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### President's Letter

By Jean-Loup Baer

The festivities for the commemoration of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our twinning with Nantes are now over. A delegation from Nantes came to Seattle April 9-19 and our own delegation went to Nantes June 10-17. Two articles in this issue describe in detail the programs of these visits. Members from both delegations are still raving about the reception and hospitality they received in the city they visited.

I would like to thank the Seattle hosts for their warm welcome of their guests and the Association members who offered invaluable help during the various activities. Special kudos are in order for: Susan Kegel who almost single-handedly avoided a crisis involving the hosting of 15 lycéens from Nantes who were in Seattle at the same time as the delegation and who unexpectedly were without host families less than a month before their arrival; Larry Laffrey who did the lion's share of planning the program and finding

venues for our guests giving them a superb sample of Seattle's life; Leblon who found hosts for the delegation members and handled seamlessly some last minute changes due to illnesses; Alaina McCallum who co-chaired the reception committee and kept us straight with her precise note taking and knowledge of the whole process (plus taking a few hundred pictures to document fully the visit); Pamela Hughes who was in charge of gifts for our guests and for the Nantes Mayor (a superb walnut bowl) and the Nantes-Seattle Association (a book about Seattle); Ellen Taft who offered her house for the potluck which she organized with Pamela's help in addition to hosting a couple of students at the last minute; and Susan Hulbert, Margaret Johnson and Bunny Schmidley for their help, advice, and participation before and during the visit.

To be honest, I had some apprehension last September when we started

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## President's Letter *continued from page 1*

planning the dual visits. Would we be as good a hosting Association as we were 5 years ago? What if the Nantais came with several "officials"; could we afford to host them, as they would expect? Would we have enough of our own to return the visit? Would a Seattle official representative accompany us? As months went by, these fears subsided. The aforementioned people rolled up their sleeves and an attractive program emerged. There was no official representative from Nantes (although we would have loved to have one) and we adjusted our schedule so that the Seattle delegation, of a similar size as the one from Nantes, would be in Nantes at the same time as an economic delegation headed by Jack Cowan which included City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen among others. Apart from the temporary spike of semi-panic created by the imminent arrival of the 15 *lycéens*, the Nantais's visit ran smoothly to everyone's satisfaction. Our visit to Nantes was likewise as successful, and those of us who participated will have fond and lasting memories.

We celebrate our twinning anniversary every five years and as time has passed our cities have grown and have become poles of attraction in their respective countries. A couple of examples among many: Nantes was the European Green Capital in 2013 and Seattle is also well-known for its ecological endeavors as well as being the first city in the USA to have established a \$15 minimum wage. There are many similarities between the two cities including climate and maritime locations. We can thank the founders of our *jumelage* for their judicious choice.

Our mission, like that of any other sister city, is to motivate and develop economical, educational, and cultural exchanges. Our own focus is more on education and culture. We provide scholarships for Washington students who have a passion for the French language and culture and we offer scholarships for studying in Nantes (this year's winners are highlighted in this issue). We encourage and sponsor Francophile or francophone activities such as our recent co-sponsorship of a French film at SIFF.

Fundamentally, though, the heart of our mission is to facilitate people to people exchanges. The anniversary celebrations reinforce long-term friendships and help create new ones. Thanks to our frequent contacts with our counterpart Association in Nantes, in particular with Mariette Cassourret, its tireless and enthusiastic President, we can help sustain these relationships in between anniversaries. Members of the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association do not have to wait another five years to visit and enjoy Nantes, and we are always ready to welcome a member of Nantes-Seattle!



Seattleites and Nantais at Nantes Park in West Seattle.

## A Note from the Editor

By Alaina McCallum

The newsletter provides the membership and the community with the opportunity to stay current with the Seattle-Nantes Sister City Association's activities. I want to give a big thanks all the contributors to the newsletter, because without their efforts the newsletter would not be possible.

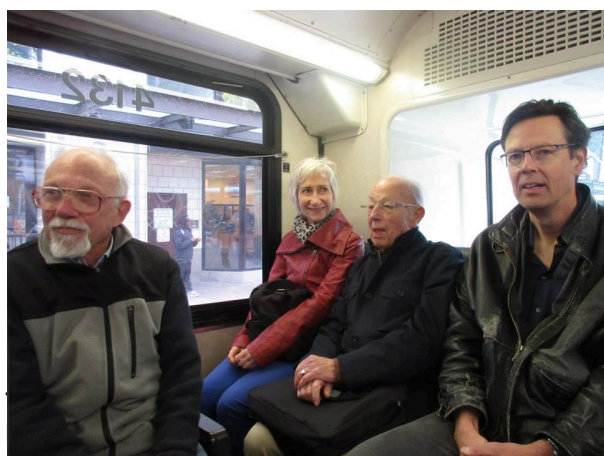
The second half of 2015 has been particularly busy with all the preparations and festivities surrounding the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I hope you enjoy catching up on all the latest activities.

## 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Delegation in Seattle: April 9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>



By Larry Laffrey

The SNSCA delegation's plane touched down at SeaTac on the morning of Thursday, April 9<sup>th</sup>, a delay en route prevented their scheduled arrival the night before. Host families and several SNSCA board members met the Nantais at the luggage carousel and spirited our guests back to the city to get settled. A few hours later we all converged on the Museum of History and Industry (MOHAI) for the first of many scheduled cultural and social programs over nine days.



After a brief welcome and quick overview of the group's itinerary from Jean-Loup Baer and Larry Laffrey, MOHAI's customized presentation "Seattle Icons" followed. The Nantais then wandered through the museum on their own before gathering up welcome bags assembled by longtime member Pamela-Ann Hughes.

The Seattle Art Museum (SAM) and its exhibit "Indigenous Beauty" was the main event on Friday afternoon. We followed a docent tour of this outstanding collection of native art of North America. After a long wait amongst the colorful street life of Third Avenue, the Metro bus deposited the group at the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Visitor Center for a self-guided tour.



Pike Place Market

Board member Ellen Taft hosted a BBQ potluck at her Capitol Hill home on Saturday, April 11. Nantais, their hosts, and many SNSCA members came together for a great evening with wonderful food and conversation. The dinner followed the delegation's afternoon walk around Pike Place Market and surrounds.



Sunday was a "free day," allowing the delegates to spend some time with their hosts. Monday dawned rainy and chilly weather, and we gathered late that morning at the Duwamish Longhouse. Sitting in a circle in the great room of the cedar log and plank structure, the group interacted with Duwamish tribal chair Cecile Hansen and staffer Linda Dombrowski. The Nantais asked many good questions about the culture of the Duwamish and their lona struuale for federal recognition.



## Delegation in Seattle *continued from page 3*

Following a catered lunch in the Longhouse, the group carpooled to West Seattle for a walk along Alki Beach. An hour later, joined by the Nantes student delegation visiting Seattle concurrently, we convened on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of City Hall to chat with Seattle Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim and another member of the mayor's staff. This busy day concluded at the Steelhead Diner in the Market, where the Nantais, several hosts, board members and guests (including City Councilman Tom Rasmussen) enjoyed a fine banquet showcasing Northwest food and wine.

Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> featured two attractions east of the city. Board member Margaret Johnson coordinated a tour of the Microsoft Campus Visitor Center in Redmond and an excursion to Snoqualmie Falls followed.

A sunny Wednesday was ideal for board member Jean Leblon's walking tour of Pioneer Square. The group then enjoyed a video and exhibits at the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park. A walk east on Jackson to the Chinatown/International District and a visit to the Uwajimaya Market followed. We concluded the afternoon at the Panama Hotel, viewing its exhibits on the early 20<sup>th</sup> century history of the district and subsequent internment of Japanese Americans.

Road trip! We headed south on Thursday for a day in Tacoma. The Museum of Glass was our first stop. Several folks then explored "antiques row" on Broadway. We finished our visit at the Tacoma Art Museum, featuring the newly opened Haub Wing of Western Art and a Georgia O'Keeffe exhibit.

"Mini-tours" were offered on Friday. Three Nantais opted for a walking tour of Discovery Park, others visited Bainbridge Island. And preceding Sunday's departure, two Nantais took in a Mariner's game (and win!) on a gorgeous Saturday evening.



**Steelhead Diner**



**Snoqualmie Falls**



**Jean leads a tour of Pioneer Square.**



**The Nantes delegation at City Hall**





## Review of La French (The Connection)

By Ellen Taft

As a SIFF sponsor, members of SNSCA received free tickets with reserved seating for *La French* (English: *The Connection*) on Sunday afternoon on May 24<sup>th</sup> at the Egyptian Theater.

Premiering at the Toronto Film Festival on September 10, 2014, *The Connection* was a 2014 Belgian/French "action crime thriller" directed by Cédric-Jimenez and produced by Alain Goldman. With a budget of €17 million, the exterior shots were filmed in Marseille, the interior shots, particularly the prison scenes were shot in Charleroi, Belgium, the site of World War I battles. Isn't it nice to see that there is another industry in that town!

The story is based on the real facts of a crime story involving mafia families in Marseille who exported heroin to North America through New York City in the 1970's and two New York City police drug-squad detectives who obsessively broke up the drug ring. Originally documented in a non-fiction book *The French Connection* by Robin Moore, the 1971 film, starring Gene Hackman, was a multi award-winning movie titled *The French Connection*. Both the 1971 and 2014 adaptation recounts the story from the perspective of the Marseille police.

A young magistrate Pierre Michel, a recovery gambling addict, relentlessly pursues the heroin operation in Marseilles, lets his marriage fall apart, and foolishly rides around Marseille on his motor-scooter, rather than in an armored car with several body-guards. So predictably, he was assassinated by the very, very bad guys.



**Members wait for *The Connection* to begin at the Egyptian.**

There were some great scenes of the Provençal countryside and the Mediterranean; perhaps the only comic relief came from the rather dated police work. No cell phones, so they used complicated walkie-talkies during the stakeouts. At one point the cops raided a heroin-processing mini-factory, just using pistols, without bulletproof vests, helmets, automatic rifles or the full SWAT team equipment. I think we all laughed. After decades of terrorism and violence, the whole operation struck us as "under-equipped."

In the end, the Mafia gets put behind bars and the audience is taken step by step through the details of the investigation. It was all fascinating, but like the movie *Chinatown* (which I have seen about 100 times), as soon as I left the theater, I wanted to see it again, just to put all the details back together to see the whole picture.

## Annual General Meeting

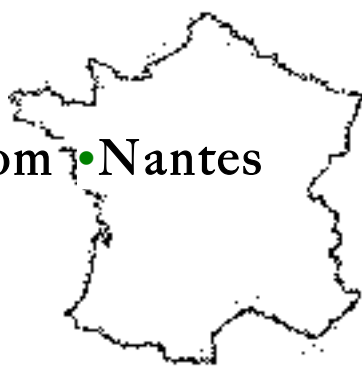
As in recent tradition, we will be holding our Annual General Meeting at North City Bistro & Wine Shop in Shoreline. The meeting is on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup>. As the date approaches, you will receive an email about the menu and details of the event. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Welcome New Members!

We welcome the following members who have joined the Association since the last newsletter:

Melissa Brown  
 Noah Chriss  
 Yumul Cruz  
 Sophie Donovan  
 Adriana Elliott  
 Megan Gleason  
 Lauren Hardie  
 Tim Maass  
 Alicia Quilez  
 Natalie Riel  
 Jonathan Roberts

## News from • Nantes



### Fourth of July Picnic



*Photo courtesy of Maison des États-Unis*

Members of Nantes-Seattle Sister City celebrated

## 2015 Scholarship Program and Recipients

By Bunny Schmidley

Two thousand fifteen was a good year for scholarship applicants. We had about 20 students applying for the Seattle-Nantes Scholars and Goldmark scholarships for the 2015-2016 academic year. In late April, the Scholarship Committee, made up of co-chairs Jean Leblon and Bunny Schmidley, Susan Hulbert, Alaina McCallum, and Marilyn Severson, reviewed the all applications, scoring them for content and French passion. Eight shining applicants were selected for interviews. These were held in early May at the Shoreline Library. It was truly an honor to interview these current and future university students. The levels of enthusiasm, commitment, and passion for their studies and college experiences were refreshing. The final selection of the scholarship recipients was challenging, taking into account the highly qualified and deserving potential recipients. Ultimately, after much discussion and debate, we chose five very qualified winners.

The Goldmark Scholarship was awarded to Sharanya Sarathy who is a sophomore at the University of Washington and will be in Nantes throughout the fall. We were able to award four Seattle-Nantes Scholars scholarships this year thanks to your generous contributions. The recipients were Sophie Donohue, Adriana Elliott, Megan Gleason, and Natalie Riel. Of these four, we awarded Megan Gleason of Bainbridge Island with the Frances Bennett Scholarship. She is a sophomore at Whitman College and demonstrated great passion for French during the interview.





**Maison des États-Unis****Marche de Talensac****Château des Ducs de Bretagne**

## 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Delegation in Nantes

By Alaina McCallum

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, the Seattle delegation met at the Maison des États-Unis, the headquarters of the Nantes-Seattle Sister City Association, located across the street from marché de Talensac in Nantes. At that point, I had been traveling a few weeks and being in Nantes felt like home, especially seeing my fellow Seattleites.

My first visit to Nantes was nine years ago when I studied abroad for a quarter during my undergrad at the University of Washington. I have been fortunate enough to return multiple times since then including for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary five years ago. I was delighted to be a part of the delegation this time around. I was joined by eight other members: Jean Leblon, Jean-Loup and Diane Baer, Misa Bourdoiseau and Marc Trinquet, Susan and Andy Kegel, and Pieter Van der Meulen. Jack Cowan, Honorary Consul of France for Washington, was visiting Nantes at the same time with a delegation from the French-American Chamber of Commerce. City Councilmember Tom Rasmussen, who has been active in SNSCA for over five years, was the official government representative of the delegation.

The official visit ran through June 16<sup>th</sup> during which time the Nantais organized a wonderful itinerary with visits in and around Nantes.

The delegation had the opportunity to see some of the different ways that Nantes has adapted to the changing economy of the city. The Île de Nantes, situated in the middle of the Loire River, is one place of transformation. The warehouses of the former shipyards now draw tourists to Les Machines de l'île where imagination and mechanics meet. We saw the 39-foot mechanical elephant, the marine world carousal, and the workshop during our visit. Further along on the Île de Nantes are the former banana hangars, which are now full of life after having been converted into restaurants and bars. One evening, we ate dinner at a Japanese buffet located in one of the former hangers.

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**Andy and Susan Kegel enjoy the****Les Machines de l'île****Château de Goulaine**

**The reception at City Hall****Jean-Loup presents a gift to the City of Nantes.****Walking in the rain in Trentemoult**

## Delegation in Nantes *continued from page 7*

Trentemoult is another example of how Nantes has found ways to adapt to change. On our second day in Nantes, we took the Navibus, a ferry, across the Loire to the former fishermen's village of Trentemoult that now houses a vibrant artist community. It was a damp day, but we took a quick tour around the colorful homes before taking refuge in a dry restaurant.

The deputy mayor of Nantes welcomed us at a reception at City Hall. Jean-Loup presented a beautiful walnut wooden bowl as a gift to the City of Nantes. At the dinner hosted by Nantes-Seattle following the reception, Jean-Loup expressed his satisfaction with the visit as it provided the opportunity to learn about the activities our counterpart Nantes-Seattle are doing. He continued to emphasize how the anniversary delegations are beneficial in strengthening the ties between the two cities.

We visited Château de Goulaine, which has been in the family of the Marquis de Goulaine for hundreds of years. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century, Goulaine was the captain of the city of Nantes, which helped secure the noble status of the family. The castle is now home to the LU Museum. We tasted wine from the Goulaine vineyard with LU *petit beurre* cookies.

A member of Nantes-Seattle welcomed us to her home along the Atlantic coast in La Turballe where we enjoyed a great barbecue.

Another outing was to Puy du Fou, a historical theme park, that provided a unique experience that led the audience through different periods of French history including the Viking and medieval.

I am continually enchanted by Nantes and am always experience amazing hospitality, and this time around was no exception.

The delegation was primarily hosted by the Nantais who had come to Seattle in April, and everyone was well received. Thank you to all the members in Nantes who helped make our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary visit memorable!

**Barbecue in La Turballe****On the beach in La Turballe****Château de Goulaine**

**For more photos of the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations both in Seattle and Nantes visit our Facebook page at [facebook.com/SeattleNantesSCA](https://facebook.com/SeattleNantesSCA)**



## Annual Picnic and Barbecue

By Margaret Johnson

Although the early days of summer were very hot for the Seattle area, the weather had cooled just in time for our Annual Picnic and Barbeque. On Sunday, July 12, current members and friends, and a new member visited at Madrona Park on Lake Washington. As always, there was a wide variety of conversation, food items to share, and friends and family joining the event. Those who had gone to Nantes for the 30th anniversary celebration shared stories of their trip.

We hope to see everyone at the picnic next summer, and at our many events before then.



## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

Annual General Meeting on Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at North City Wine and Bistro

### FEBRUARY

La Chandeleur crêpe dinner to be announced.

### MARCH

French Fest on Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup> at the Seattle Center Armory.

## SNSCA Board Members

### Officers

**President:** Jean-Loup Baer

**Vice-President:** Margaret Johnson

**Treasurer:** Susan Hulbert

**Secretary:** Alaina McCallum

**Corresponding Secretary:** Larry Laffrey

### Members

Jean-Loup Baer

Susan Hulbert

Margaret Johnson

Susan Kegel

Larry Laffrey

Jean Leblon

Alaina McCallum

Ellen Taft

Tom Waite

## Board Member Responsibilities

**Events Coordinator:** Margaret Johnson

**General Information:** Larry Laffrey

**Membership:** Jean-Loup Baer

**Newsletter Editor:** Alaina McCallum

**Public Relations:** Alaina McCallum

**Scholarship:** Jean Leblon

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Margaret Johnson