



## **You are Invited!** **Magnolia Historical Society Annual Meeting**

**Curious about your home's history?**  
**How old is it and who lived in it before you?**  
**What did it look like back in the day?**



Home at Magnolia Boulevard West & West Ruffner St.-1917  
Courtesy of Elizabeth Schenken Roach

**Thursday, April 19, 2018**  
**7:00-9:00pm**

**Magnolia Lutheran Church**  
**2414-31st Avenue W.**

**Guest Speaker**  
**Midori Okazaki**  
**Puget Sound Regional Archives**

**Join us as she introduces us to property records, maps and other resources available to help us as we embark on our house history research.**

**Midori is the Branch Archivist at the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives. The branch preserves and provides public access to records of enduring historical value created by local government agencies in King, Pierce and Kitsap Counties. The agencies include county offices, municipal governments, school districts, port districts and other service districts.**

**Meet the MHS 2018-2019 Board**  
**Award of Historical Person of the Year**  
**Refreshments provided**



### **Monica Wooton** **2018 Historical Person of the Year**

Monica Wooton, a lifelong resident of Magnolia, is the recipient of the 2018 Historical Person of the Year Award because of her contributions to the Magnolia Historical Society. This honor is given by the MHS Board when a person's credentials and historical work are considered a significant contribution. She is the eighth recipient of this special award since the Society was formed in 2001.



In addition to being a founding member, she served as President for several of the 17 years MHS has existed. She was the Project Manager (editor, writer and photographer) for the award-winning Magnolia history books. Her involvement includes writing historical articles which spanned numerous historic topics, guiding new writers in memoir writing workshops, participating in book sale events, partnering with other Magnolia organizations on historical projects, archiving documents/photos, directing the creation of the MHS stone sculpture (located in Magnolia Village) and much more. She is now building a team to create Magnolia History Book III - Magnolia: Mid-Century Memories (50's & 60's).

We thank Monica for her past and her continued interest in preserving Magnolia history.

## Snapshot in Time: Now Magnolia School - Update on Progress

by Jeanette Imanishi, Project Manager, SPS

See our original Snapshot in Time: Magnolia School by Lisa Meoli on our website [www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org)

The School Board approved award of their contract in November 2017 in the amount of \$26,217,500. The general contractor is FORMA Construction Company. The contractor was given notice to proceed on December 19, 2017. The project is scheduled for completion summer 2019 for school opening fall 2019.

Construction activities that have occurred to date:

- Beginning hazardous material abatement and selective demolition
- Beginning masonry cleaning, repair and re-sealing
- Construction of the retaining and foundation wall at the NE corner of the site and along the east side of the new Gymnasium
- Beginning installation of underground utilities
- Beginning layout of pipe and duct runs particularly penetrations in existing walls



**Interior Commons (Courtesy of SPS)**

Gives an idea of what the renovated Commons will look like. Located in the old building, this space was designated a landmark feature by the Landmarks Preservation Board so the character-defining elements must be preserved (proscenium opening, arched windows, steel trusses).



**Interior Courtyard View (Courtesy of SPS)**

This rendering gives an idea of what the view looking south would be like. The renovated historic building is on the right, new Gymnasium addition on the left, new classroom wing addition in the background.

Currently, construction activities include:

- On-going hazardous material abatement and selective demolition
- On-going masonry cleaning, repair and re-sealing
- On-going construction of foundation walls in the new Gymnasium
- On-going installation of underground utilities
- On-going layout of pipe and duct runs, particularly penetrations in existing walls
- Beginning construction of foundations at new classroom wing

The new additions will be taking shape this summer as the contractor's schedule shows them starting to erect steel late April-May timeframe.



### **Donate to the Magnolia Historical Society by using amazonSmile**

It is a simple and automatic way for you to support the Magnolia Historical Society. Every time you shop the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of most items to our organization.

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we appreciate your support



## MHS Board for 2018-2019



**Dee St. George** will serve as President. A Magnolia resident for 40 years, she joined MHS in 2006 as Grant Bookkeeper for *Magnolia: Making More Memories*. She will continue to serve as Treasurer.

**Kathy Cunningham** has been serving as Secretary and will continue in this role. Retired from the Federal Government, she is a long time Magnolia resident with a love of history.



**Lisa Meoli** will serve at-large. A resident of Magnolia, she is interested in local and regional historical research. She has a degree in geology and archaeology and Master's Degree in public history. She will assist MHS with community projects and future archive work. Her specialty is environmental history.



**Greg Shaw** will continue to serve as Book Sales Coordinator. Raised in Magnolia, he attended Magnolia Elementary, Catherine Blaine, QA High School and UW in Marketing. He has worked as a Managing Broker for Windermere in Magnolia for 17 years.

**Bruce Jones** retired from IBM and has served as our Webmaster since Smith Design Works created our website.  
[www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.magnoliahistoricalsociety.org)

**Jeff Cunningham** serves as MHS Facebook Administrator in charge of designs and updates which can be seen at  
[www.facebook.com/magnoliahistoricalsociety](https://www.facebook.com/magnoliahistoricalsociety)



## MHS Seeking Members to continue doing what we do to make more Magnolia memories.

Join our organization which enjoys our mission of collecting, presenting, preserving the neighborhood history.

> Interest in Magnolia's past and present  
> Meet monthly, (but not in the summer)

> Creative ideas encouraged  
> No experience needed

**Questions or to Volunteer - Call Dee (206) 284-5480**



## Magnolia: Memories & Milestones and Magnolia: Making More Memories

We are willing to work with any group in using our books as a fundraiser

**For details call Greg - (206) 579-5475**

## Snapshot in Time: More “Now” added to the “Then and Now” of the Magnolia Bridge

by Monica Wooton

### **Now: Two new things...**

have happened in regard to the replacement of the current Magnolia Bridge.

Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) contracted SCJ Alliance, a local engineering firm, to do a study on options that are more economically viable than the 2005 preferred option.

According to SDOT's Wes Duesy, Project Manager, “We are currently evaluating several alternatives (many collected from the 2002 replacement study) and some of these alternatives may or may not include construction of a new bridge. If a new bridge is considered, the alignment would be different from the preferred alternative identified in the earlier planning study. Currently we are working to develop a more cost effective alternative that could realistically be funded for design and construction in the future.”

We realize how frustrating it can be when an alternative is identified that can't be built. At this time, we are working to ensure the concepts presented to the public don't have any other hidden infeasibilities. And, with our rapidly changing city and the new opportunities presented by Sound Transit's work in the area, this takes some thorough upfront investigation. All that said, we [briefed] the Magnolia Community Council at their standing meeting on March 20 and will be engaging the broader public both through an online survey and open house event by this summer.”

Secondly, as of November 2017, a long-awaited emergency plan for getting traffic and goods in and off of Magnolia in the case of a failed bridge was completed by Seattle Department of Transportation.



Alternative A, rendered here, and selected as the preferred option for replacement of the Magnolia Bridge after a lengthy 2002-2005 process is no longer being considered.  
Rendering courtesy of SDOT.

It was long a desire of the Magnolia Community to have SDOT define and have in place an emergency plan that would handle traffic and goods to and from Magnolia in case of a bridge failure. Magnolia, which has 3 entrances to it all bridges, is particularly vulnerable to the problem of bridge failure. Some residents were especially anxious for a surface street emergency route and this was identified in this plan.

“We've been collaborating with local stakeholders to develop an Emergency Transportation Response Plan for the Magnolia Community in the event one or more of the bridges are closed. The plan provides actions and processes to ensure resiliency in the transportation network including emergency contacts, transportation hubs and surface street routes into the community. Additionally, we have identified short-term solutions to improve the capacity and operation of existing routes into Magnolia.” <http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/magnoliabridgeplanning>

The complete plan can be viewed and printed as a pdf at: <https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/SDOT/BridgeStairsProgram/bridges/MagnoliaBridgeTrafficMaintenance.pdf>.

### **Then...**

The Magnolia Bridge built in 1930 has long served the Magnolia Community. Over the years several safety issues have arisen that make the replacement of this bridge an inevitability.

On July 10, 2001, U.S. Sen. Patty Murray announced that there was disaster-relief funding for the Magnolia Bridge through the Senate Supplemental Appropriations: “These funds will set us on a course to address the serious infrastructure problems resulting from the Nisqually earthquake.... Thousands of city residents are inconvenienced daily as a result of the damaged [Alaskan Way] Viaduct and Magnolia Bridge. This assistance is a first step toward repairing both of these vital transportation links.”

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**Snapshot in Time: More “Now” added to the “Then and Now” of the Magnolia Bridge (continued from page 4)**

According to this press release, “The earthquake...damaged 27 support braces of the Magnolia Bridge, which is the primary arterial connection from the Magnolia neighborhood to the rest of Seattle. The \$9 million secured by Murray will begin the process of replacing the 72-year-old bridge and will support efforts to help the City of Seattle begin engineering and environmental impact studies to avoid a catastrophic collapse during a future quake.”

The bridge was also damaged in the 1997 mudslides (and was repaired), has some load bearing restrictions for the ramps leading down to the port property below and, according to John Buswell, Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) manager of Bridges and Roadway structures, the Magnolia Bridge has never been seismically retrofitted.

The Move Seattle transportation levy had monies included in it “to seriously study the funding solution for the Magnolia Bridge,” Buswell added.

In 2002, SDOT, then called Seattle Transportation, used the disaster funds and began a process to select a replacement design for the then-70-year-old Magnolia Bridge. The Capitol Hill Times reported on Feb. 20, 2002, in an interview with Kirk Jones, the SDOT representative leading the effort in the Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project, “The consultant will prepare a ‘type, size and location’ (T,S&L) engineering study, which will cost between \$7 million and \$9 million.... The study will come from a \$9 million federal appropriation secured by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray.”

A Design Advisory Group (DAG) was formed. HNTB Corp. was hired as the bridge design consultant. Envriolssues was hired to facilitate the public reach of selecting the preferred design. SCOT managed the overall design process.



The West Garfield Street Bridge opened to vehicles and pedestrians in December 1930. This photo was taken from the west end of the Bridge. Photo courtesy of Seattle Engineering Department #458

DAG is described by SDOT documents as “a mix of community stakeholders representing many sectors and local neighborhoods.... DAG advises and provides input to SDOT and project design team during the process to identify [bridge] alternatives and design elements. DAG has considerable influence on final decisions but not ultimate authority, which resides with the mayor and the City Council.”

A 2003 SDOT Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document explained, “After brainstorming 25 replacement structures, two rounds of technical review and an extensive public involvement process, Alternatives A, D and H were selected for further study. Alternative A replaces the bridge with a similar facility just south of the existing bridge. Alternative D maintains the same endpoints as currently exist for the Magnolia Bridge but arcs the alignment to the north. Alternative H provides two access points: one similar to that provided for Alternative D, the other a northern route. A No Action/Rehabilitation alternative was also considered and rejected because the cost to bring the bridge to current safety and design standards was prohibitive.

It took from October 2002 until 2005 to select Alternative A and from 2005 to 2008 to do a 30-percent design (40 percent for the bridge footings) of Alternative A. And potential funding sources - a complicated process of getting federal, state and local funds - were not identified.

In March 2016, SDOT commented that it will take approximately three years for the rest of the design and permitting to be completed and construction to begin; the build will take 30 to 36 months to complete. The cost estimates for replacement rise — \$196 million, if the replacement bridge using Alternative A was built in 2009. In the 2016 market, it would be \$236 million, with a 4-percent inflation rate for every year it is delayed, according to SDOT’s Kit Loo, a member of the Magnolia Bridge Replacement Project team at the time.

Moving forward and after all this: Alternative A is no longer in the running due to cost and other traffic considerations that have arisen since its selection. SCJ Alliance and SDOT with the community will be looking for realistic up-dated options that could be funded and built to replace the current Magnolia Bridge.





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- ◆ Visit Magnolia's Bookstore  
3206 West McGraw St., Seattle

**See you at the Farmer's Market!**



## **Magnolia Historical Society Mission**

**Initiate** interest in Magnolia history - gather and protect 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 encourages historic projects and events.

**Encourage** a more accurate "sense of place" through our work preserving the stories and images of Magnolia.



## **\* NEW PROJECT \* Magnolia History Book III Magnolia: Mid-Century Memories (50's and 60's)**

**Magnolia writers, researchers, sources, peer editors, and old photos wanted!  
We are looking for your help, ideas and suggestions.**

We have already begun to build our team who will tackle the history of the Army Reserve, the Magnolia Garden Clubs, the building of Blaine and the Magnolia Community Center and more. We have memoir writers from all parts of the Magnolia neighborhood: Perkins Lane, the Valley, to 28th Avenue West.

If you would like to participate or contribute contact: Monica Wooton  
(206) 284-2430 or email: [edited]@comcast.net.