

THE MUSEUM MESSENGER

Independence Historical Museum & Art Center
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Letter from the President – Ray Rothgeb

As I look back at the accomplishments of the past year and forward to the challenges ahead, I'm reminded of the importance of each new day in the life of IHMAC. I see each day as an opportunity to better the one before and create value in it. Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote: "Write it on your heart that every day is the best day in the year." It is my hope that as IHMAC embarks on the New Year, every day will bring new opportunities for greater accomplishments, making each new day the best day in the year: each new day with opportunities to fulfill our mission of preserving history enriching the culture, and promoting the arts. Certainly, the project that will be most conspicuous on a daily basis will be the "Elevate the Museum" project. Each day will see structural changes that will most certainly affect daily activities. Patience will be needed as we install temporary barriers, clear areas for construction, temporarily relocate exhibits and close others. The museum will maintain regular hours, but access to the lower level and some areas of the gallery will be limited. With the help and patience of staff, members and patrons we will make each day a better day and celebrate the opening of the elevator as one of the best days in May of 2018. Happy New Year!!

COMING SOON!

Rick Bushnell Watercolor Class –
January 22 – 24

Kansas Museum Association Meeting –
February 5

11TH Annual Photography Show –
February 10 – 24

Tea Party – April 15

Verdigris Valley Young Artist Exhibit –
April 21 to May 5

OAK RIDGE BOYS CONCERT – MIKE FLOOD

Mike Flood of 4 Leaf Entertainment is announcing the Oak Ridge Boys have made a contribution to the Independence Historical Museum & Art Center. The Museum was picked as a recipient of a contribution prior to the scheduled Christmas Celebration Tour concert held at Memorial Hall on November 19. The contribution was based on a percentage of the gross proceeds amounting to almost \$2000.

The Oak Ridge Boys are happy to make the contribution because of the long relationship with the community. Independence was where they got their start with long time manager Jim Halsey in the early 70's and continue to be managed by him today. They were happy to hear the contribution would be used to support the addition of a new elevator. The new elevator will allow better access to the great exhibits.

ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

This year's Arts & Crafts Fair was held on December 1 & 2.

We had 20 vendors with 26 tables set up for the 2 day show.

Thank you to all (too many to list) who brought in goodies for the Bake Sale and food for the Kitchen. Thank you to all who manned the tables and the kitchen. All parts of the Fair were a great success. With the table rentals and proceeds from the kitchen, bake sale and door prize table we cleared \$1445 for the General Fund.

Good job everyone.

2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Ray Rothgeb

Vice President – Liz Moore

Secretary – Donna Dittmer

Treasurer – Randy Hoffman

Norman Chambers, Drew Demo, Tim Emert, Mike Flood, John Koschin, Isaias McCaffery, Mark Metcalf

GALLERY USAGE

If you or your group plans to use the Gallery for any events, please check in the Office to make sure there are no conflicts.

The winner of the Christmas Afghan is
Mike Weir of St. Louis, MO.

ART CLUB – DONNA ROTHGEB

Are you interested in participating in art activities? January is scheduled with two art workshops: Steve Greenwall's OPEN STUDIO on January 15 and Rick Bushnell's WATERCOLOR WORKSHOP on January 22, 23 & 24. Both workshops are from 9:00 AM till Noon.

Steve Greenwall's OPEN STUDIO is for anyone interested in drawing, black and white ink or chalk, pastels or watercolors. His workshop is ongoing, occurring usually every third Monday of the month, though sometimes changes are made due to illness or conflicts. You need to check with Donna Rothgeb at 620-331-0108 or rdrothgeb@cableone.net before each event to learn about fees and deadlines for sign ups, as well as to make sure that the workshop hasn't been rescheduled for some reason.

More information will be provided via local media regarding Rick Bushnell's workshop. Watch for this the first or second week in January. The fee for the workshop will announced then and a supply list will be provided.

The policy is that you need to sign up at least 10 days in advance to secure your place in the workshop. Sylvia Augustine, Museum Coordinator, or Donna Rothgeb, IHMAC Communicator, will provide you with an application upon request. Steve's workshops are \$25 for 7 or more participants.

The IHMAC Artists would love to have more people join them in these gold opportunities for excellent instruction.



THANK YOU!

I want to thank everyone for all the prayers, cards and food that were delivered to me over the last 6 months. I also want to thank those that covered for me when I had to be off. For those that don't know I was diagnosed with Breast Cancer back in June. Since then I have had 16 chemo treatments. My prognosis is excellent. I still have some rough days ahead; some surgery and radiation treatments.

Thank you to everyone for all the birthday cards. They were a big surprise. They came during a week I was homebound. They cheered me up a lot.

Sylvia

INVENTORY/PROJECT COMMITTEE – JOY BARTA

Work is in progress for checking the inventory in each of the rooms and organizing the records. Then the information will be updated on the computer. Joy Barta is the chairperson for this committee, assisting with this task is Skye Conley. Skye graduated from Pittsburg State University last May with a major in History. He plans to go to graduate school next year and major in historic preservation. He is volunteering at the Museum to gain experience. He has been an excellent assistant.

The rooms which have been worked on are: Medical, Laundry, Toy, Bedroom and currently the Independence Room.

JANUARY LUNCHEON
January 12

Program: Rudy Taylor

Menu:
Soups, Relish Tray, Crackers and
Dessert

Please make your reservations by
Noon on January 10.

February Luncheon
February 9

? – Chair
Program:
Menu:

Please make your reservations by Feb. 7

Need a chair person

March Luncheon
March 9

Liz Moore – Chair
Program:
Menu:

Baked Potato Bar

Please make your reservations by Mar. 7

Historical Research Center – Barbara Lasater

Back in October, a large group of people, some local and some from around the country, attended the Whistler family reunion. Some of them came to visit the Research Center in search of information about their family. This was still during football season, so we had information in our display case about a great IHS football fan, Harry Whistler. He lived to be 104 years old, and was pretty well known around Independence. The display consisted of a letterman's jacket with his name and age embossed on it. It included a football presented to him by the Independence High School Football program as well as photos and newspaper articles written at the time of the presentation. Several members of the Whistler family came to see the display and visit with research center volunteers about their family.

A week later we received a call from Dan Whistler, who lives in Madeira, California. He was searching for information about members of his family who taught in rural schools in Montgomery County, especially Prairie School, located in the northwest corner of the county, not far from the Wilson County line. This query led to an exchange of information to and from the Research Center. Most of the volunteers have been involved in some way to help find this information. Thanks to the books of Warren Culp, former Montgomery County Superintendent of Schools and the book, History and Families of Montgomery County, Kansas, 1869-1994 compiled by the Montgomery County Genealogical Society, we found information about Prairie School along with photos of students who attended there. We searched without success for a photo of the school. Dan Whistler would still very much like to have a photo if you might have one or know of anyone who does.

The end of the story is that Dan Whistler is writing an essay which may develop into a book on Prairie School, Louisburg Township, Montgomery County, Kansas and the involvement of the Whistler family in that community. He is planning to complete it before Christmas and will be sending a copy to the Research Center where it will be displayed.