Points N.E. Historical Society
Browns Point .. Dash Point .. N.E. Tacoma
Located in Browns Point Lighthouse Park

Mailing Address: Suite 180, PMB #135
1000 Town Center NE
Browns Point, WA 98422

Telephone: (253) 927-2536
Website: www.pointsnortheast.org
Email: pointsnortheast@comcast.net
Facebook: facebook.com/PointsNortheast

Fall 2015

Annual Old-Fashioned Holiday Tea
Sunday December 13, 2015
1:00 to 4:00 PM
at
The Lightkeepers Cottage
Browns Point Lighthouse Park
201 Tulalip Street
Browns Point WA 98422

Admission: Free

Bring Food Donation For Local Food Bank
Christmas Caroling
Photos with Santa & Mrs. Santa
Holiday Refreshments
Gift Shop Open

Honorary Hostesses
Marie Geppert
Kristin Sergienko

Docent Tours
The Historic 1903 Cottage
The History Museum
The Boathouse Museum

Points Northeast Historical Society
Website: www.pointsnortheast.org
Message Phone (253) 927-2536
2015 Old Fashioned Historical Society Tea Honorees

At each Christmas Tea, PNEHS recognizes a special person or persons who have made a unique contribution to the well being and integrity of our local community. The honorees may or may not be members of PNEHS. This year we have two special ladies, Marie Geppert and Kristin Sergienko, as our honorees.

Marie and Kristin have volunteered for years in the History Center where they work with our Curator, Mavis Stears. Their knowledge and dedication have been essential to the performance of the History Center and the Curator’s duties, a core function of the historical society.

Marie and Kris are part of our Curator’s filing crew. They search files, place documents in files, check the file’s contents and make sure all pieces are numbered……kinda like Forest Gump’s friend with all those-shrimp recipes, except it’s files! They have a great time in the History Center. Marie says she has learned so much about the local history from Marie and Kris. And I hear that it’s quite a gabfest too!

Marie and her husband Bill first came to the Points in 1959 where they raised 9 children. They were absent for six years but came back to retire here. Bill has since passed but he was very active in Dash Point community events, especially the Dock Dinners. Marie belongs to PNEHS, BPIC and DPSIC!

Kristin and her husband Alex moved to Dash Point in the mid-sixties when he became superintendent of Tacoma schools. With their family of four active boys they enjoyed camping and sports. Kristin started the first Pierce County Unit of the League for Women Voters. She loves to garden and walk her dog, and also volunteers as a Juvenile Court Advocate.

Mavis is extremely appreciative of their service which minimizes so much detail work in the Curator job. Mavis is now looking for more volunteers who could do some inputting in our museum computer program. Many hands make light work. A couple hours a week would be a tremendous help. Call Mavis at 927-5385.

Come meet Marie and Kris during the Christmas Tea!

New Lending Library Open at History Research Center

PNEHS is proud to announce the opening of our library, located in the History Center. Please drop in during the Christmas Tea and look over the nearly 200 titles, most of them donated. You’ll find NW and local histories, lighthouse stories and seafaring tales, Native American stories and children’s titles in the collection. Anyone with a current Society membership is welcome to borrow books. Check-out times are Mondays, from 10:30 till noon, when History Center volunteers are available to help. Volunteers are on site during these hours, working on Society archives; they can also help you research local history topics.

FYI: Did you know the History Center was originally the crew quarters when the USCG was on duty at the Light station? Now you do!

Pam Halsan, Volunteer Librarian
Behind the Scenes at The Christmas Tea

It’s that time of year again when the PNEHS Board gets into full swing planning for the Christmas Tea that has become a tradition in Browns Point, Dash Point and NE Tacoma.

In preparing for the tea, board members have gravitated toward certain tasks which they take each year. Thus over the years, they have developed areas of “expertise” which help the tea party preparation run smoothly. There are members who like to do advertising, others who enjoy planning and providing musical entertainment. One member checks in with Santa to make sure that he can free up his schedule to spend the afternoon at the Tea and also takes on the problem of lining up extra parking.

There are several board members who excel at the major task of volunteer docents for the cottage, bell house and boat house, cottage greeters, kitchen staff and food servers and gift shop sales people. These volunteers create a wonderful aura of hospitality for our guests. Then there are other board members who contact all the “cookie angels” who provide the delicious cookies, brownies, specialty breads and candy which we serve at the Tea (We also have non-sweet treats available).

We deeply appreciate all the volunteers whose generosity with their time and talents help the board to put on the tea.

Several days before the Tea, it’s decorating day. Board members and volunteers converge on the site to decorate the cottage! The outside lights go up and the interior of the cottage is turned into a vision of Christmastime. The decorations are a far cry from our first Tea.

Then all that’s left to do is look forward to the day of the Tea when we will be getting together with friends from PNEHS and the neighborhood. As well, we’ll meet new friends who come from outlying areas to join the fun.

The Tea is the Board’s way of saying “Thank you” to all the people who take an interest in and support our historical society throughout the year, It’s also an opportunity to acquaint first time guests with PNEHS and the work we do!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Tea.

Margot Andersen (long-time former Tea Coordinator) and PNEHS Board Member
Before

After

By Neil Hanson, Antique Expert & former PNEHS President

Recently, I spent parts of two days with Jenny Peterson. Jenny contacted me because she wanted to donate some heirlooms from her late husband’s parents and grandparents. I did not know what to expect but my expectations were exceeded by reality.

Have you ever seen a dozen Home and Garden magazines from 1900 – 1901? Have you ever seen a professional sign painter’s tool box … with 100 year old paint brushes … and various tools of the trade which I had never seen let alone know the name of? Have you ever seen a baptismal gown a century old made by a mother or grandmother for her precious baby/grandbaby?

Box by box and/or item by item, Jenny and I went through treasures that had been SAVED FOR MANY DECADES … boxed … stored … moved two or more times and are now in Northeast Tacoma. In addition to the aforementioned items, DOZENS of additional items were donated by Jenny. They are too numerous to mention … but they range from a walnut table to a hand-caned chair … from a math book from 1878 to an OZ book from 1914 … from many tools to many kitchen items … from clay poker chips to a shaving mirror … from a crocheted baby shoe to several needle point items.

Jenny’s generosity in donating these items will enhance our boat house museum … school museum … and the thematic collections in the light keeper’s cottage. On behalf of Points Northeast Historical Society, I want to thank Jenny for donating these treasures. They will be enjoyed and appreciated by everyone who sees them.

Again … THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts!

Board Members display a fraction of donated items at a recent Board Meeting.

Left to Right are: Nancy Bess, Pat Harnish, Mavis Stears, Neil Hanson, Pam Halsan, Dennis Champagne, Jim Harnish, Janice Burgess, Jill Barkley and Pam Ladley

COMMUNITY CALENDAR—FREE EVENTS FOR THE FAMILY

Sun, 12/6 @ 5:30—DPSIC Tree Lighting on the Dock, Santa, refreshments
Sun, 12/13, 1 to 4 —PNEHS Christmas Tea @ the Cottage in Lighthouse Park; music, Santa, refreshments and canned food drive for FISH
Sun, 12/13 @ 3—South Sound Classical Choir Winter Concert @ St Matthew Church
Sun, 12/13 @ 5—Michael Powers Holiday Jazz Concert @ Marine View Presbyterian
Mon, 12/14 @ 7—Santa Visit at BPIC and canned food drive for FISH
Thu, 12/17 @ 7:30—Bonfire on the beach @ BPIC to welcome the Argosy Christmas Ship
Browns Point Light Keepers Cottage Docents
By Janice Burgess, Docent Coordinator

On April 25, the Browns Point Lighthouse Cottage and Boathouse opened the season for visitor tours. Every Saturday from 1 to 4 pm, guests were told the history of the lives of Lighthouse Keeper Oscar Brown and his wife Annie while exploring the rooms of the 1903 cottage.

The museum also has a temporary exhibit area where visitors walk through an early replica of a kitchen, sewing corner and school room. The display was a collection of facts about the parks found in the Points NE area. Visitors discover photos of family members taken years ago that they excitedly shared with docents.

The boathouse is another stop on the Saturday tour where they find the display of a replica of a rowing station Coast Guard Surf Boat found among many tools from the early years of life at the Light Station. The original bell from the 1903 lighthouse, found in the small building by the parking is often rung by children.

A stroll through the garden with so many beautiful old fashioned flowers, maintained by our Cottage Gardeners, is always a delight for the senses.

The season closed on October 3. PNEHS appreciates the hours devoted by our docents. Participants in our 2015 season include Janice Burgess, Sam Boone, Pam Halsan, Jill Barkley, Nancy Bess, Dennis Champagne, Debbie Dion, Mari Hagen, Jim and Pat Harnish, Sandy Huggins, Diane Jahnke, Lu Joslin-Lester, Sylvia McClung, Kathleen Murray, Ed and Peggy Novak, Nancy Pawlicki, Mignonette Peterson, Lynnett Stevenson and Randy White.

Docent Chairman Janice Burgess, President
Jill Barkley and Docent Sam Boone share smiles on the front porch at one of the last Saturday tours! Sam is reputed to be quite the storyteller.

Memorial Gathering for Roberta Robinson Fede
Passed away recently in Alexandria, VA. Join West Coast Friends and Family
Browns Point Improvement Club, Sunday, December 6th, 2-5 p.m.

Bits and Pieces
Congratulations to Nancy Bess who sold 13 new PNEHS memberships at the Meeker Middle School Bazaar. Welcome, New Members!

Jim and Pat Harnish invited their Norpoint exercise class to visit the cottage for a VIP tour. Thirty people attended after exercise class and were delighted at the tour and snacks planned for them!

New Rates for The Cottage Rental: Effective January 1, 2016
June through September $950 per week plus tax, October thru May $650 per week plus tax
The Browns Point Diner
in the Browns Point Shopping Center
Shane and Tanja Leek
Open 7 days a week
Get Stranded in the Sandbar!
253 952-3743
Dine-in or Take Out
View our historic NE Tacoma photos display

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Saint Matthew Episcopal Church
6800 Eastside Drive NE
Browns Point, WA 98422
PH: 253 927 9808
www.neighborhoodparish.org
Office email:
office@stmatthew.comcastbiz.net
Fr. Kendall Haynes
fatherkendall@gmail.com
Sunday services:
8 am and 10 am

ALFRED’S CAFÉ
402 Puyallup Avenue
TACOMA
253 627 5491
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Work with a Professional! Call Gini Today at 253-988-0180

Windermere Real Estate/South Inc.
Don’t forget to check out our Gift Shop during the Tea for creative gift ideas! You’ll find books, holiday cards, tree ornaments and coffee mugs. Besides great items and great values, we also offer free gift wrapping! You can renew your membership, or buy one as a gift. We also encourage memorials and donations in honor of someone special. We take cards, checks and cash!

HOLY FRUITCAKE!!

Points Northeast Historical Society
Browns Point, Dash Point and NE Tacoma
Memberships and Volunteer Opportunities

Memberships

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Volunteer Opportunities

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Points Northeast Historical Society appreciates your support in helping to preserve, promote and celebrate the history of Browns Point, Dash Point and Northeast Tacoma.

Please return this form to:

Points Northeast Historical Society
1000 Town Center NE  STE180  PMB135
Browns Point, WA  98422-1194
253-927-2536  www.pointsnortheast.org
e-mail: pointsnortheast@comcast.net

Name(s)_________________________________________
Address________________________________________
City __________ State ______ ZIP ______
Phone ( ) __________________________
e-Mail ________________________________________
Don’t be naughty! Be nice!  
Join Santa and the gang at the  
Old Fashioned Christmas Tea in the  
Light keepers Cottage!  
Sunday December 13  
1-4 pm  
Don’t forget canned food for the  
Food Drive!

Meeker Students Will Take Browns Point History to New Zealand

By Mavis Stears, Curator

PNEHS recently hosted a group of 16 Meeker Middle School students who will be visiting New Zealand as part of a 2016 exchange program. The exchange coordinator wanted these select students to be able to share their local history with their guests, and compare it to New Zealand history.

PNEHS docents Pam Halsan, Dennis Champagne, Norm Butka and Mavis Stears led them throughout the history of the lighthouse, the life of the first light keeper Oscar Brown and the history of first explorers who came to Puget Sound. These explorers named most of the islands, mountains and waterways we know today.

The students came away knowing their local history, and are ready to pass it on to their New Zealand counterparts. With a little more research, this bright, inquisitive group may find they have something in common with 18th century explorers, and discover similarities with Pacific Northwest native peoples, and the New Zealand Maoris.