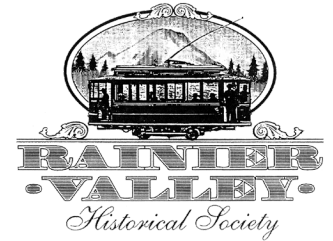


# HERITAGE NEWS

Spring, 2019  
Volume 28, Issue 1



## Events Calendar

**RVHS 128th Annual Meeting**  
June 22, 2019  
2 - 4 pm  
(doors open at 1:30 pm)  
beverages and dessert served  
Seward Park Audubon Center  
5900 Lake Washington Blvd. S.

**Columbia City Farmers Market  
Kids' Table**  
May 22 & May 29, 2019  
3 - 6 pm

**Columbia City BeatWalk**  
June 9, July 14, August 11,  
September 8, 2019  
5 - 7 pm  
RVHS Office

**Dismantling Racism: A Forum for  
Southeast Seattle**  
summer date TBA  
Hillman City Collaboratory

**Othello Park International  
Festival & Rainier Valley  
Heritage Festival**  
August 11, 2019  
12 - 6 pm  
Othello Park

**San Gennaro Festival**  
September 6-8, 2019  
Angelo St., Georgetown

**7th Annual RVHS  
Founder's Dinner**  
October 27, 2019  
5 pm @ Our Lady of  
Mount Virgin Parish Hall  
2800 S. Massachusetts St.

**RVHS Office Hours:**  
Monday: 1:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Wednesday: 11 am - 7:30 pm  
Saturday: 9 am - 3 pm  
& by appointment  
3710 S. Ferdinand St.  
phone: 206.723.1663  
email: office@rainiervalleyhistory.org  
website: rainiervalleyhistory.org



**Thank you to 4Culture  
for supporting our work!**



*Sakouro blossoms along Lake Washington Boulevard at Andrews Bay, Seward Park. Spring, 2019*

**You are invited to attend the RVHS 128th Annual Meeting of the Members  
Saturday, June 22**

**at Seward Park Audubon Center, 5900 Lake Washington Blvd. S.**

doors open 1:30 pm, business meeting/election of officers, 2 pm

Celebrating two Seward Park centennial projects: guest speaker Paul Talbert, 3 pm

*Wild Isle in the City: Tales from Seward Park's First 100 Years and the new Japanese torii*  
(book excerpts throughout this newsletter)

## Chapter 2: From Wilderness to Park *sqəbəqsəd and cqálapsəb*

The indigenous people who lived on Lake Washington at the time of Euro-American settlement referred to the lake as haču and called themselves the Lake People (hačuabš). The lake drained out the Black River in what is now Renton. The Black River soon joined the Cedar and White (now Green) Rivers to become the Duwamish River, which emptied into Elliott Bay.

The Lake People called the peninsula that now forms Seward Park *sqəbəqsəd*, from the word for “noses”. The use of the plural possibly refers to the fact that the peninsula became an island with two tips when the water was high enough to flood the

isthmus. The Lake People referred to the isthmus, which was less than a few hundred feet wide at the time, as *cqálapsəb*, from the word for “upper part of the neck”. A marshy inlet occupied the area to the north of the modern park entrance circle, connecting to what is now Andrews Bay. The natural resources of the lake were essential to the Lake People, and were sufficiently abundant to support numerous villages on the lake.

-Paul Talbert

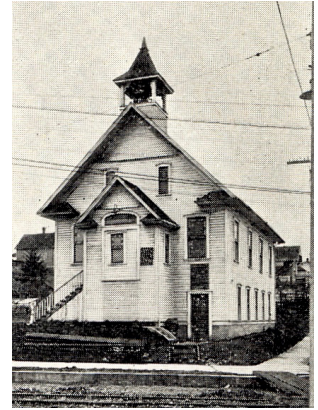


Kikisoblu, later called Princess Angeline, eldest daughter of Chief Seattle, born in Rainier Beach.  
Photograph by Frank La Roche, ca 1893, Wikipedia



## What's new in the Archives

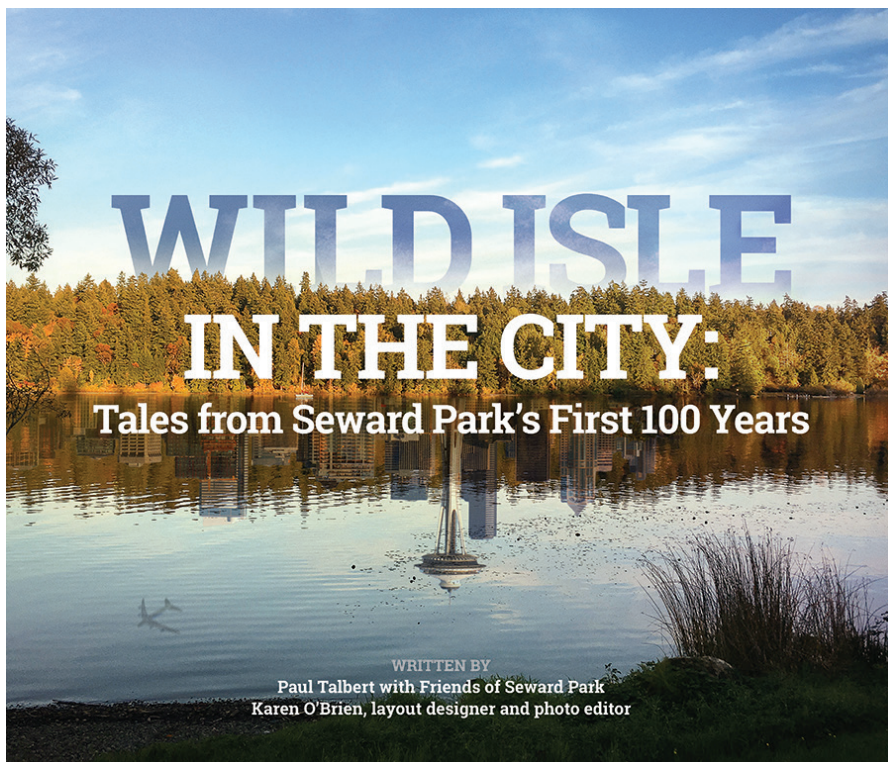
- **Hillman City Church Bell.** Thanks to the herculean efforts of Tim Burdick, John DeFranco, and Stephen Hultberg, a piece of Hillman City history has been saved. We now are in possession of a church bell that had been sitting in the parking lot behind Dayspring & Fitch Funeral Home for as long as many of us can remember (how long?). Once mounted in the steeple of the Methodist Episcopalian Church at Rainier Avenue & Lucile Street, at ~750-lbs, the C.S. Bell Co. creation both peeled and tolled as the situation warranted. In November 1908, Reverend G.C. Poolton, pastor, gave the morning topic, "Kindling Spiritual Fires" to the M. E. congregation.  
The 1915 *Rainier Valley Citizen* in our collection includes an early photo of the church (at right) with the bell tower prominent. Let us know if you have memories of the church to share with us! Thanks to real estate broker Ray Akers for making the arrangements for this donation to our archives. And, of course, many thanks to the bell donors: Pete and Helen Sikov, Lifetime members of RVHS. The church building will be demolished for development.
- **Seattle Hardware Company 1925 Catalog.** Thank you Louise Langmack for your donation.
- **New Past Perfect Museum software up and running!** Thanks to a King County 4Culture collections care grant, 12,000 archival records are now organized in a searchable database on all the computers in the office. Research made easy!
- **Collections online PastPerfect Museum software link soon!** Project archivist Alyssa Enders begins work on our digital photographs for online access to our collections.
- **"Connect 10,000" is underway!** Rainier Chamber of Commerce's Neighborhood Matching Fund project of gathering stories among business owners and managers, particularly women and people of color in Rainier Valley, is underway. Take a look at four of the quality videos, "A Web Series" of changemakers Monika Mathews, owner of QueenCare in Columbia City, Abdirahman Tache and Ahmed Ali partners of Othello Station Pharmacy, Joseph Manson manager of Seward Park Audubon Center and Jean Veldwyck founder of Jean Veldyke Properties -- viewable at: [connect10k.com/stories/](http://connect10k.com/stories/)  
RVHS partners on this project as archival repository for the oral histories and has shared historic information and photographs when needed.



Hillman Methodist Episcopal Church on Rainier Ave. at Lucile Street, *Rainier Valley Citizen*, 1915.



Hillman church bell moved to its temporary storage awaiting restoration in 2020.



## Wild Isle in the City debuts at our annual meeting on June 22!

Written by local historian Paul Talbert with Friends of Seward Park, *Wild Isle in the City* explores more than a

century of natural and human history in Seward Park, home to the old-growth Magnificent Forest. With emphasis on environmental history and the ethnic diversity of park users, *Wild Isle* tells the stories of the Lake People and many waves of immigrants, spawning peamouths and nesting eagles, park visionaries and real estate swindlers, urban development and conservation. A community of contributors has created an intriguing and visually stunning homage to the park they love.

'Wild Isle' is a volunteer book project between *Friends of Seward Park* and *Lakewood Seward Park Neighborhood Association*. The manufacturing costs were supported in part by King County 4Culture. All book proceeds benefit Seward Park stewardship and the LSPNA scholarship fund. (Hardcover, 350 pages, \$49.95)

## Honor Roll

Many thanks to our members and supporters who make our work possible! Below are those whose gifts we received between Oct. 28, 2018 and April 30, 2019. Contact us with any corrections at: 206-723-1663 or office@rainiervalleyhistory.org.

### New Lifetime Membership

Jay White

### History Maker Membership

Merlino Foods

### Patron Memberships

Dr. Edward Almquist  
Eleanor Boba & Alan Humphrey  
Marjorie Hunt  
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Jan & Ham Kumasaka  
Susan Larsen  
Jerry & Roz Mascio

### Sponsor Memberships

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Eva Long & Bill Jepson  
Tricia Pearson & Declan O'Neill  
Lucy Salle, *in memory of Saverio Russo Family*  
Judith Yarrow

### Individual/Family Memberships

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Kirk Duncan  
Frank & Margaret Fickeisen  
Robert Glenn & Dennis Batt  
Laura Grow  
Reiley & Deborah Kidd  
Mary Leyden & Nicky Ingrisano  
Marie Martell  
Marty & Robin Oppenheimer  
Stephen Peringer  
Eileen Ryan & John DeRocco  
Mark Sherman  
Sam & Jo Simone

Jean Sisson,  
*in memory of Tom Sisson*

Lorrie Sivich  
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Kathleen Tracy  
Allan Urlin  
June Vynne  
Laura Weese  
Catherine Wickwire  
Mikala Woodward

### Senior/Student Memberships

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David Chesnutt  
Judith Clarridge  
Beverly Denton  
Gareth Gibbon  
Don & Lee Gill  
Carolyn Gould  
Nancy Hevly  
Judy & Paul McGough  
John Murphy  
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Donovan & Carol O'Brien  
Diane Rasmusson  
Thomas Riley  
Russell Roberts  
Don Shaffer  
Margaret Yellowwolf

### Gifts to Endowment

Nancy Dulaney  
Karen O'Brien

### Gifts to Operating Fund

4Culture  
Christopher Alfieri  
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Mary O'Brien  
Susan Parker  
Stephanie Ragland  
Rainier Beach Community Club  
Diane Rasmusson  
*in memory of Marjorie J. Scott*  
Gerald R. Razwick, *in honor of George & Ellen Razwick and Buzz & Joanne Anderson*  
San Gennaro Foundation-Seattle  
Betty Smith  
Marilyn & Dick Tilbury  
Jean Veldwyk  
Catherine Wickwire  
Mikala Woodward  
Wyman Youth Trust  
Margaret Yellowwolf

### In-Kind Donations

Burdick Security Hardware  
Rainier Arts Center

## Treasurer's Annual Report 2018 Summary

### INCOME:

Membership .....	\$4,590
Earned Income .....	\$865
Interest/Dividends .....	\$4,747
Donations .....	\$14,820
Grants .....	\$8,324
Outreach & Fundraising .....	\$25,894
<b>INCOME TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$59,240</b>

### EXPENSES:

Facilities .....	\$7,506
Administration .....	\$4,257
Personnel .....	\$22,084
Communications .....	\$3,299
Collections .....	\$3,107
Merchandise .....	\$871
Outreach & Fundraising .....	\$7,188
<b>EXPENSE TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$48,312</b>

### ENDOWMENT VALUE:

as of 12/31/18: **\$277,175**

## LIFETIME MEMBERS

James Adderson  
Kenneth and Marleen Alhadeff  
Beverly Almoslino  
Joanne Anderson  
Mary Ellen Anderson  
Teresa Anderson  
Katherine Bailey  
J. Barclay  
Rachel Bianchi  
Kalman Brauner  
Tim Burdick  
Elsa Burr  
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Shirley Peringer  
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Julie and Ellen Razwick  
Bonnie Riach  
Robert and Ruth Ridder  
Lorraine Ring  
Chelsea Rodriguez  
Resha Sabre  
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Donna Schaller  
Mary Ann Schleer  
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Elizabeth Sedenquist  
Pete and Helen Sikov  
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Jean Sisson  
Ervin and Florita Skov

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Norma Smoczyk  
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Dick and Marilyn Tilbury  
Bill Tremblay  
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Jean Veldwyk  
Warren Walters  
Andrea Watson  
Stuart Weiss  
Jay White  
Dona and Henry White  
Keith and Ann Wiltse  
Vinnie Worrell  
Deehan Wyman  
Judith Yarrow  
Jody and Ed Zumwalt



## excerpts from Chapter 6: Seward Park Stories

### *Life in Seward Park*

Lucky kids who were 14 and older got to work at the Seward Park Inn, which served food on the main floor. The managers lived upstairs. Everyone wanted a job there! At 14, I was a soda jerk and made sodas and milk shakes to sell along with hamburgers, hot dogs, popcorn, candy and ice cream bars. A lady named “Red” ran the business, a tough lady with a great crew. There was also a small wooden shed against the south wall of the bathhouse, where we sold hot dogs, pop, and ice cream. It was a great service and I wish they would bring it back.

- Jean Veldwyck

### *Getting Organized*

Grover Haynes’ first memories of Seward Park are of driving around “the loop” in 1953. He remembers fondly his 1954 Mercury sports coupe, which he would park on the west side of the park, his favorite spot for swimming. Grover had grown up in Louisiana; he found himself swimming “in an ice bucket”.

-Grover Haynes interviewed by  
Patricia Killam

### *Fireworks and an Eight Year-Old*

One of my fondest memories of Seward Park is accompanying my grandfather, Ray Hitt (Hitt Fireworks) to the Park to help set up the evening fireworks display for the annual Pow Wow. Since I was about eight years old at the time, the “help” I offered was

pretty minimal, but I felt like I was making an important contribution. You see, it was my job to open the heavy wooden crates containing the large aerial fireworks shells. I lifted each shell from the crate one at a time, carefully balanced the shell on my lap, and removed the rubber bands from the paper-wrapped black powder fuses. Then I would gently place the big shells in their wooden crates and close the lids. I had to be careful not to tear the brown paper which wrapped each fuse, as the volatile black powder would leak out. Having small fingers was an advantage for removing the tight rubber bands. The black powder was messy and I couldn’t help getting it on my fingers and clothes.

Later in the evening, about 9:45 PM, my grandfather’s crew would set off the fireworks, capping Pow Wow with a trademark Hitt’s aerial display. I’d sit within the roped-off safety area, as close as my grandfather would allow, a finger jammed into each ear, waiting for the first shells to be fired. Each shell exploded from the mortars, creating a tremendous “THMWUMP!” concussion, which sent a shock wave through the ground and right through my body. I loved every thwump and the smell of the black powder.

- Ray Akers

### *Four Generations*

Shirley Peringer and her brother Marvin “Buzz” Anderson grew up in Columbia City on Edmunds Street. Their grandfather D.W. Brown was an engineer on the rail line that ran through Columbia City on its way

from Seattle to Renton. D.W. would take his gun with him and bring home birds he had shot from the train for dinner.

Shirley and Buzz’s parents built a home on Lakeshore Drive, two houses from the Seward Park tennis courts. But first her husband helped them clear the lot, which was forested. Adjacent to the forest was a huge apple orchard, a portion of which Shirley and her husband cleared when they built their own home near her parents’. Nearby was the home of the woman who owned a restaurant called Green Apple Pie in downtown Seattle. There are still a few trees left in what they fondly called the “Apple Pie District”.

- Shirley Peringer interviewed by  
Patricia Killam

### *Lakewood Pioneer Remembered*

My dad took Eddie Bauer hunting ducks in the marsh between the mainland and the then island which is Seward Park. The family had a row boat near where Lakewood marina is located now. I assume my dad rowed down to the hunting ground.

- Dr. Edward Almquist

### *A Century in Seward Park*

My grandmother and my father, Charles E (“Bud”) Creevey, were the first to tell me stories, some of which had their origin only a few years after the huge peninsula had been named Seward Park. Dad often reflected back to the 1920s, when he and his friends paddled their canoes across Andrews Bay to the end of the peninsula. There, they would lunch and then push on to



Mercer Island, where they would fill their sometimes-rickety wooden craft with fruit from the many orchards there to sell to neighbors.

The peninsula was home to wildlife of all sorts in those days; great numbers of deer made the swim from the east side of the lake to the island a half mile away. We marveled at them while we fished in the 1940s and 1950s, and occasionally even in the 1960s. How did they accomplish this with legs as thin as my dog's?

- Jim Creevey

## Kosher Canyon

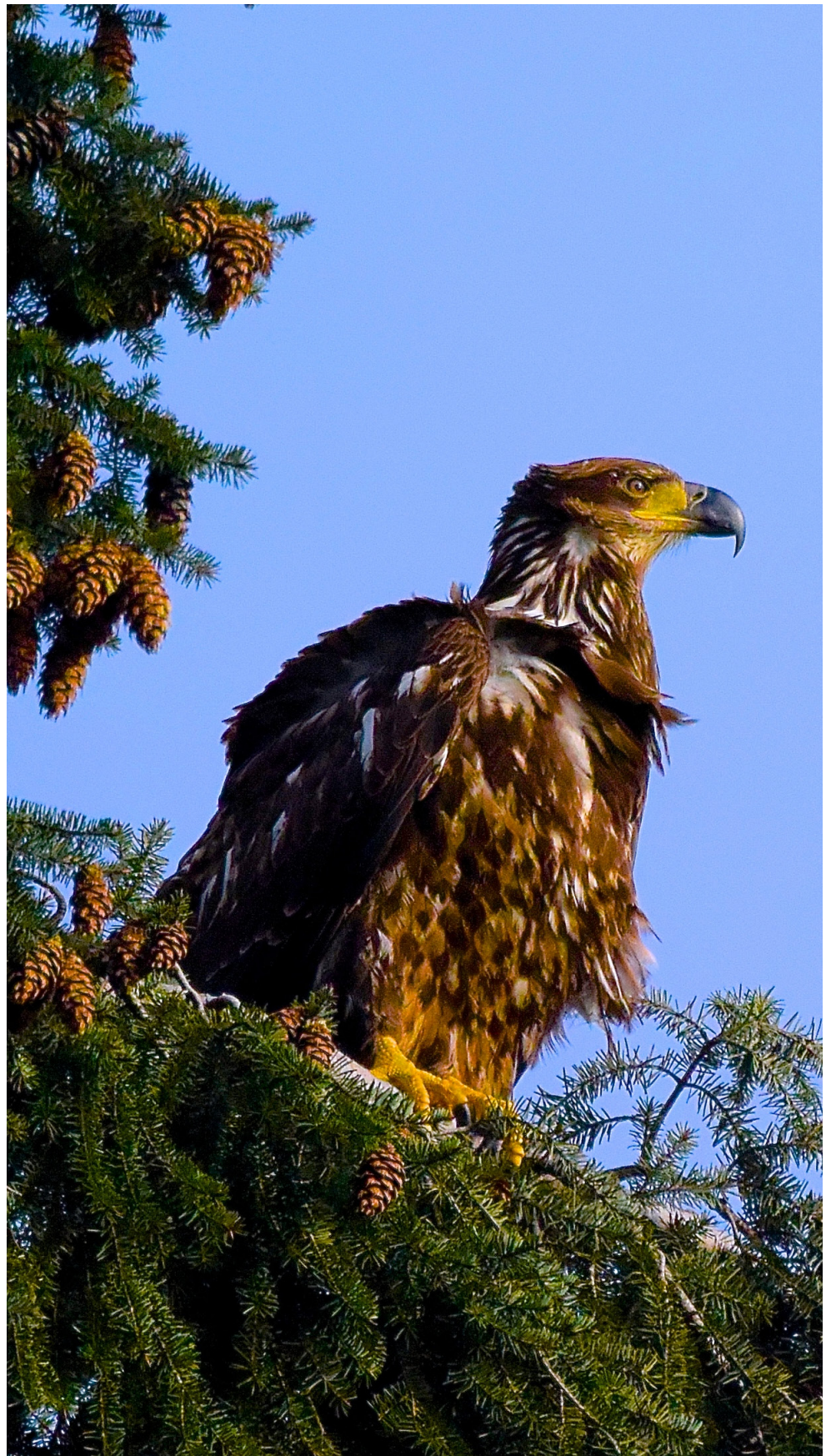
I grew up with a rich diversity of children. My fondest memories are of the hatchery and of fishing with my dad in and along the peninsula. As I got older, I drove the loop, showing off my cars.

- Ralph Capeluto

## Fish Hatchery

One of our favorite places to fish down at the lake was in front of the outlet streams from the rearing ponds where the flow of water entered Lake Washington. The creeks were actually artificial. A pumping station drew water from the lake. Large underground piping deposited water into the ponds. The water flowed continuously which created a near natural environment. We named the Creeks, 'First Creek' and 'Second Creek'. The best time to fish was during the cleaning and flushing of the ponds. A bunch of trout would always escape down the Creek and out into the lake. Also, the extra water flow would attract the really big fish from out in the deeper waters.

- Don Bearwood



A rare photograph of a juvenile eagle in Seward Park photographed by Aurora Santiago. Aurora contributed several of her magnificent wildlife photographs to 'Wild Isle in the City'. The book features photos from past and present photographers that capture the essence of the park's natural beauty and cultural history. Many photographs are included from Rainier Valley Historical Society's archives.



## The New Torii

The choice of the *torii*, which dominated the park entrance for 50 years, as the emblem of the Seward Park Centennial in 2011 led to renewed interest in this park icon. When members of the Seattle Cherry Blossom and Japanese Cultural Festival were invited to plant a new cherry tree for Earth Day that year, participants called for restoration of the *torii*.

In 2012 the Friends of Seward Park obtained a \$20,000 Neighborhood Matching Fund grant from Seattle's Department of Neighborhoods. FoSP held public meetings to agree upon a design and location for the *torii*. A diverse cross-section of citizens attended the public meetings and provided their input. The selection of the final design was somewhat controversial, with some participants preferring a more traditional design

much like the 1934 *torii*, and others preferring a more modern and abstract design that they felt better reflects the tastes of the current generation of Japanese-Americans and the broadly diverse community surrounding Seward Park. In the end, a design was selected that has basalt *hashira* (columns), cedar *kasagi* (top lintel) and *nuki* (bottom lintel), and an ADA-accessible concrete *sando* (pathway). The stone and unpainted wood reflect the rustic, natural setting of Seward Park's Magnificent Forest.

The location for the new *torii* was also controversial. Many in the community preferred to place the structure near Lake Washington with Mount Rainier in the background, evoking Mount Fuji, arguing that Mount Rainier would have been visible from the original *torii* before trees in the Entrance Circle Garden grew up

and blocked the view. However, Seattle Parks and Recreation decided that the new *torii* would be located near the location of the old one, on the north side of the traffic circle at the park's entrance.

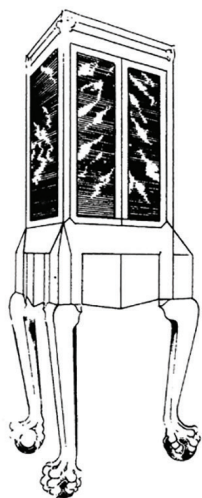
With the design and location decided, FoSP received a second Neighborhood Matching Fund grant for \$25,000 to develop construction drawings, obtain construction permits, and create an oral history video of the *torii*.

With the help of Seattle Parks Foundation, FoSP raised over \$320,000 for construction with support from the City of Seattle, from foundations, and from nearly 250 members of the local community. As of this writing, the construction phase of the *torii* project is under way, with a completion date of summer, 2019.

-Paul Talbert, Friends of Seward Park



At near completion, these photographs show Ted Weinberg's artist rendition of the new *torii*, design phase of one of the two 25' basalt *hasiras* in Vancouver, WA and the cedar *nuki* on Vashon Island, WA. The foundation has been poured at Seward Park for the new *torii* awaiting the summer construction date. Photos by John Thorpe and Ted Weinberg, Seward Park *torii* committee members.



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## Advertise with us!

We have opportunities for advertising in all of our publications for a full year, or a one-time ad in the program for the Founder's Dinner in October. For details and pricing,



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## Meet Katharine Anthony, RVHS Programs and Archives Manager!

I am so honored to introduce myself as Rainier Valley Historical Society's new Programs and Archives Manager. Historical societies have been a vital part of my life from a very young age. My mother was/ and still is on my hometown historical society's board and used to bring my sister and me to many meetings and events that went on there for many years. For me, historical societies are places of community, combining the past with the present to showcase the future of where we live can be.

I have interned or volunteered with museums and historical societies since high school, and found my passion for history while doing so. Internships and volunteering at places such as Highline Heritage Center, Shelton Historical Society and the Mattatuck Museum of Art and History, have given me the skills for collections work, curation, and programming.

I look forward to learning more about Rainier Valley and the diverse stories that make up our unique zip code. We have a vision for becoming more involved in our community in different ways, through more programming and partnerships as well as updating our database management software and showcasing our collections. This summer's programming will be a great start to creating lasting connections through community engagement and outreach. Two of our new partnerships this summer are the Columbia City Farmer's Market and BeatWalk, Columbia City Food History Walking Tour and hopefully adding more soon!

I have big shoes to fill. I am fortunate, however, to join an incredibly committed, smart, and incredible team of staff and volunteers at Rainier Valley Historical Society. Thank you for being part of our Rainier Valley Historical Society, and please feel free to contact me at any time at office@rainiervalleyhistory.org or visit me in the office during my hours!

**Katharine Anthony**

University of Washington Masters of Museology graduate, 2019

## New: RVHS at Columbia City Farmers Market and BeatWalk!

### Rainier Valley Historical Society programs and partnerships:

**Farmers Market.** RVHS will be at the Farmers Market Kids Table May 22 and May 29 from 3 - 6 pm. We'll have a matching photo game of "now and then" buildings in Columbia City and a kitchen utensil "what is it?" game to play as well as share our Columbia City self-guided walking tour map.

**BeatWalk.** From June through September, our office will be open on the second Sunday of the month from 5 - 7 pm, Stop by and join in the BeatWalk festivities -- listen to thematic records and dance to the music!

For more information on BeatWalk, please visit:

<http://www.columbiacityseattle.com/events/beatwalk/>

**Walking Tours.** Look for our Walking Tours to start back up sometime in July!

**Dismantling Racism Series.** Also for programming news, we received a 4Culture Heritage Project grant for the continuation of the Dismantling Racism Series led by project manager Virginia Wright. Four events will be scheduled for 2019-2020 starting this summer.



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Tim Burdick  
John DeFranco  
David Eskenazi  
Mark Hannum  
Joan Neville  
Jody Anderson Zumwalt

## Support Rainier Valley History

If you haven't joined Rainier Valley Historical Society or renewed your membership this year, we urge you to do so now. RVHS is a 501(c)(3) organization, all membership dues and donations are tax deductible within the limits of the law.

Please clip and fill in this form and mail it to:

**Rainier Valley Historical Society**  
**PO Box 18143**  
**Seattle, WA 98118**

*Donations, memberships and merchandise sales are also accepted on our website: [www.rainiervalleyhistory.org](http://www.rainiervalleyhistory.org).*

<p>Name .....</p> <p>Address .....</p> <p>City/State/ZIP .....</p> <p>Phone .....</p> <p>Email .....</p> <p>Please provide us with an email to receive our E-News, "Past is Present!"</p> <p>Credit card:</p> <p>Visa/MC/AMEX # .....</p> <p>expiration date: ..... CVV# .....</p> <p>(your credit card transaction will be processed by Square.com).</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Member ..... \$500</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> History Maker ..... \$350</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Patron ..... \$100</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor ..... \$60</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Individual/Family (per household) ..... \$30</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student (per household) ..... \$20</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional donation to Operating Fund ..... (amount)</p> <p>Donation in honor/memory of (please circle one):</p> <p>Name .....</p> <p>*Address .....</p> <p>City/State/Zip .....</p> <p>*If you provide us with an address, we will be happy to send an acknowledgement of your gift.</p>
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