

Quarterly Newsletter – Winter 2017
Women’s Architectural League of Portland
Mary Lawrence, Editor

Our President | by Linda Hathaway Bunza

Sue Schubert loves architecture! Her interest in designed spaces took root during childhood and has continued unabated ever since. She was inspired by her grandfather who designed his (and her grandmother’s) home and adjoining cottages; and wowed by her mother who designed clothes for Sue and her twin sister, Judy. A college Latin American Architecture course she took at UC Santa Barbara also grabbed her attention. In her own words, Sue has always “felt surrounded by design—the material, the feel, the look, the texture, color and tone.”



Sue Schubert has lived in homes of all sizes and shapes: during childhood a tiny apartment in San Carlos, CA; and later a small bungalow. After marrying Dick: a tiny one-room home raised on concrete blocks at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Then among others, a grand Victorian in upstate NY and a traditional brick home in PA. They’re now settled in a 1495 sq. ft. townhouse in Sellwood.

Until she met Mary Collet, Sue didn’t realize there was a Women’s Architectural League of Portland, probably because she was so busy paddling on the river, doing Pilates, yoga, hiking, riding her bike, teaching Spanish, studying French, traveling, cooking, sewing, reading, being with family and, of course, socializing! WAL’s mission of touring buildings of all types and supporting students of architecture continue to flame Sue’s passion, and now as president of WAL, she would like to encourage members to join her in a leadership role: “What do you like to do?” she asks. “Work with numbers? Write? Socialize? Organize? Great! We’d love to have you on board!”

Architectural Heritage Center

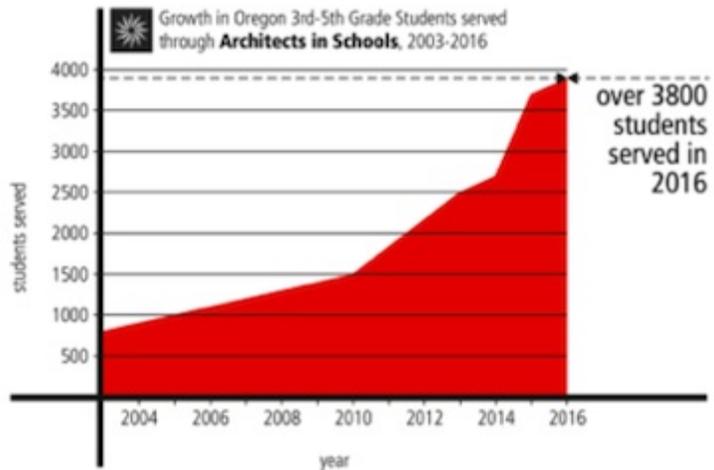
January 24, 10:00 am is set at AHC for WAL’s General Meeting, program and tour (refer to earlier tour announcement). Meanwhile, find descriptions of interesting walking tours and lectures in the next two months at the website VisitAHC.org.

Willamette Falls Legacy Project

It’s time for an update on the planning of this major regional project! A fine opportunity occurs on **January 10 from 7 to 8 pm** with a free film showing of *Salmon in the City* at the Lake Theater & Café in Lake Oswego. Check rediscoverthefalls.com, and look under events. Also save the date of **Friday, March 3** for a WAL presentation by Project representatives.

The **February WAL tour** is set for the afternoon of **February 21st** (watch for announcement!). Also, the Snodgrass house & garden tour in Tualatin that was cancelled recently due to snow has been reset for the month of June.

Architecture Foundation of Oregon Update: Architects in Schools



Classroom demand for AFO’s highly successful [Architects in Schools](#) program, which WAL supports, is at an all-time high. AFO is always seeking new, young architects to participate in this program. Do you know anyone who might be interested?

ACE Mentor Program for Future Women Architects | by Susan Nielsen

When the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program started in Portland 11 years ago, only a small number of high school girls participated. Today, the after-school mentorship program helps more than 50 young women a year explore careers in architecture, construction and engineering.

Strong community support from employers and organizations like the Women’s Architectural League of Portland has helped ACE dramatically expand its capacity and impact, ACE leaders say.

Already, Portland’s design-and-build community is seeing a payoff from this **investment in its future workforce**. Young people who participated in ACE as high school students are graduating from college and joining local firms. Some are become ACE mentors, including at least five young women this year.

“The knowledge that you get from the ACE program translates to your introductory college courses,” said one ACE alumna, now working for a Portland architecture firm and serving as an ACE mentor. “You already come in with that base knowledge that a lot of students don’t have.”

ACE is an in-depth mentorship experience that provides high schoolers with the chance to explore careers in architecture, construction, and engineering. One of ACE's goals is to help the industry diversify, so it does targeted outreach to support young women and students of color. Today, about **40% of ACE students and mentors are female.**



The free after-school mentorship program also awards scholarships to students who plan to pursue construction-related careers. ACE awarded \$72,000 in college scholarships to 16 college seniors last year, and \$384,000 in scholarships since the program's inception.

One ACE scholarship winner told us this month, "This program has **opened many doors** for me and has given me skills that I am using to succeed in college. I am forever grateful to ACE."

ACE is gearing up for an exciting year with more than 150 students from 40+ high schools in the Portland metro region. Portland's construction community's support for the program is apparent: More than 100 professionals from local firms are volunteering as team mentors in 2017, and over \$54,000 was raised at the ACE Golf Tournament in September. WAL has been an ACE supporter for several years.

To WAL from ACE: THANK YOU! [Learn more about ACE here.](#)

WPA Artist's Wood Mural Refurbished at Chapman School

Ed. note: The public unveiling occurred in early December. The following is taken from the Friends of Chapman's press release.

The entrance foyer of Chapman Elementary has been graced with the work of **Aimee Spencer Gorham** since 1938 when the large format wood marquetry mural titled *Send Us Forth to be Builders of a Better World* was installed there, but almost 80 years of accumulated soiling, wear, and vandalism had obscured the exquisite and glowing figural effects of the wood grains in the mural. Conservation of the murals was made possible by funding through the State of Oregon's Oregon Heritage Grant, the Juan Young Trust, the Autzen Foundation and community donations. The unveiling event was sponsored by Neighbors West-Northwest and organized by the Chapman PTA.

Aimee Gorham is best known for her work at the Timberline Lodge, the largest and most ambitious New Deal project of the area, where two of her pieces grace the walls of that temple to rustic regionalism. Under WPA programs, Gorham produced murals for Oregon State University's School of Forestry, numerous Portland Public schools, regional art centers in Oregon, and for the New York World's Fair in 1939. She established a workshop of furniture makers from Timberline Lodge that executed her designs into the 1950s.



Gorham only recently has come to be considered a significant regional artist, despite never having received adequate recognition. This may have been due to now outdated concepts in art criticism during the mid and late 20th century that considered wood marquetry a decorative or “minor art.” Not to be overlooked is her identity as a female artist, which also may have contributed to her lack of critical fortune due to gender bias.

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Editor's note: Our thanks to invited guest contributors to this newsletter: WAL member **Linda Hathaway Bunza** for her piece on President Sue Schubert, and **Susan Nielsen** of the ACE Mentor Program for her article on this fine organization that WAL supports. *ML*