HMA President's Message

On August 20, I had the pleasure of going to the home of Jean Greenwell and presenting her with the HMA 2009 Ka Lama award, recognizing a lifetime of outstanding contributions in the museum field. Jean is a founding member of the Kona Historical Society. Her collection of documents related to Kona that she began assembling in the 1950s is now called the Jean Greenwell Research Collection, housed in the Jean Greenwell Library and Archives at Kona Historical Society.

Ordinary lives leave behind a trail of inadvertent mementoes. Who would think that the minutes of a club meeting, the records of a coffee company, or the photos from an old desk drawer would be of such value to people fifty or a hundred years in the future?

Fortunately, people like Jean realize that, together with the memories of the elders, these documents are the means by which generations tell their story to their descendants. It takes an extraordinary person like Jean Greenwell to piece the documents together so that for all the accidental nature of its origin, a coherent and very true story emerges and the past speaks to us. Ka Lama: “torch, light, lamp.” Thanks to Jean Greenwell for illuminating the past of Kona.

Jean Greenwell passed away on Friday, October 16. You can read tributes to her from the community online in at www.westhawaiitoday.com (look in the archives for Oct. 16).

If you have not been to Hawaiian Hall at Bishop Museum since the reopening, put it at the top of your list. The interior, the columns, the cases, the banisters and balustrades are all gleaming beauties now. Thousands of wonderful objects are on display, artfully arranged to inspire, not exhaust. Nearly all of the label copy, especially on the first two floors, is in the words of the people whom the exhibit celebrates, the Hawaiians. Congratulations to my friends and colleagues and everybody who had a part in the renovation for doing a fabulous job.

Peter Van Dyke
President
Volunteers Needed!!

Bishop Museum will host the ASTC Conference for the first time next year October 2010. "This will be a huge event and a tremendous opportunity for Bishop Museum to really showcase the campus, specifically in the sciences."

We expect close to 2,000 guests from around the country and from around the world, and estimate that we will need at least 300 Volunteers for this upcoming event. Please join us! For more information contact Kawehi Brandow (Education-Volunteer Coordinator): kawehi@bishopmuseum.org, 808-847-8239.

What is ASTC? "The Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) is an organization of science centers and museums dedicated to furthering public engagement with science among increasingly diverse audiences. ASTC encourages excellence and innovation in informal science learning by serving and linking its members worldwide and advancing their common goals."

The ASTC 2010 Conference will be held October 2nd thru the 5th at the Honolulu Convention Center and Bishop Museum
Website - http://www.astc.org/

Federal Grant Round-Up!

Hawai’i Congressional Representative Mazie K. Hirono’s office has created a monthly grant newsletter providing the latest information on federal funding opportunities. Billions of dollars in federal competitive grants are distributed every year to local governments, school systems, colleges and universities, and nonprofit organizations. In all, 26 federal agencies facilitate more than a thousand grant programs in various categories. Maneuvering through all of the grant information can be challenging, confusing, and time-consuming. This easy-to-use online newsletter is organized by federal department. To locate the grant summary important to you, simply click on the appropriate link listed in the INDEX, and it will direct you to the selected section. From there, links to applications and agencies facilitate the process. Updates will also be posted on the "Help with Federal Grants" page on her website. There you will find information on federal funding sources, tips on how to write a grant proposal, as well as how to track federal funds.

Hirono encourages feedback and that if submitting a grant proposal, to let her Hawaii office know.

To sign up for this Grant Newsletter, please visit www.hirono.house.gov or http://www.hirono.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Grants September09.doc

Institute for Museums & Library Services

As an example this entry was found on Hirono’s online newsletter -

Museums for America is the Institute’s largest grant program for museums, supporting projects and ongoing activities that build museums’ capacity to serve their communities.

Museums for America grants strengthen a museum’s ability to serve the public more effectively by supporting high-priority activities that advance the institution’s mission and strategic goals. Museums for America grants are designed to be flexible: funds can be used for a wide variety of projects, including: ongoing museum work, research and other behind-the-scenes activities, planning, new programs, purchase of equipment or services, and activities that will support the efforts of museums to upgrade and integrate new technologies.

Grants are awarded in the following categories: Engaging Communities (Education, Exhibitions, and Interpretation); Building Institutional Capacity (Management, Policy, and Training); and Collections Stewardship.

There will be approximately 150 awards ranging from $5,000 to $15,000.

Deadline: November 2, 2009
www.imls.gov

THADDEUS BLOG

Mission Houses Museum announces a virtual exhibit that follows the daily journal entries of the ship Thaddeus and the First Company of New England missionaries on its journey to Hawai’i. Visit www.thaddeusjournal.org

Conservation on a Grand Scale

The “Mighty Mo” is spending 3 months in dry dock undergoing $18 million in maintenance and repairs. The 887-foot memorial and museum has unique issues being that it sits in the ocean and requires the normal hull maintenance of any seaworthy vessel. Four tugboats were used to guide the Missouri two miles from its home on Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor to dry dock. The vessel, weighing 54,889 tons, was placed on 310 wooden blocks. After the marine growth is removed, the hull will be sandblasted and painted by BAE Systems Ship Repair. The massive battleship has eight acres of surface that needs preservation and there will be from 300-400 people working on the project almost around the clock with 90 percent of the workforce from Hawai’i. The ship is scheduled to return to its moorings on January 7.

The 65-year-old warship, now called the Battleship Missouri Memorial, is best known as the site of the formal ceremony of Japan’s surrender, ending WWII.

The USS Missouri Memorial Association now operates the ship. More than 400,000 visitors tour the vessel each year and interest seems to be growing. The ship had a record 49,856 visitors in July.
NATIONAL NEWS

AASLH Workshops

AASLH is dedicated to providing you with the latest and greatest learning opportunities available that will directly impact the way you and your history organization operate. Check out what's coming soon!

Basics of Archives: Online Workshop!
www.aaslh.org/basics ofarchives.htm
Dates: Anytime between October 19 through November 29, 2009.
Time/Duration: 15-20 hours
Learn the core aspects of managing and protecting historical records and collections using appropriate principles and best practices. You'll learn how to acquire your collections, process, house items, and more!
Cost: $85 members/$150 nonmembers Become a member and SAVE $65

Exhibit Makeovers
www.aaslh.org/Exhibit Makeovers.htm
Date: February 18-19, 2010
San Antonio, Texas

Improve your exhibits by bringing objects, images, and ideas to life for visitors through storytelling, diverse media, and learning opportunities. Discover what you need to know about exhibit planning, organization, text writing, and design that will engage multiple intelligences.
Cost: $250 members/$315 nonmembers Become a member and SAVE $65

Museum Education 101
www.aaslh.org/mused101.htm
Dates: March 11-12, 2010
Tempe, AZ

Improving museum educators through hands-on training and case studies. Improve volunteer management, docent training, tour techniques, active learning with people of all ages, developing exhibits, on-line education, and working with others to build exceptional education programs!
Cost: $250 members / $315 nonmembers Become a member and SAVE $65
For more information on AASLH Workshops, contact Bethany Hawkins, Program Associate, at 615-320-3203 or by email at hawkins@aaslh.org

Connecting To Collections Bookshelf
Application Round for Living Collections Only!

The Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and AASLH are holding a special competition for the living collection edition of the Connecting to Collections Bookshelf from October 19 through November 20, 2009. IMLS designed this set of conservation resources specifically for institutions that care for plants and animals, including zoos, aquariums, arboretas, botanical gardens, nature centers, and historic houses/sites with living collections. Institutions that do not care for plants or animals, or institutions that have already received the Bookshelf are not eligible to apply.

AASLH is proud to partner with IMLS in this program and will manage the application process and the distribution of the Bookshelf to the awardees. Please direct to Terry Jackson at AASLH by phone 615-320-3203 or at jackson@aaslh.org.

Museums & Libraries Meet Lifelong Learning Needs for 21st Century Learners

As part of its mission to engage libraries and museums, community stakeholders and policy makers at the national, state and local level in a concerted effort to meet the educational, economic, civic, and cultural needs of communities, IMLS is releasing Museums, Libraries and 21st Century Skills. The website provides a quick online assessment for libraries and museums to evaluate their readiness to engage the public and to deliver 21st century skills, a downloadable PDF of the report, and an in-depth assessment matrix for library and museum practitioners and policy makers.

Good News for Federal Funding of Arts & Humanities

The House and Senate passed a budget increase in late October for the National Endowment for the Arts and for the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Interior Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2010 sets budgets for each agency at $167.5 million, up $12.5 million from last year. President Obama is expected to sign the bill into law.

The NEA is currently funded at $155 million, and the White House had requested an increase to $161 million. The agency received an additional $50 million through the stimulus bill. This summer, the House approved $170 million for the arts endowment, while the Senate proposed $161.3 million. The final budget was passed by a vote of 247-178 in the House and 72-28 in the Senate.

“This important budget increase recognizes the essential role the arts play in our lives, schools, and communities,” said Robert L. Lynch, president and chief of Americans for the Arts, an advocacy group, in a statement.

Grant Deadline
Deadline: November 20, 2009
AASLH/IMLS - Bookshelf Opportunity (for living institutions only)
www.aaslh.org/Bookshelf

Deadline: November 30, 2009
AAM/IMLS - Museum Assessment Program
www.imls.gov

Deadline: December 1, 2009
Heritage Preservation/IMLS - Conservation Assessment Program
www.heritagepreservation.org

Deadline: December 1, 2009
Preserve America - Preserve America Steward
www.preserveamerica.gov

Deadline: December 8, 2009
NEH - Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections
www.neh.gov

Deadline: December 15, 2009
IMLS Connecting to Collections - Statewide Implementation Grants
www.imls.gov
Winter ‘09–‘10 Calendar

NOVEMBER
2  Deadline Museums for America, ILMS grant program application due.
20  ILMS Connecting to Collections (living collections) bookcase application due.
29  Last day to participate in Basics of Archives, online AASLH Workshop.
30  AAM/ILMS Museum Assessment Program application due.

DECEMBER
1  Preserve America/Preserve America Steward applications due.
8   NEH Sustaining Cultures/Heritage Collection applications due.
15  ILMS - Connecting to Collections - Statewide Implementation of Grants Program

FEBRUARY
18-19  AASLH Exhibit Maker Workshop, San Antonio, TX
MARCH
11-12  AASLH Museum Education 101 Workshop, Tempe, AZ
MAY
21  Hawai‘i Museums Association Annual Meeting. Ford Island Conference Center, Honolulu, HI

The Hawai‘i Museums Association is a nonprofit corporation dedicated to communication and cooperation among the staffs and supporters of Hawai‘i’s museums. Membership, subject to approval by the HMA Board, is open to all individuals, educational institutions, historical organizations and museums interested in the growth and development of the museum professionals and its activities in the State of Hawai‘i. Individual memberships: Students $15, Out-of-State $20, Single $35 per year, Dual $65. For institutional rates and applications please refer to the website at www.hawaiimuseums.org. For correspondence: Hawai‘i Museums Association, P.O. Box 4125, Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96812-4125.

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Niihou is the quarterly newsletter of the Hawai‘i Museums Association which carries articles of professional interest to HMA members. Submissions to Niihou are welcome, subject to editing, and should be received c/o HMA at the above address by January 20, April 20, July 20, and October 20. Photos and artwork are welcome and encouraged. HMA reserves the right to accept, reject and edit all submissions.