Winter 2007

Dear OMA Friends,

Sometime in the next few days give yourself a well-deserved gift: a few minutes to thoughtfully review your 2007 activities and to prepare for the opportunities that the new year will bring.

- Pat yourself on the back for your achievements-large and small, personal and institutional. Make sure each person involved knows that his / her efforts and support are appreciated.
- If you had challenges in 2007, devise a way to make them work in your favor (that whole lemons to lemonade thing) or, at the very least, a way to avoid repeats in the coming year.
- Get organized so that you’re ready to take advantage of whatever comes your way in 2008.
- Renew your membership in the Oregon Museums Association!

Your Board of Directors looks forward to collaborating with you in 2008 to benefit Oregon's museums, staffs, and visitors. The Dispatch, the website, an upgraded Guidebook to Oregon Museums, and information-packed programs are a great start - together we’ll build from there.

Along with your pondering, allow yourself a short winter’s nap so that you’ll be refreshed and ready for action! Wishing each of you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Julie Reese
President

OMA Dispatch
Post Office Box 1718, Portland, OR 97207  www.oregonmuseums.org

The newsletter of the Oregon Museums Association, Dispatch, is published four times a year: Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Oregon Museums Association is a statewide membership organization serving the needs of museums and related institutions, large and small, across Oregon. OMA holds meetings and workshops around the state, advocates for the interests of its members in legislative and other matters, publishes a bi-annual Guidebook to Oregon Museums, and a periodic directory of all known museums in the state. Historic houses, aquaria, interpretive centers and sites, zoos, heritage sites - all are potential members of OMA. OMA is a nonprofit organization; contributions are tax deductible. OMA provides scholarships to members for professional development. OMA is an affiliated state organization of the Western Museums Association. Send news about your museum to Katherine Huit (research@vcilink.com). Digital files are preferred, but hard copy can be sent to Katherine Huit, 7020 SW Lehold Road, McMinnville, OR 97128.

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Last Minute Gift Ideas...
Need to get that last minute gift?

- Give an OMA membership to a student or volunteer...
- Give an Oregon Museums Association Tee Shirt
- Provide for sustained cultural heritage - contribute to the Oregon Cultural Trust in someone else’s name...

Happy Holidays!
OMA Successfully Launches New Website

The OMA website provides a wealth of resources to museum professionals and the public alike. The new website, www.oregonmuseums.org, is designed to be user-friendly and provides easy access to information about Oregon's museums.

Among the new features of the website are:

- A comprehensive list of Oregon's museums with contact information, hours of operation, and links to their websites.
- An online guidebook to Oregon museums, which provides detailed information about each institution.
- A directory of museum jobs in Oregon.
- A calendar of museum events, including lectures, workshops, and exhibits.
- An archive of past issues of the OMA Dispatch.
- A section for members, which includes a members-only area with resources such as the OMA Guidebook and the OMA Dispatch.

The new website also includes a search function that allows users to find museums by location, theme, or type of collection. There is also a feature that allows users to create a personalized page on the website by selecting their favorite museums and sharing their experiences.

OMA is committed to providing a resourceful and easily accessible website for Oregon's museums and the public. We encourage you to explore the new website and to provide feedback on how we can improve it to better serve your needs.
OMA Members came together for the Fall Meeting Reception in Astoria at the Clatsop Heritage Museum. Thank you to the Clatsop County Historical Society for hosting Sunday’s reception activities!

Monday’s activities took place at the Columbia River Maritime Museum. Executive Director Jerry Ostermiller welcomed OMA Members to the recently renovated and expanded Museum.

DIRECTORS GIVE ANNUAL REPORT
During the OMA business meeting, Board Members reported that OMA is operating in the black with positive cash flow. Overall committee strength and activity has increased. Membership numbers are strong. OMA has a stronger presence on the Internet. OMA also has a new and colorful logo, featured on the recently updated Guidebook to Oregon Museums. A distribution grant from Travel Oregon helped with delivery of the Guidebook to our members.

NEWDIRECTORSJOIN THEBOARD
The Membership elected new directors for its Board, including Secretary Keni Sturgeon, and Directors-at-Large Gardner Chappell and Peggy Schorsch. Congratulations! To retiring directors Secretary Connie Nice, and Directors-at-Large Kyle Jansson and Tracy Thoennes we offer a huge "Thank You!"

PROGRAM SESSIONSFOCUS ONLIFELONG LEARNING
Members attending the morning and afternoon program sessions heard about changes in State education standards, successful lifelong learning programs at museums around the State. The message for museum educators: don’t just focus on 4th graders; design programs that appeal to all ages. Programs should be designed to meet State standards, promote problem solving, and provide interactive, hands-on learning. Encourage questions! Develop curriculum that can evolve with the needs of your learning community. Educators should also include an evaluation for teachers to fill out, which will provide program developers with needed information for refining and defining future exhibits, events, and activities.

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Great Gift Idea! Sell them in your Museum's gift shop; use them for a fundraising item for your Museum; give them as 'thank you gifts' to your museum's Donors or Volunteers; send one to your local 'celebrity' and ask them to wear it at your next community event, fun-run, festival, parade or gathering. It's a great way to show people you care about Oregon museums! To order quantities of 100 or more, please contact the OMA for special pricing (info@oregonmuseums.org or at the address listed below).

Demonstrate Your Support for Oregon Museums by Wearing an OMA Tee Shirt!

OMA Tee Shirt!

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