



Neely Mansion Association



PO Box 738

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December 2016 Newsletter

Greetings to all,

As the new president for the Neely Mansion Association I would like to give a big thank you to Linda Van Nest, our past President, for her loyal dedication, hard work and leadership, in helping to preserve the Neely Mansion.

We envisioned, and are achieving, our ambitious dreams by preserving the Neely Mansion and the Japanese Furoba Bath House for future generations to enjoy a glimpse into the past lives of those who lived at the Mansion.

We have much to be thankful for, especially all those who have volunteered their time and talents over the years. There are only a few of us, and we welcome all those who wish to volunteer to help breathe life into the Neely Mansion. You can do big things in a big way or small things in a big way. We would love to hear from you and look forward to your participation.

As you read this newsletter you will find upcoming events to be held at the Neely Mansion.

Follow your dreams,

Hilda Meryhew

Historic Hori Bath House Completed!

After two years of planning and construction the historic 1930's Hori Furoba at the Neely Mansion has been restored for public viewing. A designated King County Landmark, the rare old Japanese-American bath house was a reminder of all the families who farmed during the 1920's and 30's in the Puget Sound area. The restoration efforts included planning, design, reconstruction, and an archeological dig. Nearly \$70,000 in funds paid for the project, sponsored through grants from King County and 4Culture.

On Saturday, June 25th, the Dedication and Celebration for the Hori Furoba restoration was held free for the public on the grounds of the Neely Mansion. At noon the dedication ceremony began with a description of the families who lived and worked in the mansion, including the Japanese-American Fukuda and Hori families. The history and process of the extensive restoration efforts

for the furoba were shared, followed by comments from Hori family members. The Reverend Ogui of the White River Buddhist Temple then blessed the newly restored building.

Seattle Matsui Taiko drummers performed vigorously and loudly on the front lawn, as visitors watched in appreciation. The Japanese Minyo Dancers were next with intricate dances and wearing colorful costumes. Both groups performed throughout the afternoon and encouraged the public to participate in the activities. Tours of the Hori Furoba took place all afternoon, featuring the replicated soaking tub and inside laundry area. In the Neely Mansion Ikebana arrangements were placed in several of the main rooms and refreshments were available for all.

Honored guests present included the Hori family, Auburn City Council members, and representatives from King County and 4Culture. Participants in the restoration were also present from the Hori Bath House Restoration Committee, BOLA Architecture, SWCA, and Big Fish Construction.



Completed Hori Bath House behind Neely Mansion.



Taiko drummers at Hori Bath House Celebration.

John D. Spellman Award for Hori Furoba

The Neely Mansion Association was awarded the King County “John D. Spellman Award for Restoration” for its preservation work on the historic Hori Family Furoba (bath house). After two years of effort the completed furoba exhibit is now open for viewing. Built in 1930 by Shigeichi Hori, this traditional small building with its wooden tub was an integral part of each day, as the family soaked after many hours of labor on the farm. Japanese-American families throughout the Puget Sound area once had furobas, but now the Hori Furoba is thought to be the last one remaining in King County. It has been designated a King County Landmark.

Thank you to all those who supported the restoration efforts: our Hori Furoba Committee, BOLA Architecture, SWCA Environmental, Big Fish Construction, 4Culture, the King County Council, and the King County Historic Preservation Office.

2016 Master Gardeners Garden News

Thank you for your support for the following garden donations:

McClendon's Hardware in Renton: \$25.00 gift card

Coastal Farm and Ranch in Auburn: \$75.00 gift card

Hy-Grass Farm in Auburn: truck load of Moo-Doo manure

Ed Hume: wild flowers and pollinator seeds for our 2017 wild flower meadow

Pat and Margaret Spencer of Cascadia Iris Gardens: Irises for our year round iris garden

Calla/Dahlia Guy on South 321st St off Peasley Canyon Road: Amaranth and Love Lies Bleeding.

The Master Gardeners were busy this year again!!

The natural fiber dye garden was enlarged to add a veggie patch. Sharon is working with red and yellow onions and beets to dye yarn and fabric. The *Coreopsis tinctoria* that we grew from seed was beautiful. The dark-eyed center and yellow petals created a beautiful soft yellow dye on wool. The self-seeded calendula gave us three harvests of gold and yellow flowers which also produced a yellow dye. Other flowers in this garden included green, coral, and red love lies bleeding, amaranth, hot pink zinnias, French marigolds, bee balm, Joe Pye weed and contorted elderberry trees. Next year this garden will have more perennials. *P.S. You don't have to be a spinner, knitter, or dyer to enjoy this beautiful garden.*



The shade garden received a huge private garden donation opportunity last fall! We added astilbe, hostas, dead nettle, and ferns under the big evergreen tree near the front door. More shade plants were planted under the cherry trees near the hops arbor. Linda P. has planned to include spring blooming bulbs and heuchera for next year. We are also planning to have a brick painting class – *that is to say ... learn how to paint the name and picture of a plant on a brick for your garden.*

Iris plants were in bloom all season in the triangle garden. Diane did an early summer renovation in the triangle garden and we enjoyed the beautiful display of dahlias, carnations, peony, bell flowers, veronica, and blue salvia all summer. This fall and spring we will continue renovations by transplanting azaleas, rhodies, and planting more irises. Come see the iris garden anytime next year to enjoy irises in bloom! *Who knew there are irises that bloomed every month of the year? Guess you'll have to come every month to discover your favorite!*

Our veggie garden was enlarged by Don to include corn and pumpkins. Our produce went to Federal Way Senior Center Food Bank, Shag Senior Housing, and the Renton Salvation Army Food Bank. Diane will take the lead on the veggie garden next year.

Garden hint: Always rotate the location of your veggies each year. Get your soil tested and amend with aged manure, nitrogen, and/or compost as needed. Don't forget about trace minerals too. Want to learn more about how to do this? Watch for our 2017 lecture series; come learn from the Master Gardeners.

Straw bale gardening is a new and different way to garden. Think, a 2 foot tall raised bed and a container garden all in one...*without using soil!* Carol planted Japanese herbs and veggies in honor of our 1930s Japanese Bath House renovation and celebration. We also planted “Ketchup and Fries” which is a graphed tomato (above) and a potato plant (potatoes grow inside the straw bale). Jack-Be-Little pumpkins, onions, leeks, carrots, radishes also shared the bales. In addition, the other five bales had Ozette potatoes, onions, leeks, eggplant, peppers, Japanese pink tomatoes, cukes, and lots of herbs. *Do you have a hip, back or knee problem? Come learn how to set up, condition, plant and grow without soil in straw bale next spring.*

The stunning Victorian cutting garden will undergo a renovation with Don this fall and continuing through the summer. We look forward to a new and different spring and summer bouquets!

In the culinary and medicinal herb garden we added pottery name tags so come learn about lovage, santolina, horehound, and many more. In 2017 Sharon will reorganize some of the plants and replace those that were too tender.

Here is the *Buzzzzzzz....* For 2017:

- Brewer's garden: plants and herbs that pioneers and people today use to create home brews of beer, ale, wine, and other non-alcoholic beverages.
- Galvanized troughs (raised beds): we will plant strawberries, carrots, other root crops, and more.
- Wild flower meadow: we have delayed planting the meadow due to DOT's “Porter's Reach” work on the Green River. We had terrible flooding last year and we hope that the

DOT planning and work will eliminate the flooding problems in our meadow. We did however plant several varieties of blueberries that don't mind wet feet.

- Honey bee hives: we have an amazing variety of flowering plants that will support our hives. More information will be shared in our next newsletter. Or better yet, come to a lecture and look at our hives. *FYI ~ we also have Mason (early spring) and Leaf Cutter Bees (July and August) in blocks/houses. We also have bumblebees which visit us. They live in a solo nest which means they do not live in big numbers and typically not in man-made "houses".*

Vintage Collectables, Crafts, and Appraisal Faire



The first Vintage Collectables, Crafts, and Appraisal Faire was held at the Mansion on August 6, 2016 and was a wonderful success! We had over 100 folks that shopped, browsed, toured the mansion and grounds, had their treasures professionally evaluated, and had a darn good cup of

coffee. I would like to thank our vendors: Junkalicious, Rekeyed Creations, Carol O., Swick's Restorations, Todd M., A Very Vintage Market, Fancy Pantz Designs, and Lakota Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. Thank you to our two evaluators from the International Society of Appraisers (ISA), Kittie Victor and Don Jensen; they appraised many different items like paintings, telephones, and a gold-leaf clock and candelabra set.

We are already planning for next year's event tentatively scheduled for July 15, 2017. There will be even more vendors, up to 30! And Kittie and Don have already agreed to come back too!

Please check our calendar on our website, www.neelymansion.org or our Facebook page for updates.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that helped make this event a success!

In Sympathy

We are sad to announce the passing of Masako Mae Fukuda Matsumoto, 98, last of the original Fukuda family to reside in the Neely Mansion from 1914 to 1929. Mae, who later lived in Los Angeles CA, spent her childhood at the mansion. We were able to correspond with Mae, and she was kind enough to share wonderful family stories with us. She was a lady full of warmth and wisdom. Our condolences go out to all her family.

Friends of Neely

The Neely Mansion Association is an all-volunteer, non-profit historical society. The mansion has been placed on the National Register for Historic Places, the Washington Register for Historic Sites, and is a designated King County Landmark.

Our mission statement: To restore and maintain the Neely Mansion as an historic house that actively interprets for the public the rich agricultural, pioneer, and ethnic heritage of the Mansion, its families and its surroundings in the Green River Valley.

We do this by giving interpretive tours to the general public and private groups. We open the mansion for special events several times a year. The lawn and gardens are a work in progress.

We have a volunteer board of directors and several volunteer "Friends of Neely" who help us with the many tasks involved in the restoration and upkeep of the Neely Mansion.

Some of our current goals:

- Expand our marketing with social media
- Train docents to give tours

- Plan and organize special events to benefit the Mansion
- Continue to improve our yard and gardens

If you have a special skill set, or would just enjoy helping in any way, on a regular or as needed basis, we would like to invite you to become a part of our Friends of Neely group. Your involvement would make a huge difference to Neely Mansion and the community. Please visit our website for additional information.

Membership

It is that time of year again to renew your membership! We appreciate your support for this past year and look forward to having you back in 2017. Although the cost of living has gone up this past year we are not increasing our membership dues. Please clip out the membership form and mail it or you may join via our website. Our annual membership meeting will be held in January 2017; please visit www.neelymansion.org or our Facebook page for the place, time, and program information. Thank you!

Please Support the Neely Mansion

Your membership dollars help to restore and maintain the Mansion.

- One year subscription to the *Neely Mansion News*
- Discounts on Neely Mansion collectibles
- Participate in the annual general meeting and program

Yes! I want to join the Neely Mansion Association. Enclosed is:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Senior | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Non-Profit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business Donation \$ _____ |

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ + _____

Phone and email: _____

- Please do not include my name on Donor Recognition Lists that are made public.

My Donation is:

In Memory/Honor of: _____

I or my spouse works for a matching gift company. I am enclosing my company's Matching Gift Form.

Company name and location

Volunteer opportunities at the Neely Mansion!

- YES, I want to be a volunteer.

Please make your checks payable to *Neely Mansion Association* and mail to:
Neely Mansion Association
PO Box 738
Auburn WA 98071-0738

2017 Events Calendar

January 21: General membership meeting/elections. A program on the Hori Bathhouse Restoration will be presented by Linda Van Nest. 2:00 pm at Neely Mansion. Wine and cheese refreshments.

February: Valentine Tea

May 13: May Tea

July 15: Neely Mansion Vintage Market and Appraisals

June – August: Mansion tours each Saturday from 1-4 pm

August 19: Doll Tea

December 2: Farmhouse Christmas Celebration

More info at: www.neelymansion.org and on our Facebook page.

Our Sponsors

Green Valley Meats

Canter-Berry Farms

Budget Towing & Mechanic Shop

Contact Us

Neely Mansion Association

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www.neelymansion.org and Facebook



CULTURE King County

Neely Mansion is available for private events. Book now!