



Newsletter September 2008

September Meeting

The Historians Guild takes pleasure in opening its 2008-09 season with **Joshua Reid** speaking on **How History Can Help Us Understand Current Makah Whaling.**

Over the last decade, members of the Makah nation, have hunted two gray whales. Legally and financially supported by the federal government and the Makah Tribal Council, the first hunt in 1999 was celebrated by many and vilified by a vocal minority of activists. The second hunt in 2007 – unsanctioned by either the federal government or tribal council – resulted in the death and subsequent loss of the whale and the arrest of those involved. While both events have attracted much attention and debate, the general public has remained largely unaware of the history of Makah whaling or why they continue this practice. His presentation will explore this important historical and cultural context to better understand current Makah whaling efforts.

Josh is a doctoral candidate in History in Native American Studies at the University of California, Davis where he is currently writing his dissertation: “‘The Sea Is My Country’: The Maritime World of the Makah, an Indigenous Borderlands People.” The tribe’s exploitation of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and marine borderland enabled them to participate in global networks of exchange, to resist assimilation, and to retain greater autonomy than many other land-based reservation communities. Josh has presented his work at conferences in the U.S., Canada, Finland, and New Zealand. Before beginning his graduate career, he taught in local Seattle middle schools and currently lives in Seattle.

We are very pleased that Dr. Charlotte Cote, who has been teaching in American Indian Studies at the University of Washington since 2001, will introduce his talk. She received her Ph.D. in Comparative Ethnic Studies from the University of California at Berkeley as well as a Degree in Broadcast Communications from the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

Dr. Cote researches issues around Native governance, politics, law, and sovereignty in the United States and Canada. Her publications deal with traditional Indian law and justice systems, the Makah and Nuu-chah-nulth whaling tradition and the northwest coast Guardian Spirit Complex. She serves as Chair of the “House of Knowledge” Project Advisory Committee to build a longhouse-style facility on the UW’s Seattle campus.

Where and When:

Guild Evening Meetings are at 5:30 in the Meeting Room at the University Branch of the Seattle Public Library the second Tuesday of September, October, November, February, April and May. There is no meeting in December while the Annual Banquet the Annual Conference displace the meetings in January and March. The library branch is located at 50th and Roosevelt Way in Seattle’s University District.

Annual Banquet, 2009

The Guild looks forward to the January Banquet where the guest “history maker” and speaker will be former U.S. Senator Slade Gorton. As before, the event will take place in the University Club at the University of Washington on January 13th. The recipient of the annual award will be chosen and announced later this year. The event is open to 2008 and 2009 members and their guests. Once more we thank Chuck LeWarne for making the arrangements for this notable event.

Annual March Conference, 2009

Members are already aware that the Guild's theme for the upcoming March Conference will recognize the hundredth anniversary of the Alaska Yukon Pacific Exposition. Program Chair for the all day event is Trish Hackett Nicola. Anyone wishing to be part of the program should contact her at PNWHGConference@gmail.com. Proposals need to be submitted before October 15th to Trish at 2908 27th Ave. West; Seattle WA 98199. The event will take place, as in previous years, at the Seattle's Museum of History and Industry with the Museum's support.

Guild Board, 2008-09

The Board is composed of four regular members and a Treasurer. Board members and their email addresses are:

Paul Spitzer (President)	bornbutonce@gmail.com
Junius Rochester	boobus@speakeasy.net
Dan Peterson	bdksp@comcast.net
One Vacant Position	
Judith Bentley (Treasurer)	

In addition the membership role is maintained by Bridget Murphy. Vania Mihova is our webmaster.

Please use the above email addresses and do NOT use the "Reply Button" to respond to this Newsletter. To reach the Guild by U.S. mail, send your message to:

PNW Historians Guild , P.O. Box 85457 , Seattle, WA 98145

Joining the Historians Guild

The organization is open to all without restriction. Present members include historians, both professional and amateur, teachers, librarians, journalists, archivists, curators, genealogists and others interested in the Pacific Northwest's past. To become a member or renew, please use the form available on our website at www.pnwhistorians.org. Memberships run from January to January and members may renew now for 2009. Non-members are always welcome to attend monthly meetings without joining.

A CALL TO OUR MEMBERS

Your new Board has tried to make the right moves:

- 1) interesting speakers at monthly meetings;
- 2) a local Ramble at the Arboretum;

- 3) plans in hand for an exciting AYPE Conference next March 7;
- 4) a very prominent speaker, Slade Gorton, at our Annual Banquet.

But we need to see and hear from YOU. When we stepped into the breach last year we anticipated that our faithful membership, especially former Board members and longtime colleagues, would help us move the Guild forward. Despite our efforts the results (your involvement) have been spotty - WE MISS YOU!

Please keep a close watch as we move along. And join us. Thanks.

The Board
Pacific Northwest Historians Guild