



## Newsletter for the Lower Columbia Preservation Society

### **LCPS Office Open House - November 8, 2014. 11am - 3pm**

We are ready to open our doors at our new office! An open house will be held November 8th, from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm. We are in the Francis Apartments, 1030 Franklin #2, to the right when you go through the front door. Refreshments will be served.

Some history of the apartments from the City of Astoria records: Constructed ca. 1909, the apartments were first occupied by Claude M. Johns, an attorney; A.J. Price, a hardware salesman; Jonas A. Johanson, a contractor; Frank Hemple, an attorney; and O.T. Whitman, a "bum." Always a popular apartment complex, it has served as the residence for business people, teachers and students throughout its history. For a complete listing of residents, please see the Astoria Household Directory and Polk's Astoria Directory available in the Astoria Public Library.

The name Francis Apartments first appears in the 1931 Polk's Astoria Directory. According to the *Walking Tour of Astoria*, the apartments were named after Francis Franetovich, whose father Lucas lived in the apartments between 1917 and 1946. Lucas Franetovich married Stella Cecelia Slavich in 1915 and was the owner of the Vienna Cafe. In 1925, he and his brother Marino opened the Liberty Cafe. By 1931, he was elected president of the Astoria Restaurant Association. The Polk's Astoria Directory lists him as owner of the apartments in 1938. By 1948, the apartments were sold to Gust Joki, a commercial fisherman.

These apartments are an excellent example of multiple-family housing in the Shively/McClure District. The building exhibits an unusual combination of Federal ornamentation on a Craftsman era building. The high retention of detailing and its contribution to the streetscape add to its significance.

### **Historic Home Open House for LCPS Members - October 7, 2014. 6pm - 7:30pm**

On October 7th, 6 - 7:30 pm, Ann Samuelson is hosting an open house with wine and refreshments at 92257 Lewis & Clark Rd.

Go to <http://annsamuelson.vflyer.com/home/flyer/home/289413000> for more information and photos of this 1924 Wicks-designed home that is on the market for the first time.

The original owner of this historic home was a man by the name of Lewis Wilson. In 1925, Mr. Wilson commissioned John E. Wicks to provide the architectural design for the house, which according to historical records provided the residence for the Wilson's 72-acre dairy and bee farm. The open house is for LCPS members only, so hope to see you there!

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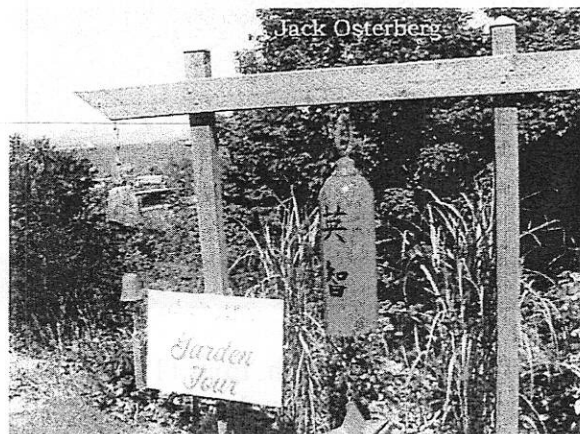
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*These structures are important assets that contribute to the area's history, culture, identity, and livability.*

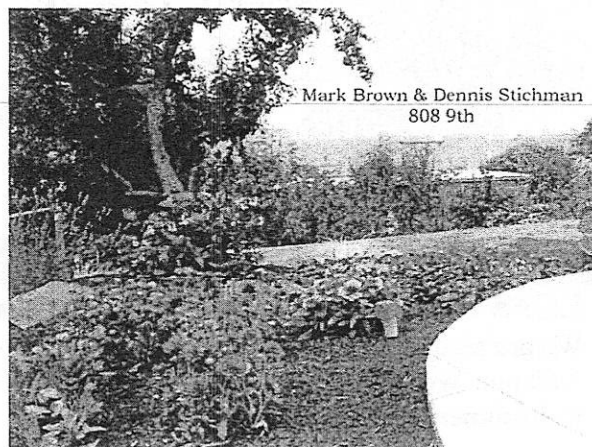
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14<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Tour Recap, July 12th

Submitted by Pam Chestnut



Our beautiful Astoria was in her temperate summer glory for our tour day. We of LCPS and our garden tour attendees certainly appreciate the hard work,



dedication and generosity of our gardeners. I heard wonderful praise of all six fabulous gardens, and we send huge thanks to Mark Brown and Dennis Stichman for embracing their existing natives and augmenting with grand hardscape and inspired young beds; Eric and Britta Noguerra for their splendid hedges, lushness and celebration of life; Carol and Larry Thomas of Edgewater Landscape Construction, Inc. for their dazzling and ridiculously



productive urban farm; John and Katrina Ivanoff for too many gorgeous thriving specimens to believe; Judith Markham of Clementine's B&B for her charming and refreshingly tranquil garden rooms; and Bennett and Trish Garner for their pebbly pathways of glorious textures and colors.



Not only did Bill Bender and Jack Osterberg array their beautiful river view garden with linen-covered tables and provide afternoon victuals served on china to host the after-tour reception, but also opened their lavishly appointed Victorian Sanborn House for delighted folks to tour. These serially munificent gentlemen had declared their garden to be not quite ready for the garden tour. How much *gorgeouser* can it be?

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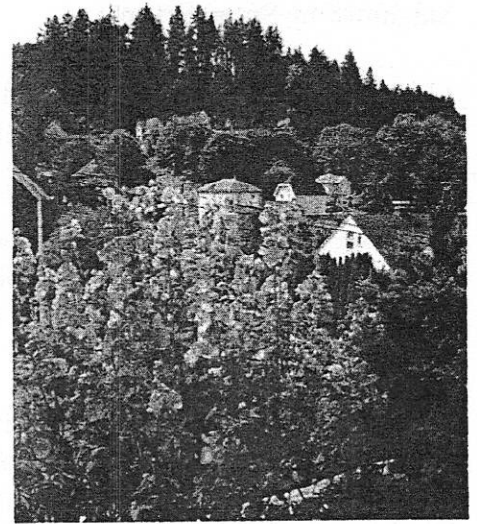
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Thank you very much to our generous local raffle donors for their lovely gifts: Astor Street Opry Company, Astoria Coffeehouse & Bistro, Astoria Co-op Grocery, Baked Alaska, Blue Scorchers Bakery & Café, Brim's Farm & Garden, Cannery Pier Hotel, Cargo, City Lumber, Columbia River Maritime Museum, Fort George Brewery & Public House, Gimre's Shoes, Liberty Theater, Lucy's Books, Old Town Framing, T. Paul's Supper Club, Vintage Hardware and Warrenton Kia.

This year's Garden Tour Committee consisted of Richard Garner, Mary MacDonald and Pam Chestnut. We are also very grateful indeed for our host of friendly, hard-working volunteers: Pamela Alegria, Terry Arnall, Bill Bender, Ann Goldeen, Jennifer Goodenberger, John Goodenberger, Ann Gyde, Debby Halliburton, Tara Hano, David Homer, Richard Foster, Wendy Hensley, Jeannean Hibbitts, LaRee Johnson, Michelle Johnson, Roger Johnson, Linda Joiner, Linda Oldenkamp, Jack Osterberg, Patricia Roberts, Judy Ronis, Marion Sefren, Gayle Starr, Julie Weber and David Wigutoff.

Bennett & Trish Garner  
3486 Grand



We owe the success of our 2014 Garden Tour to ALL who participated in so many ways, and I say hip-hip-hooray, merci mille fois and bless us every one! Until next year....

## Washington Trust for Historic Preservation

### Places Oysterville Historic District on Most Endangered List

Submitted by Rob Freed

On May 6<sup>th</sup> during its Revitalize Washington Conference held in conjunction with National Historic Preservation Month, the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation announced the Oysterville National Historic as one of five properties placed on its 2014 Most Endangered Historic Properties List. The town of Oysterville was founded in 1854, and the Oysterville Historic District was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976.

The WA Trust reports Oysterville property owners have been faced with a recent surge in new construction within the District. Although a Design Review Board oversees proposals within the District, the architectural integrity of some historic buildings has been lost. Contentiousness has characterized some recent hearings, with some property owners indicating their preference for not having a historic district. Most troubling has been the recent demolition of the 1878 Captain Stream House, effectively rendering the north ends of the

District non-existent. As recent construction has introduced new residences to the village, the District's critical ratio of contributing (i.e., historic) to non-contributing (i.e., modern) structures has become severely eroded. In fact, only about nine architecturally significant historic structures remain, thereby bringing into question the continued existence of the District itself.

Also of concern is the partnership with Pacific County. When recent Historic Ordinance violations were brought to the attention of County officials, they responded by indicating they have neither the staff nor the budget to deal with these issues. The County also unilaterally allowed the Captain Stream House demolition without further involvement by the Design Review Board. For further information and to view the videos go to the WA Trust website at [www.preservewa.org/Current-List.aspx](http://www.preservewa.org/Current-List.aspx)

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## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Historic Architecture Walk 2014

Submitted by Susan Bryant

I had heard for a few years now that John Goodenberger takes Astoria's 5<sup>th</sup> graders on an historic architecture walk each spring. So when my son Dorian got to be that age this year, I jumped at the chance to tag along with his class.

There are a LOT of 5<sup>th</sup> graders, something like 140 altogether, and 5 classes full of them. Each class had to be broken down into two groups, so John winds up giving 10 walks in the space of 5 days. Whew! He must really love doing this! And you really can tell. He happily tells each story in fascinating detail, no signs of boredom at all.

We started out on Grand Avenue with the 1895 Tallant House at 1574 Grand. He pointed out a few architectural features and also told of the connection between this house and the famous Starbucks Company. Now, at first I was under the assumption that this walk would strictly be just about architectural styles, but no. Of course, I could stand around hearing about dentils and fish scale shingles all day, but I don't know if an 11 year old could. John throws in tons of exciting (and sometimes scary!) stories about past Astorians that would hold any pre-teen's attention.

Further along Grand at 1588, we see on the 1896 house the tin molding that was created to look like it was sculptured out of stone. We hear that the unique round windows on the Dutch Colonial across the street are called "oculus windows," and that the original owner of the house had a pet bear in the back yard!

We stopped for a short break in front of the huge Queen Anne at 690 17<sup>th</sup> street where the kids took out their sketchbooks to draw some of the ornate features that caught their eye. Shortly afterward, John told us the sad story of the woman who, after her husband died, was tricked into signing away her rights to her house at 1711 Grand.

We saw an example of Colonial Revival architecture at 677 17<sup>th</sup> and then walked down the hill to see the houses to the east of us on Franklin. The south side of the street housed Russian and Yugoslavian immigrant laborers, while the north side housed wealthier people, including a prominent artist of the time...showing that for the most part, Astorians of all walks of life were able to live peaceably side-by-side.

As we walked west on Franklin, John tells us that you notice a lot more details during a walk than you would during a drive--details that were actually meant to be seen in a world when people moved and lived at a slower pace. He pointed out a horse ring coming out of the curb in front of the Masonic Temple. We also marveled at the beautiful rock wall in front of an 1870 Van Dusen house at 1681 Franklin. The quarry rock was so perfectly put together; it had to be carved right on site!

At the 1870 Italianate at 1546 Franklin, the kids were awed by a tale of a haunting. An early owner makes her appearance known every time someone new moves in and makes changes she does not approve of. But mostly, for some reason, she just leaves hairpins around!

We walked by more homes on Franklin while John mentioned some interesting facts here and there. We then arrived at the Hiram Brown house at 1393 Franklin, one of the oldest in Astoria still standing. It is actually two

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houses merged together. The west portion had been built in East Astoria in 1852 and then barged down the river to be set on this lot, where an 1848 house already stood, combining them. John then launched into an

intriguing tale about how, in the 1960s, four human skeletons were unearthed by workmen doing renovations there on the foundation. It is possible that it was the site of a Native American burial ground, which led him into the telling of the tale of Chief Comcomly's skull and its journey to England and back, bringing unfortunate events to people along the way. Naturally, this topic had the kids hanging on John's every word!



Stopping by the Fisher Bros. House at 687 12<sup>th</sup>, we are told of a former resident's efforts to restore the house despite warnings from the neighborhood children of ghosts and suicide. And then, we walked through the mysterious "Astoria vortex" at 12<sup>th</sup> and Grand and were told how that came into existence.

The walk lasted almost two hours, yet time really zipped by. It is so wonderful the school district here thinks this is an important subject for the kids to study. I doubt very many, if any, other schools around the country do this. Astoria kids are very lucky to be growing up in a place with such history, as well as among people who value that history and want to pass on their knowledge and excitement about it.

## Say It Loud and Say It Proud

Submitted by Dennis Stichman

At first it was not the wood framed glass cabinet doors leaning against the wall that caught my attention. It was the antique copper with japanned finish hardware – my latest craze. After closer inspection I could see the two doors were in pretty good shape and only missing a small pane of leaded glass in one door. Fortunately, I knew of a local craftsman that could replace the missing pane with period glass. Score! I was going to bid on these doors. By the way, I was not at an estate or garage sale, but attending a LCPS silent auction fundraiser in March 2012.

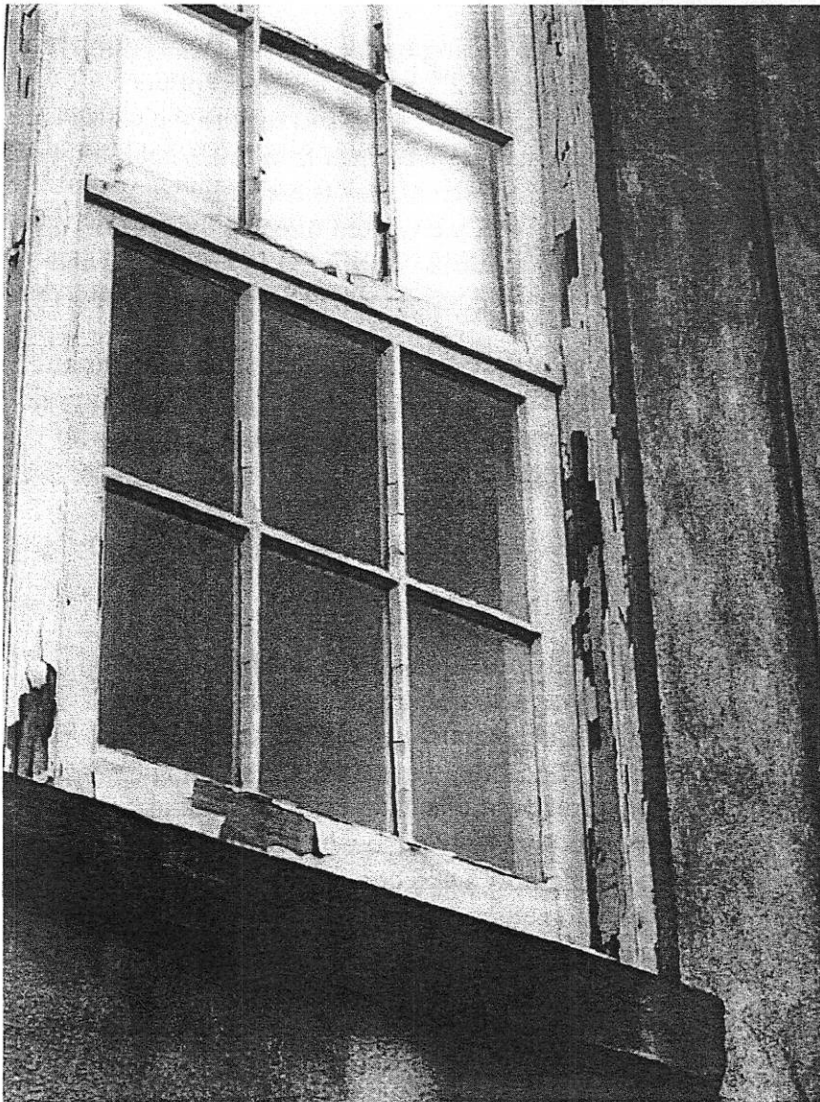
While anxiously waiting for the bidding period to end, I was also thinking about how and when I could use the doors in our 1904 craftsman style home. Recently, we had been discussing the need for storage options in an extra bedroom, i.e. built-in drawers and shelves, so why not a built-in cabinet too? Ok, now I was committed and no one else was going to get these doors, and no one else did. The project did not get completed until March 2014, but that's okay; everything looks great and the doors are a nice focal point, look authentic to the house and get used frequently. Say it loud and say it proud people, "Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse and Restore!" "Recycle, Repurpose, Reuse and Restore!"

## First Presbyterian Gets “Dressed Up”

Written by Wendy Osborn and John Goodenberger

Founded in 1877, the First Presbyterian Church quickly outgrew its home in Van Dusen’s Hall. By 1882 the congregation constructed its first church structure in downtown Astoria at what is now the corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Duane. A second, larger church was built in 1903 for the growing congregation. Costing \$19,075 at the time, the sanctuary was constructed with the help of Capt. George C. Flavel, his heirs, and members of the congregation.

That church remains today at 11<sup>th</sup> and Grand, a beautiful example of the Carpenter Gothic style and featuring Povey Brothers stained glass windows. The church bell was shipped from New York, around the Horn, in 1883. The pipe organ was installed in 1911.



In 1936 the Fellowship Hall annex, designed by John Wicks, was constructed for bible study classrooms and a community meeting space. Once again, the Flavel family, with many congregants, helped fund its construction. Fellowship Hall continues to serve the congregation and community, housing studio spaces and providing a venue for dinners, lectures, concerts, and dances.

Now, more than 20 years since First Presbyterian was last patched and painted, the elements have taken their toll; paint is peeling and window sills are decaying. This May, the church inaugurated a three-year capital campaign, “Let’s Get Dressed Up.” In July, weather permitting, a thorough shaving and repainting of the sanctuary will begin. Period colors were selected to enhance the architectural detail. Next year, as funding allows, the church will contract out the restoration of the deteriorating windows in Fellowship Hall.

More photos and progress reports, and information on making donations, can be viewed on the Church’s website, [www.firstpresbyterianastoria.org](http://www.firstpresbyterianastoria.org)



## Recap: Annual Meeting

The LCPS Annual meeting was held on May 28, 2014, at 7:00 pm at the Astoria Yacht Club. Elections were held for board members: Richard Foster, Debby Halliburton and Patricia Roberts were elected as new board members and Ted Osborn and Ann Gydé were re-elected. David Wigutoff provided a financial report that included the apartment buildings, and Pam Chestnut introduced our speaker, Jeff Newenhof, co-owner of City Lumber. Jeff's presentation showed the ongoing restoration experience of his beautiful Irving Avenue home, our only known Stickley-designed Astoria residence, and his discovery of the home's early connection to City Lumber.

## New Member Notice

Welcome to new LCPS member Michelle Roth! She is pleased to offer restoration of the Historical Landmark plaques using cyan outdoor sign vinyl. The disc is coated with white rustproof primer and paint. After vinyl application, the piece is given two coats of matte varnish to protect against fading. Michelle will restore yours for a modest charge. Please call 503-298-1928, or email [mrgdesign99@earthlink.net](mailto:mrgdesign99@earthlink.net) for more information.

## Finance Committee

The LCPS Board is forming a Finance Committee, whose first task is to develop an investment policy for the organization. Patricia Roberts and David Wigutoff will be the Board representatives on this committee. We need some member participation. If you are interested in being on this important committee, please email [anngyde@gmail.com](mailto:anngyde@gmail.com) or call 503 468-9970.

## In Memory of Lynnette Hubert

By Pam Chestnut

Our dear friend and LCPS member, Lynnette Hubert, passed away July 1<sup>st</sup>. Lynnette was a generous supporter of LCPS and a staunch supporter of historic building preservation. We are grateful for her beautiful gift baskets donated year after year as raffle prizes and lovely food offerings for our annual Garden Tours. At our 2013 annual meeting Lynnette provided and presided over a luscious table full of elegantly displayed refreshments. She loved our new LCPS office and equipped it with her gifts of crystal glassware, a very nice set of coral coffee mugs, a tea kettle, tablecloths, etc. We feel honored to have spent many fun-filled days in her company and will miss her very much. Our condolences go to her beloved husband, Robert Lockett, and her lovely daughter, Lindsay.

## Letter from the Chair

After conditional use permits, parking variances, and a few changes to make the office accessible, we have final approval from the City and are ready to start using one of our apartments in the Francis Apartment Building as an office. We also plan to open the two wonderful unfinished apartments on the top floor for members to see. Our goal is to begin restoring this building to use for future workshops and lectures. Please see the article in this Restoria about our open house on November 8<sup>th</sup>. We hope to see you there!

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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

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Website: [www.lcpsweb.org](http://www.lcpsweb.org)

Submissions to Newsletter  
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