

# Kirkman

## HOUSE MUSEUM NEWS

Issue 2, 2013



### Roaring Twenties Exhibit

Turn the clock back 90 years 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.

Beginning July 19, the Kirkman House Museum presents “The Roaring Twenties” - an exhibit that looks at how Walla Walla lived after the “War to End All Wars” and before the Crash of 1929.



Scott Buick Co., Spokane St. 1923

The 1920's brought momentous change to Walla Walla as its borders and businesses grew rapidly. Even as other Washington cities flourished, Walla Walla continued to be an important Northwest center of

agriculture and culture. Vegetable farming expanded as canneries were established. Washington women had been voting since 1910 and in 1920 women throughout the US won this right. Even in Walla Walla jazz became a mainstream enthusiasm. And at the end of the decade, the Walla Walla business community bankrolled the construction of one of the grandest hotels west of the Mississippi, the Marcus Whitman Hotel.



“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.”

“The Roaring Twenties” runs through October 27 and will be followed by “Hope in Hard Times,” an extraordinary presentation of life during the Depression produced by Humanities Washington.

### Farewell note from Kt



I cannot believe 10 and a half months has already gone by. It seems just a little while ago I was poking my head into the Kirkman House’s grand hallway for

the first time. This has been quite the wild ride and it has stretched my boundaries in many different ways. Never would I have guessed that I could memorize as many names and dates and facts as I have for the tours or that there lived in me the frilly girl who enjoys dressing up in her grandmother’s pink ruffled gown for museum events. It has been a lot of fun.

On the more professional side of things, I appreciate the practical experience I have gained and the glimpses I have had into all the aspects of running a museum. This position has broadened my experience in so many ways. You cannot just do one thing here at the museum and I enjoyed all the opportunities I had to try new things. I would like to give a big thank you to all of the people who welcomed me into my position and helped me find my niche here. Don’t expect me to just disappear at the end of my Americorps term! Though my contract is up, I plan on staying in Walla Walla for a little while longer. I have enjoyed being a member of the team at Kirkman House and there are several projects of which I’ll continue being a part.





## 2013 Board of Directors

Rick Tuttle, *Board President*  
 Donna Gardner, *Past Board President*  
 Mona Geidl, *Vice-President*  
 Kent Settle, *Treasurer*  
 Susan Monahan, *Secretary*  
 Tim Copeland  
 Maejul Gannon  
 Carolyn Priest  
 Don Priest  
 Kristen Wilson

## Museum Volunteers

Wendy Cheng  
 Sue Gillespie  
 Pam Myers  
 Susan Swayne  
 Greg Troin

## Americorps Volunteer

Kt Sharkey

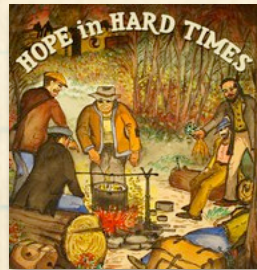
## Special thanks to

BMAC - Americorps



## Festival of Converging Histories Update

The festival is moving ahead and gets more exciting all the time. We are partnering with the GESA Power House Theater to bring you an exciting variety show on November 8. Entertainment will be an improv company and Steampunk magician from Seattle, our own Troupe Azure belly dancers, a Steampunk and Victorian fashion show, and a short Steampunk film. First priority will be given to festival attendees so be sure to watch the festival and Kirkman House site and your email for the opening of registration. Sewing classes are being offered on the third Sunday of each month from 1pm to 4pm at the museum for those who need help with their fancy ball garments. It is highly recommended that you be working on your ball gowns now so you aren't frantically trying to sew at the last minute. Dan and Barbara Clark will be teaching dance classes at the Community College in October specifically for our Grand Victorian Ball so watch for more details on that.



## Hope in Hard Times

Washington During the Depression  
 Opens January 2013



The Humanities Washington traveling exhibit, "Hope in Hard Times," will be on display at the Kirkman House Museum January through April 2014. This exhibit depicts times during the depression of the 30's as well as dust bowl images of the same period. Completing the exhibit will be other items of the period such as clothing, books, movies, music and events in Walla Walla. If you have a story or memory from that time, or a story that was told to you and would be willing to share it, please let us know. We will be collecting oral histories (your stories) until November.

## Summer projects

Summer activities are in full swing and gardens are prolific. Last week we had four hardy AmeriCorps volunteers that put in 6 hours of hard work organizing the basement and garage in preparation for our upcoming Speakeasy party and garage sale. They also did some much needed yard work and helped set up the Twenties exhibit. Board member Kent Settle has started to repair the front columns and is planning on installing a new roof on Cabin B. Rick Tuttle began testing paint removal methods on the painted brick on the outside of the second floor in the back.

Finally we have raised enough money to plaster the kitchen which is tentatively on our schedule for November.

We have a long list of projects and are looking for volunteers to give a few hours to help.



## Help preserve our heritage

2013 is shaping up to be our busiest year ever with interesting exhibits, programs and projects. No matter how hard the board and volunteers work, we can't be successful without support from the community. Please help us make the Kirkman House the jewel of Walla Walla it deserves to be.

All contributions are tax deductible and go directly to the projects you designate or the general fund. Donations designated to Restoration and Education Programs can usually be matched with grants to multiply your donation up to 4 times. Donate in person or online through our web site using this button:



Can't make a financial contribution? Then volunteer an hour a week. We have many projects that could use your muscle or skill.



## 2013 Kirkman House Events

The Roaring Twenties	July 19 - October 27
Sheep to Shawl	September 14
Festival of Converging Histories	November 8, 9
Holiday Bazaar	December 5, 6
Victorian Christmas Jubilee	December 7

Spin-Ins are on the second Sunday of the month, except none in May  
Costume Sewing Class on the third Sunday of the month



### Presidents Message

Summer has finally arrived and we are very grateful for the central air conditioning installed on the second floor of the museum. We opted to only install AC on the upper level because we wanted to see how well it did cooling the first floor before investing in a second AC unit. For the first time ever the second floor is cooler than the first but it's an improvement throughout.

If you attended our Founders Luncheon you heard my speech about what I thought were our pivotal points in the last 12 years. These points were when one or more people came to the organization that really made a difference and moved it to the next level. The first such point was in 2001 when I joined the board and worked with our Americorps volunteer Kim Nemeth Woodley. The second was when Sherwood Trust made it possible to hire our first Executive Director Kirsten Schober in 2004 and the third is this year. We've had an influx of extremely talented, motivated and capable new blood that is moving the organization forward in significant ways. Most of the work is being done behind the scenes but some of it will become visible this summer and into next year. Here are a few of the things we are working on; Education outreach for students for in the museum and in the classroom, complete reorganization of staff spaces and basement, new collections database, new web site, new marketing team and management system, new member and donor management system, additional member benefits, and new community partnerships. This is all a huge amount of work and it probably won't get done as fast as we want, but when we are done, we think the Kirkman House will be a model organization for small museums everywhere.

I cannot finish without acknowledging that our Americorps volunteer Kt Sharkey has made significant contributions to these efforts. She officially finishes her obligation this month but will continue to contribute until she leaves town later in the year. We have all enjoyed working with her and will miss her exuberance and input. We wish her all the best.

Please read your Kirkman House eNews emails as they will have more exciting news in the near future.



Kim Nemeth Woodley



Kt Sharkey

## Visit our friends at Fort Walla Walla Museum

### JULY 16 .....PIONEER KIDS CAMP

Day camp with guided activity stations that allow kids ages 9-11 to experience life the pioneer way

### AUGUST....CHILDREN'S MONTH

Family-focused, with games, activities, storytelling, and hands-on learning

### AUG. 18 .....ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Dip into free ice cream sundaes and enjoy old-time music, dancing, crafts, and vintage cars with friends and family.

### OCTOBER ...ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH

Experience a month-long variety of demonstrations, programs, and children's activities, as you learn about archaeological processes and discoveries. Visit the Museum each Monday at 7:00 p.m. for a special archaeology presentation.

### OCTOBER 27....A 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY PARTY

Join the Living History Company in a spirited discussion of the events of yesteryear that have shaped modern times.



## Exhibits

Our 2014 schedule starts out with *Hope in Hard Times* but we are having trouble deciding on the exhibit after that. We are asking for your input by choosing your top three from the list below or by suggesting something else. Please cut this out and mail your choice, email us, or give us a call. Your input is greatly appreciated.

- Toys & Dolls
- Trains
- Wedding Dresses
- 1 Day Antique Gun Show
- History of the Little Black Dress
- Walter Brattain Exhibit - Lived in the house in the early 1920's as a Whitman student and won a Nobel Prize
- Women's Clubs of the 1800's
- Chinese Influence in Walla Walla
- The "Seedy" side of WW
- Table Top Western Bronze Sculpture: Manuel's and other sculptors
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

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### Get on the Kirkman House e-news list!

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter, and keep up-to-date with museum activities.

Go to [www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org](http://www.kirkmanhousemuseum.org) and enter your email in the "Subscribe to our E-mailing List" box on the Home page

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 in 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
- ☐ Membership in NARM (\$100 level and up)
- ☐ Knowledge that you are helping to save the Kirkman House for future generations

### 2013 KIRKMAN HOUSE MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP AND RENEWAL

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail/Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

☐ I would prefer not to have my name listed in museum publications.

#### ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- ☐ Upgrade to: \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Individual (\$25) ☐ Family (\$50)  
☐ Supporter (\$100) ☐ 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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