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# THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER  
OCTOBER 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 9

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Every town has a history. Discover ours.

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## SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES: 'HOW AUDIO TECHNOLOGY CHANGED THE WORLD'



On October 8, join veteran broadcaster and Humanities Washington Speaker **Ross Reynolds** as he explores the impact that audio transmission has had on society and storytelling, beginning with the first century of radio up to the modern age of audiobooks, internet streaming, podcasts, and smart speakers. For details, see p. 4.

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# 2022

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

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### 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:

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

### THE REDMOND RECORDER

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HOURS Please contact the office to  
schedule an appointment

## SOCIETY NEWS

### COMMUNITY BOOKSTORE SEEKS NEW OWNER

By Deb Akerstrom

Opened in 1978 by **Doug McDonald**, just prior to Redmond being named the fastest-growing city in the state, **McDonald's Book Exchange** became a mainstay for readers of all ages. When you bring in your books to exchange, you can walk out with almost any genre you enjoy—and at a good discount. It also is the oldest independently owned used bookstore on the Eastside.

Longtime Society member **Anne St. Germain** bought McDonald's in 1998. She had raised her family, she loved books, and she wanted a creative opportunity for herself. But now the store needs to relocate and Anne wants to retire.

The main success of McDonald's is providing books of all sizes, ages, and descriptions for prices people can afford.

Redmond's new, more worldly population also helps make things interesting at the store. As she says, "Now we have all kinds of books for all kinds of people. And our new customers share their stories with us, which we love!"

The future is very bright for this business, and new ownership has a great opportunity to build and grow McDonald's Book Exchange quite a bit.

To learn more, and to inquire about purchasing the business, call Anne at the store, 425-885-4773.

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Editor's Note: A longer version of this article is on the RHS website: <https://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org/post/community-bookstore-seeks-new-owner>



# RECOVERED AND REUNITED!

By John Oftebro

What a day it was! Our group of staff and volunteers executed the successful return to the Old Redmond Schoolhouse on September 10—our first meeting there since Spring 2018! A lot of planning and hard work went into this effort, to continue bringing you valuable historical educational programs. Here's a brief timeline:

March 2018 – Moved our office from schoolhouse to Vision 5 location

April 2018 – Began Saturday Speaker Series at Senior Center

September 2019 – Senior Center closed; programs moved to Public Safety Building

March 2020 – Moved our office to Westpark location

April 2020 – Staff began working from home due to pandemic

July 2020 – Began Zoom webinars for our speaker programs

March 2021 – Moved back to schoolhouse in larger space to develop office/museum

August 2022 – Mayor Birney helped with Ribbon-Cutting Grand Opening ceremony

We are thankful to have **Halee Turner**, Administrative & Collections Manager, at the helm, helping our Board and other volunteers navigate the "pandemic seas." Halee's flexibility and resourcefulness, along with our very active Board members, helped us keep going with newsletters, speaker programs, Zoom Board and committee meetings, Saturday Market, and Derby Days involvement. In addition, the organization of our new office, collections, and museum displays and exhibits took months while continuing to accept and archive our collections of Redmond history.

As with all organizations during this challenging time, we have experienced some attrition on our Board and volunteer roster. Please consider joining our group at any level that fits your experience and comfort. We have open Board positions in collections, technology, and membership, as well as "at large" positions that can assist on committees for programs, education, and marketing. Come join the FUN!

And, as always, thank you for your membership and financial support!

# HOW AUDIO TECHNOLOGY CHANGED THE WORLD

Note: This is a HYBRID program. Join us online or at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse at 16600 NE 80th St., Redmond, WA 98052. If you do join us in person, masking is recommended but not required.

**Date and Time:** Saturday, October 8, 2022  
10:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Registration is required for the Zoom component.**

To register for this free online presentation:  
<https://tinyurl.com/RHSAudioChangedWorld>



**Ross Reynolds**

Although we live in a visual world, audio still has the power to create intimacy and spark the imagination like no other medium can. Join us on October 8 as veteran broadcaster Ross Reynolds explores the impact that audio transmission has had on society and storytelling, beginning with the first century of radio up to the modern age of audiobooks, internet streaming, podcasts, and smart speakers. How has audio transmission changed society, and what makes it such a still-powerful form of communication?

**Ross Reynolds** (he/him) is an interviewer, moderator, and convener. He recently served as KUOW's executive producer for community engagement, before which he was a program host for 16 years. His awards include the 2011 Public Radio News Directors First Place in the call-in category for Living in a White City. In 2015, he was named to the University of Washington Communication Alumni Hall of Fame.

Attendees will be encouraged to share stories of their formative audio experiences, and local radio broadcasters and podcasters will be invited to share their stories.

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WASHINGTON | w

# FIRST HYBRID PROGRAM DRAWS A CROWD

On Saturday, September 10, more than 60 people gathered in the Multipurpose Room at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse—and more than a dozen attendees on Zoom—to hear the story about a small company called Rocket Research on Willows Road. Program Manager **Jack Deboer**, a longtime rocketeer, led the audience through a fascinating site history—and a look at the company's evolution into Aerojet

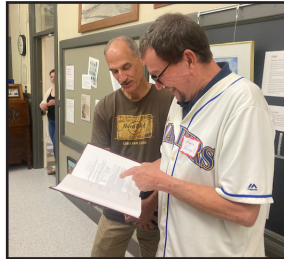
Rocketdyne, a world-class aerospace and defense leader, “providing propulsion and power to space, missile defense, and strategic systems.” Here are some photo highlights of the event.

## Resources

A link to the YouTube recording of this program is on this Resources page on our website: <https://ti-nyurl.com/RHSRocketResources>.



Speaker  
Jack Deboer



Russ Norman examines  
a yearbook in the office/  
museum



Our first hybrid program drew  
60 attendees—in person



Membership maven Linda  
McCrystal and Volunteer  
Coordinator Jo Ann Potter



One attendee, Donald A. Pahl,  
shared a plaque he received in  
appreciation for 29 years with  
Rocket Research

# FINDING THE HOTEL NORMANDY

By Tom Hitzroth

One of the more exciting challenges of historic investigations is finding something long lost to the history of Redmond. It is even more exciting when the find comes from an unexpected source.

As part of investigating the **George Butchard** murder ([The Redmond Recorder, June 2022](#)) that occurred in Redmond on August 21, 1905, I obtained a copy of the coroner's inquest. **Dean Jowers** and I have been working from witness testimony concerning the circumstances surrounding the murder. The coroner's inquest revealed a better understanding of what transpired the night of the murder.

Over the last few weeks, I cross-referenced the inquest testimony of the eight witnesses with each other. The inquest narrative includes two references specifically to a Hotel Normandy in Redmond. I located a contemporary newspaper article in *The Seattle Daily Times*, dated October 14, 1905, about the hotel that included a brief description—confirming it was located in Redmond. My next question was “Where in Redmond?” I mapped every hotel, boarding house, and saloon, and I noticed only one place matching the Hotel Normandy description. It was the Hotel Walther.

Over the years, I have been working on a timeline for the transition between the Sikes Valley Hotel ([The Redmond Recorder, May 2014](#)) and the Hotel Walther ([The Redmond Recorder, August 2019](#)), and I was puzzled by a gap I couldn't reconcile. Inserting the presence of the Hotel Normandy filled that gap. It appears that the Valley Hotel was not remodeled into the Hotel Walther as previously thought. The Valley Hotel was remodeled into the Hotel Normandy by October 1905, and renamed the Hotel Walther by May 1907, after **Mary Walther** took over the hotel.

It is always rewarding to work out historical enigmas like this. As a result, we have a clearer understanding of early Redmond



Hotel Walther in 1910.  
Source: Eastside Heritage Center

# SOCIETY OFFERS PRIMER ON REDMOND HISTORY

It is a widely held view that the city of Redmond, Washington was first settled in 1871 by two families:

**Luke and Kate McRedmond** and **Warren and Laura Perrigo**. At

that time, the area was known as the Squak Valley, the Sammamish River or slough was the Squak, and the first inhabitants were known as the Squak Indians. But there is much more to the story of Redmond—from tribal fishing grounds to pioneer settlement to the bustling center of tech, commerce, and cultures that it is today.

On October 12, Society President **John Oftebro** will talk about these pioneering men and their families—and how historians are now bringing some of these dates into question. “While we will concentrate on the families included in the 1880 census, we will also look in depth at the city’s incorporation and up to the early 1950s,” Oftebro says. “We will have to fast-forward through some intermediate periods along the way.”

Sponsored by the Redmond Historical Society, Redmond Library, and the KCLS Arts and Culture Programming Team.

**Topic:** Redmond History 101

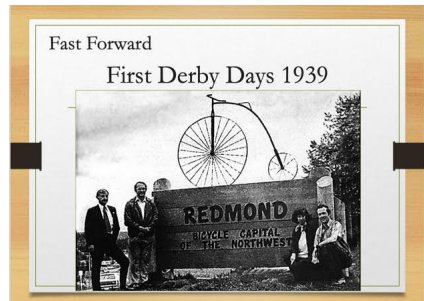
**Time and Date:** October 12, 2022

6:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

**Location:** HYBRID EVENT: Online + live at the Redmond Library, 15990 NE 85th St., Redmond, WA 98052

**Registration is required.** To register for this free presentation:

[1.kcls.org/RedmondHistory](https://1.kcls.org/RedmondHistory)



kcls.org

# MEMBER BIRTHDAYS



DeAnna Gilbert	October 2
Duane Isackson	October 3
Robert Swenson	October 6
Chuck Diesen	October 12
Jackie Lyons	October 16
John Oftebro	October 16
Alexa Munoz	October 18
Maureen Healy	October 24
Tom Hitzroth	October 30
Barbara Ostwalt Taylor	October 31

If you'd like us to recognize your birthday in upcoming newsletters, please complete the information on your renewal form or email: [membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:membership@redmondhistoricalsociety.org).

## OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

Sharon Freeman, Ballisty  
Louise Graep Barnes  
Laura Lee Bennett  
David Best  
John and Jay Cogan  
Marjorie Costello  
John Couch  
Cory de Jong  
Sally Jo Eberhardt  
Betty L. Emmanuel  
Tony Emmanuel  
Elaine Sween Etzler  
Don and Mary Fowler  
Frank Garbarino  
Peggy Garbarino  
Madeleine Roberts Hagen  
Mary Hanson  
Jerry Hardy  
Chris Himes  
Duane Isackson  
Rosemarie Ives  
Patricia Weiss Jovag

Barbara Weiss Joyce  
Allen Lang  
Judy Aries Lang  
Judith M. Lankford  
Miguel Angel Llanos  
\*Cheryl Strong Magnuson  
\*Gene Magnuson  
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Dorothy Matsui  
Diana Morelli  
Panfilo Morelli  
Allison Reed Morris  
Jackie Norris  
Thaddeus Norris  
Edward O'Brien  
Deborah Oftebro  
John Oftebro  
LeRoy Olson  
Dale Potter  
Jo Ann Potter  
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Dave Rockenbeck

Laurie M. Rockenbeck  
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Dick Shinstrom  
Karen Snapp  
Frederick Springsteel  
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Sherry B. Stilin  
Fred Stray  
Larry O. Sundholm  
Subhadra Terhanian  
Doris Townsend  
Joe Townsend  
Patricia Trepanier  
Roger Trepanier  
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).

# LIFETIME MEMBER KAREN SNEPP: KEEPER OF FAMILY HISTORIES

By Paige Norman

Karen Snapp comes from a family of history keepers and lovers. Spending her early childhood years in Indiana, she moved to Illinois, before attending Purdue and Northwestern universities. Moving here in 1999, she fell in love with the nature and beauty of Washington State while visiting her brother, Dave.

After her brother's death in 1988, she became involved with [The Compassionate Friends](#), joining the board, and eventually the TCF Foundation. She has spent the last several years traveling with her parents and going through the family's historical collections of photos, documents, and other artifacts. Her aim has been finding homes for the family collection and distributing grants from her parents' estates.

She has volunteered at Redmond Historical Society, working on the Collections team, purchasing her Lifetime Membership early in 2022. When asked by John Oftebro why she became a member, she responded "she has always loved history and is very pleased with the Redmond Historical Society and its way of telling local history stories."



Karen Snapp accepting her  
Lifetime Membership certificate  
March 2022  
Photo: John Oftebro

Redmond Historical Society is pleased to have Karen Snapp as a Lifetime Member and celebrate her dedication to keeping history alive!

A more detailed interview with Karen is available on the Redmond Historical Society website at <https://tinyurl.com/RHSKarenSnapp>, along with more photos.

# 193 HOURS VOLUNTEERED!

Exciting and wonderful! That was the feeling we had at our first in-person meeting in over four years. Greeting each other, chatting to catch up, and touring our new “digs” was a very special time. Speaker **Jack Deboer** gave a fascinating history of the Aerojet Rocketdyne site on Willows Road. (Remember Rocket Research?) Kudos to volunteers **Mary Horabik, Tom Hanson, Teresa Potter, Gene and Cheryl Magnuson, John and Deborah Oftebro, Laura Lee Bennett, John Gustaveson, Linda McCrystal, Ed O’Brien, Patsy Rosenbach, Sylvia Bernauer, and Dale and Jo Ann Potter**. Our Administrative & Collections Administrator, **Halee Turner**, worked many hours on all things technical as well as hosted the virtual meeting; she also served as the “expert” guiding people through the Museum.

Many, many thanks to all these faithful volunteers!

WELCOME to **Elly Parran**, our newest volunteer, who has recently moved to Redmond from Israel! She will be serving as a docent in the Museum.

WELCOME to **Adrael Enquobahrie**, who is also joining us. The preservation of Redmond’s historical works of art is his interest.



## ...WE NEED YOU...

On Saturday, October 22, Redmond Historical Society will once again have a booth at the Saturday Market. We need at least 10 volunteers to work a 1½-hour shift. You do not have to be an expert on Redmond. There are several displays and information to share with shoppers. Many of our faithful volunteers have had to resign for various reasons—moving away, health issues, family responsibilities, etc. Please contact me to say you would like to join the RHS volunteers.

[volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org)

## VOLUNTEER VOICE

“You can study government and politics in school, but the best way to really understand the process is to volunteer your time.”

– Rob McKenna, Former Washington Attorney General



**REDMOND  
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## REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

### LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only)

Trailblazer/Student (1 member)	\$5	_____
Pioneer/Individual (1 member)	\$25	_____
Homesteader/Family (2 members)	\$40	_____
Visionary/Business	\$250	_____
History Maker/Lifetime (1 member)	\$1,000	_____
Legacy/Family Lifetime (2 members)	\$2,000	_____

☐ I'd like to be a Sustaining Partner through annual donations in addition to my membership.

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

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

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

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

Birthdate Member 1 \_\_\_\_\_ mm/dd/yy (optional)

Birthdate Member 1 \_\_\_\_\_ mm/dd/yy (optional)

- ☐ Address Change    ☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal    ☐ Gift membership  
☐ New to Redmond    ☐ I am interested in being a volunteer

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

### REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

16600 NE 80th Street • Redmond, WA 98052

You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at  
<http://www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org>

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