Dear OMA Friends,

Looking for a pot of gold? Why not spend St. Patrick's Day with the Oregon Museums Association? On March 16 and 17, the “pot of gold at the end of the rainbow” will be in Roseburg at the Douglas County Museum. You’ll find a wealth of information, resources to help meet daily challenges in the museum field and plenty of inspiration to put them to use at your museum. Plus, it’s always fun to see old friends and to make new ones.

The Board of Directors will outline the 2008 goals set at the annual retreat, held February 11 at Mission Mill Museum. One of my goals is to involve more members on projects. Networking and strength in numbers increase the chances of the projects’ success and make it more likely that they are valuable to our members.

Let me know at the meeting—or anytime during the year—if something tickles your fancy. We also need your ideas for programs and short- and long-term activities.

I’ll look forward to seeing you March 16 and 17 in Roseburg at the Douglas County Museum.

Sincerely,

Julie Reese

President's Message

Wine: A 10,000 Year History

When visiting the Douglas County Museum for the spring meeting, be sure to explore Wine: A 10,000 Year History. This exhibit will take you on a journey through the drink’s past, beginning long before people or wine existed with 40 million year old grape seed fossils uncovered right here in Oregon. Visitors can explore an ancient Egyptian tomb, Roman villa and Gothic wine cellar on their way to discover the more recent history of wine in the Umpqua River Valley.

Showcasing both authentic relics of wine’s past and museum reproductions of period art, this exhibit’s reconstructed interiors allow you to experience times when wine held a sacred place in society.

OMA Dispatch / Spring 2008
Avoiding Antimatter!

Innovative Strategies to Boost Your Museum into the Future

Join us at the Umpqua Valley’s Douglas County Museum as we explore great ideas on making museums matter more to everyone.

Sunday, March 16th
2-4 pm OMA Board meeting- Douglas County Museum auditorium
4-5:30 pm Opening Reception- Douglas County Museum in Wren: A 10,000 Year History (hosted by the JC Museum Foundation)
6-8 pm New Year dinner- Dino’s Restaurant and Wine Bar, downtown Roseburg
8-10 pm Saint Patrick’s Day celebration- Murphy’s Pub, downtown Roseburg

Monday, March 17th Douglas County Museum
8:30-9:30 am Breakfast and Registration
9:30-10:30 am Yo Olde Swap Meet- inter-museum collections trade (Be sure to bring your wish list!)
10:30-10:45 am Break
10:45-11:45 am Evocative collections- James Fox, University of Oregon Libraries (Everything has a story to tell. Discover how to bring out the storytelling magic hidden in everyday objects.)
11:45-12:30 Lunch
12:30-1:30 Dynamic Exhibit Design- Anthony Vialpando, freelance exhibit designer. Learn about the latest trends in exhibit design and fabrication and how to have big impact with little money.
1:30-1:45 pm Break
1:45-2:45 pm Innovative Marketing- M. Kornba, marketing guru (Marketing changes faster than the wind of marketing. Get great ideas from one of our own and one of the best. Bring a sample of your museum’s marketing material to share!)
2:45-3:00 pm Closing remarks

Oregon Museum Association’s Spring Meeting March 10-17th 2008
At the Douglas County Museum

Driving Directions to Roseburg and Douglas County Museum:
From points north and south, access I-5 and drive until Exit 123 (Fairgrounds Exit). You will find the Douglas County Museum located at 123 Museum Drive; phone: 541-957-7007.

Lodging in Roseburg
Holiday Inn Express will offer a special rate of $89 to OMA Members. To reserve a room call Holiday Inn at 541.673.7517. To get to the Holiday Inn, take I-5 Exit 124 (Diamond Lake Exit). It is located at 375 West Harvard Avenue.

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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

All OMA memberships are on a calendar year and expire on December 31.

□ NEW  □ RENEWAL

Today’s Date: ___________________________ Date Received: ___________________________

All OMA members receive the quarterly newsletter, The Dispatch, discounts on registration fees to OMA meetings and workshops, and e-mail notifications of OMA news and events. Each member is entitled to one vote at OMA business meetings.

Student/Volunteer and Individual memberships are for individuals only. Museum staff, volunteers, board members, college students, and the interested public can join at these rates with the benefits listed above.

Corporate/Business memberships are for individuals or companies who do business with museums or wish to support the OMA and its activities. A Corporate/Business membership is entitled to one vote at OMA business meetings and to a listing on the OMA website page for “Museum Related Services.”

□ Student/Volunteer $15.00
□ Individual $25.00
□ Corporate/Business $75.00

Institutional memberships are for museums. Each museum is entitled to one vote at OMA business meetings, to a free listing in the OMA Guidebook to Oregon Museums and on the OMA website, and to receive free copies of the Guidebook to Oregon Museums for distribution at their museum. Each museum may send up to five staff members (paid staff, volunteers, or board members) to OMA meetings and workshops at the discount rate. OMA institutional members should qualify as a museum by the definition of the American Association of Museums, available at: http://www.aam-us.org/aboutmuseums/whatism.htm

□ Institutional (operating budget less than $50,000) $75.00
□ Institutional (operating budget $50,000-$200,000) $120.00
□ Institutional (operating budget $200,000 and above) $180.00

First name: ___________________________ Last name: ___________________________
Title: ___________________________
Museum’s name: ___________________________
Organization name (if different): ___________________________
Street Address: ___________________________
City: ___________ State: ________ Zip: ___________
Fax #: ___________ All #: ___________
Website: ___________________________
E-Mail address: (used only for OMA-to-Member communications): ___________________________
E-Mail address: (contact address for the public; will appear on the OMA web page for your institution): ___________________________

Please send completed OMA Membership application form and check (payable to Oregon Museums Association or OMA) to: Oregon Museums Association, PO Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207-1718.

If you have questions, please contact the OMA at info@oregonmuseums.org or call Ray Vandiver, OMA Membership Chair at (503) 757-4540.
The Meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m., with conference sessions set to resume at 10:00 a.m.

President Julie Reese gave time for organization announcements from the floor.

Keni Sturgeon: Secretary; Gardner Chappell: Director at Large; Peggy Schorsh: Director at Large

Old Business:
- MJ will be sending out press releases soon on the distribution of the guide book as well as the new logo opportunities.
- Oregon Heritage Commission - Kyle Jansson reminded members that there are opportunities for scholarships and encouraged donations towards increasing the amount of funds available. Kyle also reported that the Oregon Heritage Grant cycle has now closed. Grants for the current cycle are very competitive with 42 applications being reviewed for the funds available. The Oregon Museum Grant cycle is now open and available on-line with a deadline of December 15th. The 2007 Oregon Heritage Conference was held in Pendleton in May. The 2008 Conference will be held on May 4th through 6th in Eugene with a theme of "Go the Distance".

New Business:
- During its October 21, 2007 meeting, the OMA Board voted to approve a membership with the Non-Profit Organization of Oregon. Bob Hart presented the 2007-08 slate of officers and directors-at-large for the open Board positions. Nominations were selected according to the bylaws with guidelines for geographic diversity. After presentation, Bob moved that the ballot slate be approved as presented. MJ Koreiva seconded the motion. President Julie Reese opened the floor for nominations. With none forthcoming, nominations were closed. David Porter moved, Katherine Huit seconded to elect the nominees as presented by the nomination committee. The motion carried. New officers and members are:

  - Keni Sturgeon: Secretary; Gardner Chappell: Director at Large; Peggy Schorsh: Director at Large

2007 DONATIONS TO THE OREGON CULTURAL TRUST TOP $3.5 MILLION

Oregonians donated a record $3.5 million to the Oregon Cultural Trust in 2007, a $700,000, or 20 percent, increase from $2.8 million contributed in calendar year 2006. Fundraising has increased every year since December 2002 when the cultural tax credit took effect.

"In 2007, for the first time in years, the state made a major reinvestment in art and culture," commented Governor Ted Kulongoski. "Today, I congratulate the people of Oregon for stepping up and demonstrating their own commitment to culture in all its forms - and in all regions of the state - by making record contributions to the Oregon Cultural Trust."

The number of gifts to the Trust also increased in 2007, up by 21 percent, from $44,844 in 2006 to $55,608 in 2007. More than 1,700 of those were first-time donors, exceeding 2006's 1,450 first-time donors. Significant increases in first-time donors indicate that knowledge about the Trust's innovative matching gift-tax credit program is reaching more Oregonians who understand the value - and the reward - of investing in their communities' arts, heritage and humanities.

Donors to the Cultural Trust give so much more than money," observed Board Chair Norm Smith. They are active participants in the cultural life of our state and they enable theater, dance, film and music to tour to rural areas, native languages to be revived, libraries to expand, and historic artifacts to be preserved. Cultural Trust donors make it possible for everyone to play a part in the Oregon story.

Executive Director Christine D'Arcy added, "By encouraging cultural participation, the Oregon Cultural Trust forges powerful partnerships -- with donors, with cultural nonprofits, with cultural coalitions in every Oregon county and the nine federally-recognized tribes, and with Oregon's five state cultural partners. Every single one of those partners is vital to the success of the Oregon Cultural Trust and its mission."

Trust Manager Carol Pelton reported that donations in 11 of Oregon's 36 counties increased by 25 percent or more and, of those, five charted increases in excess of 30 percent. Year-end activity was even more intense than usual in 2007, with the trust tallying more than $300,000 in donations in December 31 alone.

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Thank you for supporting OMA!

OMA Tee Shirts A Hit!

OMA Board member MJ Koreiva visited an Oregon Heritage Commission meeting recently to promote the new Guidebook to Oregon Museums and Tee-shirt. Here, deputy state historic preservation officer Roger Roper (left) and Oregon Heritage Commission E. John Rumpakis admire the shirt on Heritage Commission coordinator Kyle Jansson. OMA Tee Shirts are a great way to show your support for Oregon’s museum. They also make great recognition gifts for volunteers and staff. To one or a greater quantity, please select from the following:

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We will fill orders upon receipt of payment. The OMA is unable to process credit or debit card purchases at this time. Send your check (payable to Oregon Museums Association or OMA) and completed order form to:

Oregon Museums Association
P.O. Box 1718
Portland, OR 97207-1718

Thank you for supporting OMA!