



THE HOMESTEADER

PUBLISHED BY THE WOODINVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY

JANUARY - MARCH 2025

MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

UPCOMING PROGRAM

Saturday, Jan. 18, 10-11:30am

♦ **"Heaven on the Half Shell: Washington State's Oyster Odyssey"**, presented by David George Gordon

Saturday, Feb. 15, 10-11:30am

♦ **"That Ribbon of Highway: Woodie Guthrie in the PNW"**, presented by Joel Underwood

Saturday, Mar. 15, 10-11:30am

♦ **"Fast Girls: Trailblazing Women Olympians"**, presented by Elise Hooper

WOODINVILLE HERITAGE MUSEUM OPEN: 1:00-4:00pm

- ♦ Sunday, January 5
- ♦ Sunday, February 2
- ♦ Sunday, March 2
- ♦ Sunday, April 6

BOARD MEETINGS: 6:30pm Regular meetings at the museum; open to all members

- ♦ Thursday, January 9
- ♦ Thursday, February 13
- ♦ Thursday, March 13
- ♦ Thursday, April 10

**Visit the museum
to see
gift items exclusive
to the
Heritage Society!**

Mugs, Stickers,
Stemless Wine Glasses,
Coasters,
Jigsaw Puzzles

Available in Limited Quantities

Upcoming Community Programs

January Program - Saturday, Jan. 18, 10-11:30am at Brightwater Education Center, 22505 State Route 9 (Woodinville-Snohomish Rd), just north of Costco

"Heaven on the Half Shell: Washington State's Oyster Odyssey", by David George Gordon

Get to know the Pacific Northwest's most beloved bivalve - the oyster. In this talk, author David George Gordon discusses three species - the Olympia, Eastern, and Pacific oysters - along with the people who have cultivated these delicacies for many generations.



Learn about the Native American sea gardens and clam beds that existed 11,500 years ago, as well as the contemporary efforts in our state to cultivate oysters, both native and introduced. Along the way, learn about the many surprising innovations that have made oysters such an enduringly popular and environmentally sustainable food. As the old saying goes: when the tide is out, the table is set.

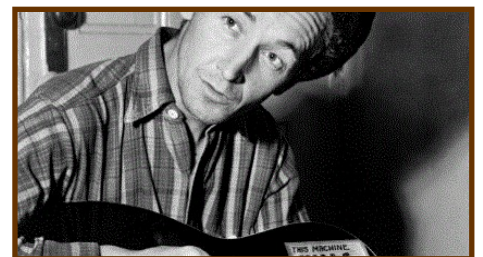
David George Gordon is the principal author of *Heaven on the Half Shell: The Story of the Oyster in the Pacific Northwest*, recently revised and updated by University of Washington Press. A former science writer for Washington Sea Grant, Gordon has written 22 books on topics ranging from slugs and snails to sharks, gray whales and Sasquatch. He lives in Tacoma.

February Program - Saturday, Feb. 15, 10-11:30am at Brightwater Education Center, 22505 State Route 9 (Woodinville-Snohomish Rd), just north of Costco

"That Ribbon of Highway: Woodie Guthrie in the PNW", presented by Joel Underwood

Folksinger and activist Woody Guthrie composed 26 songs in 30 days while riding along the Columbia River and touring the Grand Coulee Dam Project in 1941. With his unique and authentic voice, he chronicled both the grandeur and the perils of what he called "The Greatest Thing That Man Has Ever Done" as an employee of the Bonneville Power Administration. His time here in the Pacific Northwest inspired a swell of patriotism that led Guthrie to enlist in the U.S. Merchant Marines in World War II, after which he returned home to fame and notoriety, but also to tragedy and tremendous personal loss.

Historian, teacher, folksinger and actor **Joel Underwood** performs for an hour that is part concert, part theatrical drama and part lecture. Sing along to "Roll on, Columbia," "Pastures of Plenty," and of course, "This Land is Your Land," and learn the (sometimes hilarious!) stories behind the songs.

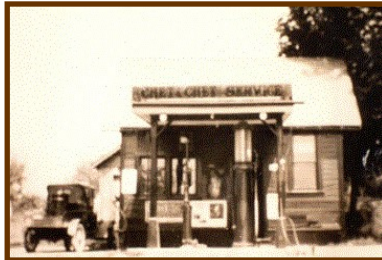


After 25 years teaching high school history, Underwood got his master's degree in American History, with a focus on folk and protest music. He lives in Olympia and tours as a musician, both solo and with his daughter.

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Sunday at the Museum, by Phyllis Keller

Museum visitors on Sunday afternoons sometimes revel in reliving their early days in Woodinville. On the first Sunday afternoon in October when brothers Tom and Karl Ormbreck and their cousin, Ted Fosberg, joined the Society's volunteers around the butcher block island in the kitchen. Back in the day, Tom's and Ted's ancestors, Chester Fosberg and nephew Chester Ormbreck, owned the Chet and Chet Gas Station on the corner of NE 140th and 175th NE, current location of NAPA Auto Parts. Ted, with all his wit and laughter, told tales of the Ormbreck's 1901 40-acre farm north of today's Park and Ride, located at 178th NE and NE 140th. He told stories about Tom's Grandmother, Carrie Ormbreck, who was the family matchmaker, and about neighbor Charlie Anderson who married Annie Fosberg, one of Carrie's matches, and about other neighbors she matched with an Ormbreck or Fosberg.



Chet and Chet Gas Station

He talked about a family reunion on the Ormbreck farm with a day of music and dancing. He was most proud to tell the story of the 1910 altar his grandfather, Chester, hand carved. It's now on display in the Seattle National Nordic Museum in Ballard.

His stories came to life when he opened a manila folder. In it were an early map of the area, and half a dozen family photos of the farm, of Ole Fosberg's son, Norman, and of Helen Stark's wedding, and more. A short time later the Heins family, part of the Ormbreck/Fosberg families "by marriage," joined the crowd and family stories continued almost 'til closing time.

Later in the afternoon Ted, Karl and Tom took a drive down memory lane to the site of Chet and Chet's Gas Station (NAPA now), to the Woodinville Cemetery and past the Ormbreck farm site. It was an enjoyable afternoon for all of us.

We'll Miss You, Terri!

We're saying good-bye to one of our favorites!

Terri Malinowski has retired after serving 12 years on the Board of the Woodinville Heritage Society. She served as Secretary and Vice President for many years.

She brought humor, insight and perspective to our meetings, was a crack-jack editor, and had a wealth of historical knowledge to share. Her contributions to WHS are too numerous to adequately express our gratitude.

We will miss her greatly! Lucky for us she will remain a docent.



Upcoming Community Programs, cont'd

March Program - Saturday, Mar. 15, 10-11:30am at Brightwater Education Center, 22505 State Route 9 (Woodinville-Snohomish Rd), just north of Costco

"Fast Girls: Trailblazing Women Olympians", by Elise Hooper

At the 1928 Olympics in Amsterdam, Betty Robinson, a 17-year-old student from Chicago, won a gold medal in the inaugural offering of Womens' Track and Field.

Three years later, as she prepared to defend her title at the 1932 Olympics in Los Angeles, she was in a plane crash and believed to be dead until the mortician noticed her breathing; she was revived. Doctor told Robinson she'd be lucky to walk again and advised her to give up her Olympic aspirations. Yet, at the 1936 Olympics in Berlin, she was back on the podium with another gold medal.

Betty Robinson represents one of many fascinating but overlooked pioneering women Olympians. In this talk, author Elise Hooper separates fact from fiction to uncover the progress and setbacks faced by women Olympians since they first began competing in 1900.

Elise Hooper spent several years writing for television and online news outlets before getting a Master of Arts and teaching high school literature and history. She has written four novels, all centered on the lives of extraordinary, but overlooked, historical women. She lives in Seattle.



General Store

Books:

- Images of America: Woodinville \$15
- Village in The Woods \$10
- A Glimpse of Woodinville \$5
- Woodinville Coloring Book \$3

DVDs (all \$5):

- The DeYoung Family
- John Emil Halver III
- School Days - The '40s & '50s
- Woodinville Methodist Church History
- Life on Hollywood Hill
- Woodinville - The Early Days
- The Molbak Story

Send check to WHS, POB 216, Woodinville 98072, or pick up at the museum on open Sundays.

Missing Christmas at Molbak's, by Phyllis Keller



Egon and Laina Molbak's nursery, which began with Ashley and Louise Nicholas in 1934, functioned as a greenhouse for 90 years. It became a central piece of Woodinville's identity as the rural town became a city. As residents' needs shifted each passing decade, Molbak's was there to meet them by being innovative in doing what it did best - selling quality plants - and by charity/community engagement. It became a tourist draw, bringing thousands from far and wide to spend their money in our little town, boosting the local economy. While Molbak's carved out their niche as a high-end garden store with a curated selection of unique gifts, it was much more than that. Egon and Laina intentionally sought to make their store a place of "peace and serenity" for their neighbors. They succeeded! As things changed around Woodinville, Molbak's was the mainstay - a place where annual traditions and relationships were cultivated. Their legacy lives on in the students who could afford college because of the Molbak's charity, the employees who were inspired to go on to make a difference, the mentally-disabled interns who can hold down a job, and those who would have never considered themselves plant-people before they visited Molbak's.

Molbak's Garden + Home, a symbol of Woodinville's past, closed its doors January 28, 2024. Molbak's and its greenhouses are gone and they are sorely missed! This first holiday season without Molbak's, its tables and tables of poinsettias and the poinsettia tree, will be especially difficult for so many, myself included. Make time to come visit the museum's small display of Molbak's memorabilia.

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Meet Our Newest WHS Board Members



Tracy Heins is a Washington native who grew up in Tacoma. Her childhood was spent visiting museums in every town the family visited, participating in community historical events and reading every book she could get her hands on about history. She is passionate about community and the preservation of the Woodinville area's unique local heritage. With a background in public speaking, writing, business and community outreach, she brings community programs to local audiences and is collaborating with other museum board members to continue oral history projects, capturing firsthand accounts of past generations of Woodinville residents. Tracy considers it a privilege to serve with the Heritage Society's dedicated board members to preserve, protect and showcase the rich cultural history of Woodinville.

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Lori Neumann is a graduate of Redmond High School and the University of Washington. She's married, has two grown sons and three delightful granddaughters. Last February, Lori retired from the Lake Washington School District after 26 years working first as an Instructional Assistant, then as an Office Manager. She brings her experience managing the school's budget to WHS in her position as Treasurer. She's grateful for the help and guidance of Lucy and Jessica! When Lori's not playing with a precocious second grader or two toddlers, she enjoys hiking, geocaching, Volkssport walks, DAR, genealogy, and fiber crafts.

Christmas Brunch at the DeYoung House

This year, members gathered at the Annual Christmas Brunch

We hosted two Christmas Teas - one for residents at Fairwinds - Brittany Park, and another for residents at Creekside Senior Living. All events featured good food and good conversation in our beautifully decorated museum



Welcome to Our
Newest Volunteer
Lori Neumann



Sustaining Memberships

Benefactor:
Rotary of
Woodinville



Patron:
Black Sheep
Genealogy



Please Support Our Community Partners:



13412 NE 177th Pl
Woodinville, WA
425-402-7900

Copies of our book
*Images of America:
Woodinville*
are available at:



13110 NE 177th Pl
Woodinville, WA 98072
425-483-0360

The success of the
Woodinville Heritage Society
is made possible, in part,
by the generous support of
4Culture,
The City of Woodinville,
and our membership.

Thank you!

Corrections to October/December Homesteader

Because our memories are not always perfect, occasionally there are errors in our newsletter, *The Homesteader*. We were alerted by Jim and Gloria Kraft to a few errors in articles that were reprinted from other sources; we appreciate their input as we strive to report history correctly.

- The Book Report *The Squak Slough – 1870-1920* states that “... Henry Stimson cleared the stump land ...” His name was Fred Stimson. In the sentence “He erected a combination store and dance hall ...” actually those buildings were built by Mr. Anderson. Fred sold sausage made from his pigs in the store until it collapsed.
- A few statements in the Seattle Times Publication “A Hidden Past ...” under *Did You Know?* are inaccurate; “... Frederick Stimson sold his chicken ranch – where Chateau Ste. Michelle is located today ...” is incorrect. Fred died Thanksgiving Day 1921, before the farm was sold in 1925. The chicken farm was on today's Hollywood Hill and is now the community we know as The Farm.
- Chateau Ste. Michelle property in the valley was a dairy farm and greenhouses. The Hollywood Fox Farm was never a part of the Stimson estate.
- Referring to Sammamish Indians, “At least 100 people lived there ...” There were temporary villages but never a permanent Indian Village on Bear Creek or the Sammamish Slough. Their temporary stays were to pick hops, gather berries, fish and hunt.

It's Not Too Late to Donate!

A heartfelt thanks to all of you who did not come to our

Do Not Come Event

but sent a donation instead!

We raised \$3375, which will greatly help with the expenses related to keeping the DeYoung house in good repair and safe for our visitors.

Not Yet a Member of Your Community Museum?

Your annual dues help support collections, new exhibits and maintenance of the historic DeYoung House, plus you will receive quarterly newsletters, emailed event news and program updates, as well as invitations to members-only events.

\$15 Student/Educator/Senior

\$40 Family

\$25 Individual

\$500 Single Lifetime

We also very much appreciate support from Corporate and Non-Profit donors. Please contact us at (425) 402-0750 to see how you can be involved in this great community asset!

Become a Member. Contribute. Volunteer.

Email us at

info@woodinvilleheritage.org

or leave a voice message at
(425)402-0750

Like us on **facebook** 

For more Woodinville history, photos,
and our General Store materials,
see our website:

www.woodinvilleheritage.org

Write to us at

Woodinville Heritage Society
P.O. Box 216
Woodinville, WA 98072

The Woodinville Heritage Society holds a
nonprofit 501(c)3 status, tax ID #91-1680275.

Dues and additional contributions are
deductible for federal income tax purposes
to the extent allowed by law.



Come visit us
at the
**Woodinville
Heritage Museum**

Located in the DeYoung House

14121 NE 171st Street
Woodinville, WA 98072,

One block east of 140th Ave. NE.

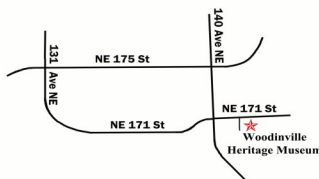
We are open to the public 1pm - 4pm
Labor Day to Memorial Day: 1st Sunday each month

Memorial Day to Labor Day: Every Sunday

Admission is always FREE!



See “Get Involved, Become a Member”



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*The Homesteader is a quarterly publication of the
Woodinville Heritage Society.*

The Society's *mission* is to acquire, preserve and perpetuate the artifacts and history of the greater Woodinville area.

Our *vision* is to be viewed as an essential partner in the fabric of our community.