ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Thanks to your contributions, SeArch is able to host community events and foster a space for our local archivists!

Last year, your membership dues went to:
- Hosting a community archival event with Puget Sound Artist Brom Wikstrom.
- The first ever annual speed networking event.
- A tour of the Woodinville Historical Center.
- Social media hosting spaces and integration applications.
- Supporting the Digital Archives Specialist Workshop with the Labor Archives.

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STEERING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Accepting Nominations

Nominations accepted until April 12, elections to follow. Transition events to occur in May and June.

Steering Committee Elections are just around the corner and we’re hard at work ensuring the 2019 SeArch Elections and transitions will go as smooth as possible.

The Seattle Area Archivist Constitution states that SeArch was established to promote cooperation and the exchange of information among individuals interested in the preservation and use of archival and manuscript materials; to disseminate information on research materials and archival methodology; to provide a forum for the discussion of matters of common concern and promote continuing education; and to cooperate with other similar cultural and educational organizations.

Does this sound like your cup of tea? Do you know an area archivist interested in supporting this community grow?

The 2017-2019 Steering Committee worked to meet online every other month, communicated predominantly via email, hosted quarterly tours, published newsletters, and maintained our social media presence. These responsibilities are distributed among members, regardless of their formal title. Our officers consist of a Chairperson – Ashley Mead, Vice-Chair – Megan Churchwell, Secretary – Amanda Demeter, Treasurer – Michael Conyers, and Member-at-Large – Nicole Sonett. As a committee, we chose which position and duties best fit, taking other responsibilities as necessary.

We’re opening the floor for nominations today! Until April 12, we’ll accept nominations via email, our website form, or any written form. The voting will be open for the last two weeks of April, pushed out on our social media sites. In May, the current Steering Committee will meet the new officers and assist in the transition.

As per our bylaws, Steering Committee members can serve up to four years and you might see some current members on the ballot in April. Join us in our continued effort to make SeArch an active community resource and professional organization!
The Catholic Northwest Progress, Volume 3, Number 5, 25 January 1901, page 1

The Archives of the Archdiocese of Seattle are excited to announce the addition of 45 years of issues of The Catholic Northwest Progress to the Washington State Library’s Washington Digital Newspapers website.

This is the first phase of a six-year effort to digitize years 1900 to 2013 of the newspaper, which was the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Seattle and reported on local, national, and international news as well as Catholic special interest stories.


IN THEIR OWN WORDS

The Archives of the Archdiocese of Seattle serves the information needs of the Church and civil communities by preserving and providing appropriate access to records documenting the history of the Catholic Church in Western Washington. Archival materials are maintained as evidence of our corporate and ministerial activities -- enabling continuity in decision making, supporting programs, and facilitating historical research. They also oversee the management of current diocesan records, and assist parishes and schools in the administration of their own records programs.
MIPoPS is excited to begin work digitizing the Northwest Asian American Theatre Collection in partnership with the Wing Luke Museum. This work is part of a grant awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The project will see the digitization of around 100 videotapes related to the Northwest Asian American Theatre (NWAAT). Founded on the campus of the University of Washington by a group of Asian Pacific American (APA) students in 1974, NWAAT began as the Theatrical Ensemble of Asians, led by Stan Asisa, and a year later became an affiliation of the Asian Multi-Media Center, changing their name to Asian Exclusion Act. They presented plays throughout venues in King County, showcasing noted APA playwrights like Frank Chin and Wakako Yamauchi. (1)

Kathy Hsieh and Tracey Fugami in "And the Soul Shall Dance", one of the performances being digitized by MIPoPS.

To better reflect their APA identity and their community in the Pacific Northwest, in 1981 the theatre group became the Northwest Asian American Theatre. In 1987, they found their permanent home in Seattle’s Chinatown International District at Theatre Off Jackson, attracting talent like David Henry Hwang and Elizabeth Wong. Considered to be “the godfather of Asian American theatre,” former NWAAT board member and development director Roger W. Tang was “instrumental” in establishing Theatre Off Jackson. (2)

With a permanent stage, NWAAT was able to produce full seasons that included well established plays such as “The Wash” by Philip Kan Gotanda and children’s theatre such as “Please Choose One” by Nancy Calos Nakano and Maria Decaney, which depicted conflicts multiracial youth often face. NWAAT was at the center of the performing world for APAs with support and appearances from stage actors like Leslie Ishii, Larry Wong, and Maria Batayola; writers like Carlos Bulosan, Frank Chin, and Gary Iwamoto; and technicians and designers like Silas Morse, Gilbert Wong, and Jan Locke.

Kathy Hsieh, playwright and founder of the Seattle-based Asian American women’s production company, SIS Productions, got her start at NWAAT. NWAAT became an important cultural center for the large population of Asian Americans who called Seattle home. In May 1998, the “Asian American Theatre 16 Convening” conference was held in Seattle. At this conference, NWAAT invited Asian American writers, directors, playwrights, actors, and fans from across the country to discuss the legacy and future of Asian American theatre.

Unfortunately, after thirty years, dwindling resources forced the NWAAT to shut its doors in 2004.

MIPOPS, WING LUKE, AND NWAAT, CONT.

The Northwest Asian American Theatre Collection will contribute to scholarship in the humanities in a multiplicity of disciplines. C.N. Lee, writing in 2016, describes the importance of Asian American theatre:

“When it comes to culture for any ethnic group, some of the most recognizable elements come in the form of art, literature, and entertainment. Asian American writers, artists, and entertainers have flourished over the years as they expressed their identity, creativity, talent and [their] community's experiences...Together, their works represent the interrelations, intricacies, and contradictions that make up Asian American culture.” (3)


The plays recorded on the videotapes in this collection are valuable for the insight they provide into the history of the Pan Asian American experience in the Pacific Northwest. The performances contribute to scholarship on a multitude of topics including the International District in Seattle, immigration, race, class, and politics. Many publications document the study of Asian American art and the significant role Seattle has played in the Asian American art scene, historically and currently.


MIPOPS, WING LUKE, AND NWAAT, CONT.

Two prominent Seattle museums focus on its curation, preservation and exhibition—the Seattle Asian Art Museum and the Wing Luke Museum—and many others host exhibits featuring art by and about Asian Americans, including the Frye Museum, the Henry Art Gallery, Seattle Art Museum, and the Bellevue Art Museum. Seattle was the first to host the Asian American Spoken Word & Poetry Summit in 2001. The interest in this subject, coupled with the lack of resources, has created a high demand for materials to be made accessible.

Roger W. Tang (former board member of NWAAT) is the creator of Asian American Theatre Revue (www.aatrevue.com), the first online directory exclusively dedicated to documenting resources on Asian American theatre. Upon hearing about this grant proposal, Tang remarked (in an email): “I am tremendously pleased that a valuable piece of our history and heritage has a chance to be preserved to be handed down to generations coming after us. In talking with younger artists across the country, I constantly am told that it’s too bad that a lot of our early work is not available. If there’s a fighting chance that this can get done, there’ll be a lot of excitement not just in Seattle, but across the country, as NWAAT was, for the longest times, one of just five Asian American theatres keeping the flame alive.”

ABOUT MIPOPS

Moving Image Preservation of Puget Sound is a non-profit formed in 2014 that enables archives, libraries, and museums, as well as arts, science and heritage organizations, to convert their legacy video recordings to digital formats, allowing new access to our region’s cultural heritage. MIPoPS assists organizations that have documentaries, oral histories, art and dance video, public works video, industrial and educational video, “orphaned” films and other material on videotape.
LABOR ARCHIVES OF WASHINGTON & THE
SOLIDARITY CENTENNIAL: COMMEMORATING THE
SEATTLE GENERAL STRIKE OF 1919
BY CRYSTAL RODGERS, ASSISTANT LABOR ARCHIVIST

From February 6 to February 11 of 1919, 65,000 working class Seattleites went on strike in solidarity with the already striking shipyard workers demanding a promised wage hike following the end of World War I. The strike was supported not only by members of the 110 unions affiliated with the Seattle Central Labor Council but also large numbers of non-union members and non-wage workers, including women, children and other family members. Japanese American labor organizations—though excluded from membership in the largely white US labor movement at the time—also chose to honor and participate in the strike alongside their fellow unionists. Mayor Ole Hanson and the mainstream press prepared Seattle citizens for pandemonium; however, the strike was orderly and peaceful for the entirety of those six days.

Months later, on November 11, 1919, American Legion members attacked an Industrial Workers of the World (IWW) hall in Centralia, Washington, and later that night, an angry mob lynched one of the arrested IWW members. Wesley Everest.

The Centralia Tragedy of 1919 remains one of the most notorious and violent showdowns between radical labor, its opponents, and those caught between. These historic moments of 1919 have an enduring legacy on the labor movement of this region with multiple threads that connect to the current political landscape we find ourselves in today.

To commemorate the centennial of these historic moments in the state’s labor history, the Labor Archives of Washington at the University of Washington Libraries Special Collections launches our latest exhibit on Monday February 4, 2019. Solidarity Centennial: The Legacy of the Seattle General Strike Era and the Centralia Tragedy of 1919, on display in the Special Collections Reading Room from February 4th to June 7th.
SOLIDARITY CENTENNIAL, CONTINUED

This exhibit features primary sources drawn from the collections of the Labor Archives of Washington and UW Special Collections, offering multiple viewpoints on the strike and the Centralia Tragedy and takes a broader look at the Seattle labor movement during the years leading up to the strike that made such a mass showing of solidarity by working people possible.

In addition to the exhibit, on Saturday February 9th, the LAW hosted our 2019 annual event, Solidarity City: The 1919 Seattle General Strike and 100 Years of Worker Power. Held at the historic Seattle Labor Temple on 1st Avenue from 1-4 pm, the event featured a panel of labor historians discussing the events of February 1919 and another panel of contemporary labor activists who drew connections from the general strike to the labor struggles of today. The LAW exhibit and annual event are a part of Solidarity Centennial, a broad array of community events planned by labor, history, educational, and cultural heritage groups in the Pacific Northwest commemorating the centennial. There was number of exciting events during the first week of February and more throughout the year of 2019, so be sure to check out the Solidarity Centennial website to view a full list of happenings!
UPCOMING CONFERENCES IN 2019

February
• February 12-14: Preservation and Archiving Special Interest Group (PASIG) Meeting – Mexico City

March
• March 3-6: Electronic Resources & Libraries – Austin, TX
• March 4-6: Designing for Digital – Austin, TX
• March 8: Canadian-American Archives Conference - Bellingham, WA
• March 20-21: Library Technology Conference (LibTech) – St. Paul, MN
• March 26-28: Computers in Libraries – Arlington, VA

April
• April 3-6: Midwest Archives Conference – Detroit, MI

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did we forget anything?

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Questions, comments, communication, and newsletter contributions are always accepted and appreciated!

Please email us your ideas and projects, any articles you've authored. We're interested!

GET IN TOUCH

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