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Museum Matters

August E-Newsletter

The Washington County Museum
Invites you to

Swank Affair

Sponsored by:
Roser's Fine Foods

Lights, Camera, Action!!

October 17, 2009

Hep Cats and Glamour Girls get ready to walk down the red carpet.
A dazzling, electrifying evening is all the rage for friends
of the Washington County Museum.
Dinner * Live Music * Dancing * Wine Pull * Auction

The poster is framed in yellow and features a grey star with 'Swank Affair' written on it, a black film camera icon, and a black sign with 'Lights, Camera, Action!!' written on it. The date 'October 17, 2009' is written in red. The text 'The Washington County Museum Invites you to' is in red, and 'Sponsored by: Roser's Fine Foods' is in red. The bottom text is in black.

Director's Message

By Samuel Shogren, WCM Executive Director

This issue of our newsletter highlights a number of the important changes and new milestones reached over the past couple of months at the Washington County Museum. Inspired by the new vision and mission adopted by our board in February, the museum's staff, board and volunteers have been working hard to meet the challenges laid out by our new strategic plan. We are working to transform the museum to better serve the needs of our community by both reinventing how we

work, and how we develop and run our programs. We seek to be inspired by the **"innovative pioneering spirit"** that first drew the original inhabitants and first settlers this area and which later drove our transformation into the Silicon Forest.

Part of our reinvention is the development of new public programs. Our highly successful **Family Days** held last winter and spring will return to our calendar with the return of school in September. This program will move to the second Saturday of each month featuring a wide variety of activities for kids and families. Interested in learning more or lending a hand? Please [contact the museum](#).

Another new program held in May, that will now be an annual event, is our **Taste of Washington County**. A packed house of 100 guests crowded into the museum's gallery to sample some of the best food and wine in our area prepared by the leading caterers, restaurants and wineries. This spectacular evening was capped by honoring two of Washington County's leading citizens, Barbara Peck and Curtis Tigard (both 100 years young) with our **Heart of Washington County Award**.

Our reinvention has also led to the development of a new **Cultural Partners** program. The museum is actively seeking and recruiting other community groups and non-profit organizations to become involved with the operations of the museum and to utilize our facility. We are offering the museum as a place to support the operations of their organization; a place to hold board meetings, workshops, and events. We have supported the printing of flyers for a Boy Scout Troop in Cedar Mill and hosted the board meetings of the Westside Quilters Guild and Print Arts Northwest. **Cultural Partners** are also helping develop and collaborate with the museum's education programs. To learn more about this program contact [Sam](#) at the museum.

In addition to the **Cultural Partners** program, the museum has redeveloped its own **Volunteer Committees** in support of the museum and to help implement the museum's new strategic plan. Two of the new active working groups are the **Latino Program Steering Committee**, developed to create new school programs celebrating Latino contributions in Washington County; and the **Technology Advisory Committee** that is focused on documenting the history of the high tech economy here. You can find more on these committees later in the newsletter.

We also have a number of new **volunteer staff positions** that we are seeking to fill including that of a **Volunteer Coordinator**. To learn more about these opportunities please call the museum or [email us](#).

All of this activity has had a very positive impact on the future of the museum. Let me highlight just two. First, we have **doubled the size of our museum's board** in the past six months thanks in large part to the leadership of Gary Imbrie, our board president. Let us all welcome and thank the following individuals for joining our board:

- Dan Burton - LCG Pence Contractors
- Ed Carroll - Online Business Systems, Portland
- Ron Iwasaki - Iwasaki Horticultural Sales, Hillsboro
- Virginia Ohler - Ohler Management Services, Forest Grove
- Dr. David Rule - Portland Community College - Rock Creek

Second, in the past three months **the museum has added 150 new members**. Thank you to all the friends of the museum who have encouraged others to join the

museum, to those who have purchased memberships for former classmates, and to the organizations who have purchased memberships on behalf of their members!

We are looking forward to an exciting fall with new educational opportunities for members, families, and scouts. I invite you to read on and learn about our new partnership with Print Arts Northwest, fun volunteer opportunities, our new monthly Third Thursdays, new exhibits, and more!

Warm Regards,

Sam Shogren
WCM Executive Director

Upcoming Event: Print Arts Northwest Third Thursday Art Opening

***Invasions* by Rebecca McCannell** Thursday, August 20th from 5:00 to 8:00pm



On July 16th the Board of Print Arts Northwest (PAN) formally signed an agreement with the museum to become our first formal **Cultural Partner**. We have been building towards this moment for months. Through this partnership, PAN will formally relocate their operations into the Washington County Museum, assist with exhibitions, and help develop new educational programs in partnership with the museum.

In fact, if you have visited the museum in the past month, you saw the new PAN gallery just inside our entrance and may have met Cindy Ordaneff at our new front desk. Cindy is PAN's new Administrative Assistant. She is helping the museum in a variety of ways including signing in guests to the museum.

In celebration of this partnership, join us for the third edition of PAN's fabulous Third Thursdays!

In *Invasions*, Rebecca McCannell brings together disparate elements in a collection of intaglio works. Of the show McCannell writes, "In order to move, a marionette must be manipulated by an external force; this relationship between the puppet and puppeteer parallels the power struggles we encounter as humans."

PAN Third Thursday opening parties include light refreshments and local wines, and are free of charge.

Upcoming Event: Rummage Sale Extravaganza!

Antiques, Art, New to You, and Treasures Galore!

Date and Time to be Announced

We are currently accepting quality donations for our rummage sale, including:

- Clothing
- Kitchen goods & appliances
- Antiques
- Working electronics
- Bedding and linens
- Vintage items
- Artwork
- Books
- Furniture



You may bring donations to the museum Monday through Friday 10am to 3pm, and Saturday 10 to 2pm. One of the staff or one of our wonderful volunteers will happily intake the items for you, and help you fill out a donation receipt, as all donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law.

On a special note, the museum is looking for a refrigerator for use in our office area. Ideally this would be a model no older than 7 years old, and in good used condition.

For more information about the Rummage Sale Extravaganza, how to donate, etc. please call the museum at 503-645-5353 or [email us](#).

Exhibits: We've Been Busy!

By Jennifer Kozik, Collections & Programs Manager



Our newly remodeled Washington County Museum gallery opened with great success on June 18th.

Over 150 guests came to see *This Kalapuya Land*, our expanded *Washington County in a Nutshell*, and Print Art Northwest's *The Japan Series* that evening. Between May 22nd and June 18th, we removed the drop ceiling in the gallery and painted a great deal of the museum's interior.

New cabinetry for much needed storage was installed in the staff area, thanks to a generous anonymous donation of the materials and installation work. To top it all off, a new gallery was created from the front lobby for Print Arts Northwest and a terrific new welcome desk has been installed in the main entry.

This Kalapuya Land showcases never-before-seen artifacts that give a rare glimpse into the culture and lives of the Afalati-Kalapuya. Our expanded *Washington County in a Nutshell Exhibit* features revolving artifacts and displays that tell the unique story of our county, and the factors that have shaped this land we call home.

This Kalapuya Land is made possible by the generous support of the following organizations:

The Braemar Charitable Trust | Cultural Coalition of Washington County
Juan Young Trust | Oregon Community Foundation | Oregon Cultural Trust
PGE Foundation | Spirit Mountain Community Fund | Stimson-Miller Foundation

This project has been funded in part with assistance from the Oregon Heritage Commission, Heritage Conservation Division, and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

A Very Special thanks to The Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon

News from the Robert L. Benson Research Library

The Washington County Museum library got a face lift the week of July 6th thanks to the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Museum received a \$5,000 NEH grant last year to upgrade our outdated wooden shelves with powder coated steel shelves. These shelves will help us as we work toward best museum practices and will be moved into the new Archives storage space once our remodel is completed.

Get Involved: A Call for Volunteers!

The museum's newly formed committees need caring community members

like you!

We are currently seeking people in the community interested in becoming a part of the museum family. Though professional experience in the following areas is a great bonus, we also love a committee member who just plain has a lot of passion for their chosen area of volunteerism. The committees are:

Education Committee: Share your passion for education and young people as part of our Education Committee! Committee members will assist with the planning and execution of our Mobile Museum, Scout Saturdays, and Family Day events.

Museum Committee: Have a passion for heritage objects? Love a great exhibit? Join our Museum Committee to assist our Collections & Programs Manager with determining which objects to induct into the museum collection, and help her as needed with exhibit planning and installation.

Advancement Committee: Become a part of the exciting event planning and fundraising that goes on at the museum!

Financial Committee: Great at balancing the books and crunching numbers? As part of our Financial Committee you can help the museum immensely with your savvy for dollars and sense!

Facilities Committee: Know about facilities? Help us with our building, making the best use of our space, and weigh in on the new addition.

Communications Committee: Help spread the work about the Washington County Museum on our Communications Committee, strategizing about branding, press, advertising, and outgoing communications to our members and the general public.

Personnel Committee: Have a knack for HR? Help us with board recruitment, personnel policies, and all things people aboard our Personnel Committee.

Committee members are responsible for attending monthly (and sometimes bi monthly) meetings, volunteering to do work between meetings toward the advancement of their committee's goals, and for representing the museum well in our community with a great attitude and a genuine desire to make a positive impact in our community.

As a Washington County Museum committee member, you can be sure that the work you are doing is creating educational, enriching, and historically important experiences for people in Washington County.

Looking for a shorter term opportunity to make a difference? We are always looking for event volunteers, administrative volunteers, and those good with a paint brush or table saw!

Interested? Would like more info? [Please contact us.](#)

Upcoming Lecture: Taming Wild Photo Collections!

**How to Organize, Preserve and Showcase your Heritage Photographs
With Preservation Professional Brina Bolanz**

Wednesday, August 19th from 3:30-4:30pm at the Museum. \$3 Admission for non-

members.

Are you unsure how to properly care for your treasured heritage photos? Preservation professional Brina Bolanz will show you how to handle, label and store your family's visual history. She will address print and digital methods of archiving and explore different options for safely and beautifully showcasing your precious collection. Come with questions!

The museum wishes to thank the **Oregon International Air Show** for their generous sponsorship of our Crossroads Lecture Series.



Crossroads Lectures take place on the third Wednesday of every month from 3:30-4:30 p.m. Lectures are free to WCM members, employees of corporate members, and PCC faculty, staff, and students. All ages are welcome. Parking is free in lot A or C with a permit available at the museum.

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"Dress Capes" from Right!Wrong! Photo: Jerry Mossman © 2001, courtesy/Trigo Theatre



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Washington County Museum

17677 NW Springville Road | Portland, OR | 503-645-5353

Located on the PCC Rock Creek Campus

www.WashingtonCountyMuseum.org

[Click here for a Google map and to get driving directions](#)

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