

Restoria

Newsletter for the Lower Columbia Preservation Society

Seismic Workshop Coming in August

Submitted by John Goodenberger

Geologist Tom Horning and architect Jay Raskin presented an informative lecture on the imminent danger of "The Big One" last January for LCPS members. Coming soon in August, LCPS will present a "Part 2" to that lecture. This time you will learn how to apply seismic bracing to the structure of your home. The demonstration workshop will be held in one of our local residential basements.

Keep your eyes open for a postcard in August, which will reveal the time and location for this exciting workshop. Being prepared is half the success of preserving and maintaining our historic homes.

Save the Date: September 1

Come help celebrate the 100th birthday of the Pesthouse at Knappton Cove Heritage Center. Start your Labor Day weekend with a pleasant potluck social and insiders' tour of our local Ellis Island, where we will join our friends from the Oysterville Restoration Foundation. **Saturday, September 1**, we will congregate at noon, at the historic Columbia River Quarantine Station site, the Port of Entry through which thousands of immigrants passed for mandatory health inspections. The 1912 Pesthouse is being lovingly restored and features a fascinating museum created by Nancy Bell Anderson, whose family has owned the property since 1950. Nancy, her brother, Tom Bell, and his wife, Georgia, will be on hand for behind-the-scenes exploration of the property, including the historic dining hall/kitchen and Tom's Model T and vintage Corvette. Discover the restored Oysterville surprise.

The Knappton Cove Heritage Center is located 3 miles east of the Astoria/Megler Bridge in Washington at 521 WA State Hwy 401. Watch for the heritage signs and the large piling field offshore.

We will have access to a house and BBQ for our luncheon purposes. Please bring a potluck item and/or drink to share. R.S.V.P. to Pam Chestnut, 503-325-3245.

The LCPS Mission is to preserve, protect, and promote the historic architecture in the Lower Columbia region. These structures are important assets that contribute to the area's history, culture, identity, and livability.

Page 1

Old House Forum Recap Submitted by Pam Chestnut

An Old House Forum was hosted by Betsy and Colby Lennon May 23rd at their wonderful 1884 Gothic Vernacular home on historic 6th Street in the Flavel neighborhood. According to Betsy, "This house had been neglected for so long that it was almost done-for." But through hard work and diligence, they have managed to preserve this sturdy gem, built of straight-grain old-growth lumber like most of our old beauties. An old bathroom addition was too rotten to save, so Betsy and Colby created a laundry room/bathroom wing off the kitchen, which flows with Victorian era charm and utility due to good design, historic salvaged materials, and reuse of original four-over-four double-hung windows. The exterior has been painted such luscious colors that inquiring folks stop by with a mind to copy the palette. As work continues on the interior and back porch, completed rooms are beautifully fitted in Betsy and Colby's unique, cozy, artistic style, providing comfort and satisfaction in the midst of seemingly endless preservation projects. The many members who came to experience this worthy revival were delighted and inspired. Great job, Betsy and Colby, and thanks for sharing!

Do you have an old house you would like to share as you progress through restoration? Please give one of our Board Members a call.

Annual Meeting Recap Submitted by Pam Chestnut

Our 2012 Annual Meeting was held at the lovely Elks Lodge again this year due to a scheduling snafu at the newly remodeled Astoria City Hall. Thanks to Mitch and the Elks for the last minute availability and next-door convenience. We elected five new great and enthusiastic members to serve on the LCPS Board of Directors: Mark Brown, Richard Garner, Tim Kennedy, David Wigutoff, and Jim Wilkins (though Jim later resigned). John Goodenberger, chair, and Pam Chestnut, vice chair, were confirmed for their second three-year terms of service. Retiring from the board this year are treasurer, Mitch Mitchum, and former secretary, Rosalie McCleary, who will be missed greatly. We thank them for their long and dedicated service.

Meeting attendees were treated to local writer and guest speaker, Irene Martin, who is well-known for her historical research and expertise in the Pacific Northwest fishing culture. Her latest book is a chronicle of our fishing and cannery industries: *Flight of the Bumblebee: The Columbia River Packers Association and a Century in the Pursuit of Fish*. Some folks who purchased a book that evening have shared glowing reviews. Irene is a delightful, informed presenter. We all learned a great deal about the historic canneries and fishing culture provided by the life within our rivers and sea in the Lower Columbia region.

Together we look forward with renewed vigor and vision, continuing to realize the LCPS mission to preserve, protect, and promote the historic architecture in the Lower Columbia region.

Report from the Knappton Cove Heritage Center

Historic U.S. Quarantine Station

Submitted by Nancy Anderson

The Historic Preservation students from Clatsop Community College, under the direction of Lucien Swerdloff and contractor Tim Kennedy, have completed the front entry porch to the historic Pesthouse – another superb job! We owe them a BIG THANKS. The Warrenton Boy Scouts painted and spruced up the vintage gillnet boat that marks our driveway. The National Park Service placed a nice Heritage sign at the highway entrance. Patrick Hammersmith is installing a decorative sign that will flank the driveway entrance. We are ready to roll out the welcome mat.

We opened the summer season with a special EMIGRATING TO AMERICA exhibit on Saturday, May 26. This exhibit of rare vintage photos from the German National Archives was prepared by Portland State University Professor Friedrich Schuler. Over 50 visitors came. This one-time special exhibit will be on display all summer and will close in November.

Thanks to a \$6,000 grant from the KINSMAN FOUNDATION, the historic U.S. Quarantine Hospital (aka the Pesthouse) at Knappton Cove now has a ductless heating system installed. We are so grateful for all the support from the KINSMAN FOUNDATION in their continuing support of this historic preservation challenge.

A dozen people showed up on June 2 for a ground-breaking ceremony for a “Healing Garden,” which will be a display garden featuring native edible and medicinal plants. Sue Cody and her daughter Brooke Duling are spearheading this project. They are looking for volunteers who might like to jump on board for this interesting addition to the Quarantine Station.

The Pesthouse celebrated its 100 year anniversary on Saturday, July 21, with a special program at 2 p.m. The Astoria Lions Club is donating their large tent for this event. Keynote Speaker will be USPHS Assistant Surgeon General Rear Admiral Patrick O’Carroll, with follow-up remarks by USPHS Captain William Stenberg, who is assigned to our local US Coast Guard. Honored guests will be members of the US Public Health Service. The public is cordially invited to help us celebrate.

The Pesthouse Museum is open Summer Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment. Volunteers and Knappton Cove Heritage Center members are always welcome. Our website is ColumbiaRiverQuarantineStation.org.

Email for more information: thecove@theoregonshore.com

Brutalize the Brutalist?

Submitted by Fred White

The building everyone loves to hate: The Astor Library! Its style is "Brutalist," deriving its name from the French *béton brut*, or "raw concrete," which, in the case of our library, is exposed aggregate concrete. According to Wikipedia, "Brutalist buildings usually are formed with striking repetitive angular geometries." There are apologists for the style, which you can read about in two of the internet links below. The Astoria library was designed by Ebba Wicks Brown, who was the daughter of renowned Astoria architect John Wicks and was reportedly the first woman architect licensed in Oregon.

Upgrading the library is among the top projects for the City of Astoria during the next year. Changes include major alterations to the exterior of the building, including replacing the north face of the building with a wall of glass, and other minor exterior architectural changes. The interior will get much needed upgrades, such as addressing the need for accessibility.

I wrote a letter to the Daily Astorian two years ago, when the proposed upgrades were first announced. At that time, I opposed making exterior changes to the building, while supporting needed interior improvements. I argued that most of the desired results can be achieved by making interior changes, especially those addressing accessibility needs. More light can be brought into the building by adding skylights when the old roof is replaced; by altering book shelves that currently block out light; and by changing or removing the mezzanine, which is not accessible to the disabled. Money not spent on exterior changes can be spent on the interior.

Perhaps other LCPS members have expressed opinions about the proposed library changes. We all know that changes have been made to other historic structures that unfortunately cannot be undone. While many may not like the Library building, it is part of Astoria's architectural fabric. If the library is altered in inappropriate ways, we will have to live with it. I hope the City of Astoria initiates a public discussion of the proposed changes to Astor Library, with much participation from LCPS members. Our organization should be at the forefront of such discussions to advise against the possibility of what we refer to as "remuddling."

For further reading, I recommend the following web sites. The second and third links are specifically about Brutalist style libraries.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brutalist_architecture

<http://orweblog.oclc.org/archives/002136.html>

<http://rhondagonzales.wordpress.com/2008/11/14/brutalist-libraries-you-gotta-love-em/>

Clatsop Community College Performing Arts Center:

Historic Jewel and Community Asset

Submitted by Carol K

The College Performing Arts Center (PAC) began its life as Trinity Lutheran Church, designed by Astoria architect John Wicks, and constructed during the Depression on the site of the original Convent of the Holy Name. The church purchased the land in 1930, and the construction was financed through a Depression-relief program. The church was completed in 1936. Three years later, a 23-rank Espey pipe organ was installed in the church.

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Page 4

The Lower Columbia Preservation Society Garden Tour

Garden Tour 2012 Recap

Submitted by Pam Chestnut

During our reception at the Millers' garden after the Saturday Garden Tour, I asked folks how they liked the gardens. I saw each face soften peacefully as they remembered how they felt. Our 150 or so guests as well as garden committee members and volunteers were delighted and



inspired by all of the gardens. On behalf of LCPS, I would like to express profound appreciation to the gardeners for their participation, great energy and beautiful gardens they shared with us. A special thank you goes to the diligent members of the Garden Tour Committee who work wonders together and provided food for the reception: Pamela Alegria, Lynnette Hubert, Dian Kazlauskas, Rosalie McCleary and Linda Oldenkamp.



We are grateful to the following generous donors who provided our wonderful raffle prizes: Astor Street Opry Company, Astoria Coffee Company, Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro, Astoria Co-op, Astoria Music Festival, Blue Scorchers Bakery & Café, Brim's Farm & Garden, Cannery Pier Hotel, Cargo, Columbia Maritime Museum, Edgewater Landscaping, English Nursery, Fort George Brewery + Public House, Lucy's Books, Lynnette Hubert, Street 14 Café, and T. Paul's Urban Café.



A hearty thank you goes to our generous sponsors: Debra Bowe, Broker, Windemere Pacific Land Company; Cindy Hawkins Colley, Principal Broker, Larein Realty Group of Seaside; Victor Kee, Principal Broker, Pete Anderson Realty, Inc.; and Rosalie McCleary, Principal Broker, Pete Anderson Realty, Inc.



Thanks very much to our dear, hardworking volunteers: Joan Adams, Terry Arnall, Bill Bender, Mark Brown, Susan Bryant, Gigi Crowley, Cathy Frizzelle, John Goodenberger, Nancy Hopp, Bob Lockett, Erin McCleary, Jack Osterberg, Carol Ray, Sandy Robinson, Marion Sefren, Karen Sheridan, Gayle Starr, Celia Tippet, Dina Walsh, Don Weber, Julie Weber and Melissa Yowell for staffing the gardens, selling tickets, lifting and moving; Mitch Mitchum for providing tables, chairs and cash box; LaRee Johnson for photography and Judy Ronis for ticket layout.



And we thank our visitors, local and from afar for making this a joyous and successful garden tour!



Elena Miller's
garden on
← 2012 garden
Tour
Photo by
LaRee Johnson

After the Trinity congregation moved to another building in 1974, the PAC was acquired by Clatsop Community College and reopened in 1977 as a performing arts center. In 1998 the College removed the building from the City of Astoria's list of local landmarks and removed the upper one-third of the steeple because the structure was "unreparable and a danger."

With its recent budget woes, Clatsop Community College has faced challenges finding the funds to operate the PAC. A coalition of local arts organizations (Partners for the PAC) has joined forces with the college to help maintain the PAC for affordable public arts and educational events. If you are interested in getting involved with this effort, contact Constance Waisanen at 503-458-6853, cwastoria@live.com or SupportThePAC@charter.net.

Lead Paint

Submitted by Fred White

If you are reading this publication, the chances are pretty high that portions of your house have been painted with lead based paints. Lead based paint was not phased out until the late 1970s. This paint was used extensively in both interior and exterior applications, especially before the advent of modern paints. Lead was added to paint to speed up drying, increase durability, maintain a fresh appearance, and resist corrosion from moisture.

We are in the house painting season, when individual homeowners and contractors are busy washing, scraping and repainting the exteriors of homes and businesses. Every year, as I walk around Astoria, I see the results of power washing left on the sidewalks and streets in front of homes

and apartments. The discarded paint chips will eventually contaminate the adjoining soil and be washed into the sewer system, which often dumps directly into the Columbia River during heavy rains. Much of this paint debris consists of lead based paint, even if the more recent top coats of paint contain no lead.

If you are hiring a painting contractor, ask about lead paint removal and cleanup. Painting contractors should have attended seminars in the recent past, when regulations were strengthened regarding lead paint. The cost of house painting has now increased because of the stricter regulations.

If you are a homeowner, you can familiarize yourself with the recommendations of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding proper removal and disposal of lead paint debris at the following web site:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/pubs/docs/hw/Policy/HWPoly2001PO001.pdf>

One recommendation is the use of a HEPA filtered vacuum cleaner. I could not find a HEPA filter for my Shop Vac locally, so I ordered one online. The HEPA filter replaces the standard filter, which protects the motor of the vacuum cleaner, but does not filter out lead. Even though DEQ recommends using a HEPA filter, the filter itself has a warning that it should not be used for lead dust...the manufacturer no doubt concerned about potential lawsuits.

Lead test kits can be purchased at building supply centers; however, these kits cannot be used on all colors of paint. Environmental testing laboratories are another source of testing for lead.

Olney Sawmill Tour

Submitted by Tim Kennedy

Mike Saarheim, who owns Olney Sawmill, has agreed to conduct a tour of his sawmill this fall.

Olney Sawmill is a great source for premium local material for refurbishing older homes. Using primarily a Wood-Miser brand bandsaw, Mike saws all grades of fir, cedar, spruce, hemlock and alder.

A date will be announced for this event to occur in late September or sometime in October.

Ear plugs and raingear would be advisable, as Mike will show us how he saws a raw log into high quality lumber. Olney Sawmill produces green lumber, which is not dried. Customers can purchase lumber direct from Olney Sawmill. For many

projects such as siding, sheds and framing, green lumber can be used immediately. Other finish projects require the lumber to be stacked and dried prior to use. Mike will discuss proper ways to stack lumber using stickers to air-dry lumber.

Olney Sawmill supplies many local builders with high quality fir and cedar lumber products. Olney's also supplies units of locally sourced alder for the furniture industry. Additionally, Mike saws premium grade local Sitka spruce, used for producing soundboards in musical instruments. Olney Sawmill provided the material to replicate Fort Clatsop a few years ago. Olney Sawmill is a great local resource for your building needs.

Membership Report

Pamela Holen, Membership Chair

July is the busiest month for membership renewals; over one-half of our 190 members renew in July. Please check your in-basket for our renewal letter and application and get it in the mail today. LCPS relies on members to support our efforts to educate the public about preserving, protecting, and promoting historic architecture.

Our membership renewal was low for March through June -- only 24 renewals and no new members. Ask your neighbors and friends if they support preserving Astoria's beautiful old homes and downtown buildings. They can join our crusade to educate our community on the importance of our history, shown by the many structures along our streets. Individual membership is only \$15/year and a family membership is only \$25/year. Own a business? We need your support at \$50/year. Membership not only gives you the knowledge that you are helping to make a difference, it also provides the benefits of *The Restoria*, Old House Forums, lectures, and our Holiday Home and Garden Tours.

If you have questions about your membership status, please contact Pam Holen at 503-325-1250 or holenpm@gmail.com. If you need a brochure or application for a neighbor or friend, just let me know, and I'll either drop it off or get it in the mail.

Letter from the Chair

John Goodenberger

Our all-volunteer organization thrives because many generous people donate their time and talents. During the last few months, a number of people stand out.

Leon Jackson used his accounting background to study our financial books. His review showed that, while our bookkeeping was serviceable prior to inheriting the Stramiello Estate, numerous steps are now in place for us to track and protect our assets more thoroughly. We are in the process of implementing those suggestions.

Bruce Berney retired from the sale and production of his and Vera Gault's "Walking Tour of Astoria," "A Brief History of Astoria, Oregon 1811 – 1900," "Captain's Walking Tour of Downtown Astoria," and "Pilot's Walking Tour of Downtown Astoria." Now the sale of those books is a part of LCPS fundraising. Bruce donated all of his stock to us and has set us up to continue sales through eight local outlets. We will also retain the right to republish those books when needed.

By the way, Bruce was way ahead of his time when he wrote the first walking tour. He and Vera were educating people about preservation long before it became mainstream. In fact, I grew up reading his work, which was a source of inspiration to me.

Lynn Johnson retired from the sale of her pen and ink note cards. Based on historic doorways of Astoria, these cards capture the character of the city from a unique perspective. Lynn donated hundreds of these beautiful cards to LCPS. You can look forward to seeing these cards for sale in our office and at various workshops and lectures.

After serving the board for six years, Rosalie McCleary and Mitch Mitchum retired. It is difficult to overstate how they and other board members have contributed to the success of LCPS. Rosalie's understanding of real estate has been critical. Mitch's ability to grasp financial complexities is phenomenal. Both led with intelligence and energy, ready to jump in and serve in whatever capacity necessary.

Thank you to all who keep LCPS going. Whether it is volunteering on the board, serving on committees, volunteering time, talents or goods, your efforts are greatly appreciated.

ADS

For sale: 1940's electric stove with soup pot, working fine the last time plugged in; has been stored. \$250. For more information or to see, call 503-325-4469.

Planned Giving: Preserve and Protect Oregon For Future Generations. When you include Lower Columbia Preservation Society in your will, you leave a legacy of activism that will preserve, protect and promote the historic architecture in the Lower Columbia Region. These structures are important assets that contribute to the area's history, culture, identity and livability. Please consider including LCPS in your estate and major giving plans. For more information please check our website: www.lcpsweb.org

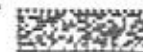
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LCPS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____
EMAIL* _____

Annual Dues:

_____ \$15 Individual
_____ \$25 Family
_____ \$50 Business
_____ \$100 Supporter

Please indicate which areas you would be able to assist the organization as a volunteer:

_____ Advocacy	_____ Newsletter
_____ Education	_____ Planning
_____ Grant Writing	_____ Publicity
_____ Membership	_____ Other _____

*LCPS will not share or sell members' email addresses

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