

## **PRESIDENT'S NOTE**

### **New Board, New President, New Look at Organization**

January 2020 ushers in a new decade, new initiatives, new board members, and a new president for the museum. Bruce Haulman has accepted the helm from past president Brian Brenno. Elsa Croonquist, hired as the museum's first executive director, has been developing her new role over the past six months. Mike Sudduth has stepped into the role of treasurer, and former treasurer Cyrus Anderson has become finance chair. Sue Hardy continues as vice president, and Alexandra Seaman continues as secretary, rounding out our executive committee. Deb Dammann has stepped down from the board but continues to take roles in special projects. New board members include Sharon Briskman, Glenn Gray, Terry Hershey, and Tim Heryford. All of them bring capabilities to the organization that will keep us tracking well into the new decade.

Bruce Haulman is an island historian. He coauthored *Vashon-Maury Island* (2011), authored *A Brief History of Vashon* (2016) and coauthors the Vashon "Time&Again" series. He finds sanctuary aboard his trawler *Vashona*, named after a Vashon Island Mosquito Fleet steamer, and is active in the "Bruce Haulman Junior Sailing Program," operated jointly by Quartermaster Yacht Club and Vashon Park District. He continues to find joy in developing the Vashon Heritage Museum's special exhibits programs.

Sharon Briskman has over 20 years of experience in organization and foundation development in positions with not-for-profit organizations. Her past experience includes director of women's services, working with volunteers and overseeing fundraising and educational events and \$1 million campaigns; and director of general campaign, working with volunteers and overseeing fundraising and educational events and a \$4 million campaign. Sharon and her husband Barry have made their home on Vashon for the past 15 years; she is also active in VIPP and VCA.

Glenn Gray brings strong organizational development experience, working for over 30 years with federal, state, regional and local governments; nonprofits; and as a private consultant. After nearly 40 years in Alaska, Glenn and his husband Russ purchased property on Maury Island in 2012 and relocated here in 2015. Glenn's non-profit experience includes serving as a board member for Sister Cities International for six years, including president for two years; former chair of the Juneau International Relations Committee; former member of the Juneau Sister Cities Committee; and current board member for the Vashon Island Fruit Club.

Terry Hershey is a noted author, humorist, inspirational speaker, dad, ordained minister, golf addict, and French wine enthusiast. He divides his time between designing sanctuary gardens and sharing his practice of "pausing" and "sanctuary" to help us rest, renew, and live wholeheartedly. Most days, you can find Terry out in his garden because he believes there is something fundamentally spiritual about dirt under your fingernails.

Tim Heryford has lived on Vashon Island for nearly 15 years. He is a humanities teacher at McMurray Middle school and has been teaching for 24 years. He is National Board certified in early adolescent language arts. For the last two years, he taught at the American School Foundation of Guadalajara and returns to McMurray to teach eighth grade humanities. He worked with Bruce Haulman, Mike Kirk, Brian Brenno, and other Vashon Heritage members in developing Vashon History Week for the McMurray seventh-graders.

Elsa Croonquist joined the Heritage Association as executive director in August 2019. She and her family moved to Vashon in 1999 and quickly fell in love with Island life. Over the past 30 years, she has held director positions with major Seattle area organizations in real estate development, entrepreneurial start-ups, higher education administration, and foundation development, and most recently served as a consultant on privately developed grant programs. Major Seattle organizations she has worked for include Weyerhaeuser Real Estate Development, McKinstry, and the Seattle community colleges. She is excited to bring her experience in marketing and program development to the museum to manage the growth of future capacity and be a part of the vision to educate and inspire through showcasing our Vashon heritage and culture.

Each of these talented individuals will enhance our board and our programs as we proceed into 2020 and bring exciting new initiatives to the museum.

In addition to bringing on new board members and looking to our future, we continue our outreach with many Vashon Island partners, including Friends of Mukai, Vashon Island Pride Alliance, Vashon Nature Center, and our Vashon performing arts and music organizations. With the growth and regional recognition of the museum's award-winning exhibits and our partnerships with other Vashon heritage and cultural organizations, we have—with the guidance of Glenn Gray and longtime islander and organizational consultant Bob Hughes—initiated a planning process to help us clarify what we want our organization to be in the future, with reconfirmed and possibly redefined vision and mission statements.

This will be an exciting year for the museum. We'll keep you posted.

—Bruce Haulman, President