What’s Inside?

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About OHS

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state’s collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories.

Our research library, museum, digital platforms, educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon’s history open and accessible to all.

We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and as rich as Oregon’s cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.

Visit the Museum & Research Library

Museum & Store
Mon–Sat 10am–5pm
Sun 12pm–5pm

Research Library
Tue 1pm–5pm
Wed–Sat 10am–5pm

Dear OHS Members,

Soon after America’s entry into World War II, General George Marshall was asked by the press if we had a secret weapon that would ensure victory. Marshall thought for a while, and then replied that, “America does have a secret weapon. It’s the best darned kids in the world.”

For the past several months, it’s been my honor to meet many of those “best darned kids” as they visited OHS to tour our outstanding exhibition World War II: A World at War, A State Transformed. It was also my privilege to meet the children and grandchildren of the “Greatest Generation” who came to see the exhibit, and to remember and honor their loved ones. The record attendance for the exhibit is proof that OHS is sharing history that is relevant today.

Also attracting a record number of visitors was A Community on the Move, an exhibit curated by our partners, the Oregon Black Pioneers, which highlighted the history of Oregon’s Black population during the mid-twentieth century.

2016 promises to be another exciting year for the Oregon Historical Society. We kick it off with two major exhibitions on Portland’s historic Chinatowns and Chinese exclusion and inclusion throughout U.S. history. We will have some fun in the summer with Comic City, USA, which will profile some of the nation’s leading comic book creators who hail from Portland. Add to that four compelling speakers in our 2016 Mark O. Hatfield Distinguished Historians Forum, the return of Teddy Roosevelt for another statewide tour, and the fourth exhibit to feature items from the incredible Mark Family Collection, and it’s no surprise that I am very excited about the months ahead.

Of course, we wouldn’t be able to host world-class exhibitions and programs without the continued support of you—our members & supporters. On behalf of the board and the staff of OHS, I want to paraphrase General Marshall, and thank you for being “the best darned members in the world!”

Sincerely,

Kerry Tymchuk
Executive Director
Something’s Different...

See the new & improved ohs.org this fall!

Over the past year, the Oregon Historical Society has worked with local creative & strategy agencies Sockeye and Experience Lab to develop a new and improved platform at ohs.org. This November, you will notice that our site will have a bit of a face lift. Using research gathered from our members, volunteers, and other history enthusiasts, the new ohs.org will be more user friendly, allowing visitors to discover connections between our many digital platforms, from The Oregon Encyclopedia to the Library Catalog, with new content added daily.

Through this process, we also worked with Sockeye to create an updated visual brand for OHS. This modernized palette complements the new website, and gives a fresh look to match the lively programs and exhibits our visitors experience each day. The new brand guidelines also rely heavily on the heart of our organization: our collections. Preservation is central to our mission, and we are excited to showcase even more of the “treasures from our vault” to our members and stakeholders through our branding and website.

We hope you take some time to explore the new website, and that it allows you to discover more about Oregon history than you ever thought possible!
World War II: A World at War, A State Transformed
Closes December 7, 2015!

This past June, the OHS museum launched its largest original exhibition to date, telling the local and global stories of World War II. Considered by many to be the most impactful event of the twentieth century, WWII not only changed the lives of the soldiers who fought overseas and those who served our country on the home front, but it also established legacies that continue to this day.

While the global history is displayed through rare artifacts from the Mark Family Collection, items from OHS and other local collections, along with accompanying public programs, tell the stories that are unfamiliar even to many lifelong Oregonians—from the Japanese balloon bomb in Bly, Oregon, to the creation and subsequent extinction of the city of Vanport, to the Kaiser shipyards and the long-term strides in childcare and healthcare that were initiated during this era.

Plus, all veterans and active duty military and their families can visit the exhibit for FREE, thanks to a generous sponsorship from Columbia Sportswear!
Prospective Docent Informational Meeting
Monday, January 11, 2016, 1pm–2pm

OHS is looking for volunteer docents to lead tours for students and adults of all ages. Docents also participate in monthly training sessions, learning about new exhibits and effective ways to lead tours. Please email volunteer@ohs.org if you plan to attend.

Oregon History Day

The Oregon Historical Society is excited to again organize Oregon History Day, the statewide qualifying competition for National History Day (NHD). This past June, Oregon sent 24 students to compete in Washington, D.C., where they presented documentaries, papers, websites, and more on topics including Title IX, George C. Marshall, and Rosie the Riveter. The 2016 NHD theme is "Exploration, Encounter, and Exchange in History." If you would like to bring NHD to your classroom, or if you have a student who would like to participate in 2016, please email Kristen.Pilgrim@ohs.org.

Oregon Voices
Opens November 16, 2015

OHS is excited to open a re-invigorated version of our popular Oregon Voices exhibition. Oregon Voices examines some of the important people, events, and ideas that have shaped the state in the modern era, from the end of World War II to the present. It features the people of Oregon, from Native Americans, who have lived here since time immemorial, to recent arrivals. It looks at Oregonians who have fought for and against social change, and it explores the land—how people have used it and how they have worked to save it. Join us to see the many updates and changes made to this exhibit when it opens in its new home in Gallery B!
Chinese American History

Chinese American: Exclusion / Inclusion

January 28 – May 1, 2016

The Oregon Historical Society will be the exclusive venue on the West Coast to host this ground-breaking exhibition created by the New York Historical Society, detailing history that spans from the Revolutionary War to the 1882 Exclusion Act to the Cold War and beyond. The contest over immigration and citizenship, the struggle over freedom, and the right to belong shaped the Chinese American experience and the very formation of American society. The exhibition weaves together personal family histories and shifting domestic policies. It is a story of extraordinary individuals, fearful and courageous acts, and unexpected twists and turns that have surprising relevance to our world today.

Beyond the Gate:
A Tale of Portland’s Historic Chinatowns

February 7 – June 21, 2016

Using both rare and seldom seen objects like Chinese opera costumes and theatrical sets, as well as bilingual text, audiovisual media, and interactive visitor stations, Beyond the Gate will tell a sprawling transnational story of contact and trade between China and the West, focusing on Portland’s Old (1850–1905) and New Chinatown (1905–1950). Don’t miss our free public opening celebration on February 7, featuring a dragon dance parade through downtown Portland!
Marie Equi’s Portland
Currently on exhibit in the OHS Research Library

Labeled as “one of the most dangerous anarchists,” Dr. Marie Equi (1872–1952) was a political activist and champion of social justice. Based for most of her life in Portland, she fought for the rights of women, the improvement of working conditions for laborers, the betterment of the poor and unemployed, and a host of other causes that placed her at odds with established society and powerful interests.

When the U.S. began it preparations to enter World War I, Equi spoke out forcefully against militarism of all kinds. For this she was arrested and convicted of sedition under a new Federal espionage act, spending ten months in San Quentin prison in 1920 and 1921. Undaunted, she returned to Portland and resumed her medical practice until her retirement in 1930. Because Portland was so central to the life of Marie Equi, this exhibit highlights her work here and the venues of her multifarious activities. To learn more about Marie Equi, visit the The Oregon Encyclopedia online, or read the new book by Michael Helquist, Marie Equi: Radical Politics & Outlaw Passions, which was heavily researched in the OHS Library!

On June 19, 1916, Marie Equi attended a lecture at the Heilig Theatre (left) given by her close friend Margaret Sanger, the leading advocate for birth control in the U.S. When the police broke up the meeting, Equi defied the authorities by continuing to distribute Sanger’s pamphlets—a daring move at a time when contraception was illegal. This is now the site of the Fox Tower.

At the time of her trial in 1918, Marie Equi was living at the Oregon Hotel, now the site of the Benson Hotel annex.

Left: Dr. Marie Equi, c. 1918, OHS Research Library, OrHi 60822; Right: Marie Equi and her daughter, Mary, outside Pioneer Courthouse at the time of her last appeal, 1920, OHS Research Library, OrHi 23492

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OHS Research Library, Photo File 1865

OHS Research Library, Photo File 1799-B
The Fall 2015 issue of the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* is all over the map in the best of ways! With articles investigating clock makers in eastern Oregon, artists at Crater Lake, and Latino community builders in Washington County, the issue shows once again that Oregon’s people, places, and events contain a vast well of stories and ideas that help us better understand why our state is what it is today.

The Winter 2015 issue will include an essay on the history of Rajneeshparum as understood through the lenses of major themes of the history of the American West, the story of Oregon’s Socialist Labor Party candidate for President, Frank T. Johns, and more.

Regulating Birth in Oregon
Symposium on November 17, 2015

The *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, in collaboration with Dr. Christin Hancock of the University of Portland, presents a symposium that promotes scholarship on the broad subject of regulating birth, from legal, social, political, religious, and cultural perspectives. Featuring five lectures, a panel discussion with local midwives, and a free keynote at 7pm, the scholarship presented at this symposium will be used to create a special issue of the *Quarterly*. Registration costs $35 ($25 for members!) and is available at www.ohs.org.

Midwife Sybil Harber of Lakeview, Ore., c. 1895, OHS Research Library bb007000
Mark O. Hatfield Distinguished Historians Forum

Since 1998, the Oregon Historical Society has presented this annual lecture series, which brings together the nation’s top historians and authors for thought-provoking evenings of history. Each spring, award-winning scholars come to Portland to share broad perspectives on the many facets of United States history.

Simon Winchester  February 9, 2016

Pacific: Silicon Chips & Surfboards, Coral Reefs & Atom Bombs, Brutal Dictators, Fading Empires, & the Coming Collision of the World’s Superpowers

Daniel James Brown  March 1, 2016

The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics

Candice Millard  April 5, 2016

Destiny of the Republic: A Tale of Madness, Medicine, and the Murder of a President

Kenneth C. Davis  May 3, 2016

The Hidden History of America at War: Untold Tales from Yorktown to Fallujah

Series tickets start at $72 and are on sale now through BoxOfficeTickets.com. All lectures begin at 7pm at the First Congregational Church in downtown Portland. Details at www.ohs.org
Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Each year, the Oregon Historical Society receives gifts in honor of individuals. Whether it is in memory of a loved one, or in honor of a special accomplishment, these tribute gifts keep Oregon's history accessible to all. Gifts listed below are those received in 2015 before October 23.

Gifts in Honor:

In honor of Ted & Paula Adams
Mark Beerman

In honor of Barbara Miller Beale
Mr. & Mrs. Hank & Judy Hummelt
Ms. Carol C. Ihlenburg

In honor of Suzannah Kline deMoll & Todd B. Hight's wedding
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley & Norma Jean Bryan
Mr. & Mrs. Trevor & Katrina Green

In honor of John Dennis' birthday
Mike Dennis

In honor of Antoinette Hatfield
Mr. & Mrs. Hank & Judy Hummelt
Mr. & Mrs. Doug & Denise White

In honor of the Menashe Family
Chet Orloff

In honor of Bill Wyatt's leadership
NACM Oregon

Gifts in Memory:

In memory of Brady Adams
Mark Beerman

In memory of Frank M. Bosch
Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Labadie

In memory of Raymond A. Dodge
Ms. Sue A. Altstadt
Ms. Marcella Bell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert & Patricia Burke
Mr. Jason Dyke
Mr. Richard French
Mr. & Mrs. Mort & Amy Friedkin
Mr. Alan Goudy
Richard H. & Joyce M. Gustafson
Mr. & Mrs. Carl E. Hammond
Anne & James Holtz
Mr. David Poulos
Mrs. Elaine Spathas
Mr. Matthew Spellman
Mr. David Sternberg
Ms. Trudi Svenson
Mrs. Molly I. Wittemore
Mr. Mitchell William Wood

In memory of Robert Bruce Emerson
Ms. Doris Bullock
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce & Kari Freeman
Ms. Ellanora Grimes
Richard H. & Joyce M. Gustafson
Ms. Nancy Locke & Mr. Donald Harris
Mrs. Sally McCracken
Ms. Susan B. Wertz

In memory of Vern L. Faatz
Tom Nettleton & Olivia Smith

In memory of Theodore R. Flook
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald G. & Joan E. Barnes

In memory of Charles Grissen
Mr. Kennedy Richardson

In memory of Carolyn Hixson
Philip & Kay Cogswell
Richard Engeman
Millard & Mary Lou McClung
Mr. and Mrs. Bill & Sharon Nesbit
Chet Orloff
Ms. Laura Paslay
Ms. Janet S. Plog
Ms. Rosalie Schmitz
Susan Seyl & Maryann McCormick

In memory of Wallace Huntington
Millard & Mary Lou McClung

In memory of Lannie Hurst
Ms. Rosalie Schmitz

In memory of Warren James
Ms. Judy Abele Baker

In memory of Raleigh R. Meyer, Jr.
Ms. Versie Marie Meyer

In memory of John Nielsen
Mrs. Antoinette Hatfield

In memory of Lloyd B. Rosenfeld
Mrs. Lloyd Rosenfeld

In memory of Gertrude Webb
The Boeing Company Foundation
Mr. James Cubbage
Ms. Barbara King
Ms. Cynthia Leighton & Mr. Roman Sulikowski
Ms. Julie Turrill & Mr. Scott Morrison

In memory of Bob Weiss
C.M. Bishop & Mary Lang Bishop
Mr. & Mrs. J.A. Labadie

Save the Date!
Legacy Society Tea
Saturday, December 12, 2015
2pm–4pm

Please RSVP to 503.306.5237
or Molly.Cochran@ohs.org
The 2015 History Makers Dinner honored broadcast journalist Ann Curry, former PGE CEO Peggy Fowler, Don Pancho founder George Puentes, and Les Schwab Tire Centers. Over 250 people gathered at Montgomery Park, making history by raising an unprecedented $300,000 to support OHS!

The OHS ambassador board, The Cabinet, hosted its first signature event on July 10 called Oregon through the Decades. Over 100 young history lovers filled the museum, taking tours of our WWII exhibition, dancing to tunes from the 1950s to 2000s, and dressing up in our photo booth to take pictures with wax Winston.

The event was a huge success, raising over $10,000 for OHS and bringing new fresh faces into the museum, many for their first visit!
“David McCullough tours Oregon Historical Society, loves everything he sees”

— The Oregonian, October 30, 2015

Talk about a headline! On Friday, October 30, the Oregon Historical Society hosted acclaimed historian David McCullough at a sold-out lecture at the Newmark Theatre in Portland on his latest book, The Wright Brothers. Prior to the event, McCullough toured the OHS exhibition World War II: A World at War, A State Transformed with OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk and collector Pete Mark, and was nothing short of impressed. From learning about the Japanese balloon bomb to the incredible impact of the Kaiser Shipyards, McCullough and his wife, Rosalee, commended OHS on a world-class exhibition and a “treasure” of a museum.