



Old Aurora Colony

NEWSLETTER OF THE AURORA COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY SUMMER 2018

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 14

Emma Wakefield Herb Garden Summer Party

presented by
Willamette Valley Herb Society
1 p.m. — 3 p.m.

July 21

Fiber Arts Spin & Dye Day

presented by Aurora Colony
Handspinners Guild

August 10

Aurora Colony Days Beer Garden

at the Octagon Building
5 p.m. — Close

August 11

Aurora Colony Day

Free museum admission &
living history activities at the
Old Aurora Colony Museum
11 a.m. — 4 p.m.

August 25

“Occasion at the Octagon”

Fundraising Dinner & Auction
4 p.m. — 7 p.m.

October 12-21

46th Annual Quilt Show

“Seeing Stars”

Quilt Block Contest entries due by
October 19

December 1

Christmas Candlelight Tour

The Aurora Colony Historical Society promotes interactive lifelong learning by inspiring curiosity about, and preservation of, the heritage of the Aurora Colony.

CONSTRUCTION SCHEDULE FOR NEW COLONY PRESERVATION & RESEARCH CENTER TAKES SHAPE AS FUNDS PASS MILLION DOLLAR MARK

After years of groundwork, plans are falling into place to begin construction on a new Aurora Colony Historical Society Preservation & Research Center in early spring 2019. The board of directors and the P&R Committee met with architects and a potential contractor in June to review possible timelines and assess whether our original budget is in line with current construction costs (and it is).



With preliminary plans in hand, the next steps are to finish the permitting process, go out for bid in late summer (our bylaws require three bids), select the contractor by fall, and time final permits so construction can start in early spring. Depending on weather, construction could start as early as late February or early March. Construction is expected to take no longer than six months, so we should be well ahead of the April 2020 deadline we must meet in order to receive \$400,000 from the Oregon Legislature.



Executive Director Patrick Harris and ACHS President Spud Sperb display preliminary construction drawings for the Kearney Preservation & Research Center.

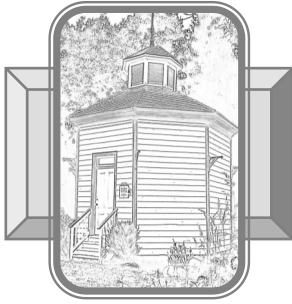
ACHS currently has cash in hand and/or pledges for \$1 million of a planned \$1.7 million budget for the project, with additional funding requests under consideration. To highlight the need to pin down the final crucial \$700,000, Patrick Harris and President Spud Sperb shared preliminary construction documents at our June 21 membership meeting.

“There is no donation too large or too small to make a difference,” said Harris. “To make this Center a reality, we ask our members, friends, and Colony descendants to commit now, in whatever amount possible. This can take the form of an outright donation now, or, recognizing there may be a need for tax planning, it can be a pledge. I’d be happy to discuss. Just call me.”

ACHS will recognize donations of \$1,000 and above on a donor wall within the Center, and naming rights for rooms within the Center are available at levels of \$100,000 and above. ALL donations will be recognized in the newsletter. Best of all, each donor will have the satisfaction of knowing that the documents, research, and treasured artifacts of the Aurora Colony are preserved for future generations.

PLANKED SALMON HIGHLIGHTS AUG. 25 'OCCASION AT THE OCTAGON'

The charming Octagon Building will once again be the setting for our 8th annual fundraising dinner, the "Occasion at the Octagon." Set for 4 p.m.—7 p.m. Saturday, August 25, this event provides crucial support for the ongoing operations and programs of the Aurora Colony Historical Society — and it's a fun and festive way to mingle with other Colony supporters for a good cause.



Brian Asher and Nancy Nishimura chair this year's event. They are busy lining up auction items and planning the dinner, which will feature planked salmon grilled over charcoal. Guests can view the salmon cooking just over the fence near the Octagon Building.

Featured wines for the evening will include some delicious German-style wines from local Christopher Bridge Winery.

Auction and basket raffle items include fine wines, dinners in historic Aurora homes, artwork, and event tickets. There will also be a quilt raffle.

Tickets are \$60 per person and are available online at www.auroracolony.org, and by phone or in person at the Old Aurora Colony Museum, 503-678-5754. Last year's event sold out (space is limited at the Octagon), so please reserve your seats by August 17.

JULY WORK PARTY

Monday, July 23, 9 a.m.

The museum shed could use a good cleaning in time for Aurora Colony Days. Let's make the cobwebs disappear and give our artifacts a careful vacuuming, wipe-down, and spruce-up! *Come in your grubbies, bring a shop vac if you have one, and be prepared to get dirty!*

Call 503.678.5754 or e-mail christina@auroracolony.org if you can help!

COLONY DAYS: KIDS' ACTIVITIES, FREE ADMISSION, BEER GARDEN

Family fun highlights Aurora Colony Days, when Aurora comes together to celebrate community. The car show, concert, market and parade will be in the Aurora Community Park, but downtown will have its own activities as well.

The museum hosts two mainstays of Colony Days. Our Family-Friendly Beer Garden will be held at the Octagon Building on Friday night from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Besides beer and wine for grown-ups, we'll serve brats and other treats that the whole family can enjoy, and there will be live music.



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On Saturday, in honor of Colony Day, museum admission is free and there are special activities and demonstrations. The first 50 kids to find the shed in the courtyard can make a free cedar tote, and there will be grain to grind, buckets to fill and tote, laundry to wash and pioneer games to play.

AURORA COLONY DAYS SCHEDULE (Museum-hosted events in bold)

Friday, August 10

5 to 11 PM · Family Friendly Beer Garden · At the Octagon Building

Saturday, August 11

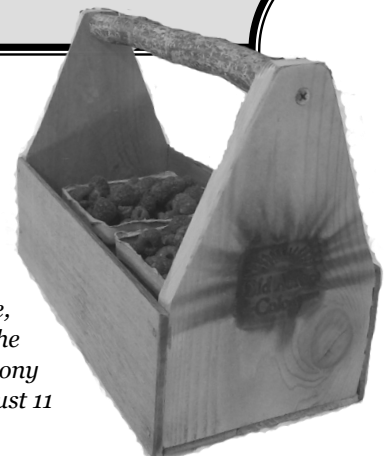
7:30 AM · 5k Run/Walk · Run starts at Old Aurora Colony Museum
8:30 AM · 1k Fun Run for Kids · Run starts at Old Aurora Colony Museum

8:30 AM to 3 PM · Market in the Park · Aurora City Park
9 AM to 4 PM · Downtown Sidewalk Sale · Main Street Downtown Aurora

11 AM · Aurora Colony Parade · Starts at Aurora Park on Main Street
11 AM to 4 PM · Old Aurora Colony Museum Exhibits (FREE Saturday Entry)

12:30 PM to 5 PM · Aurora Colony Car Show at the Park · Aurora City Park

The first 50 kids can make and take this FREE cedar tote, and admission is free at the Museum during Aurora Colony Day on Saturday, August 11



AROUND THE OX BARN

Christina Leder, who coordinated the Stauffer Will Farm Program this spring, has become a regular part-time museum employee in an expanded role as Program and Volunteer Liaison. Welcome, Christina!

As a year-round staff member, Christina will work with volunteers and board members who chair our events, and organize meetings as needed to plan special events such as the Beer Garden, Aurora Colony Day, Occasion at the Octagon, Quilt Show, Candlelight Tour, and Emma Day. Christina will actively review Farm Program results from 2018 (volunteers recently received a survey via email) and prepare for 2019. As the point person to initiate contact with teachers, she will schedule schools for our 2019 season, and with Village Coordinator Jan Becker will schedule and train volunteers for Farm and Village. She also has some fresh new ideas for enhancing and expanding our living history programs.

Christina showed real talent for working with volunteers this spring! If you haven't met her yet, she would like to meet you. Feel free to reach out by email at christina@auroracolony.org.

EXHIBIT EXTENDED

“It Runs in the Families: The Spirit of Creative Invention” our exhibit on the innovative Forstner and Bier families, has been extended to September 1. On June 24 we welcomed Jim Hirsch, his wife Sandra, and their sons Christian and Timmy, to the museum. Jim is the great-great grandson of John Bier and Sophia Forstner. Sophia's brother, Benjamin Forstner, is specifically known for his invention of the “Forstner Bit,” a special auger that is still used by woodworkers to this day.

GROUNDS GET AN OVERHAUL

Special thanks go to Jan and Ken Becker, who organized a massive clean-up of the museum grounds on June 18. Many shrubs and trees fell victim to the axe — or the chain saw — including the lovely camellia bush that had unfortunately grown too close to the fire exit of the ox barn and dropped a profusion of flowers on the ground.



Volunteers Kim and Kevin Higgins, Ken Hartley, Spud and Sally Sperb, and Executive Director Patrick Harris joined in the fun to clear out overgrown plants such as the shrubs blocking the path used by school groups to exit the Kraus House.

The Beckers have a nursery and their plan is to wait until the optimal planting time in fall to fill in some of the holes, rather than try to establish new plants in the heat of summer. With refreshed grounds and some other hoped-for projects (such as a grant application pending for a new fence), we should soon have an improved courtyard.

DYE DAY JULY 21

Our good friends at the Aurora Colony Handspinners' Guild will be holding their annual Dye Day in the museum courtyard on July 21. Guild members arrive at 9 a.m., and the museum opens to visitors at 11 a.m.; the event ends at 4 p.m. If you're not a member of the Guild but want information on dying fiber, yarn, scarves and the like, this is a great opportunity to see the process in action and ask lots of questions. The event is free with regular museum admission. For more information, visit auroracolonyhandspinners.com.



HERB SOCIETY PARTY JULY 14

The Willamette Valley Herb Society will serve lavender ice cream and talk about the herbs in the museum's Emma Wakefield Herb Garden during a garden party on July 14, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The event is free with regular museum admission.

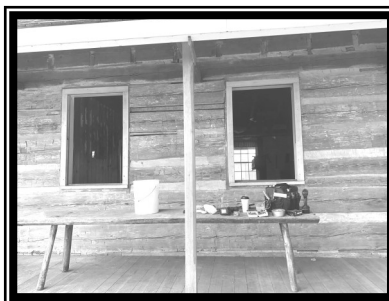


Come learn about the many historical uses of herbs for medicines, teas, cooking, and other purposes. Joyce Laitenen, who has been volunteered in care and maintenance of the garden since 1974, will be on hand to talk about the herbs and tell tales about Dr. Keil, who was an herb doctor.



FARMSTEAD GETS SOME TLC

Stauffer Farms Inc. has contributed \$20,000 towards projects to be completed this year at the Stauffer Will farmstead. Reglazing of all the windows took place in late June. We also expect to replace



chinking that has been lost over the years from the log house, and renovate roofs on some of the smaller buildings.

Thank you for this wonderful gift, Stauffer Farms!

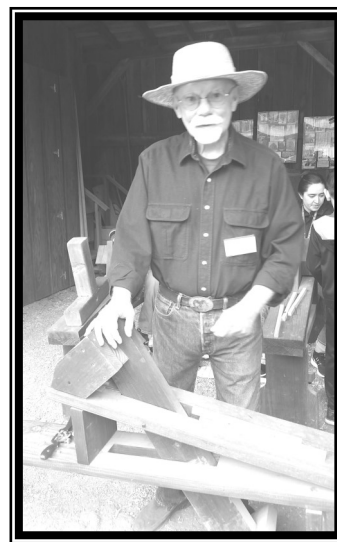
CELEBRATING ANOTHER YEAR DOWN ON THE FARM...AND VILLAGE

By Patrick Harris, Executive Director

I had an opportunity to work most of the dates in our Village program with our 4th grade visitors this year. While it should go without saying, I have to say that I am more impressed than ever with the dedication of our volunteers — not only for their commitment to the many hours required of them during the run of the Farm and Village programs, but also to their knowledge, good humor and appreciation for the young people who respond enthusiastically to their efforts. “*This was the best field trip ever*” was written again and again in notes received from the children, confirming that we not only have a great program but also a superior corps of volunteers.

Special thanks to Farm Coordinator Christina Leder and Village Coordinator Jan Becker for steering both

ends of the program. While both had experience in their respective programs, this was their first year as lead coordinators and they did a wonderful job. Christina and Jan held an appreciation lunch at the Farm to celebrate the volunteers for making the season a success, thanking each one with a seed packet in honor of all the “seeds of knowledge” planted during the spring.



HAIKU HOEDOWN FROM ONE OF OUR VISITING TEACHERS

To the staff and volunteers at the Stauffer Will Farm:

Last week I brought my class to experience life on the farm in pioneer times. I have been to the farm quite a few times, and enjoy sharing it with my class. This year was no exception. I am enclosing some thank you letters and pictures that my students made to show their appreciation. They did enjoy the trip, and learned a few things at the same time. I am also sharing some haiku that I wrote, with the farm as a topic. It made sense to use these as examples while teaching my students how to write haikus.

Thanks again for the dedication of your volunteers. — *Dean Deters*

Candles made of wax,
Walking around and around.
First wax, then water.

Kneading some fresh bread
During a fun school field trip.
That roll tasted good!

A long piece of wood,
Two people with a buck saw.
Now it's firewood.

We used a sharp froe
To split a chunk of cedar.
A fresh smelling shake.

Lots of fabric squares.
Sew them together with friends.
It's a crazy quilt!

46th ANNUAL QUILT SHOW GEARS UP FOR 'SEEING STARS'

It's three months away, but time flies, and plans are well under way for the 2018 Old Aurora Colony Museum Quilt Show, "Seeing Stars." Our weather may be warm and balmy in July, but when October comes it will be time for cozy, creative quilts old and new, cookies by the fireplace in the log cabin, bargains galore in our Colony Store, and the beautiful red and black star quilt that is being raffled. (It features the 20 winners of last year's block contest.) Mark your calendars for Oct. 12-21, daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RAFFLE QUILT TICKETS AVAILABLE

Drawing for this year's raffle quilt will be held at 4 p.m. October 21, at the close of the Quilt Show. You need not be present to win. Tickets are on sale now through October 21 at the Museum:

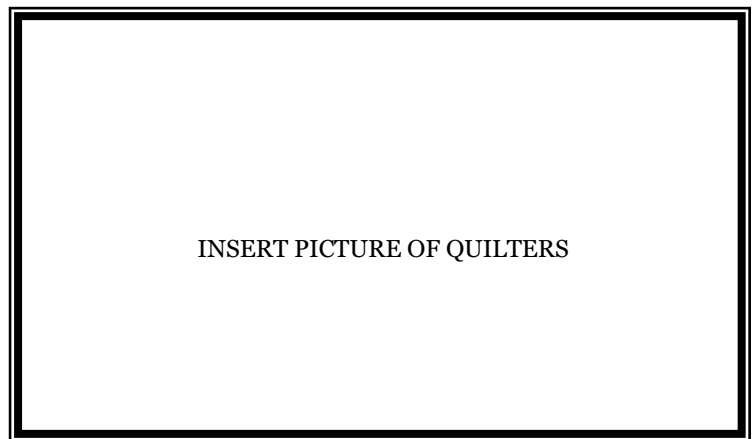
- 1 ticket for \$1
- 6 tickets for \$5
- 50 for \$25

MEET OUR WONDERFUL AURORA COLONY QUILTERS

For decades, the dedicated Aurora Colony Quilters have been Museum regulars every Tuesday morning. They are usually gathered around the latest raffle quilt that they have assembled from the winning blocks from our quilt block contest, which they help to plan in cooperation with the Museum. After months of careful hand-quilting, they always create a masterpiece that many people covet.

By giving so generously of their time, the Quilters raise much-needed funds that help ACHS with ongoing preservation and research on artifacts such as our extensive quilt collection, which now numbers more than 200 Colony quilts.

Thank you to our Quilters! We appreciate you so much!



Some of the Aurora Colony Quilters hard at work on the 2018 raffle quilt:

HELP MAKE OUR QUILT SHOW A SUCCESS

- ◆ We're looking for donations of items that we can sell in our Colony Store during the Quilt Show. Fabric, notions, UFO's (unfinished projects), even quilts. Proceeds go to museum operations and programs. Time to clean out your stash?
- ◆ If you have a quilt or quilts you have made or collected and would like to enter them in the show, call the museum for information.
- ◆ Enter our quilt block contest. The top 20 winning blocks are quilted into our 2019 raffle quilt.

Call 503.678.5754 for details!

2018 QUILT BLOCK CONTEST GUIDELINES

- *Colors:* Any color of blue (solid or print) and white (or white on white).
- *Size:* 12½" x 12½" to finish as a 12" x 12" block.
- Use prewashed 100% cotton fabric.
- Do not set blocks on point.
- Block may be pieced and/or appliquéd but appliqué must be trimmed on back.
- No fusing of fabrics – too difficult to hand quilt.
- Entries limited to 2 blocks per person.
- Bring entries to the Old Aurora Colony Museum, 15018 2nd St. N.E., Aurora, OR 97002, or mail to: Old Aurora Colony Museum, P.O. Box 202, Aurora, OR 97002. Do not mail entries to the street address.
- Quilt Blocks due 4 p.m. Friday, October 19, 2018.

A PERFECT DAY SPENT WITH EMMA AND JANE

Ninety-eight people came to Aurora the day before Mother's Day to spend a day with Jane Kirkpatrick. as well as to attend a very special reception in the Frederick Keil house, hosted by owners Michael and Stephanie Sutch.

It was a glorious day, with perfect weather. Roberta Hutton, Cheryl Burks, Nancy Nishimura, and Nancy Woodyard provided and served wonderful food on the lovely green lawn of the Keil house while guests strolled, walked through the main floor of the home, and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings. Special thanks to board member Nancy Woodyard, who coordinated the day's activities.

A special treat was the music provided by Corey Gianella, who played the Sutch's piano for visitors inside the house.

Thanks also to Aurora Presbyterian Church for hosting Jane Kirkpatrick's talk about Emma. The room was full!

Jane Kirkpatrick fan and Aurora supporter Marlene Wettstein assisted Jane during the book signing (below) before Jane's talk (right), while Nancy Nishimura, Roberta Hutton, and Nancy Woodyard (pictured) and Cheryl Burks (not!) staged the reception at the Frederick Keil House.



**Emma
Day**

**May 12,
2018**



After a full day, including music by Corey Gianella, many of our visitors concluded the day with a visit to Emma's grave in the Aurora Community Cemetery. Near the end of our visit the sun found Emma's gravestone.



ANNE LEISER

January 6, 1918 - June 9, 2018

Anne Leiser, a key organizer of Aurora's centennial celebration in 1956 and the Champoege statehood celebrations in 1959, died in June just past her 100th birthday.



Anne, far left, helping to promote Aurora's Centennial at a Portland Beaver baseball game in 1956.

Anne contacted Edward Miller, managing editor of *The Oregonian* newspaper, for Centennial publicity. Miller, a Colony descendant, splashed the story throughout

the paper, and thousands of people came to Aurora for the celebration. This notoriety energized supporters and helped lead to the organization of the Aurora Colony Historical Society in 1963.

Anne is survived by her son, Gary Leiser, PhD; daughter, Terry Schwartz; and grandchildren, Evan and Todd Leiser and Max Schwartz. Gary has supported past museum exhibits and recently made a significant contribution to our Preservation and Research Center fund.

THOMAS DAVID HUTTON, JR.

October 7, 1931—June 16, 2018

Tom Hutton, husband of past ACHS board member and super-volunteer Roberta Hutton, died at the age of 86 after a lengthy illness. Roberta, who hosted the Party at the Farm for several years and catered many other ACHS events with her flair for entertaining, also recently lost her daughter-in-law Stacie, wife of son Brett.

Tom was a mechanical engineer and during his long career developed airline cargo handling equipment, including a de-icing crane, still in use today. He was an avid fisherman and enjoyed boating, RVs, and the Oregon Coast. He and Roberta were married 63 years. Besides Roberta and son Brett, Tom is survived by son Brian, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

HARRIS SPEAKS 8/26 AT OREGON TRAIL 175th CELEBRATION

Patrick Harris will speak Sunday, August 26 (tentatively at 11 a.m.) at the 175th anniversary celebration of the first Oregon Trail journeys. It's one of the many activities at the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center in Oregon City (EOT) August 25 and 26, where there will be a variety of pioneer reenactors, a wagon encampment including our own Willie Wagon,, along with wagon rides, lectures, food, games, music, crafts, and more. Follow events on Facebook: @175oregontrail

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- ◆ Building maintenance workers
- ◆ Living history tour guides
- ◆ Costume repair and cleaning volunteers
- ◆ Tech support/website help
- ◆ Museum front desk greeters
- ◆ Auction & Dinner helpers, pre-event and day of
- ◆ Office helpers, ongoing or on call

**Call Christina at 503.678.5754
if you can help!**

We are a
**Blue Star
Museum**
arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

Do you know an active-duty member of the armed forces? Please spread the word that they and their families are entitled to free admission to the Old Aurora Colony Museum all summer. It's one way we can thank service families for their sacrifices.

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and museums across America. Each summer since 2010, Blue Star Museums have offered free admission to the nation's active-duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day. For a list of museums participating, visit www.arts.gov/national-initiatives/blue-star-museums



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