



WILLAMETTE HERITAGE CENTER
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

24th Annual Heritage Awards to feature stories of Mid-Willamette Valley residents past and present

Salem, OR- The Willamette Heritage Center's *24th Annual Heritage Awards* will feature oral histories from several prominent members from our region's past. Guests will enjoy a cocktail hour, dinner, award ceremony, and a program featuring audio recordings of a number of mid-valley luminaries. The night will be highlighted by the first ever public viewing of our exclusive oral history film with the legendary Gerry Frank.

The award ceremony will honor those who have made significant contributions to preserving and interpreting the Mid-Willamette Valley's history with the presentation of four different awards:

1. **David Duniway Lifetime Historian Award:** This honor recognizes distinguished and long-term contributions by an individual or organization to the public understanding and appreciation of the cultural history of the community and the Willamette Valley through teaching, writing, research, or historic preservation.
2. **Heritage Education Award:** This award recognizes programs, projects and other endeavors that have provided high quality history-focused educational opportunities to area residents for any age group or a wide range of age groups.
3. **Heritage Enterprise Award:** This award recognizes a business enterprise which has made significant long-term contributions to the economy and quality of life of the community.
4. **George Strozut Award for Preservation:** The George Strozut Award of Merit for Preservation is named in honor of a man who served two terms as President of the Marion County Historical Society and advocated for historic preservation for more than forty years. It is awarded in recognition for many years of advocating for historic preservation.

Please join us in celebrating the tremendous achievements of these individuals and organizations, and learn more about our history in the process.

Event Details:

Date: Friday, April 1, 2016

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm

Location: The Spinning Room at the Willamette Heritage Center

Tickets are \$35 for WHC members, \$40 for non-members, or reserve a table of eight for \$280.

Tickets can be purchased at willametteheritage.org, or by contacting Michelle Cordova at michellec@willametteheritage.org, or (503) 585-7012 ext. 228.

About the Willamette Heritage Center:

The Willamette Heritage Center connects generations by preserving and interpreting the history of the Mid-Willamette Valley. The fourteen historic structures on site house permanent and changing exhibits, a research library and archive, textile learning center, and rentable event spaces. The five-acre campus is also home to a café, retail shops, art galleries, cooperative artist studios, and offices run by our partner organizations.

Early settlement buildings take visitors back to the 1840s, when Euro-American missionaries and immigrants settled in the Mid-Willamette Valley, home of the Kalapuya. The 1841 Jason Lee House and Methodist Parsonage are the oldest standing wooden frame houses in the Pacific Northwest, featured along with the John D. Boon House (1847) and Pleasant Grove Church (1854), built by Oregon Trail immigrants. The 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, a National Park Service-designated American Treasure, vividly tells the story of industrialization in the Mid-Willamette Valley. Experience work and life in what was once a leading textile factory in Oregon, the legacy of which is continued today by Pendleton Woolen Mills. Changing exhibitions at the Willamette Heritage Center explore and highlight the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the Mid-Willamette Valley.

The Willamette Heritage Center (WHC) is a private, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization formed from the merger of the Mission Mill Museum and the Marion County Historical Society. It continues their legacy through a mission to preserve and interpret the history of the Mid-Willamette Valley. WHC promotes diversity and prohibits discrimination on the basis of age, color, creed, disability, gender identity, national/ethnic origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, veteran/uniform status, and all other classifications protected by law. WHC is not owned or operated by any government agency and is supported through grant funding, private donations, business operations, and its membership. To become a member, visit <http://willametteheritage.org/membership.html>.