

St. Joseph Museums April-May-June 2010

Leechia Jones and Leo Blakley Inducted into the Black Archives Hall of Fame



Above: Leechia Jones chats with Jean Brown during the Black Archives Induction reception.

Right: St. Joseph School District Superintendent Melody Smith joined in congratulating long-time educator and former School District Board Member Leo Blakley.



The Black Archives Museum was filled with over 70 well-wishers as Leechia Jones and Leo Blakley were inducted into the Black Archives Hall of Fame, which showcases the achievements of local African Americans. As with previous inductees, Leechia Jones and Leo Blakley are familiar names in the St. Joseph Community. Employed by the Family Guidance Center for the past thirty years, Leechia's many awards include the Distinguished Leadership Award from the

National Association for Community Leadership. Leo Blakley was the first black teacher, coach, building administrator, and board member for the St. Joseph School District. He was elected to serve as Vice President of the School District of St. Joseph in 2002 and as President in 2004.

LaVell and Martin T. Rucker Make Donation to the Black Archives Museum

The Black Archives Museums was honored with the donation of the Carolina Panthers jersey worn by NFL football player Michael Rucker. Rucker, son of LaVell and Martin T. Rucker, grew up in St. Joseph and attended Benton High School. He played football at the University of Nebraska before his professional career with the Carolina Panthers. Along with fellow teammates, he founded the Ruckus House, a child development and learning facility. Their goal is to have a Ruckus House in every NFL team city.



St. Joseph Museums Vice President Lee Sawyer accepts the donation of Mike Rucker's Carolina Panthers jersey from his mother, LaVell Rucker.

Board of Trustees News



Joan Hickman was elected Board of Trustees President January 28 following the annual meeting of the St. Joseph Museums, Inc.

Hickman joined the Board as a Trustee in 2008 and served as Vice President for two years. She has been instrumental in working with community advisory groups to pave the way for exhibit upgrades at both the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion and the Glore Psychiatric Museum.

Her short term goals include: 1. successfully achieving reaccreditation

from the American Association of Museums, and 2. ensuring that museum operations are in line with best practices for nonprofit organizations.

Dr. Phil Acuff recently retired from the Board of Trustees after serving with distinction for 24 years. His service was recognized during the annual meeting. He continues to serve on the Collections Committee.

David Cripe, Community President, UMB, n.a. was elected to the Board of Trustees. Cripe moved to St. Joseph recently from Terre Haute, Indiana, and is already active on several community boards. He has a background in accounting and auditing as well as in banking and finance.

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO TWO OUTGOING OFFICERS

We would like to extend our deepest appreciation to **Merry Burtner** who has completed a very productive term as President of the Board of Trustees. She continues to serve on the Board.

We are also deeply grateful to **Craig Sumner** who has concluded his service as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees. He will continue to serve on the board and contribute his expertise as a member of the Finance Committee.

Wish I May, Wish I Might...

A new vacuum sweeper is now on the Museum "Wish List."

St. Joseph Museums Staff and Trustees

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Sarah Elder.....Curator of Collections
Kathy Reno.....Marketing/Public Relations
Andy Meyer.....Security/Maintenance
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MORE TREASURES APPEAR...

In March the St. Joseph Museums staff presented “Treasures from the Collections,” a two-part series featuring unusual artifacts from the Museum collection. This year each staff person presented at least one item that was of particular interest to them. The treasures included an 1870s Swiss music box, a wedding dress from 1880, an 1868 Bird’s Eye View of St. Joseph print, and molars from a mammoth and a mastodon.

Staff members Kathy Reno and Sarah Elder give members of the audience at least one reason to be grateful for modern technology as they share the facts on how a 1930s gasoline iron was used.



The Museum Staff Welcomes a New Volunteer

The St. Joseph Museum staff welcomed Travis Unzicker to the team this winter. Travis recently graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Rolla. His help as a volunteer has been invaluable. From helping shovel snow to painting and building exhibits, his enthusiasm is contagious and we really appreciate his hard work. Many, many thanks Travis!

Volunteer Travis Unzicker helps staff person Andy Meyer in the construction of a new series of exhibits on the Pony Express.



“Stories in the Stitches” Quilt Crawl

Women’s history and the history of quilting go hand in hand. With that in mind, the first “Stories in the Stitches” quilt exhibit was featured at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion in 2006 in honor of Women’s History Month. The quilt exhibit has become a tradition at the St. Joseph Museum thanks to a partnership with the Piece Corps Quilters Guild of St. Joseph, whose creations are featured during each show. This year the colorful exhibition has expanded to include quilts at the Pony Express Museum and the St. Joseph Museum as well as the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion. The quilt crawl features not only full sized quilts, but many wall hangings and small quilting projects representing both traditional and modern designs. We thank the members of the Guild for sharing their time and talents with all of us in the St. Joseph community and surrounding area.

Piece Corps Quilters Guild members Judy O’Donnell, Barb Wilkerson, Janet Loveless, Vickie Jackson, and Janie Kemp work together to hang the quilt show at the St. Joseph Museum.



New Pony Express Exhibits Open in Honor of 150th Anniversary of the Famous Mail Service



The St. Joseph Museum presents "Riders of the Pony Express," a new exhibit created for the 150th anniversary of the Pony Express. The exhibit features a photo gallery of riders, company founders, and route superintendents along with biographical information; individual exhibits of "What the Riders Carried," "What the Riders Wore," "The United States of 1860," and "The World of the Pony Express Rider." The exhibit also features those who reenacted the Pony Express ride during the 1960 centennial and modern-day reenactment riders in Europe. Artwork of the Pony Express illustrates the Pony Express rider experience.

New and Renewed Members, Donations, & Memorials

December 19, 2009 to March 18, 2010

Renewals

George & Carol Almanza
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Andres
American Family Insurance
Nancy Bechtold
David & Linda Berger
Boehringer Ingelheim
Vetmedica Inc
Donna Jean Boyer
Merry Burtner
Tim Burtner
Jason & Becky Calloway
Nancy Clisbee
Judge Frank Connett
Mr. David Cripe
Tom Duggins
Margaret Easter
Jim Feagins
Gary & Sandy Frazer
Dr. Don & Sheryl Gossett
Mark & Vicki Hargens
Sandra Hamilton
John & Joan Hickman
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Houts, Jr.
George & Charlene Jorgensen
Raymond & Lucinda Kerns
Sharon Kosek
Barbara LaBass
Delia Lamb
Geraldine Lawhon
James A. Lehr
Suzanne Lehr
Robert McCammon
Dr. James McMillen
Susan Meyer
Annette Mitchell – US Bank

Mr. & Mrs. James Murphy
Mrs. Susan Noland
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Nolf
Shalom Parrish
Jane & William Rhule
James & Shirlene Shreckengast
Dorothy Smith
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Stallard
Mrs. June Swift
Charles H. Taylor Memorial Trust
Eleanor Thomas
Mr. & Mrs. Jim Thompson
Staci Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Vetter
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Wade
Robert & Diane Waddell
Susan C. Wagner
Melanie White
Virginia Woodbury
William Wyeth, IV

New Members

Mr. & Mrs. Randy Schultz
Allene Wright

Honorariums

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Burtner in Honor of
Dr. Philip Acuff

Donations

Schultz Family Foundation
Charitable Trust

Memorial

Robert Brown, Jr. in memory of
Marilyn Maxwell

Donations of Equipment

Margaret Elder - Point of Sale
Register System for Museum Store

Mike Hirter Internship Fund

Mr. & Mrs. Tim Burtner

Annual Fund Donors

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Dave & Linda Berger
Donna Jean Boyer
Marilyn Bryan
Emil Sechter - Commerce Bank
N.A.
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Richard & Mignon DeShon
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Judy Sabbert – Heartland Charitable
Foundation
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Dorothy Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Del Sutherland
R.T. and Karen Turner

Calendar of Events

April 15 - Unveiling of Wyeth-Tootle Dining Room, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 1100 Charles St., 5:30 to 7 p.m. Enjoy wine, hors d'oeuvres, and live music as you relive a more elegant time with the unveiling of the beautifully restored Wyeth-Tootle Mansion dining room, which has been completed with the original Wyeth family furnishings. The unveiling is \$75 per person, \$50 per couple, or \$100 to be a Patron. Please R.S.V. P. by calling 816.232.8471.

April 22 - "Attracting Monarch Butterflies to your Garden" (Earth Day Program) - St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., 6 p.m. - Learn how to add the type of plants to your garden to make it Monarch butterfly friendly. Admission is free.

April 23 - Annual Volunteer Luncheon, St. Joseph Museums, 3406 Frederick Ave., 12 p.m. - By Invitation Only

May 5 & 6 - Tulip Time in Pella, Iowa, Two-Day Trip - SOLD OUT. Due to popular demand, this will be an annual St. Joseph Museum trip.

May 15 - Bridal Show and Expo at the Mansion, Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 1100 Charles St., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Stop by our Bridal Expo to preview the area's best wedding products and services. There will be a fashion display, prizes, goodie bags, and participating vendors will show you the latest trends for creating the wedding of your dreams. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$2 for students, and free for museum members.

May 26 - Tomb of Meretites/Ancient Art Galleries & "Deadly Medicine," Daytrip - (See page 6 for all the details.)

May 27 - Second Annual Mah Jongg Party at the Wyeth-Tootle Mansion, 1100 Charles St., 1 to 4 p.m. - Enjoy an afternoon of Mah Jongg at the Mansion with party favors, door prizes, and a buffet luncheon. Reservations are required and they can be made by calling 816.232.8471. Admission is \$15 per person/\$60 per table

June 4 - Sept. 6 - Midwest Mental Health Art Invitational - Glore Psychiatric Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., Features over fifty pieces of for sale art on canvas or paper by area patient/client artists. Regular Admission: \$5 Adults, \$4 Seniors, \$3 Students, and Free for Museum Members.

June 25 - Gold Rush Patron's Party - SAVE THE DATE!

June 26 - Pony Express Family Day, St. Joseph Museum, 3406 Frederick Ave., 12 to 4 p.m. - Features activities related to the Pony Express on the St. Joseph Museum grounds.

St. Joseph Museum
Glore Psychiatric Museum
Black Archives Museum
3406 Frederick, P.O. Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Monday through Saturday 10-5 p.m.
Sunday 1-5 p.m.

Wyeth-Tootle Mansion
1100 Charles St.
P.O. Box 8096
St. Joseph, Missouri 64508
Fri. & Sat. 10-4 p.m., Sun. 1-4 p.m.
Call 816.232.8471

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