HERITAGE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear TAHS Members,

How do you like our Heritage Newsletter's new look? With this issue, we are making our own "historical" statement as we move up to our first e-newsletter—after all, it is 2018! All members with email addresses are receiving this online and in color; members without an email address are receiving a hard copy in black and white, mailed to them through USPS. Laurie Lovret is sharing her wonderful writing talent as well as her computer expertise to bring us into the current technological age. We are grateful to Laurie, and I am certain our readers will be pleased.

Tustin schools are back in session, with an additional school on our list to receive the Museum's educational History In A Box—Orchard Hills K-8 School. Our coordinator for this wonderful project, Joe Sprekelmeyer, along with his committee, took extra time in September to provide all the books and educational tools for this additional Box. We have partnered with Tustin Unified School District for many years on this fantastic project, where all 3rd grade students in our community have the opportunity to learn about the history of their home town, Tustin!

Combined with this project are two additional components available to 3rd graders: a field trip tour of our Museum, initiated by their teacher and led by our docents; and the Mobile Museum, where Joe and his fellow docents are available to go into the 3rd grade classrooms, dressed in period costumes, to re-enact old traditions of Tustin's early agricultural years.

As we enter this fall season, with (hopefully) cooler weather and shorter days, I encourage everyone who has an interest and a few extra hours on a regular basis to volunteer to docent at our Museum on either Tuesdays or Thursdays. If this notice catches your eye, please give Barbara or Bill a call at the Museum, (714) 731-5701, for more information. Being a TAHS docent is a win-win, for you and for us, and it is FUN!

Enjoy all the interesting and informative articles in this exciting new Heritage issue, and note the details below regarding our upcoming November General Meeting!

Gretchen

Gretchen Whisler

NOVEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Come hear Mike Chamberlin perform and tell the stories behind the WWII love songs in tribute to Veterans Day!

Tuesday, November 13, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
Fellowship Hall, Tustin Presbyterian Church
225 West Main Street, Tustin
All are welcome to attend this free performance!

REMEMBERING JEANNE BROWN

Tustin Area Historical Society lost one of its long-time members when Jeanne Lawrence Brown passed away in late August at the age of 95. Jeanne made her mark with TAHS as a faithful volunteer, leader (she was either co-president or president four different times, and more than once chaired our annual home & garden tour), and editor of our newsletter The Heritage for over fifteen years. Jeanne was also named Tustin Area Woman of the Year for 2007.

Recently, her friends gathered together at the Tustin Senior Center to honor her memory and share "Jeanne stories." As a result, Jeanne received a grand send-off for a life well lived in service to our community.

April 3, 1923 – August 20, 2019

OUR SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING WAS MEMORABLE!

TAHS' recent General Meeting held on Monday evening, September 17, in the Tustin Senior Center's Multi-Purpose Room was standing-room only! We listened to Eric Abrahamson, talented composer, arranger, orchestrator, musical director, and teacher (oh, did we mention he's also a spellbinding piano player??), roll out historical songs from America's 1890s through 1920s musical era. We learned the origin of "ragtime" and "Tin Pan Alley" while listening to the music of Scott Joplin and other songwriters of the day. Sing-a-longs were spontaneous and added to the fun! Eric is a local resident who entertains at Disneyland's Main Street and tours throughout the country. Everyone who attended had a wonderful time!

Prior to his program, Eric played "Happy Birthday" to audience member Libby Pankey, who celebrated her 101st birthday on September 7!

ACCESSIONS ARE THE LIFE BLOOD OF A MUSEUM

By Joyce Miller

Not much piques our sense of anticipation more than someone entering the museum with a box. Our eyes fixate on what we hope will be a historical gem, ideally accompanied by a personal story, providing an opportunity to reminisce for a bit with its contributor, swap tales about old times, or chat about grandkids.

Perhaps an older home has new owners who are clearing out an attic's long unclaimed treasures and don't know what to do with their finds, but hate to throw them out. They come to us with china, receipts, kitchen items, and, sadly, portraits in antique frames of nameless cherub-cheeked toddlers from former generations.

Now and then, someone comes in with items that don't really have a place in Tustin's Museum, but would cause another museum's staff to leap for joy. I happened to be the Saturday docent when a box arrived in the hands of a lady's neighbor. She was certain they had been important memories to her friend whose name was unfamiliar to us, but the memories had passed along with her. I accepted the box and we had a nice chat before she left.

It was a slow day, so I had time to explore the box's contents. I couldn't find any items tying the contents to Tustin, nor even to its owner. But unexpectedly, buried under a stack of National Geographic and other magazines, I came upon two yearbooks from Occidental College from 1933 and 1934. These happened to be the last two years my parents had attended and I enjoyed seeing photos of Dad's football team, Mom's sorority sisters, the extracurricular activities that they enjoyed, and the college-age photos of their friends. Also in the box was a black and white photo album dating from about 1950 of a private girls' camp in Idyllwild with pictures of young women playing tennis and croquet, and a few on horses with English saddles, possibly readying themselves for a show.

It was just a trifle creepy after the connection of the yearbooks with my parents that I also docent at Idyllwild's museum in the summers and was familiar with the whole history of that camp. I tried not to think of it as the plot to one of those old-time movies where the girl is all alone in the shadowy mansion and opens a chest… Better, I thought, to be pleased I was there to redistribute these items where I knew they would be meaningful. That, after all, is the point of donation – to make it possible for future generations to benefit from the gift.

RECENT ACCESSIONS

(ac·ces·sion: a new item added to an existing collection of books, paintings, or artifacts)

Ron Oster	Scrapbooks and memorabilia from Tustin circa the 1970's
A.J. "Tony" Coco	Artist's rendering of Tustin's core businesses from the 1970's
Eileen Levy	Tustin High Yearbooks from 1946, 1947 and 1948
Mark Gaughan	Three boxes of newspapers and memorabilia
Deanne Beck	Book titled *The Irvine Ranch – 1810-1950* and aerial photo of Tustin
City of Tustin	County of Orange flag and American Legion ephemera
Guy Ball	Ice cream wrappers from Excelsior Creamery and book titled *Orange Countiana* (2018)
Cindy Dietz	Photos of Foothill High School under construction
Clifford Prather	California Railroad Commission papers on Tustin Water Works
Jill Leach	T-shirt with Tustin News logo
Vicki Gray	Tustin Elementary photos, map, Tustin High ephemera, Little League plaque, penny bank
Robin Fry	Photos, newspaper articles, maps and scripts on Native Americans
Museum Purchase	Book by Coach Tom DeLong
Lin Holland	School photos from Del Norte Elementary School
Cindy Burge	Lima bean sack
Laura Erickson	Vintage kitchen tools
Tustin Presbyterian	The church's Cradle Roll photos from 1935 to 1940
Adelia Morrison	Tustin pamphlets from the 1960's

PAST EVENTS -

TAHS at Tustin Police Department Open House June 2018

HELP TAHS WHILE SHOPPING ONLINE WITH AMAZON SMILE!

Help us while you enjoy shopping on Amazon! Tustin Area Historical Society has registered with Amazon Smile, which helps nonprofit groups benefit from Amazon online purchases. Amazon will contribute .5% of your online purchase amount to Tustin Area Historical Society each time you shop. To get set up with Amazon Smile, you first need to use TAHS' unique link, https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7374414. After this initial setup—**and this is important**—remember to always use smile.amazon.com *instead of* amazon.com when you shop online so TAHS receives the benefit. It's that easy! If you have any questions, please email our Museum office directly at tustinmuseum@att.net for help. Happy shopping and thank you for your support!

Tustin Area Museum Hours

Tuesday and Thursday
9 am – 2 pm

First and Third Saturday
12 pm – 3 pm

Open to Visitors

Admission is Free

NOT A MEMBER? JOIN TAHS!

Annual Dues: Jan. - Dec.

Individual ($25 or more)

Household ($35 or more)

Business/Organization ($100 or more)

Special Donation ($150 or more)

Members – Remember to send in your annual renewal soon

Welcome new member -
Norma Anne Flink

Departed friends we will miss -
Jeanne Brown and William Hockenberry

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