

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER



Connections for yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

HERITAGE REFLECTOR

Spring 2017

Volume XVII

Issue 1

Vision

To be a destination heritage museum and research facility that enhances community identity through the preservation and stewardship of the Eastside's history.

Mission

To steward Eastside History by actively collecting, preserving, and interpreting documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in, and appreciation of, this heritage through educational programming and community outreach.

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Executive Order 9066: How It Changed The Eastside

On February 19, 1942 Executive Order 9066 was issued by President Roosevelt, ordering anyone of Japanese descent to report to incarceration camps around the county. Families were forced from their homes and communities, and children were pulled from school. The goal of the order was to prevent espionage and protect Japanese citizens from being harmed by other Americans. While incarcerated, people had to cope with limits on their personal freedoms, and obstructed rights, while tolerating harsh living conditions until the end of the war. During World War II ten Americans were convicted as spies. None of them were Japanese.

Part of Bellevue's diverse history is the merging of American and Japanese culture. The first generation of Japanese pioneers, or Issei, moved to this area at the end of the 19th century. Some moved here with dreams of making money and then

returning to Japan. Many chose to stay. Many of these Japanese pioneers established successful farms, cultivating over 470 acres in Bellevue. Much of the work of blasting and clearing stumps to make way for farm fields was done by workers who were not legally allowed to own the land they cleared and cultivated. This was because of the Alien Land laws in place at the time.

The Japanese pioneers made a place for themselves in

their new community, banding together to build their own club house, the Kokiado. They held on to many of their old traditions but embraced western culture as well. The Bellevue Japanese Growers Association was formed in 1933 to help local farmers deliver their crops to market more efficiently. Bellevue became so well known for its strawberries that the celebrated crop was given its own community event, the Strawberry Festival,

Continued on pg. 2...



Above: Anti-Japanese sundown sign in the Rose Hill community, *From the Bellevue Journal American Photo Collection.*

...cont.. from pg. 1



Above: The Japanese Community Clubhouse, or Kokiado, was built in 1930 near NE 10th St and 102 Ave NE. The building served many purposes, which included hosting community business meetings, Buddhist and Christian church services, flower arranging classes, movies, Japanese language classes, shibais (plays), and various indoor activities such as girls and boys basketball, judo, and kendo. #1989.001.011

which the Japanese farmers had an instrumental part in putting together. With pieces of both Japanese and American culture, the Nisei, the children of the first settlers, created their own culture mixed from the two, and built a community that was uniquely their own.

In the 1940's relations between Euro-Americans and Japanese Americans grew tense across the nation. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, public outrage and hysteria turned towards the Japanese (both alien and citizen) living in the United States. There were ad campaigns and community meetings that

sought to rid the Eastside of their Japanese-American neighbors, often led by prominent citizens.

By June 1942 more than 110,000 Japanese (more than 70% of them American citizens) had been forced from their homes into temporary assembly centers, and later into incarceration camps, where they were denied their basic rights. Most of the families from the Bellevue area were sent to camps in Tule Lake, California or Minidoka, Idaho. Once in the camps, families from the same community were often assigned to separate units, making it difficult to stay in contact with neighbors and friends.

Prior to the outbreak of World War II, there were around 300 Japanese Americans living in Bellevue, making up about 15% of the general population, and 90% of the agricultural work force. The absence of the Japanese left a hole in the Eastside community. One-fifth of Bellevue High School's senior class was incarcerated.

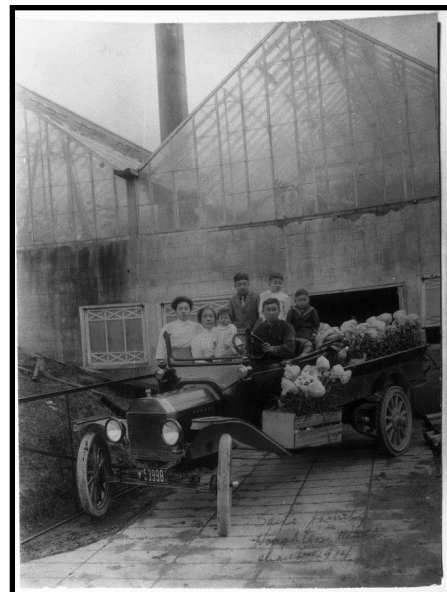
Families were evacuated from Bellevue just prior to

the summer harvest.

Farmers left their fields ripe with produce, with no workers left to do the picking. Without them the Strawberry Festival was cancelled, as unharvested crops rotted in the fields. After the war, Japanese Americans began returning to their homes but they had a difficult time recovering their land, jobs, lives, and sense of Japanese community. Of Bellevue's numerous Japanese-American families, only a handful returned, many of them to homes and property which had been vandalized, destroyed or redeveloped.

Executive Order 9066 represents a dark time in United States history. EHC is proud to have artifacts, photographs, archival materials and oral history interviews from Eastside Japanese families who were affected by EO 9066 as a part of our permanent collection. 2017 is the 75th anniversary of this executive order, and it is important to reflect on this part of our nation's history.

EHC will be exhibiting this time in history at this year's Bellevue Strawberry Festival



Above: The Houghton Greenhouses on Lake Washington Boulevard were owned and operated first by the Saito family, and later by the Yabuki family until 1942. #L89.29.1

at Crossroads Park, scheduled for Saturday, June 24th from 10:00am-8:00pm & Sunday, June 25th 10:00am-6:00pm.

"On May 18, all Eastside Japanese, alien parents and US citizens, gathered at the Kirkland railroad tracks and boarded very old, dirty coal engine trains under armed guards carrying bayonets. We were all frightened, hurt, disillusioned, and stripped of our dignity, business, property, home, friends, to say nothing of our rights....My hope is that this can never ever happen to any group again, and that each of you will not be afraid to speak up to prevent it." Rose Yabuki Matshushita, 1997 - Excerpt from presentation on Executive Order 9066 at Marymoor Museum.

PLANS - PUBLISHED BY THE
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DO YOU WANT JAPS for your Neighbors Again?

The problem of Japanese resettlement vitally concerns YOU and every other resident of Washington. We must keep the Jap off the Pacific Coast. He is a danger to our boys fighting in the south Pacific, and a despoiler of the future for all of us.

But we must do it LEGALLY and PEACEABLY. And yet we must do it PERMANENTLY. How can it be done? What can YOU do to help?

Get the answer to these important questions at a monster

FREE MASS MEETING FREE

to be held in the
BELLEVUE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
(Overlake Elementary School)
on
Monday, April 2 - 8 P. M.

Speakers:
Geo. H. Crandell of HUNT'S POINT, Seattle attorney, who knows the Japs and their peril, in a straight-from-the-shoulder talk
A. E. McCroskey public relations man, who has been working with Anti-Japanese organizations in Oregon and elsewhere.

The meeting will be free. Get there early to be sure of a seat.
VALUABLE DOOR PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED!

Above: Flyer for a public meeting to be held at the Bellevue School to discuss the "Japanese problem", 1942. From the Japanese Community Collection.

Collections Corner

Sarah Frederick
Collections Manager

Since 2016, Eastside Heritage Center has been sharing portions of our collections database online, using Past Perfect Online. A great tool for researchers and fans of history, you can now search selected expanded portions of EHC's archive, library, artifact and photo collections. We are working to make even more of our collection available through this online portal, with new records being added monthly. The next #EHCLearn is scheduled for Friday, March 31! If you are interested in volunteering to assist with our Past Perfect Online Accessibility project, please contact EHC's



Above: Admittedly, our computer set-up isn't nearly as involved as Boeing's Cray Supercomputer and memory banks, but we are working on ways to make our collection more accessible using technology. #2007.022.043, from the King County Journal Collection.

Collections Manager at
collections@eastsideheritagecenter.org

You can find our Past Perfect Online portal here:
<http://eastsideheritagecenter.pastperfectonline.com/>

Wish List

EHC is seeking the following donations:

For Care of the Collection

- HEPA vacuum for cleaning artifacts.
- Chest freezer for treating and isolating artifacts.
- 10 acid free binders.

For the Collection

- Photos, documents, ephemera from 1910-1920 related to lowering of the Lake Washington and the eastside communities affected.
- Eastside materials from the 1970's to present day.
- Materials from the Crossroads and Eastgate neighborhoods, any era, particularly photos.
- Issues of the *Overlake Outlook* newspaper.
- Lake Hills Roller Rink or Skate King photos or ephemera
- For use in the office
- Android or Windows tablet for use in off-site storage and at events.
- Self-healing (PVC) cutting mat for producing labels for exhibit and outreach activities.

To Donate Items:

Call: (425) 450-1049 or

Email: [Collections@](mailto:Collections@eastsideheritagecenter.org)

eastsideheritagecenter.org

Recent Accessions

Thank you for your donations to the collection:

Robin McCain – Stuffed lion won at the 1962 Seattle World's Fair Expo.

Vicki Heck – Oral history interview.

Bellevue Rotary – Bellevue Rotary institutional archives.

Mary Milam – 1970's yearbooks from Redmond's Overlake School.

Ross and Candy McIvor – "Street of Dreams" real estate magazine from 1980-2000's.

Cary Bozeman – Downtown Park photo.

Anonymous – Atari materials.

Tim Johnson – Information on Pettibone property.

Betina Finely – Cosmetic items.

Lee Maxwell – Bellevue Forum VHS.

Dean Jowers – Home videos from the Sammamish Slough Hydroplane races, 1968.



Above: 1956 boat race on the Sammamish Slough, #L87.044.070.c, from the Sammamish Valley News Collection.

Eastside Heritage Center

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	Betty Ann Rizk	

Education Corner

Hats, Hats, Hats!

Jane Morton
Education Coordinator

In the Spring of 2015, Eastside Heritage Center (EHC) began the enormous task of moving its entire 60,000+ collection to a new storage facility that would allow staff and collections volunteers to better care for the community treasures that have been gifted under EHC's care.

Since then, EHC has been working to organize this collection with the help of museology student interns and collections volunteers.

Through this process a number of items that are not directly related to Eastside history, or that we have multiples of have been deaccessioned. Deaccession means to remove an item permanently from a collection, which is done carefully through a museum collections procedure.

educational public programs. The newest program we are working on is the *History of Headwear*. We have an assortment of hats and headwear accessories we have begun sharing for this program. But we need more! We are especially looking to add more men's headwear items to this program.

If you have a hat or headwear accessory you would be willing to donate to EHC's Education Department, please contact the Education Coordinator at Education@eastsideheritagecenter.org.



Above: One of the men's hats in EHC's Education Department used for public programming.



Left & Below: Some of the ladies hats in EHC's Education hat collection.



The Education Department at EHC has benefitted greatly from the deaccession process, and we have been able to repurpose items from the collection to be used in

Thank You

2017 Heritage Benefit Dinner Sponsors

Heritage Stewards:

APEX
FOUNDATION



THE BELLEVUE
COLLECTION™

Homesteaders:



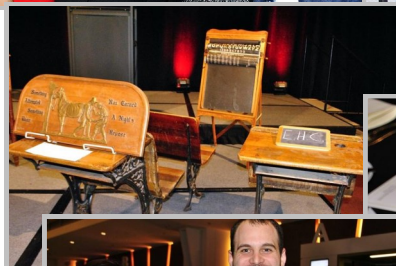
CrossRoads
BELLEVUE

A warm thank you to all those who supported the 10th Annual Heritage Benefit Dinner on February 8, 2017 at the Meydenbauer Center. Your generosity raised over \$93,000 towards the stewardship of Eastside history.



Pioneers:

BILL & NANCY WAY
GLY CONSTRUCTION
LIL' JON RESTAURANT
MIKE NESTEROFF & KIMM VIEBROCK
SU DEVELOPMENT
THE BELLEVUE CLUB
THE SPRING DISTRICT
WALLACE PROPERTIES



WINE generously underwritten by
CHATEAU STE MICHELLE & DOMAINE STE MICHELLE
TIM & EDIE JOHNSON

PARKING generously underwritten by
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See more photos from the event on [EHC's Facebook!](#)

Get Involved With EHC!

Community is at the heart of Eastside Heritage Center's (EHC) mission of sharing this region's history, and creating public involvement in, and appreciation of Eastside history. Each year EHC connects with the community through their annual events, which include Heritage Programming at the 1888 Historic Fraser Cabin and the Bellevue Strawberry Festival. There are many exciting ways to get involved with these community based events, including volunteering, sponsorship and participating as a vendor.

Fraser Cabin Heritage Programming:

The 1888 Fraser Cabin is one of Bellevue's oldest and few remaining pioneer structures. Originally the cabin was built in the Northrup area, but was later moved to Kelsey Creek Farm Park in 1974. Today, the historic cabin is used by EHC and Bellevue Parks & Community Services to provide interactive programming and historical interpretation.

Dates & Times: Third Saturdays, May-September from 11:00AM-3:00PM

Special Events: Sheep Shearing on April 29th, 2017 & Farm Fair, October 7th, 2017 from 11:00AM-4:00PM.

Programming Activities: Hands-on History activities involving agriculture, pioneer household tasks, log cabin construction, games and a scavenger hunt.

How YOU can get involved!

- ◆ **Volunteer:** Help interpret the cabin and run the heritage programming activities.
- ◆ **Sponsorship:** Partner with EHC and support the stewardship and sharing of Eastside history.

Contact the EHC Marketing & Community Manager, Lexi Roberts at Lexi@eastsideheritagecenter.org and visit www.EastsideHeritageCenter.org for more information.



In partnership with:



Bellevue Strawberry Festival:

The Annual Bellevue Strawberry Festival is held each June, as a celebration of Bellevue's agricultural roots. The two-day family friendly community event features live entertainment all weekend long from the Main Stage, food for all tastes, vendor booths, a mini-museum, with heritage displays, and hands-on history activities, a Family Fun Area with carnival games, pony rides, a giant purple slide and more! The Festival also features a Touch-a-Truck Event on Saturday, and a Classic Auto Show on Sunday, and of course fresh strawberry shortcake!

Dates & Times: Saturday, June 24th, 2017 from 10:00AM-8:00PM & Sunday, June 25th, 2017 from 10:00AM-6:00PM

Location: Crossroads International Park

How YOU can get involved!

- ◆ **Sponsor:** Sponsorships range from \$250-\$7,500 and will provide your company with valuable brand exposure, while supporting this community event and EHC.
- ◆ **Volunteer:** To help with every aspect of the Festival. Each volunteer receives a t-shirt and complimentary strawberry shortcake.
- ◆ **Have a Vendor Booth:** To reach the community with your goods and services.
- ◆ **Enter Your Classic Car:** Participate in the annual Classic Auto Show, with awards in six public vote categories.

Contact the Festival Coordinator at info@bellevuestrawberryfestival.org and visit www.BellevueStrawberryFestival.org for more information.



Presented by:



Volunteer Corner

Volunteer of the Year Award:

Congratulations
Simon Bomke!

It's a story as old as time for organizations as small as Eastside Heritage Center (EHC). "We couldn't do what we do, without our volunteers." Volunteers are fundamental to our success, and mission to share this regions heritage with the surrounding community.

EHC is lucky to have many dedicated volunteers who assist us with public programs, caring for our collection, and events. Some even come every week! Therefore we found it imperative that we thank our volunteers for their generous donation of time and contribution to our organization.

Each year EHC recognizes a volunteer for the Karen Klett Volunteer of the Year Award. This award was dedicated in honor of Karen Klett who was EHC's Volunteer Coordinator for many years, in addition to serving as Chair of the Board Development Committee, and the significant amount of time she spent in support of the Winters House, ensuring it was accessible to the public.

It is always difficult to choose who to recognize for this

award, as EHC is lucky enough to have so many amazing volunteers! After careful consideration, the EHC staff and Board would like to award the Volunteer of the Year to Simon Bomke.

Simon has been volunteering with EHC for the past few years in various positions. He has helped with clerical work, working with EHC's collection software PastPerfect, handling membership registration and renewals, and assisting with EHC's special events. With his help, EHC has been able to transcribe 80 oral history interviews from cassette tapes, making the content more accessible to researchers.

He was extremely helpful this year for the 2017 Heritage Benefit Dinner and has always been a enormous asset for Strawberry Festival preparations. In the days leading up to the Heritage Benefit Dinner, Simon helped to organize guest related items including name tags, place cards, table captain packets, and bid cards. He then came on-site to help set up the event and organize all these items in their proper place around the tables. This was a HUGE help to EHC staff! We could not have done it without him, and we thank you Simon for the many hours you have dedicated to EHC.

Eastside Heritage Center MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000 | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Steward \$500 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family \$40 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Supporter \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student \$15 |

Enroll me as: ☐ New Member ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ Gift

MEMBER'S NAME

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

PHONE

EMAIL

This membership is a gift from:

PAYMENT INFORMATION:

- ☐ Check (make checks payable to the Eastside Heritage Center)
☐ Credit Card
☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ American Express

NAME ON CARD

CARD #

EXP. DATE

V-CODE (last 3 digits on back)

Additional Contribution: _____ Total Enclosed: _____

☐ My company will MATCH my gift. Company Name: _____

The Eastside Heritage Center is a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

PLEASE MAIL THIS FORM AND PAYMENT TO:

Eastside Heritage Center
P.O. Box 40535
Bellevue, WA 98015

Phone: 425-450-1049
Fax: 425-450-1050
www.EastsideHeritageCenter.org

All Eastside Heritage Center Members receive:

- Membership Card
- Quarterly Newsletter with historical features and program updates
- Invitations to exhibits and programs
- 10% discount on books and gift shop items

CATEGORIES:

Benefactor - \$1,000

- Receives Steward Benefits, plus:
- Honored at Annual Event

Steward - \$500

- Receives Supporter benefits, plus:
- Special publication
- Curator's Tour of the collection

Supporter - \$250

- Receives Organization benefits, plus:
- Historic photo reproduction

Organization (schools, scout troops, etc) - \$100

- Receives Contributor benefits, plus:
- Discounts on Treasure Box rentals, field trips and classroom presentations

Contributor - \$100

- Additional benefits include:
- Access to Archives fee waived

Family - \$40

Individual - \$25

Student (under 18 years of age) - \$15

EASTSIDE HERITAGE CENTER CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 40535, Bellevue, WA 98015

Tel: 425-450-1049

Fax: 425-450-1050

E-Mail: info@eastsideheritagecenter.org

Website: www.eastsideheritagecenter.org

McDOWELL HOUSE (EHC Administrative Offices)

Visiting Address: 11660 Main Street, Bellevue, WA 98005

Tel: 425-450-1049

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