

Footprints

on the sands of time ...

ISSUE LXXXV

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 2013

'Dave Beck looks West' for our Champagne Gala Lunch Nov. 9

Longtime public-radio host and West Seattle resident anchors fun and inspiring program at Salty's on Alki

With a rousing program featuring radio's **Dave Beck**, a dessert dash, a silent auction full of intriguing items, good friends, great food, a historic West Seattle setting and "the best view of Seattle in Seattle," our annual **Champagne Gala Lunch** is a can't-miss date.

It will be as fun as its centennial theme: "Tripping the Lighthouse Fantastic"!

This event, the biggest fundraiser of the year for our historical society, runs from **11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9, 2013**, at Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. S.W. Tickets are \$75 adults, \$45 teens 13-18, \$25 children 4-12, and children under 4 free.

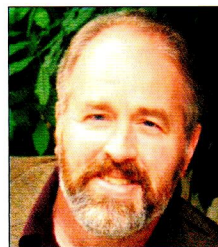
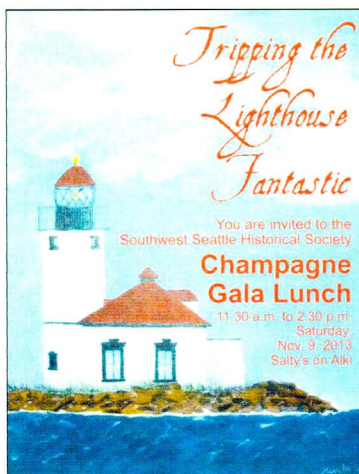
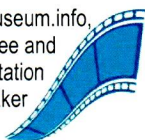
Tickets still can be reserved by calling 206-938-5293 or visiting our home page and clicking the "Make a Donation" button. (Type Gala in the "purpose" line.)

Our Gala Committee, headed by **Juda Youngstrom**, is planning the best Gala ever. Included will be a presentation by three **Hallberg** sisters – **Nancy, Aly and our board member Tia** – all West Seattle natives who will reflect on the influences of their late parents, **Ada and Bob Hallberg**, founding members of our historical society.

Beck, the event's featured speaker and a genial fixture of Seattle's public-radio airwaves and classical-music scene for 28 years, also has deep West Seattle roots.

His parents' livelihood stemmed from Boeing, and from the age of 10 Dave grew up in Fauntleroy, attending Gatewood Elementary School, Denny Junior High School and Chief Sealth High School. He

Visit lighthousemuseum.info, our website, to see and hear a video invitation by featured speaker Dave Beck!



Join us to hear radio host Dave Beck at our Champagne Gala Lunch. The invitation uses a painting of the Alki Lighthouse by Merrilee Hagen, former president of our board.

has lived in West Seattle since 1996, first in Westwood and since 2006 in Admiral.

Best known for his award-winning, on-air conversations with local, national and international luminaries in all fields of culture, Dave is an accomplished cellist who recently joined KING-FM as on-air classical-music host.

From 1985 through the summer of 2013, he carved an impressive career as producer, host and music director at KUOW-FM for the insightful programs "Weekday," "KUOW Presents" and "The Beat."

For his presentation "Dave Beck Looks West," Dave brings a constellation of stories from his interviews of well-known West Seattleites, as well as reflections on why he and his family chose — and continue to choose — West Seattle as their home.

(See more about our Gala on page 6)

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FOOTPRINTS

is the official publication of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society.

Editor

Clay Eals

Printing thanks to

**Where to find us**

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society's home is the "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum.

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Thursday-Sunday

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Want to volunteer?

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Website

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museum.info

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Log House Museum

Gratitude, now and then

Please join us at our Annual Meeting to honor Arlene Wade and to celebrate our accomplishments in grand, Arlene style

I often say that we stand on the shoulders of giants. And I am pleased to announce that we have a chance coming up soon to celebrate the legacy of one such giant.

I speak, of course, of the indomitable **Arlene Wade**, our board president at the pivotal time in our historical society's history when we acquired and raised the eye-popping sum of \$800,000 to restore the 1904 building that became our Log House Museum.

Anyone who knew Arlene — who died on March 25 of this year at age 69 after a 13-year battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma — can attest to her indefatigable and ebullient character. She was a force of nature, someone who simply could not be denied.

Those of us who never met Arlene — and there are many new to our ranks this year who fall into that category — would do well to learn more about her. And we have the perfect opportunity.

Our Annual Meeting takes place from **10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013**, at the West Seattle Library, in the Admiral area at 2306 42nd Ave. S.W.



Arlene Wade

The primary purpose is to gather members to elect officers and members of the board for 2014 and to review the year just ending. But we also typically have a program, and this time it is fitting to showcase the indispensable role that Arlene played in making possible what we are today.

It will be a time of storytelling, and the speakers will include Arlene's widower and steadfast companion and champion, **George Wade**. It will be a time of honor, humor and, above all, gratitude.

And isn't gratitude what we're all about? I can think of no other word that better captures our mission and heart. In all kinds of ways and on myriad occasions, we gather for common purpose — to elicit, share and preserve the stories and associated artifacts that inspire us about this special place to which we have chosen to be connected.

Arlene embodied the notion of gratitude, and she gave many the chance to show it themselves.

In countless ways, those of us giving our time and resources to this fair organization are doing just the same. We are all ambassadors whose passion on our sleeve encourages others to join our quest.

To be sure, it is the life cycle at work. It also is the cycle of a healthy organization. Bringing in new people and imbuing them with West Seattle-style gratitude is how we will survive and thrive.

So, join us on Nov. 16. Everyone is welcome, members and non-members alike. Come rediscover the part of Arlene Wade that lives in your soul.

Clay Eals, executive director

'Connecting with friends and family, supporting community'

Hi all, and welcome to this beautiful season of fall! It's that time when we start layering more clothing, roasting root vegetables and gathering inside with friends, family and community to reconnect.

And that is exactly what our 2013 Champagne Gala Lunch is all about — connecting with friends and family and supporting community.

If you join us this year, you will help make this year's Champagne Gala Lunch our most memorable and successful event ever!

Highlights include keynote speaker **Dave Beck** of local radio fame. Members **Nancy, Aly and Tia** (who also is a board member) **Hallberg** will share their



family's West Seattle inspirations. Also, you will find a compelling silent auction with really cool items, great food with Seattle's best view of our city and, of course, spending great time with your friends and family, and meeting new people, too!

As always, this is largest fun and fundraising event of the year, so a portion of your ticket price includes a donation to our historical society so that we can maintain and grow the quality programs you have come to expect.

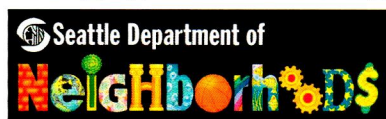
So I encourage you to reserve your seats for the Champagne Gala Lunch at **11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Saturday Nov. 9, 2013**, at Salty's on Alki.

You can make reservations now. Call 206-938-5293 or go online to our website home page, loghousemuseum.info.

I hope to see you there!

Marcy Johnsen, board president

We deeply appreciate the financial support of:



CULTURE



Reading to the crowd and signing books, Stephanie Guerra kicks off our "Words, Writers & West Seattle" series Friday, Oct. 4, at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village.

Save first Fridays for 'Words, Writers & West Seattle' author series at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village

A new "book talk" series featuring West Seattle authors talking about their published books began this month at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village.

The free series, called "Words, Writers & West Seattle," takes place on the first Friday afternoon of each month, and so far, authors are scheduled through June 2014. Volunteer **Dora-Faye Hendricks** is the series chair.



Dora-Faye Hendricks, chair

"This is a great way for West Seattleites to get to know authors from their neighborhood," says **Clay Eals**, our executive director. "The series offers a variety of genres, reflecting many ways to tell stories, and it's a perfect fit for us because eliciting, preserving and passing along stories is fundamental to our mission."

Each installment offers the opportunity to experience a presentation, to ask questions and to talk one-on-one with a local author.

Barnes & Noble Westwood Village will have books available for sale at each session. **Ten percent** of the proceeds from book purchases associated with the series will go to our organization through the store's Bookfair program.

Young-adult author **Stephanie Guerra** read from and talked about her delightful new book about a middle-schooler called *Billy the Kid is Not Crazy*, and discussed her previous children's book *Torn*.

West Seattle authors coming to book series

All sessions: 4-6 p.m. first Friday of the month, Barnes & Noble Westwood Village

Friday, Nov. 1, 2013, Peter Stekel, *Final Flight, The Mystery of a World War II Plane Crash and the Frozen Airmen in the High Sierra* (Wilderness Press, 2010, history)

Friday, Dec. 6, 2013, Nicole Hardy, *Confessions of a Latter-Day Virgin* (Hyperion, 2013, memoir)

Friday, Jan. 3, 2014, Robert Spector, *The Mom & Pop Store: True Stories from the Heart of America* (Walker Books, 2009, memoir)

Friday, Feb. 7, 2014, Lyanda Lynn Haupt, *The Urban Bestiary: Encountering the Everyday Wild* (Little Brown, 2013, nature)

Friday, March 7, 2014, Conrad Wesselhoeft, *Adios, Nirvana* (Mifflin Harcourt, 2010, young adult).

Friday, April 4, 2014, Judy Bentley, *Free*



Boy: A True Story of Slave and Master (University of Washington Press, 2013, creative nonfiction)

Friday, May 4, 2014, Mike Hickey, Arleen Williams, others from South Seattle Community College (poetry, fiction)

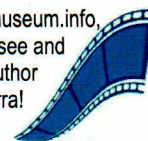
Friday, June 6, 2014, Brenda Peterson, *The Drowning World* (Delphinus, 2013-14, young adult)

Authors lined up for future installments are above, and we are seeking other authors from the Duwamish peninsula for presentations after next June.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Hendricks, 509-230-5950 or dora-faye@comcast.net.

See you on the next first Friday!

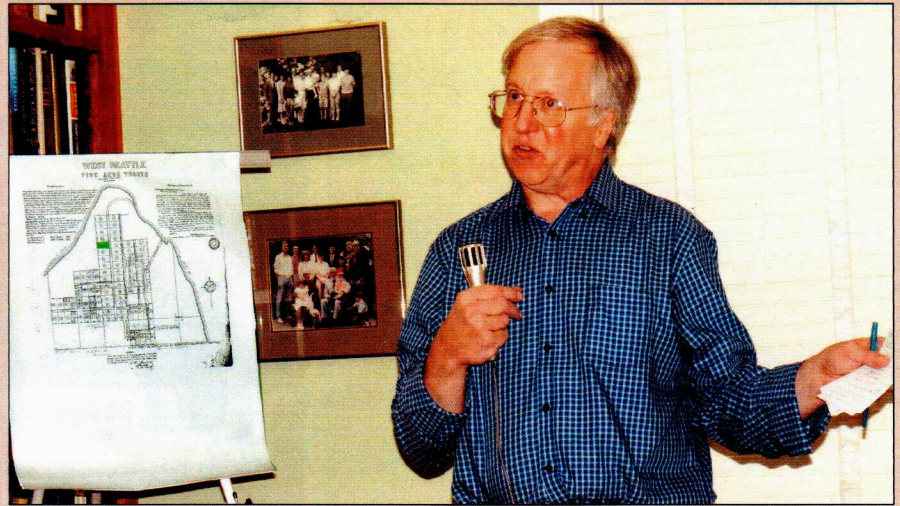
Visit loghousemuseum.info, our website, to see and hear video of author Stephanie Guerra!





Photos by Brad Chrisman

(Above, from left) Volunteers Mary Ann Hatfield and Dora-Faye Hendricks greet attendees at "If These Walls Could Talk: The Centennial of Hizzoner's Home" on Aug. 18, 2013. (Right) Greg Lange of King County Archives addresses the history of the Nickels property before the home was erected there in 1913.



Tour draws 100 to 100-year-old Nickels Craftsman



(Left) Panels greet attendees while (below) co-chairs Bethany Green (left) and Carolyn Smith confer. (Near right) Former Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels displays editorial cartoons adorning the walls of his study. (Far right) Barbara Stenson Spaeth (left) and volunteer Jeni Gauthier examine a vintage plat map.



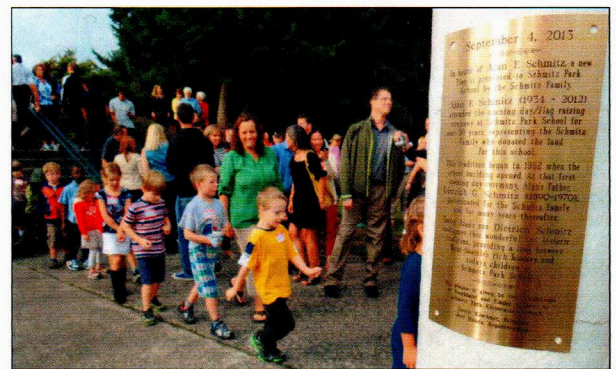
Dietrich Schmitz welcomes 600 students and parents on the first day of school at Schmitz Park Elementary

As part of a tradition reaching back 51 years, **Dietrich Schmitz**, descendant of the West Seattle pioneer Schmitz family, welcomed 600 students and their parents on opening day, Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2013, at Schmitz Park Elementary School in West Seattle.

Introduced by **Gerrit Kischner**, school principal, Dietrich covered several ways in which life was different when his great-grandparents **Ferdinand and Emma Schmitz** arrived 120 years ago in West Seattle. The reference that drew the attention and laughter of the crowd was, "There weren't even iPods or iPads." He charged the students with changing and improving the future. (See transcript of his speech on our website, loghousemuseum.info.)

Unveiled at the opening ceremony was a new plaque, attached to the school's flagpole. It commemorates the tradition beginning in 1962 for a member of the Schmitz family to welcome students on the first day of school.

Dietrich G. Schmitz (1890-1970) began the annual



Some of Schmitz Park school's 600 students walk past the new plaque and into the building following the first-day ceremony.

tradition. His son **Alan F. Schmitz** (1934-2012) continued it, and Alan's son, Dietrich, carried it on this year.

Among those attending the opening ceremony were Dietrich's mother, **Vicki Schmitz**, and her husband, former Port of Seattle commissioner **Jack Block**.

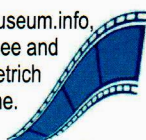


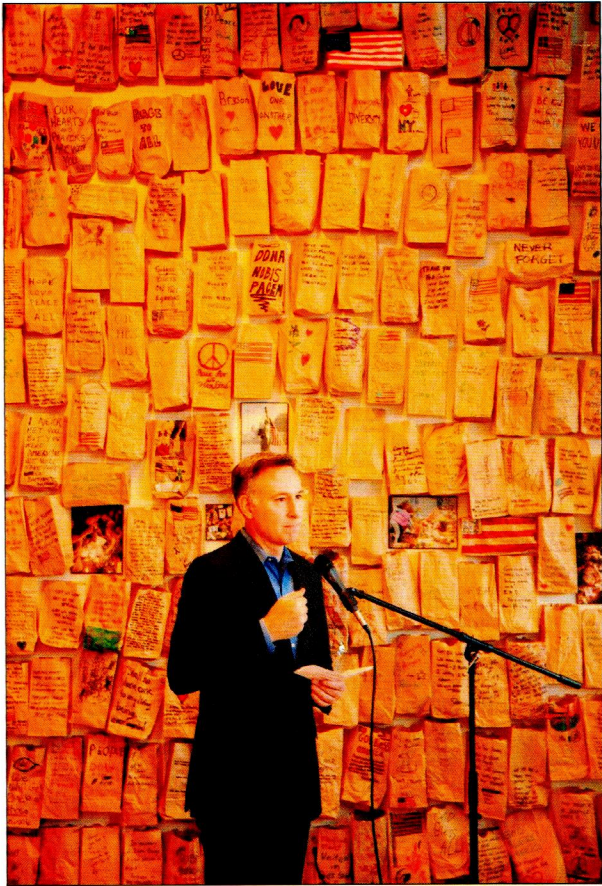
Vicki Schmitz attended the first-day ceremony, at which her son, Dietrich, delivered a traditional welcome to students.

'There weren't even iPods or iPads.'

Dietrich Schmitz

Visit loghousemuseum.info, our website, to see and hear video of Dietrich Schmitz' welcome.

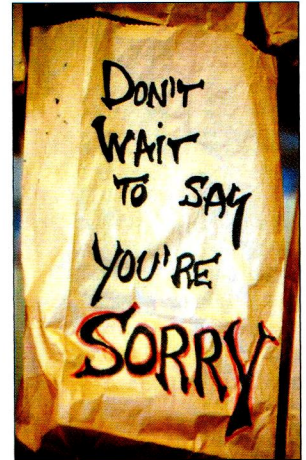




'This was a shared experience that we never wanted to share'

With that eloquent thought, King County Executive Dow Constantine completed a program to remember the 9/11 terrorist attack as part of our Sept. 8, 2013, display of 1,692 luminaria bags created 12 years earlier on Alki Beach.

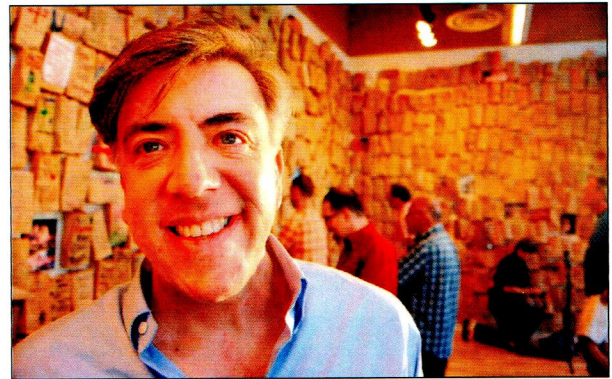
The display, "The Earth Cried Out," was hosted for two days by Diane Venti's Alki Arts gallery. Other speakers were Seattle City Council member Tom Rasmussen, a spokesman for King County Council member Kathy Lambert and Dean Keppler, who facilitated the bags' creation.



Photos by Patrick Robinson
West Seattle Herald

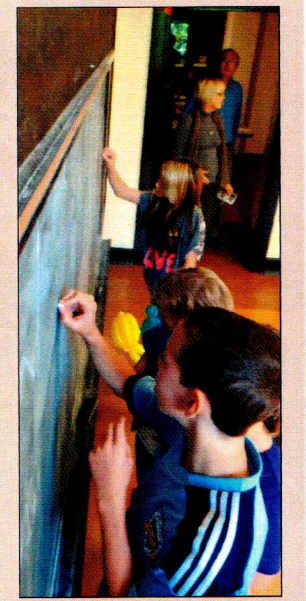
(Above) In front of our display of multi-messaged 9/11 luminaria bags, Dow Constantine speaks to a crowd of 75 on Sept. 8. (Right) Dean Keppler beams following the ceremony.

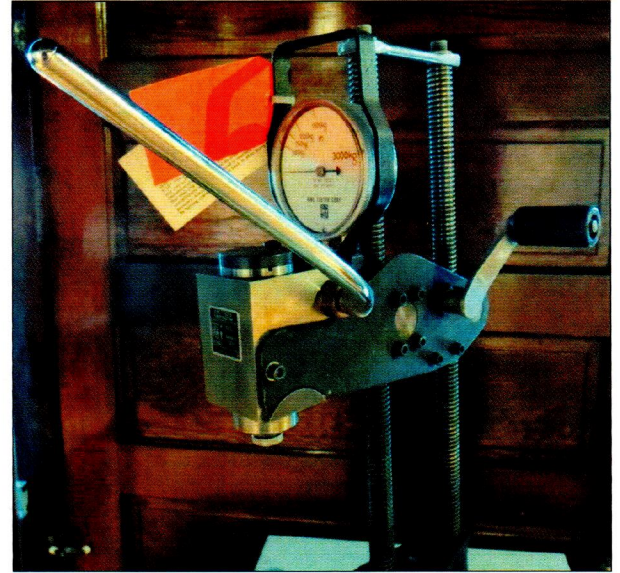
Visit loghousemuseum.info, our website, to see and hear video of the 9/11 speaker program at Alki Arts.



Our museum on the move at Youngstown Cultural Arts

While volunteer greeter Dave Hrachovina talks with a visitor (background), Sarah Baylinton (left), museum manager, guides Bonnie Gromlich and her son, Neil, through our "Telling Our Westside Stories" display at the Sept. 21, 2013, open house of the Youngstown Cultural Arts Center, formerly Cooper (and Youngstown) Elementary School. Our museum closed for the day. (Right) Youngsters try out the vintage chalkboard.





(Left) Judy Bentley, past board president and originator of the "Telling Our Westside Stories" project, interviews longtime West Seattle auto dealer Steve Huling for the "Work" phase while volunteer videographer Mark Jaroslaw captures the remarks.

(Right) Nucor Steel has donated a vintage King-brand steel hardening tester that will be a hands-on element for the "Work" phase exhibit at our Log House Museum.

'Telling Our Westside Stories' turns a page to 'Work' theme

Have you enjoyed our museum exhibit and mobile display called "Telling Our Westside Stories: Land"? Soon it will be taken down, to be replaced by the second phase, focusing on "Work."

The aim is for "Work" to be on display by early 2014. Stay tuned to e-mail and our website for details.

As with the "Land" phase, "Work" will draw from audio interviews of community elders by students at Madison Middle School. Supplementing the exhibit will be video interviews of local residents.

From these conversations, selected audio and video segments will illustrate work in southwest Seattle and

be keyed to a locator map at the museum and online. In addition, artifacts from area businesses and industries are being secured to create hands-on appeal at the museum, especially for children.

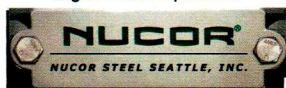
At the core of this phase are **Judy Bentley**, former board president and the project's originator, and **Sarah Baylinson**, our museum manager. Collection and transcription volunteers are assisting as well.

While work continues on "Work," Madison middle-schoolers will undertake interviews in November 2013 for the third phase, "Home." An exhibit based on that theme is to be ready by 2015.

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Rooftop party revs up support for Nov. 9 Champagne Gala Lunch

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Photos by Patrick Robinson, West Seattle Herald
 (Above left) Enjoying the rooftop view from The Pacific Institute at the Aug. 28, 2013, Gala Preview Party are (from left) Clay Eals, executive director; Jennifer Peterson, Sharon Huling, board member Joey Richesson, Maryanne Tagney Jones, David Jones and Jack Block.

(Above) Judy Bentley (left) talks with Nucor Steel's Pat Jablonski and wife Ruta. (Left) Marcy Johnsen, board president, chats with Earl and Adah Cruzen.

You have a story! Join us for memoir writing, taught by Beach Drive's Janice Harper

Whether it is an unbelievable tale from your past, a family history you want to leave your children or a collection of lessons life has taught you, you have a story to be told. But where to begin?



Janice Harper

We have the answer. This fall, we launched a memoir-writing series taught by **Janice Harper**, a longtime author, ghostwriter and contributor to the *Huffington Post* and *Psychology Today*.

Harper, a Michigan native with a doctorate in cultural anthropology who forged her writing and academic career in

Tennessee and Texas, will offer the weekly series from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursdays at the museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W.

Tuition for the group classes (three or more students) will run \$300 a month, with a rate of \$400 a month for private lessons. A portion of proceeds will go to our historical society.

"We are the storytelling organization for the Duwamish peninsula, so this series is a perfect fit," says **Clay Eals**, our executive director. "We are fortunate to collaborate with someone who has the experience and the warmth to help people from any walk of life to be a success at preserving the precious stories of their past."

Harper, who lived in the Alki neighborhood in the mid-1980s and returned to the area recently, feels personally connected to West Seattle neighborhoods and their residents. "To me," she says, "West Seattle is like its own little town. It allows us to live in a big city without feeling like we are in a big city."

She says the series is ongoing because some will want or need only a few sessions, and others will find it useful for months at a time. Participants will be able to drop in or out of the series as desired, and those wanting one-on-one help can sign up for private lessons, from which a portion of proceeds also will go to the historical society.

Advance registration is required. To sign up, e-mail Harper at dr.jharper@gmail.com. For background on Harper, visit janiceharper.com.

Seattle Times includes us in cover profile of West Seattle

Did you catch the profile of West Seattle in the Sept. 29, 2013, Pacific Northwest magazine of the Seattle Times? It captured our peninsula deftly and included our historical society several times. To see it, visit seattletimes.com and search for "happily unhip."



Will Winter tells history of lighthouse for 20 in courtyard

Will Winter, a member of our historical society and the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, provided a comprehensive presentation on the Alki Lighthouse on the warm summer evening of Aug. 8, 2013, in our Log House Museum courtyard.

Twenty people attended the free talk. An Alki resident, Winter has been our organization's liaison with the Coast Guard in collaborating on a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the lighthouse.

Founding member Mary Anna (Ambaum) de Leuw dies at 90

Founding member **Mary Anna (Marian) Ambaum de Leuw**, part of the pioneering Highline family for which Ambaum Boulevard was named, died April 7, 2013. She was one month shy of 91.

Her parents, German emigrants Jacob and Mary Ambaum, homesteaded 20 acres of land at the corner of what is now Southwest 128th Street and Ambaum Boulevard Southwest. Marian called her father a "civic-minded man, who as soon as he could get the equipment together cleared the right away for Ambaum Boulevard and the trolley tracks" that were part of the Highland Park-Lake Burien streetcar line that ran, with his financial support, from 1912 to 1933.

Marian and husband Adrian Joseph de Leuw lived on the Ambaum homestead until 1959, then in Seahurst and later at Mount St. Vincent in West Seattle. Marian is survived by their daughter, Jo Ann de Leuw of Auburn.

Will Winter presents a history of the Alki Lighthouse on Aug. 8, 2013, for 20 people in our Log House Museum courtyard.

Give the gift of a membership!

It's easy. Visit our home page, loghousemuseum.info, click "Get Involved," select a member level, print the form and mail it in with a check.



Join us Dec. 7 for 'Cookies & Cider on the Porch'!

Come do your holiday shopping at our Log House Museum gift shop and join us for "Cookies & Cider on the Porch": Saturday, Dec. 7, 2013, starting at 4 p.m., just in time for the Christmas Ship's 5 p.m. arrival just off Alki Beach. All are welcome!

Visit loghousemuseum.info, our website, to see and hear video of various volunteers, staff and members of the community discuss their connections to and affection for the heritage of the Duwamish peninsula!

Do we have your e-mail address? Let us know so that you can stay up-to-date! Please e-mail bgreen496@yahoo.com to get on the list.



FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society
c/o "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116-2810

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What's coming this fall and winter 2013-2014

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Thursdays (ongoing) | 6-8 p.m. | Memoir writing series by Janice Harper, Log House Museum |
| Friday, Nov. 1 | 4-6 p.m. | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Peter Stekel (see page 3) |
| Saturday, Nov. 9 | 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. ... | Champagne Gala Lunch, Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. S.W. |
| Saturday, Nov. 16 | 10:30 a.m. | Annual Membership Meeting, West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. S.W. |
| Friday, Dec. 6 | 4-6 p.m. | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Nicole Hardy (see page 3) |
| Saturday, Dec. 7 | 4 p.m. | "Cookies and Cider on the Porch," Log House Museum |
| Friday, Jan. 3 | 4-6 p.m. | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Robert Spector (see page 3) |
| Friday, Feb. 7 | 4-6 p.m. | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Lyanda Lynn Haupt (see page 3) |

Southwest Seattle Historical Society board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the South Seattle Community College President's Board Room. You are welcome to attend!