WE MUST REMEMBER

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A Message from the Executive Director

Every day I come to work and enter a brick building that exists because of American immigrant dreams. With no bank willing to loan them funds, hundreds of Seattle’s first pioneers from China put their small savings together to make a home in America.

I am inspired to walk up the stairs of their humble rooming house. I pass a display holding a pair of old cloth Chinese shoes. A treasured possession of City Councilmember Wing Luke, I’m reminded he was an immigrant from China who grew up living above his family’s laundry business. Somehow the voters of Seattle supported him in an era when people of color weren’t allowed to live in much of this city’s neighborhoods. He used his elected office to change that exclusion, achieving open housing legislation for all.

Wing’s family and friends were stunned by Wing’s tragic death in a plane crash. They had the foresight to provide $3500 in donations left over from the search for his plane to establish the Wing Luke Museum. I don’t know if those early dreams imagined a Museum that was always owned by its community, becoming an affiliate of the National Park Service and Smithsonian Institution and the nation’s only museum where the stories of Americans from many parts of Asia are told. A place that welcomes everyone to be part of the Asian Pacific American experience, and where 85% of visitors today are first-time visitors.

2017 is a Year of Remembrance. Today’s radical political environment reminds us that citizenship is precious and is not guaranteed. The Forever Foreigner exhibit and artists remind us that “An American is an American regardless of their race or ethnic background… But not always.”

We live in treacherous times, and have no illusion of guarantees. This Museum was born because an immigrant community had American dreams, participated in civic life in their new country, and made personal donations to support the dreams. Let’s all be inspired by their sacrifices that made this building, this museum, and our lives in this country possible. If you stand with us, we promise the Wing Luke Museum is here to stay.

Beth Takekawa, Executive Director
Au Shee muttered to herself as her grandson entered the apartment. On his 7 year old head was a 2-inch gash. She reached into the cupboard and brought out a jar of an unidentified ‘purple powder’ and tapped just enough to fill the wound. The bleeding stopped, but as Au Shee’s daughter, the boy’s mother (a medical professional), took a look at the purple powder, there was a standoff between traditional and Western ideas of medical care.

Enter Au Shee’s living room and embrace the personal contributions of one Chinese immigrant woman who helped build Seattle’s Chinatown. A long-time resident in our historic Kong Yick building, Au Shee’s story touches on every major change in the neighborhood and policy affecting Chinese immigrant women in the 20th century. This newest addition to The Wing’s daily Historic Hotel Tour is definitely worth a visit, even if you’ve already toured our historic space. Unlike the rest of the tour, this room is fully interactive, with objects meant to be felt, opened, and engaged.

Her family shared her stories and we have layered them through a recreation of her living room: a place where she kept her secrets close and her family and community around her closer. Hear Au Shee’s story as it relates to the stories of immigrant women from the early 20th century to present.

Aram Han Sifuentes, one of the three artists whose textile installation piece is currently on display, uses needle and thread to convey her experiences as an immigrant, addressing issues of labor and identity politics. She writes:

In my art practice, I use [the] needle to stitch together various histories and discourses revolving around the simple act of sewing. ... The creation of each stitch engages sewing's complex histories and politics of traditional, industrial, feminist, immigrant, and artist labor.

Constructed from denim remnants gathered in recent years from garment workers in the Chicago area, the piece introduces the challenges many women working in such employment face today: low wages, language barriers, and unregulated working conditions. Sifuentes, who is of Korean origin and the daughter of a seamstress, gathers stories along with these textile scraps, the remnants blue jeans, a garment inextricably linked to American identity.

She will conduct a one-day workshop here at The Wing on Sunday, March 26, 1:30–4:30pm. Free and open to the public; those seeking citizenship are especially encouraged! Participants will embroider a decorative sampler. This workshop is part of Sifuentes’ project US Citizenship Test Sampler, addressing the socio-historic role of women and the function of non-citizen communities. The workshop is also in conjunction with the launch of the Apt 507 in the Historic Hotel space.
On February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans. They were charged with no crime. The cause of their imprisonment was their ancestry.

This exhibition, in recognition of the 75th Anniversary of Executive Order 9066, explores historic and contemporary issues of racism, discrimination and human rights.

The inspiration for the exhibition came from *Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner*, a book of poems by Lawrence Matsuda and paintings by Roger Shimomura. We asked Lawrence and Roger to share about their process and the relevancy of the Japanese American incarceration.
How did the book, *Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner*, come about?

LM: In America and Japan I am like a foreigner. But in Paris I am an American. The book addresses ironies related to being like a foreigner in one’s own country.

Describe your collaboration process.

RS: For the most part I had total independence where style and content were concerned. As I read the poems, if something struck me that translated to a pictorial image, I would do some sketches and decide whether to further develop the drawing. In addition I chose some pre-existing works that I felt addressed the same or similar issues.

Could you share more about your poem, *Legacy*?

LM: Since Japanese Americans were the first to be taken, we must be the first to stand if it happens again.

Could you share more about the painting, *American Citizen*?

RS: *American Citizen* was one of about 7–8 paintings I’ve done in response to our new president’s stated ambivalence towards the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. Based upon that fact it is apparent today that Muslims are the new Japanese Americans.

What do you want visitors to take away from this exhibition?

LM: To understand the facts and emotions related to the WWII forced incarceration, so that if it happens again they can make clear and informed decisions about what they should do next.

RS: I feel that the current public political discourse reflects how much the standards of reason have deteriorated. Hopefully this exhibition and associated programming will remind the viewers of the consequences of repeating past mistakes.

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The Noble Thing

From a Cold Wind from Idaho, Black Lawrence Press

Dad never talked about Minidoka. That was the noble thing.

Before World War II, there was Garfield High School for him, ice skating on Greenlake, dances at Lake Wilderness Lodge, later his ownership of Elk Grocery on Seneca Street.

He and my mother were married in 1941, ten months later to be removed...forced...into the Minidoka concentration camp.

Mom was five months pregnant in August with my older brother, Alan. With black-out curtains drawn, the train left Puyallup and climbed the Cascade mountains until the land flattened and the inescapable sun transformed the train cars into a moving sauna. People gasped small, panicked breaths from the superheated air.

*Shikataganai*—"It can't be helped."

The train stopped by the side of an unmarked road in the Idaho desert, released its passengers miles from any station. Rumors spread they would be shot or marched to death – their bodies stacked, then carted away to some awaiting ditch.

Nowhere to run, they walk in their best shoes in the gritty sand as on the face of the moon. The heat caused some to faint as they carried all they could.

Three years later, Dad returned to Seattle after the War, developed a bleeding ulcer, lost his janitor job at the Earl Hotel.

Depression took Mom away like invisible armed guards. She was a stranger—a stick-like figure with arms and legs poking out of a white smock, pacing the sidewalk next to the Western State Hospital turn-around.

Dad never talked about it, none of it. I never heard him say the word Minidoka...

*Gaman*, "endure the unbearable with dignity."

*Shikatagani*, my best friend's mother chose pills for suicide. After school, Randy my neighbor, opened the garage door and found his father in a black suit, his best, hanged by the neck, *shikatagani*, the same path other Seattle Japanese chose—numbers unknown. *Shikatagani*.

We, however, never talked about it. That was the noble thing to do.
YEAR OF THE ROOSTER HAS HATCHED!

By local artist and The Wing’s own Senior Tour Manager, Doan Nguyen


Famous Roosters: Confucius, Justin Timberlake, Beyoncé Knowles, Groucho Marx, Zayn Malik, Serena Williams, Yoko Ono, Rabindranath Tagore

Characteristics of people born in the Year of the Rooster: Confident, Hardworking, resourceful, observant, active, outspoken, social, independent

2017 Year of the Rooster Coloring Contest

Judges will be selecting 12 Honorable Mentions (who will receive Woodland Park Zoo Fun Packs). From those 12, the winner will be determined by online voting from April 14–25th, for the grand prize of $800 gift certificate from The Bellevue Collection and membership to The Wing.

Follow us on social media or check back on the website (wingluke.org/coloring-contest) for more details on the voting process.

MAPPING OUR MANY MEMBERS!

As we prepared the third installment and Member Preview Bash for our Do You Know Bruce? exhibition series, we took a moment to reflect on the great membership support it has received the past three years. Long-time, returning, and brand new Members alike came from all over to show their enthusiasm. One thing was clear: support for The Wing doesn’t just live in Seattle.

While mostly concentrated in the Pacific Northwest, The Wing’s membership group spans across the country and across the pond. From Hawaii to Pennsylvania, Santa Monica to Skagway, British Columbia to Denmark, we thank you all for connecting with and generously supporting our mission. If you’re curious where your fellow Members live, check out the Member Map above!
“I felt very lucky both to try the food on the tour, and to meet local Seattle people on the tour. The tour was very much a progressive dinner, so there was lots of time for chats, and to hear their stories. The guide was very knowledgeable and delightful. What a treat.” – Visitor from Sydney, Australia on Noodle Slurp Tour, October 2016.

Unlike most museums, The Wing does not have a café on-site. We did that on purpose; we want to encourage visitors to go out into the neighborhood to experience all the food it has to offer and support the local businesses.

Starting 2017, four seasons of food tours are now offered. Tour goers get to taste a wide variety of food while learning about the people and the stories behind the food.

During one of our popular Noodle tours, there was a guest who worked in the fishing industry and shared with the group their huge dislike of eating anything with fish in it. The tour included a stop at the Gourmet Noodle Bowl restaurant, where we featured a Chinese fried fish and rice noodle soup dish. To their delight, the guest found that the soup was very light, delicate, and had no fishy taste that overpowered the noodle soup. For many people, this dish was very surprising in that it brought to mind being cozy and comforting on a rainy day, despite not being the typical 'chicken noodle soup'.

Moments like these get us excited about our tours. Food has the powerful ability to spark conversation and bridge cultures. And it tastes good too.

To book a tour, go to wingluke.org/tours

Winter (January – March): International Dumpling Crawl
Spring (April – June): The Rice Stuff
Summer (July – September): Grilled Things and Chicken Wings
Fall (October – December): Twilight Noodle Slurp

Thank You and Welcome

Farewell Tom DeBoer with many thanks for your service as a Trustee for The Wing. Tom has been a great contributor of time, talent, and treasure to The Wing’s mission. He will remain on the 2017 Annual Gala & Auction Committee and we greatly appreciate that commitment.

Thanks also to the following staff members who recently concluded their service at The Wing: Cassandra O’Francia, Chanta Chhay, Emily Alvey, Hanh Pham, John Ekloff, John Nonato, Jordan Wong, Karen Johnson, Karen Kajiwara, Kela Wong, Lexie Rodriguez, Lillian Nguyen, May Nguyen, Mike Kan, Minh Nguyen, Nam Keo, Rouen Mol, Sarah Olivo, Sheramie Esteban, Susana Park, and Tamar Manuel.


FROM THE COLLECTIONS

HIGH SCHOOL GIRL

Collection Manager Bob Fisher wanted to feature: High School Girl, by Takuichi Fujii. It will be part of a book (The Hope of Another Spring: Takuichi Fujii Artist and Wartime Witness by Barbara Jones) and traveling exhibition. The book reveals his large collection of art produced during World War II—a significant contribution to Asian American history studies, American and regional history, and art history.

Takuichi Fujii (1891–1964) left Japan in 1906 to make his home in Seattle. When war broke out, he and his family were incarcerated along with the more than 100,000 ethnic Japanese. Sent to detention camps at Puyallup, Washington and then Minidoka, Idaho, Fujii documented his daily experiences in words and art. His illustrated diary has been called “the most remarkable document created by a Japanese American prisoner during the wartime incarceration” by historian Roger Daniels.

High School Girl, Takuichi Fujii. To be restored courtesy of David Martin and Dominic A. Zambito. Originally owned by Washington artist Kenneth Callahan—donated to the Museum in 1991
“Oh—here’s a picture of your uncle.”

This was one of Larry Yok’s first experiences of The Wing, on a visit to the Museum with his father many years ago. They were surprised to see one of their own relatives, featured in a picture of a baseball team.

In the years since viewing that black and white image, Larry’s relationship with The Wing has evolved. Today, The Wing is home to many more Yok family pictures and documents. Larry increased his involvement by joining the Museum’s board of trustees. He also stepped into the role of co-chair for our annual auction.

Community involvement is a family trait going back at least to his grandfather, the first Chinese American graduate of University of Puget Sound, in 1924.

“My grandfather believed that you have to participate. He was involved in the Chinese Benevolent Association in Portland and he was insistent that we exercise the right to vote, because he had to wait almost 40 years before he had that right.”

Larry’s own philanthropic goals are simple but ambitious: to leave the world a better place than he found it.

He focuses his philanthropy on Asian American issues including the scholarship named for his grandfather, as well as various social service agencies benefiting the Asian American community. He is especially committed to preserving stories, which is one of the things that connected him to The Wing.

Speaking about the uniqueness of the Museum, Larry stresses “the breadth and depth of our collection and our ability to use that collection to tell stories in an authentic voice.” He also points out that preserving stories is part of what inspires his support for social service organizations. “If you’re an Asian American elder, your ability to continue to tell stories is based on your well being. Your health, a place to live, food to eat.”

As a board member, part of his role is to tell stories for and about The Wing. He is regularly asked to represent the museum publicly or in individual meetings. When talking to people about why they should visit and support the Museum, he emphasizes that the stories featured here are not just about the past. “There are life lessons in this collection—lessons that are applicable today. Stories about immigration and the benefits of immigration; about the continuing struggle for equity and for social justice.”

Once a casual museum visitor, today Larry is an invaluable member of The Wing board. This progression of support and commitment has been inspiring The Wing community for years. We look forward to a long future of storytelling to come.

After a brief stint as a DJ at a country music radio station, Larry Yok went on to a career in human resources and administration. He currently serves as an instructor at Highline Community College for the Human Resources Certificate Program. Larry and his husband, Eric Olson, live in Seattle and are co-chairs of our 2017 annual auction.
SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS

With great appreciation, The Wing acknowledges the following supporters for the calendar year up to December 31, 2016. Thank you for making sure that Asian Pacific American stories are heard, remembered, and brought to life.

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The Wing is grateful to the Legacy Society members for investing in the Museum’s future through a planned gift.

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Thank you to The Wing’s Donors, Partners, Members, and Visitors for making possible the nation’s only museum sharing the stories and culture of Americans who came here from many parts of Asia.

**Revenue**

Total: $2,985,309

- **Earned Revenue** 21% $623,504
- **Corporate Support** 8% $244,000
- **Foundation Grants** 25% $755,000
- **In-Kind & Other** 13% $386,591
- **Individual Contributions** 23% $682,912
- **Government Grants** 10% $293,302

**Expenses**

Total: $2,984,308

- **Programs** 69% $2,065,612
- **Marketing** 4% $116,221
- **Fundraising** 10% $381,342
- **Administrative** 13% $300,406
- **In-Kind** 4% $120,727

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