

Footprints

on the sands of time ...

ISSUE LXXXIII

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING 2013



Fautleroy's Colman Estate glows on a beautiful spring day.

Photo courtesy Historic Seattle

Join us for the Colman Estate Tour

Register now for afternoon event, set for Sunday, April 28

Here's your chance to look inside one of Seattle's premier estates. We are co-sponsoring the Laurence Colman Estate Tour, organized by Historic Seattle.

The tour will take place from **1 to 4 p.m. Sunday, April 28, 2013**. The deadline to sign up is Thursday, April 25.

This is a great opportunity for our members and the public to get an in-person glimpse of the home of one of the legendary families of the Fautleroy neighborhood, West Seattle and Seattle as a whole. Under new ownership, the Colman Estate still sparkles with panoramic views and a vivid rhododendron garden.

Members of our historical society and their guests can register for the tour at the Historic

Seattle member rate of \$35. (The rate for the public is \$45, and the student rate is \$15.)

Registration is easy. Visit the Historic Seattle website and register at the member rate. When you register, you will be informed of the address of estate.

A portion of proceeds from registrants who are Southwest Seattle Historical Society members will go to our historical society. We ask that at the same time that you register at the Historic Seattle site you also e-mail us at clay.eals@loghousemuseum.info to indicate that you have registered.

We are grateful for this partnership with Historic Seattle in our own backyard and look forward to further collaboration.

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FOOTPRINTS

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Editor

Joey Richesson

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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Where would we be without volunteers?

One is scanning images. Two others are revamping our gift shop. Yet another is taking photos. Several are greeting visitors. Three are shooting video. Another trio is entering data. Four more are directing auto traffic. One is attending a social-media seminar. Two are organizing new committees. And a half-dozen others are assembling the *Footprints* newsletter you hold in your hand.

Everywhere we look these days, they're here, with smiles and eagerness to help. They are our volunteers, precious and rare, and yet somehow plentiful. Some are longtime residents of our peninsula, and some moved here just a few years or months ago. All are infected with the magic of our community, and all are welcome.

It's no accident that National Volunteer Appreciation Week is April 21-27. It comes when spring enters full bloom – a time when volunteers bolster the success of countless new activities put on by nonprofits across the nation to bring people together for common purpose.

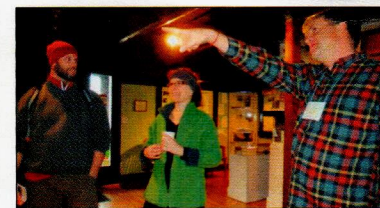
Our historical society is no different. We are deeply grateful that more than 30 volunteers have joined our ranks in 2013. Already, they have aided in the success of everything we do.

Would you like to become a volunteer? It's easy. Come to an info session, held on a Saturday every month at the museum. The next one is 11 a.m. Saturday, May 11. Join us!

Clay Eals, executive director



(Above) Clay Eals recruits volunteers at April 17 Volunteer and Work Fair at South Seattle Community College (photo by Monica Lundberg). (Left) Volunteer Kathi Ishimaru scans and stores clippings on pioneer D.C. Conover. (Below) Volunteer Mark Lewis guides a couple through our museum exhibit.



Amid the hubbub, reunions bring sweet surprises

Hello, and spring greetings to you all! We have been busy this winter! Having hired an executive director, our organization has grown in membership, volunteer participation and greater outreach to the community. As planned, we are moving forward!



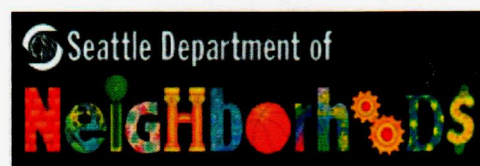
As an alum, I want to tell you how exciting it was to be a part of the Alki Elementary School Centennial (see pages 4-5). Our staff and volunteers worked with the Alki PTA to make this historical day extra special. Thanks to all for

doing a spectacular job. It was a wonderful evening of celebration, and what a sweet surprise to see so many friends from the 1950s, who together made it through Madison Junior High School and West Seattle High School.

And speaking of West Seattle High, mark your calendars for Friday, June 7, when the famous West Seattle High School All-School Reunion happens. Classes from the early 1900s to the present will be on hand, as will our historical society. I hope to see many of you there too!

Marcy Johnsen, board president

WE DEEPLY
APPRECIATE THE
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Ledger reveals top Alki topics from century ago

BY SARAH BAYLINSON

Despite the winter gloom pushing most of us into hibernation until recently, our staff and dedicated volunteers have been buzzing with activity the past few months, most notably with our recent project to co-sponsor the Alki Elementary School Centennial.

Board member **Alan Peterson** assembled a fun and engaging exhibit at the school, with many photos acquired from our own collection as well as the Seattle Public Schools archives.

During the planning stages of the centennial, we were given a donation by the Alki Elementary PTA of several items for our collections department. The donation includes several large scrapbooks of PTA-related information. Each of the books is unique, and the contents include handmade pamphlets, flyers and other ephemera from throughout the early and mid-20th century.

The item I find most thought-provoking is a PTA ledger dating from the early 1900s through the 1940s. The ledger makes it is easy to see what was important to the PTA more than 100 years ago. Of course, education was paramount, as it is today, but the topics also included hygiene and the mental health of children.



Sarah Baylinson, museum manager, displays the new Alki Elementary School exhibit in the rotating display case of our Log House Museum.

Do we have your e-mail address?

We would like to, so that you can stay up-to-date on the latest blog posts on our web-site. Please e-mail us at clay.eals@loghousemuseum.info to get on the mailing list!



A few of the scrapbooks, some ephemera and the ledger will be on display in our rotating case through the end of May. Stop by and take a look!

Would you like to help plan and execute a revitalization of the native plant garden that surrounds our museum?

In the 15-plus years since our Log House Museum opened, our native plant garden has flourished with colorful flowers and greens.

It's time to take the garden to the next level, and formation of a committee to do just that is under way.

"It would be a wonderful addition to our organization's growing volunteer contingent," says **Carol Vincent**, membership secretary. "We have often talked about how delightful it would be to have 'Tea in the Garden' as a premier event once the garden is fully ship-shape. What we need is a plan of action."

Here's the background:

In the museum's earliest days, our board agreed to install a native plant garden as an educational component on the museum grounds.

In 1997, **Kate Farley**, local native-plant landscape architect, designed and installed the garden, and it remains today with some variations from the original plan.

In the mid-2000s, the Alki Community Council launched the Alki Wildlife Habitat project, and the museum's garden became an official site.

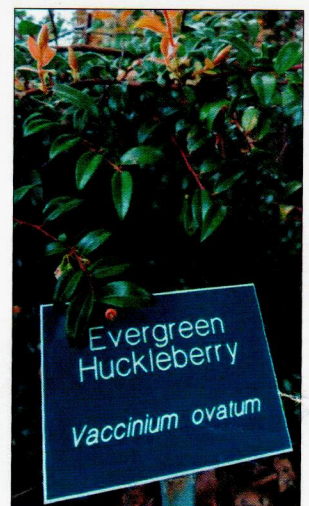
In 2011, we purchased identifying signs for the existing plants, supported by a grant from the West Seattle Garden Tour.

We presently employ a gardener, **Irene Gehring**, who keeps the garden and grounds cleaned and weeded.

Improving the garden is a way to ensure that current and future generations can get a glimpse of bygone eras. The garden helps the museum serve as a community focal point.

Several volunteers have expressed interest in serving on a committee focused on the native plant garden, and Vincent will organize its first meetings.

If you would like to help develop and implement a plan to make our garden a first-class attraction, please stop in or e-mail us at clay.eals@loghousemuseum.info.



One of the identifying signs in our museum's native plant garden.



Alki Elementary Centennial event draws hundreds of happy alumni

Coinciding with the true beginning of spring weather, the Alki Elementary School Centennial event on Thursday evening, March 28, 2013, was a smash hit.

The event, co-sponsored by the Alki Elementary PTA and our historical society, drew hundreds of former and current students and staff to the school to enjoy a variety of speakers, photos and artifacts, a timeline, one-on-one video interviews, a 100th-birthday cake and, best of all, the opportunity to reconnect.

Kicking off the event was a marvelous group photo (above) taken by **Jean Sherrard**, the "now" photographer for **Paul Dorpat's** venerable and venerated "Now and Then" column in the *Seattle Times Pacific Northwest Magazine*. Exactly 216 people appeared in the photo, which we have e-mailed to those who attended and signed up to receive it.



The photo also appeared on the *West Seattle Herald* and *West Seattle Blog* websites. The *Herald* and the *Blog* posted many other photos as well, and the event also drew in-person coverage by **Lori Matsukawa** of KING and KONG TV news.

Big thanks to the volunteers from our historical society who helped make the event a success: **Sarah Baylinson, Joan Stover, Kathi Ishimaru, Inez Lindsay, Suzanne Hartley, Alan Peterson, Ann Anderson, Kerry Korsgaard, Mark Jaroslaw, Trish Cosgrove, Andrew Jones** and **Meg Eals**.

Also big thanks to **Amy Bannister**, Alki PTA event chair, and other Alki PTA volunteers and staff who created an engaging evening for all who attended.

(Right) Alki students crowd around Amy Bannister for a piece of 100th-birthday cake.

Photo by Ann Anderson



Arlene Wade brought 'intelligent, driving force' to our Log House Museum, Duwamish Tribe



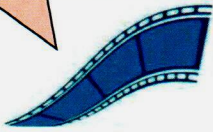
Arlene Wade, 1997

'I often look to Arlene's mentoring when considering proposals and ask myself, how did Arlene do it?'

Marcy Johnsen
current president

See a special tribute on video

View a video tribute to Arlene Wade by Marcy Johnsen on our website blog: www.loghousemuseum.info



Arlene Wade, then board vice-president, thanks Greg Nickels, then King County Council member, during a May 30, 1995, Association of King County Heritage Organizations awards ceremony at the Admiral Theater in West Seattle. Looking on are (left) Merrilee Hagen, then president, and Carol Vincent, past president.

Photo from Southwest Seattle Historical Society collection

BY CLAY EALS

For several years in the late 1990s, she was our leader, our passion and our drive – a true force of nature.

She was the indefatigable and ebullient **Arlene Wade**, without whose energy and enthusiasm the "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum may not have become our elegantly and insightfully restored organizational home.

Arlene, a key contributor to many heritage and arts projects, died March 25, 2013, at her Normandy Park home after a 13-year battle with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She was 69.

Soon after getting involved with our Southwest Seattle Historical Society as a volunteer in 1993, Arlene, an Alki resident, joined our board, quickly rising to vice president and, in 1996, to two years as president. And what years they were.

With \$200,000 from Metro mitigation funds (conferred by a 1994 vote of Alki residents) to purchase the log building at 3003 61st Ave. S.W., in 1995 we faced the challenge of restoring the 1904 structure and opening it as a museum. A few years later, with more than \$800,000 in contributions spearheaded by Arlene, the task was complete. The result was celebrated – and its commemoration lives today – in the Log House Circle of donors that graces our courtyard.

Arlene also put into context the "Birthplace of Seattle" label for Alki Beach and our museum. She helped lead the nonprofit Greater Harbor 2000 Commission and advocated for the Duwamish Tribe for decades, involving the tribe in our organization's mission and projects, even ensuring that Chief Seattle's inspiring words were included in the Log House Circle inscription.

In 2000, she shaped our "The Spirit Returns" exhibit, with the story of the Duwamish tribe and the white settlers told side by side under one roof. She also worked with her husband, George, to arrange financing for land along Harbor Avenue for what became the Duwamish Longhouse and was a prime mover in its construction and completion in 2009, when she and George cut the grand-opening ribbon.

Besides enlisting big support for our historical society, Arlene recruited the lifeblood of any nonprofit organization – dedicated volunteers, including our current president, **Marcy Johnsen**, who spent 14 years of her youth growing up in what became our Log House Museum.

"I knew I had met a terrific friend and mentor," Johnsen says. "She encouraged me, included me and taught me ways to enhance the skills I possessed to fit the needs of our organization. I cherish the time we spent together. I often look to Arlene's mentoring when considering proposals and ask myself, how did Arlene do it?"

"She truly understood people and loved them all, irrespective of their color or creed," says **George Wade**. "Countless people have told me of ways she touched their lives, many of which I never knew. She was totally self-effacing but an intelligent, driving force in any of the many causes she championed."

Her prominence in heritage projects easily stole the spotlight from her other roles in civic affairs. Arlene was a mental-health counselor, with a master's in social work from the University of Washington and three years of advanced training at the Seattle Psychoanalytic Institute. Arlene and George helped found the Seattle Chamber Music Festival in 1982, and she served on the board of the Cornish College of the Arts.

As a teenager, Arlene Gay Hinderlie summoned fortitude and spark to serve as Miss Kitsap while growing up in Port Orchard. In 1963, she ascended to the role of Seafair Queen.

A devoted mother, Arlene often provided piano accompaniment for her son **Brady**, who achieved Northwest honors on the violin. Via Arlene, Brady also participated in our historical society events.

George and Brady, along with two brothers, three stepchildren, six stepchildren and three stepgrandchildren, survive Arlene. A celebration of her life will be scheduled at Pacific Lutheran University, where Hinderlie Hall is named after her grandparents. The school maintains a Wade-Hinderlie Scholarship Fund. Our historical society also will plan a special occasion in her honor.



Join us Saturday, May 11, for West Seattle Community Garage Sale Day

Mark your calendars: Our organization is officially part of West Seattle Community Garage Sale Day, which will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2013.

At our Log House Museum from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., you will find one-of-a-kind books and other items to tickle your vintage fancy. See the West Seattle Blog for more info on this annual event.

Get ready to GiveBIG (or any amount) on Wednesday, May 15

The Seattle Foundation's annual GiveBIG online charitable giving event, set this year for Wednesday, May 15, is right around the corner.

If your e-mail address is in our database, that's the day you will receive a GiveBIG message from us as one of more than 1,400 nonprofits linked to the Seattle Foundation.

Giving online that day has big potential for our historical society because every credit-card contribution will receive a prorated portion of the foundation's "stretch" funds.

Calling local artists for first annual design to celebrate West Seattle!

Are you a local artist with a passion for the Duwamish peninsula? Our historical society is planning a project right up your alley.

We are looking for a design that will celebrate West Seattle in all its glory in 2013. The theme could be history, nature, wildlife, individuality or attitude. The only limitation is that somehow it must "say" West Seattle.

However you see this unique corner of the world in which we have the good fortune to spend time, we would love to see your version and perhaps select it to use on a limited-edition piece – a poster, bag, whatever – that would be offered for sale through our Log House Museum.

The vision is for a different design to be featured each year. Interested? Please stop in or contact volunteer **Amanda Gilbert** by e-mailing clay.eals@loghousemuseum.info.

'Oh, the places we could go': New committee forms to organize tours

Have you ever wanted to lead a tour? Do you have a desire to enhance your creative writing? We are calling all yarn-weavers, scriptwriters, history buffs, nature enthusiasts and anyone who is passionate about fun, speaking and storytelling.

Mark Lewis, a volunteer for our historical society, is heading a committee of folks who would like to organize a coordinated series of

Tunes for the cause

David Roth (right) of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, along with Kat Eggleston (below) of Vashon Island provided a two-hour concert for 35 supporters of our



historical society on Monday, April 15, hosted by volunteer and Beach Drive-area resident Amanda Gilbert. The Northwest Wine Academy of South Seattle Community College contributed wine and pouring staff for the event. Story songs of Steve Goodman (subject of a book by Clay Eals, executive director) were the theme for this fundraiser. Several more in-home events are planned this year. More info: clay.eals@loghousemuseum.info.

Photos by Ann Anderson



entertaining tours of our peninsula. The tours would begin this summer and be open to residents and tourists alike.

"The idea," he says, "is to create fun, educational, outdoor recreational opportunities, with an emphasis on our geology, flora and fauna, culture, history and philosophy."

The first meeting of the committee will be at our Log House Museum, time and date to be determined by those interested. To sign up, stop in or e-mail clay.eals@loghousemuseum.info.

All-West Seattle High School Reunion has beautiful (and official) website!

When **Jim Biava** agreed to chair the All-West Seattle High School Reunion, he promised to bring new energy to the legendary gathering. He's off to a flying start by launching a new, official website for alums.

The website bursts with information about the reunion (always the first Friday evening in June, this year on Friday, June 7), scholarships the school's Hall of Fame and merchandise, as well as videos and archived editions of the annual alumni *Chinook* newspaper.

Our historical society will have a table at the June 7 reunion and be part of the auditorium program. For more info, visit the beautiful new website at wshsalumniassociation.org.

Southwest Seattle Historical Society

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Correction

Apologies for the misspelling of the name of board member Kerry Korsgaard in the winter edition of Footprints.

FOOTPRINTS

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

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What's coming this spring, summer and fall 2013!

- Sunday, April 28**1-4 p.m. Colman Estate Tour, Fautleroy neighborhood
- Saturday, May 11**9 a.m.-3 p.m. West Seattle Community Garage Sale Day, with sale at the Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W.
- Saturday, May 11**11 a.m..... Volunteer Information Session, Log House Museum
- Saturday, June 1** Alki Lighthouse centennial celebration (details to come!)
- Friday, June 7**5 p.m. West Seattle High School All-School Reunion
- Saturday, June 8**11 a.m..... Volunteer Information Session, Log House Museum
- Thursday, July 4**Noon Annual Membership Picnic, Log House Museum
- Friday, July 12** West Seattle Summer Fest, through Sunday, July 14
- Saturday-Sunday, July 20-21**..... Alki Art Fair
- Sunday, Aug. 11**..... Ice Cream Social, Log House Museum Courtyard
- Saturday, Nov. 9**11 a.m..... Annual Founders Gala Brunch, Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. S.W., Seattle

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!