

Christmas Parlor Tour

Snohomish Historical Society presents annual Parlor Tour

2024 Parlor Tour participants

- Lisa Pickford
422 Avenue B
- Mikael & Sara Wagner
421 Avenue B
- Andy & Joelle Blair
404 Avenue C
- St. John's Episcopal Church
913 Second Street
- Richard & Eileen Softye
1314 Fourth Street
- Todd & Christine Nichols
330 Avenue B
- Dan & Wendy Taylor
317 Avenue B
- Victor & Ann Wicklund
330 Avenue D
- Warner Blake & Karen Guzak
230 Avenue B
- Waltz Building
116 Avenue B
- Blackman Museum
118 Avenue B
- Zion Lutheran Church
329 Avenue A
- St. John's Episcopal Church
913 Second Street

Waltz Building 116 Avenue B, 1938

Volunteer Justin Usey and Waltz Building Manager David Hodgson have been busy decorating the Waltz Building for the Parlor Tour.

From 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. there will be free hot cocoa and cider, vendors and baked goods, photos with Santa and Christmas Goats!

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 (their address number) to purchase the

surplus 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.

The simple exterior gives way to a vaulted great room with large Palladian style windows at both ends. The original wainscoting and woodwork have been lovingly restored giving the room a warm, cozy feeling, perfect for both large and small events.

For more information visit www.snohomishhistorical.org/waltz-building-rental

Experience the Magic of the Holiday Season at the 2024 Parlor Tour!

The Snohomish Historical Society proudly presents the much-anticipated Annual Parlor Tour in the Snohomish Historic District on Sunday, December 15, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. This year's tour features three charming churches, seven beautifully decorated historic homes, the Blackman Museum, and the Waltz Building—

all dressed in festive holiday splendor. Celebrate the season as you explore the unique charm of these historic landmarks, making your visit truly magical!

Be sure to visit the returning holiday market at St. Michael's Church, 1512 Pine Ave., where you can enjoy the festive atmosphere and maybe find something special and unexpected! After 2 p.m., be sure to stop by the Waltz Building for photos

with Santa, refreshments and maybe even a surprise visit from a holiday goat. The Waltz Building will remain open until 5 p.m.

Online Ticket sales will close on Dec. 13 at 5 p.m. Advance tickets are \$30 adults, \$20 seniors age 62+, children six and under are admitted free (fees apply). To purchase, please visit www.snohomishhistorical.org/parlor-tour

Check in starts at 11:45

a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, located at 329 Ave A, where you will receive your map, shoe coverings, and wristbands. Visit the sites in any order and make this beloved holiday tradition part of your seasonal celebrations!

*Tickets will be available for purchase for \$35 the day of the event at the Waltz Building, 116 Avenue B.

Blackman House Museum 118 Avenue B, 1878

Volunteers Haley Gandee, Charlie Krabach, Dan Taylor and Frede Gibbs have been busy preparing the Blackman House Museum for the Parlor Tour.

It's wonderful that the Snohomish Historical Society has community members who are willing to volunteer their time for this festive event.

It takes more than a couple of weeks to go through the boxes filled with decorations that have been generously

donated to the Museum over the years..

Research provided insight on how the Blackman House would have been decorated back in its time. The more wealthy people who lived in the city liked glitter and beaded glass. Their decorations were much fancier than those who lived out in the country and didn't have much money.

Oranges with cloves poked into them were very popular and made the houses smell so good.

It was common to incorporate items from the yard

into holiday decorations. Step out into your yard and look for natural and unique items that YOU can use for decorations in YOUR home!

Three donated trees will be decorated this year and are ideal backdrops creating great photo opportunities! An SHS Panther tree decorated in Red, white and Black will greet you as you enter. In the main room is a tree decorated in rose, gold and pink. The third tree is in the middle parlor (which used to be the dining room) and is decorated in green,



gold and mauve with paper angels.

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

Andy & Joelle Blair 404 Avenue C The Wood House 1904

Andy and Joelle Blair are excited for neighbors and friends to come visit their

home for the Parlor Tour!

They do the decorating themselves and have two trees. One is outside on the balcony and the other tree is in the living room. Although one tree is artificial, they make it a tradition to

select a Noble fir from a local Christmas Tree Farm each year. They prefer to decorate the trees in a traditional, old-fashion theme.

When asked what her favorite decoration or Christmas item she displays might be,

Joelle brought up her collection of old Christmas cards, the antique brass candlesticks and her antique glass ornaments.

Stop by and meet the Blairs during the Parlor Tour!

Warner Blake & Karen Guzak 230 Avenue B Former St. Michael Catholic Church, 1889

Warner Blake and Karen

Guzak will have two artificial trees on display that they reuse year after year.

The theme is beauty and practicality. "(This is) a theme that runs throughout most things we do here in our fully renovated old

church, Angel Arms Works," said Karen.

Warner strings lights along the historic fence on 3rd Street - which is traditionally dark.

Decorating for the holidays takes about a day and their gardener, Peter Moore, helps them.

During the Parlor Tour, Warner and Karen will have their friends, Lya Badgley

selling her books and her husband Sasha Babic selling his, as well. "I'll also have my tote bags made from repurposed fabric - now counting about 1,500 - following the theme of beauty and practicality," added Karen. Warner will have his book on early Snohomish history, "J. S. White, our First Architect" also available.

St. John's Episcopal Church 913 Second Street 1893

This historical church has undergone an amazing complete renovation!

Please stop by during the Tour and see how this beautiful community space looks like for the holidays!



Christmas Parlor Tour



photo by Joe Mabel

Lisa Pickford 422 Ave. B Hensel House, 1892

Lisa Pickford's home is a beautiful and welcoming Queen Anne style house.

Lisa's decorations will include 8-9 trees this year. She starts decorating right after Halloween and doesn't take it down until at least mid-to end of January.

The huge 10-foot tree in the dining room features Old World and Polonaise ornaments with an old wooden doll buggy under the tree.

A new, large tree in the living room will feature her grandson's train track circling it that her husband built many years ago. Under it will also be a big teddy bear that Lisa made, as well as her father's ice skates. Adorning the tree will be many ornaments

that Lisa has made throughout the years since 1969. She would make 15 ornaments each year for family members.

Other trees include a pencil tree with 40 unique Hallmark houses, a tall white tree with Hallmark ferries, and a tree full of sleighs.

Lisa displays two large villages, one being of the North Pole and the other a Dickens Village. On a smaller scale, the Pickford's also have a Grinch Village. Lisa has so many items for her villages that she has to trade them out from year to year as she doesn't have the room to display them all at once!

The special Italian Fontani Nativty Set is displayed in the dining room. "They look porcelain, but they're not," said Lisa. They are very well detailed and really pretty."

In honor of her grandson, Lisa has a Star Wars themed tree. There is even a special Death Star tree topper that that plays two musical themes and is quite the con-

versation stopper!

She also has collected 7 of the Snohomish Historic Home ornaments and will have them on display along with historical items from the house.

Lisa also has four wreaths adorned with glass birds or Hallmark birds as she has collected 50-60 bird ornaments. One wreath has Bartell metal ornaments showcasing their different stores.

Another amazing feature are the Nutcrackers. "There are tons of Nutcrackers throughout the house," exclaimed Lisa. "People will have to look everywhere," said Lisa. "Just turn around and you'll see something you never noticed before!"

The outside of the Pickford home will be decorated as well with garland, shimmering lights and reindeer. Those on the Tour will find her front porch quite festive! Lisa's son installed special outlet plugs so she can remotely turn on her lights and some of the items inside her house by using her phone.

Stop by during the Tour and simply be amazed how Lisa goes all out for the holidays!

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church UAC 329 Avenue A, 1924

Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church UAC (unaltered Augsburg Confession) is one of the oldest landmarks in town, with its 100-year old classic cross shaped sanctuary, heavenly high vaulted ceiling and soaring white bell tower with a still-working bell that echoes off the white walls and historic homes surrounding the site. The Church has almost always housed a school as well, with thousands of students attending over the years.

A volunteer group from the Church decorated the Church

for Advent and Christmas. The Seattle Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is currently housing a small pipe organ at Zion which adds to the joyful Christmas feelings of praise.

Zion has stained glass windows on all four sides that iconically symbolize the Father, Son and Holy Spirit and Luther's Reformation Rose.

The altar is decorated with beautiful poinsettias. Greenery adorns the interior of the Church and a large Christmas tree is decorated with special Chrismons ornaments.

Chrismons were originated and first made for use on the Christmas tree of Ascension

Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia in 1957. The designs were historic 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 Christ who comes at Christmas. All Chrismons are made in a combination of white and gold to symbolize the purity and majesty of the God who loved the world and sent His Son to save us all.

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

Todd Nichols & Christine Wakefield Nichols 330 Ave. B Stevens House, 1887

Todd Nichols and Christine Wakefield Nichols are members of the Snohomish Historical Society and are happy to be a part of the Parlor Tour, one of the major fundraisers of the Historical Society.

Christine prefers to use traditional decorations for the holidays as that style works well with her historic home.

They will have two Christmas trees; one in the living room and one in the dining room. Christine uses ornaments she's collected from when her children were little up until present day.

You will find garland adorning the stairwell as well as around lamps creating the look of a traditional old-fashioned Christmas.

When asked what her favorite decoration is, Christine said, "I don't think I really have one... but I guess I would say that it's a tiny 4-car train that's old and very delicate. I still hang it on the tree every year."

The outside of the home is decorated with wreaths and bows.

"It seems like it takes days and days to decorate," said Christine. "Once we bring the decorations up from the basement we go through all

of them and figure out what will go where."

The Stevens House was renamed as such after John F. Stevens, a famous civil engineer, who located and built Steven's Pass with The Great Northern Railway. Stevens and his family lived in this house for three years during this time. Christine will have very interesting information about Mr. Stevens to hand out to those on the Parlor Tour.

Recently the original wood floors had to be replaced as

Rich & Eileen Softye 1314 Fourth St N.P. Hansen House, 1903

The first thing you notice when approaching Rich and Eileen's Craftsman/Tudor home are the inviting candles in the windows and the light that shines on the Wreath on the front door.

As you enter the house, you will notice greenery and Poinsettias over every door and entry to the 5 rooms on the first floor of this exquisite home. Straight in front of you are the many Santas and other pieces carved by Rich over the last 51 years.

Looking at the end of the living room is the fireplace with an 8 foot high mantle with a wooden Toy Barn and a Noah's Ark that probably were purchased from a 1920's Sears and Robuck Catalogue.

In an arch in the brick fireplace is a ceramic Nativity Set Eileen painted and antiqued many years ago. The Nativity

is Eileen's favorite decoration.

In the window seat is a Department 56 village and vintage lead figures. Atop the village is a feather tree on an antique German musical stand that rotates and plays old Christmas tunes.

Then you enter the large Dining Room with the table all set for Christmas Dinner. On the sideboard is an old wooden sled carrying Jolly old Saint Nick and boxes of toys.

Off the Dining Room is the Bright Room, which Eileen calls it, because it has many windows and two skylights to let in the precious sun in the dark days of winter. In the corner of this room is an 8 1/2 foot Nordman Fir Christmas tree from Stockers Christmas Tree Farm decorated with all sorts of decorations that bring back memories from the 10 different homes Rich and Eileen lived in during their 24 years in the USCG moving about the U.S.

Coming through the newly

renovated Kitchen you will see an adorable Santa Claus in the center a huge bowl surrounded by mixed nuts ready to break open and eat after Christmas Dinner.

Leaving the kitchen, you can look up the main stairway landing with newly installed antique Stained Glass and the family's prized antique Rocking Horse that once "lived" in a museum in the State of Maine.

When you enter the Study you will see a 1900's Oak Case steel record player. Ask Rich or Eileen and they will play "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas" that fills the house with its enchanting music. In the large window is a Christmas Scene with the many Lead Figures inherited from both their families plus other figures purchased over the years.

We hope you enjoy viewing this home as much as we enjoyed decorating it for all to see.

Mikael & Sara Wagner 421 Avenue B Benjamin Morgan Home, 1898

This iconic home is an architectural blend of Georgian Revival and Queen Anne style. The historic home has been lovingly cared for, with renovations and restoration of its original construction to include the cast iron radiators, leaded glass windows, and Douglas fir hardwood floors. The third-floor ballroom once used for dances, is now a family and child play space.

The Wagners will have a total of 6 trees in their home, with four being visible for the Parlor Tour. The new addition is a tree decorated by the volunteers of the Snohomish Community Food Bank and was part of the Big Give

2024 event held at Craven Farms to benefit local nonprofits. It is a festive tree with food themed decorations, handmade by one of the food bank's most dedicated volunteers, Sheri Carr.

The Wagners will also have multiple trees with mostly Scandinavian and European decorations, as Sara lived in Scandinavia growing up.

Outside, the home is adorned with red, white and green lights, a candy cane lane, snowman and polar bear, garland and other decorations. They hired a group of off-duty Marysville Firefighters, First Response Exterior Detailing, to hang the lights on the exterior of



Photo credit: NWMLS Redfin.com

the home. Their expertise gives the home a gingerbread house feel.

Sara's favorite decorations are the framed and mounted Christmas tress made out of costume jewelry from her grandparents and great-grandparents. She also considers other decorations from her grandparents farm in Kansas and local antique shops in Snohomish among her favorites.

Stop by during the Parlor Tour and meet the Wagners!

everything."

Stop by Todd and Christine's home during the Parlor Tour and come away with

some old-fashioned Christmas ideas for your own home!

Christmas Parlor Tour

Victor & Ann Wicklund 330 Ave. D Blackman House, 1898

Victor and Ann Wicklund's home, The Blackman House, was built in 1898. They have lived in this gorgeous historic home since 1995.

The Wicklunds will have one Christmas tree inside and one outside. They don't decorate the trees with any particular theme, keeping it classic and with mostly jewel

tones. "We actually get our tree locally every year from Hagen grocery store," said Ann.

"My favorite decoration is a handmade Santa sleigh that my husband's dad, Wayne Wicklund, made," said Ann. "I also love Scandinavian and German holiday decor. We have over 50 Nutcrackers! I put a Santa nutcracker in the sleigh."

Ann likes to put garland and poinsettias out to make the house festive for the holidays.

The outside of the home is decorated mainly with Christmas lights. "My husband lights up our wisteria tree to look like a blooming wisteria tree!" Ann said.

The Wicklunds hire the company High Strung Lights to put up lights on the house as the roof is very high.

Ann said, "My husband's mother, Marilyn Sheppard, makes us a wreath every year that we put on the front door. The front door is very special because my husband's stepdad, Skip Sheppard, made the

stained glass for the door." The stained glass depicts Mt. Pilchuck and Glacier Peak.

When Ann was asked how long it takes for them to decorate for the holidays she said, "I think it takes about 3-4 days to decorate, but we do a little at a time so it is hard to say."

The renovations that the Wicklunds have done to their historic home are mostly the interior walls throughout (removing layers and layers of wallpaper and replastering) as well as exterior painting.



Dan & Wendy Taylor 317 Ave. B Bakeman House, 1904

For the last 8 years, Dan and Wendy Taylor have worked through their 1904 house room by room restoring the lath and plaster walls and

refreshing the turn of the century woodwork, which makes the perfect backdrop for the warm glow created by the many lights and candles throughout the house.

Winter and the joy of Christmas inspired décor that include fir boughs, pinecones, gold accents, furry warm pil-

lows and blankets.

The Taylors will also be sharing two decorated trees this year. The one in the living room is decorated traditionally in velvet and crystal ornaments, while the flocked tree in the family room is filled with ornaments the family has given

each other over the years.

The exterior received a fresh coat of paint last year, which compliments the exterior Fir boughs, lights, and lanterns that decorate the porch and eaves.

Stop by during the Parlor Tour and see the Taylors and their beautiful historic home!

Be sure to stop by 330 Avenue D to visit the Blackman House owned by Victor and Ann Wicklund. This lovely home was build in 1898.