

Preservation News

The Newsletter of Historic Seattle

Good Shepherd Center Artists in Residence *Contributed by Marga Rose Hancock*

ON THE FIFTH FLOOR of a building originally erected to house a Catholic school for “wayward girls” are six studios that serve as affordable artists’ housing. Historic Seattle converted the spaces in 2002 from their previous use as Pacific Northwest Ballet’s classrooms and costume storage.

The Good Shepherd Center’s history— and its present—clearly inform and inspire the resident artists.

Julie, a “cabaret chanteuse,” often performs in the Center’s Chapel. She recalls anticipating living and working at the Center, asking herself, “How will you create and give back to the community?” Her answer: food. Thus she works with fellow Center tenant Seattle Tilth, helping prepare and deliver garden produce to neighbors near and far.

Charles moved to Seattle in the early 1990s, settling in Pioneer Square and intending to help “establish an art scene.” He recalls the pleasure of joining the Center’s artistic community-in-progress. His paintings were recently on view at Sisko Gallery’s “Northwest Masters: Charles Emerson, Guy Anderson.”

Mary began *Wayward Girls Productions* *Lift Up Your Skirt and Fly* after moving to the Center, and many of her works have referenced its history and character. In *Closet*, a site-related group of 22-foot

dresses were hung from the Chapel’s ceiling; in *Ashes to Ashes*, Wayward Girls “staged its own wake” in their final show, featuring 20 coffins made by other local artists.

Jere has crafted an eclectic career combining graphic design and human behavior as a “neocompostmodern illustrative artist” in fine art and editorial illustration. He taught at the School of Visual Concepts and cofounded Arts-R-U in Alaska. Most recently, Jere began writing a pictorial memoir.

Jan describes herself as “not a Catholic, but living like a Mother Superior” in her studio, with its view of Mount Rainier. Her artistry incorporates acting, film-making, painting, textile art, fiction, and poetry, and her paintings and needlepoint accent her living space.

Roger has had a life in classical theatre including performing on and off Broadway, making movies and commercials, and working in circuses and ice shows. His studio at the Center holds the many props he uses in his current work entertaining as a clown or court jester. He values the regular exchange with other Good Shepherd Center artists in residence.

These artists show the impact that preservation has beyond protecting a building.

By securing affordable housing in a reused historic building, they’ve been able to pursue their art and share it with the community—a win for all.



Above: Good Shepherd Center Artists in Residence Jere, Mary, Charles and Julie with contributor Marga Rose Hancock
Credit: Marga Rose Hancock

Grant Completes Washington Hall Campaign

King County and 4Culture’s Building for Culture program awarded \$986,000 to fund the fourth and final phase of Historic Seattle’s restoration of Washington Hall, which will reopen to the community in late spring!

The Greenest Gift

MANY THANKS TO EARTHWISE ARCHITECTURAL SALVAGE for their generous gift towards Historic Seattle’s nonprofit mission! In 2015, the company donated \$5,134 from the sale of salvaged materials. By selecting Historic Seattle as a community partner, Earthwise ensures that pieces of places that could not be saved provide support for those we can protect. The company says, “We are committed to working within our community to reduce waste while preserving architectural heritage and reclaiming materials that would otherwise be headed to the landfill.”

**This creative approach shares the
importance of reuse and preservation
with the community at large.**

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- April 4 Members Meeting: Congregation Shevet Achim
- April 9 Digging Deeper: Seattle Theatre Group Library
- April 30 Good Shepherd Center Gardens Tour
- May 7 Digging Deeper: Ballard Historical Society
- May 9 World War I and Seattle’s Cityscape Lecture
- May 22 Bloxom Residence Tour

