Museum Holiday Gathering and Annual Meeting

Please join us for light refreshments, music and good cheer at our annual holiday reception, hosted by the Anacortes Museum Foundation, 6:30 to 8 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8, at the Anacortes Museum, 1305 Eighth Street.

The celebration is preceded by the Anacortes Museum Foundation’s annual meeting and election at 6:00 p.m. downstairs. At the meeting, members will be asked to approve the following revision (underlined) to the Foundation Bylaws:

“The officers, the Member at Large and the Museum Director shall constitute the executive Board.”

Members also will vote on Foundation Board officers, with nominations accepted from the floor. The following have agreed to stand for election: Tom Thompson, President; Jeff Weldon, Vice-President; Barbara Larson, Recording Secretary; Cecilia Weldon, Treasurer; and Jim Taylor, Member at Large. The Board would like to thank outgoing Treasurer Jim Taylor for his time of service in that role and will honor him as 2016 Foundation Volunteer of the Year at the reception following the meeting.

Remember, Foundation membership renewals are due each January. Those who would like to join or whose memberships have lapsed can simply join or renew at the gathering. Memberships support museum efforts to preserve, interpret and share the history of Fidalgo and Guemes islands. Benefits of membership include discounts at our museum stores and on photograph purchases, a newsletter subscription and free admission to the W.T. Preston stern-wheel steamboat.
Carnegie Building restored to 1910 glory

The city’s grand Carnegie Library building, home of the Anacortes Museum, looks better than it has in decades following the completion of an interior renovation program and the application of fresh paint outside.

Restoring the building’s original elegance has been a top priority for Steve Oakley since he became Museum Director almost a decade ago. Since then the gallery has been restored and hardwood floors revealed, boarded-up windows were reopened and ugly modernizations were undone in all the public areas. The renovation of the stairwell and lower hallway, the last area, was completed this fall.

The work was made possible by donations from Phyllis Rodeffer and the Rodeffer Trust (Research Library), Anacortes Noon Kiwanis (UV filtering acrylic window panels and leaded glass entry panel restoration), Anacortes Museum Foundation (floor refinishing, hallway/stairwell and gallery window blinds) and Finders Keepers Chapter of Questers International (stairwell light).

The $30,000 exterior project (funded by the City) was expedited because of the need to repair failing windows. The Anacortes Parks Department removed paint from second floor windows, and painter/contractor H.S. Wold, who recently painted City Hall, did the painting and repairs.

The new colors were selected from a palette of colors used in 1910, the year the building was completed. Oakley chose buff for the body of the building, reminiscent of the unpainted buff-colored bricks patrons would have seen until the building was first painted (in a cream color) in the 1960s. A later color scheme, possibly inspired by the Bicentennial, included dark blue grays and red trim. Splashes of red are included in the new color scheme, while windowsills, pillars and trim are a dark gray-green.

The building’s revitalization will be celebrated as part of the Anacortes Museum Foundation’s annual Holiday Reception on December 8.
New museum volunteers tackle textiles and negatives

Fidalgo Island Quilters and Wearable Art Divas participated in two volunteer work days Oct. 13 and 19 at the Anacortes Museum. Participants assisted in inventorying, photographing and measuring items in the museum’s textiles collection. These events were part of a new museum outreach effort in which volunteers were invited to work on targeted projects.

FIQ has a long-standing commitment to service to the community with its Community Quilts, Quilts of Valor and youth education programs. This fall the quilters officially added the museum textiles collection to its list of service projects.

“We are delighted that the Quilters and Divas chose our textiles as a service project. They will save us many, many of hours of staff time,” said Elaine Walker, Anacortes Museum’s curator of collections. “We are also excited to enhance our connections with our community.”

Eight women from the Divas group assessed several boxes of textiles – gowns, hats, flags, knickers, linens, baby clothes and more – at their Oct. 19 event.

Two Quilters at the October 13 event, Chris Criswell and Melody Kue, inventoried three quilts and several other items. Chris and Melody had a surprise when they realized they had been Oak Harbor High School classmates in the 1960s.

“Quilts have always had a way of bringing women together,” said Linda Yerby, Anacortes Museum Administrative Assistant. Yerby, a Wearable Art Diva, came up with the idea of working with the quilters groups and organized the details of the events.

More textile work days are planned for the coming year at the museum.

Meanwhile, another 2016 community outreach effort has been wildly successful – the Museum’s positively wonderful “Negative Ladies.” A core group of six, plus several others who come when they can, remove negatives from acidic envelopes and place them in archival sleeves. Working on a vast collection of negatives donated by the Anacortes American, they have already protected thousands of news negatives from the 1980s and 1990s – about a third of the vast collection. For their diligent and dedicated efforts, the “Negative Ladies” will be recognized at the museum’s annual holiday reception as the Anacortes Museum’s 2016 Volunteers of the Year.

Positively wonderful “negative ladies” named Museum’s Volunteers of the Year

Dani Usman and Ginger Thomas, Tuesday volunteers, place newspaper negatives into protective archival sleeves (not pictured, Nancy Low and Tamara Willis).

Sallie Hughes and Suzette Richards spend most Fridays working on the negatives project.

Karen Thomson takes the first step to bring order to the boxes of archived photographs. Her work is often like a puzzle to determine dates and sort the negatives prior to storage in archival sleeves.
Anacortes Museum Foundation

Through memberships, the Anacortes Museum Foundation supports and assists the educational and preservation goals of the Anacortes Museum.

Become a Member — Support Local History!

Benefits of Annual Membership and Annual Membership Categories

- FREE admission to the W.T. Preston and Maritime Heritage Center
- 10% discount at the Museum store
- Invitation to exhibit openings and special events
- Quarterly Museum newsletter

Senior (65+)/Student .................................................. $20
Individual ....................................................................... $25
Family .............................................................................. $40
Business/Organization .................................................... $75
Sponsor ............................................................................ $100
Life ..................................................................................... $250
Donation ............................................................................ $___

☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal
(Contributions tax deductible to fullest extent of law)

Name:________________________________________
Address:______________________________________
City/State/Zip:________________________________
Telephone:____________________________________
Email:_______________________________________

Please make checks payable to: Anacortes Museum Foundation.
Send to: 1305 8th, Anacortes, WA 98221. Thank you!

Carnegie exhibit celebrates City’s 125th anniversary

“Anacortes at 125,” an exhibit celebrating the 125th anniversary of the City of Anacortes continues through May in the Anacortes Museum’s Carnegie Gallery, 8th Street and M Avenue. The exhibit details the city’s history from its boom days to today, with an emphasis on the city departments that have provided citizens with essential services like water, streets, police and fire suppression, as well as enhancements to their quality of life such as a library, museum, and parks and recreation.

In May (which is National Preservation Month), an exhibit celebrating the residential architecture of Anacortes will debut in the Carnegie Gallery.

W.T. Preston closed until April

The Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center and W.T. Preston, our National Historic Landmark steamboat, are now closed through the winter. However, you can still stop by and read interpretive panels about the sternwheeler and its history outside the center at 703 R Ave. The sternwheeler and center will reopen for weekend hours in April. Contact the Anacortes Museum at 293-1915 if you need to arrange a special educational tour for your group.

To receive your newsletter via email, contact yerbyl@cityofanacortes.org

This newsletter is produced by the staff of the Anacortes Museum