

RESTORIA

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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BY RACHEL JENSEN

Much has happened since last June's annual membership meeting at Shively Hall. It is hard to

believe it has only been one year! It has long been a goal of the society to create an office space highly visible to the public and capable of accommodating the membership for lectures, workshops and other events. We now have an amazing light-filled space in a prime location, located within the historic Hotel Elliott building, originally opened in 1924, in the heart of the Astoria Downtown Historic District. This space had been vacant for several years and we are pleased to add vibrancy to a busy corner of the downtown core. Additionally, our previous space, an apartment in the 1030 Franklin, has been converted back into housing, providing an

additional residence in Astoria's tight housing market.

Many of our members shared their concern that the management of properties had become a distraction from the LPCS primary mission of preservation education and

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LOWER COLUMBIA
PRESERVATION
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THE ART OF CHAIR CANING AND FURNITURE RESTORATION

On Saturday, April 8th, LCPS members were treated to an informative and entertaining talk by local furniture restorer Jay Rosen.

Rosen is an Astorian resident who lives in an 1889 Queen Anne-style Victorian home within the Shively-McClure historic district. Previously a custom industrial machine builder, Jay is the owner of North Coast FIX, a local company dedicated to restoring and repairing fine homes and fine furnishings. North Coast FIX are specialists in older homes, antiques and fine interiors. Rosen brought in several chairs to illustrate the various types of chair caning techniques.

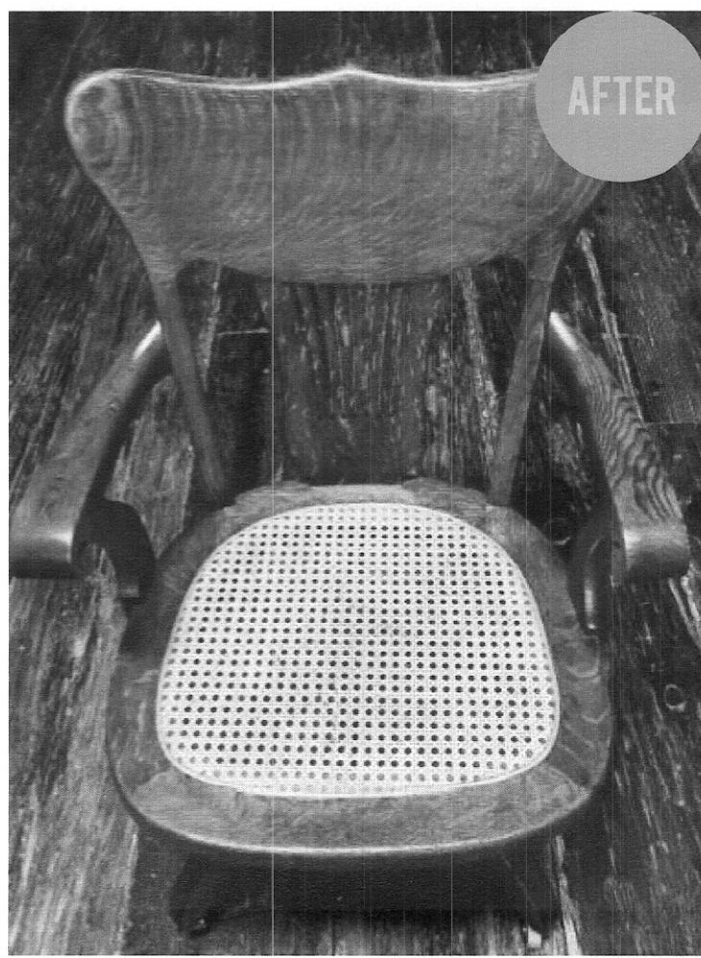
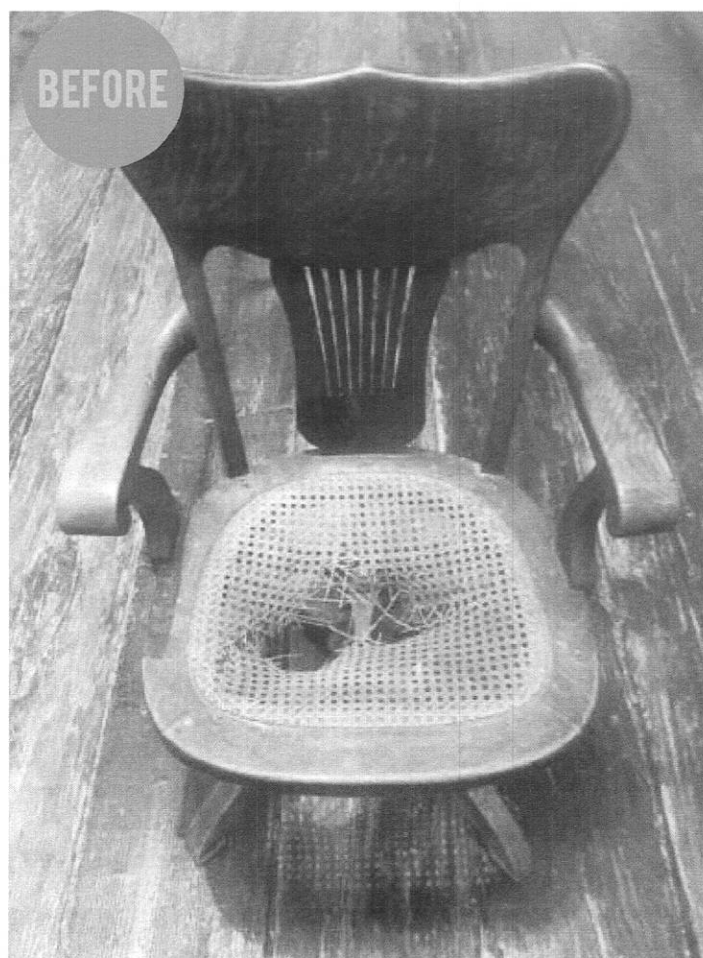
Rosen also discussed the history of many of the pieces, some of which had long-standing ties to residents of Astoria.

Audience members were encouraged to take a hands-on approach, being able to handle the various types of materials that Rosen works with.

Rosen's talk was the first in series of on-going lectures and workshops that LCPS will be hosting during the Second Saturday Art Walks in Astoria.

A complete listing of upcoming events can be found on page 5 of this issue of Restoria.

For more information visit North Coast FIX.



LINSEED OIL FOR WINDOW RESTORATION

BY KATIE RATHMELL

The use of linseed oil paint is widely known in Sweden to be superior to any latex or oil paint on the market here in the U.S. While it is gaining in popularity among historic preservationists, it is still a bit of a mystery to most folks. In my experience with historic restoration, I have seen the damage that latex paint and caulk can do to a window. Latex paint forms a barrier to the weather, which works well for a while. In our climate, the paint usually bubbles up and peels after a short time. This leaves bare wood open to moisture. Conversely, a badly painted window with years of paint build up allows water in through cracks and then traps it, resulting in rot. The solution to both problems can be found in linseed oil paint. I use it exclusively on all window restoration projects.

Linseed oil paint is made from purified organic linseed oil and is completely solvent free. The colors are achieved from metal oxide and earth pigments, the white is made with zinc oxide and titanium dioxide. The

paint is applied in thin coats and is both primer and paint in one. The great thing about this paint is that it nourishes the wood as well as protects it. The linseed oil soaks into the wood and acts as a natural preservative. The paint dries but remains soft, which allows it to move with the wood through the seasons. Another important property is that the paint allows moisture to escape, allowing the wood to dry. Add in 10 to 20% zinc white to any color for the mildew retarding properties. Purified linseed oil is also resistant to mold and mildew growth, and out here on the coast, we need all the help we can get.

Linseed oil paint covers about 650 square feet per gallon, and can be rejuvenated by brushing a thin layer of purified linseed oil on the paint every five years. This paint, if applied properly, will never crack or peel. It is the only paint I trust for my old windows.

For more information go to www.solventfreepaint.com



The Lower Columbia Preservation Society 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.

ASTORIA FIRE MUSEUM

BY KATIE RATHMELL

County Historical Society, is in need of many different repairs including restoration of all the windows. In keeping with LCPS' mission to preserve the architecture of the Lower Columbia Region, LCPS will be holding a window workshop at the museum later this summer.

We encourage crafts people from the area to become involved and to take ownership in this wonderful piece of Astoriana.



"IT IS ONE OF VERY FEW FIREFIGHTERS' MUSEUMS IN THE NATION THAT IS HOUSED IN AN ACTUAL FIRE STATION"

firefighters' museums in the nation that is housed in an actual fire station.

Come help LCPS save this treasure. More info to come! Check back on our website at www.lcpsociety.com

Photo: Clatsop County Historical Society

In addition to window repair and restoration, one of the large doors also needs to be rebuilt.

Located on the corner of 30th St. and Marine Drive, the building was constructed in 1896 for the North Pacific Brewery, but was closed in 1915 due to prohibition. In 1928 the City of Astoria renovated the building for use as the Uppertown Fire Station #2. It operated as a fire station until 1960. It is one of very few

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advocacy. In January after much research, discussion and deliberation, the board chose to move forward with the sale of the Francis Apartments, which is now under contract to be sold. During deliberations, the board decided to put a conservation easement on the property, thereby assuring that the new owners (and owners in perpetuity) will be required to maintain the historic integrity of the building. We believe this will be a win-win for both LCPS and the community.

We currently have a nine-person board with a diversity of education, skills and interests among them. We have a healthy mix of people interested in creating events, staffing events, creating content for publication and those interested in preservation advocacy. Several members have extensive education and experience in historic preservation and planning, some own and manage their own renovation and preservation companies, and two board members have historic homes on the Washington side of the Lower Columbia.

This reinvigorated board of directors is happy to announce that LCPS will be bringing back the popular Garden Tour this August. In fact, the events committee has already tentatively planned events for each month of the coming year. Future events include lectures and workshops on windows, woodwork and furniture restoration,



The Garden Tour is Back!

We have scheduled this popular tour for
AUGUST 12TH
and NEED VOLUNTEERS
to make it happen!

There are lots of ways to participate, from joining the planning committee to potting up some plants to sell. If you want to be a part of this tradition, please let me know.

I'm looking forward to working with you in revitalizing this fun event.

Karen Parrott Ralls
503.201.3349

Save the Dates!

Saturday, May 13th • 3pm

Annual Membership Meeting

Saturday, June 10th

Window Workshop

Saturday, July 8th

Ebba Wicks Celebration

Saturday, August 12th

Garden Tour

Saturday, September 9th

Alderbrook Station

Friday, October 9th

Historic Pub Crawl & Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, November 11th

Lamp Wiring & Restoration

Saturday, December 9th

Tour of Homes

For more information contact:
971-704-2016

tours of historic buildings and a celebration of the life and work of Astoria architect Ebba Wicks Brown.

The office will be open during all 2nd Saturday Art Walk nights from 5-8pm and during Sunday Market. As our programming expands, we'll be reaching out to the membership for help in staffing the office and events. Let us know how you would like to participate. We need your help to succeed.

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PO Box 1334

Astoria, OR 97103 97103



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone Number

Email

Membership Dues:

☐ \$15 - Individual

☐ \$25 - Family

☐ \$50 - Business

☐ \$100 - Supporter

☐ Advocacy

☐ Education

☐ Grant Writing

☐ Membership

Where can you help?

☐ Newsletter

☐ Planning

☐ Publicity

☐ Other _____

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