



Issue 3 2009

Kirkman

HOUSE MUSEUM News

Hands on History



Kirkman House Kid with his sit-upon

Last year the Kirkman House Museum introduced Hands on History, a summer program designed for children aged 7-10. Summer 2009 programming will again connect school-aged children with summer activities and pastimes enjoyed by their Victorian counterparts over one hundred years ago. Funding for the series came from a Yancy P. Winans Testamentary Trust grant and from generous contributions from private Kirkman House Museum supporters.

The activities in the summer 2009 schedule include a recently completed Introduction to Weaving class geared toward children aged 6 - 9, an Intensive Weaving Workshop for 9 - 12-year-olds, and a Homemade Ice Cream Social and Beatrix Potter Day both focused more on the younger crowd. Each activity is carefully planned to demonstrate to modern-day children that entertaining endeavors are timeless.

The Intensive Weaving seminar draws on the expertise of Textile Center founder Susan Swayne and provides a thorough exploration of the process of weaving. Children will use individual pipe looms, allowing for the extended project outline taking the children from loom preparation to completed tapestry piece.

The three classes for younger children, while shorter in duration, are not short on entertainment! The younger set will be given preliminary weaving tutorials in the Intro to Weaving course, and learn to design and create a "mug rug" and individual sit-upon. The Handmade Ice Cream Social demonstrates to our youngsters how to, using the most basic ingredients, make their own delicious summer snack. For Beatrix Potter Day, the children will explore and investigate all the outdoor elements that so intrigued the famous author and naturalist.

We still have space available in our upcoming classes, and volunteers are still needed. Please see the event schedule on the next page for dates and times. Contact Greer G. Buchanan at gbuchanan@kirkmanhousemuseum.org with registration questions or to sign up for a volunteer shift.

Enjoy your summer!

Work on 2009 shawl underway



Each fall the Kirkman House Museum hosts Sheep to Shawl, an exciting event that examines the textile industry through an array of activities including live sheep shearing and spinning demonstrations. A unique shawl is created by Textile Center Coordinator Susan Swayne out of the wool gathered during the Sheep to Shawl events and offered to one lucky winner through a drawing that raises funds for the next year's event. Susan Swayne spun and dyed the wool from the 2008 Sheep to Shawl event using rich shades of blue and silver. Swayne will begin weaving the materials into the stunning shawl in preparation for the 2009 Sheep to Shawl event on October 3. Tickets for the drawing are currently available at Kirkman House Museum for a suggested donation of \$1.00 per ticket or \$5.00 for six tickets. Susan Swayne's weavings are highly sought after inimitable works of art; visit her booth at Walla Walla's Saturday Farmer's Market to see additional examples of her skills.

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Special thanks to...

Gary's Paint & Decorating Center and Edward Jones Investments for sponsoring this year's Sweet Home Walla Walla historic homes tour. We also appreciate all the time and energy from the families who opened their historic homes to our community, and the volunteers who helped make this day a success.

Gary's Paint & Decorating Center for contributing to our bathroom restoration.

City of Walla Walla for providing, and **Walla Walla Noon Rotary Club** for planting, trees in our parking strip.

Rugged Country Plants for donating plants for the museum grounds.

1-2-3 Printing for making our color newsletters possible.

KIRKMAN NEWS BRIEFS**Meet Carl**

Kirkman House Museum welcomes AARP volunteer Carl Killelea as the new facilities maintenance overseer. Since his arrival Killelea has been hard at work repairing the woodwork on the outside windows, whipping the grounds into shape and performing small fix-it miracles throughout the house. On your next visit to the museum we know you will notice all the work that has been completed by Killelea.

**HRC Grant**

The Kirkman House Museum was recently awarded \$32,000 from the Washington State Heritage Resource Center (HRC) out of its 2009-2011 Capital Projects Grant program. This program provides matching grants to Washington State heritage organizations for projects that improve historic structures or improve access to historic collections.



Late last year, the carpentry and masonry on the Kirkman House side porch was restored to its original 1890s appearance with the funding from the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation Valerie Sivinski Fund and the Clara & Art Bald Trust.

The museum will now focus on completing repairs to the soffits and windows, and on restoring architectural features that have been missing from the exterior for over sixty years.

Originally, the Kirkman House had three balconies on the front; one over each of the bay windows and the entry porch. The porch also had balustrades from the columns to the door. In the 1930s these elements were removed and a covered porch was installed. The porch addition was removed in the 1980s by the original team of museum volunteers, but the complete restoration project was never finished due to lack of funds.

The museum intends to leverage the HRC grant to finally finish these important components of exterior restoration.

In order to accomplish our ambitious goals, we need your support. The HRC Grant is a matching grant; this means Kirkman House Museum still needs to raise funds from within our community in order to fully access the funds for the Capital Project. With your help we can complete the exterior projects by summer 2011.



Kirkman House Museum & the Crafty Cooks Plant Victorian Kitchen Garden

The Kirkman House Museum (KHM) and local 4-H group the Crafty Cooks have joined forces this year to re-create the fundamental American tradition of the kitchen garden with a modern twist; this year, all produce grown in the KHM kitchen garden will be donated to local food banks. "We want people who may not have access to fresh nutritious food to experience how good home-grown fruits and vegetables actually taste," says Kirsten Schober, Executive Director of KHM.

Kitchen gardens were an important factor for colonial settlers arriving in America. The ability to grow food on a plot of their own land provided household security and also an economic independence not found in the "old world." While they lost significance as the national economy shifted from an agrarian to industrial base in the 19th century, kitchen gardens periodically reemerged in response to hard times or grass roots movements. During the severe 1893 depression, Detroit mayor Hazen Pingree convinced landowners to open up several thousand acres of vacant land to unemployed people "Pingree's Potato Patches" were a huge success, with the value of the crops exceeding the money spent in establishing the program. Over the next three years, many American cities followed suit in establishing garden-allotment programs.



Crafty Cooks donating with their first harvest to Helpline.

KHM board member and Master Gardner Carolyn Priest and Sarah Bergman, group leader of the Crafty Cooks, supervise the local 4H group of girls aged 7-12. Priest's knowledge of plant life combined with the dedication, hard work and weeding skills of the Crafty Cooks will yield a plentiful array of good times and produce. The KHM Kitchen Garden, planted on a previously unused portion of the museum grounds, includes bush beans, carrots, corn, cucumbers, lettuce, pumpkins, radishes, strawberries, tomatoes and watermelon.

"In recent years we have seen a growing interest in urban agriculture as a response to concerns about sustainable living. The recent economic downturn has underscored the importance of growing our own food locally to increase access to nutritionally rich foods," explains Schober. "The Kirkman House Museum is a perfect venue for demonstrating that all you need is a small plot of dirt, hard working hands and some love to generate an abundance of delicious produce."

For more information about the Kirkman House Museum Kitchen Garden, or other museum programs, please contact Greer G. Buchanan at gbuchanan@kirkmanhousemuseum.org.



Kirkman House board member Carolyn Priest with Crafty Cooks.

Upcoming Activities

Exhibits

Permanent Exhibit
Year-round interpretive tours of William & Isabella Kirkman's home focusing on the elements that influenced home life in late 19th century Walla Walla.

Child's Play: 100 years of toys
August 7- September 27, 2009
a retrospective of toys from the Victorian era through the 1970s.

Programs

Hands on History Summer Program Weaving Camp
July 7, 8, 15 and 16
9 am - 1 pm
An in-depth exploration of weaving on pipe looms for youth aged 9 - 12.

Ice Cream Social
July 22
10 am - noon
ages 6 - 9
Make homemade ice cream and play popular Victorian parlor games.

Beatrix Potter Day
July 29
10 am - noon
ages 6 - 9
Create your own journal to explore and record all the outdoor elements that so intrigues the famous author and naturalist.

Wild Walla Walla 1st Sunday Spins In
April-November, 2009
A monthly program featuring artistic and intellectual explorations in the Kirkman House Museum formal parlor.

Events

Pioneer Park Bandstand Centennial Celebration
August 23, 2009
3:00 p.m.
Join the Kirkman House Museum and Walla Walla Valley Bands at the bandstand for a concert celebrating one hundred years of family fun.

Historic Architecture Development, Inc.
DBA Kirkman House Museum
214 N. Colville
Walla Walla, WA 99362

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Get on the Kirkman House e-news list!

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, and keep updated with museum activities.

Go to www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org and enter your email in the "Join our E-mailing List" box in the upper right-hand corner.

The Kirkman House Museum is committed to preserving our past and providing a setting for understanding our local history. There are many ways you can help; your support is what makes great things happen at the Kirkman House!

Become a Museum Member

Members' benefits include a subscription to the museum's newsletter, discounts on program on class fees, and invitations to "Members Only" events. Your membership dues help pay for special exhibits and programs at the museum that enhance the cultural spirit of our community.

Join the Bricks and Mortar Society

These generous members commit to donating \$200 a year for three years to ensure the preservation work at the museum continues.

Include the Kirkman House Museum in your planned giving

From its origin as a museum 1978, the Kirkman House has preserved an important piece of Walla Walla's architectural and cultural heritage. Today, the museum continues to provide education about daily family life in Victorian-era Walla Walla. A gift to the Kirkman House Museum's endowment fund is an investment in the cultural heritage of our valley for future generations.

Support the annual fund

Contributions to the museum's annual fund provide important support for the care and maintenance of the museum, the conservation of our collections and our ability to continue providing dynamic programming.

Donate in-kind items or services

Contributions of material goods or professional services help reduce the operating costs of the museum.

Volunteer

Whether leading tours, assisting with collection management and exhibits, or helping at our special events our volunteers are invaluable to the museum's successful operations.



Kirkman House Mission

The Kirkman House Museum enriches the Walla Walla community with exhibits, events and programs that bring our valley's history to life.

Membership Benefits

- ☐ Kirkman House Museum Newsletter
- ☐ Advance notice for Kirkman House programs
- ☐ Invitation to "Members Only" events
- ☐ Recognition in the Kirkman House News
- ☐ Tax deduction on dues
- ☐ Knowledge that you are helping to save the Kirkman House for future generations

2009 KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____

E-mail: _____

- ☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.
- ☐ I would prefer not to have my name listed in museum publications.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- ☐ Students/ Seniors (\$15) ☐ Individual (\$25) ☐ Family (\$50)
- ☐ Friend (\$250) ☐ Donor (\$500) ☐ Patron (\$1,000+)
- ☐ Bricks & Mortar Society (\$200 commitment per year for three years)

In addition to my membership, I am enclosing a gift of \$_____ to help:

Credit Card #: _____

☐ Visa, ☐ MC, Exp. Date: _____ Total amount enclosed: \$_____

Please return this form with your check payable to: **Kirkman House Museum**

Mail to: Kirkman House Museum 214 N. Colville Walla Walla, WA 99362