



The Orcas Islander

Newsletter of the Orcas Island Historical Society - Late Spring 2010

"We educate, inspire, connect and involve our community and visitors as stewards of island history."



The Smithsonian is coming!

Journey Stories is a compelling Smithsonian exhibition that shows how our evolving mobility changed a young nation and how transportation made us grow. The accounts of travelers themselves express the hopes and promises of fresh starts, the grim realities of forced migrations and difficult journeys, and the thrills of personal travel.

Journey Stories has been made possible at the Orcas Island Historical Museum by Humanities Washington. Journey Stories is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.



Smithsonian
Institution

From the President...

ALL POINTS BULLETIN! WANTED (preferably alive): JOURNEY STORIES DOCENTS. This newsletter IS an all points bulletin, because we are sending it out earlier than usual, and it is going out to the whole island as well as Museum members.

Just in case you haven't heard by now, the Smithsonian's Museum on Main Street "Journey Stories" exhibit will be featured at the Orcas Museum July 17th through August 29th. Journey Stories chronicles the initial settlement of the east coast to peoples' movements across the country, and celebrates our freedom to travel by presenting individual stories of travelers through the centuries of American settlement. Part of our contribution will be a video presentation of the stories of a number of our islanders. To accommodate the large interest by islanders and tourists alike, the Museum will be open seven days a week during this period. This means that instead of the 14 2-1/2 hour volunteer shifts a week (Museum greeters and Crow Valley docents), we will need a minimum of 35! We've been talking this up all year, and have at least a dozen new volunteers. I expect each Board Member will contribute at least a shift a week, but we are still looking at a volunteer gap. I know Islanders are sometimes a little slow to sign up for things they intend to do, but we need commitments soon. I have posted the training schedule below. You need only pick **one each** of the June and July dates.

General Training	Saturday	June 19 th	10:00 am	or
General Training	Tuesday	June 22nd	4:00 pm	
Specific Training	Thursday	July 15 th	4:00 pm	or
Specific Training	Friday	July 16 th	10:00 am	

If you are unavailable for part of the exhibit, we'll schedule around that. You will find being a Journey Stories docent rewarding and historically interesting. More importantly, your volunteering will help make a success out of this really great opportunity to put our Museum "on the map" for this REALLY BIG SHOW.

Contact myself, Andrea Cohen (Journey Stories Chair), Leslie Seaman (Docent Volunteer Coordinator) or Heather at the office (376-4849) to sign up. It'll be fun!

Bill Buchan

Journey Stories Calendar (More events info to follow in a special Journey Stories mailing!)**July 17th - Journey Stories opens at the Museum**

11am @ the Orcas Island Historical Museum.

July 22nd - Michael Sullivan, Humanities Washington Historian, "Paul Satko's Ark"

7pm @ The Orcas Senior Center.

Michael will chronicle the journey of a family who drove & floated their boat from New Jersey, through Puget Sound, to Sitka.

July 30th - Carl Allen, of the musical duo, The Wanderers, "Journey Songs"

7:30pm @ The Orcas Senior Center.

Carl will draw on Woody Guthrie and other folk artists for tales of travel.

Aug 7th - San Juan County Pioneer Picnic

Time TBA @ The Eastsound Village Green. (right next to the Museum) Bring your own lunch and come listen to and share stories with County old-timers.

Aug 13th - "Journeys by Ancient Man"

7:30pm (place TBD)

Amanda Taylor (UW) & Stephanie Jolivet (Burke Museum), will speak on island history as told by Native American shell middens.

EIGHT WEEKS 'TIL JOURNEY STORIES...PREPARATIONS UNDER WAY! By Andrea Cohen

In case you haven't yet heard, from July 17th through August 29th, 2010 the Museum will be one of only six locations in Washington hosting a special Smithsonian exhibit entitled *Journey Stories**. The multi-media exhibit tells individual stories of Americans which illustrate the critical roles travel and movement have played in building our diverse society.

With a scant eight weeks to go before the grand opening of the Smithsonian's *Journey Stories* exhibit on July 17th, the Museum's *Journey Stories* Steering Committee is hard at work with preparations of all kinds. Here is a 'behind-the-scenes' peek at some of the activity:

-*Journey Stories* is a brand-new exhibit, just coming out of production. Its first stop will be in Moses Lake, Washington from May 29th through July 11th. A group of us will be traveling there next week to attend an Installation Workshop, in which we will learn how to remove the pieces of *Journey Stories* from the 20 wooden crates in which it will arrive and assemble them into the seven distinct units (plus audio components and artifact displays) which form the exhibit.

-Fitting a modern exhibition into a small historical museum made of linked log cabins is quite a challenge! Volunteer and retired architect Bruce Hubbard developed a layout plan which will require us to disassemble current displays in all rooms except the Boede Cabin. We are taking photographs to aid us in replacing displays after the exhibit has left, and in early July we will be carefully packing up and placing our treasures into safe storage. We are also upgrading the lighting in several museum galleries and adding new video display equipment.

-As part of our commitment to the Smithsonian and Humanities Washington, we are creating a local component to the exhibit. Paul Evans and his Digital Media class at Orcas Island High School are in final editing stages of a video documentary featuring the journey stories of several Orcas Island residents, which will be continuously screened during the exhibit. In addition, "Destination Orcas" panels mounted alongside *Journey Stories* displays will highlight the journey stories of several illustrious Orcas Islanders of the past. We are also creating a beautiful, large log book in which we will place and display all the journey stories which have been contributed to us (no...it's not too late to send yours in!).

-We are busy creating a roster of *Journey Stories* -themed special events which will take place while the exhibit is with us. They will include special musical performances, guest speakers and other exciting happenings at the Museum and at other partnering venues such as the Orcas Island Library. Look for an upcoming special edition *Journey Stories* newsletter for all the details! The special newsletter is just one facet of a public outreach effort for *Journey Stories* which we hope will reach all Orcas Islanders and visitors alike. To further encourage participation in *Journey Stories* events, we are working on a "Destination Orcas" Passport to be given free to each exhibit-goer, which can be "stamped" at all *Journey Stories* events for chances to win a grand prize at the end of the exhibit.

As you can see, things are humming. There are many people who are hard at work on the many tasks on this momentous project, and it promises to be a great success. We hope to see you then!

Opening Day Celebration

Friday, May 28 @ 4pm

The Museum traditionally hosts an opening day party the Friday of Memorial Day Weekend, and this year will be no exception. Stop by and share in the food, live music and fun. The Museum will be open to visitors at no charge. Our regular hours starting Saturday, May 29th through July 4th will be 11AM-4PM, closed Mondays.

Microsoft Matching Gifts

If you have been a domestic employee at Microsoft for at least six months they will match up to \$12,000 per calendar year in contributions you make to eligible charitable organizations such as the Orcas Island Historical Museum! Microsoft will match gifts of cash, personal checks, credit cards, securities with a quoted market value, or Microsoft products. View the following form at www.cs.washington.edu/building/matchfrm32403.doc for more information.

A donation was received from

Fred & Peg Nicol

“In Loving Memory of Shirley Guilford”

The Orcas Island Historical Museum
would like to thank

Dr. Patricia Swenson and the
Abrahamsen Family

for their generous bequests.

Voice of the Volunteer

OIHM Board members Gwyneth Burrill, Leslie Seaman and I recently went to a presentation by Orcas Island Community Foundation presentation entitled “Board Boot Camp”. We learned a lot there about board responsibilities and vitality. One of the topics that came up was “care and feeding” of an organization’s volunteer base. Suggestions included making sure volunteers feel appreciated, involving them in fun activities, making the work interesting, and giving volunteers a voice in the operation.

On the first item: although we may not say it enough, know that it’s you, our great group of volunteers, that make our Museum go! It wouldn’t be anything without you. On the last item, I coincidentally just came across a summary of volunteer comments from last summer’s operation, put together by then President Tom Welch. Although many of the suggestions were only mentioned once by the various respondents, I think many of them are worth mentioning here.

- Should we continue charging admission, and how many turn away due to cost? 1) Yes, and 2) very few.
- The cash register is hard to operate (we are putting in an easier system for credit cards).
- Want to learn more before working there (there will be greeter, docent and Crow Valley training sessions before opening). Pair inexperienced volunteers with the experienced.
- Need more advanced notice of museum events.
- Need more info on earliest settlers, and family trees of pioneer families.
- Would like more info out on Native American wives displayed.
- Keep doing the Oral Histories of our aging islanders (eight islanders have been videoed as part of Journey Stories).
- Need someone to accept artifacts and a specific time to do this.
- Be open other than summer (Our winter/spring Saturday openings continue).
- Give guided tours on certain days and hours.
- Have an information sheet answering common questions; we need a pamphlet.
- Need more publicity and advertising.
- Have a Fall Harvest Festival.
- Provide a suggestion box.

I must say that many of these items have at least been discussed at Board meetings, and some have been addressed, but it’s good to have a list to work from. Thank you, volunteers, for your interest in letting your Board know your thoughts. We are listening.

Journey Stories Donors

BUILDERS

Cal McLachlan
Margot Shaw
Dean & Ruthie Dougherty
John & Jan Helsell
Beverly Johanson
Sara Jane Johnson

SETTLERS

Dr. Stuart & Martha Salot
Robin & Judi Watson
Teri Williams

PIONEERS

Irene O’Neill & Wally Morgan

FOUNDERS

James Lobdell & Lynn Carter

GROUND-BREAKERS

Kathryn Jensen
Richard & Becky Greaves
Mark & Paige Mayer

Orcas Island Historical Society & Museum

181 N Beach Rd., PO Box 134
Eastsound, WA 98245

Phone: 360-376-4849

e-mail: orcasmuseum@rockisland.com
website: www.orcasmuseum.org

2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Buchan, President
Ron Montgomery, First Vice President
Judi Watson, Second Vice President
Lois Cornell, Treasurer
Denise Wilk, Secretary
Anthony Ayer
Gwyneth Burrill
Andrea Cohen
James Lobdell
Leslie Seaman
Tom Welch
John Willis

NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage
PAID
Eastsound WA 98245
Permit # 22

ECRWSS Postal Customer

facebook



The museum is a recipient of Hotel/Motel Tax dollars. Many thanks to San Juan County, the Islands Lodging Industry and Lodging guests for their very generous support.

The Orcas Island Historical Museum would like to thank the Orcas Island Community Foundation for awarding the Museum a grant to help with the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibit, Journey Stories! We appreciate what you are doing in our community!



SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES OFFICIAL PROJECT

Preservation of the Historical Collection is being supported in part by a Federal Save America's Treasures grant administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

SERIOUSLY...we have some of the best volunteers out there working with us at the Museum! Alysha Gilleland is a new volunteer who has been helping us with various projects around the museum. WE APPRECIATE YOU, ALYSHA! We are also pleased to announce that Joanne Johnston will be helping us with research questions. We receive about 3-5 questions a week—some of which take hours of research to figure out! So THANK YOU, JOANNE! We appreciate and love all our volunteers!

Upcoming Events

May 28: Opening Day Celebration 4pm
@ the Museum! Food, live music!

June 19: Journey Stories Docent **General Training @ 10am**

June 22: Journey Stories Docent **General Training @ 4pm**

(if you are planning on being a Journey Stories Docent please try to make one of these sessions!)

July 3: 60th Annual Historical Day Fair
10a-3p Eastsound Village Green.
Booth space is still available!
Download the form from our website in the Calendar of Events section.