

# NEWS & EVENTS

SPRING 2009

## FOUNDERS' DAY:

JCHS ANNUAL MEETING FEATURES AN HOUR WITH WOODY GUTHRIE

JCHS staff and officers will provide a review of the accomplishments of 2008 at the annual meeting of the Jefferson County Historical Society on Sunday, April 26 in the Trinity Methodist Church, 609 Taylor Street, beginning at 2:00 p.m.

The program will feature a concert by Woody Guthrie (aka Carl Allen). Allen is a Humanities Washington re-enactor, part of the Inquiring Minds series. He has been working the folk music circuit for more than 50 years, entertaining in coffeehouses, state fairs, festivals, libraries and granges. Early on, he became a devotee of Woody Guthrie and has been doing Woody's songs at such venues as the Smithsonian, the Guthrie festivals in Oklahoma and Texas and on Oregon Arts Beat on Oregon Public Broadcasting.

Woody's music has a strong historical connection to Washington. In May 1941, the 28-year-old itinerant folk singer was hired by the Bonneville Power Administration to write songs about the New Deal power projects being built in the Pacific Northwest. He wrote 26 songs in 30 days: songs about the river, the dams, the men working on the project and what he saw around him in the green growing land he had never seen before. Allen tells the story of how the songs were written and what the times were like, just as if the songs and stories were being told by Woody himself.

The 2008 JCHS Annual Report is available online at [www.jchsmuseum.org](http://www.jchsmuseum.org) and will be distributed at the meeting. Historic preservation awards, which have been presented at Founders' Day in the past, will be awarded at the First Friday Lecture on May 1 in the Port Townsend City Council Chambers, beginning at 6:30 p.m.



*Humanities Washington Inquiring Minds speaker Carl Allen has been working the folk music circuit for 50 years. Early on he became a devotee of Woody Guthrie and has been doing Woody's music all that time.*

## COMMANDING OFFICER'S QUARTERS

JCHS has contracted with Washington State Parks to manage the Commanding Officer's Quarters (COQ) museum at Fort Worden State Park. It opened for the season Saturday, April, 18 and will be open Saturdays and Sundays, noon to 4:00 p.m. through April and May and daily 11:00 to 5 p.m. June, July and August.

Steve Bailey is the new manager and is planning many activities to keep the house lively and interesting, including a summer camp for boys, changing

exhibits and special Fathers' Day activities. Dozens who volunteered with the Heritage Group, which has kept the museum's doors open for 30 years, will continue to volunteer at the house. "I cannot give enough praise to Bill Conklin and his volunteers with the Heritage Group for the excellent job they have done running the COQ for so many years," Bill Tennent, historical society director, said. "They have set a high standard for the historical society to maintain."

The house is one of Fort Worden's finest buildings. It was completed in April 1904, and many different families resided there. Located at the head of Officers' Row, the Commanding Officer's Quarters overlooks Admiralty Inlet, with Mt. Baker and the Cascades in the background. Late Victorian and Edwardian furnishings provide a unique glimpse into the life of a senior U. S. Army officer and his family in the first decade of the 20th century.



*Dressed in period uniforms, Bill Conklin, left, shakes hands with Steve Bailey to seal the transfer of management of the Commanding Officer's Quarters museum from the Fort Worden Heritage Group to the Jefferson County Historical Society. By Jennifer Jackson / Peninsula Daily News.*



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## WELCOME NEW JCHS TRUSTEES

Brian Belmont, Mike Brasfield, and Gee Heckscher have been appointed as new JCHS Trustees. Brian Belmont is manager of the Ludlow Maintenance Commission and former manager of Kala Point. Mike Brasfield is retiring Jefferson County Sheriff, formerly with the Seattle Police Department and former Chief of the Fort Lauderdale

Police Department. Gee Heckscher is a senior associate with Architectural Resources Group, Inc. and a member of the Port Townsend Historic Preservation Committee and the Washington Trust.

## STEVE LEVIN DONATIONS

Steve Levin, JCHS board member, chairman of the Historic Preservation Awards committee, walking tour guide and local history lecturer, left a bequest of \$50,000 to the Jefferson County Historical Society following his death in December.

Steve was an avid collector of movie memorabilia. His collection includes two ticket boxes, one of which he donated to the Rose Theatre, where it is in use in the lobby. He was also a founding member and

president of the Theatre Historical Society of America.

Steve was the grandson of H.S. Levin, who started a business that turned into a family-owned chain of movie theatres in California. He moved to Port Townsend in 1991 where he bought a historic house.

In addition the bequest, several artifacts and archival photographs are coming to JCHS from Steve and his family.

## ORAL HISTORY COMMITTEE UPDATE

In the last few months, Ann Welch has videotaped and edited First Friday Lectures, Karen Russell's interview of Harvey Scarf (who was stationed at Fort Worden in the late 1930s and early 1940s) and a second interview with Inger Mullaney. This interview was conducted by her daughter, Anne, and Dorothy Cotton Banks. Dorothy loved the process and has offered to become the "wing-man" for future sessions.

Ann also videotaped and edited an interview with Lyda and Gerald "Sandy" Sandquist who have compelling stories about WWII. Both Lyda and Sandy served with medical platoons during the war. Lyda served in the South Pacific and Sandy in Europe.

Ann also edited a short video from the last summer's Jefferson County Fair of Zoe Flannigan describing all the fun she had at History Camp last summer. It is posted on YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BpmN3FZ8VDc>

The committee is in the planning stages of an event at the Elks where stories about Jefferson County's history abound.

At the April 8 JCHS Board Meeting, the trustees voted to approve funds for the purchase of video equipment.

## WALKING TOURS AND OTHER BRIDGE CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

Making the best of it, the community has planned dozens of activities to entertain and educate county residents during the closure of the Hood Canal Bridge. JCHS is offering **special exhibits at the museums, lectures, workshops and enhanced walking tours.** JCHS executive director Bill Tennent said, “The bridge closure will be an opportunity for local residents to explore their own backyard. There will be so much to do at home that I’ll bet they’ll even forget that the bridge is closed.”

**Walking Tours:** The multi-talented troop of JCHS tour guides will conduct enhanced tours that will not only include a costumed guide, but other costumed characters from Port Townsend’s colorful past along the tour route. Along Water Street, walkers might meet the flamboyant Henrietta Maynard in a historic saloon or the evil Victor Smith in a hotel lobby. Walking Tours Chairperson Lynne Sterling says, “We have a lot of enthusiastic new guides this year as well as returning veterans. They are eager to share their love of Port Townsend’s exciting past with our own residents.” During May and June, the Downtown tours will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays beginning at the Jefferson County Museum (admission included). The Uptown tours will be at 2:00 p.m. on Sundays beginning at the Rothschild House Museum (admission included). Tours are free for JCHS members and \$10 for non-members.

**Special Events:** Historic Preservation Awards on May 1; Mothers’ Day Sale in the Museum Shop May 3-10; Mothers’ Day Tea on May 10; Victorian Language of Flowers Workshop on May 23; Craig Romano, author of *Hiking on the Olympic Peninsula* speaking on June 5; Native American Basket Weaving Workshop on June 6. Call 385-1003 for more information.

**Museum Exhibits:** The **Jefferson County Museum** will have new exhibits of Native American baskets, early pioneer textiles, American comic books and historic photographs. The **Rothschild House Museum** will feature a new exhibit of historical textiles. The **Commanding Officer’s Quarters** will have a new historic timeline of the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The **Olympic Peninsula Gateway Visitor Center Museum** will feature a display of Olympic Mountain photographs by pioneer photographer George Welch in the 1900s to the 1920s.

Museum admission is always free for JCHS members and free for everyone on the first Saturday of each month. Passport pricing and group rates are available. Call 385-1003 for more information or see [www.jchsmuseum.org](http://www.jchsmuseum.org).



*A Native American basket weaving workshop accompanies a new exhibit of baskets that were collected by Lucinda Hastings, the first non-native woman in Port Townsend. The exhibit opens at the JCHS Museum on June 5.*

## NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS



*In the JCHS Museum’s Courtroom Gallery, a new timeline exhibit illustrates the geological formation and earliest European exploration of our region.*



*“Superman and American Comic Books,” mounted in the Collector’s Corner, a space in the JCHS museum created to highlight collections of all kinds, features Bill Tennent’s private collection of Superman comic books with issues dating back to the 1940s.*



JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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[www.jchsmuseum.org](http://www.jchsmuseum.org)

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## OLYMPIC GATEWAY VISITOR CENTER IS BRIDGE CLOSURE INFORMATION SOURCE

Jefferson County residents driving south on State Route 19 in the coming weeks should pull off at the Olympic Peninsula Gateway Visitor Center near the junction of State Route 104 for current information about the closure of the Hood Canal Bridge.

Center volunteers are preparing printed information relevant to all Olympic Peninsula residents. The Hood Canal Bridge closes at 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 1 for an estimated six weeks. During the closure bicyclists wishing to ride a water shuttle between South Point and Lofall must get on a bus at the Gateway Visitor Center.

The center has a bridge closure information area with printed material from all relevant agencies. This includes comprehensive transit and water shuttle information for Jefferson and Kitsap counties in "Discover Your Own Backyard," also called the "Bridge Closure Survival Guide," published by the *Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader*. There are other publications from Washington State Department of Transportation, Jefferson Transit, Kitsap Transit and others.

Volunteers will be updating information daily as the closure approaches. They can offer assistance with planning transport to medical services, SeaTac and other trips across and around the Canal.



*It could be worse. This is the road along the eastern part of Hood Canal when motoring was a real adventure.*