

Dear WSJHS Members, Supporters, and Community,

I am privileged to be the Executive Director of the Washington State Jewish Historical Society and am excited to announce that, after 18 years of service, I will be taking a well-deserved sabbatical from August to November this year. My journey here has been amazing—from my very first week starting in temporary quarters due to the shooting at the Jewish Federation. Since then, our team at the WSJHS have released several award-winning publications; curated countless exhibits; showcased the work of the Historical Society around the state; engaged with members to hear their incredible stories; and created the ***Washington Jewish Museum***, along with the recently launched ***Washington Jewish Memory Archive***.

For all these years, my job has been truly a labor of love with long hours and high demands; working to raise enough funds to keep programs running and people employed; and managing the board, staff, budgets, and grants alike. Especially after managing everything through the pandemic and coming out on top, I am truly proud of my work, which I am still so passionate about.

Executive directors often do not share personal burdens with staff or community members for fear of showing vulnerability in our leadership or because we don't want to let any of our challenges show externally. I have learned, however, that this openness actually helps forge more genuine, lasting relationships. That being said, I can share that after challenges due to my fractured ankle and surgery in the last year, this time away will help me enjoy being in good health to the fullest extent.

My sabbatical, which was originally going to take place last year, has now arrived. It is going to be difficult for me to let go and to not talk or think about work, but I know that this time spent fueling myself with energy is vital to my continued success in strengthening this small but mighty organization.

Many of you have asked what I plan to do, and I will share a few of my plans: time spent on myself with fitness; nutrition; de-cluttering; traveling with my husband, friends, and my lovely daughter (who just moved back to Seattle following her

residency) before she starts work as a dermatologist. I also cannot wait to cycle, hike, cook, read, and sometimes just be.

As most of you know, my philosophy over these last 18 years has been about taking care of everyone else, as well as the community at large. I know the rejuvenation that comes with physical and emotional rest will make me a stronger director who can continue to show up for others in a meaningful way. I give great thanks to the fabulous WSJHS Board of Directors for believing in me, and to my incredible staff for their support in making this possible.

For now, have a super summer and please say hello should I run into you along the way. Please send all non-urgent emails to the Society at [info@wsjhs.org](mailto:info@wsjhs.org) and anything urgent to our Assistant Director, Cora Miller, at [coram@wsjhs.org](mailto:coram@wsjhs.org). Please be patient as staff will be taking their hard-earned vacations this August and will get back to you as soon as they are able.

HHH (History, Health, and Happiness),

*Lisa*

Lisa Kranseler