



Bus-shelter panels painted during the 2008 Fauntleroy Fall Festival

# FAUNTLEROY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION 2008 ANNUAL REPORT

In 1908, shortly after Seattle annexed West Seattle and extended streetcar service to "Endolynne," the Fauntleroy neighborhood began to take off. One family opened a general store, and residents pooled their skills to build a chapel, both of which became focal points for the new community.

A century later, Fauntleroy is still going strong! Credit is due many factors, including the Fauntleroy Community Association - the tie that binds homeowners and tenants, businesses and institutions. This report highlights what FCA did during 2008 to bring residents together, stand up for our neighborhood, and enhance our quality of life.

## PERSISTENCE NIXES IDEA TO EXPAND FERRY PIER

The Fauntleroy Ferry Advisory Committee (FFAC) participated with Washington State Ferries in an important planning process for the communities affected by the system's operations. By making sure that Fauntleroy's voice was heard, we were able to convince ferry officials to remove expansion of the ferry pier from further consideration.

As mandated by the Legislature's ferry finance bill, the planning process was to update the system's long-range plan in light of growth projections and the state's financial picture. Proposals were due shortly after the 2009 session got under way.

In the fall, FFAC members secured a hearing on the draft long-range plan in Fauntleroy, which occurred in January 2009. The draft plan had proposed expanding the Fauntleroy pier to accommodate more waiting vehicles and adding an overhead loading ramp for passengers.

Together with written opposition from Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels and King County Council Chairman Dow Constantine, resident testimony won the day, and the ferry system dropped the expansion idea. The overhead ramp is still in the plan.

Members of the FFAC are appointed by the

King County executive for four-year terms to represent Fauntleroy and West Seattle. Gary Dawson, Chuck Sawyer, and Bruce Butterfield attend workshops, planning and strategy meetings, public hearings, and survey sessions.

In a continuing effort to mitigate the adverse effects of vehicle traffic to and from the Fauntleroy terminal, they also routinely meet with West Seattle business and community groups, other regional Ferry Advisory Committees, ferry-system staff, members of the State Transportation Commission, legislators, and many other state, county, and local elected officials.

Much work remains if Fauntleroy and West Seattle are to be relieved of many of the traffic headaches associated with serving both Southworth and Vashon ferry commuters through our residential neighborhoods. Lost in this version of the long-range plan was a point we thought we had won: direct passenger service between Southworth and downtown Seattle.

The FFAC reports monthly to the FCA Board. Community input is most welcome then or at any time to individual FFAC members.



Rep. Sharon Nelson met many 34th District constituents at the Fautleroy Food Fest. Photo courtesy Gail Ann Photography

## FOOD FEST A WINNER

The Fautleroy Food Fest and FCA annual meeting in mid March drew another enthusiastic crowd with a winning combination of tasty food, displays, and friendly neighbors and public officials.

Six area eateries, led by host Tuxedos and Tennis Shoes Catering, dished samples of their specialties, ranging from appetizers to desserts, and a dozen service organizations and governmental agencies ringed the room with displays. Raffle items generously donated by area businesses accented the gathering's emphasis on boosting FCA membership.

A \$750 grant from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods for membership development financed an expanded mailing about the event to nearly 2,000 households.

Everyone on the FCA Board played a role, including no-waste specialist Marty Westerman. Guests received a washable fork, and vendors cooperated by using only compostable plates and cups.

## FCA CO-HOSTS STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT KENNEY

When The Kenney announced plans to expand and redevelop its retirement complex on Fautleroy Way SW, points of contention soon arose, thanks in part to inaccurate media reports. FCA and the Morgan Community Association (MoCA) quickly provided a venue for neighborhood residents to hear project details directly.

In cooperation with staff from the city's Department of Planning and Development and The Kenney, FCA and MoCA hosted an information meeting on Dec. 4 at Fautleroy Church. The session reviewed all configurations under discussion, responded to concerns about height, density, and historic preservation, and gave residents a way to stay on top of the planning process.

## 'STENCH' STILL CONCERN

Since the 1980s, "green tide" (aka "the stench") has been a concern for residents within smelling distance of Fautleroy Cove. This year saw progress on the ground and also in securing a dedicated, ongoing funding source to learn more about the phenomenon and respond to locales such as Fautleroy when green tide threatens public health.

Excess nutrients in the water fuel growth of sea lettuce that, when it dries on the beach, emits noxious hydrogen-sulfide gas. The only known response is to remove the sea lettuce before it can decompose.

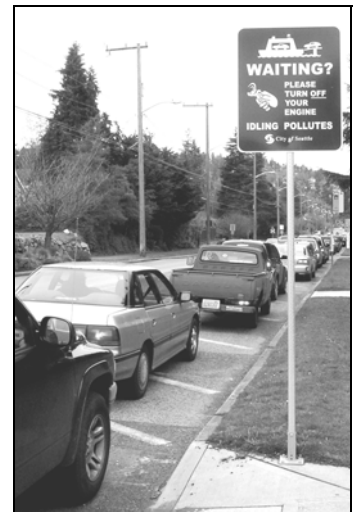
On behalf of FCA, Judy Pickens worked closely with the State Department of Ecology on a state-funded pilot removal project that would meet all current environmental requirements. A methodology was devised, permits were secured, a contractor was selected, and neighbors were informed. Cool summer temperatures, however, kept sea lettuce growth in the cove below levels for permitted removal.

Because the state allocation was specifically for hauling out seaweed, leftover funds for Fautleroy could not be carried over to the new biennium. In January 2009, however, State Rep. Sharon Nelson proposed legislation that would include both freshwater *and* saltwater algae in an existing grant program (funded by boat-registration fees) for research and emergency response. Sen. Tracey Eide from Federal Way (also a green tide hot spot) introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

## SIGNAGE CUTS AIR POLLUTION

With backing from the FCA Board, Sherry and Ron Richardson moved forward on their idea of asking drivers in the ferry queue along the west side of Fautleroy Way SW to turn off their engines while waiting. As residents across from Lincoln Park, Sherry and Ron knew the health hazards of air pollution from idling cars (not to mention the waste of fuel).

City Councilmember Richard Conlin thought it was a great idea and, within just a few months, a crew from the Seattle Department of Transportation had installed six signs.



Commuters get the message while queuing along Fautleroy Way near Rose Street.

Photo courtesy Ron Richardson

# COMMUNITY RALLIES TO CREATE DOCUMENTARY

Increasing density, disappearing affordable housing, and weakening of the ties that bind are among the challenges faced here and in many other Seattle neighborhoods. In 2008, Fauntleroy took a major step toward responding by producing *The Fauntleroy Story: 100 Years of Community*.

The documentary explores what created "community" so strongly here, what has sustained it through social and demographic change, and what hurdles we now face in continuing to foster a sense of belonging and the common good.

Funded by a \$15,000 grant from the Department of Neighborhoods and donations from FCA, Fauntleroy Church, the YMCA, and area businesses



and individuals, production got under way in May and the DVD was released in September. A steering committee represented all facets of the community.

The project started as a way to observe Fauntleroy's centennial but soon expanded beyond capturing history to examining how we continue as a community, not just as a neighborhood. The script drew on the Southwest Seattle Historical Society, church archives, and extensive interviews with community and business leaders and ordinary residents.

DVD's continue to be available (\$10 suggested donation) at The Original Bakery, the church office, and the Loghouse Museum's gift shop.

## VOLUNTEERS MAINTAIN COVE PARK INVESTMENT

Able coordinated by Ann Dawson, volunteers turned out for spring and fall work parties to maintain Cove Park, the once garbage-strewn street end next to the ferry terminal that the community transformed into a pocket park in the late 1990s.

Neighbors and walkers who enjoy the quiet spot on the beach joined a core group of eight to 10 volunteers to weed, collect trash (500 pounds in October!), prune bushes, and repaint the sealing canoe that is part of artist Tom Jay's installation at the park.

In the summer, vandals knocked the raven sculpture from its perch, breaking off the legs, but Gary Dawson repaired and reinstalled it as good as new.

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

At year's end, FCA has 178 members, including 47 businesses, institutions, and complimentary members (public officials, etc.). For most of 2008, Jordan Petram was our member database manager.

We started the year with \$10,617 in the treasury, ably managed by Phil Sweetland. We received \$5,169 in membership dues during 2008, plus a grant of \$750. Balance at year's end was \$11,877.

As a 501(c)4 nonprofit, FCA served as fiscal agent for grants awarded to the Fauntleroy Watershed Council for creek restoration and to the ad hoc Fauntleroy Centennial Group for production and marketing of the documentary.

The Board met monthly (except August and December) in open session on the second Tuesday evening at the schoolhouse.

In October, the Board reluctantly accepted the resignation of Kim Petram as vice president after many years of service to the community. Gary Dawson filled the vacancy on an interim basis. Jordan Petram also resigned as membership coordinator.

## MESSAGE: WASTE NOT!

FCA and the Fauntleroy Watershed Council, took action this year to respond to animal waste.

**SCAT, RACCOONS** - Thanks to a member who had had it with raccoons using her yard as a latrine, the FCA Board provided support and direction for alerting city, county, and state officials about the problem. As a result, Seattle-King County Public Health blanketed the neighborhood with nearly 3,000 letters about the health hazards of raccoon waste and the deadly parasites it can carry.

The mailing included a brochure about the detrimental effects of feeding both raccoons and feral cats. FCA underscored this information with an article in our *Neighbors* newsletter.

**BAG IT** - The Watershed Council worked with Seattle Public Utilities and the State Department of Ecology to finalize a water-quality improvement plan to reduce fecal coliform bacteria and related pathogens in Fauntleroy Creek. As part of

this effort, the Council secured a \$300 grant from State Ecology for 17 tailor-made pet-waste signs to remind dog walkers to bag the poop.



## 2008 LEADERSHIP

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Gordon Wiehler

Chris Nack, webmaster

Kirk Hopkins, e-mail outreach

Lynn Olson, consultant

Judy Pickens, annual report



## FALL FESTIVAL DRAWS CROWD

With support, in part, from FCA, the annual Fauntleroy Fall Festival in mid October drew these pumpkin painters and about 1,000 other folks for an afternoon of activities at the church, YMCA, and schoolhouse. FCA VP Kim Petram chaired the steering committee. To help keep the event free, Endolyne Joe's restaurant hosted a fund-raiser in May that netted \$1,150. Photo courtesy Martha Callard

## FCA ON TOP OF MANY ISSUES

Staying on top of a long and varied list of issues of interest to Fauntleroy is a big part of what FCA officers and directors do. During 2008, this list included the following major items:

- Replacement of the Alaskan Way viaduct and other concerns of this part of town were under the watchful eye of Vlad Oustimovitch, FCA's representative on the Southwest District Council.
- Proposed creation of "Rapid Ride" Metro service between Fauntleroy and downtown, with implementation in 2011; Susan Lantz-Dey took the lead on this expansion of mass transit.
- Speed bumps to slow traffic and water-diversion curbs to help prevent landslides along 47th Ave. SW., championed by several neighbors.
- The Fauntleroy Community Services Agency's effort to purchase the Fauntleroy schoolhouse as a secure home for the Fauntleroy Children's Center; Vicki Schmitz-Block represents FCA on the agency's board.
- City resources for emergency preparedness in the neighborhood; Gordon Wiehler is FCA's point person.
- Proposed relocation of the southbound Metro stop at the ferry terminal and exclusion of motorcycles from the resident-only parking zone; board and individual advocacy got both ideas put on hold.

## COMMUNICATION HIGH PRIORITY

Communication was, as always, a key perk of FCA membership. Martha and Bob Callard produced three issues of FCA's *Neighbors* newsletter, each chockfull of timely information. Chris Nack continued as our webmaster, posting board minutes, newsletter articles, and other information. Kirk Hopkins e-mailed a monthly list of events to members and issued special notices when asked. FCA's information table did a brisk business at the Fauntleroy Fall Festival and other events.

With support from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods, we blanketed the area by postcard to draw more prospective members to the Fauntleroy Food Fest. Also new was a table tent produced by Judy Pickens and displayed by Endolyne Joe's and The Original Bakery.

The *West Seattle Herald* helped us publicize activities, and we benefited from strong support by the *West Seattle Blog*.



### WELCOME, NEIGHBORS!

Ann Dunbar chats with Joe Maccarrone, who with his wife, Laura, recently moved to Fauntleroy. Ann coordinates FCA's "welcome bag" program, which delivers information and best wishes to new residents. Photo courtesy Judy Pickens



[www.fauntleroy.net](http://www.fauntleroy.net)

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