The Belvedere Totem Pole Rises Again

This Belvedere Viewpoint Place totem pole was once one of the most photographed images in West Seattle. It served as a welcoming symbol for 40 years in its former location at Belvedere Viewpoint for visitors entering West Seattle via Admiral Way. By 2006, this second totem pole to stand on this site since 1939 had been severely ravaged by the Pacific Northwest weather and was retired to Southwest Seattle Historical Society's Log House Museum courtyard and has been awaiting restoration. It was replaced by the current Story Pole that was carved by Michael Halady of the Duwamish tribe. The first pole to stand at Belvedere Viewpoint was carved in 1901 by the Bella Bella tribe from British Columbia and acquired by Doc J.E. Standley, of Ye Old Curiosity Shop in 1939.

The second pole was carved in the exact likeness of the Bella Bella tribe’s totem pole, by Robert (Bob) Fleischman and Michael Morgan, Boeing engineers, in 1965-1966 from a cedar tree that was felled in Schmitz Park. Fleischman and Morgan were chosen to carve the pole because their bid came in at the lowest; free! The pole was very much a family effort, with work being done in the family garage and painting being completed by the children from the Fleischman and Morgan families as well as neighbors and friends.

Though no longer in its original location, the museum’s totem pole will continue to tell an important story of northwest history. This totem pole is a link in the continuing story of the Belvedere Viewpoint and the community of southwest Seattle. School children delight in identifying the animal faces carved into the totem pole and wonder why they were chosen. Making the totem pole more visible and accessible for the community will be an accomplishment of a long term Society goal. We look forward to the totem poles installation and hope you can be with us to celebrate! At this time, the exact installation date has not been determined. Please check our website, Facebook page or the West Seattle Blog for updates on the installation. The Belvedere Viewpoint totem pole has been moved to Arttech in the Sodo district and is drying out and being cleaned.

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The Belevedere Totem Pole Rises Again (cont’d)

That process will take about one month. The totem pole needs to be completely dry before any cosmetic work can be done. It will then be treated with conservation chemicals, repainted and re-banded; the bands will support the totem pole when it is standing upright. After the restoration work is complete, a concrete pad will be installed. One week after the concrete forms are ready, the totem will be installed.

The placement site will be on the north side of the museum facing 61st Avenue SW, in the garden grounds, approximately halfway between the bus stop and the corner of SW Stevens Street.

Colonial Dames of Washington State were generous to grant the funds to get this project off the ground! But we can still use your help. Please contact the museum if you are interested in becoming an artifact sponsor for the totem pole.

Sarah Fredrick

In Memoriam:

Margaret Ceis: One of the museum’s earliest supporters. A long time West Seattle resident, she was very active in our community.

Beth Chave: The Landmark Coordinator for the City of Seattle Landmarks Board for 23 years. She gave support and advice for the Society and Museum about preservation issues.

Bob Hallberg: A long time member and supporter of the Society and Log House Museum. His sharp memory of all things Alki contributed to many of our publications.

Jennie Jaramillo: Museum supporter who grew up in Seattle’s historic Riverside community alongside the Duwamish River.

Ruth Moore: A descendant of the Pioneer Low family and a founder of the Log House Museum. Ruth was an ardent supporter and participated in many events and projects.

Alan Schmitz: Museum supporter and descendant of the Schmitz family who donated the land for Schmitz Park.

Jim Sweeney: Founding member of the Log House Museum and owner of Alki Lumber.

Lou Tice: A native West Seattelite and co-founder and Chairman of The Pacific Institute. Lou and his wife Diane were founders and long time supporters of the Log House Museum.

Mike Tice: Mike could be depended on to help with all things that needed transporting or fixing. He delivered and picked up chairs for museum events, carried boxes, always with a cheerful smile.
We now are entering the busiest season for museum visitors. We are often short of volunteer museum greeters during the summer. Please consider joining our volunteer team if you have at least two hours a month available to help us out! Call 206-938-5293 to arrange a training session.

In March, Alki Lumber transported the totem pole to the Artech worksite for restoration. A huge thank you to them for donating their time and effort for this important project. The installation date is still undetermined. Check our website, Facebook, or the West Seattle Blog for updates. Also, you can sign up for our e-mail newsletter. (E-mail us at loghousemuseum@comcast.net). If you are interested in being a project or artifact sponsor for the totem pole, please contact the museum for more information.

Exhibit planning for Telling Our Westside Stories: The Land is well underway. Installation begins in July and this is another great opportunity to volunteer with us. Extra hands will be needed and your volunteer time would count toward valuable community match for the grant. Give us a call if you’re interested in helping with the exhibit installation. Funding for this project is made possible by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods.

A huge thank you to our donors who gave during the Seattle Foundation’s Give BIG Day on May 2nd. On this annual day of giving, the Seattle Foundation matches all donations made to King County non-profit organizations. This year donations to SWSHS were triple what they were last year. Wow, thanks everyone! This year King County donors gave over 7 million dollars to various King County non-profits during Give BIG Day.

Upgrades to our media room are complete thanks to the help of volunteer Pete Covell, and funds from 4Culture and the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods. With their help we were finally able to install a new flat screen TV and Blu-ray player. This not only improves the viewing quality for our visitors, it also frees up exhibit space in the smaller gallery. As a result, we have been able to add another exhibit case to this gallery that will feature new displays quarterly. Currently this case spotlights the 1962 Seattle World’s Fair. Stop by and check out our changes!
The Creation of a Cookbook

Do you have an old family recipe lurking in your personal archives that you’d like to share? We are pleased to tell our members that we are working on publishing a cookbook. And, while the measurements and oven temperatures will be essential, we also want to collect the stories and photos that go with the recipes - the anecdotes, descriptions, memories that always come with a favorite dish. Tell us about how your recipe fits into the fabric of your family history.

Submit your recipes, stories and photos to the Log House Museum Cookbook Committee. You can snail mail them to us, send via email or on Facebook or best of all, bring them in person to the annual Membership Picnic on July 4th! If you have any questions give us a call at 206-938-5293.

It’s time to celebrate our nation’s independence and Southwest Seattle heritage

The Annual SWSHS-Log House Museum membership and friend-making barbecue picnic is a time to gather and celebrate country, families, and friends old and new!

Wednesday JULY 4th 2012 - 12 NOON UNTIL 3 P.M.
Log House Museum-Courtyard
FREE HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS, COFFEE, TEA AND LEMONADE
BRING FAMILY and FRIENDS, A SIDE DISH TO SHARE
Greetings and thanks to all of you members and supporters and to any of you who are reading our “Footprints” for the first time. Our community and connections are the life blood of our organization!

I first want to report an update on implementing the recommendations of the MAP (museum assessment project). We have revised to simplify the Mission of the Society in order to be succinct and clear to ourselves and to newcomers, potential members and donors. While the work of the SWSHS has not changed, simply stated, “The mission of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is to promote heritage within our local community through education, preservation, and advocacy.” The work of the MAP is ongoing. If you are interested in learning more about the MAP and the SWSHS, please contact m

Secondly, and so exciting is that we are now poised to hire an executive Director for the SW Seattle Historical Society. We are doing this to advance our historic organization forward. If you are or you know of someone interested and qualified for this position please forward this information. The detailed job description included on page 6.

Coming Next: Our exciting new exhibit “Telling Our Westside Stories” - TOWS for short - is moving along and installation will begin in July. We’ve had a wonderfull year of inter-viewing more than 30 people about their lives in Southwest Seattle—and the ex-hibit will bring more than 100 years of history to life through memories. The Mu-seum will be open during the installation and you are encouraged to visit to see the progress.

However there is a glitch and you can help! You may have received our latest letter asking for your help by way of don-ations and if you haven’t been able to donate yet, now is your golden oppor-tunity. SWSHS has until July 31st to reach our community match goal of $18,955, the total grant awarded by the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods! Whether you can donate $10, $100, or $1000, every dollar will help. Please be as generous as you can to help us fulfill the match!

As a TOWS donor you will be invited to a special exhibit preview party and your name will be listed on the donor wall in the gallery at the Log House Mu-seum. And as a TOWS donor you’ll be happy to know that your gift to the Southwest Seattle Historical Society will help us build a wide-ranging education program and inspire community engage-ment that will focuses on the preservation and interpretation of Southwest Seattle’s rich history.

Congratulations to Board Trustee Joe Follansbee who won the 2012 Technology Award at the 29th annual awards presentation of the Association of King County Historical Organizations, held April 24, 2012, at the Museum of History and Industry. He was cited for his creation of the maritime-history website http://www.fyddeye.com/. Joe’s current print publication is “The Fyddeye Guide to America’s Lighthouses” featuring hundreds of fascinating and historic lighthouses you can visit on the west cost, Great Lakes, gulf and east coasts. Copies are available for purchase on his web site or in the Log House Museum.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

Qualified applicants should send a letter of interest, a resume, and three professional references to: Executive Director Search, Southwest Seattle Historical Society, via email to SWSSeattleHistoricalSociety@comcast.net. Email is preferred. Alternatively, materials may be mailed to 3003-61st Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98116. No calls please. This position currently is half time and offers limited benefits at this time. This job announcement will close July 3, 2012.

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Title: Executive Director, Southwest Seattle Historical Society

Summary:
The Southwest Seattle Historical Society (SWSHS), the leading neighborhood history organization in the largest city in Washington State, seeks a dynamic, outgoing, Executive Director to guide the organization into its next state of growth. The Executive Director will drive fundraising to increase resources, raise visibility of the Society in the neighborhood it serves and the city as a whole, and recruit volunteers to expand the Society’s public outreach and service capabilities.

Duties:
The Executive Director will perform several duties under the supervision of the Board of Trustees, including:

Raise the visibility of the Society and its programs through local and citywide marketing efforts, using traditional and cutting edge tools, such as social media.

Expand and enhance membership.

Develop and maintain sustainable income stream.

Research and apply for grants to fund capital improvements and sustain operations.

Participate in outreach endeavors.

Act as liaison with other local historical societies, key local government agencies and membership organizations with a heritage focus.

Qualifications:

Minimum BA in business administration, non-profit administration, finance, marketing, or commensurate field. Certificate in Museology acceptable. Masters degree preferred.

Demonstrated recent successful experience in non-profit fundraising and management, active community leadership and a commitment to preserving, interpreting and presenting local history.

Demonstrated experience working with non-profit boards and advisory groups in an arts and/or heritage environment, as well as success in building relationships with businesses with local roots.

Computer software and Social Media skills; Database, Word, Excel,

To Apply:
Send a letter of interest, a resume and three professional references to: Executive Director Search, Southwest Seattle Historical Society, via email to SWSSeattleHistoricalSociety@comcast.net Email is preferred. Alternatively, materials may be mailed to 3003-61st Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98116. No calls please. This position currently is half time and offers limited benefits at this time.

Founded in 1984, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization with a mission ...“to promote heritage within our local community through education, preservation, and advocacy”. Centered on the Log House Museum, the Society acquires and manages collections; provides educational activities and presents exhibits and programs. A half-time museum manager manages daily operations of the museum.

SWSHS 501 (c) 3; June 2012
VOLUNTEER FOCUS

Meet Olivia and Lucy: Young Preservationists

Two local elementary students, Olivia, and her friend Lucy, joined forces when they discovered that their favorite fried chicken dinner would no longer be available after the Alki Homestead closed due to an electrical fire. But they were not just upset about the loss of that special fried chicken but because they feel the building is important and deserves to be restored because it tells everyone who sees it the story of how people lived a long time ago. When asked why they became interested in the Alki Homestead, Lucy said, "... it was cool because it's old and no one was taking care of it. I think of the building as a living thing. If that was me, how would I feel if I was left to rot after a fire and no one helped me?"

Lucy and Olivia have shared their concerns about the Alki Homestead with schoolmates, posting "This Place Matters" posters at their school, with permission from their principal. They also created a petition to save the Homestead and have talked with their principal about the issue. They both would like to ask local businesses to install the poster for people to see how important it is to save the Alki Homestead. For a school assignment, Olivia had to write a "persuasive review" on a topic of her choosing. She chose to write about the Alki Homestead and why she thought it was important to save. Olivia wrote in her paper "The Homestead was a magical restaurant - people loved it, and it had its famous fried chicken. I believe it could fall down and teenagers are breaking the windows and making it look very bad in the neighborhood. For these reasons, it needs help".

Olivia has been a regular visitor at the Log House Museum since she was a toddler and has always been drawn to the exhibits showing how life was for people on Alki during Seattle's early days. She says "all of this stuff is amazing because it shows how life has changed from then to now." Her current favorite exhibit is the Seafair Pirate exhibit because, "the pirates are funny and make people laugh." One of Lucy’s art projects was making a replica out of clay of the Log House Museum, her "favorite building".

Museum Manager, Sarah Fredrick is very much impressed by the dedication of these two young girls as they share their feelings with friends and community about the reason they feel we should preserve a beloved historic landmark.

**TRAINING for Museum Guest Greeters**

TRAINING for Museum Guest Greeters are held one Saturday a month at the Museum. July 14th is the next scheduled training. Please call or e-mail to sign-up or to find out more about this fun volunteer position. If you enjoy socializing with people of all ages and backgrounds then this is ideal for you. Visitors come from all over the world to discover Seattle's roots. Please join us!
NOTE: SWSHS Board meetings are held the third Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the SSCC President’s Boardroom. You are welcome to attend!