



2013: The Year in Review

A Look at One of Kirkman House's Most Successful Years

Walla Walla Memorabilia and The Roaring Twenties

March through May and July through October

The year's first exhibit *Walla Walla Memorabilia* featured hundreds of items brought down from many attics. It included a dress box from Dorothy Greenough's, milk bottles from Young's Dairy and many other once-popular household items that reminded us of local life over the last 150 years. It also featured dozens of historical photos collected by Joe Drazan.

The next exhibit *The Roaring Twenties* turned the clock back to a time when some women were "flappers," gin was made in bathtubs, good times were enjoyed by many and few foresaw the Depression just around the corner. *The Roaring Twenties* looked at how Walla Walla lived after the "War to End All Wars" and before the Crash of 1929.

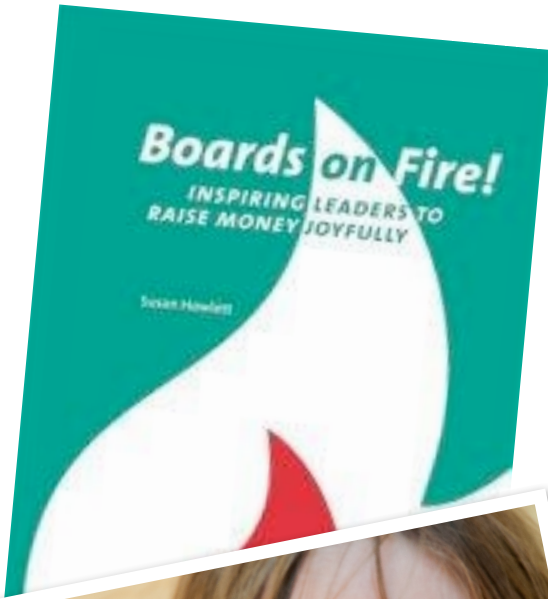
A very popular feature of the exhibit was a multimedia presentation of 1920's Walla Walla produced by Susan Monahan, an officer and board member of the museum.

"Most people don't know that Whitman College owned the Kirkman House during the Twenties," said Carolyn Priest, exhibit curator, "and used it as a men's dormitory. One of the student-residents was Walter Brattain. Brattain went on to win a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1956 for his contributions to the development of the transistor. And he used to study physics right here."

Boards on Fire

March through June

Inspired by Susan Howlett's book *Boards on Fire*, a comprehensive guide to extraordinary non-profit leadership, the board took an in-depth look at our museum's operations and developed a 40-item action plan over two months.



The improvements addressed communications with our members and friends, financial management and budgeting, outreach to the community, refinement of our mission, a retooling of our bylaws, and dozens of other initiatives. This plan will guide our growth and development over the next three years.

Completion of the Heritage Capital Project **May**

In 2009, we received an award from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project to partially fund \$95,000 of restorations to the museum. The catch was we had to raise the \$95,000 before we got a dime from the grant.

Over the last four years, we've used funds from many donors and members to restore windows, rebuild an outdoor porch, renovate one of the cabins, install a new HVAC system and finish dozens of other improvements. We successfully completed the projects in May with the help of Schaefer Refrigeration and the Sustainable Living Center, and received \$31,600 from Washington State.

Hands on History **July 8, July 15 and August 5**

Hands on History brought the Victorian Era to life for 150 Campfire girls and boys in three days of activities including an archaeological dig, introduction to the historic games of hopscotch and marbles, readings from a Victorian author, and an examination of Victorian inventions. In keeping with the event's "hands-on" theme, the children did weaving projects and made Victorian postage stamps, chalk, marbles, and keepsake scrapbooks.

"Hands on History' is a great opportunity for kids to get a glimpse of the history of their community and to learn about what kids did, including games that they played, in another era," said Camp Fire executive director Joshua Gonzales. "It gives our Camp Fire kids the chance to experience something new and learn while they get their hands dirty. The whole idea is to make history fun, engaging, and accessible. It's a perfect fit for our kids and a lot of fun to have them get excited about the Victorian history of Walla Walla."



Sheep to Shawl

September 14

One of our annual traditions, *Sheep to Shawl*, brought hundreds of guests including many children to Kirkman House to see wool shorn from sheep, cleaned, dyed and spun by local spinners.

A dozen artisans sold wool products and crafts, and guests enjoyed a delicious lamb luncheon prepared by Chef Jay Entrikin of Walla Walla Community College's Wine Country Culinary Institute.

Speakeasy

September 27

Spirits flowed freely at the secret *Speakeasy* cleverly hidden in the basement of the museum. Upstairs, the carpet was rolled up and dancing broke out in the main parlor. All around were flappers, wise guys and folks you wouldn't want your mother to meet. Gin, juleps and all that jazz. We had so much fun.

Festival of Converging Histories

November 8 and 9

The Festival of Converging Histories brought the traditional Victorian era face-to-face with the whimsical alternate-reality world of 19th century science fiction. Think Mary Poppins meets 1930's Buck Rogers.

THE EMPHATICALLY SPECTACULAR VARIETY SHOW

Professor Thomas Beebe emceed an extravaganza that produced a thousand laughs and thrills in four acts. Act One was *NerdProv*, a Seattle comedy company that left the audience in stitches. Act Two was *Master Payne's Steampunk Sorcery*. He amazed and bamboozled the audience with his humor, quick wit and sleight of hand. Next came the beguiling belly dancers of *Troupe Azur*. And the evening ended with a spectacular *Steampunk fashion show* produced by Miss Haley Bombshell Boutique and Steampunk fashion designer Eliza Van De Rostyne.





PSYCHIC FAIR

Saturday afternoon, Psychic Shirley Scott and Janice Lynch led *Whispered Memories* sessions that connected participants with deceased relatives. They were joined by six other mediums who provided private readings.

GRAND VICTORIAN BALL

The festival concluded with an elegant Saturday evening of traditional Victorian dancing at Sharpstein School. Music was provided by the 12-piece Country Dance Orchestra from La Grande with Dance Master Dan Clark doing the calling. Guests were resplendent in Victorian, Steampunk and modern formal wear.



Victorian Christmas Jubilee and Bazaar December 5, 6 and 7

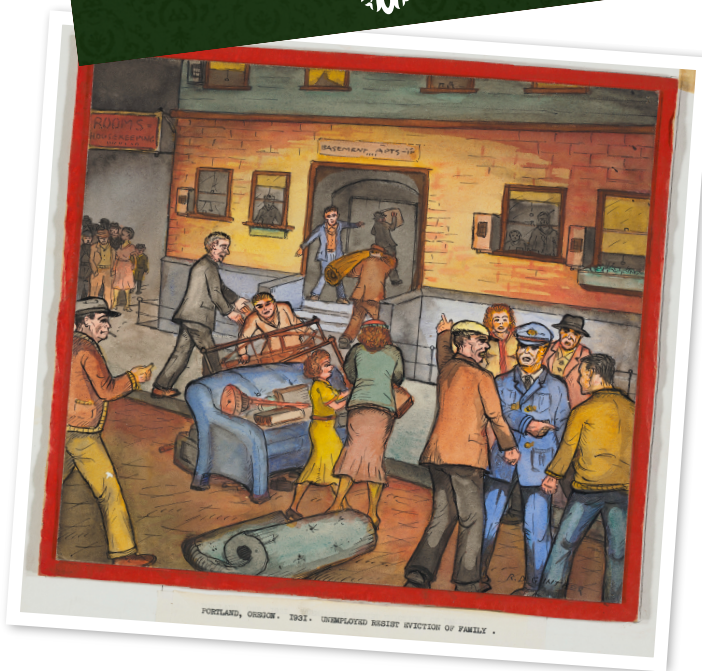
The beauty of Christmas comes to Kirkman House beginning with a bazaar of gift items and crafts, available to the public, on Thursday and Friday, December 5 and 6, noon to 8:00 pm. On Saturday afternoon, December 7, music and warmth will spill out of the museum from 11:00 am to 5:30 pm as carolers, musicians and families enjoy the museum in its Christmas decor.

Hope in Hard Times

Opening January 17, 2014

The Great Depression profoundly affected Washingtonians. Many citizens took to the streets in protest, joining fellow activists and political movements to rally for solutions to economic crisis. Throughout the state, other Washingtonians made it through tough times by making the best of what they had, recycling and reusing everyday items while looking ahead at the promise of better days.

Humanities Washington's traveling exhibit explores the adversity and triumph of everyday Americans during the 1930s, comparing the struggles of that period with those faced today. Personal experiences illuminate the broader themes of the exhibition, enlightening audiences about how people lived during these difficult times. It is curated by the Washington State Historical Society.



Kirkman
HOUSE MUSEUM