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Letter from the President

Susan Kegel

Welcome to spring! I am overjoyed to see the daffodils, ornamental cherries, and flowering currants all in bloom. I am also happy to see so many of you getting the vaccine. As you can see from this newsletter, SNSCA has been very active in the last few months. We have figured out ways to have fun remotely. In addition to what you can read about below, I want to mention several other events of note.

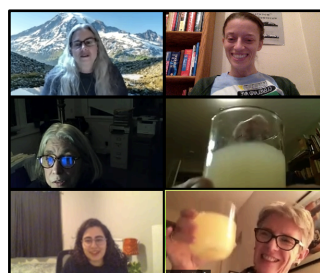
We organized a virtual meeting between Council Member Lisa Herbold, who has the portfolio for our sister city relationship and for Nantes Park, and Deputy Mayor Pierre-Emmanuel Marais, who is responsible for international relations for the city of Nantes. The two discussed several items of mutual interest, including participative budgeting and green transportation as well as, of course, our Nantes Park project.

Speaking of Nantes Park, we are holding the last of our public review meetings to solicit input from the community on March 30th at 7:00pm, zoom link here: bit.ly/3s6Kmol. If you were not able to join us for the presentation to members back in January, it is not too late to get your vote in!

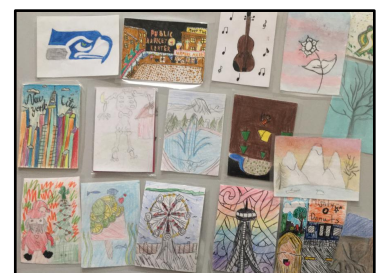
Mayor Jenny Durkan and Mayor Johanna Rolland signed a joint proclamation renewing the friendship between our two cities. You can find it in both languages on our website.

Finally, an update on the school partnership that we facilitated last spring between École Élémentaire Anatole de Monzie in Nantes and McDonald International School in Seattle – the students in Seattle sent their French friends some beautiful cards this past February.

Don't forget about our new French conversation group, which zooms every 1st and 3rd Saturday at 6:00pm à l'heure de l'apéro. We have plenty of room for more participants.



Left: Members participate in the online French conversation group.



Right: Art created by students at McDonald International School.

Nantes Park Student Tile Project

Alaina McCallum

Nearly a decade ago, former Seattle-Nantes President Tom Bennett wanted to beautify Nantes Park by having students create designs that would be printed on tiles and placed vertically along the sitting wall. This idea is finally being realized.

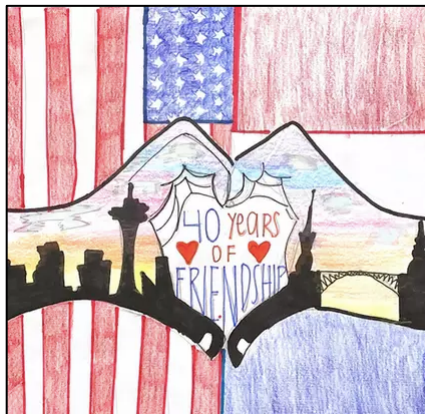
Middle school and high school students from both Seattle and the Académie de Nantes (the academic region of Pays de la Loire) are submitting tile designs that exemplify the connection between the two cities as they celebrate the over 40 years of friendship.

The goal is to receive fifty submissions from both sides of the Atlantic. Here in Seattle, we have received submissions from students at West Seattle High School and Bishop Blanchet High School.

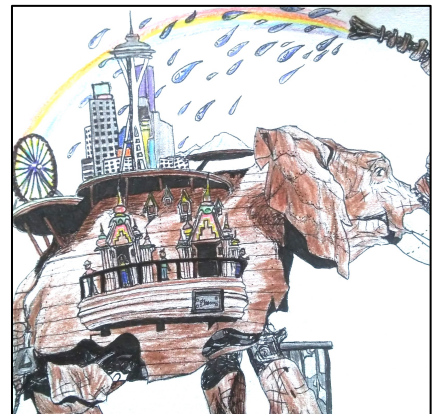
Below is a sampling of the tile designs that students from Seattle and the Académie de Nantes have submitted. You can see more of the designs as well as keep up to date with our other Nantes Park beautification projects by visiting our website at: seattle-nantes.org/nantes-park.



Muriel Drewes-Moore and Jora Tilman
West Seattle High School



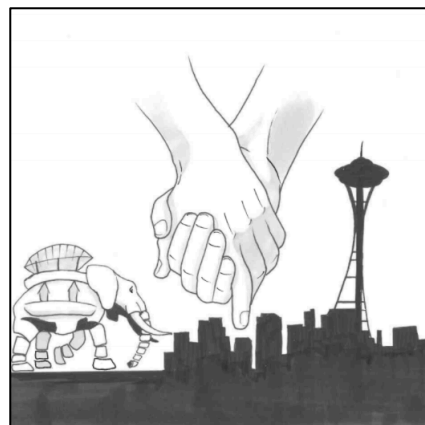
Maggie Bratrud and Holly Wise
Bishop Blanchet High School



Aurielle Ronda
West Seattle High School



Juliet
Lycée Nelson Mandela



Martin Boistault Esnault
Lycée Emmanuel Mounier



Student
Académie de Nantes

SNSCA at Seattle's first annual francophone Bandes Dessinées Festival

Susan Kegel



A BD is une bande dessinée, which is a comic.

The 2020 Made in France Bandes Dessinée Festival featured a Seattle day and, in homage to our sister city relationship, included an interview with Karine Parquet, one of the authors of a docu-BD about Nantes. They asked us if we could find a complementary speaker that featured Seattle. We found not one, but two. Garth Stein and Matthew Southwork generously talked with an international audience about their graphic novel *The Cloven*, recently published by Seattle's own Fantagraphics.

The Cloven is a coming of age story about a mutant born on Vashon Island who journeys through iconic Seattle places in his search to find out who he really is. Seattle readers will especially enjoy looking for familiar landmarks, such as Freeway Park, the view from Volunteer Park, and Mt. Pilchuk.

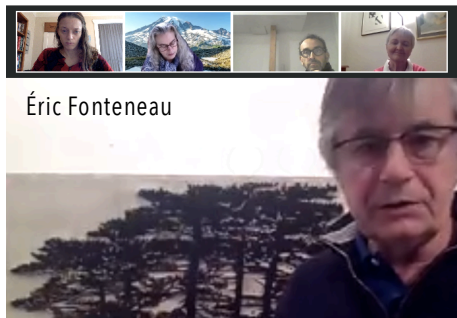
Garth is the writer, while Matt is the artist. This is their first collaboration, and they told us that they spent quite a bit of time getting to know each other before getting down to creating, which is unusual in this business. Garth said they wanted to address some of the serious issues of today, such as homelessness and the implications of modifying the human genome, in a fun way that can be read at many different levels.

Matt explained that he intentionally drew the main character, Tuck, very abstractly with a wedge-shaped face and a lightning bolt nose. Drawing him as a symbol without realistic facial characteristics allows the reader to see themselves in him. The other characters are drawn more realistically. The use of color in the book is especially striking. Matt thinks of color as the music for the scene and he uses it as an emotional trigger, rather than sticking to a "grass is green" realism.

Don't miss the next Seattle francophone BD Festival in November 2021. SNSCA will be there!

Virtual Studio Visit with Éric Fonteneau

Susan Kegel



In collaboration with La Maison des Etats Unis, we zoomed with Nantes-based artist Éric Fonteneau on January 24th. Éric joined us from his studio where the walls are hung with past works. He talked about his sources of inspiration while showing us selected works in a range of styles including drawing, sculpture, and installations.

In his art, Éric explores a repertoire of images linked to themes of geography and representations of the earth. Cartography and its systems of transcribing are inexhaustible sources of inspiration for his artistic endeavors. Amin Maalouf of the Académie française observes that “Éric Fonteneau caresses the skin of the world, from beach to beach, from wall to wall, drawing with light touches the roads, stony escarpments and the vastness of the sea, as if for a dream voyage, as if for a journey of the soul.”

One project Éric explored with us was what appeared to be a life-size room of floor-to-ceiling books. Only it was an immersive trompe-l’oeil installation. The “books” were charcoal rubbings of the spines of actual books from libraries around the world. In another project, he worked with teams on two continents to create gigantic footprints on sandy beaches that pointed towards each other across the ocean.

We thank Éric for sharing his art with us! Spending an hour in his studio was a lovely escape into beauty. More information about Éric can be found at ericfonteneau.com.



Virtual Exchange between SPU and Oniris

Dr. Michelle Beauclair, Director of the French Program at Seattle Pacific University; SNSCA member



Seattle-Nantes educational exchanges continue, albeit virtually, between Seattle Pacific University and ONIRIS, the National Institute of Veterinary Medicine and Food Technology Engineering, in Nantes!

Dr. Franck Insignares, Professor of Communication and Global Affairs Field Officer, contacted me to propose a virtual exchange between French students on his campus and intermediate to advanced students of French at SPU. The goal of the exchange was to create connections, foster understanding, and improve language skills.

Franck paired about 16 ONIRIS students with 12 SPU students of French in groups of no more than five students. Throughout the month of February, the student groups were to set up meeting dates and times (a team and communication exercise in its own right, given the time difference!) and to complete the five main activities:

1. Upload a photo and a brief biography in the target language to a shared Google document.
2. Upload a favorite recipe for use in a virtual dictée.
3. Meet once for a meet-and-greet to discuss the recipe
4. Meet a second time to present a memorized literary excerpt in the target language with pronunciation feedback from the group.
5. Reflect on the experience and report back to their home professor.

SPU French students were unanimous in their enthusiasm for the exchange which also helps the ONIRIS group as they prepare to complete a major project in their field in English. Students performed their recitations, from Corneille's *Le Cid* to Jacques Prévert's "Pour peindre le portrait d'un oiseau" to an excerpt from Annie Ernaux's *La Femme*, with confidence and increased attention to their pronunciation and intonation.

Both professors and their students look forward to continuing exchanges whether in person or, once again, online.

Thank you to the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association and to Larry Laffrey in particular for your part in connecting our two campuses!

Seattle-Nantes Beer Collaboration Project

Larry Laffrey



You have been hearing about how Seattle and Nantes are partnered in a craft-brewing endeavor. Lantern Brewing and BUBAR Microbrasserie, Bar et Cave have been in contact for several months, meeting regularly over Zoom with board president Susan Kegel and past president Larry Laffrey. The final product will be brewed from a shared recipe and bottled in our respective cities, crowned with a beautifully designed label that showcases our sister city relationship, and enjoyed at Summer 2021 gatherings in Nantes and Seattle.

Chris Engdahl is a France and Belgium-trained brewer who opened Lantern Brewing in north Seattle in 2014. SNSCA members and local beer enthusiasts are now tasting and evaluating samples of several micro-batches. In the test kits distributed to tasters, Chris offered background about a beer style “that could be brewed using ingredients that represented both sister cities ... brewed largely the same by brewers in both cities.”

Chris goes on to say, “We've selected a somewhat uncommon type of ale, a gose (go-zuh) ... a light-bodied ale made largely from wheat malt, with a brewing process that encourages a light natural tartness. A gose typically also includes some measure of salt.” The addition of fruit is not uncommon.

Our brewers will be using the famous sea salt of Guérande and cranberries from Washington. We will keep you posted!



Our Annual Crêpe Dinner Goes Virtual

Alaina McCallum



David Asher

On Saturday, February 13th, Seattle-Nantes members gathered over Zoom to observe the French holiday la Chandeleur.

During the hour-long event, we had a variety of entertainment. Susan Kegel started off the gathering by providing us with a history of why the French eat crêpes for la Chandeleur.

Followed by Alex Villa who is owner and chef of La Rue Crêperie on Capitol Hill. Alex shared about how he came to open a crêperie during a pandemic and about his travels in Brittany, all while making crêpes in his restaurant kitchen.

Before the event, members had prerecorded and submitted their adventures flipping crêpes of both their best and funniest flips. During the gathering, we watched the submissions. There was unanimous agreement that David Asher had the best flip!

If you missed the crêpe dinner and would like to see our flipping adventures, you can visit: flipgrid.com/fbf66e14.

Scholarship Recipients

Alaina McCallum

On Wednesday, March 10th, members of the Scholarship Committee convened over Zoom to interview scholarship candidates for the 2021-2022 academic year. Despite the uncertainties that COVID times cause, we were delighted by all of our scholarship applicants. The Scholarship Committee is proud to introduce you to the two scholarship recipients.

Antoine Dréan is the recipient of the Frances Bennett Scholarship. He is a freshman at Gonzaga who moved to the US from Orléans (335km east of Nantes) two years ago and attended Interlake High School. The move was challenging for him, but he has embraced the opportunity and thinks critically about the cultural differences between France and the US. He is majoring in sports management and minoring in French. Antoine has a strong understanding of leadership and community.

Annelise Hoover is the recipient of the Dr. Thomas H. Bennett Scholarship. She is a sophomore at Seattle Pacific University and is majoring in international business administration. Annelise appreciates how studying the French language has expanded her worldview. She acknowledges the complexities of international relationships such as those between France and other francophone countries. Annelise hopes to study at La Sorbonne in Paris in the fall.

Thank you again for your donations to the scholarship fund!

French Fest 2021

Margaret Johnson



This year, French Fest is all virtual and is being held on Sunday March 21st from 10:00am to 3:00pm. The opening ceremony will be at 10:00am with members of the Consular Corps from Canada, France, and Switzerland with other events to follow throughout the day.

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association is participating at 2:30pm with addresses from Councilmember Lisa Herbold and our Association President Susan Kegel. We will then host a fun and interactive Kahoot game about Nantes trivia. Prizes will be awarded to the top winners.

Registration is required for the event at: faccpnw.org/events/upcoming-events/e/event/seattles-french-fest-2021.html.

Be sure to join the SNSCA Zoom event early for instructions on how to play the Kahoot game. We look forward to your participation!

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.

Membership Renewal

Thanks to your contributions, which help to organize events and support exchanges. If you have not already renewed your membership dues for 2021, please do so by:

Sending a check to:

SNSCA
5108 1st Ave NW
Seattle, WA 98107

Or using the [DONATE](#) button on our website.

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