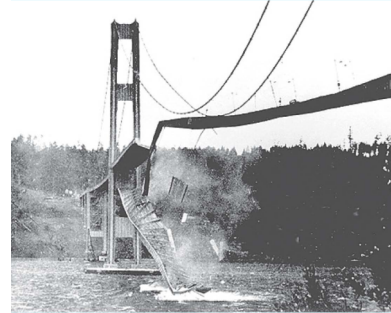




TACOMA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**Rising Up
From Tacoma's Twenty-One
Disasters and Defeats**

Based on topics chosen by the
2012-2013 students of Seabury Middle School



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Written by
Deb Freedman and Tacoma Historical Society

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MEDIA ADVISORY

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New book from Tacoma Historical Society Press

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Tacoma Historical Society Press announces the release of "Rising Up from Tacoma's Twenty-One Disasters and Defeats." This 50-page book is a sequel to the popular 2010 title "Tacoma's Twenty-One Tales Every Student Should Be Able to Tell." Funded by a grant from The Puyallup Tribe of Indians, 1500 copies will be distributed free of charge to Tacoma elementary schools for use as a curriculum supplement.

The book began as a community service project for the students of Seabury Middle School in the fall of 2012. Students selected the topics and completed the initial research. And just as Tacoma has learned to rise from defeats, so has the Tacoma Historical Society - completing five grant proposals over a three-year period before finally receiving funding.

"This summer marks the 75th anniversary of the collapse of the first Narrows Bridge, "Galloping Gertie," said Bill Baarsma, Tacoma Historical Society president. Studied by engineers around the world, the collapse will be featured in the Society's fall exhibit "Spanning Tacoma," scheduled to open in August of 2015.

"In working with young people we've learned that students are intrigued by disasters – earthquakes and fires, plane crashes and shipwrecks," said co-author Deb Freedman. "We felt it was important to introduce some difficult subjects from Tacoma's history. We've also included open-ended discussion questions for parents and teachers. And whenever possible we've tried to end on a positive note, as with the creation of the Chinese Reconciliation Park."

Copies of the book are available for purchase at the Tacoma Historical Society Museum located in the historic Provident Building at 919 Pacific Avenue. Additional retail outlets include the University of Washington Tacoma Bookstore at 1754 Pacific and the Pacific Northwest Shop at 2702 North Proctor. The retail price is just \$6.99.

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About Tacoma Historical Society: Tacoma Historical Society is a volunteer-supported 501(c)(3) charitable, nonprofit corporation, and is dedicated to the preservation, promotion and presentation of the history of the City of Tacoma and its people. Tacoma Historical Society works to forge connections between past and present generations, fostering an appreciation of the past and a sense of place within our community's history. www.tacomahistory.org