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Fall 2009

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## Fall Meeting

October 13, 2008  
“Web 2.0 and Archives”  
**NARA – Pacific-Alaska Region**  
10:30-1:30 PM

What’s all this talk of Web 2.0, twitter, facebook, flickr, etc.? Our annual fall meeting will explain it all! We’re bringing you a webinar by Kate Theimer entitled “Introduction to Web 2.0 in Archives...or What You Need to Know in a Nutshell” sponsored by the Society of American Archivists.

Kate maintains a blog called [Archives Next](#) which deals with archives and technology and is also editing an upcoming book about web 2.0 and archives.

This webinar is free to our members and \$15 for non-members and \$10 for student non-members. See [here](#) for more details. Since for many this meeting straddles the lunch hour, we encourage you to bring a lunch.

After the webinar we will have a brief panel discussion of these technologies and talk with those who have successfully implemented web 2.0 tools in their repositories. Julie Kerssen from the City of Seattle Municipal Archives will talk about her repository’s flickr site. Carol Buswell, Education Specialist from NARA, will talk about her experience with web 2.0 technologies. Helice Koffler will speak about her work on the [PNW Blog](#), the blog for the Pacific Northwest Collection of the Special Collections Division at the University of Washington Libraries.

## Note from the Chair

Welcome to the 2009-2010 membership year for Seattle Area Archivists. There are so many exciting things share there is hardly room in this short space!

Since our last newsletter was released much has transpired. The new steering committee for Seattle Area Archivists was elected and took the helm. In addition to me, the committee consists of Nicolette Bromberg (University of Washington), Vice-Chair; Kathleen Crosman (NARA), Treasurer; Ken House (NARA), Secretary; and Josh Zimmerman (City of Bellevue), Member-at-Large. Kathleen and I are serving out the second and last year of our elected terms while the others are beginning their first year.

In other news, we have launched an independent website (<http://seattleareaarchivists.org>). The benefits of the new site include increased visibility, ease of use, and potential for more interaction among membership. If you haven't already looked at our site, please do. If you have any suggestions or comments about the content or ideas for improvement, please let us know!

We are excited to offer the web seminar "Introduction to Web 2.0 in Archives...Or What You Need to Know in a Nutshell," as part of our Fall membership meeting on October 13th. Seattle Area Archivists has paid the registration fee for this course which is among the slate of the Society of American Archivists' continuing education programs. We present it for free to all members of Seattle Area Archivists—reason enough to join if you aren't already a member. At a time when budgets are being slashed everywhere, we hope that this will be both useful and economical!

Later in the month we'll be sponsoring the annual Archives Fair in celebration of Archives Month. The Fair will be held in the Downtown branch of the Seattle Public Library on October 30<sup>th</sup>. Look for more information about the Archives Fair later in the newsletter.

Looking ahead, mark your calendars for the annual meeting of the Northwest Archivists that will be held in Seattle at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel April 28-May 1, 2010. This "super regional" meeting will also include the Conference of Intermountain Archivists, the Society of California Archivists, and the Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists. What a great opportunity to show off our city and raise awareness of all the repositories housed here. Look for more information about this in the upcoming months.

And last, but not least, let me mention that this year marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Seattle Area Archivists. Our founding members are surely proud of what they set in motion in 1985. This year offers a time to look back on all the great things that we as an organization have accomplished, and to look forward to all the exciting opportunities that lie ahead. I look forward to serving the organization for the next year!

Emily Hughes Dominick, Associate Archivist, Providence Archives, Seattle

# October is Archives Month

As archival repositories around the country are gearing up for Archives Month, Washington State is also preparing events and celebrations.

This year's theme is "Archives at Play." Like last year, the state has developed a [website](#) to explore this topic and provide information regarding trainings, events, and other pertinent resources.

If you are hosting or know about any Archives Month events, please let the State Archives and Seattle Area Archivists know about it. We'd be happy to spread the word.

## Seattle Archives Fair

Please join us for the annual Seattle Archives Fair on October 30th, 2009, at the Seattle Public Library's Central Branch. The Fair will run from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the 10th level, near the Library's Hugh and Jane Ferguson Seattle Room.

If your organization includes an archival collection that is open to the public and you would like to participate in the fair, table space will be available for display boards and literature. The Library also has Wi-Fi if you would like to bring your laptop to show off your repository's Web site.

Display space is limited, so please contact Janette Gomes at [janette.gomes@kingcounty.gov](mailto:janette.gomes@kingcounty.gov)

or 206-205-1398 as soon as possible to reserve a table. We look forward to seeing you there!

## Seattle Municipal Archives

On October 29, 2009 the Seattle Municipal Archives will host an open house from 12 to 3 pm and a tour at 12:30. All are invited to see what's in the Archives and check out the history of Seattle at play.



<http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/Archivesmonth/default.aspx>.

## Washington State Archives

Please join us in celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the Washington State Digital Archives and Eastern Archives Branch during Archives Month 2009.

Thursday Oct. 22, 2009 (4:00pm - 7:00pm)

### Guest Speakers:

Sam Reed - Secretary of State  
 Siri Woods - Chelan County Clerk  
 Jerry Pettit - Archives Oversight Committee Chair, Kittitas Co. Auditor  
 Carolyn Ableman - Director of Records and Licensing Services, King Co.  
 Lee Dirks - Director of Scholarly Research, Microsoft

Questions? Please contact:  
 Todd Henderson at (509) 235-7500 x 220 or [theenderson@secstate.wa.gov](mailto:theenderson@secstate.wa.gov)

# The Place of Archivists

By Joshua Zimmerman



At some point in my early childhood, my mother pinned a button to the corkboard on our basement wall. It read: “Woman’s Place is Every Place.” Even at such a young age, I understood the message as well as its historical context. Because of its family and social significance, the button’s slogan will always stick with me, just as it’s clung to the corkboard for all of these years. This slogan’s ability to simply and effectively capture both problem (the lack of women in professional positions) and solution (to insert them there), continues to resonate with me today.

Years later as I began my archival career, I encountered passionate advocates for our profession in archival literature and at professional meetings. Chief among the many cheerleaders is Randall Jimerson, director of Western Washington University’s Archives and Records Management graduate program. Rand has dedicated most of his life to educating future archivists and championing the archival cause at home and abroad. Not only has he been an inspiring professor and advisor, but he has also become a mentor and friend.

Recently, my now wife (also a WWU ARM

alum) and I were honored to have Rand preside over our wedding ceremony. I know what you’re thinking: unlike ministers, sea captains, and judges, archivists lack the legal authority to marry anyone. While we took care of the legal formalities ourselves beforehand, we asked Rand to worry about the more meaningful ceremony he would be conducting for our family and friends. Despite his lack of ministerial authority, his speech was superb. In true advocate form, he infused the ceremony with archival duties of arrangement, description, preservation, and advocacy in order to illustrate our responsibilities to each other, and our shared journey ahead.

Not surprisingly, this ceremony was a smashing success with archivist friends and lay folk alike. As one guest exclaimed, “I finally know what an archivist does!” This is a perfect example of the type of advocacy that those who know Rand have come to expect. Yet, it’s also the type of advocacy the profession needs from *all* of its archivists, not only the Rand Jimersons among us.

After hearing the ceremony that Rand so eloquently delivered, the slogan on my mother’s button came to mind. Instead of highlighting gender inequalities that many women still face, it took on a completely different meaning when adapted to an archival setting.

The place of archivists and archives is every place! And as Rand has shown, archives can be at home in virtually any setting, whether in his classroom at Western, or in front of family and friends at a wedding ceremony. Unlike women who have been, and continue to be marginalized due to strict societal norms and traditional gender roles, archivists must bear some of the blame for how the profession is

perceived in society and turn it into a rallying cry for the profession. I'm not suggesting that you appropriate the Women's Movement slogan as your own, but I am suggesting that you keep the archivist's version of it in mind as you engage with people in a variety of settings.

Part of professional advocacy is an ability to clearly articulate a profession's value to society. I am a firm believer that we as archivists must be able to see both the forest and the trees of our profession. Big picture reflection such as this is often pushed to the background in favor of daily concerns of processing backlogs, budgets, meetings, and reference requests. Without the larger picture, archivists cannot be good advocates. Understanding why archives are important to society should inform all of the major tasks that we perform on a daily basis.

So as we start Archives Month, I urge you all to keep this call to advocacy in mind. Remember that the place of archives or archivists is every place! And when you see an opportunity to pass on a word about who we are, what we do and why we are important to society, no matter what the setting, please do so.

## Calling All Members:

As you may know, this is the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Seattle Area Archivists. For our silver anniversary year, we are seeking newsletter submissions (articles, facts, tidbits) relating to our history. Do you remember a particularly funny moment, a proud or inspiring moment, or a not-so-proud moment? What was it like 25 years ago? Ten years ago? How have things changed? Please send them all to us so we can share them. These moments have made Seattle Area Archivists the great organization that it is today.

### Important Dates

October 13	<a href="#">Fall Membership Meeting</a>
October 16	<a href="#">National Home Movie Day</a>
October 22	<a href="#">Washington State Digital Archives 5<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary</a>
October 28	<a href="#">Your Neighborhood's Best Kept Secret – NARA Seattle</a>
October 29	<a href="#">Seattle Municipal Archives Tour</a>
October 30	<a href="#">Archives Fair at the Seattle Public Library</a>
February	Winter Membership Meeting
April 28 – May 1st	<a href="#">Northwest Archivist "Western Roundup" Super Regional Meeting – Seattle (Renaissance Seattle Hotel):</a> Conference of Intermountain Archivists, Northwest Archivists, Society of California Archivists, Society of Rocky Mountain Archivists
May	Spring Membership Meeting

# Seattle Area Archivists' New Website



Look familiar? If not, it's the new Seattle Area Archivists website. It can be found at:

<http://seattleareaarchivists.org/>

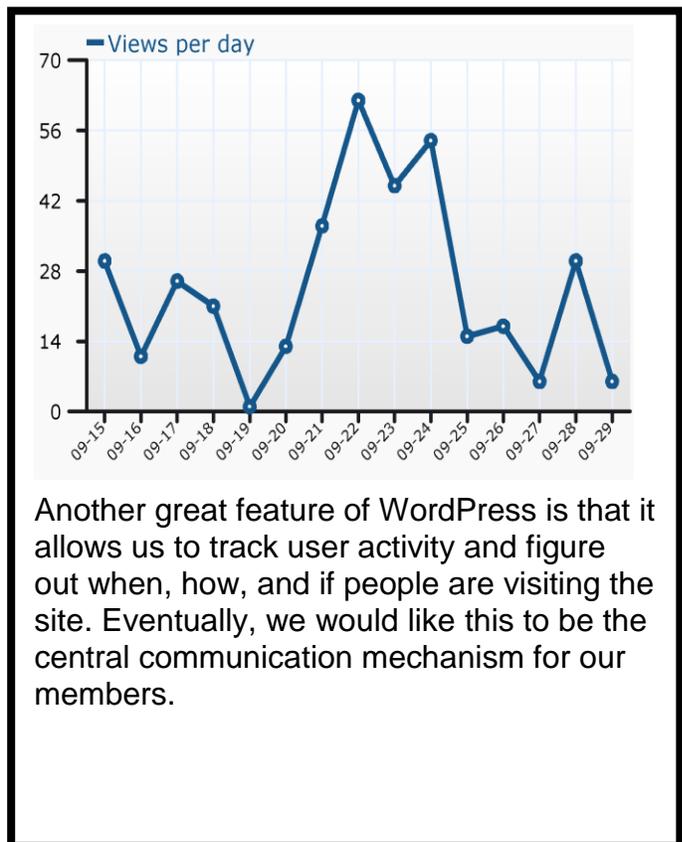
We decided on **WordPress**, a blogging platform which provides a great deal of flexibility in publishing and updating the site with pertinent information.

The reason for choosing this blog style format is that we want to better serve our membership by providing and fostering a collaborative environment.

This format not only allows us to quickly communicate job openings, training opportunities, news stories, and general announcements to our membership, but it also allows our membership to provide *us* with valuable information in the form of your comments. We want to hear from you.

So, get involved! If you have suggestions or any other comments, please don't hesitate to make them. This is your organization.

So if you haven't already, please stop by and check out our new website. Better yet, bookmark or subscribe to it. Even better still, add it to your **feed list**.



Another great feature of WordPress is that it allows us to track user activity and figure out when, how, and if people are visiting the site. Eventually, we would like this to be the central communication mechanism for our members.

## Remember to Renew Your Membership!

Annual membership fees are due November 1st, 2008.

# News Briefs

## National Archives and Records Administration— Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle)

### Staff News

NARA's Pacific Alaska Region (Seattle) is happy to announce that we have filled our last open position. Charliann Becker joined us at the end of August as our second Archives Technician. Charliann transferred to Seattle from our sister facility in Anchorage where she had worked as an Archives Technician for almost 2 years.

### Events

**Washington's First World's Fair: Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition**, Seattle, June 1-October 16, 1909. This 15 panel exhibit was developed and prepared by HistoryLink.org. These posters are displayed in various locations on the first floor and the second floor hallway.

**Faces of the Pacific Northwest.** The exhibit includes 56 photographs from our holdings. The images illustrate the diversity found in the population of the Pacific Northwest as well as the variety of activities in which Northwest residents engage. The photographs are arranged in six general groupings - Native American, work, family, recreation, immigrants and life at McNeil Island Federal Penitentiary. The exhibit is located in the conference room at the National Archives at 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle and can be viewed during events there or by special arrangement.

### Your Neighborhood's Best Kept Secret – The National Archives at Seattle

WHEN: October 28, 2009, 7 PM

WHERE: Seattle Public Library, Northeast Branch

FIND OUT MORE: Carol Buswell, The National Archives at Seattle, 206-336-5151

**Free Basics of Archives Workshop – Seattle, October 29<sup>th</sup> (9:00 AM to 4:00 PM).** A practical one-day workshop for those who work with archives, but are not trained archivists. Workshop takes place at National Archives Pacific-Alaska Region, 6125 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle. The session is free but pre-registration is required by October 1 - contact Mark Vessey, Heritage Resource Center, at 360-586-0219 or [mvessey@wshs.wa.gov](mailto:mvessey@wshs.wa.gov)

Presented in conjunction with Washington Archives Month by the Washington State Historical Records Advisory Board (WSHRAB), Washington State Archives, National Archives Pacific-Alaska Region, and the Heritage Resource Center (Washington State Historical Society).

## University of Washington (Seattle)

### Events

#### **National Home Movie Day** (Seattle)

Saturday, October 17th

Allen Library Auditorium

Allen Library North (Ground Level)

University of Washington Campus Seattle, WA 98195

#### **Campus Map**

Film preservation clinic from 2:00pm-3:00pm  
Home movie screening: 3:00pm-5:00pm

Contact:

Hannah Palin

[filmarc@u.washington.edu](mailto:filmarc@u.washington.edu)

206-543-1929

## Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives

So much has been happening at the Pacific Northwest Lesbian Archives. Even though we don't yet have a ritzy newsletter we are an honest-to-goodness grassroots Lesbian organization. In May, we moved the Archives out of a private home to a beautiful climate controlled, researcher friendly space: the Washington State Historical Society in Tacoma, Washington. In June, we participated in Seattle's LGBT Pride Festival at the Seattle Center and in July, our first volunteer processing archivists began work on the collection in Tacoma. Our founder/director, Lisa Cohen attended the BOLD (Bold Older Lesbians and Dykes) conference in Vancouver, BC where she presented a workshop on behalf of PNLA about preserving personal papers and manuscript materials. Coming up in October, the Archives will co-present a film called *Swimming with Lesbians* about a Lesbian activist and herstorian in Buffalo, NY.

Google analytics tell us that not only do we have people viewing our website from all over the United States but we've also had hits from Turkey, the United Kingdom, Germany, Hungary, Canada, Belarus, Saudi Arabia, Romania, Iran and the Palestinian Territories.

Little by little we are preserving the herstory of Lesbians in the Pacific Northwest. Soon we will have collections accessible online--down to the folder level.

Contact: Lisa Cohen  
 Phone: (206) 654-4477  
 Web: [www.pnwlesbianarchives.org](http://www.pnwlesbianarchives.org)  
 Email: [lisa@pnwlesbianarchives.org](mailto:lisa@pnwlesbianarchives.org)

## Sisters of Providence Archives

Providence Archives is now on [Flickr](#), a popular web site for online photo sharing. Visit our "photostream" at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/provarchives/>



Science class at Providence High School, Burbank, California, 1960s. Sisters of Providence Archives, Seattle.

## Seattle Municipal Archives

### NHPRC Grant

The Seattle Municipal Archives received a \$106,480 grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission for a two-year basic processing project. The overall goal of the project is to process 1,858 linear feet of records, representing the Archives entire current backlog.

### Newly Processed at SMA

Due in part to the industrious labor of our Western Washington University intern Andrea McConchie, several collections have been added to the SMA Guide this summer.

### Seattle Fire Department Scrapbooks 2801-13 1947-1979 19 volumes

Scrapbooks consisting of newspaper clippings of articles and photographs on topics related to the Fire Department. Most of the articles cover incidents to which the firefighters responded, including fires, car accidents and medical emergencies. Other articles relate to the fire department's involvement with specific propositions, initiatives, fire station closures and pay raises/cuts.

Also included are articles about training, equipment, personal interest stories about firefighters and charitable causes. Other topics of historical interest that are covered in detail include the investigation of Captain Strom by the House Committee on Un-American Activities; Chief Vickery's career as Seattle City Light superintendent; the creation of Medic I and its funding issues; the rise of arson and the evolution of Seattle's Arson Unit; the controversial dismissal of Chief Richards and recall vote of Mayor Uhlman; and the introduction of women firefighters to the department. Dates are written next to the clippings, but not the newspaper name, although most articles appear to be local. A small number of other types of materials are included, including some newsletters and some photographic prints.

Other recently processed SFD records include:

**2802-07 Engine Company Roll Book  
1892 -1896 1 volume**

Daily logs of each fire fighter's hourly in and out status of Engine Company 6. Also includes some additional information such as supplies received and alarms or fires, as well as fire fighter substitutions.

**2802-08 Engine Company Log Books  
1905 -1949 6 volumes**

Chronological log (dates and times) of the regular business of the Engine Company. Each volume is exclusive to a particular Engine Company with each volume containing differing amounts of detail. All include personnel information such as shift changes, officers on duty, days off, substitutions, payroll or sick/injured fire fighters. Almost all include some alarm and response information. Other information recorded includes hydrants which are in and

out of service, neighborhood water shut-offs, drills performed, supplies received and equipment inspections. See Volume List for specific Engine Companies and time periods represented.

**2804-03 Record of Fires  
1894 -1924 20 volumes**

Chronological record of fires in Seattle, including date, time, alarm, location, owner, description, cause, and information regarding the value and loss of building and contents. Monthly and yearly summaries are also included. Some volumes list responding Engine Companies.

**2810-03 Building Inspections Log Book  
1901 -1910 1 volume**

For dates 1901 - April 1906, this volume is a chronological record of building inspections performed by the fire department. Types of violations include defective chimneys, fire escape obstructions, and improper disposal of rubbish. For dates 1907-1910, this volume contains monthly and yearly tallies of number and type of violations as well as Fire Losses and Insurance totals.

**Seattle Fire Department Personnel  
Records**

**2802-06 1903-1969 66.4 cubic feet**

Records of positions held, promotions, disciplines taken, civil service investigations, and extracurricular activities on behalf of the Fire Department. The records provide glimpses into the employees' personal lives, especially in the 1910s and 1920s, as the files include explanations for tardiness, communications with debtors, and reasons for resignations. The personnel files cover employees who worked less than a year to those who worked more than 50 years. Women began working in the department as clerical workers in larger numbers in the late 1950s. Most worked for a year or less; the files record their reasons for leaving which

include pregnancy, school, health, or "to seek more suitable employment." An excellent source for genealogy, the Personnel Records contain information about how the Department functioned as well as insight into the lives of the employees in the Department. This collection was largely processed by work study student Breanna Menzies.

Digital photographs recently uploaded to the online database include images from the Office of Housing (Records series 3500-01) including: Charleston Apartments, LaSalle Hotel, Colman School, Cooper School, the Compass Center, Croft Place Townhomes and West Seattle Community Center.



**Lasalle Hotel: Pike Place Market PDA. 1426 Western Avenue. Seattle Municipal Archives Item 163235.**

## Lakeside Archives

This summer and over the course of the upcoming school year, Lakeside School will be renovating one of its oldest buildings, Bliss Hall, built in 1930. Those of us who have offices in the building will need to move everything out for a period of nine or ten (or eleven or twelve) months. Unfortunately, that includes our archives. Although the archives occupies a relatively small space--roughly 400 square feet--this presents me with a fairly serious challenge for the current school year.



**Bliss Hall, circa 1954. From the Jane Carlson Williams '60 Archives, Lakeside School, Seattle.**

The archives was created in 2002, and continues to grow. We collect a variety of materials including some artifacts, and a small portion of these materials have been catalogued at an item level in PastPerfect, a museum collections management database software. An inventory of the entire collection has never been done. Before I consider storing our archival holdings off-site, it's important that I have some intellectual control over the materials. Never has the need for an inventory been so obvious (and easy to explain to my supervisor). I'm looking forward to conducting an inventory, because I know that it will make my job as archivist much, much easier.

Since I joined Lakeside in April of last year, I've been haunted by the unknown--both in terms of the scope of our collection, and how our archival materials have been classified and arranged. Because of the lack of recorded information about the archives, it's been up to me to familiarize myself with the collection by exploring the stacks, opening boxes, and scanning file labels. All of the knowledge and understanding of the archives held by the previous archivist was lost when the position transitioned. Only now, after a year and a half, am I beginning

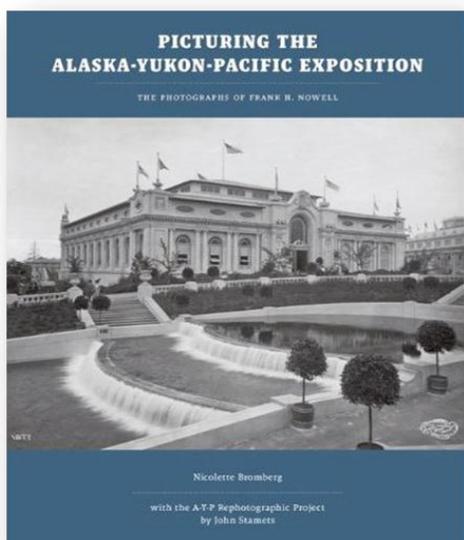
to feel as though I have a handle on our collections.

As I make changes to the classification scheme, begin the inventory process, and become more familiar with our materials, I'll be recording my actions, the thought processes behind them, and the things I discover as I work. I'm confident that by the end of June I'll have gained a much better understanding of what we have in our collection, and perhaps more importantly, the means to pass on that information to those who follow in my position.

Leslie Schuyler, Archivist

## New Book

Nicolette Bromberg's new book *Picturing the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition: The Photographs of Frank H. Nowell* was published last month from the University of Washington Press. This book also features John Stamets' A-Y-P Rephotographic project. See [here](#) for more details from the publisher.



## Steering Committee Members

### Chair

Emily Dominick  
*Providence Archives*

### Vice-Chair

Nicolette Bromberg  
*University of Washington*

### Secretary

Ken House  
*NARA – Pacific-Alaska Region*

### Treasurer

Kathleen Crosman  
*NARA – Pacific-Alaska Region*

### Member-at-Large

Joshua Zimmerman  
*City of Bellevue*