

Heritage Museum

New Exhibits, New Research Area, and Expanded Scope of Local History!



THINGS FOUND IN WALLS is a collection of the things homeowners have brought to us that they found in their walls while remodeling. Visitors can see things all the way from an 1890 icon-like photo to umbrellas — three of them from 1905 to 1907! Stop in and browse this fun exhibit. Interesting side note: assisting in the set up of this exhibit was Jessica Wall, education outreach coordinator, who is adding the role of assistant-curator to her list of many accomplishments.

BLACK AND WHITE AND READ ALL OVER gives the overview of the history of the Kitsap County Herald and Poulsbo Record

UPSTAIRS the installation of safety windows is complete, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Ron Easterday. With that feature in place, a research area will open in the summer. In the fall we hope to expand our history exhibits to the 1930s - 1970s. This is an exciting time to broaden the telling of Poulsbo/North Kitsap history, and we invite ALL local families to consider the stories and artifacts they can share!

Spring brings several fund raising opportunities to the Poulsbo Historical Society. The annual dinner auction is a core support to the annual operating budget and contributes significantly to meeting the capital expenses of acquiring property on Front Street. The Kitsap Great Give is another way that the community can support the museums, programs, research, and future development. Museums are foundations of a healthy community. **See the center pages to discover how you can get involved!**

2024 Board Membership Focuses on Development Of Facilities, Programs, and Staff

The 2024 Poulsbo Historical Society Board of Directors welcomes Shannon Turner as a new member, following his election last fall. Shannon is the Community Development Administrator for Peninsula Community Health Services and a former Washington state legislature staff member. He brings a strong community connection and willingness to serve. Please join us in giving him a big welcome.

Kathy Rayment completed her term of service at the end 2023. Through her volunteer leadership and expertise Kathy guided PHS in developing the technology for the annual dinner auction, resulting in the raising of tens of thousands of dollars for local history. Thank you, Kathy!

This year the Board continues to support the work of the museum staff and volunteers as well as the facilities and grounds crews that keep the doors open, the buildings safe and inviting, the exhibits interesting, and the visitors welcome. The capital campaign committee continues to seek ways to pay down the mortgage while balancing the need for upgrades on the Heritage Museum. In the fall the goal is to begin the grant request process to bring in an Executive Director.

Board officers are Patty Henderson, president; Damien Wall, secretary; and Liesl Lewis, treasurer. Members are Carole Milton, Jeff Griffin, Jim Shields, Kurt Serwold, Lora Benson, Nancy Coffee, Steve Swann, Tom Hall, and Shannon Turner.

Museum Visitor Attendance – A Snapshot of Success!

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Heritage Museum	1541	247	6469	7974	7988
Maritime Museum	23,875	2,147	15,683	20,446	23,904

Martinson Cabin in Nelson Park continues to serve visitors at Nelson Park on Saturdays, and the Archives Resource Center in City Hall provides office and curatorial space and meeting areas. For the Heritage and Maritime, note the dip in attendance in 2020 during COVID closure and the growth in Heritage attendance with the move to Front Street in 2021. Donors and volunteers make this possible!



Pictured right: Karen Faunce, Mickey Albanese, and Susanne Ellis volunteering at the Heritage Museum. There are currently 53 volunteers making these museums so successful! And there’s room for more. See the box “More Ways To Help.”

Research In and Out

By Judy Driscoll, Curator

IN: It seems like research has been a hot topic around the museums these days. Our research center is on the move again, this time to Einar's Outlook, sponsored by Steve and Lana Swann. We tried it at the Archives Center but lacked the volunteer presence to keep it open with regular hours. So now it is upstairs at the Heritage Museum. It is a small area, but large enough to handle our Subject and Biography files and the computer databases that we use so often for research. We were given a printer by the NW Dog, and as soon as we have a laptop computer for the desk, we'll be in business. The research center will be open any hours that the museum itself is open. Researchers may be on their own to find things, but our museum greeters downstairs will be within ear shot if they have questions, and we are providing research guidelines for our guests.

OUT: As always, research requests continue to arrive often, and as usual, they lead us into more research. Recently we had probably the most challenging request we'd ever tackled. A resident of 50+ years ago wrote that he was going to visit Poulsbo during Christmas and wanted to locate the property of a late friend. He couldn't quite remember where it was but had an old address of Route 1. He remembered that it wasn't far from the garbage dump (which had been moved) and that friend had a large farm and raised polled shorthorn cattle.

The first step was pulling out maps from 60 years ago and looking for the name he gave us. That didn't produce any answers, so we asked more questions. His friend was a retired military commander. No help there; our area is well-populated with retired military! So we took a new tack, and started searching for the old city dump. One of our greeters knew that it was near the Three Bears Drive-in. That helped put us in the right area of the map. A post office listing for Route 1 wasn't too much help as it covered a wide range of the area east of Poulsbo.

But the garbage dump showed up as a small plot under the ownership of City of Poulsbo alongside another small plot marked Kitsap Co. We assumed it was probably the City Dump because it was so small and in the right general area. With that we looked for a plot large enough to be a cattle farm. The query mentioned the ranch being west of the dump. No plot showing up like that, but there was one piece of land northeast of the dump. On a recent map we could see that Seminole Road drove right into the area where this large piece of land was. A few more emails, and his memory started clicking in. He remembered the Noll Ranch Road nearby. He had also owned 20 acres of land in that area and described it as east of his friend's property, which couldn't be right because the ranch property was right up to the reservation line. Then he remembered that Clifford Jensen sold his property to him. Aha, now things clicked into place. Clifford Jensen owned property in that area, and his property was west, not east of the friend's ranch.

We finally found a map that made sense, and after we sent it to him, he realized he was looking at his friend's ranch and that his own directions were mixed up. The downside was that he wasn't going to be able to drive to his friend's ranch and see the lovely, wooded area it had been over 50 years ago. Today, that land is populated with housing developments. But he was excited that he could at least drive Seminole Road and be on the property he had remembered. He did just that during Christmas. He also toured Noll Road and was amazed at the building that has taken place there – as we all are!

Your Guide to Spring Fundraising Events

HOW TO BUY DINNER AUCTION TICKETS

Dinner auction tickets are available online. The QR code on the facing page takes you directly to online ticket purchasing.

- If you prefer to use your laptop, enter this in your browser — poulsbohistory.com/auction/ and click on “Purchase your Ticket Today.” You’ll be on your way!
- If you prefer to purchase tickets in person with your credit card, the volunteers in the gift shop at the Maritime Museum can help you do exactly that!

What you need to know:

- Tickets are \$70 each, or \$500 for a table of eight (a saving of \$60).
- It’s helpful to have information available for your guests: address, email, phone, dietary needs. HOWEVER, we have the friendliest webmaster EVER, so if you realize there’s information you need to send or change later, simply email her at Anastasia.PoulsboHistory@gmail.com and she will help you. Her contact information is also on the website.
- Like most auctions in the area, we are using technology that we hope will assist you, allowing you to receive preliminary receipts early via email.

HOW TO DONATE FOR THE AUCTION

Kathy Holodnak coordinates the silent auction, and Patty Henderson is her live auction counterpoint. You can now make donations weekday mornings. Check with the volunteers at the Heritage Museum. They will be sure you get the right donation paperwork and open the shed area for you, where your items will be stored.

We are especially looking for “experiences”... a vacation cabin at a lake, a dinner on your deck for eight, a birthday party for children at your farm. Think of the possibilities! To reach out, call 253.363.1287 or email MaryAnn.PoulsboHistory@gmail.com

A Note from our President

We are looking forward to seeing all of you at the annual dinner auction on April 20.

This is our main fundraiser for the Historical Society and is critical to keeping our organization healthy and strong.

It’s always a fun evening to enjoy the cod dinner, visit with friends, bid on some fun items, treasures and experiences — and most especially to support our museums.

Patty Henderson



Are you busy traveling during April?

Another way to support Poulsbo Historical Society is through the Kitsap Great Give. It’s all online, and donation links are open April 11—16 at www.KitsapGreatGive.org. If you want your donation to be applied to the dinner auction fundraising goals, just let us know. And be sure to tell your friends! Many in the community support this popular event with multiple organizations when they learn of their worthy causes.

**We hope you'll
join us for:**

POULSBO HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S * 13TH ANNUAL
CODFISH DINNER AUCTION
SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 2024 * CLEARWATER RESORT

*a LOT
to celebrate!*



PoulsboHistory.com/auction

Reaching milestones...thanks to you!

Thanks to your past support and that of other amazing donors, PHS is celebrating the opening of the second floor of the Heritage Museum. Many safety upgrades were required to make this space ready for the public, and we're delighted to have reached that milestone. This will be the epicenter for special-interest groups, historical programs, and children's activities. We have more upgrades in mind to make this fully accessible, but we're edging forward – thanks to your help at every step!

Your support helps us continue to move forward toward our dream of accessible, engaging historical exhibits and programs for all of our visitors. With the lawn property nearing completion, our focus has turned to continuing the purchase of the Nilsen-Sonju House that holds our Heritage Museum. Your contributions are critical to this effort, and we are so grateful for your help! Proceeds from this year's Raise the Paddle at the Dinner Auction will not only help us share Poulsbo's cultural history with visitors, it will also preserve and protect this 1908 family home on Front Street.

GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY AND JOIN US FOR THE FUN!

Thank you, Members for 2024!

INDIVIDUAL

Arletta Baskins
Candy Gratton
David Eliason
Doug Baier
Elda Armstrong
Elizabeth Matovinovie
Elizabeth Motter
Grace Bailey
Isabell Haskin
Jennifer Caussee
Jim Davidson
John Waller
John G. Ackenhusen
Julie Swenson
Kara Ralph
Kevin Romano
Laurie Cameron
Leo Fried
Margene Smaaladen
Mary K. Grannis
Nancy Moffatt
Naveen Chaudhary
P.J. Wickstrom
Paul Wartes

Phil Herzog
Sandra Starnes
Stacy Luckensmeyer
Teri L. Chaussee
Vicki Hawkinson

FAMILY

Aaron & Renee
Murphy
Bill & Sherrill Bjorklund
Brian & Lora Heryford
Burke & Lisa Ryden
Damien & Jessica Wall
Dave & Carolyn
Hedderly-Smith
David & Donna Rice
Diane & Eric Quitslund
Donn & Valerie
Martinson
Duane Edwards
Earl & Nancy Hopper
Frank & Jeanne
Stottlemeyer
James Weaver
Jeffrey & Lorna Griffin

Jim & Ginger Shields
John & Liesl Lewis
John & Sylvia
Casstleman
Karen Lange
Kathy & Ray Holodnak
Lora & Todd Benson
Mel & Deb Morgan
Michael & Anne
Plummer
Nancy Coffee
Robert & Sharon
Nichols
Ron & Dorothy
Easterday
Shannon & Danielle
Turner
Steven Sauder
Wally & Nan Heffner

PATRON

David & Sue Gitch
Jay & Sandi Dahlquist
Jeanne Snouwaert
Jill Stark

Jon Pavey
Larry & Roseann
Mitchell
Loretta & Barney
Rindal
Marti C. Williamson
Mary Ann Acosta
Remo Barr
Ronald & Jeanine
Bailey
Steve & Lana Swann
Susan Ogilvie
Terry & Susan Burns
Todd & Sue Tidball
Tom & Bobette Hall
Tom & Judy Driscoll
Tom & Patty
Henderson
Wayne & Lindsay
Paulson

LIFE MEMBERS

Bill Austin
Darryl & Carole Milton

Thanks so much to all the “early bird” members who have already paid their membership for 2024. This membership provides you with printed newsletters, email announcements, invitations to special events and a 10% discount at our Gift Shop in the Maritime Museum! It’s ALSO a source of support for programs and operations, many of which you will read about in this edition of the newsletter. A robust membership, additionally, is a key indicator of community support when we are going through a grant request process. So you see – members are a vital part of Poulsbo Historical Society – its museums and programs! Thank you!

More Ways To Help – Here Are the Greeter Openings!

- Third Saturday afternoon of the month: greeter for Martinson Cabin
- Every Thursday afternoon: greeter at the Maritime Museum
- Every Monday afternoon: greeter at the Maritime Museum
- Facility maintenance: Perhaps you have skills with woodworking or minor electrical repairs. Maybe you're one of the brave souls still willing to go up a ladder! All levels of interest and skills are welcome and appreciated!

Afternoon shifts run 1 – 4 PM, except during the summer when they are extended to 1:30 – 5 PM. Training is provided (and it’s not complicated, we promise!). There’s information available if you want to dig deeper into local history, but extensive knowledge is not required. Most volunteers find they really enjoy the opportunity to meet people from all over the world!

Contact Mary Ann Acosta, director of operations. 253.363.1287 MaryAnn.PoulsboHistory@gmail.com