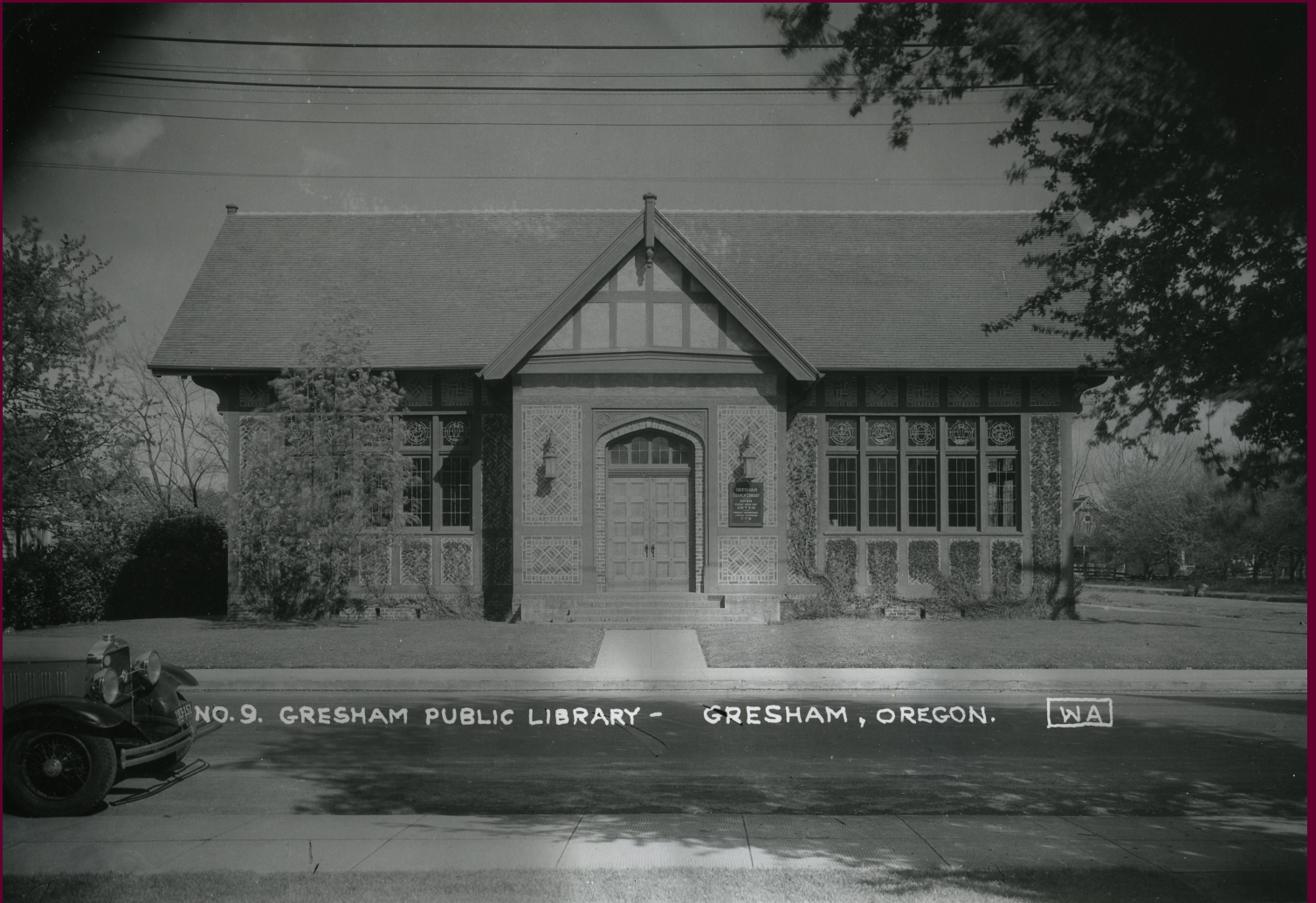


Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter

For members of the Gresham Historical Society



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Spring 2020

About Gresham Historical Society & Museum

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Crystal Clark

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 historic Carnegie 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 staff member which helps keep us free and open to the public.

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

Hours of operation

Wednesday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Friday 2 p.m.–8 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Closed Monday & Tuesday



410 N. Main Avenue

Gresham, OR, 97030

(503)661-0347

www.greshamhistorical.org

Volunteers

Claudia Andrews

Mike Andrews

Silvie Andrews

Sally Arnold

Darrion Bowen

Mark Brandt

Joe Breniser

Gayle DeBruyne

Sandy Fancher

Marva Green

Valerie Greenaway

Wanda Harmon

Lily Hart

Gerry Hiscoe

Wayne Horine

Dana Huber

Bruce Jenks

Bonnie Jepsen

Liz Jones

Utahna Kerr

Ila Lane

Skip Larson

Carole Linneman

Shirley Luttropp

Claudell Metzger

Madelyn Miller

Liz Morse

Becky Nuffer

Rick Myers

Sue Myers

Becky Nuffer

Shyloh Peckham

Heath Renfrow

Evan Renfrow Smiley

Judith Scott

Erin Schmith

Alice Simonis

Teresa Squires-Osborne

Mardy Stevens

Nannette Taylor

Peggy Taylor

Janet Westberg

John Wisnewski

Letter from the Director

Greetings valued Members and Supporters!

There's been a lot going on behind the scenes here at our fair museum. Since our last newsletter, we've had an administrative transition with Evan Smiley stepping out of the Museum Director role and Greta Smith Wisnewski stepping in. We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Evan for the excellent work she did while she was here and wish her the very best in all of her future endeavors.

Evan did a fantastic job of starting important grant-funded projects that Greta is working to carry out with the help of our Board of Directors, community partners, and dedicated volunteer base. In that spirit, we have continued to plug away on the Collection Improvement Project and fixed the stubborn, 25-year-old crack in the basement wall. These projects have been funded through your generous contributions and grants by the Oregon Heritage Commission (see p.6 for more information). In January, the Gresham Historical Society Board of Directors met to begin laying our course for 2020. We're looking forward to a productive and engaging year, so stay tuned for updates!

We are excited to host the travelling exhibit, *Vanport: A Story Lived. A Story Told* (see p. 5 for details). Be sure to stop in and explore this fascinating and illuminating aspect of our shared regional history!

Last, but not least, don't forget to renew your museum membership! The support and donations from our members and patronage helps keep our doors open. We greatly appreciate your support, without which we would not be able to do the work of making history happen. We look forward to you coming by the museum soon!

Warm regards,



Greta Smith

Wisnewski
Museum Director

Annual Membership Meeting Announcement

By Carol Nielsen, Board President

Your Gresham Historical Museum has been busy for this past year. There are so many maintenance issues that have been complete or are currently being worked on that you will need to come to our annual meeting to hear about and to experience. We also have been busy updating our by-laws and policy & procedures. We have finished completing our budget for this year into next year. These are just a few of the items that we are working on a continuous basis.

This past fall through the Christmas Season with our Santa Photos we had the honor of a magnificent exhibit of Miniatures that we had on display for the public to enjoy. We were able to have showcased about 7 of these buildings that the public loved. These brought in many visitors from outside of our area as well as Gresham residents.

I would personally like to invite all of our Gresham Historical Museum members to our ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING on MAY 17, 2020, SUNDAY

1:00 to 3:00 pm.

AT YOUR MUSEUM

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

We look forward to sharing our current Exhibit and future plans for the museum with you.

We also would like for you to share your thoughts and ideas with us.

It takes an entire village to make this museum be a success.



Become a Member

Not a member already? Becoming a member is easy! Just fill out the Membership Enrollment Form, bring it by, or mail it in to the museum.

Membership at the Gresham Historical Society supports the continued preservation and sharing of our local history.

For more information, contact us at (503)661-0347 or info@greshamhistorical.org

Membership includes

- Membership card
- Subscription to the *Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter*
- First notice on all public programming and events

Choose your membership

Individual \$20

Membership benefits for one adult

Family \$20

Membership benefits for two adults and all family members under 18.

Business Sponsorship \$50

Two membership cards to be used by any employee and your business' logo to appear in the *Gresham Historical Quarterly Newsletter*.

* 10% discount for Seniors, Veterans, & Military Personnel



Membership Enrollment Form

Member name *(Business name for Business Membership)*

Member 2 name *(if Family Membership)*

Street address

City, State, Zip

Home/Cell Phone

Work /Cell Phone

Email address

Membership Level

☐ Individual \$20

☐ Business \$50

☐ Family \$20

\$_____ Membership amount *include discounts

\$_____ Additional contribution

\$_____ Total amount

Payment information

Please enclose a check payable to the Gresham Historical Society, and mail it (see address below) or bring it by the museum along with this form. To pay by credit or debit card, please call or come in to the museum.

Gresham Historical Society
410 N. Main Avenue
Gresham, OR, 97030

On Display

Japanese Culture in Gresham: 1880 to Present Day

Beginning with early immigration, this exhibit traces the history of Japanese immigrants, Japanese Americans and Japanese culture in the Gresham area through World War II, and forward through reparations and international cultural appreciation.

The Gresham Carnegie Library

This exhibit details the life of the Gresham Carnegie Library building from the establishment of Gresham's first reading room over the post office in 1903, the construction of the Carnegie Library in 1913, through to the 1989 relocation of the library and the 1990 purchase and restoration of the building by the Gresham Historical Society.

Historic Downtown: Gresham's Center of Commerce

This exhibit samples the stores, eateries and tradesmen of Gresham. Learn about the buildings that made up the fabric of Historic Downtown, some of which are still standing!

Remember to like and follow us on Facebook and Instagram for more updates on events and programs!

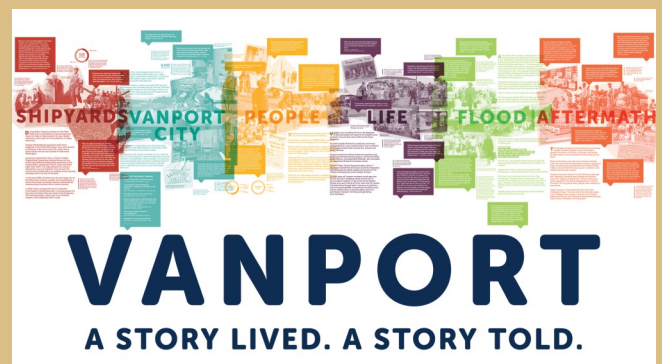
Featured Exhibit

Vanport: A Story Lived. A Story Told.

A Miracle City; a sociological experiment; or, as Mayor Earl Riley called it later on, a "great headache" and a "municipal monstrosity": in its short life span (1942-1948) Vanport was Oregon's second largest city with a population, at its height, of 40,000. At the time, it was the largest WWII federal public housing project in the United States. The city was destroyed by floods on Memorial Day of 1948.

Combining a mixture of archival photographs and historical records with personal testimonies of former residents interwoven throughout, this exhibit details the multifaceted story of Vanport and its vibrant community. It is a history of migration, housing, displacement, and perseverance that continues to have long-ranging impacts upon our region into the present.

The Gresham Historical Society is thrilled to bring the travelling exhibit *Vanport: A Story Lived. A Story Told.* to Gresham-area residents! The exhibit will be on display at the museum beginning March 4, 2020, so be sure to stop by and check it out.



This exhibit is brought to you by the Vanport Mosaic, a memory-activism platform that amplifies, honors, presents, and preserves the silenced histories that surround us in order to understand our present, and create a future where we all belong.

Learn more about their events and programs by visiting www.vanportmosaic.org

Museum News

Updates on Grant-Funded Projects

In the summer of 2019, the Gresham Historical Society received two grants from the Oregon Heritage Commission to help us with a Collection Storage Improvement Project. This project is the first step of the museum's strategic goals and once completed will allow us shift our primary area of focus from the collection to educational programming and exhibits, which rely on GHS having a healthy collection. Since receiving these grants, museum staff, board members, volunteers, and community partners have been working hard to help fulfill grant requirements. Here are some updates on our progress so far:

Oregon Museum Grant (\$8,000): The majority of these funds have gone towards the purchase and installation of a new temperature control unit to help keep our collection storage space cool and dry; as well as the purchase of new archival boxes and packing materials to better protect our objects. A temperature controlled environment mitigates the risk of mold as well as warping, expanding, and shrinking of certain materials (such as wood) that can occur with changes in temperature and humidity in an uncontrolled environment. New archival-quality boxes and packing materials will ensure that objects in the collection are preserved for years to come. Next, we will purchase new shelving units where we will rehouse the entire collection (once we've finished with the assessment process), which we are close to completing thanks to our partnership with PSU (see p. 7 for details) and other dedicated volunteers!



Former Museum Director. Evan Smiley, assessing a box.

The Assessment Process Explained:

The assessment process involves museum staff and trained volunteers looking at each box of objects within the collection and recording them into the Collection Inventory. The goal of the assessment is to detect and document signs of mold contamination, deterioration, or other damage that might be harmful to the collection, as well as the object's appropriateness to the mission of the Gresham Historical Society, which is to collect, preserve, and share our local history.

Preserving Oregon Grant (\$4,500): These grant funds have gone towards repairing a 2-foot crack in the foundation of the Historic 1913 Gresham Carnegie Library. When community partners Jim and Ty Card of Tsuru Island and Cardscapes Creative Landscaping began the initial exploratory work of repairing the crack, they discovered that it was the result of a small piece of wood that fell into the concrete mixture back in 1913 when workers were pouring the foundation. Over time, this problematic piece of wood rotted away, leaving a cavity that created a weak spot in the foundation

which eventually resulted in our stubborn and moisture inducing crack. After 25 years of attempting to fix this crack in a variety of ways, we have finally managed to succeed thanks to the support of our community partners, volunteers, the Preserving Oregon Grant, and \$3,800 in donations from museum guests, Gresham residents, and our dedicated members. Additionally, as part of this grant work, the back of our building has been given a facelift by our community partners, so be sure to stop by and check out their good work!

If you would like to help further support these projects, please consider giving a monetary contribution to offset project expenditures, or contact the museum at info@greshamhistorical.org to discuss volunteer opportunities. For these projects, we need volunteers who are comfortable working with computers and who can lift up to 20 pounds while climbing stairs.



New landscaping in back of building (Cardscapes Creative) completed February, 2020.

PSU History Students Take Over the Gresham Historical Society!

Like many small historical museums, the Gresham Historical Society relies on volunteers and community partners to help us do the work of making history happen. While PSU students didn't exactly take over the Museum, from October to early December of 2019, the Portland State University History Department partnered with the Gresham Historical Society to work on the grant-funded Collection Improvement Project. Dedicated students in Dr. Katrine Barber's Intro to Public History class each contributed between 15-20 hours of time to work on this project over the course of the fall term. In doing so, they worked in the Gresham Historical Society's Carl & Ada Zimmerman Research Room where they learned how to properly handle objects in an archival setting, assessed boxes, conducted research, wrote object reports, and co-curated an upcoming exhibit at the Museum. Through this partnership, we hope that the students got a taste of the kinds of work typical for public historians, who often work in project-driven teams to craft deliverables for institutions such as the Gresham Historical Society. We want to thank Dr. Barber and her students for the time, work, and energy they put into this partnership!



PSU Students assess boxes from GHS's collection.

Have an idea for a community partnership with us? We want to hear from you! Contact us at director@greshamhistorical.org and tell us about your project idea.

Gresham High School Student Volunteers

There is a lot that goes into daily operations here at the Gresham Historical Society, not least of which is keeping up with all of the cleaning that our historical building requires. This work is done by board members, museum staff, and volunteers. We want to thank three Gresham High School students in particular for the hours of volunteer time they dedicate in order to support the community they live in by helping to keep our museum clean. Here is what they have to say about their volunteer experience here at the museum:

"We love our job!" Maria (Senior at GHS)

"We always work hard!" Lizbeth (Junior at GHS)

"I love to dust at work." Donovan (Freshman at GHS)

Through their work, they are acquiring on-the-job training, learning positive work ethics, and creating relationships. Thank you Maria, Donovan, and Lizbeth, for all you do!



Gresham High School, 1929. GHS 1069

Rent the museum!

The Gresham Historical Museum is the perfect venue for business and personal events!

Built in 1913, the Gresham Carnegie Library is on the National Register of Historic Places and has been acclaimed as one of the finest examples of Tudor architecture in the Portland Metropolitan area.

Standard pricing by attendance*

1-25 guests	\$125
26-45 guests	\$225
45-75 guests	\$375
76-100 guests	\$500

*For first 3 hours. Additional fees may apply for longer rentals, or if the event takes place during museum operation hours.

Flexible rates for members!

Notes from the Archives: Gresham Odd Fellows

By Helen Ryan

Gresham Historical Society's recent partnership with Portland State University's History Department, which saw students in the Public History lab class research objects in the museum's collection, prompted interest in one of the earliest organizations in Gresham, the Gresham Odd Fellows (IOOF) Lodge (#125). The Lodge was one of many that operated in Oregon under the Independent Order of the Odd Fellows, an international fraternal organization that provides recreational opportunities and social services to its members. The first chapter, or 'lodge,' of the IOOF in Oregon was founded in Salem in 1852, and the Odd Fellows quickly spread through Oregon; at its peak, the organization had 257 lodges in the state. Historians have noted that these lodges became central to many Oregon communities, especially rural ones, as both recreational centers and aid providers.



*IOOF, Gresham Lodge #125, 1909-1910.
Pictured: George Kenny, Jacob Metzger,
Martin Roberts, George Preston, John
Roberts, Jon Sleret, Byron Emery, Lewis
Shattuck, Roy Gibbs, Ed Sleret.. GHS 1891D*

The Gresham Odd Fellows Lodge incorporated in 1893, more than a decade prior to Gresham's own incorporation. The Odd Fellows Hall, located on Powell Valley Road, was listed as one of only a dozen buildings in rural Gresham in 1903. The hall was frequently rented out to other organizations who could not afford their own buildings, including Gresham United Methodist, Mormon and Christian Science churches, and a Gresham veterinarian. The Lodge funded itself through these rental fees, as well as monthly dues from members, and disbursed hundreds of dollars a year in sick benefits to members - a particularly valuable service at a time when health insurance was largely nonexistent in the United States. They also covered funeral expenses for deceased members, and offered stipends for their widows and orphans.

Dances, meetings, and other community events were held at the hall, and local newspapers frequently mention visits from the Gresham lodge to other Odd Fellows lodges in Estacada, Sandy, and Boring during the early 20th century. Members of many prominent Gresham families held Odd Fellows memberships in that period, including Gresham's fourth mayor, George W. Kenney. In the post-World War II era, the popularity of fraternal organizations declined across the country, and Gresham's Odd Fellow lodge was no exception. By 1968 it had only 21 dues-paying members. The steady drop in membership prompted lodge officers to propose a merger with Sandy's Odd Fellow Lodge in 1978. The vote, carried out by mailing cards now held in GHS's collections, was largely in favor of the merger.



Odd Fellows Hall, East Powell, 1956. GHS 798

Sources

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"Lodges To Celebrate Anniversary." *Morning Oregonian*, April 29, 1916, p. 9.

Members Register Book. Gresham IOOF Collection. Gresham Historical Society, Gresham, Oregon.

Vale IOOF Hall, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. October 2016. <https://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/16000822.pdf>.

"Worksheet for collecting information about Gresham's mayors." Accessed digitally at Gresham Historical Society.

How to Support the Museum

Gifts and contributions to the Gresham Historical Society support the continued preservation and sharing of our local history.

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.

Planned Giving

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 life 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.



www.greshamhistorical.org

Monetary Contribution Form

Name

Street address

City, State, Zip

Home/Cell Phone

Work /Cell Phone

Email address

If memorial gift, Name of honored person(s)

Payment information

☐ Check payable to the Gresham Historical

Would you like to enroll in Planned Giving?

☐ Yes, please charge my credit/debit card for a recurring donation of \$_____.

Frequency of Planned Giving (Check only one):

☐ Monthly

☐ Quarterly

☐ Bi-monthly

☐ Annually

☐ No, please charge my credit/debit for a one-time donation of \$_____.

☐ American Express

☐ Discover

☐ Mastercard

☐ Visa

Card number

Exp. Date

CVV

Signature

Thank you, 2019 Donors!

We would like to give a special thank you to those who donated to the Gresham Historical Society in 2019! Your financial support helps us fulfill our mission of collecting, preserving, and sharing our local history. Because the Gresham Historical Society does not receive federal or state aid, we could not do our work without the support of donors like you. Thank you for helping make history happen, and keeping our museum—your museum—free and open to the public.

Contributors

Charlotte Becker
Jen Bodendorfer
Marilou Bohmann
Beth Caldwell
Rose Carstenson
Betty Chisum
Carol Clark
J. Henry Clarke
(in memorial of Larry Kerr)
Lynn Coombs
Dave Dyk
Tammy Farley
Kirk French
Janine Gladfelter
Judy Han
Wanda Harmon
John Harold
John and Bunny Harrold
Lael Hays
Georgene Honke
Kathy Jordan
Carl and Hideko (Toni) Kato
Utahna and Larry Kerr
Connor, Anna,
& Mira Kirkwood
Kroger
Ila Lane
Martha Manske
Stephanie Markstaller
Claudell Metzger
Carol Nielsen
Rose Marie Noojin
Becky Nuffer
Dianne Ott
Judie Peterson
Kate Preiss
Leslie Radke

Regional Arts &
Culture Council
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Renfrow Smiley
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Merrick Reburn
Jo Ann Reese & John
Fagan
Teresa Squires-Osborne
Mardy Stevens
Tim Young

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Bonnie Jepsen
Jill Monti

Stewards

April Avery
Jim Card
Alyson Huntting

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Chase Me Again
Marv & Diana Morlan

1913 Carnegie Fellows

Jim Chase
Jack Malcolm
Pat Stone
Oregon Heritage Commission

Donor Levels

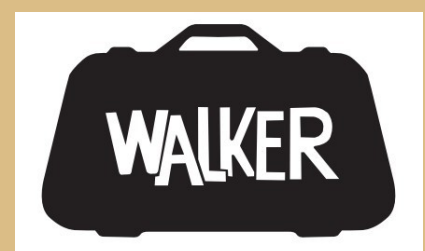
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Patrons	\$100-249
Associate	\$250-499
Steward	\$500-999
Grantor	\$1000-4,999
Benefactor	\$5000-9,999
1913 Carnegie Fellow	\$10,000+

(Monetary or in-kind value)

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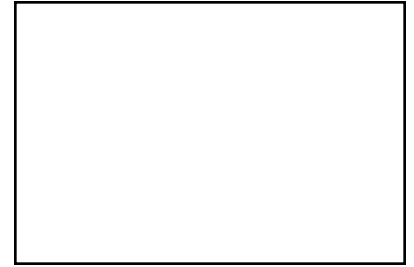


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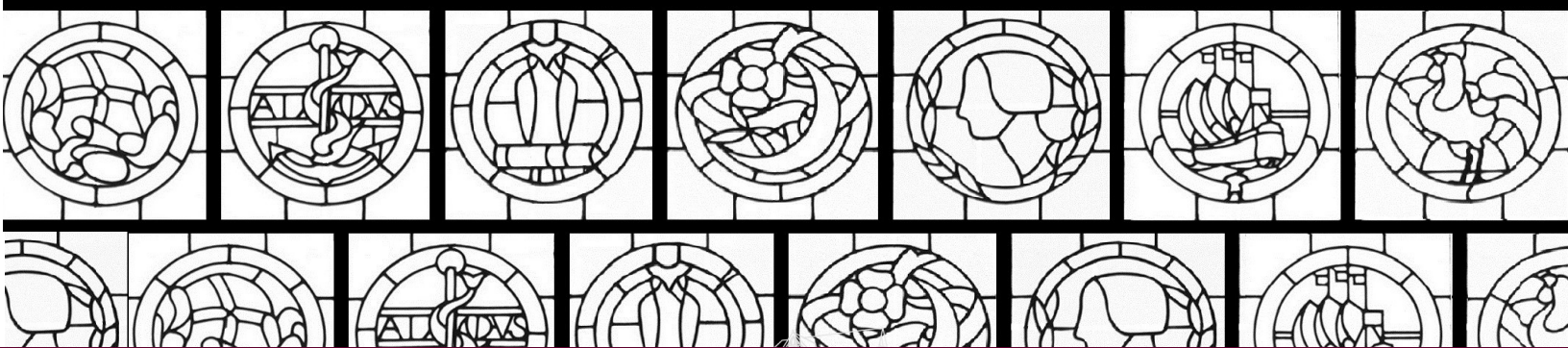


Gresham Historical Society
PO Box 65
Gresham, OR 97030



www.greshamhistorical.org

E-mail: info@greshamhistorical.org



Gresham Historical
Society & Museum

Wednesday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Thursday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Friday 2 p.m.–8 p.m.

Saturday 10 a.m.–4 p.m.

Sunday 12 p.m.–4 p.m.

Closed Monday & Tuesday

*Closed the first Sundays of each month through May, 2020, to spend dedicated time working to fulfill the requirements of our grant-funded projects.

