

See pages 4-5 for  
Annual Report: **THANK YOU!**

# Footprints

*on the sands of time ...*

ISSUE LXXXVI

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EARLY SPRING 2014

## The work of the Westside

*New exhibit offers voices,  
video and hands-on items*

**A** teacher admits how she learned from her second-language students because she could speak only English. A steelworker marvels at rust plumes sent into the air over West Seattle before baghouses were installed.

A fisherman shudders at the "death wish" of toiling in frozen spray. A professional clown recalls kneeling and begging his wife to let him leave his day job.

Work. Everyone has done it. It's the heartbeat of a community, and it's the theme of our new exhibit: "Telling Our Westside Stories: Work."

The exhibit, which opened March 15 at our Log House Museum, draws from audio interviews of community elders by students in the classes of **Amy O'Donoghue** at Madison Middle School, as well as supplementary video interviews.

Audio and video interviews are augmented by still photos that reveal brief vignettes on our big-screen TV, now placed front and center in our main gallery.

Quotes from the interviews also enliven the various sub-themes throughout the exhibit: what kids wanted

The lifeblood of an exhibit is volunteers! Assembling display quotes for "Telling Our Westside Stories: Work" are volunteers (from left) Katarina Shih, volunteer coordinator Bethany Green, Jeff Upton, Nic Doyle and Declan Quick. (Right) volunteer Floie Vane washes the interior wall of a display case.



On opening day, Sarah Baylinson, museum manager, helps a boy use a steel-hardening tester on a strip of rebar (reinforcing bar) in the Nucor Steel focus area of the new 'Work' exhibit.

to do when they grew up, first jobs, sawmill and lumber operations, schools, restaurants, business promotional tools (from matchbook covers to a truly giant Keds tennis shoe) -- and much more.

Hands-on items include a steel hardener loaned by Nucor Steel to a working, 107-year-old cash register from the legendary Luna Park loaned by **John Bennett**, owner of the namesake cafe.

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**FOOTPRINTS**

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**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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**Want to volunteer?**

Call or e-mail us!

**Website**

www.loghouse  
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Log House Museum

# It's time to turn 'someday' into today

**D**o you have a someday project? Probably several. We all do. "Someday, I'm going to ..." It could be travel, downsizing, making amends – much like a New Year's resolution, only it endures in our hearts, often for many years.

It's not my aim to add to your list. But I do hope to inspire you to get to a project that lies dormant in our thoughts or subconscious. It's a loving and lasting gesture that we say we will get to ... someday.

The project is to capture the memories and personalities of loved ones before they are gone. Professionally, it's categorized as oral history. I just call it having a conversation. Once you do it, you will forever be glad you did.

I re-learned this lesson upon the death in February of **Joan Mraz**, our co-founder (see story, page 6). Back in 2005, Joan was our president, many in her family had come to town for our annual picnic, and I photographed them on the steps of our museum.

I suggested to Joan that she and I sit down with a video camera and talk about her life in West Seattle. She agreed, we set a date, and we did it. For two and a half hours, Joan graciously responded to questions about her youth, her adulthood and her present-day hopes and dreams. I made her a copy of the tape and one for the museum, and that was that.

Fast forward to this year. Upon Joan's death, I recalled the tape, dug it up and transcribed it. My friend and fellow former board member **Brad Chrisman** agreed to digitize and edit it into what became a 14-minute collection of "best of" excerpts. It played at the reception of Joan's memorial service and is posted on our website for all to see.

The delightful thing about this piece is that not only can we share in the details and insights of Joan's life, but even more important, we can experience anew the



Marcy Johnsen, board president, watches video of co-founder Joan Mraz at the reception of Joan's memorial service.

nuances of her gentle and generous persona, as well as her sparkling smile. It's a gift for everyone who ever knew Joan, and for those down the road who would like to.

It's no surprise that video interviews have become a key part of our organization's exhibits and promotion. The format captivates and endures.

Who in your life would you like to capture on video? Sure, it requires a little equipment, and maybe a few old photos as reference points. But what it really takes is your initiative and resolve. Once you sit down and start the conversation, the content doesn't really matter. You can talk about most anything. What's important is the gleam in the eyes, the laughter, perhaps even tears. It's the spark of life that we all yearn to preserve for generations to come.

And don't discount the idea that you yourself should talk on video about your life. Within us all is a library that evaporates when we are gone. It doesn't matter how old we are. Each of us is a unique and precious gift to others.

It's time to make "someday" today. Hmm, once again I think I need to take some of my own advice.

Clay Eals, executive director

## 'Great mix of seasoned and new voices to keep us strong, vibrant'

**H**ello all! This may seem a little late, but welcome to the New Year! So many good things happened for our organization in 2013, and it is exciting to look at the plans for 2014.

I hope you are on the e-mail list and receiving the "blast" that comes out regularly and are able to attend some of the great new programs that are ongoing. Please also see the calendar of events, always on the back page of this newsletter.

As each year, each season turns, so does our Board of Trustees. In January, we said thank you (but not goodbye) to some longtime board members: officers **Carol Vincent** and **Joan Stover** and trustees **Flora**



**Belle Key** and **Joey Richesson**. We are so grateful for their individual and collective contributions to our organization.

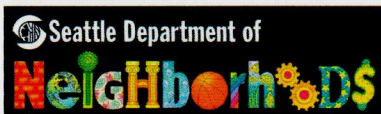
We also are welcoming new board members **Dora-Faye Hendricks**, **Bonnie Gromlich**, **Dave Montoure**,

**Peder Nelson** and **Nancy Sorensen**. **Ron Arant** is our new treasurer, and **Tia Hallberg** stepped up to become vice-president. We have a great mix of seasoned and new voices to keep us a strong and vibrant contributor to the community.

Many of you already know we are honoring the passing of **Joan Mraz**, our organization's co-founder, a gentle yet powerful woman whose dedication to our organization and the community will long be remembered. Joan's work will help us stay focused on our mission and the never-ending task of "getting better organized."

Marcy Johnsen, board president

We deeply appreciate the financial support of:



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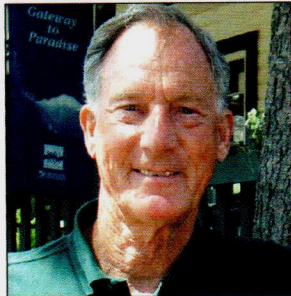
# Lou Whittaker to speak at West Seattle High School and screen documentary, 'A Life in the Mountains'

Join us for fundraiser with our native son on Monday, May 19

Join renowned mountaineer and West Seattle native **Lou Whittaker** for a special presentation, "A Life in the Mountains," at 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 19, 2014, at West Seattle High School Theater.

The event, a fundraiser for our organization, brings Whittaker back to his alma mater at 3000 California Ave. S.W

He will speak about his West Seattle roots and screen an hour-long documentary film, "A Life in the Mountains: The Legacy of Lou Whittaker."



Lou Whittaker

One of America's most respected climbers for more than six decades, Whittaker began his mountaineering

career as a teenager in West Seattle, climbing in the Olympic and Cascade ranges with twin brother Jim.

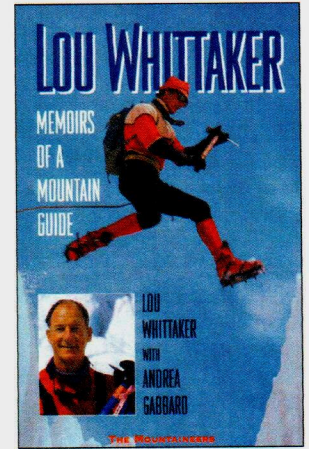
Whittaker's name is synonymous with Mount Rainier, where he has guided thousands to its summit since his own first ascent of the mountain at age 19.

He stepped into coveted spots on expeditions to formidable peaks in Alaska, the Himalaya and the Karakorum and went on to lead the expedition that made the first American ascent of the North Col pass on Mount Everest in 1984.

His film examines the impact of Whittaker on the sport of mountaineering and how his efforts have changed the sport's landscape. It features stories from Whittaker, his family and climbing luminaries Sir **Edmund Hillary**, Sir **Chris Bonington**, **Jim Wickwire** and **John Roskelley Sr.**

Admission to this event is **\$10** for members of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, and **\$15** for others. Annual memberships, available at the door and on our website, [loghousemuseum.info](http://loghousemuseum.info), start at **\$25**, with a rate of **\$15** for students and seniors.

For more info on Whittaker, see [louwhittaker.com](http://louwhittaker.com).



Lou Whittaker's book, *Memoirs of a Mountain Life*, will be on sale at the May 19 event, with 50 percent of proceeds going to our organization.



Lyanda Lynn Haupt, author of *The Urban Bestiary*, entertains an audience of 50 on Feb. 7 at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village.

## Book series takes off!

We are grateful to report that "Words, Writers & West Seattle," our free monthly book series that began last October at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, has taken hold. It has drawn crowds from 25

Visit [loghousemuseum.info](http://loghousemuseum.info) to see the complete presentations of authors Stephanie Guerra, Peter Stekel, Nicole Hardy, Robert Spector, Lyanda Lynn Haupt and Conrad Wesselhoeft!

to 50 and resulted in the scheduling of West Seattle authors through October, with a long list of others on tap. In June, the time of the series shifts to 5-7 p.m. See the list at right, and join us!

## Genres galore: fiction, poetry, sports, youth

**All sessions:** first Friday of the month, Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, 4-6 p.m. through May and 5-7 p.m. thereafter.

**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)

**Friday, July 11, 2014**, Harold Taw, *Adventures of the Karaoke King* (Amazon Encore, 2011, adult fiction)

**Friday, Aug. 1, 2014**, Dan Raley, *The Brandon Roy Story* (Old Seattle Press, 2013, sports), *Pitchers of Beer* (University of



Nebraska Press, 2011, sports), *Tideflats to Tomorrow* (Fairgreens Publishing, 2010, local history)

**Friday, Sept. 5, 2014**, Molly Ringle, *Persephone's Orchard* (Central Avenue Publishing, 2012, young adult)

**Friday, Oct. 3, 2014**, Susan Rich, *Cloud Pharmacy* (White Pine Press, 2014, poetry)

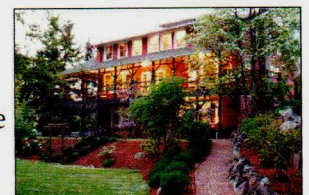
## Don't miss story-filled home tour June 22 at The Gatewood Bed & Breakfast!

The title of our annual home tour, "If These Walls Could Talk," will be true five times over on Sunday afternoon, June 22, 2014, as we open the doors to The Gatewood Bed & Breakfast.

The massive Craftsman lodge, built in 1910, has been home to just five families in its 104 years, and

members and descendants of all five clans will be present to tell its story.

Mark your calendar for this unique opportunity, and stay tuned for details about it via e-mail blast and in the next edition of *Footprints*. For a video invitation to the tour, visit [loghousemuseum.info](http://loghousemuseum.info).



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# Thank you!

## ANNUAL REPORT

*It does take a village. On these two pages, we present our Annual Report for 2013 (and early 2014), in which we recognize our contributors of time, talent and treasury in that time span.*

*Without these more than 450 individuals and organizations, we could not carry out our mission: to promote local heritage through education, preservation and advocacy.*

*Each one of you is an ambassador for this mission. We deeply appreciate your many unique gifts, and we trust that you will bring others with a similar passion into the fold. All the best to you in 2014!*

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retreat: (seated from left) Tia Hallberg, vice-president; Kerry Korsgaard, Alan Peterson, Bonnie Mey, trustees; (standing) Dora-Faye Hendricks and Dave Montoure, trustees; Marcy Johnsen, interim treasurer; Ron Arant, treasurer, and Peder Nelson, trustee; (inset) Nancy Sorensen, trustee.

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*(If we have omitted a name, our apologies; please alert us, and we will include it in the next Footprints.)*

**Businesses & Organizations**

- |                                     |           |               |                        |                            |                 |                          |                                       |        |          |   |                 |                                 |                     |                    |        |               |                      |       |                             |                      |   |                               |                           |          |                      |                                |                  |                |             |            |                 |                             |                     |            |  |                |                   |                           |                     |                                      |  |                          |                       |                 |                                     |                      |                    |                  |                        |                        |                             |                  |                                 |                          |              |                         |                            |                   |                                  |                                       |   |                                   |                        |                                 |                         |                     |
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| Admiral Junction Mailing & Printing | Alki Arts | Alki Art Fair | Alki Community Council | Alki Elementary School PTA | Alki Lighthouse | Alki Spud Fish and Chips | Allen County (Indiana) Public Library | Artech | ArtsWest | Association of King County Historical Organizations (AKCHO) | Balagan Theatre | Barnes & Noble Westwood Village | Beneath the Streets | The Boeing Company | Cactus | Anna Callahan | CenturyLink Pioneers | Circa | ClearChannel Communications | deVrieze Carney PLLC | Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Arts Center | Eight Limbs Yoga West Seattle | Firefly Cafe and Creperie | 4Culture | Gail Ann Photography | Hacker Wakefield & Feilberg PS | Historic Seattle | Hotwire Online | Coffeehouse | Husky Deli | IT Headquarters | Jackson, Morgan & Hunt PLLC | Jan's Beauty Supply | La Rustica | The Mark R. & Rae N. Lembersky Charitable Fund | Luna Park Cafe | Marination Ma Kai | Menashe and Sons Jewelers | Metropolitan Market | Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) | The National Society of the Colonial Dames | Nucor Steel Seattle Inc. | The Pacific Institute | Salty's on Alki | Seattle Department of Neighborhoods | Seattle Fish Company | Seattle Foundation | Seattle Logo Pro | Seattle Public Library | Seattle Public Theater | Seattle Shakespeare Company | Sensa Hair Salon | South Seattle Community College | Tom's Automotive Service | Trader Joe's | Tuxedos 'n Tennis Shoes | U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary | West Seattle Blog | West Seattle Chamber of Commerce | West Seattle Herald/White Center News | West Seattle High School Alumni Association | West Seattle Junction Association | West Seattle Thriftway | Youngstown Cultural Arts Center | Youngstown Tool Library | Zatz a Better Bagel |
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Irene Gehring gardener  
Diane Ward bookkeeper  
Clay Eals executive director

# 'Turning a creative idea into reality'

Co-founder Joan Bailey Mraz dies at 78, leaving a graceful legacy of art instruction, heritage leadership and 'getting better organized'

The co-founder of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society has passed away. **Joan Bailey Mraz** – who bolstered our birth in 1984 and served in all roles on our board, including six years as president – died Feb. 24, 2014, at Providence Mount St. Vincent in West Seattle. She was 78.

The embodiment of unyielding grace, calm and optimism, Joan was the catalyst for founder **Elliott Couden**'s vision when we got our start 30 years ago, based at South Seattle Community College (13 years before we opened the Log House Museum).

**Marcy Johnsen**, board president, notes that Joan consistently "reminded us all in voice and action that we 'just keep getting better organized.' ... Her smile, her wit, her diplomacy and her many heartfelt gifts of mentoring, time, energy and fiscal support will long be remembered."

Joan (pronounced Jo-ann), who spent most of her life on our peninsula, carried an early interest

and talent in art into a 20-year career teaching the subject at South Seattle Community College. There she chaired an advisory board funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Seeking historical representation on the board, Joan contacted **Dottie Harper**, arts activist from Burien, who led her to Couden, who was trying to start a historical society. Joan introduced Elliott to **Jerry Brockey**, then president of the college, who gave our fledgling organization its first home.

"It shows from what small, little beginnings great things can grow," Joan reflected in 2005. "Part of my staying with it is a feeling of commitment. You help with the starting of a project and have sort of a vested personal interest in seeing to its success. It's like the art projects that my students would start. There would be a creative idea that they would turn into reality, and it would become something they would be committed to, just like your children. ... You want to see this through till it gets on its feet."

Much of Joan's impact on our historical society was behind the scenes. Especially as president in 2000-2005, not long after the opening of our Log House Museum in 1997, she was a gentle leader who brought integrity and follow-through to the proceedings.

She grew up as the identical twin of sister **Diane (Tice)** in the Gatewood neighborhood. Fond youthful memories included digging clams at Lowman Beach, bicycling and swimming at Lincoln Park, enjoying Sunday drives to see sunsets at Alki Beach, shopping

at Morgan Junction and riding the streetcar (an uncle was a conductor) to Endolyne or downtown.

Art was a shared passion for both sisters, who as teens won citywide and regional prizes. "I often found that I was drawn to painting structures and their surroundings," Joan said. "Maybe the contrast of the geometrical organization of a structure, a dwelling, within the surrounding nature, makes a contrast and sort of evokes a feeling of community – a dwelling within an area."

A glimmer of glamour came in her graduating year of 1954 at West Seattle High School, when she represented the Olympic Heights Improvement Club in the Miss Hi-Yu contest and rode in the West Seattle Grand Parade. Her classmate **Diane Friesen** (later film actress Dyan Cannon) won the crown.

Joan's aptitude tests at West Seattle High, however, rated her highest in both art and math. "Nowadays, it would be a natural fit to study architecture," she said, "but, of course, in those days, women didn't really go into architecture, so I took education."

Through the Federated Women's Club of West Seattle, Joan received a scholarship to Seattle University. Teaching degree in hand, she soon married and turned her attention to being a mother.

In 1972, three-year-old SSSC needed an art teacher, and Joan took up that role, part-time then full-time. She found art and heritage as important as work that some might deem more practical. "We're a physical entity that has its needs to keep going, but we also have our spiritual side – your personality, that intangible part of you," she said. "You have memories and desires, and that needs consideration."

Given her ever-present smile, it was easy for others to forget that a hereditary kidney disease, Alport's syndrome, beset Joan, as it did two of her sons. All three underwent dialysis and kidney transplants.

Joan received her kidney – "a perfect match, sort of like winning the lottery" – on Christmas Day 1989, about a year after her own kidneys failed, she told the *Seattle Times* in 1992. "We've all been through a lot, but if you talk to most families, they've been through some kind of trauma in some way. This has just been ours. It's nice our problem had a solution."

In later years, Joan doted on her grandchildren. A key way to foster a family, she said, is heritage.

"When the children come to our museum, and we try and tell them how the native people lived there, how it was before all the houses and the streets and the traffic, when it was more natural, that they can see that there's a way to live *with* nature and *in* nature, where the two work together to support each other, that gives them a sense of what it was like before all this was built up."

Clay Eals, executive director

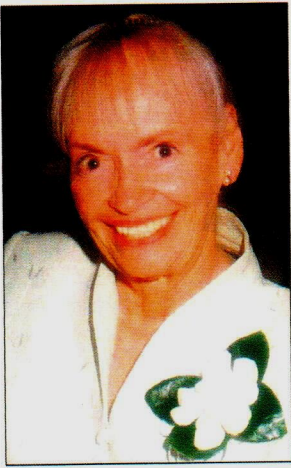


Photo courtesy Mraz family  
Joan Bailey Mraz



Photo by Gail Ann Photography  
Joan Mraz (left) and sister  
Diane Tice beam at our Nov. 9,  
2013, Champagne Gala Lunch.

## Planning begins for Nov. 8 Gala

On the heels of our 2013 Champagne Gala Lunch (180 attendees, \$37,000 raised), the 2014 version on Saturday, Nov. 8, will be even better. Want to help? Call or e-mail us!

## Give the gift of a membership!

It's easy. Visit us at [loghousemuseum.info](http://loghousemuseum.info), click "Join today," select a member level, print the form and mail it in.

## Next Footprints to arrive in May

Sorry this issue is late, but we will make up for it. The second edition of 2014 will arrive in May, and we'll be back on schedule then.

## Calling all volunteers: Rooftop reception awaits you April 12

Volunteers for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society: save this time and date: 6-8 p.m. Saturday, April 12, 2014.

We invite you to the roof of Youngstown Flats for an evening reception in your honor, hosted by volunteer greeter extraordinaire **Dave Hrachovina**. Stay tuned for details via e-mail.



Pat Jablonski of Nucor Steel and his wife, Ruta, visit the steel-plant focus area of the new exhibit on opening day.

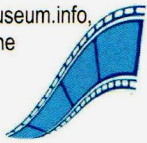
## New exhibit to be dynamic, with enhancements, community events

(Continued from page 1)

Through the rest of the year, the exhibit will be dynamic. We will keep enhancing it with new video segments and a rotating focus section. We also will take it on the road so that at various community locales you can meet some of the interviewees.

Big thanks go to **Sarah Baylinson**, museum manager and exhibit curator; **Kerry Korsgaard**, board member who assisted Baylinson; **Judy Bentley**, past president and originator of the "Telling Our Westside Stories" series;

Visit [loghousemuseum.info](http://loghousemuseum.info) to see video of the exhibit opening on March 15!



and a legion of other volunteers and donors (particularly primary sponsor 4Culture), making it all possible.

Trish Cosgrove, volunteer video editor; and a legion of other volunteers and donors (particularly primary sponsor 4Culture), making it all possible.

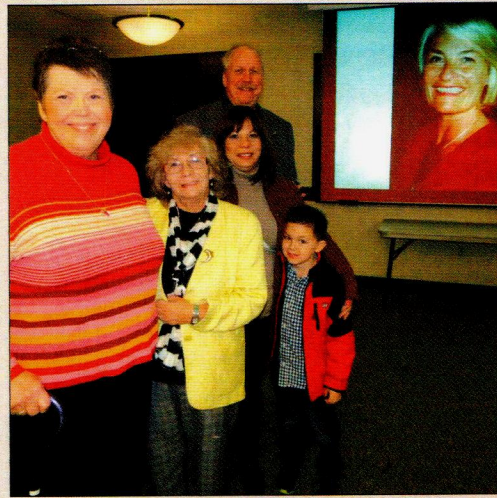
We're open noon to 4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday. Come see what's on display!

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



## Passages of our members

We sadly note the passing of these members of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society: **Eilert Prestegaard**, Dec. 26, age 92; **Betty Lou Benson**, Feb. 12, 2014, age 90; **Edith Beasley**, March 5, 2014, age 91, and **Morey Skaret**, March 27, 2014, age 100. We appreciate their support and extend our condolences.

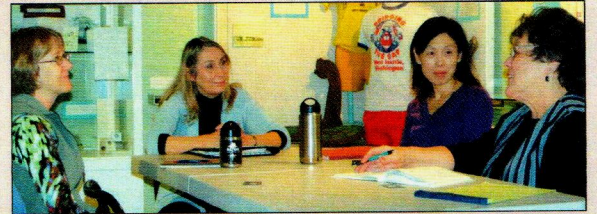


## In tribute to Arlene Wade

To honor the late Arlene Wade, board president who led fund-raising to restore our museum in the mid-1990s and the Duwamish Longhouse and Cultural Center, we dedicated our Nov. 16, 2013, Annual Meeting to her (photo on screen). Attendees included (from left) Marcy Johnsen, board president; Cecile Hansen, Duwamish Tribe chair; her daughter Jolene Haas, vice-president of the Duwamish Tribal Services Board, and son Dyllan, with (back) Charles Payton, retired King County heritage officer.

## Thanks for the memoirs

Enjoying a free introductory workshop on memoir writing at our museum are (from left) Nancy Whitlock, instructor Janice Harper, Sharon Suh and new board member Dora-Faye Hendricks. Harper, a longtime author, ghost writer and online essayist, offers group and one-on-one classes on memoir writing, contributing a portion of proceeds to our organization. To learn more, call us or visit [loghousemuseum.info](http://loghousemuseum.info).

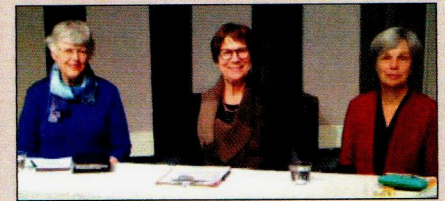


## On the map in Japan

Displaying our Log House Museum as shown in her Japanese guidebook to Seattle and Portland is Tokomo Izumi of Tokyo, Japan. Izumi, staying for the school year in Salem, Ore., visited us on Nov. 24, 2013. Those who stop by the museum come from as close as a few blocks away to countries on the other side of the world. Many from far-away places find us via guidebook listings and maps.

## Not-so little women

Presenting context for ArtsWest's production of "Little Women" on Dec. 5, 2013, are (from left) Edie Neeson, past president of ArtsWest and an expert on the Abolitionist family of Louisa May Alcott; moderator Madalyn Mincks and Judy Bentley, our past president and co-author of *Free Boy*, the story of a young slave in the Washington Territory during the Civil War.



## Up for sale

The first week in December 2013, Paragon REA, real-estate broker for Tom Lin, Alki Homestead owner, posted a huge "for sale" sign on the 110-year-old property. The city landmark, closed since a January 2009 fire partially damaged it, is the parent structure of our museum building. Hopes are high that a heritage-minded buyer or buyers will step forward to restore it.

# FOOTPRINTS

Newsletter of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society  
c/o "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum  
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## ***What's coming this spring and summer 2014***

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|---------------------------------|---------------------|--|
| <b>Friday, April 4</b> .....    | 4-6 p.m. ....       | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Judy Bentley (see page 3)                    |
| <b>Saturday, April 12</b> ..... | 6-8 p.m. ....       | Volunteer Thank-You Reception, Youngstown Flats (see page 7)   |
| <b>Friday, May 2</b> .....      | 4-6 p.m. ....       | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Mike Hickey and Arleen Williams (see page 3) |
| <b>Monday, May 19</b> .....     | 6:30-8:30 p.m. .... | Lou Whittaker presentation and film, "A Life in the Mountains," West Seattle High School Theatre (see page 3)            |
| <b>Friday, June 6</b> .....     | 10:30 a.m. ....     | A major event, details to come!  |
| <b>Friday, June 6</b> .....     | 4-6 p.m. ....       | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Brenda Peterson (see page 3)                 |
| <b>Sunday, June 22</b> .....    | 1-5 p.m. ....       | "If These Walls Could Talk," tour of The Gatewood Bed & Breakfast (see page 3)   |
| <b>Friday, July 4</b> .....     | noon .....          | Annual Picnic, Log House Museum, 3003 61st Ave. S.W.   |
| <b>Friday, July 11</b> .....    | 4-6 p.m. ....       | "Words, Writers & West Seattle," Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Harold Taw (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!**