

EXHIBITIONS: The Museum's exhibition program is the heart of our mission. Mark Tolonen, Curator of Exhibitions, and the volunteers in his department conceived, prepared, and installed the following exhibitions in the Museum galleries:

FIRST FLOOR GALLERY: "Something Old, Something Blue" closed after its eleven-month run from November 2014 to October 2015. There were many positive visitor comments about the concept of showing only blue-colored artifacts, resulting in a diverse array of objects, from jewelry and ceramics to toys, natural history specimens, and more. On November 7, 2015 the new exhibition, "Up, Up, and Away" opened. The exhibition is a survey of many means of flight and related history of aviation in Benton County.

MORELAND GALLERY:



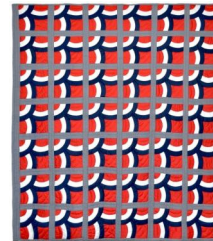
Jan Maitland



Meisen kimono



Carolee Clark



Bill Volckening quilt

Eight changing art exhibitions were presented from November 2014 through November 2015. These included:

Joy to the World (November 21, 2014 to January 24, 2015) Group exhibition of three women artists: Jan Roberts-Dominguez, Jennifer Lommers, and Jan Maitland.

Daring, Feminine Meisen Kimonos (January 30, 2015 to March 16, 2015) From the collection of Karen Illman Miller, 1920s and 30s kimonos from Japan.

Willamette Valley Scholastic Art Awards (March 20 to April 11, 2015) Regional winners of the juried contest were displayed in the gallery. Closing ceremony and award presentation held on April 11th.

Art: The 4th 'R' (April 17 to May 9, 2015) Since 1986, the museum has mounted an annual show of artwork by Philomath School District K-12 students.

Shared Landscape (May 15-June 27, 2015) Group show of local painters, Tom Allen, Carolee Clark and Sue Harrell.

John Rock Collection (July 2-August 15, 2015) Prints, paintings, sculpture, and models by former Oregon State University art professor, John Rock (1919-1993).

Modern Materials: Quilts of the 1970s (August 21-October 3, 2015) Quilt collector Bill Volckening of Portland, Oregon shared his latest acquisitions. This was one of over 20 simultaneous quilt shows presented throughout Benton County for the biennial Quilt County event, held every other year since 1991.

Soap Creek Artisans (October 9-November 21, 2015) Eight local artists, Joe Crockett, Dale Draeger, Sam Hoffman, Vicki Idema, Ann Lahr, Judy Moon, Kelly Nutter and Deanna Peters display photographs, paintings, glasswork, ceramics in this group show.

COLLECTIONS: The Collections Committee meets regularly to review new gifts and proposed deaccessions. From November 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015, the committee accepted items or groups of items from 80 donors, including objects, images, documents, manuscripts and published works. The Collections department had 34 volunteers and interns working with Collections Manager, Mary Gallagher. These dedicated people donated 3,625 hours last year, unpacking collections objects, entering cataloguing data in the PastPerfect database, taking photographs of objects, and making storage mounts and serving on the Collections Committee (group photo below).

Tom Fuller, objects conservator, was engaged last summer to stabilize and repair the moose specimen in the Horner Collection; his work is still in progress.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS: Volunteer docents continue to participate in the Museum’s educational programs by visiting classrooms with History in a Trunk or leading guided tours of the Museum exhibitions, upon request.

School and student groups that toured the museum last year were: Philomath and Blodgett Elementary (several grade levels) Santiam Christian School, the Montessori School, and Alsea Elementary School.

Self-guided school tours and Scout troop tours bring the total number of children served in 2014-2015 to 1087 children at the museum and an additional 184 children in the classroom. The majority of these children live in rural areas.

Our adult educational programming included the Benton Lectures held in February-March 2015 in the Moreland on Monday mornings at 10:00 am. The lecture topics complemented our “Something Old, Something Blue” exhibition; the series was titled, “Something Blue: Emotion, Science and Society”. Dr. Anita Guerrini of Oregon State University gave a talk on “Obesity and Depression in the Enlightenment”; Dr. Todd Jarvis of Oregon State University presented “Finding Water the Old Timey Way”; Dr. Leslie Dunlap of Willamette University talked about the state of marriage in “Something Old, Something New”; Ken Elwer and Ken Ruben of the Philomath Police department spoke about modern policing in “Boys in Blue” and the last lecture was presented by Dr. Mas Subramanian of Oregon State University titled, “Blue: Something New” about his discovery of a new blue pigment. Combined



attendance for all programs was 187 people.

We continue to host a quarterly Story Time for pre-schoolers in the Moreland Gallery, in cooperation with the Philomath Public Library. Curious George, at right, also visited during one of the story time events.



EVENTS: Special events held were: the Philomath Christmas tree lighting ceremony in early December. In April, during Volunteer Appreciation month, we held our annual luncheon to honor the museum volunteers and recognize their contributions to the Society; in July the museum participated as a venue in the Philomath Chamber of Commerce Wine Walk; also in July we hosted a book talk by the author of “At the Hearth of Crossed Races” Melinda Jette. We hosted another lecture by Dr. Dave Brauner, OSU Anthropology professor about his work at Fort Hoskins.

Fundraising events included: “Something Blue” picnic held in July on the Museum grounds, and the Fall Online Auction, held in October.

MEMBERSHIP AND VISITATION: Membership is currently 402 member-households. Approximately 60 volunteers are involved in all aspects of the Society’s programs, including collections, exhibitions, fundraising and educational outreach.

From November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015, 6,518 people visited the Museum: 1081 children and 5437 adults. After analysis of a sampling from the guest book, of those visitors who sign, about 50 % of our visitors come from Corvallis, 40 % from out of the area and 10% from Philomath.

Various organizations meet throughout the year in the Moreland and in the Museum Annex. These include: Marys River Quilt Guild, Benton County Genealogical Society, and Philomath Lion’s Club. Annex usage averages 50 people per month, or about 600 people per year.

Other adult groups that have toured or met at the museum include: Americorps, Lifelong Learning group, Oregon State University students from both history and material culture classes, Crossroads Conversation groups, Linn Benton Community College history class, Lifeskills class, Philomath High School class of 1956 reunion, Corvallis High School class of 1965 reunion, retirement community groups from Stoneybrook, Bridges Enterprises, the Grace Center, Citizens’ Bank state of the economy presentation, retirement party for Chief Ken Elwer of the Philomath Police Department, art workshops by Donna Beverly.

FUNDRAISING: We were very fortunate to raise 113% of our operations contribution goal in FY 2014-15 for a total of \$60,000. That, combined with our other sources of revenue brought us to 103.5% of budgeted income. Expenses were held at 98% of budget. With a major capital campaign also in progress, we thank our supporters and members for their ongoing donations to both efforts.

We received two grants in the past year: one from the OSU Folk Club Thrift Shop for new computers and one from the State Historic Preservation Office to repair the masonry on the Philomath College museum building.

FACILITIES: Two major projects that were accomplished last year were the installation of video surveillance cameras in the museum and collections facility and masonry repairs to the Philomath

College building. These projects were made possible by a generous gift-in-kind from Federal Security for the camera system and a matching grant from the State Historic Preservation Office for the masonry repairs and handrails. Pictured at right: east back porch repair.



STAFF: Staff is involved in the following organizations: Mary Gallagher is on the Oregon State Advisory Committee for Historic Preservation and the Corvallis Downtown Advisory Committee. Irene Zenev serves on the Philomath Public Art Council and the Philomath Leaders group. Terri Thomas participates in the mid-Valley development group and the Benton County Cultural Coalition.

I would again like to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Trustees and the Museum staff for their dedication and outstanding service to the Society. Mary Gallagher and Mark Tolonen of the curatorial staff have done a remarkable job managing our collections, and producing fine exhibitions and working with our many wonderful volunteers. Bob Holton, maintenance and facilities manager and Peggy Lee, finance manager, although both part-time employees have devoted themselves to their jobs and done outstanding work in their areas. Terri Thomas as part-time Membership and Fundraising Events Coordinator has improved the on-line auction, solicited new sponsors and created new fundraising events. And thanks to Jim Michalek and Alyssa Froman and especially our dedicated Tuesday volunteer, Joyce Nesson, for making our visitors feel welcome. It is an honor and a pleasure to work with this committed museum staff.

The future of the Benton County Historical Society

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The Society continues to raise money for a new museum in downtown Corvallis. An active Leadership Gifts Committee, chaired by past BCHS president, Alice Rampton, has received \$5 million in donations and pledges from donors since fundraising for the new museum project began in the fall of 2010. Last year, we surpassed a \$1 million challenge from Pete and Rosalie Johnson in February, 2015. The fundraising goal for the project is \$9.06 million.

The Team Leaders of the campaign took out advertisements in the Oregon State University football and basketball programs for the 2015-16 seasons. They also placed a construction sign on the future museum property at the corner of 2nd St. and Adams Ave. in downtown Corvallis.

Respectfully submitted,

Executive Director,
Benton County Historical Society & Museum

