



THE REDMOND RECORDER

REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
MAY 2022 • VOL. 24 • NO. 5

Every town has a history. Discover ours.

TOTE BAG CONTEST: WE HAVE A WINNER!



The votes are in! Congratulations to **Elisabeth Jenkins Baty**! Her illustration has been chosen as our winner. This design will be featured on the tote bags for our 2023 membership drive. For the artist's profile, see p. 4.

- President **John Oftebro** calls for new Program Committee members, p. 3.
- **Tom Hitzroth** concludes investigation of the Old Redmond School House, p. 6.
- Society remembers Lifetime Member **Suzie Hall**, p. 9.
- Volunteers needed for Derby Days Grand Parade, July 9, p. 10.

2022

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THE REDMOND RECORDER

is published ten times annually.

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HOURS Please contact the office to schedule an appointment

SOCIETY NEWS

SPEAKER SERIES RETURNS IN FALL

Our Saturday Speaker Series will resume in September—hopefully in person! Meanwhile, stay in touch with us on our [Facebook](#) page, or join our [e-newsletter mailing list](#) for the most up-to-date information.



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 buys or sells property. 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.



GOT STORIES? JOIN OUR PROGRAM COMMITTEE!

By John Oftebro

Oh, what a month April was! At a suggestion from one of our members, I contacted **Jan Johnson**, owner/operator of the Panama Hotel in Seattle. Jan agreed to present the history of Japantown, the Panama Hotel, and the influence of internment on local Japanese culture and history. I doubt that in history classes in the '50s we heard much about this significant part of WWII, so it was a wonderful learning experience. Now we know the rest of the story!

This past year was a banner year for our Saturday Speaker Series. The Program Committee offered up presentations on our indigenous history, bootlegging, mysteries of a library map thief in Bellingham, and the Maury Island UFO sighting.

While the committee focuses on historical events in Redmond and surrounding towns, we also present regional historical offerings we feel are of interest to our members and followers. I'm betting that some of you know of events and stories that would be good topics for our programs this coming year. We hope that

one or two of you would like to volunteer to join our committee to help research and produce our programs. It's an easy and fun way to get involved, help sustain our history, and provide education to our community.

Here's a list of former presentations or other topics you might find interesting to hear about again or for the first time: Carnation Farm, Redmond Park Development, Sammamish Slough Races, Nike Missiles in Redmond, Bear Creek History and Tributaries, Willowmoor (Marymoor) Farm, Redmond Bicycle Days/Derby Days, Logging History in Redmond, Redmond History in the 1920s, and Technology in Redmond.

And, if you visit [our website](#) and click **Redmond History Overview**, under **Research Resources**, you'll see many possibilities for programs.

Care to join us? Got suggestions? Please contact programs@redmondhistoricalsociety.org.

Thank you!

FIBER ARTIST AND HISTORIAN WINS TOTE BAG DESIGN CONTEST

The winner of the Society's Tote Bag Design Contest is **Elisabeth Jenkins Baty!**

Elisabeth is an artist and architectural historian living in historic Albemarle County, Virginia. Raised in Williamsburg, Virginia, Elisabeth began her love of all things historic working for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation starting as a young child, and continuing through adulthood. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia with a Bachelor of Architectural History degree and the Savannah College of Art and Design, earning a Master of Arts in Historic Preservation. Post-graduation, she began working for multiple historical societies, including The Historic Savannah Foundation, and as an archivist for both Clemson University Special Collections and the University of Virginia Architectural & Historical Drawings collection.

In her free time, Elisabeth is a fiber/textile artist and restorer with a penchant for English and American works of the 17th and 18th centuries. She is a frequent lecturer on the subject, and her works have been featured in multiple museum exhibitions and publications, including *Piecework*, *Country Home*, *Crazy*

Quilt Quarterly, and *The Colonial Williamsburg Journal*.

This drawing is a tribute to her many happy years as a researcher, librarian, and archivist.

In her entry, the artist has rendered a sampling of the vast resources found in the archives of the Redmond Historical Society, including maps, drawings, photographs, newspapers, film, books, obituaries, and periodicals. Also included are multiple artifacts from the archives, notably the "[Mustache Cup 'A'](#)," "[Redmond Pennant](#)," "[Fountain Stool from Douglas Drugstore](#)," "[Redmond High School Varsity Letter with a Marching Band Pin](#)," and "[1935 Lampaert Cattle Brand](#)." Of particular note is the sandwich board advertising the "Saturday Speaker Series."



Mustache cup with saucer, RHS Archives

‘PANAMA HOTEL’ PROGRAM ENDS SEASON ON HIGH NOTE

On Saturday, April 9, over 100 attendees joined online as Society president and program committee member **John Oftebro** interviewed **Jan Johnson**, owner and steward of the 1910 Panama Hotel—a National Historic Landmark in Seattle’s International District. The accompanying slides revealed old “Japantown” history and chronicled the remarkable work that Jan has done to restore and preserve the hotel. The conversation was lively, and the questions from attendees kept coming—such as how to schedule a tour, book a room, and how to help raise awareness of the history of this iconic building, and the communities that it has served over the last 112 years.

Many thanks to Jan for sharing the story of the Panama Hotel with us, and to John for his marvelous interview skills. Thanks also to committee members **Margy Rockenbeck**, **Emma Rockenbeck**, **Laura Lee Bennett**, board member **Deborah Oftebro**, and Admin & Collections Manager **Halee Turner** for their contributions to this program. Special thanks to Society member **Sally Eberhardt** for helping to make the connection with her cousin Jan.

A full recording of this presentation is available on our YouTube channel at youtu.be/GzEfCL9Eo6I.



John Oftebro and Jan Johnson
Photo: **Deborah Oftebro**

To learn more about the Panama Hotel, or the Tea & Coffee House, visit www.panamahotelseattle.com.

Additional learning opportunities and further reading on Japanese and Japanese American history in our area can be found at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington website (www.jcccw.org) and Densho (www.densho.org), a site that documents oral and digital histories of Japanese Americans during WWII—and explores “the responsibilities of citizenship in our increasingly global society.”

To learn more about how to support historic preservation in our community and beyond, visit www.historicseattle.org and www.savingplaces.org.

OLD REDMOND SCHOOL HOUSE – PART II

By Tom Hitzroth

The year 1921 began as a busy one for the Redmond School District. With the recent district consolidations (described in Part I, [in the April 2022 issue of this newsletter](#)), the need for a larger school house became evident. The school buildings, located at today's Anderson Park, were no longer adequate. On February 21, 1921, board members of Redmond School District #200 signed a contract with **Marve Perrigo** to purchase 10.04 acres of land for \$4,016. One phrase in the contract stands out—"it is mutually agreed that *time is the essence* of this contract"—emphasizing the need to get a new school building underway.

The Redmond School District hired Seattle architect **William Mallis**, one of the most prolific school designers in the state, to design the new school. In 1921, construction began on the high school portion, and by 1922, the first phase of the project was completed, except for some finishing work. On September 4, 1923, the high school opened, and the old school buildings were closed permanently. In 1925, the elementary school portion was finished. With the addition of an auditorium, construction on this part of the building was completed. In 1929, the old school buildings

were sold and demolished. In 1938, the federal Works Progress Administration began construction of Anderson Park, which was completed in 1941.

Between 1931 and 1934, phase three of the school was completed. The west wing was expanded to include the classrooms that the Redmond Historical Society occupies today. In 1934, the gymnasium was added at the end of phase three. By 1935, the new building was finished, and opened to all grades.

Today, the building is occupied by the Lake Washington School District, and the City of Redmond hosts the Society's office and museum space. In 2022, it seems fitting that we celebrate this brick building, which still stands—as both an icon and landmark on the Redmond landscape.



Old Redmond School House, ca. 1926.
Source: Eastside Heritage Center

SOCIETY ANNOUNCES 2022 WALKING TOURS

Since 2003, Tom Hitzroth 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. This year, the tour will incorporate the site of a newly discovered hotel and the site of a 1905 homicide.

A lifelong Eastside resident, Hitzroth continues to work at identifying details of Redmond's development from its earliest time into the 1930s. He is currently investigating the historic site of the settlement of Melrose that preceded Redmond, the land claim area of Redmond, and the historic development of the downtown.



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



2022 Walking Tour Schedule

Sunday May 15, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday June 19, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday August 14, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Sunday September 4, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Tours meet as scheduled rain or shine and begin across the street from the Justice White House/Hotel Redmond (Jensen/Fey Architects) at 7730 NE 76th St.

Please be advised that proof of vaccination or a negative test result is not required for this outdoor tour, but masks are encouraged. These events also include a significant amount of walking or standing, with limited opportunities for resting. We recommend wearing comfortable shoes, weather-appropriate clothing, and bringing a water bottle.

Tickets are available for \$10 per person on the Events page at [RedmondHistoricalSociety.org](https://www.RedmondHistoricalSociety.org). Registration is required by the Wednesday prior to the tour, and tours are limited to 10 participants. To ensure the group maximum is not exceeded, please make sure your registration includes every member of your party. For further questions, please call our office at 425-885-2919.



MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Peter Boldyrev – April 14
Mimi Cogan – April 14
Pat Cogan – April 25
ChuNi Kao – May 2
Terry Turner – May 11
Celine Tesch – May 16
Ingrid Pearson – May 19
James Kerrigan – May 26

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.

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
Suzanne Hall
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
Jon M. Magnussen
Dorothy Matsui
Diana Morelli
Panfilo Morelli
Allison Reed Morris
Edward O'Brien
Deborah Oftebro
John Oftebro
LeRoy Olson
Dale Potter
Jo Ann Potter
Bobbie Graep Rettig
Dave Rockenbeck
Laurie M. Rockenbeck

Margy U. Rockenbeck
William Rockenbeck
Doris Bauer Schaible
Dick Shinstrom
Karen Snepp
Frederick Springsteel
Beryl Standley
John C. Stilin
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.

SUZANNE HALL: 1938–2022

The Redmond Historical Society says goodbye to Lifetime member **Suzie Hall**, our friend and generous supporter. Suzie was a regular attendee at Society events, and always had a ready smile. Suzie's husband **Tom** volunteered in the office for many years.

There will be a "Party of Life" on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 1:00 pm, at Trilogy Cascade Clubhouse, 23225 NE Greens Crossing Rd., Redmond, WA 98053. Society members are welcome to join in celebrating Suzie "by sharing favorite memories." Light appetizers, dessert, and her favorite music to follow the remembrance service.

Donations in Suzie's memory can be made at www.redmondhistoricalsociety.org.



Lifetime friends: Suzie Hall with Judy Lang and Sylvia Bernauer at the Society's annual dinner and auction at Redmond Senior Center, 2018.
Photo: Patsy Rosenbach

455 HOURS VOLUNTEERED!



REDMOND DERBY DAYS – JULY 8 & 9

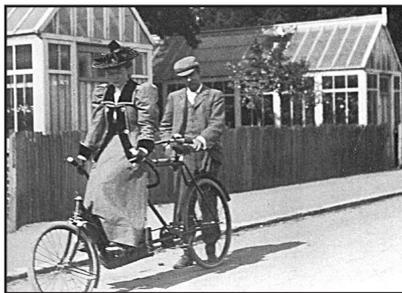
It's never too early to think about Redmond's best summer event ever—DERBY DAYS! This year's theme is Sustainability, and motorized vehicles will be somewhat restricted. Would you like to join us in the parade on Saturday, July 9?

Let us know, and we will contact you as plans are finalized!

Email: volunteercoordinator@redmondhistoricalsociety.org

VOLUNTEER VOICE

"Every time I see an adult on a bicycle, I no longer despair for the future of the human race." – H.G. Wells, *The Wheels of Chance*, 1896



H.G. Wells with his wife Jane. Source: [Roads Were Not Built for Cars](#)



REDMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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 2 _____ mm/dd/yy (optional)

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

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You may also renew or purchase a membership through our website at
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