

The Artifact

LANE
COUNTY
HISTORY
MUSEUM

AUTUMN 2017 No. 225

Exhibits, events, and historical happenings



Looking Forward • Meet the LCHM President Greg Moyce • Fundraising Updates • Toying with The Past
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**When and Where**

Tuesday – Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM
740 West 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR

How much

Adults\$5
Seniors (60+)..... \$3
Youth (15–17).....\$1.00
Kids (14 & under)..... FREE
Members..... FREE

See website for free entry dates

Call us

Office..... 541.682.4242

Our web presence

- lchm.org
- facebook.com/lchm.org/
- flickr.com/photos/lanehistory/
- youtube.com/c/LchmOrg

Become a Member

Sign up! The benefits include:

- Free admission to museum
- Invitations to members-only events
- Discount at the museum store
- Discount on research requests
- Subscription to *The Artifact* and *Lane County Historian*

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Shop at the Museum Store

Come by our store for new books, cards, post cards, posters, photos, old fashioned toys, and much more!

The Artifact is produced by:

- Editor & Design:
graphics@lchm.org
- LCHM staff members
- Guest contributors

LOOKING FORWARD

NOVEMBER

04.....**Author Talk - *Massacred for Gold***

By Gregory Nokes, LCHM, 2:00 PM, FREE

04.....**Last day to see *Lost Towns Exhibit***

Lost Towns: Revisiting Logging Communities will be deinstalled making way for *Toys! Playthings and Games from 1850-1950*

07.....***The Question of Genocide in American History***

History Pub Lecture Series Featuring Dr. Jeffrey Ostler
Hop Valley on 1st St. 6:00 PM

20.....**Time-Traveling Tots (a Pre K-K program)**

Topic: Forests and Forestry with Forests Today and Forever
LCHM, 10:30 AM, FREE

23.....**Closed for Thanksgiving Holiday**

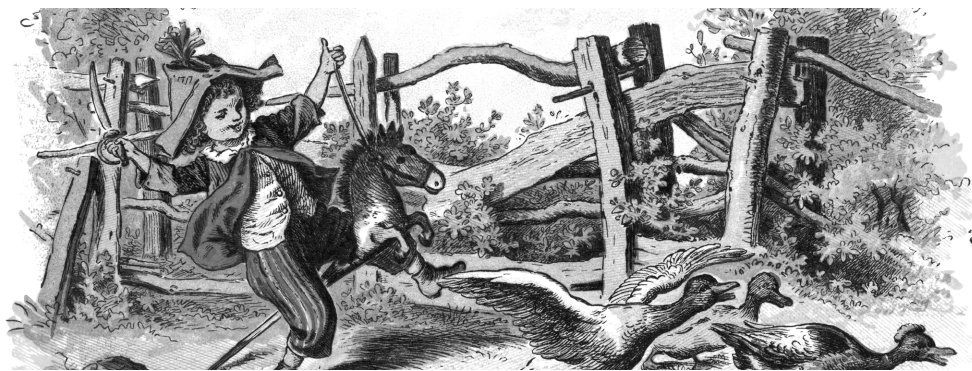
DECEMBER

15.....**Time Traveling Tots (a Pre K-K program)**

Topic: Winter Celebrations
LCHM, 10:30 AM, FREE

15.....***Toys! Playthings and Games from 1850-1950***

New Exhibit opening reception and public tour
LCHM, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, FREE



Toys! will feature hundreds of historic artifacts and photographs; learn how children in Lane County played. Visit a toy store from the early 20th century, and find out the story behind the bestselling party favor of the 1850s, along with other displays created using vintage children's book illustrations and original artwork. Exhibit is on display through December, 2018.

25.....**Closed for Christmas Holiday**

JANUARY

1.....**Closed for New Year's holiday**



Meet LCHM President Greg Moyce

Greg Moyce is your board president for the Lane County History Museum. We are fortunate to have a volunteer with Greg's professional background leading our organization right now. He is Senior Project Manager at Presentation Design Group in Eugene. Greg has spent the last 25+ years working in the museum/exhibit industry and has led efforts in facility planning, collections management and program/exhibit development. Greg resides in Eugene with his wife Tasha and two children. In his spare time you will find Greg riding his bike or hiking one of the many beautiful trails in the Cascades or Willamette Valley.

Why does Greg serve on the board? "I have seen how museums can play a dynamic role in lifelong learning opportunities for the community. Our Museum has much to offer, much of which has yet to be realized or shared with the public. I share a commitment with fellow Board members to help the Museum to reach its full potential by using the tools available to us and building support for expanded programming. The Museum has a talented professional staff and volunteer core and it is a pleasure to work with them. I feel fortunate to serve the organization during this exciting time."



Fundraising Updates: Your Donations Make A Difference!

Thanks to all our donors who helped make our Spring Fundraising Drive a huge success. We raised \$8,195 to purchase a large exhibit case and several smaller artifact cases. These cases have replaced several older, less versatile and unsafe cases.

Visitors have been enjoying the new case, and we look forward to continuing to replace more of our outdated cases in the future.

The Year-End Fundraising Drive is almost here, so watch your mailbox for more information. We look forward to continuing the important work we've been doing as well as looking for new opportunities. You, our donors, make improving and expanding programming possible.

Remember, donations to the Lane County History Museum are tax deductible and also qualify for a matching donation and tax credit with the Oregon Cultural Trust (visit www.oregonculturaltrust.org for more information). Together we can ensure that our local history is preserved, interpreted and enjoyed by all.



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Toying with The Past

Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

We all have fond memories of hours spent at play, conjuring up stories and worlds with our toys. Though much enjoyed, these playthings are set aside as we age. Luckily, some are kept to entrust to future generations, and our collection has a number of delightful examples that will be featured in our upcoming exhibit titled Toys! Playthings and Games from 1850-1950. From hand-made puzzles to store-bought tin play sets and cardboard models to fine porcelain dolls, this exhibit will have something for everyone, and it is sure to conjure up all sorts of happy recollections.

Walk into a toyshop stocked with goodies that span over 100 years of our local history, with storybook illustrations that will guide you through little-known facts and new perspectives on the roles that toys and play have had in the lives of children. Before they were donated to our collection, all these items had happy homes with children across Lane County. Many show signs of being well loved by their previous owners, from chipped paint to creative additions in crayon.

Vignettes set up with late 19th-century dollhouse furniture and tea sets featuring original artwork inspired by vintage juvenile literature will help make items from our collection come alive. Learn about the shocking story

that inspired the most popular children's party favor during the Victorian period. See how the war effort affected how children played during the 1940s, and what children on the other side of Pacific were entertained with during that time.

This will also be the first outing for our brand new mobile case, paid for by generous donations from our members and friends. We are all excited to update the look and feel of our displays, and this is just a start to the big changes we hope to make. The exhibit opens on December 15. Keep an eye out for related events and programming over the coming months!



New On View

Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

Two new small exhibits opened over the summer at the museum, showcasing two very different parts of our collections. We hope you all will have a chance to come by and see what's new!

In July, *Don Hunter: A Life in Kodachrome* opened, just in time for the county fair. This exhibit features a selection of Don Hunter's photographs, spanning over 70 years of Eugene history. His colorful images cover a variety of subjects, from architecture to flowers, and they include several of his experiments photographing the movement of light. The exhibit is drawn from our collection of his photographs, generously donated to the museum by Hunter and his family.

A Place for Justice: A History of Lane County's Courthouse features our collection of furniture and fixtures from the 1898 Lane County Courthouse. The exhibit traces the history of our many different courthouses, and it includes never-before-seen images of the 1898 courthouse office interiors. It showcases some true gems from our photography collection that give a peek into everyday working life at the turn of the 20th century.

The exhibit also includes some facts and figures about law enforcement during Eugene's early years.

"Men didn't bother to take their grievances to court in the early days in Eugene. If a man needed a pounding they gave it to him right on the spot." Francis Marion Wilkins (1847–1941), former mayor of Eugene.

There was little formal policing in Lane County during its early years. Most major issues were solved with vigilante justice, and most residents were largely left to their own devices, with few recorded incidents. Formal policing in Eugene began in 1862, when its population was about 600 people. A single marshal was hired.

Duties of Eugene's First Marshal

- Collecting taxes
- Summoning jurors
- Pruning trees
- Repairing wooden sidewalks
- Keeping a keen eye out for public mischief
- Corraling stray or wild animals

The last item was the most difficult because of the marshal's extremely limited budget. Wild pigs roamed Eugene's unpaved streets, attracted to the mud, and the lone marshal was unable to actively pursue and contain all the pigs, leading to citywide complaints.

Despite these early attempts at social order, during the 1870s Eugene was known as a "fast place": a prime locale to get away with crime. Most importantly, it was very easy to escape

from Lane County's first jail - in 1870 alone there were five escapes. In 1876 John Quincy Adams Brown escaped by unscrewing the door bolts and simply walking out.

Eugene has had some interesting approaches to handling the transient population. In the mid-1870s transients were herded together and forced out of town, since it was thought that most crimes were perpetrated by the "vagrant element." Several other city ordinances were passed regarding loitering and vagrancy, but none of them seemed to stick. In 1918 the city council passed an ordinance requiring all men in Eugene to find work, and if they could not, to carry a certificate that stated why they were unemployed. If they were caught without employment or certification, they would be fined \$100 or 50 days' hard labor.

In the 1890s Eugene had a moral code that included a law which allowed six or more petitioning citizens to identify a person they knew had been "habitually drunk" for at least five consecutive days. If found guilty, the individual would be condemned to sobriety for one year as punishment. It is not clear how this was enforced.

Come down and ring the original courthouse bell, take a seat in the witness chair, climb the oak courthouse stairs, or even have your picture taken behind original jailhouse doors!



It's Museum Conference Season!

Tara Puyat, Artifacts Manager

Curator of Exhibits Faith Kreskey and Artifacts Manager and Registrar Tara Puyat were afforded the opportunity to attend the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) annual meeting held this year in Austin, Texas from September 6 to September 9. AASLH is a fantastic resource for museums the size of LCHM, and the meeting provided an opportunity to touch base with professionals in the field facing similar challenges.

Highlights of the meeting included access to the Bullock Texas State History Museum, where the preserved hull of the "La Belle," a French shipwreck from the 1600s, is on display. In one

fascinating conference session, the process of preserving and moving the La Belle around the Bullock Museum from storage to temporary exhibition to its more permanent home was presented in detail. Other enlightening sessions covered topics from caring for collections on a budget to how the psychology of hoarding relates to museum collecting.

Closely following the AASLH meeting, the Oregon Museums Association (OMA) annual meeting took place on September 10-12 in Astoria, Oregon. Executive Director Bob Hart and Tara made the trip north to represent LCHM. Though a much smaller conference, the OMA event is a great way to meet other museum professionals practicing

in Oregon and is a vehicle toward forming strong statewide relationships. Sessions revolved around the theme "Dialogue" and had an emphasis on forming community and institutional partnerships as well as providing useful tips and tools for navigating the funding landscape. Participants were also treated to a reception at the Columbia River Maritime Museum, which had some wonderful exhibits about weather and ship exploration.

Attendance at these conferences for staff is made possible through the generosity of the Lane County History Museum's staff education fund and you, our priceless supporters. Thank you very much for helping in our efforts to raise LCHM to a standard of excellence.



Marriage Records and Family Search

Steve Eccles, LCHM Board Member

Steve and Daryl Eccles recently finished taking digital images of three volumes of marriage records in Lane County. The project was done for FamilySearch, and the records will be available to the public free of charge through www.familysearch.org.

Steve and Daryl moved to Eugene in 2014, and they became active volunteers for the Lane County History Museum shortly afterward. In October 2015, they went to Auckland, New Zealand, as volunteers for FamilySearch, and they spent 18 months working in

the National Archives of New Zealand. They digitized the probate records from Hamilton and Whangarei, New Zealand, capturing nearly 750,000 images.

FamilySearch provides free digitization for records custodians and make the records available to the public whenever possible. The nonprofit organization has records from over 100 different countries.

Its camera operators are currently working in China, India, Australia, South America, Africa and throughout Europe, in addition to North America.

In Lane County, Steve and Daryl took a total of 1,585 images from the Lane County Marriage Records (1874-

1891). LCHM will retain the digital images of the records for research, making it easier to preserve the original records for the future.

FamilySearch, previously known as the Genealogical Society of Utah, was established in 1894. The organization began microfilming genealogical records in 1938 and began making digital images in 1998. Its website, established in 1999, is the most popular genealogy website in the world.

In addition to digitizing records, FamilySearch indexes records to make research easier for genealogists.



2016-17 Report to the Community

Both our parent organization (LCHS) and the museum operate on a fiscal year basis (Jul - Jun). Our agreement with Lane County government requires an annual report on our operation of their facility. In accordance with this requirement we submitted our 2016-2017 annual report on October second of this year.

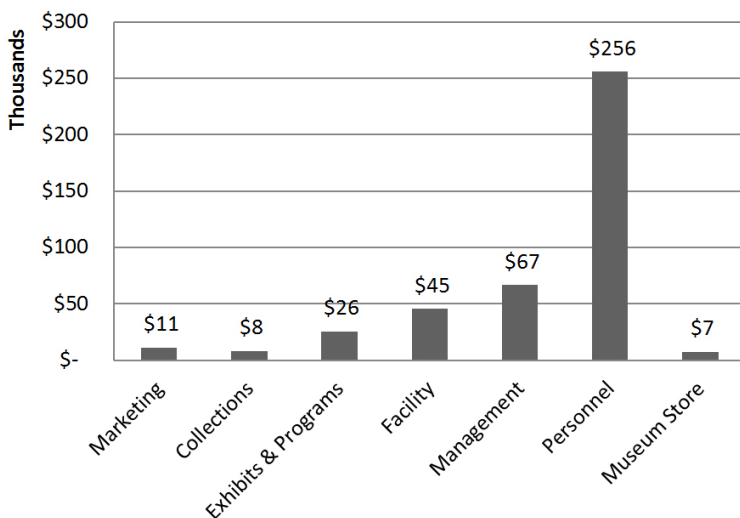
We are making this information available to our membership in a different format for both clarity and ease of understanding. In order to reach the goals of an expanded organization, more museum visibility, and a beautiful modern facility, we need to engage you, and ask for your active support toward a future capital campaign.

Transparency and trust should go hand in hand, and in that spirit you may look forward to increased information flow about operations from us at the museum to you, our members and public.

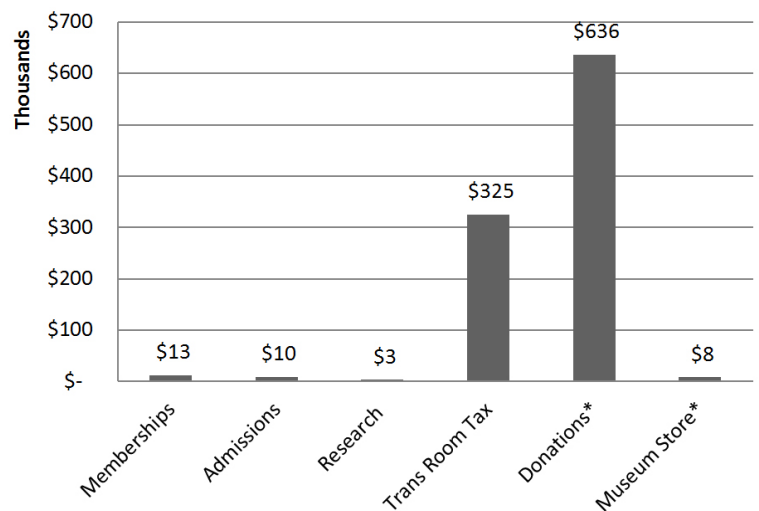
HIGHLIGHTS

- Over 8,097 visitors discovering Lane County history
- Enhancements to our facilities, exhibits, programs & museum store to improve the visitor's experience while ensuring the preservation of our collection
- Opened 4 new exhibits with our community partners including *Rails through Eugene: A Black History Connection*, *Eugene Symphony: 50th Anniversary*, *Uprooted: Japanese American Work Camps*, and *Their Hearts Are in This Land: Native American Resilience in Western Oregon*.
- Hosted 7 museum talks and 11+ programs with our community partners and 2 community service days
- Time Traveling Tots, Pre-K educational programming, offered 11 activities to expose our youth to their history
- Provided 307 research and photo requests to help document Lane County history
- Expanded our collection by 689 items and improved access to our collection through website
- 129 volunteers contributed 5,605 hours valued at \$127,514
- Received legacy gift from Dr. Louise Carroll Wade, UO History emerita
- Explored design and site locations for expanded collection facility and museum

**Lane County Historical Society
Expenses**



**Lane County Historical Society
Income**



*Donations - Includes large bequest *Museum Store - Includes one-time writeoff of inventory

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

In September the museum acquired a new name, the Lane County History Museum (LCHM). A wag had pointed out that the museum was not historical per se, but its collections were. The museum is about history; designating it so is entirely proper.

History and its interpretation are much in the news nowadays. The lessons of history are reinterpreted by almost every generation. As our knowledge of the past is not static, this is both normal and healthy; little by little we learn things not known earlier. However, some persons see revisiting the history they learned as a child and revising the interpretation as somehow rewriting it. They then see an unpatriotic motive behind any revisionism and consider the history they learned as holy writ.

Condemning past actors seems to be quite in vogue. This is easy to do if those in the past are judged by currently accepted cultural standards. But people in the past were products of a different time, which meant that what was in their heads, whether from access to education or the "school of hard knocks," was qualitatively different from that of 21st-century Americans.

Instead of celebrating current cultural progress, some persons not only condemn the past, but wish to deny any uncomfortable reminder of it. A museum is all about revisiting the past, not necessarily celebrating it, but learning from it. The point of any monument to the past is to make people think about what it represents. That meaning will change over time. Removing statues and monuments may sometimes be appropriate, but rationally should only happen on a case-by-case basis. Mob action is clearly not appropriate.

Periodically some in our community suggest renaming our county because of the pro-slavery positions taken by our first territorial governor, Joseph Lane. Lane was born in North Caro-

lina, and probably his views on race differed little from those of settlers from Missouri, the slave state that supplied more of our pioneers than any other. This may explain why Joe Lane was easily the most popular Oregon politician from 1850 to 1859 and a bit beyond. He was a war hero in the Mexican American War. His postwar political career was in Indiana until he was tapped by President Polk to become Oregon's governor. He was wildly popular, espousing the then-prevalent Democratic party platforms, first as governor, then as territorial representative, and then as one of Oregon's first US senators. In 1860 he ran for the vice presidency of the United States with former Vice President John Breckenridge against two other Democratic candidates and Republicans Abraham Lincoln and Hannibal Hamlin.

Was Lane a political opportunist? Most certainly. Was he representative of much Oregonian thought? You betcha! Does that mean that most Oregonians were racist? Certainly. As was most of the US white population, both North and South. Why is this so hard for people to accept? It is fact, not fiction.

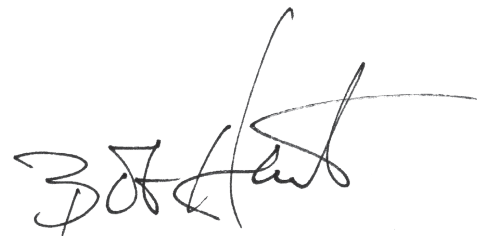
Historians are all about context. We try to understand the past by looking at the influences on people, groups, organizations and cultures as they were then. Modern critics and revisionists might best ask how they would have reacted to the conditions and standards of the times they are judging if they had lived back then....

We've seen intense activity at the museum over the past few weeks, with painting, repair, and replacement projects under way. The building is being repainted, downspouts repaired and replaced, drains fixed, dry rotted wood replaced, and a support beam on the porch roof replaced. We are also relamping the museum, replacing the fixtures and bulbs from 2007 with new LED lighting.

We are also formally proposing to the county that the Lane County Historical Society (LCHS) be given 2.5 acres of the Fairgrounds along 13th Avenue for the site of a new 40,000-square-foot museum, to cost approximately \$10 million—which the LCHS is proposing to fundraise for, beginning in 2019–2020. The lease on our current building, which we had outgrown as far back as the 1970s, runs out in 2025.

Professor Louise Wade's six-figure bequest has made us all cognizant of the future that is within reach. Her monies have been banked, reserved to successfully fulfill the vision of a new facility.

Lastly, I wish to express my thanks and that of the Society for the Thinking About A New Museum Workshop conducted on Tuesday afternoon and evening for board, staff, development committee members and invited guests. A three-man team from museum design firm Mithun (Seattle) walked the audience members through exercises and give and take discussion in order to help us focus realistically on the contributing factors and considerations necessary for a facility on the scale that we envision. Michael Fiegenschuh (team leader), Rich Franco, and Dustin Jones all deserve to be recognized for the valuable assistance they have rendered to the Development Committee specifically. The workshop was offered without cost to the Society! This offer was due to former board chair Alice Parman's familiarity with Mithun and its staff and their serendipitous conversations at the Western Museum Association meetings in Edmonton, Canada last month. So hats off, too, to Alice, Development Committee chair.





Meribeth Olsen We will all miss you!

On Wednesday afternoons for the last five years or so, Meribeth Olsen greeted visitors to the Lane County History Museum with her cheery countenance and engaging way. Meribeth, who was a long term LCHS member and most valuable volunteer, passed away on Friday, October 6 after a brief illness.

Born in Tenmile, OR (near Winston), Meribeth was in her ninth decade. She loved travel and history, and raised a daughter, Karen, who carries on her passions with inherited enthusiasm. Meribeth is credited with over 700 volunteer hours at the LCHM and was also a volunteer with the Eugene Assistance League. Additionally, Meribeth was a trusted researcher who frequently assisted Cheryl Roffe with small projects for the library and archives. Significantly, she also supported the museum as a donor and was always quite interested in the museum's future plans.

Meribeth's interest in history was broad and she always loved to share information on the latest book she was reading, and would often ask if anyone would like to borrow it. Make no mistake; Meribeth will be missed. A ceremony of life was held October 28, First United Methodist.

Would you like to make a donation?



Yes! I want to support Lane County Historical Society

Name _____

- ☐ I'd like to make a donation of \$ _____
- ☐ I'd like to make a donation for new exhibit furniture \$ _____
- ☐ I'd like to make a donation for the building fund \$ _____
- ☐ I'd like to make a donation for the endowment fund \$ _____

Additional ways to support us:

- ☐ Please contact me about planned giving
- ☐ Contact me about setting up an automatic monthly direct donation
- ☐ My company offers a matching gift program
- ☐ Send me information on including a legacy gift in my estate plan
.....
- ☐ Check Enclosed. Please make checks payable to

Lane County Historical Society

- ☐ Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard
- Credit Card No. _____
- Exp. Date _____

- ☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous
- ☐ Name as it should appear for recognition

Please return this form with your check or payment to:
Lane County Historical Society, PO Box 5407, Eugene, OR
97405-3819.

To make a gift online, visit lchm.org. Questions? Please
call 541.682.4242 or email volunteers@lchm.org



How Can I Support Lane County History Museum?

Your generous support of the Lane County History Museum enables us to offer the many educational programs and events described in this newsletter as well as preserve Lane County's heritage for future generations.

You can ensure that our work continues by making a gift to the Lane County History Museum in a variety of ways, including the following:

- As part of your will. Consult with your attorney about how best to do so.
- Your living trust. If you are using a living trust to distribute your assets, you can also include a charitable gift to the Lane County History Museum.
- Your life insurance proceeds. You can name the Lane County History Museum to receive all or a portion of your life insurance policy, perhaps one that is no longer needed for its original purpose. Income and estate tax benefits can result from such a gift.

Make the Gift of Retirement Plan Assets

Do you wish it was possible to do more for the Lane County History Museum? Many of our donors and members have found that they can make a difference at LCHM through gifts of retirement plan assets.

Why are retirement accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s, and other retirement savings vehicles such a good way to give? If you leave your assets in retirement plans to an individual, the funds will be included in that person's taxable income in the year the person withdraws them, and they might also be subject to estate tax, reducing the value of your bequest to your heir. On the other hand, if you leave other assets to the same heirs, only estate tax might be due (although today very few estates are subject to estate tax). Therefore, it might be far more advantageous to leave your heirs assets that would not cause them to owe additional income tax and leave the retirement assets to LCHM, which is tax exempt.

If you do decide to leave retirement assets to heirs, you might want to consider leaving LCHM whatever may be left over in the account after loved ones have been provided for. By doing so, you ensure your heirs' security while also making a special gift to LCHM.

For more information about how to enhance your own and your loved one's futures, and the future of LCHM, please contact Bob Hart at 541.682.4242 or email director@lchm.org.

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740 West 13th Avenue
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The Artifact

Exhibits, events, and historical happenings

AUTUMN 2017 No. 225

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