



OCTOBER 2011 MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday October 13th Meeting

It has been a while since the Guild presented a program on music, but for much longer, 20 years, Kurt Armbruster has been engaged in research for his new book, *Before Seattle Rocked, a City and its Music*.

For most of its existence, the city celebrated steamships, railroads, and commerce, while ignoring another vital "connective tissue": music. More recently, historians have focused on jazz and rock and roll. *Before Seattle Rocked* tells the rest of the story, presenting the evolution of non-rock music as it reflected the city's character from 1850 to 1980. He will speak about the rise and fall of professional union music, the soap opera struggles connected with the symphony, the heyday of the dance band, as well as the emergence of country, folk, and ethnic strains. He interviewed dozens of veteran musicians from many musical genres and will share the joys and frustrations of their profession.

Kurt E. Armbruster is a Seattle native and historian (University of Washington, BA history) with a special love of oral history. He has written numerous historical articles and you probably recognize his name from two previous books: an oral history of Auburn railroad workers, *Whistle Down the Valley; 100 Years of Green River Railroading* (NRPLA, 1991); and *Orphan Road: The Railroad Comes to Seattle, 1853-1911* (WSU Press, 1999). He is currently writing a history of Burton and Florence James and the Seattle Repertory Playhouse. Armbruster is a professional bassist, singer-songwriter, and proud, card-carrying member of the Musicians Association of Seattle, Local 76-493, AFM.

Copies of his most recent book will be available for purchase before the meeting. Please come a half hour early.

Please Note: This program and the Guild's other monthly meetings are held the second Thursday of the month. This is a change from previous years. You are welcome to bring non-members and

friends as all these meetings are free and open to the public. Meetings are held at the Northeast (branch) Library (6910 35th Ave NE) and begin at 6:30pm.

September Meeting

Those who attended last month's panel discussion of new forms for presenting history heard an exciting account of what is not only possible, but is being done. There is the MOHAI Minute with its spirited moments which you can catch on YouTube. And we watched current tech examples of "Then and Now" photography which has been reborn and transformed into something quite new.

January Banquet

The date to save for the Annual Banquet is January 12, 2012. That's a Thursday. The place is South Seattle Community College (in West Seattle) and the building is the Brockey Center. Those who come early will have time to wander through the Chinese garden nearby.

We changed the day to a Thursday because of repeated conflicts with a UW lecture series. (The coming series is on Irish history.) And we had to finally recognize that costs at the University Club had become prohibitive. Even those who came were not getting to meet those they hoped to see. The Guild Board looked about at restaurants and schools and feel sure SSCC will put out a fine dinner. As for getting to there, we will arrange car pooling for those who ask. Those who drive will have little trouble finding the location. Directions coming in a later newsletter.

Annual Spring Conference

This year's conference will be in May (not March) so as to better mesh with its theme, the 50th anniversary of the Century 21 Fair. It will be held at the Seattle Center on the grounds of the fair. We begin with a reception on the evening of May 11th as a warm up to a full day of talks, walks, luncheon and other activities from 9 am to 5 pm on the 12th.

In the near future the Guild will issue a call for papers. Submissions require a one page proposal including a title, an indication of the form of the proposal (paper, visual, panel, etc.), and a short biography of the presenter. All proposals must have something to do with Century 21 and there are no off limit subjects. Possible subjects are architecture, programs, planning, futurism, attendance, city politics, race, gender, food, crime, health, landscaping and even (maybe) the Space Needle. The deadline for submissions is January 31, 2012.

November Meeting

Look forward to hearing from author Sandra Chait on Thursday, Nov. 10th about a new community in the Northwest composed of the people from the horn of Africa.

History House

The Guild has been in contact with History House, a non-profit which is planning to put on monthly talks around the theme of neighborhoods, broadly speaking. Those interested in knowing more or participating should contact John Nordstrom at [206-675-8875](tel:206-675-8875). History House is located in the Fremont district almost directly under the Aurora Bridge on 34th Street.