



Seattle Area Archivists Newsletter

Winter 2007

Note from the Chair

Happy New Year! I hope you've all been holding onto your hats through the wild weather we've been having so far this winter. Just about everyone has a weather story from the past couple of months, either about flooding, wind, snow, or power outages.

Besides supplying us with war stories, our recent storms remind us that we need to plan for many types of contingencies in terms of protecting our collections. If last year's Gulf Coast storms weren't enough to motivate us to create institutional preparedness plans, then this year's Seattle weather should serve to remind us that floods, earthquakes, and other disasters can happen where we live as well.

Does the staff at your organization know what to do in case of an emergency? Do you have supplies on hand to protect collections if your roof or sprinkler system starts to leak? Does everyone on your staff know where your fire extinguishers are located and how to use them? Have you created a priority list for salvaging damaged collections? Do you know whom to call if you need freezers, dehumidifiers, or other equipment?

Many of us cannot answer "yes" to all of these questions. Luckily, there are many good resources out there to guide us in creating disaster plans for our organizations. One good place to start is <http://www.dplan.org/>, a nifty online tool that walks you through the steps of drawing up a plan. Another site worth checking out is the Council of State Archivists' Framework for Emergency Preparedness, which can be found on the web at <http://www.statearchivists.org/prepare/framework/index.htm>. In addition, many institutions (including the Smithsonian, the Minnesota Historical Society, and Harvard) have posted their plans on the web, and these can serve as useful models.

Thankfully, Seattle Area Archivists has not heard of any damage sustained by local collections in our wet weather. We're also glad to report that all our members seem to have come through with only a stronger-than-usual desire for a vacation in a sunny climate.

Julie Kerssen
Seattle Municipal Archives

Steering Committee & Contact Information

Julie Kerksen, Chair
Seattle Municipal Archives

Patty McNamee, Vice Chair
NARA

Julie Viggiano, Secretary
Seattle Municipal Archives

Marjorie Reeves, Treasurer
Historian, UDC

Sara Nau, Member-at-Large
Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle Archives

Need to contact Seattle Area Archivists?

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Visit us on the Web at www.historylink.org/saa

Seattle Area Archivists Winter Meeting
February 8th
2-4pm

NARA-Pacific Alaska Region
6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle

Join us for a panel discussion on volunteers. Our panel includes staff from Historic Seattle, NARA and the Woodland Park Zoo. They offer a wide variety of ideas and backgrounds that may help to enhance your existing program or give a kick start to your new volunteer corps. The panel will discuss:

- How to recruit?
- Are there funding issues?
- Is there a difference in hiring for students, interns or work study programs?
- How to let go of a volunteer, if they don't work out?
- Are there confidentiality issues?
- Does your institution need to run background checks?

Please come with your questions and experiences with volunteers to share in our discussion.

Panelists:

Luci J. Baker Johnson
Manager, Volunteer Services & Events
Historic Seattle

Luci has been an active volunteer for Historic Seattle since 2001, donating over 200 volunteer hours annually, and has served on the Advocacy and Strategic Planning committees. Founded in 1974, Historic Seattle is the only nonprofit membership organization dedicated to preserving Seattle and King County's architectural legacy. The mission is to educate, advocate and preserve.

Carol Buswell
Education Specialist
National Archives and Records Administration
Pacific Alaska Region, Seattle

Carol Buswell is the Education / Volunteer Specialist for the National Archives and Records Administration in Seattle. She holds an MA in American Indian Studies and a BA in Elementary Education. She has authored and/or contributed to several genealogical reference books on Native American genealogy and has taught various genealogical subjects for over 20 years. A

former school teacher, author, businesswoman and avid volunteer herself, she sees volunteers as the backbone of the heritage community.

Kim Haas-
Volunteer Programs Supervisor, Woodland Park Zoo

Kim has 19 years experience in coordinating volunteers and managing volunteer programs--

4/97-Present Volunteer Programs Supervisor, Woodland Park Zoo
Manage all aspects of the zoo's volunteer programs which involve over 1,000 volunteers annually (650 regular volunteers)
1994-1997 Docent Coordinator, Woodland Park Zoo, Seattle, WA
1993-1994 Director, Marymoor Museum, Redmond, WA
1991-1992 Outreach Coordinator, Los Angeles County Natural History Museum
1988-1991 Curator of Collections and Education,
Museum Educator, Pasadena Historical Society, Pasadena, CA
1987-1988 Museum Educator's Assistant, Fowler Museum of Cultural History
Registration Assistant, Fowler Museum of Cultural History

Bev Clevenger
Education Director, Woodland Park Zoo

As the new Education Director at the Woodland Park Zoo Bev brings with her experience in education from your time as the Education Director at the Museum of Flight. At the Woodland Park Zoo, it is the Education Director who oversees the volunteer program.

We look forward to seeing you at this meeting.

News...

What is the latest news from your Archives? Let us know and we would be more than happy to share it with the rest of the Archival community in our next newsletter.

Email information to: Sara Nau at saran@seattlearch.org

Repository News

News from the Seattle Municipal Archives

"The Seattle Open Housing Campaign, 1959-1968" was recently added to the Digital Document Library of Seattle Municipal Archives. It can be found at: <http://clerk.ci.seattle.wa.us/~public/doclibrary/OHousing/index.shtml>. The site offers a narrative and timeline on the fight for open housing legislation in Seattle, and presents a set of primary source documents, including audio clips and photographs, for use by students and teachers. Many of the documents used are from the Mayor's records recently transferred to SMA from the University of Washington Special Collections. The photographs include some from the Museum of History & Industry, and the Seattle Civil Rights and Labor History Project at the University of Washington provided an example of a restrictive covenant. Plans for an exhibit to complement the Digital Document Library site are underway.



News and Upcoming Events:

Staff Announcement

The King County Archives is pleased to announce the addition of three new staff members, Janette Gomes, Ryan Wadleigh and Janet Shrieves. Janette started work at the Archives on November 1, 2006 as an assistant archivist after eight years with the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives. Ryan joined the King County Archives staff as an administrative specialist II on December 1st. Ryan had previously spent the first 3 months of 2006 working at the Archives as a public history intern from Seattle University. Also joining the Archives staff as an administrative assistance specialist II, Janet, who began work at the Archives in early February 2007, has over 15 years' experience in business and office administration.

Have you read a great book about Archives lately?

If you have, why don't you consider nominating it for the Waldo Gifford Leland Award.

The Leland Award subcommittee of the Society of American Archivists invites you to nominate a monograph, finding aid, or documentary publication (periodicals are not eligible) published in North America in 2006 for the Waldo Gifford Leland Award. Works that exhibit "writing of superior excellence and usefulness in the field of archival history, theory, and practice" are eligible.

Established in 1959, the award honors American archival pioneer Waldo Gifford Leland, president of the Society of American Archivists in the 1940's and one of the driving forces behind the founding of the National Archives.

A full description of the award can be found at
<http://www.archivists.org/governance/handbook/section12-leland.asp>

Nomination forms can be downloaded from
http://www.archivists.org/recognition/awards_form.pdf

The deadline is February 28, 2007.

Society of American Archivists Workshop in Seattle

This spring, Seattle Area Archivists is co-sponsoring a Society of American Archivists workshop on Basic Electronic Records. If you're looking for information and guidance about how to deal with electronic records in your institution, this promises to be a great learning opportunity. The one-day workshop will be held on March 29 at NARA-Pacific Alaska Region, and will be taught by Geof Huth from the New York State Archives. Seattle Area Archivists members receive a \$25 discount off SAA's non-member rate. To get this discount, register online and enter "SeattleAA06" into the promotional code space on the form. The discount will then be applied manually at the SAA office and will be reflected on the receipt and registration confirmation. More information about the workshop, along with an online registration form, can be found at: <http://www.archivists.org/prof-education/workshop-detail.asp?id=2017> .

A public presentation

The Seattle Open Housing Campaign 1959-1968

Tuesday February 13, 2007 12 noon
Bertha Knight Landes Room Seattle City
Hall

Rev. Samuel McKinney, human rights activist and community leader, will speak about the fight for fair housing legislation in 1960s Seattle.

Pastor of Seattle's Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Rev. McKinney was active in the Central Area Civil Rights Committee during the 1960s, and worked with leaders of the NAACP, the Urban League, and other civil rights groups to secure legislation prohibiting housing discrimination



Open housing demonstration at Westlake Mall, downtown Seattle, March 7, 1964.

City of Seattle



Courtesy: Seattle Post-Intelligencer Collection 86.5.9654, Museum of History & Industry.