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

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You are Invited to the Annual Champagne Gala Brunch!
by Marcy Johnsen

“Walk All Ways: Come As You Are to the Junction of Music and History” This is the theme of this year’s Champagne Gala brunch, our annual major fundraiser, honoring the diverse and historic music of the Duwamish Peninsula.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society is excited to announce our program is set for Saturday, November 2nd, 2019, 11am to 2pm at Salty’s on Alki. Our success every year depends on you!

BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS!

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Cycle History 2019: Community Gathering Places

By Judy Bentley

Twenty-five cyclists toured community gathering places in Delridge during the third annual Cycle History event Labor Day Weekend. Sponsored by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society and West Seattle Bike Connections, the peddlers started at the Highland Park Improvement Club, which is celebrating its 100th year. Kay Kirkpatrick told how the club began as a place for neighbors to gather, socialize, and advocate for neighborhood improvements. This transitioned from its founding generation to a community-owned place still vibrant with social gatherings.

“Celebrate another one of the many interesting stories of our Peninsula!”

By Kathy Blackwell, President of Board of Trustees

Our community has a vibrant history, and we love telling its many stories. Visit our new exhibit “Between the Lines”, that chronicles the colorful tale of the West Seattle annexation - an example of how history repeats itself!

The 2019 Champagne Gala, November 2, 2019, is our major event to raise funds that supports our work throughout our community. We hope that you will put the Gala on your calendar and celebrate another one of the many interesting stories of our peninsula!

One of the aspects I have enjoyed about being a member of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is being a docent and interacting with visitors at the Log House Museum. Contact the museum for details! Wishing you all a happy Fall and we look forward to seeing you at the Gala!

The Colman House Tour Brought In Record-Breaking Numbers

By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

Designed by the architect Arthur Loveless, the Colman house is a picturesque 1922 beauty. It was also the perfect location for our annual “If These Walls Could Talk” tour put on by the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. This year, staff and volunteers participated in a one-of-a-kind VIP tour, a walk through the immaculate garden, historic interpretations around the house and more.

The Colmans were prolific not just in West Seattle, but in the greater Seattle area. Visitors got to meet the current owners Maryanne Tagney and David Jones who so generously opened their home to us for this unique fundraising event. From the basement to the service elevator, this 1920s home was a visual feast for history buffs, who know of the Colman family from their donation of Colman Pool, starting Camp Colman, and other philanthropic work.

Special highlights include our Curator, Tasia Williams, and Registrar, Rachel Regelein, discussing the Colman family with artifacts from the collection such as Isabel Colman’s wedding dress, family letters and the highchair that three generations of Colmans used, and Nancy McPhee discussing her time as a flower girl for Isabel Colman’s 1929 wedding.

With press coverage and clever marketing, over 130 people attended the Colman house event, exceeding our original expectations. Due to this overwhelming success, we look forward to finding the next “If These Walls Could Talk” location to share history with our community.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

Maryanne Tagney
David Jones
Susan Shoret
Jim Cullough
Dan Daly
Colleen Musgrave
Maryanne Tagney
Deb Barker
Judy Daly
Kerry Kongsrud
Mary Kraft
Audrey Zemke
Kathy Blackwell
Bethany Green
Nancy McPhee
Valerie Roberts
Gail Lansing
joanne Simpson
Flora Belle Key
Nancy McPhee
Audrey Zemke
Kathy Blackwell
Marcia Van Doren Graves
Judy Demetre
Judith Magerson
Roberta Hyman
Ken Workman
Natalie Bumgardner
Denise Pannish
Marylin Miller
Ginger Brewer

Upper left: Image of the Colman House (Image by Eric Dennon) Upper Right: Deb Barker and Judy Daly (Image by Sarah Miller) Middle right: Nancy McPhee discusses her time as a flower girl in the Colman wedding (Dennon) Bottom: group that attend VIP tour (Dennon)
‘FIELD NOTES’

When asked Brian Rich what the most interesting part about his job is, and he had this to say: “I am fascinated by the creative problem solving that is required when working with historic buildings. The combination of the investigative process of understanding a building’s pathology and developing a workable solution to preserve a building is very rewarding.”

More than a House: The Log House Museum Gets a Historical Building Assessment

By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

The Log House Museum is more than just a building, it’s an artifact and a designated historic landmark. One of the main goals of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society is to preserve the museum for years to come, and a building assessment completed in August will help us to ensure that our building will continue to withstand the test of time. An extensive building assessment is critical, as it will list different tiers of important work that needs to be done in order to insure the longevity of this landmark. We contracted Richhaven, an assessment company that specializes in historic structures.

Brian Rich, Principle of Richhaven, discusses the importance of having a building assessment done: “A building condition assessment (BCA for short), gives us a vast amount of information that helps us to understand the pathology of a building. While urgent issues are often well known, less obvious issues can be prevented by catching them at early stages and changing how we address them.”

From using a drone to scan our rooftop and land, to checking the density of the logs, the SWSHS is in the process of building a 20 year plan that will outline preservation strategies of the building. During the assessment process, the museum got a thorough check up that will tell the current and future condition of our building down the road as well.

When asked why a drone was needed for the assessment, Rich responded, “It can provide views from angles that we just can’t see from the ground, such as the top of the chimney or the sides of the dormers. I also use the drone to create composite elevation photos of the museum. Last is safety. It means I don’t have to get up on the roof to know what’s going on up there!”

An interesting portion of the assessment was working with wood scientist Ron Anthony. He used a resistance drill to drill tiny holes into the logs to see the density. His specialized tool produced a paper read out similar to a seismograph. The read out showcased what parts of the log were the most and least dense to insure the integrity of the structure.

More than just building a 20 year plan, the SWSHS recognizes that our historical structure needs an up to date assessment in order to gain more funding to preserve this place. The Southwest Seattle Historical Society prides itself on being an integral part of the Duwamish Peninsula community, and we want to stay here for years to come!
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM?

Collections Storage Safety Improvements
By Tasia Williams, Curator and Rachel Regelein, Registrar

Thanks to a grant from 4Culture, museum staff were able to improve storage conditions for some of the Society’s high-value collection items. Previously, large 2-D items were kept in a vertical storage space. These items included large photos, signs, maps, and drawings going back to the 1800s. They were placed into a too-small of space without proper support to protect them from damage.

We purchased a flat file to store these large collection items. This allows them to be laid flat, be properly supported, and have protective layers between items. However, we purchased a second-hand flat file which had no top. To make it useable and safe for collection

Volunteer Spotlight: Dave Hrachovina

Dave “The Greeter” has been a docent at the Log House Museum for over four years. With his enthusiasm for history, he has welcomed thousands of museum guests and tour groups. We asked Dave what his favorite thing about our unique Duwamish Peninsula history is: “One of my favorite stories is my favorite story about how Alki got its name. The little village on the Duwamish Peninsula was named “New York’. One day a captain coming around the Point saw on the beach, a beach fire, several men, and cabins behind. The captain shouted out, “What’s the name of this town?” The men yelled back, “New York!” The captain replied, “Yes, New York ALKI, I reckon!” The Word “Alki” is from “Chi-neek-ba-jonb”, the trade language developed by the First Nations and later the Explorers, and Pioneers. It means, “by and by, soon, presently, or not so fast.” On the Pioneer Monument at Alki (63rd and Alki) commemorating the 1851 Landing you can read in inscription, “New York By and By.” So take it Alki, “not so fast!” You never get tired of Alki.”

“Between The Lines” Exhibit
Opens at Members Only Happy Hour
By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

On August 17th, members and volunteers helped ring in the new exhibit, “Between the Lines: The Power and Parallels of the West Seattle Annexation.” This happy hour event was held the day before the public opening for a members-only viewing.

With presentations from guest curators Phil Hoffman and Greg Lange, and food provided generously by PCC and Trader Joe’s, the Log House Museum was filled to capacity with SWSHS members, volunteers, and board members. Curator Tasia Williams first introduced our guest Cecile Hansen, chairwoman of the Duwamish Tribal Council to the audience. Hoffman and Lange then discussed the history of the 1907 annexation, along with how they accumulated the research necessary to complete this exhibit. Following the discussion were engaging questions from the audience.

Co-created by Curator Tasia Williams, Registrar Rachel Regelein, Phil Hoffman, Greg Lange and University of Washington Museology intern Melody Smith, Between the Lines was inspired by Phil Hoffman’s research paper “If At First You Don’t Succeed…” discussing the complicated 1907 West Seattle annexation and other history of the area.

One notable thing to mention is the unveiling of the new sign next to the entrance telling visitors that the Log House Museum is on Duwamish territory. The sign reads, “The Southwest Seattle Historical Society acknowledges that the Log House Museum is on traditional lands of the Duwamish people. The museum is built from logs predating Seattle’s first colonial settlers. We honor, with gratitude, these traditional lands and its stewards.”

The Members Only Happy Hour was a success, and an excellent start to Between the Lines, expected to be up until Summer 2020. Between the Lines was partially funded by a generous grant provided by 4Culture.

Visit AlkiHistoryProject.com for more info about the West Seattle Annexation!