

# Kirkman

SPRING 2006

HOUSE NEWS

## House events

### Kirkman House Museum Textile Center Spin-Ins

The Textile Center Spin-Ins are an opportunity for regional spinners to network, and for visitors to interact with these talented artists. Educational programs, focusing on various aspects of wool processing, will be incorporated into each spin-in. The Textile Center will host the spin-ins on the following Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m.: March 12, April 9, June 11, July 9, August 13, October 8 and November 12.

### Exhibit: The Art of Apparel: A Retrospective of Clothing Styles from 1865 to 1925

This exhibit will run through June and July. See related story to the right.

### College Place Garden Club Garden Tour: Sunday, June 25

The College Place Garden Club's annual garden tour will raise funds for an heirloom rose garden at the Kirkman House Museum. Visit the museum where you will have the opportunity to make rose beads, enjoy ice cream and view plans for the rose garden.

### Sheep to Shawl: September 9 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This annual festival showcases the many activities involved in wool production.

HOUSE EVENTS CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## NEW EXHIBIT

# Kirkman dresses return home

In January, Whitman College gave the Kirkman House a very important New Year's gift. Three Kirkman family dresses had been stored in the Whitman College and Northwest Archives at the Penrose Library. The oldest, Isabella Kirkman's wedding dress, was made around 1867 in San Francisco. The other two pieces, an 1894 cream wedding gown and a purple and black beaded evening dress, belonged to Isabella and William's daughter, Fannie Ann Kirkman Reynolds.

Ruth Reynolds, daughter of Fannie Ann and Allen Reynolds, served as Whitman College's librarian for many years, and helped develop the important collection of records housed in the archives. Whitman Archivist, Colleen McFarland, believes that Ruth placed the dresses in the archives for safekeeping before the Kirkman House Museum was established, and is convinced that Ruth would be happy to know that the clothing is back home.

These beautiful dresses will be on display during the museum's exhibit, The Art of Apparel, scheduled to open in June.



## 2005 Members

Gayle E. Bingham	Floyd & Mary Koch
Howard & Linda Boggs	Tam Lennox
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Sandra Cannon	Richard & Debra Jo Pine
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McFarland	Jennifer Ross
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Sarah Hsu	Roger & Terri Trick
S. Elaine Johnson	Rick & Patti Tuttle
Vi Jones	Richard & Carolyn Tuttle
Judy Jurgensen	Ruth Kirkman Tyler
Fred & Sally Kearsley	Bill & Maureen Vollendorff
Fred & Gale Kimball	Walter & Katherine Weingart
William G. Kirkman	Robert & Jill Zagelow

### Cain's painting, Still Waters, has a new home!

The Kirkman House is pleased to announce the winners of our "Still Waters" raffle. Martin and Andrea Thorson welcomed the painting into their home this past December after Saint Nicholas drew their raffle ticket at our annual Victorian Christmas Open House.

Leslie Williams Cain donated this delightful work to the museum to raise funds for our various programs, including those at the Kirkman House Museum Textile Center.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# The future is bright

### Jennifer Ross, President, Kirkman House Museum Board of Directors

I think our accomplishments in 2005 must have gone to our heads—we've set very ambitious goals for the coming year. Luckily, it's all exciting stuff. Look for new exhibits, programs and events, substantial structural work and a brand new rose garden. Behind the scenes, we'll be getting our collections properly stored and indexed, and get started on an endowment-building strategy to ensure long-term funding.

To get all of this hard work done, we'll be looking partly to the time and talents of

our four new board members. We've already begun to see how their unique contributions can help make Kirkman house better. Numerous community members and organizations have also been stepping forward to volunteer at the house, and we couldn't be more grateful. Sadly, though, we will have to forge ahead with less help



from our treasured consultant, Peggy Sanderson. Our contract with her has expired, but she's assured us that she'll

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still be around to help, and we're absolutely holding her to it.

If you haven't had a chance

to visit recently, please consider stopping by. Many items from the Kirkman family have come back to the house in the past year, and restoration work is still coming steadily along. In short, the present and future of the Kirkman House Museum are looking very, very bright. To our members, supporters, volunteers and visitors: Thank You.

## House events continued from page 1

Sheep are shorn on the side lawn, and their wool is cleaned, dyed and spun by local spinners. Grandma's Garden caters the lamb and chicken barbecue. Admission to the event is free. Tickets for the barbecue are \$10 for adults and \$7.50 for children.

### Whispered Memories Psychic Tea Saturday, October 28

Psychic Janice Lynch returns with her fascinating presentation, communicating with the other

side through guest's heirlooms. The cost for this event is \$25 and includes refreshments. Seating is limited, so reserve your seat to this popular event early.

### Victorian Christmas Open House Saturday, December 2 from 12 to 4 p.m.

The museum is full of music and laughter at this seasonal celebration. Even Saint Nicholas can't resist the fun, showing up for a visit and photos with children!

## SUPPORTING THE MUSEUM

# Preserving the past for our future

Historical museums play an important role in the development of their communities. By preserving the past, and providing settings for understanding regional history, museums make visible the unique characteristics of their environment, reinforcing local identity. And yet, museums also provide atmospheres of understanding that extend beyond the local, creating connections between populations based on shared characteristics.

How can you help the Kirkman House Museum as it cares for its material collections and develops substantive programming? There are many ways to support the preservation and education efforts here at the Kirkman House, whether by becoming a member, joining our team of volunteers or even attending a special event. Your support is what makes great things happen at the Kirkman House!

### **Become a museum member**

Member's benefits include a subscription to the museum's quarterly newsletter, advance notice of events, and invitation to "Members Only" events. Membership dues help pay for special exhibits and programs at the museum that enhance the cultural spirit of our community.

### **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 educate our community and visitors 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. It supports ongoing restoration, strengthens the museum's programming and provides financial security for the future.

### **Support the annual fund**

Contributions to the annual fund, during the fall phone-a-thon or at any time of year, provide important support for the ongoing care and maintenance of the museum, as well as for the conservation of our collections.

### **Donate Historic Artifacts to the Kirkman House Museum**

A museum's ability to tell a story that engages its audience is directly tied to the quality of its collections. Think about giving Victorian-era objects to the Kirkman House. As we expand our exhibits, we are looking for artifacts that will add depth to our presentations.

### **Volunteer**

Volunteers are an invaluable part of the Kirkman House. Whether by leading tours, assisting with collection management and exhibits, helping at our special events or providing support behind the scenes, our volunteers' service helps ensure the Kirkman House Museum functions smoothly. From daily tasks to special exhibition openings, volunteers serve on a weekly, monthly or as-needed basis.

Contact Kirsten at 529-4373 or by email at [khm@kirkmanhousemuseum.org](mailto:khm@kirkmanhousemuseum.org) if you are interested in more information on ways you can partner with the Kirkman House Museum.

## **Kirkman House 2006 Board of Directors**

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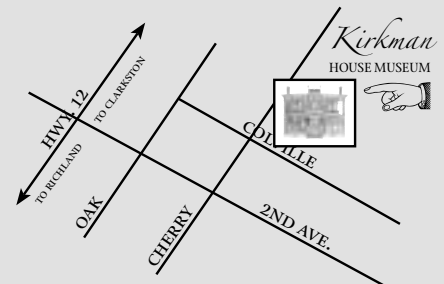
Amy Fisher

### **Volunteers**

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Mary Jane Fehrenbacher  
Charles Harley  
Peggy Hoyt  
Judy Jurgensen  
Ken Jurgensen  
Tam Lennox  
Sharon Newbry  
Kerry Pine



## *Visit the Museum*



## *Museum hours*

Wednesday - Saturday,  
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

# 2005 Donors

*Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Kirkman House Museum in 2005. Your generosity means a lot!*

Jim and Gaye Abajian

Punkey Adams

Carroll and Roberta Adams

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