

The Museum Messenger

Independence Historical Museum & Art Center

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Letter from the President – Ray Rothgeb

This month's letter should most likely be titled "President's Ramblings." I want to recognize some volunteers and inform you of recent Board actions. So here goes! • I will most likely never stop saying, "I'm amazed at all of the activities of this museum." This happens only because of the many dedicated members and volunteers. To mention a few: Kudos to Mike Flood, John Koschin, and Dan Dollison. Mike and John have worked many hours to get the Kansas Celebrity Hall of Fame open to members and guests. The KCHoF will host a Valentine's Concert February 14. Not to mention John's efforts in preparing an excellent photo exhibit. Thanks to Becky Foster for working on the Landon Center yard sign and to Drew Demo, our Building and Grounds Chair, for replacing light bulbs and relocating furniture and equipment. • The Board accepted a bid of \$41,000 to SEK Construction to create the access ramp on the west side of the building. This will be a welcomed first phase of the renovation plan. The funds for this project will come from dividends on the Carter Investment and through the sale of stock, if necessary. It is my hope that we will see progress on this project before spring. Excessive operational costs of the Landon House and Research Center have prompted the board to place both facilities under review for the next six months. The board hopes to develop an operational plan that will result in a positive cash flow for both facilities. A proposal to be open on Thursday's from 12:00 PM to 7:00 PM beginning February 5 was approved at the last board meeting. It is our hope that this will allow for some evening activities and some after-school activities for children. • A few room chairs are still needed, as is a chair for the Ways & Means Committee. There is potential for a co-chair for this committee, as well. So many people doing so much, for so many! No wonder I'm amazed.

2014-2015
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HOURS

Tuesday thru Saturday
10 AM to 4 PM

FOR SALE

Metal office desk-

Came out of Museum office-

May be seen on the dock-

Goes to the highest bidder-

Bids accepted until Feb. 14.

CHECK IT OUT

Stop by and check out the Kitchen located in the basement. It is back open now. Thanks to Dan Dollison and Doug & Sylvia Rutledge for repainting the room. Thanks to the Room Chairs for setting the room back up.

Kansas Celebrity Hall of Fame

The Kansas Celebrity Hall of Fame (KCHOF) is open! Yes indeed, on Thursday, January 22nd the large area in the northwest corner of the Independence Historical Museum and Art Center (IHMAC) was opened and began to have people tour the exhibits of Bill Kurtis, William Inge, Jim Halsey, Vivian Vance & Sherman Halsey. There are still a few final touches, but the KCHOF is open and looking good! Still remaining is the viewing area just north of the stage area. Also, the room in the basement will open with exhibits of many more Kansas celebrities. As said before, the move has been a bigger challenge than expected. Included in the move were 20 celebrity exhibits, over 500 artifacts, equipment, materials & supplies. A big thank you should go out to John Koschin, Sylvia Augustine, Drew Demo, Andrew Demo, Jeff Shaw and others who helped since last August. Thanks again to the IHMAC for making this premium space available.

To celebrate the opening in style, the 2nd Annual Valentine's Day Concert will be offered to the members and public on Saturday, February 14th at 8:00 PM from the stage. The concert will feature the sweet sister harmony of "The Vogts Sisters". This will be a fantastic concert with Americana, folk & Bluegrass music. This is a fundraising event with wine & cheese, fruit and other drinks being offered. The cost is only \$10 each to the public with a 20% discount or \$8 to museum members. Be sure to get your tickets soon as they are selling fast and seating is limited. The doors will open at 7:00 PM, so arrive early to get your seat and view the exhibits. Special thanks to Yerkes & Michels CPA, LLC, Midwest Real Estate, Uncle Jack's Bar & Grill and the Community Video Archives for sponsoring the event.

The KCHOF Advisory Board will meet once per quarter and also for a few special planning meetings focusing on special events. If you would like to be a part of this exciting group, please contact the IHMAC at (620) 331-3515 or call Mike Flood at (620) 330-0675.

ART CLUB

The Museum Art Club is a very busy group.

They welcome new artists. They meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month.

Beginning in February on the third Monday of the month Steve Greenwall will teach a Pencil Drawing class here at the Museum. The cost of the class will be \$20 per person.

SAVE THE DATE!

Spring Tea at the Museum is scheduled for March 8, 2015, 1:00 – 3:30 PM. Save the date on your calendar. Invitations will be sent in the next few weeks. There will be delicious food, special tea from Magnolia Scents by Design, entertainment, and a silent auction. This is always a special afternoon of fun and socializing. Make plans to attend.

If you would like to plan a table for the tea, contact Sylvia at the Museum, Joy Barta at 331-3793 or Ellie Culp at 331-6141.

There are lots of activities going on this year in the Museum. Help planning or just assisting with the events will be needed. If there is something you would like to help with please call the office – 331-3515.

If you have any suggestions for programs or exhibits please call the office or one of the Board members.

Some of the upcoming events are: Feb – Photography Show; March – Spring Tea at the Museum and a special Art Exhibit; April – Verdigris Valley Young Artist Exhibit; June and July: Verdigris Valley Art Exhibit.

Call the office if you have any questions.

COMING EVENTS

February 5 – Late Night at the Museum
 9 – Art Club
 13 – Luncheon
 14 – Photography Show Begins
 14 – KCHOF Concert
 21 – Renovation Pledge Campaign Kickoff
 23 – Art Club

Luncheon

The next luncheon is scheduled for February 13th at Noon.

The Menu is Lasagna, Salad, Dessert, Coffee & Tea. The program will be Rick Whitson from Mercy Health for Life.

Please make your reservations by noon on February 11th.

The cost of the Luncheon is \$7.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Because of extra responsibilities for Sylvia, Museum Coordinator, with the addition of the Research Center, Landon Center, Art Club, etc. the Board is proposing to the membership an opportunity to volunteer at the Museum. Extra personnel are needed and there are not funds to support hiring someone.

Volunteers would be asked to commit to a specific day and time each week. It could be a half day, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or 1:00-4:00 PM, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday or Thursday 12:00-5:00/7:00. This way Sylvia would know who would be there that day and could plan the duties for that person. Some of the duties would consist of: answering the phone, greeting guests, sales in the gift shop, light dusting, making copies, helping set-up displays, making calls when needed, filing, and other things as needed or the person feels comfortable doing. This would relieve Sylvia to take care of many of the additional responsibilities without interruptions. Also this would provide someone for Sylvia to call and rely on to cover for her in the case of a doctor's appointment or sickness. The way it is now, she has to call the Board president and send out a plea for someone to cover.

Please give this serious consideration as a way you could help your Museum.

Historical Research Center

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!!!

Call 620-779-0496 or e-mail hrc@ihmac.org to volunteer.

If you need research done call, e-mail or come by.