Join us at ‘landmark’ Gala Nov. 5
Hollywood-themed brunch at Salty’s salutes our community icons; don’t miss early-bird deadline of Oct. 5 to save $15 on Gala tickets

The Admiral Theater, the Alki Homestead, our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum – all are city landmarks that exist because of your support of our historical society.

You can celebrate our landmarks and help keep the good work going at our 2016 Champagne Gala Brunch, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 5, at Salty’s on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave. S.W.

For the Gala crowd, West Seattle’s Connie Thompson, 42-year veteran of KOMO-TV, will interview Jim Bonholzer, who worked the opening night of the Admiral Theater in 1942.

Our quiz panel, “Wait, Wait, West Seattle ... Don’t Tell Me,” returns with celebrity contestants.

Thanks to the moviehouse theme, Hollywood glitz and fun will infuse the program. Early-bird tickets are $95 by Oct. 5, $110 thereafter.

Golden Tickets, at $100, for a chance at “Choose Your Cruise” are on sale now through Gala. For more info, visit loghousemuseum.info.

The “Loving Our Landmarks” theme graphic for our 2016 Champagne Gala Brunch was created by Kelsey Green.
Our landmark Gala

What is a landmark? The city of Seattle has a strict definition. It’s a building or place that meets up to six criteria relating to significant historical design and impact. More informally, I think of a landmark as something that tells us we are home.

No matter the definition, landmarks are at the core of our organizational mission. Small wonder, then, that the theme for our 2016 Champagne Gala Brunch is “Loving Our Landmarks.” It’s a good fit for many of our accomplishments, including saving the Admiral Theater, the Alki Homestead and our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum from the relentless wrecking ball. The theme also snuggly references the crown jewels of the West Seattle Junction – the Campbell Building and Hamm Building – that we are nominating for city landmark status.

But “Loving Our Landmarks” drives at more than the literal. It digs deeply into our soul. We all yearn for the sense of home, of belonging, of sure-footed identification with the place where we choose to spend our days and nights.

Think about the word “landmark.” It’s easy to see that it’s something that marks our land. That suggests permanence, which in turn suggests eternity. Nothing lasts forever, as the saying goes. Yet we cherish landmarks. We keep special places standing so that our progeny can experience the rooted soul of community in the midst of constant change.

At our Gala, we build relationships that form our true currency. I invite you to come share your time and treasure at our Gala so that you can celebrate the landmarks we have, the landmarks that (with your help) we soon will establish and, yes, the landmarks that our children and grandchildren will secure long after we are gone.

This year’s Gala image is the Admiral Theater, which is nearing its centennial (the lobby served as the Portola Theater starting in 1919). The Admiral landmark campaign was our first big act of advocacy, five years after our 1984 founding. Expect Hollywood-style glitz at this year’s Gala, because the Admiral is the cinematic home for the proverbial “stuff that dreams are made of.”

What landmarks are in your dreams?

Clay Eals, executive director

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Join us at Nov. 12 Annual Meeting to learn and vote!

Hello, members, supporters and friends,

We have had a lot going on this summer, and there’s a lot more to come through the fall and early winter. A couple of things I’d like to remind you of are coming soon.

Our Gala Committee has worked diligently since last fall on our annual Champagne Gala Brunch on Saturday, Nov. 5, 2016 at Salty’s on Alki. With the “Loving our Landmarks” theme, the Gala promises to be a big hit!

The other crucial event comes one week later: our Annual Meeting for members and the community. Want to become a voting member? Please come! It will be at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 12, at Providence Mount St. Vincent, 4831 35th Ave. S.W. After our usual business session, we will have a great presentation on the Sisters of Providence and the history of the 1924 building.

So important during our Annual Meeting is the election of new officers and trustees. At this time of year, we gather to discuss memberships, the budget, current and future plans and potential changes in the bylaws.

We are led by volunteer board members who set policy for the organization. That’s why it’s so important for you to come to the Annual Meeting and vote. This month, we are creating the committee to nominate officers and trustees for 2017 and beyond. If you are interested in helping with the nominations, contact Peder Nelson, our current vice-president, at fensterws@gmail.com.

If you are looking for a place to volunteer your time and expertise, our board might be just the ticket for you. Please contact our staff or one of the officers or trustees, and we will contact you!

Marcy Johnsen, board president
206-909-9366, marcyjohnsen@icloud.com

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We deeply appreciate the financial support of:
Sisters’ story
Enjoy a rare peek inside the historic Mount on Saturday, Nov. 12, at our Annual Meeting

Rarely have you had such an eye-opening opportunity as our Annual Meeting on Saturday morning, Nov. 12, 2016.

Members and others interested are invited to gather at the historic Providence Mount St. Vincent, the prominent, two-square-block complex on 35th Avenue Southwest with a stunning view of northern West Seattle, downtown, Elliott Bay and Mount Baker.

Our outlook on Nov. 12, however, will be more inward and reveal insights that the public seldom experiences. Meeting in the chapel, we will enjoy a custom talk and slide show on the history of the Sisters of Providence religious community, founded in 1843 in Montreal, established in 1856 in the Pacific Northwest and embodied in West Seattle with construction of “The Mount” in 1924.

Providing the presentation in the cavernous sanctuary will be one of the Sisters of Providence and a Mount staff member. They will cover the visionary western migration of the Sisters of Providence as well as an overview of the immense, nationally recognized living community that includes 65 Sisters of Providence, 400 adult residents receiving “resident-directed” care and their families, 125 children taking part in intergenerational learning, 500 staff from 50 countries and 200 volunteers.

This program will follow our business session that includes the election of officers and trustees for 2017 and beyond, consideration of bylaws changes and other reports.

The Annual Meeting runs from 10:30 a.m. to noon. For a smaller group, the gathering will continue with a tour of the Providence Archives, which feature state-of-the-art preservation of artifacts on religious activities, health-care and low-income housing. Collections date from 1856 from six western states and El Salvador. The photo collection alone tops 50,000 images.

To attend, please arrive before 10:30 to allow time to find the Mount’s third-floor chapel. Participation in the archives tour is limited and by reservation only. Call 206-938-5293 and leave a message to get on the archives tour list.

Our Annual Meeting in the third-floor chapel (above) at Providence Mount St. Vincent, 4831 35th Ave. S.W., starts at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 12, 2016. Be sure to arrive early to find your way to the chapel.

With no end in sight, first Friday author series enters fourth year in October

Can time have passed so quickly? “Words, Writers & West Seattle” got its start in October 2013, meaning that the next talk – by Steven Bender, on his Mea Culpa, Lessons on Law and Regret from U.S. History, at 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 7, 2016, at Barnes & Noble Westwood Village – will kick off the series’ fourth year!

Kudos to former president Judy Bentley for helping launch the series and especially to board member Dora-Faye Hendricks for serving as chair from the very beginning. Thanks also to Barnes & Noble for being our steady venue. For a schedule, visit loghousemuseum.info!
Here we present excerpts of a talk by our Advisory Council member Ken Workman: “A Conversation with the Great-Great-Great-Great Grandson of Chief Seattle.” The conversation, moderated by Clay Eals, our executive director, took place Aug. 21, 2016, at Delridge Library as part of our “SouthWest Stories” series. Only one-sixth of Workman’s talk appears here. See loghousemuseum.info for video and a transcript of the full session. (The video was produced by Klem Daniels Productions of West Seattle.)

‘Seattle is the castle’

Ken Workman, the great-great-great grandson of Chief Seattle, provides Duwamish insights in wide-ranging public conversation

What is the true pronunciation of ‘Seattle’?

This is a family name, and there’s all kinds of ways that people could say it, and that’s fine. In the modern vernacular, people say S’ath. And some people from the other side of the mountains say, See-ah-k. William DeShaw, Chief Seattle’s grandson, who married into the family, is quoted as saying, “The old man said it more like Seattle than Suh-at-tlee.”

If you look at the name Seattle, and you invert that “e” to a schwa, an upside-down “e,” and you put a hyphen between that and the “at,” and you put a hyphen between the “at” and the trailing “ile,” you’re pretty close. Suh-AK-ul. If you can’t say Suh-AK-ul, then you mash all these things together and end up with Seattle.

The irony is that in our culture, when people pass, you don’t mention their name. If you do, they’re not allowed into the second stage of death. In the first stage, what I call purgatory, you go below earth and are forgotten.

When you’re forgotten, you can go into the second stage. This is the good part because you can come back in your descendants. You’re actually doing people a favor by forgetting, by not saying the word.

So if you want to say Seattle any way you want, that’s fine because you’re not saying it right. You’re helping out. So I want to thank you.

Talk about where you grew up, the schools, your family.

I was born in 1954 at Harborview, and my birth certificate says I was born on Alki. My brother, my sister and stepbrother and I all grew up on 21st, where Dawson intersects 21st.

Behind that is Puget Park. In the 1950s and 1960s, the trees and the underbrush weren’t grown up like it is today. It’s hard to get through there. When I was a child, you could see across the park, the ferns were out, the raccoons were in the trees, the blue heron were everywhere, the creek ran open, and it was absolute heaven for us kids. Mom would say, “Go outside and play. Get out of the house,” and that’s what we did.

We played all day in the woods. We made tree houses, we had rope swings. So all this area is home. The woods behind our house were like a forest, and we had a complete run, all this freedom. There weren’t any restrictions or fences. Today, all the houses are crammed in really tight, so it’s really tough on kids. You have to go down to the playground.

I went to the old Cooper School, the brick building on Delridge Way. Living up on the hill, when winter came, we would slide down. There was a chain-link fence, and you’d hit the fence at the bottom. That’s where we learned how to throw balls against cement walls and have them bounce back. It was a great time.

In the big earthquake in 1965, it was early in the morning. I had just gone inside to a drinking fountain. All of a sudden the school started shaking. I’m looking up. “Oh, they’re moving it!” That’s because my parents had just purchased a house up by California Avenue. They had put the house on a truck and had trucked it over here to Pigeon Point. So that’s what I had in my head. “They’re moving the school, and I’m in it.” So I went running out there.

Junior high was over at Louisa Boren, a brand new school. Everybody walked everywhere. We had trails all the way down.

Next speakers for SouthWest Stories

Talks are at 2 p.m. Sundays. Arrive early to assure a seat.

Oct. 16, 2016: Larry Gossett, King County Council member, “High Point and the Homeboys,” High Point Library, 3411 S.W. Raymond St.

Nov. 20, 2016: Edie Neeson, ArtsWest’s co-founder and first executive director, “Setting the Stage for Success: The Inspiring Story of ArtsWest,” West Seattle Library, 2306 42nd Ave. S.W.


You went to junior high at a school named for one of the pioneer settlers, but you had no idea of this at the time. What did your parents tell you about your background when you were young?

They said, “You’re Duwamish,” and that was it. “Don’t ask any more questions.” When we did ask, “What does that mean?” “Indian? How much Indian are we?” my mom didn’t know a whole bunch. Then when I said, “I’m going to ask Grandma,” I was told, “Don’t do that.”

That’s typical in our culture, because the trauma was so great back in the 1860s right up into the 1930s and 1940s. You did not want to be Indian. You wanted to do everything you could to blend in and look like everybody else.

It was a cultural thing, and we’re working our way out of it. I’m glad to see that people across the world are coming back. You can be yourself again. You can be a native person. You can be who you are, know who your ancestors are.

After junior high, you moved up north.

We moved to the northern boundary of the Duwamish Tribe, about 185th and Aurora. Southern boundary would be down by Sea-Tac.

Richmond Beach was the beach we would go to. My high-school girlfriend liked to go down there and lie in the sun, and I couldn’t stand it, so I’d throw rocks in the water and look across Puget Sound and wonder “What’s over there?” Little did I know I was looking at (the grave of) my grandpa, Chief Seattle.

When did you start digging into Duwamish culture and learning about the tribe and its history?

That probably was about only eight or nine years ago.

So most of your life was not a big deal.

No, it wasn’t, because we learned early on, “Don’t ask the question.” Finally, when I was into my 50s, I asked my mother, “Hey, what’s the deal? You’ve got to tell me.” She said, “I don’t know. Ask your aunt.” My aunt had a family tree created by the Duwamish Tribe for all its members, and I had mine, and so I recognized all the people on the tree. But I kept going back and got to the top, and there’s these strange names.

A co-worker at Boeing was into genealogy and said, “Let me see that.” He goes online then says, “Ken, you better look at this.” That’s when the whole Chief Seattle thing came out.

In my line, every generation married into the white, so every generation got split. You end up with lots of white skin, not nearly as much melanin as we normally would have, although it’s very easy to go out in the sun. I just turn dark. Wintertime I turn white.

In my family we’ve said forever, “There’s royalty in the family.” My mom goes, “It’s German royalty. We have a castle.” So I went back and said, “Mom, it’s not German. It’s Indian.” And so Seattle is the castle.

Did this hit you hard at the time?

It’s interesting, but it doesn’t do any good. It’s a family name, the city is here, the world knows this place by this name, and it so happens that it’s in my family tree. On my white side, I’m related to Jesse Hiatt, the founder of the Delicious apple. When you go into a grocery store and there’s a Delicious apple, that’s on my Quaker side.

You’re one of the few Duwamish who can speak Lushootseed. Why did you embrace that, and what did it come to mean to you?

I concentrate on the language because of the trees out there. They haven’t heard these words for a long time. Here in West Seattle we are extremely fortunate. This place is special. Those trees are still there. We still have Puget Park, Schmitz Park. You’ve got the Log House Museum, whose logs are older than Seattle itself.

For thousands of years, what you see here today, it’s a blink of an eye to us. It’s nothing in our terms of time. Everybody says, “Oh, we’ve been here for 160 years.” Yeah: yesterday.

For all of the thousands of years that people would pass, we would put them into the stump of a tree or a crock of a tree, and if you were really rich, a high-status person, you got to be put in a tree in a canoe. You would decay naturally and go down into the ground.

Everybody around here knows that when the spring rains come, all that water goes down, and the trees suck all that water up. So our people are in the roots of the trees. When the wind blows through those trees, those are the sounds of our ancestors. Sometimes they’re angry, but sometimes there just a nice, gentle blow.

So when Grandpa said in his 1854 speech that white people will never be alone, that we will always be here, it wasn’t a figure of speech. It was literal. We’re part of nature. We all are. When I look at these old buildings, in the Junction and downtown, massive timbers, I say, “I wonder who’s in there.” These things are spiritual to us. Those big timbers should be held with reverence. Don’t go burn ’em up. Save the trees.

For more, visit loghousemuseum.info.
R

omination begins on landmark Admiral Theater

With all required city building permits in hand, upgrades, expansion and renovations of the Historic Admiral Theater in West Seattle began on Sept. 19, with completion expected in November.

Moviegoers will be able to see films at the Admiral during the construction period, according to Jeff Brein, managing partner of Far Away Entertainment, the Bainbridge Island-based group that operates the theater.

“Our principal goal is to keep the theater open during this process, albeit on a limited basis,” Brein says. “Initially, weekday films will be presented in a single theater, with expanded schedules on weekends. As the project progresses and more auditoriums are readied, we expect the number of movie offerings to increase.”

Brein and partner Sol Baron have worked with building owner Marc Gartin for several years to plan a history-based renovation of the iconic 1942 theater, for which our historical society secured city landmark status in 1989. The Gartin family purchased and reopened the theater in 1992 after a three-year closure.

The theater’s two-auditorium footprint will expand to four and feature stadium seating in two larger auditoriums. Enhancements will include state-of-the-art digital laser projection systems, a 3D auditorium, Dolby Digital sound, new seating with cup holders and upgraded carpeting, concessions area and restrooms.

“We have been working with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society,” Brein says, “and plan to reveal and eventually restore the original, interior auditorium murals featuring underwater appliques that have been hidden since the theater was twinned in 1973. We also have been working together on other improvements, including repainting of the lobby and preservation of its 1942 mural of Captain George Vancouver and other artwork. Other enhancements will include a revised traffic pattern for ticket sales, more lobby open space, improved theater floor lighting and an upgrade of the theater’s marquee.”

The project team includes Swinterton Builders, CDA Architecture and our historical society, as well as the Seattle Landmarks Preservation Board, which approved the renovation in June. Credit also goes to King County Council member Joe McDermott and King County Executive Dow Constantine, both West Seattle residents, for helping secure a $95,000 “Saving Landmarks” grant from 4Culture last November.

“We are thrilled that the many improvements will allow the Admiral Theater to thrive well into the future and can occur without harming – and actually exposing and showcasing more of – the building’s historic features,” says Clay Eals, our executive director.

“We salute Far Away Entertainment and the Gartin family ownership for their perseverance and heart,” he said. “This renovation project and the existence of the theater itself wouldn’t be possible without the grassroots effort that saved it in 1989, and the history of this moviehouse, an art deco masterpiece, is a shining example of how neighbors engaging in the landmark process can add economic vitality to the city while building community pride.”

4 CULTURE

A portion of the Admiral Theater renovation is made possible by a $95,000 “Saving Landmarks” grant from 4Culture, King County’s cultural-resource agency.

Gala greeting from the Admiral

A crowd of 60 at our Gala Preview Party on Aug. 24, 2016, at Youngstown Flats hears an update on Admiral Theater renovation from (upper left) Sol Baron and Jeff Brein of Far Away Entertainment. Those attending included (left, from left) Katie Krause of sponsor Daystar Retirement Village and Advisory Council members Jill Wakefield, retired Seattle Colleges chancellor, and Diane Tice, co-founder of The Pacific Institute, also a sponsor. Gala tickets are on sale, and the early-bird rate is $95 through Oct. 5. (Photos by Diane Venli)
Canoes galore on Alki Beach
Up to 100 native families display their canoes on July 27, 2016, at Alki Beach as part of the regional Paddle to Nisqually (Olympia). The tribal members left the canoes on the beach overnight while enjoying singing, dancing and food at the Muckleshoot reservation between Auburn and Enumclaw, then departed Alki the next morning. This year was the first time since 2012 that the annual event brought the canoes to Alki. The canoes started from both sides of Vancouver Island, the Georgia Strait and the Olympic Peninsula.

Outdoor outreach
Mike Dean fills a popcorn bag while (from left) Holly Werran and Suzanne Hartley, all volunteers, serve customers July 23 at the West Seattle Outdoor Movies, for which we were concessionaire for the six-film series this summer and last at the Hotwire Online Coffeehouse courtyard. The venue in 2017 will be the West Seattle YMCA Festival Street.

Riverside like new
Nick Santa (left) and his grandfather Frank Zuvela stand at the Riverside Memorial, the starting point of our annual Historic Riverside Walking Tour, which took place this year on Aug. 13. Santa volunteered more than 100 hours to clean up and restore the appearance of the West Marginal Way memorial, which was dedicated in January 2012.

Legend-ary visit
Bob Kendrick, president of the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum in Kansas City, speaks to 75 at Kenyon Hall on Sept. 7, 2016, as part of a screening of "Legends of the Road," benefiting us. The in-progress documentary on education and racial issues is directed by ex-Chief Seath High School teacher Gary Thomsen of West Seattle.

Diamond in the rough
(Lefl) Volunteer Bob Camey (yellow shirt) orients board member Jenni Bodnar and husband Steve to our ongoing exhibit in the Camp Long lodge at a 75-year celebration at the West Seattle park on Sept. 10, 2016. (Above) Among diamond-anniversary speakers was Mayor Ed Murray, who grew up on Alki. See video on our website.
FOOTPRINTS the newsletter of the
Southwest Seattle
Historical Society
c/o "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum
3003 61st Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98116-2810
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Do we have your e-mail address? Let us know so that you can stay up-to-date! To get on the list, please e-mail volunteer@loghousemuseum.info.

Give the gift of a membership! It's easy. Visit us at loghousemuseum.info, click "Membership," print the form, fill it out and mail it in with a check or credit-card number. Or sign up in person at an event or at our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum.

Calendar: Fall 2016
Washington Archeology Month
October, events TBD
SouthWest Stories
Sundays, Oct. 16, Nov. 20, Dec. 18, 2 p.m.
various Seattle library branches
Words, Writers & West Seattle
Fridays, Oct. 7, Nov. 4, Dec. 2, 5-7 p.m.,
Barnes & Noble Westwood Village
‘Welcome Home’ exhibit
ongoing, noon-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday
"Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum

National Native American Month
November, events TBD
2016 Champagne Gala Brunch
Saturday, Nov. 5, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
Salty’s on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave SW
2016 Annual Meeting
Saturday, Nov. 12, 10:30 a.m.-noon
Providence Mount St. Vincent, 4831 35th Ave SW
Thanksgiving and Friday, Nov. 24-25
Museum closed
Christmas Eve and Day, Dec. 24-25
Museum closed

Eight places to buy buttons
Do you have your "We ♥ The Junction" button? They are $1 and support our Junction landmark campaign.
Find them at Coastline Burgers, Easy Street Records, Hotwire Online Coffeehouse, Husky Dell, Luna Park Cafe, Red Cup Espresso, Thunder Road Guitars and our museum. For more info and video on this inspiring campaign, visit our website, loghousemuseum.info.

Our board meetings are held at 7 p.m. the third Tuesday of the month in the South Seattle College President’s Board Room. You are welcome to attend!

Big thanks to our sponsors and supporters:

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