



MHS News

Spring 2026



JOIN US
to celebrate our
Spring Book Launch 2026
Book IV: MAGNOLIA: More Memories & Milestones

**An amazing collection of 10 new stories
for our online, ongoing series
with readings and a fun celebration.**

There will be storytelling, treats, and prizes.

Saturday, May 30th

3:00–5:00pm

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



EXCERPTS FROM OUR UPCOMING SPRING 2026 COLLECTION

For the Birds: Magnolians Kathy and John Carlson by Monica Wooton

The Carlsons' garage was their first workshop, and at the time John had only a skill saw, a hammer, a screwdriver, and some screws for woodworking. Kathy was the visionary for the colors and salvaged design elements. Her designs ranged from beautifully elegant to clean and classic to wildly whimsical. They came up with three basic shapes: a classic eave style, an A-frame, and a "squiggly," as John calls it.



Photos courtesy of the Carlsons, circa 2020

They knew they were officially in business the day they received a note in their mailbox that read: "How do I buy a birdhouse?" The City of Seattle confirmed—when an inspector showed up and told them—that they needed an official business license. That was the late nineties. The business has been going strong ever since.

At first, they hung their colorful creations out on Saturdays and Sundays and brought them in overnight, afraid their inventory would go missing. One weekend day, the Carlsons returned home to see fewer birdhouses hanging, and they thought they'd been robbed. The thousand dollars crammed into their mailbox in cash and checks told them otherwise.

Revisiting My Mother's Childhood Home in Magnolia by Karen Treiger

We entered the home and walked into a light-filled living room. My mom said the house was the same as when she grew up.

"Yeah, this was my room," my mom said wistfully. "That's the closet."

"That's the closet?" I asked. "It's so small."

My mom and aunt told us the story many times of how the maid locked them in the closet when my grandmother wasn't home. She would put a dresser up against the door so that my mom and aunt couldn't get out. They were stuck inside, sometimes for hours. Like the house, the closet was much smaller than I had imagined.

"We hid flashlights, games, and cigarettes in there," my mom explained. "It happened a lot when Mother wasn't home."

"Cigarettes?" I asked. "How did you put them out?"

"I left a glass of water in there, to put them out after I was done smoking."

To me, the closet is a metaphor for my mom's life and all she had to overcome to be the remarkable person and mother that she was to me and my two brothers. She was locked in that dark closet for hours at a time, but she and her sister made the best of it. They played games, smoked, and made it a place to have fun. My mom took her challenging childhood experiences and imperfect family life and found her way. She is one of the most optimistic people I know, always looking on the bright side.

A Huge Thank You To:

Spring 2026 Stories	Author
Creating Lawton Park	Barbara Downward
Growing Up in Magnolia as Father Doug's Kid Sister	Terry Douglas
Ship a Snowball? The Magnolia Mailbox Will Do It!	Norma Goldstein
History of Lockhaven Marina, Inc.	David & Jack Hendrickson with Monica Wooton
Sign Here, Please (Beatles mini-memory)	Claudia Lovgren
Natural and Environmental History of Magnolia	Lisa Meoli
Magnolia/Queen Anne District Council	Janis Traven
Revisiting My Mother's Childhood Home in Magnolia	Karen Treiger
For the Birds: Magnolians Kathy and John Carlson	Monica Wooton
History of Magnolia Historical Society	Monica Wooton

Peer Editors: Bob Dela-Cruz, Sherrie Quinton, Monica Wooton, Ingrid Holmlund, Annie Sirski

Managing Editors: Alexandra DuSablón and Julia Thompson

Web Designer: Melissa Islam

And, our MHS Board Members

Find more Book IV stories on our website

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



MHS
Celebrating 25th Anniversary
of Making Magnolia Memories
2001-2026

Thanks to past support through book sales, grants and donations, we produced three award winning/nominated print books. We now publish our free online, ongoing book series featuring first-person narratives and research-based stories written and peer edited by volunteers. Over 125 Magnolians produced these works thus far.

Your support will ensure we continue our work and preserve the stories and history of the neighborhood we love.

To make a donation, go to
www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org/donations

or mail to:

3202 W. Emerson St., Seattle, WA 98199

Thank you for your support!!

Board Spotlight

President of Magnolia Historical Society Plays Many Roles

Dee St. George, the current President of the Magnolia Historical Society (MHS), has played many important roles over her 20 years in the nonprofit organization. She joined MHS as grant bookkeeper for *Book II, Magnolia: Making More Memories*, and remained in that position for *Book III, Magnolia: Midcentury Memories*. She continues to serve in many other capacities as its president, treasurer, newsletter editor and events coordinator, creating many of the MHS event posters and planning the annual launches for the ongoing Book IV collection.

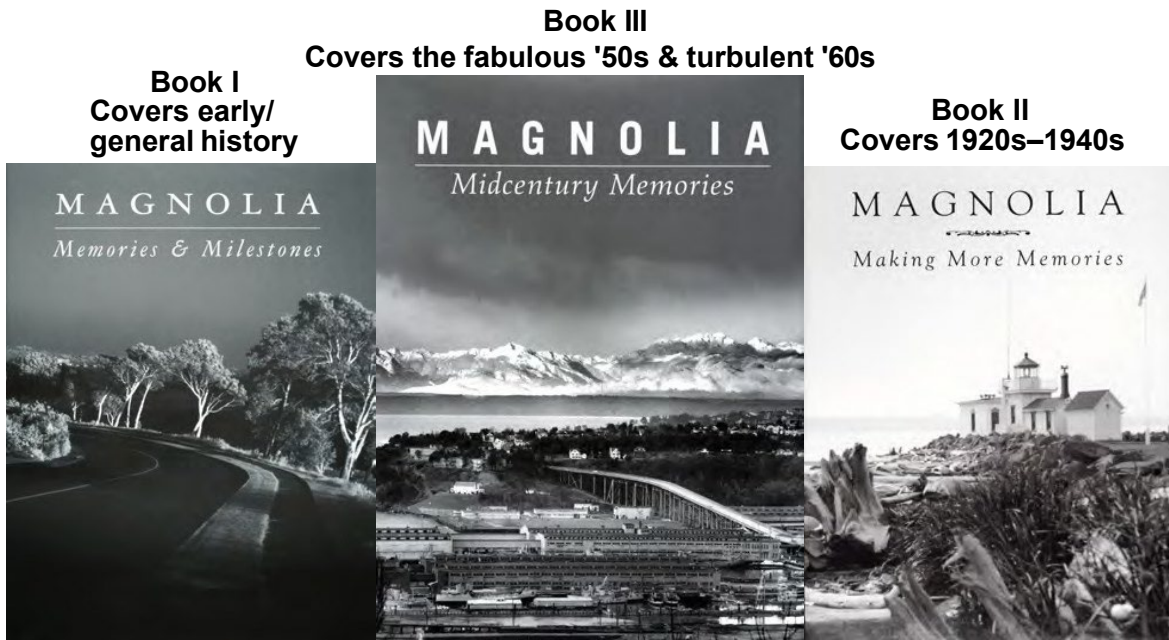


A native of Seattle who grew up in West Seattle, she graduated from Holy Rosary High School and earned a business associate's degree from Highline College. She had a decade-long career as a corporate restaurant office manager before she and her husband moved to Magnolia 47 years ago. Her son attended Magnolia Cooperative Preschool and Lawton Elementary where she volunteered as well.

In 2020, St. George received the MHS Historic Person of the Year Award for her significant contributions to the organization and in preserving local history. As one of the longest-running board members, she has helped make MHS what it is today through her volunteer work.

"My joy is to continue to share Magnolia history with the help of the wonderful people of Magnolia."

Visit Our Website
www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org



Book I
Covers early/
general history

Book III
Covers the fabulous '50s & turbulent '60s

Book II
Covers 1920s–1940s

Out of Print

Price: \$45

Out of Print

Also available at Magnolia's Bookstore

NOW AVAILABLE

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Celebrating our 25th Anniversary!

Support our work and help us spread the word with
our new store featuring MHS gear.

Visit our [online store](#).



See us at: Magnolia Farmers Market & Summerfest