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Visit the Seattle-Nantes
Sister City Association
online at
www.seattle-nantes.org

Annual Seattle Sister Cities Reception

By Jean-Loup Baer— The Annual Seattle Sister Cities reception took place on April 23rd in the Bertha Landes Room at City Hall. About 300 guests, including Mayor Greg Nickels, Richard Conlin, President, City Council, and several City Council members, gathered to enjoy food and entertainment and bid on auction items mostly provided by the four Sister Cities that were specially honored on that day. These four Sister Cities, whose main activities for the year were reported by Council member Jan Drago, were Gdynia (Poland), Sihanoukville (Cambodia), Surabaya (Indonesia), and our Sister City, Nantes.

Our contribution to the entertainment was the performance by Philippe Savre, a bag-piper who came especially from Nantes for the occasion (see accompanying article about his visit to Seattle area schools). Philippe played some typical dance tunes from Southern Brittany (alas, we could not provide a dancing company!) as well as a “complainte”, a sad song relating the torment of a wife waiting for the return from war of her husband. The power of Philippe’s instrument and his enthusiastic playing style delighted the audience and rendered moot all his concerns about

acoustics and the types of available microphones.

The other entertainment was also first-class: a Cambodian blessing dance performed by three wonderfully graceful young girls; a well choreographed Indonesian traditional dance performed by teenagers; and a Polish choir singing traditional folk songs from their country.

Each focused Sister had a table where they could display information about their Association. In addition, each Sister City provided items that are shown for a year in a glass case in the Bertha Landes room. If you have the opportunity to go to City hall, take 5 minutes to go and see them. The cases are arranged in a very artistic manner.

We would like to thank Pamela Hughes and Marie-Pierre Koban for providing recipes for the caterer, Jean-Loup Baer, Tom Bennett, Pamela Hughes and Jean Leblon for donating items to the auction, Pamela Hughes for setting up our display table, and Tom Bennett, Cory Potts, and Bunny Schmidley for volunteering the night of the reception.

In Memoriam

Recently we lost another very good friend of our association. Étienne Debaste died at Swedish Hospital on March 18. In the past, he and his wife Nancy hosted Nantes visitors, and attended our meetings and other events frequently. Étienne was born in Tunis in 1920, but he received all his schooling in France, graduating as an electrical engineer in Paris in 1942, after which he joined the underground resistance in southern France

until the end of World War II. He came to North America in 1946, worked in several locations from Boston to Alaska, and for a time at Boeing in Seattle. According to his last wishes, his wife Nancy will be taking Étienne's ashes for interment at the Chateau de Talcy in the Loir et Cher department where Étienne spent the first fifteen years of his childhood. We will miss Étienne's faithful friendship and generosity.

Joint Soirée with Mercer Island Association

By Tom Bennett—Your association joined forces with the Mercer Island-Thonon-les-Bains Sister City Association to present a delightful soirée on Friday, May 15 in the Mercer Island Community Center.

All present enjoyed an evening of dancing, desserts, and wines, accompanied by the great vocal and instrumental music of the Raretones.

The evening featured a silent auction of well over 50 items ranging from gourmet dinners served in exotic locales like a lighthouse or a summer

home, to a 7-day Holland-America line cruise for two to the purchaser's choice of destination.

The evening was the first-ever fundraiser for our association. We raised money to be used for next year's festivities celebrating the 30th anniversary of Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association. We greatly appreciate Mercer Island-Thonon-les-Bains giving us the opportunity to participate in the event.

We hope to do this again next year—don't miss it!



2010: Our Thirtieth Anniversary

The original sister city agreement between Seattle and Nantes was signed in April 1980. Simple arithmetic leads us to cheer the coming of our next anniversary, and to plan on making it a memorable milestone in the history of our friendship and fruitful collaboration. We expect that a delegation

from our sister association will visit us next year, and that some of us will want to visit Nantes in return. All our members and friends are invited to participate in the festivities, to suggest activities, and to let us know whether and how you can help us celebrate our thirtieth anniversary.

La Veuze Goes to School

By Jean-Loup Baer— During his stay in Seattle Philippe Savre, a bagpiper from Nantes (see accompanying article on the Sister Cities reception) visited four Seattle high schools to play and present his instrument. The four schools were, in chronological order: Blanchet High School, Seattle Prep, Bush School and UPA.

Philippe played in front of three different classes at Blanchet and in the theatre at Seattle Prep the day after his arrival (he had been delayed one day due to a flight delay). If there were any effects of jet lag, they were not apparent. He had a little time to recuperate before his next visits, playing in the weekly morning assembly at Bush and in the theater at UPA the day before his departure.

Philippe not only played but explained the origins and inner workings of his instrument called a “veuze”. While the age of this type of instrument cannot be completely ascertained, some sightings on friezes of cathedrals dating from the 11th Century show musical instruments that

have strong similarities. However, the veuze on which Philippe performed is not an antique since he made it himself! This allowed him to improve on the capabilities of the instrument by allowing the drone (if I remember correctly the *bourdon* in French) to play in two keys instead of one. The veuze that Philippe played on has a single drone while Scottish and Irish instruments might have several.

Students and teachers in the schools he visited where very impressed, not only by Philippe’s musical ability but also by his enthusiasm and the depth of his preparation. He had consulted an English teacher in Nantes for the translation of “technical” words and his presentations half in French, half in English were quite appreciated.

We thank Margaret Newcomb (Blanchet), Judy Davis (Seattle Prep), Esther Le Grézause (Bush) and Pat Landy (UPA) for organizing these visits.



The Weekend of the French Students *en famille*

On Friday, April 10, the 15 students of the Nantes Institut Universitaire Technologique were invited to a potluck in the common room of a downtown condominium graciously provided by one of our members. An excellent and varied array of warm and cold dishes were contributed by members of the association and by the host families. From there, the students went off individually to spend the weekend with their hosts. As the group leader, Jean-Jacques Malo has said that time spent living with an American family at home and on

short trips is one of the most meaningful aspects of their stay in Seattle. We wish to thank the following persons and families for their generous welcome to the students: Dr. David Anderson, the Bailey family, Chantal and Laurent Baldacci, Anne Bauer, Michael and Julia Herschenson, Jeanine Keefe, Laurie Kempen, Renata Lillig, Chris McQueen, Lisa Nguyen, Brenna Pink, the Schilling family, Linda Wessling, Ethel Whelan, Diane Wortley.



A French Film at SIFF

A small group of our association's members met on Sunday, June 14, the last day of the Seattle International Film Festival, to watch a film with the French title *Home*. A Belgian-Swiss-French production, this film was directed by Ursula Meier who calls it "a road movie in reverse."

The film starts with an idyllic home in the country, where a family of five and a cat, play hockey, sunbathe and eat dinner outside. Small detail: to get to the house, it was necessary to cross an unfinished highway. When the family moved in ten years ago, they were under the impression that the completion of the freeway would not take place before sometime far in the future. But, once the lanes open up to traffic and to vacationers, the family starts to unravel and their once calm, countryside existence turns into a padded prison.

While the star of the film may have been the always melodramatic Isabelle Huppert, in the role of a high-strung mother of three, for our group the real star of the film was the mischievous blond boy, Julien,

played by Kacey Mottet Klein. The role of the father is played by Belgian actor Olivier Gourmet (Cannes Best Actor 2002). For more details and some photos of this quirky film, visit its website: <http://www.home-lefilm.com/site/>.

Coincidentally, a beautiful French documentary, also entitled *Home*, has recently been released by the famed photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand. For more details, see: www.home-2009.com/.

After the film we went to the nearby McMenamins pub for conversation and a snack. A new SNSCA member, Jaclyn Eruhow-Hagan, joined us and told us about studying during the upcoming fall semester in Nantes. We also discussed festivals in Nantes and French and American culinary differences, and talked about some American foods that are unpopular with the French.

We hope that more members and friends will join us next year for another French language film at SIFF.



Four Dollars for Scholars Scholarships Awarded

By Tom Bennett— Scholarships were awarded to four exceptional students for study in the 2009-2010 academic year. The winners are:

Heather Lee, graduating from Redmond HS and planning to attend U of Washington
Preston Albertine, graduating from Snohomish HS and planning to attend U of Washington
Molly Gibson, attending U of Puget Sound
Emily Kramer, attending U of Washington

These students, and eight other applicants, joined the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association this year, or had joined previously. I hope you will have a chance to meet these very impressive young people.



L'Expérience américaine des puces nantaises à Seattle

By Jean-Jacques Malo— Il fallait bien revenir!

Ainsi après un excellent séjour d'une dizaine de jours à Seattle, le 18 avril le groupe de quinze étudiants nantais que j'accompagnais a dû reprendre l'avion pour traverser la Grande Bleue dans le sens inverse de l'aller. Néanmoins, personne ne désirait retourner à Nantes aussi vite! et ce fut quasiment un crève-cœur pour mes jeunes de reprendre l'avion si tôt.

En un peu plus d'une semaine sur place mes étudiants ont fait l'expérience de la diversité, ils ont écarquillé les yeux en permanence, les ont gardés

grand ouverts et en ont profité pour emmagasiner une foulditude d'informations. Ils ont mis les clichés au défi, en ont conservé quelques-uns et en ont rejeté bon nombre d'autres. La gentillesse des Seattleiens les a très favorablement surpris, que ce soit dans la rue, dans les magasins ou autre. A cet égard le week-end en famille d'accueil leur restera longtemps en mémoire comme une expérience ou non seulement l'hospitalité n'est pas un vain mot mais c'est surtout un principe érigé comme fondamental. Puisse-t-il l'appliquer dans leur vie future!

Que ce soit les visites professionnelles (cabinet d'avocats, ferme bio à Vashon Island, pêcheurs, etc.) ou les rencontres à Seattle University et Seattle Central, ainsi que les visites de la ville et de ses environs, beaucoup d'images resteront gravées dans l'esprit

de ces jeunes Nantais. Ils se rendent compte à quel point un tel voyage leur ouvre l'esprit, et qu'ils en sont revenus plus forts.

Ils ont également compris l'intérêt de connaître d'autres cultures, de rencontrer d'autres gens, de se déplacer

chez eux, dans leur pays pour mieux appréhender la réalité de notre monde d'aujourd'hui, de parler d'autres langues. Ils nous aideront ainsi à créer un monde meilleur.

Je n'oublie pas que le véritable succès de ce voyage (qui fit des envieux à notre retour) est dû en partie à tous mes amis, de tous bords (et bien naturellement à ceux de l'Association Seattle-Nantes) de la

(continued on p. 6)



The Puces Nantaises' ⁽¹⁾ American Experience in Seattle

By Jean-Jacques Malo, transl. by Jean Leblon—

We had to go back! So, after an excellent ten-day stay in Seattle, on April 18, the group of 15 students I was accompanying had to take their plane and cross the Big Blue in reverse. However, nobody wanted to return to Nantes so fast! and it was nearly a heart-break for my young charges to get back on the plane so soon.

In a little more than a week, my students experienced diversity, they stared wide-eyed constantly and kept their eyes permanently open in order to store up loads of information. They put the clichés to the test, kept a few and rejected a great many of them. The kindness of the Seattleites surprised them very favorably, be it in the streets, in the stores or elsewhere. In that respect, they will long remember the weekend with the host family as an experience not only proving that hospitality is not an empty word, but also establishing itself as a fundamental principle. May they apply it in their future life!

Whether they were the professional visits (a law office, a biofarm on Vashon Island, Fishermen's terminal, etc.) or the visits to Seattle University or Seattle

Central Community College, as well as the tours through the city and its surroundings, many sights will remain engraved in the memory of these young people from Nantes. They realize how much such a trip opens their mind and that they came back from it feeling stronger.

They have understood also the value of knowing other cultures, of meeting other people, of moving about in their own country in order to understand better the reality of today's world, of speaking other languages. Thus they will help us to live in a better world.

I do not want to forget that the real success of this trip (that aroused envy on our return) is due in part to all my friends, from all sides (and especially those of the Seattle-Nantes Association) of the Emerald City, who helped me organize all the various activities. We are all very grateful to them.

And undoubtedly some of those young Nantais will again cross the Atlantic carrying the torch anew!

(1) In a previous article (Nantesense, April '09), Malo called his students "Nantes fleas" because of their quick jump from one side of the ocean to the other.



L' Expérience américaine des puces nantaises à Seattle (continued from p. 5)

Cité d'Émeraude qui m'ont aidé à organiser toutes les diverses activités. Nous leur en sommes tous très reconnaissants.

Et indubitablement certains de ces jeunes Nantais retraverseront l'Atlantique pour porter de nouveau le flambeau!



Une semaine à Seattle

By Philippe Savre— Il est difficile de décrire un voyage tel que celui-ci en quelques lignes car il fut riche en moments de vie, en rencontres et en émotions ...

Seattle est une ville surprenante de par sa diversité culturelle et de par la variété de ses paysages.

En effet, tout y est, la mer, la montagne, la forêt, les îles, un centre ville où les Totems se fondent au milieu des buildings, sans oublier ses curiosités comme le Space Needle ou le musée de Jimmy Hendrix.

Au cours de cette semaine, il m'a été offert l'opportunité de visiter les quatre coins de cette ville avec les membres de l'association Nantes-Seattle que je tiens à remercier à nouveau car ils ont per-

mis de donner une dimension humaine et culturelle incomparable. J'ai pu mieux comprendre la vie des

Américains et connaître l'histoire de Seattle, de ses monuments, de ses traditions et coutumes.

Ce fut un honneur pour moi de pouvoir présenter ma musique, de représenter la ville de Nantes, en bref de faire voyager le son de la Veuze jusqu'à Seattle!

Et quoi de mieux pour un musicien que de pouvoir découvrir le festival de Jazz de Ballard, et surtout de pouvoir jouer sur une de ses scènes. Un souvenir indélébile!!!

Le moment le plus difficile fut le départ, mais

je nourris l'espoir d'y retourner.



Interested in Being on the SNSCA Board?

Would you like to help plan your association's activities? Come to one of the board meetings to see how we do things, then consider being on the board yourself. This will give you an opportunity to help plan the kind of events you like.

We usually meet in the Greenwood district at 6:30 on the first Wednesday of every month. Every association member is invited to attend a board meeting at any time. Email chantal.sullivan@seattle-nantes.org to confirm the meeting time and location if you would like to attend.

A Week in Seattle

By Philippe Savre, translated by Jean Leblon—

It is difficult to describe in a few lines a trip such as this one, because it was so rich in moments of life, in encounters and in emotions.

Seattle is a city that surprises by its cultural diversity and the variety of its landscapes.

In fact, everything is there, the sea, the mountain, the forest, the islands, a city center where Totems blend in with the skyscrapers, not to forget its special sites such as the Space Needle and the EMP Jimmy Hendrix museum.

In the course of that week, I was given the opportunity of visiting the four corners of the city guided by members of the Seattle-Nantes Association whom I

want to thank again for giving an incomparable human and cultural dimension to my discoveries. I was able to understand better how Americans live and to know the history of Seattle, its monuments, its traditions and customs.

It was an honor for me to be allowed to present my music, to represent the city of Nantes, in short to bring the sound of the Veuze all the way to Seattle!

And what is better for a musician than to be able to discover the Ballard Jazz Festival, and especially to have a chance to play on one of its stages. An indelible memory!!!

Leaving was the most difficult, but I will keep hoping to come back.

Bastille Day Celebration at Seattle Center

By Tom Bennett—Seattle-Nantes will again join the region's other French organizations in celebrating Bastille Day at Seattle Center.

Sunday, July 12 from 11 am until 6 pm we will have a booth in the French Village between the Fisher Pavilion and the fountain. We will have information and displays about Nantes and our sister city association, and will again feature our bouquiniste, the re-creation of a French bookseller's stall. You can pick up great bargains on all kinds of French books, as well as travel books, cook books, and other books of interest to Francophiles. This is always one of the highlights of the French Village.

On Saturday, June 11, there will be a Bal des Pompiers, a Firemen's Ball as is found in towns all over France on Bastille Day. Come enjoy a four-course Moroccan dinner followed by dancing. The event begins at 6 pm and lasts until 11 pm. Reservations for dinner and dancing can be made by emailing info@faccpnw.org or by calling (206) 443-4703.

If you would like to help in our booth or in the book stall, please contact Tom Bennett at tom@seattle-nantes.org or (425) 712-0105.



Dollars for Scholars Wine Tasting

By Tom Bennett—

A sunny Sunday afternoon, good friends, fine wine, and tasty hors d'œuvres all combined to provide a very pleasant wine tasting at Silver Lake Winery on June 7. We tasted a selection of Silver Lake's Reserve and Grand Reserve wines during a very enjoyable event which raised money for our scholarship program.



Carolyn and David Rice with wine tasting host



L to R: Misa Bourdoiseau, Marc Trinquet,
Marie-Paule Meda, David Anderson, Jean Leblon

Nantes and Seattle – Sharing Hope for Our Planet

By Randy Robinson— During a ten day visit to Nantes, I was warmly embraced by the people of this city in western France. I had missed Nantes on my previous visits to France because of the powerful gravitational pull Paris has over me. Seattle and Nantes, of course are “sister cities” who have been sharing their cultures in this relationship since 1980.

Nantes is both ancient and modern and is probably the most forward thinking city in France. The municipal government, under the leadership of Mayor Jean-Marc Ayrault, has positioned Nantes to be the model 21st century city. Nantes is a post-industrial city that is moving forward with a visionary plan. Part of that vision is to reach out to the rest of the world and exchange ideas.

I was invited to Nantes to participate in the Floralies Internationales exposition – a week long flower and garden show which is a horticultural event with gardens designed by representatives from countries on every continent. The

“Seattle” garden I designed was in a hall, along with gardens from Africa, New Zealand, Spain, and the Philippines. Our garden was a slice of the north-west forest and mountain environment constructed by French landscapers and myself over a four day period in early May. The concept of the garden was to exhibit the regenerative effects of nature growing new life out of the old.

The concept of new life emanating from the old can

be seen in the urban context of the new land uses emerging from the derelict industrial sites on the Île de Nantes. This island was the ship building center of Nantes for five centuries. Today a multi-use park is under construction on the site that will include museums, amusements, and passive park uses. This location is an easy walk from one of the city’s convenient tramway stations. The Nantes tram system is a 40 kilometer network of 6 lines that traverse the city with efficient trains that run often and inexpensively. I rode the tram everyday when I was in Nantes simply



because it is so easy. I’m happy that Seattle is moving forward with our local train system.

Nantes also has a rent-a-bicycle program. Bicloos are bicycles that you can rent for an hour or more and use for errands anywhere in the city. Return the bike to one of the 90 bicloo stations, lock it up and go on your way (similar to Zip cars in Seattle but using less gas).

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Save the Date

ANNUAL PIQUE-NIQUE/BBQ

August 2nd

1 pm until 4 pm or beyond

at

Ravenna Park

2000 NE 58th St

Seattle

This is a family event

We'll have the coals hot

Bring your place settings, drinks

choice of BBQ fare

and a side dish to share

Look for a reminder and driving

details nearer the date

Nantes and Seattle – Sharing Hope for Our Planet (continued from p. 10)

The Île de Nantes, the tram system, and bicloos are all efforts by the citizens of Nantes to make their city a great place to live, and which have won them the title of Most Livable City in France for two years running. Nantes' vision for sustainable living is at the root of these efforts. This is where Nantes and Seattle are truly Sister Cities. Our two cities share a vision of people living in urban settings with a light impact on the planet.

As I sat at the dinner table with parks department staff and city officials from several nations, I heard the same message (in several languages) about living lightly on the earth; we all shared the same hope for the future of our planet.

Randy Robinson is a Senior Landscape Architect with Seattle Parks Department



Endives au jambon ~ Belgian Endive Rolled in Ham

By Jean Leblon— The modest Belgian endive is grown in darkness to preserve the soft whiteness of its tight yet tender leaf structure. It was first discovered in Flanders in the 19th century and called *witlof* (white leaf). While it has been very present in the kitchens of Belgium and northern France, it has only recently been discovered again in the American cuisine and supermarket where cashiers often ask me: “What are those things, what do you do with them?” In fact they can be boiled or braised, and the raw leaves are especially crispy and tangy in salads or as support for appetizers. Ever since my wife and daughters tasted it in Belgium, the recipe below is the one that they have relished and requested regularly.

6 Belgian endives
6 medium thick slices of ham
2 Tbs butter
2 Tbs flour
1 cup hot milk
Salt, pepper and your choice of spices
Parmesan or other cheese, grated

1. Slice off the hard reddish bottom of the en-

dives. Cook them in boiling water until they have become slightly grey and soft to the fork. That should take at least 30-45 minutes. Take the endives out of the water with a perforated ladle or large spoon and set them out to drain, for instance in a colander. You can even squeeze the water out gently by hand. The purpose is to keep them from watering the sauce later in the baking pan.

2. Prepare a Béchamel sauce: in a saucepan: melt the butter without letting it turn brown, mix in the flour with a fork or a whip, then and only then add the hot milk a little at a time, stir and simmer until fairly consistent; add salt, pepper, nutmeg or any spice you prefer, and some of the cheese if you wish (that makes it *sauce Mornay*). For best results, it should thicken, but be soft enough to spread over the endives.

3. Roll a slice of ham around each of the endives and place them tightly in a Pyrex dish or a ramekin. Spread the sauce over them and sprinkle grated cheese on top. Broil the dish until the cheese melts and the top becomes golden brown.



The IUT Weekend Potluck

Calendar of Events

July 11	Bal des Pompiers, 6pm, Fisher Pavilion
July 11-12	Bastille Day Celebration, Seattle Center
August 2	Pique-nique/BBQ, 1-4pm, Ravenna Park
August 4	Board Meeting (open to members/guests)

2009 OFFICERS

Acting President June: Pamela-Ann Hughes
July: Pamela-Ann Hughes
Acting Vice President: Tom Bennett
Secretary/Treasurer: Susan Hulbert
Corresp. Secretary: Chantal Baldacci

BOARD MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

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

OTHER POSITIONS

Volunteer Coordinator:
Newsletter Layout: Renee Schurtz
Temp. Newsletter Editor: Jean Leblon