

2014-15 PROGRAM SEASON

All programs are held on the second Thursday of the months listed below at the Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room at 7:30 p.m. Free and open to all.

October 9, 2014: A Lasting Legacy: The Fort Steilacoom to Fort Bellingham Military Road, by Karen Meador.

November 13, 2014: Bellingham Coal Mines, by George Mustoe

December 11, 2014: Annual History Holiday, open mike sharing, annual membership meeting and festivities

January 8, 2015: WWII Japanese-American Incarceration and Bellingham's Japanese Community by Fumio Otsu and Carole Teshima

February 12, 2015: Great Sedro-Woolley Bank Robbery of 1914 by Rustan Robertson

March 12, 2015: Ella Higginson, Bellingham Poet Laureate, by Laura Laffrado

April 9, 2015: Historic research behind the maritime art of well-known local artist Steve Mayo.

2014 WCHS Board

President: Wes Gannaway, 384-4209
debnwes@comcast.net

V-P/programs/newsletter/books: Carole Teshima,
393-6782, knitpearl68@gmail.com

Secretary: Kim Thornadtsson,
vikette_swede@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Janene Aker, kjaker@comcast.net

At-large: Donna Pattinson, donorval2@aol.com

At-large: Gretchen Anderson,
gretchensipes@hotmail.com

At-large: Kent Holsather, henofyork@comcast.net

At-large: Al Currier, alcurriere3@yahoo.com

Territorial County Courthouse info: Wes Gannaway,
384-4209; debnwes@comcast.net

Territorial Courthouse Committee :

Wes Gannaway, Janet Oakley, Donna Pattinson,
Susan Kingman

Hospitality: Jere Edwards

WCHS Journal: Lance Lindell, editor

lance.lindell@gmail.com

Kim Cunningham, designer

HISTORY NEWS



Volume 20 Issue 4

Whatcom County Historical Society

January 2015

“Incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II”

Presented by Fumio Otsu and Carole Teshima

Thursday, January 8, 2015, 7:30 p.m.

Whatcom Museum Rotunda Room • 121 Prospect St. • Free

More than 120,000 Japanese and Japanese American families were incarcerated in the United States during WWII. This presentation will give an overview of the incarceration on the West Coast and follow the experience of two families' pre-WWII, during WWII and post WWII. Presenter Fumio Otsu was born in the Tule Lake Concentration Camp where Japanese families from Bellingham were also imprisoned. The overview will include a timeline for the incarceration beginning with the evacuation order by President Roosevelt in 1942 to the formal apology by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. People of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated in 10 concentration camps and 29 prison locations. The post war impacts of their release will be discussed from the perspective of each of Otsu's families.

Teshima will present research on the established Bellingham families who were forcibly removed from their homes and businesses, gave up everything and never returned. Recently, with the help of Otsu and the Japanese American Museum in California, records of what happened to the local families have become available.

At right: In June 1942, Bellingham families prepare to board a bus at the beginning of a long journey that will eventually take them far away from their homes and life in Bellingham.

Courtesy Whatcom Museum Archives



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WHATCOM COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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LOCAL HISTORY NEWS & NOTES

December Open Mike Topics and Speakers

Wally Larsen, new W.C. Historical Society website
Linda Lawson, WC Genealogical Society, Civil War veterans who died or were buried in Whatcom Cty
Wes Gannaway and Kent Holsather, Drive-Ins, Drive-Ups, and Drive-Through book
Roger Dollarhide, James N. Selvidge, of Burlington, Wash., author of foreign film compendium.
Janet Oakley, CCC projects
Todd Warger, Murder in the Fourth Corner, new cases
Karl Kleeman, Railroad History of Bellingham, Wash.
Jim Berg, Neill Mullen's research on Aviation History needs editor/publisher
Allan Richardson, Nooksack Place Names audio recordings and images
Susan Gooding, 1907 Bureau of Soils map of Whatcom County
Sandy Rood Wolf, "Marina," a play that takes place in Blaine in 1908 - present locally in May
Brian Griffin, trees planted on Arbor Day 1896 still around
Carole Teshima, WCHS publishing textbook on Ella Higginson, with WWU prof, Laura Laffrado
(for contact information regarding any of the above, call 393-6782 or email whatcomhistory@gmail.com)

SOCIETY NEWS

Members of the WCHS approved several changes to the bylaws, re-elected Wes Gannaway and Carole Teshima to the board and elected three new members - Janet Oakley, Edradine Hovde and Susan Kingman at the annual membership meeting December 11 at the Whatcom Museum. The board wished to thank Kent Holsather for his service to the board as he steps down. Board members will elect officers at their next meeting in January.

As the final touches are made to the 1858 Territorial Courthouse Building, which will allow full use of the building, the Board will also be setting up committees in 2015 and welcomes all members to serve on any committee in whatever capacity they can. This is your Society and your building. If you ever thought about getting involved, now is the time!

The committees and members so far are:

Education and Exhibits: Janet Oakley, Candace Wellman, and Gretchen Anderson

Finance and Budget Committee: Wes Gannaway,

Janene Aker, Steve Nelson

Rental and Marketing Committee: Steve Nelson

Publishing Committee: Carole Teshima, Kim Cunningham, Lance Lindell

Membership Committee: Carole Teshima, Eileen Nelson

Website Committee: Wally Larsen, Janet Oakley, Carole Teshima, Eileen Nelson

Building Interior Committee: Donna Pattinson, Wes Gannaway, Kim Thornandtsson

Building Exterior Committee: Donna Pattinson, Jackie Lynch, Wes Gannaway, Yvette Neumann

Program Committee: Wes Gannaway, Carole Teshima

Special Events and Publicity Committee: Carole Teshima (newsletter)

Thank you to these new and renewing newsletter subscribers:

Jani Adderly, Jim & Judy Bryngelson, Earl Cilley, Linda Lawson, Mary Jo Maute, Ellen Michaud, Susan Nahas, Ann Nugent, Laurie Prall, Elaine Redelfs, Alexandra Starr

Thank you to new and renewing members:

Individual level: David Agnew, Gretchen Anderson, Ruth Baacke, Tim Baker, Geoff Cummings, Patrick Donovan, Rob & Elaine Gaeta, Susan Gooding, Marion Heath, Margaret Hellyer, Ernest Leenders, Lance Lindell & Kim Cunningham, John McGarrity, Yvette Neumann, John Othmer, Linda Horton Reed, Mary Rossi, Diane Smith, Nick Stigliani, Howard Steiner, Marcus Swed, James Syck, Carole Teshima, Kim Thornadtsson, Todd Warger

Sustaining level: Wes Gannaway, Eileen Nelson, Steve Nelson

Supporting level: Bob & Marilyn McBeath, Janet Oakley

Special thanks to Courthouse donors:

Mike Impero - \$500

Annual Benefactors (\$100 each): Richard Abbott, Carl Akers, Jere Edwards, Eppard Vision/Mary Rossi, Wes & Deb Gannaway, Marion Heath, Gayle Helgoe, Margaret Hellyer, Phoenix Solutions, Carole Teshima

Additional donations: Howard Steiner - \$50, Matthew Jensen - \$33
Alan & Ellen Alquist - \$25, Earl Cilley - \$20, Alexandra Starr - \$15

Whatcom County Historical Society Membership 2014-2015 Season

Clip or copy and mail with payment to WCHS Membership, 1308 E St, Bellingham, WA 98225

NEW RENEW I would like to volunteer, please contact me

Member Benefit: All members will receive the WCHS newsletter starting at the \$15 level

- \$15 **One year newsletter subscription**
- \$25 **Individual membership or non-profit organization**, newsletter + one copy *Journal* + 10% member discount
- \$50 **Sustaining member or business member**, (same benefits as above)
- \$100 **Supporting member** (same plus choice of historic photographic print from Whatcom Museum, call 393-6782)
- \$250 **Patron member** (same as all above, plus special future recognition) Date paid _____

Additional donation \$ _____ In memory of _____

Additional donation \$ _____ for preservation of Territorial County Courthouse on E Street in Bellingham

Name: _____ Check and leave blank if same as mail label

Business/Organization name: _____

Street/Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ E-mail _____

- Please send me information on _____ and/or Preserving the old E. Street Courthouse
- Expiration date on newsletter mailing label may not be updated until second issue after payment.

The Whatcom County Historical Society is a registered 501(c)3 organization. Your membership is tax-deductible, except for value of gift items.
Please call (360) 393-6782 for information about your membership and benefits.

