

Vietnam Wall replica coming to Florence as part of national tour

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund (VVMF) has announced “The Wall That Heals” national tour schedule for 2019, with a scheduled stop in Florence April 4–7.

“The Wall That Heals” exhibit includes a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial along with a mobile Education Center. The traveling exhibit honors the more than three million Americans who served in the U.S. Armed Forces in the Vietnam War and it bears the names of the more than 58,000 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

The Vietnam Veterans Memorial is one of the most visited memorials in our nation’s capital, with nearly 5.3 million visitors each year. However, many Americans have not been able to visit what has become known to many as “The Wall.”

VVMF, the nonprofit organization that built The Wall in 1982, wants to give all veterans and their family members across America an opportunity to see the Memorial.

Nearly 400,000 people visited an all-new “The Wall That Heals” exhibit in 2018. Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in more than 500 U.S. communities in addition to an April 1999 tour of the Four Provinces of Ireland and a visit to Canada in 2005.

Hosting “The Wall That Heals” provides a community with a multi-day experience that includes an educational experience for local schools and organizations on the history of the Vietnam era and The Wall.

The three-quarter scale Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. With the replica at this size, visitors are able to experience The Wall rising above them as they walk towards the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C.

Like the original Memorial, “The Wall That Heals” is erected in a chevron-shape and visitors are able to do name rubbings of individual service member’s names on The Wall.

The names are listed in order of date of casualty and alphabetically on each day. Beginning at the center/apex, the names start on the East Wall (right-hand side) working their way out to the end of that wing, picking up again at the far end of the West Wall (left-hand side) and working their way back in to the center/apex. The first and last casualties are side by side at the apex of the memorial.

The replica is constructed of Avonite, a synthetic granite, and its 144 individual panels are supported by an aluminum frame. Modern LED lighting from the top of The Wall provides readability of The Wall at night.

“The Wall That Heals” is transported from community to community in a 53-foot trailer. When parked, the trailer opens with exhibits built into its sides, allowing it to serve as a mobile Education Center telling the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the divisive era in American history.

The mobile Education Center displays includes: digital photo displays of “Hometown Heroes” — service members whose names are on The Wall that list their home of record within the area of a visit; digital photo displays of Vietnam veterans from the local area honored through VVMF’s In Memory program which honors veterans who returned home from Vietnam and later died as a result of their service; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall and of the collection of items representative of those left at The Wall in D.C.; educational exhibits told through items in the collection; a map of Vietnam and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War.

The exhibits tell the story of the Vietnam War, The Wall and the era surrounding the conflict, and are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

The current schedule and more information can be found at: www.thewallthatheals.org.

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Florence recruiting volunteers for Planning Commission

The City of Florence is seeking volunteer applicants for the City of Florence Planning Commission.

The Commission reviews and makes recommendations on the Comprehensive Plan, sub-division and zoning ordinances and other planning rules and regulations.

The Planning Commission also serves as the Design Review Board, acting to determine whether proposed developments uphold the zoning and subdivision ordinances of the City of Florence.

Florence’s Planning Commission consists of seven members, of which five must live inside city limits and two may live within the Urban Growth Boundary.

Planning Commission meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 5:30 p.m.

Persons interested in positions should expect to attend all Planning Commission meetings and devote time for study of issues prior to meeting attendance.

Volunteer time is vital in working towards solutions to local government issues.

If you are interested in serving your city and getting involved, consider applying for the Planning Commission.

The deadline for applications is fast approaching on Dec. 31, so apply today.

Applying for a position is easy. Applications can be downloaded from the city’s website at www.ci.florence.or.us and are available at the Florence Public Works Facility, 2675 Kingwood St., during regular business hours.

For details regarding the duties and responsibilities of this commission, residency requirements of applicants, term lengths or any other questions, contact City Recorder/Eco-nomic Development Coordinator Kelli Weese at 541-997-3437 or via email at kel-li.weese@ci.florence.or.us.

Spirituali-Tea to talk about ‘divine educators’

People who are interested in singing Christmas Carols in an atmosphere of joy and unity are invited to join a group of Bahai’s and Friends that have been meeting for years at 875 Seventh St. in Florence

This week, Monday evening Dec. 17, at 6:30 p.m., karaoke tracks will be played on the sound system and hand out sheets of holiday music and sing.

Throughout history, God has sent humanity a series of divine Educators whose teachings have provided the basis for the advancement of civilization. These manifestations have included Abraham, Krishna, Zoroaster, Moses, Buddha, Jesus, Muhammad and Baha’u’llah.

Christmas goodies will be served with tea, coffee and egg-nog

At the end of the gathering, members will read the prayer requests that have been left in the Prayer Pole in the garden of the Florence Playhouse, 208 Laurel St.

FUUF to explores work of consequence Sunday

The service on Sunday, Dec. 16 at the Florence Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, will be led by intern UU minister from Eugene, Sarah Skochko.

During the service, which will be held from 10 to 11 a.m., Skochko will share a message titled “Work of Consequence.”

Skochko looks to explore several questions related to: Are we defined by what we do for a living? Are we only worth what we produce? Skochko suggests ways in which we may be able to reconcile the “spark of the divine” within each of us with the realities of modern jobs.

The fellowship is located at 87738 Highway 101 at Heceta Beach Road and is wheelchair accessible.

Each service concludes with refreshments and a dialogue circle to explore the questions that come up during each worship service.

For more information, visit www.florenceuuf.org.



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Saturday, December 22nd, 7pm
at the Florence Events Center.

To purchase tickets,
call 541-997-1994 or www.eventcenter.org
for more info
\$20 each or \$35 for a pair

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