

Christmas Parlour Tour

Snohomish Historical Society presents annual Parlour Tour

The Snohomish Historical Society Holiday Parlour Tour is set for Sunday, December 9 from noon to 4 p.m. This is a self-guided tour and is a community event that showcases the historical character of the town.

The tour is a major fundraiser for the Snohomish Historical Society and proceeds benefit the Blackman Museum to help cover the expense of lights, water, gas, etc.

Various Historic Snohomish Homes Ornaments will be for sale at the Waltz Building,

116 Ave. B from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 9. These special ornaments are available only while supplies last and are only \$20 each.

The Maker's Bazaar craft sale will be from noon to 4 p.m. at the Waltz Building.

Refreshments will be served and the doors will open at 11:30 a.m. for ticket purchases.

"We would like to thank all patrons of the Historical Society's Parlour Tour and also the wonderful people that open their home to the community during

this event," said Chris Gee, President of the Historical Society. "The tour is a major fund raiser and the revenue allows us to continue to operate the museum, to maintain and grow our archives facility, and provide educational programs and scholarships within the community."

Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$12 for seniors over age 62 and youth under 12 years of age. Advance tickets are on sale at the following Snohomish locations: Annie's on First (1210 First St.),

Joyworks (1002 First St.), and McDaniel's Do-it-Center (510 Second St.). Tickets can also be purchased the day of the Tour at the Waltz Building, 116 Ave. B. The Blackman Museum will also be serving coffee, tea and desserts from noon to 4 p.m.

Six homes are on the tour this year, as well as the Kikendall Log Cabin, Waltz Building, Zion Lutheran Church and the Blackman House Museum. All are decorated beautifully for the holidays.

2018 Parlour Tour participants

- Rich and Eileen Softye 1314 Fourth Street
- Mickey and Paul Mansell 54 Cedar Avenue
- David and Haley Rice 53 Cedar Avenue
- Mark Henry 426 Maple Avenue
- Dell and Renee Deierling 429 Avenue B
- Dan and Wendy Taylor 317 Avenue B
- Waltz Building 116 Avenue B
- Zion Lutheran Church 329 Avenue A
- Blackman Museum 118 Avenue B
- Kikendall Cabin Pioneer Cemetery (Second & Pine behind Rite Aid)

Kikendall Log Cabin 2nd Street and Pine Ave.

The Kikendall Log Cabin was built in the fall of 1875. The first floor was 20 feet wide and 16 feet deep. The kitchen area was added on the back around 1895 increasing the depth to 25 feet. The second floor was used for sleeping quarters.

Local residents Susan Bjorling, Haley Rice and Meagan Gray volunteer to decorate the Kikendall Cabin. A lot of research went into decorating the cabin as it would have been decorated for the holidays back in its day.

"Even though it was Victorian times, this cabin was owned by country folk and they didn't have a lot of money to spend on decorations," said Susan. "They would have used dried fruit such as sliced oranges, pears and apples as ornaments with cranberries and popcorn strung throughout the tree.



The dried fruit actually looks like pretty stained glass."

The decorators used electric candles for the tree that look just like the real candles that were used back in the olden days. They also made garland for the fireplace with pinecones and walnuts.

Crystal Johanson, now in her 90's, is the great granddaughter of Charles and Zilpha Kikendall, the original owners of the cabin. Crystal will be at the

cabin during the Parlour Tour sharing stories and the history of the cabin. She has had the timeline of this history laminated and will have it displayed in the cabin.

Step back in time when you visit the Kikendall Cabin on the Parlour Tour and see how warm and cozy a simple country Christmas used to be.

Stop by and visit with Crystal during the Tour! She will be delighted to tell you some stories you haven't heard before!

For more information regarding the Kikendall Cabin, contact the Historical Society, 360-568-5235.

Blackman House Museum 118 Avenue B

Susan Bjorling, Haley Rice Meagan Gray and Clayton and Brenda Zard stepped up and volunteered to decorate the Blackman House Museum.

It takes a couple of weeks to go through the boxes filled with decorations that have been donated to the Museum.

Research on how the Blackman House would have been decorated back in its time showed quite a difference from how the Kikendall Log Cabin would have been decorated. "The more wealthy city folk liked glitter and beaded glass," said Susan. "Their decorations were much fancier with paper ornaments with glitter."

"Oranges with cloves poked into them were very popular and made the houses smell good,"



Miss Bobbie of Somewhere in Time at the doorway of the Blackman House Museum, wearing a 1850s Victorian hoop dress.

continued Susan. It was common to incorporate items from the yard into holiday decorations and Susan, Haley and Meagan found the hydrangeas at the Blackman House Museum a perfect item to use in their decorations.

"Many beautiful items have been donated to the Museum and it has been a

privilege to be able to help display it all," said Susan.

Be sure to stop by the Blackman House Museum during the Parlour Tour and check out how this Queen Anne style home would have been decorated back in the 19th century.

Coffee, tea and desserts will be served from noon to 4 p.m.

Christmas Parlour Tour

Mark Henry 426 Maple Avenue

This home displays a warm entryway with a beautiful wreath adorning the door. As you enter the home of Mark Henry, your senses will be pleased with the wonderful aroma coming from the kitchen.

Mark's entire house has an Oriental/European flavor. One of his favorite places is Venice and he visits there twice a year, bringing treasures home with him each time. On one trip he brought home Italian tassels that are displayed throughout his home.

Mark's main Christmas tree in the living room is decorated with scallop shells. He ate the scallops from these shells on one of his many

trips to Venice.

Fred, the stuffed swan, frequently makes a dramatic appearance on Mark's dining room table. The elaborate table is accented with reds and pomegranates decorate each place setting.

The mantel in the living room is decorated with shells and deer antlers.

The antlers are a collection that Mark purchased many years ago.

Stop by the Henry house



on Maple Avenue for a delightful, pleasing aromatic experience.

Rich and Eileen Softye 1314 Fourth Street

The first thing you'll notice when approaching Rich and Eileen Softye's home during the Parlour Tour are the candles glowing warmly and invitingly in every window.

When entering the home of Eileen and Rich Softye you will marvel at the many wooden Santa's carved by Rich over the years.

Entering the living room, you see a prominent fireplace in front of which many couples from the greatest generation were married when going off to War. You will note a ceramic Nativity made by Eileen nestled into the center of an arc built into the center of the fireplace. It's as if the fireplace was made to display this Nativity.

The entire house has green garland, lights and poinsettias that create a magical atmosphere that



brightens every room.

The large dining room displays a collection of tiny ceramic houses on the built-in sideboard that makes you think of a magical Christmas Village of long ago.

The entire home contains many antiques collected by

Rich and Eileen over many years of military service from various places on the East, Gulf and West Coasts.

Stop by during the Parlour Tour as you will surely appreciate this huge dose of Christmas decorations and nostalgia.

Paul and Mickey Mansell 54 Cedar Avenue

Mickey and Paul Mansell are pleased to be a part of the Snohomish Historical Society's Parlour Tour. They do the decorating themselves and it takes a good three days to complete.

The Mansells will have one tree decorated with their golden pearl collection. "I've been adding to my collection over many years," said Mickey. "Sometimes I add color to it, whatever hits me (is how she decorates it)."

The rest of the decorations

throughout the house are more traditional using greenery and bows, etc...

The front of the house will be decorated with garland, red bows and white lights. "I love garland with white lights!" said Mickey.

The Mansells will take advantage of their windows and adorn them with wreaths.

"I also use some antique things and make it quite eclectic," said Mickey.

One thing that Mickey always uses in her decorations is a hand-quilted wall hanging that her mother



made. "This is my star piece that I work around and it is one of my most favorite items," said Mickey.

Mickey and Paul just moved into their home about one year ago. Stop by during the Parlour Tour and see how they've decorated their home for the holidays!

Maker's Bazaar

The Maker's Bazaar craft sale will be Sunday, Dec. 9 from Noon to 4 p.m. at the Waltz Building, 116 Avenue B. Finish your Christmas gift giving shopping before or after you take the Parlour Tour!

David and Haley Rice 53 Cedar Avenue

David and Haley Rice love Snohomish and welcome the community to stop by during the Parlour Tour to see how they decorate their home for the holidays.

"We like to keep our decorating vintage and use all natural ornaments that we make ourselves," said Haley. "We string cranberry and popcorn to decorate the tree." Haley and David have three young daughters that like to help. They also create a gingerbread house every year that's special to them all. Even though they like to keep things vintage, natural and organic, they will still use electric lights to adorn the trees rather than real candles that were used back

then (as that is definitely a fire hazard!).

The Rices will have a few small trees throughout the house including a mannequin tree in Haley's sewing studio.

When asked what her favorite decoration is Haley said that it would have to be a string of candy lights that her mother made.

It takes the Rices about one week to decorate. Along with the indoor decorations they will also hang lights and swags on the outside stairs and porch.

David is happy working just three blocks away from their home so he can participate in all of the activities as well. Their girls love the Elf on the Shelf and David has a great time with it.



Haley makes children's clothing and is very busy this time of year making Christmas dresses. We're very happy that she's giving her time to participate in the Parlour Tour!

Snohomish Parlour Tour

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Somewhere in Time joins the 2018 Parlour Tour

Members of Somewhere in Time, Unlimited will participate in the Snohomish Historical Society's Parlour Tour this year.

The members dress in

their finest vintage holiday attire and will wander the homes on the Tour, stroll in and out of the stores in town and allow the public to take photos.

Somewhere in Time, Unlimited sponsors historic costumed special events in the larger Seattle area which

reflect the most enjoyable aspects of past eras. The membership is drawn from all around the greater Puget Sound region and some come from farther away. Everyone with an interest in history and costuming is welcome! For more information visit www.situseattle.com



Miss Bobbie and Sir Harry pose outside an historic home in Snohomish.

Christmas Parlour Tour

Waltz Building 116 Avenue B

Sonia Rahm, Bill Huntington, Tonya Jacobson, Joe Armstrong and Clayton and Brenda Zard are decking out the Waltz Building for the Parlour Tour and also for the guests who rent the building for special events this holiday season. They now use a beautiful artificial tree for safety reasons and due to allergies of some of the guests. The decorating team has an eclectic theme when decorating the tree. They use glass balls, a few antique ornaments and a variety of other ornaments.

The Waltz Building will open at 11:30 a.m. for Parlour Tour ticket purchases.

Refreshments will be served until 4 p.m.

Various Historic Snohomish Home Ornaments will be for sale while supplies last for only \$20 each. Christmas ornaments and decorations will also be for sale.

The historic Waltz Building is a growing favorite for wedding celebrations and weekend dates are already being filled for this summer. The simple exterior gives way to a Vaulted Great Room with large Palladian style windows at either end. The original wainscoting and woodwork have been lovingly restored. The cozy, warm feeling of the room, featuring photographs and artwork from the society's extensive

collection, makes the room perfect for both large and small meetings.

This historic structure was built in 1938 on the Snohomish High School campus to serve as a music building. In 1983, the Snohomish Historical Society submitted the winning bid of \$116 (the address number) to purchase the surplus music building, and it was Robert and Mary Waltz who donated the funds to move the former classroom to its present location on Avenue B, next door to the Blackman House Museum.

For more information visit www.snohomishhistoricalsociety.org/wp/waltz-building/



photo courtesy of Rebecca Bartelheimer

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church 329 Avenue A 1923

Zion Evangelical Lutheran church is one of the oldest landmarks in town, with its nearly 100-year old sanctuary and soaring white bell tower with a still-working bell that echoes off the white walls and historic homes surrounding the site. The original church from 1892 was demolished a century ago, but some of the original ornate wooden pews still seat church-goers in the sanctuary's balcony. The total cost of the "new" church and school built in 1923-24, including a new two manual pipe organ and other furnishings, was about \$40,000.

The bell was installed into the 105-foot tower with horses, pulleys, block and

tackle.

The old pipe organ from 1923 finally gave out and a new one, a three manual Rogers organ, replaced it in the year 2000. The organ is in the sanctuary, which boasts high ceilings and huge stained glass windows.

A volunteer group from the church, consisting from grade school age to the young at heart decorated the Church for Christmas. The alter is decorated with beautiful poinsettias and two Advent Trees. "There is one red Advent Tree and the other is white," said Gary Gable, President of the Congregation. "They are symbolic in nature; red is the reminder of our sin while the white is a reminder of forgiveness."

Greenery adorns the interior of the Church and a large Christmas Tree is

decorated with special Christmas Ornaments.

Christmas were originated and first made for use on the Christmas tree of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957 by Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer. The designs were monograms and symbols for our Lord Jesus Christ. Because these designs have been used by his followers since biblical times, they are the heritage of all Christians and serve to remind each of us, regardless of denomination, of The One we follow. All Christmas are made in a combination of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the Son of God and the Son of Man.

Stop in during the Parlour Tour and enjoy seeing the Church decorated beautifully for Christmas!



Dell and Renee Deierling 429 Avenue B

Dell and Renee Deierling will have three trees on display during the tour. The tree in the front room is filled with ornaments they have collected over the years and from traveling. "We've collected so many ornaments from our travels that we just had to stop," said Renee. "It just became overwhelming." One ornament that Renee is especially fond of are the bread dough ornaments that she made when she was a child. Her favorite ornaments are the ones that evoke special memories such as Dell's mother's glass ornaments, some of his grandmother's and ones that they picked up while traveling.

The tree in the dining room is a small Danish tree. In Denmark



it is tradition to bring your Christmas tree in on December 24 and light real candles on it. The Deierlings used to do this as well for their International Potluck Party, but decided not to light the candles any more for safety reasons. You will still find real candles and handmade ornaments such as hearts that can be filled with candy and stars made out of paper on this tree.

A special decoration to note is the special winter scene that her father and his sister made in the 1950's for their parents. The scene consists of sculpted hills, houses, church, railway depot and a pond and is all beautifully flopped. Most of the structures are made out of cereal boxes. They created this decoration so that the buildings light up

and it spins around. To keep the lights continuing to work, it has been rewired over the years. You can imagine their parent's delight with this creative display surprising them on Christmas morning.

The Deierlings also have a large collection of 30 clocks that they decorate with greenery for the holidays. They were "babysitting" Renee's father's clock collection 25 years ago while her mother's house was being built and the clocks grew on Dell. That's when they began their own collection of antique clocks.

Be sure to visit the Deierlings during the Parlour Tour to admire their holiday decorations and experience the warmth of the natural light that their 1940's home brings to the holidays.