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## Le Trentième Anniversaire du jumelage de Seattle et de Nantes

*The Thirtieth Anniversary of the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association*

### By Jean Leblon

In celebration of their thirtieth anniversary, the two sister cities are planning a number of activities, including especially a trip to each other's home. Thus, a group of Seattleites plans to visit Nantes in early May 2010, and a group of Nantais will come to Seattle in July. An informal meeting of interested persons took place in September, and another meeting is planned for mid-November. A call for that meeting will be sent to all members as the date is fixed.

We encourage all who are interested in participating in any of the activities to come to that meeting and the subsequent ones as they are scheduled. Whether or not you consider making the trip to Nantes, we need your ideas and suggestions regarding the travel dates, and the organization of the stay in France. We expect to be together in Nantes for 4 or 5 days, but the rest of the time may be spent individually or in groups to other parts of the region.

The reception of the Nantes group in July will require the organization of lodging including private hosts, transportation, and choice of places to visit, such as natural, industrial, utility or business sites. For example, a group trip is already planned through the Upper Peninsula and will be suggested to our visitors as a two-day excursion of natural and historical interest.

As you can see, many details have to be discussed and settled, for which many ideas and efforts will be needed.

***Please come help make this thirtieth anniversary a meaningful milestone in our sisterly collaboration.***

In anticipation of our exchanges, we thought it might be a good time to briefly remind ourselves of some aspects of our sister city. We'll start with the name and the geography. Another time we will review a short history, and then have a look at present-day Nantes.

## Nantes: Name and Geography

Nantes is a city in western France, located on the Loire River, 50 km (31 mi) from the Atlantic coast. The city is the sixth largest in France, while its metropolitan area is the eighth with 804,833 inhabitants at a 2008 estimate.

The name Nantes, pronounced [nɑ̃:t] in French, derives from that of its pre-Roman-era inhabitants, the Gaulish tribe known as the Namnetes, who founded a town there around 70 BC. The city was called Portus Namnetus, during the Roman occupation that began in 56 BC. The inhabitants of Nantes are known in French as Nantais ([nɑ̃tɛ]).

Nantes is the chef-lieu (central seat) of the Région du Pays de la Loire as well as of the Département

de Loire-Atlantique, immediately south of Bretagne. It is located on the banks of the Loire River at the confluence of the Erdre and the Sèvre Nantaise. The city was built in a place where many branches of the Loire river created several islands, but most of those branches were filled in at the beginning of the 20th century (and the confluence with the Erdre river diverted and covered) due to the increasing car traffic.

About 50 kilometres away from the coast, Nantes has generally cool winters and mild summers, with rainfalls at least every week. This makes Nantes a temperate city, though winters can bring freezing temperatures, and occasional hot spells happen in summer, especially during the month of July.

## The Goldmark Scholarship

**By Jean Leblon** Jaclyn Eruhow-Hagan is the recipient of the Goldmark scholarship this year. She is a senior at the University of Washington who will graduate in June 2010 with a Bachelor's degree in Business Finance, and a Certificate of International Studies in Business. In Nantes she will attend the École de Management of Audencia Nantes.

The Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association Scholarship honors the memory of the Goldmark family, in whose name it was founded. Its major goals are:

- to encourage and reward interest in Franco-American relations
- to strengthen ties between the sister cities of Seattle and Nantes

Each year, SNSCA invites university students residing in the Puget Sound region to apply for the scholarship. They may plan to spend a full academic year, a semester, or a quarter of study in Nantes. The maximum amount of the scholarship is \$1,500. Qualifications and the length of the planned stay in France will help determine the individual amount of the scholarship.

For information on eligibility requirements and the application process, please contact Jean Leblon by e-mail at: [jean\\_leblon@msn.com](mailto:jean_leblon@msn.com) between April 1 and May 31, 2010. The deadline for applications will be about June 15.



## The Annual General Meeting: Sunday, November 8 at 5:30pm

The invitation to the "AGM" has been sent to all members giving all details of the locale, the menu, and the special presentation by Mr. Randy Robinson of Seattle Parks and Recreation who designed and installed a Seattle exhibit at the Florales Internationales in Nantes last Spring. At the meeting we will proceed with the election of board members. The candidates for re-election are as follows: Jean-Loup Baer, Tom Bennett, Susan Hulbert, Marie-Pierre Koban, and Jean Leblon.

## A New Board Member for Election: Margaret Johnson

**by Pamela-Ann Hughes** The current board of Seattle-Nantes SCA is delighted to nominate Margaret Johnson to join the board. Margaret has been working behind the scenes for several months now and has attended board meetings. She is current on all our endeavors and upcoming events and will be a competent addition to the board.

Do introduce yourselves to Margaret at the Annual General Meeting and give her your support. For a little background about Margaret, I can do no better than to quote her:

*I earned a BA in French Language and Literature from the UW and studied for a year at L'Institut Catholique de Paris while in college. I have continued to read and write French throughout the years, and with two daughters now in college, have some time to further devote to French-American interests. SNSCA is a wonderful way to get involved again, and I like the idea of doing so on a civic level. I currently work as a Paralegal/Executive Assistant for an international insurance company.*

## Festal 2009: Over 5,000 People Enjoy Bastille Day Celebration at Seattle Center

**By Tom Bennett**

In spite of the morning rain, the biggest crowd ever came to Seattle Center on Sunday, July 12 to the annual Bastille Day celebration put on by the French-American Chamber of Commerce and other organizations and individuals in the local French community. Celebrants enjoyed fine French food and wine, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, live music, soccer tournaments, and much more.

Your Sister City Association joined merchants and other non-profit organizations in a recreation of a French village. Our booth featured information and displays about Nantes and about our association, with a chance for visitors to win prizes at our cork drawing and raffle. What's a "cork drawing?" Come next year and see for yourself.

As in the past we had our bouquiniste -- a recreation of a Paris bookstall. Thanks to wonderful donations from many of you and other friends of the association,

we filled three tables with French books, travel books, recipe books, and other books of interest to people like you. Money raised from the sales went to our scholarship program which provides scholarships to local college students studying French.

We sincerely appreciate the efforts of our volunteers who helped with our booth:

- Preston Albertine
- Jean-Loup Baer
- Alison Bailey
- Jaclyn Eruhow-Hagan
- Pamela-Ann Hughes
- Susan Hulbert
- Margaret Johnson
- Emily Kramer
- Marie and Michael Moffitt
- Bunny Schmidley
- Mamadou Sougou

*Don't miss this event next year!*



# Scenes from Festal 2009



*Panorama of Festal 2009 courtesy of French-American Chamber of Commerce of the Pacific Northwest*



*Visitors enjoy the SNSCA booth and Bouquiniste bookstall, benefiting Seattle-Nantes Dollars for Scholars*

## The French know all about our Thanksgiving, thanks to Art Buchwald's *Le Grande Thanksgiving*

By Art Buchwald -- Article first appeared in the *Washington Post*, Thursday, November 24, 2005

One of our most important holidays is Thanksgiving Day, known in France as *le Jour de Merci Donnant*.

Le Jour de Merci Donnant was first started by a group of Pilgrims (*Pèlerins*) who fled from l'Angleterre before the McCarran Act to found a colony in the New World (*le Nouveau Monde*) where they could shoot Indians (*les Peaux-Rouges*) and eat turkey (*dinde*) to their hearts' content.

They landed at a place called Plymouth (now a famous *voiture Américaine*) in a wooden sailing ship called the Mayflower (or *Fleur de Mai*) in 1620. But while the *Pèlerins* were killing the *dindes*, the *Peaux-Rouges* were killing the *Pèlerins*, and there were several hard winters ahead for both of them. The only way the *Peaux-Rouges* helped the *Pèlerins* was when they taught them to grow corn (*maïs*). The reason they did this was because they liked corn with their *Pèlerins*.

In 1623, after another harsh year, the *Pèlerins*' crops were so good that they decided to have a celebration and give thanks because more *maïs* was raised by the *Pèlerins* than *Pèlerins* were killed by *Peaux-Rouges*.

Every year on the Jour de Merci Donnant, parents tell their children an amusing story about the first celebration.

It concerns a brave *capitaine* named Miles Standish (known in France as *Kilomètres Deboutish*) and a young, shy lieutenant named Jean Alden. Both of them were in love with a flower of Plymouth called Priscilla Mullens (no translation). The *vieux capitaine* said to the *jeune lieutenant*:

“Go to the damsel Priscilla (*allez très vite chez Priscilla*), the loveliest maiden of Plymouth (*la plus jolie demoiselle de Plymouth*). Say that a blunt old captain, a man not of words but of action (*un vieux Fanfan la*

*Tulipe*), offers his hand and his heart, the hand and heart of a soldier. Not in these words, you know, but this, in short, is my meaning.”

“I am a maker of war (*je suis un fabricant de la guerre*) and not a maker of phrases. You, bred as a scholar (*vous, qui êtes pain comme un étudiant*), can say it in elegant language, such as you read in your books of the pleadings and wooings of lovers, such as you think best adapted to win the heart of the maiden.”

Although Jean was fit to be tied (*convenable très emballé*), friendship prevailed over love and he went to his duty. But instead of using elegant language, he blurted out his mission. Priscilla was muted with amazement and sorrow (*rendue muette par l'étonnement et la tristesse*).

At length she exclaimed, interrupting the ominous silence: “If the great captain of Plymouth is so very eager to wed me, why does he not come himself and take the trouble to woo me?” (*Où est-il, le vieux Kilomètres? Pourquoi ne vient-il pas auprès de moi pour tenter sa chance?*)

Jean said that Kilomètres Deboutish was very busy and didn't have time for those things. He staggered on, telling what a wonderful husband Kilomètres would make. Finally Priscilla arched her eyebrows and said in a tremulous voice, “Why don't you speak for yourself, Jean?” (*Chacun à son gout.*)

And so, on the fourth Thursday in November, American families sit down at a large table brimming with tasty dishes and, for the only time during the year, eat better than the French do.

No one can deny that le Jour de Merci Donnant is a grande fête and no matter how well fed American families are, they never forget to give thanks to Kilomètres Deboutish, who made this great day possible.

## Seattle-Nantes Dollars for Scholars News

**By Tom Bennett**

As we reported to you in our last newsletter, we awarded scholarships to four outstanding students studying French at the University of Washington and University of Puget Sound. In addition, we added \$4000 to our endowment fund thanks to a \$2000 matching grant from the State of Washington.

We will begin raising funds for next year with our participation in Macy's "Shop for a Cause" promotion in October. Our fundraising events so far this year have not brought in as much money as in the past. At the time of this writing we have two dollars in our checking account, but we were able to award four scholarships earlier this year by "passing the hat" among our board members to supplement the available funds.

Look for a letter from us in late November. It will contain our annual request for donations to our scholarship program. Your responses in past years have helped truly deserving students who in turn have helped our association by volunteering at activities, participating in our events, and taking part in some

of our programs. Because the funds we have raised to date have been significantly lower than in previous years, we hope you will consider increasing your donation, or sending us a donation if you have not done so before.

Have you considered establishing a scholarship in someone's name or yours? It will honor the person you designate for decades to come. You can determine the conditions of the scholarship, such as the school the student will attend, the student's career objective, etc. This can be done while a person is living, or can be written into a will. Either way you will be establishing a permanent memorial. I established a scholarship for my mother who is now 100 and trained as a classical pianist until she was stricken with polio. She was thrilled to meet the first recipient of a scholarship in her name who is already an accomplished musician, and is looking forward to meeting more students who will pursue the career she had to abandon.

If you are interested in establishing a scholarship or adding one to your will, please contact me at [tom@seattle-nantes.org](mailto:tom@seattle-nantes.org) or 425 712-0105.



## New Positions are Filled, but a Hosting Chair is Still Needed

**By Jean-Loup Baer**

You might have noticed a few additions on the roster of Board members and other responsibilities on the last page of this Newsletter, namely:

- Tom Bennett has added one more feather to his already well decorated hat and is our Fund Raiser Chair
- Margaret Johnson is our new Volunteer Coordinator
- Maggie McGehee is our new Newsletter Layout artist
- Marion Power has volunteered to help with editing the Newsletter

One position that still needs to be filled is that of Hosting Chair. As we prepare the celebration of the 30th Anniversary of our Association that will involve hosting a Nantes delegation in early July, it is important that someone step to the plate and help in this endeavor. If you wish to serve in this capacity, please indicate so to any member of the Board.

Of course we would also be delighted if you are interested in volunteering for some other activity or in serving on the Board. Let us know! The Annual general meeting where Board members are (re)elected is scheduled for Sunday, November 8.



## Nantes Park Clean Up Party

**By Pamela-Ann Hughes**

Saturday, October 10 saw twelve willing workers from our association at the West Seattle Nantes Park which had been designated and dedicated to our sister city four years ago.

Much had happened during those last four years and the park was looking quite unloved. A meeting was held recently with representatives of the Seattle Parks Department who agreed to work on several improvements. They did a heroic job, considering the funding cuts and the challenges the park presents.

By the time our work party arrived, volunteer vagabond trees had been removed, as had many of the weeds and rogue plants. We weeded further, pruned some young trees, and hauled out-of-control blackberry vines, choking the good trees. In fact, our efforts resulted in two pickup loads going off to composting.

We also made some additions: the parks department provided dozens of new plants to install, and our association planted some French lavender as a nod to Nantes.

We took a break and enjoyed our sandwiches and brownies (baked by Tom Bennett) and some Breton pastry, Kouign Amann from Honoré Bakery which we all loved, but were especially fun for the two Nantais present.

Hats off and loud cheers to the industrious crew pictured above/below.

If you are in West Seattle, drive by the little park on SW Admiral Way (at 50th) and take a look. Maybe you will be inspired to join the Spring 2010 Clean-up in preparation for our Nantes visitors here in July for the second phase of our 30th anniversary celebration.



*From left to right: Jean Leblon, David Anderson, Marie-Gwenaelle Geslin and son Nicolas Cort, Marie-Pierre Koban, Jean-Loup Baer, Tom Bennett, Bunny Schmidley, Ann Revelle, Scott Roberts (SP&R Dept. Gardener in Charge), Pamela-Ann Hughes, Beatrice Legeais (Lakeside exchange teacher from Nantes)  
Not pictured: Dorothy Lipsky*

## Calendar of Events

### November 2009

#### The Annual General Meeting

Sunday, 8th Nov, 5:30pm  
*North City Bistro and Wine Shop*  
 1520 NE 177th Street, Shoreline

#### 30th Anniversary, Second Planning Meeting

Thursday, 12th Nov, 5:00pm  
*Watch for e-mail*

### January 2010

#### French Film Festival

30th Anniversary,  
 Third Planning Meeting

### February 2010

Crêpe Dinner

## 2009 Officers

## SNSCA Board Members

**Temporary President, November:** Pamela-Ann Hughes  
**Temporary Vice-President:** Jean-Loup Baer  
**Secretary/Treasurer:** Susan Hulbert  
**Corresponding Secretary:** Chantal Sullivan

## Board Member Responsibilities

**Assoc. General Info:** Chantal Baldacci  
**Dollars for Scholars:** Tom Bennett  
**Events:** Pamela-Ann Hughes  
**Historian:** Marie-Pierre Koban  
**Hosting:**  
**University/Scholarship:** Jean Leblon  
**Membership/Website:** Jean-Loup Baer

## Other Positions

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Margaret Johnson  
**Fundraising Chair:** Tom Bennett  
**Newsletter Layout:** Maggie McGehee  
**Acting Newsletter Editor:** Jean Leblon