

# **NEIGHBORHOODS SOUTHEAST SEATTLE COMMUNITY HISTORY PROJECT**

Reference Document:

Timeline of Southeast Seattle History

Compiled by Mikala Woodward, with information contributed by El Centro de la Raza, the Northwest African American Museum, the Washington State Jewish Historical Society, and the Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

2011

Prepared for:

City of Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Historic Preservation Program

[www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/southeastseattle](http://www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/preservation/southeastseattle)

## **Southeast Seattle History Project**

### **Time Line**

Compiled by Mikala Woodward, 2011

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#### **Pre-**

- The Duwamish tribe manages the wooded territory of Beacon Hill from their nearby village settlement at the foot of the hill towards Puget Sound. The related Xachua'bs' ("Lake People") inhabit the Rainier Valley, with long-house settlements along the shore, probably at Wetmore Slough, Brighton Beach, and Pritchard Island.

#### **1890**

- Rainier Ave Electric Railway completed, providing streetcar service from downtown Seattle to the newly platted town of Columbia. The streetcar line stimulated development around stations all along the route, which eventually went all the way to Renton, with spurs serving the Mount Baker & Lakewood neighborhoods. Lots in Columbia go on sale in April 1891.

#### **1892**

- First Columbia School building built at 39<sup>th</sup> and Ferdinand.
- Columbia's citizens vote to incorporate as a town of the fourth class.
- German immigrant Joseph Heller builds the first brick building in Columbia (now 4900 Rainier Avenue S.)

#### **1906**

- Saint Edwards Church founded in Hillman City by Irish immigrants
- Southeast Seattle (all of Rainier Valley except Columbia City) incorporates, for the sole purpose of being incorporated into the City of Seattle.

#### **1907**

- Rainier Valley annexed to City of Seattle (Southeast Seattle in January, Columbia City in May). Columbia School District #18 (Columbia, Brighton, York/Muir, Rainier Beach/Emerson, Dunlap, Hillman City/Whitworth) annexed into [Seattle School District](#)
- Japan and the United States establish the Gentlemen's Agreement: Japan agrees not to issue passports to laborers and the U.S. agrees not to formally limit Japanese immigration. With the influx of Japanese "picture brides" to the U.S., families among the Japanese American community begin to grow. Some families establish homes and farms in Beacon Hill and Rainier Valley.

#### **1909**

- Susie and Samuel Stone, an African American couple, buy property in Mount Baker through a white intermediary. Citing restrictive covenants preventing non-white residents in the new development, the developers refuse to give the Stones their deed. Susie Stone prevails in court, and the Stones build a house at 3123 34<sup>th</sup> Ave S.

#### **1910**

- Beacon Hill Improvement Club passes a resolution on September 10, demanding development of a park by the City Park Board on par with other parks in the city: "Whereas, there are numerous parks for the rest and recreation in the Northern portion of the City for the development and beautifying of all, of which the Park Board is lavishly expending immense sums of money. Now, therefore, be it resolved: that, we deprecate the practise (sic) of playing any one portion of the City a favorite at the expense of other portions and demand that the discrimination against the Southern portion of the City cease, and that the Park Board proceed at once to develop, improve and beautify the tract on Beacon Hill to an extent equal, at least,

to Volunteer Park, Kinnear Park, Woodland Park and other Parks in the Northern portion of the City.”

- Atlantic Street Center founded as a settlement house for Italian immigrants arriving in the Rainier Valley.

#### 1911

- First Italian mass at Our Lady of Mt. Virgin Church, formerly a German church. Mount Virgin serves Italian immigrant community around Atlantic Street (known colloquially as "Garlic Gulch").

#### 1912

- Franklin High School opens in new Mount Baker neighborhood.

#### 1913

- Construction begins on [Empire Way](#), named in honor of "Empire builder" James J. Hill, who built the transcontinental railroad to Seattle. Empire renamed Martin Luther King Way in 1981.

#### 1914

- Caroline Kline Galland Home for the Aged opens in Seward Park neighborhood with seven residents. The Home had been donated by Caroline Kline Galland in 1905.

#### 1918

- Ezra Bessaroth Synagogue is dedicated at 15<sup>th</sup> and E. Fir. The synagogue serves a Sephardic congregation from Rhodes; Ladino-speaking Sephardic Jews had begun to arrive in Seattle from Rhodes and Turkey in 1902.

#### 1919

- First annual Japanese American Language School picnic held in Jefferson Park on Beacon Hill. Throughout the '20s, the park's picnic area was the site of many Nihongo Gakko (Japanese Language School) picnics; the picnics included baseball games along with girls and boys performances of folk dances, songs, marching drills, and mass calisthenics. Races were held in the area long Beacon Avenue now occupied by the driving range and the original site of the Jefferson Park ball field. The picnic area was located just southwest of the ball field.

#### 1922

- New Spanish-Mission-style Columbia School building completed, old school torn down.
- Remo Borracchini's Bakery opens in Rainier Valley's "Garlic Gulch."

#### 1924

- Congress passes the Immigration Act, excluding Japanese from immigrating to the U.S.

#### 1927

- Fujitaro Kubota, a first generation Japanese American or *Issei*, started work on an elaborate garden on five acres of logged off swamp area on Renton Avenue South near Rainier Beach. Kubota formed the Kubota Gardening Company in 1923, but was unable to purchase the land himself (the state's Alien Land Law forbid non-citizens from owning land, and Japanese immigrants could not become citizens), so he used a friend's name instead. Kubota developed the garden, acquiring lots to build towards twenty acres, until 1942 when the family was imprisoned in Minidoka internment camp in Idaho.
- Cleveland High School opens, replacing the old Georgetown High. The transfer takes place in the middle of the 1926-1927 school year, with students marching over the Lucile Street Bridge and up the hill in a parade to the new school.

#### 1929

- Japanese cherry trees planted in Seward Park, a gift from the Japanese Association of North America.

### 1931

- Japanese Golf Association holds first annual tournament at Jefferson Park 18-hole course. The Jefferson Park Golf Club, established in 1917, excluded African Americans and other people of color until a lawsuit against the City of Seattle challenged the club's discriminatory practices in the late 1950s – early 1960s.
- Stone Japanese Lantern installed in Seward Park – a gift from the City of Yokohama in gratitude for assistance offered by Seattle after 1923 earthquake.

### 1933

- Carl Gustofson Hasselberg, manager of the Jefferson Park Apartments and popularly known as the mayor of Beacon Hill, submits request on July 23 to the City Parks Department asking for: "The elimination in Jefferson Park of what is now available as a picnic ground never used by the white population but by the Orientals." He wrote again on June 10, 1934: "...as a club we ask for the elimination of the picnic grounds, for reasons of to (sic) keep this a white mans' community." While the Parks Department did not initially succumb to his request, eventually the picnic grounds were removed to extend the golf course. In August 16, 1934, the Parks Department replied: "In reply to your request for the elimination of the picnic grounds at Jefferson Park, kindly be advised that this matter was discussed by the Park Board at the meeting today, and it is their opinion that, in view of the fact that it is their duty to serve the public in general, it would not be feasible to remove the stove and tables at Jefferson Park.... At a future date these grounds may be taken up by the extension of the present golf course."

### 1934

- First annual Rainier District "Pow Wow" held in Seward Park. The annual festival included performances, swim races, pie-eating contests, and a beauty pageant. The Pow Wow drew thousands of visitors to Seward Park at its peak, and continued into 1990s.
- Congress passes the Tydings-McDuffie Act in 1934, which promised independence to the Philippines in ten years and changed the status of Filipinos from "nationals" to "aliens" thus restricting immigration to the U.S.

### 1935

- Congress passes the Filipino Repatriation Act, which called for the government to pressure Filipinos to return to the Philippines by offering them free passage; although the repatriation program was declared unconstitutional in 1940, from 1930 to 1940, Washington State witnessed a dramatic decrease in Filipino American population, which fell to 2,222.
- Filipino American community members formed the "Philippine Commonwealth Council of Seattle" with Pio de Cano as president and Rudy Santos as vice president; the organization was renamed "Filipino Community of Seattle and Vicinity" in 1946 and "Filipino Community of Seattle, Incorporated" in 1952; by 1930, 3,480 Filipino Americans lived in Washington state, including 1,600 in Seattle, with many first generation arrivals coming as "nationals" since the Philippines was a territory of the United States.

### Mid-1930s

- A few Chinese American families move into the North Beacon Hill area, over the Twelfth Street Bridge (later named the Rizal Bridge) from Chinatown and still within the limits established by restrictive housing covenants. According to Nancy Lew, a long-time Beacon Hill resident, "In the mid-1930s, there were only about seven Chinese families living in the entire district, six of them being Lew families"; identified families included the Ng family (18<sup>th</sup> and Hanford St.) and the Lew's (20<sup>th</sup> and Spokane; 13<sup>th</sup> and Atlantic; 14<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts; 12<sup>th</sup> and Massachusetts; 2908 11<sup>th</sup> South; and 13<sup>th</sup> and Bayview)

### 1937

- Service ends for the Rainier Valley Streetcar Line. The tracks are torn up and shipped to Japan as scrap metal; a three-day festival is held to celebrate their removal.

### 1938

- Sicks' Seattle baseball stadium opens at Rainier & McClellan St., site of the old Dugdale Park, which had burned to the ground in 1932.

### 1939

- [Seattle Housing Authority](#) created with Jesse Epstein as its first director.

### 1940

- First car crosses Lake Washington Floating Bridge, then US-10, eventually renamed [I-90](#). Construction of Lake Way providing bridge access on Seattle side disrupted Italian neighborhoods around Mt. Virgin Church.
- 1940 U.S. Census calculates that Southeast Seattle is 97% "White," 1% "Negro," and 2% "Other Race." Seventeen percent of the population is listed as "Foreign Born." North Beacon Hill has the largest non-white population in the district, at 10%. Most of these are probably Chinese Americans, who have begun to move from Chinatown into the Central District and south to Beacon Hill.
- Japanese Americans comprised just two percent of Seattle's population but operated fifty greenhouses, sixty-three percent of the city total, including the Noji Family greenhouse in Rainier Valley.

### 1941

- Yesler Terrace housing project completed.
- Pearl Harbor bombed by Japanese December 7<sup>th</sup>; U.S. enters WWII.
- Last annual Japanese American Language School picnic held in May prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor in December and the subsequent forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans living on the West coast.

### 1942

- (March) [Public Proclamation No. 1 begins the process of removing all persons of Japanese ancestry living in the western halves of Washington State, California, Oregon, and parts of Arizona to internment camps.](#)
- (March) Public Proclamation No. 3 declares an 8:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. curfew for "all enemy aliens and all persons of Japanese ancestry" along the entire Pacific Coast, which includes Italian Americans in Rainier Valley.
- The US Army leases four acres on the west side of Jefferson Park to construct a recreation camp for soldiers and their families through the duration of the war. The camp eventually spread to approximately 50 acres with more than 40 buildings, including a canteen, roller rink and merry-go-round.
- Five hundred Japanese Americans gathered at Beacon Avenue and Alaska Street under the supervision of the US Army to leave as a caravan for their forced removal to the Puyallup "assembly center"; the Japanese American population in Seattle was nearly 7,000; a total of 12,892 persons of Japanese ancestry from Washington state were ultimately incarcerated in internment camps, sent first to the Puyallup "assembly center" and then mostly to the Minidoka internment camp in Idaho.
- Bikur Cholim (Ashkenazic congregation from Eastern Europe, located in Central Area along with most of Seattle's Jewish community) hears presentation by a concentration camp escapee; the year before émigrés from Germany had presented Bikur Cholim with a torah rescued from a burning synagogue in Frankfurt. Seattle's Jewish community works before and during the war to help Jews escape Europe; after the war holocaust survivors join earlier waves of Jewish immigrants in Seattle.
- Wartime housing built for defense workers at Rainier Vista (near Columbia City) and Holly Park (South Beacon Hill) using funds provided by the Lanham Act.
- Anticipating increased enrollment at Van Asselt School (located near Holly Park), the School Board replaces beloved head teacher Etta Minnig, explaining that the expansion of the school "warrants the employment of a man as principal... When you consider that the attendance will increase from 120 to more than 600, you must agree that the situation called for something

more than sentiment." Parents protested, saying Minnig's "gentle discipline and human understanding had transformed wayward boys to shining examples of decorum."

### 1943

- Mayor William Devin takes office
- (October 19) Curfew restrictions on West Coast Italian-Americans lifted. Italian language classes held at Mt. Virgin Church were closed during WWII and never reopened.
- The Magnuson Act, sponsored by Washington Senator Warren G. Magnuson, repealed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882; a quota of 105 individuals per year was set for Chinese immigration to the United States.

### 1944

- Columbia Annex school opens at Rainier Vista to accommodate children of wartime workers housed there. The building has various uses over the next 60 years -- nursery, Head Start, Admin, alternative programs.
- Enrollment at Van Asselt rises to 675, school is held up as example in school levy campaign: "shocking and deplorably obsolete."
- Congress passes Servicemen's Readjustment Act (GI Bill), providing support for returning servicemen to go to college and purchase homes.

### 1945

- (January) Executive orders and proclamations underpinning Japanese internment ruled unconstitutional, rescinded. Japanese-Americans begin leaving camps, returning home. They are provided a mere \$25, train fare, and meals en route to start their lives over again. Some settle at Holly Park, which has been opened up to veterans and others since the end of the war. Anti-Japanese sentiment still runs high among white population in many places, but some families, including the Nojis and Kubotas, are able to return to their land and businesses. Seattle's Japanese American population decreased from 7,000 in 1940 to 5,800 in 1950.

### 1946

- Filipino Americans in Seattle began the annual tradition of picnics in Seward Park to celebrate the independence of the Philippines from the US; the picnic's first date was July 4 but it was later changed to June 12 in recognition of the declaration of the Philippine Republic's independence from Spain in 1898
- On June 1<sup>st</sup>, Sick's Stadium hosts Seattle's first African American professional baseball game. The Seattle Steelheads played the San Diego Tigers as part of the short-lived West Coast Negro Baseball League.

### 1947

- Chubby & Tubby founded as a military-surplus hut on the lot of a Rainier Valley gas station.
- Plan for I-90 through Seattle accepted by Federal Highway Administration as part of National System of Interstate Highways
- Congress amends the War Brides Act, allowing wives of Chinese servicemen to enter the U.S. on a non-quota basis; many servicemen traveled to China or Hong Kong, returning with wives and starting second-generation families; the result of the War Brides Act and the Magnuson Act four years earlier, was the migration of nearly 2,000 Chinese to Washington state from 1943 to 1960 and the birth of some 1,900 Chinese Americans in the state from 1940 to 1960.
- The Fir State Golf Club is founded, giving African American golfers the opportunity to join golf tournaments and compete for prizes during an era when other clubs refused to welcome minority members.
- Bill Mizuki opens Mizuki Nursery in Rainier Valley, near Graham Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Way. The nursery operates for 48 years until he passes away in 2001 and the family closes the nursery the following year.
- Seattle's Hebrew Day School founded in Central Area; moves to Rainier Avenue in late '60s, becomes Seattle Hebrew Academy in 1969.

#### 1948

- Royal Esquire Club founded by five young African American men unable to join existing social clubs because of their race. The club is located at 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue S. and S. Washington St. in the Central District – it relocates to the Rainier Valley in the 1980s.
- New Philippine Government establishes a consulate office in Seattle; the city has the third largest Filipino American population on the mainland.

#### 1950

- The 1950 U. S. Census shows Southeast Seattle is 95% White, 3% Negro, and 2% Other Race. Almost all nonwhite residents live on Beacon Hill or at Holly Park.
- A group of Chinese American men start the Seattle Chinese Golf Club at Jefferson Golf Course in Beacon Hill; the club became the Cascade Golf Club in 1953.
- New Van Asselt School building opens.

#### 1951

- Filipino American Bobby Balcena plays on the Seattle Rainiers championship team, managed by baseball legend Rogers Hornsby; Bobby Balcena had a brief stint in 1956 with the Cincinnati Reds, becoming the first Filipino American player to make it to the big leagues.

#### 1952

- Sharples Junior High opens (now Aki Kurose) on S. Graham Street. Rainier View School opens in portables as an annex to Dunlap.

#### 1954

- Holly Park and Rainier Vista wartime housing converted to public housing under auspices of Seattle Housing Authority.
- Vince Mottola, Sr. arrives in Seattle from Naples with his wife Ada; the next year they open Vince's Italian restaurant on Empire Way. The Mottola's are part of a post-war wave of Italian immigration to Southeast Seattle that includes the Pizzutos (also restaurateurs) and barber Mike Prontera. Prontera had been held in an Italian POW camp near Boeing field during the war. He fell in love with an Italian American girl from "Garlic Gulch" when she visited the camp; after the war they were married.

#### 1956

- Mayor Alan Pomeroy takes office.

#### 1957

- First part of Seattle Freeway (I-5) route receives federal funding.
- East Brighton School (annex to Brighton) opens in portables at 51st & Graham, site of former Brighton Beach (1901-1908) & Brighton Annex (1916-1922) Schools. Renamed Graham Hill in 1960. Asa Mercer Jr. High opens on Beacon Hill.
- SPS turns Martha Washington School for Girls (residential school for at-risk girls) over to State.
- Mayor Gordon Clinton takes office.

#### 1958

- Congregation Ezra Bessaroth formerly based in Central Area, builds a new synagogue in Seward Park. The building is used by growing population of other Jews in the neighborhood until their own synagogues relocate. Around this time the Sephardic Bikur Holim Camp is founded to provide sleep-away summer camp experience for orthodox children. The program later joined with Ezra Bessaroth members and expanded.
- Franklin High School addition built – modern box obscures classical front of 1913 building.

#### 1960

- U.S. Census calculates Southeast Seattle is 87% White, 4% Negro, 9% Other Race. North Beacon Hill's non-white population has continued to grow: 9% of the residents are black; the 26% listed as "Other Race" include Chinese, Japanese, and Filipino Americans.

- 4,176 Chinese live in Washington State, a sixty-five percent increase from 1950; four-fifths of all Chinese in the state lived in Seattle, many in North Beacon Hill.
- Beacon Hill Annex School opens in portables. Renamed Kimball in 1964.
- Rainier Beach Junior Senior High School opens.

#### 1961

- New Graham Hill & Rainier View school buildings open.

#### 1962

- Van Asselt Annex opens in portables. Renamed Wing Luke in 1969.
- Blaine Memorial United Methodist Church (a Japanese American congregation) completes its building project, establishing a church on Beacon Hill.

#### 1963

- SPS initiates voluntary racial transfer program, under pressure from NAACP.

#### 1965

- The 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act resulted in sweeping immigration reform, classifying immigrants by nation of origin rather than ethnic origins; a limit of 170,000 immigrants from the eastern hemisphere to the U.S. annually with a ceiling of 20,000 from each country; the act raises Chinese immigration quotas from 105 Chinese no matter their country of origin to 20,000 individuals from China alone.
- Sephardic Bikur Holim congregation (Sephardic Jews from Turkey) opens new synagogue in Seward Park – designed by Benjamin Priteca and his associate Bernard Stertzler. The congregation had sold its building in the Central Area in the 1950s and had been attending services at Ezra Bessaroth, also a Sephardic congregation.
- Grand Opening of Filipino Community Center at old "Empire Bowl" site on Empire Way.
- Mutual Fish Co., started by the Yoshimura family at 14<sup>th</sup> & Yesler in 1947, relocates to Rainier Avenue location.
- Martha Washington School for Girls closes as residential program.
- Mayor James Braman takes office.
- Urban League presents "Triad Plan" to desegregate Seattle's schools through mandatory busing. School Board rejects plan, but its basic outline (linking white and minority schools in pairs or triads for busing purposes) would be adopted as the Seattle Plan in 1978.

#### 1966

- Washington State Alien Land Law is changed, permitting Fujitaro Kubota to own his own gardens on twenty acres of land in the Rainier Beach area.
- March 31-April 1, St. Clement's Episcopal Church hosts a freedom school during the Seattle School boycott, organized to protest the School Board's lack of movement on desegregation.

#### 1967

- [\(January 31\) Last section of Interstate 5 is completed. It runs about 15 miles from Dearborn Street in Seattle to Kent-Des Moines Road S.](#)

#### 1968

- Seattle's Open Housing ordinance bans racial discrimination in housing.
- Rainier Valley dump closes (now Genesee Park). It would take more than two decades to properly cap the landfill and turn it into a park.
- A group of Asian Pacific American community members, including Al Mar, Phil Mar, Pudge Eng, John Dong, Glen Yee, Cal Chin and Ed Wong, formed the Seattle Chinese Athletic Association (SCAA) to provide community youth opportunities to participate in athletics; the association used Jefferson Community Center as its home base, starting with just thirty-five boys playing softball, tennis and basketball and growing now to more than two hundred and sixty boys and girls playing on twenty-four SCAA teams

- Merger of Filipino American Fellowship Methodist Church on First Hill with African American Beacon Hill Methodist Church under the name Beacon United Methodist Church.
- In March, African American students demonstrated at Franklin High School for black history courses and permission to wear their hair in “natural” afro style. The demonstration resulted in the arrest of Black Panthers Aaron Dixon, Larry Gossett, and Carl Miller.
- On September 6<sup>th</sup> members of the Seattle branch of the Black Panther Party, armed with rifles and handguns, responded to complaints that white students at Rainier Beach Junior-Senior High School were beating up their black classmates. Black Panther Captain Aaron Dixon met with school principle Donald Means to demand the schools African American students be better protected.
- Civil unrest in the Central Area in the wake of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s assassination erupts into violence; several Jewish businesses sustain significant damage. This violence, coupled with “urban renewal” efforts that threatened some Jewish businesses, led many Jews to leave the neighborhood; many relocated to Mount Baker and Seward Park.
- Project Interchange, alternative program for at-risk students, housed at Martha Washington.

### 1969

- Mayor Wesley Uhlman takes office.
- Congregation Ezra Bessaroth upgrades its building, adding a unique sanctuary building and social hall designed by architect Bob Durham.
- Isaac and Rachel Maimon, a Turkish Sephardic couple, open Maimon’s Kosher Foods at 50<sup>th</sup> Ave S. and S. Alaska.
- Late 1960s: Seattle Hebrew Academy moves from Central Area to 5237-5261 Rainier Avenue South, near Columbia City. Five years later it would move again, to a formerly Catholic school on Capitol Hill.
- Boeing lays off 20,000 of its 100,000 workers. Another 40-50,000 would lose their jobs by the end of 1971.

### 1970

- U.S. Census calculates that Southeast Seattle’s population is 69% White, 14% Black, 1% American Indian, 8% Japanese, 5% Chinese, 3% Filipino, and 1% Other. On North Beacon Hill, White residents are the minority at 45%.
- Ezra Bessaroth Congregation completes construction of Wilson Ave. synagogue.
- Muir School Annex opens in response to overcrowding. The building later became Mt Baker Central Youth Services.
- South Shore Middle School building opens -- “open concept” school features 1.5 acre main room.
- Alternative School #1 opens at Martha Washington School.
- 6,261 Chinese Americans lived in Seattle, representing 1.18% of the population; regionally, North Seattle included 1,086 Chinese Americans, Central Seattle 1,664, and South Seattle, 3,511; the following census tracts had more than 200 Chinese American residents: tract 53 (University District) had 260 total (143 male, 117 female), tract 94 (North Beacon Hill) had 796 (406 male, 390 female), tract 100 (Central Beacon Hill) had 878 (456 male, 422 female), tract 104 (South Beacon Hill) had 530 (273 male, 257 female), and tract 110 (South Beacon Hill and Holly Park) had 234 (116 male, 118 female) (Art Chin and Doug Chin, 48)
- Japanese Americans represent 8.2 percent of the total population of the Beacon-Rainier Valley area and 6.2 percent of the Rainier Beach area. The Beacon-Rainier Valley area comprises the largest concentrations of Chinese Americans, Filipino Americans and Japanese Americans in the city. The Asian population of Southeast Seattle increased from 6,226 in 1960 to 11,738 in 1970, perhaps reflective of changes in U.S. immigration law in 1965.
- In the 1960s and ‘70s, Mexican agricultural workers began to migrate from the Yakima Valley to Seattle in significant numbers.
- School district adopts mandatory Middle School Desegregation Plan involving four middle schools, intended to be Phase I of districtwide desegregation. In wake of controversy, further mandatory desegregation put on hold.

## 1971

- Old Beacon Hill School closes, new "open concept" building opens, along with new Kimball building, new Wing Luke building, and Dearborn Park school -- all "open concept" schools.
- Seward Park's Chevra Bikur Cholim congregation merges with Congregation Machzikay Hadath, becoming Congregation Bikur Cholim-Machzikay Hadath. Chevra Bikur Cholim was founded in 1891 in the Central Area.
- The number of Chinese American students enrolled in Southeast Seattle public schools grew dramatically from 1964 to 1971, from 780 to 1,215; for both of these periods, Southeast Seattle public schools had the highest number of Chinese American students, 60% and 75% of the total Chinese American students enrolled throughout the city for each respective year (Art Chin and Doug Chin, 49)
- Seward Park shore loop closed to cars in response to complaints about teenagers cruising, racing, washing cars, and blocking the road.

## 1972

- Old Beacon Hill School occupied by Chicano activists for 3 months: the birth of El Centro de la Raza, part of the Chicano/Latino movement taking shape across the country. Seattle Model City Program funding is awarded to El Centro to address gap in services available to Spanish-speaking population of Seattle.
- Congregation Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath (Ashkenazic) opens new synagogue on Morgan St., west of the Sephardic Bikur Holim building. Designed by I. Mervyn (Sonny) Gorasht, the building incorporates several religious structures brought from original Bikur Cholim synagogue on Yesler Way. (The original synagogue was built in 1914, designed by Benjamin Priteca, and is now the Langston Hughes Performing Arts Center.)
- Soreano's plumbing, owned by a Sephardic Jewish family, moves from Central Area into old Columbia City Post Office building on Ferdinand Street.
- Varon's Kosher Butcher Shop, founded by Harry Varon in 1947, relocates from Yesler Way to Empire Way.
- With approximately 40 percent of the city's total Chinese population living in Beacon Hill, the Seattle Public Schools desegregation plan includes busing Chinese students enrolled at Beacon Hill Elementary School.
- City-wide boycott of Safeway stores organized by Latino community in solidarity with farmworkers.

## 1973

- Ruby Chow wins seat on the King County Council, the first Asian American to serve on the Council. Chow represents the 5<sup>th</sup> District, including Beacon Hill, Rainier Valley and Seward Park, and ultimately serves three terms. Chow's husband Ping is a Chinese opera performer trained in China, and the couple also operates Ruby Chow's Restaurant from 1948 to 1985 on Seattle's First Hill, the city's first upscale Chinese restaurant. Ruby Chow helped found the Chinese Community Girls Drill Team in 1952. The Chows live on Seward Park Avenue.
- Martha Washington School transferred to Seattle Parks Department. "After over a decade... vandalism and neighborhood complaints" would lead to the demolition of the historic school buildings.
- El Centro de la Raza is granted 5-year lease for Beacon Hill School from school district, opens American Indian Movement office and Samoan Community Center.
- Death of Salvador Allende in Chile; hundreds of Chileans would arrive in Seattle in wake of CIA-Pinochet right-wing coup.

## 1974

- The Filipino Community of Seattle holds its mortgage document burning ceremony on February 2, marking the full purchase of the renovated bowling alley building located along Empire Way South (now Martin Luther King, Jr. Way); the Filipino Community Center serves as a hub for programs and services for seniors, youth and families
- The 8.4-acre park with adjacent bridge located on 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Beacon Hill are named for Dr. Jose Rizal (1861-1896) on June 7. Rizal was a Philippine national hero, leader for political

rights and equality for Filipinos and advocate for Philippine independence from Spanish colonial rule; the park was formally dedicated in 1979.

- Columbia City's jewelry store closes after 26 years in business -- the store had been robbed three times in less than a year.
- Rainier Community Action Center founded, an extension of the Court Watch Program.
- Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia is overthrown. The Armed Forces Coordinating Committee (also known as the Dergue) rose to power and implemented a harsh, Soviet-backed communist regime. Political chaos, violence, and famine in the 1980s led many Ethiopians to flee the country; many would end up in Seattle.
- Chinese Baptist Church holds a groundbreaking ceremony on November 2 at its new 2.4 acre site located at Beacon Avenue South and South Orcas Street. Construction begins on January 24, 1975 with the building completed and dedicated by April 3, 1977. The church was previously located at 925 South King Street in Seattle's Chinatown-International District. Church membership grew from around 320 in 1974, to 580 in 1982, to 660 in 1986.

### 1975

- South End Seattle Community Organization ([SESCO](#)) founded by Jesuit priests Gregory Galluzzo and Rodney Herald, with a \$30,000 grant from the Jesuit order.
- Southeast Effective Development ([SEED](#)) founded; first ED is Tom Lattimore. Occupies same office space as [SESCO](#) for first 6 months of operation before philosophical differences split the two groups.
- (April 30) U.S. pulls out of Saigon, ending participation in Vietnam War. A wave of Vietnamese refugees begins to enter US; by 1977 2,500 Vietnamese immigrants are living in King County.

### 1976

- "Southeast Seattle Community Development Plan" created by SEED - "identified the period of time between 1960 and the mid-1970s as one characterized by racial transition, out-migration of the white middle class, and financial disinvestment."

### 1977

- Final I-90 alignment/lane configuration determined after 5 years of negotiation/mediation on the part of WSDOT, the Federal Highway Administration, Governor of Washington, city of Seattle, and King County.
- First meeting of the Black Heritage Society of WA State held at the home of Donald and Esther Mumford
- Members of the Fir State Golf Club contribute \$100 each toward the purchase of a new clubhouse, located at 3418 Empire Way.
- NAACP files formal Administrative Complaint about segregated schools in Seattle. Continued threat of lawsuit puts pressure on School Board to come up with a desegregation plan.

### 1978

- Mayor Charles Royer takes office.
- Designation of the Columbia City Landmark District by City of Seattle.
- Columbia City Business District Plan published.
- Columbia City Development Association lobbied for the establishment of "Little City Hall," a field office for city government established in 1978 in the Calvert Bakery Building
- (September 29, 1978) [Seattle School District implements a district-wide desegregation plan, which involved busing about 12,500 of the district's 54,000 students. Seattle became the largest city in America to implement such a plan without a court order.](#) The plan includes Asian students, who make up a large percentage of many Beacon Hill schools.
  - Brighton Elementary paired with West Queen Anne & Hay
  - Columbia (K, 4-6, Sci & Tech magnet) paired with Olympic View (K, 1-3)
  - Dearborn Park (K, 4-6) paired with Magnolia, later Lawton
  - Dunlap (K, 4-5) paired with Roxhill & Fauntleroy
  - Graham Hill (K, 1-3) paired with Northgate
  - Sharples Junior High (Aki Kurose) gets students from Broadview & Wilson

- Hawthorne School closed (it had been deemed seismically unsafe). Kids bused to Magnolia area schools for 11 years before school rebuilt in 1989.
- A nephew takes over Maimon's Kosher Foods, changing the name to Noah's Grocery. (Noah's is now owned by a Korean family and no longer specializes in kosher foods.)
- Vietnamese Friendship Association founded.
- El Centro activists occupy school district offices for three hours Christmas Eve in order to secure second 5-year lease for Beacon Hill School.

### 1979

- Rainier Valley Seattle Arts Council, a SEED initiative, founded.
- Sicks' Stadium demolished – various plans proposed to redevelop the site -- as electronics manufacturing site, Native American cultural center, etc. Eventually it became a light industrial site, housing a Pepsi bottling plant and a big-box hardware store. The historic site of home plate is marked with a life-sized sculpture of a batter.
- Nicaraguan consulate established at El Centro.
- Seattle public school enrollment drops by 4,580; 4,400 of these are white children.

### 1980

- U.S. Census finds 43% of Southeast Seattle population is 43% White; 29% Black, 2% American Indian, 6% Japanese, 8% Chinese, 6% Filipino, 1% Vietnamese, 1% Samoan, and 4% Other. 3% of the population is listed as "Hispanic," spanning all races. 55% of Southeast Seattle's residents have income below the city's median income.
- Columbia City Historic District listed in the National Register of Historic Places.
- Major streetscape enhancement project in Columbia City undertaken by the City of Seattle. Work included widening sidewalks, adding benches and trees, improving landscaping, and updating traffic signals.
- Plummeting enrollment (down from 93K in 1965 to 43.5K in 1984) brings round of school closures -- mostly in North End.
- In the early '80s, community organizations revive the Rainier Valley Heritage Festival & Parade
- U.S. Refugee Act becomes law, expanding the definition of "refugee" and allowing African refugees to enter the U.S. The first Ethiopian refugees begin to arrive in Seattle.
- In the 1980s, civil wars in Nicaragua, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador prompted a wave of immigration to the United States. Latino community groups such as Amparo (located on Beacon Hill, serving Salvadorans), as well as non-Latino church groups, supported and protected new arrivals.

### 1981

- "Columbia City, A Guide for Investors" published.
- 4.5 acres of the twenty-acre Kubota Garden are declared a city landmark.
- Fire at Slim's Tavern in the Columbia Hotel.
- First SESCO Convention held, w/ 600+ attendees.
- Crime Prevention League incorporated as a nonprofit.
- I-90 Bridge construction green-lighted by the state.
- Closed Hawthorne school is demolished.
- Sharples Junior High moves to South Shore building. Until 1999, Sharples used for alternative school, re-entry program, teen parent program, bilingual orientation, interim site for Franklin, etc.
- City Council renames Empire Way, Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

### 1983

- Rainier Beach students complete the experimental aircraft they started building in 1975, part of an ongoing collaboration with Boeing. Plane is auctioned off for \$3000.

### 1984

- Private developer purchases and begins renovation of Columbia Hotel building.
- SESCO leads successful campaign against garbage incinerator in South Seattle.

- Mayor Royer's "Economic Renewal Task Force of the Rainier Valley" launched.
- Principal photography begins on *Beacon Hill Boys*, a film produced by Seattle Asian Americans chronicling the lives of Asian American teenagers growing up on Beacon Hill in the 1970s. Ken Mochizuki's memoir/novel based on these stories is published in 2002.

### 1985

- Southeast Asian Women's Alliance (later became Refugee Women's Alliance) begins operations in old Columbia Annex building at Rainier Vista. REWA was founded to provide newly arrived refugee and immigrant women to the United States with social services including ESL classes, onsite childcare, and domestic violence programs; the main office, domestic violence office, and Rainier Vista office are now located on MLK; the organization also has a preschool site on Beacon Hill.
- Radical Women/Freedom Socialist Party purchase Democratic Party's old Bingo Hall in Columbia City at a bankruptcy sale on steps of King County Courthouse, and relocate from Lake Union neighborhood after being evicted by Ivar's. Building christened "New Freeway Hall."
- On November 25<sup>th</sup> a group of activists occupy the former Colman Elementary School building and declare it the site of the African American Heritage Museum and Cultural Center.
- The Royal Esquire Club relocates to Columbia City.
- Puget Consumers Coop (PCC) opens Seward Park store on Wilson Avenue in old Thriftway Grocery building.

### 1986

- Ropi Sua Semo and Pale Pa Balaile start the Samoan cricket league. Early games are played at Genesee Field in Rainier Valley; the league eventually moves play to Mercer Middle School field on Beacon Hill.
- Northwest Vietnamese News (Ngoi Viet Tay Bac), the first private Vietnamese-language newspaper in the region, is started by Pham family at building near Jorve Roofing. Moves to the Holly Park area in 2003.
- SEED joins with SESCO in challenging Rainier Bank's lending practices under the Community Reinvestment Act.
- School Board votes to demolish Franklin High School. The community rallies, and the building is designated a city landmark.
- El Centro de la Raza leads movement to establish sister city relationship with Managua, Nicaragua. Despite opposition from Reagan administration, City Council approves. Between 1983 and 1990 El Centro leads 50 delegations to Nicaragua.
- El Centro builds a Mexican Kioska (bandstand).

### 1987

- Husband and wife Heng Hay and Chea Pol open King Donut in Rainier Valley; the couple escaped with their three-year-old daughter from the Khmer Rouge in Cambodia to a refugee camp in Thailand in 1979, arriving in Seattle on September 29, 1981.
- The City of Seattle acquires twenty acres of Kubota Gardens, protecting it from private development and establishing it as a city park.
- SPD Criminal Trespass Program created, making it easier to prosecute drug/gang activity occurring on private property.
- Old Whitworth School demolished. New building opens in 1989.
- Group Health opens Rainier Avenue clinic in Hillman City neighborhood.

### 1988

- Mayor Royer creates Seattle's Office of Neighborhoods.
- SEED purchases and renovates Columbia Hotel building in 1998 to provide eight units of low-income housing and street-level retail.
- Beautification project in Columbia City includes installation of old-fashioned three-globe street lights, decorative street signs, renovated street clock, and brick style paving blocks to demarcate crosswalks in intersections.
- [SEDC](#) formed with assistance from the DON Neighborhood Service Center coordinator.

- 25% fewer homes built in Rainier Valley than in the rest of the city.
- Police Chief Patrick Fitzsimons begins first term .
- SPD entered into Community Policing Agreement with newly created South Seattle Crime Prevention Council.
- Jewish community constructs an Eruv in Seward Park – a symbolic perimeter line of wires, poles, and fences that permits orthodox Jews to carry burdens within its borders on the Sabbath.

### 1989

- Money Magazine rates Seattle the best place to live in the US.
- 18.7% of southeast Seattle's residents receive public assistance
- SPD estimates there are 1,400 crack houses in the Rainier Valley; 80 officers added to SPD
- New Hawthorne school opens, new Whitworth School opens, and there is a major renovation of John Muir School.
- Columbia School closed, Orca K-5 alternative program moves to Columbia building, invites remaining Columbia students (K & 4-5) to join program.
- Hen Sen Chin, believed to be the longest-operating Chinese herbalist in Seattle, moves his 42-year-old business including an inventory of more than 1,000 varieties of herbs from the Chinatown-International District to Beacon Hill; he worked until retiring at age 80 in 2003, handing over the business to his goddaughter, May Tom; notably about eighty percent of his clientele are White.
- The Pacific Islander Drop Out Prevention Program is started at Rainier Beach and Franklin High Schools to address education disparities and high drop out rates among Pacific Islander students, including Samoans, Tongans, Fijians, Hawaiians and Tahitians.
- El Centro de la Raza receives the "10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Medal of the Sandinista Revolution," and a basketball court donated by the Sonics.

### 1990

- U.S. Census data shows Southeast Seattle's population is now 32% White, 29% Black, 2% American Indian, 10% Chinese, 10% Filipino, 5% Japanese, 3% Vietnamese, 2% Cambodian, 4% Laotian, 1% Samoan, and 2% Other. 1% identified as "Hispanic."
- Mayor Norm Rice takes office. Rice lives in the Mount Baker neighborhood, and is one of the founders of SEED.
- Norm Rice creates [Dept of Neighborhoods](#) by consolidating Office of Neighborhoods, Neighborhood Service Centers, and Citizens Service Bureau.
- CCNA and Orca PTA collaborate on community garden at Columbia School.
- Washington State Legislature enacts the Growth Management Act, mandating that Seattle develop a plan to add 50K to 60K households and 140K jobs by 2014.
- Franklin High reopens after major renovation, including a new auditorium and removal of boxy 1958 addition.
- The first Pista sa Nasyon Festival held at Rainier Playfield as part of Seafair celebration. Proposed by King County Councilmember Ron Sims, his wife Cayan Topacio and staff assistant Bengie Santos, the festival provided connection for the Filipino American community – the largest Asian Pacific American group in Washington state – to the larger Seattle community; the Pista sa Nasyon celebration is currently held at the Seward Park Amphitheatre.
- According to US Census over 2,000 Samoans live in Seattle in 1990.
- In the 1990s Sephardic Bikur Holim Camp formalizes; becomes Sephardic Adventure Camp
- El Centro purchases two homes on Beacon Hill for transitional housing.

### 1991

- 41.5% of Seattle's Section 8 housing units are in the Rainier Valley.
- "Southeast Seattle Action Plan" created by a steering committee representing area neighborhoods w/ purpose of improving physical/economic climate.
- "Southeast Seattle Revitalization Plan" created by UW landscape architecture students in cooperation w/ SEED and Rainier Chamber of Commerce.

- Immigration Act of 1990 increases number of legal immigrants allowed into US each year, lottery visa assignment plan helps immigrants who have had trouble getting visas in the past.
- Somalia's 22-year Said Barre regime overthrown; resulting civil war drives refugees across the globe, including significant numbers in the greater Seattle area (55,036 Somali refugees enter the U.S. between 1983 and 2004). Many Somalis eventually settle in the Rainier Valley.
- Eagle Hardware moves into former Sicks' Stadium site, remodeling former warehouse building.
- Gwyn Baker's Wellington Tea Room opens up in Columbia City.
- Montessori program started at Graham Hill School.
- SESCO officially disbands (last president, Michael Brouner)
- Dergue junta in Ethiopia is defeated; political situation in East Africa begins to stabilize; Ethiopian immigration to Seattle slows.
- November 16<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Park dedicated at S. Walker St. and MLK Way S.
- Seattle Kollle established by Orthodox Jewish community as an outreach organization to teach Jews with limited religious background about Judaism.
- Betty Patu, long-time high school educator working with students in Southeast Seattle, runs for Seattle City Council, likely making her the first Samoan American to seek elected office in Washington State. The Samoan American population in the US had more than doubled to 4,130, up from 1,830 in 1980.
- Rainier Beach High School graduates the largest class of Samoan Americans from a Seattle public school, including 12 Samoan American high school seniors.
- El Centro de la Raza receives the "Thousand Points of Light" award from George Bush, Sr. White House.

## 1992

- Columbia City Neighborhood Alliance & Mount Baker Community Club collaborate to form Powerful Schools, a nonprofit providing arts programs and academic support to several Southeast Seattle elementary schools.
- Pioneer Human Services, a non-profit social service organization, purchases and renovates the Toby Building to serve as its headquarters, as well as to provide transitional housing and street level retail.
- WA Legislative redistricting.
- Park Deli (a kosher deli operated by Harry Varon's son-in-law Roger Hirsch) opens on S. Dawson St.
- Horn of Africa Services founded.
- African American Academy at Sharples (now Aki Kurose) for 1 year, then moves to Magnolia.
- Mayor Rice accepts Federal "Weed & Seed" anti-crime funds to be focused in Central and SE Districts.
- Velma Veloria elected to the Washington State Legislature, ultimately serving for twelve years as State Representative for Southeast Seattle's 11<sup>th</sup> District; she is the first Filipina American elected to state legislature in the continental United States.
- El Centro purchases property on Beacon Hill for storefront and housing.
- Latino Sea Fair Festival in Seward Park.
- School District adopts new assignment plan allowing students to attend any school in the district, with transportation.

## 1993

- Seattle drops to second place on Money Magazine's list of best places to live in U.S.
- Columbia Pioneers reorganized as the Rainier Valley Historical Society.
- 45 officers added to SPD.
- Last leg of [I-90](#) from Bellevue to Washington completed. The freeway follows the alignment of the old US 10 highway and runs through the Mt. Baker and [Judkins Park](#) neighborhoods. Construction further disrupts the already fading Italian neighborhood around Atlantic Street and Rainier Avenue.
- King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties form Regional Transit Authority (RTA, future Sound Transit).

- SEED, the Rainier Chamber of Commerce, Southeast Seattle Arts Council, and the Rainier Valley Historical Society band together to convert the Fifth Church of Christ Scientist into the Rainier Valley Cultural Center, a performing arts center and public meeting space.
- Latino Americans, Asian Americans and Native Americans make up 49 percent of residents of Holly Park with 18 percent White and 33 percent African American. This is a dramatic change from 1975 when they represented only 8 percent of the population with 65 percent White and 27 percent African American.

#### 1994

- Rainier Valley Square opens -- a \$15M shopping center developed by SEED in partnership with the city and HUD.
- Ray Akers assembles Columbia City Canine Corps, a group of "two dozen homeowners and their dogs" who patrol the street each night to drive away prostitutes, drug dealers, etc.
- Police Chief Patrick Fitzsimmons retires.
- Neighborhood profile of Seward Park incenses many, who perceive racial stereotyping in the description of "a parade of women with furs" on their way to synagogue each week.

#### 1995

- Group of residents and merchants form [Columbia City Revitalization Committee](#). On May 4th, CCRC hosts inaugural pancake breakfast "town meeting."
- (June 2) Inaugural Beatwalk in Columbia City, grows out of CCRA.
- El Centro de la Raza opens "El Patio" low income apartments and builds 14-unit apartment building on Beacon Hill.

#### 1996

- Redevelopment of SHA's Holly Park housing project begins, to be renamed [NewHolly](#)
- "Rainier Main Street Strategic Economic Plan" created strategies for business enhancement, retention, and recruitment for Genesee, Columbia City, and Hillman City business districts.
- La Medusa opened by Sheri Serrino in Columbia City.
- [Revised "Sound Transit" plan, costing \\$3.9 billion, passes.](#)
- Seattle School Board ends mandatory busing.
- Bogey Bear Junior Golf Foundation founded to make golf accessible to inner-city youth by providing them with affordable equipment, lessons, and facilities; their golf program for students age 7 through 17 operates from Jefferson Park Golf Course on Beacon Avenue and serves mostly Asian Pacific American youth.
- With support from Seattle's rabbinate, Rainier Beach QFC opens kosher butcher shop & deli, and offers large selection of kosher products to serve Jewish community.
- Varon's Kosher Butcher Shop on MLK Way closes.
- Kin On Health Care opens its new facility on Lucile Street at Rainier Avenue, providing long-term nursing care for seniors in the Chinese community.

#### 1997

- Columbia City neighborhood planning begins.
- [Bradner Gardens](#) group gathers 24,000 signatures for citizen Initiative #42 Protect Our Parks prohibiting the sale of park land. In 1997, the initiative adopted as Seattle Ordinance #118477.

#### 1998

- Mayor Paul Schell takes office.
- Columbia City Farmer's Market founded by Karen Kinney – an offshoot of CCRC.
- Lottie Mott's cafe opened by Kate Gill in the Columbia Hotel Building, the former site of Jamieson Drug Store, the Bright Spot Tavern, and Slim's Tavern.
- Park Deli on Dawson St. closes.
- Addition to Kimball School completed.

- The Samoan community celebrates the fifth annual Samoan Community Day, or “Aso Mo Samoa,” at Jefferson Park playfield; the event commemorates American Samoa’s U.S. ties that began in 1900 when the US took over several Samoan Islands as an American territory.

### 1999

- Columbia City neighborhood plan completed
- HUD awards Seattle SHA w/ Hope VI grant to redevelop Rainier Vista
- El Centro de la Raza buys old Beacon Hill School from Seattle School District, with help of City and State grants.
- Dunlap School closed for major renovation
- South Shore Middle School moves to Sharples building, renamed Aki Kurose after a Japanese American educator and peace activist.
- Yeshivat RAMBAM school started to serve Sephardic Jewish community. Merges with Seattle Hebrew Academy one year later.

### 2000

- U.S. Census shows Southeast Seattle is 27% White, 23% African American, 1% Native American, 38% Asian, 1% Pacific Islander, 6% Mixed Race, and 3% Other Race.
- Horn of Africa Computer Center established with Neighborhood Matching Funds.
- Foreign-born make up almost 17 percent of Seattle’s population.
- Pro Parks Levy -- a \$198.2 million parks bill -- passes and funding is directed towards Bradner Gardens to construct the park’s main building.
- African American Academy moves into new building on South Beacon Hill (from Magnolia)
- Emerson school rebuilt, modernized.
- Homesight opens Noji Gardens, model development of attractive manufactured homes, at historic site of Noji Nursery.
- Philleum Mural project completed at the Filipino Community Center, entitled “2000 Years of the Philippine and Filipino American Experience” by muralist/designer Rafael Calonzon Jr. with project direction by Timoteo Cordova.
- According to the U.S. Census, Washington State’s Samoan population more than doubled to 8,049 in the last decade; eighty percent live in King and Pierce Counties, mostly in White Center, SeaTac, Tukwila, Lakewood, Burien, Fort Lewis, and Seattle.
- Grassroots non-profit organization Save Our Valley files a lawsuit in federal court against the proposed street level light rail planned for Rainier Valley. The suit noted that the light rail layout would impose “disproportionately high and adverse environmental and safety harms and housing burden on the low-income and minority residents of the Rainier Valley.” Save Our Valley proponents called for a below-grade tunnel for light rail instead.

### 2001

- State Legislative redistricting.
- November 7<sup>th</sup>: In aftermath of 9/11 terrorist attacks in NYC, federal agents raid a building at Rainier & Brandon that housed the Barakat Wire Transfer Company, suspected of transferring funds to terrorists. The building also housed the Maka Market and Amana Gift Shop. Ultimately, no charges were filed against the money-transfer business, and the two other business owners were partially compensated for the loss of inventory confiscated during the raid.
- Nisqually earthquake damages Seattle Hebrew Academy building on Capitol Hill. Seward Park synagogues Bikur Cholim-Machzikay Hadath and Sephardic Bikur Holim offer space for 2001-2002 school year, until repairs can be completed.

### 2002

- Mayor Greg Nickels takes office.
- All former Holly Park residents who didn't end up in NewHolly relocated to other housing.
- New School @ South Shore opens at South Shore building, partnership between SPS and the New School Foundation designed to show what “adequate” funding and supplemental social services can do to help poor children achieve academically.

- Seattle Public Schools suspends its voluntary desegregation program (which used race as a factor in student assignments) because of pending litigation. In 2007 US Supreme Court declares the plan unconstitutional.
- The City of Seattle's Seattle Tennis Center is renamed the Amy Yee Tennis Center in honor of Yee, champion women's tennis player in the city and state during the 1950s, including four Seattle Open titles, the Pacific Northwest Championships, and the Washington State Women Championship; she was nominated for the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer* "Man of the Year" award in 1959.
- \$50 million Transit-Oriented Community Development Fund (CDF) for Rainier Valley was established (\$42.8 million from the City of Seattle and \$7.2 million from King County) to mitigate the impact of light rail in the area.
- Rainier Beach Safeway redeveloped.

### 2003

- Bradner Gardens Park building dedicated on the Autumnal Equinox, September 23, 2003.
- Chubby & Tubby closes its doors after 56 years.
- King Donut reopened in previous location of long-time Hook, Line and Sinker restaurant in Rainier Beach Safeway shopping center; the business was one of several small businesses displaced through construction of the new Rainier Beach shopping complex.

### 2004

- Sheryll Cashin's book *The Failures of Integration* features Southeast Seattle as a multi-racial neighborhood "bucking the [national] trend" of residential segregation. Factors she cites that support neighborhood integration include: the presence of more than two racial groups, diversity of housing and income, and the work of community institutions that "build bonds across race and class and support the notion that integration can work."
- Federal government raid on a Muslim prayer room and bookstore.
- City Council pledges \$250,000 relocation grant to Casa Latina, a non-profit that assists Latino seasonal workers, to move to old Chubby & Tubby location on Rainier Ave. After acrimonious community discussions, Casa Latina announces in 2005 that it will not occupy the site.
- An [estimated 13,000](#) Somali refugees enter the US.
- Seattle Kolliel, after several years of operating in three different synagogues in the Seward Park neighborhood, builds Jack and Lilly Almo Kolliel building to house its programs. The building, located at Wilson & 52<sup>nd</sup>, is designed by Jeremy Miller.
- Perry Ko's South China Restaurant, a Beacon Hill institution, closes and relocates to Bellevue to make way for Sound Transit's Beacon Hill light rail station. Perry Ko and his sons purchased the restaurant in 1979 from Hing Lee, who had opened the South China Café in the 1950s. Other Beacon Hill businesses forced to relocate include Phillip and Gilbert Ng's accounting business, Robin Padlan's hair salon, and King's Barbecue House.

### 2005

- In Seattle, the number of limited English-speaking children has increased from 3,832 students in 1988 to 6,091 students in 2005.
- NewHolly construction completed.
- According to census figures, 11,167 foreign born African immigrants live in Seattle.
- [Sound Transit installs the first rails for the Central Link light-rail line from south of downtown Seattle to the airport.](#)
- Rainier Beach QFC closes. South End Jewish community loses main kosher food store and only kosher butcher shop in the neighborhood.

### 2006

- 16% of Seattle's Section 8 housing units are in Southeast Seattle
- 14,405 foreign born African immigrants live in Seattle.
- The park area next to Coleman Elementary School is named in honor of Jimi Hendrix.
- Torah Day School opens at 3613 S. Juneau Street, offering more rigorous Jewish curriculum to Orthodox community.

- A gunman opens fire at the Jewish federation offices in downtown Seattle, killing one and seriously wounding others.

## 2007

- 8,158 foreign born African immigrants live in Seattle.
- City's Office of Economic Development estimates that immigrants and refugees own and operate approximately 270 businesses - 50 percent of all businesses in Rainier Valley.
- A vote taken at the SEDC meeting results in the inclusion of many non-membership-based organizations and the schism of the group.
- Whitworth School merged with Dearborn Park, Orca Alternative program moves to Whitworth building, begins adding middle school program.
- Businesses feel the impact of light rail construction in Rainier Valley, with paving along Martin Luther King Jr. Way now 80% complete. Of 286 businesses along Martin Luther King Jr. Way when construction started, 32 have closed, with 12 closures attributed to light rail construction. An additional 18 moved to other neighborhoods.

## 2008

- Southeast Neighborhood District Council formed in opposition to the SEDC.
- Asian Counseling and Referral Service opened its new facility in Rainier Valley in June; the agency was founded in 1973 and provides multilingual and multicultural services for primarily low-income Asian Pacific Americans, including immigrants, refugees and native born. Services include mental health services, naturalization and immigration services, vocational and employment assistance, and chemical dependency treatment.
- "Rainier Valley Haiku" by Roger Shimomura installed on Myrtle Plaza across from the Othello Station, a public artwork along the Sound Transit light rail. Nearly 20 feet tall, the artwork boldly stacks a Japanese wooden sandal, a Creamsicle, a rice bowl with chopsticks, a businessman's black shoe, and a graduation cap, with surrounding haiku's by writers Colleen J. McElroy, Suzanne Bottelli, Alan Chong Lau, and Kathleen Alcal, along with community submissions.
- Raul Salinas dies. Salinas was a poet, a member of El Centro, and an activist on behalf of Latinos, Native Americans, prisoners, and many others.
- Northwest African American Museum opens in old Colman School; upper stories are housing owned by Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle.

## 2009

- Central Link Light Rail opens to the public.
- Sound Transit unveils "Mexican Journey," a steel sculpture featuring Mexican/Pre-Colombian design, on north façade of Beacon Hill Light Rail Station facing El Centro.
- Seattle Public Schools announces new round of closures/consolidations mostly affecting Central Area schools; new assignment plan limits transportation/school choice to neighborhood schools.
- Betty Patu, Samoan educator and activist, is elected to Seattle School Board.
- Sephardic Bikur Holim and Bikur Cholim Machzikay Hadath synagogues are defaced, with swastikas painted on doors and sidewalks.
- Sephardic Bikur Holim Congregation celebrates its 95th year as an organization, and the 90th birthday of its Rabbi Emeritus, Solomon Maimon.