

THE ISLAND HISTORIAN



The Orcas Island Historical Museums Newsletter

Winter 2016 Volume 2, Issue 4

FROM THE NEW DIRECTOR'S DESK

I spent the past summer working with the Museums, and as I transition into the role of director, I am thankful for the time that I was able to spend working with and learning from our exiting Executive Director, Clark McAbee. I am excited to build upon Clark's efforts – I know that I have big shoes to fill. I also want to thank the Board and the countless volunteers who make OIHM as wonderful as it is, and look forward to what we will be able to achieve together.



Brittney Maruska, Director

I am a Bellingham-native, and recently returned to the Northwest from Denver, CO. I am grateful to be living on my family's land and to now call Orcas home. I am thrilled to accept this position and put my non-profit and cultural management experience to use, sharing and preserving Orcas history. While I have met many members, supporters, and volunteers, I encourage everyone to please stop in and say "hello." I hope you can attend our Annual Membership meeting on **Saturday, January 21st**, where we will recap 2016 and look forward to all of the exciting things that the Museums have in store for the year ahead.

I wish you a warm holiday season and thank you all for your support!

Pioneer Museum

Winter hours:

Wed—Sat.
12pm – 3pm

Closed in January

Crow Valley School Museum

Closed: Tours by
Appointment

Office Hours

Tues—Sat
11:00-4:00

Closed in January

Be sure to have your reservation + meal choice in
by Tuesday, January 18th

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK

ORCAS SENIOR CENTER

SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 2017 3:30-6:30

\$15 for **Prime Rib** or **Salmon** + Beverage
Quilt Raffle Drawing

Annual Report & 2016 Recap

*Presentation by Dan Larson & Kyle Carver producers of
Aproximada, a film about Applegate*

Please bring a dish based on your last name
A-M: Side Dish **N-R:** Salad **S-Z:** Dessert

Make your reservation today: Call the office at 376 4849
Email info@orcasmuseum.org or Stop by the office at 181
North Beach Rd.

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MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

As 2016 draws to a close we look forward to 2017 with great anticipation to an exciting new year. This year we said good bye to Clark McAbee as Director and we welcomed Brittney Maruska as the new Director. Clark's expertise as Curator brought us two great exhibits, Smugglers Blues and Wings over Orcas, and we look forward to see what ideas Brittney will bring to fruition.

2016 also saw the passing of our dear friend and supporter, Virginia Jensen, but she won't be forgotten. Through her generosity and that of her brother, we will be able to complete the Agricultural Building. The new building will honor the Jensen family and all of their contributions to preserving the history of Orcas Island. A second component of the build will be a storage building named in honor of the Englehartson family. This facility has been needed for years and until Margaret Englehartson stepped forward with a contribution for the combined facility, we saw no way that it was going to happen. Thank you to both families for their generous contributions. A third component of the building will be the erection of the old water tower that used to reside on the Village Green and was beautifully restored by James Lobdell and will sit atop the storage facility.

I want to thank the docents and volunteers who greet our visitors and all the businesses for their support to keep history alive on Orcas. If you're not a current member, we invite you to join us in our efforts. If you are a member, we ask that you consider responding to our Annual Appeal, if you have not already done so. We are also asking everyone to consider one of our endowment programs in your estate planning. Through all of our efforts we can keep history alive on Orcas.

Jim Biddick



Volunteer of the Month

The man behind the scenes at Spooky Tales



The Historical Museums would like to thank **Richard Rogers** for his dedication to Spooky Tales this summer and for being a volunteer that is always willing to help at any time. At many of the 16 Spooky Tales performances, storyteller Antoinette Botsford would say, "Richard, what would I do without you?" Richard has helped with Halloween and Christmas decorations, and the July 4th and Auction events. Thank you, Richard, for your cheerful presence, your physical strength, and your quick wit!

**WANT TO KNOW HOW
AWESOME YOUR MUSEUM
IS?** Read all about it in a blog by travel writers, Sam and Tocara Best, who visited Orcas Island in September. The blog has fabulous pictures, so well worth checking it out:

<http://forgetsomeday.com/orcas-island-getaway/>



**Thank you, Crow Valley School
Volunteers, for a beautiful tree at Rosario!**

A big thank you to **Vicki Johnson** for decorations, **Rebecca Johnson** for inspiration, and **Edrie and Terri Vinson**, of the Pioneer Museum, for photographs for our Rosario Giving Tree.

Along with showcasing the Crow Valley School this year, the tree also has a “voice” from the past, Ray Kimple, speaking about his experiences at Crow Valley School. Orcas Voices of the Past is 2017’s exhibit at the Pioneer Museum and everyone should plan on visiting next summer to learn about long-time residents of Orcas Island.

For the month of December, please **visit our tree at Rosario** and give generously for the continuing work of the Orcas Island Historical Museums.

Goodbye Letter from Clark McAbee

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation for all the support and hard work by the Orcas Island Historical Museums’ members and volunteers. When I accepted the Curator position almost 4 years ago I was immediately impressed by the collection and the island’s rich heritage but most of all, our dedicated volunteers. Our team has overcome a number of financial and physical plant challenges during that time and not only are the museums, the collection and the finances in far better condition but our number of visitors has increased dramatically every year. We have added a great deal to the documentation of Orcas heritage. As I go forward to a new adventure out of state that is attendant with my wife’s new job I depart very confident in the future of the Museums and take real pride in our organization’s accomplishments.

I want to especially thank Jim Biddick for all his dedication during the times when some of the challenges the organization faced seemed insurmountable such as a \$43,000 mortgage. Space does not allow me to thank every person by name. My sincere gratitude goes out to every past and present member, board director, community supporter and volunteer who really are what Orcas Island heritage is all about, our shared and connected experiences and stories. Please give my successor, Brittney Maruska, the support she deserves as I pass the reins of stewardship and leadership of our Museums to her. I will miss you all, dear friends, and wish you Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Clark McAbee, Past Director, OIHM



Thanks to our 2016 Donors

The Orcas Island Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the following individuals, families, and businesses whose gifts or grants were received by 11/30/2016

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Looking for a unique gift and a way to support your local Museums?

Linda Peth has been working hard to bring you new items in the Pioneer Museum store. Come in and see what's new.

Need another idea? How about a Museum membership, a gift certificate for the store, or a brick to honor someone you love this Christmas?

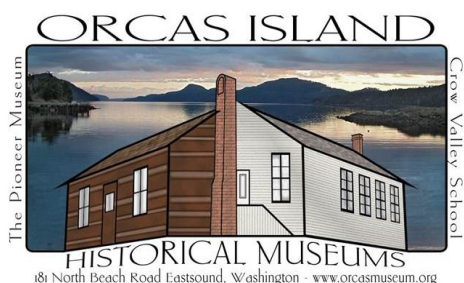


Pioneer Christmas at the Museum

Donna Knight decorated the Boede Cabin to represent Christmas in the late 1800's. There were crafts for children, cookies, hot chocolate and cider, and a warm place to watch the tree lighting on the Village green December 2nd.



Orcas History Lives Here!



Orcas Island Historical Museums
181 North Beach Road
P O Box 134
Eastsound, WA 98245

Phone: 360-376-4849
e-mail: info@orcasmuseum.org
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