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

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EVENTS CALENDAR

AUGUST
Aug 5, 10 to 11 am - “If These Walls Could Talk,” home tour of original REI house
Aug 9, noon to 2 pm - Sound Spots music exhibit Grand Opening at Log House Museum, Adjunct Music Curator, Peder Nelson
Aug 9, 9 to 7:45 pm – Words, Writers & West Seattle at Southwest Branch Library
Aug 11, noon to 10 pm – SPF30 music festival; Come visit our booth at Whale Tail Park, Alki Neighborhood
Aug 19, 9 to 7:45 pm – Words, Writers & West Seattle at Southwest Branch Library
Aug 23, 5 to 7 pm – Open Draw
Aug 25, 5 to 7 pm – Family Day: Bring kids to see vintage fire truck, talk with firefighters & learn fire safety at Log House Museum

SEPTEMBER
Sept 1, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm – Cycle History: “Work it, West Seattle,” local labor history, family-friendly bike ride; start at Delridge Community Center
Sept 8, noon to 2 pm – Riverside Walk with the famed Frank Zuvella
Sept 13, 6 to 7:45 pm – Words, Writers & West Seattle at Southwest Branch Library
Sept 16, 2 to 4 pm – Southwest Stories
Sept 27, 5 to 7 pm – Open Draw

OCTOBER
Oct 11, 6 to 7:45 pm – Words, Writers & West Seattle at Southwest Branch Library
Oct 21, 2 to 4 pm – Southwest Stories

NOVEMBER
Nov 3, 11 am to 2 pm – Champagne Gala Brunch at Salty’s on Alki
Nov 8, 6 to 7:45 pm – Words, Writers & West Seattle at Southwest Branch Library
Nov 18, 2 to 4 pm – Southwest Stories

REI house tour for this year’s “If These Walls Could Talk”

by Jeff McCord, Executive Director

Surprisingly few people realize that REI, the Seattle area-based outdoor equipment supplier, actually started on Gatewood Hill in West Seattle at the house of Mountaineer’s Club members Lloyd and Mary Anderson.

This year’s “If These Walls Could Talk” home tour on Sunday, August 5, 2018 is at this house where in 1938 Lloyd and Mary established the outdoor equipment co-op that would become REI. Lloyd, dissatisfied with a cheaply-made $15 ice axe that he had purchased in 1935 through a U.S. distributor, found that with Mary’s help translating a European catalog from German, they were able to order a high-quality ice axe which was only $3.50 including shipping to their home in West Seattle. They kept expecting that the low price was a mistake and would later be corrected, but it was no such thing.

The Andersons and their fellow Mountaineers began to realize that they could pool their

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The sun is shining bright and it is getting HOT out there!

Everybody is “Fired Up” about our latest exhibit

Meet our Curator Department staff (from left): Valerie Kendall, museum manager; Carol Vincent, advisory council member and former curator; Rachel Regelin, registrar; Tasia Williams, curator; Lisa Kramer, former curator

On June 9, 2018 we opened our latest exhibit in the main gallery, “Fired Up: Neighborhood Fire Stations” at the Log House Museum with Guest Curator, Bob Carney. The crew from Fire Station #29 came down and paid a visit during the exhibit’s member preview.

The exhibit helps us learn about the history of our fire stations, and hear about how firefighters work even today to keep us safe. We’ll also be hosting “Fired Up Family Day” on Sat, August 25, 2018 from 11 am to 1 pm, where you can join us at the Log House Museum—along with the Seattle Fire Department and the Last Resort Fire Department—for a day of fun family activities and fire safety demonstrations.

- Learn what to do when you see smoke in your home!
- Meet real firefighters in your community!
- See a vintage fire truck and a modern fire engine!

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CONTACT US
Main: 206-938-5293 Jeff M: 206-234-4357

STAFF E-MAIL
Jeff McCord, executive director, director@loghousemuseum.org
Valerie Kendall, museum manager, museum@loghousemuseum.org
Tasia Williams, curator, curator@loghousemuseum.org
Rachel Regelin, registrar, registrar@loghousemuseum.org

WEBSITE
loghousemuseum.org

Facebook & Twitter: LogHouseMuseum

The exhibit features items from the Seattle Fire Department, including equipment used by firefighters over the years.

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"REI house tour" continued from page one

in the operations of REI, Bobby will also be showing clips of his recent documentary film, “Return to Mt. Kennedy”, which opened recently at the Seattle International Film Festival to sold-out audiences and enthusiastically-positive reviews.

Bobby Whittaker (namesake of Bobby Kennedy) is one of Jim’s two sons and is the speaker for the VIP Talk & Reception for “If These Walls Could Talk” home tour on August 5, 2018. Bobby will be talking about growing up in a climbing family, and his early memories of hanging out at Capitol Hill store location at the time when his father Jim was involved funds, and began ordering many more items directly from Europe for cheap prices, and the Moutaineer’s Co-op (eventually REI) was born. As the organization continued to grow, Lloyd Anderson took a young climber and outdoor-doorman from the Mountaineer’s Club, Jim Whittaker, under his wing. Like Lloyd Anderson, Whittaker loved climbing and lived in West Seattle (having graduated from West Seattle High School). Lloyd hired him as the co-op’s first full-time employee in 1955. Whittaker then rose with the co-op, eventually retiring as its President and CEO after 25 years with the company. As a result, the Whittaker family became inextricably tied to the history of REI. Jim Whittaker himself is now one of the world’s most-recognized mountaineers, famously being the American that reached the summit of Mount Everest on May 1, 1963. He also lead an expedition of the first ascent of Mt. Kennedy (with Senator Robert Kennedy) in the Canadian Yukon in 1965. 

Subsequently the Whittaker family became close friends with the Kennedy family in the years to come, with Jim even chairing Robert Kennedy’s candidacy for president until Kennedy’s untimely death in June of 1968.

Bobby Whittaker was brought up in the freight elevator of Seattle sporting goods startup Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI). His first gig was turning pockets for his father Jim’s fledgling manufacturing company, Because Its There. Then came more than 30 years in the music business, beginning with Sub Pop Records, another locally grown company that sculpted the cultural landscape. Those long nights and days evolved into coordinating worldwide marketing campaigns, promotional events, and live music tours with American icons such as Mudhoney, R.E.M and the Yeah Yeah Yeahs.

From Istanbul to Johannesburg and back, Bobby has kept his roots firmly planted in the great outdoors by championing pedestrian and bicycle initiatives at State and Federal levels.

Bobby’s advocacy continues to this day through work with a non-profit 501(c)(3) whose mission is to promote and develop recreational trails locally.

Everyday is "Fired Up" about our latest exhibit

Meet our Curator Department staff (from left): Valerie Kendall, museum manager; Carol Vincent, advisory council member and former curator; Rachel Regelin, registrar; Tasia Williams, curator; Lisa Kramer, former curator

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THANK YOUS AND WELCOMES

Long-time “super-volunteer” docent at the Log House Museum, John Sweetland goes out of his way to help help out in every way he can. Recently John joined our board, where he now serves as our Membership Secretary. John, welcome to the board—we appreciate you a lot!
Sub Pop’s “SPF30” music event on Alki expecting 35,000

Sub Pop’s “SPF30” music event on Alki expecting 35,000

In early August we plan to have a music-themed exhibit about the impact of the music industry in West Seattle, partnering with our music curator Peder Nelson (also a former board member). This exhibit will coincide with a major event that will take place in our own neighborhood of Alki. The event is called “SPF30,” the 30th anniversary celebration of Sub Pop Records (the record label that brought us Nirvana, Mudhoney, Soundgarden and many other “Seattle” bands over the years). Sub Pop has partnered with the Southwest Seattle Historical Society as its key non-profit partner.

The festival is free and open to the public, and is expected to draw a crowd of as many as 35,000 to Alki, with two main stages positioned facing opposite each other near the Alki Bathhouse, and one stage at each end of the pedestrian-only area. There also will be a family stage at Whale Tail Park.

School of Rock

We are also delighted to be working with the “School of Rock,” a West Seattle-based kids music program that has a house band. The “School of Rock” will be playing during the day on August 11, 2018 on our porch, adding to the spirit of the music festival event.

Sub Pop Guitar

The historical society will be a major beneficiary of the event as the non-profit partner with Sub Pop on the event, as well as being able to auction off a Sub Pop-themed art guitar made by Terry and Ryan Martin, co-owners of Walla Walla Guitar Company (Ryan is also the son of our board president, Karen Sisson).

When the auction goes live we will announce it on our email updates. The link will be able to be found at: subpopguitar.com

The Log House Museum Presents:

**Sound Spots**

**Music of the Duwamish Peninsula**

The Duwamish Peninsula is full of hot spots where music makes history. These places inspire our community of sound makers and listeners.

Highlights Panels

- 1941 Igor Haglund, Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie on Alki. The folkies crashed on Ivar's couch and recorded a couple songs just a couple blocks away from the Museum. We will have this recording along with a playlist of music recorded in and inspired by the Duwamish Peninsula.

- 1950's Embers and The Happy Hour: The early years of jazz in Seattle: Charlie Byrd, Stan Getz, and potentially Ray Charles jamming out at The Happy Hour or “Hours” which now the Parliament Tavern on Admiral.

- 1960s Boles Records: A large part of the “Seattle Sound” was recorded in the base-
Class of 1944 meet at The Kenney to share memories

On June 2, 2018, curator Tasia Williams and executive director Jeff McCord got an opportunity to meet some of the representatives of West Seattle High School’s Class of 1944 at The Kenney for a chance to learn some of the amazing stories that the attendees had to share.

Visitors enjoy historical society’s annual 4th of July picnic

On July 4, 2018 we had a full house with guests for our annual Southwest Seattle Historical Society 4th of July picnic in the Log House Museum courtyard. Board members and guests brought potluck items for all to enjoy.

There were great conversations, good food, patriotic music, and an impromptu tour of our “Fired Up” exhibit by guest curator Bob Carney. Finally the afternoon was rounded out with raffle prizes which included tickets for local theatre, ArtsWest, and best-of-all two tickets to our upcoming Champagne Gala Brunch on Saturday, Nov. 3, 2018 from 11 am to 2 pm.

The society also remembered Erma Couden, who died on May 24, 2018 at the age of 103, with fond words from former executive director Clay Eals and others. Erma was the spouse of historical society founder Elliott Couden.

Annual 4th of July Picnic (left to right): Board member Marcy Johnsen welcomes guests; Raffle winners Zoe M. & kids; Juda Youngstrom, and historical society benefactor Adah Cruzen (seated); Guests enjoying the festivities (bottom row)

FOOT-NOTES

Patrick Robinson from WestsideSeattle shows his photo to Adah Cruzen of the newly-restored Morgan Junction mural

The well known historical mural at Morgan Junction depicting the neighborhood as it might have looked in the 1930’s has now been fully restored by artist Bob Henry. It was funded by a generous donation from the late Earl Cruzen & his wife Adah. Photo by Patrick Robinson.

Historical society supporters & board (left to right): John Bennett, Joey Richessen, Kerry Krieggaard, Marcy Johnsen, Ken Workman

Board member Ken Workman shows the poem that Typewriter Rodeo creator Sean Pelle wrote inspired by one of Ken’s stories

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August and September packed full of community events

Come visit us at the Log House Museum on Alki. We are open Thurs. – Sun., noon to 4 pm.

Among the events already highlighted in this issue, we have several ongoing series out in the community, such-as Open Draw on August 23rd in the museum courtyard, featuring local artist Jim Gerlitz. Cycle History: Work it West Seattle, a bike ride on September 1st with several interpretive stops along the way having to do with labor history; and our annual Riverside Walk with Frank Zuvela on September 8th.

FOOT-NOTES FOOT-NOTES FOOT-NOTES FOOT-NOTES FOOT-NOTES

The Log House Museum and West Seattle Bike Connections Present:
Cycle History

Work it West Seattle

Local Labor History

September 1st 9:30 – 12:30 Ten Miles, Three Hours
Starting at the Delridge Community Center and ending at Youngstown Cultural Arts Center.

For more info call 206-350-0999

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