What a Gala!

Have you purchased your tickets yet for our Champagne Gala Brunch? Don’t wait long:
- The early-bird deadline for $75 tickets is Wednesday, Oct. 8, 2014. Here’s what’s in store:
  - Music-scene panel hosted by Marty Riemer, asking luminaries why they live in West Seattle.
  - Presentation by three Schmitzes on the family’s West Seattle legacy of civic duty and gratitude.
  - Golden Ticket Drawing to win a totem-pole cruise for two to Alaska aboard the MS Westerdam.
  - Totem Red and Totem White wine and Totem Breakfast Blend coffee for purchase.
  - Inspiring Live Auction surprises.

Order tickets and get event details by calling 206-938-5293 or visiting www.loghousemuseum.info.
For info on sponsors, see the back page!

(From left) Vicki Schmitz-Block, her son Dietrich Schmitz and her daughter Julie Schmitz Broker will speak about their family’s indelible legacy of civic duty and gratitude.
The sky's the limit

When I look back on our June 6 totem ceremony, what comes to mind is a scene that brings me a grin and deep joy. No, it's not my emcee's-eye view of the 1,300 people witnessing the unveiling. Instead, it's a scene that kept repeating itself afterward, on nearly every day over the summer.

It's of one or more children, hand in hand with parents or other relatives, strolling along the sidewalk next to our museum, stopping at the beautifully restored pole, raising their gaze, pointing at the totem characters and recounting the event with awe. Each time, on their lips or in their minds has nestled a profound, three-word statement: "I was there."

What more powerful gift of heritage can we give future generations? There is no guarantee, but I bet that most of the 900 elementary students at the unveiling will recall the experience well into their twilight years, each walking by the pole and sharing with their grandchildren those three magical words.

Getting there

How is such a thing made possible? We need only look to the classic three T's: time, talent and treasure. These are the gifts brought by each of you -- you who have volunteered your time, who have lent your expertise, who have contributed crucial dollars -- to fulfill our mission: promoting local heritage through education, preservation and advocacy.

A wealth of ways

You have the opportunity to keep this magic alive. It's our Champagne Gala Brunch on Saturday, Nov. 8, at Salty's on Alki. There, you will discover a wealth of ways to get inspired by what we all have done and hope to do in the decades to come. Please join us. (See page 1 and our website for details.)

It's no accident that the Gala theme of "Rebirth" is directly tied to our totem pole. A potent symbol to link our past to our future, it allows us to embrace and enhance our community -- and to feel the warmth of hope while the child within us looks to the sky.

Clay Eals, executive director

In our 30th year, we are grateful to all: past, present and future!

Hello, members and friends! Welcome to this lovely fall. We have an exciting lineup of activities, and I hope you can participate in some or all of the events. Please check out the calendar on the back page.

It is so important to our membership that this is the 30th anniversary of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. Founded by visionaries such as Elliott Couden and Joan Mraz, our organization has grown in many ways, all because of members and volunteers, including you, contributing both in-kind and with direct dollars. We are grateful to all: past, present and future!

As we mark the 30th anniversary with our Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 15, I invite you to come celebrate and commemorate our founding and our future. We will have a special memorial to honor Joan Mraz, who passed away on Feb. 24, and founding board member Jerry Robinson, who passed away on May 26.

Of course, we also will vote to elect new officers and fill vacant board positions. If you are interested, or know of anyone interested, in becoming an officer or trustee, please contact me for further information at marcyjohnsen@comcast.net.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Marcy Johnsen, board president
Help us honor founders Nov. 15 during Annual Meeting at Southwest Library

Two inspiring figures in the history of our organization will be celebrated at our 30th anniversary Annual Meeting.

The event runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014, at the Southwest branch of Seattle Public Library, 9010 35th Ave. S.W. Refreshments will be served.

We will honor the memory of art teacher Joan Bailey Mraz, our co-founder with Elliott Couden in 1984, and of newspaper publisher Jerry Robinson, who served as a founding board member.

Also on the agenda will be the election of officers and new board members for 2015, along with changes in the organization’s bylaws. Members are encouraged to attend, and the public is welcome.

Other passages

We sadly note the passing of these members and supporters of our organization: Glenna Gould, Nov. 1, 2013, age 94; Herb Blackinton, July 4, 2014, age 71; Betty Broughton, July 28, 2014, age 85; and Audrey Taylor, Sept. 6, 2014, age 90.

Year two of ‘Words’

After full year around the sun, series features genres galore

Join us for the popular “Words, Writers & West Seattle” series. It’s the first Friday evening of each month at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village.

The October 2014 installment opens the second year of this free series. All sessions run from 5 to 7 p.m.

Series chair Dora-Faye Hendricks books future installments. Contact her at 206-280-9983.

If you buy any book while attending, 10 percent of proceeds go to our historical society. Coming up:


Friday, Nov. 7, 2014, Sandi Doughton, Full Rip 9.0 (Sasquatch Books, 2013, science)


Friday, Jan. 2, 2015, Christine Brant, Red and Grey (Dark Dragon Publishing, 2007, adult fantasy)

Friday, Feb. 6, 2015, Theresa McCormick, A Far Cry from Here: Growing Up and Out of Fundamentalism (University Book Store Press, 2014, memoir)

Ye Olde shop is new again at our museum

The focus area of our Log House Museum’s “Telling Our Westside Stories” exhibit has been transformed into a miniature version of the waterfront landmark the Ye Olde Curiosity Shop, founded in 1899 by West Seattle’s J.E. “Daddy” Standley. The downtown tourist store will be closed from October 2014 through June 2015 for seawall construction. The focus area at our museum is curated by Peg Boettcher, “chief wrangler” of the shop. Come try out the Charlie Chaplin nickelodeon! (We supply the nickels.)
The unveiling of the Admiral totem pole on Friday, June 6, 2014, at our Log House Museum was made possible

By your generosity!

Event draws 1,300, including 900 students from Alki, Schmitz Park and Lafayette elementary schools

Mayor Ed Murray, King County Executive Dow Constantine, Duwamish Tribe among two-dozen official unveilers

To see real-time and time-lapse video of the unveiling, and a list of all the dignitaries, visit www.loghousemuseum.info:
The story:

Our newly restored totem pole is a replica of a pole carved in about 1901 by natives of the coastal island region of British Columbia and brought to Belvedere View Point Park in 1939 by West Seattleite Joseph E. "Daddy" Standley.

Carved in 1966 from a Schmitz Park log by Boeing engineers Michael Morgan and Bob Fleischman, this replica stood at Belvedere View Point Park on Admiral Way from 1966 to 2006.

We thank Artech Fine Art Services, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, John Bennett, Seattle City Council member Tom Rasmussen, Seattle Parks and Recreation, Alki Lumber and countless other donors and volunteers for making it possible for us to preserve and raise this West Seattle icon.

Thank you!
**Holy Rosary 60th**
Touring Aki on Aug. 6, 2014, is Holy Rosary Class of 1954; (from left) Joanne Blakefield-Road, Dave Reid, Sister Gerard (Francis Cusack), Bill Evans, Bev O'Neil-Ryan, George Nokes, Robin Jacobson, Lottie Nokes, Linda Berry-Blondin, Jerry Vandenbarg, Barbara Stickle-Maines, Mike Maines, Dennis Efron, Murphy, Neil Prossier and Mike Dirmann.

**Tour on the Horizon**
Former West Seattleite and Seattle City Council member Phyliss Lamphere addresses 25 Horizon House residents during a four-hour bus tour of West Seattle and White Center on May 1, 2014, sponsored by our historical society. Several residents of the First Hill retirement home have been interview subjects for programs at the facility this year.

**Doc talk**
Seattle filmmakers Yasu and Sandy Osawa speak to a crowd of 100 on Sept. 6, 2014, at High Point Neighborhood House after a screening of their Duwamish Tribe documentary “Princess Angeline” sponsored by West Seattle Meaningful Movies and our organization.

**Grand time at Gatewood**
The June 22, 2014, “If These Walls Could Talk” tour of the 1910 Craftsman lodge known as the Gatewood Bed and Breakfast was true to its name. Representatives of all five families who have lived in the massive structure were present to tell the stories. Also, King County archivist Greg Lange (left photo, at right) provided details about the property before the lodge was built. Providing musical entertainment were (right) volunteer pianist Verona Ryan and singer Peggy Clark Wortman of the Clark family that lived there in the 1940s. Nearly 100 attended the annual tour, sponsored by our organization. Many thanks to the Haynes family! (Photos by Brad Chrisman)

**Art wrap**
Aki Art Fair planners gather Aug. 7, 2014, at our museum for a debrief: (back, from left) Ralph Heitz, Betty Williams, David and Elaine Hutchinson, (center, from left) Jeff Jolly, Giovanna Souers, Frances Gifford, Chad Redmond, Lori Dillon; (front, from left) Woody Moses, Lynn Shimamoto and Scott Walker.

**Down by our Riverside**
Frank Zuvela (red shirt), who grew up in the Riverside neighborhood of West Seattle, regales a group of 25 on Aug. 16, 2014, during his annual tour of the hillside community beneath and just south of the West Seattle Bridge, sponsored by our historical society.

**A new rail without fail**
Eduardo Reyes (left) and David Mazak of Dufour Construction of West Seattle carefully measure the distances between sections of peeled logs as they construct a new pair of front railings for our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum. The project was funded by 4Culture with a significant in-kind contribution by Dufour Construction.
The building of ‘a West Seattle kind of bridge’

It was a story too big for eight panelists to tell in two hours. But we got much of the story’s emotion, challenge and humor on the record.

“Bridging the Gap: The Full Story Told by Those Who Were There” made for a rousing evening July 14, 2014, exactly 30 years from when the high-level West Seattle Bridge fully opened. Here are edited excerpts:

Bob Royer, ex-deputy mayor: As far back as 1916, West Seattle was clamoring, not for any bridge, but they wanted a high bridge. They didn’t want to mess with all of the stuff in the tide flats and all the boats coming in. In 1924, they got a lower-level bascule bridge, and six years later, in 1930, they got another. It became part of the West Seattle culture to be dissatisfied with the bridge.

Terry Finn, ex-editor, West Seattle Herald: In West Seattle, there’s always been a feeling of separateness and, to some degree, isolation, and I have to confess, a little bit of paranoia, because historically West Seattle has always felt mistreated or not adequately treated by the rest of the Seattle.

Charles Royer, ex-mayor: When I ran in 1977, I said, “If you build this freeway to West Seattle, we’re going to lose those little, affordable houses, it’s going to accelerate the gentrification, and the character will go away.” And also said we didn’t have the money. So I carried West Seattle in the primary, being the only one of 14 candidates to say I couldn’t build a bridge.

Jack Block, ex-Port of Seattle commissioner: A lot of the steel ships were notorious for hitting the bulkheads. It was very difficult for the tugboats to get between the bridge abutments and the vessel. It was always a gamble trying to get through there. We were all kind of holding our breath, and sure enough, finally the good captain (Rolf Neslund, pilot of the freighter Chavez in June 1978) did us all a favor.

Royer: When the ship hit the span, I got to issue my first military order when the police dispatcher asked me what to do. I said, “Seize the ship!” So we did. We took the ship into custody and put a $5 million bond on it. That was a really wild night. I had not planned to be Charley Royer the bridge-builder at that early point in my mayoralty. At some point, we would build it, but I didn’t plan for it to start that soon.

Gerry Johnson, ex-aide to Sen. Warren Magnuson: The senator and I both were to fly back to Washington D.C. the morning after the ship hit the span, but the travel was not something at his age that he relished. It always put him in a very bad mood. I arrived and heard him in the living room singing to himself, and he had the newspaper spread out. He stopped singing, cleared his throat, coughed and said, “You know what this means? We can fix this now. It’s an obstruction to navigation.” And off we went.

Tom Mahoney, ex-project engineer: One week after the ship hit the span, my life changed from having eight or 10 people working for me to 120 employees in 13 different companies in 10 different offices focused on your bridge. We hit the ground running.

Tom Rasmussen, ex-staff to Jeanette Williams, City Council member: Jeanette had no doubt it was going to be a high-level bridge. No rebuild, no mid-level bridge or anything like that. She said, basically, “This is our chance to get it. A lot of people have tried, and they’ve failed,” and she went to work calling in all of her political chits.

Bruce Wasell, ex-project engineer: That became the thing that really was close to her heart. She saw that the water going under the bridge was clogged with various types of boats, and she wanted to make sure there was good mobility.

Royer: I wanted a really beautiful bridge, the Golden Gate of the Northwest, way beyond our reach. But what we got is a good bridge, a workman-like bridge. Maybe it’s a West Seattle kind of bridge.

Charles Royer

Visit loghousemuseum.info for our free Native American videos of the July 14, 2014, bridge panel.

(Left photo) Volunteer Bob Carney and Sarah Baylinson, museum manager, install our “Bridging the Gap” photo exhibit at Hotwire Online Coffeehouse. The 19-photo exhibit ran from mid-June through early August 2014, in honor of the 30th anniversary of the West Seattle Bridge. (Right photo) Adele Arutunian (left) and Sofie Phillips, eighth graders at Madison Middle School, model our “Bridging the Gap” T-shirts while volunteering at the June 21, 2014, MoCA (Morgan Community Association) festival. Only a few of the shirts, in sizes L and XL, remain for sale in our museum gift shop.
What’s coming this fall and beyond

Friday, Oct. 3, 2014 .......... 5-7 p.m. ........................................... “Words, Writers & West Seattle,” featuring Susan Rich, Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, 2600 S.W. Barton St.

Friday, Nov. 7, 2014 .......... 5-7 p.m. ........................................... “Words, Writers & West Seattle,” featuring Sandi Doughton, Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, 2600 S.W. Barton St.

Saturday, Nov. 8, 2014 ...... 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m. .................................. Champagne Gala Brunch, Salty’s on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. S.W.

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2014 ..... 10:30 a.m.-noon .................................. Annual Meeting, Southwest Library, 9010 35th Ave. S.W.

Friday, Dec. 5, 2014 .......... 5-7 p.m. ........................................... “Words, Writers & West Seattle,” featuring Karen S. Robbins and Sally Marts, Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, 2600 S.W. Barton St.

Friday, Jan. 2, 2015 .......... 5-7 p.m. ........................................... “Words, Writers & West Seattle,” featuring Christine Brant, Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, 2600 S.W. Barton St.

Friday, Feb. 6, 2015 .......... 5-7 p.m. ........................................... “Words, Writers & West Seattle,” Barnes & Noble Westwood Village, featuring Theresa McCormick, 2600 S.W. Barton St.

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!

Big thanks to our 2014 sponsors and supporters for the Champagne Gala Brunch:

[List of sponsors and supporters]