



Neely Mansion Association



Fall, 2013
Volume 2 Issue 2

Newsletter

Mansion Makeover



New Porches

Did you notice some work going on as you drove by the mansion this summer? Our large side porch underwent a restoration to replace and repair posts, railings and flooring. Nuxoll Construction took on the challenge. Over a two-week period the porch went from rot and ruin to sturdy and safe. Our front porch and balcony also had minor work done to arrest deteriorated wood on the railings. Funding for this needed project came from a 4Culture Heritage Cultural Facilities grant.

Painting

Most recently, painters have been climbing tall ladders to give the house exterior its first coat of paint in ten years. The faded and peeling paint left the siding open to the elements. For the base coats we are using the original two colors of white with dark green trim. However, we are working with the King County Historic Preservation Office to discover if there was also a third color hinted at in a 1909 photo- a future project? Greg Anderson Painting is braving the fall weather to complete the initial painting work. A 4Culture Landmarks Capital grant is funding this project.



Service Day at Neely Mansion

by Max Beers

Saturday, September 14th was a great day of landscaping at the Neely Mansion. For two years in a row, the Lake Holm Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has served the community at the mansion for the National Day of Service and Remembrance. Each of the two years over 100 LDS Saints joined hands in this endeavor, mothers and fathers and children alike digging, cutting, pulling, planting, and cleaning in their typical cheerful attitude of service and fun, followed by a traditional barbecued feast. This year three gardeners from the WSU Master Gardeners program assisted.

And the results? Truly beautified Neely Mansion grounds! The volunteers cleaned out flower gardens and covered them with black earth-like mulch, lined by red bricks. Much of the fence line was cleared of invading blackberries and weeds. Flower bushes were trimmed, the arbor was newly painted and repaired, and most of the fire escape steps were replaced. Flowers and bushes were transplanted to a new planting area around the recent Eagle Scout built bat-houses, and many other small improvements were made, all leading to a significant and lasting improvement to our precious heritage site.



Thank you Lake Holm Ward. Thank you Master Gardeners. And thank you to the local businesses who contributed their resources to this greatly appreciated service: Mountain View Landscape and Design, Inc., BMC Lumber in Kent, ECO-PAN Inc. in Auburn, Glacier Recycling of Waste Management in Auburn, Rodda Paints in Kent, and Lowes in Auburn. Also, a big thank you to Preston Hunsaker and Dave Campbell for keeping the grounds mowed throughout the year.

Hilda's History Highlights

by Hilda Meryhew

Aaron Neely built the Neely Mansion in 1894. As a boy, Aaron traveled west with his family. His father, David Neely, was the Wagon Train Master for the 27 wagons that left Missouri and crossed the Overland Trail in 1854. The 2,000 mile journey was difficult. In Idaho they divided the Wagon Train and agreed they would join up again along the way in a few days. One group left and the wagons that stayed

behind were massacred. Five months later the twelve surviving families laid claim to the land in White River Valley (now Auburn & Kent). At that time there were Native Americans living in the area, some friendly, and others hostile to the newcomers.

Happy Hunting! Hilda

Neely Mansion Association Board 2013

President: Linda Van Nest
Vice President: Karen Meador
Treasurer: Hilda Meryhew
Secretary: Bonnie Azzelino

Membership: Karen Bouton
Director: Lynn Gough
Director: Max Beers

Membership

by Karen Bouton

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 2014. Although the cost of living has gone up this past year we are not increasing our membership dues. Our annual membership meeting will be held in January 2014; visit www.neelymansion.org for the place, time, and program information. Thank you!

Website

Webmaster Nancy Caldwell has done an extremely good job in updating our website and we are appreciative of her work. Please explore the new website at www.neelymansion.org and share it with all your friends and family.

Your membership dollars help to restore the Mansion. Also:

- Receive a one year subscription to the *Neely Mansion News*
- Get discounts on Neely Mansion collectibles
- Participate in the annual general meeting and program

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

- \$15 Student/Senior
- \$20 Individual
- \$30 Family
- \$40 Non-Profit
- \$100 Business

Name _____

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*Neely Mansion
Newsletter*

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*Interpreting the past
for the future.*

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.neelymansion.org

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Neely Mansion Association

Victorian Farmhouse Christmas is Coming!

Our traditional Victorian Farmhouse Christmas is coming on December 7th and 8th at Neely Mansion. Enjoy a cup of warm tea or apple cider served buffet style along with delicious pastries, sandwiches, cookies, and candies. Come and see our many rooms beautifully decorated with fresh trees and period ornaments.

Upstairs two new rooms will show Japanese and Swedish holiday traditions. Hear carols sung by a quartet from the Cascade Foothills Chorale. This afternoon event is by reservation only. Reservations will be accepted beginning November 1st at \$15.00 per person. Please call us at 253.850.2777.



Elections will be held in January at our Annual General Meeting. Candidates are: Linda Van Nest, President and Carol Grimes, Director. Check out our website or call for more information. We hope to see you there!

Neely Mansion is available for private event rentals including small weddings, receptions, family parties. Just call 253.833.1230.

*Neely Mansion
Association*

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Thanks for all your support!

Victorian Farmhouse Christmas
is coming on December 7th and 8th.
Make your reservations now!