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The ARCHIVE



Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society

SPRING 2022

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President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

For my entire life, I have lived in East Multnomah County, growing up in Damascus and moving over the hill to Gresham after I graduated from Sam Barlow High School. Ever since I can remember, I have yearned to learn more about history and historic items. When I was very young, I wanted to be an archaeologist so that I could find historic treasures, like King Tut's tomb. As I grew older, I became fascinated with historic buildings, art, and people and have spent the past thirty years researching my family's history.

I am very excited to be a part of the Gresham Historical Society. As president of the board, I hope to continue the good work that others have done before me. I see our building as a gathering place and a showcase of the history of Gresham and its people.

With the success of last year's event "Christmas at the Museum," we brought in over 800 visitors. We hope to continue bringing guests through our doors this year with a monthly speaker series, beginning on May 15 with local historian Gwenda McCall's talk "Minidoka: 80 Years of Unspoken Memories." Also coming up is our first special event of the year, a parking lot plant sale on May 7th from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. I hope to see you soon!

Sincerely,
Sue Piazza
President
Gresham Historical Society



Multnomah County Fairgrounds in springtime,
circa 1930s.

GHS Photo 2001.022.0002

President Sue Piazza ✦ Vice President Guy Edwards ✦ Treasurer Leslie Radke ✦ Secretary Sandra Rich
Board of Directors Karen Johnston ✦ Terry Nishikawa ✦ Erica Keathley ✦ Fred Gilbert ✦ Lon Shiiki
Carol Nielsen ✦ Eellitta Stone ✦ Martin Stone Emeritus Utahna Kerr, Carla Piluso

Museum Director
Silvie Andrews

At the Museum

Upcoming Events at a Glance

May 7th	Spring Plant Sale Museum parking lot on 4th Street	8am-4pm
May 14th	Celebrate West Gresham West Gresham Grade School	1pm-4pm
May 15th	Minidoka Speaker Event Metro East Web Academy	2pm-3:30pm
May 22nd	Annual Membership Meeting Gresham Historical Society	1pm-2:30pm
May 28th	Historic Cemeteries Tour Gresham Pioneer Cemetery	11am-12pm
June 18th	Historic Cemeteries Tour Gresham Pioneer Cemetery	11am-12pm
July 16th	DIY Tie-Dye Fundraiser Gresham Historical Society	TBA
Nov.-Dec.	Christmas at the Museum Gresham Historical Society	TBA

Visit our booth at the Gresham Farmer's Market every Saturday from May through September!



Gresham Historical Society & Museum's

Spring Plant Sale

**Saturday
May 7th
2022**

8am to 4pm

Plants in the parking lot
On 4th St. East of Main Ave.
Historic Downtown Gresham

• Hanging Flower Pots • Flower Pots • Herbs •
Annuals • Perennials • House Plants •



Residents of Block 21 at Minidoka Internment Camp, from the Minidoka Interlude

Minidoka: 80 Years of Unspoken Memories Speaker Event

Discover the experiences of East Multnomah County residents of Japanese ancestry during World War II, presented by local historian Gwenda McCall. Eighty years ago, eight hundred twenty-nine residents of East Multnomah County were rounded up and moved to Minidoka internment camp "for their own protection". Two thirds were American citizens. Learn about their daily lives in the camp and how they were treated when they returned.

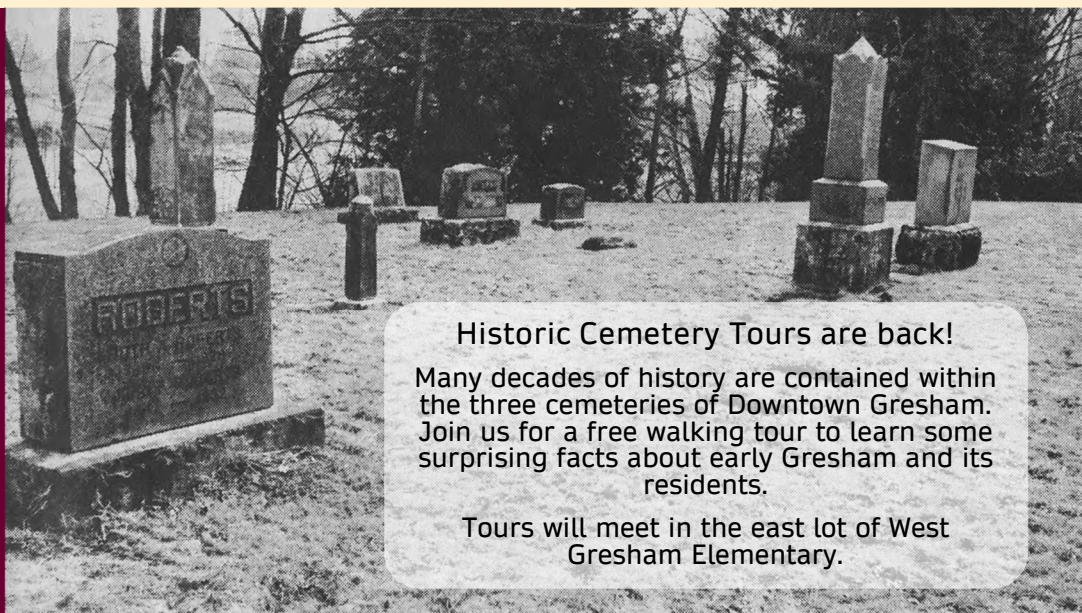
Seating is limited; please call (503)661-0347 to RSVP.

THIS IS OUR
Legacy
• EST 1923 •

~ West Gresham Grade School ~



Visit our pop-up exhibit at West Gresham Elementary as we help our community honor the legacy of this historic school—May 14, 1-4 p.m.



Historic Cemetery Tours are back!

Many decades of history are contained within the three cemeteries of Downtown Gresham. Join us for a free walking tour to learn some surprising facts about early Gresham and its residents.

Tours will meet in the east lot of West Gresham Elementary.

At the Museum (cont'd)



On View: A History of Gresham in 100 Objects

Opened in March, this comprehensive exhibit takes a look at some of the more interesting objects in the Gresham Historical Society collections. Each of these items comes with a story that will get you thinking about what material culture meant to people in the past -- and what it means to us in the present day.

Bringing kids? We offer scavenger hunts at two levels of difficulty to help both children and adults engage with the many items on display. Or you can make up your own treasure hunt. The possibilities are endless!



Unclaimed Memories:

Forgotten Photos from Zim's Twelve-Mile Store

This photo essay features family pictures that were developed at Zimmerman's Twelve-Mile Store between 1955 and 1965 but never picked up. Featured in both the Oregonian and the Gresham Outlook, this collection is full of mysteries—many of which have been solved by museum visitors and by our followers on Facebook! Do you see anyone you know?



The exhibit "A History of Gresham in 100 Objects" actually contains around 200 objects.



Museum News

Please join us in welcoming four new board members!

Karen Johnston was born and raised in Rockwood, Gresham, and Damascus and has chosen to raise her blended family of 5 children in the city she loves, Gresham, Oregon.

Karen is an entrepreneur and has owned and founded three successful Gresham businesses since 1989. Karen and her husband Steve currently operate All About Automotive, Inc., which opened in October of 2000. It is an independent automotive repair facility.

Karen enjoys giving back to the community by volunteering her time to organize and operate fundraising events. She was involved in her children's extracurricular activities as they grew up and now assists with the activities that her 10 grandchildren are involved in.



Fred Gilbert is a retired educator who lives with his wife Teresa in Fairview. He retired after 20 years of service with Everett Community College in Washington where he managed the Photography and Journalism departments, supporting the creative efforts of students and faculty.

He moved from Whidbey Island to Fairview in April of 2020. Fred and Teresa have enjoyed exploring the area and look forward to many more adventures in this beautiful state.

Fred has a keen interest in history. He has a Masters of Liberal Studies in history and is enjoying working with the photographic collection. His hobbies are photography, Woodworking and playing the guitar.



Sandra Rich spent 25 years as president of Golf Event Management, Inc., organizing and promoting tournaments and events for PNW PGA and the US Amateur Public Links Championship working with the USGA.

Sandra has lived in Gresham for the past 38+ years where she raised her two sons. She is now a happy grandmother of two.

She has been a member of the Gresham Chamber of Commerce since 2008. Sandra has been on the Board of Gresham Arthur Academy since 2017 and is on the committee for 100+ Women Who Care East County. She has volunteered her time towards a number of community causes.



Sandra is delighted to be a part of the Gresham Historical Society. With deep roots in the community, she looks forward to preserving Gresham's history as well as enriching others' lives by sharing what makes Gresham so special.



Erica Keathley is a lifelong Gresham resident and a graduate of Gresham High School.

She is currently working full-time as she pursues her bachelor's degree in business administration from Portland State University. In her spare time, Erica loves to travel, spend time with friends and family,

and explore Oregon's scenic beauty on her paddleboard.

Erica comes to us with a long-held passion for history and historic preservation. She is thrilled to give back to the community as a board member of the Gresham Historical Society.

Museum News

Announcing the Gresham Public History Program

The Gresham Historical Society is thrilled to announce that we have received a grant from the City of Gresham in the amount of \$30,000 to relaunch our oral history program! Beginning this year, we will embark on an ambitious project to interview community members from a variety of backgrounds, centering our residents and their stories as the root of our collective identity. This project will also address the dozens of interviews that our staff and volunteers have collected in the past, beginning in the 1980s. These interviews will be converted to digital formats (much of this work has already been done by super-volunteer Skip Larson), transcribed, and presented online through a public portal along with those we collect through the Gresham Public History Program (GPHP).

The Community Assistance Grant is geared towards local nonprofits and is intended to offset the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community. GPHP will do this by attracting tourists through broad publicity and far-reaching availability of the resources we create.

A project of this scope requires a large amount of knowledge, skill, and effort. That is why we will use the majority of the grant funds to hire a part-time public historian to manage and carry out the GPHP. This person will be responsible for finding and interviewing community members; transcribing, auditing, and cataloging the interviews; and making these interviews available online—along with dozens of other interviews that our staff and volunteers have collected going back to the 1980s.



Members of the Aylsworth, Todd, Lawrence, Ott, and Metzger families, c.1910
GHS Photo 714

Hiring for the public historian position will take place in May. Stay tuned for updates!

We Love Our Volunteers!

Like many small museums, we have only one paid staff member. The rest of the work here is done by our outstanding, dedicated, knowledgeable volunteers!

In April alone, Alice, Linda, Joe, Janet, Sandy, Liz M., Judith, April A., and Mike have all taken shifts at the front desk. As docents, they greet visitors, answer questions, and take on hundreds of miscellaneous odd jobs as well. Data input star Jonathan has added information to 398 records in the collections database; Yolanda has been re-packing the historic textile collection and assessing items for damage from last year's fire; Charlotte has begun to photograph the three-dimensional objects in storage; and cataloging volunteers Anne, Fred, Mardy, Liz J., Dorothy, Jan, Teresa, Claudia A., Delilah, and Stephanie have been processing incoming donations and slowly but surely working down a severe backlog of unprocessed historic materials that have been accumulating since the 1980s. Their work is critical to our ability to keep the museum open and the collections in good order. Thank you to everyone who has chipped in!



Carl Zimmerman and employee in
Zim's Twelve-Mile Store, c.1948
GHS Photo 2004.003.0023

To learn more about current volunteer opportunities, please call (503)661-0347 or email info@greshamhistorical.org.

Become a Member

Not a member already? You can join on our website, at greshamhistorical.org.

Or, fill out the form below, bring it to the museum, or mail it to us at PO Box 65, Gresham, OR 97030.

Make checks payable to the Gresham Historical Society.

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history. Now, more than ever, we rely on member support to continue our mission.

Membership Enrollment/Renewal Form

Member or Family Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Choose Your Membership

Each membership includes a member card, a subscription to the quarterly newsletter, and invitations to members-only events throughout the year.

- ☐ Individual \$20 membership for one adult
- ☐ Family \$30 benefits for two adults and all family members under 18
- ☐ Business \$100 two membership cards for any employee
- ☐ Business Plus \$200 two membership cards for any employee and your business logo in the Quarterly of the Gresham Historical Society
- ☐ Patron \$1000 annual parking pass to the Gresham Historical Society lot on 4th Street

I wish to make an additional donation in the amount of \$ _____

Payment Information

Payment method (circle one): Cash Check (payable to Gresham Historical Society)

Please charge my credit/debit card \$ _____

Card number _____ Expiration date _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

Other Ways to Give

Monetary Contributions

Your unrestricted gift supports the daily operations of the Gresham Historical Society and the maintenance and preservation of the Historic 1913 Gresham Carnegie Library.

Recurring Donations

Your unrestricted recurring gifts provide the predictable, ongoing support that allows the Gresham Historical Society to perform necessary financial planning.

Gifts in Memory or Tribute

Each year, the Gresham Historical Society receives gifts in memorial and tribute. Honor the passions and achievements of those in your life through legacy giving.

Appreciated Securities or Stock

Charitable gifts of stock are a wonderful way to provide ongoing support for the Gresham Historical Society. Check with your tax adviser for details.

Planned Giving

Include the Gresham Historical Society in your estate planning and be a part of Gresham's legacy.

New and Renewing Members

Thank you to all who have joined and renewed since December 2021!

Terry Hubert
Adele Beiersdorf
The Lynn Family
Barb & Jim Andrews
Elizabeth L. Morse
The Cooper Family
Karen & Mike Consbruck
Barbara Close
Beverly Carlon
Ann Zink & Steve Christiansen
Jean Pratt
Heather Navarro & Family
Bonnie McKee & Ron Vaughn
Karen & Steve Johnston
Robert Estes & Mary Jeanne Oliva
Cheryl Grigg
David & Haley Grigg
Joshua & Amelia Grigg
Sandra Miller & Shelly Hamann
Christy Kinsey
Thea Enos
Robin Parker
Randy & Katie Paden
Neil & Deena Jensen
Wendell Cook
Paula & Todd Jacobson
Marylou & Rusty Baumberger

Jared & Sara Tjaden
Misty & Ty Bettis
Sue Piazza & Michael Patrick
Jeremy & Amy Tjaden
Michael O'Leary
Kuya's Islander Cuisine
Tami & Kirk Campbell
Rebecca Bliven & John Gordon
Teresa Squires Osborne
Scott Forrester & Susan Boyl
Alice Harris
Linda Robinson
Mike Gianetti
Eellitta Stone
Jo Ann Reese & John Fagan
Helen Wand
Marjeanne (Sandy) Cartisser
Ken & Martha Manske
Rosemary Shepperd Guttridge
Richard L. Witmer
Peggy & Paul Taylor
C. J. & Gayle Rue
Sunny Han's Wok & Grill
Georgene & Joe Honke
Rose Marie Noojin
Schubert Family
Ann Margaret Rice

Lon Shiiki
Carol L. Nielsen
Leslie Radke
Martin L. Stone
Silvie Andrews
Emma Olson
April Avery
Kathleen White
Joan Albertson
Donna Nichols
Valerie Greenaway
Linda L. Brixey
Joelle Buker
Jen Bodendorfer
Laura K. Shown
Stephanie Herro
Richard Barker-Maxwell
Liz Jones
Sandi Metzger
Charlotte Becker & Howard Huntley
Dorothy & William Douglas
Julie Norrander
John Russell
David & Nicole A. Spittler
Daniel Mann & Corrine Rinier
Karen Cairo
Linda Kidby

Our gratitude to the following business members for
their vital support!



Edward Jones®
Alina Rocha Johnson

Recent and Featured Acquisitions



This quilt is not a recent acquisition, but it recently came to our attention when a note explaining its (previously unknown) provenance was discovered with some old paperwork. The note explained that the quilt (featuring a "Whig's Defeat" pattern of applique red on white cotton) was hand-sewn during the U.S. Civil War by Julia Stout Teeter. Her great-niece Myrtle Holmes donated it to the Gresham Senior Center, where volunteers finished and/or repaired it. We received it from them in 1992.

We want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has donated historic materials to GHS in 2022. It is an honor to be able to preserve these belongings and the stories that go with them. The materials we receive are held in public trust—meaning that we take care of them, but they belong to everyone in our community.

Our process for accepting donations is complex by necessity. People often ask what sort of things we collect. The most accurate answer is: we collect what people are willing to offer us. Within that broad target is a smaller bull's-eye of items with specific history relating to Gresham. As a small museum, we are consistently short on the resources we need to seek out, catalog, preserve, store, and exhibit the items in our collection, and we have needed to turn some offers away.

The decision to accept or not accept can be difficult and at times sensitive, which is why it is never left to a single person. All donation offers are reviewed by the collections committee, a group of board members and volunteers who are familiar with the collection, specifically its strengths, limitations, and needs. The committee meets once per month to review donation offers, after which the cataloging volunteers are often sent scrambling to process and store the influx of new donations.

Do you have an item you would like to offer? Please contact Silvie at director@greshamhistorical.org or call (503)661-0347 for more information.

Gresham in 1995

A series of 35mm slides recently donated by the City of Gresham Department of Environmental Services shows the old and new of the cityscape as it appeared almost 30 years ago.

Accession no. 2022.007



Persimmon neighborhood in early development



West Gresham Grade School



View north from Gresham Butte/
Walters Hill

The Rise and Fall of the Gresham Giants



Early Gresham baseball team, circa 1900-1908
GHS Photo 2017.001.0045

Baseball in Gresham has a long history that predates the Gresham Greywolves by a century. As early as 1890, a team known as the Greshams faced other teams from Portland and outlying rural communities in inter-city games that took place on Sunday afternoons. The home field doubled as a cattle pasture during the week. Comprised of locals, the Greshams played more for fun than for competition.

The Gresham team joined the semiprofessional Chautauqua League in 1908 under the name Gresham Giants. In 1910, W.M. "Bart" Bartholomew stepped in to manage the team and quickly gained a reputation as the "king of bush managers" for his skill at recruiting for and promoting the Giants in what was then a small, rural, isolated community. Under him, Gresham took home the statewide semipro championship in 1911.

Ace pitcher Tommy "Cy" Townsend represented Gresham—but the other star players on the team had been recruited from out of town. In fact, the *Oregonian* opined that due to the composition of the team "Portland really deserve[d] the credit" for Gresham's victory.

Bartholomew believed differently. He shared the credit among all the players, citing their "speed, aggressiveness, consistent batting, teamwork, and an enthusiasm which is unsurpassed." The team also skewed young and light compared to the other teams in the league. Three of the team members, including their star batter Melvin Lake, went on to professional careers at the end of the season.

As the team grew more competitive, it became a sensation in Gresham and attracted greater attention from out of town. In 1916, William O. Ross, manager of the more prestigious Inter-City Baseball League, arranged a league franchise for the Giants with Harold Kern as the new business manager. The change came with a new lineup, except for Cy Townsend, the "local pride," who continued to represent his hometown on the pitcher's mound. The new franchise came with a new diamond and grandstand, which the "baseball crazy" townspeople and local merchants pledged \$283 towards the project.

Three games into the season, Ross withdrew the franchise and awarded it to Salem instead, then moved to Idaho. Local investors were understandably miffed. The new fenced park did not go to waste, however; the Gresham Giants continued to play teams from around the region, albeit with a greater proportion of local talent.



Gresham Giants, circa 1911
GHS Photo 1401

Sources: *Oregonian*; *Oregon Journal*; *Gresham Outlook*; *Gresham: Stories of Our Past: Before and After the World Wars*, W.R. Chilton, ed. (Gresham: Gresham Historical Society, 1996).