

# BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

## KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



When Verne Burmester moved his furniture business from Renton to Kirkland, he was warned that “Kirkland was a cemetery with lights”. But Mr. Burmester thought Kirkland was a “livewire community in line for growth”.

The Burmester Furniture Store outgrew their original space. In 1957 they moved into their newly remodeled store on Commercial Street, now Park Lane. This was the original Todd Feed building and then the Bowling Alley. The building still stands.

*See page 4*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

GLENN LANDGUTH

We will have our booth at Summerfest 2016 on Saturday, August 13. Our plan is still to open the staffing positions up to the membership, instead of just using Board members. I am actively calling as many members as possible to check on availability. Booth hours will be from 11 AM until 7 PM. Staffing is being scheduled in two-hour shifts. If you get this newsletter before August 13 and have not yet received a call, you can just call me and we can see if there is an open time slot that would work for you.

Tori's Thesis Defense was held as planned on May 18, 2016, 2 PM, at Heritage Hall. There was a good turnout. The subject of her thesis was Collections Management Policy for an All-Volunteer Organization. From her thesis, "The purpose of this thesis project was to create a comprehensive Collections Management Policy (CMP) specifically for Kirkland Heritage Society (KHS) and to submit the CMP to the KHS Board of Directors for approval."

The proposed Collections Management Policy had been previously presented to the KHS Board on April 27, 2016. At this time, no action has been taken with regard to adopting the recommended policy. Our agreed-to plan was to be reviewing the proposed policy over the next year before making a decision. We are anticipating making some changes to the proposed policy to address what we feel are unique circumstances at KHS.

Meanwhile, Tori has abruptly resigned from the KHS Board. Her term had one more year to run, so we will be looking for someone to step in to serve the remainder of her term.

We are also anticipating with sadness the future departure of long-time member and current Board member Janeen Ryseff. Janeen is also our membership committee chair. Health concerns and a related move out of

the area make this necessary. We will certainly miss Janeen and her husband Sid, and wish them both well. In the short time that I have been active with KHS I have come to appreciate Janeen's dedication to KHS and willingness to help out wherever needed.

I was not able to get to Kirkland's July 4 parade, but I understand that it was very enjoyable. KHS signs were displayed by the Ford Model-A club. Frank Rosin coordinated the effort. Thanks to Frank for doing this.

Visitors to the KHS Resource Room will notice a new addition to our signage. There is an electronic lighted OPEN sign above the entrance door. This is the result of the closure of the Tree House consignment store where Loita had been a long-time employee. This sign and a number of other items were offered to KHS. Many are sad to see the closure of the Tree House but after 37 years the two owners were ready to retire.

We were pleasantly surprised to be invited to participate in the benefit home tour "Kirkland Home Tour - Now and Then" being organized by Sue Contreras. The tour will be on Saturday, September 17, from 10 AM until 4:00 PM. Tickets will be \$25, and proceeds from the tour will go to benefit both KHS and the Performing Arts Center. More information on the tour can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.

For people who ordered pavers last year, I have some good news. Paver stone has at last been delivered to be engraved. We are expecting the pavers to be finished in the next few weeks. There is more to the story than that, but I will not go into the details now, except to say that it has been a long and difficult project this time. I will share a more detailed report after the pavers are delivered.

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# KHS Monthly Program

7:00 p.m.

Heritage Hall

203 Market Street

July & August

No monthly meetings.

See you in September for our annual Blackberry Social.

## Kirkland Home Tour

“Now & Then”

Saturday, September 17, 2016

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Contributed by Cheyenne Gillooly

When you think of Kirkland, many of us think of the waterfront, the luscious green parks, the shops. But most of all, what comes to mind is community. Like all great ideas, this came from one of our community’s most giving and passionate longtime members, Sue Contreras.

“Wouldn’t it be great if Kirkland had a home tour AND could raise money for a great cause?”

Sue is no stranger to volunteer work. She has been an active member of the culture and community here for close to 42 years. Finding the “yes” is her specialty. Using her resources. Sue reached out to the community.

Long time Kirkland City Council member, Toby Nixon suggested to feature some “built green homes” as well as historical homes. Lynette Freiberg Weber is THE Kirkland Heritage Commissioner and Brenda Nunes started the “Sustainability September” movement in Kirkland.

“I’m definitely in good company in presenting a Home Tour” says Sue.

So how did Sue choose the seven properties that will be featured on the tour?

### “NOW” Homes

“Juanita Farm House Cottages, Arête, DWELL Built”

“For the ‘now’ homes...it intrigued me that the new wave is to build sustainable built green properties. The properties we have chosen are remarkable. Arête, in the former Crab Cracker restaurant location, has the platinum LEED certification, and the Dwell home and the Farmhouse Cottages at Juanita are brand new and 5star green built.”

### “THEN” Homes.

Marsh Mansion, Smith Log Home, Altig Property, Khoury Home

“ I love that we have been able to save historic homes and I applaud the people who have so lovingly cared for them. The ‘then’ homes on the tour are just wonderful to see.... from a log home on the lake, to the Marsh mansion, to a home for one of Peter Kirk’s associates to a completely refurbished log home that was moved from its previous Market St. location.”

It’s no wonder that Sue choose the Kirkland Performing Arts Center and the Kirkland Heritage Society as the beneficiaries of the “Kirkland Home Tour Now & Then”.

These organizations are near and dear to many of us here in Kirkland. Sue has been involved with the KPC since before it was built and currently sits on their advisory board. And The Kirkland Heritage Society is another nonprofit close to her heart.

“A group of us were able to restore the historic Captain Anderson Ferry clock a few years ago and I feel the importance of trying to preserve parts of our city’s history for future generations.”

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## Kirkland The Lakeside Paradise

by Spencer Burmester

In 1950, my great grandparents, Verne and Corrine Burmester, moved their family from Renton to Kirkland. Back then, Kirkland was a quaint, blue collar town. However, my great grandparents fell in love with this charming little community and made it their permanent home, residing just off of Waverly Way. They were very involved in the town and owned the Burmester Kirkland Furniture store on Park Lane.

Both of their sons, Jay and Neil, attended and graduated from Lake Washington High School. My grandpa Jay, went into the Coast Guard after high school but returned to Kirkland and took part ownership in the furniture store. Jay and his wife, Lori, bought their first home on 2nd Avenue and then their home in the Wildwood Heights subdivision of Houghton. That's where my dad, Bobby Burmester, grew up. He nostalgically talks of his upbringing in Kirkland. I can't count the times that he has told me he was born in the hospital where the Heathman Hotel now stands. Just as his father did, my dad attended and graduated from Lake Washington High School and expected his children to do the same.

When my mom, Val Burmester, was pregnant with me, my parents lived in Clyde Hill. Overlake hospital was by far the closest choice when my mom went into labor, but my dad wanted me to be born in Kirkland so they made the trek to Evergreen Hospital. It was as if I would not have "Kirkland Citizenship" if I was not born on Kirkland soil.

Even when living in Clyde Hill, we were always in Kirkland. I vividly remember my parents taking my sister and I to Ben & Jerry's every free cone day, waiting in line for an hour for a single scoop of ice cream. My dad would always take me to watch the

baseball games at Lee Johnson Field. To this day, I can almost feel the warm summer evening breeze and smell the aroma of freshly cut grass that surrounds the field.

My family's affinity of Kirkland drove my parents to begin house hunting in the area. When I was 5 years old, we moved to the Rose Point Community. This is where my own story in Kirkland begins.

While moving is the first step, changing schools is a new challenge to conquer. I entered the first grade at Peter Kirk Elementary with Ms. Piro as my teacher. I went from an overcrowded kindergarten class of 28 kids at Clyde Hill Elementary to a much more manageable class of 17. Ms. Piro was the best teacher to have coming to a new school. She was young, fun-loving and enthusiastic. She was also my nanny for the next four summers. We are close with her to this day.

As I continued through Peter Kirk, I blended in just like any other kid and it would have been hard to tell that I was once "the new kid". I made incredible friends. School wasn't the only part of my life growing up though. Baseball was another activity that I heavily participated in. Starting out in t-ball with my dad as the coach, I played on the Devil Rays up at Taylor Field, otherwise known as the dump. After my first year of minors was the equivalent of paying at Yankee Stadium. My teammates and I felt like we had hit the lotto and were playing in the big leagues, despite only playing on the swampy "Field D". As a chubby little kid, I enjoyed nothing more than a good cheeseburger. After almost every little league game, I would devour the famous Everest Park Burger. Little League consumed by spring every single year and it is one of the greatest memories of my youth. The sense of comradery within the team environment and the excitement of winning a game against your classmates, giving you bragging rights

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**Kirkland Home Tour  
“Now & Then”  
continued from page 3**

She told me this story. To Sue, it was simple. She noticed the clock was broken. Why not find a way to fix it? And she did.

Please join us for a long awaited Kirkland Home Tour,  
**“Now and Then”,**

**Saturday, September 17, 2016  
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Limited Advance Tickets are available for \$25 on our website.

Complete information is on the website:

[www.kirklandhometour.com](http://www.kirklandhometour.com)

Or call Sue Contreras for information at 425-827-6870



**WWII Veteran, Sid Ryseff.**

See the KHS website for a slideshow of the 2016 parade.

**President’s Letter, Continued from page 2**

On a final note, I should mention that KHS has a backlog of work that needs to be done with regard to our collections. Especially on entering items into the PastPerfect database. But this is not something that just anyone can do without first learning the ropes. The PastPerfect database use requires a certain amount of learning before a person can be proficient. It is not a short-term commitment where one can just jump in and start working. But never-the-less, the need is great. For anyone seriously interested in learning the how to interface with the database we can provide the opportunity and assistance.

Remember that we do not meet in June, July, and August. Our next meeting will be in September. Please stop by our booth at Summerfest and say, “Hi”.

That’s all for now. Thanks, Glenn



**Frank and Victor on the 4th of July**



Past board member Nancy Stephens was in Kirkland visiting with family and made time for a nice visit. She never changes. We certainly miss her.

## *Paradise.....Continued from page 4*

the next day at the lunch table, all influenced my social skills and strong work ethic that still shine today.

In the midst of baseball, making the transition from Peter Kirk to Kirkland Junior High to Lake Washington High School also added a new dynamic to my life. Kirkland Junior High was an absolute blast. I already knew many kids going into the school because of sports, but I was amazed at the amount of new friends that I made in the first few days of junior high. The teachers were outstanding, the class choices were impeccable, the students were insanely kind, and the administration loved watching students succeed. There was this immense feeling of community at KJH, something we called Panther Pride. Since there were only about 500 students, you could walk down the hallway and know who every single person was. That community feel really mirrors the town around it. Junior high was an incredible growth and learning opportunity. It helped to create greater maturity and independence, as well as proving astonishing opportunities to learn about your own interests.

Moving on to high school was a much grander task. The stakes rose and so did the population of the school. I have had the blessing to be a part of the first freshmen class ever at Lake Washington High School. We had some big shoes to fill and were truly the babies of the school. But our class was up for the challenge. My dad's dream of his son attending LWHS just as he and his dad had done was coming true. High school has not been a breeze though, as many will also agree. Although enjoyable, it becomes difficult to balance school, sports, clubs, social life, family, free time, hobbies and sleep. But that's part of growing up. I myself have had to balance multiple AP and Honors courses each year, leading DECA and Beta, participating in baseball and then

moving onto swim team sophomore through senior year, work and of course saving time for my amazing group of friends and family. This has not always been a breeze and there have been many late nights trying to fit everything in but it has shaped me into the person I am today.

As a realtor in Kirkland, my mom's slogan is, "I live, work and play in Kirkland". This statement stands true for me as well, especially in the summer. Summer time is when the true enjoyment of Kirkland can be exploited. During this time, I work as a lifeguard for City of Kirkland and as a swim coach for the Kirkland Orcas swim team. The water is my playground and Kirkland is so special because it has the immense access to Lake Washington. What other downtown is situated directly on a freshwater lake? Every few blocks there is a beach! Starting with Houghton, then to Marsh Park and then to Settler's Landing to David E. Brink Park (otherwise known as T-Dock) and then to Marina Park, Waverly, Kiwanis and Juanita Beach. Wherever a person goes, they can find the water.

The downtown is what gives Kirkland character. I grew up waltzing around town with my friends during the heat of the summer. Walking up and down Park Lane and into the marina with ice cream in hand, just enjoying the beauty of this cute little town. My favorite day is the Fourth of July because Kirkland goes all out. I have countless memories of being a part of the kid's parade and watching the floats pass by with friends at my side. Then we would head to the beach and end the day with a barbecue and fireworks. Independence Day is a magical day in Kirkland. There is nowhere I would rather call home. Kirkland is the Gold Coast of Lake Washington



**KHS receives 100% commission from the sales of Bob Neir's *A City Comes of Age* and Steve Lamson's *The Power of a Dream*.**

# Blackberry Preserves

President:	Glenn Landguth *	425 821-4172
Vice-president	Karen Schickling *	425.827-3446
Secretary:	Loita Hawkinson	425.827-1950
Treasurer:	Frank Rosin *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Janeen Ryseff *	425 827-3446
At-Large	Vacant	425 827-3446
At-Large	Nancy Bock *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Linda Jatón *	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Vic Newhard	425 892-8388

## Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson*	425 827-1950
	Karen Schickling	425-827-3446
Controller	Hazel Russell	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
Pavers	Glenn Landguth	825 827-3446
Grants/Funding	Glenn Landguth*	425 827-3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatón*	425 827-3446
	Cathy Radcliff	
	Corrine Hieb	
	Margie Denton	
	Marilyn Johnson	
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Guest Writers	
Programs:	Linda Jatón*	425 827-3446
	Karen Schickling	425 827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris*	425-827-3446
	Shannon Harris	
Membership	Janeen Ryseff*	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
	Clarence Stone	
Planning and Historic Sites:	Lynette Weber*	425 890-9058
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206 478-3173
	Kris Woods	425 827-3446

\* Chair or Co-chairs

\*\* During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, these sweet ladies call and remind you of the next meeting or event.

\* Kirkland Natives or deep roots serving on the KHS Board.

Webmaster: Loita Hawkinson

## Kirkland Heritage Society

[www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org)

**425-827-3446**

**KHS is 100% volunteer with no paid staff.  
Your memberships make it happen.**



### 2015 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

**January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016**

KHS qualifies for tax exemption under 501(c) (3) and your contribution is deductible to the extent allowed by law. We qualify for matching gift contributions by those employers who offer this benefit.

### Membership Category

_____ Senior / Student	\$20
_____ Individual	\$25
_____ Family	\$30
_____ Supporting	\$100
_____ Life Member	\$1,000
_____ Organization/Government	\$100
_____ Professional Business	\$125
_____ Corporate	\$250

I would like to make a contribution: \_\_\_\_\_

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**If your company matches contributions, please  
provide the signed Matching Gift Form!**

Name

Address:

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone:

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Checks should be made payable and mailed to:

Kirkland Heritage Society  
Heritage Hall, Lower Level  
203 Market Street  
Kirkland, WA 98033.



## TO RENT HERITAGE HALL

**Call Kevin Ball at Kirkland Parks**

**425 587-3398**



**2016 Christine Neir Scholarship recipient, Spencer Burmester**

**Pictured: Jim Neir, Spencer Burmester, Bob Neir**

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**Blackberry Preserves** is produced by the **Kirkland Heritage Society**, for KHS members and those interested in Kirkland's past. **Loita Hawkinson, Editor.**  
For information on KHS - visit our website: [www.kirklandheritage.org](http://www.kirklandheritage.org),  
or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

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Kirkland Heritage Society

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