

BLACKBERRY PRESERVES

The Journal of the

KIRKLAND HERITAGE SOCIETY



Spencer D. Whatley, *East Side Journal*, November 18, 1954.

Spencer D. Whatley

Pictured above with his portrait camera.

(See page 6)

Volume XXXIII, Issue I

Jan/Feb 2026

www.kirklandheritage.org

Kirkland Heritage Society

Museum hours:

Monday: 10 to Noon

Wednesday: 2 to 5

203 Market Street
Lower lever of Heritage Hall



KHS celebrates History Month again in February

Each February, KHS places over 100 historic plaques in businesses around Kirkland. Because they are mostly in windows, this creates a 24/7 walking tour. The signs are placed between Juanita and Kirkland with Juanita's signs containing Juanita-specific history and Kirkland's signs containing Kirkland-specific history.

For the past 16 February's, KHS has been placing the historic plaques in businesses. In 2011, KHS started an annual event called *Founder's Week*. It was held in February because that is the birth month of Kirkland's founder and namesake: **Peter Kirk**. *Founder's Week* started with the display of 15 historic plaques in 15 businesses.

After a suggestion in 2011 that one week was not long enough, a month was suggested. The City agreed and the event became *History Month* with more historic plaques and more volunteers. KHS welcomes you to participate in and enjoy this year's **History Month**.



History Month plaques on display, Spud Fish & Chips, Juanita, 2025



Newsletter Production



Libbi Wright & Claire Hughes, KHS Mailroom

Libbi and Claire both worked in mail rooms and print shops. Their skills are a great help.



Visitors



Kate Conant, KHS Museum

Kate is a former Houghtonite who now lives in Juanita.

Kate volunteers at **Edith Moulton Park** in Juanita through the **Green Kirkland Program**. **The Green Kirkland Program** helps keep our neighborhood parks free of unwanted vegetation, including invasive species.



Yaretzi Cesar and Caitlin Sprinkle

These two Juanita High School classmates visited KHS during their half day.





Maliha Masood

Maliha is an author and speaker promoting small businesses in Kirkland. Maliha is working with **BookTree**, Kirkland's only privately owned brick and mortar book store. **BookTree** is at 609 Market and will display several plaques specific to Market Street in February for **History Month**.



Tom Charouhas at KHS

Tom grew up in Houghton near the **Heisdorf & Nelson Chicken Laboratory**. Tom is a 1973 graduate of Lake Washington High School. His father, Des Charouhas, was a coach and teacher at LW. Tom's mother, Betty Lou Fuller Charouhas was a talented artist who was involved with the **Kirkland Art Center**. Tom was in a hurry the day of his visit but promised to return.

(see July/August 2023 issue of BP for information about Heisdorf & Nelson).



Carolyn Hayek

Pictured here is Carolyn Hayek donating a 1932 aerial photo that includes **Heritage Park** (where Heritage Hall stands) and downtown Kirkland. The aerial photo was taken to document the building of Kirkland Junior High in 1932. KHS has another print of this photo in the Martha Burr Millar collection but this photo has more detail.

Carolyn is a retired District Court Judge. Carolyn was the presiding judge at the **"100 Weddings in Kirkland"** which was a mass ceremony held during Kirkland's 2005 Centennial at **Heritage Hall**. Kirkland's Centennial was the first major event at **Heritage Hall** after it had been moved from 1st Street in 1999 and then renovated.



Evin Moore

Evin was a Redmond resident when he graduated in 2013. Evin now lives in **Totem Lake**.





Connor and Nathan, KHS

Grandpa treated Connor and Nathan to a Sarsaparilla before getting their hair cut the day before Thanksgiving.



Nathan and Connor...after their haircuts

Grandpa later treated Nathan and Connor to another Sarsaparilla just before Christmas. They were on their way to go ice skating.



Life Members:

Richard and Lisa Altig, Cindy Anderson, Maureen Baskin, Laura Bradley-Pierucci, Bob and Valerie Burmester, David and Tasha Davis, Don Dicks and Merrily Hardenbrook Dicks, Ulrich & Nona Ganz, Dan & Kim Hartman, Loita Hawkinson, Steve Lamson, Anne R. Fleming, Sandi Kelly, Joan McBride/Margaret Meister, Matt McCauley, Laura May Moseng, Jim & Cathy Neir, Tom & Sally J. Neir, Richard & Kathy Nelson, Timothy & Mary Ord, Richard and Peggy Ostrander, Wayne Peterson, Michael and Cathy Radcliff, Darlene "Dee" Miller Saunders, Linda M. Elliott Scovel, Lisa Miller Sheffield, Larry Springer/Penny Sweet, Lois Y. Pawley-Wick and the late James G. Wick, Libbi Wright.

Corporate Member:

Stephen Lamson, Continental Productions.

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*.

Kirkland's Planning & Building Department Tours KHS



Kirkland's Planning & Building Department, KHS Museum, 2025

Shown above are members of the **Planning & Building Department** participating in a scheduled tour of the KHS Museum and Archives.

Pictured are Caroline Hedlund, Jessie Davis (holding Jellee), Tyler Gurley, Abigail Smith, Dakota Murphy, Adam Weinstein, John Hosea, Prins Cowin, Colin Carter, David Barnes.



The tour continues...

Here the tour views our large depression-era wool carding machine, signs from Green Funeral Home and Sessions Undertakers, railroad memorabilia, and a model of the historic 1888 John Kellett home built by local miniature crafters, Frank and Esther Hand, who owned the **Dollhouse Cottage** in Juanita. There are local hardware store yard sticks, a nail scale, telegraph keys and so much more.



The tour continues...

Here in the kitchenette area of the **KHS Resource Center and Museum**, the tour views items from Kirkland school kitchens when lunches were made from scratch on site. Vintage Cookbooks are shelved here as well as menus from local restaurants. It is a trip down memory lane and a taste of the past for so many.



Kirkland's Hospital

(From back page)



Kirkland Hospital, c1940

The original Kirkland Hospital at 220 Kirkland Avenue (shown above) was built by Dr. George H. Davis in 1930. By 1950, Kirkland needed a larger facility. The same Dr. Davis hired architects to design additional space, enclosing the original hospital and adding state of the art technology. The price tag was \$100,000.



Architectural Drawing, ESJ, 1950

The architectural drawing above is from the 1950 plans submitted for the hospital. The completed 1951 hospital was a spitting image of the architectural drawing.

The photo on the back page was taken a week after the Hospital's Grand Opening. Those born in Kirkland in 1950 while the hospital was being remodeled were born in the original area while the additions were being constructed. This hospital closed in 1971 with the construction of the **Evergreen General Hospital**, now **Evergreen Health** in Totem Lake.

The site of the original Kirkland Hospital is now the Heathman Hotel.



Fisk Family Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



Ceremony at Fisk Family Park, November 20, 2025

Fisk Family Park is the newest neighborhood park in Kirkland. It took many dedicated people to save this small parcel and preserve the tiny cabin which has become an icon in the neighborhood. The park at 212 6th Avenue South is a respite for those walking the **Cross Kirkland Corridor (CKC)** and 6th Avenue South. (See Mar/Apr 2024 issue of BP for Fisk Family history)



(Continued from front page)

Spencer D. Whatley

In observance of **Black History Month**, KHS presents Kirkland's **United States Air Force Airman Whatley**.

Spencer was a United States Air Force photographer. He served in both Korea and Vietnam. Spencer was one of the four Whatley children who lived in Norkirk. Featured here are Spencer and his three siblings.

The four Whatley siblings are the children of Norman Whatley, Sr. and Willie Mae Vaughn Whatley. They lived in the Norkirk Neighborhood for over 20 years. Mr. Whatley died in 1966 in Kirkland. Mrs. Whatley passed away in 2013.

Virginia was on the *World* staff at Lake Washington High School. The *World* was the high school newspaper. Virginia cut her writing teeth literally right here in Kirkland.



Norm Whatley
LWHS, class of
1953
(1934-2009)

Spencer Whatley
LWHS, class of
1954
(1936-2017)



Audrey Whatley
(Reid)
LWHS, class of
1955
(1938-2015)

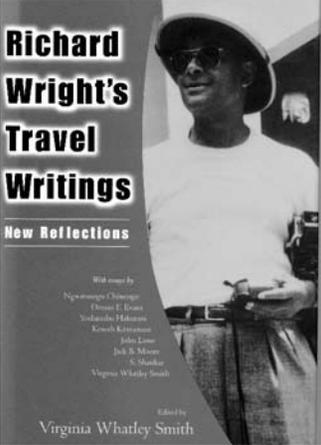
All four were involved in various aspects of school and extra-curricular activities. They held office, were in school plays, participated in special events and the brothers were known for their sports. Norm and Spencer served in the Air Force and saw action in both the Korean and Vietnam Conflicts. Audrey and Virginia both married Air Force officers.



A. Virginia Whatley
(Smith)
LWHS, class of
1957

Dr. Virginia Whatley Smith is the only sibling still living. Virginia is a retired Associate Professor of English at the University of Alabama. She is

well known for her work on African American Literature. Her focus has been the travel experiences of black people. Virginia edited *Richard Wright's Travel Writings*, shown here, which is in the KHS Museum Library.



*Richard Wright's
Travel Writings*
University Press
of Mississippi,
2001



Blackberry Preserves

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* Chair or Co-chairs

** During WWI, the Hello Girls were ladies who served as telephone operators. For KHS, this sweet lady will email to remind you of the next meeting or event.

Editor: Fred Hawkinson

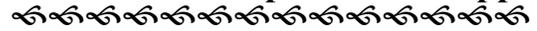
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Kirkland Heritage Society

www.kirklandheritage.org

425-827-3446

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



2026 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society

January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2026

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

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_____ Supporting	\$100
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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**



Kirkland Hospital, Kirkland, WA, June 2, 1951

Shown above is Kirkland's "new" hospital. You may remember it as the 'old hospital' or the Moss Bay Galleria, when it was home to many artists and small businesses.

(See page 5)

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, or call 425 827-3446 to leave a message.

**First
Class
Stamp
Box**



Kirkland Heritage Society

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