



WMA
Washington Museum Association

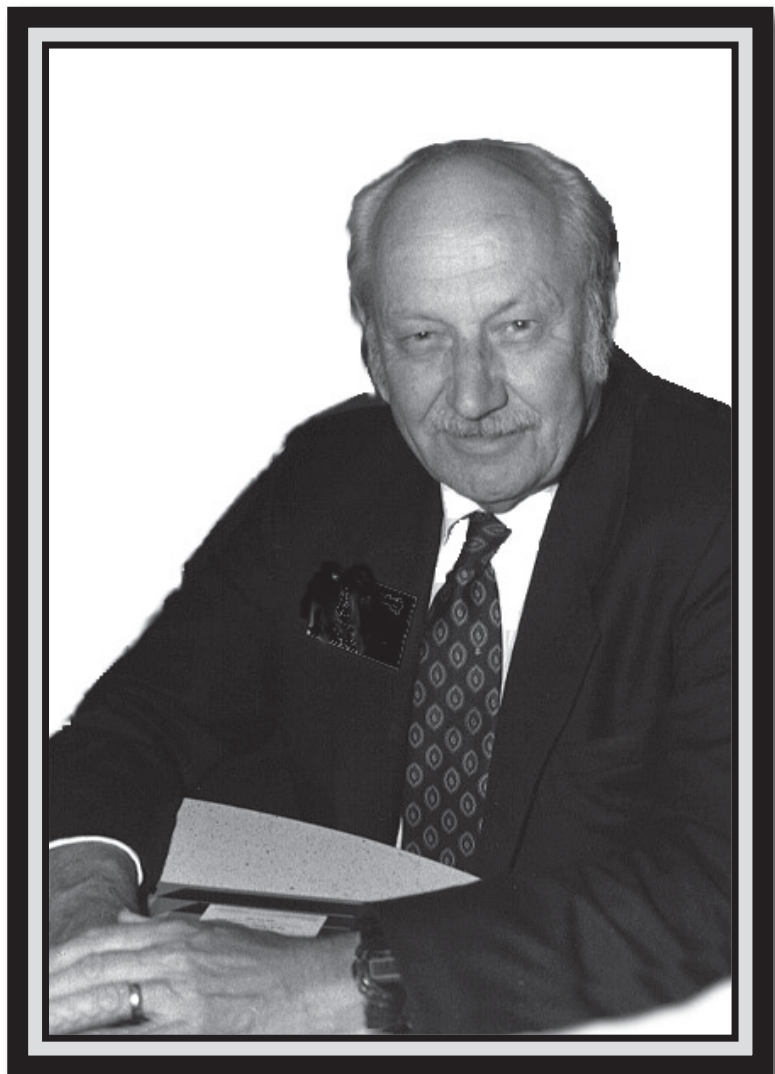
MUSEUM MESSENGER

Volume 19 / Number 1 • Fall 2008

ROBERT GRUHN

1920-2008

General Counsel
to
Washington
Museums



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Editor's Note:

The *WMA Museum Messenger* is published quarterly by the Washington Museum Association, a 501(c)(3) federally recognized non-profit organization consisting of institutions, businesses, and individuals whose mission it is to promote increased professionalism in and communication amongst all museums within Washington State. All articles within this issue may be reproduced and circulated to staff with appropriate credit given to the Washington Museum Association and the contributing author.

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Executive Director, Clark County Historical Society

Washington State Heritage Resource Center
Representative: Lauren Danner

Newsletter:

Editor: Erin Black
kchm@kchm.org; (509) 925-3778

Graphics & Layout: Andy Granitto
andy@yakimavalleymuseum.org; (509) 248-0747

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Tribute in Honor of Robert Gruhn

General Counsel for the Washington Museum Association

Excerpts from the 2008 WMA Annual Meeting, June 20, 2008
by Karen Marshall, WMA President 2000-2003

For many of us, we knew Bob Gruhn as our amazing general counsel for the WMA. I want to begin today by telling you a bit more about this remarkable man who passed away on April 3. Bob was born in Racine, Wisconsin on April 16, 1920 to Mae and Alvah Gruhn. He and his wife Eileen and their children lived in Chicago, Illinois, and Palos Verdes, California before moving to the Northwest in 1977.

Bob served in the United States Army in World War II (European Theater), landing at Normandy and was part of the liberation of Paris. He also served in the Korean Conflict, was in charge of the anti aircraft defense of the Panama Canal Zone. After spending 27 years in the Army Reserves as part of the Judge Advocate General Corps, he retired as a full colonel.

As a graduate of the University of Chicago and the University of Chicago Law School, Bob joined the Chicago Land Clearance Commission and practiced law for the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (Argonne National Laboratories) and Rockwell International. He was a member of the bar of Illinois, California and Washington, and was licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. With the volunteer group Save-Our-Coastline, he was instrumental in incorporating Rancho Palos Verdes, California on the Palos Verdes Peninsula. He and Eileen helped found KFAE Radio, bringing public radio to Eastern Washington.

Upon retirement, he moved his family to Seattle and continued to represent Rockwell's interests in Washington of counsel with Davis Wright Tremaine. He also served as the Chair of the King County Landmarks Commission. His life-long commitment to historic preservation continues with the Robert S. Gruhn Collection at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois.

For two decades Bob was the "go-to" guy for advice on loans, fiduciary responsibilities of trustees, use of non profit facilities, UBIT, and much more. I have chosen six "exhibits" as evidence of his legacy for your consideration today:

Exhibit One. Legislative Work. Bob's initial work with the WMA began when he collaborated with Board Members Roxana Augusztiny and Patricia

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One-Twelfth Page (2 1/4" x 2 1/2") \$55

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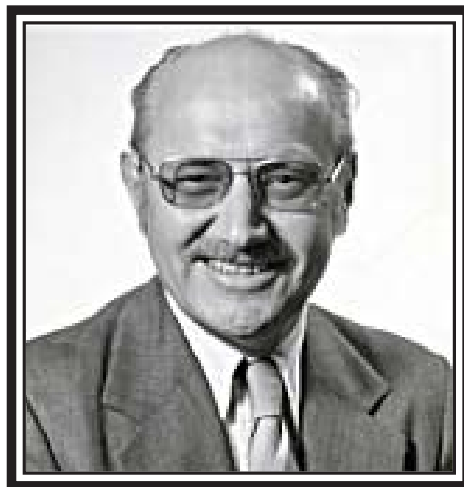
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Opinions expressed in the articles within this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the WMA. Unsolicited articles, photographs, and graphics are always welcome. WMA reserves the right to edit material submitted.

(*Bob Gruhn*, continued)

Warren to draft and introduce the landmark 1988 *Abandoned Property Legislation*. As Roxana recalls, “Bob was instrumental in getting legislation passed which set the procedure for returning, or gaining title to, loan materials reposing in museums across the state. The legislation was a broadening of an earlier piece of legislation that pertained only to the Thomas Burke Memorial Washington State Museum at the University of Washington.”

In 2001, Bob drafted another monumental piece of legislation that we refer to as the Volunteer Protection Act. This legislation created substantial protection to volunteers giving of their time to any non profit organization or governmental entity. In addition to these two pivotal pieces of legislation, Bob championed the use of lodging tax revenues for heritage tourism and repeatedly worked with museums at the local level to ensure that local governments would use the tax to benefit heritage tourism activities. Bob also represented the WMA at the Heritage Caucus each year during the legislative session.



Bob Gruhn

Exhibit Two. His Writings. Bob’s *Law Notes* were written on such varied topics as The Legal Obligations of the Board Secretary, Legal Considerations of Websites, A Tax Checklist for Non Profits, Legal Issues of Museum Collection Practices, The Box of Stuff and the perennial favorite Copyright Law. The printed legal information provided WMA members with clear, concise and timely information museum volunteers or staff could not find anywhere else. Years later, these documents remain incredibly useful to all of us in the museum community.

Exhibit Three. Personal Commitment to Serve the WMA Board. I can’t begin to calculate the miles Bob drove across Washington State without compensation to attend WMA Board Meetings that were held six times a year. The Board relied upon Bob to be the point person for all things legal. He kept us posted on current and upcoming legal and legislative issues. Bob also played a critical role in the yearly WMA Annual Meeting and Conference. In 1999 in Wenatchee, Bob held his first all-day workshop on copyright law for museum administrators. The overwhelming interest in that event began a series of workshops on copy-

right law throughout the state. No one in the state knew museum law like Bob did.

Exhibit Four. Inspiring Teaching. Lisa Hill Festa writes “For several years, I invited Bob to be a guest lecturer at the University of Washington Museum Studies Collection Management Course that I teach during winter quarter. He was always so excited and willing to share his knowledge with budding museum professionals. He generally spoke on his ‘baby’ - the Abandoned Property Legislation - as well as copyright issues. I remember several years ago one of my students was really skeptical about what of relevance this ‘old guy,’ as he put it, had to say. Well, as always, Bob ‘blew the class away’ with his vast knowledge, wit, humor and charm. They loved Bob and learned so much from him in the two hours that he spoke.”

Exhibit Five. On-Call Assistance. I can only imagine how often the phone must have rung for Bob with an advice-seeking museum person on the other end of the line. Steve Anderson writes from St. Louis: “Bob could simplify issues very quickly in just that way. You always knew you’d get the best answer – and usually a fast one at that.” Once e-mails became yet another means of communication, I can only imagine how much time he spent at the computer dispensing advice and/or information.

Exhibit Six. In-Person Counsel. Bob was also frequently asked to visit museums to give his counsel in person and many people across the state recall how Bob never hesitated to make a personal visit.

In 2000, the WMA recognized Bob’s contributions by giving him the highest honor in our association: the *WMA Board Award for Individual Achievement*. This award acknowledged Bob for his tireless work on behalf of the Association with legal and legislative issues pertaining to museums and cultural organizations and for his deep appreciation and care for this culture and heritage of Washington state.

Over the last few years, we have fully realized that Bob is irreplaceable and how incredibly lucky for the WMA to be given the gift of Bob Gruhn’s legal expertise and friendship. We can all agree – it was a privilege and an honor to know Bob. His many, many years of work will not be forgotten nor will they ever be matched.

Washington State University, Vancouver

Clark County Historical Society & Museum



JUNE 2008 WMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOLLOW-UP



Marcy Partridge, John Larson, and Leah Jackson having a groovy time at the *Boomers!* party at the Clark County Historical Museum.



Marsha Rooney passes the WMA President's gavel to incoming president Ellen Terry.

Cristy Lake, Jan Jorgenson, and Warner Blake receive scholarship certificates from Marsha Rooney.



2008 WMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Every year, the Washington Museum Association recognizes the outstanding achievements of museums, heritage organizations, and individuals by presenting several Awards of Excellence. Awards are given in the categories of *Exhibit*, *Project*, *Individual*, and *Publications* and Nominees are classified by the size of their annual budgets (under \$200,000 or over that amount). The Board of Trustees would like to congratulate the following award and scholarship winners.



The 2008 Award of Exhibit Excellence

was presented to:

Steilacoom Historical Museum Association for *Steilacoom's Story*.

Yakima Valley Museum for *In Memory Of: Expressions of Mourning in Victorian America*.

Experience Music Project/Science Fiction Museum for *American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music*.



Mike Siebol and David Lynx of the Yakima Valley Museum and Marsha Rooney.

The 2008 Award of Project Excellence

was presented to:

Quincy Valley Historical Society and Jeff DeSmet of Campfire Interactive Design for the creation of the computer program *Making the Quincy Valley Home*.

Fort Walla Walla Museum and the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute for the collaboration with each other and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to create the exhibit *The Lloyd Family Indian Artifacts Collection, Positive Interaction Between Cultures in Southeastern Washington*.



Marisol Berrios-Miranda (guest curator, UW), Jasen Emmons (EMP SFM), and Michelle Habell-Pallan (guest curator, UW), for the exhibit *American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music*

The 2008 Award of Individual Excellence

was presented to:

Jason Jones was honored for his exceptional work with the White River Valley Museum and the City of Auburn to produce video-taped oral histories for the project *Auburn Our History*. As the producer for the project he has filmed the interviews, edited all the footage, inserted the photos, addition of the music, the credits, in short, put the whole thing together.



John Chess and James Payne of the Fort Walla Walla Museum

(see *Individual Excellence*, page 6)

(*Individual Excellence*, continued from page 5)

Pat Gallup was honored for her exceptional accomplishments at the Clallum County Historical Society. As the exhibit designer, her dedication and remarkable abilities have led, among many things, to making the Historical Society a vibrant educational tool for her community.

The 2008 Award of Publication Excellence

was presented to:

The Skagit County Historical Museum for producing *Harvesting the Light: Images of Contemporary Farm Life*. The book is a valuable record of the disappearing family farms in Skagit County.

The Fort Walla Walla Museum for producing *Soldiers, Pioneers & Indian People: Positive Interaction between Cultures in Southeast Washington*. The book chronicles the story of friendly, respectful interaction between multiple generations of a regional pioneer family and their friends among the Homeland Tribes. The Museum worked with the Tamástslikt Cultural Institute to ensure accuracy and gather supportive information.

The 2008 WMA Board Award of Excellence

was presented to:

Ron Chew was honored for his exceptional expertise, vision, and unwavering dedication to the stories of history. He has served as the Executive Director of the Wing Luke Asian Museum for 17 years. Under his directorship, the Wing Luke Asian Museum is now a nationally known treasure, offering both progressive programs and exhibits with a locally oriented emphasis on social justice. Through his dedication to public service and his inspired ideas, he has earned the gratitude and respect of his colleagues throughout our State and the Nation.

2008 WMA Scholarships

Every year the Washington Museum Association presents three scholarships to help bring new museum professionals to the WMA Conference. This year we bestowed scholarships to **Warner Blake**, Gus Norwood Volunteer Scholarship; **Jan Jorgenson** Ellen Ferguson Student Scholarship; **Cristy Lake**, Professional Scholarship. All three scholarship recipients participated in the conference and wrote short articles about their experience. We hope their personal thoughts will inspire you either to apply for one of next year's scholarships or to encourage others to submit an application. The scholarship articles are available to view on the WMA website at www.washingtonstatemuseums.org.



Pat Gallup of the Clallum County Historical Society



Karen Marshall of the Skagit County Historical Museum



Ron Chew of the Wing Luke Asian Museum and Marsha Rooney.



Washington Museum Association
has a new mailing address:
P.O. Box 10633, Yakima, WA 98909



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Federal Formula Grants for Museums

By Terry Davis, President & CEO

By now you know that AASLH is providing leadership for a coalition of over 60 museum service organizations focused on securing substantially increased funding for America's museums. The Federal Formula Grant Coalition is all about the reauthorization of IMLS scheduled for 2009, and asking Congress to include formula grants that would be granted from IMLS to the states, then distributed to museums based on the needs articulated within each state. It's a mechanism Congress likes because it takes federal dollars back home to the states, rather than attempting to meet the needs of America's museums from Washington, D.C. It's also a mechanism already used by IMLS for the library side of its agency.

In FY 2008, America's libraries received \$160.8 million from IMLS through federal formula grants to the states, and an additional \$39.2 million in national grants funded directly from IMLS, for a total of \$200 million for libraries. Museums received only \$30.4 million in total!! The same mechanism is used to bring federal dollars home to the states for arts programs, historic preservation, after school programs for kids, and a multitude of other federal programs.

The Federal Formula Grant Coalition thinks its time Congress stands up in support of America's museums – but we need you if we are to succeed. Here's what you can do to help:

- Go to the Coalition's website at www.aaslh.org/FederalFormulaGrant2.htm to learn more about this important national movement.
- If you are involved with a service organization that's not a member of the Coalition, tell them you want them to speak out in favor of federal formula grants for museums.
- Later this year AASLH and other members of the Coalition will be asking our members to speak out and be heard – to write your members of Congress, to visit with them when they are home on recess, and to be active advocates for increased funding for museums. When we ask, it's imperative that you act. Members of Congress have already told us they will listen, but only if they hear from museums in their state.
- Get your board involved – ask them to be advocates too!

Please be prepared to help the Federal Formula Grant Coalition help you. Your voice and action could be the difference between \$30.4 million in funding for museums and \$200 million. We're only as loud as the number of voices that join us. We're counting on you to sing loud and clear!

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MUSEUM WORLD

2009 Conservation Assessment Program Applications Available This Fall

The Heritage Health Index, a 2005 comprehensive study of the condition of U.S. collections, found that 64% of small historical societies and museums do not have a current, written, long-range preservation plan. Museums in this situation will find that the Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) can provide the framework for collections care.

CAP is designed to help small to mid-sized museums of all types, from art museums to zoos, obtain a general assessment of the condition of their collections, environment, and historic buildings. Following an on-site assessment by a conservation professional, the museum receives a written report recommending priorities to improve collections care. This report assists museums in educating staff and board members on preservation practices, creating long-range and emergency plans, and raising funds to improve the care of their collections.

In 2008, 104 museums in 39 states, the District of Columbia, and the Republic of Palau were selected to participate in CAP, including the Puget Sound Maritime Historical Society in Seattle. To view the entire list of current CAP participants, visit www.heritagepreservation.org/CAP.

The 2009 CAP applications will be mailed on Friday, October 10, 2008, to museums on the CAP mailing list and will also be available on Heritage Preservation's Web site at www.heritagepreservation.org. The postmark deadline for applications is December 1, 2008. CAP is administered by Heritage Preservation and supported through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

To be added to the CAP application mailing list, or for more information, please contact CAP staff at cap@heritagepreservation.org or 202-233-0800.

National Association for Interpretation

The 2008 National Association for Interpretation (NAI) National Workshop in Portland, OR, November 11-15, offers the rich cultural heritage and natural diversity of the Pacific Northwest through a broad spectrum of exciting and engaging concurrent sessions, keynote speakers, pre-workshop training, field trips, and special events. NAI expects the 2008 National Workshop to be one of the best-attended in the event's history. Visit www.interpnet.com/workshop.

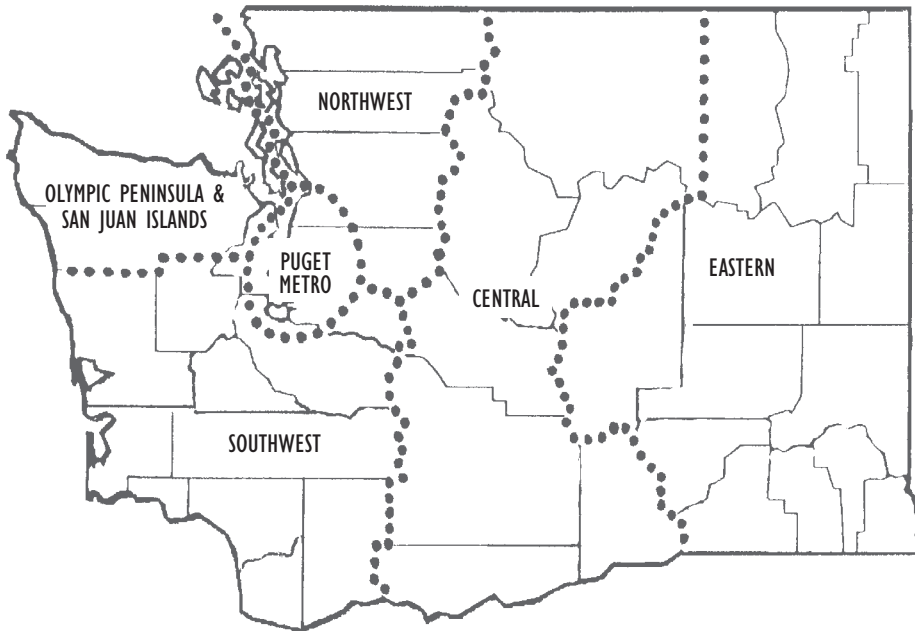
REGIONAL NEWS *Now Available on the WMA Website*

Washington State is the home of several Historical Museums, Galleries, Art Museums, and Interpretive Centers. Many of the organizations offer exciting exhibits, programs, activities, and events. For more information visit www.washingtonstatemuseums.org.

Website Regional News Guidelines:

- Only WMA member entries will be listed on the website.
- All entries must reflect current events, programs, or exhibits.
- Entries should follow a 6 month time frame.
- Entries must be 200 words or less.
- WMA reserves the right to review and edit all entries.
- Currently, there will only be one entry per organization. Once the date range for an entry has ended, it will automatically delete and will be open for another entry.

REGIONAL NEWS



SEATTLE, TACOMA & THE PUGET SOUND REGION



Bainbridge Island Historical Museum was awarded an AAM Muse Exhibition Award in the Multimedia category for our new long-term exhibit *An Island Story: A Voyage through*

Bainbridge History. Staff traveled to the AAM conference in Denver to receive the award and participate in the "Marketplace of Ideas." A traveling exhibit from the Burke Museum will be featured in September and is titled *The Big One*. We are pleased to announce our new executive director Hank Helm. Mr. Helm has been with the museum since 2006 and was promoted to director in July. For more information call 206-842-2773, email info@bainbridgehistory.org, or email www.bainbridgehistory.org

Bellevue Arts Museum has organized a new exhibition by Northwest sculptor Tip Toland entitled *Melt, The Figure in Clay*. On view until February 8, 2009, this solo exhibition will feature five life-size and larger-than-life human figures, most of which will be new works debuting at Bellevue Arts Museum. Constructed laboriously of clay, stoneware, synthetic hair and paint, Toland's human figures

look strikingly realistic. In this exhibition, her subjects range from children to the elderly; all captured on the threshold of self-awareness. For more information visit www.bellevuearts.org.



Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture is proud to present the exhibition entitled *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World*, which will through December 31, 2008. The polar bear—a charismatic icon in the struggle against climate change—faces a precarious future along with other ice-dependent species as its Arctic habitat rapidly continues to melt away. With camera in hand, wildlife photographer Steven Kazlowski has dedicated over eight years of work to bring to life the immediate reality of this most pressing environmental crisis—the devastation of the Arctic ecosystem through global warming. Organized by the Burke Museum and Braided River, a conservation imprint of The Mountaineers Books, *The Last Polar Bear: Facing the Truth of a Warming World* presents over 40 large-format color photographs by Kazlowski and documents the polar bear in its Arctic coastal habitat from Hershel Island in Canada to Point Hope, Alaska. For more information visit www.washington.edu/burkemuseum.

FRYE Frye Art Museum is currently displaying the exhibition *Napoleon on the Nile: Soldiers, Artists, and the Rediscovery of Egypt*, which runs through January 4, 2009. This exhibition vividly tells the story of Napoleon's ill-fated bid to add Egypt to the growing French empire and of how the British, who had their own colonial interests in the region to protect, ultimately thwarted this plan. As a military and colonial endeavor, the Egyptian campaign (1798–1801) was a failure, yet it paradoxically ranks among Napoleon's most significant achievements. Bringing together more than eighty plates from the *Description de l'Égypte*, vivid nineteenth-century Orientalist paintings that were influenced by those illustrations, and a selection of campaign letters and documents, this exhibition explores the legacy of the brief French occupation of Egypt and reveals how the interaction between military power, scientific knowledge, and artistic skills shaped the West's enduring image of the country. For more information visit www.fryemuseum.org.

Greater Kent Historical Society has opened a new exhibit titled, *Kenjiro Nomura: An Artist's View of the Japanese American Internment*, which will feature artwork from the collection of George and Betty Nomura. The works were created by Kenjiro Nomura while he was interned first at the Puyallup Assembly Center, then the Minidoka Relocation Center during WWII. The exhibit will run through December 19th. On November 1st at 5:30pm, we will host our 7th annual dinner auction, Centennial Celebration of Our Heritage at the Bereiter House, featuring music by the swing band DeLively. For more information please visit www.kenthistoricalmuseum.org.

Lakewood Historical Society is proud to announce that within only 10 years, we have managed to collect a wealth of material, organize a storefront museum in the Lakewood Colonial Center and set the wheels in motion to create a permanent home in the historic Mueller-Harkins Hangar on the Clover Park Technical College campus. After reviewing a number of sights, the board

of directors decided the former airport hangar would suit our needs best. Built in 1928-29, it was part of what was then the Tacoma Airport. The building has enough space to display Lakewood history as well as host community activities. Planning for development, public relations and fundraising projects are now underway. For more information please call 253-691-8103 or email dave@generalaviationnews.com.

MUSEUM OF GLASS **Museum of Glass** is proud to announce a captivating introduction to the medium of glass. *Contrasts* includes international, historically important and visually stunning works of art that are grouped to illustrate opposing ideas, techniques and styles. The exhibition provides a visual feast of 65 objects and challenges visitors to observe and describe the artwork before making value judgments. Contributing artists include René Lalique, Louis Comfort Tiffany, Frank Lloyd Wright, Stanislav Libenský, Jaroslava Brychtová, Harvey Littleton, Dale Chihuly, Richard Marquis, Ginny Ruffner, Dante Marioni, Sonja Blomdahl, Flora Mace, Joey Kirkpatrick, Susan Plum, and Robbie Miller, among others. For more information please visit www.museumofglass.org.

Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) was recently named a recipient of an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) Leadership in History Awards for the public program, *Nearby History*. *Nearby History* is a nationally-acclaimed program that offers individuals the skills and tools necessary to create history-from-scratch. Since 1998, *Nearby History* has helped 1500 citizens in the Puget Sound area to conduct research, interpret evidence, develop a thesis and present their ideas publicly. MOHAI historian Dr. Lorraine McConaghy has guided the program during its ten years, adding a writing seminar and videography workshop over time. Dr. McConaghy worked diligently to help participants share their research with the community in a variety of ways: through an article published in *Pacific Northwest Quarterly* or on *HistoryLink.com*, a book from Arcadia Press, an interview on KUOW, etc. For more information please visit www.seattlehistory.org.



Naval Undersea Museum in Keyport and the Puget Sound Navy Museum in Bremerton have combined their operations under an umbrella organization known as Navy Museum Northwest. Both museums are official U.S. Navy museums. Lindy Doshier is the Deputy Director of the Puget Sound Navy Museum. Also joining the museum's staff are Danelle Feddes as assistant curator and Heather Mygatt as collections manager. Steve Crowell has joined the Naval Undersea Museum as curator and Olivia Weatherly as administrative coordinator. For more information please visit



Nordic Heritage Museum will soon be exhibiting *Skude 360 Degrees: Paintings by Severin Haines*, which will begin on December 5th and run through January 25, 2009. Severin Haines will present a visual memoir of the dramatic landscape of his ancestral homeland of Skude, on the island of Karmøy, on the Norwegian coast. For more information visit www.nordicmuseum.org.

TACOMA ART MUSEUM **Tacoma Art Museum** is proud to present a new exhibition titled *What Is a Trade? Donald Fels and Signboard Painters of South India*, which will run through January 18, 2009. In 2005, Northwest artist Donald Fels traveled to India on a Fulbright Fellowship to work with commercial signboard painters on a series of large-scale paintings. The paintings take as their starting point the legacy of Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama's 1498 voyage to India in search of a direct sea route for the spice trade. Fels sought to examine how trade impacts cultures and populations beyond the simple exchange of goods. Fels and his collaborators created enamel on aluminum paintings in the style of hand-painted billboards. Most of the painters had formerly worked as billboard painters-until recently, all billboards in India were hand-painted, but digital technology has replaced this trade. Fels provided ideas, sketches, and photographs as starting points but encourages the painters to alter the imagery and formulate their own interpretations. Their bright color palette and strong graphic narratives make visually arresting statements, capturing the Indian painters' responses to the effects of trade and globalizations. For more information visit www.tacomaartmuseum.org.

Award-winning **White River Valley Museum** now offers four historic exhibits packaged to rent for one month or longer. The touring exhibits are *Best Friends: Vintage Photographs of Animals and Their People*, *The Interurban Revisited: Historical Photos of the Puget Sound Electric Railway*, *Passenger Trains of Puget Sound: 1900 to 1970* and *Horse Power: A Celebration of the Working Horse in Western Washington*. For more information about the touring exhibits, please call 253-288-7433 or visit www.wvrmuseum.org.

OLYMPIC PENNINSULA & SAN JUAN ISLANDS

Clallam County Historical Society will be presenting *A 60th Anniversary Exhibit*, showing the best of the last 60 years which opened in September. The exhibit in the upper gallery of the museum, *Strong People, the Faces of Clallam County*, continues to draw visitors. The quarterly newsletter, *Museum News* is now archived on the museum web site www.clallamhistoricalsociety.com. We came back from the WMA conference in Vancouver with some new ideas and renewed enthusiasm and we are very proud that our exhibit coordinator, Pat Gallup, won the WMA Individual Award of Excellence this year.

SOUTHWEST

Columbia Gorge Interpretive Center Museum in Stevenson, WA is proud to announce the receipt of the donation of the Harry Hubbard Lewis and Clark Library from the Washington State Chapter of the Lewis and Clark Trail Heritage Foundation. It includes the 13-volume hard-bound set *The Journals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition*, edited by Dr. Gary Moulton of the University of Nebraska. The set includes the 10 volumes of the journals, sketches, and small maps by the 6-known journal keepers, the Atlas, index, and the Herbarium. CGICM is most honored and pleased. For more information visit www.columbiagorge.org.

NORTHWEST



Skagit County Historical Museum in La Conner has received three prestigious awards for the photography book *Harvesting the Light: Images of Contemporary Skagit Farm Life*: Honorable Mention in the 2008 American Association of Museums Publications Design Competition, the 2007 Gold

Award from the International Gallery of Superb Printing, and a 2008 Award of Publication Excellence from the Washington Museum Association. The 96-page limited edition publication depicts the labor and sweat that make Skagit Valley some of the most productive farmland in the world, through the lens of 11 local photographers and the heartfelt words of Skagit farmers. The book's 80 photographs, in both color and black-and-white, were the work of the following photographers: David Grant Best, Matt Brown, Dick Garvey, Jeanne M. Hansen, Carol Havens, Lewis Jones, Lisa Kuhnlein, Peter Kuhnlein, Joella Solus, Cathy Stevens and Vince Streano. Writer was M.L. Lyke, design and production was by Eula Palmer, printing was by Hemlock Printers (U.S.A.) Inc. Co-sponsors were Skagit County Historical Museum and Skagitians to Preserve Farmland. For more information please visit www.skagitcounty.net/museum or call 360-466-3365.

Western Gallery in Bellingham is proud to present *Faculty Review/Preview*, which will run through November 27, 2008. The Department of Art faculty in areas of studio and design present a selection of works exploring contemporary attitudes and individual areas of research in conjunction with traditional and new media. Concepts worked out in their studios most often enjoy an exhibition presence beyond Western Washington University. This is an opportunity to catch up with each faculty member's developments, whether an ongoing series or preliminary studies for different concerns. The exhibition will also showcase new faculty in the department. For more information visit www.westerngallery.wvu.edu/.

CENTRAL

Larson Gallery (Yakima Valley Community College) is proud to announce a new exhibition, *Yakima Honors Peoples of the Plateau*, which will start on January 11th and run through March 7, 2008. This citywide celebration with much adjunct programming includes the Larson Gallery exhibit of Native American photographs taken by Lee Moorhouse from 1898-1915 and photos taken by current Heritage University students. Opening reception: Sunday, January 11, 2-5 pm in the gallery. For more information visit www.larsongallery.org.



YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM

Yakima Valley Museum is currently exhibiting *Text and Textile: Quilts and the Construction of the Social Fabric*, curated by Lou Cabeen, Associate Professor in the School of Art at the University of Washington. Quilts from the collection of the Yakima Valley Museum provide the focus for this investigation of textiles as text from the Civil War to the early 20th century. The exhibit will continue through December 23, 2008. Ms. Cabeen became familiar with the Yakima Valley Museum's collection while researching a story for National Public Radio. The story, *Hidden Treasures: Mrs. Parmeter's Klan Quilt* by Harriet Baskas, can still be heard on NPR's website. For more information visit www.yakimavalleymuseum.org.

EASTERN

Walla Walla's **Kirkman House Museum** and **Fort Walla Walla Museum**, recently received notice from the National Endowment of Arts for being recipients of a \$5,000 Access to Artistic Excellence Grant. The museums will use the funds for a joint exhibit, *Cover to Coverlet*, which began on August 27. The collaboration was undertaken in order to enhance each organization's chance of success in the grant application process. It also allows the museums to organize and display a textile exhibit of much longer duration. The nearly six-week show will run through Fort Walla Walla Museum's August 30 Women's History Celebration and September 20-21 Fall Harvest Festival/German Heritage Day, as well as Kirkman House Museum's October 4 Sheep to Shawl. The Walla Walla Valley Quilt Show will also occur during the two museum's exhibit. *Cover to Coverlet* allows the museums to tell a more complete story of regional folk art through quilt and coverlet development over a period spanning more than 200 years. Fort Walla Walla Museum will be showing more than 20 items from its heritage quilt and coverlet collection and Kirkman House Museum will emphasize the tradition of coverlet weaving, with its display of historic coverlets and the weaving of a traditional coverlet pattern. For more information visit www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org or www.fortwallawallamuseum.org.



Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture is proud to present the exhibit *Meditations on the Landscape: Susan Skilling, Joseph Goldberg, Stephen Hayes*, which

will run through November 11, 2008. This is the second in the Contested Ground series featuring contemporary Northwest artists who take the landscape as the point of departure in their work. The three artists in *Meditations*, all painters, are working in the long and fertile American landscape tradition, but in refreshing and surprising ways. Susan Skilling's intensely quiet and beautiful gouache paintings on Thai mulberry paper are contemplative lyrical evocations of the land, sky, and water. She lives and works in West Seattle. Stephen Hayes, from Portland, Oregon, is more closely tied to American Impressionist traditions and his paintings, oil on canvas are exquisitely seen and deeply felt. Joseph Goldberg, who lives and works in the channeled scablands outside Harrington, paints in encaustic in a highly minimalist, reductive manner. We live in cacophonous, antic times. In some ways, *Meditations on the Landscape* celebrates three of our region's best painters who make a place for quiet and introspection and self reflection in our busy lives. For more information visit www.northwestmuseum.org.

Put Your News in

MUSEUM MESSENGER REGIONAL NEWS

Send your news of staff changes, grants received, new projects, etc. to:

Erin Black
kchm@kchm.org
(509) 925-3778

- Please be sure to include your email address, webpage, and phone number with each article. **Include your logo if possible.**
- Send text in Word format.
- Deadlines are:
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