

## Annual QAHS Meeting!

### **WATERWAY: The Story of Seattle's Locks and Ship Canal**

*Aegis Living 300 W. Galer  
Thu. May 25, 7:00 p.m.*

Join us as Jennifer Ott, co-author, discusses Historylink's latest book: **Waterway**.

Find out what drove civic leaders to build the Lake Washington Ship Canal and what role it played in the region's development over the past century. Ms. Ott will explore how industry, transportation, and the very character of the region developed in response to the changes wrought by Seattle's canal and locks. The ship canal turns 100 years young this year.

With on-going support from:



**CULTURE**

## Huzzah! Landmarks Preservation Committee

by Michael Herschensohn

The hard work of our society's Landmarks Preservation Committee is exceptional among the historical organizations of Seattle. Only Historic Seattle with two paid preservation advocates comes even close to defending the historic fabric of our city the way your committee does. Not only does it prepare landmark nominations such as the one completed last year for the Power Control Center at 157 Roy Street, it attends every meeting of the city's Landmarks Preservation Board where a Queen Anne landmark is considered and actively takes appropriate positions on the nomination, designation or alteration of our historic structures. Here's a brief rundown of the buildings the committee has addressed recently.



Bleitz Funeral Home 1920's



Bleitz Funeral Home Today  
(Photos courtesy of Landmark Nomination)

- The committee can't take credit for changing the mind of the new owner of the [Bleitz Funeral Home](#) at the Fremont Bridge, but awareness of the Queen Anne Historical Society's interest in the building and its business history may have produced a change of heart. By the time the Landmarks Preservation Board heard the nomination, the owner no longer sought demolition but rather a designation and subsequent controls and incentives that might allow construction of an office building on the west parking lot. We supported the building for its key location as a gateway to Queen Anne on the southern end of the Fremont Bridge and for its prominent position on the Lake Washington Ship Canal which had opened barely four years before the business moved to the Queen Anne side of the bridge in 1921. We also supported the nomination for the distinctive architecture of its design. According to Bola Architecture and Planning, the firm that wrote the nomination:

*"Stylistic features of the main building include the simple massing, the hipped roof with gabled side dormers and evenly spaced window openings. The front south-facing façade featured a carved bargeboard along the front of a shingle-clad gabled dormer. The cross-gable dormers at the roof once contained decorative half timbering on the east and west ends and the porte-cochere at the middle of the east side is detailed with exposed brackets -- all features of a Craftsman style design."* (Preservation continued on pg. 2)

## Our Board FY2017

The Queen Anne Cobblestone is published throughout the year by the Society, and may be reached at POB 19432, Seattle WA 98109.

### President

Michael Herschensohn

### Vice President

Nicole Demers-Changelo

### Secretary

Jan Hadley

### Treasurer

Niall O'Donoghue

### Board

Alicia Arter

Sue Billings

Laura Fonda

Bruce Jones

Verna Ness

Leanne Olson

Marga Rose Hancock

Kim Turner

**The Queen Anne Historical Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by Federal law.**

**The Archives of the Society are located at Bayview Manor, 11 W. Aloha St., Seattle, WA 98119**

Bruce Jones, Newsletter Editor  
qahistory@yesjones.org

(Preservation from pg. 1)

- Preservation architects working for the owners of the 1919 American Appliance and Meter Building at the intersection of Westlake and 9<sup>th</sup> Ave. just off the shore of Lake Union presented it as a relic not worth saving. It was first known as the Frederick Boyd Company Factory and Warehouse which made and stored windows and doors and later as the Hill Syrup Company. According to the nominators, particularly distracting from the quality of the nomination was the loss of integrity resulting from the removal of the historic wood frame windows by the very same owners who are paying for the nomination. Although the owners contended that they were not interested in selling and demolishing the building, the committee was doubtful. We championed this nomination mentioning the former warehouse as typical of the industrial quality of the neighborhood in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and the important value of preserving such vernacular structures in a neighborhood that has almost lost all of them. We also noted, along with Eugenia Woo of Historic Seattle, that it would not be inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Historic Preservation to replace the wooden windows or the feeling of them. The building was subsequently nominated by the Landmarks Preservation Board.

- A few months ago, we supported the nomination and designation of the [Garfield Telephone Exchange](#) across the street from the Queen Anne Branch of the Seattle Public Library. In early April, we responded to the alterations proposed to convert it into an apartment building. We encouraged the future owner's plans to add a penthouse floor set back from the street on all sides.



*Telephone Exchange Bldg. (courtesy of B. Jones)*

We liked the new garage entrance proposed for the Garfield Street elevation that protects the heritage tree on the site. We objected strongly to removing the stairs flanking the main entrance and to replacing them with a flight running at right angles to the building and straight to the sidewalk. We suggested that the architects also reconsider their plan to dig down along the east elevation which would provide room to introduce a handicap access entrance behind the new stair and enlarge the windows in the basement. One member of our committee urged the owners to save the hoist above the alley on the west side of the exchange building. It is the last vestige of the building's original use and served to lift the heavy switchboards up to the second story where young women connected your telephone to the world.

As Seattle undergoes rapid growth and transformations that are sometimes hard to believe, the Landmarks Preservation Committee of the Queen Anne Historical Society strives to retain the historic fabric of our community both on the hill and in the industrial and mixed-use zones like Uptown that surround it. This important work requires diligence, intelligence, good taste, wisdom and lots of time. We are lucky to have people serving on the committee who share these qualities.◇

## giveBIG to Queen Anne Historical Society

May 10, 2017 All Day Event

Once again the Queen Anne Historical Society will be participating in the Seattle Foundation's giveBIG campaign which happens on Wednesday, May 10. On that day, all donations made through our special [giveBIG page](#) will be entered into a stretch pool, taking your donated dollars even further! Donations are only counted if they are made by credit card or checking account transfer through [our giveBIG page](#).

<http://givebigseattle.org/qahs/>



*Landmarks Preservation working to honor our heritage--avoiding "Weekend Demolitions" like the J.C. Black House*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The work of your all-volunteer board and the organization it supports continues to marvel me. The outline of what has been accomplished over the past 12 months is simply astonishing.

Over the summer, Kim Turner repeated his popular tour of Mt. Pleasant Cemetery, while Nikki Demers-Changelo organized the third annual Queen Anne Modern Tour. Both tours attracted good crowds and added to our growing knowledge of Queen Anne history. In the fall, Kim repeated the Mt. Pleasant tour for the students of Pam Sturgeon's history class at Saint Anne's. The enthusiasm of these middle school kids for the stories of Queen Anne past was as usual admirably infectious.

The talk by Jan Hadley and Alicia Arter about the history of neighborhood grocery stories served as the highlight of our public meetings this winter. A huge crowd turned out and enjoyed the unique downstairs space at Aegis Living on Galer.

Roger Neale came on board mid-year to help us separate the wheat from the chaff in our Archives. We've made great progress as we are forced to abandon our Bayview space. We still must move out of Bayview by June 1 and simply pray that they'll find a corner for us when they reopen next year. In the meantime, we're hunting for a small space for our Archives.

Our grant applications have been relatively successful. The folks at 4Culture renewed our award for Sustained Support increasing it by \$500 a year to \$2,500. It has been a lifesaver.

A \$1,000 award from the Colonial Dames of America in Washington State will get us on the road to digitizing many of the photographs in our collection. A big thanks to Queen Anne native Mary Chapman Cole who encouraged us to apply and probably championed our application. If you know of opportunities for us, please get in touch at [info@qahistory.org](mailto:info@qahistory.org).

You'll find information about the great work of the society's Landmark Preservation Committee elsewhere in this issue of *The Cobblestone*. What strikes me about the committee's work outlined in that article is that it only covers the period February to April and makes no mention of all the other important things accomplished since last May's annual meeting.

At the annual meeting on May 25 which we'll hold at Aegis Living on Galer, at least one new person will be nominated to the society's board of directors. Bear in mind, we are always looking for folks to revitalize the board and share in our important work. Tasks range from finding new ways to expand our membership rolls to writing articles on historic subjects for our website and *the Queen Anne Magnolia News*. I, for example, tend to write about the buildings on the hill. It would be great to find board members interested in writing about the people who over the last 140 years have made this such a wonderful place to live. If you are interested, just drop us a line at [info@qahistory.org](mailto:info@qahistory.org).

Happy Spring  
*Michael*

Queen Anne Historical Society  
PO Box 19432  
Seattle, WA 98109-1432



*Bleitz Funeral Home ca. 1925  
Story on Pg. 1*

## KIM'S MUSINGS

### Going, Going, Gone

*(Ed. Note: Kim is still celebrating his retirement so we publish a previous musing—certainly still relevant today.)*

The 18th of April marked the 100th anniversary of the great 1906 California earthquake which did so much damage in the San Francisco Bay area. The Prince William Sound (Alaska) earthquake of Good Friday, 1964, not only caused tsunamis, but actually lifted the entire seabed many feet higher. Earth constantly amazes me as to its ability to build, destroy, rebuild, and constantly change its appearance.

I see a similar effect in the constant changes in our neighborhoods. Houses are placed on the market, sold, torn down, and two or more town houses appear on the same site. The basic problem is: I can't remember what the houses were like which stood on the site previously. This may be a result of our fast-paced modern society, for too many nice houses have vanished. Some are replaced by structures which have both architectural integrity, and a beauty which complements the houses around them. Others, glaringly out-of-place, stand cheek-by-jowl with houses beside which they look totally out of place.

So I have two problems. The first is not having a photo of the

previously situated buildings, and the second is wishing that developers would look at the surrounding structures before putting up one which simply does not fit. One doesn't have to place greed above beauty. The fact that we don't have enough activists to go out and take pictures of all the buildings on their individual streets results in the continuing situation of losing buildings and having no historical photo file of them once they are gone.

Lawton Gowey did just that kind of a service from the 1950s into the 1980s. He left us with a rich heritage of photos of homes, businesses and streets from all over Queen Anne Hill. This heritage, however, needs to be updated regularly for it to continue to be of long-term (and short-term) use to the researcher. Buildings aren't just victims of change—many have been lost in prior years to earthquake, fire and deliberate neglect.

Think about going out and taking photos of your block; photos of streets near yours; photos of your favorite businesses or walking routes. The Queen Anne Historical Society will always need good shots of homes and businesses, both exterior and interior shots. Take a few pictures inside your own homes and see what you find.

*Kim R. Turner*