

# State of Washington Governor's Mansion Foundation News

May 2007

Volume XII, Number 1

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**D**ear Friends and Trustees of the Governor's Mansion Foundation: All of you Volunteers who give tirelessly of your time and effort are the strength of the Foundation. I thank each one of you, and encourage you to continue your support in promoting the heritage and history of our State through the Governor's Mansion Foundation. Membership as a Friend of the Mansion is due for renewal. Your membership enables the Foundation to maintain and refurbish the historic public rooms of the Mansion for the people of Washington State.

We have a new Curator. Norma Bauer has accepted the responsibility of the Curator chair for the Foundation. As a Docent for Mansion Tours, she is already familiar with most of the public rooms in the Mansion which will help her in identifying the Furnishings and the Art. (p. 3)

This continues to be a busy year for the Foundation:

Laurie Maricle, Centennial Chair, and her committee have come up with some interesting ideas and proposals for celebrating 100 years since the cornerstone was laid (August 1, 1908) for the Mansion. This beautiful home is a showcase as the oldest building on the Capital Campus. (below)

To help us celebrate, the Quinault Indian Nation is interested in providing Art Work; the Makah Tribal Ritual Drummers expressed an interest in participating; Billie Hyland made proposals and is interested in assisting us with Vintage Cars. Area 4 (Yakima) had a luncheon on April 25th, which was promoted as a kick-off for the Anniversary Celebration. Area 7 (Tacoma) scheduled a luncheon at the Mansion for May 2008; Area 8 (Olympia) hosts a dinner party at the Mansion for May 17th...and there will be more.

Our library books are being catalogued. Librarian, Susan Chickering, working with Patrick Farwell, plans to have some excess books auctioned off at our meeting in June.

I look forward to seeing the Trustees at the Annual Board of Trustees Meeting on June 7th when we will welcome new Trustees and celebrate the successes of the Foundation.

*Shirley Grenfell*

## CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE PLANS FOR CELEBRATION 2008-2009

*Laurie Maricle, Chairman Centennial Committee*

**O**fficially designated as a standing committee in January 18, the Governor's Mansion Centennial Committee is off and running with great enthusiasm.

Some of the exciting ideas we are considering include hosting formal "Mansion Centennial Balls", an admission-free commemorative cultural event for the public, an ice cream social on the Mansion's lawn, consulting with our area chairmen regarding regional events, selecting a special gift to be given to the Mansion by the Foundation in recognition of its 100th birthday, hosting fund-raising events, and many more.

The proposed activities for this anniversary celebration will officially begin at the Board of Trustees annual meeting in June 2008 and conclude at the same meeting June 2009.

## CALENDAR

*Meetings and Events*

May 15, 2007

**Annual GMF dues due**

*(see membership form on back page)*

Thursday, June 7, 2007, 10 a.m.

**Annual Board of Trustees Meeting, Election of Trustees**  
*(consisting of not less than 60 nor more than 90 statewide; trustees shall serve three-year terms; no trustee shall serve more than three consecutive terms—may be waived upon recommendation of the Nominating Committee)*  
— Governor's Mansion Foundation bylaws

Monday, June 18, 2007, 6:15-8 p.m.

**Chamber Concert**

Tuesday, June 26, 2007, 1-3 p.m.

**Artist Reception**  
Governor's Mansion

Thursday, September 20, 2007, 10 a.m.

**Board of Trustees**  
Yakima

Monday, October 29, 2007, 6:15-8 p.m.

**Chamber Concert**

Friday, December 7, 2007, 1-3 p.m.

**Holiday Tea**  
Governor's Mansion



## IN THE GALLERY WILLIAM CUMMING, ARTIST

by Beverly Graham and Donna Latrell,  
Art Co-Chairs

William Cumming began as a self-taught artist who grew up in Tukwila, a small town outside of Seattle. At the age of 20 he met Morris Graves and soon became part of the circle of friends known as the Northwest School, which included Mark Tobey, the patriarchal leader of the group then approaching 50 and Kenneth Callahan and his wife Margaret, who became Cumming's particular mentor. There were glum years in the late 40's and early 50's when tuberculosis resulted in a lengthy hospital stay and recuperation. After ten years of inactivity, he began to paint again. William Cumming has now fulfilled his promise as a major artist of the Northwest.

Last year the Frye Museum, Seattle, celebrated William Cumming's 70 years as a major Northwest artist with an exhibition of his work. Bill's art is known for wonderful color; intricate composition; the figures, both human and animal in graceful fluid motion; and the superb emotional connection he brings to all these elements. William Cumming is a true Northwest Cultural Treasure.

### *Editors note:*

*Each year, the Art Committee selects a significant northwest artist to display work in the Mansion Gallery. This year, the Governor's Mansion Foundation's co-chairs, Beverly Graham and Donna Latrell, have garnered a most prestigious collection to be savored for the next twelve months.*

*A reception, by invitation, will be held June 26.*

## NOTES FROM THE DOCENTS

by Kathy Garrett, Docent Chair

Last November, a training luncheon was held at the Governor's Mansion hosted by the Mansion Staff Teresa Olson and Patti Fisher. Presentations were given by docents Heather Lockman about updates to Mansion history and Penny Keirse regarding ways to improve sales procedures on tour days. Teresa Olson answered questions about the First family. I presented the new information books for use by the docents. Three books contain information about the Mansion: (1) Art (thanks to the Art Committee); (2) Mansion history; and (3) our Foreign Language Translation Guides. I shared history information about the 1909 Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition and about one of President Truman's visits to the Mansion in June of 1945. (President Truman came to Olympia to present the Congressional Medal of Honor to a soldier from Bainbridge Island. He spent the night at the Mansion with his good friend Governor Walgren and then resumed his trip to San Francisco for the opening of the United Nations.)

Our first class of Docent Emeriti was announced: Ruth Andrews, Billie Fisher, Marge Halgren, June Martinson, Patricia Moriarty, and Kathy Wolf.\* Docent Emeriti status was created to allow docents to retire from active service while remaining part of the docent program.

*\*With regret, we note that Kathy Wolf passed away in April.*



*Three Docent Emeriti pictured left to right:  
June Martinson, Marge Halgren, and Ruth Andrews.  
Billie Fisher, Patricia Moriarty, and Kathy Wolf were unable to attend.*

## HISTORY OF GOVERNOR'S MANSION

### *Oldest Building on Washington State Capital Campus*

The Governor's Mansion is the oldest building on the Capital Campus. In 1908, almost 20 years after statehood, the Washington Legislature undertook to build the state a proper governor's mansion. The impetus was a pragmatic one: the state needed a place to entertain distinguished visitors to the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition to be held the following year.

Designed by Russell and Babcock, Tacoma, the Georgian style Mansion was to serve as a temporary structure. It was constructed in five months at a cost of \$35,000.

The marble cornerstone was laid on August 1, 1908 during the administration of Governor Albert Mead. Before the Mansion was ready for occupancy, Samuel Cosgrove defeated Mead in the fall election. Illness prevented Cosgrove from attending the house warming in January 1909. He died in March, and Lieutenant Governor Marion E. Hay suddenly became Governor.

The Legislature allocated \$15,000 for furniture. The contract was awarded to Frederick and Nelson, Seattle, and rugs and carpets to D.D. Bates, Olympia.

The Mansion's structural problems became evident early. Governor Ernest Lister moved his family out in 1915 for lack of heat. A succession of later governors complained of the cold, sagging floorboards, inadequate plumbing, and faulty wiring. Over the years, several plans have been made to tear the Mansion down. In the 1970's, through the intercession of then Governor Daniel Evans, and first lady Nancy, as well as others around the state, the Mansion was saved. The Governor's Mansion Foundation was born.

*from the Governor's Mansion Foundation Handbook and Kathy Garrett*

## NEW CURATOR

*by Norma Bauer, Mansion Curator*

Being handed the Curator reins, following Patti and Brigid Brennan, is an honor indeed. The pleasure I take in being a docent, and now the Curator, is derived from knowing what the visitors are seeing is not from a throwaway society, but from one that treasures the irreplaceable artistry. Knowing details of the furnishings and human interest stories that echo from those rooms is a privilege and now it is my responsibility to tend to their well being. What fun!

*Chair of Interior Design and former Curator, Patti Brennan, presenting Norma with one of several inventory catalogs.*



## MUSIC IN THE MANSION

*by Laurie Maricle,*

*Chairman Chamber Concerts Committee*

*"Each note is a jewel chiseled with perfect mastery and emotion." Le Parisien*

Such was the virtuoso performance of Adams Foundation recitalist Jeanne Stark-Iochmans, the Belgian-born pianist who performed for our Music In The Mansion chamber concert held at the Executive Mansion on March 26, 2007. An evening of Beethoven, Chopin and Debussy resulted in a standing ovation for our elegant, exquisitely talented soloist.

On January 22, 2007, we welcomed Pianist Judith Cohen, Artistic Director of Seattle's Governor's Chamber Music Series, 23-year-old Seattle Symphony Principal Cellist Joshua Roman, Seattle Symphony Principal Violist Susan Gulkis-Assaid, and Seattle Symphony Violist Mikhail Schmidt, who created spell-binding performances of Mozart, Prokofiev and Dohnanyi, much to our concert patrons' delight.

We are looking forward to the Foundation's June 18, 2007, concert which will conclude our 2006-07 season and feature the talents of Oksana Ezhokina, pianist, and Sally Singer, cellist, who are Artists-In-Residence with The Icicle Creek Music Center in Leavenworth, Washington.

2007-08 Chamber Concerts  
October 29, 2007 • January 28, 2008  
March 31, 2008 • June 27, 2008.



# FRIENDS OF THE MANSION

## MEMBERSHIP

Dues should be paid by May 15th. If you have not received a "dues letter" with a return envelope, please use the form below to forward your 2007-08 dues. Your promptness is greatly appreciated. **Thank you for renewing.**

**QUESTIONS? Call Barbara Lind, *Membership* (360) 866-1145.**

The Mansion is a legacy to all of the people of Washington State.

Please help us preserve the Mansion and its heritage for future generations by renewing your membership.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

- Contributor** \$20-49
- Patron** \$50-99
- Donor** \$100-\$499
- Sponsor** \$500-999
- Guarantor** \$1000-4000
- Benefactor** \$5000 or more

#### DIRECTORY:

- Complete** \$20 (includes binder)
- Annual Insert** \$5 \*

\*NOTE: Directory updates cost an additional \$5 annually

#### ELECTED POSITIONS:

- Trustee** \$50 or more
- Trustee Emeritus/Sustaining** \$25 or more

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check totaling: \$\_\_\_\_\_ *Thank you!*

**Send to: Governor's Mansion Foundation, P.O. Box 11207, Olympia, WA 98508-1207**



*Governor's Mansion Foundation*

*P.O. Box 11207*

*Olympia, WA 98508-1207*

*Website: [www.wagovmansion.org](http://www.wagovmansion.org)*



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