ACC ASSUMES OVERSIGHT OF THE STATUE OF LIBERTY PLAZA

The September 19, 2009 Time Capsule Celebration, held at the Alki Statue of Liberty Plaza, marked the transition of responsibility for the Plaza from the Seattle Statue of Liberty Plaza Project to the Alki Community Council. On October 15th, Jule Sugarman, President of the ACC, signed a Memorandum of Agreement with Seattle Parks & Recreation. This agreement, which will be in effect through fiscal year 2018, spells out the responsibilities of each party regarding the future maintenance of the Plaza.

Parks will be responsible for the general maintenance of the Statue, grounds, and landscaping and has made a commitment to clean and wax the Statue and oil the benches at the end of the first and third quarters of each year. Parks has also granted the ACC the right to sell additional bricks and plaques and will install these items in the Plaza. Costs of this installation will be drawn from the funds raised through the sale of the new bricks and (Continued on page 2)

ACC BRICK AND TRIBUTE PLAQUE SALE

The Alki Community Council is currently offering a limited quantity of engraved bricks and bronze Tribute Plaques for sale. All bricks sold will be approximately 4 x 8 inches. A “family or individual” brick is priced at $100, while a “business or organization” brick costs $250. You can download a brick order form, a brick sale FAQ, and a catalog of standardized symbols that can be engraved on your brick by going to www.sealady.org. All orders received by the end of February 2010 will be installed in spring of that year during the regular maintenance of the Plaza by Seattle Parks & Recreation. Placement of all bricks is at the discretion of the Plaza designers. For additional information on the bricks, please contact Eileen Hutchinson at (206) 933-8352 or libertyplaza@msn.com.

The bronze Tribute Plaques are approximately 5 x 7 inches and are priced at $2000. All Tribute Plaques will be installed in the concrete ribbon along the north side of the Plaza. For additional information, contact Libby Carr at (206) 938-8721 or libby@carrbiz.com.

Funds raised by this sale will be turned over to Seattle Parks & Recreation where it will supplement the existing maintenance fund or be used to support approved ACC sponsored events that benefit the Plaza and the community’s involvement with it.
“The Stories Behind the Bricks”
By Libby Carr

Harald Sund, a life long West Seattle resident, has been one of our most ardent supporters of the Statue of Liberty Plaza Project at Alki Beach. His interest and love for this place goes all the way back to 1952 when he was an 8 year old Cub Scout and, as such, was present for the big day of the Statue Dedication on February 23, 1952.

We very gratefully turned over the difficult task of locating those now grown Scouts (Boy, Cub & Sea) from the 1952 event to him. After weeks of tireless searching, Harald found 25 of them from primarily the west coast states, with many of them showing up for the Sept. 19, 2008 Dedication of the new plaza. We are quite confident they never would have heard about our Celebration had it not been for Harald’s efforts.

“I remember standing right here that day (pointing to the sidewalk area overlooking the old empty pedestal area), since I was shorter and I wanted to be able see everything,” Harald told me when we first met in person at the future plaza site. It was evident that Harald vividly recalled that childhood memory with great fondness. It had long ago become a part of his love for his “hometown”.

Harald is a consummate communicator. He’s had a long and well recognized career as a renowned landscape and environmental photographer regularly doing assignments all over the world for *Life Magazine*, *Time-Life Books*, and many other publications. He doesn’t travel as much now, but is under contract with Getty Images and has over 2500 registered images with them.

Patrick Robinson (publisher of the West Seattle Herald) did a fabulous story on Harald Sund, complete with a few of Harald’s images which you can see at: www.westseattleherald.com/2009/09/27/features/personal-profile-harald-sund-sees-world-west-seattle-perspective and on www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYwJNeiUSfM.

Take a moment and enjoy a few of Harald’s stunning photos from around the world and catch his enthusiasm as he talks about his love for Alki Beach and West Seattle. And Thanks, Harald, for your contributions to making the new plaza a reality.

(ACC ASSUMES OVERSIGHT Continued from page 1)

Plaques. Parks will also remove any graffiti and repair any vandalism that may occur on the Statue and adjacent areas.

The Alki Community Council has agreed to provide support for Parks staff in the installation of any new bricks and plaques. This includes maintaining a database of all brick and plaque inscriptions. All inscriptions will be submitted to Parks for approval prior to fabrication. The ACC will also be responsible for providing periodic volunteer work parties to assist Parks staff in maintenance activities at the Plaza, including cleaning and work in the landscape beds. The MOA also provides that the ACC will retain a 7% “fiscal sponsor fee” for its services in the promotion and sale of the new bricks and plaques.

The ACC will be the community group working with Parks to identify and resolve any maintenance issues with the Plaza. If you have any questions or comments please contact David or Eilene Hutchinson at (206) 933-8352 or libertyplaza@msn.com.

Tiffany Hedrick, of the Mayor’s Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs, waxing the Statue last summer.
On September 19, 2009, the Seattle Statue of Liberty Plaza Project concluded a successful Phase II fundraising effort with a celebration and the burial of a new Time Capsule at the Plaza. The Log House Museum was responsible for providing the Time Capsule and collecting its contents. The capsule’s name comes from the Boy Scout’s 40th Anniversary theme of “Strengthen the Arm of Liberty”. Our original Alki Statue of Liberty was dedicated on February 23, 1952 and can currently be seen at the Log House Museum at the corner of 61st Ave SW and SW Stevens, just one block south of the Plaza.

The day started before noon at the Log House Museum where a number of children assisted Museum Director, Andrea Mercado, in the placement of the selected items into the Time Capsule. It was later taken to the Plaza for installation by Seattle Parks & Recreation in the landing at the top of the stairs. Among the speakers at the celebration was special guest, Space Shuttle astronaut Gregory Johnson, a graduate of West Seattle High School. Those in attendance were treated to special music and Time Capsule cake. For additional details, go to www.sealady.org.

(more photos on next page)
A LOOK BACK
At Alki’s Statue of Liberty

It’s the beginning of a new decade and the Alki Statue of Liberty has finally been re-cast and is in place on its new pedestal in a new plaza. This is a great time to take a look back at the events that led to a happy ending to a long and interesting story.

That story begins in 1949 with the Boy Scouts’ 40th Anniversary Campaign with its theme of “Strengthen the Arm of Liberty”. It was the beginning of the Cold War and Jack Whitaker, a Kansas City businessman and Scout volunteer, originated the idea after hearing about a Statue of Liberty made of chicken wire and concrete in Spirit Lake, Iowa. Whitaker persuaded a Chicago company to manufacture 8½ foot tall copies of the statue which were sold to Scout organizations around the country over the next 3 years with a price of $350 plus shipping. Over 200 of these small statues were installed in 39 states as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, the Canal Zone, and the Philippines.

Our statue, a gift to the City from Reginald H. Parsons and the Seattle Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, was dedicated on February 23, 1952. Parsons was a Seattle financier and philanthropist who was born in 1873 in Long Island, New York. He moved to Seattle with his wife in 1904. In 1916 he became the first president of the Seattle Boy Scout Council and later donated land on Hood Canal for a scout camp that was named in his honor. He also served on the National Board of the Boy Scouts of America.

Over the years, the statue became a local community icon. Unfortunately, the marine environment, natural weathering, and intermittent acts of vandalism took their toll. In 1975 the statue was pulled off its pedestal. In 1996 the arm holding the torch was broken off and stolen. The arm was later found in the alley behind Spuds. The original rays of the crown were also stolen at this time. By the end of the year replacement rays were donated by the family of Dodie Armistead. In 2003 the torch was torn off and found lying on the beach and in 2005 the rays of the crown were stolen again. Community support grew over these years to restore or replace the statue and possibly place it on a higher pedestal or provide additional lighting to discourage vandalism. In the next issue, we will take a closer look at these community efforts and how our statue became a special gathering place in the aftermath of September 11, 2001.

LINKS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Boy Scout Troop 101 (photos of existing Liberty statues)
http://troop101.thescouts.com/liberty/

West Seattle Blog coverage of the Time Capsule Ceremony

West Seattle Herald Time Capsule coverage on YouTube
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ff7JGF7OTyc

Log House Museum
http://www.loghousemuseum.info/

Alki Community Council
http://alkinews.wordpress.com/

Alki News Beacon
Click to download the latest Alki News Beacon

Seattle Statue of Liberty Plaza Project
www.sealady.org

SEND COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS TO libertyplaza@msn.com

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