



# 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: Tove Lund & Terry Moreman

Spring 2014 Newsletter

## Ardith Butler

Iditarod Volunteer

### **Alaska Iditarod Race**

**Monday, March 17th, 1PM**

The Iditarod race, staged annually between Anchorage and Nome, commemorates the heroic efforts of several dog mushers and their teams to get diphtheria serum to Nome where a 1925 epidemic threatened the town. No planes were available; no roads existed. (Or exist now for that matter.)

As car and airplane use became commonplace, the dog team was fading into obscurity. Several people decided to save them by staging a race.

In addition to the mushers, there is an enormous support staff required, including checkpoint officials, veterinarians for the dogs, and the private pilots known as the Iditarod Air Force.

The logistics of feeding all these people falls to volunteer cooks in kitchens at McGrath, Unalakleet and Nome. Ardith is going to share stories and experiences of cooking for anywhere from 9 to 65 persons daily during the race.

Ardith is a volunteer for Iditarod Support, and a Maple Valley resident

## Lorraine McConaghy,

Public Historian,  
Museum of History & Industry

### **Territorial Voices: AQ Civil War Reader's Theater**

**Monday, April 14, 1PM**

We often forget that the Civil War involved the entire nation - and that Washington territorial residents were deeply involved in its issues. As the 150-year anniversary of the Civil War continues, Lorraine will present an interactive, living theater piece in which the audience reads the words of ordinary settlers, territorial military and administrative leadership. The reading will be preceded by a brief lecture to set context and followed by a conversation about the ideas and themes raised by the communal theater.

Through the presentation, participants will realize the changing significance of words like "Democrat" and "Republican" and learn about various opinions on race and slavery in the territory. It is one thing to hear these startling realities in a lecture; it is more powerful to speak them.

### Location Of All Programs:

**Mercer Island  
Community & Events Center  
8236 SE 24th Street  
Mercer Island, WA**

## John Gordon Hill

Chair,  
Mercer Island Center for the Arts

### **Mercer Island Center for the Arts**

**Monday, May 19, 1 PM**

What is the Mercer Island Center for Arts?

- A multi-theater venue for all forms of performing art, recitals, lectures and films.
- A cultural gathering place for Mercer Island
- A home for Youth Theatre Northwest
- An exhibition space for the visual arts
- A community gathering space for Mercer Islanders of all ages

MICA will create a focal point for the arts on Mercer Island,. In addition to Youth Theatre Northwest, it will provide a first class venue for choir and band concerts, dance performances and recitals for young people to perform and attend.

MICA will attract regional and national music acts and all manner of performing artists. ACT Theater, Seattle Shakespeare Company, Book-It Repertory Theater and Teatro Zinzanni have all expressed interest in presenting performances at MICA..

The City has given the green light for MICA to develop a proposal to locate on city-owned land at the site of the old recycling center and Bicentennial Park. It will front onto Mercerdale Park but will not encroach on the park.

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

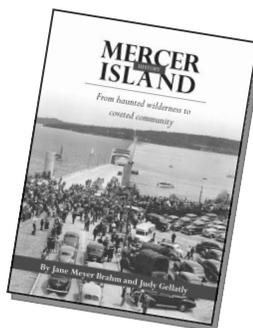


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*"A mere compilation of facts presents only the skeleton of History; we do but little for her if we cannot invest her with life, clothe her in the habiliments of her day, and enable her to call forth the sympathies of succeeding generations."*

*- Hannah Farnham Lee, Historian*



Dear Fellow Mercer Islander:

- The November launch of our new history book Mercer Island History--from Haunted Wilderness to Coveted Community has been a great success. Island Books, our exclusive distributor, announced it was their # 1 best seller for 2013! There are many copies waiting for sale and if you have a birthday, Mother's Day or any special occasion to celebrate, this book has proven to be a very appreciated gift.

We welcome 2 new members to our Board of Directors: Kris Dobbyn, a 1964 graduate of Mercer Island High School and Bruce Waddel, a 1963 grad of MIHS. We are pleased to have long-time Islanders who are interested in our history to carry on the work of our Society.

**It is membership renewal time!** We depend upon your annual dues to put out our newsletters and to support our (free-to-the-public) general meetings. We have a nice line-up of interesting speakers this year.

- \$20 - Individual
  - \$25 - Family
  - \$40 - Sustaining
  - \_\_\_ - Donation only
- Dues can be mailed to:  
M.I. Historical Society  
P.O. Box 111  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Thank you for your support,  
Susan Blake, Co-President

**All Meetings Held At:**

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

**Contact Us:**

Web: [www.mihistory.org](http://www.mihistory.org)  
Phone: 206-232-3404  
Email: [info@mihistory.org](mailto:info@mihistory.org)

**Mercer Island Historical Society  
Board of Directors**

Co-President Susan Blake  
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Treasurer: Rand Ginn

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Kris Dobbyn  
Kisi Goode  
Dr. Bob Lewis  
Tove Lund  
Ed Rice  
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