



# THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
JUNE 2020 • VOL. 22 • NO. 6

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

## SOCIETY HOSTS 'NORTHWEST PASSAGES' PROGRAM

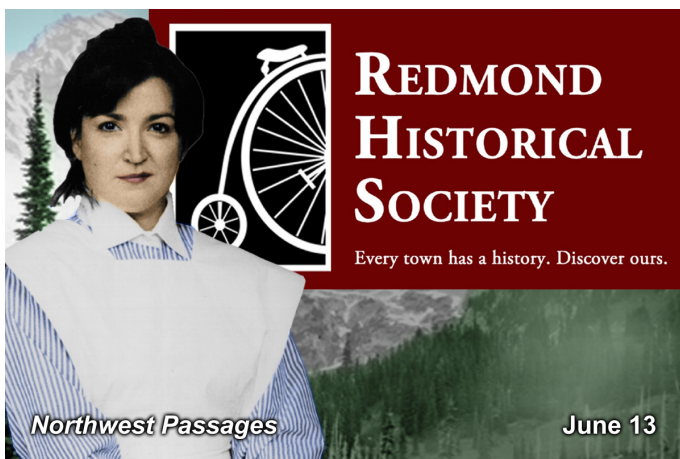


Photo: Living Voices

On Saturday June 13th, join the immigrant journey to the Pacific Northwest at the dawn of the 20th century in *Northwest Passages*. See page 4.

- President John Oftebro contemplates our new era of “normal,” p. 3.
- Tom Hitzroth looks at an early store, the Redmond Trading Company, p. 6.
- Board positions open for 2021. See p. 10.

### Due to increased production cost and postal fees:

- We are going to paperless in September unless you request a paper copy by responding that you would like it or need a printed version.
- You can opt to receive via email or find it on the website if you prefer.

# 2020

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

John Oftebro • President  
Margy Rockenbeck • Senior Vice President  
Indira Krishnaswami • Vice President Finance  
Rachel Davis • Vice President Collections  
Deborah Oftebro • Secretary

### DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Ed "Dint" O'Brien  
ChuNi Kao  
Judith Simpson  
Paige Norman  
Jo Ann Potter

### ADMINISTRATIVE & COLLECTIONS MANAGER

Halee P. Turner

### ATTORNEY • Charles Diesen

Our finances are public record and may be viewed at the office.

### FREE NEWSLETTER

If you don't subscribe, please sign up.  
Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email [info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org).  
State your preference of email or U.S. Mail.  
The Historical Society prefers email as it's inexpensive and photos are enhanced online.

### FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

[facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society](https://www.facebook.com/Redmond.Historical.Society)

### THE REDMOND RECORDER

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### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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EMAIL [info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org)

HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

## SOCIETY NEWS

### PROGRAM COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT

Got ideas for speakers for the next season? What would you like to see in a Redmond Historical Society program? If so, we would like to hear from you! Contact Margy Rockenbeck, 425-890-3120. Thank you!



**Sotheby's**  
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

### Society Partners with Sotheby's International Realty

Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty brokers **Cynthia Olsen** and **Mary Sullivan** have formed a unique partnership with the Redmond Historical Society in an effort to help raise money for the Society. Sotheby's International Realty will give 10% of commissions to support the Redmond Historical Society when you or someone you refer is looking to buy or sell property. Ask Cynthia Olsen, Mary Sullivan, or the Society for details. Marketplace Sotheby's International Realty established this program as a way to give back to organizations that are committed to the welfare of our communities. For more information, contact Cynthia Olsen at [cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:cynthia.olsen@sothebysrealty.com), 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at [mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com](mailto:mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com), 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



# WHILE YOU ARE WAITING!

By John Oftebro

History marches on, and we are all a part of it! While we all wait for a vaccine, for the pandemic to pass, and to arrive at our new era of “normal,” we invite you to become a part of the future history of the Society.

Right now, our Board and Committees are working from home, meeting via Zoom. We just launched our [new website](#). Although we'll miss participating in Saturday Market and Derby Days, our summer activities will be planning our virtual Saturday Speakers Series in the Fall and designing our return to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse in October. You've heard that announcement before, but the City's Parks and Rec has given us the “green light” for a move in September and opening in early October. The nomadic office life will finally be over!

We are currently designing our office and space for displays and exhibits, and we want ideas from YOU as to what you

would like to experience from Redmond's history, both during pioneer times, up through the 108 years of growth since our little village became a town in 1912. We're especially interested in the tremendous growth in the Overlake area and the technology and other vibrant businesses (that we hope will survive?). Many of you grew up in or joined technology or other startup companies in Redmond. Hearing your story and that of your company will complement our collections and our educational outreach with more recent history.

Just think about the industries we have here: technologies for internet, cloud, aerospace, gaming, plus food, industrial and transportation, and small businesses as well. They all have a history that could be preserved and told through our Society, featured in a future newsletter, or in an exhibit in our new museum. Contact us with your ideas!

# SOCIETY TO HOST 'NORTHWEST PASSAGES' PROGRAM

On Saturday June 13th, join the immigrant journey to the Pacific Northwest at the dawn of the 20th century in *Northwest Passages*. The online program starts at 10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

Witness the dynamically changing Northwest at the turn of the century through a unique combination of solo theater and historic film footage.

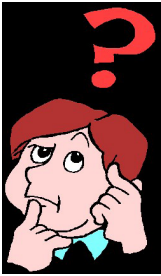
The rapid growth and diversity of Washington State, 1918 Flu Pandemic, and World War—these are the passages experienced by a young Swedish immigrant and her community.

Living Voices is an educational theatre company that offers a personal approach towards understanding important periods in history and applying their significance for today's audiences. Living Voices presents diverse performances uniquely combined with archival film that turn history into a moving journey. In response to the COVID-19 crisis, Living Voices has created online versions of all their shows, to continue serving the community. Each professionally filmed and edited program includes our signature historical introduction, impactful, dynamic multimedia performance and a live online session for discussion and exploration.

This is a free and public event with a live Q&A afterward, so sign up [here](#) to join us from home! Registrants will receive a Zoom meeting invite the week before the program. To register: <https://tinyurl.com/yaftl6lq>

We recommend that you [watch the video](#), which **you may access at any time before the live Q&A, or until August 31**. Consider using headphones to get the full benefit of the music and dialogue. During the live Q&A discussion for this presentation, you will be able to ask questions of the historical character/presenter, played by **Rachael McClinton**. Video: <https://youtu.be/Gm1-69KSzuI>

For more information about Northwest Passages, click here: [www.livingvoices.org/nwpass/nwpass](http://www.livingvoices.org/nwpass/nwpass).



## VOLUNTEER CORNER

By Jo Ann Potter

Wait a minute! The Boots and Bowties Auction was canceled. There were no Saturday Speaker Series Events. The office was closed.

How did 11 people volunteer 252 hours in April? Actually, it easy. Because of the shutdown, there was more to do than usual.

**Laura Lee Bennett**, our Newsletter Editor, spent many hours designing and obtaining copy for the Society newsletter, as she does each month. **Paige Norman**, our auction chairperson, had to cancel caterers, contact sponsors, renegotiate the venue contract, and scrap all the details (even table decorations) and start over. The event has been tentatively scheduled for October.

**Margy Rockenbeck**, our VP and Program Chair, with the help of **Margaret Ziviski**, had the task of canceling speakers and contacting those who might be willing to do their programs via the internet. **Chu Ni Kao**, our Webmaster, has been working long hours on our new website, which includes thousands of

details. She and Halee Turner, our Office Manager, have been working out the “bugs” of the complicated system by having trial runs and practice sessions for the Board. Halee has also been working with **Rachel Davis**, Collections VP, in designing the office/museum space in the Old Redmond Schoolhouse. **Indira Krishnaswami**, our Finance VP, still has to pay the bills, track donations, and balance the books.

**Cheryl Strong Magnuson** faithfully keeps us visible on Facebook. **Joe Townsend**, President Emeritus, is heading up the nominating committee for Board members and the elections. **Deborah Oftebro**, Board Secretary, keeps the minutes of our meetings. **John Oftebro**, our President, along with **Ed O’Brien**, Facilities Manager, continues to work with the City on the myriad details regarding storage, moving (for the third time) and return to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse in the fall.

And that is how 11 people volunteered 252 hours in April!

# REDMOND TRADING COMPANY

By Tom Hitzroth

I have often wondered what the Redmond Trading Company building (see photo) was used for originally in its earliest days, having seen evidence of a building existing on that site prior to it becoming the Redmond Trading Company. For some time, I have been reading old newspapers, long out of print; studying articles on Redmond; and copying items of interest, including business advertisements.

Recently, I was studying some of the business advertisements for Redmond between 1906 and 1915, and found I had copied two advertisements that were identical except with different company names. I also noticed these advertisements were published 28 days apart. The Redmond Trading Company's incorporation document revealed something very interesting to me.

The Redmond Trading Company was incorporated March 18, 1907. The officers of the company were **Charles Huffman, Hayes Huffman, and Fred Reil**. On May 1, 1907, there was an advertisement, in the *Kirkland-Redmond Sun*, for Huffman Brothers, a dry goods merchant. On May 29, 1907, an identical advertisement was in the same newspaper, with the name "Redmond Trading Company." Also, in the *Kirkland-Redmond Sun* of May 29, 1907, there was a notice stating that "The Redmond Trading Co. is treating its store to a new coat of paint: also new lettering." Huffman Brothers had become the Redmond Trading Company.

I now have a better understanding for the use of the building from its construction circa 1903 to its becoming the Redmond Trading Company which, along with Theodore Westby's and Theodore Youngerman's stores on the same block, made a major contribution to the growth and economic development of the community in its transition from a village to a town.

**Groceries**  
Always fresh and the best brands obtainable. Both fancy and staple goods. No order too large for us to fill.

**Dry Goods**  
The latest in Spring and Summer dress goods. We can EQUAL, and in many cases BEAT Seattle prices.

.... **HUFFMAN BROTHERS** ....

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**Groceries**  
Always fresh and the best brands obtainable. Both fancy and staple goods. No order too large for us to fill.

**Dry Goods**  
The latest in Spring and Summer dress goods. We can EQUAL, and in many cases BEAT Seattle prices.

.... **Redmond Trading Co.** ....

Advertisement from *Kirkland-Redmond Sun* of May 1, 1907 and from *Kirkland-Redmond Sun* of May 29, 1907. Images: Kirkland Heritage Society



Photo of Leary Way dated 1907 to 1910, with a circle showing location of the building.  
Image: Eastside Heritage Center

## SOCIETY CELEBRATES 17 YEARS OF WALKING TOURS



Tom Hitzroth in front of Justice White House/Hotel Redmond.  
Photo: John Oftebro

Since 2003, Tom has led walking tours of Redmond's historic district. Over the years, the tour has evolved from one hour to two, with the script changing as new information is discovered. "I'm looking for the question I can't answer, which means I need to look further into a particular area."

A lifelong Eastside resident Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond development from its earliest times into the 1930s. He is currently researching the historic site of

the earlier settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond as well as the historic development of the downtown.

### 2020 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday September 6, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

There is a suggested donation of \$10 per person with a limit of 10 people per group. You can pre-register for the event by calling our office at 425.885.2919. You can also drop by our office, or mail in a check to 8345 – 154th Ave NE, Redmond, WA, 98052. You can also pre-register on our website: [www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org). Registrations must be received by the Wednesday before the tour.

Tours include a significant amount of walking and standing, with limited opportunity for resting. We recommend comfortable shoes and weather-appropriate clothing. If you have any further questions about our tours, please call our office. Tour begins across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St.

## MOVING FORWARD By Paige Norman

Hopefully by the time you read this month's newsletter, businesses will be opening, salons and barbers will be booking clients, and the weather will be encouraging gardening and golfing!



**A race on the Sammamish Slough around 1950. Photo: Redmond Historical Society**

The year 2020 has been a challenging one so far, but we are resilient and continue to move forward in many ways. For instance, the Society moved offices in March, and we launched our new website in May! I encourage you to spend some time looking around the new site! Can you find our blog article on "History at Home"? Or, look through our "First 100 Years of Redmond" series?

Our Speakers Series committee has been working on new ways to make our fantastic and informative programs available in a virtual format. the Collections team is continuing to take in material about COVID-19 for historical purposes, and we continue to work towards our move into the Old Redmond Schoolhouse in the Fall of 2020!

All of these changes are made possible through the efforts of our Board, volunteers, sponsors, donors, and, of course, members! If you aren't already a member, we encourage you to JOIN so Redmond Historical Society can continue to catalog and archive the history of Redmond.

You can join online from our [website](#) or by completing the form on p. 11 and mailing to our office at 8345 – 154<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, Redmond, WA 98052.

**Memberships are tax-deductible (\*)** and make great gifts! Share your passion for history and Redmond by purchasing or gifting a membership to the Redmond Historical Society!

(\*) Contributions are tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor.

| Level                          | #/Members          | Cost           | Renews   |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| <b>Trailblazer</b> /Student    | (1 person/Show ID) | <b>\$5</b>     | Annually |
| <b>Pioneer</b> /Individual)    | (1 person)         | <b>\$25</b>    | Annually |
| <b>Homesteader</b> /Family     | (2 people)         | <b>\$40</b>    | Annually |
| <b>Visionary</b> /Business     |                    | <b>\$250</b>   | Annually |
| <b>History Maker</b> /Lifetime | (1 person)         | <b>\$1,000</b> |          |
| <b>Legacy</b> /Family Lifetime | (2 people)         | <b>\$2,000</b> |          |

## SOCIETY LAUNCHES WEBSITE 2.0

The Redmond Historical Society 1.0 website was about eight years old and did not serve us well anymore. The site was developed based on a version of Joomla, a tool that is no longer supported, and full of security holes. The design did not reflect our brand, the navigation was not intuitive, and a lot of content was duplicated or not owned by the Society. Even our volunteers had a hard time finding things on the website. Overall, it lacked a clear path for visitors to follow, to find what they wanted, to contact us or use our services, donate, and buy products.

After a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, the Society board awarded the project to Bombastic Web Design in Redmond, WA. We started the project with **Amy Cast** from Bombastic Web in March 2019. With board participation and members testing, we were able to complete the project and roll out the new website on May 7, 2020 on the Wix platform ([www.wix.com](http://www.wix.com)).

“Having a stronger technology platform and reorganized information, the new [RedmondHistoricalSociety.org](http://RedmondHistoricalSociety.org) will be a helpful tool to serve the public and the Society membership,” remarked Amy.

Please visit our 2.0 website and provide feedback through the **Contact Us** form:

[www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org).

-- ChuNi Kao, IT Committee Chair

# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE SOCIETY

Turnover on our Board is a healthy way of creating a broader culture for strengthening our goals and objectives. We will have three openings for 2021 on our 10-member board and are looking for people interested in helping us preserve Redmond's unique and rapidly changing history.

- Executive VP for Community Enrichment and Speakers Programs
- Marketing and Branding
- Membership



For more information on each of these Board positions and committee activities, please contact Society president, John Oftebro at [john.oftebro@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:john.oftebro@redmondhistoricalsociety.org), or by phone at 206-819-3075

## OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

---

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty  
Louise Graep Barnes  
David Best  
John and Jay Cogan  
Marjorie Costello  
John Couch  
Cory de Jong  
Betty L. Emmanuel  
Tony Emmanuel  
Don and Mary Fowler  
Frank Garbarino  
Peggy Garbarino  
Madeleine Roberts Hagen  
Suzanne Hall  
Wayne Hansen  
Mary Hanson  
Jerry Hardy  
Chris Himes  
Rosemarie Ives  
Patricia Weiss Jovag

Barbara Weiss Joyce  
Allen Lang  
Judy Aries Lang  
Judith M. Lankford  
Miguel Angel Llanos  
\*Cheryl Strong Magnuson  
\*Gene Magnuson  
Jon M. Magnussen  
Dorothy Matsui  
Diana Morelli  
Panfilo Morelli  
Allison Reed Morris  
Edward O'Brien  
Deborah Oftebro  
John Oftebro  
Dale Potter  
Jo Ann Potter  
Bobbie Graep Rettig  
Dave Rockenbeck  
Laurie M. Rockenbeck

Margy U. Rockenbeck  
William Rockenbeck  
Doris Bauer Schaible  
Dick Shinstrom  
Frederick Springsteel  
Beryl Standley  
John C. Stilin  
Sherry B. Stilin  
Fred Stray  
Larry O. Sundholm  
Subhadra Terhanian  
Doris Townsend  
Joe Townsend  
Roger Trepanier  
Arlyn Bjerke Vallene  
Sue-Lynn Walsh  
Patti Simpson Ward  
Donald Glennister Watts  
Joanne Westlund  
James Windle

An asterisk (\*) indicates Family Lifetime members. A full listing of Lifetime Members, both current and in memoriam, is available at [redmondhistoricalsociety.org](http://redmondhistoricalsociety.org).



## JOIN REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

**CONSIDER A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR A FAVORITE HISTORY BUFF.**

### LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only.)

- \$5.00** ..... TRAILBLAZER (Student)
- \$25.00** ..... PIONEER (Individual)
- \$40.00** ..... HOMESTEADER (Family)
- \$250.00** ..... VISIONARY (Business)
- \$1,000.00** ..... HISTORY MAKER (Lifetime)
- \$2,000.00** ..... LEGACY (Family Lifetime)

**ALL CONTRIBUTIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Fill out the form below, cut out and mail with your check to:

**Redmond Historical Society  
Attn: Membership  
Vision 5 Building  
8525-163rd Court NE #120  
Redmond, WA 98052**

**RENEW  
Now!**

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** • Application effective for year: 2020

Membership Names: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit# \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Address Change

☐ New Member

☐ Renewal

Newsletter Delivery Preferences

☐ New to Redmond

☐ I would like to volunteer

☐ Email

☐ US Mail

How did you hear about the Redmond Historical Society? \_\_\_\_\_



## REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vision 5 Building

8525-163rd Court NE #120

Redmond, WA 98052

## MAJOR SPONSORS



City of Redmond



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COLLECTION™

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