

East County Historical Organization Presents...

# REFLECTIONS



## ECHO Presents Levy Successes to Community Leaders & Influencers

Over the last few months, ECHO's very own Board President, Twila Mysinger, was asked to share with our county's commissioners and local newspaper editorial boards how funds from the Oregon Historical Society Levy has impacted the four east county historical organizations - Crown Point Country, ECHO, Gresham and Troutdale.



Twila Mysinger

She eloquently described what the funding has meant to all of us over the past five years and the successes we have accomplished.

From our joint statement...We are so grateful to Multnomah County residents for their support. All four of us truly view the Levy as a 'game-changer' – which allowed us to spend more time on our core missions, complete waiting projects, and grow in ways we would never have been able to do five years ago.

*Continued on page 4...*

## Oregon Historical Society Levy Renewal Facts *Supporting Local Area Historical Societies*

Your Multnomah County May 2016 ballot will include the Oregon Historical Society Levy 26-174, which provides continued funding for their educational and cultural preservation programs, including free admission to school groups and Multnomah County residents, preservation of cultural documents/artifacts, and exhibits/services that reflect the diverse histories of our region in order to engage all parts of our county. *Continued on page 6...*



Zimmerman House  
Museum & Gardens



Fairview Jail



Heslin House Museum  
& Gardens

### ECHO Museum and Jail Tours

Saturdays | May 21 & June 18 | Noon - 4pm  
Visit [www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org) for More Details

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## Director's Message



Danielle Utter

Greetings from my new office in the Heslin House Museum. I'm writing this on my first official day on-site, and I'm overlooking the lovely springtime garden, watching the rolling trucks go by. Never knew how busy the street was until now - the whole house shakes.

Not only is the garden blooming, but also ECHO's plans for the upcoming year. Board members and I are busy planning new events/activities and getting me up to speed on all levels. As some of you know, my position went full-time in March and I now have the space to truly bring all of my skills and know-how to this organization. Such an exciting time!

One of my goals has already been met. Given my current location, the Heslin House Museum will now be open to the public 5 days a week. From Tuesday to Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm (unless I have a meeting), and you can now explore our exhibits on self-guided tours. You can even stop by and say hello. I have yet to meet many of you, and I would love to make your acquaintance. Be sure to look out for our new "Open" flag waving in the wind to make sure I'm here. Guided tours of the house and Fairview jail are still every third Saturday of the month, and we are currently seeking more volunteers during the week. Please contact me if you or someone you know is interested in joining our team.

In the coming months, be on the lookout for ECHO's new digital mailings. Yep, we are slowly, but surely, catching up with the times. We will be sending out news, event and volunteer information, plus connecting you with historical events/happenings locally and across the state. I promise to not inundate you with needless information, and hope this new format builds our audience. Like I said, this is an exciting time for ECHO, and I know this journey will be grand.

Have any questions for me? Contact me directly at 503-806-2868 or [dutter@echohistory.org](mailto:dutter@echohistory.org). I'm at your disposal.

### ECHO Board of Directors

Twila Mysinger, President  
Dodi Davies, Vice President  
Jana Brey, Secretary  
Pat Reardon, Treasurer  
Tom Dooley, Position I  
Peggy Olin, Position II  
Ellen Dooley, Position III  
Vacant, Position IV  
Stephanie Graves, Position V  
Lael Larger, Position VI  
Vacant, Position VII

*Interested in becoming an ECHO board member? Contact us today.*

### Volunteer Leads

Lael Larger, Heslin House Gardens  
Peggy Olin, Zimmerman House Gardens

### ECHO Personnel

Danielle Utter, Executive Director

*Everyone is invited to...*

## ECHO's Annual Meeting

**May 22 | 1:00 - 4:00pm**  
**Quail Hollow Clubhouse**  
**21100 NE Sandy Blvd**  
**Fairview, OR 97024**

Join us for our yearly volunteer recognition ceremony, officer elections, and our monthly board meeting where guest speaker, Bradley Richardson, Curator at Clark County Historical Museum, will discuss researching the history of properties, houses, & buildings.

**RSVP at [info@echohistory.org](mailto:info@echohistory.org) or call 503-618-0946 today!**

*Refreshments will be served.*

## Did You Enjoy ECHO's Victorian Valentine's Tea?

We sure did! Over 35 people joined us for our 3rd annual event, and we could not be more excited and pleased with how everything went.

Even our raffle was a smash, especially as there was one lucky lady who had most of the winning tickets.



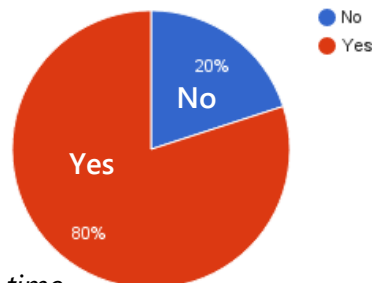
All of us here at ECHO would like to thank each of our tea participants for joining us, and we know they had a great time. Check out their survey results below.

*Many attendees hope to join us again next year!*

### Overall Rating



### First-time Attendee



*We were also excited to see how many first-time attendees joined us this year.*

Special shout-outs and appreciation go out to our wonderful volunteers for making this event happen. Especially to Peggy Olin, her family, and Twila Mysinger, for going above and beyond. We could not have done it without all of you. Many thanks also go out to our sponsors (Al's Garden Center, Fred Meyers, Quail Hollow & Shirley's Tippy Canoe) and ECHO donors who provided the space, food, decorations, and raffle prizes.



Next year promises to be bigger and better, so mark your calendars for the second weekend of February. Also, be on the lookout for other events and happenings this year. We definitely have more in store!

Are you on our e-mailing list? If not, send an email to [info@echohistory.org](mailto:info@echohistory.org) and subscribe to get our event announcements.

*You've been generous*

## THANK YOU DONORS!

### General Fund

Jerry & Judy Craig  
 Vinnie Hammond  
 John Fagan & Jo Ann Reese  
 Clarence & Edythe Reuter  
 David Stone

### Rebuild the Bunkhouse

Ralph & Kathie Minden

### Zimmerman House Museum

Evelyn DeYoung's Estate  
 Larry and Alice Leeper  
*(In memory of Evelyn DeYoung & Margaret "Keata" Maggy)*  
 Dave & Judy Lenhart  
*(In memory of Evelyn DeYoung)*  
 George McDade

### Heslin House Utility Sponsor

Jerry & Judy Craig

### Zimmerman Utility Sponsor

Fred & Rita Aegerter  
 Evelyn DeYoung's Estate  
 Leland and Mary Lou Johnson  
 George McDade  
 Sharon Nesbit  
 Wooddale Windows

### In-Kind Donations

Lael Larger  
 George McDade  
 Linda McNerney  
 Twila Mysinger  
 Peggy Olin  
 Danielle Utter



## **WORLD WAR II EXHIBIT ON NOW - *REPORT FOR DUTY***

Heslin House Museum | Tuesday - Saturday | 10am -4pm  
503-618-0946 | [www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org)

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## **Levy Success Continued**

While the specifics vary by group, the Levy funds have been used in common categories:

- Hiring staff and consultants to elevate and better administer our organizations. This, in turn, has helped us to expand museum hours and services for the public.
- Crown Point Country was able to purchase land for their Interpretive Center, and are partnering with the Wasco people to interpret their heritage. They also plan on building a replica of a long house on the site.
- Engaging architects and other professionals to design new spaces - such as Crown Point Country's new building and plans for ECHO's historical bunkhouse rebuild.
- Infrastructure improvements like new heating/cooling systems for better collections management, lighting fixtures for exhibits, and barn roofs to keep them all nice and dry.
- Major new exhibits were completed like Troutdale's King of Roads and their participation in their City's new Visionary Park was made possible.
- Programs are in development and have been deployed - such as Gresham's beginning genealogy classes.
- Investment in technology, which was used to better reach, interest and engage our communities in their history.
- Plus, the levy funded much needed contingency/rainy day accounts.

Above all, it gave us a chance to catch our breath. For Twila, a long-time ECHO volunteer, she's appreciated the opportunity to actually get to do the work that drew her to ECHO in the first place. Sharon Nesbit, Troutdale's Board Vice President and long-time ECHO Member, mirrored her sentiments, "When you are always pulling yourself out of a hole, it's hard to realize the ultimate goal. Having some kind of financial cushion to cover basic needs has meant so much."

We all would like to thank the Multnomah County Commissioners, the Tax Supervising & Conservation Commission, and the Oregonian's and Pamplin Media Group's Editorial Boards for meeting with levy representatives.

In May 2016, the Oregon Historical Society Levy (Measure 26-174) is up for renewal. To find out more information, check out the "Yes for Oregon History" website at [www.yesfororegonhistory.com](http://www.yesfororegonhistory.com) and their Facebook page.

## ***ECHO's Mission***

**We preserve and stimulate an interest in the history of the Fairview, Rockwood, and Wilkes areas of East Multnomah County, Oregon. Our goal is to ensure that future generations of these three areas do not lose touch with their past.**





**Heslin House Museum  
House Hosts & Docents**  
Tues- Sat | 10am - 4pm  
&  
Saturdays, Noon - 4pm  
May 21 | June 18

**Zimmerman House Museum  
House Hosts & Docents**  
Saturdays, Noon - 4pm  
May 21 | June 18

**Heslin House Museum  
Garden Club**  
Saturdays, 9am – Noon  
May 7 | June 4 | July 2

**Zimmerman House Museum  
Garden Club**  
Saturdays, 9am - Noon  
May 14 | June 11 | July 9

**ECHO Board Meetings  
Members at Large**  
Mondays, 6:30-8:00pm  
May 22 | June 27 | July 25

Help history come alive for our community by joining a growing volunteer team.

Contact [info@echohistory.org](mailto:info@echohistory.org) for more info.

## Buttery Goodbye

Nature has finally taken a toll on the Zimmerman Heritage Farm's buttery. Over the last month or so, this out building has almost completely fallen down. She stood for well over a hundred years, and we now must say adieu. Oh buttery, how we will miss you!

ECHO is currently formulating a thoughtful demolition plan, and is seeking community members and resources to assist us in this project. Call 503-618-0946 or email our Executive Director at [dutter@echohistory.org](mailto:dutter@echohistory.org) to get involved.



## Join Our Board!

We are looking for community members, history enthusiasts, and skilled professionals of all talents to be ECHO mission supporters and advocates.

As a member, you oversee organizational management/planning, preservation efforts, fundraising, and more. Board positions range from one to two-year terms with a commitment of approximately 8-10 hours per month.

We are looking to grow and diversify our board. Contact our Executive Director for more information and an application.

## Looking for a Few Good Interns



Are you a student or recent graduate looking for real-world museum experience?

If so, then ECHO has some exciting opportunities waiting for you.

Check out our News page at [www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org) for full descriptions and how to apply.

Three internship positions available: Volunteer/Membership Services, Inventory Assistant, and Collections/Exhibition.

## ECHO In the Community - Oregon History Day

On Saturday, April 23, our very own Executive Director became judge for a day when she joined the Oregon Historical Society at Oregon History Day. This local competition of the national event, encourages middle and high school students to become historians by developing their research, analysis, and presentation skills.

For Danielle's section, she helped preside over the middle school individual and high school group website projects. They were all fascinating topics that related to the annual theme of Encounter, Exchange, & Explore. From Eva Perón to the Bangladesh Liberation War, the students did a phenomenal job and the top two from each group will get to move onto the national stage.

We would like to thank the Oregon Historical Society for organizing this amazing event and allowing us to take part. For more on Oregon History Day visit [www.ohs.org/education/oregon-history-day](http://www.ohs.org/education/oregon-history-day).

## Levy Renewal Facts Continued

Plus, the levy provides continued support for the four smaller East Multnomah County Historical Societies, including Crown Point Country Historical Society, ECHO - East County Historical Organization, Gresham Historical Society, and Troutdale Historical Society.

### How it Works

- If the levy renewal passes, there would be no increase in property tax rates from what they are today.
- Levy is estimated at \$0.05 per \$1,000 of assessed value.
- If the measure does not pass, the annual property taxes paid by the typical household with an assessed value of \$200,000 could decrease by approximately \$10.

### Independent Oversight

An independent, citizen oversight committee ensures levy funds are used appropriately, reviews audits of levy spending, and reports annually to the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners.

## Yes for Oregon History Yard Signs

We invite each of you to show your support for ECHO and the four other Multnomah County historical Societies by placing a "Yes for Oregon History" levy sign in your yard. Feel free to stop by the Heslin House Museum at 60 Main St, Fairview, OR 97024 to grab as many as you want, or give Danielle a call at 503-806-2868 and she'll run some over to you.



## Have Any Extras Around the House or Office?

ECHO is seeking the following donation items:

- Peony Cages
- Coffee Maker (Regular, Non-Keurig)
- Brochure Stand/Rack
- Barbeque Grill (Gas) & Tongs



Peony Cages

Contact us today to learn how to help.



Isobel  
Zimmerman

## ECHO's Women's History Tribute

March was the national celebration of Women's History. We at ECHO would like to pay tribute to a few women of who contributed to our society's creation and were the saviors of our local history; whether they know it or not.

**Drusilla Heslin** - As a child, Drusilla travelled to Oregon in 1850 with her parents. In 1864 she married John Heslin, and they lived most their lives in Fairview. Unperceived to herself, it is through her diary that we get an invaluable glimpse of what it was like to live in our area from 1867 - 1910. No textbook can describe the everyday life of Fairview's early pioneers like Drusilla's diary.



Drusilla  
Heslin

**Isobel Zimmerman** - Isobel was born in 1899. She was raised in the Zimmerman house built by her grandparents, which is located in the Gresham/East Wilkes area. She was well-educated and became a math and science high school teacher. Having never married or had any children, Isobel had the foresight to save her family home by putting it on the National Register of Historic Places, and then leaving it and all its contents to ECHO upon her death in 1993. Her family's home is an irreplaceable treasure chest of information of the local area and is a reflection of her lifetime.

**Ruth Dulin** - In 1987, Ruth felt Fairview should have its own historical society. She inspired others from Fairview and the surrounding Rockwood/Wilkes areas, and together they formed what is today the East County Historical Organization (ECHO). We are entirely grateful to her for our existence.

**Nancy Hoover** - Nancy was born and raised in the Fairview area and is a descendant of Fairview pioneers. She is passionate about saving and sharing Fairview's history, and has been involved from ECHO's inception. Nancy's father, William Stone, wrote and published a book in 1970 called "A History of Fairview". The book was out of print for many years, until Nancy's determination saw it reprinted with additional information in 2011. Her father's book is referenced and enjoyed by all. Today, Nancy continues to donate family treasures and shares her knowledge of the Fairview area with us. *(Her book can be purchased through ECHO for \$10.00. Contact us and mention the newsletter to receive 10% off, ECHO Members will receive 15% off.)*

**Sharon Nesbit** - Sharon is many amazing things - a local journalist, historian, and a published author. She is also the one who was instrumental in helping Isobel nominate her home to the National Register, assisted in forming our society, and coordinated ECHO's ownership of the 1874 Zimmerman House. Sharon continues today to mentor us on all aspects of... well, just about everything! We are forever in her debt.

ECHO sits in the shadows of these amazing women, and we honor their legacies every day, but especially during Women's History month. To read excerpts from Drusilla's diary and learn more about Isobel Zimmerman, visit our website [www.echohistory.org](http://www.echohistory.org).

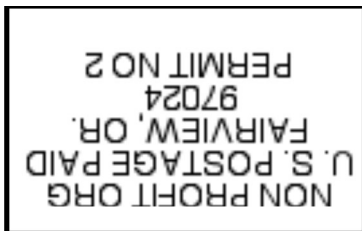


## **GOT A WORLD WAR II VEHICLE? WANNA SHOW IT OFF?**

ECHO is planning an Independence Day Celebration, July 2-3, and we are seeking era specific vehicles (and their enthusiasts) to help us compliment our WWII exhibit at the Heslin House Museum. Those interested in bringing this important time to life for our area residents, should contact our Executive Director,

Danielle Utter, at 503-618-0946 or [dutter@echohistory.org](mailto:dutter@echohistory.org).

Theme appropriate vendors are also encouraged to contact us.



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DEDUCTIONS?  
*Don't we all...***

Let East County Historical  
Organization help maximize  
next year's tax return.

Become a member, corporate  
sponsor, or annual donor today.  
Contact ECHO to learn how  
and step into the past with us!