



AMERICAN MUSEUM OF
RADIO & ELECTRICITY
1312 BAY STREET
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225

Where discovery sparks imagination

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Fellow AMRE enthusiasts celebrate the Carl Nemeth Library.



Where discovery sparks imagination
The American Museum of Radio and Electricity is dedicated to the preservation of important artifacts from the Dawn of Electricity through broadcast radio's Golden Age. Recognizing that these artifacts and the stories behind them have immense cultural, historic, aesthetic, and scientific importance, the Museum displays thousands of objects in a series of exciting, interactive exhibits designed to entertain and educate people of all ages.

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Casablanca

newsletter of
AMERICAN MUSEUM OF
RADIO and ELECTRICITY

issue 18

WHERE DISCOVERY SPARKS IMAGINATION

MUSEUM AND HARBORVIEW LIONS JOIN FORCES TO LAUNCH AMRE FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

ON SEPTEMBER 19 AND 20, the Bellingham Harborview Lions and the American Museum of Radio & Electricity present *Casablanca*, performed by the Midnight Mystery Players and featuring live sound effects, authentic musical soundtrack and period costumes.

Half of the proceeds will benefit the Northwest Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation program. Play It By Ear provides affordable hearing aids for low-income recipients and offers grants for people with complicated hearing needs. In addition, the Northwest Lions Sight and Hearing Foundation also fund the health screening van often seen in communities in Whatcom County.

The remaining half of the evening's proceeds help the Museum meet a \$10,000 challenge grant and to begin AMRE's fall fundraising campaign. "This is a great opportunity to support the Museum," says executive director Frank Ordway. "Every dollar we raise is matched and will help fuel and develop our

Midnight Mystery Players recreate a classic.



in this issue

The reinist Will Wilkerson,
KIME Update, Learning at AMRE, more!



Will Wilkerson

by Tanya Williams

FROM THE DAY he first tuned into KMRE, Will Wilkerson was intrigued by the Museum. "It was the winter of 2006," recalls Will. "My Dad and I had just moved to Bellingham from Los Angeles." While riding in a car he began flipping through the radio dial. "I wanted to hear what radio in Bellingham had to offer," says Will. "I was hooked the moment I came across 102.3 FM; it was an amazing change of pace from what I was used to."

Once Will realized the Museum displayed an original working 1929 RCA Therman, he knew he had to get involved. "I came down on my birthday, July 18th," remembers Will, "and right away I met Alena Feeney, KMRE's station manager." It was not long before Will was a regular part of the Museum team, first taking-up the AMRE Learning Center, and always gravitated towards the radio station, where he felt drawn.

Will's first radio show was the KMRE Comedy Hour, which began airing fall, 2007, and a huge success. "It's my favorite hour of the week," laughs curator, Jonathan Winter. "Will appreciates and understands the content and sound we're looking for." Will now hosts Sunday morning's Opera Show and his new show, Golden Age On Location, an hour dedicated to live musical broadcasts from the 1930s-50s. "I come in here and every day I learn something new," Will says. "Even after working in the studio a year, I'm still learning new stuff and amazed at the extent of the collection and everything the Museum has to offer."

KMRE Station Manager Alena Feeney-Adam began offering an analogue to digital transcription service, the process that takes music from records and turns each song into an m3g file, for

"The therman is a fascinating and difficult instrument to approach. Most people have never seen anything like it, especially because you play the therman without touching it."

WILL WILKERSON

KMRE Operations & Resident Thermanist

the public. Will started taking on these projects, as well as setting up the station's automation, or pre-set song list, each week. Recently, Will gained his official, well-earned title as Operations and Programming Coordinator for KMRE. "I rely on Will every day to help me keep things running," Alena says. "Without his help the station wouldn't have grown nearly as much as it has."

Will has traveled and lived in bigger cities, such as Las Vegas, yet Bellingham instantly became home with its beauty and lush forests; Will's ability to play the Therman has made him an essential part of the Museum's most popular display. "The Therman is a fascinating and difficult instrument to approach," says Will. "Most people have never seen anything like it, especially because you play the therman without touching it." Whenever Will plays a tune on one of the Museum's theremins, he always draws a spellbound crowd.

"The Museum is essentially my second home," Will says. "I couldn't see myself anywhere else." ✨



Electrify your child's curiosity with science everyone should know!

SCIENCE SATURDAY features a variety of hands-on classes including *Static Electricity*, *How to Build Your Own Crystal Radio*, *Speakers & Microphones*, *Magnetism* and more!

All Science Saturday classes are recommended for ages 8-14. Each class is from 1:30-3:30 p.m. and includes admission to the Museum. When you join with a Family Membership, you get one class free. Members always enjoy a 20% discount on classes. You can also save by registering for our special 3-class bundle for only \$45.

Call 360.738.3886 or check-out our new website at www.amre.us for more details. ✨

Camp AMRE for girls a summer hit!

AMRE'S EDUCATION PROGRAM produced its first summer camp: Camp AMRE for Girls was a jam-packed, weeklong summer program for girls (July 7-11) with an aptitude and curiosity for science and electricity. These exceptional girls learned how radio really works using the Museum's collection of rare radio artifacts and equipment, as well as how to produce an actual radio show for the air. The five girls wrote, performed and edited their own radio show in the KMRE studios and later broadcast on 102.3 FM, the Museum's radio station.

The girls had a blast. "I like all the interactive, hands-on projects we're doing," says Erika Lopez.

Student Lauren Hoffman enjoys the recording process. "It's fun learning how to put together a real radio show."

The camp was sponsored by a generous grant from Alcoa and will return next summer. Thanks to everyone for making it such a great success. ✨



Erica Gonzalez, Spring Williams Fogelson, Shanna Werner, Erika Lopez and Lauren Hoffman in the KMRE recording studio making radio magic!

KMRE fall communique

Hello AMRE Members!

As we all are anticipating cooler fall weather and shared time with family, KMRE - LP 102.3 FM has been busy building its live studio. The drywall is up and was generously donated by Fisher and Sons Construction. Skyline Electrical has donated their time and expertise into wiring our live studio. AMD many hours of pure volunteer power has literally raised the station from the ground up. I am so amazed and proud of how the community, businesses and citizens, have banded together to build community radio for Bellingham. It has been an honor to watch this station grow over the last year and I am consistently thankful for every person that has come through the doors to work on this project. Hopefully, if all goes according to plan

we will begin our live broadcast before the year is out. In preparation, KMRE is requesting your input on its programming. Do you like the sound of the station? How can we improve the programming that we bring to you? If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, please give us a call at 360.738.3886.

Thank you for your membership and for your continued support of KMRE and the American Museum of Radio & Electricity.

Warm Wishes, Alena Feeney-Adam,
Station Manager, KMRE - LP 102.3 FM



Check out AMRE's New website at www.amre.us today!