A Message from the Executive Director

Christmas Eve memories 2013 are those of flames, sirens, and smoke for Seattle’s Chinatown-International District. Today we miss the nine businesses that were forced to close due to the Hudson building fire, including Mon Hei, Chinatown’s oldest Christmas Eve memories. They wish the featured frog or streetcar construction will celebrate the garden’s addition to The Wing’s neighborhood tours. Who wouldn’t miss the smiling face of Mon Hei’s owner Rumi, as she shared tastes of the still-warm and mysteriously-named cocktail buns with touring parties? Castig a pat over a neighborhood on the rise, the fire reminds us that vibrant upper floors are not benign spaces. We appreciate even more the signs of renewal and the human efforts today that are creating the district’s future.

How was it that artist Rumi Koshino chose to lend her talents to a dream of Japantown (Nihonmachi) activists? They wished to bring new life to a hidden garden space where the flowers for Japanese-American funerals were grown prior to the community’s removal during World War II incarceration. A global story on her own, Rumi once lived in the neighborhood and is a first-generation transplant from Japan. She and her colleague architect Yoko Kunugi are part of Artists for Japan, which formed to support victims of the tragic 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Tohoku, Japan. Her design for a soon-to-open Chiy’s Garden fondly remembers a young woman whose room overlooked the flower garden, providing beauty during her valiant battle with tuberculosis. Rumi writes, “This sacred space inspired me to further explore the connection between the Japanese and Japanese-American community.”

Originating as a Japantown response to the new streetcar line through the neighborhood, people imagined Chiy’s Garden as a way to captivate new riders into a stop off instead of a bypass. With welcome support from ArtPlace, a new national consortium of foundations supporting culture that transforms communities, those who have survived the months of a bypass. With welcome support by ArtPlace, a new national consortium of foundations supporting culture that transforms communities, those who have survived the months of construction will celebrate the garden’s addition to The Wing’s neighborhood tours. Their wish is that you’ll be inspired by the featured frog or kōrei, which means “Come back!” Because of you there is something for which to come back.

See you soon,
Beth Takekawa, Executive Director

UP CLOSE WITH...

GRIT: ASIAN PACIFIC PIONEERS ACROSS THE NORTHWEST

On display through October 19 in the Safeco Insurance Foundation Special Exhibition Gallery

Griff: Asian Pacific Pioneers Across the Northwest uncovers the true stories of the men and women who migrated to the region from the Asia Pacific to start a new life. The Pacific Northwest of the 19th and early 20th centuries could be unforgiving, from natural and man-made disasters to discrimination seen in policy and everyday life. By immersing visitors in local sites and personal lives, Griff reminds us of Asian Pacific Americans’ long history of fortitude and resilience as they established local communities.

One of the featured sites is the Immigration and Naturalization Building on Seattle’s Airport Way on the southern edge of the Chinatown-International District. Chinese-American immigrant Yuen Jong Quock was a “paper son” detained there from January through March 1938.

He recounts: “With the Sino-Japanese War at hand and poverty a certainty, unbeknownst to me, my father contacted Lee Jong to check the possibility of my going to America. A picture was sent for a probable match to my own statistics. Age must be matched closely. Of course, you cannot say that a 20-year-old is your son if you look 80, and you cannot say that a 80-year-old is your son if you look 20. As I was still a 20-year-old, my father wrote me promising that he would reimburse every dollar spent ‘business’ papers for me promising that I would reimburse every dollar spent since our family was poor and we had to borrow from Lee Jong. The food was passable because I was hungry. Lots of Chinese men traveled back and forth to China within the restrictions of time spent in one country. One friend bought me my first Baby Ruth candy bar. To pass the time, men on the boat gambled if they had money. No money, no gambling.

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Right off the boat into the Seattle port, I was detained and locked up in a dark room without a passport until called to interrogation. Gene Toy on his second passage could pass, but I couldn’t. The five of us: Gene Toy’s father, Ben Wong, Ben Wong’s father, Lim Lee, and me, were to be questioned. With the others, we claimed to be a family but our information all had to match the other ‘identities’—having memorized a volume of family trivia, we claimed to have spent childhood together. The officers spoke no other language but Chinese. As the mercy of the interrogator, we had to support our name change through a translator.”

Visit Griff to find out more about Yuen Jong Quock’s experience in the INS Building, along with the stories of other Asian Pacific pioneers throughout the Northwest.

Interview courtesy of Ben and Jane Lee with translation by Judy Wong.
SADDLE UP FOR THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

If the start of 2014 seems to have zipped by, you can thank the Year of the Horse. It’s said that in the year of the wood horse, in particular, timegallops by more swiftly than usual. The year should be as full of adventure as the horse implies.

People born in the Year of the Horse are trusty companions for a year like this. Known for their vigorous approach to life, horses are up for new journeys. They’re blessed with great intuition and know-how when presented with challenges, which they face head on and with a great attitude to boot. But that adage about leading a horse to water holds true: people born in horse years can also be fiercely independent.


**Famous horses:** Nelson Mandela, Jackie Chan, Oprah Winfrey, Ang Lee, Kristen Stewart, Kobe Bryant, James Franco

**Characteristics of people born in the Year of the Horse:** energetic, proud, popular, hard-working, lively, intuitive, independent, resourceful, quick-witted, likeable

Year of the Horse Coloring Contest

Apply the can-do spirit of the horse to our annual Lunar New Year Coloring Contest, featuring a Year of the Horse design by artist Joyce Hwang. One creative participant (age 12 and under) will win the grand prize of a lucky $800 to spend at shops and restaurants at The Bellevue Collection.

**WHAT IS THIS?**

Do you know what this item is and how it’s used?

**HINT:** You'll still find these sold by families at Pike Place Market flower stalls.

Email your guess to pr@wingluke.org, along with your name and contact information. Correct responses will receive a museum pass. Look for the correct answer in the Summer 2014 newsletter.

Download the coloring sheet at wingluke.org/coloring-contest, and submit it in person to The Wing by March 30.

The Wing partnered with the Murakami family and KOBBO at Higo in 2012 to transform a plot of land behind the Jackson Building into a garden honoring the family’s youngest daughter Chiyo. The result is a space that allows the neighborhood and its visitors to reflect on both historic Nihonmachi, or Japantown, and the personal stories—like Chiyo’s—behind it.

Chiyo Murakami, born in 1915, was the second-oldest daughter of Sanzo and Matsuio Murakami, who originally built the Jackson Building. She died tragically young at age 22, succumbing to tuberculosis in an upstairs room in the Jackson Building on January 3, 1937.

Going into the project, we and the Murakami family aimed to pay tribute to Chiyo and her siblings, evoking the spirit of children growing up in Nihonmachi. Lead Artist Rumi Koshino and Lead Designer Yuko Kanugi have responded with inspired pieces. Among these are sculptural forms that playfully resemble a frog’s hopping grounds. The frog—used as a symbol for the family’s Higo 10 Cents Store—is painted on a large wooden panel, and translates as “come back.”

The recently completed work is just the first phase of what’s envisioned for the garden. Future work includes plantings, a moss garden, lighting, and a special Nihonmachi Alley fence. Working hand-in-hand with community members, we hope that Chiyo’s Garden will become a destination for The Wing’s neighborhood walking tours, further enhancing the experience of Seattle’s historic Japantown district. The garden will also be used periodically for small events—including performing arts, community gatherings, annual blossom-viewing, and nashi-tasting celebrations.

Information about an opening reception for Members in May is forthcoming. In the meantime, visitors are invited to explore Chiyo’s Garden on one of our neighborhood tours, available Tuesday through Saturday, and by reservation for private groups. Visit wingluke.org/tours for more information.

With generous support from ArtPlace.
Welcome to Tom DeBoer, the newest member of our Board of Trustees. A senior utility professional with 15 years of experience in federal, state, and regional energy issues in the Pacific Northwest, Tom DeBoer is Director of Energy Supply–Merchandiser of Puget Sound Energy. A licensed attorney, he is a member of both the Washington and Idaho State Bar Associations, and previously was a board member of the Spokane Chamber Music Association. He began his career as an infantry officer stationed at Fort Lewis followed by work as an exploration-geologist and petroleum consultant in private practice. He has a B.A. in Geology from the University of Montana, an M.S. in Geology from Western Washington University, and a law degree from Gonzaga University School of Law.

Farewell to departing board member Pankaj Nath. We are grateful for his service as a Trustee, and for being a wonderful ambassador for The Wing. Thank you, Pankaj.

We thank Victor Mizumori for serving over 15 years as our Treasurer of Board of Trustees. We appreciate his many years of dedicated service, steady leadership, and hard work, through times of great change and museum growth. Thank you, Victor, for your leadership and for continuing your service as a Trustee.

Bruce Bradstreet has stepped up to an officer position as the new Treasurer. Bruce has been a Trustee for six years and has more than 20 years of experience working in the financial services industry currently as a LPL Financial Consultant with the Seattle Metropolitan Credit Union in its Financial Services Group. Congratulations, Bruce!

Please welcome new staff members who recently joined the museum: Arinne Fern, Rahul Gupta, and for continuing your service as a Trustee. Bruce has been a

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Toby: I got to know Savitha through Nancy’s friends involved in efforts they care about, I want to support them. Savitha invited me to the rental Dinner & Auction years ago, and I’ve been a supporter of The Wing ever since.

The Wing: How is being a guest at different events from visiting the museum?

Nancy: They’ve learned so much about The Wing by attending the Dinner & Auction. Last year, for example, I was moved to tears by what the youth had to say about the impact the museum had on their lives.

Thank you, Nancy, and Toby for your significant contributions to The Wing and our community.

SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT:

TOBY BRIGHT & NANCY LEE WARD

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Nancy: It’s important that the museum is in such an historic building. I’ve been there for many community events and you always have a clear sense of exactly where you’re in a space created to reinforce the story and the living identity of the neighborhood and the community.

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LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

$25,000+ James and MaryLea Lang* Paul Mar*

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Our Mission is to connect everyone to the rich history, dynamic cultures and art of Asian Pacific Americans through vivid storytelling and inspiring experiences. The Wing is a proud Smithsonian Affiliate, a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution.

MARKETPLACE AT THE WING

Mother’s Day is May 11th

Beautiful gifts for mom from featured artists Aki Sogabe, Sazanka Design, and MalPina Chan.

Marketplace will be closed for inventory March 30–April 2.