The Oswego Heritage Council promotes and increases public awareness to preserve the community’s legacy of historically significant buildings, sites, culture, natural charm and recorded materials and cooperates with other organizations working toward similar goals.

Dash Plaques ~ Award Ribbons ~ Trophies ~ Gourmet Basket Raffle
IMPORTANT REMINDERS:
Collector Car access to the Park runs from 8:00am to 9:15am.

No fee required to enter your car, but

FIELD ENTRY IS LIMITED TO 250 CARS so come early.

The Lake Oswego Lions will serve breakfast and lunch for $6 each.

A Unique Show of Classics, Rods, Sports, and Special Interest Cars held in conjunction with the Wooden Boat Show to benefit the Oswego Heritage Council and sponsored in part by our

Major Benefactor
DON RASMUSSEN COMPANY
MERCEDES BENZ of PORTLAND
MERCEDES BENZ of WILSONVILLE

Pre-Register Today online at http://oswegoheritage.org/events/carshowform.html or for boats at http://oswegoheritage.org/events/boatshowform.html
We would like to welcome back Nancy Tongue to the Board of Directors.

Nancy has also agreed to be our new Chair for the Historic Home Tour of 2010

Nancy is a native Oswegoian, a nurse, artist and is married to Dr. John Tongue. They have three children. She taught in the Art Literacy Program in the Lake Oswego School District. Her beautiful home was on the Historic Home Tour 2008. Nancy told me that she is very interested in keeping history alive through the Home tour, working with the Heritage House and the schools.

You can find out more about our events on our web site www.oswegoheritage.org

**A Note From Our President George Benson**

It is a special privilege to serve as president for the Heritage Council. With all the talents and enthusiasm of our Board members and our Executive Director, I just have to be their cheer leader. It is also a time of special interest, as we look forward to all of the activities for the remainder of this year and planning for Lake Oswego’s Centennial Celebration in 2010. As all non-profit organizations, we do have the concern about funding and will be looking for ways to be more cost efficient. We appreciate our members support and hope that each of you will invite others to become a part of the Heritage Council. We were all saddened by the sudden passing of our long time Board member and good friend David Berentson. He had been our secretary for a number of years and provided legal counseling when necessary. His favorite event was the Car Show and this years committee will announce an award in his honor. His family designated the Heritage Council as an option for memorial donations and the Board will work with family to establish that memorial.

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Original Lantern Peg from The Peg Tree Durham and Ladd Streets

By Henry Germond OHC Director

Ann Fulton, in her book “Iron Wood & Water,” cites Lucia Bliss, historian and library booster, as saying, “The Methodists conducted a Sunday school on the bluff under the Peg Tree in 1852. The Peg Tree was a big fir with a peg from which settlers hung lanterns to light town meetings.

According to Tonsy Sylvester, daughter of historian Theresa Truchot, the Peg Tree was the site of meetings held in the evenings, probably for services or the Sunday school of the Congregational church.

The Oregon Heritage Tree Program placed a plaque in 2005 that says townspeople and Grange members met here by lantern light, and that Sunday school classes met here before a church was built.

The pamphlet “Guide to Old Town” says that the first Sunday school class of the Congregational church met under the Douglas Fir Peg Tree in 1852 with Adam Randolph Shipley as the teacher. Benches were made from nearby trees. The Peg Tree was left standing after most others were cut down.

According to Edna Farmer, the peg disappeared about the time the Peg Tree Condominiums were built. Apparently, it was stored in Ted Farmer’s garage after it was pulled or fell from the tree.

Later on, Ted’s son, Mark, passed the peg to Phyllis Miska and then to the Oswego Heritage Council. Edna Farmer, recorded in 1972 for the book “In Their Own Words,” said, “There is still a little bore where the peg was in. They used to hang ships; lanterns on that when they held services there.”

That “Little Bore” is about 6 feet off the ground and mostly healed. And the peg resides safely in the Oswego Heritage House, to be displayed occasionally with other icons of early Oswego.

Near the Peg Tree is a large boulder with a bronze plaque inscribed: “Old Peg Tree A lantern was hung on the peg in this tree to provide light for early meetings in Old Town. The plaque was donated by Phyllis Miska chair Lake Oswego Junior Historical Society in 1967
The Berentson Motorcycle Award
by Bill Warner OHC Director

We lost a very special friend of the community and especially of the Oswego Heritage Council with the sudden passing of David Berentson on April 16, 2009. David was a man of great character, intellect, and integrity; of subtle and sometimes quirky humor; and with special interests in Oswego and Oregon history, vintage cars and motorcycles.

Motorcycles in particular were of special interest with David. He enjoyed both the riding of and the artistic mechanics of vintage motorcycles. It was my pleasure to share with David this common interest, and over the years David and I went on many adventurous motorcycle trips in the Northwest, always over interesting back roads and into unique communities in search of unusual things and places of historical note. We had several adventures of unusual character.

On a trip into Western Washington, we happened upon a private collection of old motorcycles in Chehalis featuring a lot of really strange, little known makes. One we had never seen before had been manufactured by Maytag Company. Later, over lunch, remembering my Iowa heritage, David remarked, with his usual subtle humor, that it was probably wise Maytag focused on making washing machines.

During a trip down the Oregon Coast, just before leaving our motel in Bandon to go for dinner, David’s zipper on his heavy leather motorcycle jacket jammed halfway up. He couldn’t get it to move either way. Asking me to help, we were struggling with it there in the parking lot when a couple that had just checked in looked at us with question and immediately went back to the office and checked out. For the rest of that trip I had to help David put on and take off his jacket like a pull over sweater. In Coos Bay where we stopped for lunch on the way home a couple of loggers suggested we not do that sort of thing in public.

David’s service to the Oswego community touched a wide cross-section of community organizations, but especially Oswego Heritage Council. David was a long-time member of the board, secretary for the board, nominating committee chair, and a key member of the OHC Collector Car and Wooden Boat Show committee. Having been a judge for many years at the Forest Grove Concours d’Elegance, David’s contribution on the OHC Collector Car and Wooden Boat Show committee was immense and he will be sorely missed.

For many years David searched for and purchased little items of interesting trivia related to Oswego history, a collection I hope can one day be on exhibit at the Heritage House. David was on the outdoor Christmas Tree crew that puts up the tall (25’ to 30’) tree each year in front of the Heritage House. We’ll really miss his 6’7” stature on that committee. But he will probably be most remembered at OHC for his special interest in and appreciation of vintage cars and motorcycles.

And for that reason, in recognition of David’s extensive contribution to OHC, a special award has been created, to be given at the Collector Car and Wooden Boat Show. It will be known as the The Berentson Motorcycle Award, to be given to the motorcycle that is judged would be the most intriguing to David. Be sure to attend this year’s show for its first presentation.
We are looking for stories about the Lake Oswego USO/Serviceman's Club (the building in the center of the photo) Do you have other pictures? We know it was torn down. But, would love more information and photos.

Please Join us

In celebration of
The 10th Anniversary of the Heritage House
Open House  July 17, 2009 from 3pm to 6pm