



NEWSLETTER

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

Newsletter Editor: Pam Smith, webmaster@mihistory.org

Fall 2004 Newsletter

The Historical Society—First 50 years

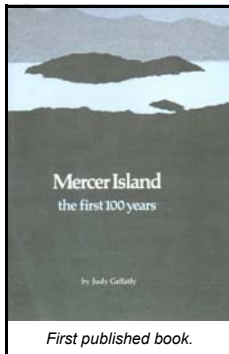
Preserving our Past by Ruth Fricke

The Mercer Island Historical Society was formed in 1954 as a non-profit corporation. During this time the meetings were held in the homes of the members.

Their interests were collecting memorabilia, pictures and records to preserve the history of the Island. They displayed the collected historical items in business windows periodically. In 1965 some items disappeared which caused some problems within the group and they stopped meeting.

Mercer Island had its Bicentennial in 1976, and as part of that celebration the Bicentennial Committee worked to publish "Mercer Island the 1st 100 years".

They also sold Bicentennial Medallions which brought in money for the committee. In 1977, when the committee closed its work there was money remaining from the sales of the books and medallions. The group decided to give the proceeds of the sales to the Mercer Island Historical Society. That year Larry Lahey became the President and the Mercer Island Historical Society became a working group again



The group continued to sell books and medallions, and collect records and artifacts which were stored at the MI Community Center.

When the City of Mercer Island moved its offices from Shorewood Apartments to the present location on SE 36th ST, the Mercer Island Historical Society was given a room on the lower level.

The first task was to organize the records which dated back to 1954. Bonnie Hamilton an archivist from Connecticut took on this task. Linda Jackman was President at this time.

Over the years, the group sold all of the first published books, and a second book was published in 1989 titled "Mercer Island Heritage" and this book is still available at Island Books. Vern Lewis a former City Council member led this project.

For many years, the Mercer Island Historical Society has offered historical programs open to the public, sharing memorable stories and memorabilia about the Island. Many of these presentations were video taped and are stored at the MI Historical Society office.

You can learn more about the MI Historical Society on our website at www.mihistory.org.



Contact Us

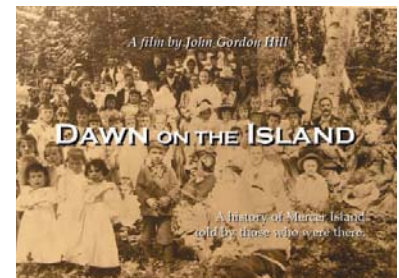
Email: info@mihistory.org
Web: www.mihistory.org
Phone: 206-236-3274

Next Meeting

Monday September 20, 2004
Mercer Island Library
1:00 pm
Bring a friend!

Dawn of the Island

Available now at Island Books



A history of Mercer Island told by those who were there.

Available now at Island Books on DVD or VHS format
Proceeds go to the Mercer Island Community Fund
and the Mercer Island Historical Society.
\$12.00

Upcoming Meetings—Mark your Calendars!

September 20, 2004 — MI Library @ 1:00 pm:
Hugh Riley, a WW II Purple Heart Veteran will share his experiences growing up and living on Mercer Island.

October 18, 2004 — MI Library @ 1:00 pm:
Charles R Foster who has a BS and MS in aero and nuclear engineering will share his many interesting aviation experiences.

November 15, 2004 — MI Library @ 1:00 pm:
Erin Younger, Acting Associate Director of the Burke Museum will share some interesting highlights about the State's oldest museum and give us a preview of the next exhibit. .

Mercer Island Library is located at: 4400 88th Ave SE, Mercer Island



Mercer Island Historical Society
PO Box 111
Mercer Island, WA 98040

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We're on the web!
www.mihistory.org

Let us know your email address by sending it to
info@mihistory.org

The Historical Society Committees

We are looking for volunteers to help on these committees.
Please contact our office at 206-236-3274 or Phil Flash at 206-232-6187.

- **Archive Committee** - Preserves archives, photos and videos for permanent storage.
- **Filing Committee** - Files and organizes new acquisitions.
- **Finance Committee** - Works with the treasurer to develop a financial plan.
- **Fund Raising Committee** - Markets and sells Historical Society information such as the Mercer Island Heritage book.
- **Grant Committee** - Researches and writes grants for our historical projects.
- **Historical Marker Committee** - Researches historic places on Mercer Island, solicits funds to pay for historic markers, then places markers on selected historical sites.
- **Hospitality Committee** - Provides refreshments and desserts for our monthly meetings.
- **Program Committee** - Plans and schedules programs for the monthly meetings.
- **Promotions Committee** - Ensures notification is made to members and the community of society events and programs. Sub-committee's include our newsletter, *Mercer Island Reporter* Liaison, and our phone tree.
- **Web Site Committee** - Develops content and publishes updates for the web site.

The Mercer Island Historical Society is a volunteer organization.

Membership Reminder!

To keep our costs down, we do not send out bills for dues. We depend on our members to pay them at a meeting or mail them to Mercer Island Historical Society, PO Box 111, Mercer Island, WA 98040—Single: \$10 or Family: \$15

The dues pay for newsletters, mailings and office expenses. The Mercer Island Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation. All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law. **Please pay your dues if you haven't done so already!** We need your support!

Special donations are also appreciated to further our work!

Meet the Board



The Board of Directors pictured from the left (back row): Dave Harris, Ed Maloof, Kisi Goode, Sam Lake, Dick Decker, Phil Flash. Seated in the front row are Virginia Anderson, Walt Rodgers, and Joe Joseph. Not pictured is Jeff Hummel. Ruth Fricke, Maryann Gulliford.

The Dawn

