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The 2009 Annual General Meeting of Our Association

By Alaina McCallum --

The Annual General Meeting of the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association was held at the North City Bistro and Wine Shop in Shoreline on November 8, 2009. The Bistro provided a pleasant, rustic ambience with its brick walls covered with full wine racks and was an excellent venue to host dinner, a presentation and to conduct a short business meeting.

Randy Robinson, of Seattle's Department of Parks and Recreation, presented a documentary on

Les Floralties Internationales, a prestigious flower exhibit that Nantes has hosted every five years since 1956. Floralties has over 200 participants from around France and the world who use plants and flowers to create beautiful landscapes. Randy added commentary to the documentary by narrating what he saw while participating in the Floralties last May, and by describing gardening techniques in Nantes. (Randy installed two natural displays representing Seattle).

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The 2009 Annual General Meeting (*continued*)

The Association's city councilmember representative, Tom Rasmussen, was among the thirty or so attendees who enjoyed a sit-down dinner of either French herbed chicken or vegetarian pasta with a choice of wine.

Following the crème brûlée dessert, Pamela-Ann Hughes, the acting president, lead the formalities of the evening. Pamela reviewed the year's activities and recognized long-time members. Members reelected to the board for two year terms were Jean-Loup Baer, Tom Bennett, Marie-Pierre Koban, Jean Leblon, and Susan Hulbert. New board members also elected for two years were Margaret Johnson and Alaina McCallum.

The evening closed by revealing prizes won by members sitting in secretly marked chairs and a special prize to Bunny Schmidley for being the first person to send in her reservation for the event.

Additional information:

Two short videos of the displays from Floralties 2009 can be viewed at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=naad6942QKs

Pamela-Ann Hughes, Randy Robinson, and Tom Rasmussen



Randy Robinson



La Quinzaine Américaine à Nantes

By Jean Leblon -- You may ask: "What is a 'quinzaine' and what makes it American?" A "quinzaine" is about fifteen, in this case fifteen days, which is what the French call a period of two weeks. The word does not have an equivalent in English, unlike "dozen" from "douzaine". The Nantes Quinzaine américaine is a two-week series of exhibits, lectures, debates, films, and music focusing on aspects of American historical and contemporary culture. It takes place in the halls and rooms of the Espace Cosmopolis, a site of international events.

This year, the Association Nantes-Seattle-Jacksonville chose as its major theme The Culture of the Northwest: the Salish Art. The works of some twelve artists were displayed throughout the space: beautiful drawings, paintings, wood carvings, bronze and glass. The most remarkable was the work of Marvin Oliver, a Quinault artist and Professor of American Indian Studies and Art at the University of Washington. A series of photographs of New York by Valentin Le Berquy were also exhibited.

The opening inauguration of the third edition of the Quinzaine took place Tuesday, December 8. Mariette Cassourret, President of the Association greeted the audience of about 200 persons, and introduced the special guests: Mme Rachel Bocher, Deputy Mayor representing Mayor Jean-Marc Ayrault; The Honorable Edward O'Brien, United States Consul in Rennes; Nancy Davenport, co-director of the Stonington Gallery of Seattle; Marvin Oliver; and Valentin Le Berquy. Jessica Wilbourne, exchange student from Atlanta, served as interpreter. Missing was Mr. Jack Cowan, Honorary Consul of France in Seattle, who was unable to attend.

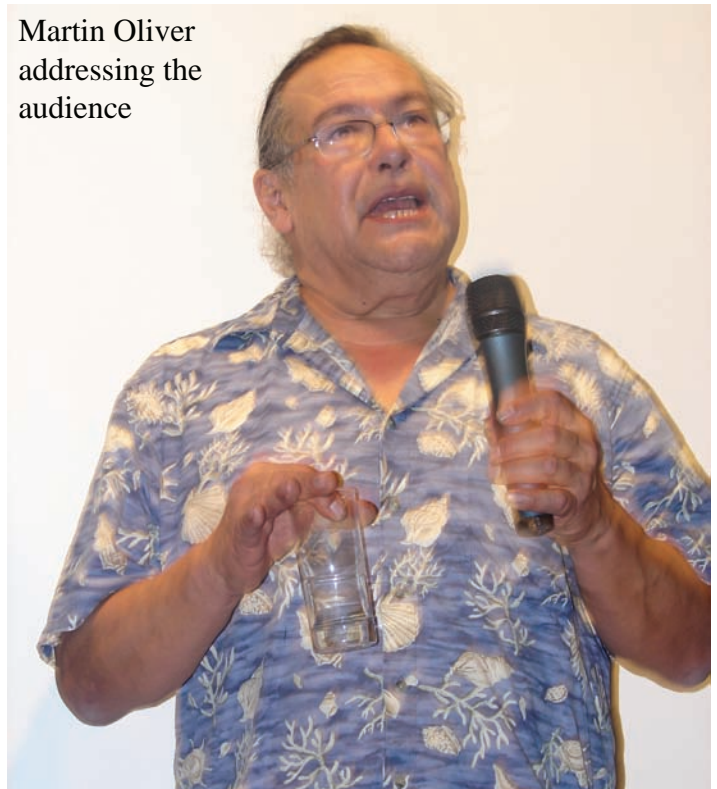
Rachel Bocher transmitted the Mayor's regrets and congratulations; she expressed her own pleasure for the opportunity to open the Quinzaine, and her admiration for its splendid exhibit and program. Edward O'Brien brought the greetings of the United States and assured the audience of his full support of the exchanges between the three sister cities.

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Martin Oliver: Transporter I



Martin Oliver
addressing the
audience



La Quinzaine Américaine à Nantes (*continued*)

Nancy Davenport recalled the transactions that led to the loan of the artwork, and the considerable and delicate process of its transport from Seattle to Nantes. She introduced Marvin Oliver who spoke of the development of his personal interpretation of the Northwest Salish genre. He kindly entertained questions from the audience and gave long and informative answers to them. The presentations in English were interpreted by Jessica Wilbourne.

The following two weeks offered a wide variety of lectures, films, discussions, and music. Many of them focused on the theme of the historical and contemporary Amerindian life and culture. Three films were presented by Prof. Sophie Gergaud, ethnologist and movie maker: “Lakota Land”, “John Trudell”, and “Snowbowl Effect”; sometimes extending the sphere of interest, lectures included “Les Amérindiens au XXI^e siècle” and “Le monde créole en Louisiane”. Each day, live music, basically



Center right: Your representative Jean Leblon speaking with the US Consul at the reception



From L-R: Mariette Cassourret, Nancy Davenport, Marvin Oliver, Rachel Bocher, Edward O'Brien, Jessica Wilbourne, Valentin Le Berquy

inspired by American styles, was to satisfy many tastes: folk, jazz, swing, rock, hip-hop, and even what the French call “country”. I did not attend all the offerings during the week that I was there, but I noticed a great deal of interest among the audience each time I went. Among the events I missed was the demonstration of FLAG, a sport inspired by the American football; just to show you how wide the choice was.

I came away from the Quinzaine thinking, “How can they top that another year?” Indeed, the 3rd edition was a magnificent result of the hard work done by our sister association members and partners who deserve a resounding BRAVO!

P.S. The event is featured on the website of the Stonington Gallery at:
www.stoningtongallery.com/current.php

SNSCA Now on Facebook and Twitter

We are pleased to announce that SNSCA now has pages on Facebook and Twitter, and members do not need to have accounts with either of the sites to view the pages.

Facebook allows users to share information through a variety of media, including external internet links, photos, and videos. Twitter uses a more minimalistic approach to communication as it challenges users to convey their message in no more than 140 characters. These social networking sites are a great way to increase public awareness of our Association, and they provide easy conversation between Seattleites and Nantais.

The pages will contain updates on SNSCA events, interesting new stories about Nantes, and other French-related activities. We thank Alaina McCallum for setting up these new possibilities of exchange with Nantes.

Visit the pages at:

www.facebook.com/SeattleNantesSCA
twitter.com/SeattleNantes

If you have a Facebook or Twitter page, please do not hesitate to become a Friend or Follower of SNSCA.

The Annual Soirée at Mercer Island on March 13

As last year, we will join Mercer Island-Thonon les Bains in the elegant Soirée annuelle. You will soon receive a personal invitation. Please support the event:

- come and help make a good showing of Seattle-Nantes on its 30th anniversary;
- consider providing items for the silent auction (services, dinner, interesting pieces, etc.);
- have a chance to pick up a bargain cruise, wine tasting, etc;
- dance or listen to live music;
- enjoy unusual pastries and other desserts.

SAVE THE DATE for our annual Soirée!



A TALE OF ⁴2 CITIES

An evening of desserts, dancing, wines & entertainment,
 celebrating the anniversaries
 of Sister City friendships between

Mercer Island and Thonon les Bains, France —10 years
 And Seattle and Nantes, France—30 years

7: 30—11 p.m. Saturday, March 13

at the Community Center at Mercer View

Live music by Pearl Django

Silent auction

Watch for your invitation soon!

For detailed information, visit:
<http://auction2010.wordpress.com>

This is our only fund-raising this year. The association needs your help to make our 30th anniversary a success.

Update of 30th Anniversary Plans: Going to Nantes

First to recap, here are the important dates:

- Feb 11** Meeting for those planning on going to Nantes (Time and Place TBA)
- Feb 28** Deadline for sending in hosting request form and details of travel plans
- Apr 8** Meeting to finalize plans; tips on travel, customs, gift purchases etc.
- May 8** Be in Nantes ready for the official visit
- May 14** End of official visit (note: Nantes President has indicated that hosts could be willing to have visitors stay beyond this date, by arrangement)

It's just three months until the Seattle-Nantes SCA group will be in Nantes to celebrate our mutual anniversary. We have recently heard from our counterpart, the Nantes-Seattle SCA, some of their suggestions for our entertainment. Nothing has been decided yet, thus those planning to join the group to Nantes may well express specific wishes and additions.

Official events: Receptions and other ceremonies not yet scheduled.

Nantes Ville: Château des Ducs de Bretagne, Talensac Market, Les Machines, Cathédrale, Passage Pommeraye and more.

La Baule: depending on the weather, lunch and sun on the beach
and/or

Guérande: spectacularly preserved fortified medieval city between the sea and the marais salants, the marshes yielding the famous hand-gathered Sel de Guérande.

Château de la Galissonnière: wine tasting and visit of the cellars.

Château de Goulaine: originally a medieval stronghold, rebuilt in the Renaissance style; Marquis and wife in residence. Artwork and period furniture, a pictorial history of the LU biscuiterie. Visit of gardens and a tropical butterfly conservatory, headquarters of the Chevaliers Bretvins.

Erdre River: Cruising on Nantes' charming "second river".

St Nazaire: Down the Loire. Naval shipbuilding, submarine base, Musée de la Poche (the German enclave), shops and restaurants in renovated spaces, le chantier Atlantique: boat building, especially large cruise ships.

Troglodyte habitats (cave houses): along the Loire, near Saumur. Some are homes, B&Bs, wine cellars, some are used to grow mushrooms



Update of 30th Anniversary Plans: The Nantais' Visit to Seattle

We will have further meetings to plan entertainment for the Nantes guests. However, we need to have volunteers in place to proceed efficiently with this. Please consider signing up for one of the following, especially if you will be part of the group going to Nantes.

Transportation Coordinator:

Compiles a list of volunteer drivers
Organizes efficient pick-up routes from hosting list
Coordinates guest transportation
Makes sure no one is left behind

Hosting Chairperson:

Contacts potential hosts from association list
Matches up hosts and guests from information forms
Greets Nantais at airport and introduces to hosts
Fields questions from hosts

Events Guides:

Accompany Nantais on Seattle tours
Provide local information and advice

General Volunteers:

One time commitment or restricted times of availability, or can be called on last minute basis

If you wish to sign up or have questions, please contact Jean Leblon or Pamela Hughes

WANTED: An American Host Family

Room and Board in exchange for French lessons, babysitting, or volunteering, etc

Fiona is a 21 year old student from Rennes who will intern for Seattle's KEXP Radio between June and August this year. She's fluent in English and Spanish and her degree is in Chinese.

Contact her directly at fionalebrun@gmail.com or contact pamela.hughes@seattle-nantes for more details and photo.

Accueil de Stagiaires: une expérience personnelle particulièrement enrichissante

By Michael Herschensohn

Notre Association de Villes Jumelées Seattle-Nantes reçoit souvent de jeunes personnes de Nantes et ailleurs qui viennent pour connaître notre ville et ses alentours, et dans le but de perfectionner leur anglais. Parfois ils ne passent qu'une petite semaine à Seattle. Cependant, beaucoup d'entre eux sont des étudiants qui viennent effectuer un stage de fin d'études et qui restent jusqu'à trois mois ou plus, comme c'était le cas d'une jeune femme qui est restée deux ans, le deuxième en tant qu'employée temporaire. Le stage se passe d'habitude dans les bureaux d'une société de Seattle et les stagiaires partagent la vie quotidienne d'une famille qui les accueille. Ils ont suivi des cours d'anglais et sont censés parler anglais.

Entre 1998 and 2008, en tant que directeur de Northwest Folklife, j'ai accueilli huit Français dont trois jeunes femmes de La Nouvelle Calédonie, Vence et Nancy et cinq jeunes gens, tous de Nantes. Les Nantais avaient étudié l'anglais à l'Institut d'Etudes Techniques (IUT) sous la direction du Professeur Jean-Jacques Malo, un vieil ami de mon épouse Julia et moi. L'IUT est une école de commerce et gestion.

Nous avons pu loger nos Nantais chez des personnes qui avaient envie de perfectionner leur français ou d'apporter leur soutien à Folklife, le grand festival de musique folklorique au Seattle Center. Dans tous les cas, le stage devrait bénéficier les visiteurs autant que les hôtes. Quant à mes stagiaires, pendant 50% du temps, ils ont préparé un mémoire terminal sur un aspect de Folklife qui les intéressait et qui avait des rapports avec leurs études. Le reste du temps, ils nous ont assistés dans la production du festival. Pour ma part, j'ai dirigé la préparation du mémoire et ce n'était que sur mon autorisation que nos Nantais pouvaient

terminer leurs études à l'IUT. C'était du travail, mais un grand plaisir pour moi. Personnellement en tant qu'ancien professeur, j'ai beaucoup apprécié la présence de ces jeunes stagiaires de France dans mes bureaux. J'ai pu enseigner en même temps que je gérais l'entreprise. Pour moi, c'était une combinaison d'activités exceptionnelle.

Un des meilleurs exemples de l'intégration des deux parties du stage est celui d'un jeune Nantais qui s'intéressait surtout à l'informatique. Il a créé une base de données qui permettait aux internautes de trouver en ligne quand et où leurs musiciens favoris allaient jouer pendant le weekend du festival. Comme il anticipait une carrière dans le marketing par Internet, le stage à Folklife lui a été bien utile. Il a pu combiner la préparation de son diplôme avec nos besoins.

Mes collègues de Northwest Folklife ont bénéficié énormément de la participation de ces stagiaires à notre travail. Comme dans beaucoup de petites sociétés bénévoles, nos employés étaient surtout des jeunes, et la plupart d'entre eux n'avaient jamais voyagé. Les stagiaires leur ont appris que les jeunes personnes de tous les pays industrialisés partagent des vies semblables, bien qu'il y ait des différences importantes entre la civilisation française de tous les jours et la leur.

Julia et moi avons aussi hébergé un de ces stagiaires; ça aussi, j'ai beaucoup aimé. Je conseille donc à tous les adhérents de Seattle-Nantes d'accueillir des stagiaires nantais chez eux. C'est une occasion exceptionnelle de rendre service à notre association et aux villes de Seattle et Nantes tout en passant des moments rajeunissants qui rallumeront vos meilleurs souvenirs de la France!

Calendar of Events

February 11 - A2010 Meeting

Members going to Nantes in May

March 3 - Meeting of the Board

Open to members and guests

March 13 - Annual Soirée

and Auction with Mercer Island

April 8 - A2010 Meeting

The A2010 group to Nantes

April 29 - All Seattle Sister Cities

Reception

2010 Officers

SNSCA Board Members

President: Tom Bennett

Vice-President: Margaret Johnson

Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Hulbert

Corresponding Secretary: Pamela-Ann Hughes

Board Member Responsibilities

Assoc. General Info: Pamela-Ann Hughes

Dollars for Scholars: Tom Bennett

Events Coordinator: Pamela-Ann Hughes

Historian: Marie-Pierre Koban

Hosting/Nantes Park:

Membership/Website: Jean-Loup Baer

Public Relations: Alaina McCallum

University/Scholarship: Jean Leblon

Other Positions

Newsletter Editor: Jean Leblon

Newsletter Layout: Maggie McGehee

Volunteer Coordinator: