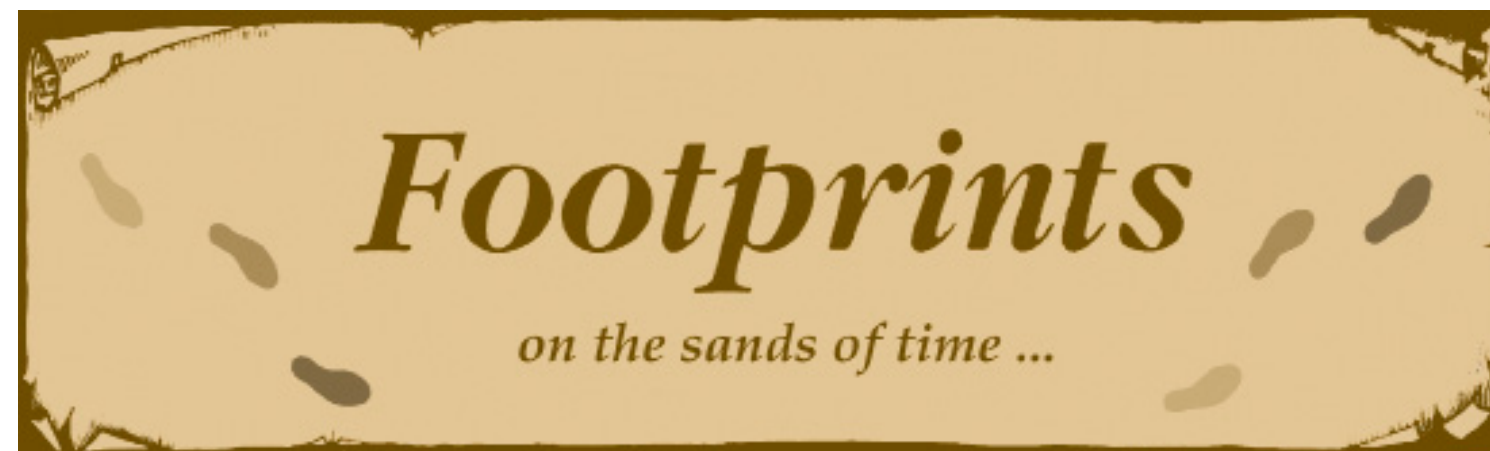




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SOUTHWEST SEATTLE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SUMMER 2019

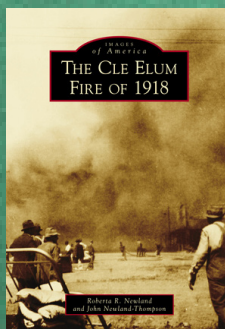
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JULY

July 4th Picnic: 11am-2pm, Members and volunteers will enjoy a festive potluck in the Log House Museum courtyard.

July 11th: WW & SWS present: Roberta and John Newlan, authors of *The Cle Elum Fire of 1918*.

July 27th: "If These Walls Could Talk" Home Tour of the Colman Estate, designed by famed architect Authur Loveless. RSVP early!



AUGUST

August 8th: WW & SWS present: Mayumi Tsutakawa, speaking on "Washington's Undiscovered Feminists."

August 31st: Cycle History 2019. Hosted by the Highland Park Improvement Club and WS Bike Connections, The theme this year is "Community Gathering Spaces"



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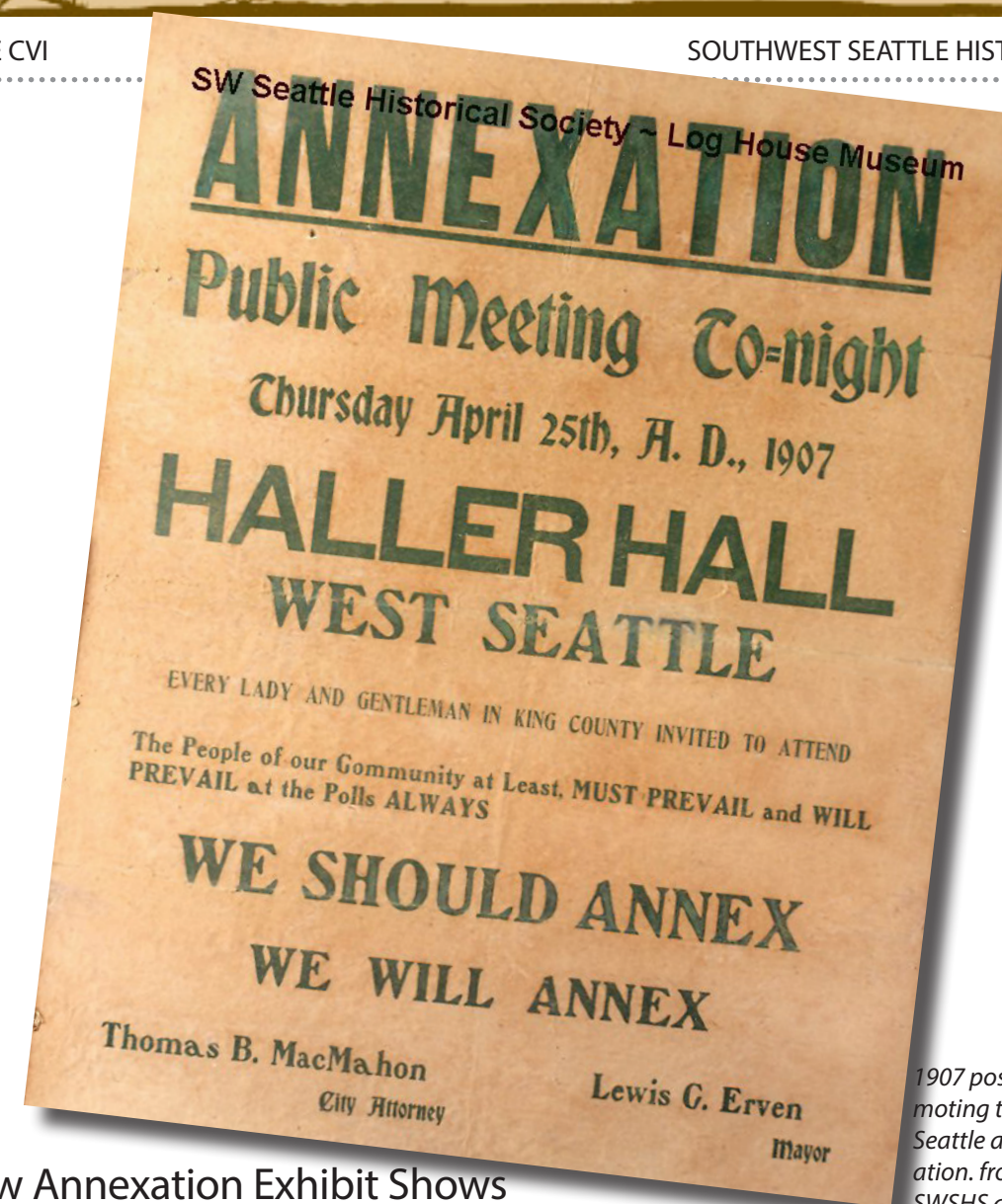
New Annexation Exhibit Shows Forgotten Side of West Seattle History

by Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

On August 18th, the Log House Museum will showcase why elections matter in our newest exhibit *Between the Lines*, a compelling story of the city of West Seattle's annexation to the city of Seattle. Researcher Phil Hoffman and King County archivist

Greg Lange have teamed up with curator Tasia Williams to illustrate that only a century ago, West Seattle wanted to achieve the dream of joining a "Greater Seattle". Hoffman wrote a paper entitled, "If At First You Don't Succeed..." which contains new research on the West Seattle annexation.

continued on page 4



1907 poster promoting the West Seattle annexation. from the SWSHS archives



SOUTHWEST
SEATTLE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

Mission: "To promote local heritage through education, preservation and advocacy"

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BOARD MEETINGS

Held at 6:30 pm on 3rd
Tuesday of each month
and open to the public!

South Seattle College
President's Board Room

Lafayette Elementary Celebrates it's 100th Name Anniversary



By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

What's in a name? From 'Brick School', 'West Seattle Central', to 'West Seattle Grammar School', Lafayette Elementary School celebrates its 100th anniversary of having the Lafayette name on June 20th, 2019. Although school was in session decades before, this name change occurred in 1918 when students wrote essays to advocate for a new name. Esther Oliver's essay about the French general Marquis de Lafayette won.

"We are so grateful to the community who unfailingly supports our mission"

By Kathy Blackwell, President of Board of Trustees

This summer, we're excited for the activities happening around our beautiful Duwamish Peninsula. Our July 4th Member Picnic at the museum is a longtime tradition where we celebrate our country and appreciate the heritage of our local community. On July 27th, our annual "If These Walls Could Talk" event will take place at the Colman Estate, one of many unique and beautiful homes designed by Arthur Loveless. How did Mr. Colman and Mr. Loveless get acquainted? What's the story behind these two prominent Seattleites? We will tell the story.



The castle-like building was used for decades before the earthquake in 1949. Image of building is from 1901

Sadly, the original castle-like building was grounded after a 1949 earthquake, and was replaced in the 1950s. Want to learn the full story? We have it in West Side Story, a collection of news articles and images from the West Seattle Herald and White Center News. West Side Story is exclusive to our museum. Contact Sarah at museum@loghousemuseum.org for details. Happy Anniversary, Lafayette Elementary!

Our 2019 Champagne Gala Brunch will be held on November 2, 2019. Please add the date to your calendar and look for an email introducing the theme and program for this year's event. You won't want to miss a very special West Seattle celebration! Most importantly, we are so grateful to the SWSHS community who unfailingly supports our mission through volunteer hours, financial contributions, event participation and enthusiasm. We couldn't do it without you. Gratefully, Kathy Blackwell President, Board of Trustees

"Words, Writers & West Seattle" Series Is Evolving

By Dora-Faye Hendricks, Chair, WW&WS Organizer and Board Member of SWSHS



The longest-lasting outreach program of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, "Words, Writers & West Seattle" is expanding and changing its name! In an effort to focus on the society's mission, "to promote local heritage through education, preservation, and advocacy," the new series will be presenting authors, books, and stories of the Puget Sound and Duwamish Peninsula and will continue to enjoy the partnership of the Seattle Public Library.

For almost six years, WW&WS has been hosting presentations by West Seattle authors who were either from West Seattle, live here currently, or have a presence in West Seattle. Several years ago another SWSHS series started entitled, "Southwest Stories" and featured speakers of various backgrounds sharing historical stories of interests, chaired by several different volunteers. Wanting to present more history of the larger Puget Sound area, the historical society decided to combine the two series under one name.

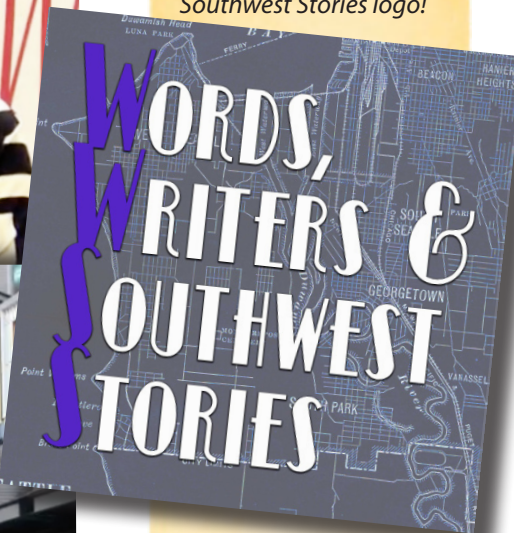
Beginning in July of 2019, "Words, Writers and West Seattle" is combining with "Southwest Sto-

ries," and will be known as "Words, Writers & Southwest Stories." This is in an attempt to maintain the recognition, audiences, and intent of both earlier programs. The free presentations will be held on the Second Thursdays of each month from 6 to 7:30 PM at the SW Library Branch, 9010 35th Ave SW, in West Seattle, although some might be moved to another branch on a weekend.

Speakers confirmed for the next few months include: Roberta and John Newland, on The Cle Elum Fire of 1918 on July 11th; Mayumi Tsutakawa, speaking on Washington's Undiscovered Feminists via Humanities WA on Aug. 8th; Feliks Banel (through Humanities WA) presenting "Storm Warning: Historic Weather in the Evergreen State," (date TBA); Elise Hooper, with her book, Learning to See: A Novel of Dorothea Lange, photographer and photojournalist, (TBA); Jeff Smoot on Schurman Rock: A History & Guide, (date TBA); Mike Purdy, Presidential Historian on 101 Presidential Insults: What They Really Thought About Each Other - and What It Means to Us, (date TBA). All presentations of the series are videotaped and available through loghousemuseum.org.

'FIELD NOTES' OF INTEREST

With a new series comes a new logo. here is the new Words, Writers and Southwest Stories logo!



Here are some highlights of the past Words, Writers and West Seattle:

Paul Dorpat, Jean Sherard on "Seattle Now & Then", (upper left)

Castro Luna, the 2019 Washington State Poet Laureate (lower left)

Theresa McCormick, with A Far Cry From Here-Growing Up and Out of Fundamentalism (upper right)

Dan Raley, with How Seattle Became a Big-League Sports Town (lower right)



'A SPECIAL THANKS'

Our website has been upgraded! Visit loghousemuseum.org for updates on events, special happenings and new exhibits at the Log House Museum!

Special thanks to:
Membership Secretary
John Sweetland and
Web Developer Rhianon
England for all of your
hard work!

**OUR WEBSITE
HAS A NEW
LOOK!**
loghousemuseum.org

**Lastly, we want to
thank our sponsors
for making our 2019
Volunteer Apprecia-
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A Digital Collections Plan for SWSHS

By Rachel Regelein, Registrar

Hello from your museum Registrar! For the past two years, I have been completing my Master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of Washington. For my thesis project, I have created a Digital Collections Plan for the Log House Museum. Digital collections are items that exist in a digital format, such as digital photos, videos, and computer documents. The Log House Museum has a collection of around

10,000 items that are located in our offsite-storage which includes photos, books, archives, small objects, and more. We can digitize these items by scanning, photograph, or migrating old media (such as VHS tapes) to a digital format.

Why is this important? We digitize our collection for two reasons:

1. To make the collections accessible. It is easier for visitors and researchers to come to the museum and browse digital images and files than it is for staff to go to storage and try to locate requested items.

2. To preserve collections. Some physical objects are too damaged to handle, such as old newspapers. Other objects, such as VHS tapes and CDs have to be digitized and migrated to a new format to preserve the content.... we won't be able to play decaying VHS tapes forever, nor have access to VCRs to play them on! By digitizing fragile or old media, we can preserve the content for future generations.

Digitizing is only the first step. Just as we care for the physical objects by creating archival housing and pest control, digital collection requires special preservation actions as well. For example, information

for the files have to be created and stored in a way that is both useful and consistent. It's weird to think about, but digital collections live on physical objects, usually a computer hard drive. Hard drives can fail, as anyone who owns a computer can attest to. This means that not only the digital files but the physical storage that the files live on must be monitored and protected.

Sound complicated? It is! A small museum like us doesn't necessarily have the resources to properly preserve their digital collection, much less keep up-to-date on constantly changing technology! That's why I have created a plan for the Log House Museum that breaks down preservation actions into easy steps that will protect and preserve our digital collection

with minimal time and money.



(Left to right) Rachel Regelein, Tasia Williams and Angie Ong, Rachel's thesis chair. Photo taken at Rachel's thesis defense at UW)

BETWEEN THE LINES

THE POWER AND
PARALLELS OF THE
WEST SEATTLE
ANNEXATION

West Seattle Annexation Exhibit Continued...

When asked why Hoffman dove into this aspect of Duwamish Peninsula history, he mentioned that the annexation research found him. Hoffman happened upon unexpected information while reading liquor license files from the King County archives, "As is so often the case, something unexpected presented itself. In this case it was an entry in the unpublished index to the Proceedings of the King County Commissioners reading 'Alki Point, City of' quickly followed by 'Alki-Rainier, City of'. Who knew of these two cities? I didn't.

As inquiry progressed it became clear that these two index entries were intimately connected to the right to vote and to have every vote counted."

The power dynamics that influenced the 1907 West Seattle annexation often mirror similar political conditions that are happening in Seattle today. With documentation and images, visitors will see that elections were influenced by the people who held the most power.

Between the Lines will show guests an unexpected political history of the Duwamish Peninsula. The phrase "Greater Seattle" meant very different things for different groups of people across southwest Seattle. This exhibit is about the West Seattle annexation, but it also shows how voting can forever change an area by slim margins and corporate influence.

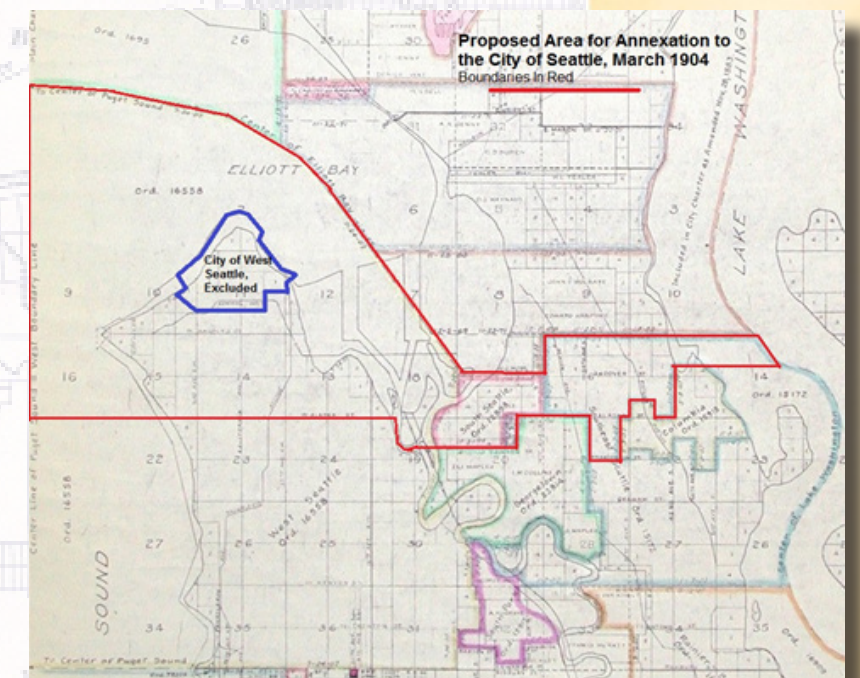
When asked if there were any details that one may overlook in regards to the significance of this event, Hoffman gives this example,

"The referendum by the City of West Seattle that led to the 1907 consolidation of West Seattle-Seattle, the Spring Hill precinct voted 101-0 to approve the annexation. Not one voter dissented.

If it had not been for the overwhelming Spring Hill majority the annexation proposition would have failed with the annexation dissenters of Youngstown and Alki Point prevailing. Who to give credit to for the organizational genius and talent behind the Spring Hill voting result is unknown. I suspect Ferdinand Schmitz."

Lastly, the annexation is more than just the creation of a larger Seattle. Hoffman expresses, "The story of an annexation and creation of municipal governance on the Duwamish Peninsula is as much of a story of creating new governments as it is the sanctity of the electoral process."

To learn more about the West Seattle annexation and see the full exhibit in action, visit the Log House Museum starting August 18th.



Base map from Seattle Municipal Archives, Seattle, WA, Map # 932 Annexation area boundaries drawn by Hoffman based upon special election notice appearing in the Seattle Star, Seattle, WA, March 4, 1904, page 2 and Seattle Daily Times, Seattle, WA, March 4, 1904 page 18.

'FIELD NOTES'
OF INTEREST

(Left) Our new logo and
tagline for the upcoming
exhibit!

Municipal governance is customarily extended by the enlargement of the jurisdiction of a city or state taking over territory not within an existing city. This process is called **annexation**.

Annexation is still on the horizon, even today! There was a discussion of whether White Center will be annexed into Seattle only last year.

Want to learn more about Phil Hoffman's work? Have an interest about the history of Alki? Visit his website at: AlkiHistoryProject.com



FOOTPRINTS

is the official publication of the *Southwest Seattle Historical Society*.

EDITOR Sarah Miller

PRINTING thanks to



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MUSEUM HOURS

Thurs: noon to 4 pm
Fri: noon to 4 pm
Sat: noon to 4 pm
Sun: noon to 4 pm

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE MUSEUM?



Why do we have a Collections Freezer?

*Asked by Sarah Miller, Operations Coordinator
Answered by Tasia Williams, Curator*

Unlike traditional freezers, collections freezers serve specific purposes for the museum.

Why does a museum need a freezer?

We need a freezer to help get rid of bugs that have made their way into our collection. Freezers are mostly to treat artifacts that have signs of bug infestation or to preventatively freeze objects that we suspect might have infestation. Another category of artifact that is susceptible to pest infestation is wood or animal products. There is a month long process where we put in our collections, and then check for signs of living insects.

Other museums, like the Burke, freeze tissue samples from animals for DNA analysis. Some museums also keep film in refrigerators to preserve them or to keep nitrate film from catching fire.

Why is it so cold?

Standard freezers are 0° F (-18° C). but for many museums freezers are -34° degrees Celsius! This extremely cold temperature is because many insects have survival mechanisms that let them survive periods of extreme cold.

(Above) Donning gloves and masks, our curator and registrar carried down the collections from our old to our new freezer. (right) Examining signs of damage from insects on a brown velvet wedding dress from the 1800s

**Why do you wear gloves and masks?**

We wear gloves to protect the garments from the oils on our hands, which can attract bugs and cause the garment to break down more quickly. We are also wearing masks because we were not sure if there was mold present in the garments. Happily, there's no sign of mold!

What are issues beyond bugs that textiles and paper needs to watch out for?

Frost and moisture gathering on the materials could get on the artifact, which risks mold growth. That's why we wrapped garments in plastic bags and sealed them with tape. Changing the temperature in a material causes it to either expand or contract. So, we want to be careful to not put any brittle or very fragile objects in the freezer.

After you're done with freezing process, you transfer them into acid free archival boxes. Is there any reason why you can't use regular boxes? Why are these particular boxes special?

Most of the boxes we buy in the store were not meant to last beyond a couple of years. Most cardboard is made of acidic paper products. These acids leach out of the boxes and on to our artifacts, which accelerates the process of decay. It is so much easier and less expensive to prevent damage and decay than trying to fix problems after they've happened.

2019 Spring Clean Up Involved a total Basement Clean Out

By Sarah E. Miller, Operations Coordinator

This year, spring cleaning involved more than weeding our native plant garden and washing the Log House Museum's 100+ year old windows. Accompanied by a wonderful group of Seattle Works volunteers, we thoroughly cleaned out the entire basement in preparation for a major cement project slated for later this summer.

In the following months, the museum will have a concrete slab poured in the crawl space of the basement. This is an essential step to prevent vermin from using our museum as a hotel. Carrying out logs, decorations, chairs, and many other interesting objects, the team came across an original hand painted sign of the 1996 dedication to of the museum (pictured with team).

Kerry Korsgaard, Board and facilities committee member, remarks, "This terrific group of volunteers from Seattle Works along with a group of our regular volunteers and board members made these necessary activities go smoothly."

Museum's Native Garden will have an Interpretive Plan

Valerie Roberts, Seattle Every Kid in a Park Collaborative Project Coordinator for the Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park - Seattle Unit

As a student of the Museology Graduate Program at the University of Washington, I wanted to do a graduate project that would impact one of the significant heritage museums in the area. My project was to create an interpretive plan for the Southwest Seattle Historical Society native plant garden at the Log House Museum.

This interpretive plan is the first step in the Log House Museum using its outdoor spaces to develop new ways of connecting to its community on the Duwamish Peninsula. This interpretive plan uses the native plants of the area to create opportunities to bond



Cement medallion depicting a diving woman is in the Log House Museum's native plant garden. Thought to have come from the third Natatorium at 59th and Alki from 1934-1953. The Diving Girl logo was made popular in the 1920's by Jantzen as their national advertising campaign put it on everything from billboards to windshield decals.

'A SPECIAL THANKS'



Thank you so much to all of the volunteers that helped in this years spring clean up!

Seattle Works:

Emma Elston
Rachel Hale
Nick Holschuh
Bailey Lammon
Lichun Li
Ethan Martin
Peter Pentescu
Daniel Piorkowski
Reid Thompson
Matthew Unrath

Our Amazing Volunteers:

Deb Barker
Al Bentley
Dan Daly
Burke Dykes
Dane Hendricks
Kerry Korsgaard
Barbara Johns
Judy Maginnis
Ken Workman

