



The Key Connection

PUGET SOUND ASSOCIATION OF PHI BETA KAPPA

P.O. BOX 15258, SEATTLE, WA 98115-9998 • WWW.PSA-PBK.ORG



**James Loewen, author,
speaker at the PSA-PBK
Fall Luncheon:**

**Friday, October 8, 12
noon, at the Washington
State History Museum,
Tacoma**

Pathfinder Awards

It isn't too early to consider candidates for the Pathfinder Awards that will be presented at our Spring Luncheon. The annual awards are meant to honor "those individuals and institutions who reach beyond their professional boundaries with specific projects that stimulate intellectual achievement in others." Send your nominations to Myra Lupton c/o PSA-PBK, or see our Web site for more information.

Scholarships

PSA-PBK was pleased to award five undergraduate scholarships this year of \$1,500 each. The recipients were Chelsea Evans and Erin McCullough of the University of Puget Sound and Cassie Giles, Jacqueline Gomes, and Gina Guyer of the University of Washington.

Nationally known iconoclast James Loewen to speak at Fall Luncheon

James Loewen, whose books brilliantly uncover forgotten history and suppressed memories, will speak at the Association's Fall Luncheon, to be held at the Washington State History Museum in Tacoma on Friday, October 8. Best known for his book *Lies My Teacher Told Me*, Professor Loewen will report on his investigation of a new and disturbing topic, "Sundown Towns." These towns were all-white, and all-white on purpose—as some still are. They appeared all across America between 1890 and 1940, and were called sundown towns because their city limits were typically marked with signs that read, "Nigger, Don't Let the Sun Go Down on You in [name of town]."

Professor Loewen has taught at Mississippi's Tougaloo College and at the University of Vermont. He now lives in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Carleton College, he holds a Ph.D. in sociology from Harvard University. (More information is available at his personal Web site, <http://www.uvm.edu/~jloewen>.) In his book *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your High School History Textbook Got Wrong*, he argues that high school textbooks avoid conflict, suspense, and the uncomfortable side of American history. In another book, *Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong*, he shows how we often commemorate events that never actually happened. For Professor Loewen, setting the record straight is no antiquarian exercise, but a passionate commitment to enlightenment.

Please make your reservations by September 29 using the form at the bottom of the next page. The buffet luncheon will be held at 12 noon on Friday, October 8, at the Washington State History Museum, 1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, a block from the S. 21st Street exit from I-705. The cost is \$35 per plate, which includes free access to the museum's exhibits. For driving directions and parking information, please visit our Web site, <http://www.psa-pbk.org>, or the museum's Web site, <http://www.wshs.org/wshm>.

Treasurer search continues

We are still looking for a worthy volunteer who would like to serve as PSA-PBK treasurer. Larry Katz will be with us until spring, but that will come sooner than we can imagine. In the meantime, it would be helpful if the new treasurer had the chance to work a while with Larry before he leaves. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Larry at (206) 527-9132, katzlarry@hotmail.com, or Kate Ostrom at (245) 255-3151, kateostrom@aol.com.

Tour of Seattle Central Library scheduled for November 13

We invite you to tour Seattle's new Central Library with Dale Stenning of Hoffman Construction on Saturday, November 13, 2004, at 11:00 a.m. The group will gather at the Fourth Avenue entrance at 10:30.

Located in the block bounded by Madison and Spring Streets and Fourth and Fifth Avenues, the library has been variously described as striking, revolutionary, odd, and lovely. Mr. Stenning worked with Dutch architect Rem Koolhaas as part of the Central Library's design and construction team and will tell you about its "five platforms" as well as the intriguing five-year process it took to create Seattle's latest icon. Flat, comfortable shoes are recommended. After the tour, join other local Phi Betes for a no-host lunch in a nearby restaurant.

The cost for this tour is \$10 per person, or two for \$15. Fees will benefit the PSA-PBK Scholarship Fund. There is a limit of 25 participants, so please reserve your spot as soon as possible, using the form at the bottom of the next page. Your check and registration form must be received by October 30. Parking is available at \$4 an hour in the library's garage, which can be accessed from Spring Street. Further parking information and driving directions are available on the library's Web site, <http://www.spl.org>.



Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa

P.O. Box 15258

Seattle, WA 98115-9998

**Saturday kaffeeklatsch:
Back by popular
demand**

This winter and spring, we will be organizing more kaffeeklatsches: groups of 15-20 people engaged in conversation on a particular topic with the help of a discussion leader. We'd like to specially thank Paul Moses Strasko, who ably led our last meeting in June. It was extremely enjoyable for those who attended.

If you'd like to be notified of future kaffeeklatsches, please return the form at the bottom of this page. If you'd like to lead one yourself or be a host, please contact Bonnieclaire Erling at (206) 878-2086, or bonnieclaire.erling@comcast.net.

**High school outreach
program grows**

Our ever-popular high school book awards were given to more graduating seniors this past spring than in 2003. Likely future members of Phi Beta Kappa from the Puget Sound area are selected by their schools, both public and private, on the basis of their cumulative GPA as well as their outstanding contributions to their school or community. Each student receives a book, selected by our board, with his or her name written in calligraphy on a bookplate inside the front cover. Presentations are done in accordance with the wishes of participating schools.

Why getting involved pays off

When I came to PSA-PBK, I had just moved to Seattle and was looking for a job. I am neither the first nor the last to come to the association in this way, as I have since discovered. I also wanted to be around a group of smart people who are dedicated to educational excellence—not so easy once you have left university! I found Myra Lupton's address in the *Key Reporter* and sent her a holiday card, which she immediately returned with an invitation to sit in on a board meeting. At that time, I had never been to a board meeting in my life, and I briefly felt like the heroine of a rags-to-riches story. *Discovered by Phi Beta Kappa: A Jobless Twentysomething Rises to Top of Esteemed Organization.* And it kind of went like that. I showed up at the next meeting as a guest and just kept showing up until I was on the board.

Since then I have had two jobs and started my own business, but PSA-PBK is still important to my life. Why did I stay? This group is one of the most organized and dedicated that I have worked with. People actually do what they say they are going to do, on time. I have stayed because I really like the people that I have met here. Everyone has a strong personality. People play by the rules and care about what they're doing.

I try not to miss our activities. The speaker lunches give me a chance to get inside

buildings to which I wouldn't normally have access, dress up, eat good food, and share the thoughts of a distinguished speaker, as well as the company of fellow Phi Betes. Architecture and garden tours open up a new world of knowledge and appreciation for the places that I walk past every day, adding texture to my Seattle landscape. The recently revived kaffeeklatsch discussion series featured my husband, Paul Strasko, as its first speaker. PSA-PBK has been good to the whole family!

The more you put in, the more you get out. Whatever you come looking for, you will end up staying for a whole lot more.

— Sandra Andrews-Strasko,
Alpha (University of Washington) 1998

Ernest Stiefel Award

We are pleased to announce that Nicole Teresa Bleakly of the University of Washington and Katie Briggs of the University of Puget Sound have received this year's Ernest R. Stiefel Graduate Study Awards. The award committee was impressed by their education, career goals, work experience, and statement of financial needs. PSA-PBK established the award three years ago in honor of longtime treasurer Ernie Stiefel, who has served on the board since 1965 and is considered the "backbone of the organization."

Randolph Hennes to speak at Golden Anniversary Dinner

We will celebrate our golden anniversary on Tuesday, September 28 with a very special dinner, looking back on those 50 years and recognizing some of the people who have made them memorable. It will be held at the Women's University Club, located at 1105 Sixth Avenue in downtown Seattle.

Dr. Randolph Hennes, a thoroughly informative and engaging speaker, will present "Whatever Happened to the Smith Tower? Seattle Fifty Years On." Describing himself as "that rare bird, a Seattle native," Dr. Hennes earned a B.A. and Ph.D. in history at the University of Washington. During the Korean War, he served as a line officer in the U.S. Navy, and has taught at Wayne State University and the UW. His principal area of interest has been military history and, more recently, the issue of "remembering the war: the nature and function of war memorials, battlefields, and military cemeteries." At his retirement in 2001, he had served for nearly thirty years as associate director of the University Honors Program. He remains associated with the program in an emeritus role and continues to be an adjunct member of the history faculty. In addition, our current vice president, Gerry Oppenheimer, will present a special tribute to Ernie Stiefel for his many years of service on the board, and throughout the dinner, we will be recognizing former presidents who are present. Emcee for the evening will be Bobbe Bridge, committee chair.

The festivities begin with a 6:30 p.m. reception that includes a no-host bar. Dinner is at 7:00; attendees may choose between planked salmon or roasted vegetable strudel. The cost is \$50 a plate. To make your reservations, please use the form at the bottom of the page. Space is limited, so please return it to us by September 21.

Pay your dues for 2004 and get involved!

It's never too early to support PSA-PBK. Please check the date on your mailing label to see if your membership has expired. Dues are tax-deductible.

_____ \$30/Regular _____ \$60/Sustaining _____ \$100/Patron
_____ \$250/Key _____ Please contact me, I want to volunteer.

Golden Anniversary Dinner, Tue., Sept. 28 (RSVP by Sept. 21)

Total number attending @ \$50 each: _____
Meal: Salmon _____ Vegetarian _____

Fall Luncheon, Fri., October 8 (RSVP by September 29)

Total number attending @ \$35 each: _____

Central Library Tour, Sat., November 13 (RSVP by October 30)

Total number attending: _____
Price: \$10 per person; two for \$15

I would like to attend [], host [], or lead []
the next kaffeeklatsch. Please call me.

My enclosed check to PSA-PBK is allocated as follows:

\$ _____ Total amount for Golden Anniversary Dinner

\$ _____ Total amount for Fall Luncheon

\$ _____ Total amount for Central Library Tour

\$ _____ Total amount for scholarship donation

\$ _____ Total amount for 2004 dues

\$ _____ **Total check amount**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Please make checks payable to Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa, P.O. Box 15258, Seattle, WA 98115-9998.

Questions? E-mail us at administration@psa-pbk.org, or call Kate Ostrom at (425) 255-3151.