Annual Report: Tualatin Historical Society

Message from the president....

As your Tualatin Historical Society Board looks back, we feel a sense of pride on what we have achieved. In this report, you can have a month-by-month look at what has been happening around here and see if you agree.

Last year we set a priority for increasing our members and focusing on process of digitizing our archives. We end 2018 with 224 total members. Of those, 32 are new, 20 are lifetime, 20 are honorary and 29 are over 90!

On the archives front, we continue to make progress on making our archives accessible for all. Our website holds items we already have available including oral histories, presentations, Tualatin High School’s newspapers and much more. I think you will be pleased with how much we have accomplished.

Take a look around your Heritage Center at the wonderful job that has been done to update displays inside and those inviting mastodon-themed bench tributes outside. We are going to continue to make THS a special place that “preserves, promotes and interprets the rich and colorful history of Tualatin.” Please help us by considering one or more of these things that would be a big help:

- Volunteer for a committee
- Renew your membership
- Give the gift of history to friends and family during this upcoming holiday season with our books, jams and even the gift of a membership.
- Consider upping your membership to our new Founder’s Club or Heritage Circle levels.
- Contact old friends and families of Tualatin who may not even live here anymore. Encourage them to join so they too can enjoy our quarterly newsletter and all the happenings back home. We still do our newsletter the old-fashioned way and mail it to each and every member.

--Ross Baker

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

November-December, 2017. At the 2017 annual meeting we re-elected the same slate of officers who agreed to continue serving, including City Councilor Frank Bubenik appointed to fill a resignation earlier that year. Cathy Stockwell was elected to fill a vacant position. Cathy had already become an active member of the Membership Committee. THS co-founder Loyce Martinazzi presented the Martinazzi-LaFky Award to Marianne Ryder who assisted in preparation of a new version of Tualatin from the Beginning, our comprehensive city history. Ross presented three President’s Awards to our amazing volunteer photographer Al Stewart, our behind-the-scenes Facebook coordinator Barbara Hess, and our future historian Graehm Alberty, an intern from Tualatin High School who led us into the digital world and tackled
several other projects. Later in November, THS sponsored an Antiques Appraisal event at Marquis Community Room which netted over $420 in donations. Sherwood antiques dealer Charles Harbick provided his ideas on the items’ history and their potential value.

**January.** As an example of how the Tualatin Heritage Center fulfills its mandate as a community gathering place, we 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. The troupe staged “The Receptionist” for three weekend performances. Their second show was in July.

**February.** A vintage clothing program was staged in February at the Marquis Community Room where other historic Tualatin Elementary School artifacts are on permanent display. Kay Demlow, a Forest Grove historic clothing expert, shared examples of attire typical of both women and men over several decades. Audience was invited to bring photographs of their own family from various eras for Kay’s analysis of styles and trends. THS curator Sandra Carlson displayed examples of clothing from our own collection.

**March.** Our newsletter for this quarter featured two articles on topics not widely known. Loyce Martinazzi told the story of a controversial dam on the Tualatin River that was dynamited one night by farmers whose farm lands were being flooded; Yvonne Addington shared stories of how our city’s infrastructure was built while she was the first city manager. Volunteer writers are always needed for the newsletter. Please contact Larry McClure, editor.

**April** Our collections management committee continued its detailed work of logging in information and records on artifacts we hold. We owe much to Sandra Carlson and Lois Roby for the care and preservation of hundreds of irreplaceable items that represent Tualatin history over many decades. A number of items are kept at Tote N Stow storage which donates two units for our use.

**May** 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 40 volunteers. Students from three elementary schools visit 8 different learning stations. We also bid a “happy retirement” to Paul Hennon at a thank you celebration at Tualatin Heritage Center. Paul served 30 years as Director of Community Services which included several city projects that help interpret local history, particularly creation of the heritage center. At that time we also saw installation of three concrete benches honoring Paul, CenterCal CEO Fred Bruning and THS placed near the giant Ice Age erratics which Paul helped move to the Heritage Center grounds. Bruning was responsible for the mastodon sculpture at Nyberg Rivers shopping center and a donation for the Tualatin River Greenway Trail which includes many references to Tualatin history.

**June** We awarded our largest-ever scholarship ($3000) to Tualatin High School senior Jackson Redding who is now studying at the University of Oregon. We also marked the one-year
anniversary of Cindy Frost as THC manager. Cindy has proven her skills as an effective coordinator, exhibit planner, and behind-the-scenes organizer of events while also providing hospitality to visitors and renters. THS volunteer Janet Steiger Carr staged her first Neighborhood Players Radio Theatre Troupe production to an appreciative audience and another in October.

**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. We also enjoyed another play by Mask and Mirror Community Theatre titled “Eeelymosynary.” A partnership with Tualatin Riverkeepers resulted in a very successful Tualatin River History Day where a restored Swan Paddle Boat from Roamer’s Rest was on display in the parking lot along with dozens of exhibits in the Center and on the patio. This event drew a steady crowd despite high temperatures.

**August** We enjoyed our best-ever show of flowers on the patio thanks to vintage roses in continuous bloom, Garden Corner’s donation of hanging baskets and a bountiful show of petunias in the planter beds. Volunteers like Karin Olson and Joyce Davis watered and weeded these displays which are a hit with passersby and anyone looking for a place to relax and enjoy the view.

**September** Our ninth 2017 silent auction and wine tasting on a pleasant summer evening netted some $10,000 for Society operation. (Note: This year’s just-completed 2018 10th auction saw 100 persons again enjoying an evening of fun and music by Island Trio who returned with their easy-listening sounds. Even with catering by Daltons we still saw $7,500 profit that will be included in the FY19 annual report.)

In **October**, we continued conversations with city staff on how to display the historic Galbreath farm wagon. Thanks to THS member Dawn Westphal it has a temporary home in her barn. This is our largest artifact reflecting Tualatin’s “modern day” era. Other locations are also being pursued, but being visible yet secure on public property is preferred.

**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:** “An In-Depth Look at Snowflakes” by Sylvia Thompson with the Ice Age Floods Institute; “Tualatin History Interpreted in Music” by Arthur Breur who composed the Tualatin Overture, a first for a city in Oregon.
January: “From the Ground Up: What it Took for Tualatin to Grow” by Yvonne Addington, city manager during the years of the city’s major growth period; “The Gorge 2020: Looking Forward to the Next Decade”, by Krystina Wolniakowski, Executive Director of the Columbia River Gorge Commission.

February: “There Was More Than One Trail West” by Ross Baker, “When Bison Were 10 Feet Tall” by David Ellingson, Woodburn High School

March: “A Short History of Tigard(ville)” with Valri Darling, Tigard Historical Society; “Another Giant in the Willamette Valley Discovered: a Beaver” with Mike Full, paleontologist

April: “What 4-H Meant to Me” with John Nyberg; “Dynamic Geological History of Iceland and the World’s Biggest Flood” with Scott Burns

May: “History of Tualatin VFW” by Dale Potts; Conserving Habitat and History: Managing Cultural Resources for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by Anan Raymond

June: “My Remarkable Ball and Robbins Ancestors” with Barbara Stinger; “A Glimpse into History: What Prominent People Have Said About Nature in Oregon and the Need to Conserve It” with Michael McCloskey

July: (no regular program but picnic and fellowship at Community Park); “Rail History of Oregon” with Darrell Jabin

August: “My 22 Years in the Hot Seat” with Mayor Lou Ogden; (no evening program in August)

September: “Ghost Towns of Oregon” with Steve Arndt; “Ice Age Features in and Around Tualatin” with Rick Thompson

October: “Tualatin’s Own Cowboy Poet” with Tom Swearingen; “Great Balls of Fire” with Dick Pugh

Membership Overview

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, 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 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 2018 brought in $14,865; donations at the door and from individuals totaled $7,346; fundraisers, including the September 2017 wine tasting/auction, grossed $14,542. City of Tualatin subsidies for Center operations held steady at $8,100; membership fees brought in $6,380; donations to the scholarship fund added up to $2,300; product sales (books, jam) rang up $518. All income sources totaled $51,141.

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 $25,236. Operational expenses like speaker fees, postage, printing, supplies, equipment and its maintenance, memberships, alarm system, telephone and internet services totaled $6,457. Preservation and archival expenses were $1816. We contracted for payroll and bookkeeping at $1,665. Board of directors insurance and building liability insurance added up to $2,556. Fundraising expenses were $2,639. We awarded a scholarship of $3000. We contributed $400 for various causes and memorials. Total spending through June 30, 2018 was $43,656.

Savings

Our money market account ended June 30 with $61,772.56 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. Coming soon will be printing of the revised and updated Tualatin from the Beginning book.

We Thank Our Supporters

Rentals of the heritage center provide a financial base for our operations. We continue to host a church on Sundays in keeping with the building’s original purpose. Former Tualatin artist Linda Aman still travels back to Oregon from Idaho for occasional art classes and now Angela Wrahtz
is beginning to attract a following for watercolor classes. Our staff works hard to maintain this flow of support. THS is a popular venue for business networking functions, homeowners associations, parties, workshops, anniversary celebrations, and memorial gatherings. Avocation groups like watercolor artists and knitters like our space. These hundreds of visitors every month often pause to look at displays and exhibits.

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 and received the one collection management system from the Cultural Coalition of Washington County which gets its money from the Trust.

Visitors to THC Enjoy Exhibits and Displays

In the 12 months since our last annual meeting, we have seen a gradual increase in person-visits with 10,000 persons walking through our doors, many more than once. **Sandra Carlson** coordinates our permanent and revolving displays which these persons see. Our other permanent displays have increased considerably this past year, thanks to repairs and painting of our exhibit cases and additional displays on the walls featuring Atfaliti Indians, long-time Tualatin families and the old school. Other favorites still on display include the Robbins coverlet, family washboard, home picture and Pearl Casteel’s bridal sickle received for keeping the path to their mailbox clear; items from the original Methodist Church including the program used at the original dedication service in 1926; the original mastodon tusk and molars dug up near today’s Fred Meyer parking lot. Outside the building are huge glacial erratics and historic plants (Robbins roses, Lafky irises, Martinazzi daffodils, J.R.C. Thompson hydrangeas, and Nyberg snowdrops).

Because of its more frequent public hours, our most accessible artifacts are shown at Tualatin Library featuring 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.

Tualatin History on View Other Places, Too!

Residents and visitors can view items and photographs reflecting Tualatin history at the Tualatin High School, Marquis Health Care Center and their Café which features items from the former elementary school at that site and a mantle built from a walnut tree removed for construction. Vintage photos hang in elementary schools, Cabela’s, New Seasons Market, Firehouse Subs,
Sharky’s, CenterCal offices and of course all city buildings thanks to the THS partnership with the City of Tualatin.

**Maintaining our Home**

As we approach 13 years in the Heritage Center, signs of wear and tear become more apparent. The Wild About Watercolor artists are gradually replacing our six-foot tables. Thanks again to assistance from the City of Tualatin, we have more efficient LED lighting and the entire outside landscaping was totally revamped in May. In the future we will need to consider new and lighter chairs since the present ones get used and moved regularly. And our window blinds are beginning to falter as well.

**Looking Ahead**

- We continue to need volunteers to preserve documents on digital formats, conduct oral history interviews, help maintain our patio garden, make school presentations, and to monitor rentals which helps keep costs down. Committees are at work year-round for special projects, too.
- We continue to look for a permanent location to display the restored Galbreath farm wagon. Ideas are welcome.
- Remember the Society bookstore when you need that special gift!

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. Board meetings are scheduled the morning before each first Wednesday program month and are open to all members. Our third Thursday evening programs are open to all as well.

**2017 Officers**

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

**2017 Directors**

- Loyce Martinazzi
- Norm Parker
- Larry McClure
- Art Sasaki
- Frank Bubenik
- Yvonne Addington
- Cathy Stockwell

November 7, 2018