



# 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: Phil Flash & Terry Moreman

Fall 2011 Newsletter

## Fran Call

Monday, September 19, 1PM

Fran Call will be the first speaker for our fall series. Miss Call, as she was known to a legion of junior high and middle school students, from the late 1960's to her retirement in 1993, will speak about her numerous long distance bicycle trips with her groups of students known as the "Cyclermates."

Fran led four groups of students across the continent. They cycled, with no accompanying vehicle to destinations including New York City, Washington D.C., Halifax, Nova Scotia, and Williamsburg, Virginia. Other trips found the Cyclermates in places such as Alaska, the Yukon, California, Jasper and Banff, and the St. Lawrence Seaway. Each of the more than twenty summer trips was without casualties. Each rider pedaled "every inch" of the hundreds of miles, camping at night in tents they carried on their bikes, and eating cold cereal and sandwiches.

Fran attributes parental support and proper preparation for her success. She insisted boys and girls be courteous, careful, capable and determined. And that they were! They took advantage of an opportunity of a lifetime and made their families and community proud. Years later Fran still hears from her "summertime children," and from people they met and perhaps in whose backyards they camped. "I never ever tire of that," says Fran.

She will share stories of those trips including the times people would ask, "Where is your husband?" "How many people started the trip?" "What do you do when it rains?" "What is the hardest part of the trip?" and her favorite, "Are there any adults in the group?"

## Dori Jones

Monday, October 17, 1PM

Dori Jones Yang will discuss the research she did for her new historical novel, *Daughter of Xanadu*. Dori has spoken to the Historical Society previously with an excellent presentation about Marco Polo.

*Daughter of Xanadu*, published by Random House in January 2011, tells the story of Marco Polo and Emmajin, a fictional granddaughter of Kubla Khan. As research, Dori not only read up on Marco Polo and the Mongol Empire, she also traveled to Mongolia and the Silk Road. She will be showing slides with many interesting photos and maps from her research.

Dori graduated from Princeton University with a degree in history and earned her master's degree in international relations from Johns Hopkins University. During the 1980's, she worked as a foreign correspondent for *Business Week* magazine based in Hong Kong covering China and Southeast Asia. Dori is a native of Ohio and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese. Dori and her husband, Paul Yang, have lived on the Eastside for 21 years. She enjoys music, playing the Chinese zither and a Mongolian horsehead fiddle brought home from her travels.

For more information:

[www.dorijonesyang.com](http://www.dorijonesyang.com) or  
<http://mercerisland.patch.com/articles/when-east-meets-west-author-dori-jones-yang>

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

## Jane Meyer Brahm

Monday, November 21, 1PM

Jane Meyer Brahm is Chair of the Editorial Committee of the soon to be published *Mercer Island Heritage*, a new version of the history book first published by the Historical Society in 1977 and revised in 1989. The new book will include hundreds of photos, maps and illustrations and will be a unique chronicle of our Island community from its beginnings to the present day.

Jane has been active in the community since moving here in 1976. Beginning at the *Mercer Island Reporter* in the early '80's, Jane was Editor and General Manager from 1993-2003. Under her leadership the *Reporter* was recognized for journalism excellence regionally and nationally and achieved an all-time high in circulation. After retiring in 2003, Jane has worked as a freelancer and is currently editing and writing the updated Mercer Island history.

Jane has been the recipient of many awards including the City of Mercer Island's 2010 Distinguished Service Award, the Seattle Chapter of Women in Communications' 2002 Communicator of the Year Award and the WA Newspaper Publishers Assn. 2001 Miles Turnbull Award for Journalism. She is a founder and Past President of the Mercer Island Sister City Association and a board member of the Mercer Island Chamber of Commerce and the Mercer Island Boys & Girls Club.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., Jane earned her bachelor's degree in English from Creighton University and her master's degree from the University of Tulsa. Jane has two grown daughters. She and her husband Bob Brahm married in 2004 and four grandchildren.

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

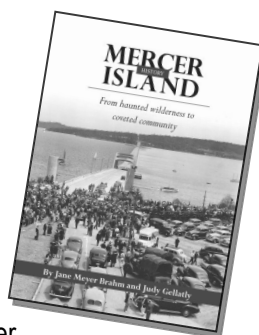
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Dear Fellow Mercer Islander:

This is an invitation for you to make history – literally!

As you may know, the Mercer Island Historical Society is developing a new version of our history book, “Mercer Island Heritage,” first published in 1977, revised in 1989 and out of print for many years.



An editorial committee, led by former Mercer Island Reporter Editor Jane Meyer Brahm, has been working on an all-new book filled with hundreds of photos, maps and illustrations, many of them in color. It will be a unique chronicle of our Island community from its beginnings to the present day.

In order to pay for the printing of the book, we are seeking sponsors like you, people willing to donate to this historic cause. Your tax-deductible donation can be from \$25 to thousands – but any amount is welcome. **All sponsors will be listed on the first pages of the new book. Donors of \$500 or more will receive a complimentary copy of the book.**

Proceeds from the book will benefit the Mercer Island Historical Society (a non-profit, **501(c)(3)** organization), especially to enhance its web site for archiving historical data and personal memoirs. Please use the enclosed form to send your donation to:

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

**Please make this history project possible by making a donation today!**

Many thanks,  
The Mercer Island Historical Society Board of Directors:  
*Phil Flash, Susan Blake, Ed Rice, Sally Brown, Rand Ginn, Virginia Anderson,  
Dick Decker, Kisi Goode, Huston Riley and Gary Winterstein*

**All Meetings Held At:**  
Mercer Island Community Center  
8236 SE 24th Street  
Mercer Island, WA

**Contact Us:**  
Web: [www.mihistory.org](http://www.mihistory.org)  
Phone: 206-232-6187  
Email: [info@mihistory.org](mailto:info@mihistory.org)

### **Membership Reminder!**

If the label on this newsletter has a red star, your membership is current through 2011. If there is no red star, it is time to renew. Membership is on a calendar year: January-December. Individual memberships are \$15. Family memberships are \$20. Membership dues pay for newsletters, mailings and office expenses. Renew your membership at a monthly meeting or mail your renewal check to:

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. Please pay your dues if you haven't done so already! We need your support! Special donations are also appreciated to further our work!*