

2019 Annual Report: Tualatin Historical Society

Message from the president

It's hard to believe another year has nearly slipped by. We have had so many great programs and accomplishments since this time last year. Have a look at the highlights below and see if you don't agree.

A great standout for 2019 is the nice increase in membership. While we typically have modest improvements year-over-year, 2019 saw some 15% improvement. Membership is obviously important to the Tualatin Historical Society, but did you know it is our third largest source of revenue behind rentals and our Tualatin Heritage Evening fundraiser? A healthy membership level has many obvious benefits to the ongoing success of the Tualatin Historical Society. But there are some other pluses to growing membership and overall financial health which may not immediately come to mind: we are able to provide memberships free to those over 90 years of ages; honorary memberships to all speakers for one year; and for special events like ¡Viva Tualatin! Help us continue our membership growth. Gift a membership to friends and family—even those who don't live hear anymore. They will look forward to our quarterly newsletter.

Of course, the membership story would not be complete without pausing to reflect on those who will not be with us for 2020: Robert Summers, Shirley Bronte, Lee Ohanesian, Del Judy, Ken Dickson, and Eleanor Fitzgerald

Commented [RB1]:

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2019

November-December, 2018. At the 2018 annual meeting in November, featuring a light lunch and champagne, we re-elected the same slate of officers who agreed to continue serving. Members celebrated accomplishments of the past 12 months and expressed priorities for projects over the coming year for the new board's consideration. THS co-founder **Loyce Martinazzi** presented the Martinazzi-Lafky Award to **Karin Olson** for her many years working on membership recordkeeping, program ideas, auctions and particularly helping tend to the garden. Karin continues with these efforts though she has stepped down from the Membership Committee.

November

January. We again welcomed the Mask and Mirror Community Theatre for another annual series of their "unmasked" plays aimed particularly at adult audiences with serious themes and issues. Their second show was in July.

February. At our annual report to City Council, we acknowledged officials for our partnership and expressed thanks to Frank Bubenik who assumed an ex-officio role on the THS board when we took the gavel as mayor. All agreed the past 13 years have gone quickly since the February 2006 ribbon cutting.

March. A new addition to our permanent display was an 1860 ledger kept by John Sweek when he was “mining the miners” in Idaho (selling supplies) while his wife was upgrading the homeplace back in Tualatin. Sweek House continues to be the home of Althea Pratt and Jack Broome who have long cared for Tualatin’s only building on the federal list of historic places. This precious artifact was donated by his great-great-granddaughter Teresa Stone.

April. Two of our long-term user groups at the heritage center celebrated their ten-year anniversaries in 2019: the Old Paths Historic Baptist Church meets on Sundays and Wednesday evenings and the Wild Over Watercolor (WOW) group of artists use the facilities several times a month as an open studio.

June. We awarded our scholarship (\$3000) to Tualatin High School Senior Ricardo Olquin Galenana. We again greeted some 300 4th graders and their adult mentors for Pioneer Days, a hands-on experience with daily life skills used in Tualatin 150 years ago. **Chris Tunstall** continues to provide amazing leadership for this popular event with some 30 volunteers both from THS and the community. Students from three elementary schools visit 8 different learning stations learning about life before electricity.

July Our annual picnic at Community Park was another opportunity for informal conversations and fellowship. This gathering is always marked by new faces and new friends. Later in July, local residents enjoyed another play by Mask and Mirror Community Theatre. This year our share of proceeds was \$671.

August Thanks to Lee Farms, we found a protected location to display the historic Galbreath farm wagon that had been resurrected from long-term storage after its restoration by a professional wainwright. Thanks to THS member Dawn Westphal for keeping this artifact out of harm’s way. The wagon was placed in a gathering area at Lee Farm in plain view of thousands who visit each year for special events.

September Tualatin Heritage Evening 2019 (our silent auction and wine tasting) was held on a pleasant Friday night and netted some \$7,500 for Society operations thanks to dozens of donors. The evening included tasty foods by Dalton Catering and original music of Mark Eberhard. On the next day, the City of Tualatin hosted ¡Viva Tualatin! the first celebration of cultural diversity at Community Park. For THS, this was an opportunity to conduct oral histories (interviews) with some 11 residents who trace their roots back to another country. The recordings are available on the THS website. Several more persons volunteered to share their stories in the future.

October We again assisted the City of Tualatin for its 16th Annual Giant Pumpkin Regatta by providing clues to the location of a special Regatta medallion hidden somewhere in the city. The clues always focus on relevant history. Our quarterly newsletter included an article on street names in Tualatin and how they came about.

Public Programs Monthly

Hundreds attended monthly daytime and evening programs at the Heritage Center. First Wednesday afternoons emphasize state and local history. Third Thursday night-time presentations are planned in partnership with the Lower Columbia Chapter/Ice Age Floods Institute. Program ideas are always welcome. Remember these over the past 12 months?

November/December: “A Mountain at Your Doorstep” by geologist **Sheila Alfsen** focused on dangers of landslides in the NW. (November’s evening program co-sponsored with the Ice Age Floods Institute). Our holiday program in December welcomed living historian **Nancy Dunis** portraying a fictitious matron at Tualatin Country Club in the 1920s dressed in period attire.

January: Dubbed “The First Annual Memory Harvest,” THS president **Ross Baker** opened the new year by inviting folks to share memories of Tualatin past. Railroad geologist **Bill Burgel** described the great Bonneville Megaflood (Great Salt Lake) which was second in size to the Missoula Floods.

February: “Will Our Lands Provide for Us?” was the theme of a conversation led by Native American **Gabe Sheoships** dealing with who owns and cares for our public lands. Tualatin Master Naturalist **Marilyn Ellis** presented a fascinating program on how to identify raptors (birds of prey).

March: Long-time Tualatin veterinarian **Lynn Bertelson** shared stories of his years as our city’s go-to “pet whisperer.” His office is in the historic ____ House near the heritage center. **Lloyd DeKay** led us on a geological tour of the Columbia Gorge for our Thursday evening program arranged jointly with the Ice Age Floods Institute.

April: **Linda Moholt**, CEO of the Tualatin Chamber of Commerce, reviewed the business history of our city including the iconic dog food factory now the location of Lake at the Commons and a hotel. **NW Seismic** founder _____ described how to prepare our homes for the inevitable earthquake that will again occur in our region.

May: “Beyond Fake News: Finding Factual Information” was a conversation led by **Kelly McElroy**, an Oregon State University librarian. “Ice Age Mammals: Finding and Restoring Their Bones” was an engaging topic by paleontologist **John Brasseur**.

June: Pioneer Days pre-empted the first Wednesday program which was held later featuring author **R. Gregory Nokes** describing the troubled life of Oregon pioneer/first Supreme Court

Judge Peter Burnett; the **Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District** provided helpful resources on what this agency does to protect our land and water resources.

July: (no regular program but picnic and fellowship at Community Park); Geologist **Sheila Alfsen** covered the basics of what every homeowner should know about the ground under their house.

August: **Siobhan Taylor** of the Willamette Falls and Landings Heritage Area gave an update on efforts to secure federal recognition for the historic 56-river miles culminating at the Oregon City Falls; no evening program held in August.

September: Washington County historian **Judy Gates Goldman** introduced us to her great grandfather and mountain man/pioneer Joe Meek and his colorful role in Oregon history. Our evening program was held at Tualatin Library featuring **Rick Thompson** sharing photos and stories of Ice Age glacial erratic in our region.

October: **Rick Thompson** showed why the pioneers on the Oregon Trail came west because of the rich soils left behind by the Ice Age floods in the Willamette Valley. **Austin Mann**, field engineer for Northwest Natural, described the enormous natural gas reserve in our area.

Membership Overview THIS SECTION NOT YET UPDATED

We celebrate the following members who rose to the challenge of becoming our first Heritage Circle members (\$500) **Rochelle Martinazzi, Laura and Ross Baker, Norm Parker, and Paul Morrison**. Our first Founders Club members (\$300) are **Frank Bubenik and Donna Capodacqua, Robert Kellogg and June Halliday**. Thank you for your commitment to preserving Tualatin history! Membership Committee members **Norm Parker, Karin Olson, Cathy Stockwell and Ross Baker** report we have a total of 224 members as this report is prepared. We welcomed 32 new members the last 12 months, a very nice increase! We were saddened by the death of **Grier Ingebretsen, Dorothy Saarinen, Margie Larson and Edie Torgeson**. We now have 29 members who are 90-years old or more and automatically qualify for lifetime membership. They join 20 other Lifetime Members. Honorary memberships were awarded to six speakers at our Wednesday programs, four *Tualatin Times* Trivia Contest winners, and two scholarship winners. Be sure to let Cathy know if your address or other contact information changes (503-427-0450).

Financial Picture of THS

Our treasurer and budget committee chairperson **Barbara Stinger** works diligently to track our income and spending and reminds us in Board meetings where we are either ahead or behind on financial matters. She makes sure we have a planned budget ready for the start of each new fiscal year starting July 1. What follows is a general summary of what we typically take in and spend. Final figures for the year now underway will be compiled after books close June 30, 2019 and are available on request.

Income

Rental of THC in FY 2019 brought in \$12,337; general donations and memorials totaled \$8,663; fundraisers, including the September 2018 wine tasting/auction and brick sales, grossed \$14,592. City of Tualatin subsidies for Center operations held steady at \$8,100; membership fees brought in \$4,464; donations to the scholarship fund added up to \$2,970; product sales (books, jam) rang up \$522. All income sources totaled \$48,890 including a transfer from savings of \$5,200 to make the budget balance.

Expenses

We keep the Society vibrant and the Tualatin Heritage Center doors open to the public at least five days a week and many times in evenings and on weekends. Payroll expenses and occasional monitors for rentals totaled \$25,327. Operational expenses like speaker fees, postage, printing, supplies, equipment and its maintenance, memberships, alarm system, telephone and internet services totaled \$6,535. Preservation and archival expenses were \$1,290. We contracted for payroll and bookkeeping at \$1,380. Board of directors' insurance and building liability insurance added up to \$2,061. Fundraising expenses were \$7,002. We awarded a scholarship of \$3,000. We contributed \$350 for various causes and memorials. Total spending through June 30, 2019 was \$48,889.

Savings

Our money market account ended June 30 with \$56,884.61 where deposits are held till needed. We have a CD still sitting at over \$28,583 held in part for future exhibits and capital outlays as the Board of Directors determines

We Thank Our Supporters

Rentals of the heritage center provide a financial base for our operations. Our manager **Cindy Frost** works hard to maintain this flow of support. The September silent auction/wine tasting continues to illustrate how the community feels about the Society and the Center with dozens of donations from businesses and individuals alike and over 100 participants who look forward to the evening.

Is Tualatin Historical Society a Beneficiary in Your Will?

One-time cash donations or even a monthly planned giving helps fill the gap between normal spending and new needs. Would you consider a 1-5% earmark or a flat amount from your estate as a reasonable future gift to support THS? **Please consider this option as a way to assure that the work of THS continues** for future generations. Related to donations for survival of the Society, remember that when you give to THS and also contribute an equal or larger amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust, there are tax advantages for each—but particularly for the donation to

the Trust. In the latter case, you will get a valuable tax credit on your Oregon tax return. In effect, it costs you nothing. Details are available at the Oregon Cultural Trust website. THS has received grants from those funds in the past.

Visitors to THC Enjoy Exhibits and Displays

In the 12 months since our last annual meeting, we again conservatively tallied some 10,000 persons walking through our doors, many more than once. With help from **Cindy Frost**, our Collections Team of **Sandra Carlson** and **Lois Roby** coordinate permanent and revolving displays which these persons often see. Tualatin Library also showcases THS large and small Ice Age artifacts, castings and several replicas of mammals provided by our partners in the North American Research Group and Willamette Valley Pleistocene Project. Persons walking by the Center often stop by the interpretive sign featuring the history of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde where descendants of the Atfaliti Indians are now affiliated.

Presence on the Internet and Social Media

THS acknowledges that traditional ways of sharing history and celebrating our heritage must change with the times. We are seeing our news and information gradually more accessible beyond Tualatin thanks to changes to our website where you can find dozens of oral histories, documents and access to the professional photographs of **Al Stewart**, the video skills of **Mike** the interview skills of **Sandra Carlson** and the Facebook skills of **Barbara Ross**. At the first-ever Viva Tualatin celebration in the new fiscal year (September, 2019) **Ross Baker** orchestrated the highly-successful oral interviews of persons who call Tualatin home after immigrating from other countries.

Tualatin's Place in Regional Natural History

THS will be a partner in an independent nonprofit organization (501.c.3) much larger than our local mission, involving visiting scientists, research projects and symposia and operated in conjunction with colleges and universities. The Tualatin Chamber of Commerce is now receiving donations for this new nonprofit. THS members **Robert Kellogg** and **Yvonne Addington** play key roles in this initiative.

Maintaining our Home

As we approach 13 years in the Heritage Center, signs of wear and tear become more apparent. We are investigating new and lighter chairs since the 2006 seating are wearing out from being used and moved regularly. The City of Tualatin replaced failing window blinds for which we are grateful. In the meantime, the color printer which was donated to the Heritage Center by the Tualatin Library some 10 years ago finally expired and we have replaced it with a new one. Wifi equipment was also updated to accommodate more users thanks to the skills of **Matt Kleinke** who volunteers his time to handle all our technology issues.

Looking Ahead

- We continue to need your ideas for interesting speakers and programs
- If you don't mind helping answer phones, greet visitors and even help with dusting shelves your help is always appreciated.

We are pleased to have served on your Board of Directors this year and look forward to your participation in THS activities during the months ahead.

2018 Officers

Ross Baker, President and Secretary
Kurt Krause, Vice President
Barbara Stinger, Treasurer
Sandra Carlson, Historian

2018 Directors

Loyce Martinazzi
Norm Parker
Larry McClure
Art Sasaki
Allen Song
Yvonne Addington
Cathy Stockwell

November 6, 2019