

MHS Newsline

MUKILTEO'S PIONEER OF THE YEAR (A HISTORY)

by Ann and John Collier

In 1966, the newly formed Mukilteo Historical Society (MHS) organized the first Mukilteo Pioneer Festival as a means of celebrating and honoring the city's history. The festival was so popular and successful (except financially) that it was eventually transformed into today's Mukilteo Lighthouse Festival.



George and Maybelle Nairn were the 1982 Pioneers of the Year

In 1969, the Historical Society began selecting a Man of the Year as part of the festival celebration. Unable to decide between George Losvar and David Burklund, they ended up choosing both. Calling the honor "Man of the Year" became more problematic in 1972 when Clara Pokwinski Kane was selected. So in 1976 the name was changed to Citizen of the Year. Today, the Citizen(s) of the Year are chosen by past honorees.

But MHS still wanted a separate category to honor long-time residents of Mukilteo, so in 1982 it began naming Pioneers of the Year. This honor was given to representatives of families who had lived and were active in Mukilteo all their lives, or at least for many decades. Their names are listed on page 3 and on plaques in Quarters B (the gift shop building at the Lighthouse).

Recently, the leadership of MHS has decided to retire the designation and celebration of a Pioneer of the Year. The late Beverly Dudder Ellis, a previous honoree and a founder of the

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Frank Nelson was the 1993 Pioneer of the Year



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MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

304 LINCOLN AVENUE, STE. 101
MUKILTEO, WA 98275

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



This has been the warmest fall in my memory, which creates a graceful transition to the colder part of the year. Just as the trees are turning bright red and gold, there is change in the air with the organization. As gardens go dormant right now, MHS activities appear to do the same. But a lot is going on that is unseen. This year brought new ideas and processes born from challenges. The lighthouse gardens were recently boosted with plantings donated by volunteers. Anticipation is building for how it will look in the spring. There are many new gardening volunteers this year which was perfect timing for our record number of weddings. While working in the garden this week, a crow dropped a metal cup from the Losvar Condominiums roof which was a fun reminder to stay playful.

The Lighthouse Festival last month was a great success with extra staffing and preparations. Tina Saunders and I met with Candace Felt, Festival Chair, to review plans. Sue Anderson and Sandy Tyler led children's activities to keep families engaged while waiting their turn in the lighthouse. This is a new tradition that will carry over in 2023. Many families played and picnicked together over the weekend which was fun to watch. This was the first year MHS did not participate in the parade, opting to focus on staffing the lighthouse. With the end of the Pioneer of the Year program, it made sense. A week after the Festival, the MHS Advisory Board hosted an ice cream social, a great opportunity for members to meet or see each other after a long break. In January, the Board will reassess meeting in person for general meetings.

Recently, three generations of women related to an assistant lighthouse

keeper in the 1970s toured Quarters B and the lighthouse. They explained how each room was used and where furniture was placed. They plan to return with photos and the missing generation (the wife of the assistant keeper) to tell us more stories.

MHS has been financially healthy despite the pandemic. Thanks to the strengths of Treasurer, Al Friedrich who led the Finance Team and the Board in actively managing spending. The Gift Shop team, led by Tina Saunders, worked together to make impressive profits. The next step is to improve staffing and fill roles for 2023. I look forward to meeting new volunteers.



Two long-term Board Directors will vacate their positions at the end of this year although they will remain in MHS: Eric Richstad and Peter Anderson. Both have agreed to join the Advisory Board. Eric will continue to lead the essay contest for students. Peter will continue to lead the Archives team. Both Eric and Peter will be greatly missed at Board meetings for their humor, work ethic, and perspectives. Other changes will be made to keep volunteers fresh and engaged, using their strengths. For example, Craig Fisher has volunteered to be Technology Chair. More details will be announced in January.

Thank you all for being part of this organization and doing your part to make it successful. I wish you all a warm and cozy holiday season.

~JOANNE MULLOY,
MHS PRESIDENT

program, observed that “we are getting down to choosing sons (or daughters) of the pioneers,” rather than actual pioneers themselves.

The Mukilteo Historical Society will continue to display the Pioneer of the Year plaques, and continue to develop other ways of celebrating and honoring the rich history of our community. We also want to continue to hear from those who have grown up in Mukilteo and who are willing to add their stories to enhance the breadth and depth of Mukilteo’s history.

Mukilteo’s Pioneers of the Year:

1982	<i>George and Maybelle Nairn</i>	2001	<i>Cliff and Lois Hudspeth</i>
1983	<i>Mayme Ross-Haverland</i>	2002	<i>Bill and Pat Drew</i>
1984	<i>Paul and Iola Rose</i>	2003	<i>Art and Connie Fischer Losvar</i>
1985	<i>Mary Docherty Trafton</i>	2004	<i>Bruce and Sylvia (Tude) Zahler Richter</i>
1986	<i>Hazel Hurd & Della Olin</i>	2005	<i>William “Bill” Kane</i>
1987	<i>Angeline Cole & Barbara Chamberlain</i>	2006	<i>Dorothy M. Kasch</i>
1988	<i>Oscar Olsen</i>	2007	<i>Opal and George McConnell</i>
1989	<i>Warren and Evelyn Bryant</i>	2008	<i>Mas Odoi</i>
1990	<i>Jim and Leona Marie Josh Kaiser</i>	2009	<i>Alice Marie Andersen & Phyllis Sherar Anderson</i>
1991	<i>George and Freeda Woods</i>	2010	<i>Jo-An Chandler Cannon</i>
1992	<i>Florence Schmidt & Alice Pallas Brooks</i>	2011	<i>Elaine Scheib Jensen</i>
1993	<i>Frank Nelson</i>	2012	<i>Marlene “Tudy” Scheller Erickson</i>
1994	<i>Lotus and Joe Pasternak</i>	2013	<i>Madeline LaBeau Kuykendall</i>
1995	<i>Mary Lou Morrow</i>	2014	<i>Celia Cleator Nicholson</i>
1996	<i>Dan and Marg Klemp Caley</i>	2015	<i>Lillian Anderson Cronkhite</i>
1997	<i>Ron and Thelma Weers Kane</i>	2016	<i>Mary Lou Hogland Holtgeerts & Kay Hogland Scheler</i>
1998	<i>Beverly Dudder Ellis</i>	2017	<i>Janice McCauley Henry</i>
1999	<i>John and Evelyn Moberg</i>	2018	<i>Sharon Waddell Freeman</i>
2000	<i>Glee Riches Shaver</i>	2019	<i>Dan Hammer</i>



Pictured above left is Mary Lou Morrow, the 1995 Pioneer of the Year and pictured above right are the 1996 Pioneers of the Year, Dan and Marg Klemp Caley. Additional Pioneer of the Year award winners can be found on page 6.

IN MEMORIAM

The Mukilteo Historical Society is saddened to hear of the death of Herb Pridmore. Herb and his wife Eileen have been members of MHS for many years, volunteering for different positions and jobs. Herb served MHS as a member of the Board of Directors and is especially remembered for his work scanning the MHS photograph collection, a multi-year project. Our condolences go out to Eileen and Herb’s family and friends.

GIFT SHOP NEWS

The gift shop continues to evolve as this article is being written. Please come in to see the changes that have been made and check out our new merchandise including a whale kitchen towel, puzzles with Mukilteo-specific images, new design crewneck sweatshirts in three different colors, note cards, and a new design on our tote bags.



We also have a limited supply of nautical themed Christmas cards and a charming one with a ferry from a new local artist! The furniture has been rearranged to ease the flow of shoppers as they move around the room.

The front museum room of the gift shop is now set up with clearance items. There is a large selection of Christmas gift items, and stocking stuffers. For the first time ever, MHS members are offered an extra 10% off clearance items already marked down!



Be sure to attend one of the upcoming Saturday gift shop openings or email:

shoplocal@muktilteohistorical.org for a private appointment:

- ♦ 10/29 – 12-3 pm Members and Friends
- ♦ 11/25 – 12-3 pm Black Friday
- ♦ 11/26 – 12-3 pm Small Business Saturday



On a side note, this year's Lighthouse Festival was one of the best ones yet - despite the falling ash from forest fires in the region! To ensure visitors had options while waiting to go in the tower, Quarters A (aka the archives building) was opened and an activity area was set up on the grounds. People of all ages enjoyed coloring, drawing, and playing yard games with their family and friends. Small giveaways were provided including small bottles of bubbles, shells and nautical/beach stickers. A big thank you to the Lighthouse Festival Group for the donation of the lighthouse games which will hopefully help make this part of the annual event.

~SUE ANDERSON & TINA SAUNDERS



MHS ESSAY CONTEST

This one year \$1,500 prize is awarded to the student who submits a winning essay about some aspect of Mukilteo history. The award will be applied to tuition expense in the winner's name to the school selected by the winner. Essays are due next Spring but now is a good time to start.

The winner must be a high school graduating student or equivalent who either lives in the Mukilteo School District, or is the child or grandchild of someone who is a member of the Mukilteo Historical Society. Home schooled students may submit essays provided they will be eligible to enroll in a post-secondary school in the Fall of the contest year. Complete contest rules, how to submit an entry, and some suggestions for topics can be found by clicking Essay Contest on the main menu of the Society's website www.mukilteohistorical.org. If you know a qualified student, be sure to remind him or her of this opportunity!

The Board's purpose in offering this opportunity is to encourage interest in Mukilteo history among high school age persons in the area and among the population in general. Secondly, the contest entries add to the Society's trove of Mukilteo stories.

For further information, please contact:
erichstad@mukilteohistorical.org



October 2022

Saturday, October 29

12pm-3pm

Members & Friends Sale

November 2022

Thursday, November 10

7pm General Meeting

Friday, November 25

12pm-3pm

Black Friday Sale

Saturday, November 26

12pm-3pm

Small Business Saturday Sale

January 2023

Thursday, January 12

7pm General Meeting

Thursday, January 26

6:30pm Board Meeting

MHS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Root Beer Floats and Ice Cream Sundaes were featured at an outdoor social for MHS members and friends on September 18th. Approximately 40 people turned out to enjoy the treats and socialize in person! The organizers of this season's caloric conclusion were the MHS Advisory Board: Ann and John Collier, Mitch and Becky Owensby, Mimi Landsberg, and Lisa Romo (who was not able to attend). Below are a couple of pictures from the event.



CEMETERY CORNER

Mukilteo's Pioneer Cemetery was fenced in perhaps as late as the 1990's. Originally, some plots had picket fences but most did not. The present fence along Webster Street is made of log rails. The gate opens with two moving horseshoes. Not a clang to be heard. It fits the friendly neighborhood atmosphere of our hometown cemetery.

Contrast this humble gate to the original entrance of Evergreen Cemetery in Everett. Down at the northeast corner of the cemetery at 41st and Broadway, a wrought-iron gate once admitted hearses and funeral corteges. Beside the gate is a green, gazebo-like structure called a lych gate; lych is an Old English word meaning corpse. The gate imitates the traditional English churchyard structure where pallbearers rested the coffin and awaited the arrival of the minister. Everett's venerable old cemetery hosted larger funerals than Mukilteo; everything about Evergreen is bigger and older and hence more replete with stories.

A passage through the gate of a cemetery is a step backwards into the stories of that place. No cemetery is immune from the erosion of memory. Memorial Day, and Halloween, too, are occasions for refreshing our local history which is to be carried with us through the gates.

~MARGARET SUMMITT

OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

Would you believe we now have 222 members and are in 10 states + Canada! If you know of someone you think would be a fit for our organization, please bring them to the upcoming Member & Friends Sale on 10/29 from 12-3pm. It is a great opportunity to tour the lighthouse, get great deals on some discounted items and hopefully meet some fellow members of our organization. Memberships are also great gifts for any Lighthouse or Mukilteo Fan! In the meantime, be sure to welcome our most recent additions to our organization!

~TINA SAUNDERS

welcome

- ♦ Dave Coleman
- ♦ Stephanie Coleman
- ♦ Amanda Foos
- ♦ Karl Garrison
- ♦ Abby Keeley
- ♦ Elizabeth R LaRance
- ♦ Frank Palminteri
- ♦ Maria Palminteri
- ♦ Rajmadan Sangumani
- ♦ Beth Sedlet
- ♦ Scott Specht
- ♦ Bob Wallace
- ♦ Eva M Wallace
- ♦ Kraig Yager
- ♦ Teri Yager

...Pioneer of the Year pictures continued from page 3



Pictured above left is William "Bill" Kane, the 2005 Pioneer of the Year and pictured above right is the 2006 Pioneer of the Year, Dorothy M. Kasch.



MUKILTEO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please review the membership categories below carefully. As a member you will receive an exclusive member decal, quarterly newsletter and a 10% discount in the gift shop. Your donation is tax deductible. Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st. Return this form and your payment to:
Mukilteo Historical Society – 304 Lincoln Avenue, Suite 101 – Mukilteo, WA 98275

Membership Type:

- o \$15 - INDIVIDUAL o \$10 - SENIOR (65 OR OVER) o \$20 - SENIOR COUPLE o \$25 - FAMILY
o \$500 – LIFE o DONATION ONLY –provide name and address so we may acknowledge your donation

Corporate Applications are available at mukilteohistorical.org or by emailing memberships@mukilteohistorical.org

Applicant #1 Data*:

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

Applicant #2 Data*: *Please use a second application form for more than two applicants in family memberships.*

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone: _____ e-mail _____

☐ Help us GO GREEN! Check this box to opt-in for paperless-only newsletters

For each applicant, please check the volunteer areas of interest (if any):	#1	#2
Archives/Trunk Treasures – Collect & archive all documents, photos and artifacts relating to the history of Mukilteo. Organize exhibits. Present Trunk tales throughout the community		
Garden – Join our group of gardeners or adopt a specific garden bed at the light station		
Gift Shop – Help to price, stock and maintain inventory. Operate credit card processing terminal and cash register.		
Lighthouse – Become a lighthouse tour guide.		
Maintenance – Liaison to Board about Light Station/Pioneer Cemetery issues and plans.		
Publicity – Advertising (Beacon/Herald/etc.). MHS Newsletter, Membership mailing (Sunshine)/emails/phoning		
Special Tours – Assist with docent tours, field trips & visiting groups.		
Technology – Website, internet, social media		
Weddings – Welcome guests & provide tours for wedding guests.		

How did you hear about the Mukilteo Historical Society?

o Lighthouse Visit o Newspaper o Website o Friend o Other _____

For office use only: Date Received _____ ☐ Added to Membership Roster ☐ Exclusive Membership Decal Sent

2022 SPONSOR HONOR ROLL

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Mukilteo Historical Society

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