

*The*

# ARCHIVE



410 N Main Ave ♦ Gresham, OR 97030 ♦ PO Box 65 ♦ (503)661-0347 ♦ [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org)



## WINTER WEATHER IN GRESHAM

*Story on pg. 5*

Snow-covered street scene looking south on Main in downtown Gresham, 1930s.  
GHS photo 2170



See pg. 3

## QUARTERLY OF THE GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

At the Museum **P. 2-3** ♦ Letters from the President and Director **P. 4**

Cover Feature **P. 5** ♦ 2022 Donors **P.6**

Annual Appeal **P. 7** ♦ Membership **P.8-9**

Board Departures **P. 10** ♦ Winter Photo Roundup **P.11**

End Matter **P.12**

# AT THE MUSEUM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Now until December 17** - Christmas at the Museum (see next page for details)

**December 18** - Gingerbread Competition Awards, 1pm

**January 7** - Soft Opening, 10am

**February 19** - Member and Volunteer Exhibit Opening Reception, 3pm

**March 25** - Speakeasy Party at the Troutdale House, a fundraising dinner and auction set in the "Roaring 20s" and the heyday of Prohibition. Stay tuned for details!

2023 lecture series dates and speakers TBA.



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Following the Gingerbread Competition awards ceremony on December 18, the museum will close for a three-week break and reopen for regular hours on January 7. When we open, *Beyond Main Street* will be on view as we install two new exhibits in the rest of the gallery. *Listen to the Band* will be a retrospective of the once-nationally-renowned Centennial High School marching band. This coincides with an upcoming CHS band alumni reunion, which is scheduled for June 2023. The other new exhibit will be a look at the electric railways that connected Portland to Gresham in the first half of the 20th century.



Basement "water feature"

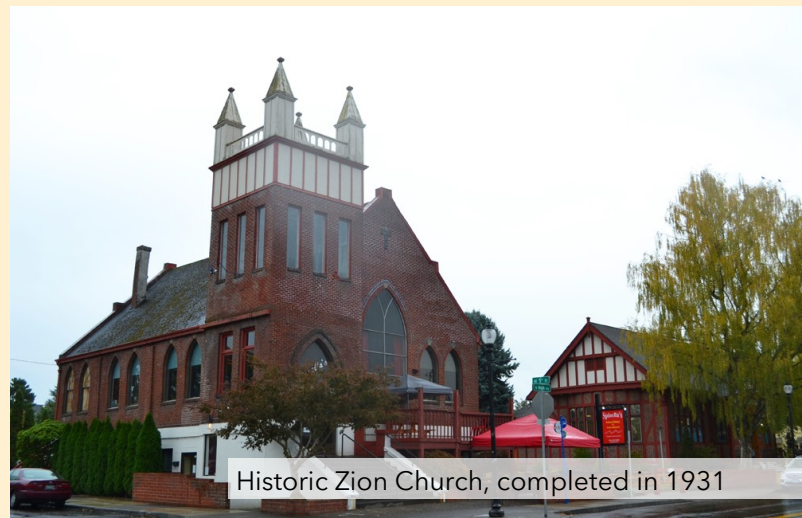
In October, we received a \$5,000 grant from the Autzen Foundation to repair a leak in our west foundation wall which caused flooding in our basement last winter. This is particularly timely, as the ground is saturated, and the

fountain known as the "water feature" has again begun to dribble down the basement wall into the collections storage area. If you're feeling a sense of déjà vu, it may be because we received a different grant to fix a different basement leak in 2019. (It turns out that a century-old brick building is leakier than a sieve.) This time, grant funds not used to repair the leak will go towards preventative maintenance on the rest of the foundation, so in the future a new leak won't open and spray us in the face as soon as the old one has closed, a la Looney Toons.

Later in the month, the group 100+ Women Who Care East County selected us to receive donations totaling \$6,000, with the potential for a \$3,000 matching contribution from the Schulz Family Foundation. These funds will go towards much-needed repairs to the two historic buildings in our care, the 110-year-old Gresham Carnegie Library (now the Gresham Historical Society museum) and the 1931 former Zion Church next door, which houses Spinella's restaurant. The church, with its distinctive Gothic Revival architecture, is in need of extensive repairs to its crumbling brickwork, which was the focus of GHS President Sue Piazza's appeal to the group at their quarterly meeting on October 19.

*We are incredibly thankful to have been honored with these generous gifts.*

We are incredibly thankful to have been honored with these generous gifts. Our buildings add depth and historical character to Downtown Gresham, and our goal in preserving them is to provide joy and enrichment to our community, both now and in the future.



Historic Zion Church, completed in 1931



# AT THE MUSEUM

## CHRISTMAS AT THE MUSEUM AND 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL GINGERBREAD COMPETITION

Open Thursdays through Sundays, this annual holiday tradition features lavish decorations, a miniature village, a gingerbread competition, a selfie wall, the museum store, and Santa Claus every Saturday!

### HOURS

Thursday-Saturday, 10am-4pm

Sunday, 12pm-4pm

Santa Claus is here from 10 to 4 every Saturday

### ADMISSION: \$5/PERSON

This year, decorations include impressive collections of Santa Clauses, nutcrackers, and snowmen, as well as seven Christmas trees. Your admission gets you a vote in the Gingerbread House Competition...and a free gift!

All are invited to join us on December 18 at 1:00 p.m. for the awarding of Gingerbread House Competition prizes.



MANY THANKS TO OUR PRESENTING SPONSORS:



TREE SPONSORS:



# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2022, we have been blessed.

We are blessed to have a museum director who graduated this year with a master's degree in history. Silvie brings a knowledge and a passion for Gresham history that is moving us forward in our effort to offer exciting exhibits that will inspire people to visit often.



We are blessed with an amazing group of volunteers who give us countless hours of their time in so many ways. They are crucial in maintaining our historic collections and in making visitors feel welcome, among so many other things. If you are interested in joining as a volunteer, please contact Silvie at [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org).

We are blessed to have a board of directors that continues to work hard in various ways to maintain and expand our museum presence. From the financial work and decision-making, to creating new ways to showcase the museum with events, to providing for the ever-growing maintenance needs of our historic buildings, their work is crucial in our continued success.

We are blessed with a growing number of members and business sponsors who see the value of our museum and provide us with the funding we need to keep the doors open.

I believe Gresham has a rich history of caring people like those I have mentioned above. They make the Gresham History Museum a blessing for all.

*Sue Piazza*

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

October 1<sup>st</sup> marked my first full year as museum director here at the Gresham Historical Society, and what a year it's been. On any given day, I'm writing grant applications, vacuuming moldy fur coats, responding to research inquiries, posting to our social media accounts, answering the phone, setting moth traps, climbing into the crawl space to search for folders, going to the store to buy folders, putting things in folders, assembling content for the newsletter (hello!) and always, always writing emails.

The scope of work would be overwhelming if not for the volunteers. At the most recent tally, there are over fifty people on our list of active volunteers. All of these people choose to come here during their time off and work for the museum. For free. Combined, they put in an average of 300 hours per month. With the Independent Sector's most current valuation of volunteer hours, that means that these people are contributing a value of \$9,895 to the museum every single month.

When I say that we've added over 1,500 records to the collections database so far in 2022, that we carried off three successful fundraisers, or that we digitized every issue of our newsletter going back to 1977, it's important for you to know that volunteers did that. Volunteers are and providing safe archival storage for our historic collections. They're sitting at computers and inputting data for hours, blowing leaves off the front steps and sprinkling salt on the sidewalk, being Santa Claus, and offering a friendly face to visitors.

In short, they're making me look good.

The past year has tested my constitution in a variety of ways. A new leak in the basement added insult to injury after last July's fire sent sprinkler water seeping through all three floors of the building. Early in the year, we had to bite our nails over whether we'd be able to keep our free offsite storage area, which shares a building with Jazzy Bagels. (We get to stay, but on the other hand, now many of the documents that have been stored there carry a faint bagel odor.) This Halloween, I unexpectedly met the mayor while in full costume as a plague doctor. The challenges are constant, but fortunately I have the best team I could ask for. Their patience, humor, commitment, and sheer guts never fail to inspire me.

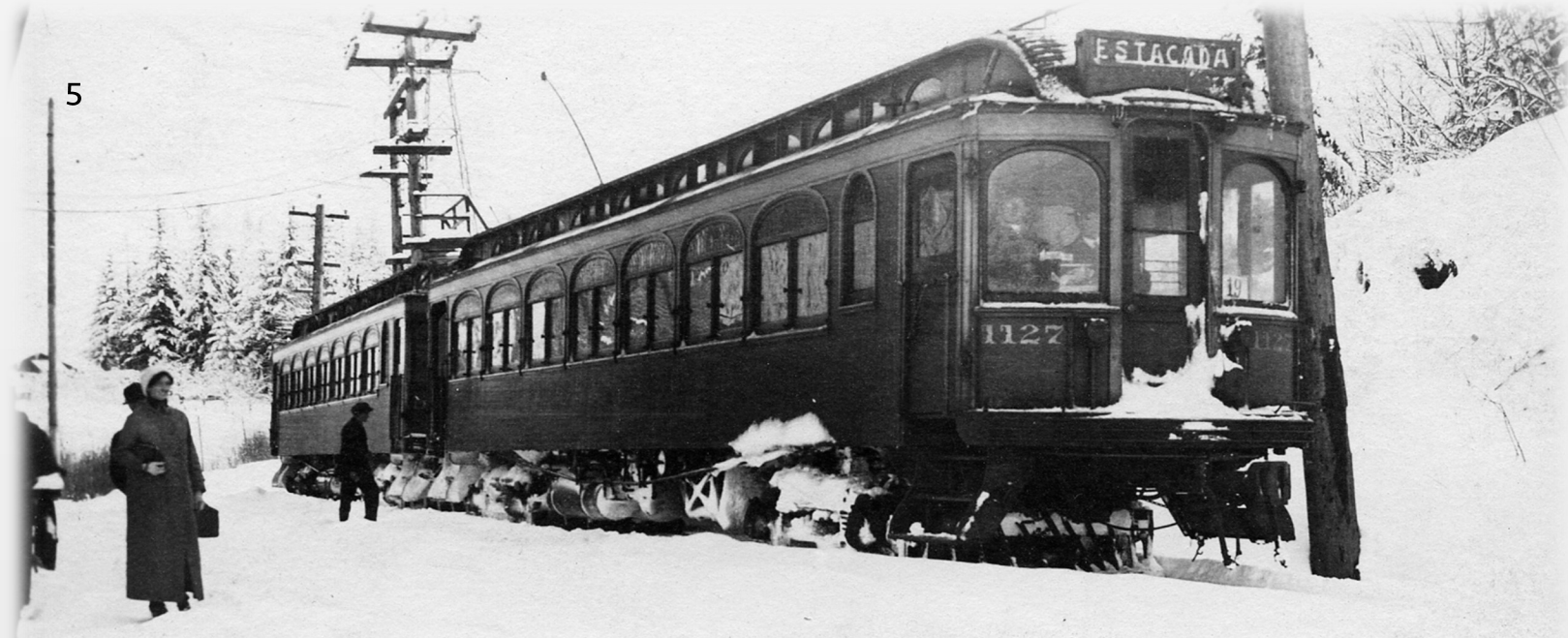
The people most instrumental in preserving and sharing local history are those who care enough to show up week after week—and in many cases, year after year. My thanks go out to them and to everyone whose support makes our work possible.

Your Friend in History,

*Silvie Andrews*







## WINTER WEATHER IN GRESHAM

**By Anne Endicott**

Anyone who has lived in East Multnomah County for even a few years knows that winters can be brutal.

The Columbia River Gorge acts as a funnel for weather systems moving south from the Arctic, sending cold air barreling through the Gorge to East County. Locals call it the east wind, and it's the reason we use bricks to keep garbage can lids from blowing away.

Often, the perfect storm of wind and biting temperatures are accompanied by snow and sometimes ice. While other parts of the Portland metro area see a dusting of snow or light shimmer of ice, we East County folks are using golf shoes to get the mail.

I was a newlywed happily setting up housekeeping in Gresham when an ice storm hit in January 1979. After a few days house-bound because the driveway was an ice rink, my new husband was more than happy to gingerly coax his work truck out to Stark Street, where the roads had been graveled. He left the house at 7:45 a.m. By 8 a.m., the power

new skill set, I told him the power went off after he left, had just come back on and how I survived.

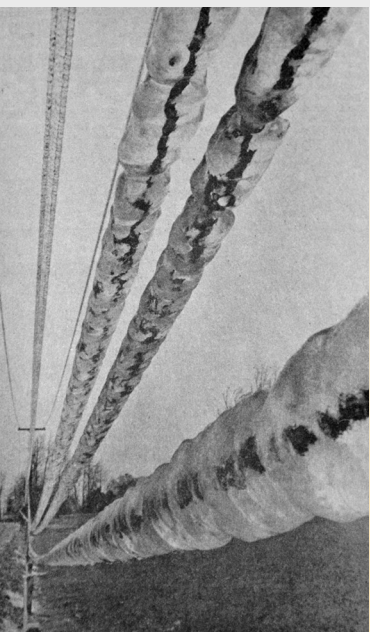
The same thing happened the next day. My new husband left for work, the power went off and returned shortly before he got home. For four consecutive days, this act repeated itself. On the fifth day, my befuddled spouse brought me a box of Legos. I think he thought I was losing my mind.

As the East Wind became more commonplace, and less a phenomenon, a local television station launched a contest for viewers to name it. There were some creative suggestions, but eventually, a Beaverton resident's submission of "The Coho Wind" was declared the winner. East County folks grumbled that nothing as biting as 30 mph gusts could be even remotely compared to a peaceful, colorful fish.

But if you lived in Gresham in 2008, it's doubtful you've wished for a White Christmas since. Flurries that started late Christmas Day quickly turned into nearly 24 inches of snow, causing then-Mayor Shane Bemis to declare a state of emergency for the city. First responders were unable to get up the hills, so the National Guard was brought in to help.

By that time, we were living in a new home in the hills of Southwest Gresham. We watched as snow completely covered the holiday lights outlining the front yard, yielding what looked like a glowing, grounded space ship. After five days of snow-bound "togetherness," all the Christmas sweets were gone, as was the wine and liquor left over from our holiday gathering. Desperate to get out, my not-so-new husband realized he didn't belong on the road when he high-centered his SUV trying to get out of the driveway.

Mother Nature seems to be in a foul mood already. We went from summer to winter overnight, and the east wind has arrived a little early. So grab your bricks and hang on – winter could be a bumpy ride.



An ice storm in January 1979 paralyzed the Northwest, glazing everything and leaving many residents without power. Utility poles on Stark Street, east of Zim's, toppled because of the weight of the ice.

was out.

I was a city girl. Never went camping or joined the Girl Scouts. Still, I mustered self-sufficiency by figuring out how to build a fire in the fireplace and heating water for tea in a coffee can. The power returned around 5, which was followed closely by the arrival of the man of the house. Excited over my

# THANK YOU, 2022 DONORS!

## Contributors \$1-\$99

AmazonSmile  
 Ronald C. Arlint & Shannon Barisoff  
 Charlotte Becker & Howard Huntley  
 Marilou Bohmann  
 Ann Marie Collins  
 GSC Travel  
 Wayne & Pamela Horine  
 Linda Kidby  
 Kroger  
 Gwenda J. McCall  
 Donna Nichols  
 Terry W. Nishikawa  
 Paypal Giving Fund  
 Jo Ann Reese & John Fagan  
 Connie Rice  
 Linda Robinson  
 Deloris Schrader  
 Schubert Family  
 Peggy & Paul Taylor  
 Kathleen White  
 Ann Zink & Steve Christianson

## Patrons \$100-\$249

Christian M. Arnold  
 April Avery  
 Ruthe L. Ayers  
 Joyce Bailey  
 Erin Beggs  
 Becky Bennett  
 Misty & Ty Bettis  
 Sandra C. Biornstad  
 Sheila Bondarowicz  
 H.M. Bourgo  
 Christy Brewster  
 Ed & Claudia Brooks  
 Joan E. Burgin Trust  
 Eric & Jenny Byrne  
 Marjeanne (Sandy) Cartisser  
 Betty Chisum

Lillian Claggett  
 Peggi L. Correa  
 Janet Edwards  
 Lisa Elwood  
 Sandra Rich Forquer  
 Joe & Julie Frediani  
 Kellie Friderich  
 Janine & Paul Gladfelter  
 Sara K. Green  
 Shelly Burns Guisto  
 Debbie A. Hart  
 Sylvia Shelle Hegel  
 Julie Russum Hibbard  
 Jennifer Hoffman  
 Sue Hughes & Frank & Amy Protz  
 Linda Jeddelloh  
 Jean M. Jensen  
 Donald A. & Sharleen C. Jessup  
 Karen & Steve Johnston  
 Cathy Vandehey Keathley  
 Lois I. Larson  
 Betsy Lee  
 Vicki Moen  
 Jill Ogden Monti  
 Suann M. Mooney  
 Liz O'Bryne  
 Suzanne C. O'Halloran  
 Dolores Olcott  
 Debbi Phillips  
 Asma Preris  
 Frieda Riegelmann  
 Mary Ellen Robbins  
 Alina Rocha Johnson  
 Cindy Cathey Rock  
 Kirstan Rogers  
 Sawtooth Roofing Contractors, Inc.  
 Judith T. Scott  
 Gene Ann Shepherd  
 Charene Simmons

Patricia Smith  
 Lori & Ed Stahlman  
 Sunny Han's  
 Amy Tipsord  
 Lynette Turner  
 Dwight Unti  
 Paula L. Wade  
 Kirsten WAgeman  
 Walker Travel & Cruises  
 Doug & Diane Walker  
 Anne A. Wand  
 John & Jean Weigant  
 Penelope J. Wilcox  
 Joan Wiley  
 Lois Williams  
 Bess Wills & Bob Avila

## Associates \$250-\$499

Thomas T., Mark, & Gerald Fuji  
 Rosemary Shepperd Guttridge  
 Riegelmann's Inc.

## Stewards \$500-\$999

Karen & Mike Consbruck  
 Gresham Memorial Chapel  
 Sue Piazza & Michael Patrick  
 Terry Pullen

## Grantors \$1000-\$4999

City of Gresham  
 Committee to Re-Elect Mayor Bemis  
 Gresham Ford

## Donations in Memory

Liz Jones for Don VanZyl  
 Helen Wand for 1934 Gresham

## Donations in Tribute

Ken & Martha Manske for Lyle Guerke

We wish to thank our anonymous donors, who have contributed a total of \$1,919 so far this year at cemetery tours and via the gallery donation box.

## 2022 DONORS OF HISTORICAL MATERIALS

Linda Stickel  
 Jay Lehr  
 Mardy Stevens  
 Edward W. Palmquist  
 Kathleen Koehnen  
 City of Gresham  
 Sherry Lauer  
 Jan Rankin  
 Julie Frediani

Eellitta Stone  
 Anonymous  
 Claudia & Michael Andrews  
 Sue Metcalfe  
 Victoria A. Tanner  
 Rebecca Gossett  
 Teresa Squires Osborne  
 Timothy W. Mortimer  
 Rosemary Shepperd Guttridge

Janet Cornelius  
 Glenda D. Gary  
 Mick Bourgo  
 Glenda Hagan  
 Carole Linneman  
 Archaeological Investigations Northwest, Inc.  
 Cindy Gaulke  
 Gresham High School



# ANNUAL APPEAL

Dear Members and Friends,

This holiday season, we look back on a year filled with milestones, some modest and some monumental. It was the first year since 2019 that we experienced no unplanned closures. Our new air conditioning system withstood its first summer. We received two generous grants, one to interview community elders and the other to repair our leaking foundation. We are grateful to everyone whose support saw us through a troubled two years and out the other side.

The Gresham Historical Society serves a growing city filled with people from all backgrounds and every corner of the globe. Our shared heritage is what binds us together against forces that seek

to divide us, and we approach our duty to protect this heritage with the solemn commitment it deserves. Our decades-long record of accessible, relevant programming and exhibitions reflects our mission to preserve and share Gresham's past to enrich its present and future.

To continue this work, we need your help. An effective museum is not only a place of learning but of gathering and belonging. In order to fulfill this need in our community, we have plans to expand our display capabilities by installing museum glass in gallery exhibit cases. We must also provide for the ongoing maintenance needs of the Gresham Carnegie Library, which houses our museum, and the historic Zion Church, our neighboring property, which is in urgent need of repairs.

Your tax-deductible donation will have a direct and visible impact on Gresham's heritage. By contributing, you are joining a legacy of preservation that will benefit our community for years to come.

Sincerely,

The Staff and Board of the Gresham Historical Society



American Red Cross volunteers in front of L.L. Kidder Hardware, 1917. GHS 1427



# MEMBERSHIP

Not a member already? You can join on our website, at [greshamhistorical.org](http://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 level 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 \_\_\_\_\_ CV \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# MEMBERSHIP

## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE JOINED AND RENEWED SINCE SEPTEMBER:

Tamara Downes  
Anne & John Endicott  
Marc Turner  
McQueen Family  
Rachel Gitner  
Jerry Heller  
Cindy Cathey Rock  
Dee & Dave Olcott  
Linda C. & Horst Jeddalah  
Ruthe L. & Wendell C. Ayers

Peggi & Rich Correa  
Suann M. Mooney  
Diane C. & Doug Walker  
Charene Simmons  
Gene Ann Shepherd  
Sylvia S. & Darryl Hegel  
Lynette Turner  
Lillian Claggett  
Travis Wright  
Todd R. & Cathy Vandehey Keathley

Debbie Phillips  
ERA Freeman & Associates  
Frenzi Frozen Yogurt  
Ann Zink & Steve Christiansen  
Judith Scott  
Michael & Deanna Spinella  
Gresham Area Chamber of Commerce  
Laurie Monnes Anderson  
Valerie Greenaway

## OUR GRATITUDE TO THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS PLUS MEMBERS FOR THEIR VITAL SUPPORT!



## CAROL NIELSEN AND MARTY STONE RETIRING FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the end of 2022, two of our longest-serving board members will be leaving us, and we're taking this opportunity to look back on their many years of service in support of Gresham's history. Both of these remarkable individuals have served as president and vice president of the board.



Marty first joined the board in 1997, but his involvement began many years earlier. In 1991, his suggestion to offer photos with Santa Claus originated what has grown into our biggest annual fundraiser - Christmas at the Museum. As president of the Historic Downtown Business Association in the 1990s, he was already a valuable partner before he joined the board. After a 10-year hiatus, Marty rejoined the board in 2010 and has helped to see the museum through a period of upheaval but also of tremendous (and continuing) growth. In recent years, his notable contributions include his assistance in acquiring the Zion Church and in preserving our free offsite storage arrangement with the owners of the former Rexall building. He undertook a stint as president Marty has always been here for us when it mattered the most.

Like Marty, Carol first became involved with the Gresham Historical Society in the 1990s, but her longest tenure on the board has been from 2011 to the present. A long career in local business, politics, and civic organizations has made her a deeply connected person, and her generosity in sharing those connections with the museum has characterized her time on the board. Carol has worked tirelessly to make GHS financially solvent and has demonstrated true leadership in every aspect of her

work. Her most recent accomplishment was to procure the stained-glass sign from the recently closed (and bitterly mourned) Glass Butterfly at Main and Powell, which will be on display in the museum starting next year. This is one of many visible examples of Carol's influence that will remain long after she has moved on.

Please join us in thanking Marty and Carol for their many years of service. They are truly leaving the organization better and stronger than they found it.

Earlier this year, we said goodbye to Guy Edwards, Pete White, and Rose Marie Noojin. Guy served as vice president and also provided his invaluable web development services, designing and maintaining our website since 2019. Pete joined the board due to his excellent knowledge of local history, which we will miss as well as his wit. Rose Marie has been involved with the museum for nearly a decade, acting as secretary and bookkeeper for most of that time. We thank Guy, Pete, and Rose Marie for their years of work and dedication.



**President** Sue Piazza ✦ **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 ✦ **Public Historian** Stephanie Vallance



# WINTER PHOTO ROUNDUP



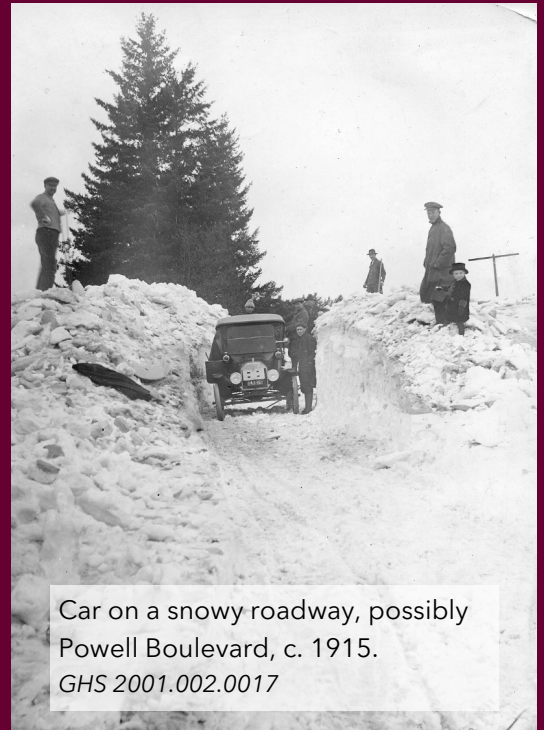
Trucks hauling snow to south main, 1937. GHS 2016.001.0054



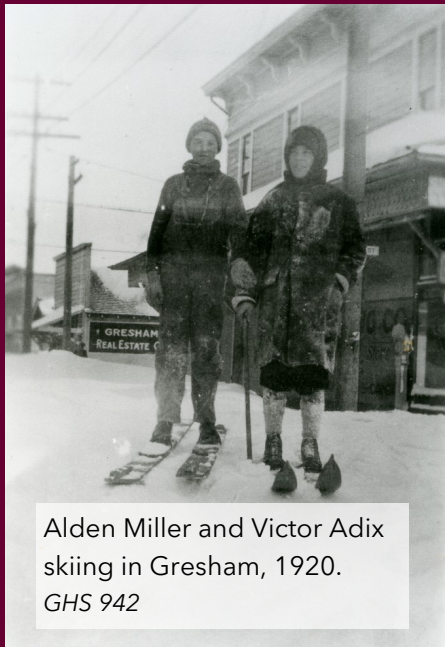
John Hodge blowing snow in front of Roberts House. GHS 1241



Dowsett Lane in 1930. GHS 1172



Car on a snowy roadway, possibly Powell Boulevard, c. 1915. GHS 2001.002.0017



Alden Miller and Victor Adix skiing in Gresham, 1920. GHS 942



Columbia Brick Works plant in southeast Gresham after a snow, 1937. GHS 429



Vic's Auto Parts on Powell, early 1950s. GHS 431



Aftermath of a 1919 ice storm, Gresham area. GHS 1148





Downtown Gresham blanketed in snow, c. 1915. GHS 2001.002.0018

The Gresham Historical Society is a private, non-profit organization that manages the Gresham Historical Museum and special collections library and archive, located in the 1913 former Gresham Library building in Historic Downtown Gresham.

Founded in 1976 and funded through donations from the community, the Gresham Historical Society was run exclusively by volunteers for the majority of its history.

In 2010, Multnomah County voters passed a property tax levy to support local history. Those levy funds pay for exhibitions and for us to have a full-time museum director, which helps keep us free and open to the public.

Our mission is to collect, preserve, and share our local history.

### HOLIDAY HOURS

Thursday-Saturday	10am-4pm
Sunday	12pm-4pm
Monday-Wednesday	Closed

*Closed Dec. 19-Jan. 11*

### CONTACT

**Web:** [greshamhistorical.org/contact](http://greshamhistorical.org/contact)

**Email:** [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org)

**Phone:** (503) 661-0347

**Facebook:** Gresham Historical Society

**Instagram:** @greshamhistorical

