



Key Peninsula Historical Society
Goals for 2026 — Preserve Our History

- Acquire Peninsula High School yearbooks from 1947– current year
- Continue gathering written, oral and video-taped interviews
- Continue working on the digitization of our collection
- Develop a recruitment plan for docents and get former members to return

Present Our History

- Work with other KP organizations to increase our visibility
- Finish upgrading all our permanent display cases
- Work with our schools to educate the youth of the KP about local history

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you all are well and have survived the many variants of the cold and flu season, and are now enjoying the beautiful displays of the flowering trees and plants.

Our exhibit for 2026 opened on February 21. It is called **Logging the Great Forests of the Key Peninsula**. Over 40 people enjoyed viewing the many photos and information about the early life in logging camps and the hard and dangerous work. Come and see for yourself! We are open on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1:00-4:00pm.

We had a very successful Annual Meeting at the Hall on March 29. Over 45 people enjoyed our speaker Feliks Banel who gave a very entertaining talk on place names from around Washington State. Our slate of officers and representatives were unanimously voted in. New member Bruce Murray from Wauna volunteered to be our Wauna rep.

Judy Mills and crew have been to two STREAM nights at our local elementary schools -- one at Minter and the other Vaughn. They had over 200 parents and children (each night) stop by our table and work on a project that celebrates the Semiquincentennial of the USA.

We are looking forward to our first 2026 **Magnificent Morning at the Museum** on **Saturday, May 30, from 10:30-Noon**. Come join us and have a cup of coffee and some homemade coffee cake. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun.

Also -- **At 1:00 on May 30** we will be having the book launch for Joseph Pentheroudakis' new book on the history of the Vaughn Library Hall. This will be in the VFW room next door to the museum. The title of the book is **That They Might Have Books: The Story of Vaughn Library Hall**. He will be giving a short talk about the process of writing the book and will be signing copies.

On **June 4, from 5:00-9:00pm** we will have the quarterly Peninsula Hawks scholarship fundraising dinner at El Sombrero.

We have been given the collection of Hugh McMillan's *KP News* stories. Volunteers are needed to help place these pages in archival sleeves. Meet at the Vaughn Library Hall, Tuesday mornings, 10:00-12:00.

There is no current status update on the Lakebay Marina. However, we need to let the DNR know that we want the building saved. Please send a letter of support to LakebayCAC@gmail.com. A strong showing of support is vital in saving this historic building on the KP.

Be well and stay safe —

Cathy Williams (253-347-4313)



Spring Has Sprung!!

Thank You!



A Big Thank You to Our Community Support Network

El Sombrero Family Mexican Restaurant,
Key Center

IGA, Key Center

Purdy Costless Pharmacy

Home Association Band, led by Dr. Roes

ARC, Tacoma

Pierce County Landmarks & Historic
Preservation Commission

Chuck West Construction
and Contracting, LLC

Kohler Heating & Air Conditioning

Angel Guild, Key Center

Vaughn Bay Garden Club

Key Peninsula Parks

Key Peninsula Civic Center

Longbranch Improvement Club
and Marina

KP News

Emily Randall (D - U.S.
Representative for Washington's 6th
congressional district)

Michelle Caldier (R-26, Port Orchard)

Ben B. Cheney Foundation

Axia Tree Service

Multiwire Inc

Purdy Topsoil and Gravel LLC

Washington Trust for
Historic Preservation

The Norcliffe Foundation

The M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust

Glen Cove Repair

The National Society of Colonial
Dames, WA

Haase-Liebergessel Foundation

State of Washington

Peninsula Light

CS Flooring

What Is It?

Can you identify this object?



This object has still not been identified.

First correct answer wins a copy of
Logging the Great Forests by
Leroy Challenger.

Respond to our email address at
kphsmuseum@gmail.com



Answer the Call — Save the Hall

PHASE 6:

Hardscaping

Levels of sponsorship

Front Door Level	Checks can be mailed to 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. NW, Vaughn, WA 98394 or visit our website and make a gift via PayPal.	\$ 50
Dance Hall Level		\$ 100
Stage Level		\$ 500
Library Level		\$1,000
Tower Level		\$5,000

Friends of the VLH

Foundation

Kurt & Christine Anderson, 2 feet
Judy & Don Mills, 3 feet
Mywanway & Frank Shirley, 10 feet
Margo & Leroy Danforth, 5 feet,
 memorial to Marilyn Arnold
Carla & Ron Kingsbury, 5 feet

Stage Level

Leona Britt
Joe Davis Family
Richard & Julie Day
Robert Dressel
Phyllis Henry
Trula Knudson
Bill & Joan Mattaei
Joseph Pentheroudakis
Dulcie Schillinger
James Turnbow
Bart & Cynthia Wolfe

Library Level

Anonymous
Boat Cruise Fundraiser
Haase-Liebergesell
 Family Foundation
Matthew & Lisa Mills
Richard & Francine Minor
Joyce Niemann
Frank & Myvanway Shirley
Linda Strand
Sara Thompson
Bart & Cynthia Wolfe

Tower Level

Angel Guild
National Society of the
 Colonial Dames of America, WA
Robert & Mabel Whitman
Cathy & Ted Williams and
 Mary Anne MacDonald
Paul & Sheri Page
Joseph Pentheroudakis

Front Door Level

Barbara Bordeaux
John & Vicki Bushnell
Beverly Gibson
Milt & Sally Davidson
Donna & Don Clift
JoAnn & Emmott Fisher
Allen & Julie Gillett
Barbara Haley
Molly Hornbeck
Diane Jackman
Kathleen & Darrell Johansen
Margo & Bruce Macdonald
Jill McJury
Lisa & Matthew Mills
William Nicholson
Jan & Dennis Pritchard
Larry & Janie Riebow
Dave & Pat Schweyen
Stephen & Lauri Schweyen (P)
Kurt Solmssen
Nina & John Troutner
Terry & Marlene Wade
Ted & Cathy Williams
Elizabeth Worden

Dance Hall Level

Anonymous
Angel Guild
Jim & Dee Adams
Kurt & Christine Anderson
EH & KE Armstrong
Jim, Kathryn & Glenn Arnold
Barbara Bordeaux
Marcie & George Brooke
James & Gayle Buchanan
Joe & Peggy Dervaes
Donna Docken
Jim & Angie Eichholtz
Gary & Rose Gebo
Jane Glundberg Family
David Forbush
Rob Hord & Ondine Bonser
Kathleen & Darrell Johansen
Brian Kamens
Trula Knudson
Marsha Kremen & Jilly Eddy
Bruce & Margo Macdonald
Marianne McColley
Judy Mills
Rod & Gail Mitchell

Dance Hall Level (cont)

Pamela Moore
Joyce Niemann
Norm & Susan Randall
JoAnn Record
Ron Schillinger & Janet Botnen
Frank & Myvanway Shirley
Larry (Myvanway) Shirley (P)
Colleen & Frank Slater
James Smalley & Gail Buchanan
Kurt Solmssen & Becky Schofield
James Smalley & Gail Buchanan
Gail Sparks
Don Tjossem & Becky Alexander
Chet Van Slyke & Karen Ray
Ken Visser & Johanna Jensen
Wayne Wasserman & Stephanie Berg
Stephen & Lora Wood
Steve & Denise Wood
Fred Yapunicich & Pam Pruitt

2026 – In Memory of...

Ken & Doris Brones...by Dorene Moon
Dale Campbell...by Brian & Suzanne Dervaes
Hugh Drennen...by Joe & Peggy Dervaes
Deanne Davidson...by Milt & Sally Davidson
Don Greetham...by Judy Mills
Ivar Highberg, Jr....by Gail Rodrick-Highberg
Margaret (Davidson) Logan...by Mark & April Johnson
Ken McLaughlin...by Judy Mills
Carland Crook Nicholson...by William Nicholson
Charles R Niemann, Jr...by Vicki Niemann
Joyce Niemann...by Noel Niemann
Don & Shirley Olson...by Debby Englund
The Ruppert, Mills & Glundberg Families...by Jane Glundberg
The Schweyen Family...by Stephen & Lauri Schweyen
Norman & Helen Wade...by Terry & Marlene Wade

Museum Activities — Proposed Events for 2026

Calendar of Events	Date and Time
Weekly Work Parties	Tuesdays, 10-12:00 at the museum or Vaughn Library Hall
Society Board Meetings Meetings are held in person at the museum	First Tuesday of the Month year around. 11:00am meeting starts. All are welcome.
Museum reopens with an Open House for the new exhibit: Logging the Great Forests of the Key Peninsula	Museum is open February-November, Tuesdays & Saturdays, 1:00-4:00pm
Mugnificent Mornings at the Museum 10:30-Noon Coffee and snacks provide	Saturday, May 30: Blue Moon Saturday, June 27: Strawberry Moon Saturday, August 29: Sturgeon Moon
Book Launch Party. Joseph Pentheroudakis will share his insights into the process of writing his new book and sign copies.	Saturday, May 30 VFW Room 1-4:00pm
El Sombrero Fundraising Dinner – dine in or take out (All funds raised go to our Peninsula High School Hawk's scholarships.)	Thursday, June 4, 5:00-9:00pm
Livable Fair	Saturday, May 9, 10:00-3:00pm, Civic Center
History of Penrose Point SP -- presentation in the park amphitheater	Saturday, June 20, 8:00pm Saturday, July 18, 8:00pm Saturday, August 15, 7:00pm
Fiber Arts Fair	Saturday, September 26, 10-4:00pm
Farm Tour – Visit our booth at the LIC.	Saturday, September 26, 10-4:00pm
Winter Warm-up	Saturday, November 14; 8:00am-9:00pm
Close for Winter	Tuesday, December 1
Additional Education Opportunities Available Upon Request • Home School: History of the Key Peninsula Forest • Boy and Girl Scouts: Museum visit and KP History • History of Penrose Park • Classroom visits	
For special needs/requests, email kphsmuseum@gmail.com	

Membership dues for 2026 are payable now.

Individual \$10, Family \$25, Patron \$100, Business \$50, VIP \$250, Life Time \$1,000

Key Peninsula Historical Society Membership Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Level of membership: ☐ Single - \$10 ☐ Family - \$25 ☐ Patron - \$100 ☐ Business - \$50 ☐ VIP –\$250 ☐ Life Time – \$1,000 or more

☐ New ☐ Renew

Museum donation or gift: _____ Total _____ Check _____ Cash _____

Are you interested in volunteering? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Maybe later

Mail to: Key Peninsula Historical Society, 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. NW, Vaughn, WA 98394.

Museum Business — Mission Statement

The mission of the Key Peninsula Historical Society is to gather, record, preserve and disseminate information on the history of the Pierce County area generally known as the “Key Peninsula,” so that succeeding generations of residents will have a firm and accurate record from its early exploration and settlement to the present.

Membership is important and can be a great gift for birthdays, Christmas or thank you’s. 2026 dues were payable by December 31, 2025, to be current, but your membership is extremely important to us at any time as the strong foundation of the Key Peninsula Historical Society. Have you thought about the value of our historical society to our community?

Together we:

1. Collect, preserve, study, interpret, share the history of the Key Peninsula.
2. Act as a resource for research to individuals, families, businesses, organizations, governments, schools and authors.
3. Encourage members of the community to explore and celebrate our ongoing history.
4. Develop community bonds between friends and neighbors.

D — Donor
B — Business \$50
P — Patron \$100
VIP— \$250
L — Lifetime \$1,000
H — Honorary

KPHS memberships paid for 2026

James & Dee Ann Adams
Gail Coblentz Alskog
John Battle
Barbara Bordeaux
Christopher Budd
Tony Carr, Nicole Niemann-Carr & Colton Carr
Terissa Cotley
Matthew Cosby (B)
John & Jamie Crase
Roy & Margo Danforth
Milt Davidson & Sally Jacky (VIP)
Pablo & Kathy De La Cruz (L)
David & Nancy Deress
Brian & Suzanne Dervaes
Joe & Peggy Dervaes (P)
Scott & Mapuana Dervaes
Donna Docken (L)
Ernie Donehower
Ralph Drahos & Arlene Littleton
Debby Englund
Bob Evans & Eloise Richardson
Judy Fisher
Jane Glundberg
Pat & Diane Grant (P)
Jim Greetham
Sylvia Haase (S)
Daniel Handa (P)
Barbara Heard
Kate Herald
Gail Rodrick-Highberg
Art Hinzman (P)
Russell Holter (B)
Rob Hord & Ondine Bonser (P)
George & Pat Hovany (L)
Gail Howe-Jennings
Adam Jachman
Diane Jackman
Mark & April Johnson
Brian Kamens
Key Peninsula Veterans (L)
Tim & PJ Kezele (P)
Ron & Carla Kingsbury (L)
Marsha Kremen & Jilly Eddy (P)
Betty Kruse & Richard Drummond (P)
Fred Leenstra & Wanda Buhl (P)
Lynn Lester
Ellen LeVita & Craig Davis (P)
Karen Lovett
Leila Luginbill (L)
Carole Lyle
Bruce & Margo Macdonald
Joan Matthaai (P)
Jill McJury
Susan McNerthney
Paul & Elise Michaels
Vickie Minney
Richard & Francine Minor (P)
Judy Mills
Kelson & Katy Mills

Martin & Robin Mills
Matthew & Lisa Mills & Family
Rod & Gail Mitchell
Dorene (Brones) Moon
Thomas Morris (L)
Colter & Stephanie Mott (L)
Bruce & Joyce Murray
Pam Murray
Jerry & Patricia Nebel (B)
Sandy Newhouse
John Nichols (P)
Williams Nicholson
Chris Niemann
Noel Niemann
Vicki Niemann
Herb and Chris O’Niell (P)
Jim Olson (P)
Paul & Sheri Page
Colona Palmer (P)
Joseph Pentheroudakis (P)
Denny & Jan Prichard
Jennifer Rassbach
Jo Ann Record (L)
Jim & Ruth Reynolds (P)
Dave & Janet Robertson (L)
Dr. Bill & Ruth Roes
Dave & Pat Sammeth
Ron Schillinger & Janet Botnen
Stephen & Lauri Schweyen (P)
Frank & Myvanway Shirley (P)
Dylan Shipman
Frank & Myvanway Shirley (P)
Patricia Sindt
Frank & Colleen Slater (L)
James Sobieck & Ann Morris (P)
Gail Sparks (L)
Jay Sparks (L)
Stephenson Sparks (L)
Linda Strand (P)
Marilyn Swartz
Tom & Jan Tallman
Don Tjossem & Becky Alexander (P)
Kristin Tolliver
Jeff & Christine Tritt (P)
Clark & Barbara Van Bogart
Russell & Nadiene Van Dyke
Patty Van Valkenburg
Vaughn Bay Cemetery (L)
Ken Visser & Johanna Jensen (L)
Allan & Jeanne Vogel
Terry & Marlene Wade
Daphne & Michael Walker (L)
Bob & Flavia Whitman (P)
Richard Williams
Ted & Cathy Williams (P)
Bart & Cynthia Wolfe (P)
Steve & Denise Wood
James & Jack Wooldridge
Don & Laurel Young

Annual Fund Donors for 2026

James & Dee Ann Adams
Gail Coblentz Alskog
John Battle
Matthew Cosby (B)
Roy & Margo Danforth
Dave & Nancy Deress
Joe & Peggy Dervaes (P)
Donna Docken (L)
Ernest Donehower
Debby Englund
Bob Evans & Eloise Richardson
Jane Glundberg
Pat & Diane Grant (P)
Barbara Heard
Gail Rodrick-Highberg
Mark & April Johnson
Brian Kamens
Ron & Carla Kingsbury (L)
Marsha Kremen & Jilly Eddy (P)
Fred Leenstra & Wanda Buhl (P)
Ellen LeVita & Craig Davis (P)
Leila Luginbill (L)
Bruce & Margo Macdonald
Judy Mills
Richard & Francine Minor (P)
Dorene (Brones) Moon
Jerry & Patricia Nebel (B)
Sandy Newhouse
William Nicholson
Chris Niemann
Noel Niemann
Vicki Niemann (P)
Jim Olson (P)
Joseph Pentheroudakis (P)
Denny & Jan Prichard
Jim & Ruth Reynolds (P)
Dr. Bill & Ruth Roes
Ron Schillinger & Janet Botnen
Stephen & Lauri Schweyen (P)
Frank & Myvanway Shirley (P)
Tom & Jan Tallman
Don Tjossem & Becky Alexander (P)
Jeff & Christine Tritt (P)
Clark & Barbara Van Bogart
Russell & Nadiene Van Dyke
Patty Van Valkenburg
Terry & Marlene Wade
Bob & Flavia Whitman (P)
Bart & Cynthia Wolfe (P)
Steve & Denise Wood
James & Jack Wooldridge

General Museum Gifts

Joseph Pentheroudakis
Vaughn Library Hall Book Editing
Richard & Francine Minor

In Honor Of:

This is our current list. If you do not find your name and believe you paid your dues, please let us know. You may pay your membership dues using PayPal on our website at www.keypeninsulamuseum.org. Contact us via email at kphsmuseum@gmail.com. Send to checks to KPHS, 17010 S. Vaughn Rd. NW, Vaughn, WA 98394

Ways you can support our efforts to preserve and present the history of the Key Peninsula



Key Center IGA Round-up Program for Non-profits

The IGA in Key Center has a program for non-profits. When you reach the register to check out, you will see a flyer next to the card reader. This will have the name of the local non-profit whose turn it is to collect the “rounded-up” funds from shoppers. The recipient of these rounded-up funds changes each month. This is an easy way for shoppers to give to the non-profits on the KP.

Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program

Fred Meyer will donate up to \$2.5 million each year to non-profit organizations like the Key Peninsula Historical Society. All you have to do is link your Fred Meyer Rewards Card to the Key Peninsula Historical Society or use our NPO (non-profit number) #KQ878. You can also use our name — Key Peninsula Historical Society. Every time you shop at Fred Meyer and use your Rewards Card, a portion of the purchase price will be donated to support the museum. Customers have to update their status once a year. You can do it online. www.fredmeyer.com/topic/community-rewards-4

Peninsula High School Scholarship

Once a quarter we have a Fundraising Dinner at El Sombrero where we earn a percentage of the take for the evening. These events help fund our Peninsula Hawks Scholarship Fund and enables us to give up to \$2,000 to two graduating seniors for further study.

The projects of the Key Peninsula Historical Society and Museum would not be possible without the generous support of our members and donors.

Museum Store

Our museum store offers a variety of books, mugs, t-shirts and maps. . If you are looking for gifts while our store is closed, please email us at kphsmuseum@gmail.com for a special opening to buy a bit of KP history. .

Memorial Donations

All memorial donations are used to preserve and present the history of the Key Peninsula and are a wonderful way to remember loved ones and friends.

You can help!

Short on funds but you want to help the museum this year? Here are some ideas that might work for you:

- **Be a docent for the museum.**
Help keep the museum open by donating three hours once or twice a month on Tuesdays or Saturdays.
- **Help us compute.**
Share your computer skills with those who are just learning.
- **Help us sort and categorize current items in the museum.**
- **Help us with some carpentry and other maintenance projects.**

Call 253.884.2511 to find out what skills you can contribute to your museum.

KPHS 2026 Current Board Members

President

Cathy Williams

Vice President

Diane Jackman

Treasurer

Joe Dervaes

Secretary

Cynthia Wolfe

Membership

Joe Dervaes and Judy Mills

Store Manager

Becky Alexander

Docent Calendar

Cynthia Wolfe

Publicity

Joseph Pentheroudakis

Education/Program Coordinator

Judy Mills

Grants

Don Tjossem

Oral History

Jim Greetham, Tim Kezele

Sunshine

The Board

Facebook

Cynthia Wolfe, Diane Jackman,
Joseph Pentheroudakis

Webmaster / IT

Rob Hord
Herb O'Niell

Special Projects

Paul Michaels, Bob Whitman, Bart Wolfe

Newsletter, Publications

Cathy Williams, Judy Mills

Genealogy Research

Joseph Pentheroudakis

Members at Large

Vaughn – Judy Mills
Key Center – Nicole Niemann-Carr
Longbranch – Don Tjossem
Home – Tim Kezele
Lakebay – Bart Wolfe
Glencove – Paul Michaels
Minter Creek – Robert Whitman
Rocky Bay – Richard Minor
Herron – Joseph Pentheroudakis
Wauna – Bruce Murray
Jim Greetham – at large
Lisa Mills – at large



Key Peninsula Historical Society
www.keypeninsulamuseum.org
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Vaughn, WA 98394