Allyship in Action

See what research into Central Oregon history has uncovered. *See p. 2*

On Board: Meet Julie Lowy

Meet our newest board member. *See p. 5*

The Homesteader

Deschutes County Historical Society Newsletter—FEBRUARY 2025

Deschutes County Historical Society

Annual Members' Luncheon

Saturday, March 1, 2025

11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Bend Elks Lodge: 63120 Boyd Acres Rd. Bend

Since our last meeting in 2024, we have awarded the first Leon Devereaux Pioneer Scholarship, created new exhibits and events, have revived our History Pub programs, and have many more exciting announcements to share!

The 2025 Members' Luncheon will once again take place at the Elks Lodge in Bend. Doors will open at 11:00 a.m., with a welcome at 11:30. Lunch will be a choice of prime rib or salmon, baked potato, and vegetable. Members are asked to RSVP by February 15 with their preferred protein choice.

Following lunch, the board and staff will provide updates to DCHS and Deschutes Pioneer Association (DPA) programs, including crowning the 2025 Pioneer Queen. And back by popular demand: we will play a game of Deschutes History Jeopardy! You and your tablemates will play for fun prizes and bragging rights.

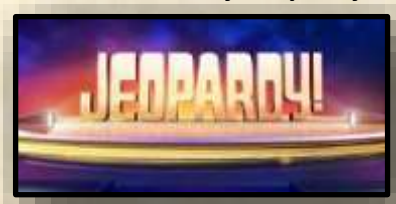
To reserve your lunch, please complete the form on page 6 and return to the Deschutes Historical Museum with payment by February 15, or members can pay online: https://square.link/u/PqvNWEB8
Please be sure to select your preferred menu option.

Thank you members, we are looking forward to gathering with you again!

Meeting Agenda

11:00 a.m.	**Doors Open**
11:30 a.m.	**Welcome**
12:00 p.m.	**Lunch Served**
12:45 p.m.	**Updates from the DCHS Board and DPA Committee**
1:15 p.m.	**Program:**

Deschutes History Jeopardy



How well do you know your Deschutes County history? Compete for prizes and bragging rights!

2:00 p.m.	**Adjourn**

The Homesteader: Volume 51; No. 2. Published monthly by the Deschutes County Historical Society, 129 NW Idaho Avenue, Bend, Oregon 97703

Belonging Grant Funds Research

By Kelly Cannon-Miller

In our work at the Deschutes Historical Museum, the population statistics during the founding of Deschutes County and its cities, especially Bend, are among our most often shared facts. We have made the statement hundreds of times: according to US Census records, the population of Bend was 536 in 1910 and by 1920 it was 5,415.

Each of those 5,415 people has a story. It's someone who came here either alone or with family, with money in their pocket or poor as dirt, on a railcar or in a wagon, but all of them had a dream of stability, prosperity, and a better life.

Uncovering those stories is only possible through one thing: research. The reality of running a non-profit historical society is that often we are doing research for others, writing grants to stay afloat, working on marketing, and building new exhibits to keep our audiences engaged and learning new things. Staff often run across articles, letters, and snippets of stories that we save for future research, hoping for the time where we can sit with newspapers and archival research tools and learn more. Pretty soon that list of threads to chase becomes an entire file cabinet drawer of undiscovered stories waiting to be told.

Thanks to a St. Charles Foundation Belonging Grant, the Deschutes County Historical Society has contracted with Allyship in Action to help DCHS uncover hidden stories from our shared history, specifically those from people of color, indigenous, and LGBTQ+. Work started in December when I emptied my files filled with all those snippets and handed them to LeeAnn O'Neill, Allyship in Action's Managing Partner and a top-notch researcher. One day per week LeeAnn is here chasing each snippet to see where it leads.

Colored Men Form Club For Betterment of Race

Rev. J. W. Anderson of Portland, corresponding secretary and general missionary of the Afro-American Baptist district convention of the Pacific northwest, organized a business club of members of the denomination here last night. The purpose of the club will be to look after the welfare of the colored people of Bend. R. C. Cameron was elected president, Walter Green secretary, and George Rencher chairman of the membership committee.

Rev. Anderson left on last night's train for Portland.

***Bend Bulletin* May 16, 1925**

Research! The freedom of having time dedicated to just research yielded an amazing discovery. LeeAnn started with this headline from May 16, 1925: Colored Men Form Club For Betterment of Race.

Beatrice Morrow Cannady, *The Advocate,* 1913

In May of 1925, a group of Black residents of Bend formed their own business support group, much like any commercial or social support club. Contrary to that first headline, the group was officially called the "Bend Colored Men's Business Club" and had nine members. A similar club was formed in Salem in 1920, evidence of a larger movement to organize around the state.

The group was well connected to prominent Black leaders in Portland, who we now know reached out to Central Oregon on many occasions throughout the 1920s. Reverand J. W. Anderson of The Olivet Baptist Church in Portland reported trips to Central Oregon starting sometime before 1920 and continuing regularly thereafter until his death in 1931. Additionally, Beatrice Morrow Cannady, Oregon's leading civil rights leader in the early 20th century came through Bend as a

- Continued on page 3

Deschutes Historical Museum

129 NW Idaho Avenue
Bend, OR 97703
Open Tuesdays-Saturdays
10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
541.389.1813

www.deschuteshistory.org
info@deschuteshistory.org

Museum Staff:

Kelly Cannon-Miller, Executive Director
Vanessa Ivey, Museum Manager
Rebekah Averette, Collections Manager
Tracy Alexander, Membership Officer
Michelle Patrick, Visitor Services

●●●●●

2025 DCHS Board of Directors:

Jane Williamson, President
Karen Green, Vice President
Heidi Kennedy, Secretary/Treasurer
Adrian Bennett, Past President

Board Members:

Paul Claeyssens, Tony DeBone,
Greg Fulton, Eric King,
Brad Lemmon, Julie Lowy,
Liz Rink, Glenn Voelz

●●●●●

Complete minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors are on file with the Museum office.

Continued from P. 2— Belonging Grant Funds Research

representative of the Portland Chapter of the NAACP. More importantly, Cannady and her husband, Edward Cannady, were the owners and editors of *The Advocate*, the state's largest and most influential Black newspaper. It is through *The Advocate* archives that we learn the most about the club and their news, as *The Bend Bulletin* largely glossed over their activities.

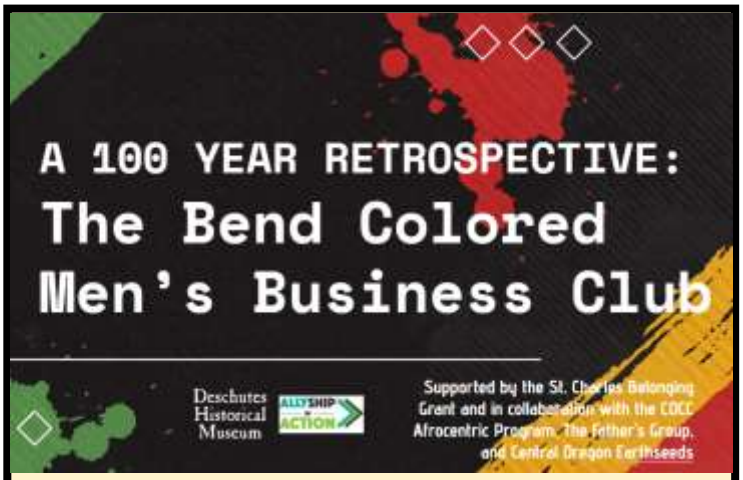
As previously reported, in August 1925 local attorney and state senator Jay Upton presented a formal complaint to Bend City Council on behalf of the 'colored citizens' of Bend, asking the city to make "white trade only" signs illegal. We now know the Bend Colored Men's Business Club to have been Upton's clients in that matter, as reported by *The Advocate*. Cannady and *The Advocate*'s influence was covered by *The Bend Bulletin*, who provided in-depth coverage of her speaking engagement at the Baptist Church in Bend.

When we pair the formation and existence of the Bend Colored Men's Business Club with the first iteration of the Japanese American Society of Central Oregon, a group who prominently hosted their annual spring Japanese doll show during this same time period, a larger view of 1920s Bend emerges. These stories reveal that during the height of the Ku Klux Klan in Oregon, cultural groups formed that provided strong connections, advocacy and resistance, and a sense of community for people of color throughout Central Oregon.

It is also apparent that the economic consequences of The Great Depression from 1929 until the late 1930s negatively impacted these cultural groups in Central Oregon. It was during this time that many of the residents relocated to Portland or elsewhere. Back in Portland, *The Advocate* struggled to stay afloat until it ceased publication in 1938.

DCHS will continue with our Belonging Research Project throughout 2025. LeeAnn is working with staff to create a more inclusive timeline of Central Oregon history to be utilized in conjunction with future exhibit and educational programming. The archival documentation of these stories joins DCHS's expanded subject files where these stories take their rightful place within our shared history and provide launching points for more research. More on this topic can be discovered during the Black History Month celebration dinner at COCC on February 25, 2025, where DCHS and Allyship in Action will provide a poster exhibit on the importance of research in bringing these stories forward.

In addition, join us for the March 25 History Pub at McMenamins Old St Francis when Zachary Stocks of Oregon Black Pioneers will join us for a presentation on Beatrice



We hope you can join us at the Black History Month Celebration Dinner at Central Oregon Community College, where an exhibit by the Deschutes Historical Museum will share findings from the research by LeeAnn O'Neill from Allyship in Action.

Tuesday, February 25 5:00-7:30 p.m.

COCC Bend Campus, Coats Campus Center, Wille Hall

Registration required: mlegrand2@cocc.edu to register

Map and Document of the Month

The next time you visit the Deschutes Historical Museum, carve out some time to explore the Map and Document of the Month. Volunteer researcher Brad Lemmon encountered many interesting maps and documents while working with his TAG group of fourth graders last spring. "As I spent more and more time at the museum, I became aware of the amount of interesting things that are in the drawers and boxes. I wanted people to see more of those things than they get to see in the permanent or rotating exhibits."

The map of the month is Deschutes County in 1949 by Western States Publishing. It is interesting to see what things from this map have disappeared from current maps (e.g. various railroad sidings) and to see what things have been added since then.

The document of the month is a hand-made 1933 Bend High School Junior-Senior Prom dance card. The prom theme that year was "Hindustan Gathering" (historically, India was called Hindustan). There are sixteen blank song slots, but five songs are also listed: Japanese Sandman, Poor Butterfly, Limehouse Blues, Darkness on the Delta, Where My Caravan Has Rested. These songs can be found on Spotify. If you or a relative have Spotify, see how they sound to you.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Jamie Smith

By Vanessa Ivey

During the week, the third floor at the Deschutes Historical Museum (DHM) is a hustle and bustle of activity, as the museum's collection is processed in so many ways. However, Saturdays are of a different nature. The haunting stillness can be peaceful in a zen-like-way. It is to the third floor's old auditorium this quiet draws lone volunteer Jaime Smith on Saturday mornings.

"I get to hang out on the cool third floor, digging around in random records and photos when no one is around. I have the whole place to myself."

Jamie has been volunteering at the museum for over a year, exercising her love of history by delving through the Marjorie Smith (no relation) archives, cataloging and organizing the collection. More recently she joined forces with fellow volunteer Rashelle Maplethorpe in hours of data cleanup of the museum's database, Past Perfect, working to repair and update over 4,000 records before the museum can upgrade to the newest cloud-based version of the program.

Born and raised in Oregon, Jamie grew up in Newberg, graduating from Oregon State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in History. It was at the Newberg Public Library, where she nurtured her love of reading, receiving her first library card from Mrs. Florence Cassidy. Later she would return to her old reading-grounds, a gift of Andrew Carnegie to the community of Newberg, and work in tech services, alongside her favorite librarian, Mrs. Cassidy. Jamie shares that she could never call Mrs. Cassidy by her first name, although the librarian insisted on being called Florence.

When her parents moved to Sisters and her sister to Bend, Jamie decided to join them, moving to the "Gateway to the Cascades" in 2000. It was not unfamiliar territory to her as her family spent their winter and summer vacations hiking and skiing around Mt. Bachelor.

"So why not, I'll give it a try."

She landed a job working at the Deschutes Public Library, and for the past 24 years has continued her work in tech services, cleaning up data and making resources accessible to the public. She works regularly with library applications such as Libby, Hoopla, and Kanopy; adding resources to these online platforms for digital streaming and electronic reading. Jamie loves that her volunteer gig is only a block away from her work-week vocation.

Her line of work is one of the reasons she originally got involved with the Deschutes Historical Museum. In 2016, Jamie was part of a team from the library that partnered on a project with the museum, taking the museum's recordings of the Kessler Cannon 1953 pioneer interviews and bringing them back to life for the public as audiobooks. It was a project that was both interesting and technical. Titled "15-Minute Histories", the project was awarded an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award in April 2017 and together Jamie and Kelly Cannon-Miller, executive director of the museum, accepted the award on behalf of both the library and museum. At the time of the award presentation, the project's audiobooks had been checked out over 700 times. Today the oral histories from the past are still accessible to the public as a result of Jamie's work.

When not collecting and processing data for the library or the museum, Jamie collects bird data for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, participating in their citizen science project, Feeder Watch. A nature nut, she loves the outdoors and can be found snowboarding on Mt. Bachelor, adventuring with her 5-year-old Australian Shepherd mix, Ethyl, and playing disc golf with longtime friends in the wooded areas surrounding her hometown of Bend.

Meet the Newest DCHS Board Member: Julie Johnson Lowy

Julie Johnson Lowy is a longtime Central Oregonian with a passion for local history, but also an eye on current events. As a journalist, she has witnessed some of the most important developments in Central Oregon over the past 25 years. Her work is informed by years of research and writing about the historical context in which Central Oregon's growth and development has occurred. Julie was instrumental in the production of *Hello Bend!*

Julie grew up near Terrebonne, fishing the Deschutes River, swimming in local lakes and generally appreciating the High Desert in its vastness and beauty. After brief stints in Northern California and Eastern Oregon, she returned to Bend in 1999 as a reporter for *The Bulletin*. Now city editor for the newspaper, Julie has a deep respect for the people and organizations that have shaped this region over the decades. She is happy to join the board of the Deschutes Historical Society in order to help celebrate and preserve that history.

Julie is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University, an underappreciated jewel in the crown of Oregon's higher education, and she believes education doesn't end with a diploma or at any age. Likewise, history is not just past tense -- we are makers of history as much as we are products of it.

The 2025 Leon Devereaux Pioneer Scholarship

The Deschutes County Pioneers established a scholarship for high school seniors years ago. The Pioneers recently merged with the Deschutes County Historical Society (DCHS), and DCHS continues awarding the scholarship. The mission of DCHS is to preserve, promote and celebrate our shared local history. The purpose of the scholarship is to carry out this mission by encouraging high school seniors in Central Oregon to foster an interest in the community's history through qualitative and quantitative research and evaluation of archives and sources presented in a form that inspires others to learn and take action to shape the future.

DCHS will award two $1,000 nonrenewable scholarships to eligible students who submit their application no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2025. Please visit deschuteshistory.org/ld-scholar/ for complete details and online application form. Scholarship winners will be announced in late April, 2025.

Volunteer Meeting: February 12, 2025 1:00 p.m.

We are kicking off our quarterly Volunteer Meetings with an overview of what we have planned so far for 2025.

What's new at the front desk? What can volunteers do on the third floor? Enjoy working at events? Find out what's on the calendar and how you can get involved!

Bring a sack lunch, your calendar, and an open mind as we explore the many ways that you can share your time and talents with the Historical Museum.

Memorials

Doris Drost Bennett

Linda Bostic
Sue Fountain
Sharon Stasiowski

Susie Penhollow

Georgia Springer

Tributes

Ralph C. Curtis

Jean Rotter

We are looking forward to seeing you once again at our Annual Members' Luncheon on March 1, 2025! Please RSVP by completing the form below and returning with payment to the Deschutes Historical Museum or visit our online store to purchase your lunch(es) online: https://square.link/u/PqvNWEB8 by February 15, 2025

Deschutes County Historical Society Members' Luncheon

Saturday, March 1, 2025 11:30 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

Bend Elks Lodge: 63120 Boyd Acres Rd. Bend

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

_____

Email: _____ Phone Number: _____

Preferred Entrée: Prime Rib _____ Salmon _____

If completing form for more than one person, please indicate number for each entrée

Lunch cost is $25 per person

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please mail or drop off this form with payment to the Deschutes Historical Museum by February 15, 2025: 129 NW Idaho Ave. Bend, OR 97703

Office Use Only:

Method of Pmt: _____

Date Paid: _____

Added to list: _____

Initials: _____

Mark Your Calendars

FEBRUARY

8 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH FILM SCREENING: ORIGIN**
4-7:00 p.m.
COCC Bend Campus, Coats Campus Center, Wille Hall
Registration required: mlegrand2@cocc.edu to register

12 **VOLUNTEER MEETING: 2025 KICK-OFF**
1:00 p.m. Deschutes Historical Museum Library

14 **OREGON'S 166th BIRTHDAY**

25 **BLACK HISTORY MONTH DINNER CELEBRATION**
5:00-7:30 p.m.
COCC Bend Campus, Coats Campus Center, Wille Hall
Registration required: mlegrand2@cocc.edu to register

Reverand J.W. Anderson, financial secretary of the Inter-Mountain States Baptist Association, and organizer of the Bend Colored Men's Business Club in 1925.
The Advocate, April 19, 1924

SAVE THE DATE!

MARCH 1: DESCHUTES COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEMBERS' LUNCHEON