



## You are Cordially Invited to Join the Fun - Our Book Launch! From Clown Hijinks to Cooper's Hawks

An amazing collection of 18 new stories of Magnolia memories and milestones will launch with a reading and fun celebration.

There will be storytelling, fresh popped popcorn, treats, activities and prizes.

### Excerpts include:

- Magnolia's connection to the Seafair Clowns
- The true story of how pickleball was invented
- Lawton Park history
- Birding in Discovery Park
- Milkshakes & Gunpowder — tying Erikson's Lawton Pharmacy to gunpowder at Fort Lawton shooting range in the 1950's!



A Cooper's hawk.  
Courtesy of Elaine Chuang. July 2024.

## 2025 Historical Person of the Year Awards

The Magnolia Historical Society will honor two mentors who got us started with our mission to write Magnolia history in the late 1990's. Both were constant cheerleaders and significant local history experts who made the first books possible and helped us create the Magnolia Historical Society in 2001.

**Charles Payton**, working at 4Culture with a personal mission to inspire, he enabled small local historical groups to use resources and begin creating historical projects of merit. He was always there to help writers of Book I, "MAGNOLIA: Memories & Milestones," find their way. He was always available to set them up with interviews, lead them to great resources, and created the best printed local guides for historical research work. Because of Charles' help, they went on to make their award-winning volume a reality.

**Paul Dorpat** loved the book idea from the start. He gave advice, led writers to primary sources, as well as provided archival photos to accompany their stories. He attended fundraisers, promoted the books in his *Seattle Times* column, "Now and Then," wrote glowing blurbs for all our books, and gave our work credibility because he was standing with us.

## A Huge Thank You To:

BOOK IV SPRING COLLECTION	Writer
The "South Shore" Wooden Trestle Story Revealed	Monica Wooton
The Big Sit (Birding in Discovery Park)	Neil & Carleen Zimmerman
Magnet for Birds and Birder: Magnolia's Discovery Park	Penny Rose
How Magnolia Got Its Street Names: Thorndyke Avenue West	Ben Lukoff w/Monica Wooton
The Hill We Call Magnolia: Puget Lowland Geology	Bill Laprade
The True Story: The Birth of Pickleball	Frank Pritchard
Lawton Park: A Volunteer's Memoir and History	Barbara Downward
Tap Dancing through Magnolia's Memory Lane	Mary March
Magnolian Roots in Clowning Around Seattle..For Good Causes! (Seafair Clowns)	Monica Wooton
Unbuilt Magnolia	Monica Wooton
Cora Peterson's Autograph Book (1929)	Monica Wooton
Magnolia's Bookstore: A Community Hub for Generations of Book Lovers	Norma Goldstein
Magnolia's Football Leagues of the 50s-Lessons for My Life	Mike Musselwhite
Milkshakes and Gunpowder	Greg Shaw
More My Magnolia: The Place and People I Love	Barbara Wade Gates
Choosing Magnolia - From Mt. Fuji to Mt. Rainier-Discovering My Spiritual Home	Yuko Enomoto
Treasure of Magnolia	Barb Henry

**Peer Editors:** Neal Pattison, Bob Dela-Cruz, Sherrie Quinton, Monica Wooton, Tab Melton

**Content Editor:** Alexandra DuSablon

**Copy Editor:** Julia Thompson

**Web Designer:** Melissa Islam

And, our MHS Board Members

**Find these Book IV stories and more on our website**  
**[www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org)**

**We are currently seeking:**

**NEW STORY IDEAS**

**WRITERS**

**PEER EDITORS**

**COLLECTIONS OF OLD PHOTOS/MEMORABILIA**

**for our online, ongoing Book IV, *MAGNOLIA: More Memories & Milestones***

**Contact us at: [info@magnoliahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@magnoliahistoricalsociety.org)**

# JOIN US

MAGNOLIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S  
Spring Collection 2025  
MAGNOLIA: More Memories & Milestones

## BOOK LAUNCH: A CELEBRATION & READING



Seafair Clowns Courtesy of Seafair Clowns at [www.seafairclowns.org](http://www.seafairclowns.org)

### CLOWNING HIJINKS TO COOPER'S HAWKS

- Seafair Clowns' Magnolia Roots • Birding at Discovery Park •
  - Much More Amazing Magnolia History •

Storytelling • Fresh Popped Popcorn • Treats • Prizes • Activities

**Saturday, June 7th**

**3:00 - 5:00PM**

**Magnolia United Church of Christ  
3555 W. McGraw, Pilgrim Hall**

**Kids from 9-99 welcome!**



**EXCERPTS: MAGNOLIA: More Memories & Milestones Spring Collection 2025**  
**"MAGNOLIAN ROOTS IN CLOWNING AROUND SEATTLE...FOR GOOD CAUSES!**  
**THE SEAFAIR CLOWNS" By Monica Wooton**

"When Magnolian, George Mockly Anderson, had his memorial of a life well-lived for 96 years, February 6th, 2025 at Our Lady of Fatima, big, bright red, clown noses were passed out by the family to the attendees. During the service the reason was revealed to those who did not know the story behind this frivolity on a solemn occasion.

"The latest notice on the Seafair Clown Facebook page states: "Yet, as we are saddened, "we" - being the hundreds of our members over the decades who have painted a smile on their face for the Seafair cause - are filled with immense gratitude for George and the other founders having started this amazing, fun, quirky, laughter-filled, community oriented, Seattle institution called the Seattle Seafair Clowns."



**George Mockly Anderson, face painted orange and in costume, still clowning around in his 90's. He never missed a season!**  
**Photo and information courtesy of Susie Anderson Vaughan. Circa 2020.**

A small group of Seattle University (Seattle U) male grads, George amongst them, formed an alumni club called the Graduates Club of Seattle University to promote the school and do good works in the early 1950's. At the time, the University of Washington had long been active with its Alumni work and was well-known. This small fraternity set out to begin to build a similar network for the much smaller less well-known Jesuit University they loved. It was slow going. Soon eight members got an idea that would begin a now on-going 70 year tradition, bring them fame, and uniquely practice the good deeds and social justice work they had learned was an important value as students at Seattle U. And, in the process, would make practically the whole city of Seattle smile...

"On June 10th, 1955 an ad was placed in the Seattle Times headlined: "Seattle Seeks Clown Teacher". A subgroup of the Graduate's Club members were advertising for "a former professional clown" to instruct them. (2) In an article in the Seattle PI, "It's No Gag! Seafair Clowns Seek Advice", a similar plea was made and the article announced that the SU Graduates Clown Club had purchased equipment of the recently disbanded "famed Shelton clown club" who had "motorized and mechanical gags...funny faces and traditional routines...practiced to a point of perfection and were highly regarded...". The new club intended to be just as good as the previous club doing visits to hospitals, special events and being in the Seafair parades. George Anderson was among the 8 graduates who formed The Seafair Clown Club..."

**LAWTON PARK: A VOLUNTEER'S MEMOIR AND HISTORY (and, Cooper's Hawks) By Barbara Downward**

"...The summer of 2012...Starting up the trail on a mid-August afternoon, I could see a Coop on the ground. I froze to watch it and realized it had a dead Crow in its talons, black feathers scattered around. The hawk didn't care about me, and I stood very still. Then, one at a time, three more Cooper's hawks flew into the trees on the west side of the boardwalk, all calling and menacing the hawk on the ground. What a scene! The hawk on the ground screamed back and tented its wings over the kill. It looked like this bird didn't want to share its meal. I think it was a parent, letting its offspring know they had to feed themselves.

"I had to let everyone know! ...I wanted to get my identification right – were they Cooper's or Sharp-shinned hawks? Size is a variable field mark, but tail configuration is reliable...I contacted everybody, including Seattle Parks' Penny Rose, program manager at Discovery Park. Martin Muller, one of a dedicated group of hawk experts and banders came to Lawton the next day, starting at the 25th entrance. He was able to trap and band two hawks in the early morning hours... He decided that these birds were not from a nest in Discovery Park. In fact, people in Lawton that first morning told him the birds had been active at Lawton for weeks. Cooper's hawks have nested at Lawton Park every year since 2012, for 13 consecutive years."

## THE MHS BOARD 2025-2026

**Dee St. George, President & Treasurer**, a Magnolia resident for 45 years, joined MHS in 2006 as Grant Bookkeeper for Book II. Her joy to share Magnolia history has kept her involved with MHS as Co-President, Treasurer, and Newsletter Editor. She was named Historical Person of the Year in 2020.

**Norma Goldstein**, a Magnolia resident since 1993, is a former college dean and writer/editor of various publications. An educator since the age of 20, she currently trains college and tribal board of trustees across the country. A graduate of Connecticut College, Wesleyan University and URI, she and her husband Allen frequently explore and sail Puget Sound.

**Melissa Islam**, a Magnolia resident since 2019, became curious about its history. She devoured all three Magnolia Books, then joined MHS to ensure that more stories come to light in Book IV (including its natural history). She is a botanist, educator, and editor.

**Claudia (Kettles) Lovgren** moved to Magnolia with her family from Lansing, MI in 1957. Her written story of her first neighborhood is in the Magnolia Book III. She is a graduate of Cornish College of The Arts in Interior Design. As a member of the Queen Anne High School Alumni Association, she is the editor of the KUAY newsletter.

**Tab Melton** has lived and worked in Magnolia since the early 2000s. He has 4-plus decades of writing and editing experience, spanning from community and daily journalism to public relations, corporate communications, and advertising. He has owned and operated Tabco Corporate Communications since 1994. You might also find him selling produce at the Interbay QFC or peddling custom clocks through Fun Times Too.

**Mike Musselwhite**, is a longtime community leader, from his early days living in Navy housing in Magnolia to his impactful career in education. His athletic involvement in football and baseball reflects his commitment to teamwork and sportsmanship. As a mentor to new school principals, an MHS board member, and Book III contributor, he continues to preserve the legacy of his community.

**Sherrie Quinton** is a Magnolia native, a graduate of Queen Anne High School and UW. She has a varied portfolio of skills and interests, including ballet, baking, urban farming, costume construction, genealogy and writing. She edited the churches chapter in Book III.

**Greg Shaw**, a Magnolia native, he attended Magnolia Elementary, Catherine Blaine and Queen Anne High schools. Some might know him for the Atlantic Giant Pumpkins he grows in his yard. He wrote two chapters in the Magnolia Book III. His passions are photography, gardening, and writing.

**Monica Wooton, Consultant**, a lifelong Magnolian, pioneered the writing process and served as project manager, editor, peer editor, writer and photographer for the award-winning/nominated Magnolia books. A founding member of MHS and named Historic Person of the Year in 2018, she is excited to be writing for Book IV!

### JOIN US! BECOME A BOARD MEMBER

Our Ongoing Mission:

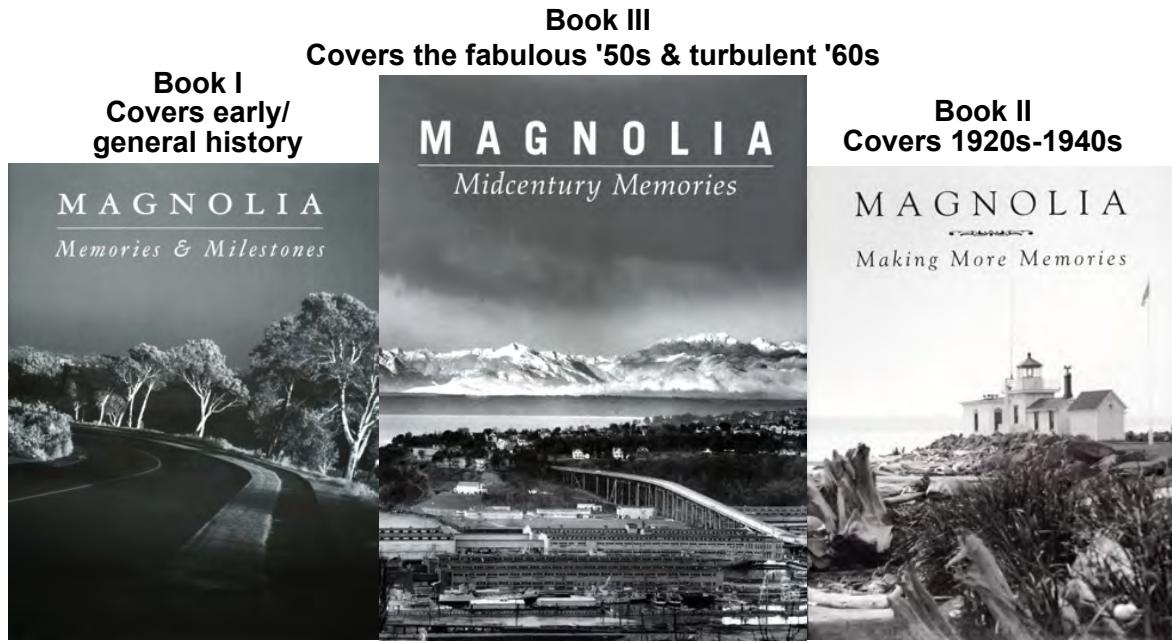
- **Initiate** interest in Magnolia history protecting it for future generations.
- **Inspire** the Magnolia community to help us gather acquisitions for our photo and document archives at UW Special Collections.
- **Invest** in community historical research and writing of Magnolia history that facilitates historic projects and events.
- **Encourage** a more accurate “sense of place” through our work preserving the stories and images of Magnolia.

Visit our website: [www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org)

For information contact: **Dee St. George**, [stgeorge-d@comcast.net](mailto:stgeorge-d@comcast.net), (206)284-5480

## Visit Our Website

**[www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org)**



Price: \$35

Price: \$45

Out of Print

Also available at Magnolia's Bookstore

**NOW AVAILABLE**  
**Amazon Kindle editions of our books!**

### Remembering Carol Burton



It is with deep sorrow and profound gratitude that we remember Carol Burton, a fierce advocate and unwavering pillar of the Magnolia community who passed away recently. Carol's contributions to our community are immeasurable. Her legacy will continue to inspire and guide us.

Carol was a retired community college instructor who taught biology and botany for over 30 years. During her career, she shaped the minds of countless students, fostering a deep respect for the natural world and nurturing in them a passion for the environment that she carried throughout her life.

Her impact on Magnolia was wide-reaching. As a three-term president of the Magnolia Community Council and a longtime trustee, Carol worked tirelessly to advocate for projects and initiatives that enriched the lives of those in our neighborhood.

She played a key role in organizations such as the Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council, Friends of Smith Cove Park, and the Green Seattle Partnership, which benefited from her leadership and vision. Her dedication was evident in her work with the Magnolia Manor Off-Leash Park and Magnolia Manor P-Patch. Her long service on the board of the Magnolia Historical Society (MHS) demonstrated her commitment to preserving the rich history of our community. Her work with Heron Habitat Helpers was significant, as she passionately worked to protect the Kiwanis Ravine habitat and safeguard the heron population.

A true companion for our community, her advocacy also extended to other causes close to her heart, including LGBTQ+ rights. Her efforts, spirit, and commitment to justice was always evident. Magnolia Community Club will hold a celebration of life for Carol on June 15th. If you would like to honor Carol's life and work, please consider a donation to one of her favorite nonprofits: Heron Habitat Helpers, The Trevor Project, or PFLAG.

**See us at: Magnolia Farmers Market & Summerfest**