Kirkland had its very own Georgia O’Keeffe. Thanks to eBay, one is now at the KHS Museum.  See back page for more.
From the Vice-president

Chris Neir

When I was a teenager, I hadn’t given much thought about the history of the city where I was born. That changed with my grandfather’s book on the political history of Kirkland and hearing his many stories about his time on the city council, from 1970 through 1991.

When I was 12, I began filming family gatherings to capture, and preserve, those hilarious and precious moments. So, as my grandfather was finishing up his book in 2005, he enlisted my help in photographing areas and certain buildings within the city. Those images were later donated to the Kirkland Heritage Society. It was this passion for recording history, that inspired me to interview my grandparents in 2007 about their life story. I captured hours of footage, and was so happy that I did, because a year later my grandmother passed away.

My interest in recording history, and at the suggestion of my grandfather, I began volunteering for the Kirkland Heritage Society and the City of Kirkland in 2017. I assisted the city’s video lead, Mike Connor, with videography and video editing. In 2018, I had the privilege of photographing and editing the city’s video of the 50th anniversary of Houghton merging with Kirkland. My grandfather’s attendance, as well as his instrumental role in getting the merger done, made this an unforgettable moment for me.

As a volunteer for the Heritage Society, I redesigned and update the KHS website, post to their YouTube channel, their Facebook page, and digitize photographs, VHS and mini-DV tapes. In September 2021, Loita invited me to a KHS board meeting, where I was voted on the board as Vice President. My name is Christopher Neir, the proud grandson of Bob and Christine Neir. My goal is to continue to record and preserve the legacy of my grandparents, and all those who have impacted this community, and the city of Kirkland.

2022 Kirkland Cemetery Tour

Matt McCauley will guide his popular Kirkland Cemetery Tour on May 21, 2022 from 10:00 a.m. to noon. Covid forced Matt to cancel the tour in 2020 and 2021. Now that masking and social distancing are a way of life, the tour is back on schedule.

This year’s tour will feature some of the Civil War Veterans that rest in our historic cemetery. So mark your calendars and hope for some great weather.

Robert and Christine Neir Memorial Scholarship announced

By James Neir

This year’s winning essay is “The Valor of My Parents” by Christina Lewis. Christina will receive $3,000 towards her college expenses next fall.

Christina is on the varsity LWHS Cross Country and Track teams, member of the National Honor Society, volunteers with CEF, her church’s hospitality team and as a tutor with Student Connections. She was also a former Kirkland Police Explorer for 3 years, interned at the Gillaspy & Rhode law firm, worked at Chipotle, and is a substitute preschool teacher. She has not yet decided on the university she will attend next year.

Japanese Americans annually hold a Day of Remembrance on February 19th to remember the day Executive Order 9066 was announced. This was the order that sent more than 120,000 Japanese Americans to U.S. prison camps in 1943 during World War II. Sixty eastside families totally 443 individuals left Kirkland on May 20, 1943. Local families had three months to dispose of a lifetime of memories and goods.
Dear KHS,

I was the backup newspaper carrier for Jim Wick when we were both in high school. If Jim couldn’t do his route, I took it for the time. The route was between Juanita and Kirkland. We either walked or rode our bicycles.

During the war, it was cannons with no missiles. The Juanita site was to protect Sandpoint and Lake Washington. After the war – for about 5 years – the Juanita site had missiles to protect the area from Cold War Era enemy aircraft.

I did track with Luther Davis. I was never First Team with Luther but remember him well.

I played French horn in high school. Ray Lincoln played 1st chair and I played 2nd. I was amused that Ray drove a Cadillac but his name was Lincoln.

Elliot “Paul” Fletcher  
LWHS class of 1951

Yearbook photo provided by KHS

Memorials for 2 lovely ladies

**Margie Kolesar Denton**  
1930 – 2022  
June 25, 2022  
1 – 4 p.m.  
Heritage Hall  
203 Market Street

**Jerry Schillreff Rutherford**  
1922 – 2022  
July 16, 2022  
1:30 p.m.  
Congregation Church  
106 Fifth Avenue

Both Margie & Jerry were charter members of KHS

**A bit of history**

On May 2, 2022 Seattle acknowledged the 100 year anniversary of electing women to the Seattle City Council.

In 1912, Kirkland elected Carrie Shumway to the Town Council. Miss Shumway was the first woman council member in the state. It is not Woman’s History Month but it’s still nice to acknowledge how progressive Kirkland has always been.

**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

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

**Life Members:**

**Corporate Members:**
Hallmark Realty, Madison House.
Big Finn Hill’s Small Airport gone (but not forgotten) but very hard to find
By Loita Hawkinson

Local historians have frequently written about the small airport on Big Finn Hill. Many people remember it and often post their questions on Social Media or call KHS for information. Finding information about this airport is made difficult because of its name: North Seattle Air Park. Who would remember that?

Rather than rewrite history, your volunteer editor will let the professionals that worked for the Seattle newspapers report the history of the Finn Hill Airport.

Seattle Post Intelligencer
By Robert N. Ward
August 23, 1948

Out of the nicest small air-fields the F-by-N Editor has seen in a long time is the recently completed North Seattle Air Park, between Kenmore and Juanita on top of the hill. And it was just about all a “home-made Job.” Partners Morry Proctor, a former Navy fighter pilot and Al Menard wanted an airfield to operate. But they didn’t exactly desire to give all their money to a contractor.

Result: they bought a bull-dozer and a carryall from war surplus stocks, and Proctor learned to operate same. For 16 months he worked with only desultory help, at the job of clearing and grading 77 acres. Gradually a runway, 2200 feet long, ramp and parking area emerged.

Now the field has a concrete hangar, a pumice block administration building, 17 planes based there, and its first G. I. student.

The field is eight and one-half miles from the University district, and similarly near to other north end parts of the city. Its real potential, though, Proctor thinks, is to the booming area north of Seattle proper, which is building up more all the time.

Seattle Times
March 13, 1955
By Alice Staples

Acquisition by the Lovell Construction Co. of a large tract of property adjacent to the Inglewood Golf and Country Club near Kenmore has cleared the way for a $4,000,000 housing development. Picture Floor Plans announced yesterday. The North Seattle Air Park formerly occupied the property.

Construction has begun on the first of 216 homes which are platted. Platting still is to be completed for 84 more homes. The development will be known as Inglewood Hills. Most of the land was acquired from Lar Gill Corp., Bellingham, a theater chain. Other smaller tracts raised the total outlay to more than $100,000 said K. A. Sanwick, Jr., of Picture Floor Plans who negotiated the sale. The real-estate company will be the exclusive sales agent for the homes.

Seattle Post Intelligencer
March 14, 1955
Dr. Wally Flynn, flying veterinarian, reports he flew the last plane to use North Seattle Air Park, which closed recently to become a residential area.
In the mail

Here is another story about the Hunter Mock era. Ref: Luther Davis story in Jan/Feb Blackberry. In the fall of 1946 I was in Mr. Mock’s Biology class. Mr. Mock was also the football coach, and Fridays were football days. All home games were played in the afternoon, as there were no lights at Kirkland. The games were played on the field between the High School and the Jr. High.

This particular Friday during Biology class, Bill Baker (one of the football players) came into class and sat in a chair by Mr. Mock’s desk. COACH Mock then proceeded to tape up Bill’s injured shoulder so he could play that afternoon. I thought it was a unique situation as I had never heard of it before in my 30 years of teaching and coaching.

Ray Lincoln
class of ‘48

Great story on the Parks. I wonder if Barbara Parks, class of 1947, is the daughter born in Juanita. The dates seem about right. I knew Barbara really well even though she was a year older.

Ray Lincoln
Class of ‘48

KHS Monthly Programs
Heritage Hall
203 Market Street

Programs will now return as soon as they can be scheduled. We will continue to follow the current City & State guidelines.

Golden Grads is back on!!!

Ray Lincoln informed KHS that Golden Grads is scheduled for:
Saturday, October 1, 2022.
Lake Washington High School
12033 80th Street NE
1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Air Park continued from page 4

From the editor:
The articles have been digitized so that a 2022 media search will find the information. Morry Proctor’s name was Maurice, sometimes spelled Morrie, Morry, or Maurie. The Flying Veterinarian serviced Alaska and our local remote islands. The WWII Carryall was a Dodge ¾ Ton Truck.

Programs

Karen would like suggestions for future programs:
Karen Schickling @ 425-273-6299 or kschic1965@gmail.com.

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 Heritage Society office and museum is now open

Monday from 10 to noon
Wednesday from 2 to 5

Blackberry Preserves

Frank patiently glued the 1870’s (or older) china plate from Peter and Mary Kirk’s home in England. It made the voyage around the horn and up the Pacific Coast to what had become Kirkland, King County, Washington Territory.

Sadly is was badly broken in 2021 on its way to the KHS Museum. Two other plates arrived safely. This plate is a treasure, damaged or not and the cracks do not show.

Just took 21st Century glue, patience and Frank’s steady hand.

KHS Website

Many of our members and visitors have mentioned the KHS website that was re-organized and is maintained by Chris Neir. Chris has digitized many of our past programs and oral histories and put them on the website. There are phonebooks dating from 1914 and into the 1950’s. There are school newspapers from Kirkland High School and Lake Washington High School. Every issue of Blackberry Preserves is there. If you have a computer and have some time, please visit

www.kirklandheritage.org

Chris also maintains the KHS Facebook page…

Kirkland Heritage Society and Museum.

Facebook has a wide viewing audience and it is wonderful to see the feedback. Thank you Chris.
## Committee Chairs & members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair/Co-chairs</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Archives & Collections     | Loita Hawkinson*  
Libbi Wright                                                                 | 425.827.1950  
425.827.3446                                                                 |
| Bookkeeping                | Andrea Kyrala                                                                 | 425.827.3446                                                                 |
| Blackberry Preserves       | Loita Hawkinson                                                                | 425.827.1950  
425.827.3446                                                                 |
| Cemetery Tour & Memorial   | Matt McCauley*  
Sue Contreras  
Frank Rosin  
Loita Hawkinson  
Janice Gerrish                                                              | 425.827.3446                                                                 |
| Hello Girls**              | Linda Jaton*  
Cathy Radcliff  
Marilyn Johnson                                                              | 425.827.3446                                                                 |
| Feature Writers            | Loita Hawkinson  
Frank Rosin  
Guest writers                                                                | 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*                                                                   | 810.599.1754                                                                 |
| 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.

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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.**

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### 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Kirkland Heritage Society  
January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022

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.

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**TO RENT HERITAGE HALL**  
Call the City of Kirkland’s Customer Service Division at:  
425-587-3300
Myrtle C. Robertson (1869-1958) began teaching at the age of 14. She received her art education at the San Francisco Art Institute from 1903 to 1906. The San Francisco earthquake and fires destroyed the Art Institute so Miss Robertson returned to teaching. She taught at Central School from 1920 until her retirement when she took up her brushes and started her second career. See front page for a sample of her art.