Greetings from OMA

Summer/Fall 2013

Dear Member,

I am excited to announce several changes occurring within OMA to improve your benefits as a member!

One of the most immediate changes you may have already noticed is the OMA website has a new look! This new website will bring a more robust and user-friendly experience to enhance both the tourists’ and members’ benefits. Please read the article detailing these additions on page 4. Also, we are on the hunt for engaging pictures of visitors, docents, educators and etc. interacting within our museums to add to the website. If you are interested in sharing a few, please contact our Administrative Assistant at oregonmuseums@gmail.com.

The OMA Board has grown! We would like to introduce you to past Board Member Connie Nice, from the Hood River History Museum, and newly appointed Yousef Alrahmani, from The Museum of Natural History at the University of Oregon. They bring a great wealth of experience and skill sets that are sure to benefit the organization during this exciting time. Read more about them on page 2.

Another adventure the OMA Board will soon undertake is the development and implementation of a robust strategic plan. This new direction will provide guidance and long-term goals to help us excel at advocating for all of our state’s museums and cultural institutions. Whether through training, networking, or advertising, we want our role as your state museum organization to be meaningful and useful. As part of this process, we are in the beginning phase of writing a grant proposal to help support the cost of hiring a local vendor to guide us in creating a comprehensive strategic plan. Soon we will be reaching out to you, our members, for your thoughts and opinions. Stay tuned for that announcement as well!

Have you been wondering about the OMA Annual Conference? I am thrilled to announce we have solidified the next venue and date! Please save the dates for April 6-8, 2014 and join us at the Oregon Historical Society and Portland Art Museum for hands on workshops, informative breakout sessions, and exciting networking opportunities. Stay tuned for future announcements regarding scholarship opportunities and a call for proposals. Are there certain topics you would like to learn about or see at the conference? We want to know! Please contact us with any potential ideas.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Dispatch. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you ever have a topic you want to read about or to submit your own article!

Heather Bouchey
Interim President

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OMA Annual Conference Is Coming!

Join us for our annual meeting and conference in Portland, April 6-8, 2014. Gather with peers from around the state as we discuss collections, technology, and more. We look forward to seeing you there!

Rediscovery at Southern Oregon Historical Society

By Amy Drake and Emma Abby

Good things are afoot at the Southern Oregon Historical Society!

In May 2013, SOHS was awarded an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award from the Oregon Heritage Commission for the innovative program, History: Made By You. History: Made By You is a community focused traveling exhibition program where SOHS partners with local community groups to create relevant and engaging small exhibitions. "The award recipients represent the diversity of efforts to preserve Oregon's heritage," said Kyle Janssen, coordinator for the Oregon Heritage Commission. "They also serve as models for others for how to make the most out of available resources."

The current History: Made By You project is in partnership with volunteers from the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. At a workshop in March, OSF volunteers gathered to discuss their involvement with the Festival, sharing what inspired them to volunteer, their best memories, and what they learned from the experience. The OSF Archives brought photographs, documents, and...
Meet the Board: Members-at-Large

Yousef Alrahmani is the business manager at the University of Oregon Museum of Natural and Cultural History. He has a background in a broad range of fiscal management and human resources, and has been with the University of Oregon since 2005. Yousef manages a budget of $3.5 million with funds from state and federal grants, foundations, state allocations, and many other revenue streams. He works with payroll management, budget analysis and forecasting, and strategic financial planning. He has composed many successful budgets for competitive grant and contract proposals. Yousef also manages staff evaluations, hiring and disciplinary processes, and benefit and pay packages for all museum employees.

Connie Nice has served as The History Museum of Hood River County’s Museum Coordinator for 14 years. As the only paid staff, she oversees all aspects of museum operations and works with a team of wonderful board members, volunteers, and an AmeriCorps member. The History Museum recently completed a major renovation project and is gearing up for Phase II/Archive Storage.

When not at work, Connie loves to spend time with her husband and kids, especially her four-year-old grandson. She also enjoys quilting and writing, recently publishing a Hood River Image book through Arcadia Publishing. She is now working on a children’s series introducing history to kids in an exciting and new unique way.

Connie previously served as OMA Secretary for six years and has also served on various local and state planning boards, including the Hood River Cultural Trust. Connie is honored to be featured in this issue’s National Director/Member Profile.

Mark Your Calendar!

Conferences and Workshops:
- Western States & Territories Preservation Assistance Service (WESTPAS) and BACC hosting Protecting Cultural Collections: Disaster Prevention & Preparedness, Response & Recovery (details below) - Seattle; Oct 4 and Nov 7
- WMA Annual Meeting - Salt Lake City; Oct 6-12
- OMA Annual Conference - Portland, April 6-8
- Oregon Heritage Conference - April

WESTPAS along with BACC will host a free two-part training at the Odegaard Undergraduate Library at the University of Washington, Seattle.

Part 1: Prevention & Preparedness: Oct 4, 9am – 4pm
Part 2: Response & Recovery: Nov 7, 9am – 4pm

For registration assistance contact: Alexandra Gingerich at alexandra.gingerich@washington.edu. For general information contact: Gary Menges at garymenges@westpas.org.

Grants and Funding:
- Oregon Historic Trails Fund - Due Sept 1
  http://www.oregonhistorictrailsfund.org
- Historic Cemeteries Grant - Due Sept 18
- Preserving Oregon & Diamonds in the Rough - Due Sept 30
- Letter of Intent - Due Sept 30
- Preserving Oregon Grant - Due Sept 30
- Letter of Intent - Due Sept 13
- Oregon Heritage Museum Grant - Due Sept 30
- Oregon Heritage Grant - Due Dec 16

Visit the Oregon Heritage Commission website for upcoming grant opportunities and additional information: http://www.oregonheritage.org/pha/HCDF/FINASST/Pages/grants.aspx.

The Oregon State Archives also lists a number of grants available to Oregon institutions: http://arcweb.sos.state.or.us/pages/brab/geantlist.shtml.

Regional Support Offered by Balboa Art Conservation Center

Balboa Art Conservation Center (BACC) is a nonprofit regional conservation center devoted to the preservation of material culture to institutions and private clients in Arizona, California, Oregon, and Washington. BACC offers a variety of services from treatment and technical analysis to education and emergency response and recovery.

Now that a new NEH grant project is underway, you can contact BACC at any time with your collections-related questions. Whether you are worried about mold, making material choices for storage or display, need guidance with a grant application in support of collections, or are looking for a sounding board for your collections care plans, just send BACC an email at wrfoss@bac.org or call at (619) 236-9702.

BACC has also created the, Oregon Guide to Emergency Preparedness: Resources to assist and encourage historical buildings throughout Oregon to prepare and update their emergency response plans. Without a plan, recovery from an emergency can and will be more costly in terms of loss to collections, treatment, clean-up, and staff time. Preparation and planned response will save priceless collections and money. To access online, please visit: http://www.bac.org/pdfs/OREmergencyGuide_0413.pdf. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please contact BACC or OMA’s Administrative Assistant.

Collections Care, Disaster Response Workshops to Begin in September

Volunteers and staff of libraries, archives, and museums, as well as collectors of historic items, are invited to attend upcoming workshops presented as part of the state’s Connecting to Collections project (C2C). The day-long workshops will take place in Baker City, Florence, McMinnville, Medford, Pendleton, Philomath, and Portland.

The first workshop, “Collections Care: Cleaning, Mending, and Housing,” will deal with practical and advanced information on caring for historical items that are found in libraries, museums, and archives. Randy Silverman, preservation librarian at the University of Utah, will be the presenter.

Any other questions regarding membership? Contact us at: oregonmuseums@gmail.com. Thank you for all you do to support Oregon museums!

Membership Renewals

It’s never too early, or late, to renew your OMA membership! Stay connected.

All OMA annual memberships – institutional, individual, and corporate – expire at the end of the calendar year on December 31. In an effort to reduce paper waste and postage fees, renewals can now be done online at www.oregonmuseums.com. Just click on Join OMA on the toolbar. Membership renewal reminders will also be sent via email late this fall.

If you are unable to renew online, please let us know. Either fill out the form at right, or contact one of us directly (our information is located on the last page of the Dispatch).

Benefits include: The Dispatch, OMA’s published newsletter; e-Dispatch, OMA’s monthly email newsletter of museum news and events; the Online Guide to Oregon Museums; full-color published rack cards; Members-only access on the OMA website; a featured webpage on the OMA website; and discounts on registration to professional development and workshops, including the OMA Annual Conference. Each member is entitled to one vote at OMA business meetings.

Any other questions regarding membership? Contact us at: oregonmuseums@gmail.com. Thank you for all you do to support Oregon museums!

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other materials from their collection to help encourage conversa- tion. Workshop participants decided to focus the History: Made by You exhibit on a celebration of voluntarism and all that volunteers have and continue to contribute to OSF. Currently in development, it will explore the early years of the Festival's founding, its transformation from a volunteer-run company to a world-renowned organization, and the role volunteers play today. A video featuring first person accounts of volunteer experiences will accompany the exhibit. The exhibit opens in mid-August at ScienceWorks in Ashland and will travel to the Hannon Library at the Southern Oregon University in September.

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Summer camp attendees enjoy their days at the historic Hanley Farm.

Between the engaging programs at Hanley Farm and fresh exhibition projects, SOHS is turning a new leaf and reinventing our institution as a community-focused, relevant, and fun museum. Stay tuned for more exciting updates!

To learn more about what's happening at the Southern Oregon Historical Society, visit them online at: www.sohs.org

Cara Kaser shows off one of the emergency preparedness kits provided to all of the Mentors.

Thank you, Bob!

After years of service on the OMA Board, Bob Hart has decided to take a much welcomed and deserved break.

You are a valuable member of the Board, and we thank you so much for your friendship, perspective, knowledge, and humor. Your dedication and service to OMA and our state's heritage has not gone unnoticed. We are a better state because of you.

WE'LL MISS YOU!
OMA Has a New Website!

You may have noticed during your last visit to www.oregonmuseum.org that our website looks dramatically different. After several years of consideration, the Board moved forward with upgrading the OMA website to create a more active and easier to use experience for not only visitors, but our OMA members. We invite you to explore and tell us what you think. But first, let us introduce you.

The new website is hosted by Wild Apricot, an online cloud-based system that is simple to use and easily accessible. Now Board members and OMA staff can manage resources from any location throughout our diverse state. The website allows us to add new members, send the e-Dispatch, accept online donations, and manage event registration in 24/7 “real time”. These exciting new features will greatly improve how we serve and communicate with you, our members.

One of the most exciting new features is a Members Only area. Here, we can develop member forums and groups to discuss any immediate and pertinent issues, view past issues of the OMA Dispatch, and search the “Resources & Professional Tools” from the previous website. The Members Only section has tremendous potential, but it will depend on you. The more members who use it, the more powerful resource it will become.

Another exciting feature is increased access and connectivity with other Oregon museums. Does your museum have a blog? Let’s list it on the Oregon Museum Blog page! Are you looking for professional support for your museum? Check out the Business Directory for services offered by OMA business members.

All active institutional members should already have a page on the new site. If you don’t see your institution, please let us know! We are still making updates. Your page is searchable via a number of methods. The public can search museums by region, type, or by programs and services. After you explore the new website and verify that you have a page, please check all information for accuracy. As stated previously, the new web host allows individuals to access and update the website from any location. This even includes you! Simply log in and make the changes yourself. If you aren’t quite ready to explore and make changes, feel free to contact our Administrative Assistant for help.

If you would like to make changes to your museum’s page, or simply explore the fledging back-end of the website, look to the upper right hand corner of the OMA home page and click “forgot password”. On the next screen, enter the official email address that we have on file for your organization, type the 6 characters you see in the picture, and click “submit”. A new password will be sent to you via that email address. Once received, log in and edit away.

This upgrade was made with the OMA community in mind. We are excited about the change, and hope you are, too. We understand there will be a learning curve. So, please send any questions to oregonmuseum@gmail.com. We want you to utilize and enjoy this new format, and will work with you to make sure that happens. Happy surfing!

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Oregon Heritage by the Numbers

From the “Oregon Heritage Vitality” report, January 2011

In the state of Oregon, there are:
• Nearly 200 history-related museums
• 1,943 individual properties on the National Register of Historic Places (at least one in every county!)
• 780 designated historic cemeteries
• 30,885 recorded archaeological sites

An important fact to remember regarding US leisure travelers; 78% participate in cultural and/or heritage activities during a vacation. An important fact to remember regarding US leisure travelers; 78% participate in cultural and/or heritage activities during travel.

Recent Report: Oregon Employment

Regional economist Jason Yovanovitch recently published an employment-focused article on Oregon’s museums. Featured on page 6 of the Oregon Employment Department’s Workforce & Economic Research Division monthly newsletter, Oregon Labor Trends, “On Display Now: Oregon’s Museum Employment,” discusses job growth within the field. According to the article, Oregon museums added jobs “at a faster pace than the economy as a whole over the past two years.”

The entire article is viewable online at: http://www.oregon.gov/dli/pubs/hrd/OLT/OIT/OLT-2200713.pdf. Please contact the OMA Administrative Assistant if you do not have access to the above link and would like to receive a hard copy.

OMA Co-Sponsors Textile Workshop With Regional Organization

In April, OMA teamed with the Registrars Committee-Western Region (RCWR) to organized the first-ever co-sponsored event between the two organizations. Held in the Portland suburb of Clackamae, the textile conservation workshop was a learning experience for the majority of participants traveling from outside the Portland Metro area. Led by Kathleen Daly of the Brigadier General James B. Thayer Oregon Military Museum, Heather Bouchey of the Portland Art Museum, and Nicole Nathan of the Museum of Contemporary Craft, the full day textile-focused workshop touched upon fiber composition and structure, proper handling techniques, preventive conservation, writing condition reports, and padded hanger and box construction.

This new partnership brought together both members and non members of the two organizations, as well as other interested parties from around the Pacific Northwest, creating a diverse group of participants with a variety of experiences and skill sets. Hood River County History Museum alone sent six participants!

The presenters created an ambitious agenda for the day that left the hands-on demonstrations and supplies construction tutorials a little hurried. Although successful and well praised, the workshop will be broken into two sessions or panel down in content if offered again. Additionally, a need for more basic tutorials and “refreshers” for museum staff around the region was reflected.

If there is a topic that you would like to see offered or would like to present, please contact the OMA Board to let them know! Professional development is part of what this organization is about. As our roles as museum staff and volunteers continue to change, these opportunities are imperative to our adaptation and growth in our field.

If you missed the last Dispatch's Coordinating Corner, or if you are interested in learning more about the proper care of textiles or creating inexpensive padded hangers, check out the downloadable PDF of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department’s, Heritage Bulletin #20 - Caring for Textiles: Cleaning and Garment Hanging at http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/docs/Heritage_Bulletin_HB_20_Caring_for_Textiles.pdf.

We hope to see you at the next workshop!

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OMA Museum Updates from Around the State

Baker Heritage Museum - October 27 will mark the close of a busy season for the museum. The 2013 calendar included a Jazz concert and dance to celebrate the opening of the museum’s 2013 Central Gallery Exhibit, “Baker Bands & High Society.” There was also a “Paint Your Wagon” film festival, wine tasting, vintage tractor and car shows, and special events focusing on Leo Adler, a local self-made millionaire and advocate for Baker City. Other highlights from the year included special visits from Miss Oregon and President Theodore Roosevelt.

The Columbia River Maritime Museum - Jean-Michel Cousteau and 3D Entertainment, in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), invite audiences to a stunning, immersive diving experience with Sharks 3D.Join the expert international team of ocean explorers on this unique round-the-globe expedition documenting the life of the ultimate predator. Sharks 3D will be shown at the Columbia River Maritime Museum from March 22, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Hood River County Museum - was featured in the Summer 2013 Oregon Historical Quarterly. The article focuses on the museum’s recent renovations and their journey forward.

Lane County Historical Society - was recently featured in A&A’s V magazine. The article, entitled “Eugene’s Counter Culture,” is available online at http://www.viamagazine.com/destinations/eugenes-counter-culture.

Pioneer Mothers Memorial Cabin /Robert Newell House Museum - The Oregon State Society Daughters of the American Revolution continue to fundraise for the move of their mid-1800s log cabin to the Newell House Museum Complex. The cabin’s current location along the Willamette River in Champoeg State Park is becoming increasingly dangerous as the land beneath it continues to erode (70 feet in 40 years). The Museum Complex will begin preparation for the move this fall. To learn more about their project, visit: http://newellcabin.com/newlscabin.html.

Want to see your museum featured here? Submit updates to OMA by the November 18 deadline. See back cover for details.