



# The Key Connection

news & events

Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa



Shanna Stevenson

## Washington Women Win the Vote: Centennial Reflections at the Fall Luncheon

*Wednesday, October 14, 11:45 a.m., Red Lion Hotel, Bellevue*

The year 2010 marks the hundredth anniversary of Washington state's granting women the right to vote. Or does it? Washington women had voted before — from 1883 to 1888, until the territorial supreme court revoked their franchise. Though the 1910 law did not include all women, it was a pivotal event in the movement that culminated in the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution in 1920, enacting women's suffrage nationally.

And that is only the start of the story. Shanna Stevenson, the scheduled speaker at our Fall Luncheon, has led the Washington Women's History Consortium to uncover long-buried evidence that women's organization and agitation secured their voting rights. Their work uncovered unexpected links with Eastern women's rights activists — going back to the Seneca Falls Declaration of 1848 — and little-known stories of how Washington women took the fight from the parlor into the street.

Most important of all, once women gained the right to vote, they did not stop. The work of Stevenson and her colleagues traces a direct line between the suffrage movement and the current political scene, in which, for example, Washington's governor and U.S. senators are all women.

Shanna Stevenson holds a BA in history and education from Gonzaga University, and a master's degree in public administration from The Evergreen State College. After more than 20 years as a historic-preservation professional, she joined the Washington State Historical Society in 2006 as coordinator of the Washington Women's History Consortium. Hear and discuss this fascinating story that brings history to life at our Fall Luncheon, which takes place at 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday, October 14, at the Red Lion Hotel, 11211 Main Street, in downtown Bellevue. Reservations are \$32 a person. Please fill out the coupon on page 7, which we must receive no later than October 5. For further information or questions please email [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org) or call Linda Willenberg at 425-641-1606.

## Stories, struggle, and journeys: The Northwest African American Museum

*Saturday, September 26, 11:30 a.m., Seattle*

The Northwest African American Museum asks what it means to be African American in the Pacific Northwest. Members and guests of PSA-PBK have the opportunity to find out on Saturday, September 26. Located in the former Colman School just east of downtown Seattle, the museum offers three substantial exhibits.

In "Stories that Cover Us," the women of the Pacific Northwest African American Quilters bravely give us access to their lives — brimming with memories, hopes, joys, milestones, losses, (continued on next page)

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passions, and accomplishments. The stories woven into these quilts tell of an African American community living at this particular time in history, in this particular place.

“Tacoma’s Civil Rights Struggle: African Americans Leading the Way” explores the trials and tribulations of the civil rights movement in one Washington city, featuring more than 100 artifacts and many stories that will astonish most visitors.

“The Journey Gallery” takes visitors on a fascinating journey through space and time, introducing the history, culture, and art of the region’s African American community. In the museum’s words, “using a mix of photos, artifacts and compelling narratives, the Journey Gallery invites you to explore this continually changing story, for it is yours, it is mine, it is ours.”

We meet at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, at the museum, which is located at 2300 S. Massachusetts Street. There is ample on-site parking. After the tour, all are invited to a no-host lunch in the museum’s café. For more information on the museum, visit their Web site, <http://naamnw.org>. To make your reservation, please fill out the coupon on page 7, which we must receive no later than Sep 21. The cost is \$5 a person. For further information please email [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org) or call Linda Willenberg at 425-641-1606.

## **Phi Beta Kappa Magee Address: “Remarks About Penrose Tilings”**

***Tuesday, October 27, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., in Thompson 175 on the UPS campus.*** Professor Alan Thorndike, University of Puget Sound will deliver “Remarks About Penrose Tilings” on Tuesday, October 27, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., in Thompson 175 on the UPS campus.

“Tiling” refers to the use of certain geometric shapes to cover a surface without leaving any holes or having any overlapping tiles. Everyone is familiar with using square tiles to cover a floor, but not many of us can imagine tiling with equilateral or isosceles triangles, or even with diamonds. These possibilities were discovered by Roger Penrose 30 years ago. It appears that the most interesting tiling results when rules are invoked for how the tiles can be arranged. This illustrates the general principle that the most interesting behavior appears when enough constraints are applied to rule out the simple and the dull, but not so many constraints as to rule out the surprising.

The Magee address was established in honor of John B. Magee, professor of philosophy and religion and a driving force in establishing a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Puget Sound in 1986. For further information please email [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org) or call Linda Willenberg at 425-641-1606.

## **Join us for food and fun at a no-host dim sum brunch**

***Saturday, November 14, 11:00 a.m., New Hong Kong Restaurant, Seattle***

Please join us on Saturday, November 14, at 11 a.m., for a no-host Chinese dim sum brunch at the New Hong Kong Restaurant, 900 S. Jackson Street, in Seattle’s Chinatown/International District. Free parking is available, and is accessible from the east side of the building on 10th Avenue S. Your family members and guests are welcome to attend. This will be a great time to socialize with other PSA-PBK members and enjoy some delicious dim sum. To let us know that you plan to attend, please fill out the coupon on page 7, which we must receive no later than November 6, or RSVP via e-mail to [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org) by November 12. For further information please email [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org) or call Linda Willenberg at 425-641-1606.

## **Those who serve on your board**

The Phi Betes who serve on your board of trustees include Linda Willenberg, president; Gerry Oppenheimer, vice president and archivist; Myra Lupton, secretary; Daniel Leach, treasurer; and Kate Gunsul, past president. Others on the board are Redmond Barnett, Vivian Chun, Barbara Clinton, Joe Janes, Howard M. Johnson, Karrin Klotz, Benjamin Lukoff, Margaret Palmquest, Terry Pottmeyer, Louise Richards, and Amy Ryken.

Non-board members serving on committees are Nancy Blase, Chuck Goldstein, Nick Kontogeorgopoulos, Wilson O’Donnell, David Rose, and Ernest R. Stiefel.

## Two board members share their experiences in Nazi Germany at the Spring Kaffeeklatsch

At this year's Spring Kaffeeklatsch, PSA-PBK board members Gerry Oppenheimer and Ernie Stiefel told of their experiences leaving wartime Frankfurt am Main, Germany, and their travels to the United States.

Stiefel spoke of the persecution of German Jews under the Nazi regime, especially after *Kristallnacht*, which took place on November 10, 1938. At that time, very few countries would allow Jewish refugees to immigrate, but both Stiefel and Oppenheimer were fortunate to have sponsors in the U.S., and low enough "waiting numbers" at the consulate to obtain immigration visas in early 1940. Under the American quota system, only 27,000 immigrants were allowed to enter from Germany each year; Oppenheimer's family's number was 10,480, which meant he was not able to leave until May, 1940.

Oppenheimer had graduated from high school in 1937 at the age of 15, but since a university career was no longer open to Jews, he became an apprentice in the office of a Jewish-owned rubber factory. Immediately after *Kristallnacht*, the firm was taken over by non-Jews, and he lost his job. He later found employment as a member of the buildings administration of the Jewish community, which had been assigned by the Gestapo to attend to all matters pertaining to the Jews of Frankfurt.

Stiefel was forced to leave school in 1936, at the age of 15. He then went to work for a Jewish wholesale firm, but that job ended in 1938. Stiefel was arrested during *Kristallnacht* but spared the concentration camp because he was not yet 18. Between then and emigration, he tried to learn a trade, but never used what he learned.

Both Stiefel and Oppenheimer spoke of the difficulty of fulfilling all the requirements to get a passport, and the red tape they had to get through for permission to travel with their belongings. Each emigrant was allowed to take along a total of \$3. The extremely efficient Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden, a Jewish organization ordered by the Gestapo to arrange for the trips of Jews leaving Germany, had managed to prepay all their costs, with the help of Jews in the United States.

Stiefel had planned to travel through Italy to New York, and Oppenheimer from Hamburg, but at the time, neither voyage was possible, after Italy entered World War II in June 1940 on the heels of the German invasion of France. Stiefel and Oppenheimer described their nearly identical routes that took them east, not west, to the United States. From Moscow, they took the Trans-Siberian Railway on a seven-day journey to the Chinese border town of Manzhouli, continuing from there by rail and ferry to Shimonoseki and Kobe, Japan. Oppenheimer and his family boarded the NYK liner *Yawata Maru* in Yokohama and arrived in Seattle on September 11. They were met on arrival by representatives of the Walla Walla Jewish community, which agreed to sponsor them. This made it possible for Oppenheimer to attend Whitman College until 1943, when the U.S. Army called him up.

Stiefel left Yokohama on July 22 on the *Hikawa Maru*, arriving in Seattle on August 3. Except for three years in the U.S. Army, he has lived here ever since. After graduating from the University of Washington, Stiefel became a certified public accountant and was active in the community, including with Phi Beta Kappa. He served two years as the president of the Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle.

The Kaffeeklatsch, which drew a capacity crowd, took place at Kay Wilson's Bellevue home.

## Two Stiefel Awards given

Miriam Korngold (UW '09) and Jeremy Luk (UW '07), both entering graduate school at the University of Washington, received this academic year's Stiefel Awards in the amount of \$3,000 each.

After receiving her JD, Korngold plans to provide legal representation to marginal groups in American society, including immigrants, children, the elderly, low-income families, and individuals with disabilities.

Luk plans to enter a program leading to a PhD in child clinical psychology. His area of specialty is substance abuse and addictive behavior among adolescents.

Questions? Email us at [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org) OR [president@psa-pbk.org](mailto:president@psa-pbk.org)

## **Our heartfelt thanks**

We salute the 95 Phi Betes listed below who have generously given to support our scholarships and other programs. Many of these good people have donated more than once during this past period — since our last newsletter and up through mid-August. We thank you sincerely for your gifts, large and small.

Kirk Adams	Eric Halsey	Johanna Quam
Richard Alvord	Zev Handel	Janet Ray
Dr. Ellsworth C. Alvord, Jr.	James Hoag	Mark Reutlinger
Lyda Anderson	Miles Hohenegger, PhD	Braiden Rex-Johnson
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Frances Bentley	Julie Hungar	Kathleen Rogers
Nancy Blase	Howard Johnson	David Rose
Gregg Blodgett	Sharon Kaku	Patricia Roundy
Bobbe Bridge	Karrin Klotz	Judith Runstad
Jonathan Bridge	Ted Kohler, MD	Nicholas Scheetz
Gloria Browning	Madora Lawson	Randolph Schnabel
Eileen Bryant	Mary Dudley Leaphart	Jan Shapiro
Carole Carroll	Marjorie Levar	Wenonah Sharpe
James Champoux	John Loeser, MD	Isabelle Sheen
Vivian Chun	Myra Lupton	Judith Silk
Laurie Clark	Gordon MacPherson	Sarah Sloat
Marc Cordova, MD	Patrick Marek	Gordon Stavig
Fred Crary	Louise McKinney	Ernest Stiefel
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Dorothy Eley	Neil Mullen	Elaine Adams Thompson
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Francis Floyd	Wilson O'Donnell	Lynda Watson
Ted Fosberg	Gordon Orians	Eugene Webb
Patricia Fuqua	Dr. Margaret Palmquest	Theodore West
Carol Gaiser	Alene Patterson	Mary Whisner
Sandra Gates	Terry Pottmeyer	James Wiborg
Charles M. Goldstein	Randy Price	John C. Windell
Alice Goodwin	Carl Pruzan	Linda Willenberg
Katherine Ostrom Gunsul		Dennis Yamashita

### ***Spotlight on new board members***

The Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa has been enriched recently by the addition of three new members to the board of trustees: Terry Pottmeyer, Howard Johnson, and Benjamin Lukoff.

*Terry Pottmeyer* has worked for decades in the nonprofit world, most recently as the executive director of Urban ArtWorks. She has served on numerous nonprofit boards, primarily those that support children, youth, or education. She has also served as a school board director. Initiated into Phi Beta Kappa in 1979 at the University of Washington, where she earned her degree in business administration, she also received her law degree from the University of Washington, and is a member of the Washington State Bar Association. Pottmeyer was awarded our 2009 Pathfinder Award for her work with youth at Urban ArtWorks, and has been a member of the association for many years.

*Howard Johnson* was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa at the University of Kansas in 1959 upon the completion of his bachelor's degree in mathematics. He has worked primarily in the field of education, earning both an MAT and EdD from Harvard University. His early teaching experience was in high school math, first in Lawrence, Kansas, and then in Newton, Massachusetts. He has held a number of administrative posts, first as principal of Bellevue's Interlake High School, and finally as deputy superintendent of the Bellevue School District. He has also worked as a lecturer at Stanford University and at leadership and teaching posts at the University of Washington. He has a number of publications in educational journals to his credit. Currently, Johnson is president-elect of Rotary First Harvest, but his largest volunteer effort was working over 10 years with the Boy Scouts of America. He brings a wealth of experience in administration and finance to the board of trustees.

*Benjamin Lukoff*, a Seattle native, has worked as a writer, editor, and indexer since receiving his BA in English from the University of Washington in 1997. He was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa there as a junior in 1996. Present at the initiation were his parents, including the late Fred Lukoff, retired professor of Korean at the university, who was initiated into Phi Beta Kappa nearly 50 years earlier at the University of Pennsylvania. In between stints at Microsoft and Amazon.com, where he served as music editor for a number of years, Lukoff received an MA in English linguistics from University College London. He is a contributor to the online newspaper Crosscut.com, and writes his own blog on local history.

### ***Fifty-five books presented in high school outreach***

As part of our high school outreach program, we awarded 55 books last year to outstanding graduating high school seniors in the Puget Sound area. Students in high schools, both public and private, in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Mason, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties, are eligible.

While the program introduces Phi Beta Kappa and its ideals to these students, it honors those who exemplify the core values of Phi Beta Kappa, which are the same today as they were in 1776 when the organization was formed: intellectual honesty, broad interests, tolerance, understanding, and the growth of the spirit as well as the mind.

Participating schools' principals provide the name of a student who best exemplifies those values. That student is given a book, on behalf of the Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa, that features a bookplate with the student's and school's name written in calligraphy. The book, which is selected each year by the association, is always a work of non-fiction, appropriate to a high school-level reader, that is also relevant and useful for someone entering college. Its subject matter must be connected with a liberal education, but it must approach the topic using the scientific method and rational discourse based on the evidence underlying its assertions.

## **Chapter News**

### ***Alpha seeks new executive secretary***

The Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the University of Washington is looking to hire a new executive secretary, whose role is to assist the executive committee in administering the affairs of the chapter. This part-time, non-UW position pays \$5,500 annually. For more information, please visit <http://depts.washington.edu/uwpbk/executivesecretaryjob.htm>.

### ***Alpha initiation includes ceremonies in Red Square and Henry Gallery***

The Washington Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa held its 2009 initiation ceremony on June 11, 2009, in the auditorium of the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington. A full list of 2009 invitees can be found at the chapter's Web site, <http://depts.washington.edu/uwpbk>. The initiation was preceded by a brief outdoor ceremony held below the bell tower of Gerberding Hall on Red Square. Few campus denizens are aware that the Phi Beta Kappa keys are carved four times into the upper façade of the tower of the university's administration building, which was built in 1948–49. Following an explanation of the carvings' symbolism by chapter president Zev Handel, the initiates, along with their families and friends, were treated to a specially arranged performance by student volunteers of the newly installed change-ringing bells.

With the bells still ringing, the chapter's executive committee led a procession across Red Square to the Henry Art Gallery for the formal initiation ceremony. The invited speaker was Dean of Undergraduate Academic Affairs Ed Taylor, who engaged the standing-room-only audience with a riveting talk titled "Such Is My Fate: A Brief but Glorious Life."

The chapter was successful this year in its efforts to increase the acceptance rate among invited students, which had languished at or below 50% for years. It has now moved above 60%. A major factor was a generous grant from the UW President's Fund for Excellence that allowed the chapter to waive the entire initiation fee for all students with demonstrated financial need. And, as one of 13 members of national PBK's trial Parmele Program, the chapter received \$3,000 to help raise the profile of PBK on campus. Much of that money helped to fund our Lincoln commemorative event this past February, which was co-sponsored by PSA-PBK and Washington Alpha, and attracted over 70 attendees for an intellectually and socially stimulating evening at the UW Club. (For a full description of the event, see the spring 2009 newsletter article.)

Whether these gains for the chapter can be sustained in this troubling economic climate is uncertain. The Parmele Program has been temporarily suspended, and the President's Fund for Excellence has reduced the amount it is granting to the chapter next year. Nevertheless, we are hopeful that our dedicated executive committee, under the leadership of a new president, will be able to build on this year's successes and find creative solutions to continuing challenges.

The chapter elected a new slate of officers at its annual meeting in May. Officeholders for the 2009–2010 academic year are Joe Janes, president; Norm Arkans, vice president; Heather Clineschmidt, secretary; and Pam Stewart, treasurer.

The executive committee is looking forward to a new academic year of PBK activities and to further collaboration with the Puget Sound Association.

### ***Delta Chapter initiates 49***

In April 2009, 48 members of the University of Puget Sound Class of 2009 and one member of the Class of 2010 were initiated into Phi Beta Kappa at an evening ceremony at the President's House. Initiates and Delta Chapter faculty attended a celebration luncheon with university trustees and President Ronald Thomas during Commencement Weekend.

As part of the program, incoming Delta Chapter president David Tinsley, professor of foreign languages and literature, gave the celebration toast, and seniors Lisa Jacobson and Heather Jacobson each shared a reflection about a significant learning experience at UPS.

Message from your president

Our board's goals for 2009-2010 are to increase membership by at least 5%; increase total income by at least 10%; offer at least five undergraduate scholarships and one graduate study award; continue our Pathfinder Awards and our High School Book Awards; offer academic, cultural, and social programs; and publicize information about PSA-PBK on our Web site, in our newsletter, and through e-mail and social networking.

We are thankful for your continued support. Your dues and scholarship donations fund our activities. Please encourage other Phi Betes to attend our events and become members. If you have suggestions for interesting speakers or events, please contact us at administration@psa-pbk.org, or call me at (425) 641-1606. I look forward to hearing from you and seeing you at upcoming events.

Linda Willenberg, President

"Education consists mainly in what we have unlearned." — Mark Twain, notebook, 1898

ΦBK

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Coupon



NW African American Museum, Sep 26, 11:30am. (RSVP by Sep 21)

\_\_\_ # attending @ \$5 = \_\_\_

Guest name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Fall Luncheon, Oct 14, 11:45am. (RSVP by Oct 5)

Grilled citrus chicken \_\_\_

Baked spinach and basil lasagna (vegetarian) \_\_\_

\_\_\_ # attending @ \$32 = \_\_\_

Guest name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

No-Host Dim Sum Brunch, Nov 14, 11:00am. (RSVP by Nov 12)

Number attending \_\_\_

Guest name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED

\$ \_\_\_ Fall Luncheon

\$ \_\_\_ Museum Tour

\$ \_\_\_ Scholarship Fund

\$ \_\_\_ Dues

\$ \_\_\_ Total

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DUES (PLEASE CHECK MAILING LABEL  
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**Five undergraduate scholarships awarded**

We gratefully acknowledge your contributions to our Scholarship Fund, through which we were able this year to award five \$1,500 undergraduate scholarships to Katherine Buckley (international political economy, UPS), Sean Freeder (political science, UW), Byron Gray (political science; law, societies, and justice; and South Asian studies, UW), Greg Kirkpatrick (chemistry and mathematics, UPS), and Lauren Vandenberg (foreign languages and international affairs, UPS).

One of the recipients expressed his appreciation of our program by telling us that “the impact of the scholarship goes far beyond covering the bill for the next quarter; it allows local students to develop their application skills and gives them an encouraging boost for future goals.”

With your continued support, we hope to make such awards again next year.

**Please keep in touch**

Please check our Web site, <http://psa-pbk.org>, periodically for updated information on our association and upcoming events. If you have recently moved or changed your e-mail address, please let us know. You can contact us at Puget Sound Association of Phi Beta Kappa, P.O. Box 15258, Seattle, WA 98115-9998, or by e-mail at [administration@psa-pbk.org](mailto:administration@psa-pbk.org).

“Tis the good reader that makes the good book; in every book he finds passages which seem to be confidences or sides hidden from all else and unmistakably meant for his ear; the profit of books is according to the sensibility of the reader; the profound thought or passion sleeps as in a mine, until it is discovered by an equal mind and heart.” — Emerson, *Society and Solitude*, 1870.



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