ARCHIVES MONTH

SPECIAL FOCUS ON OUTREACH ISSUE

Image: Street scene at the Fair, April 1962. Item 70913, Seattle Municipal Archives.

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER

published biannually
MEMBER SNAPSHOT

This section introduces you to your SeaAA colleagues, one member at a time. Send suggestions to SeaAA

CONOR CASEY, ARCHIVIST
Labor Archives of Washington State

September 29 SeaAA Meeting Recap

SeaAA’s last meeting featured Conor Casey, archivist at the Labor Archives of Washington State (LAWS). Casey talked about his work over the last year with LAWS. He shared with us some methods he’s been using to harness the efforts of volunteers and students with enthusiasm, limited time, and varying degrees of experience. He also spoke about some strategies he’s been using to bring in collection processing funds, and labor sharing techniques he’s been using to build a sustainable model for processing new and backlog collections.

Why do you like archives?: The smell of acid-free containers in the morning; getting to wear white gloves with no questions asked. Also: Our professional mission of preserving, making accessible, and promoting valuable primary resources that help serve as social memory. I am particularly drawn to the role as an advocate for specific collections and the prospect of being a community archivist.

If given the opportunity, what would you change about the archival profession?: As a whole in our profession, I would like to see more emphasis on access, outreach, and advocacy and in trying to share the basics of archives with interested individuals and organizations. The burden of proving continued relevance in the age of mass digitization and decreasing intermediaries between information and information seekers is on archivists.

A key to demonstrating [the value of archives] is for archivists to be visible, vocal, and enthusiastic about the promotion of our work as a vocation and not being shy about talking about our passion for our profession.

If you couldn’t be an archivist, what would you be?: (in no particular order): 1) professor of history, 2) attorney, 3) researcher or organizer for a union, nonprofit, or labor organization 4) pirate* (*I am ill suited for this because of a bad parrot allergy.)

{Taken from Casey’s responses to the SeaAA members survey, September 2011.}
News from the Board

Membership drive begins
November 1
The 2011-2012 SeaAA membership drive will begin November 1, 2011. Please remember to renew your membership. Membership renewal details are available on our Web site.

Request from the Editor
Get involved by sharing your archives-related experiences and repository news with us, and when you can, please include one or two images (and caption information) with your submissions. We would also like to begin a letters to the editor section in our newsletter. When you read something interesting/inaccurate/annoying/brilliant in the newsletter, e-mail us.

Notes from the Treasurer
SeaAA has begun sending e-mail receipts for member registrations and renewals.

Board Secretary vacancy
Our secretary, Ellie Letterman, began a full time position as a government archivist for the Montana State Historical Society in September.

Congratulations, Ellie, and thank you for all of your hard work!

We’d like to fill the position as soon as possible. The secretary is responsible for communicating with the membership, responding to e-mail inquiries, recording Board meeting minutes, and working with the Board to accomplish SeaAA’s goals.

Interested? E-mail SeaAA your self-nomination, or nominate a colleague for this position.

Upcoming Events

Next SeaAA meeting
Mark your calendars: the next SeaAA meeting is scheduled for January 5, 2012 at 3:00 pm. More details will be available on our website as the date approaches.

Training workshops
SeaAA will be arranging a training workshop focusing on practical electronic records preservation in the coming months. Our goal is to schedule at least one training workshop per year.

Networking meet-ups
SeaAA will launch a series of networking meet-up events this year. The purpose of each meet-up is to explore specific archives-related themes and topics with other SeaAA members. Meet-ups will be held at a café/restaurant and will focus around a central topic. Examples of topics include: archival advocacy, the meaning of archives, archives and democracy, and archival training and education. Networking meet-ups offer members a forum for informal archives-related discussions. A list of topics, meet-up dates, times, and locations will be added to the website and sent to members in the near future. Look for our upcoming e-mail on networking meet-ups.

Solutions roundtables
SeaAA will offer several “solutions roundtables” this year. Beforehand, we will ask members to share common work-related problems that they need help solving. When we have received a variety of topics, we will invite SeaAA members to join problem solving task forces to help tackle the issues. Solutions roundtables will answer the “how do I?” questions that many of us encounter while working in the field. Look for our upcoming e-mail on solutions roundtables.

New archival resources list
Board member Seth Dalby has put together an extensive list of archival resources for SeaAA members. SeaAA will continue to update the list, but will make this resource available on our Web site in the near future.

Board Members

Jennifer Hawkins
Chair

Seth Dalby
Vice-Chair

Leslie Schuyler
Member-At-Large

Elizabeth Russell
Treasurer

Newsletter contact
Please send all comments, corrections, letters to the editor, and submissions to:

Leslie Schuyler
Member-At-Large
Seattle Area Archivists
seattle.area.archivists@gmail.com
What Members Want

Twenty members weighed-in on our organization. Here’s what they said:

Last month, the SeaAA Board created a member survey in order to find out how we were doing. Who are our members? Are they satisfied with SeaAA’s offerings? Do they read the newsletter? What do they want from their organization?

We received twenty responses, many of which offered some valuable insight. We’ve summarized the survey results here, and will work to implement your suggestions over the coming year.

In the meantime, if you haven’t already, please take the survey.

SURVEY RESULTS

Q: Why do you like archives?

A: There is always something new and different to look forward to. Looking for the records that contain the information that my customer needs is like going on a treasure hunt. I love history and I see it come alive in the archives... The field is radically changing because of the advent of information technology... I love the thrill of the hunt. I’m actually paid to do research in primary source materials and create an arrangement scheme. I also enjoy creating exhibits that engage the community. People enjoy the exhibits, which makes me feel that they love history... something in me is satisfied when I can make order from chaos and teach others how to do it too... Archives help to collapse the time between the past and present. They can help us remember and are necessary for democracy.

Q: If given the chance, what would you change about the profession?

A: I don’t think I would change anything about the profession. If one takes a broad look at it archivists cover a wide variety of interests, skills and knowledge. We come from a wide variety of backgrounds and work in a wide variety of repositories... I wish it was more of a ‘people’ profession. I’m lonely a lot... I would require all archivists to spend a period of time each year reflecting on why questions: why are there archives? why do we do this work? why is it important? And I would require that at least one session in each time block of any archives conference be given over to philosophical and theoretical considerations... public relations and advertising - the field needs a makeover because it recently became much more interesting and needs to present itself in a different way.

Q: Why do you belong to SeaAA?

A: Professional archival associations (no matter how informal) are important in the formation of identity. They provide venues for sharing information, learning, and developing an archival sense. They can be a means toward developing “moral community” in the professional setting... Professional Advocacy starts in your community... I think it is important to be part of the local archival community -- it helps to know who to contact in the area when you have questions about local repository holdings (in order to point researchers in the right direction) and it is nice to know who might be able to offer advice or assistance with current projects... Learning opportunities, networking with other archivists, supporting the profession, and opportunity to tour other archives... I want to connect with individuals with common interests in the local community...
WHAT KINDS OF SeaAA EVENTS HAVE BEEN (OR WOULD BE) MOST VALUABLE TO YOU?

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
<th>Response Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>educational speakers</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>social events</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>networking events</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>workshops</td>
<td>70.0%</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tours of archives in the area</td>
<td>60.0%</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>events open to the public</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>none of the above</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>other events (described below)</td>
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Respondents also suggested informal events that would allow archivists to get together in a more social (“less nerdy”) manner. A former program “café des fonds” was mentioned as a possibility. Other members suggested useful professional development activities such as legitimate educational training and workshop opportunities. Some suggested that membership dues be applied more thoughtfully to these kinds of events as opposed to outreach events which focus on the public.

WHAT WOULD MAKE SeaAA MORE EFFECTIVE?

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Response Percent</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>more events</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>events held at alternate times</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>better communication from Sea AA</td>
<td>35.0%</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>more member involvement</td>
<td>40.0%</td>
<td>8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (please specify)</td>
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Respondents also suggested more involvement from professionals working in the profession; events held in mid to late afternoon, meetings on weekdays in the morning or at noon; events that focus on different types of archives (government vs. academic vs. religious vs. corporate); partnering with other local organizations on events; informal discussions of archival issues; meet-ups over beer or coffee; SAA training workshops; more events that directly benefit the membership; and social events.

Q: What would make you want to read the newsletter more?

63 percent of respondents said that they read the newsletter regularly.

Some suggested that the newsletter be issued more frequently, and others wrote:

I think there are so many newsletters to read it is difficult to tackle them on. If it was once a year or twice a year I would be more inclined to take a look, but there is SAA, NWA, and other publications constantly coming out it is hard to keep track...including regular columns, musings, poetry about archives, adventure stories involving archives-how using archives saved the day...Substantive opinion pieces along with fluffy community building pieces: like accessions, newly processed collections, member profiles...I think if we had articles that were relevant to what I do in my job (electronic records, EAD, DAM systems, etc.) I would be more likely to read it. Maybe if it were similar to Huffington Post where they troll the media for articles of interest and put them all in one place. Maybe we don’t need a newsletter, we just need a blog or a facebook page that is kept up to date...current local projects, new or improved methods of cataloging, new products, current local events, workshops or activities that are related.

Editor’s note: This question, I must admit, was a little bit self-serving. I had heard from past editors that it has been quite difficult to collect submissions from members. And it was.

Hopefully with more member involvement, our next newsletter will reflect some of the suggestions that respondents made.

Please submit further ideas on content (or content itself) to SeaAA, and we will work to improve your newsletter.
Preservation Roadshow: A Success!

The first installment of the Seattle Archives Preservation Roadshow happened at NARA, Pacific Alaska Region on May 14, 2011. It was an experiment; local archivists came together to offer advice and expertise to visitors who had preservation questions about their own family records. By the end of the four hour event, over fifty visitors had taken advantage of the Roadshow’s offerings.

NARA provided tours of its facilities; archivists specializing in photographs, moving images, electronic records, books and paper, and audio recordings helped visitors with their questions; and raffle prizes were awarded to two lucky winners.

Archivists who participated got to see a variety of family artifacts and records, shared archival preservation advice with eager attendees, and hob-nobbed with professional colleagues.

The purpose of the Roadshow was to connect archivists and the general public; to foster an understanding of what we do and why what we do is important. By all accounts, it did just that. Josh Zimmerman organized the Roadshow and stewarded the event with the help of Seattle Area Archivists.

Thank you to the staff at NARA who participated in the planning and at the event itself. And thank you, Josh, for spear-heading such a successful outreach event!

Images: (upper left) A visitor shows off her family treasure; (upper right) Josh Zimmerman and Patty McNamee enjoying the Roadshow; (lower left) Sue Karren, director of Archival Operations at NARA, Pacific Alaska Region, talks with a visitor in the stacks during a tour; (middle) examples of deterioration courtesy of Hannah Palin; (middle right) Jennifer Hawkins and friend show off a preservation kit; (lower right) Nicolette Bromberg explains the mysteries of the photographic medium to a visitor. Photographer: Matthew Browning.
Greatest Moments at Husky Stadium

Hannah Palin, the Film Archives Specialist at the University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections, has been working with UWTV on an upcoming series, "Greatest Moments at Husky Stadium," providing archival footage from the UW Intercollegiate Athletics Moving Image Collections. New episodes air every Friday at 6:30 p.m. and 9 p.m on UWTV.

Read the UWToday article about the series
Visit the UWTV page about the series

UW360

Special Collections moving image materials can also be seen all year long in the UWTV series UW360. The September episode features a look at life in a UW dormitory ca. 1963. ("Campus Living" appears in the episode at around 11 minutes)

Watch the UW360 episode

Lost and Found Film

And finally, a series called "Lost and Found Film," which was on hiatus for the last year or so, continues in UWToday, the online newspaper for the University of Washington. Each installment of the series features a clip from an orphan film discovered in the Moving Image Collections. Hannah Palin asks the UW community for help identifying the who-what-where-and-(most especially)-why of the film.

Read an introductory article to the series

While the links to a lot of the films mentioned in the article are no longer active, the films can still be found on the UW Libraries Digital Collections site.

Or, you can surf on over to the UW Libraries YouTube Channel and look under the Lost and Found Film Playlist for recent films in the series.

Images: Film stills from "What About Washington?" ca. 1967, UW Intercollegiate Athletics Moving Image Collection, UW Libraries, Special Collections.
Anne Frantilla  
Deputy City Archivist,  
Seattle Municipal Archives

Seattle busied itself before the 1962 world’s fair by burying wiring on fair grounds and beautifying the city. During the fair, a principal controversy arose from the perceived ‘housing crunch’ expected during the fair, as millions of tourists descend upon the city and rapidly fill up existing hotels and motels. Unless extraordinary action was taken, many felt, fair visitors would be turned away without accommodation, damaging the Exposition’s reputation.

As the City Council took steps to respond, such as permitting the use of docked ‘marine vessels’ as temporary lodgings, certain residential hotel owners sought to exploit the housing shortage. With little warning, these landlords converted their buildings, which often housed people who had resided there for years, from monthly rentals to daily. Prices were raised significantly effectively ‘pricing out’ long-term residents in favor of the more lucrative tourist trade.

Understandably angered by their ‘eviction,’ many wrote emotional letters to the Mayor, City Council, and the Seattle press. Though the actual numbers of residents evicted remains

continued on page 9
unclear, public indignation ignited a heated debate over what the municipal government should do in response.

Visit the Seattle Municipal Archives to view a collection of documents and images on this topic!

And a big thank you to volunteer Jonathan King for his work on this Digital Document Library.
Seth Dalby  
Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

For this special Focus On Outreach issue of the newsletter, Seth Dalby submitted a great example of how archival records can serve a contemporary purpose far from their original intended purpose.

BACKGROUND

Jessica Bushey, a Ph.D. student in the Archival Studies program at the University of British Columbia, and her husband Cam Andrews, who own a design firm, Caje Creative, were commissioned by the City of Vancouver to create a public art piece using the Archives’ collection of “rogues galleries”—albums from the turn of the last century that contain photos and summaries of the crimes and punishments of each person arrested in the city. Bushey scanned a number of these pages to use in the public work downtown, and she tied the images back to the city archives so the public would know where to find the originals.

ROGUES GALLERY CIRCA 1900

Using archival records from the Vancouver Police (1899-1905) the artwork Rogues Gallery circa 1900 reveals the socioeconomic climate of the Port of Vancouver at the turn of the century. During the boom of the early 1900s, people from all over the world arrived daily in Vancouver to seek adventure and fortune. In some cases, the lure of riches and passion led to corruption and incarceration.

The artwork Rogues Gallery circa 1900 raises questions about privacy, criminal activities, and the public domain. At a time in history when our online interactions and social media are redefining the right to privacy, freedom of expression, and citizenship, it is important to reflect on the permanence of records.

View the installation at the corner of Granville & Robson Street, BC, Canada.
Leslie Schuyler  
Lakeside School Archives

Recently I created a virtual exhibit focusing on Lakeside School’s athletic tradition. I tried to approach it a little differently than I had approached this kind of project in the past. Previously, I had created virtual exhibits that served as accompaniments to the archives’ physical exhibits. This time, I tried to make the exhibit more interactive.

In order to accomplish this, I considered where my non-archivist friends’ interests seemed to intersect with archives and history because I wanted to reach out to faculty, staff, and alumni who hadn’t yet discovered the archives.

It occurred to me that many of my friends enjoy trivia, so I put together what amounts to an illustrated trivia game: Athletic Pursuits: Pictorial Trivia from Lakeside Archives. The beginning of the exhibit introduces the viewer to a variety of color-coded categories which frame each question.

The most interesting thing about the exhibit, I feel, is that technologically speaking, it’s nothing more than an image slide show. Because I don’t have access to more sophisticated exhibit software, I have to make do with what I have: MS PowerPoint and the ability to turn a pdf into separate jpeg images. Judging from the feedback I got from my colleagues and school alumni, the effort paid off.
Seattle Area Events

(an up-to-date version of the calendar is available on our Web site)

OCTOBER

12th
Museology Talk: Wanting (Waiting) to BE 3rd On Your Block, Elaine Heuman Gurian
2:30 – 5 pm
Henry Art Gallery
info: www.henryart.org/tickets

13th
Brick Wall Genealogy Discussion Group
11 am – 1 pm
NARA, Pacific Alaska Region
6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-7999

Lecture: “Before Seattle Rocked”
6:30-7:30 pm
Seattle Public Library (northeast branch)
info: http://www.spl.org/calendar-of-events, 206-386-4836

Time Travel Made Easy - MOHAI lecture
7:30 pm
MOHAI
www.seattlehistory.org

14th
Workshop: Protecting Cultural Collections: Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Recovery (the second of two offered through WESTPAS)
9 am – 4 pm
University Place Library
info: http://westpas.org/courses.html

15th
Seattle’s Civil Rights Movement: A Walking Tour of the Central District
11 am
Meet at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center

16th
MOHAI Walking Tour: Now & Then - Metropolitan Tract
10 am – 12 pm
Meet at SAF Gallery
www.seattlehistory.org

18th
Screening of Green Fire at Neptune Theatre
7 pm
206-781-5755
www.burkemuseum.org/

20th
Meet the authors of ‘Shadows of a Fleeting World’
7-9 pm
Seattle Public Library (central branch), level 1 Microsoft auditorium
info: http://www.spl.org/calendar-of-events, 206-733-9950

22nd
Seattle’s Civil Rights Movement: A Walking Tour of the Central District
11 am
Meet at Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center

Southwest Historical Society Annual Gala - Celebration 160
11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Salty’s on Alki
RSVP to 206-938-5293.
www.loghousemuseum.info

24th
Historic Seattle, Learning from Historic Sites: Sanctuary at Admiral (formerly Sixth Church of Christ, Scientist)
5:30 – 7 pm

26th
Training and Tour: Seattle Municipal Archives
1:30 pm
Seattle City Hall Room 370
contact: archives@seattle.gov
or call 206 233-7807

29th (cont’d)
Workshop: Basics of Historical Research
9 am – 12 pm
Washington State Archives, Pritchard-Fleming Building
*register by October 15
contact: mike.saunders@sos.wa.gov

29th (cont’d)
Family History Book Club and Discussion Group
12-2 pm
Northwest African American Museum
RSVP: llewis@naamnw.org

NOVEMBER

3rd
First Thursday: Many museums offer free admission.
Visit individual museum Web sites for more information.

5th-6th
Bank of America’s Museums On Us: Northwest African American Museum and Seattle Art Museum offer free entry to those holding Bank of America cards
Nov. 5 10:00 am – Nov. 6 5:00 pm
info: http://museums.bankofamerica.com/

10th
Brick Wall Genealogy Discussion Group
11 am – 1 pm
NARA, Pacific Alaska Region
6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-7999

19th (cont’d)
Workshop - Preserving Historic Cemeteries
10 am-12:30 pm
Hiram M. Chittenden Locks
register: todd.scott@kingcounty.gov

19th-20th
Yulefest - Nordic Heritage Museum
10 am-5 pm
www.nordicmuseum.org

20th
MOHAI Walking Tour: Now & Then - Metropolitan Tract
10 am-12 pm
Meet at SAF Gallery
www.seattlehistory.org

26th
Christmas Ships at MOHAI
5-8 pm
www.seattlehistory.org

DECEMBER

1st
First Thursday: Many museums offer free admission.
Visit individual museum web sites for more information.

Lecture: Collections in Focus: Getting to Know the Henry’s Permanent Collection
6:30 – 8 pm
Henry Art Gallery
info: www.henryart.org
tickets: www.henryart.org/tickets (free)

JANUARY

5th
SeaAA meeting
3-5 pm
Details coming soon
Archives Fairs

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011**
Seattle Public Library (Central Library) – 10th Floor
Seattle, WA 98104
1000 4th Avenue
10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Admission: Free
Contact: deborah.kennedy@kingcounty.gov

**Saturday, October 29, 2011**
Washington State Archives – Puget Sound Regional Branch
Pritchard-Fleming Building
3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Rm N-201
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484
9:00 AM – 1:00 AM
Admission: Free
Contact: mike.saunders@sos.wa.gov

Workshop

**Saturday, October 29, 2011**
Basics of Historical Research Workshop
Washington State Archives – Puget Sound Regional Branch
Pritchard-Fleming Building
3000 Landerholm Circle SE, Rm N-201
Bellevue, WA 98007-6484
9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Admission: Free, please pre-register by October 15.
Contact: mike.saunders@sos.wa.gov

Lecture

**Wednesday, October 5, 2011** (In Conjunction with the Archives Fair Above)
Paula Becker “Buying the Treasure: Collecting Materials for Future Fairs and Festivals”
Seattle Public Library (Central Library) – 1st Floor Auditorium
12:00 PM
Admission: Free
Contact: deborah.kennedy@kingcounty.gov

More Information
http://archivaladvocate.wordpress.com/seattle-archives-month-2011/
City of Seattle

Seattle Municipal Archives Workshop and Tour

Let us show you around!

Wednesday
October 26, 2011
1:30 PM  City Hall
Room 370

Learn about how to find what you are looking for in the Seattle Municipal Archives with an overview of indexes and databases!

RSVP to: archives @seattle.gov or 206 233-7807

Century 21 downtown signage, August 1962  Item 71946 SMA