

THE ONTARIO MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART

The Ontario Museum of History & Art is a public-private institution operated by the City of Ontario with support from the non-profit Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to providing support for the programs of the Ontario Museum of History & Art. The Associates provide volunteer staffing, raise funds through membership dues, individual donations, grant-writing, and operation of the museum store.

This newsletter is prepared by the Museum Associates.



ONTARIO
MUSEUM
OF HISTORY & ART
ASSOCIATES

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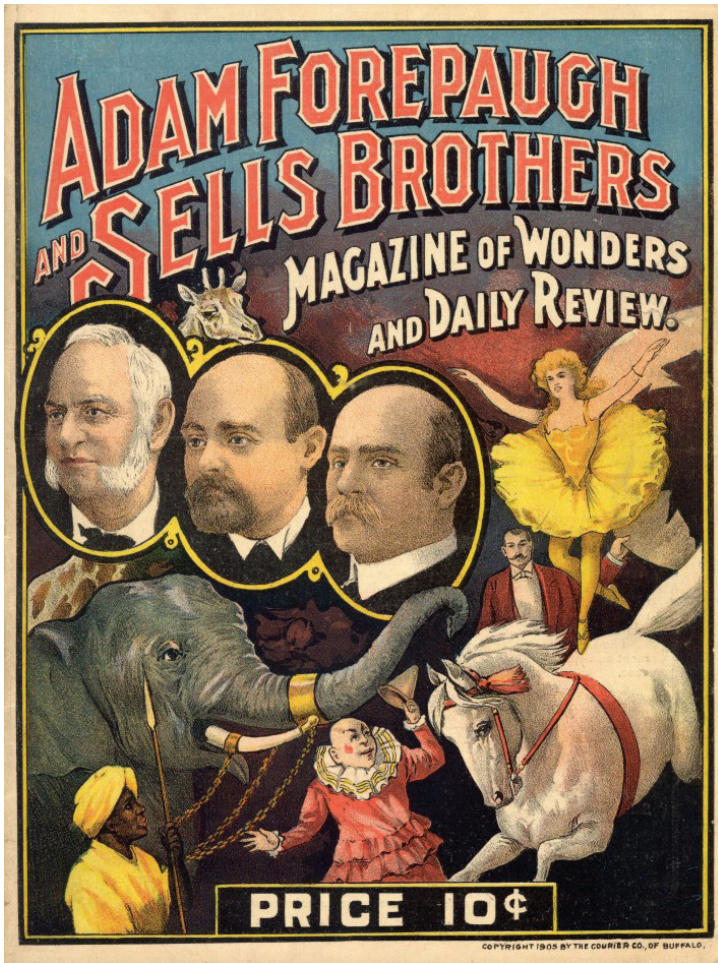
STEP RIGHT UP! BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CIRCUS BIG TOP, 1890 – 1965

February 4, 2016 – March 13, 2016

Take a look at one of America's oldest theatrical traditions with the upcoming exhibition, *Step Right Up! Behind the Scenes of the Circus Big Top, 1890–1965*. This traveling exhibit explores a history fraught with intrigue and majesty and gives viewers their chance to run away with the circus. *Step Right Up!* takes viewers behind the scenes of the circus, exploring the dramatic pageantry, colorful past, and living presence of this grand American theatrical tradition.

The Big Top was a thrilling spectacle that burst into towns along the American road and railways. Traveling from coast to coast, the circus brought a much needed escape to millions of Americans. The exhibition highlights how the fantasy of circus life was both an alternate reality and a vision founded in truth. Visit the museum before the train pulls out of the station and learn about one of America's oldest theatrical traditions. The Ontario Museum of History & Art will be highlighting the Big Top with free programs focusing on the culture of the circus.

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The exhibition is toured by ExhibitsUSA, a national program of Mid-America Arts Alliance, in collaboration with the Tegge Circus Archives.

Top: Adam Forepaugh and Sells Brothers, Magazine of Wonders and Daily Review, circus program, 1911, color lithograph cover, collection Tegge Circus Archives.

Bottom: AL. G. Barnes Wild Animal Circus (The Fearless Mabel Stark) window card, c. 1932, lithograph, collection Tegge Circus Archives



Highlights from the Collection

Sunday, March 20, 2016

(2 PM to 3:30 PM)

By Michelle Sifuentes

Highlights from the Collection is a quarterly series when we take items from our permanent collection out of storage and discuss them with the public. *Highlights* is a great chance for the public to see what we have “stashed” away in our collection storage.

March is Woman’s History Month and in celebration of that our next *Highlights from the Collection* will focus on the women of Ontario. We will be discussing the women of General Electric and Hotpoint, different women’s clubs, and influential women of Ontario, such as former Councilwoman, one of the key people behind the creation of the Ontario Museum of History & Art, Faye Myers Dastrup-Hamill. Come learn more on March 20, 2015 at 2:00 PM in the former City Council Chambers named after Faye Myers Dastrup-Hamill, at the museum. Reservation required. For more information call (909) 395-2510.



G.E. bowling team. Photo courtesy of the Ontario Museum of History & Art.

Save the Date: Fundraiser

April 2016

16

(4 PM to 8:00 PM)

By Cherry Dobbs and Leslie Sherwood-James

Evening for Educators: Let's Go On A Road Trip!

Thursday, February 18, 2016

(4 PM to 5:30 PM)

By Rebecca Horta

People traveled to California via covered wagons on overland routes. Over 20,000 people took the Overland Trail to California in 1849 and it could take 4-6 months to make the trip. By the early 1900s people were making the same trip in cars along Route 66, the Mother Road. This special edition of *Evenings for Educator: Let's go on a Road Trip* will give teachers an opportunity to take a docent-led tour of the exhibit *Road Ways* and receive an Educator Packet and lessons related to the exhibition with adaptation for multiple ages. Educators will participate in a mini workshop and will create their own zine. The main themes are anchored in history and social studies with a special focus on Language Arts and the Common Core.

Learn about the museum's core exhibition *Road Ways* which highlights westward expansion, historic Route 66, and an ever-changing Ontario. Create a zine, handmade book for students to document their neighborhood. Meet the Curator of Education Rebecca Horta and volunteer docents who give free tours to students and local groups. Free Admission. Reservations required. For more information call (909) 395-2510.

Planning for our Biannual Fundraiser is almost complete. It is shaping up to be a wonderful evening celebrating the 125th year of the founding of Ontario. It will be a very special evening with music from some of our Chaffey Joint Union High School District students, a talk on the history of the founding of the city by local expert Joe Blackstock, a delicious buffet dinner, and lots of silent auction opportunities as well as a well-stocked raffle. We will celebrate the event with a birthday cake, of course.

In celebrating the wonderful city that we live in, we are also supporting the many educational programs at the museum. The Museum Associates provide financial support for the museum's educational programs, docent program, community outreach, and the Museum Store. These programs serve community groups and school age children.

You can help us with these vital programs by attending the fundraiser. Your invitation will arrive in the mail sometime in March. We would love to celebrate the birthday with you at our old fashioned block party on Emporia Street. Mark your calendar now.

“In celebrating the wonderful city that we live in, we are also supporting the many educational programs at the museum.”

Public Art

By John Worden

The Civic Center Community Conservation Park is now open to the public. The park, adjacent to City Hall, features an amazing variety of hands on activities and fun for people of all ages. The park features water conserving plantings and landscaping, as well as energy conservation. In the midst of all this activity, Ontario Museum of History & Art has had the pleasure of helping to facilitate the creation of two works of public art. *The Moment* is a sculpture by artist Dan Romero, made with predominantly recycled metal. The sculpture features a tower made out of Corten Steel, which forms a natural patina of rust. At the top, stainless steel abstract bird-shapes are perfectly balanced on fulcrums, moving outwards from the center of the sculpture. The slightest breeze creates a movement of the four birds, each at its own measure and pace.

The second work of public art, by Ontario artist Andrea Benitez, features three sections of astrological figures, applied to tiles on the seatbacks of an arching bench. The bench forms a semi-circle around the sundial floor tiles, with the astrological characters forming a complementary backdrop. Andrea's work is done in a classical style of drawing, and nearby signage gives a description of each character of the zodiac.



Artist Dan Romero and wife stand under his creation, *The Moment*.



Artist Andrea Benitez and a section of her tile design for the 'moon benches' at the Civic Center Community Conservation Park.

Docent Training Begins in April 2016

Are you passionate about local history and art and love sharing your interests with others? Are you an energetic and eager learner? If so, the Ontario Museum of History & Art has a great opportunity for you. Docents are trained volunteers who provide essential group learning experiences by leading museum tours and visiting local schools.

As a docent you will learn about the exciting history and art that makes Ontario, and the surrounding area, so unique. If you or anyone you know is interested in docent training, please contact the Curator of Education, Rebecca Horta at (909) 395-2515 or rhorta@ci.ontario.ca.us.



From the Director

By John Worden

Here at the museum we take our role as a community partner seriously and we work together with our fellow cultural organizations whenever we can. One way to do that is through reciprocal memberships, for each cultural organization to show support and share information with one another. The Ontario Museum of History & Art has joined Ontario Heritage and Chaffey Community Museum of Art in establishing reciprocal memberships. Each organization's board of directors has unanimously voted to approve mutual institutional memberships, and we are now more closely united in working together to promote arts, culture, and history for our members, supporters, and the public.

Community partnering runs throughout what we do, and it begins with our planning. Our strategic plan has three directions – Presenting a Dynamic Experience, Enhancing the Physical Environment, and Engaging our Diverse Communities. Board of Trustees, Museum Associates board members, and museum staff are participating in the committees devoted to mapping out and acting on each of our strategic directions. The groups are actively encouraging feedback from members of the community. If you have any suggestions of how the museum can grow and better serve as a community partner, we would love to hear from you. Please contact me directly, jworden@ci.ontario.ca.us, and I would be happy to respond directly.

Reciprocal Memberships

From Chaffey Community Museum of Art

Recently the City of Ontario established an Arts and Culture Strategic Planning Initiative to help Ontarians love their city even more. The new website, *Ontario Arts and Culture* (<http://ontarioarts.org/>) shows all the arts, culture and history venues and events within Ontario. OMHA, CCMA and Ontario Heritage have been actively participating in the launch of the Arts and Culture Strategic Planning Initiative. Out of this came an idea to recognize the common goals of the three organizations. Accordingly, all three organizations have adopted resolutions establishing a formal affiliation with the other two in the form of reciprocal institutional membership. This is a public statement by each organization of our shared interest in helping Ontarians love their city.

CCMA's connection to OMHA is significant. Beginning in 1978, CCMA provided the art exhibits for OMHA. At that time, CCMA was co-located with OMHA in the historic Ontario city hall building. In 2000, CCMA moved to the J. Filippi Winery to explore the synergy between wine and art. In 2013, CCMA returned to Ontario and is now located in the historic 1919 Ontario Power Company Building directly across Lemon Street from OMHA. The early relationship between OMHA and CCMA and the mutual goal of promoting arts and culture in the city provide a strong foundation for present and future collaboration.

From Ontario Heritage

Ontario Heritage is proud and excited to be affiliated with the Ontario Museum of History & Art and the Chaffey Community Museum of Art (CCMA) through reciprocal membership. One of Ontario Heritage's main goals is to keep the history of Ontario alive for its residents and visitors. To help us achieve this goal we have recurring events that tie in permanent exhibits at both Ontario museums: Road Ways and the Line Gallery, from the collections of CCMA.

We have an annual historic cemetery tour, an annual walking tour through the historic streets of Ontario and a biennial homes tour through one of our seven designated historic districts. We share information about original business owners, early settlers and the various styles of architecture that enhance our local buildings.

Ontario Heritage also holds quarterly meetings and potlucks, participates in several local events and continues to actively raise awareness of the rich heritage of our Model Colony. Don't forget to visit the Model Colony Room located downstairs in the Ovitt Family Community Library in Ontario. They carry vast and fascinating information of the early history of Ontario dating back to 1882.

“Ontario Heritage also holds quarterly meetings and potlucks, participates in several local events and continues to actively raise awareness of the rich heritage of our Model Colony.”

New Board of Trustee

At its December meeting, the Ontario Museum of History & Art Board of Trustees welcomed its newest member, Kimberly Wingert. Kim's family has been in Ontario for three generations, and her love for the community is abundantly clear. A graduate of Chaffey High School, Kim majored in art history at Scripps College. Kim is a confessed collector of Plein Air painting ("I can't help myself," she reports), and also enjoys quilting and its history, especially American Patchwork. Kim is already committed to volunteering to train as a museum docent, and with her love of community and the folk arts, she has already become an active contributor to our museum. Welcome Kim!

Event and Program Calendar

January

Exhibit CLOTH DOLLS TELL THEIR STORIES	Thursday, December 3, 2015 through Sunday, February 7, 2016
EXHIBIT RECEPTION: CLOTH DOLLS TELL THEIR STORIES	Saturday, January 23, 2016 (5 PM to 7 PM) RSVP
DOLL WORKSHOP WITH GUEST CURATOR PATTI CULEA	Thursday, January 28, 2016 (6 PM to 8 PM) RSVP

February

Exhibit STEP RIGHT UP: BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE CIRCUS	Thursday, February 4 through Sunday, March 13, 2016
LUNAR NEW YEAR EXPERIENCE	Saturday, February 6, 2016 (Noon to 4 PM) FREE
PREPARE TO BE MYSTIFIED! WITH ILLUSIONIST ALLEN OSHIRO	Saturday, February 13, 2016 (1 PM to 2 PM) RSVP
EVENING FOR EDUCATORS: LET'S GO ON A ROAD TRIP!	Thursday, February 18, 2016 (4 PM to 5:30 PM) RSVP
FILM SCREENING: DUMBO	Saturday, February 20, 2016 (2:30 PM to 4:30 PM) RSVP
CIRCUS POSTER PRESENTATION AND CIRCUS DIORAMA	Saturday, February 27, 2016 (2 PM to 4 PM) RSVP

March

FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY: CIRCUS SPECTACULAR!	Saturday, March 12, 2016 (Noon to 4 PM) FREE
HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COLLECTION: THE WOMEN OF ONTARIO	Sunday, March 20, 2016 (2 PM to 3:30 PM) RSVP

For more information on exhibits, programs and events or to make a reservation please call: (909) 395-2510.

ONTARIO MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART MEMBERSHIP

New Renewal

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Category (check one): Student \$15 Individual: \$25 Family: \$35

Contributor: \$100 Corporate: \$500 Benefactor: \$1,000+

All Museum members receive:

- Personalized Membership Card
- Subscription to the Associates' quarterly newsletter
- 10% discount on all purchases from the Museum Store
- Invitations to member events
- Discounts on selected programs and special events
- and much more

Clip this and send it with your check for membership. Mail to: The Ontario Museum of History & Art, 225 South Euclid Avenue, CA 91762. Please make checks payable to the Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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Ontario Museum of History & Art
225 South Euclid Avenue
Ontario, CA 91762

Museum hours: noon - 4 PM
Thurs. - Sun
Admission Free
Office hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.
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Fax: (909) 983-8978