NEWSLETTER OF THE SEATTLE AREA ARCHIVISTS

NEW COLUMNS:

- MOVERS AND SHAKERS
- CLASS NOTES
- UPDATED CALENDAR

Features

FROM THE CHAIR: SURVEY RESULTS
BY LINDSAY ZABOROWSKI

NEW ACCESSIONS AT SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES
BY ANNE FRANTILLA

LITTLE GEMS: SMALL ARCHIVES
BY ODETTE ALLEN
Hello and welcome to the shiny new fall issue of the Sound Archivist. This issue aims to take a look at some of the smaller or more unconventional archives in the area. Seattle is one of those amazing cities that nurtures change, growth and occasionally the unconventional. All of those attributes are essential for new repositories and collections to take hold and find a valuable niche within the communities they serve. So we wanted to take an issue and celebrate those collections and institutions which might not fit the standard expectations, but provide unique and interesting resources.

As the new editor and Member-At-Large I have also added a few new sections to the newsletter that I hope will make it more valuable, or at least enjoyable to read. These include a new section detailing movement within the profession, listing new appointments and who was selected. I am hoping to enable us to get to know new archivists more easily and to have a better sense of the various positions and possibilities in the region. There is also a new Class Notes section, sharing the notes from various seminars, meetings or conferences. We are also developing a Best of Seattle Archives section, featuring your favorite items from your collection. Got a favorite letter or tacky work of art? This is the place to share it, just send me an email.

Finally, our new and updated calendar includes not only local archival events of interest, but the dates for our upcoming Unconference, and for our new informal meet-up plan. Want to get a drink and talk shop with your colleagues? Now is the chance.

Finally, as you will notice, most of this issue is written by yours truly. This is nothing short of a tragedy, not least because I am not quite that talented a writer. No matter how I hope and plead, the newsletter is nothing without your news. Consider this your formal invitation: I am desperate to hear from you. I would like to know what you think of the newsletter, I would like to hear what developments are happening within your archive, I would like to see you respond to each other’s ideas and work. I would also very much like to not write the entire newsletter ever again, and if you are required to read that much of my work, you will agree.

To that end, the next issue comes out in January, and I am focusing on the dialogue around race and racism in Seattle. Do you perhaps work for an institution working to fight racism? Or documenting the heritage of racism in our area? Do you have photographs of Washington Klan members in your collection? Do you feel it is within our professional scope to address issues like racism? I would love to hear from you In any capacity. Send me your thoughts, articles, ideas and admonitions.

Thoughts? Rebuttals? Fantastic Articles?
Send them to Odette Allen
Your SeaAA Member-At-Large
Seattle.Area.Archivists@gmail.com
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Hello everyone and welcome to Fall. It’s been an interesting year and we get the sense that everyone is very busy.

We had some trouble recruiting new members for the Steering Committee and we have also experienced difficulties in acquiring content for the newsletters. These things led us to the creation of the survey many of you filled out; we wanted to know how you were feeling and how we could serve you better. Thank you so much for all your feedback.

So the first thing is the newsletter: while we still want to do the newsletter, we also saw the calls for a more timely way of communicating with the membership. This is a top priority moving forward. In the meantime, we are going to go back to centering the issues on a theme, but we want to open the themes up a bit. Current themes we are looking at include race and professionalism.

Everyone seems happy with the meetings in terms of time and frequency, but we want to mix things up a little based on the other feedback we got on the survey. First, we are going to experiment with hosting more casual meetups in the evening (in addition to the regularly scheduled meetings). Second, we are going to look at mixing up the regular meetings by doing things like hosting SAA webinars for the group to view. It’s a small way we can save people some money and support the continuing education of our members.

As always, feel free to send any questions or feedback to seattle.area.archivists@gmail.com.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the meeting and am looking forward to a great 2016.

Lindsay

**Announcement!**

Our P.O. Box address has changed!
Please send any mail to our NEW address
P.O. Box 17876 Seattle, WA 98127
NEW ACCESSIONS AT SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

By Anne Frantilla

The Seattle Municipal Archives recently accessioned photographs and a logbook from Peter Steinbrueck relating to the design, creation and installation of two 50-foot totem poles at Victor Steinbrueck Park (Record Series 5801-09).

Images recently uploaded in the image database include scans of the polaroids in this collection. Logbooks kept by Victor Steinbrueck date from November 1982 to August 1983 and chronicle the project’s progress, conversations with the artists, his trips to Bainbridge Island where the carving took place, and detailed notes on costs and design details, as well as paint samples for the totem poles.

Located on the site of the Washington State National Guard Armory, the park property was purchased in 1968 and transferred to the Parks Department in 1970. Landscaped as Market Park until 1982, it was renamed Victor Steinbrueck Park in 1985. Marvin Oliver is currently Professor of American Indian Studies and Art at the University of Washington. One of the Northwest Coast’s foremost contemporary sculptors and printmakers, he works in many mediums. James Bender is also a well-known Northwest artist, known for his totem poles, masks, and jewelry.
Jim Bender working on totem pole, April 29, 1983. Item 175529, Record Series 5801-09, Seattle Municipal Archives

Artists Jim Bender and Mike Watanabe begin rough carving of pole #1, April 29, 1983. Item 175488, Record Series 5801-09, Seattle Municipal Archives.

Victor Steinbrueck with dorsal fin of totem pole #1 at the construction site on Bainbridge Island, 1983 Item 175529, Record Series 5801-09, Seattle Municipal Archives
Now available from Seattle Municipal Archives:

New on YouTube:
As more and more Seattle City Light videotape is cataloged and digitized, more items are appearing on YouTube. Check out "Inspector Weather Eyes Meets the Infiltrator," from the mid-1980s or "Skagit Youth Camp’91."
- Anne Frantilla

Audio on Seattle Voices: Condominiums

By the late 1970s, apartment vacancy rates in some parts of Seattle stood below 1%. Spurred by this burgeoning housing crisis, the Urban Development & Housing Committee of the Seattle City Council held a public hearing on May 17, 1978, to listen to testimonies about the condominiumization of apartment buildings, the reduction in the availability of rentals, and the displacement of tenants without the economic means to buy.

As a result of this hearing, Ordinance 107500 was passed by the Full Council on July 17, 1978, "declaring a Housing Emergency and imposing a moratorium on the conversion of certain rental units to condominiums, and providing penalties for violations."

The recording of the hearing contains statements from members of local and state government, citizens, social advocates, and industry members. Listen to some of those voices here.

Work on this new Seattle Voices exhibit was done by volunteer Johanna Jacobsen Kiciman.
- Anne Frantilla

Lakeside student newspapers to be digitized

5000 pages of Lakeside School history in the form of student newspapers dating to 1934 will be digitized and easily searchable this year. Since I joined as the archivist in 2008, the newspapers have been an excellent reference source for me in getting to know the school and finding answers to reference questions. To have the papers digitized and keyword searchable will cut back on my research time by half, at least. The newspaper, called The Tatler, will be made available to the school’s community through a password protected link. The idea to make them open and searchable by the general public proved problematic (or potentially problematic) so we chose to keep access internal. I did research on vendors last year and the company we went with was recommended to me by trusted colleagues. ArcaSearch is based out of Minnesota. We may use the same vendor to digitize our yearbooks and alumni magazines. - Leslie Schuyler.

Museum of Northwest Art opens archive in La Connor

Dedicated to representing northwestern art and artists, the Museum of Northwest Art has begun developing a digital archive to be made available via the museum website in early 2016.

The goal of the archive is to provide museum patrons with a more nuanced and dynamic understanding of the artists and art featured by the museum. In addition the archive will support the museum reaching a broader and more diverse patron group, supporting the museum’s goals of education and support of northwest art and artists.

- Odette Allen
BASEMENT TO BAR STOOL: INFORMAL MEET UP BEGINS JANUARY!

That's right. A regular professional drinks night. It's about to start happening people. This is a chance to meet colleagues, share ideas and get to know each other in an informal atmosphere. You should really be there.

Next SeaAA Meeting: Nov 17th, 2:30-4:30pm.
Providence Archives, 4800 37th Avenue SW Seattle, WA 98126.
November 17th, 2:30 – 4:30 PM
This meeting will offer a SAA webinar of your choosing! Survey of options coming out soon.

Seattle Area Archivist’s Unconference
January 2016, Date to be announced

In answer to the fantastic Unconference hosted in Portland earlier this year, SeaAA has decided to host our own. The intention is to provide a venue for professional discussion with our museum and library colleagues.

A list of discussion topics and suggested reading will be sent out as soon as we have the date finalized.
MONTHLY EVENTS CALENDAR:

- **Friday, Nov 6th. MOHAI's 30th History Makers Gala , Evening**
  Join the Museum of History & Industry to toast its education programs and sample its delectable upcoming 2016 exhibit, Edible City: A Delicious Journey. Funds raised at this annual event support MOHAI's educational programming. Registration opens on September 8 at [www.mohai.org](http://www.mohai.org) or call 206-324-1126 ext.156

- **Friday, Nov 6th. Lunch and Learn - Celebrating Native American Heritage Month 12-1pm**
  Several artists from local tribes including Joseph (wahalatsu?) Seymour, Jr, who are engaged in public art projects for the City of Seattle will present about their artwork that reflects their cultural heritage. This program will take place in the Bertha Knight Landes Room at Seattle City Hall, 600 4th Avenue, Seattle. Please bring your lunch; beverages and food for thought will be provided. Program is free, but please RSVP by Monday, November 2, at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

- **Monday, Nov 16th, 1pm. Original Social Media Face to Face - Mercer Island Historical Society**
  Mercer Island High School Graduate Clay Eals will talk about how history can be in our lifetimes and how we are making history and must document and preserve it. There will be a short VHS tape shown which depicts a late 1960s through-the-windshield view of a drive on Mercer Island. Clay Eals is executive director of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society. This program is hosted by the Mercer Island Historical Society and takes place at the Mercer Island Community & Events Center, 8236 SE 24th Street, Mercer Island.

- **Wednesday Nov 18th, 7pm. Military Road through Ballard - Ballard Historical Society**
  The Ballard Historical Society’s fall program and annual meeting features historian Karen Meador, who will present “Military Road through Ballard: From Steilacoom to Bellingham.” Ballard’s 15th Avenue NW was part of a road designed to carry military supplies - learn more about Ballard and other civilian communities developed along the route, thanks to federal investments in transporting military men and equipment. This event will take place at Sunset Hill Community Association, 3003 NW 66th Street, Seattle. Suggested donation: $5-$20.

- **Saturday, Dec 5th, 12:30 and 2:30pm. Holiday tea - White River Valley Museum**
  Enjoy a festive tea in the Museum's town square exhibit with a full menu of teatime savory and sweet treats. Seatings at 12:30 PM and 2:30 PM. $15 per person, registration required - visit [www.wrvmuseum.org](http://www.wrvmuseum.org) or call 253-288-7439.

- **Then everyone goes to enjoy their winter festivities! - Have a delightful December!**

![Allen-Berg Annual Solstice Celebration, Ballard.](image)
LITTLE GEMS: SMALL ARCHIVES

By Odette Allen

Seattle is a city of unconventional entrepreneurs. Here are some of my favorite small archives who are making their way on their terms.

BALLARD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

As the definition of what can be an archive and how it functions grows ever broader, an archive held within a historical society comes to seem rather quaint in comparison to the large social justice or corporate archives one also finds in Seattle. The Ballard Historical Society (BHS) is a small group that was founded in 1988 to preserve and create awareness for the history of Ballard. This unique neighborhood has a long history of maritime commerce and has historically been the hub of Scandinavian culture in the Seattle area. The online archive of their historic images can be found at http://www.ballardhistory.org/, and the BHS Archives Team is currently rescanning and cleaning up the metadata for these images. The refreshed online archive (which is still a work in progress) can be found at http://ballardhistory.omeka.net/.

BHS also recently received a City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods grant to launch the Mapping Historic Ballard: Shingletown to Tomorrow project. The project will update and digitize previous historic resource surveys and conduct a contemporary survey, resulting in an accessible, living map of our neighborhood’s past. Though the collection is not currently open to the public, research questions and photo reproduction requests can be sent to archives@ballardhistory.org.

MONA ARCHIVE IN LA CONNER

While not within the greater Seattle area, it is worth noting that the Museum of Northwest Art in La Connor is opening a digital archive documenting the artists and art of the region. Similar to how the Seattle Art Museum also holds significant holdings as a library and archive, MoNA is working to broaden its educational resources in support of greater understanding of northwest artists. The archive is unique in that most of the holdings come in the form of artwork and memorabilia exchanged between artists in the region. This exchange provides not only documentation of the professional ideas being exchanged, but also the professional and personal relationships between the artists. The MoNA archive aims to become a hub of archival information about northwest artists, providing documentation in addition to connecting patrons and researchers to other institutions offering documentation of northwest artists. In addition MoNA will offer resources on visual literacy and archival interpretation to help provide context and interpretation skills for their archive users. MoNA’s digital archive will be included on the museum’s new website in early 2016.

JANE CARLSON WILLIAMS ’60 ARCHIVE AT LAKESIDE SCHOOL

The archive at Lakeside documents the Upper and Lower Schools and is housed within the development offices in the Upper School.
The Lakeside archives document the students, professors and activities of the school for both administrative and student use, covering the history of Lakeside from 1919, and the history of St. Nicholas School from its founding in 1910 to its merger Lakeside in 1971. Part of what makes the Lakeside archives unique is their use by the development office to keep alumni deeply connected to the school. Records of student time and involvement support much of the work of the development office and make for an robustly appreciated archive. The archives mission is stated as:

“A “Living” Archives

One of the goals of the archives is to be a visible, vital presence on the Lakeside campus. Through both permanent and event-oriented displays, the use of volunteers, articles in Lakeside Magazine, and an ongoing oral history project, the archives hopes to integrate the history of the school into the lives of students, alumni, parents, friends, and employees past and present.”

While many school archives focus on the administrative and political running of the school, Lakeside is small enough to be able to also document students and professors and well as student organizations and documentation like the student newspaper. As noted above, the student newspaper provides invaluable reference information. The archive is currently undergoing an extensive project to digitize all of the issues and make them word searchable. The database will be available to the Lakeside community. Information about the archive and the current digital exhibit can be found at www.lakesideschool.org/archives

BLACK HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

History:
The Black Heritage Society of Washington is located within the Museum of History and Industry in South Lake Union. Founded in 1977 with the institution of their constitution and bylaws in 1980, the mission of the Black Historical Society is to collect, preserve, and display materials relating to the history and culture of African Americans here in Washington, while recognizing African-American pioneers in their respective fields of expertise.

Providing a wide array of exhibitions focusing on black history through the 1980s, topics included black women writers of Seattle, black working men and women of Seattle, and black history in Tacoma and in Bremerton. In 1996 the Black Historical Society what provided a grant which allowed them to preserve and archive their collection as well as moving it officially to its present residence at MOAI.

Current Work:

Ongoing projects include the ROOTS Voices project. This is an audio/visual project working to record the histories of African Americans who are either life-long residents or who were actively pushed in their movement by factors of the Great Migration to the northwest. Developed in 2013, this project is a collaboration between the Black Historical Society and the NW ROOTS Committee. Stories are collected annually at the ROOTS Family Picnic by teen video-graphers who are also the listeners recording the storytellers memories. The Black Historical Society then receives and archives the stories for public access and links them with existing collections. Currently the Black Historical Society is also working on a digital history project focusing on African Americans who attended high school in the 1950s.

Member Activity:
With an active member base and volunteer program, the BHS has developed an network of activity to support the society, including committees on Outreach, Collections, Education and Development. The Black Historical Society can be found online at: http://www.blackheritagewa.org/

THE PROS AND CONS OF SIZE

With funding as an ever present concern for archival institutions, the existence of small or unconventional archives is even more precarious than their academic or governmental counterparts. However, an archive ultimately meant to serve it’s users, and the size of an institution does impact how that is achieved. What larger archives might have in terms of digital resources, access power and paid staff, smaller archives can instead cultivate more precisely focused collections, deeper relationships with the communities who use and support them via the volunteers and donors to the archive, and finally a deeper sense of intimacy between the documentation and the people who value it. Ultimately a successful archive will need a wide array of support: funding, staff and a meaningful collection. But in the path to establishment, small archives have the benefit of forming long term relationships that will hopefully sustain them as the archive itself becomes a recognized element of the community.
CLASS NOTES:
RAAC AT SAA

By: Amy Heidrick, CA, SeaAA Treasurer/Vice-Chair

Recap of the Business Meeting of the Regional Archives Associations Consortium (RAAC), SAA Annual Meeting, Cleveland, OH, August 19, 2015.

I represented the Seattle Area Archivists at the annual business meeting of the Regional Archives Associations Consortium (RAAC) at the SAA Annual Meeting this year in Cleveland. I took over as our representative from Carol Shenk, our outgoing Member-at-Large, and will be serving on the RAAC education subcommittee as she did. The meeting included a brief review of RAAC's three year plan, which is available online.

Each of the Consortium's five subcommittees - Advocacy, Education, Public Awareness, Grant Development, and Disaster Preparedness - presented on the status of their individual activities and goals for the year and the meeting broke out into the subcommittees for discussion of what needs to be done in the coming year to accomplish these goals. In advance of next year's SAA Annual Meeting in Atlanta, RAAC and the Society of Georgia Archivists will hold a joint, day-long symposium on August 2, 2016 on various issues related to regional archival associations and will include a number of sessions and roundtable discussions. The plans for this symposium are still in the works and will be finalized in the coming months.

Additionally, the education subcommittee discussed their ongoing project to create and implement a mentoring program aimed at mid-to-late career archivists, which would focus on training and education for handling born-digital materials. The purpose of the program would be to develop born-digital expertise and a supportive network and system of resources that would help archivists who may never have received formal training on dealing with these types of materials or who are facing them for the first time. RAAC would develop the mentorship program and resource packets for regional associations to implement in their areas. Over the course of the next year, the program will continue to be developed and then tested with one regional organization. The progress of the project will be discussed at next year's SAA Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions about RAAC, please feel free to contact me: amyheidrick@hotmail.com
MOVERS AND SHAKERS: NEW HIRES AND LOCAL MOVEMENT IN THE PROFESSION.

DENSHO DIGITIZATION INTERNS:
Sarah Beckman, Alaria Sacco and Odette Allen will be digitizing Photos for Japanese American Oral Histories Project at Densho, funded by 4Culture.

JEFF WINTER:
Now a TLT Assistant Archivist at King County Archives.

JILL N. ANDERSON
Is now a Records Management Specialist, at King County Road Services Division, Renton.

JESSICA JONES:
This summer, The Museum of Flight added SeaAA member Jessica Jones to our Curatorial staff! In the position of Archivist, Jessica will be responsible for processing and cataloging projects, in addition to serving as the point person for patron requests to the Archives. We’re very excited to have her on our team! - AMY HEIDRICK
SEATTLE AREA ARCHIVISTS

The Steering committee of the SeaAA:
Chair: Lindsay Zaborowski
Vice Chair and Treasurer: Amy Heidrick
Secretary: Jeff Winter
Member-At-Large: Odette Allen

Questions, comments and communication can be sent to:
Seattle.Area.Archivists@gmail.com

Newsletter contributions actively sought, please email us your ideas and projects!

Physical mail and communications:
P.O. Box 17876 Seattle, WA 98127