

BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

THE JOURNAL OF THE

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



KIRK FAMILY REUNION AT HERITAGE HALL – AUGUST 2005

Photograph by Constance Photography, Kirkland

KHS PROGRAM – DECEMBER 11, 2 – 4 PM – HOLIDAY COOKIE EXCHANGE

VOLUME XII, ISSUE 6

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2005



Kirkland Heritage Society

FALL 2005 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Bob Burke

A lot of this newsletter is dedicated to the success of the Kirkland Centennial which culminated in a great party on October 12th – literally with fireworks! It was a lot of work, but it has benefited KHS through increased collections and community recognition.

It is always dangerous to list those people who contributed to a year-long event such as the Centennial – because you will not include somebody – but I'm going to try! I think it is appropriate to start with **Barbara Loomis** who assisted me in 1994 in the preparation of a document – *Historic Preservation – City of Kirkland* – that outlined a series of Goals and Policies in the Community Character Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan. One of these was to celebrate the City's Centennial in 2005. Obviously, this was done!

During the preparation for and implementation of the Centennial a lot of people from KHS have been involved, but I want to especially thank these people:

David Cantrill contributed 100's of hours starting with Heritage Days in May, 2004, organizing historical photographs for the "Moments in History" and newspaper supplements, as well as coordinating the Heritage Hall exhibit, Art Center exhibit and the monthly displays at City Hall. He was also the driving force behind the Kirk Family Reunion.

Corrine Hieb and members of the Kirkland Woman's Club provided wonderful volunteer support during the month long exhibit at Heritage Hall in February and during the final Centennial event.

Alan Stein helped define the events in history in the Centennial Calendar, provided ideas for the "Moments in History" and History Hunt and helped outlined the context for the exhibit.

Nancy Stephens assumed responsibility to maintain bank accounts for the Centennial Committee – this in addition to her normal KHS Treasurer activities.

Dale Hawkinson has faithfully photographed virtually all of the KHS Centennial events and

provided copies for our publications and records. In addition he has started the process of scanning the photographs donated during the past year.

**Thanks to Each of You and Many Others!
The Centennial was a Great Success!**

Nancy Stephens Leaving Kirkland

We also have some bad news and some good news! **Nancy Stephens** who has been the KHS Treasurer for 6 years is in the process of selling her home and plans to move from Kirkland later this Fall. Nancy has kept KHS records through a major expansion of our efforts: donations for Heritage Hall, the Centennial, Bob Neir's book and a number of grants and special funds. We had our first official "financial compilation" report and the Board gets colored charts showing our revenues and expenditures. Any of you who have been in a volunteer board knows that getting a great Treasurer is critical. We have been very fortunate to have Nancy! She has done a tremendous job! We will miss her smile and laugh!

The good news is that **Tom Hitzroth** who was just elected to the Board has offered to assume the treasurer's position and that has been approved by the Board. Thank you Tom for being willing to assume this critical responsibility for KHS. KHS will have a good transition time for Tom to assume this new role. As part of our agreement with the Centennial Committee and KHS Board policy, a "financial compilation" will be made as part of the changeover!

Finally, the Board, Committee Chairs and Liaison people with other organizations will meet to discuss the KHS 5 year Program, Work Plan and Budget on November 30th. We will be meeting in the Heritage Resource Center at Heritage Hall.

Kirkland Centennial Committee Receives Kirkland Chamber Presidents Award

It was just announced that the Centennial Committee's efforts have been recognized with the Presidents Award for the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce. It was presented at the November luncheon meeting. Those being recognized are: Mayor Mary-Alyce Burleigh, Chair, Kellie Jordan, Vice Chair, Penny Sweet,, Bob Burke representing KHS, Teddy Overleese, and Dan Kriebel with City staff members Tracy Burroughs, Sheila Cloney and Catherine Filippini, consultant.

DECEMBER DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Friday, 2nd, 7:00 pm, Parkplace Books

Bob Neir will be signing his book. They are great Christmas Gifts!

SUNDAY, 11TH, 2:00 – 4:00 PM

**KHS HOLIDAY
COOKIE EXCHANGE**

**HISTORIC HARRIS HOUSE
526 10TH AVENUE WEST**

ANTIQUUE TOY EXHIBIT

**Kirkland Public Library
Lobby Showcase**

December 16, To January 31, 2008

Merrily Dicks has arranged an exhibit of Antique Toys that will be on display at the Kirkland Library from mid-December to the end of January. Toys from Sue Carter, Loita Hawkinson, Frank Rosin and Merrily will be loaned for the display! Be sure to take advantage of this wonderful seasonal exhibit!



Collage of Photographs of Nancy Stephens
Compiled by Dale Hawkinson

BRING YOU RECIPES & MEMORIES

KHS members enjoy our annual Cookie Exchange to visit with other members during the holiday season. Members are asked to bring a favorite family holiday treat. For the past several cookie exchanges, Loita Hawkinson has asked everyone to bring, mail or email their recipe and to share wonderful holiday memories. One day in the future we can print a **KHS HOLIDAY COOKIE & MEMORY BOOK**.

This is for the distant future because we would want a lot of recipes and a lot of memories. We have lost members and it would wonderful if their families could also share the recipes that these much missed friends used to bring. It would be warm way people could be remembered. Wouldn't it be fun if the Kirk family had some old recipes? So dear members, please be thinking of your recipe and memories to share. Do not think of it as more stress for the holidays. These stories and recipes will be in a little box until we have enough for a book so there is no last minute rush now. Happy Holidays!! Loita

CONTRIBUTIONS TO KHS

During this Centennial Year, KHS has received very generous contributions of books for sale written by **Bob Neir – *A City Comes of Age*** – and **Stephen Lamson – *Kirkland, The Power of a Dream***. To date we have sold over 400 of Bob's book (We don't have a firm count on the poem.) These will allow us to undertake special projects that will enhance our ability to meet the goals of our KHS mission.

In addition to our thanks to Bob and Steve, I want to thank **Parkplace Books** for acting as our volunteer retail outlet to make both of these available to the public.

WILKESON STONE PAVERS

The latest group of pavers – we need a minimum order of 100 each time - is now being engraved and should be delivered before the end of December with likely installation the first of January. We appreciate the patience of everyone in that it has taken a long time to sell that many.

**THERE ARE STILL PAVERS AVAILABLE!
ORDER FORMS ARE ON THE KHS WEB SITE
– WWW.KIRKLANDHERITAGE.ORG.**

ORAL HISTORY NEWS

By
Loita Hawkinson

Dale and I are happy to co-chair **Kirkland Heritage Society's** Oral History program. Our first attempt to work together was to do a video oral history of **KHS** member **Angie Eggers** of **Little Finn Hill** in **Juanita**.

Angie was born in 1920 in Snohomish. Angie's first years of school were at a Snohomish country school. Later she attended school in the town of Snohomish. Angie married Dale Eggers and moved into a home that is now the Levitz store on 148th in Bellevue. Their home was on a Kirkland Route and they had a Kirkland address. But they had a Redmond phone and their three children went to Bellevue schools. That put them in Kirkland/Redmond/Bellevue at the same time. In 1960 their area was starting to be developed so the Eggers family sold out and moved to a neighborhood known as Little Finn Hill in Juanita. Their home is one of the last original Finn homes. Finn homes were of an olde world design, complete with sauna. The home is no longer original because there was a fire that damaged some of the home. The home was repaired during WWII when wood was scarce so there are no eaves. This too becomes an important piece of history.

Angie told the story of how she heard that **Juanita** got its name. We know from the 1880 census that the Houghton, Kirkland, Finn Hill, Juanita areas were all in the **Juanita district** so that puts **Juanita** on the map before **Peter Kirk's** arrival. Angie was told by a son of a pioneer woman that **Juanita** was an Indian Princess and she died quite young. She is thought to be buried in the area of the Juanita fire station.

We thank **Angie** for her time, her wonderful homemade cake and for her continued service to **KHS**. She is always available and happy to work a few shifts at the **KHS** booth during the summer. We treasure her friendship.



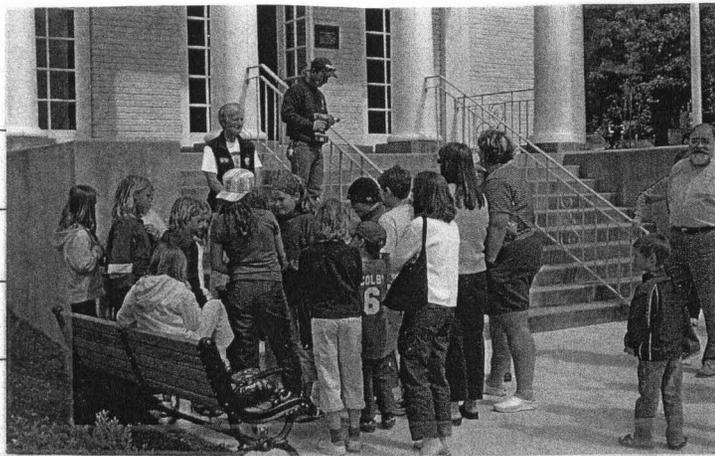
Angie Eggers at Oral History Interview
Photograph by Dale Hawkinson

PLANTERS AT HERITAGE HALL

Kathy & James Feek have donated 3 planters to Heritage Hall – two were installed last summer on the north terrace and one was just placed down by the entry to the KHS Heritage Resource Center. Thank you for this generous contribution to the building!

KIRKLAND CENTENNIAL

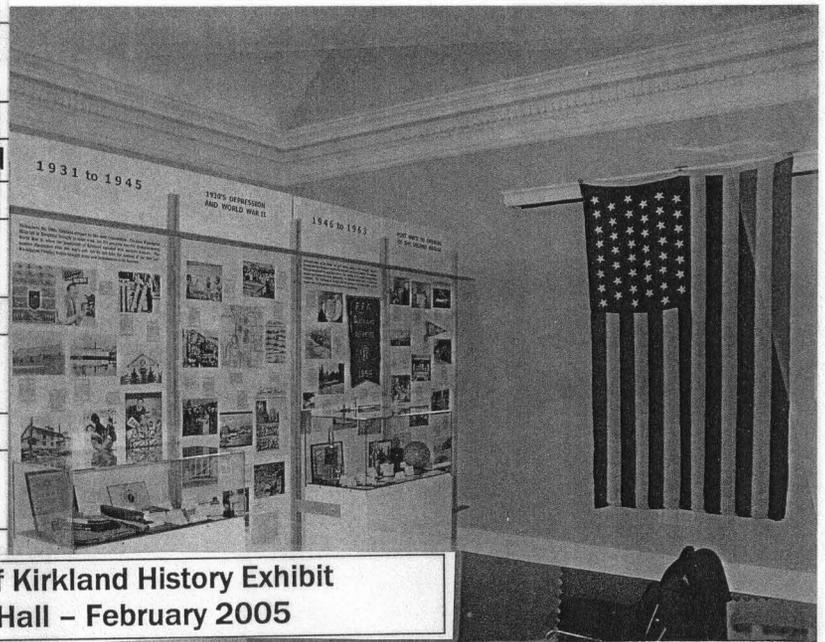
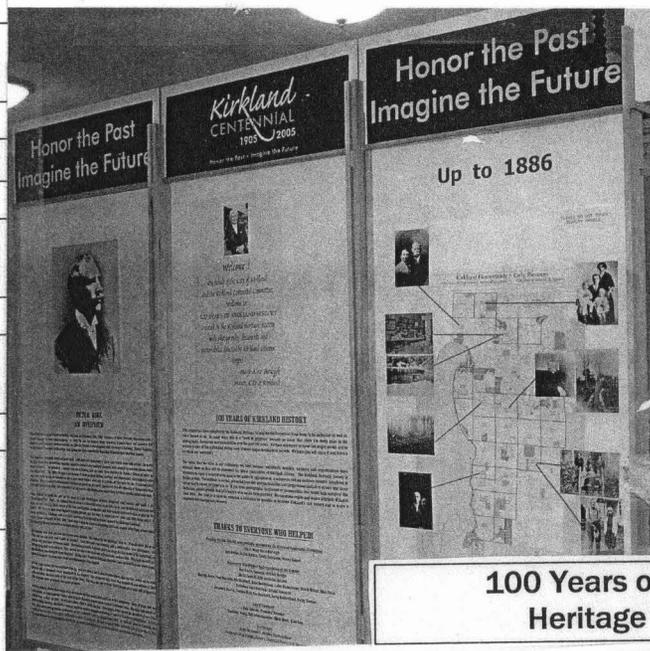
The Kirkland Centennial celebration officially ended on October 12, 2005. The Kirkland Heritage Society was involved from the very beginning and we thought it would be fun to cover the year in pictures to remind us of everything that happened not only to prepare for it, but during this past year! Enjoy the Historical Centennial Centerfold that follows!



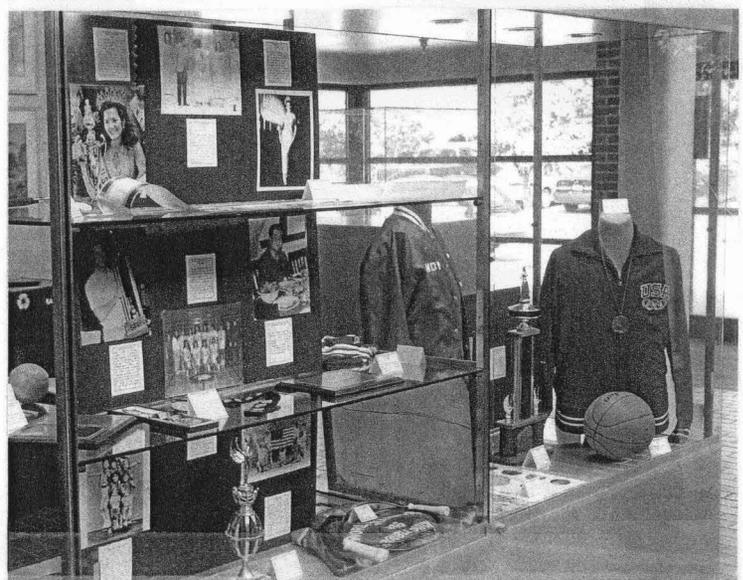
**Mayor Burleigh / Peter Kirk Students – May 2004
Heritage Days Time Capsule Installation**



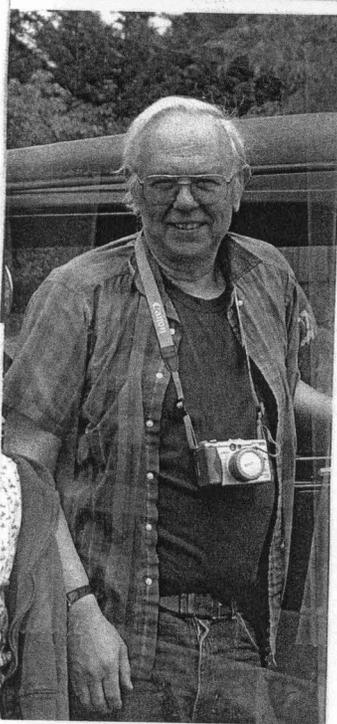
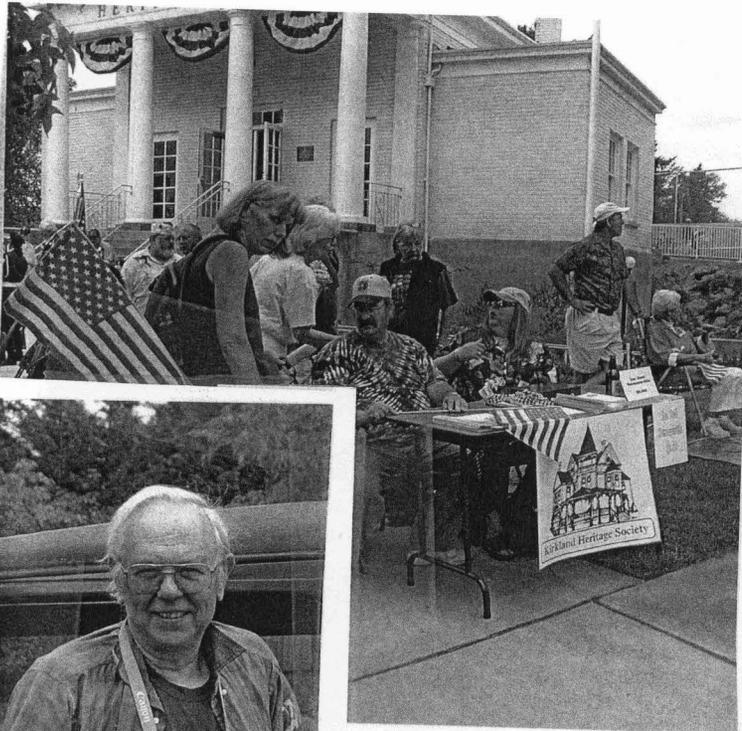
Bob Neir Signing Book at Park Place Books



**100 Years of Kirkland History Exhibit
Heritage Hall – February 2005**

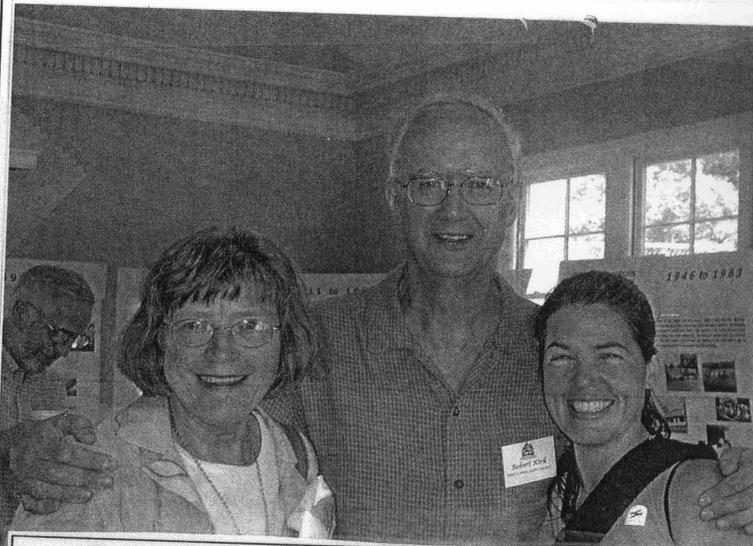


History Exhibit in City Hall Display Case



**David & Debra Cantrill
KHS 4th of July Table!**

**Frank Rosin who helps
arrange the classic
cars for KHS parade
entry each year!**



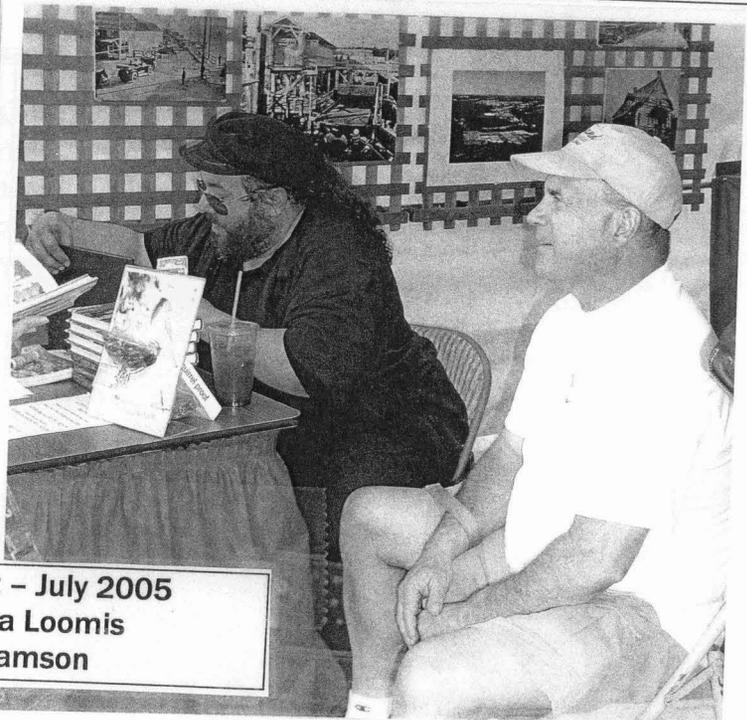
**Peter Kirk Family Reunion – August 2005
Katie & Robert Kirk and Lisa Capron**



**Annual Blackberry Sundae Social in August
Shannon Harris and Helpers**



**KHS Booth at Summerfest – July 2005
Martha Millar & Barbara Loomis
Alan Stein & Steve Lamson**



A RIPPING YARN

by
Alan Stein

As many of you might know, my historical interests are pretty eclectic. I just finished writing a book on the history of Seattle's Olympic Hotel, and my previous two tomes were about Bellevue and ferryboats. I've also written stories about Harry Tracy – the last desperado of the Wild West – and the great Wellington Avalanche of 1910.

There are also a lot of topics that I like to read and research for my own enjoyment. I was doing grail research long before *The DaVinci Code* came out, and lately I've been dabbling around in the history of naval warfare in the 1800s. But if there's one subject I could bend your ear about, it's the Whitechapel Murders of 1888.

I'm not sure when my interest in Jack the Ripper started, but like most "ripperologists" I was intrigued by its unsolved mystery. Once you start analyzing and peeling away the layers, new loose threads appear which muddy the story further. So many people have so many theories about the crime that once you start reading into it, you need to dig deeper for it to all make sense. And it never does. And so I read more.

It's an interest shared by many, as evidenced by the number of books, plays, and movies that have been written about the murders for more than one hundred years. In England, a popular journal called *Ripperologist* has been in publication since 1994 for the express purpose of publishing ongoing research into this century-old crime. Little did I know that one day, those research paths would intersect with another study of mine – Kirkland history.

Three months ago I received an e-mail from a man named Adam Wood. He was using my Eastside Journal Database, and wanted to know how to obtain articles. E-mails like this are usually from people outside of the area, who can't visit the Bellevue Library or UW, where the newspapers are on microfilm. I usually tell them to contact the librarians, but this e-mail piqued my interest.

Mr. Wood was researching a man named Wynne Baxter, and had found that Baxter's eldest son – Wynne Dallett Baxter -- had moved to Kirkland around 1910. That's all he knew, other than the fact that Baxter's son died in 1926. The ESJ database listed his obituary, and two articles about his widow.

The name Wynne Baxter is quite uncommon, and it caught my eye. I immediately e-mailed Mr. Wood, and asked if this had anything to do with the Jack the Ripper murders. The answer back was yes. Wynne Baxter was the coroner who conducted inquests into the deaths of the murder victims, as well as those of other women who

were mistakenly considered to fall under Jack the Ripper's knife.

Wood was writing the first complete report on Baxter and his career for publication in *Ripperologist* magazine. I offered to help with his research by sending him scans of the ESJ articles, since I was heading to the archives that week for other research.

Pictured are a couple articles I found. Wynne the son died in 1926. He and his wife ran a grocery store in the "Collinswood district" of Kirkland, which I believe was towards Redmond on the old Redmond road. He died at the age of 56. His wife continued to run the store, but a year after her husband's death it was held up at gunpoint by two young men and a young woman. They took off, but their car went into a ditch on the way to Bothell and the cops found them as they waited for a wrecker. Mrs. Baxter must have been freaked out by the whole affair, because 5 months later she sold the store and moved back to England.

Nothing earth-shattering, really, but who would have thought that the son of the man who played such an integral role in the Whitechapel murders would be selling groceries for more than 15 years to Kirkland residents. One wonders if he chatted about his dad with anyone here in town.

When I sent this info off to Mr. Wood in London, I also told him about the role that Peter Kirk – another Englishman – played in local development, and that the streets once had names like Piccadilly and Oxford.

Wood's article was published in last month's *Ripperologist*. It's very detailed, but deep inside the story is a wee bit of info about Peter Kirk, the town for which he was named, and a Kirkland grocer who may or may not have had some macabre family stories to tell.

**MRS. BAXTER SELLS HER
STORE. WILL LEAVE.**

The Baxter store on the Old Redmond highway has been sold according to an announcement made by Mrs. Baxter this week. Some of the details of the sale are yet to be adjusted and Mrs. Baxter did not care to divulge the names of the new owners until next week. Mrs. Baxter plans to leave for England about the first of April.

As we look to the New Year after a successful Centennial Celebration, it seems appropriate to look at the adopted mission of the Kirkland Heritage Society and to reflect on our direction for future activities! The Board, Committee Chairs and Liaison Organization members are working on a 5 year program, annual work program and budget. These will be discussed with the membership in early 2006.

Mission Statement

The Kirkland Heritage Society's Mission is to:

Identify historic resources;

To encourage their preservation;

To collect, preserve, exhibit and interpret the history and heritage of Kirkland and its people; and

To promote public involvement in and appreciation of its heritage and culture.

JOIN US TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS !!

KHS PROGRAM - DECEMBER 11, 2 - 4 PM - ANNUAL COOKIE EXCHANGE

Jo Ann Harris' Historic 1889 Home

VISIT KHS ONLINE AT: WWW.KIRKLANDHERITAGE.ORG

Blackberry Preserves is produced by the Kirkland Heritage Society, Heritage Hall, 203 Market Street, Kirkland, WA 98033 for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. For more information on KHS - e-mail: rgburke@covad.net, check our website: www.kirklandheritage.org or call the Heritage Resource Center at 425 827-3446 to leave a message.



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