

# **B L A C K B E R R Y   P R E S E R V E S**

The Journal of the

## **K I R K L A N D   H E R I T A G E   S O C I E T Y**

IN SOLEMN RECOGNITION  
OF THE 443 "PERSONS OF  
JAPANESE ANCESTORY"  
RESIDING ON THE EASTSIDE  
WHO WERE BY EXECUTIVE  
ORDER 9066 EVACUATED AT  
THE KIRKLAND RAILROAD  
DEPOT ON MAY 20, 1942

**In the Spring of 2021 Kirkland Heritage Society  
installed this paver for the front walk at Heritage Hall**

## From the President

Loita Hawkinson

It has been a busy month. The usual day-to-day routine at the museum which remains closed for now continues.

Two century old photo albums were donated in April. Each had 100 pages with multiple images on each page. They were from the Spees family who lived on Slater near NE 116th Street. Ina Mae Spees (Gibbs) was in the Kirkland High School class of 1929. Ina Mae's album took the most time but with the aid of the Reveille yearbooks, almost all photos have been identified. The other album was by Mrs. Clara Spees, Ina Mae's mother and it was a bit trickier. I had gotten to know the family so they are all identified. The extended family and friends may forever be unidentified but we can hope. The albums have now been scanned and entered into the Pastperfect database with the originals archived.

I sometimes wonder if you notice that the postage stamps are often related to the issue or the season. I slipped up with the March/April issue and used the summer stamps. I thought that Earth Day was in May. That of course is wrong, but they are getting used now. The Post Office is issuing a WWII Japanese stamp that I had hoped to use for this issue but those are being released in June.

The Hotel Jackson chandelier has not been installed yet. The City wants a certified electrician to check it over first. KHS may have to help with the financial end of that.

Frank Rosin will be our next president so he will have the honor of keeping members up to date from now on. We still need to have the election even though no positions are contested. A formality but a necessary formality.

I hope you all know just how grateful I am that so many people are trusting KHS with their family treasures. I truly enjoy the research. This pandemic has given me a good excuse to be glued to my scanner and computer.

Take care everyone. Loita



## Elections for 2021/2022

Term starts July 1, 2021

President: Frank Rosin  
Vice President: Karen Schickling  
Secretary: Janice Gerrish  
Treasurer: Loita Hawkinson  
At Large: Linda Jatton  
At Large: Dave Sherbrooke  
At Large: Vic Newhard  
At Large: Libbi Wright  
At Large: Kim Hartman

Elections will be held by "drive by voting". Volunteers will be outside on Market Street on Saturday, May 29, 2021 from Noon to 1:00 p.m.



## KHS Monthly Programs Heritage Hall 203 Market Street

Programs will return when we are told it is safe. We will then follow the current guidelines.

2021

Jan and Jock McLaughlin  
and Randy Morelli

## In the mail

Historian Matt McCauley wrote to report that he did an oral history with Mabel Turtainen Barrie in the 1990's. Mrs. Barrie grew up near Mr. I. Israel Walker, the subject of Issue I of 2021. Mrs. Barrie mentioned Mr. Walker and how they all looked after one another. Her parents later watched out for him as he aged because he was a widower and lived alone.

Judith Gain Thommasen wrote a lovely letter along with her memories of the Yabuki family. Judith lives in Maine and we can be grateful to the US Postal Service for allowing us to keep in touch. Many of our members do not have computers. And many text and no longer email. For preserving history, mail continues to work wonders.



## Special thanks to members who are working quietly behind the scenes:

Karen Schickling for sending in obituaries from the *Seattle Times*.

Frank Rosin for keeping the bills paid and deposits made.

Andrea Kyrala for balancing the books and keeping KHS's finances in order.

Libbi Wright for filing, correcting and organizing the records of our growing collection.



Thanks to the Kirkland Rotary and 4Culture, the site of the Kirkland Depot is now a picnic and rest area along the Cross Kirkland Corridor. Rotarian and KHS Member, David Aubry, put in long hours preparing the grounds with native plants and original rails and ties. David also researched history of the depot. Most historic markers about the Northern Pacific Railway. One interpretive marker is dedicated to the Eastside Japanese who assembled at the depot on May 20, 1942 to ride to the Assembly Center at the Puyallup Fair Grounds.



### Life Members:

Richard and Lisa Altig, Maureen Baskin, Laura Bradley-Pierucci, Bob and Valerie Burmester, David and Tasha Davis, Steve Lamson, Ray & Clare Lincoln, Matt McCauley, Laura May Mosing, Richard and Kathy Nelson, Michael and Cathy Radcliff, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet, Sandi Stone, Laura Westlund.

### Corporate Members:

Hallmark Realty, Madison House.



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*.

## Yabuki Memories

by Judith Gain Thommasen

Editors note: This personal history is not about the Kirkland Yabuki family who operated a greenhouse on Lake Washington Blvd. The family that Judith remembers were related.

Dear Kirkland Heritage Society,

I am so ashamed. I should have written months ago. I do have a little information plus memories of the Yabuki Family. Unfortunately all the family (mine) that worked and played with them are gone. I do have a DVD of my uncle, Robert Evetts, talking about "the way life was back then". I will try to make an audio of it so you will at least have the information on it. But now I will tell you what I remember.

The Yabuki's lived across the street from the Hunt's Point store and kitty corner from the old Hunt's Point School that my mom and uncles went to. Mom (Erma Evetts Gain) and Uncle Robert Evetts both went on to Kirkland High School. Mom would have graduated in 1930 along with my future Aunt Mary Gain Walker. But the last 5 months of her Senior Year she took the ferry to Madison, walked up to Garfield High School for morning classes and then walked to downtown Seattle to attend beauty school. Momma and Uncle Bob lived with their folks about 1 ½ blocks from the Yabuki's. My Gramps and Gram were Roy Stanley and Mary Ann Lemm Evetts. There were three other children (Merlin, Milt, Marguerite). I stayed their lots as my Mama had to work. I was only 3 or 4 when the Yabuki's were taken away to the camps. I stayed at the house with an aunt.

Roy and Mary ran down to the main house and told Mr. Yabuki to give him the keys to all the buildings and he (they) would clean it all up (The men who came for them were

making a mess) and would board all the windows and doors, etc., and stand guard at night and their home would be intact when they returned.

He kept his word - working all day and guarding most of the night. After a very long time, Mary got a call one day that they would be home the next day. Gramps and Gram, Mama, Aunt Marguerite, me, Bob and brother Milton all went down. The men removed all the barriers and the women cleaned and washed bed linens, etc., and every dish in the cupboards and the cupboards, etc. The home was spic and span and beds ready to sleep in.

My two uncles slept on the floor all night in case someone tried to break in (not for the first time) (Grandpa took potshots with his shotgun several times!) Anyway, the next day we were waiting when they got back. The men in uniforms wanted to come in but Gramps said no and raised his shotgun. Grandma said "Roy!" and the men left. Gram had a cake and Marguerite had cookies and made tea. It was a real celebration. Not many were so lucky as to still have a home left. The Yabuki's went back to truck farming and every week or so a pile of veggies would be on the back porch. Two of the sons joined an elite Japanese force in France that was so fierce and they lost a giant percentage of troops. Both boys came home but were injured (one badly). What heroes those men were!! They both built homes behind the gardens and ran the gardens for many years. My first late husband worked with one of the younger boys at the Bellevue Post Office. My Gram Evetts and Aunt Marguerite Evetts and I walked down often to have tea with Rose!

Gramps (Roy S. Evetts) was a well known Botanist and Landscape Artist and did hundreds of yards on all three points and Baker Park in Seattle along Lake Washington and up on the hill.

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The Yabuki's were truly inspiring people!

My Aunt Marguerite Evetts was crippled with Polio at three months. She was very well known in the Three Point Area and Bellevue as an honest and trustworthy babysitter. She would live in or not and some of the kids kept track of her and sent her cards and gifts until she passed of a heart attack at 57. My Paternal grandparents lived just off Yarrow Point and had a many acre farm there which is another whole story. (James Harrison Gain).

Sincerely, Judith Gain Thommasen

P.S. My mom and Aunt Mary both told me many times of them voting for the "Kangaroo" name their Senior Year.



Kirkland Heritage Society has purchased two historical fiction books about the Japanese experience during WWII that have been written for grade school children. The titles are: *Paper Wishes* by Lois Sepahban and *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei. Two copies were purchased with one being with the WWII display and the other with the school display so children can read while at the museum.

## Thanking our "Heavy Lifters"



Kristopher Digilio delivered the 90 pound anchor shackle from the Fort Jackson.

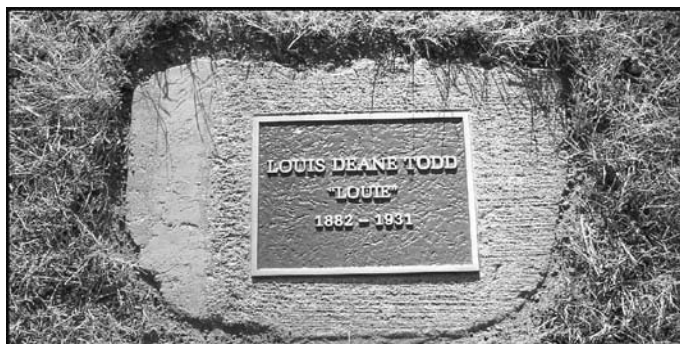
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Continued from page 5



Now retired, Kirkland Park's Director, Michael Cogel, salvaged a chunk of the depression era tennis court from Heritage Park. It was later used to mark the grave of Louis Todd. Mr. Todd had led the campaign to build the tennis court using volunteer labor and donated materials.



Kirkland Heritage Society office and museum will re-open:  
Monday from 10 to noon  
Wednesday from 2 to 5 when recommended by the City.



## Programs

Karen would like suggestions for future programs:

Karen Schickling @ 425-273-6299 or  
kschic1965@gmail.com.



## AmazonSmile

Kirkland Heritage is registered with AmazonSmile.

When you purchase from Amazon, .5% of your total purchase can be donated to KHS. Amazon pays this .5%, not the buyer. The link to our AmazonSmile account is on our website @

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

.5% may not seem like much but every penny helps support Kirkland's history.



## Blackberry Preserves

President:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Vice-president	Karen Schickling	425.827-3446
Secretary:	Janice Gerrish	425.827-3446
Treasurer:	Frank Rosin	425 827-3446
At-Large	Linda Jatton	425 827-3446
At-Large	Vic Newhard	425 892-8388
At-Large	Lynette Weber	425 890-9058
At-Large:	Dave Sherbrooke	425 827-3446
At-Large:	Shannon Harris	425-827-3446

### Committee Chairs & members

Archives & Collections:	Loita Hawkinson* Libbi Wright	425 827-1950 425-827-3446
Bookkeeping	Andrea Kyralla	425-827-3446
Blackberry Preserves:	Loita Hawkinson Marjorie Denton	425 827-1950
Cemetery Tour & Memorial	Matt McCauley* Sue Contreras Frank Rosin Loita Hawkinson	425.827.3446
Hello Girls**	Linda Jatton* Cathy Radcliff Margie Denton Marilyn Johnson	425 827-3446
Feature Writers	Loita Hawkinson Frank Rosin Guest writer	425 827-1950
Programs:	Karen Schickling	425 827-3446
Time Keepers	Marin Harris* Shannon Harris	425-827-3446
Membership	Bob Gerrish	425-827-3446
Oral History:	Loita Hawkinson	425 827-1950
Planning and Historic Sites:	Kim Hartman* Lynette Weber	810.599.1754 425 890-9058
Scholarship Committee	Jim Neir*	206 478-3173 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.

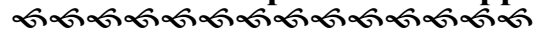
Webmaster: Christopher Neir

## 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.**



### 2020 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

**January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED:**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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 the City of Kirkland's  
Customer Service Division at:  
425-587-3300**



WWII and Lake Washington Shipyard display

**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.

**First  
Class  
Stamp  
Box**



Kirkland Heritage Society, est 1977  
Heritage Hall  
203 Market Street, Lower Level  
Kirkland, WA 98033

