacher Friends in Nantes

Thank you for all your support,

Susan Kegel

## A Crepe Dinner with a Twist

Susan Kegel

We tried something new for our annual celebration of La Chandeleur. Margaret Johnson invited us all to the cabana at her condo complex in Renton. Emma Le Dû of <https://crepesandtravel.com/> and native of Brittany gave us a demonstration of how to successfully cook and flip a crêpe on both a special crêpe-making griddle and a pan on the stove. Then, willing participants were invited to make their own on their equipment of choice. Plenty of crêpes were produced for topping with a splendid array of choices including sea salt caramel sauce and Grand Marnier. We also had a cheese and charcuterie board and a savory galette gateau made by Marsella Logan that showcased the traditional buckwheat recipe from Brittany. We met Sofia-Cristina Visan, the new executive director of FACC. Plus music from our house band, Julien Thibault and friends. Thanks to everyone who brought drinks to share!



## FrenchFest 2024

Margaret Johnson

FrenchFest 2024 was a wonderful success with many people coming by our booth to talk of recent and future travel to Nantes and to France in general, and to hear what SNSCA is all about. The bouquiniste is always a big draw and this year we sold another sizable amount of books.

In addition to our displays of SNSCA brochures, scholarship info and events we take part in all year, we offered for purchase SNSCA tote bags with our new logo as well as bookmarks, earrings, and the Seattle Sister Cities' Cookbook, all of which drew interested visitors to our booth.

As always, preparing for FrenchFest, staffing the booth, and taking care of post-event activities requires many helping hands. Many thanks to Jean-Loup Baer, Bénédicte and Ty Egbert, and Chantal Sullivan for volunteering to help. Special thanks to Alaina and Linda McCallum for retrieving boxes of books from Ellen's house and taking those left back to Ellen's house. Thank you Ellen for storing them!

Several who visited our booth asked about donating books and we encourage any of you who as well who have some French Books to donate to [email](#) us so we can replenish stock for next year.



## 2024 Scholarship Recipients

Alaina McCallum

Since 1989, Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association's scholarship program has supported over 80 students. In March, the Scholarship Committee, Susan Hulbert, Marsella Logan, Bunny Schmidley, and myself, interviewed our scholarship applicants. Following those interviews, I am delighted to announce our 2024 scholarship recipients Mikaela Seelke and Basil Elsner.

**Mikaela Seelke** is majoring in Environmental Sciences and French at the University of Washington. Mikaela has been involved with a number of different activities that demonstrate her interests such as participating in UW's French Club, volunteering with UW's Study Abroad Buddy Program, and being a student volunteer for the Burke Museum Herbarium. In the fall, Mikaela will be studying in Nantes with the support of the Goldmark Scholarship. We look forward to keeping in touch with her as she studies and explores our sister city.

As a current junior at Olympia High School, **Basil Elsner** is our first high school student to apply for and be awarded the Dr. Thomas H. Bennett Scholarship. Basil demonstrates incredible leadership skills as captain of his rugby team and Knowledge Bowl team and has tutored French. Basil explores his passion for French by watching French television, listening to French music, and learning about French art, gastronomy, and history. This summer, Basil will complete an intensive proficiency-based French language course at the Accord Ecole de Langues in Paris. We hope Basil's experience in Paris provides him the challenge that he is looking for as he gains proficiency in French.

SNSCA offers three different scholarships, the Goldmark, Francis Bennett, and Dr. Thomas H. Bennett. We are grateful to the members that donate to our scholarship fund in order to support opportunities for students to study abroad and further their passion for the French language. To learn more about our scholarships, you can visit [seattle-nantes.org/scholarships](https://seattle-nantes.org/scholarships).

## Jardin de Seattle on Track for 2025 Inauguration

Susan Kegel

In Nantes' largest park, a new area dedicated to Seattle will evoke the city's landscapes and identity. The garden was designed by urban agriculture students and Nantes' Nature and Gardens Department team. SNSCA connected them with UW's Curator of Living Collections for expert consultation on typical Seattle plants. The garden will comprise various groves of fruit trees and shrubs, herbaceous plants and climbers. It is crisscrossed by paths and a stream, and includes a central, wood-lined, amphitheater-shaped plot. A central feature is a nourishing forest. The thematic focus on an edible and mainly fruit garden is linked to the importance of fruit production in the Seattle area and, more broadly, in Washington State. The fruit forest concept was inspired by the Nantes delegation visit arranged by SNSCA to the Beacon Food Forest in 2022. This innovative form of permaculture will be the first of its kind in Nantes. Inauguration is expected in 2025, coinciding with our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of twinning.

### Seattle Artist Featured in Jardin de Seattle

A focus of the garden will be a work of art by a Seattle artist commissioned by the city of Nantes. SNSCA worked with our colleagues in Nantes to put out a call for submissions in fall 2023 with the final decision made in February 2024. **I am thrilled to announce that the chosen artist is Barbara Earl Thomas!** Her website is: <https://barbaraearlthomas.com/>. You may remember her amazing show at the Seattle Art Museum, Geography of Innocence, in 2020 and another show at the Henry Art Gallery, Packaged Black, in 2021. Coincidentally, it turns out that she is a former SNSCA board member, though this will be her first trip to Nantes!



## SNSCA to Co-Sponsor Seattle Europe Day Festivities

David Asher

On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 1950, exactly five years following the conclusion of World War II, French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman proposed the Schuman Declaration to merge French and West German coal and steel production into a single operating authority, a move centered on pacifying international relations through political and economic integration. Over the next year, the Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Luxembourg all joined the alliance, and in 1951 the Treaty of Paris was signed, creating the European Coal and Steel Community. Europe's first supranational community eventually served as a cornerstone for the founding of the European Economic Community, and ultimately, the European Union.

Today, the European Union observes Europe Day on May 9<sup>th</sup> as a day to celebrate peace and unity in Europe. It should be noted that the Council of Europe observes Europe Day on May 5<sup>th</sup> to commemorate its founding on that day, but both observances share the same mission.

The Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association is delighted to co-sponsor Europe Day festivities in Seattle this year, in partnership with our friends at L'Alliance Française, the World Affairs Council and the Seattle-Gdynia Sister City Association. Our Europe Day 2024 gathering will be on **Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup> from 5:30pm-7:30pm** at the MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center in Madrona. All are invited to enjoy food, drink, and activities highlighting the Seattle Sister Cities and diversity of Europe. Additionally, Dr. Chiara Pierobon, visiting professor at the University of Washington, will share her research on "Europe as a Global Actor" in a keynote speech and audience discussion. Admission is free, but RSVP is required. We hope to see you there!



## 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

Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:00am – 1:00pm

### Nantes Park Spring Clean-Up

5062 SW Admiral Way, West Seattle

Thursday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 5:30pm - 7:30pm

### Europe Day 2024 Celebration

MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center  
3201 E Republican Street, Seattle

Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, Time TBD

### SNSCA Bastille Day Summer Picnic

## 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.

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

Marsella Logan  
17332 90<sup>th</sup> Drive NE Unit A  
Bothell, WA 98011

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

