



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

Spring 2012 Newsletter

Bob Wiley

**Author of:
Revisiting the Great War:
Through Letters, Travel and History**

Monday, March 19, 1PM

Bob Wiley's father was the commanding officer of a division of the Military Police Command during World War I. Based on letters written home during the Great War, Bob Wiley wrote his book, *Revisiting the Great War: Through Letters, Travel and History*. It contains detailed maps of the route from the front lines of November 11, 1918 to his father's arrival at Koblenz, deep in occupied Germany.

To write this book, Bob and his wife, Mary Ann followed his father's footsteps through France and Germany in 1995, following the maps and relating them to the experiences described in the letters. Further research was added to incorporate the events of the war that were beyond.

After graduating from Harvard College and Harvard Business School, Bob and Mary Ann Wiley moved west to work for the Boise Cascade Corporation. They moved to Mercer Island in 1964 when Bob joined the Simpson Timber Co. He later became president of Simlog, a Simpson affiliate. He and his wife also owned Fidelity Northwest, a regional distributor of RCA and related products.

Bob served in the Navy and has been a director of the western region of the Boy Scouts of America. He is currently active on the Burke Museum Advisory Board and heads the docent program. He has also been active in Seattle Rotary, United Way, and several other non-profits.

Betsy Zuber, MS, GMHS, LMHC

Mercer Island Youth & Family Services

Monday, April 16, 1PM

When do you know it's time? A discussion about when is it time to move from our homes, and the processes that contribute to making that decision by either the elder or the adult children or both.

How does one plan for the transitions that you might face as we age, especially moving? Betsy will discuss the many ways to think about the possible transitions that you might face at 70, 80, or 90 years old and how decision we make now, will affect levels of independence and control. She will also discuss how aging and lack of planning affects the family and community that surrounds the us. Resources and possible scenarios will be presented.

Betsy has been providing social services to older adults and their families in the greater King County area for the last 21 years, with a specialty in mental health issues. She holds a Master's of Science in Counseling from Seattle Pacific University with her B.S. in Psychology from the University of Washington. Currently Betsy works as the Geriatric Specialist for Mercer Island Youth & Family Services providing direct service to both older adults and their family members who live on Mercer Island. She is a member of the King County Elder Abuse Council and facilitates a Grief & Loss Support Group for people 65+ on Mercer Island.

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

Chip Wall

MIHS Teacher, Retired

**Perspective on
Past and Future of the
Mercer Island School System
through the Eyes of a
Parent and Teacher**

Monday, May 21, 1PM

Chip Wall lived on Mercer Island from 1954 to 1960 and then again from 1969 to 1999. He taught on the Island for 31 years; first at South Mercer Jr. High School for 12 years and then at Mercer Island High School until his retirement in 1999. At the High School, Chip is probably best known for teaching "block" a two-class combination of English and Social Studies. Both his sons went through the Mercer Island School system from pre-school to graduation.

All of this gives him a perspective on Mercer Island Schools that most people don't have. He will comment on various impressions he has of the past and also the future, concentrating of various areas and topics, with plenty of time for questions.

Chip Wall attended school on Mercer Island from 1954 to 1960, graduating from the High School. A graduate of the University of Washington, he went to India for two years on assignment with the Peace Corps. He later joined the military and was stationed in Vietnam and Europe.

Chip and his wife, Barb, a retired Mercer Island librarian, have two sons. They now live in Seattle and are huge fans of mass transit.

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

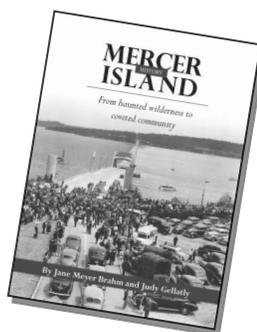


PRSR STD
US Postage
PAID
Mercer Island WA
Permit No. 135



"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 habits of her day, and enable her to call forth the sympathies of succeeding generations."

- Hannah Farnham Lee, Historian



Dear Fellow Mercer Islander:

Page by page, the new, improved Mercer Island history is taking shape. The effort is led by Jane Meyer Brahm, with the help of an able editorial board made up of Nancy Hilliard, Sally Brown, Susan Blake, Laurie McHale, Kris Kelsay and Dick Decker. They read and edit drafts of chapters and meet monthly to contribute information and ideas, discuss content, consider layout options and select photos. Meanwhile, they share nuggets of "new" history they've uncovered, amidst much reminiscing, wrangling, and laughing. A Marketing Committee is planning the launch.

Meanwhile, word about the to-be-published book is spreading in the community. Brahm presented her program: "An UN-History: What Mercer Island would be like if ideas from the past had come to pass" to the Mercer Island Historical Society last fall. Since then, she's presented to the Mercer Island Women's Club, the Covenant lunch group, and the Island House men's group. She's scheduled to speak to the Mercer Island Probus Club on Wednesday, April 4th. Other members of the editorial board will be making presentations as well.

Please help make this history project possible. Sponsorships are needed to help pay for the printing of the book. The donations are tax-deductible, and donors' names will be printed in the book. Donations may be sent to the Mercer Island Historical Society, P.O. Box 111, Mercer Island, WA 98040. **It's an invitation to make history!**

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 and Gary Winterstein*

All Meetings Held At:

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

Contact Us:

Web: www.mihistory.org
Phone: 206-232-6187
Email: info@mihistory.org

Membership Reminder!

If the label on this newsletter has a red star, your membership is current through 2012. 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!*