As President of the Oswego Heritage Council (OHC) Board, I’d like to start by saying thanks for your support of Oswego Heritage in 2014. All of us, as volunteers, associated with this special organization are dedicated to it being the premier resource for the preservation and sharing of Oswego’s history and your support has been important to our success.

We’ve experienced many positive changes at Oswego Heritage this past year and very much appreciate that you have been along with us for the ride. I’d like to share a few highlights from our past twelve months:

- Katie Henry joined OHC in early November as our new Executive Director. Katie is experienced in operations and museum management. We are excited about having her focus on improving our museum and about her working cooperatively with the City Library to store and archive our historical collection in an effort to serve you, the public, better.
- The OHC Board and volunteers have been very active fostering partnerships with Rotary, Lions, and other community organizations.
- Two of our big events, the Home Tour and the Collector Car & Classic Boat Show, exceeded our expectations. The Home Tour maxed out at 300 tickets sold; Car and Boat Show drew record attendance and exhibitors. Attendees, organizers, and volunteers of both of these events hailed them as “the best ever.”

- Our First Wednesday lecture series continues to fill the meeting room to capacity. See Page 3 for a recap of past presentations and Page 4 for upcoming lectures. Remember to mark First Wednesdays on your calendar!
- OHC’s 2014 financials are excellent.
- We have been working diligently maintaining the Heritage House on 10th and A and re-establishing an historic rose garden and to improve our landscaping. We invite you to visit the Heritage House and grounds.
- Oswego Heritage Council launched a column that appears monthly in the Lake Oswego Review entitled “From Our Vault.” Next article will appear January 21st.
- We also developed an educational outreach curriculum about Lake Oswego history that has been distributed to each of our elementary schools.

We have much to be thankful for and with the advances made last year, now look forward to a great 2015. The support of our members is essential to making all this possible so if you haven’t already, please renew your membership for 2015. If you have yet to join OHC, please do so. Lake Oswego has a wonderful heritage and together, we can all be part of preserving, sharing, and enjoying it for today and future generations.

Sincerely,
Scott Havens, President
As many of you know, small organizations such as the Oswego Heritage Council have limited resources and space. That is why forming partnerships is critical when trying to accomplish tasks such as preserving collections and making them accessible to the public. Upon recently becoming Executive Director of OHC, one of the partnerships I am most excited about is OHC’s cooperation with the Lake Oswego Library. This partnership will ultimately result in our historic archives being publicly available online for community members to access. OHC will be working with Library staff to catalogue, move, and scan these items. They will also be housed at the library, which will allow us to have space to accept additional items into our collection that will help us tell the story of the Lake Oswego community.

The library is working with several organizations in Lake Oswego to provide a large collection of historic content available online. That is what excites me most about this project; members of the public can go to one place and access multiple sources of photos, maps, and other documents of historical significance! You can access the library’s image collection by visiting www.ci.oswego.or.us/tools/library/photos/. The brand new database launch will be publicized in a future newsletter.

The library is also working on another important project that OHC would like to highlight. Library staff is in the process of following up their successful publication of In Their Own Words, published in the mid-1970’s. It is a collection of oral histories provided by community members documenting Lake Oswego history between 1850 and 1960. They are working on a second volume and are requesting oral histories from community members focused on Lake Oswego history post-1945. If you are interested in being interviewed, contact 503.675.2540 or email loref@co.oswego.or.us. No story is too small! Personal anecdotes are often the most entertaining bits of an interview.

Images: (Top) photo of a family in front of a storefront on 1st and A, (middle) south Lake Oswego, (bottom) iron works poster, 1889.
Did You Miss an Event at the Heritage House?
Here’s a Recap!

On November 5, 2014 the Oswego Heritage Council honored Veterans in the Lake Oswego community with a reception and a presentation dedicated to those that served our country. The presenters included a real “Rosie the Riveter”, Elva Myers, who regaled us with her experiences working during World War II. While living in Tulsa during the war, she did rivet work for Douglas Aircraft working on the A-24. Linda Driscoll went to Vietnam as a Donut Dollie with the Red Cross during the Vietnam War. She was one of 627 women tasked to raise the spirits of soldiers during the war by entertaining them with games.

On December 3, 2014 the Heritage House was all dressed up for the first Holiday Gift Show! We welcomed over 150 visitors who came to enjoy crafts and items sold by local vendors. Items included puppets, mittens made from sweaters, jewelry, note cards, glass art, wood crafts, miniature houses, and more. A reception was also held to thank community members for their support of our First Wednesday Lecture Series. Did I mention that Santa and one of his elves stopped by? The children certainly appreciated passing on their wish lists to him! We hope this will be the first of many Holiday Gift Shows. Make sure to mark your calendar for this event next year!

OHC Member News

- If you would like to be on our email list to receive notices of upcoming events and news of interest, please send your email to oswegoheritage@yahoo.com.
- Have you found us on Facebook yet? Search for “Oswego Heritage” and like our page so that you can be up to date on all OHC news and community news.
- Are you looking for a place to hold meetings or have a special event? The Heritage House might be your solution! Contact oswegoheritage@yahoo.com or (503) 635-6373 for more information.
- In the next few months we will be revamping our website at www.oswegoheritage.org. We will keep members up to date with the progress.
- If you have friends and family that love local history, invite them to become a member of OHC! Members receive newsletters, a discount on tickets to the Historic Home Tour, access to rent the Heritage House for events, and invitations to special events.

Thank you for your support!
Save the Date!

February 4, 7 pm - First Wednesday Series
Presentations will be made by Brigadier General James Thayer, who joined the U.S. Army in 1942 and earned the prestigious Silver and Bronze Stars for his combat heroics in Europe during World War II, and Anne Sandoval, who is one of Lake Oswego’s Rosie the Riveters. Both presenters will share their experiences. Doors will open at 6:30 pm for museum viewing and coffee and cookies, the presentation will begin at 7 pm followed by Q&A.

February 21, 9:30 am - Annual Meeting
Join us as we discuss the state of Oswego Heritage Council and what we have accomplished this past year and what we hope to accomplish this next year. All members are welcome. Coffee and pastries will be available starting at 9:30 am with the meeting beginning at 10 am. Please RSVP to oswegoheritage@yahoo.com if you plan on attending.

March 4 - First Wednesday Series
Richard Santee from the board of the Lake Oswego Pioneer Cemetery will share interesting facts about the cemetery, including who rests there. The mission of the Lake Oswego Pioneer Cemetery is “To preserve, protect and maintain the history, environment, and value of Oswego Pioneer Cemetery, resting place of Lake Oswego’s founding families and citizens, for the education, enjoyment and use of future generations.” Doors will open at 6:30 pm for museum viewing and coffee and cookies and the presentation will begin at 7 pm followed by Q&A.