



## Changing Times:

### New Executive Director

The last year has seen many changes at RVHS as first Buzz Anderson and then Mikala Woodward have stepped down from day-to-day work with the organization. Both will remain involved on many levels. Mikala will continue as a consultant, researcher, and volunteer. As the new executive director, I am relying on her to show me the ropes!

I come to RVHS with a master's degree in Public Historical Studies from the University of California at Santa Barbara and many years of experience in the nonprofit world in the areas of grantwriting, fundraising, and community relations. My goals are to strengthen the membership base of RVHS, increase our presence in the community, and build out our collection to reflect the wider Rainier Valley.

An important step toward achieving these goals is increasing communication with members and the public. You can help us by providing your email address for our new E-News, debuting this fall. E-communication will allow us to provide you with timely information on events, volunteer opportunities, and projects.

—Eleanor Boba

### E-News Coming

Opt-in to our new E-News *Past is Present*, coming this fall to an in-box near you. Just send your email address to [rvhsoffice@aol.com](mailto:rvhsoffice@aol.com).

### Farewell and Thank You from Mikala

As I am easing into my post-Director life, I wanted to say thank you once again to the Rainier Valley Historical Society and all its members. When I called Buzz Anderson's phone number in the spring of 1995 to inquire about doing a Museology internship with the Society, I had no idea that it would lead to such an extended, rewarding relationship.

From that first summer internship (I did a Collection Review, if memory serves), to the Klondike Gold Rush exhibit I developed two years later, to my eventually taking on the role of Director, I have thoroughly enjoyed my work here. I have learned a ton – about Rainier Valley history, of course, but also about ethnic cooking, archaeology, shoestring budgets, government bureaucracies, computer maintenance, frazzled schoolteachers, writing, public speaking, community outreach, and myself.

In the last year or two I have developed new interests outside RVHS, and the organization's needs have changed as well. It was a tough decision to step down as director, but I know it was the right one for me and for RVHS.

I hope to continue working with RVHS on grant-funded projects, the part of my job I always enjoyed most. Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity – it has truly been an honor.

—Mikala Woodward



Mark Hannum, Joan Neville, and Teresa Anderson greet the public at the 2009 Rainier Valley Heritage Parade and Festival on August 8. Photo: Chelsea Rodriguez.

## News and Notes

### **New Office Hours:**

Beginning this fall, open office hours will be Wednesday, Friday, Sunday, 10 a.m.–1:00 p.m.

3710 South Ferdinand Street  
Check our voice mail (206-723-1663) for last minute changes to this schedule.

### **Look for us at the Columbia City Farmers' Market:**

Wednesdays, September 16–October 21, 3:00–7:00 p.m.

### **RVHS Holiday Open House:**

Saturday, December 5, 3:00–6:00 p.m.  
Join us for light refreshments and a micro-tour of our Ferdinand Street office.

### **Columbia City Walking Tour guide now available:**

Drop by our office for your own copy. Also available at various locations around Columbia City courtesy of the Columbia City Business Association.

### **Annual Campaign coming soon:**

Watch your mailbox this December for a chance to renew your support of RVHS. (Or beat the December rush and use the form on the back of this newsletter!)

## RVHS Loses a Friend

Long time RVHS volunteer and "Mailing Goddess" Marci Tracey passed away recently, after a quiet yet courageous struggle with cancer. Her positive, can-do attitude will be sorely missed.

Marci was a life-long resident of Seattle. She attended Whitworth Elementary School, Sharples Junior High School, and Franklin High School (Class of 1965) and was a member of Girl Scout Troop 850.

Marci was a career postal employee and ardent non-profit volunteer, always eager to utilize her unique organizational and fundraising skills to the benefit of the community. Typically shying away from public recognition, her personal fulfillment was in knowing that her efforts helped contribute to the welfare of the developmentally disabled, preservation of the history of Rainier Valley and, of course, bringing joy and smiles to the people around her.

### Volunteer Opportunities: We Need YOU

...to help achieve our goals. We currently have the following volunteer opportunities:

#### **Collections Work Group**

Help catalog our growing collection of documents and photographs. Both hand-cataloging and computer input needed.

#### **Community Outreach**

Do you love to talk and meet new people? Help us represent RVHS at community events, including fairs and the Wednesday Columbia City Farmers Market.

#### **Special Projects**

If you'd like a little experience with a historical society...or a lot...help us catalog books, put together notebooks of research material, or reorganize our attic!

Contact Eleanor at 206-723-1663 or [rvhsoffice@aol.com](mailto:rvhsoffice@aol.com) to discuss your interests.

## Welcome New Board Members!

**Teresa Anderson** was born in Seattle and lived at 4701-43<sup>rd</sup> Avenue South until she graduated from college (UW). She attended Whitworth, Sharples, and Franklin and was editor of the Tolo yearbook in 1964-65. In 2008 Teresa volunteered to be the new editor of the *Heritage News* when Buzz's daughter stepped down. Teresa has always had an affinity for her roots in the Rainier Valley and for preserving history through photographs and memorabilia. Her grandparents, Phillip and Anna Paskan, owned and operated the Columbia Shoe Repair at 3709 South Ferdinand Street from the 1930s to the late 1950s.

**Karen O'Brien**, a Rainier Valley native, is thrilled to be a part of RVHS. Karen was raised in a political family, daughter of Mary Schwarz and state legislator John O'Brien, where service to the community was valued most. Karen has a master's degree in teaching from Seattle University and has recently taught Humanities at the Jr. High level. Her passion for history runs deep and she is looking forward to being an active voice in sharing Rainier Valley's diverse and vibrant past with the larger community.

**Sam Simone** moved to the Rainier Valley with his wife and baby daughter in 1959, bought a house in 1962, and never left! He has been active in the community through neighborhood involvement and political campaigns, both local and national, including member/treasurer of the Rainier Beach Community Club, Block Watch Captain, former member of The Southeast Seattle Crime Prevention Council, and Precinct Committee person during the McGovern campaign. The politics led to political buttons, which led to joining the Washington State Chapter-American Political Items Collectors, where Sam currently serves as treasurer. Sam loves collecting and

says he has "raised this to a level which sometimes amazes me. I have a supportive wife who humors me and has allowed me to turn our basement into my museum." Sam is excited about joining the RVHS board!

## Thanks to "The Girls"

For several years now, Jean Bates and Gladys Rash have been ready to retire—a second time! Now, with the arrival of several new collections volunteers, the restructuring of the Collections Committee, and the continued involvement of former-intern-now-Master-in-her-own-right Chelsea Rodriguez, it is finally possible for Jean and Gladys to take a well-earned rest. In June "the girls" (as Buzz Anderson always calls them), came by for their last Wednesday session—and a celebratory brunch.

Jean and Gladys first got involved in RVHS when they ran into Buzz at a Franklin High School alumni event in 1994 or so. He mentioned that the newly formed society (formerly, the Columbia Pioneers) needed volunteers to catalog photographs. Jean and Gladys had just retired, so they answered the call.

For the next 15 years Jean and Gladys showed up to work week after week on Wednesdays, clocking in well over a thousand hours each. Notably, their dedication and hard work focused on cataloging the collection. As a result, RVHS is able to retrieve the materials requested by members and the public!

Jean and Gladys never spent much time in the limelight, but their behind-the-scenes work kept RVHS running smoothly. From writing thank you notes and deeds of gift to creating cheerful flower displays, they were always supportive and always willing to pitch in and do whatever needed to be done!

Thank you, Jean and Gladys!

—Mikala Woodward

# Days Gone By: Columbia Shoe Repair

They were known as the shoemaker's daughters—Mary, Katherine (Katy), Helen, and Anne Drazic (*photo, L-R*). Born in Spokane,



Mary, Katy, Helen and Anne Drazic. RVHS Archives.

Washington, they moved to Seattle in the 1920s after their father died and their mother Anna remarried. The girls were approximately 12, 10, 7, and 3 years old at the time. They grew up in the house at 3709 Ferdinand Street, behind the Columbia Shoe Repair.

I am the daughter of one of the shoemaker's daughters, Mary Drazic Anderson.

When they arrived in Seattle, Phillip and Anna Paskan rented a house at 5050–42<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South. At the outset, Phillip obtained work through the WPA (Works Projects Administration), a program introduced by President Roosevelt to provide work relief for the unemployed. Anna found work at a laundry. It was the Depression.

Phillip was a shoemaker by trade from his native country of Yugoslavia. As time went on, he was able to engage his skills

by repairing shoes in the evenings. By day, he was a shoe salesman.

The Columbia Shoe Repair became a reality when Phillip and Anna bought a house in Columbia City. At first, the shop was set up in the living room. Later, they added on to the front of the house, creating a separate space for the shoe repair business with street level access.

The Columbia Shoe Repair was in operation until the late 1950s.

Phillip retired and he, Anna, and Katherine moved from downtown Columbia City to a newly-built house on Morgan Street. Phillip died in 1962. Anna lived for another 20+ years; she passed away in 1984.

Today, in the place of the Columbia Shoe Repair, there is another repair shop—Bikeworks. There are few

changes to the basic structure of the house and shop, although the property is no longer used as a



Anna and Phillip Paskan. RVHS Archives.

residence. For my family, the home behind the shop is what we recall with love and affection. Family and friends never used the front door—always the side door which opened into the kitchen. There always was a pot of soup simmering on the stove, homemade bread and cinnamon rolls fresh from the oven. The Paskan grandchildren learned first-hand the customs and traditions of their Croatian heritage. Everyone was welcome at the Paskan home—especially visiting servicemen during

World War II. It was a hub of activity for family and friends alike.

In 2008, I volunteered as editor of the *Rainier Valley Heritage News*. While I haven't lived in the Rainier Valley since 1969, I will always have an affinity for my roots in Columbia City and remember with fondness the Columbia Shoe Repair. Today, the RVHS office is located across the street from 3709 Ferdinand Street.

—Teresa Anderson



Phillip Paskan. RVHS Archives.

## History Makers

Many thanks to our members and supporters who make our work possible! Below are those whose gifts we received between April 1 and August 31 of this year.

Help us keep the record straight! Send corrections or omissions to us at 206-723-1663 or [rvhsoffice@aol.com](mailto:rvhsoffice@aol.com).

### New Life Memberships

Teresa Anderson  
Tim Burdick

### Sponsor Memberships

Charles R. Patten

### Family and Individual Memberships

Allen County Public Library  
Dennis M. Batt  
Don & Ellen Bearwood  
Ronald Blyth  
Patti Hensley  
Anthella Lavin  
Susan Pichereau  
Stephanie Ragland & Jerry Johnsen  
Donna J. Schaller  
Laura Weese  
Charles J. Woodruff

### Donations to Operating Fund

Lafe Altier  
Dennis Batt  
Jim Creevey  
Bernice Durall  
Stephanie Ragland & Jerry Johnsen  
Donna Schaller  
Laura Weese

### In Kind Donations

Jean Bates  
Burdick Security Systems  
Allan L. Smith

## Trivia Question

Test your knowledge of Rainier Valley History!

***"Martin Luther King Jr. Way was once named Empire Way. Why?"***

Find the answer on our website:  
[www.rainiervalleyhistory.org](http://www.rainiervalleyhistory.org).

## "Everybody In" Project Will Document Community Activism in the Rainier Valley

RVHS has begun a new project which I will be working on with local writer and community activist John Hoole. "Everybody In" is funded by a King County 4Culture Special Projects grant.

John and I are researching and documenting the history of community activism in the Rainier Valley. We're interested in tracing the roots of our current community issues and organizations back to the 1970s.

We've already dug up a trove of information at the Municipal Archives, at the Seattle Public Library, and in a marvelous collection of documents and slides donated by Rodney Herold, co-founder in 1975 of SESCO (South East Seattle Community Organization).

We will be recording and transcribing oral history interviews with activists, government officials, and other participants about the events of the era. (If you'd like to help, or to suggest potential interviewees, let us know!) These interviews, along with any photos and documents we uncover, will be added to RVHS's collection for future researchers.

John and I will also write a series of articles about key moments in the development of Rainier Valley's political movements. We hope to turn these into a book in the future.

—Mikala Woodward



## Bringing World Religion Home Project to Wrap Up this Fall

RVHS's "Bringing World Religion Home" project with The New School will be going online this fall. Watch for it on the RVHS website!

I will be gathering background information to accompany the photos, videos, and writings that the students produced during their field trips to different Rainier Valley religious institutions last fall.

Together, their teacher, Chris Quigley, and I will document the project's lesson plans for other teachers to use.

—Mikala Woodward

## Web Threads



*In Seattle, minor leagues arrived in 1890, but before that, and for a long while after, neighborhood teams like these Hillman City players duked it out all over the city. RVHS Archives.*

Our website [rainiervalleyhistory.org](http://rainiervalleyhistory.org) continues to improve.

Check out "Play Ball! A Brief History of Baseball in the Rainier Valley," our new slideshow of historic baseball photos, and read about our latest research projects.

Thanks again to King County 4Culture for funding the creation of the new website, to the Vacca Family for underwriting the costs of the baseball slide show, and to Dave Eskenazi, whose knowledge of baseball made this possible.

## Read All About It! Volunteers Inventory Newspaper Collection

This summer volunteers started a new project of inventorying RVHS's extensive newspaper collection. The newspaper collection includes historic Beacon Hill and South District Journal newspapers – some of which date back to the 1920s.

This project provided volunteers with an insider's perspective of what it was like to live in the Rainier Valley neighborhood from the 1920s on. Favorite front-page stories included announcements about visiting mothers-in-law, notices of Women's Club meetings, outrage over the "dilapidated" Lucille Street viaduct (1949), and updates on the progress of WWII and local soldiers.

Thank you to the following volunteers for giving up their Saturday mornings for this project:

Debra Bartram  
Anna Bergman  
Natasha Crider  
Connie Yun

If you are interested in volunteering in the RVHS Collections, please contact [rvhsoffice@aol.com](mailto:rvhsoffice@aol.com).

—Chelsea Rodriguez



*The Shaffer Beauty Shop now offers the "television permanent." What could that be? From The South District Journal, August 21, 1947. RVHS Archives.*

## Shaffer Beauty Shop Reopens, New Methods

Announcement was made this week by Mrs. Fern Shaffer, owner of the beauty shop at 1134 Elizabeth St. in Georgetown, of the re-opening of her shop.

Mrs. Shaffer has been away for 4 weeks on a trip to Los Angeles during which time she studied the newest hair style and methods, one of which is the television permanent. She now has one of the new machines installed in her shop and is ready to give the most efficient service to her customers in the South District.

## Collections Management Update

On January 3, 2009, the Rainier Valley Historical Society Board voted to approve the proposed Collections Management Policy (CMP), which was written by Chelsea Rodriguez as part of her 2008 Museology thesis.

The CMP outlines new processes for accessioning, loaning, and deaccessioning artifacts. It also calls for the creation of a Collections Committee.

If you are interested in learning more about the policy, a copy is available at the RVHS office.

## Additions to Archives

Our gratitude to those who have donated photos, documents and artifacts for our archives since publication of the spring newsletter:

- Buzz Anderson—Framed photo of H.H.A. Hastings
- Jan Watson—Oral history tape
- Stuart Weiss—Commemorative plate: Columbia Congregational Church Dedication, 1961
- Craig Bradshaw—Textbooks and educational materials
- George Fleming—Historic photos
- Imperial Lanes—Bowling ball
- Dawn Mason—Historic photos and documents
- Jean Sisson—Streetcar token holder
- Bryan Street—New School button
- Denise Gloster—DVD and documents related to movement against youth violence
- Jean VelDyke—Historic photo
- Dolores Pugmire—Political fliers
- Mikala Woodward—Photos of Orca School at Columbia; items for Hillman City Time Capsule

*Please note: RVHS has called a brief moratorium on accepting new donations until January 2010 as we process current accessions and evaluate our policies and storage capabilities.*

<p><b>Rainier Valley Heritage News</b> <i>Published quarterly and mailed to all our members and friends</i> Editor and Layout.....Teresa A. Anderson</p>	
<p><b>Rainier Valley Historical Society</b> Office location*.....3710 South Ferdinand Street Mailing address .....PO Box 18143, Seattle, WA 98118 OR .....3710 South Ferdinand St., Seattle, WA 98118 Phone and fax..... 206-723-1663 Email .....<a href="mailto:rvhsoffice@aol.com">rvhsoffice@aol.com</a> Website ..... <a href="http://www.rainiervalleyhistory.org">www.rainiervalleyhistory.org</a> Office hours..... Wed, Fri &amp; Sunday 10:00am to 1:00pm RVHS Executive Director.....Eleanor Boba *The Rainier Valley Historical Society office is an accessible facility. Auxiliary aids and assistance are provided upon request to persons with disabilities.</p>	
<p><b>Thanks to King County for their operating support</b></p>	

### Support History

If you haven't joined the Rainier Valley Historical Society this year, we urge you to do so now. New memberships will run through the end of 2010. All membership dues and donations are tax-deductible within the limits of the law.

Please fill in this form and mail it with a check to:

**Rainier Valley Historical Society**  
P.O. Box 18143  
Seattle, WA 98118

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\*Email \_\_\_\_\_

\*Be sure to provide your email to receive our new E-News: *Past is Present*.

I'd like to volunteer for:

- Collections Work Group
- Community Outreach
- Special Office Projects
- Other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

- Lifetime Member \$150
- Patron \$100
- Sponsor \$50
- Organization / Business Member \$50
- Individual / Family (per household) \$20

In addition to annual dues, we gladly welcome special donations.

Operating Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Endowment Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Donation in honor/memory of: \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Name)

\*If you provide us with an address, we will be happy to send an acknowledgement of your gift to your special someone.

#### Cook up some fun with our home-grown Rainier Valley Food Stories Cookbook

Books are \$18.00, including tax. To have your order mailed to you, add \$2.00. Makes a great holiday gift for your favorite locavore!

Total cookbook order: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



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