



Newsletter for the Lower Columbia Preservation Society

Upcoming Events - Mark your Calendars

Saturday, May 17, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon**Historic Cemetery Presentation**

Columbia Hall, Room 221, Clatsop Community College, Astoria

This Saturday morning session is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. FYI, the full workshop meets all day Saturday and Sunday and is \$45.

Clatsop Community College Historic Preservation Program and Lower Columbia Preservation Society, in partnership with Donovan & Associates Historic Preservation Consultants and the City of Astoria Parks Department, will hold a public presentation on the fundamentals of historic cemetery preservation. Participants will be introduced to the history of the rural cemetery movement and the fundamentals of cemetery preservation planning. Sally Donovan, historic preservation consultant, from Hood River, Oregon, has 25 years' experience in cemetery preservation in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and California. She specializes in many aspects of historic cemetery preservation, combining her interest in photography, genealogy, research and conservation. This project is supported in part by a grant from the Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. For information contact Lucien Swerdloff at 503-338-2301 or lswerdloff@clatsopcc.edu.

Saturday, May 17, 2pm**Topping It Off! - Second Annual Tea**

First Presbyterian Church

1170 Grand Ave.

The Tea, sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church, is a fund raiser for restoration of the historic Church. The Tea and program will be presented by LaRee Johnson, an LCPS founding Member, local vintage clothing collector and author of *Ladies' Vintage Accessories*. LaRee will present an entertaining as well as educational program with the history of hats and all manner of headwear from Victorian to Modern, from the designer chic to the purely functional. Lovely table settings with scrumptious tea sandwiches and treats, plus pots of tea await guests. Come for fellowship, food and fun at this year's Tea. Call Sue Ellen Clark at *In the Boudoir* for tickets/reservations and information, 503-325-4400. Due to limited space, advance tickets are necessary.

Wednesday, May 28, 7pm

LCPS Annual Meeting and Stickley Home Presentation

Astoria Yacht Club, new location

301 Industry Way, Suite 201

West Mooring Basing, upstairs above Tiki Charters

Our featured speaker is Jeff Newenhof, co-owner of City Lumber, sharing his restoration experience of our only known Stickley-designed Astoria residence, and the stately home's connection to former proprietors of historic City Lumber. Please join us to help celebrate our splendid preservation heritage, gather with fellow LCPS members and guests, and vote for new Board Members. Non-members are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served. For more information, contact Pam Chestnut at 503-325-3245 or plc19@peak.org

Saturday, July 12

LCPS Garden Tour

Astoria

We are gathering gorgeous gardens for this our 14th annual tour. If you have any great suggestions, we would love to hear them. If you would like to be added to our list of volunteer helpers, please notify Pam Chestnut at 503-325-3245. Let's hear it for summer! Hooray!

Saturday, August 30, 1pm - 5pm

Oysterville Regatta

Oysterville, Washington

Our friends of the Oysterville Restoration Federation have invited LCPS members to join them for their 20th annual Oysterville Regatta on Saturday, August 30th. Yes, it's Labor Day Weekend, and we hope it will be doable for most folks. The plan is for us to arrive at 1:00 pm with our potluck picnic fare at Sydney & Nyel's White House, across from the church. After lunch we will walk down the lane for front row seats at the Regatta.

From Sydney: A little background – Oysterville had an annual regatta back in the 1870s and '80s. It was sponsored by the Oysterville Yacht Club (who knew!) and the racers were oystermen in their oyster boats called "Plungers." People came from all over. One report told of a big crowd and a brass band coming all the way from Portland on the T.J. Potter! After the regatta, a ball was held. Our 20th Century version is sponsored by Tucker and his family and involves laser sailboats and is very low key – just Oysterville folks and their friends. It happens right in front of our house and this year they will start getting their sails up and getting ready about 2:00 or 2:30. The regatta should be over by 4:30 or 5:00. For those who would like, you should have plenty of time to walk around town and see all our new construction – one addition to an old house, one totally new house, and the reproduction of the historic Captain Stream House, which had to be dismantled completely a few months ago due to powder post beetles. If you like this idea, just bring your picnic lunch, a chair to carry down to the bayside, and whatever beverage you would like to drink.

For more information or to form a carpool list, contact Pam Chestnut at 503-325-3245 or plc19@peak.org.

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.

Knappton Cove Heritage Center
Historic USPHS Quarantine Station

Location: 3 miles upriver from the north (Washington) side of the Astoria/ Megler Bridge.

2014 Spring/Summer Schedule

Saturday, May 24, 1-4 pm

Open House

Program: *Jane Barnes & the Mystery of Todd's Bay*

Sunday, June 22, 1 pm

KCHC Annual Meeting

Program: *Plagues, Politics & Pesthouses*

Saturday, July 26, 1-4 pm

125th US Public Health Service Commissioned Corps Anniversary Celebration,

Program: Special guest USPHS Speakers, including Assistant Surgeon General Admiral Patrick O'Carroll ~ Demonstrations of 1914 Medical and Mental exams required for entrance into the United States (Could you be admitted to the U.S.?) ~ Public Health Service Posters showing Medical forms used in 1914 and 2014 ~ Learn about today's USPHS along with a step back in time!

Saturday, August 9th, 2 pm

Jr. Archaeology Day

Program: Archaeologist Samantha Steerman will demonstrate and instruct youngsters in hands-on archaeology techniques.

Museum in the lazaretto/pesthouse will be open Summer Saturdays from 1-4 p.m. or by appointment.

Website: ColumbiaRiverQuarantineStation.org. For appointments call Nancy Anderson at 503-738-5206 or email thecove@theoregonshore.com.

Preservation Snobbery

Submitted by Pam Chestnut

My historic-building-loving friend and I recently toured the Pittock Mansion in Portland for its 100th birthday celebration. It is a gorgeous, well-planned home that would have been demolished in the 1960s had it not been for public outcry and funding, followed by the City of Portland's purchase. The folks accomplishing its preservation and restoration are doing a remarkable job, and I highly recommend a visit.

Its panoramic easterly view of Portland and several volcanic peaks is breathtaking. I noticed the perfectly clear view out of huge picture windows and assumed that, for some unholy reason, the glass must have been replaced. I huffed and puffed my way around the magnificent mansion finding only a few wavy glass panes. Even glass in the stunning, leaded, tracery windows appeared to have been updated. Historic blown and poured glass processes gave us the wavy glass many of us love in old homes, and it was not until 1959 that new technology for clear plate glass manufacturing became operational. My friend endured my consternation, knowing my passion for old windows and glass. Do I really want to spend precious time in such a snobbish snit?

When we finally found a well-seasoned docent who had been involved since early on, she assured us that certainly no unnecessary repairs had been done, and that some 50 years after taking on the enormous project, the kitchen restoration had only recently been completed. When I explained my timeline reasoning she was stumped, and calmly gave the vital clue to the mystery: For the Pittocks, price would have been no object. Aha! I realized that we did indeed have the technology in 1914 to create smooth glass. And it would have been phenomenally expensive. The process of pouring and polishing glass had been used for mirror glass since the 1600s. I imagine the glass must have been made locally, but can't imagine the care it must have taken to transport the giant panes up those steep, windy roads.

I must apologize to the mansion, to the crews of devoted crafts-persons, and to visitors that day who might have suffered my 'Debbie Downer' routine. From now on I will try to purge jumping to conclusions from my exercise regimen.

Board Members

LCPS will be electing new board members at our May Annual Meeting. Board members meet monthly and set the goals and priorities for the organization. Board members also serve on committees, such as the workshop and lecture committee, budget committee, membership, garden tour committee, and committees for other special events. If you would like more information on becoming an LCPS board member, contact Ann Gydé at anngyde@gmail.com. We also need members to help with mailings, keep office hours, volunteer for the garden tour, and write articles for Restoria.

Coming Soon: New LCPS Office

Submitted by Ann Gydé

LCPS is on the move! We are in the process of working with the City of Astoria to use one of our apartments as an office in the Francis Apartment building at 1030 Franklin Avenue, Astoria. The board has been thinking about moving out of the downtown office for a while. Though it is great having a downtown location, the room was small, unheated, and with no access to water or bathrooms. After discussing our options at our February meeting, Pam Chestnut contacted Kent Easom, who manages most of our apartment buildings, to let us know when one of the two apartments on the first floor of the Francis became vacant. At that meeting, we discovered that (1) one of the apartments on the first floor of the Francis was currently vacant; and (2) someone had purchased the Hobson Building downtown, where our office was located, and was asking to have leases signed (we were month-to-month).

During the few weeks that followed, we talked to the City and filled out applications for usage and parking variances; talked with our new neighbor Pastor Carol Prichard at the Methodist church about parking; hired a moving company; packed our office; supervised the move; started to unpack and settle in. The next City Planning Committee meeting is April 22, when the application could be approved. After it is approved, we will plan an open house and send out a postcard invitation to our members.

What are the benefits of this move for LCPS? First, our new office is in a building owned by LCPS, as part of the Roberta Stramiello Estate. The building has two apartments on the top floor that are not currently in rentable condition. We are envisioning workshops and hands-on training being held there, to fix them and rent them – the views are amazing. The rest of the apartments in the building have been “70’s-ized” having paneling, carpet, suspended ceilings. Workshops and work parties could restore

the apartments, starting with the one we will be using as an office.

Second, we have several rooms! Upon entering the apartment, to the right will be a library. Almost 200 wonderful books were donated to the organization. We will be able to have the books on display and available for lending, or room to sit and enjoy them there. The book subjects include faux painting, famous architects, gardens, how-to, Victorians, and much more. Our research materials will also be in that room, as well as free brochures and homeowner information.

The next room will be used as an office. Originally a small bedroom, we will have space for the desk, computer, filing cabinets, membership information, and printer, all in one place. Another small bedroom will be kept as a bedroom. While we won’t be renting it out, when we have out-of-town speakers, we will be able to offer them the apartment instead of paying for them to stay elsewhere.

The dining room will be the location for our board meetings. Additionally, we will have a storage area, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a great little sunroom.

Third, moving to this location will help LCPS walk the talk by supporting our mission, which 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.”

We are getting close to honoring Roberta’s intention when she left us the personal property and apartment buildings: to create an endowment for the organization. We will soon be planning to sell most of the other apartment buildings, but we will keep the Francis for now and work on restoring her. The Board members are looking forward to welcoming you into LCPS’s new home. Once we are able to use our new office, we will send out a notice for an Open House, and an invitation to stop by during regular hours to see how you can help.

From the Chair

I have written a long article for this issue about our new office, so my comments here will be brief. The last few months have been a whirlwind for LCPS. I'd like to thank our current board members for helping make transition a reality. Everyone pitched in and moved quickly so all the steps could fall into place. I'm looking forward to being able to welcome our members to visit our new location.

Today was the celebration of the 160th anniversary of Oysterville, Washington. Pam Chestnut convinced me I could spend a few hours enjoying a beautiful sunny day instead of working. We drove across the river, met with a potential LCPS Board member and toured her wonderful home, then attended the event. We were treated at the Oysterville Church to a spirited and melodic trip back through history to the 1864 origin of this magical town on Shoalwater Bay. Following celebratory cannon fire, we enjoyed a delicious potluck in the beautifully restored Schoolhouse and heard personal histories from many descendents of early settlers. It was wonderful! The residents of Oysterville are so friendly. Walking along the street and enjoying the gardens and homes was a welcome break from work. Another event in Oysterville, which is detailed in an earlier article in this issue, is planned for this fall. All LCPS members have been invited to this event and I highly recommend attending it if you can.



LCPS Chairperson, Ann Gydé

Replacing Sash Cords By John Updike

It's easier to screw than to unscrew;
the heads have generally been painted in,
and the slots need to be chipped open, but
the side strips pop free in a shower of flakes,
revealing the stained unpainted doors, secured
by two rust-whittled nails, to the chambers
where wait the sashweights, somber and inert.

The frayed cord snapped; a sashweight dropped one night
when no one listened. Here it rests, on end,
the simulacrum of a phallus, long,
blunt-ended, heavy, rough, its heaviness
its raison d'être, so rust and ugliness
don't matter, nor the dreadful loneliness
of being hung for decades in the dark.

The knots, stiffened and dried by time,
still yield to prying fingers. They are not
all alike; there were a number of hands;
most settled for a pair of half-hitches,
but some displayed a jaunty sailor's skill
and love of line, looped back and proudly cinched.
Dead handymen and householders less deft

come forth from these their upright wooden tombs
with a gesture, a swirl of rope before
they let the sashweight drop and, knocking, swing
back to its dark mute duty, its presence
known only in the grateful way a window,
counterbalanced, lightly rises to
admit the hum and eager air of day.

LOWER COLUMBIA
PRESERVATION
S.O.C.I.E.T.Y

PO Box 1334
Astoria, OR
97103

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

Lower Columbia Preservation Society
Board of Directors

Ann Gydé, Chair
Ted Osborn, Vice Chair
Richard Garner, Alternate Vice Chair
Pam Chestnut, Secretary
Mark Brown, Treasurer
David Wigutoff

LaRee Johnson, Restoria Coordinator

LCPS Office:
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Submissions to Newsletter
Articles, Kudos, For Sale notices,
Restoria@lcpweb.org