



# 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](mailto:webmaster@mihistory.org)

Spring 2004 Newsletter

## Mercer Island Historical Society Turns 50 Years Old!

Birthdays. They are invaluable, always come and are a time of great jubilation. A milestone, a significant point in time. They are to be remembered and some are of a major nature and demand an extra type of celebration.

This is a year of significance. The Mercer Island Historical Society was formed in 1954 and now it is 2004. That equates to The Society celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday. Quite an accomplishment!

It is truly an event justifying recognition. Many wonderful things have taken place on the Island during the past 50 years. There has been considerable growth, development, and improvements. The Island is proud of what has happened. One can look back and identify what has occurred:

- Building of a new I-90 floating bridge
- Growth in and around the Central Business District
- Rising of mega-homes
- Acquisition of Luther Burbank Park and the Mary Waite swimming pool from the county
- Road and utility improvements
- Rise of property taxes
- New schools buildings
- Many more people moving to the Island!



Roanoke Ferry Landing

To celebrate this 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the Society has envisioned and is planning numerous wonderful events. If you have any suggestions of how we can celebrate, we would love to hear from you at the address in this newsletter!

It would be inappropriate and not fair if we did not recognize the conscious dedicated people who had the vision and founded The Mercer Island Historical Society back in 1954. Many, many thanks for your efforts and foresight. We hope to carry on in the way you had anticipated.

Lets have some fun during this celebration, and make this event one that goes down in HISTORY!

## Contact Us

Email: [info@mihistory.org](mailto:info@mihistory.org)  
Web: [www.mihistory.org](http://www.mihistory.org)  
Phone: 206-236-3274

## Next Meeting

Monday March 15, 2004  
at the Mercer Island  
Community Center  
Bring a friend!

## Announcements

Let us know how you'd like to celebrate 50 years! Phone 206-236-3274, 206-232-6187 or email [info@mihistory.org](mailto:info@mihistory.org).



Cars waiting to cross the floating bridge for the first time!

## Upcoming Meetings—Mark your Calendars!

**March 15, 2004 — Community Center @ 1:00 pm:**  
Norman Blye a true Eastsider, will share his "Ferry Tales". His father was a purser on the *Fortuna*, and he worked on the *Leschi*.

**April 19, 2004 — Community Center @ 1:00 pm:**  
Guy Townsend a Mercer Islander & World War II Pilot, will share his interesting adventurous stores during his flying career.

**May 17, 2004 — Mercer Island Library @ 7:00 pm:**  
Fred May will share his experiences as Mercer Island's State Representative. He will discuss some interesting little known experiences he had during his time in Olympia.

**The Community Center is located at: 8236 SE 24th ST, Mercer Island**  
**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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[www.mihistory.org](http://www.mihistory.org)

Let us know your email address by sending it to  
[info@mihistory.org](mailto: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): Joe Joseph, Kisi Goode, Phil Flash, Marianne Gulliford (consultant), Jeff Hummel, Sam Lake, Dave Harris, Walt Rodgers, Ruth Fricke, (front row) Delores Erchinger, Ed Maloof.

The Dawn

