

# Footprints

*on the sands of time....*

ISSUE L

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2002

Back to the scene of the picket

## *Nickels to introduce a favorite flick, review first year at annual meeting*

How's this for a program for our society's annual meeting: A free movie, hand-picked by West Seattle's own Mayor Greg Nickels, at the city-landmark Admiral Theater, all on a Saturday morning? That's the plan for 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 16.

Nickels, who as a County Council member was among the 40 who participated in a picket in 1989 that sparked the society's successful effort to save the 1942 moviehouse, will speak about his first year as Seattle's first mayor from West Seattle.

He also is to introduce a film he calls one of his three all-time favorite flicks, "The American President" (1993), directed by Rob Reiner and starring Michael Douglas, Annette Bening, Martin Sheen, Michael J. Fox, David Paymer, John Mahoney and Richard Dreyfuss. The 114-minute film is a romantic comedy/drama focusing personal and political challenges of a

modern-day, widowed president.

After a short business meeting, at which society members will elect officers and board members for 2003, Clay Eals, board secretary, will give a brief presentation on the landmarking

of the Admiral and introduce Nickels. A member of the society who has been a key supporter of its projects, Nickels is a resident of the Admiral neighborhood and a frequent patron of the moviehouse.

The Admiral was closed in January 1989 by its owner, Cineplex Odeon, but that spring and summer, the society's Save the Admiral Task Force led a community effort to persuade the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board to designate the art-deco moviehouse as a landmark.

This bought time for new owners, Marc and Cecil Gartin, to emerge. They reopened the Admiral in April 1992, and it has operated ever since.



Photo by Diane Tice

Boy Scout Sean McClellan poses with Mayor Greg Nickels at the observance held to honor the victims of the 9-11 terrorist attacks. See story, Page 3.

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## President's Message

# *Activities add up to busy fall*

With the end of the summer activities, which included a successful and fun-filled annual membership picnic, the Hi-Yu parade and the sidewalk sale, activities and programs of the Society and the Museum continue with the closing of the award-winning "Spirit Returns" exhibit, the opening of the poignant and fascinating exhibit "First Response" (the 9/11 memorials left at the Alki statue of Liberty last year) and the beginning of school tours.

In October, the society's first gala fund raising auction for the Log House Museum proved a wonderful way to raise money for support of the museum and have a good time, too.

In November, the annual membership meeting will be held at the Admiral Theater with the election of officers and trustees followed by the film "The American President" introduced by Mayor **Greg Nickels**. The film will be free and open to the public.

A Department of Neighborhoods grant for a West Seattle oral history project, under the direction of **Gary Thomsen** and Sealth High

School students who did the "Diaries of High Point," has been awarded to the SWSHS. Individuals are needed for interviews. Contact the Museum for information.

**Pat Filer**, Museum director, announced a \$3,500 grant from King County toward operating expenses for the Museum for this year, the last year such grants will be awarded.

Our web site ([www.loghousemuseum.org](http://www.loghousemuseum.org)) is continually being updated and now has a membership page and a page with information on the Gift Shop and how to order items in time for Christmas and holiday shopping. (A membership to the SWSHS makes a great gift.)

The annual fundraising letter to the membership, asking for donations for the continued support for operation of the museum will go out before the end of the year to allow for tax deductions to be taken for this year. We appreciate the wonderful support our members and sponsors have given us, for, as a non-profit organization, it is only through such support that we are able to continue. — **Joan Mraz**

*Footprints is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.*

*One of SWSHS's major projects is the Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum, located at 3003 61st Ave. S.W. Seattle, WA 98116 (one block south of the Statue of Liberty on Alki Beach)*

**Phone**  
(206) 938-5293

**Hours:**  
Thursday, noon to 6 p.m.  
Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Saturday and Sunday, noon to 3 p.m.

**Current exhibit:**  
*First Response: A community's grief, horror, hope and prayer*

## *Calendar*

*All activities are at the Log House Museum unless otherwise noted*

### **October 31**

Trick-or-treating at the Log House Museum, 5-7 p.m.

### **November 3**

WSHS Exhibit Committee Meeting, 3 p.m.

### **November 5**

Museum open for Election Day, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

### **November 7**

SWSHS Board Meeting, SSCC Board Room, 6:30 p.m.

### **November 13**

Commemorative event co-sponsored by SWSHS, Maritime Heritage Center, South Lake Union Park, 1000 Valley Street, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Fifth anniversary of the opening of the Log

House Museum; refreshments served; meet past presidents of SWSHS, 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### **November 16**

SWSHS Annual Meeting at Admiral Theater with special guest Mayor Greg Nickels, meeting followed by movie, 10:30 a.m.

### **November 21**

LongTimers' Meeting, 1:30 p.m.

Educators' Open House, 3-7 p.m.

Speaker Series: "History Day Projects for your Curriculum," Washington State Historical Museum Director Gary Schallio, 7:15 p.m.

### **November 24**

WSHS Exhibit Committee Meeting, 3 p.m.

### **November 28**

Museum closed for Thanksgiving holiday

*Refer to insert for December meetings and holiday events.*

# Exhibit features 9-11 mementos, memorials

The Log House Museum's new exhibit, "First Response: A Community's Grief, Horror, Hope, And Prayer," features the memorials placed at the Statue of Liberty at Alki after last year's terrorists attacks.

The exhibit opened Sept. 11, the anniversary of the attacks, displaying ordinary items and personal belongings left by ordinary people in an extraordinary outpouring of grief and pride.

Opening day began with an observance at the Statue of Liberty, which wore a dahlia garland created by Linda's Flowers. Museum Director **Pat Filer** recalled watching two women place a similar garland at the statue the morning of the attacks. It was the first memorial left that day, and was soon joined by hundreds of other flowers, pictures, toys and other symbols.

The Alki Elementary School Band, led by **Charles Holly**, played, the Rev. **Michael Bruce Johnson** provided a prayer and **Andrea Azares** sang "America the Beautiful" as **Cindi Laws**, Acting Lt. **Eric Davis** and firefighters Station 29, and Seattle Police Chief **Gil Kerlikowski** draped an American flag over the statue's arm.

At a candlelight vigil at the Statue later that evening, people left notes of encouragement, hope and loss at the base of Lady Liberty. **Chris Michalson** whose "Bags of Liberty" luminaries project raised over \$1,500 for the



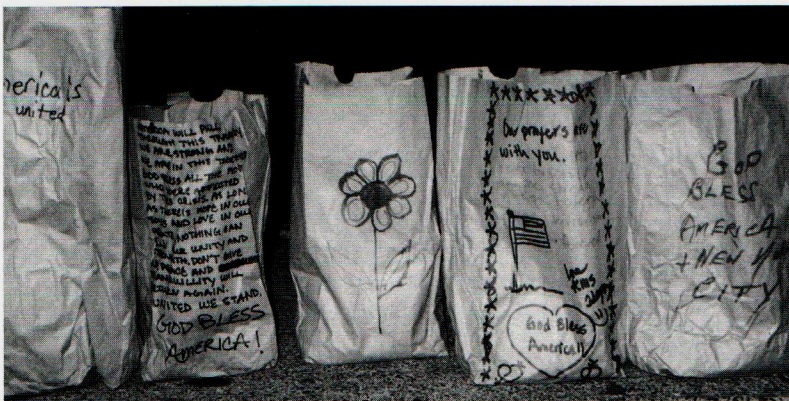
Photos by Pat Filer

Firefighters and Police Chief Gil Kerlikowski raise the American flag onto the Statue of Liberty's arm.

Red Cross last year, relit the original bags and allowed the crowd to add more to the glowing tribute along the seawall. People sang songs, read poems, and led prayers for the country and for those who died on Sept.11, 2001.

The displays were created by Strengthening the Arm of Liberty committee members **Teresa Anderson, Cathy Johnson, Brooke Best, Patricia Filer** and **Lynn Swindlehurst**.

Photographs were supplied by local artist **John Loftus**. Committee members also included **Robert Carney, Joe Follansbee, Tony Fregada, Cathy Fulton, Howard Giske, Don Kelstrom, Joan Mraz, Patti Quirk,** and **Adam Sheridan**. Funds from the City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods Matching Funds Grant program provided support for these projects and events.



Another story, photo Page 9.



Photos by Murray's Studio © 2002

The veil comes off the new West Seattle High School sign at a ceremony just before students returned to the building after two years of renovation.

## *High School has new old look*

West Seattle welcomed back the “new” heart of the community, West Seattle High School, in a ceremony Sept. 3. The new West Seattle High School sign above the historic entrance was unveiled and the West Seattle Big Band played in front of the school.

SWSHS trustees **Betty Broughton** and **Shirley Tupper** were among some 50 special guests and representatives of community groups who helped cut the ribbon at the school’s new Courtyard Entrance. Tupper is president of the WSHS Foundation, which sponsored the event.

Other ribbon-cutters included Gov. **Gary Locke**, Mayor **Greg Nickels** and **Ruth Batts**, who will graduate in the first class at the “new” West Seattle High School. She’s the daughter of Museum volunteer **Jen Batts**.

West Seattle High School has been completely renovated. The façade facing Stevens Street and Hiawatha is as it was when the school opened in

1917, but with bigger trees and plantings. The beautiful architecture of the building once again is visible from California Avenue. The two-story wing facing California, once the boys’ gym with elevated running track, now houses the library.

The new center of the school is a football field-sized courtyard entered from the large California Avenue parking lot. A new triple gym immediately to the south of the courtyard entrance and the 400-seat theater are still receiving finishing touches.

**Pat Filer, Patti Quirk** and **Barbara McGlothorn** represented SWSHS at an open house Oct. 12, with a popular information table.

Another opportunity to see and support the school will be the first ever WSHS PTSA Auction/Dinner in the new Commons (the old auditorium) Nov. 8. Or, take a look at the pictures posted at the school’s web site at <http://wshs.seattleschools.org/westside2.htm>.

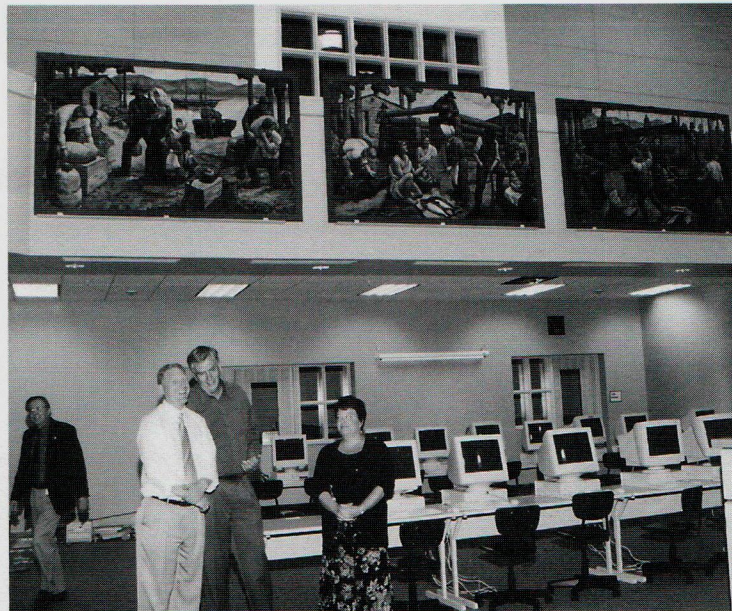
# 'Lost' WPA mural returns

The mural that was "lost" for years is restored and back on the wall at West Seattle High School.

In a West Seattle High School Foundation special evening Aug. 29, the mural by Jacob Elshin, depicting early Seattle, was unveiled in the new library. Participants also got a sneak tour of West Seattle High School as it was still getting its finishing touches for students to return on Sept. 4.

Elshin, a Seattle artist, was commissioned to paint the mural by the Works Progress Administration, a federal project that employed out-of-work artists during the 1930s. The three separate 5-by-9-foot paintings tell a story of early Seattle settlers. The first painting shows them landing at Alki Beach. The second focuses on settlers and Native Americans trading goods. The third shows loggers at work.

The three paintings hung in the school's entry hall of the high school until they were moved to



A nearly forgotten WPA-era mural now has a place of honor in the new West Seattle High School library.

the second floor sometime in the 1970s. Because of damage, were taken down and stored behind a large cabinet in an art room, where they were "found" as West Seattle High School was getting ready for renovation.

A group formed to restore the paintings and return them to a place of honor in the two-story library of the renovated school. The Thursday night speaker series next year will include a program on the mural.

## *Exhibit to feature traditions, memories*

"West Seattle High School: Traditions" will be the next exhibit at the Log House Museum. The recent renovation and re-opening of the 1917 main building and surrounding campus prompted the spring exhibit theme.

Alumni and SWSHS members can be part of the West Seattle High School exhibit project by joining the planning committee; by loaning or donating artifacts, documents, or photographs for the exhibit; or by sharing personal stories in written or oral format. (Committee meetings are listed in the Calendar on Page 2.)

Eight to 10 themes will be based on information collected in coming months. Some of the themes being considered are:

- History of West Seattle High School building, including the murals;
- Families with generations of graduates;

- School identity (mascot, school spirit, team names);
- Extracurricular activities, including sports events, clubs, dances and proms, plays, etc.;
- Class governance and leadership development;
- Diversity, cultural changes and dress codes;
- School personalities -- students, teachers, principals, counselors and school nurses.

"This exhibit can be a testament to the pride that students and graduates of WSHS felt and still feel," said **Pat Filer**, Museum director. "Much positive input, energy and resources are needed to make this a tribute to one of this community's historic high schools."

For more information, call the Museum at (206) 938-5293.



Language teacher Zeke Zahir, Master of Ceremonies Chief Ray Crise, Tribal Chair Cecile Hansen, and Longhouse Director Jolene Williams sing the Duwamish welcoming song. Canoeists from the Suquamish, Nisqually, Puyallup, Swinomish, Squaxin Island, Chinook and Duwamish nations announce themselves by singing their canoeing songs (right).



## *Spirit Returns Paddle caps Sesquicentennial*

Rep. Jim McDermott took the talking stick and announced that he will introduce a bill recognizing the Duwamish Tribe by Act of Congress.

The talking stick or speaker's staff was a badge of honor for a leader or the leader's representative in the traditional Duwamish Longhouse culture. Traditionally, whoever holds the speaker's staff has the floor and all those present are obliged to listen respectfully.

Those present as McDermott spoke included members of the Duwamish and other tribes who paddled traditional canoes to the site of Ha-Ah-Poos, the Duwamish village where Chief Seattle lived as a child.

The Labor Day Weekend event was the culmination of Seattle's Sesquicentennial celebration, which began last November with a re-enactment of the landing of the city's first settlers at Alki in 1851.

Just as the tribal chief greeted the pioneers as they stepped ashore then, Duwamish Tribal Chair Cecile Hansen greeted the canoes as each one's leader announced their arrival and asked permission to land.

Just as the tribal village site has all but disappeared

into the Port of Seattle — Terminal 107 occupies the site — the tribe struggles to keep its heritage alive by seeking official recognition by the United States government.

It also plans to build a longhouse and cultural center across West Marginal Way Southwest from Terminal 107.



Master of Ceremonies Chief Ray Crise welcomes the canoeing guests to the Ha-Ah-Poos Duwamish Village site.





Rep. Jim McDermott (above) holds the Duwamish speaker's staff as he announces that he will introduce a bill recognizing the Duwamish Tribe by Act of Congress

## *Centennial events*

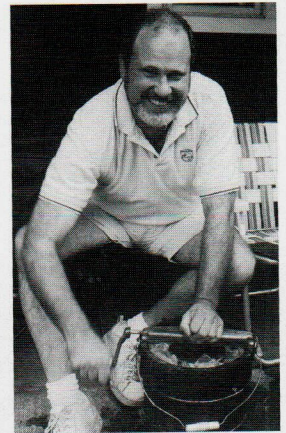


Spectators watch the "Wes-I-Dult" approach the landing site on a sunny Labor Day Weekend afternoon..

Photos by  
Joan Mraz and Pat Filer

Duwamish Tribal Chair Cecile Hansen greets a visitor (left).

## *Rain? Sun? Let's picnic!*



A typical partly sunny Seattle Fourth of July brought out some 80 members and guests for food, fellowship and ice cream at the Log House Museum. Above, Bob Carney takes his turn cranking out dessert.

## *SWSHS joins community events*

The roaring 20s provided the theme and Melissa Hagen and friends provided the costumes for the SWSHS entry in the Hi-Yu Parade in July. Bob Carney drove his 1924 Studebaker with Carol Vincent and Joan Mraz in the back seat. Five-year-old twins Jackie and Jessie Harris got into the spirit twirling the feather boas they wore with their flapper dresses.



## *Street Fair booth brings income, interest*

A \$75 investment by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society resulted in more than \$500 in sales of afghans, photographs, books and other items at the West Seattle Street Fair in July.

But more important, the Society's presence at the three-day event let people who stopped by learn about the work of organization and its upcoming events, sign up to volunteer and pick up forms to fill out and return with recollections of life at West Seattle High School.

Coordinator **Carol Vincent** recruited her husband, **Charlie**, to help set up and take down each day. **Barbara Callow, Lynn Swindlehurst, Joan Bates, Clay Eals, Marcy Johnsen, Joey Richesson, Bob Carney and Joan Mraz** volunteered their time to staff the booth.

"I'm sure we made some headway in the membership department," Carol said. "I think it was worth the extra effort and recommend that we plan on doing this next year."



# First auction is roaring success

With 30 seconds left, Mayor **Greg Nickels** wrote his name on the bid sheet. With 15 seconds left, former SWSHS President **Clay Eals** wrote his name under Nickels, raising the bid on the set of Century 21 Seattle World's Fair tumblers. With 5 seconds left, the mayor ever so slowly signed his name, upping the bid to \$105 and assuring himself of a souvenir of the first Southwest Seattle Historical Society Auction.

The event was very successful, reports Chairman Merrilee Hagen. When all bills are paid, she expects it to clear \$11,000 for the Log House Museum.



More than 100 members and friends of

Flapper Helen Free and Susan Collicott as Rosie the Riveter get historical for their roles as bartender and coat checker.

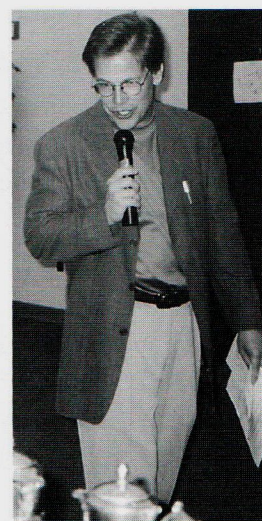


Photos by Ann Holiday

Bidders inspect silent auction items while master of ceremonies Steve Wilson (below) drums up interest. Wilson went home with a cookie jar shaped like the Pillsbury Dough Boy.

SWSHS attended for the silent auction, a salmon and filet mignon dinner and a live auction in the Jerry Brockey Center at South Seattle Community College.

After dinner, auctioneer Herk Hancock of Conway presided over the live bidding for items including bi-monthly desserts prepared by **Carol Vincent**, a 5k walk or roundtable lunch with Mayor Nickels and a custom-designed costume by **Melissa Hagen**, who outfitted some friends in costumes to serve as coat checkers, bartenders and auction aides.



Bathhouse artist Ray McWade finished this painting about 9:30 the morning of Sept. 12, 2001, and took it to the Liberty Deli because the owner is from New York. When he learned it had gone to the Statue of Liberty, McWade said, 'Well, the artist in me went whoa! with rain and all. And I ran over to the Statue ... Every artist should have the experience ... lots of people —grown men — construction workers ... hugging each other and crying over the painting. I have over 300 paintings, and this is the one that people will remember.' The painting is part of the 'First Response' exhibit at the Log House Museum.

## Volunteer of the Quarter

# *Else De Palmo brings energy, professionalism to Gift Shop*

**Else De Palmo** began donating her time and expertise to the Log House Museum on opening day, Nov. 13, 1997.

A long time resident of West Seattle, Else staffs the gift shop on Fridays and on special occasions with energy and a professionalism gained from 10 years working in her son-in-law's maritime antique shop in Pioneer Square.

She also volunteered for the American Red Cross and the Seattle Police Department before joining the Log House Museum when it opened in her neighborhood.

Else is a favorite of the hundreds of school children who visit the Log House Museum and if they are lucky, she will tell them how courteous they have all been – a quality she thinks very important. Repeat visitors are amazed that she remembers them from previous visits. She remembers faces well, perhaps from filing mug shots at the Police Department.

Else was born on the Muckleshoot Indian reservation to a Swedish farming family and has many fond memories about the many neighborhoods in Seattle where she has lived. She and her daughter just returned from a two-week trip to her Swedish homeland where Else visited her extended family.



Photo by Pat Filer

Else De Palmo spends her Fridays amidst the goodies of the Log House Museum Gift Shop.

“We are lucky to have Else assist us,” says Museum Director **Pat Filer**, “and we thank her and all our volunteers for lending us their valuable time and skill.”

## *Gift Shop announces extended hours for holiday shopping*

The Log House Museum Gift Shop will have special hours for the holidays. It will be open from noon to 8 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12 and 19.

The shop offers coloring, activity and alphabet books; local history books; sweatshirts; home decorative items; miniatures of the Statue of Liberty and Alki Lighthouse; and original

works by local artists. It is the only place to buy the SWSHS West Seattle afghan.

Gift Shop proceeds benefit the Log House Museum and the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

Regular museum hours are noon to 6 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fridays and noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays.

# West Seattle on display in Fremont

Three West Seattle neighborhoods were featured this summer in exhibits at History House, the small museum that opened in 1998 under the Aurora Bridge in Fremont.

Photo exhibits from Alki (the Log House Museum traveling exhibit), Fauntleroy and High Point were among the displays, many researched and organized by students.

Other neighborhoods featured over the summer were Ross (now Fremont), Ballard, Queen Anne, Wallingford, Beacon Hill, Greenwood and the Pike Place Market. "We Can Do," an exhibit on Rosie the Riveter, and "The Great Seattle Fire" were also on display.

A 120-foot photo collage of old Seattle photographs wraps around the exhibit room. Among the mural's views is a 1907 photo of West Seattle's Luna Park. The museum also has a gift shop, sculpture garden, historical reference library and community meeting facilities.

The Log House Museum Traveling Exhibit is about the 1951 Centennial events at Alki, which

included a re-dedication of the Pioneer Monument at Alki Beach by Mayor William Devin and the laying of a wreath at the base of the monument by Gen. Douglas MacArthur. That original wreath is included in this exhibit.

Created by Ron Richardson, the Fauntleroy neighborhood photo exhibit gives a historic perspective of the area including the Native Americans at Fauntleroy Cove, the discovery by Captain Vancouver, early leaders of Seattle, the building of the community, its remote connections to Seattle, and a segment on preserving the local natural environment.

History House is in memory of and dedicated to lumberman J. R. Burke and his wife, Florence. Their daughter, Suzie Burke, is president of the museum's Board of Directors and president of the Fremont Dock Co., which owns much of the waterfront property in Fremont.

*History House: 790 N 34<sup>th</sup> Street in Fremont.  
Telephone: (206) 675-8875. Hours: Wednesday through Sunday noon to 5 p.m. Admission: \$1.  
Website: [www.scn.org/historyhouse](http://www.scn.org/historyhouse)*

*Cut out and mail to:*

SWSHS Membership Secretary  
c/o Log House Museum  
3003 61st Ave. SW  
Seattle, WA 98116

## **SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

**Yes, I want to support the work of the Society! Enclosed are my membership dues**

- \$15-Senior/Student   \$20-Individual/Non-Profit   \$35-Family   \$100-Pioneer  
\$150-Business   \$250-Settler   \$500-Homesteader   \$1,000-Visionary  
 Also, I am enclosing my donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to support your work  
Please send me information about volunteer opportunities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Visa/MasterCard # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ or  Cash  Check

Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_ Please make checks payable to **Southwest Seattle Historical Society (SWSHS)**.  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

My employer will match my gift! Company: \_\_\_\_\_

The Log House Museum is a project of the SWSHS, a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

Tax ID #91-1297010. All gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

Fall 2002

# *Founders' Day to celebrate Museum, SWSHS organizer*

Founders' Day has traditionally been celebrated on Nov. 13, since that was the day that the "founders" of Seattle landed at Alki Beach.

Five years ago, on Nov. 13, 1997, the Southwest Seattle Historical Society opened the doors of the Log House Museum to further its mission of protecting and preserving historic sites and of sponsoring programs and events that enhance our community's heritage.

This Nov. 13 the Log House Museum will be open to the public between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. so members and friends can meet the past presidents of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society whose leadership has propelled this organization to one well-respected in the heritage field.

Our special guest will be SWSHS Founder Elliott Couden, whose wisdom, foresight and love of community served as a springboard for the historical society.

Also on Nov. 13, SWSHS will be co-host of an afternoon event at Lake Union's Maritime Heritage Center from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. A model of the "Exact," the schooner that delivered the Alki Landing Party to the rain-swept shores of West Seattle, will be dedicated, and the event will feature live maritime music, refreshments, historical displays and the opportunity to meet the model builder and descendants of the Alki Landing Party. The Maritime Heritage Center is in the Navy Reserve Building, South Lake Union Park, 1000 Valley Street. For more information call (206) 447-2622.

## *Project seeks World War II memories*

The Log House Museum Long-Timers are looking for memories of World War II.

They are working on a third Memory Book project, "War Time Memories of Southwest Seattle" They selected the topic because World War II forever changed their lives and the community in which they resided.

A workbook is available upon request for anyone interested in participating. The Long-Timers meet at 1:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month at the Log House Museum to reminisce and work on group projects.

Anyone with long-time memories of Southwest Seattle is welcome to join them.

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### **FOOTPRINTS**

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society  
c/o Birthplace of Seattle Log House Museum  
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