

May 2008 Newsletter

We are pleased to have Rich Kolin as our speaker for May. As usual the talk will be held in the Meeting Room of the University Branch of the Seattle Public Library, the date being Tuesday May 13th and time being at 5:30 pm. Parking has proved less of a problem than expected with plenty of spots available nearby on the street. Please note that the time is now 5:30 to accommodate those who requested a later time so that they could come after work. After the meeting some members have been crossing to the street to have dinner and a glass of wine at Mamma Melina's Restaurant.

MAY EVENING MEETING

The Northwest's association with small boats began immediately with the first European settlers and continues today with Rich Kolin who has been building traditional designs. Small craft were critical to transportation in Washington Territory in the days when roads were primitive wagon tracks that were impassable for much of the year and the steamboat was still in its developmental stages. Small boats powered by oar and sail were the backbone of the transportation system.

Rich's 35 year career has covered all aspects of boat building but his main interest has been the small working vessels of America. He has written books on building traditional boats as well as many articles. His hobby is researching and preserving the lost history of Northwest boats from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Rich has been a life long advocate of public education on wooden boats and has been instructing boat building classes for three decades. He describes himself as inspired by the works of Howard Chapelle and his friends, John Gardner and Pete Culler, two of the leaders of the Small Craft Revival of the later half of the 20th Century.

Rich's building activities include classes at the Center for Wooden Boats in Seattle, Washington, The WoodenBoat School in Brooklin, Maine, the Great Lakes School of Boat Building in Michigan, and The Northwest School of Boat Building at Port Hadlock, Washington. He has authored two books in the Traditional Wooden Boats Made Easy series published by WoodenBoat journal: Building Heidi, a 12 foot skiff for oar and sail and Building Catherine, a 14 foot pulling boat in the Whitehall tradition. Rich has also written a wide range of marine articles for many popular publications.

That he holds a BS degree in Manufacturing Engineering Technology from the University of Western Washington is easily explained. Surprisingly he also has a BA in Government from the University of California, Santa Cruz.

The evening's talk is a two part presentation on the Small Craft of Puget Sound Titled: Small craft in the days of oar and sail in the Puget Sound and the history of small craft in the famous oyster industry at Shoalwater Bay. The first part will discuss generic boat types that influenced the Puget Sound transportation system. The second, Shoalwater Bay (now Willapa Bay), has acquired an almost mystical attraction through the well-known

writings of James G. Swan, Willard Espy and Lucile Mc Donald. The talk will be illustrated with photographs from Rich's collection.

SPRING RAMBLE

May is the Guild's double header month with two closely spaced events, the second being our Ramble through the Arboretum. The Arboretum has arranged for us to have a guided tour by a staff associate. The cost is \$4 for non-members. Members pay \$2 with the Guild covering the rest.

Every garden has a tradition, whether Italian, French, English, Japanese, Chinese etc..and is created for a purposes, whether research, solitude, aesthetics, social, etc. Come hear about the our multi-acre urban garden and learn about its plants. In addition Guild Board member Junius Rochester has been preparing comments on the history of the Arboretum.

The tour will gather at the Education Center at 1 pm, Sunday May 18th. Questions should be addressed to Board member Dan Peterson at bdksp@comcast.net who organized the event with the Arboretum. At the start of the tour we will also sell a small number of remaindered copies of our 2002 publication More Voices, New Stories for a nominal amount to members.

CONTACTING THE GUILD

The Newsletter is sent from an otherwise unused address. Please do not use the Reply button. Officers are

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Our postal address is: P O Box 85457, Seattle WA 98145

JOYCE JUSTICE

Candace Lein-Hayes, last year's co-president, received word that Joyce Justice died on Saturday, May 3, 2008 in Spokane. She had been hospitalized last month with blood clots and pneumonia and was in a hospice at the time of her death. Joyce was an early Guild member and long time, out-of-sight Guild helper. She volunteered tirelessly for the Puget Sound Maritime History Society and will be remembered by many others through her work as an archivist with NARA at Sand Point.