



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2020 • VOL. 22 • NO. 2

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Saturday, February 8, 2020, 10:30am-noon
Redmond Public Safety Building
8701 160th Ave NE, Redmond WA 98052

THE FASCISTS IN THE FOREST: NAZIS IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST



Seattle's German consul, Walther Reinhardt (in top hat and tails), presiding at the funeral of a German sailor in Tacoma in 1934. The sailor was part of the crew of a German warship flying the Nazi flag that visited Puget Sound. Photo: Tacoma Public Library Collection.

On February 8, Seattle journalist **Knute Berger** will speak on "The Fascists in the Forest: Nazis in the Pacific Northwest." The program covers the period from 1933 through Pearl Harbor at the end of 1941. Berger's talk includes both regional and local events that will be surprising to many. See p. 4.

- President John Oftebro addresses the Society's vision in 2020, p. 3.
- Tom Hitzroth looks at merchant William Donnelly's first store, p. 6.
- Society announces 2020 Historic Walking Tour, p. 7.

2020

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

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If you don't subscribe, please sign up.
Call the office at **425.885.2919** or email 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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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Laura Lee Bennett

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Teresa Potter • Urban Dakota Creative

PHONE 425.885.2919

ADDRESS Vision 5 Building
8525-163rd Court NE #120
Redmond, WA 98052

WEBSITE redmondhistoricalsociety.org

EMAIL info@redmondhistoricalsociety.org

HOURS Monday, Tuesday,
and Wednesday:
9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SOCIETY NEWS



A good time was had by all at the ice cream social, January 18, at the Happy Valley Grange. **Gene Magnuson and Cheryl Strong Magnuson** became the Society's first Family Lifetime members.
Photo: Patsy Rosenbach



Sotheby's
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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, 425.877.9904, Mary Sullivan at mary.sullivan@sothebysrealty.com, 425.449.2841, or call the Society Office at 425.885.2919.



2020: WHAT'S OUR VISION?

By John Oftebro

If you read last month's Notebook, you had a glimpse at our exciting 2019 year, and more of the same is in store in 2020! The Saturday Speaker Series will resume in Redmond Public Safety Building, thanks again to the extended support of the City of Redmond.

After **Knute Burger's** February 9 presentation, "The Fascists in the Forest: Nazis in the Pacific Northwest," **Harriett Baskas** will engage us with "Washington on Wheels: Odd Innovative Transportation Ideas from the Pacific Northwest," and **Erica Maniez** will present "Women in Our Valley: The Lives of Women in 1860-1930." All will be very entertaining, as will the 2020-2021 series we are still planning. Bring a friend!

As previously announced, the move back into the Old Redmond Schoolhouse is scheduled for August/September, since the LWSD is "on time" and "on budget" for refurbishing the building for area preschool students. We will be transforming the space to

accommodate both our current office and collections area, and an area devoted to exhibits and displays of Redmond's significant history. Our Collections Committee is planning for the space design, buildouts, and equipment needed to properly develop our museum. Ideas include a history of Redmond timeline from initial settlement to today's technology and urban growth. Exhibits will feature early industries such as logging and poultry, and art and artifacts of **Dudley Carter**.

Please consider volunteering to assist in this project and other areas for the Society, such as helping with the Dinner/Auction in May, Saturday Market, and Derby Days. We also have two open Board positions to fill.

We are in the final process of completing a website upgrade and will be moving our office to a new temporary location in March.

Thanks for your ongoing interest and financial support for the Society.

NOTED JOURNALIST TO SPEAK ON 1930s FASCISM IN PACIFIC NW

By Margy Rockenbeck



Knute Berger, columnist for Crosscut and host of KCTS 9's "Mossback's Northwest"
Photo: Matt McKnight, Cascade Public Media

The Redmond Historical Society presents the first program in its Spring 2020 Saturday Speaker Series. Well-known Seattle journalist **Knute Berger** will speak on "The Fascists in the Forest: Nazis in the Pacific Northwest" on Saturday, February 9.

Berger is the host of the "Mossback's Northwest" TV series on public television station KCTS 9. As the Crosscut Editor-at-Large, he writes about politics and regional heritage. He has also written two books, *Pugetopolis* and *Space Needle, Spirit of Seattle*. Berger has previously served as Editor-in-Chief of *Seattle Weekly*, Editor and Publisher of *Eastsideweek*, and Managing Editor of *Washington Magazine*. He is currently the Editor-at-Large of *Washington Magazine*.

The program will cover the period from approximately 1933 through Pearl Harbor at the end of 1941. In a recent interview, Berger explained the background that led to his interest in this topic. "I've long been interested in the political history of the Northwest. I watched an alternate history TV series on Amazon called *The Man in the High Castle* where the Nazis and Japan won WWII and I got curious about what their political influences were here. So I looked at members of the Third

SATURDAY SPEAKER SERIES

Reich who were here in the 1930s, pro-fascist movements like the Silver Shirts, who had a special lodge built for them by followers in Redmond.”

Berger’s skills as a journalist have helped to bring life and fascinating details to his program. “I have talked with some of the children of the pro-German sympathizers. I have also been able to see papers and photographs of local followers which are in various collections in the Northwest.”

“I have talked with some of the children of the pro-German sympathizers. I have also been able to see papers and photographs of local followers which are in various collections in the Northwest.”

His extensive research turned up some surprises. “I was surprised to find that the Silver Shirt movement was strong on the West Coast, especially Washington State. This was the American answer to the Brown Shirts. I was also surprised at the lack of pushback against the Nazis and their sympathizers, and poor local media coverage. I was also surprised at the cast of characters: an old army comrade of Hitler’s, a Northwest Native American who gave pro-Nazi speeches, and a local Seattle café owner who was dubbed Field Marshall of the Silver Legion who wanted to purge the Jews from American society.”

Berger has spoken on this topic in the Seattle area before. “People seem very interested in this history because it is little known and discussed, especially regionally. Much more is known and written about our labor and left-wing history, much less about the far right and populist movements which are relevant today.”

Redmond Historical Society Presents

Boots & Bowties

3rd Annual Dinner & Auction Saturday, May 9th, 2020



We need Volunteers, Sponsors, and Donations
for this fun & neighborly fundraiser!

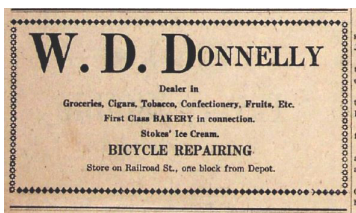
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John Oftebro (206) 819 3075
or the Redmond Historical Society office at
info@RedmondHistoricalSociety.org

WILLIAM DONNELLY AND HIS STORE – PART 1 By Tom Hitzroth

Did you know that William Donnelly had more than one location for his General Store over the years? If we double-count the location where he operated his store at two different times, Donnelly had four locations in town. However, in reading an advertisement from the *Kirkland-Redmond Sun*, May 29, 1907 (pictured below), I realized he had another location earlier than those four.

William D. Donnelly was born in Rochester, New York, on August 20, 1868. In 1900, he was living in Fowlerville, Livingston County, Michigan. His marriage application in King County, Washington, dated October 15, 1906, shows his occupation as a merchant, indicating he opened his first store very soon after his arrival in Redmond. The May 1907 advertisement listed his store at Railroad Street, one block from the Railroad Depot, at or near present-day 164th Ave NE (see map). Interestingly, he also repaired bicycles there. Donnelly then moved his store to the site where Minuteman Press is today. Ironically, the previously unknown location is visible in a pre-1906 photograph of a handcar at the railroad depot (see arrow below). The lot would eventually be the site of T&D Feeds.

Donnelly obtained land roughly the length of today's 166th Ave NE, between NE 79th Street and near where the Erratic is located between Cleveland and NE 76th Streets. This land appears on the W.A. Faulds Road survey of June 29, 1908. Donnelly's house was still on that same lot on the maps of State Road No 2 (historically called Redmond-Falls City Road), which included Railway Avenue, dated 1927 and 1931. This suggests that the location was his residence during his time in Redmond. Next month, we will look at the other locations for Donnelly's store in downtown Redmond.



Donnelly advertisement,
Kirkland-Redmond Sun, May 29, 1907.
Source: Kirkland Heritage Society.



Redmond 1908, Sanborn Map Company.
Source: King County Library System.



Handcar at railroad depot, ca. 1900. Source: Redmond Historical Society.

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 April 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday May 17, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday June 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
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 8525-163rd Ct. NE Suite #120, Redmond, WA, 98052. You can also pre-register on our website: www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org. Registrations must be received by the Friday 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.

WHY MEMBERSHIP?

By the time you read this, our 2nd Annual Ice Cream Social & Membership Drive will be in the books! As our first event of the new decade, we planned the social to THANK our members, ask them to renew, and to reach out to new members as well!

The year 2019 was a BIG one for the Redmond Historical Society. We hosted speaker programs on Salmon, Coal Mining, Dudley Carter, and Seattle Now & Then. Our 2nd Annual Auction & Dinner celebrated Washington's Prohibition years, and we carried this theme into our Derby Days parade entry—winning the “Most Community Spirit” award!

The Society hosted booths at the Saturday Market, Poets in the Park, and the popular So Bazaar Night Market at Downtown Park, in addition to our Historic and Cemetery Walking Tours guided by local historian, **Tom Hitzroth**.

“Membership has its privileges” is not only a slogan for a credit card. It's a reminder that belonging to a club, group, or association not only benefits us; it *benefits the organization* as well. Maintaining your membership not only allows you to continue to receive all the benefits from the Society; memberships help Redmond Historical Society maintain its collections archives, promote community involvement, and keep Redmond's history alive!

To join or renew, please contact our office at (425) 885-2919, use PayPal on our website, or mail in the form on p. 11 of this newsletter. We have a membership level for every budget!

☐	Trailblazer/Student	\$5
☐	Pioneer/Individual	\$25
☐	Homesteader/Family	\$40
☐	Visionary/Business	\$250
☐	History Maker/Lifetime	\$1,000
☐	Legacy/Family Lifetime	\$2,000

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.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

By Jo Ann Potter

Nine (9) volunteers clocked 171 hours in December!

December was a busy month for all of us but, as you can see, nine people managed to give several hours to the Society. Many thanks to them for these gifts during the busy holiday season.

Now our focus is ***moving, moving, moving!*** This will be a huge undertaking. We need many hands to move materials from the old office and prepare the new office as well as vehicles (vans, pickups, SUVs) to transport them. The exact date of our move will be determined when all the final arrangements are completed. Please contact our President, **John Oftebro**, or our Office Manager, **Halee Turner**, if you can help us with the move.

A Volunteer Voice...

I am fascinated by history and technologies.

*Volunteering at the Redmond Historical Society allows
me to connect two together to modernize
the organization information structure.*

- ChuNi Kao, Redmond Historical Society Webmaster

IN MEMORIAM: MARVIN SCHAIBLE 1935–2019

Marvin Schaible was born in Elgin, ND, on June 23, 1935, and passed away December 22, 2019, at home in Kirkland. He graduated from Elgin High School in 1954 and joined the U.S. Army that year, serving in Augsburg, Germany until 1956. That year he married his high school sweetheart, **Doris Bauer**. He attended Bismarck Junior College, Bismarck, ND; obtained a B.S. in mathematics at Moorhead State College, Moorhead, MN; received an M.S. at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA. He taught school in Wapato, WA from 1961 to 1969 and in the Lake Washington School District from 1969 to 1991. They have three sons, Mark, Scott (Kate), and Todd (Randi), five grandchildren

Orion Ahrensfield, Brianne (Ahrensfield) Gagnon, Davin, George and Jennifer Schaible, and two great-grandchildren Josephine and Quinn Gagnon.

Doris Schaible, working with founder **Naomi Hardy**, was Redmond Historical Society's first Secretary. Doris is a Lifetime member of the Society.



OUR SOCIETY LIFETIME MEMBERS

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John and Jay Cogan
Marjorie Costello
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Cory de Jong
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A full listing of lifetime members, both current and in memoriam, is available at redmondhistoricalsociety.org



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Every town has a history. Discover ours.

CONSIDER A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR A FAVORITE HISTORY BUFF.

LEVELS OF MEMBERSHIP (Check one only.)

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- \$40.00** HOMESTEADER (Family)
- \$250.00** VISIONARY (Business)
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- \$2,000.00** LEGACY (Family Lifetime)

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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

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☐ I would like to volunteer

☐ Email

☐ US Mail

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REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vision 5 Building

8525-163rd Court NE #120

Redmond, WA 98052

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