

*The*

# ARCHIVE

QUARTERLY OF THE GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUMMER 2023



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

## GARDENING FOR VICTORY IN GRESHAM

*Story on pg. 6-7*



Evelyn and Roy Burton's vegetable garden on First Street, August 1953  
GHS photo 390



See pg. 4

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# AT THE MUSEUM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 12** – Table at Gresham High School 50+ year reunion
- Aug. 12** – Historic Cemeteries Tour, 12-1pm (see next page for details)
- Aug. 13** – Annual Membership Meeting (see next page for details)
- Aug. 17** – August Third Thursday in Historic Downtown Gresham
- Aug. 19** – Ice Cream Social at the museum (see pg. 6)
- Sept. 10** – Historic Cemeteries Tour, 12-1pm (see next page for details)
- Sept. 23** – Volunteer fair and reception at the museum (see pg. 6)



## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Schwemm Family Foundation Grant

GHS was recently honored with a generous \$8,000 grant from the Schwemm Family Foundation to purchase brand-new digitizing equipment including photography supplies, three new laptops, and two scanners. Over the next year, our goal is to digitize 2,500 items from the collection dating from the late 1800s and early 1900s. Our archives are a rich and ever-growing resource for local and family history, and the goal of this project is to make them accessible to as many people as possible via the Northwest Digital Heritage public portal (see pg. 10 for more info).

*We're looking for some new rockstar volunteers!*

Does this sound like fun? *We are looking for some new rockstar volunteers to help!!* We specifically need people with computer skills and a

good eye for detail. Email [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org) for more information.

### Costume Society of America Grant for Historic Textiles

In more exciting grant news, volunteer Rose Caughie has recently begun a project to rehouse and document some of the extraordinary handmade women's clothing in our collection that dates to the late 1800s and early 1900s. The Costume Society of America is generously funding this project through their Small Museum Grant, which is awarded to only one organization per year. We are honored and delighted that CSA chose our project this year. As Rose explores the fashion history contained within our collection, she will also be searching for and documenting water damage resulting from the arson fire in 2021. Many thanks to CSA for helping us heal from this disaster, and to Rose for her work on the grant application.

### Butterfly Pins at the Museum Store

Come to the museum to get your very own pin honoring the Glass Butterfly! These unique enamel pins are more than just a fashion accessory – they are based on the iconic, stained-glass butterfly sign that now hangs in our gallery following the popular dress store's



closing. Did you know that members receive 10% off all museum store purchases? Check out the options for joining or renewing your membership on pg. 10.

### Story Sharing: Berry Jamboree

This May, we invited you to share your berry picking memories with public historian Stephanie Vallance in a series of short recordings. We received a great response, and Stephanie interviewed 15 people over the course of the weekend. This event was part of the Gresham Public History Project, an oral history initiative funded by a grant from the City of Gresham. Now we're looking forward to the Gresham High School 50+ Year Reunion in August, where Stephanie will set up her camera and microphone to record more stories. Maybe we'll see you there!

### In Memoriam

Judith Scott, a longtime volunteer at GHS, passed away this spring following a life of community involvement. Weekend visitors could often find her sitting at the museum front desk, hard at work on a project or deep in conversation with other volunteers. In addition to GHS, Judith was also a member of the AAUW, the Gresham VFW, and the 100+ Women Who Care East County. We already miss her kind spirit and wit.

# AT THE MUSEUM

## EXHIBITS ON VIEW AT THE GRESHAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### **MAKING TRACKS TO GRESHAM: The Rise and Fall of the Electric Trolley**

The interurban trolley from Portland first reached Gresham in 1902, beginning an era of passenger rail travel to and from East Multnomah County and beyond. This photo essay captures sights that were once everyday in East Multnomah County.

### **LISTEN TO THE BAND: A Centennial High School Marching Band Retrospective**

For many years one of the premier high school marching programs in the region, the CHS band gathered this year for an alumni reunion. This exhibit includes photos and memorabilia from all eras of the CHS marching band – including the future!

### **BEYOND MAIN STREET: The Other Communities of Gresham**

You've heard about Orient and Rockwood, but how about Terry, Engleton, Sycamore, and Wilmot? The area that Gresham now encompasses was once made up of many small communities dotted across the countryside. Some remain, and some are lost to time.

*The museum scavenger hunt is a hit with kids and adults—have you tried it yet?*

## HISTORIC CEMETERY TOURS

History is alive at Downtown Gresham's three cemeteries! These places of quiet contemplation are rich in information about our local heritage, if you know where to look. Volunteer tour guide Mike Andrews leads you on a walking tour that is by turns colorful, humorous, and poignant as it explores unexpected stories of the Gresham area.

This one-hour tour covers Gresham Pioneer, Escobar, and White Birch cemeteries, which are all adjacent to each other. Parking is available at West Gresham Grade School or at nearby Main City Park, and the cemeteries are easily accessible to bicyclists arriving from the Springwater Trail. See previous page for upcoming dates and times.

All tours are free and open to the public. No RSVP is required.



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Saturday, August 13, 11:30-1:30  
at the Gresham Historical Society

Members are invited to join us for a free walking tour of Historic Downtown Gresham before the event. Tours will leave at 11:30, 12, and 12:30.

The festivities will include a reception and open house from 12 to 1:30 and an address to members from 1:30 to 2. Light refreshments will be served.

*Not a member yet? Sign up at [greshamhistorical.org/join-the-society](http://greshamhistorical.org/join-the-society)*

*Image: "Old timers of Gresham and vicinity," circa 1930. GHS 2022.001.0121*



# AT THE MUSEUM

## NORTHWEST DIGITAL HERITAGE PATHWAYS PROJECT IN REVIEW

Back in April, we began working with the team at the Oregon Heritage Commission to develop a method for small museums like us to get their collections online. Now that the project is drawing to a close, we're pleased to announce that project manager Helen Ryan has digitized over 200 photos and documents from our collection—and you'll be able to view them on the Northwest Digital Heritage public portal very soon!

Here are a few of Helen's favorites.



☞ Gresham Giants baseball team circa 1914-1920. The team was formed around 1901. It was semi-professional by 1908, and part of an inter-city league that included Montavilla, Oregon City, and Portland. Jimmy Claxton, the first Black player to break the professional baseball color line, was briefly signed to the team in 1915/16, but left prior to the start of the season.



A photograph of the Floral Exhibit Hall at the 1946 Multnomah County Fair. In frame are a flowering tree with many flowers beneath it. Past the tree is a scene identified as a recreation of the "old mill" per a label on the back of the photograph.

**Certificate of Registration, Town of Gresham, Oregon**

*Lusted L. J. Mrs.* I, being first duly sworn, say upon oath, that I am a qualified elector, and the statements herein entered, as to my qualifications as an elector are true.

Signature *Mrs. L. J. Lusted*

Precinct *Gresham* Place of birth *Ohio*  
 Address *LA* Date of Nat'n. or Declaration \_\_\_\_\_

Place \_\_\_\_\_ Court \_\_\_\_\_

Sec. *10* Tp. *1 S* Range *3 E* Age *54* Years Occupation *Housekeeper*

Resided in Oregon *30* Years Height *5* ft. *4* in. Weight *113* lbs.

Party affiliation *Refused* Color of Hair *Gray* Eyes *Brown*

"We, the undersigned witnesses do swear that our names and signatures are genuine; that we are each personally acquainted with the elector and his residence, as stated; that we are each freeholders in this county.

Signature *Frank Jones* Residence *Gresham*  
 " *Ray Matthews* " \_\_\_\_\_

Subscribed and sworn to by the elector and the two witnesses, this *14* day of *Nov* 191*3*.

Attest: *L. M. Roberts*  
 City Recorder.

☞ Voter registration of Lovica Tuttle Lusted (1849-1928), dated Nov. 14, 1913. Lovica moved to Oregon in 1875, settling with her husband, Talbert Lusted, in an area east of Gresham that is now called Lusted. Oregon women won the right to vote in the 1912 general election, making Lovica among the first women in the state to register to vote (Abigail Scott Duniway, the first woman to register to vote in Multnomah County, did so on February 14, 1913).

☞ 1939 program for the New Gresham Theater. Henry H. "Harry" Moyer and his wife Rose owned and operated multiple theaters in the Portland Metro area, including two in Gresham. Their son, Thomas P. Moyer, a boxer and real estate developer, took over the theaters after Harry Moyer's death in 1950 and developed them into a chain across the West Coast, later selling them to Regal Cinemas (then Act III Cinemas) in 1989.

*New*  
**GRESHAM  
 THEATER**

Always the Latest and Best Pictures  
 H. H. MOYER, Prop.

**PROGRAM FOR  
 AUGUST, 1939**

Adults 25c—Children 5 to 12 Years 10c  
 Children Under Five FREE ONLY When  
 Accompanied by Adult!

**POWELL VALLEY AND ROBERTS**  
 Phone Gresham 267



# AT THE MUSEUM



This year's Plant Sale took place on a hot day in May, with a good turnout despite the heat! Big thanks to Erica (above) and everyone who showed up to help out. And thanks of course to everyone who bought plants!

The Tie Dye Fundraiser was a big success in its second year, all because of a great team of volunteers (including Evan, Samantha, Amy, and Mike below) who staffed each station and helped add a little color to the world.



The Speakeasy in April was the biggest single fundraising event in our history! It included a dinner, silent and live auctions, games, and drinks (of course). Thanks to Lori, Stacey, and Erin (above) and to everyone else whose help made this event such a success!

## GALLERY RENTALS AVAILABLE!

Did you know that you can rent the museum gallery for special events? A beautiful historic setting, our space is perfect for gatherings of up to 100 people. We'll even set up the tables and chairs! Call us at (503) 661-0347 or email [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org) for more information.





# AT THE MUSEUM



G · R · E · S · H · A · M  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Social Fundraiser

## Scoop-A-Licious

Sat. August 19th '23

410 N Main Ave.  
Gresham, OR

11am to 5pm

1 SCOOP,  
2 SCOOP,  
CUP OR  
CONE!

- Rainbow
- Espresso Madness
- Cookie Dough
- Classic Lemon Bar
- Chocolate Chip Mint
- Chocolate Peanut Butter
- Huckleberry Cheesecake
- Chocolate Brownie Thunder

All Ice Cream Generously Donated by Umpqua Ice Cream



## THIRD ANNUAL GINGERBREAD COMPETITION

Registration opens soon! This year's theme:

### CHRISTMAS IN OREGON

Watch our website for updates:  
[greshamhistorical.org/events](http://greshamhistorical.org/events)



# VOLUNTEER FAIR

SEPTEMBER 23

11-2:30

410 N Main Ave, Gresham

Find out what our volunteers do and why they love it! Will you join the team?





# CALL FOR ARTISTS

**WHO:** Culture bearers, or artists and artisans practicing traditional arts within a specific cultural tradition. We are looking for artists from diverse backgrounds representative of the many cultures that make up Gresham.

**WHAT:** An exhibit on **Gresham folklife**, i.e. traditional arts made and/or used in our area. We have funds available to purchase original artworks from their makers for **up to \$400 per piece** but will also accept items on short-term loan. The art should be handmade, but can be any medium or style.

**WHEN:** Submissions are due on September 1, 2023. Artists will be notified by September 15 if their submission is chosen and should bring it to the museum no later than October 1.

**TO APPLY:** Please email [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org) with a picture of the art you wish to sell or loan and the following information:

1. Your name
2. Name of artist (if different from your name)
3. School, culture, or style of art
4. Medium, materials used
5. Artist's statement: 250-500 words explaining the cultural and/or personal significance of the artwork
6. Whether you are offering the art for loan or sale; if sale, asking price (up to \$400)

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

I'm a historian by training, and some of my favorite calls to get are research inquiries. Many of the researchers we see at the museum are dipping their toes into historical research for the first time in their lives. This process can be intimidating and confusing – but once researchers learn the breadth of information that's out there and how to access it, many of them begin to find joy in the process.

Here at the museum, some of our most frequently asked-for resources are the Gresham High School and Centennial High School yearbooks, bound volumes of the *Gresham Outlook*, and the photo archive. We also offer a keyword-searchable scanned archive of newspaper clippings and other documents spanning over 70 years. When those resources aren't enough, I sometimes inflict PastPerfect, our collections database, on the unfortunates who want to go deeper with their research. PastPerfect contains over 12,000 records as of this year, and we are constantly adding to it as new objects enter the collection and backlogged donations are discovered. Our version of the software dates to the mid-90s, making it older than a significant percentage of the volunteers who use it. While on first encounter, PastPerfect may seem to work in a way that is hostile to the user and contrary to all reason, it yields a wealth of information to those willing to learn its intricacies.

Of course, many of the resources that our researchers find most helpful can be found online if you know where to look. I always direct people to the Multnomah County Library website, where your library card gets you access to the entire digitized archive of the *Oregonian* dating from 1861 to present and the full run of the *Oregon Journal*. Historic Oregon Newspapers is a website created by U of O where you can find thousands of digitized newspapers for free. And you can get free access to Ancestry.com on all library computers.

Whether you're looking for family history, architectural heritage, or information on general topics, I'd love to help! Give me a call at (503) 661-0347 and let's chat.

*Silvie Andrews*





# AT THE MUSEUM

## GARDENING FOR VICTORY IN GRESHAM

By Anne Endicott

In early 1943, Multnomah County Agricultural Agent S.B. Hall launched a "Victory Garden" campaign aimed at home gardeners, schools, and garden clubs. About 25% of all food production at the time went to fortify the armed forces and U.S. allies. Each soldier, it was estimated, required a ton of food every year.

But while the military's needs took precedence with food production and distribution, tin shortages and rationing led to a short supply of canned goods on the home front. Further complicating the problem were the millions of farmers and farm laborers who had enlisted in the military or gone to work for higher wages in the defense industry. The U.S. Government had forced farmers of Japanese descent to move to inland concentration camps, leaving many of their farms unworked. This caused a labor shortage and contributed to acres of barren farmland and abandoned crops rotting in the fields.

Agricultural Agent Hall's Victory Garden program was designed to produce additional food and offset what Hall considered to be an imminent food shortage.

Fresh fruits and vegetables weren't subject to rationing regulations, yet transporting them great distances from farm to store required a large volume of fresh consumables that spoiled easily. Victory Gardens, then, became not only a patriotic thing to do, but also a means to boost food production.

O.T. McWhorter, extension specialist with Oregon State College (later OSU), was tasked with leading the implementation of grassroots Victory Gardens across the state. But gardeners had to be serious, according to agricultural agent Hall.

"The spring fever variety of gardener, who impulsively starts a garden impelled by a few days of sunshine and then fails to follow through," he said, "should be discouraged rather than encouraged to grow a garden for the reason that they are simply wasting their time and wasting garden seed."

Still, for those suffering from wartime anxiety, Hall called gardening "therapeutic."

"It relaxes your nerves. It's a family enterprise that

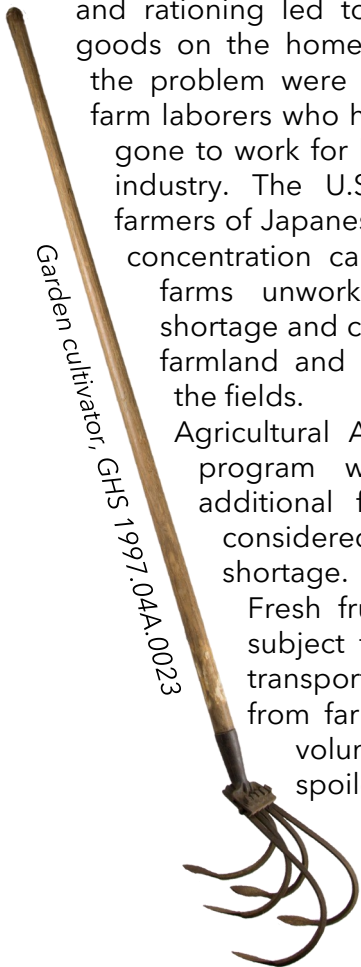
brings together father, mother, son and daughter."

In July 1943, Hall announced that the "food for freedom/ Victory Garden" campaign was responsible for the highest production of vegetables across the county in several years. In fact, the market for some locally grown vegetables had become saturated by home gardeners. Hall estimated the number of city and rural gardens to be somewhere between 75,000 and 80,000. Gresham-area youngsters were cultivating 135 acres of land, with more than 2,000 young people participating in Victory Garden programs through their schools.

Officials with Alcoa Aluminum in Troutdale offered their employees plowed tracts of land if they did not have garden space at home. Demand was so great that the company prepared additional tracts so more employees could participate.

"And we'll plow up still more, if any of our employees need garden space," said Alcoa Superintendent George R. Stout. "Alcoa is going to do everything possible to make a Victory Garden available to every employee."

By 1944, home gardeners were providing nearly 40 percent of the country's fresh vegetables. Between traditional farms, town and suburban areas, and schools, Americans were tending over 20 million Victory Gardens nationwide during World War II.



Garden cultivator, GHS 1997.04A.0023



Manual corn planter, GHS 1997.04A.0034

350215 AJ UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION  
**WAR RATION BOOK TWO**  
IDENTIFICATION

*Galen Calvin Fancher*  
(Name of person to whom book is issued)

(Street number or rural route)

(City or post office) (State) (Age) (Sex)

ISSUED BY LOCAL BOARD No. 25-20-10 *hawaii*  
(County) (State)

*Silvian B. ...*  
(Street address of local board) (City)

By *SM ...*  
(Signature of issuing office)

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_  
(To be signed by the person to whom this book is issued. If such person is unable to sign because of age or incapacity, another may sign in his behalf)

**WARNING**

1 This book is the property of the United States Government. It is unlawful to sell or give it to any other person or to use it or permit anyone else to use it, except to obtain rationed goods for the person to whom it was issued.  
2 This book must be returned to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it, if the person to whom it was issued is inducted into the armed services of the United States, or leaves the country for more than 30 days, or dies. The address of the Board appears above.  
3 A person who finds a lost War Ration Book must return it to the War Price and Rationing Board which issued it.  
4 PERSONS WHO VIOLATE RATIONING REGULATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO \$10,000 FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH.

OFA FORM R-121 10-9083-1

Galen Fancher's war ration book, 1944



# HISTORY OF MUSIC IN IMAGES

Gresham High School Band, 1952. GHS 1038



Gresham Concert Band, c. 1910. GHS 1183

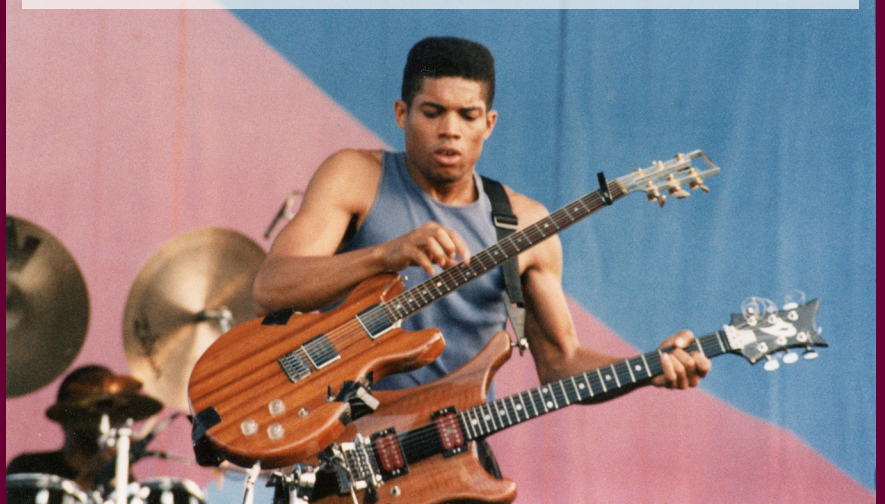
Gresham Grade School orchestra, 1931-1932. GHS 2017.014.0001



Centennial High School band rehearses a field show in 1983. GHS 2021.011.0040



Stanley Jordan plays two guitars simultaneously at the 1990 Mt. Hood Festival of Jazz. GHS 2014.011.0040



Gresham Concert Band members Harry Ott, Mr. Brittner, Guy Fieldhouse, and Charlie Merrill, c. 1910. GHS 2016.001.0047





# MEMBERSHIP

Not a member already? You can join on our website, at [greshamhistorical.org/join-the-society](http://greshamhistorical.org/join-the-society).

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 10% off museum store purchases, 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.



# MEMBERSHIP

**Thank you to all who have joined and renewed since March:**

Liz Jones  
 Dorothy Douglas  
 John & Shirley Vandermosten  
 Richard Barker-Maxwell  
 Jen Bodendorfer  
 Linda Brixey  
 Catherine Van Zyl  
 Cody Abbott  
 Howard Moen  
 Jan & Gary Rankin  
 Steve & Sandy Hawes  
 Paul & Mary Jo Warr-King  
 James Card  
 Alice Simonis  
 Shawn & Janie Farrens  
 Dean & Barb Brundidge  
 Sham & Teresa Rockove  
 Donna McMurry  
 Suzanne Cooper  
 Matt Miller  
 Ron & Sheryl Hoak  
 Sue O'Halloran  
 Paula & Todd Jacobsen  
 Mary Lou & Rusty Baumberger  
 Brenda Felix  
 Thomas Fuji  
 Mary Taylor  
 Debby Brown  
 Carole Linneman  
 David & Kendra Baumann  
 Lana Stillwell, Lori Robertson, & Maureen Jepson  
 A. Nannette Taylor  
 Jan Weston  
 Rob Burke  
 Joanna Ceciliani  
 Larry & Marlene Stanley  
 Jan Corder  
 Wilma Konkell  
 Marilou Bohmann  
 Mardy Stevens  
 Jean Pratt  
 Alina Rocha Johnson  
 Mike & Cathy Buckley  
 Cody Clark  
 Deloris Schrader  
 Cindy Luebbers  
 Joan Albertson  
 Philip Guernsey  
 Barbara Spreng  
 Michelle Dwyer  
 Robert Allen  
 Brian Croak & Kirsten Jacobsen-Croak

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







Cacti exhibit at Multnomah County Fair, c. 1940s. GHS 1851

The Gresham Historical Society is a private nonprofit 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. These levy funds pay the salary of a full-time museum director, which helps keep us free and open to the public.

Our mission is to preserve and share our community's past for the enrichment of its present and future.

## HOURS

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

## CONTACT

**Web:** [greshamhistorical.org/contact](http://greshamhistorical.org/contact)  
**Email:** [info@greshamhistorical.org](mailto:info@greshamhistorical.org)  
**Phone:** (503) 661-0347

## Staff and Board

**President** Sue Piazza ✦ **Vice President** Lon Shiiki ✦ **Treasurer** Leslie Radke ✦ **Secretary** Stacey Rustad-Smith

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**Museum Director** Silvie Andrews ✦ **Public Historian** Stephanie Vallance