



Old Aurora Colony

NEWSLETTER OF THE AURORA COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SPRING/2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 13, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

*Farm & Village Program
Volunteer Picnic, at
Stauffer-Will Farm*

June 20, 6:30 p.m.

*ACHS Summer Solstice
Membership Meeting
(See page 2)*

July 13

*Aurora Colony
Herb Society Lavender Day
(See page x)*

July 20

*Aurora Colony
Handspinners' Guild
Spin & Dye Day
(See page x)*

August 9

*Aurora Colony Days
Beer Garden*

August 10

*Aurora Colony Day
At the Museum*

August 24

*“Celebrate the Colony”
Fundraising Dinner
(In the museum courtyard)*

October 11-20

*47th Annual Quilt Show,
“Rhapsody in Blue”*

November 30

Christmas in Aurora

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

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW WILL FAMILY PRESERVATION & RESEARCH CENTER

Exciting news! Construction is under way on the Aurora Colony Historical Society's Will Family Preservation & Research Center. The City of Aurora granted the necessary building permits on Monday, May 6. Contractor Pence NW began to excavate and haul away dirt the very next morning – a wonderful sight! By the time you receive this newsletter, the foundation should be poured. Pence NW has an on-site office, with project manager Chris at the site daily, and construction will continue through the summer and into fall. ACHS President Guy “Spud” Spurb is overseeing the project on the ACHS side – thank you, Spud, for your dedication!



The expected timeline is that the building will be framed by mid-June, roofed by mid-September, and the structure completed by Christmas. This should make it possible to obtain an occupancy permit well before the deadline of April 2020, which is required

in order to qualify for a \$400,000 grant from the Oregon Legislature. Depending on fundraising, we may not have enough money for all the interior furnishings by the April deadline, but that will not affect our ability to obtain the occupancy permit. We have established a bank line of credit to ensure adequate cash flow throughout the project, although we hope not to have need for it. That is where we could use your help. If you can make a donation or add to an earlier donation at this time, it would make a big difference.

Member and descendant support has been key to moving this project off the “vision board” and into reality. All donations will be recognized in this newsletter over the coming year, and donations of \$1,000 and above will be recognized on a wall in the building. Thanks to all who have donated to ensure that the legacy of the Aurora Colony can be preserved and shared with future generations. Don't hesitate to reach out to Patrick Harris should you have any questions as we go through the construction process.



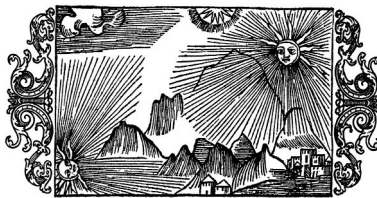
Iselin Architects of Oregon City's rendering of the Will Family Preservation & Research Center, under construction behind 21561 Main Street.

SUMMER SOLSTICE MEMBER MEETING JUNE 20 @ 6:30 PM

What is your vision for the Aurora Colony Historical Society? Where would you like to focus ACHS efforts in the next five years? What are we doing well, and where do we need to improve?

This is an exciting time for ACHS as we build our new preservation & research facility—a key element of the 2014-19 Strategic Plan. Coincidentally, as we build the new building, it is time to begin the process to develop a new Strategic Plan for the next five years, from 2020 through 2025.

Let's get that party started June 20 at 6:30 p.m. in the museum courtyard, as ACHS holds its second Summer Solstice party, or *Sommersonnenwende*. The evening is



designed to bring members together and share some of the exciting things happening at ACHS. There will be some socializing, as well as some vision boards where you can have input on the Strategic Plan. Patrick Harris may even conduct a walking tour over to the construction site, depending on whether it is safe to do so.

Last year's first effort brought a nice crowd of members and descendants for German-style nibbles and local wine. This year we'll add some Will House Blend Cider from the Aurora Cider Company.

This event is open to members, descendants, and volunteers only. Not a member? You can join at the event. See you June 20!

'IN EMMA'S KITCHEN' CHARMS FITZPATRICK FANS



ACHS has presented an annual Emma Day for almost a decade, yet each year there has been a new twist to keep things fresh for Emma fans. This year saw a focus on Colony recipes during the afternoon reception, including tastes of Emma's own strawberry cake recipe and her granddaughter's mocha filling.

Author Jane Kirkpatrick started the day off by signing copies of her books in the house where Emma once lived, ACHS's Kraus House. At noon Jane gave a talk at Aurora Presbyterian Church for the crowd of 100-plus Emma fans. Then the group proceeded to the site where Emma's house originally stood, now the location of French Prairie Perennials, where guests enjoyed tastes of wilted salad, German meatballs and the Wagner family Colony stew recipe, plus dessert.

Later, Patrick Harris led Emma's guests on a walking



Jane Kirkpatrick inspires (above rt), Steve Freid & Roberta Hutton get ready (left), and Patrick Harris leads the walking tour (below left)

tour of Aurora, and some even proceeded to the Aurora Cemetery to visit Emma's grave.

Special thanks to:

- Kerry Naylor of French Prairie Perennials for use of her venue for the reception;
- Aurora Presbyterian Church for providing the worship space for Jane's talk;
- The organizing committee: Roberta Hutton, Ann Keddie, Joyce Holmes, Cheryl Burks, Sam Bonser, Steve Freid, Luana Hill, and Nancy Nishimura;
- Rob & Nancy Downie of Heartstrings for providing charming music;
- Ken Hartley, Steve Freid and the family of Christina Leder for moving all of the tables and chairs and setting up the tents; and
- Of course, Jane Kirkpatrick for her continued partnership with our museum!



HANDSPINNERS & HERB SOCIETY SUMMER EVENTS

The Willamette Valley Herb Society's garden party will be July 13 in the museum wash house and courtyard. Visit with members of the Herb Society, enjoy treats, learn more about the museum herb garden, and learn how to make something herbal. Last year, visitors enjoyed homemade lavender-ginger ice cream, made lavender wands and sachets, and also found items to purchase. This afternoon is all about lavender and other



herbs, and education on how to use them.

Then on July 20, during museum hours, learn about the art of dying wool and other fibers as the **Aurora Colony Handspinners' Guild Dye Day**

turns the museum courtyard into a colorful working demonstration of dying techniques.

ACHS members can enjoy these events at no charge.

NEW LIFE FOR WILLIE

Thanks to volunteer Kim Higgins, who recently gave the Willie replica an overdue makeover guaranteed to make visiting 4th graders squeal. Said Kim, "I dressed him up a bit (death with dignity) and added a period neck tie and a dress shirt in robin's egg blue. I used sepia oil paint to make him look more somber (and, I must admit, less alive). My favorite addition is his new Justin Bieber wig! He is downright handsome now." You can view the body during museum hours — just open the coffin in the tie shed!



Thank You

*to the following donors for contributions to the
ACHS Will Family Preservation & Research Center
through May 15, 2019*

BUILDING NAMING RIGHTS: \$500,000

Lee & Connie Kearney

PLATINUM: \$50,000 & HIGHER

Oregon Legislature
Barbara Giesy
Anonymous

GOLD: \$25,000-\$49,999

SILVER: \$10,000-\$24,999

Austin Foundation
AOH Foundation
Reg & Ann Keddie
Brady & Diane Kocher Downs
Jim & Dottie Waddell

BRONZE: \$5,000-\$9,999

Shirley Will
Lavina Windh
Bill & Marlene Wettstein
Elisabeth Walton Potter
Chuck Scott

PEWTER: \$1,000-\$4,999

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Bill & Martha Bennett
Dr. Robert & Mary Ann Moore
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Frank & Carol Burger
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Paul & Linda Giesy Gilham
Norman Hall
Shirley Will Hall
Bill & Margaret Hansell
Gary & Elaine Ihle
Bob & Donna Setterberg
Donnie & Pamela Weninger
Karen & James Young
Emily Hitchens
John Herman
Roberta Hutton
Mary Beebe Crofts
Gary Zimmerman

CONTRIBUTIONS UP TO \$1,000

Nic & Billie Kaiser
Cheryl Burks
Johanna Dekay
Elizabeth Heininge
Kim Higgins
Spud & Sally Spерб
Allen and JoAnne Daly
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Dianne Crisell
Elisa Dale
Mella Dee Fraser
Ann Ransmeier
Dianne Roubal
Silloway Weaving Studio
Dale & Linda Forrest
Elizabeth Scully
Bob Jackson & Deborah Ziegler
Paul Minton

GIFT SHOP NEWS

Pamela Weninger, Front Desk Volunteer

We are stocking our gift shop as we prepare for the busy Summer season. If you have not shopped our gift shop, I invite you to do so. As an



ACHS member you receive a 10% discount. We carry unique products related to the history of the

Aurora Colony, and they make great gifts, or gifts to yourself:

Handcrafted Colony cookie cutters, each with a Colony shortbread recipe.

Unique handmade potholders made by Marjorie McCause that she donates to our shop. We sure appreciate her and you will appreciate the quality and beauty of these great gifts.

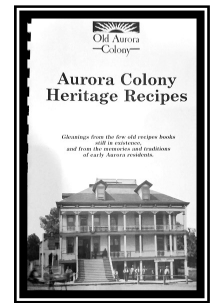
Jane Kirkpatrick's historical novels. Jane's mission is to tell the pioneer woman's story. We sell her titles starting with the trilogy of Emma Wagner Giesy, the only woman to travel with the scouting party from Bethel, MO. We have had readers from all over the country visit "just to walk on Emma's floors." Jane's next book will be available this September.

Our own Aurora Colony

Cookbook including original Colony recipes. We've added a page of recipes by Emma Giesy and family, some of which we used on Emma Day.

We also have: pens crafted from Colony hardwoods, notecards of our own quilts and buildings, children's pioneer stories and toys, chocolate covered hazelnuts made right here in Aurora, educational books and CDs of Aurora history and music..

If it isn't convenient for you to travel to our shop, just give us call at 503-678-5754. We are happy to help you.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

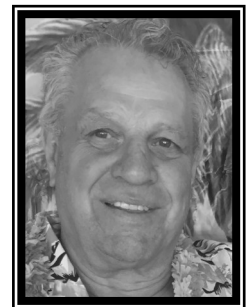
There have been a few changes on our board of directors since the last newsletter and the annual meeting. As announced at that time, Nancy Woodyard has left the board for health reasons, and the term held by James and Cheré Moore expired. Two new members were elected at the annual meeting:

Ken Riley lives in Aurora with wife Cindy. He is a semi-retired realtor who has Victory Point Property Group in Canby with his daughter, Sarah Spoon. He likes to travel and go to motor coach rallies with the Lewis & Clark Thousand Trails group.

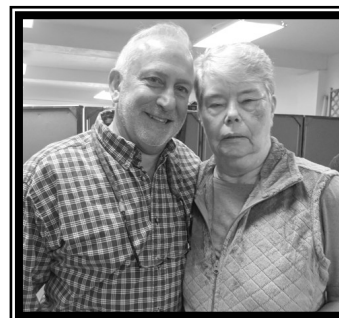
Ted Heid lives in Aurora with wife Andrea. He is a retired attorney.

In addition, **Brian Asher** resigned as treasurer at the March board meeting and the board elected **Bill Bennett** to serve in that office.

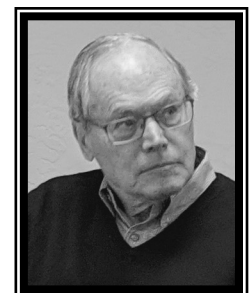
Brian, who is also on Aurora City Council, has served ACHS diligently for some two decades and his wise counsel and passion for service will be greatly missed. He and wife Nancy have hosted many lovely fundraising dinners at their house, donated generously at our annual auction, and pitched in wherever and whenever needed. Thank you, Brian, for your many years of service, and thank you, Bill, for stepping into this vital role.



Ken Riley



Brian Asher (with Roberta Hutton)



Ted Heid

AURORA COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Members of the Aurora Colony Historical Society and many of our treasured volunteers gathered at Christ Lutheran Church on February 9 for the annual meeting, which this year for the first time was combined with a volunteer recognition event. After a delicious luncheon arranged by Volunteer Coordinator Christina Leder, the meeting began. Here are excerpts from the minutes:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT – Ken Hartley, Luana Hill, Bill Bennett, Brian Asher and Carol Burger

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Vice President Ken Hartley because President Guy “Spud” Sperb was out of town. Ken presided over the assembly with appropriate comments concerning museum growth and development these past 56 years, bringing us to the building of a preservation and research center.

Volunteer Coordinator Christina Leder passed out gift packages to everyone present and each gift also contained a pen commemorating the 56 years of this organization.

The “baton” was then passed to Executive Director Patrick Harris. Patrick’s comments were, as usual, gracious and very appreciative of the work individuals have accomplished during the past year. Past presidents of ACHS were recognized.

Ted Heid and Ken Riley have accepted nominations to the ACHS Board. Their nominations were approved by a vote of the membership.

STAFF REPORTS – Christina Leder, Volunteer Coordinator, is director of the 2019 Stauffer Will school program and will be assisted by Kathy Hardman. Jan Becker leads the 2019 Village Program. Caroline Queer became Business Manager at ACHS in March 2018. Special note was made of the challenges that Caroline met head on and conquered. Janus Childs was recognized for managing the front desk of the Museum on weekends.

TREASURER’S REPORT – Treasurer Brian Asher made a full report of the prior year’s financial affairs. There was a motion to accept the report. It was seconded and passed.

MANAGEMENT BY OBJECTIVES – Conversations will begin in this summer to develop a new five-year strategic plan for ACHS. The previous five-year plan expires soon.

EXHIBIT – The Museum has opened a new exhibit – “I Pick Up the Feather – Letters Between Bethel and Aurora.”

Caroline Queer sold raffle tickets for a quilt that was raffled off at this gathering and Rollin Beauchane won the quilt. Special thanks to our Aurora Colony Quilters Guild for providing this quilt as a fundraiser for the museum. There were periodic drawings for gift bags and baskets with offerings from area merchants. Christina Leder put these gifts together and brought such joy to drawing winners. Thank you, Christina, for all of your planning and hard work!

Thank You
*to these businesses and individuals who
donated gifts & prizes for the annual
membership meeting & volunteer recognition*

Fred Meyer - Wilsonville
The Aurora Company
Scattercreek Junction Café
Diane Anderson/Time After Time
Christa’s Café
Pink Door Antiques
Voget’s Meats
Pacific Hazelnut Candy Factory
Spud Sperb Ken Hartley
Cheryl Burks Carol Burger
Patrick Harris

Raffle Quilt – Aurora Colony Quilters



**ACHS Annual Meeting
& Volunteer Recognition
February 9, 2019**

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Burger,
Secretary



ACHS RECEIVES UNIQUE & VALUABLE DONATIONS

Thanks to the generosity of several donors, ACHS properties are benefiting from some valuable and much-needed improvements. We are pleased to report:

- **Stauffer Family Farms** has, for the third year in a row, donated \$20,000 to be used exclusively on maintenance on the Stauffer-Will farm site. This has allowed a great deal of roofing, porch repair, and outbuilding repair, as well as reglazing of windows. The most recent donation will be used to complete still-needed roof work with cedar shakes on the coop, granary, and wash house, and possibly build new stairs for the front of the log house and improve the sink used in the wash house kitchen. It will be exciting to see how far we can make this money go. Thank you, Stauffer Family Farms.
- On a related note, **Thomas Bonser**, son of volunteer Samantha Bonser, has been granted approval for his Eagle Scout project, which will be some maintenance for the farmstead. He will be removing the current mulch pile and rebuilding one in a more appropriate spot, building and affixing wood gutters to the back of the house, and possibly removing the old rabbit hutch. Thank you, Thomas!



- Thank you to **Cheryl Burks**, who paid the bill for a painter to scrape, prep, and paint the Wash House at the museum complex. The paint had failed entirely and had been badly in need of attention, and now it looks beautiful. Thank you, Cheryl — who says, “Now, if anyone else out there would like to paint the Ox Barn...”

- **Cheryl Burks** also teamed up with **Annette James** to purchase a new dishwasher for the museum kitchen. We may enjoy teasing 4th graders that they would have been the dishwashers in pioneer days, but we appreciate having those modern conveniences. Thank you, Annette and Cheryl!

- **Jan & Ken Becker** have continued work they started last year on the flower beds around the museum complex. New rose bushes are blooming, and the Beckers donated hydrangeas from their business. Summer will be beautiful at the museum, so thank you, Jan and Ken.

If you are inspired by the idea of funding a specific project that would improve the museum or the farm, please feel free to contact Patrick Harris for suggestions. We appreciate any and all support!

ON THE ROAD WITH ACHS

Staff and volunteers have been busily sharing the Aurora Colony story at special events around the region. Christina Leder (*left*) and board member Luana Hill provided activities for children at the Oregon Statehood birthday party February 16 at the State Capitol. That same day, Caroline Queer and Jan Becker (*right*)



represented the museum at the annual meeting of Sons and Daughters of the Oregon Pioneers.

And in March, Christina Leder and Jan Becker were the program speakers at Canby Kiwanis to promote the farm and village programs and perhaps recruit volunteers.

What personally brings you joy? Let your creativity loose and show us in your block design!



For details on this year's block contest, call the museum and ask for a rules sheet:

503-678-5754

VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION

Steve Freid, Ken Hartley, Roger Nuffer and Spud Spurb have done excellent work with the wood and shake bolts for the Farm and Village programs. We now have filbert wood and logs for the sawing and the bolts are stacking up nicely—not to mention that gorgeous stack of firewood.

Jan Becker and Cheryl Burks have been planting some herbs outside the kitchen, at the back porch. They are looking good!

Many thanks to **Christine Thomas-Flitcroft** for warping the loom at Stauffer-Will Farm so the volunteers can give weaving demonstrations to the visiting students.



Ken Hartley has been adding non-slip strips to the stairs at both front and back porches of the farm. Oh so appreciated!

Many volunteers helped to set up the Farm and Village programs, doing cleaning and prep work, including volunteers from the **Aurora and Hubbard Fire Departments**. They put some muscle into setting out the picnic tables where the children eat lunch. Thank you so much for your help!



PHYLLIS KRAXBERGER ADAMS



We're sorry to report that one of our steadfast volunteers who spent many days with students at Stauffer-Will Farm died recently. Phyllis Ann Kraxberger Adams died in February 2019 at the age of 83. She was born in Molalla and lived her entire life in Canby.

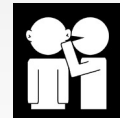
Phyllis is survived by daughters Chris Keady and Carol Grauer, and son Orville Steven Adams. Her husband Orville predeceased her.

Daughter Chris reminisced about her mom's Aurora involvement: "She worked "in the chicken house with my Aunt Jan Newton, my Uncle Gerald Kraxberger, and of course George the rooster for several years." ACHS appreciated all the time, energy, and knowledge that Phyllis shared as a volunteer.

TALK US UP!!

People who travel take reviews seriously when deciding where to stop and spend their tourism dollars. Could you help us boost our visibility by telling people what you like most about our museum on sites like TripAdvisor, Google, and Yelp?

Thanks for your support!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- ◆ Farm and Village program volunteers for 2020
 - ◆ Costume repair and cleaning
 - ◆ Weeding in the herb garden
- ◆ Building & grounds maintenance workers
 - ◆ Living history tour guides
- ◆ Tech support/website design help
 - ◆ Special event helpers

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



Old Aurora —Colony—

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Guy Sperb, *President*
- Ken Hartley, *Vice President*
- Bill Bennett, *Treasurer*
- Carol Burger, *Secretary*
- Luana Hill Ted Heid
- Ken Riley

STAFF

- Patrick Harris, *Executive Director*
- Christina Leder, *Programs & Volunteer Liaison;*
Farm Program Manager
- Caroline Queer, *Business Manager*
- Janus Childs, *Weekend Tour Guide*
- Jan Becker, *Village Program Manager*
- Kathy Hardman, *Farm Program Assistant*

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arts.gov/bluestarmuseums

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- *Veterans with ID*
- *Active duty military & their families with ID*

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