



# SAVE THE STONE COTTAGE

## It's time to **Save the Stone Cottage!**

The stone-studded cottage at 1123 Harbor Ave SW has been a beloved and legendary landmark for 90 years. The wrecking ball is looming and we need your help to save this piece of West Seattle history. We are seeking \$110,000 in donations and ask for your support.

## It's the story of **Eva Falk**

Who is **Eva Falk**?

The story of this house is inextricably tied with the story of Eva Falk, who built the home with her mother and were some of the first residents on Harbor Avenue. Eva was a free spirit, her life extraordinary, and she was a fixture of the Admiral community.



The Stone Cottage is a symbol of the Admiral community during the 1930s. Eva and her mother didn't

have much money during the depression, and used their resourcefulness to build the house.

Eva bartered with the residents of Hooverville — the temporary community of out-of-work, homeless Seattleites across Elliott Bay — to do the masonry work in exchange for meals. The family salvaged the stained glass windows and the front door. This home is a representation of the resourcefulness of the women who lived there and of their working-class community during the depression.

Eva and her children came up with its **unique façade of more than 15,000 beach stones**, carried from the beach near the Alki Lighthouse, and each stone was thoughtfully placed by hand on the exterior of the building.

***“They took their little wagon, and walked all the way down to the Alki Lighthouse and picked up the nice, round, grey rocks there and walked all the way back,”*** said the late **Merrilee Hagen**, former president of the Southwest Seattle Historical Society in 2002.

As the decades passed, Eva welcomed all manner of strangers to the Stone Cottage, turning them into friends. She told her daughter Carmecita that **“This house is for giving shelter to anybody and anything”**. For good reason, one stone placed prominently near the cottage's front door bears the shape of a heart. Eva died in 1997 at age 92.



Our hope is that her house can be moved and preserved as a place for the community to gather.

Today, the Stone Cottage is crammed between condos and townhouses, standing in the way of development. The land beneath the Stone Cottage soon will be the foundation for yet another high-rising complex. The wrecking ball is poised, however, the owner of the property has agreed to allow the house to be moved before construction begins. **The time is now.**

If the Stone Cottage isn't moved, demolition is expected to begin in January 2021, and we will lose this precious piece of our history.

## It's the story of our city and **Chief Seattle**

He didn't know it a century and a half ago, but the words of **Chief Seattle** foretold the deep and profound appeal of **Eva's Stone Cottage** — a charming and colorful refuge whose outside walls Eva and her family covered with more than 15,000 beach stones.

*“Even the rocks thrill with memories of past events,”* said the chief and namesake of our city.

*“The very dust beneath your feet responds more lovingly to our footsteps ... the soil is rich with the life of our kindred ... because it is the ashes of our ancestors.”*



## It's the story of our **Community**

This project is in conjunction with the **Southwest Seattle Historical Society** in its ongoing effort to preserve the history of our great city. This is a complicated project, but we are determined to save this amazing piece of West Seattle history.

Save The Stone Cottage LLC has developed a three-phased plan and has until January 2021 to move the house off the site. We are actively scouting locations and have planned the logistics of physically moving the 90-year-old stone house.

- **Phase I (by Jan 2021):** Move to a new location (or into storage should a new location not be found before January). Budget of \$110,000 includes the move and 2 years of storage.
- **Phase II:** Secure a new location, possibly in a park or on school grounds (due to COVID19, talks with the City of Seattle are on hold. We are open to creative ideas!).
- **Phase III:** Move the Stone Cottage to its new home, including all site prep (pouring a foundation, installing utilities and careful restoration).

Our vision is to preserve its story—the story of all of us—by moving the cottage to a place along the West Seattle shore where it can be restored and enjoyed by all.



## Join Us!

Save The Stone Cottage LLC seeks \$110,000 in donations to execute the plan to rescue, relocate and restore the Stone Cottage. Donations are being accepted through our website [www.savethestonecottage.org](http://www.savethestonecottage.org) and a non-profit 501(c)3 GoFundMe charity account.

The Southwest Seattle Historical Society, a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization is serving only as the fiscal sponsor of the Save the Stone Cottage Project. We appreciate its steadfast participation.