



Vista House Views



FOVH NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2007

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bob Woody

It may be hard to believe, but spring is around the corner and a new season at Vista House is about to begin. The gift shop reopens March 16th with an even more exciting array of items than we had last year. Don't

miss the opportunity to use your member discount to purchase special and unique gifts when you visit.

The point-of-sale computer system introduced last season is upgraded this year with a network system that will track espresso and food sales, speed up the ordering and inventory process and make the whole system more efficient for customers and FOVH.

The start of a new year means that we are looking for volunteers to assist in the operation of the Vista House. A million visitors come to Vista House each year and being there to host them is a great pleasure. Want to work behind the scene? Whether in the office or the store, if you have the time to join us, I know you will enjoy being a part of our terrific volunteer group.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Oregon State Parks Department (OPRD) in creating memorable experiences for our visitors as we carry out our mission to protect and preserve Vista House for the future.

Your board of directors has been busy during these gloomy winter months and the new year looks bright. Look for a new and expanded membership plan to be announced soon with many new programs and benefits.

It's my pleasure to serve on the board. On behalf of my fellow board members, I want to thank each of you for your support of this wonderful organization. I hope to see you at Vista House in 2007!



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Louise Yarbrough

Wow! 2006 was a year of "new" adventures. 2007 promises more to come! Vista House was "officially" reopened in May with the addition of ADA accessibility to both the building's rotunda and lower level. We took new strides in the gift shop by introducing an electronic Point-of-Sale system. We will expand that system this season with two additional units - one for our espresso café and the other to serve as our "back office" work station. Having a networked system will provide an integrated inventory control and reporting capability and will allow for the data input of merchandise ordering, receiving, bar-coding, reporting and other administrative functions to happen without interrupting customers or creating extended hours for staff.

It's been fun to be able to see what our big sellers were, as well. We sold almost 28,000 postcards and over 13,000 books! And throughout the season we got rave reviews about the gift shop, the quality of the merchandise and the graciousness of staff. As with everything else about Vista House, our goal is to make the entire experience special and our gift shop is no exception.

Nothing would be possible without the incredible volunteers we are so proud to share with the thousands of Vista House visitors. We are so grateful for their time, talent, knowledge and commitment to FOVH and to Vista House. Sadly, we lost some volunteers this year and they are greatly missed.

The board continues to give direction and insight and our present focus is to more fully develop our membership program to make it more meaningful to those who generously contribute. Stay tuned!



(Continued on page 2)

My personal thanks go to the board, the volunteers and to the Vista House Staff! Each of you makes my job easier with the add bonus of knowing such special people who care so much about Vista House.

Thanks to you all!

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know Menucha (the former estate of Julius Meier, now a conference and retreat center in Corbett) has two names: "Men-oo-ka" and "Men-you-shay?" The first name was bestowed by Julius Meier's mother, Jeanette Hirsch, and is a Hebrew word meaning, "a place of rest." However, her granddaughters, rebelling against their grandmother, changed the pronunciation to Men-you-shay. This alteration stuck until the First Presbyterian Church of Portland purchased the estate in 1950 and returned to the "place of rest" - Men-oo-ka.

Information courtesy of George Perry, Jr.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

...Point-of-Sale, that is!

Opening day is scheduled for March 16 this year - a month earlier than in the past - and new things other than interesting and beautiful merchandise are in the plans! Last year Friends of Vista House took a giant leap forward and converted from a manual inventory and sales system to an entirely new computer-based retail inventory management and point-of-sale (POS) system.

It was not without its challenges as we dealt with learning a new system, hardware problems, and managing all the retail functions while also trying to efficiently serve our customers, consignors and other vendors. The patience and good humor of staff, customers and vendors got us through even the most difficult of times!

And we're not finished! This season we're expanding the system so that we have a "network" environment where gift shop, espresso café and office staff will work through an integrated process - and we're excited! The system offers us the ability to create purchase orders, receive merchandise, produce bar codes, scan merchandise, accept credit cards (not to mention cash and checks!), and create and generate a range of reports for inventory tracking and analysis.

The equipment was purchased from CAM Commerce, a company founded in 1983, that installs and supports POS systems to retail operations from a single-user to large national, multi-store operations.

As we progress, the next step will be to create an online gift store through our website! It continues to be an exciting journey and we invite you to join us along the way. The Vista House Gift Gallery is a very special shop where you and our many visitors from around the world can find unique gift items that make the visit to Vista House even more memorable! See you this season!



Vista House

Views

Friends of Vista House
Published Quarterly


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Teresa Kasner
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Executive Director
Louise Yarbrough



IN MEMORIAM - 2006

Robert J. Goldsmith
Diane Murphy
(volunteer & board member)
Bob Ranstead
John E. Scott
Marcellene Sutter
Alice Wand

THE THREE Ws: WILDFLOWERS, WATER-FALLS, AND WONDERS OF THE GORGE

Choosing this issue's wildflower could have been a challenge because there are so many wonderful candidates. However, when chocolate is an option...the Chocolate Lily wins!

But, "chocolate or vanilla," it's important to stress the need to look but do not touch. Many of these plants are endangered and need all the respect we can give them so that they may survive.

Besides its enticing name, the Chocolate Lily (*Fritillaria lanceolata*) is good to feature because it is such an exquisite bell shaped flower. The name comes from the unique mottled, chocolate color of the flower and the lance-shape of the leaves. Other common names are Checker Lily, Mission Bells, and Rice Root, which is a close relative of the Chocolate Lily. The latter name refers to the bulb that is surrounded by bulblets that resemble grains of rice. The bulbs were eaten by the indigenous people and are said to have a texture of rice with a slightly bitter taste.

The flowers are found in open woods, meadows, and grassy bluffs, usually at low to middle elevations. The Chocolate Lily has been seen at: Stanley Park, Campbell Creek, Eagle Creek Overlook, McCord Creek Trail, Hamilton Mountain, and Dog Mountain. Blooming times are always variable due to yearly climate conditions and location but usually the Chocolate Lilies will be found from early April on into May. For more specific information see *Wildflowers of the Columbia Gorge* by Russ Jolley (available in the Vista House Gift Shop).

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Photo by RensysWildflowers.com

KEVIN PRICE, OPRD GORGE DISTRICT MANAGER

It has been a fantastic year. After years of restoration work, Vista House was rededicated on May 5th, 2006, bringing forward a new era for Crown Point State Scenic Corridor and the building which sits atop the site, Vista House.

Visitors were greeted, and more importantly, welcomed to the newly retrofitted ADA accessible building and site. The walkway and lift/elevator provide access to the main level of the building as well as to the lower level - interpretive displays, gift store, espresso machine - and most importantly, the restrooms.

Improvements to the lift have been made over the winter (television monitor at the information desk with cameras in the lower level hallway and inside the lift and a telephone-type headset at the information desk). Work is currently being done to install an automatic door opener on the lower level door.

This winter, for the first time, we opened the doors of the building to visitors on weekends and holidays. It was a successful endeavor. On a recent sunny day, February 17, Friends of Vista House volunteers greeted more than 1,300 visitors!

As we move toward our full time opening date of March 16th, I'd like to say thanks to everyone for ensuring that Vista House is a special place to visit.

I recognize that change, and we've certainly had our fair share, can be challenging. Each and every volunteer stepped up to that challenge and provided visitors with a memorable experience which will last a lifetime.

Thanks again to all of you who've made a difference for so many.



THE PERFECT SETTING!
Weddings, dinners, special events!
Vista House is available to make
your event memorable!
Call (503) 695-2230
for details.

UPS AND DOWNS!



Completed in spring 2006 - and almost 2700 round trips later! - visitors with mobility-related challenges can access the lower level of Vista House through its custom-designed lift that blends beautifully with the building's historic

One happy Vista House visitor.

architecture. In fact, when not in

use it is virtually "invisible" with only the outline of the cut-out section of marble flooring offering a clue as to its location. Visitors can now access the restrooms, view historic photo exhibits and visit the Friends of Vista House gift store on the building's lower level. A 5-foot-4-inch by 5-foot-3-inch cut-out section of the original rotunda marble rests atop the lift's shaft and serves as the rotunda flooring when lowered. When visible, its sleek, elegantly designed mahogany interior is enclosed on two sides by glass and equipped with brass accessories and finishing. FOVH volunteers operate the lift and gladly assist those taking advantage of this new addition.

A company called Parametrics helped OPRD create the bid document, defining what was needed and how it should work. John Hughes Construction won the bid and created the space in Vista House for the lift mechanism. The lift mechanism and cabin were custom engineered and built by

Gillespie Corporation. Local employees of Schindler Elevator actually fitted and installed the lift and are available when needed to ensure its proper operation.

On May 5, 2006, on the 88th anniversary of the original dedication of Vista House, the lift was introduced to the public. It's very rewarding for all of us to now have so many more visitors able to enjoy the beauty and majesty of Vista House.

NEW WAYS TO RECOGNIZE OUR WONDERFUL VOLUNTEERS!

This year, as we began a more "normal" year of operation (whatever that means!), the board recognized the need to develop a more meaningful approach to acknowledge and appreciate the volunteers who make this organization possible. The board established a Volunteer Development Committee, chaired by George Perry with oversight by board member, Hal Gowing, and the journey began.

It's still a "work-in-progress" as we explore activities that will be both significant to each volunteer's knowledge and training as well as offer more meaningful benefits that acknowledge and encourage volunteer participation. The first stage of our revised program was introduced at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in November. With ongoing input from the volunteers themselves, we know the program will better reflect the needs of both volunteers and Friends of Vista House.

As we respond to the growing number of visitors and the increased responsibilities that have arisen with operation of the lift each day, we recognize that more volunteers are needed to get the job done.

Our annual Volunteer Training will be April 21 at McMenamins-Edgefield. It promises to be a fun, interesting and important way to meet your fellow volunteers, learn new things to share with visitors, and ultimately help us continue to protect and preserve our beloved Vista House.

YOU, as members, volunteers and friends, are the best source of finding new volunteers and this is the perfect time as we prepare to open for the new season. We invite you to consider sharing your time, interest and love of Vista House and invite your friends to join us as we continue to grow and solidify our organization in the years to come. Our dedicated corps of experienced volunteers is a great source of mentors who will welcome you enthusiastically. Please call the office (503) 695-2230 for more information.

HOW DO YOU SPELL VOLUNTEER? ...DICK AND PAULINE AARON!



Together, Dick and Pauline Aaron contributed 160 volunteer hours at Vista House in 2006! Since the spring of 1993, they have rarely missed the second and fourth Sunday afternoons, braving wind, rain and the heat of the summer sun to greet thousands of visitors over the years. In the "good old days," (remember them?) they scraped the bubbled paint off the walls and applied new coats of paint to make ready our dear "Old Lady of the Gorge" for the advancing visitors. Not to mention shining up the porcelain!!

They have attended most all of the volunteer trainings in the spring, armed and ready with their handbooks and with badges in place on their lapels. FOVH is fortunate to have such model volunteers!

Dick has done extra duty for us at Friends of Vista House by serving on the Board of Directors and for several years, as Treasurer - another "job well done!" He is also a featured Vista House Folk Artist on the weekends, carving gorgeous and intricate wildlife birds. A man of many talents, Dick has done quite a bit of flying. To add an even greater impact to the rededication celebration on May 6, 2006, he arranged the biplane "fly over" and was in one of those biplanes taking birds-eye photos of the events.

As we begin our 2007 season, it's "plane" to see we have a very dedicated pair with "can-do, will-do" spirits that we're proud to have on our team of excellent volunteers. Dick and Pauline we salute you ~ thanks for the memories - past and future!



FOVH 2007 Calendar of Events

MARCH

- 11 (Sun) - Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12 (Mon) - Corbett Road Closure (closed until June 16 Use Exits 17, 18, 28 or 35)
- 14 (Wed) - FOVH Board Meeting - 5:30 PM
- 16 (Fri) - VISTA HOUSE 2007 SEASON OPENS - 10 AM - 4 PM Daily
- 16 (Fri) - OPRD Campgrounds Open
- 17 (Sat) - Jury (Rooster Rock) - 1-2 PM
- 21 (Wed) - FOVH Annual Meeting - Corbett Fire Hall - 6-8:30 PM

APRIL *

- 8 (Sun) - Easter Sunday
- 11 (Wed) - FOVH Board Meeting - 5:30 PM
- 14 (Sat) - Jury (Rooster Rock) - 1-2 PM
- 20 (Fri) - Full-time hours from 9 AM - 6 PM Daily
- 21 (Sat) - FOVH Volunteer Training - McMenamins-Edgefield - 8:30 AM - 3 PM
- 28 (Sat) - FOVH Volunteer Bus Tour - 8:30AM - 6 PM

MAY *

- 5 (Sat) - 89th Anniversary of Vista House Dedication
- 9 (Wed) - FOVH Board Meeting - 5:30 PM
- 12 (Sat) - Jury (Rooster Rock) - 1-2 PM
- 13 - Mother's Day

JUNE *

- 10 (Sat) - Jury (Rooster Rock) - 1-2 PM
- 13 (Wed) - FOVH Board Meeting - 5:30 PM
- 17 (Sun) - Father's Day
- Mt. Hood Railroad Trip - TBA
- Columbia Gorge Sternwheeler Cruise - TBA

JULY *

- 4 (Wed) - Independence Day
- 11 (Wed) - FOVH Board Meeting - 5:30 PM
- 14 (Sat) - Final Jury (Rooster Rock) - 1-3 PM

*Folk Art Programs TBD



PO Box 204
Corbett, OR 97019

BECOME A FRIENDS OF VISTA HOUSE MEMBER!

Friends of Vista House is a private non-profit organization with tax exempt status. Become a member! With membership, you receive a newsletter and a 10% discount at the Vista House Gift Gallery. All contributions are tax deductible and can be made by check or credit card. Make checks payable to Friends of Vista House.

Friends of Vista House * PO Box 204, Corbett, OR 97019 * 503-695-2230 * vistahouse.com (You can join online!)

Membership Status: New Renewal Following are the different levels of membership:

- .. \$10 - Junior (under 12) .. \$100 - Emerald .. \$1000 - Lancaster Circle
- .. \$25 - Individual .. \$250 - Diamond .. \$2500 - Lazarus Society
- .. \$50 - Family .. \$500 - Crown Jewel .. \$5000 - Thor's Crown

VISA .. MasterCard .. Discover .. Amount .. (You may also send a check or money order)
Card No: _____ Exp date: _____

Authorized Signature _____

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Date: _____ Referred by: _____

YES! I'd like to volunteer! .. Interpretive/Information Desk .. Committees .. Board of Directors .. Gift Gallery

