

Footprints

on the sands of time ...

On Nov. 18, celebrate 20th anniversary of our Log House Museum at Annual Meeting -- Page 4

ISSUE C

SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY (WWW.LOGHOUSEMUSEUM.INFO)

FALL 2017

Join us at Gala on Saturday, Nov. 4

Annual brunch at Salty's salutes 'The Power of Community' --> Don't miss early-bird deadline of Oct. 5 to save \$30 on Gala tickets

The Admiral Theater, the Campbell and Hamm buildings in the West Seattle Junction, the Alki Homestead, our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum -- all are city landmarks that exist because of your support of our historical society.



KOMO's Connie Thompson will interview Jack Miller at Gala!



Come celebrate "The Power of Community" and help keep the good heritage work going at our **2017 Champagne Gala Brunch**, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, at Salty's on Alki.

For the Gala crowd, West Seattle's **Connie Thompson**, 43-year veteran of KOMO-TV, will interview **Jack Miller**, owner of Husky Deli in the Junction and a member of our Advisory Council.

Our quiz panel, "Wait, Wait, West Seattle ... Don't Tell Me," returns with celebrity contestants.

Golden Tickets, at **\$100**, for a chance at "Choose Your Cruise" are on sale now through Gala. A maximum of only **100** tickets will be sold.

Early-bird tickets are **\$95** by Thursday, Oct. 5, and **\$125** thereafter. Purchase them at our website, loghousemuseum.info.



Gala illustration contributed by Paul Prentice

Our mission

"To promote local heritage through education, preservation and advocacy"

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FOOTPRINTS

is the official publication
of the Southwest Seattle
Historical Society.

Editor

Jeff McCord

Printing thanks to

**Where to find us**

Our home is the
"Birthplace of Seattle"
Log House Museum.

Address

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Seattle, WA 98116-2810
(at Alki Beach)

Museum hours

noon-4 p.m.
Thursday-Sunday

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museum@loghouse
museum.info

Contractors

Irene Gehring, gardener
Marian "M" Humphreys,
bookkeeper

**Want to
volunteer?**

Call or e-mail us!

Website

loghousemuseum.info

**'Like' us on
Facebook**

Log House Museum

What I've learned so far ...

After 11 weeks as executive director, I realize that never have I experienced an organization that can better outperform its resources. Though our staff is small (three people totaling nearly two full-time positions), we have one of the most active boards I've seen, and our volunteers are the best in the world! More of what I've learned so far:



❑ **Our kids are our future.** I have seen kids' faces brighten when they see our "Group Hug" photos and try to find themselves in a picture. Not only did they enjoy gathering in front of an historic building with schoolmates, but also they have learned about our collective responsibility to preserve our built environment and cultural history. I believe kids recognize this intuitively. I also have heard them telling their parents why it is important to save these buildings.

❑ **We all need to be connected.** My predecessor, Clay Eals, has helped teach me that we are all one big, interconnected family. We connect through finding common ground through our intertwined, diverse, fascinating personal and collective pasts.

'We are in good hands, and I am looking forward to our tomorrow'

Hello to members, supporters and friends, The year is moving along, with many activities working in the background with board members doing their jobs on committees, and volunteers helping with those committees and working at the museum.

We have bid our great executive director, **Clay Eals**, goodbye as an employee and are wishing him well with his next endeavors in life. We also appreciate his suggestions when we have questions about operations. With his wealth of knowledge, we do appreciate his continued connection with our organization. Be well Clay, and we love to see you when we can.

We have welcomed **Jeff McCord** as our new executive director. Jeff comes with so much experience, which was listed in the last *Footprints*.



❑ **We have an opportunity to share more stories of cultural and ethnic diversity.** We need to connect more with diverse populations and research, facilitate and tell stories that celebrate our diverse histories.

❑ **At 25 years, I am still a "newcomer" to West Seattle.** But I have forged my own history here with my family. My daughter grew up entirely in West Seattle, graduated from Pathfinder K-8 and is in her first year of high school. As families and individuals move here after us, they, too, will find that they love it here. I believe that we will have a lot to offer to young families by giving them an historical context and helping to tell their stories as they forge new lives here.

❑ **The rewards of meeting wonderful new people are boundless.** Having met several hundred people so far, I have only scratched the surface in West Seattle, White Center and South Park. I'm hoping to see many of you at our events, including our Champagne Gala Brunch on Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, at Salty's on Alki.

❑ **The best is yet to come.** Our organization is built on the amazing force of human energy. It is a fun place to work and connect. Surely we will bring many more ideas and contributions to the lovely place we live.

Jeff McCord, executive director
206-234-4357, director@loghousemuseum.info

We are in good hands, and I am looking forward to our tomorrow with Jeff.

We are ramping up for our annual **Champagne Gala Brunch** at 11 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017, at Salty's on Alki. Join us for the fun at our largest fundraiser. We would love your support.

Our Annual Meeting will follow two weeks later, at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017, at Delridge Library. It will celebrate the 20th anniversary of our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum. Please attend and participate!

Interested in serving on our board? Contact Jeff or me so that we can have a conversation.

Finally, remember that we have many great local nonprofits. Consider giving them your support and know how they impact the community.

Karen Sisson, board president
206-579-0126, karensisson12@gmail.com

We deeply appreciate
the financial support of:



New museum manager calls Alki Beach home

Amy Gorton begins in September

Alki resident and longtime museum enthusiast **Amy Gorton** is the new manager of our “Birthplace of Seattle” Log House Museum.

Gorton, who began work Sept. 7, 2017, succeeds Hannah Chavez, who served as our museum operations coordinator for one year before moving to hometown near Spokane.

“We feel really lucky to have discovered Amy,” says **Jeff McCord**, executive director, who conducted the hiring process with **Lissa Kramer**, curator. “We were drawn to her because of her enthusiastic, positive energy, her experience and education in museology and exhibit design.”

Gorton recalls always wanting to pursue a career in museology and museum studies. As an undergrad at the University of Montana Anthropology Department, she begged to be part of an advanced senior and graduate level class.

Outdoors drew her to Northwest

After discovering these interests, she began investigating top programs and knew she wanted a specific museology degree, not just a certification within an art-history degree.

She found that programs at the University of Washington and in Washington, D.C., were among the best in the country. An outdoor enthusiast, she gravitated to the Northwest,



visiting the UW campus with her sweetheart and future husband, David, and they chose to move to Seattle.

As part of her UW museology graduate degree program, Gordon lined up several internships.

Working for Highline Historical Society and other organizations, she discovered she had a specific interest in exhibit design. She later worked for MoPOP (formerly EMP), helping with interactive exhibit designs for the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame, writing content and brainstorming interactive displays. Later, she contracted with Renton History Museum and worked as an interpretation and exhibits coordinator for The Center For Wooden Boats.

‘Opportunity to wear lots of hats’

“I intentionally chose organizations where I could concentrate on hands-on projects and involvement with people,” Gorton says. “When I interviewed with the Log House Museum, I could see there is an opportunity to really grow, getting my hands on a lot of things. I like learning by doing, and it seemed like this is small organization where there’s an opportunity to wear lots of hats.”

Coincidentally, before knowing about the museum-manager opening at our organization, she and David signed a lease to live on Alki, minutes from the museum.

“I make a lot of decisions with my gut,” she says, “and I believe things happen for a reason.”

Outside of work, Gorton says she loves ice cream, seashells and animals. While securing degrees in classical civilizations and nonprofit administration at Montana, she hiked constantly and floated the Clark Fork River.

Amy Gorton began as our museum operations coordinator on Sept. 7, 2017. Visit her during our open hours: noon-4 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

Our Board of Trustees

Karen Sisson, president
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Marcy Johnsen
Kerry Korsgaard
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Nancy Sorensen
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Our Advisory Council

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Tom Rasmussen
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Carol-Ann Thornton
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Jerry Vandenberg
Carol Vincent
Jill Wakefield
Ken Workman



Sign of gratitude

Thanks to Kim Higbee, who upgraded the protection of our parking sign at the Alki Homestead lot.

Crowd tours Riverside with Frank Zuvela, after cleanup of memorial

The indefatigable Frank Zuvela (right) again drew a healthy crowd Saturday, Aug. 5, 2017, for our annual Riverside Walking Tour. With a fishing and Croatian heritage, the neighborhood sits beneath and just south of the West Seattle Bridge, along West Marginal Way. Two days earlier, volunteers (inset, from left) Carol Vincent, Judy Maginnis, Jerry Vandenberg and (foreground) Judy Bentley freshen the tour's starting point, the Riverside Memorial, which our organization acquired as a gift from the Mike Budinich family earlier this year.



The November 1993 edition of our *Footprints* newsletter previewed the campaign to seek Alki voter approval of a measure to provide funding to purchase the building that became our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum.

Number 100!

The eagle-eyed among you may notice by the Roman numeral on the cover that this is the 100th edition of our *Footprints* newsletter.

'It was 20 years ago today ...'

Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 18, at Delridge Library to focus on 1997 founding of our 'Birthplace of Seattle' Log House Museum

In a sense, it might seem that our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum has always been here -- certainly in our lifetimes, given that it was built in 1904.

But while the building itself is 113 years old, it has served as the historical museum for our Duwamish Peninsula for a much shorter span.

This fall, we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the opening of the museum, which took place with fanfare (and after years of diligent volunteer work) on Thursday, Nov. 13, 1997, the same calendar date as the day on which the founding Alki Landing Party came ashore in 1851.

You will have the opportunity to learn the full story of the establishment of our museum at our 2017 Annual Meeting, slated for **12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017**, at Delridge Library, 5423 Delridge Way S.W.

In addition to the regular business (members who are present elect board officers and trustees for 2018 and consider bylaw amendments), we

will present a program that covers the museum story. Speakers will include:

❑ **Marcy Johnsen**, former board president, who will talk about her having grown up in the log building from 1959 to 1973.

❑ **Clay Eals**, former board president and executive director, who will speak about the board campaign in 1994 to secure Alki voter approval of \$200,000 for our organization to purchase the building as part of a Metro mitigation project.

❑ **Carol Vincent**, former board president, who will address the successful campaign to raise \$875,000 in 1995-1997 to restore the building and before it could open as a museum.

❑ **Brad Chrisman**, former board vice-president, who will detail the museum's first exhibit, "Alki: Coney Island of the West."

We will look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting. Look for more details on our website and in e-mail blasts.

Slip 'n slide no more on museum's steps

Front stairway gets tread covers

For several years, the steps leading to the main entrance to the museum, as well as the steps leading to the back door, posed a hazard.

The steps are wooden, and during the rainy season they often were quite slippery, despite the adhesive stair treads that were previously used.

The historical society's Facilities Committee, after a comprehensive review of options for addressing the issue, concluded that the best solution was to install non-slip, fiberglass stair tread covers.

The board accepted the committee's recommendation, and the new stair tread covers were purchased last fall.

After a long wait for dry weather, the stair tread covers have now been installed. The new tread covers – which have a rough, non-slip surface and yellow edge markings — promise improved safety for those entering and leaving



the museum and add to the museum's professional appearance.

Thanks to committee members **Kerry Korsgaard** and **Doug Sisson** for contributing their valuable time and skill in installing the new tread covers and to Doug for installing them!

Al Bentley, chair, Facilities Committee

The new stair treads get a tryout by the feet of Facilities Committee members (from left) David Kehle, Kerry Korsgaard and Al Bentley. Your financial support made this purchase possible!



Revving up for Gala

West Seattle's Orville Johnson (above) entertains at the Aug. 30, 2017, Gala Preview Party, held at the home of Amanda and David Gilbert. Those getting an inside look at our Nov. 4 Champagne Gala Brunch and picking up the just-released printed invitations included (clockwise from upper left) Diane Tice, Ellen Johanson of The Kenney, Rob and Patricia Shiras of IT Headquarters, Ken Workman of our Advisory Council, Carly and (board vice-president) Peder Nelson and caterer Nola Nevers.

Coming full cycle -- from Log House to Longhouse

Our Saturday, Aug. 26, 2017, Log House to Longhouse bike ride encountered spectacular weather and drew an enthusiastic cadre of cyclists, including our new executive director, Jeff McCord (center, red helmet). The ride covered a flat route along Alki and Harbor avenues from the Alki Landing Monument (two blocks from our Log House Museum) to Herring's House Park across from the Duwamish Longhouse. It featured stops along the way for stories and historical interpretation. Big thanks to the Cascade Bicycle Club for co-sponsoring the ride.



SouthWest Stories rolls along strongly

Our third-Sunday series at a rotation of Seattle library branches on our peninsula brings timely speakers. See our website for videos and video invitations!

Words, Writers & West Seattle thrives

Our first-Friday series at Barnes & Noble showcases local authors. See our website for videos of past talks and video invitations by authors in forthcoming installments!



Jenny D. Williams speaks on *The Atlas of Forgotten Places* at Aug. 4 Words, Writers & West Seattle, and Alki Bike & Board owner Stu Hennessey speaks at Aug. 20 SouthWest Stories.



Group-hugging the summer festivals

The Duwamish bursts with festivals every summer, and our organization was well represented in 2017, bringing a variety of large Group Hug posters and other materials to hundreds of area residents and tourists. (Clockwise from upper left) Board member Sandie Wilkinson greets people at Alki Art Fair, after which Debra Fischer displays a slice from the Alki Homestead, her prize for winning our "Guess the Number of Lincoln Logs in the Jar" contest. During West Seattle Summer Fest, a youngster holds a Group Hug poster, pointing out where he stood three years prior at our totem-pole dedication. Executive Director Jeff McCord works our booth at Delridge Day.

Our 'We ♥ the Junction' landmark campaign receives Historic Seattle's preservation award

On Sept. 19, 2017, Historic Seattle Preservation and Development Authority held its ninth annual preservation awards banquet. Our organization was honored with an award named for the late **Beth Chave**, who worked for decades in the Seattle landmark office and assisted us in our successful campaign to secure landmark status for the Historic Admiral Theater in 1989. Here is the text from the banquet program.

The Beth Chave Preservation Award for Preserving Neighborhood Character goes to the "We ♥ the Junction" Task Force of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and its supporting partners for their advocacy efforts to secure city landmark status for two iconic buildings in the heart of the West Seattle Junction.

Supporting Partners: **Sheridan Consulting Group** (architectural historian/consultant); **Sarah Martin** and **Flo Lentz** (historic preservation consultants); 4Culture (grants funding).

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society (SWSHS) spearheaded this grassroots community landmark campaign for West Seattle's main business district, The Junction, in 2015 starting with a comprehensive survey that documented the historical and architectural significance of area buildings.

SWSHS partnered with the Southwest District Council and West Seattle Junction Association and received support from the Junction Neighborhood Organization and ArtsWest. Sheridan Consulting Group prepared the core document of the West Seattle Junction Historical Survey, which surveyed 58 buildings to determine eligibility for designation as Seattle landmarks.

The survey team also interviewed Junction building owners and conducted public surveys, asking three questions: "What is special about The Junction?" "What is your favorite building in The Junction and why?" "What in The Junction is worth preserving?"

The survey identified two key structures at the



The "We ♥ The Junction" Task Force of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is honored to receive Historic Seattle's 2017 Beth Chave Historic Preservation Award for Preserving Neighborhood Character.

We are grateful to have secured Seattle landmark status for the Crescent-Hamm Building and the Campbell Building in the West Seattle Junction.

It's all part of our organizational mission to promote local heritage through education, preservation and advocacy — and the best is yet to come!

Task force leaders (from left) Peder Nelson, Esther Armstrong, Brad Chrisman, Cody Othoudt and Crystal Dean. Photo by Jean Sherrard!



**Southwest Seattle
Historical Society**

loghousemuseum.info

heart of The Junction -- the Campbell Building and Crescent-Hamm Building -- as potential landmarks. William T. Campbell, a skilled real-estate leader who was largely responsible for The Junction's early development, built both buildings.

Next, SWSHS formed a task force to lead a "We ♥ The Junction" public-awareness campaign seeking city landmark status for the buildings, funded by a 4Culture grant. Historic preservation consultants Flo Lentz and Sarah Martin prepared both landmark nominations. In the end, the Landmarks Preservation Board voted unanimously to designate both buildings, the first official city landmarks in The Junction.

The pro-active grassroots efforts of SWSHS and the "We ♥ The Junction" Task Force resulted in protecting the community's history.

A leader in these efforts has been former SWSHS Executive Director **Clay Eals**, who highlighted the campaign's importance:

"Landmarking the unique structures that for the past century have created an attractive and vibrant center for connection and collaboration, for friendly commerce, for appreciation of the visionaries who came before us, for the inexpressible sense of home, and for affirmation of our humanity — this is the stuff of identity, of legacy and of hope."

Above is the ad that we were invited to place in the Historic Seattle Preservation Awards program. Attending on behalf of our organization were:

Esther Armstrong
Aurora Bennett
John Bennett
Susie Bennett
Ryan Bruels
Brad Chrisman
Crystal Dean
Clay Eals
Flo Lentz
Sarah Martin
Jeff McCord
Carly Nelson
Peder Nelson
Cody Othoudt
Tom Rasmussen
Karen Richter
Bobby Whittaker

*Give the gift of
a membership!*

Visit our website, click Membership, join with a credit card or download the form and mail it in. Or sign up at an event or at our museum!

FOOTPRINTS the newsletter of the



Southwest Seattle Historical Society

c/o "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum
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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 2017

'Welcome Home' exhibit

ongoing, noon-4 p.m. Thursday-Sunday
"Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum

SouthWest Stories

Sunday, Sept. 17, Oct. 15, Nov. 19, Dec. 17
2 p.m., various Seattle library branches

Words, Writers & West Seattle

Fridays, Oct. 6, Nov. 3, Dec. 1, Jan. 5
5-7 p.m., Barnes & Noble Westwood Village

Champagne Gala Brunch

11 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 4
Salty's on Alki, 1936 Harbor Ave SW

Annual Meeting celebrates the 20th anniversary of our museum!

12:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 18, 2017
Delridge Library, 5423 Delridge Way SW

Give the gift of a membership!

Visit our website, click Membership, join with a credit card or download the form and mail it in. Or sign up at an event or at our museum!

Thanks, Klem!

Stellar videos of our events are contributed by **Klem Daniels Productions** of West Seattle. Posterity thanks you, Klem!

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 Deli, Luna Park Cafe, Red Cup Espresso, Thunder Road Guitars and our "Birthplace of Seattle" Log House Museum. For more info, 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:



West Seattle Herald
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