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## President's Letter

Dear Seattle-Nantes Members and Friends,

On behalf on the board of your association, I would like to convey warm holiday wishes as 2016 winds to a close. Perhaps you've been travelling in recent days, or have taken advantage of the snow in the Cascades. Wherever you've been, we hope you've enjoyed time with family and friends.

One of the highlights of this last year was the Seattle Sister Cities Reception on October 6<sup>th</sup>, for which unfortunately very few Seattle-Nantes members requested a free ticket. All 21 cities were represented at this City Hall-based event, and we were designated one of four "showcased" cities!

Rick Steves was the "headliner," and the sellout crowd responded warmly to his and Mayor Murray's declaration that citizen diplomacy has never been more important than it is today. The event was also a send-off for Paul Neville, a US Foreign Service officer whose home leave in the last year was spent running the international relations division of the City of Seattle.

Nearly 600 attendees viewed exhibits and mingled with like-minded, internationally-inclined Seattleites over food offerings and samplings of local beer, wine, and cider. This reception had not occurred in over three years; it's hoped that it will revert to being the annual event it once was. Stay tuned!

Best wishes for 2017—hope to see you at SNSCA functions in the New Year!

Cheers,  
Larry



Nantais Jean-Baptiste Dupont attended the Seattle Sister Cities Reception. He smiles in front of the display case of Nantes memorabilia at City Hall.



There was a table display of books and brochures about Nantes at the Seattle Sister Cities Reception.



Rick Steves was one of the presenters at the Seattle Sister Cities Reception.

## A Note from the Editor

By Alaina McCallum

As the year quickly comes to an end, I am happy to share with you another update. This issue of *Nantesense* reports recent activities hosted by SNSCA as well as a wonderful feature recount from Cammie Enslow. She is a new member who participated in an exchange in Nantes this past summer.

I hope you enjoy all the Seattle-Nantes news! Bonne année 2017!

## Nantes Park Cleanup

For an autumn day in Seattle, October 22<sup>nd</sup> turned out to be quite sunny. Pamela Hughes had organized a weeding party at Nantes Park. The Seattle Parks and Recreation Department provided some tools and tarps, which thanks to the hard work of our members were full of weeds by 2pm. A majority of the time was spent removing weeds from the grass and the gravel pathway, as the parks department had already attended to the garden beds.

Thank you to the members who took a few hours out of your Saturday to help beautify Nantes Park. The next time you are in West Seattle, visit Nantes Park at 51<sup>st</sup> and Admiral Way.



## Membership Renewals

This is a reminder that everyone's membership renewal is due in January. Membership dues are as follows: \$10 for students, \$15 for seniors, \$25 for individuals, and \$35 for families. You may pay by check or by credit card.

Please send checks to:

Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association  
5108 1st Avenue NW  
Seattle, WA 98107

To pay by credit card, please visit [seattle-nantes.org/membership](http://seattle-nantes.org/membership) for a link to our PayPal.

Thank you for your continual support!



## Annual General Meeting

By Alaina McCallum

Every November the Annual General Meeting provides an opportunity for the membership to come together and reflect on the year's activities and look ahead for what is to come. This year Margaret Johnson organized a wonderful evening at Orfeo in Belltown. The three-course meal began with the Orfeo salad with avocado, cucumber, radish, and roasted pistachios, followed by a choice of an entrée, and a delicious pecan pie for dessert. The most popular entrée among the membership was the grilled Hawaiian swordfish.

Jean-Baptiste Dupont, a Nantais who is in Seattle to complete a post doctorate at UW, gave an informative and interesting presentation. He began the presentation by explaining international cooperation in academic research, and then focused more on his current research about how gene therapy can help cure diseases.

Larry Laffrey's presidential speech spoke mostly to the future goals of the Association such as improving member involvement.

To conclude the meeting, four current board members were re-elected for two-year terms by the membership: Larry Laffrey, Susan Hulbert, Susan Kegel, and Tom Waite.



## Membership Survey

In November, SNSCA sent out a membership survey as a way for the Board to learn how to better serve the membership. Thank you to the members who have already completed the membership survey.

If you have not already, the Board would enjoy hearing from you. The survey is just six questions and should just take a few minutes. Please visit <https://goo.gl/6fq5HG> to complete it.

Merci en avance!

## Summer Exchange in Nantes

By Cammie Enslow

Photos courtesy of Cammie Enslow

Last year Richard Shieldhouse, a friend who lives in Jacksonville, Florida, and member of that city's Sister City Association, told me about a French language immersion course being offered by the Université Permanente de l'Université de Nantes and la Maison des États-Unis in Nantes. The course offered six days of French classes, three hours each morning, followed by lunch, with cultural visits and sightseeing tours every afternoon. The cost for the classes and lunch was 250 euros. As if that wasn't enough, free accommodation and meals would be provided by members of la Maison for up to two weeks, to allow time to visit historic and cultural sites in the area. The stated goal of the program was to learn or improve our French language skills and to discover French culture.

How could I miss out on such an amazing opportunity? I immediately began planning for my trip to Nantes. I was matched with my host, Arlette Mesnard, a charming and energetic woman with a house in Nantes, and a beach house on Noirmoutier Island, southwest of Nantes on the Atlantic coast. L'Université Permanente de l'Université de Nantes is located on the Île de Nantes adjacent to the site of les Machines de l'île, an artistic and cultural project created to promote the city's image and build its identity "as a creative metropolis of dream and of fantasy." I was fascinated by the huge mechanical elephant that passed by the restaurant as we ate lunch, trumpeting and spraying water from its trunk to the delight of nearby children.

Many activities were planned for all of us in the afternoons after our morning French class and during the week following our courses. We toured Nantes, visiting the Nantes Cathédrale, the Place Royale, Passage Pommeraye, and other interesting locations. We were welcomed to Nantes at the Hôtel de Ville (city hall) by local and visiting dignitaries where was a Breton musical group, hors d'oeuvres, and wine. We visited the 13<sup>th</sup> century Château des Ducs de Bretagne, where an American Independence Day celebration was held for us, complete with a short speech, an excellent R&B band, hors d'oeuvres, and drinks. It was truly wonderful. We were treated to traditional Breton galettes on the Bateau-lavoir restaurant on the banks of the Erdre, and later to a cruise on the river.



Les Machines de l'île



L'Université Permanente de l'Université de Nantes



Passage Pommeraye





Château de Goulaine



Brière



Dinan

### *Continuation of "Summer Exchange in Nantes"*

We were welcomed by Christophe de Goulaine at the Château de Goulaine, a castle in the Loire Valley and home to the Marquis de Goulaine family for over a thousand years. It was Christophe's father, Marquis Robert de Goulaine, who originally established the *jumelage* between Jacksonville and Nantes in recognition of his family's relationship with Northeast Florida that extends to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. His ancestor, René Goulaine de Laudonnière, was a key participant in an ill-fated French attempt to colonize modern-day Florida. We also visited the medieval walled town of Guérande, Les Marais Salants (salt marshes), and the ancient Breton city of Brière with its charming thatch-roofed cottages.

There were trips to Mont-Saint-Michel in Normandy, to Saint-Nazaire, a major marine base for the Nazis during WWII, and to the historic walled port city of Saint-Malo in Brittany, once notorious for privateering and almost totally destroyed by American shelling and bombing as well as British naval gunfire in WWII. We visited the beautiful town of Dinard on the Côte d'Émeraude of Brittany and the ancient medieval town of Dinan.

This was my fifth trip to France and all have been enjoyable, but this was the best of them all because we were treated like visiting dignitaries by the Nantais officials and honored like guests by our hosts. I was amazed by the warmth and generosity I experienced everywhere I went. Mariette Cassouret, head of la Maison des États-Unis, was a force of nature, helping and guiding us at school and on our tours. It was clear that a great deal of planning went into creating this wonderful combination of learning and adventure, and I am very grateful to have been one of the fortunate recipients. I hope to return to Nantes and the west coast of France again.



Saint-Malo

## News from Nantes



### Thanksgiving in Nantes

The Thanksgiving dinner in Nantes was sponsored by the la Maison des États-Unis and the Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville Sister City Association. Over 110 people attended the annual event. Tom Waite reported that there was a delicious turkey dinner, although there was raspberry cheesecake rather than pumpkin pie for dessert!



Photo courtesy of Tom Waite

On the right is Mariette Cassourret, president of Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville Sister City Association.

Mark your calendar with these upcoming SNSCA events!

**February 12<sup>th</sup>**

La Chandeleur crêpe dinner at the Hangar Café

**March 19<sup>th</sup>**

French Fest at Seattle Center

## SNSCA Board Members

### OFFICERS

**President:** Larry Laffrey

**Vice-President:** Margaret Johnson

**Treasurer:** Susan Hulbert

**Secretary:** Alaina McCallum

**Corresponding Secretary:** Larry Laffrey

### MEMBERS

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

### RESPONSIBILITIES

**Events Coordinator:** Margaret Johnson

**Membership:** Jean-Loup Baer

**Newsletter Editor:** Alaina McCallum

**Scholarships:** Alaina McCallum

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Margaret Johnson

**Website:** Alaina McCallum