

Seaside arts organizations score at culture awards

Grants recognize history, heritage, culture

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Seaside's library director Esther Moberg received \$2,000 on behalf of a summer reading program for children in communities underserved by public libraries.

Tita Montero accepted \$1,500 on behalf of the Seaside Museum and Historical Society for updating the Clatsop Nehalem Peoples social studies curriculum, in use for 390 students in 15 fourth-grade classes throughout the county.

Katherine Lacaze accepted a grant of \$1,055 on behalf of the Sunset Park and Recreation District for the Children's Theater Summer Workshop presentation of "Alice in Wonderland."

These organizations and others were honored Tuesday, Dec. 6, at Clatsop Community College's South Campus Clatsop County Cultural Coalition grant awards.

Edward James left Astoria "a zillion years ago" to pursue his theatrical passion in New York, the Midwest and eventually Portland.

"I came here about 10 years ago to retire, and I discovered something significantly different than when I left," James said. "There were few artistic galleries in



Nettie Lee-Calog, Tita Montero, Daniel Keesler, Carol Lambert, Edward James, Jennifer Crockett, Andrew Tonny, Katherine Lacaze, Esther Moberg and Jane Brumfield, recipients of Clatsop County Cultural Coalition grants.

R.J. MARX/SEASIDE SIGNAL

the '70s. When I came back, 'Cabaret' was on the front page, there was music in every bar, there were community music organizations developing. It was vastly different. The cultural coalition can take a little credit for that."

James, a director, was in attendance to accept \$1,235 for "All in the Timing," a live production at the Performing

Arts Center. The play will be staged in January and features a cast of North Coast actors.

"It's smart theater," James said. "PAC is providing us a place to do that."

The arts center was among 10 local organizations to benefit from \$11,240 in Clatsop County Cultural Coalition grants funded by the Oregon Cultural Trust and from a

small arts and culture grant from the Oregon Community Foundation.

James, like other award recipients, shared not only the passion for their own organizations, but passion for the arts in the community.

"Our grants are awarded to project that support, maintain, preserve and protect cultural projects in the arts, heri-

tage and humanity in Clatsop County," Charlene Larsen, the co-chairwoman of the coalition, said.

Liberty Theater Executive Director Jennifer Crockett accepted a grant for \$1,000 to fund a workshop and performance for kids, "Rhythm Takes Three."

Nettie-Lee Calog, site manager of the Warrenton

Community Library, accepted \$600 for the library's "Libros" program for Hispanic readers.

Program coordinator Daniel Keesler accepted \$2,000 on behalf of the Lower Columbia Hispanic Council for the Teatro Milagro bilingual arts residency.

Carol Lambert of the Clatsop County Historical Society spoke about John Andrew Buchanan, founder of the Clatsop County Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in 1920 and the Clatsop County Historical Society in 1921. Lambert's maternal grandfather, Buchanan is best remembered as the lyricist for the state song, "Oregon, My Oregon," chosen among 200 entries. The historical society's grant of \$750 will provide a monument for Buchanan at Ocean View Cemetery.

Jane Brumfield received \$600 for Cannon Beach Arts Association "Artists Talk." Andrew Tonny accepted \$500 on behalf of the Tolovana Arts Colony's upcoming Cannon Beach Comedy Festival.

"Art saves lives," KMUN host Carol Newman said in opening remarks. "Culture, libraries, music, history, education, the things you are all facilitating or offering. Thank you so much for making this community so rich. It feeds everything: our river, our land, our earth and our people."

Author shares a love of community

By R.J. Marx
Seaside Signal

Gloria Stiger Linkey was raised in Seaside and remembers its glory days growing up.

Before Dec. 7, 1941 — Pearl Harbor Day — the small town was "innocent." "Nobody locked their doors, we played on the beach all day during the summer, there were no televisions, no cellphones, no computers," she said. "Just the radio and those wonderful radio shows we used to listen to."

Linkey's new book, "A Place Called Seaside," traces the city where she was raised, left and later returned to.

Her family moved to Seaside in 1937, when Linkey was 7.

In the summer, Linkey recalled, she would watch people strolling the Prom and down Broadway. "You'd stop and watch the people swim," she said. "You'd go on down watch them bowl, you'd go to the roller-skating rink and watch them skate. That was our entertainment."

The closing of the natatorium — the public swimming pool near the Prom — and closing of clubs and entertainment centers contributed to a downtown decline. In 1962, at a time when rebellion among the nation's youth was just underway, Seaside made national headlines.

According to Linkey, who has been researching her book for three years, the riots started Saturday of Labor Day weekend, and went for about seven hours on Broadway, with the police fighting crowds of unruly youths. "As I understand it, the youngsters wanted a rock-and-roll band to appear on the beach."

When the band was canceled, crowds erupted. "They took the lifeguard tow-

'To me, the Labor Day riot of 1962 had the most devastating effect on the town, because the families just took off. They didn't feel safe.'

Gloria Stiger Linkey



Gloria Stiger Linkey

er down and rolled it down Broadway," Linkey said. "They looted, vandalized and of course our police department — as efficient as they are — were no match for them because it was so small, so help from neighboring cities was called in."

The unease continued through the weekend as more riots followed Sunday night.

"To me, the Labor Day riot of 1962 had the most devastating effect on the town, because the families just took off," Linkey said. "They didn't feel safe."

A downtown revival followed, she said, with the participation of the City Council, Chamber of Commerce and other civic entities. In the 1980s, Quat Park was established, the Prom was fixed up and Downing Street became a pedestrian walkway, she said. The construction of the Civic and Convention Center and the founding of the Sunset Empire Park and Recreation District played a part in the city's revival.

The park and rec district was founded, she added, because without a natatorium along Broadway, residents sought a place to swim other than motels or pri-

vate pools.

Linkey raised her family in South Laguna Beach, California. After the death of her husband, she returned to Seaside, where she has lived since, working in the

insurance business, and for a short period, with the Seaside Signal as an accountant. Her daughter Victoria lives in Mesa, Arizona, and Darci lives in Diamond Bar, California. Linkey's sister, Patricia, is also a Seaside High School grad and lives in California.

Linkey was 83 when she began her career as a published author, publishing "Native American Women: Three Who Changed History." The book tells the tales of Sacagawea, Warkuese and Marie Dorion and their role in the exploration and settlement of the Pacific Northwest.

To conduct research for her Seaside chronicle, Linkey relied on her own memory and newspaper archives.

Looking to the future, Linkey said Seaside's tsunami threat is not a question of if, but when. Although from her home east of the highway, she anticipates "I would probably only get my toes wet," she keeps a go-bag ready.

Her new book is "a labor of love," she said. She plans signings and sales at Beach Books and the Seaside Public Library.

"When I graduated from high school I had one year of college at Oregon State University, I had one thought: get out of Seaside. There was nothing here for young people. It's amazing that we've all got out — and we've all come back."

Annual tea held at the Butterfield Cottage

Tea from Page 1A

could purchase tickets at any of the teas, and the drawing was held Dec. 17.

As with many of the activities and events hosted by the museum, volunteers — including the board members that donate their time to serve the organization — help sustain the Gingerbread Tea from year to year, Reef said. They assist with baking, decorating and serving. In return, Reef said, the organization's hope is people "who find this an important tradition" will donate

or volunteer for the museum.

Reef, who has a love for history, got involved after moving to the area from Boston. She soon discovered that "Seaside has its own fascinating history," especially as the first notable resort town on the coast. The museum, which seeks to preserve and showcase that history, is "a hidden gem," she said, adding she encourages others "who have a love of history and a love of Seaside" to support and be a part of the organization, as well.

Providence Hospital offers community resource desk

Providence Seaside Hospital and Clatsop Community Action, in a community partnership, have opened a community resource desk at the main entrance to the hospital in Seaside.

The services offered include signing up for food stamp benefits, assistance with finding food pantries, locating housing resources, utility and heating assistance, transportation options as well other needed services.

This resource is open to all residents and visitors of Clatsop County and provides a convenient location for all

who live in, or are visiting South Clatsop County. This service is also available in downtown Astoria at the Clatsop Community Action office located at 364 Ninth St.

The Seaside location is staffed by Marcelo Hernandez, a bilingual referral coordinator employed by Clatsop Community Action and funded by Providence Community Health Division. The desk is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and is located in the main lobby of Providence Seaside Hospital, 725 Wahanna Road; 503-717-7176.

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