



NEWSLETTER

The mission of the Mercer Island Historical Society is to collect, preserve, research, record, and make available the heritage of Mercer Island.

Newsletter Editors: Tove Lund & Terry Moreman

Spring 2015 Newsletter

Sally Brown,
Dr. Bob Lewis
Michael Wright

Bruce Jones
Tye Publishing

Ardie Butler
History Buff and Program Presenter

Cuba Today

Monday, March 16th, 1PM

Cuba is much in the news today, with the U.S. Government's announcement of some relaxation in our decades long policies towards this Caribbean nation.

We are fortunate at the MI Historical Society to have three Board members - Sally Brown, Robert Lewis and Michael Wright, who have all made recent trips to Cuba. They will bring their slides, thoughts, cultural observations, and resident interactions to discuss. Come find out how they got there, what they ate and how were the accommodations.

If you are planning a Cuban trip, are just interested, in Cuba or would like to see the country's auto show of all those 1950-era American cars that survive on the Cuban roads today, please join us for what will be a visually delightful presentation of a country that we have not had much contact with since 1959.

What's New?

Monday, April 20th, 1PM

Please join us as we unveil the new Mercer Island Historical Society web site. Bruce Jones, who is helping us design the site, will show what we have so far and guide us around the site. The visual design looks great - more up-to-date and very easy to navigate. There are some new features that will make it easier to communicate and find what you need. Bruce and Sally Brown will do a question and answer format and, hopefully, make it all clear to the technophobes and tech-savvy among us.

This is merely the beginning of getting the Historical Society's holdings on-line and accessible to researchers, scholars, and the general public. We have all the source material that went into our award-winning book "Mercer Island History" by Jane Meyer Brahm. We hope to bring to the meeting some of the items that did not make the book cut and show those.

Don't miss this presentation and discussion about how your Society will organize itself in the future.

The Oregon Trail

Monday, May 18th, 1 PM

Ardie will make a repeat visit, this time with her story of the Oregon Trail. Her presentation last fall on cooking for the Iditarod Race in Alaska was fun and enjoyed by all. Her story of the Oregon Trail should be just as interesting.

The Oregon Trail was used from about 1840 until the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad in 1869 effectively ended Trail travel. Between 200,000 and 400,000 people, including 40,000 children, made this arduous, dangerous, and sometimes fatal journey to the West. Their reasons were as varied as the individuals. Some came for religious freedom, some to escape a bad economy, rampant illness or depleted farmlands. Some were following their "Manifest Destiny." In any case, the 2170 miles from Independence MO to Oregon City OR were long and hard.

Men often saw the trip as an adventure, and husbands, by law, decided where the family lived. Women went to keep the family together and the trail is littered with the graves of those lost, often in childbirth.

Join us for this look at a past which had such a bearing on those of us in the Pacific Northwest

Location Of All Programs:
Mercer Island
Community & Events Center
8236 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA

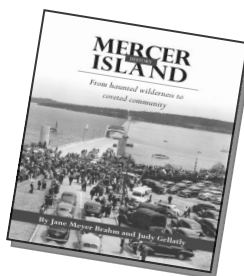
Mercer Island Historical Society
P. O. Box 111
Mercer Island, WA 98040

PRSRT STD
US Postage
PAID
Mercer Island WA
Permit No. 135



"A mere compilation of facts presents only the skeleton of History; we do but little for her if we cannot invest her with life, clothe her in the habiliments of her day, and enable her to call forth the sympathies of succeeding generations."

- Hannah Farnham Lee, Historian



President's Message:

Welcome Spring!

We are pleased to present a varied and interesting slate of Spring speakers for our general meetings.

Several of our Historical Society Board members have made recent trips to the island nation of Cuba and President Obama's announced intent to normalize relations with Cuba generated a nice opportunity for our members to share their thoughts and photographs in March. It should be an interesting discussion.

Looking ahead to our future, we have determined to up-date, up-grade our website with an eye toward loading much of the collected material and photos that did not make it into our award-winning new history book onto a searchable database for the public to access. To that end we are expending funds (raised from the book sales, etc.) to digitize lots of material. Our April meeting will unveil initial efforts and our web designer will be here to guide us through the process. That should be fun!

At May's meeting we will explore the Oregon Trail with Ardie Butler, a local history buff and wonderful speaker.

Membership Up-date: Enclosed is a form to pay dues and add or correct your membership information. We are hoping to get your email addresses to facilitate future communications.

If you have a red * on your mailing label your dues are paid through 2015, but please send us your email addresses anyway.

Thank you,
Susan Blake

All Meetings Held At:

Mercer Island
Community & Event Center
8236 SE 24th Street
Mercer Island, WA

Contact Us:

(206) 232-9442
(206) 232-3404

Mercer Island Historical Society
Board of Directors

President Susan Blake
Past President: Phil Flash
Secretary: Sally Brown
Treasurer: Rand Ginn

Board Members

Kris Dobbyn
Dr. Bob Lewis
Tove Lund
Ed Rice
Bruce Waddell
Michael Wright

Mercer Island Historical Society
P.O. Box 111
Mercer Island, WA 98040

*The Mercer Island Historical Society
is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation.
All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law.
Special donations are*

