



# High Desert Voices

*A newsletter published by and for volunteers*

January 2020



## Museum Volunteer & Staff Holiday Party

*by Heather Duchow, Newsletter Writer*

The annual High Desert Museum volunteer and staff holiday luncheon took place on Tuesday, December 10. The soup and sandwiches provided by the café were delicious, the cookies and other desserts were tasty, and the company was good. The Ugly Sweater Contest was new this year, and it brought some humor with Events Coordinator Gail Hodge in a Christmas tree skirt and Jean Bennett in a flip-sequins sweater that could read “Naughty” or “Nice” depending on her mood or perhaps her most recent actions. For many, the highlight of the event was, as ever, the white elephant gift exchange emceed by Erica Pelley. Popular and frequently stolen gifts included the astronaut graphic stand-in from the *Moon Country* exhibition, a neck massager that looks like a sloth, a fancy popcorn assortment, and chocolate bars. An actual white elephant also made an appearance. Well, maybe it was pale blue. It was such a cute plush elephant that it motivated a husband to steal it for - his wife. An inflatable deer head wall mount, complete with tinsel rope on its antlers, elicited a big laugh. It also proved popular and was stolen more than once. Stinker gifts included a Swiffer Sweeper with used sweeper cloth and a mask that spent the last year staring at Erica while she worked. The only question is who will get that mask next year, because it will definitely be coming to the party.



Holiday Party—continued



Photos by Heather Duchow, Abbott Schindler, & Siobhan Sullivan

## Introducing Aldine Thornton, By Hand Through Memory Team Lead

by Dave Gilbert, Newsletter Writer



It seems appropriate, somehow, that the new team lead for volunteers in the *By Hand Through Memory* (BHTM) exhibit is the daughter of an Oglala Lakota Sioux, and the great, great granddaughter of Chief Red Cloud, one of the Lakota's greatest leaders.

Although Aldine Thornton was actually born in Astoria, she says "I walk in two worlds."

The pride in her lineage is clear. She remains a Lakota tribal member, still owns her father's land on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, and wears clothing that reflects her past.

Colored threads adorn her pockets and shoulders. Single beads on her ears and her half-rim glasses reflect golden spots of light. She wears a tiny pouch around her neck bearing the image of a Columbia River petroglyph: "She who watches."

At the High Desert Museum, she wants visitors to BHTM to know: "We are still here. We are present."

Her father, Aloysious Adams, married Marald Garner on the Pine Ridge Reservation in 1940. Aloysious served in the Navy during World War II and rose to be a chief petty officer during the Korean Conflict. Aldine was born in 1948.

Her early life was spent moving from Astoria to Denver and to "several places in California." She attended 13 schools between the first and eighth grade.

She graduated from high school in Denver in 1966 and was immediately recruited by a petroleum-information company to assist a department head. Six months later, at the age of 19, she became the department head. A year later, she asked for a leave to travel to Europe.

In London she met Bob Thornton; they married in 1968. Aldine left her Denver job and moved to Boston so Bob could continue his education and work in the aero-space industry.

The following years seem like a blur of work and education: art, architecture, home design, clothing design, entertaining, and raising four children.

"The work was good," Aldine says, "the tag-team parenting was not." By 1980, Bob and Aldine had four children: Michael, twins Tara and Marni, and Erin. Family "has been, and still is, the main priority in our lives," she says.

"I always dreamed of owning a B & B, she says, "so in 1993 we built one" in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Bob was the general contractor on the project, with five guest suites in 7,000 square-feet.

"I did all the cooking," Aldine says.

"Bob wanted to retire early," Aldine says, so they sold the B & B, bought a fifth-wheel, and a big Dodge truck and took off. Their path lead them all over the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Over the years, their wanderlust took them to 12 countries in Europe, China, Australia, and New Zealand.

"It was great!" Aldine says, "we hiked and camped." Along the way, they "found Bend." They moved here in 2001.

Bob and Aldine fell back on old talents: home design and construction, remodeling, and additions. "We had a lot of fun together," Aldine says.

Over the next few years, three of their children moved to Bend, too.

"We finally really retired in 2008," Aldine says. Which means she started volunteering. She was active in her neighborhood's Home Owner's Association, cooked at the Family Kitchen, and was "granny to six fabulous grandchildren."

They traveled to many parks: 10,000 miles to all but three of the nation's national parks, including Alaska, where they hiked with Kodiak Brown bears. Aldine emphasizes the word "with."

Last summer they backpacked rim-to-rim in the Grand Canyon.

Three years ago, Aldine came to the High Desert Museum where BHTM seemed to be a "perfect fit."

She threw herself into learning about the native Plateau people. She read for a year on their cultures and studied the copious notes of Vivian Adams, the woman who helped guide the development of the BHTM exhibit. She also found another reflection of her own past.

"I spent 45 summers visiting my grandfather in a home just like the one in our Hall."

Her goal, she says, is to help Museum visitors understand and appreciate all Native American cultures.

"I'm here to honor that rich heritage," she says.

Her interpretive talks often begin with a question: What do you think of when you think about Native Americans? Then the education begins.

"This Hall here is so important." Her eyes water, her voice breaks slightly. "It gives our guests an opportunity to understand native traditions and cultures."

Photo by Dave Gilbert

## High Desert Museum Area Updates from December 2019

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

**High Desert Voices Newsletter** - They are happy to welcome additional writers to the team.

**Birds of Prey** - The team completed the landscaping work in the outside area where the *Raptors of the Desert Sky* program is staged.

**By Hand Through Memory** - The team had their quarterly meeting last week. Michele Seiler-Godfrey went over survey results from visitors to the BHTM area with the team. This survey was undertaken as part of grant the Museum recently received. The results indicated that visitors tend to rush through the exhibit and may not get the intended experience. The team also met with Laura Ferguson. The By Hand Through Memory Team is looking for new members.

**Ranger Station** - They have upcoming appointments with staff. They will discuss merging Ranger Station activities with outdoor events planned in the rest of the Museum. The Ranger Station team is looking for new members.

**Living History** - Father Christmas's visit was a big success. At the event last weekend, *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* was read to visitors. Kids and adults had a great time decorating cookies. Christmas music was provided by the Thorn Hollow String Band.

**Silver Sage Gift Store** - They like to plan in advance so they're already getting merchandise ready for Spring. There are still lots of goodies in the store for last minute shoppers.

**Photography**—The team is preparing for an indoor conservation photography workshop in January. Abbot Schindler and Heather Duchow will teach the workshop.

**Naturalists** - Team Lead Thad Grudzien invited new staff members Christina Morales and Jonathan Vedelli to come along on a nature walk on Thursday.

**Admissions/Greeters** - The *Museum and Me* program hosts people with physical, intellectual, or social disabilities four times a year. These events take place after hours. Father Christmas will make a special visit to see *Museum and Me* attendees this weekend and 90 people have already signed up. That is a new record for attendance.

Comment cards for Museum visitors are available near the main entrance. Input, good or bad, is shared with appropriate staff. Some of the positive comments are posted on the Museum's social media sites.

**Desertarium** - Work with the blue-tongued skink has hit a plateau but is progressing well with the bearded dragon. The lizards are being trained on the new ramp built by volunteer Burt Douglass. One of the Museum's Russian tortoises was re-homed. A female Russian tortoise was recently donated to the Museum. Burt is building her a "tortoise paradise" in case she lays eggs. The Desertarium team is looking for new members.

Staff will discuss High Desert Museum wildlife training at the Natural History Pub on February 3.

Happy  
New Year!

From the Newsletter Team



### Kudos Korner

by Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor

Several staff and volunteers were thanked for their work in December. Thanks to Jean Drzyzgula for all the work put into creating the High Desert Museum Volunteer Project Proposal idea. Jean summarized input from VAC members into an easy to understand form. Burt Douglass was thanked for his latest creations for the Desertarium animals. He recently constructed a special ramp for the lizards to be used in their target training and a "tortoise paradise" for the Russian tortoises. Kudos to all of you!

# 2019—The Year in Review



Snake Board made by Burt Douglass



High Desert Rendezvous



Harvest Festival



Harvest Festival



Thorn Hollow String Band



Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast



Senior Day



19th Century Making & Mending



Desert Reflections: Water Shapes the West



Heavy snowfall in February



Father Christmas



Collections team

Photos by the Photography Team

January 2020

## Cranberries of the Pacific Northwest

by Raven Tennyson, Newsletter Writer



The cranberry, *Vaccinium macrocarpon*, is a Native American plant which thrives in a wetland or bog environment. Cranberry soil profiles include a layer of clay on the bottom overlain with gravel, peat, and sand. This acidic environment helps these low growing vines spread more quickly. Henry Hall, from Massachusetts, observed in the early 1800s that cranberries grew faster when sand blew in and covered the plants each year. So his observations from his cranberry bog in Massachusetts helped Westerners to establish their first cranberry bogs.

In Washington state, the cranberry industry began in the late 1800s when Henry Cabot, visiting from Massachusetts, discovered bog environments perfect for cranberry growing in southwest Washington. His exploration ignited the beginning of the

cranberry industry in Washington state.

Between 1872 and 1877, a group of entrepreneurs purchased 1,600 acres of land in Grays Harbor and Pacific counties for \$1 an acre and laid the groundwork for cranberry production in Washington. The industry waxed and waned over time; cranberry production increased over the first 20 years, then a decline occurred as the remoteness of the area made marketing the berries arduous.

In 1920, D.J. Crowley founded the cranberry research station for Washington State University in Long Beach, Washington. Crowley solved problematic challenges with peat, frost, and other issues. Growers often ignored Crowley's advice. With the stress of the Depression, only a handful of cranberry growers held on during the hard times. During this time, Crowley continued to conduct research and offer advice to farmers which lead again to a slight rebound in production.

During World War II, cranberry production increased as dried berries were included in soldiers' rations. After the war, a slump occurred before the Ocean Spray cooperative was created in Hanson, Massachusetts in 1930 combining the harvests from multiple farms. Three innovative people, Marcus Urann, John Makepeace, and Elizabeth Lee, were instrumental in creating the first jellied cranberry sauce and the first cranberry juice product.

Initially in Washington and Oregon, cranberries were harvested by hand. After the Depression, harvesting transitioned in most areas from dry harvesting to wet harvesting. As a slow growing groundcover plant, cranberries spread their vines much like strawberries. Picking by hand is also similar to handpicking strawberries.

During wet harvesting, the fields are flooded with a foot and a half of water. The water is circulated with water reels, the cranberries float to the top and they are corralled and gathered. Wet harvesting changes things dramatically especially for commercial harvesters.



*The Cranberry Harvest on the Island of Nantucket, Eastman Johnson, 1880.*



In Grayland, Washington, many cranberry farmers chose to continue to dry pick their fruits. In 1957, Julius Furford designed a new machine which combined pruning the plants while harvesting berries. The Furford Picker improved dry harvesting but many commercial growers still chose wet harvesting.

In Oregon, the history of cranberry introduction began when Charles McFarlan migrated north to Coos County from the California Gold Rush Fields in 1885. He brought cranberry vines with him that were cultivated from wild vines in Massachusetts. He called this variety "McFarlan." Over time, he lost his competitive edge in the San Francisco market as his vines ripened in October, much later than the other varieties. Black Vail and Black Diamond varieties matured earlier and preceded the McFarlan fruit.



In Tillamook County, along the Oregon northern coast, W.C. King planted cranberries in 1893. His yield was much higher than others as he produced about 1,000 bushels an acre. He became known as the Cranberry King of Tillamook County. During his fall harvest time, many families gathered, camped and participated in the harvest. Pickers harvested about three bushels a day and made 50 cents a bushel. Many Indigenous families also helped in the harvest.

Today in Oregon there are 215 cranberry farms. One hundred fifty of these farms are located near Bandon, along the southern coast. In Oregon, 64 percent of the farms are not part of the Ocean Spray cooperative as they chose to plant, harvest, and market their own berries.

Each year, as the holidays arrive, cranberries appear in stores across the country. A cranberry farmer from Oregon says, “We treat our berries like we want to continue growing for the next 100 years. There is an awesomeness to cranberries.”

To find a change of pace, browse through multiple cranberry grower sites for recipes which will add a new twist to an old tradition. Experience the cranberry as the awesome berry that it is.

Photos from Wikipedia

## The High Desert Museum Volunteer Website

*By Siobhan Sullivan, Newsletter Editor*



Did you know there is a website for people that volunteer at the High Desert Museum? The website can be found at [hdm-gems.net](http://hdm-gems.net). Why is the word “gems” in the site name? Because the staff thinks of volunteers as precious gems that help make the Museum what it is.

This website was created by and for volunteers working at the High Desert Museum in Bend, Oregon. It includes information on upcoming events and the volunteer manual, volunteer newsletters, listings of volunteer opportunities, and links to several documents. These include Minutes from Volunteer Advisory Council (VAC) meetings, descriptions of Museum training programs, overviews of areas volunteers

work in, and profiles of volunteers and staff at the Museum.

There is also a link to Volgistics on this site. Volunteers can use this link to register hours worked, review a summary of past hours, and view a calendar displaying upcoming volunteer opportunities.

Be sure to visit this site and if you have any suggestions or comments, please contact Siobhan Sullivan at [siobhansullivan100@gmail.com](mailto:siobhansullivan100@gmail.com).



### High Desert Voices

**Editor:** Siobhan Sullivan  
**Team Leader:** Siobhan Sullivan  
**Contributing Writers:** Dave Gilbert, Heather Duchow, Siobhan Sullivan, & Raven Tennyson  
**Proofreading/Editing:** Phil Meurer  
**Computer:** Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan  
**Photographs:** Todd Cary, Heather Duchow, Dave Gilbert, Lee Schaefer, Abbott Schindler, & John Williams  
**Printing:** Ralph Berry & Siobhan Sullivan

**HIGH  
DESERT  
MUSEUM**  
BEND, OREGON

*High Desert Museum, Inc.*  
59800 S. Highway 97  
Bend, OR 97702

2020



2020

January 2020	February 2020—Save the Date!
<p>2 <b>Winter Art Series: Exploring Our Collection—2D Works Lecture.</b> 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. \$10, Members receive a 20% discount. Free to tribal members. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>	<p>1 <b>Exhibit opening: Infinite Moment: Burning Man on the Horizon.</b></p>
<p>4 <b>Winter Art Series: Exploring Our Collection—2D Works Workshop.</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. \$30, Members receive a 20% discount. Free to tribal members. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>	<p>6 <b>Winter Art Series: Exploring Our Collection—3D Lecture.</b> 6:00-8:00 pm. \$10, Members receive a 20% discount. Free to tribal members. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>
<p>5 <b>Exhibit closing: Witness to Wartime: The Painted Diary of Takuichi Fujii.</b></p>	<p>8 <b>Winter Art Series: Exploring Our Collection—Plaster Carving Workshop.</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. \$30, Members receive a 20% discount. Free to tribal members. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>
<p>6 <b>Natural History Pub: Extraordinary Birds: Up Close and Personal.</b> 7:00-8:00 pm, doors open at 5:30 pm. Free. McMenamins, 700 NW Bond St., Bend.</p>	<p>11 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am—2:00 pm.</p>
<p>11 <b>Weekend Workshop: Conservation Photography.</b> 10:00 am - 3:00 pm. \$150, Members receive a 20% discount. Preliminary meeting January 10 from 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>	<p>20 <b>Museum Event: Archaeology of Paisley Caves.</b> 6:00-7:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm. Café open 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. \$7, Members receive a 20% discount. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>
<p>11 <b>Thorn Hollow String Band.</b> 11:00 am—2:00 pm.</p>	<p>22 <b>Weekend Workshop: Block Printing.</b> 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. \$30, Members receive a 20% discount. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>
<p>17 <b>Museum Event: Prohibition Party.</b> 6:00 pm - 9:00 pm. Doors open at 5:30 pm. No-host bar. Café open 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm. \$15, Members receive a 20% discount. RSVP.</p>	<p>29 <b>Free Day.</b> 10:00 am—4:00 pm.</p>
<p>18 <b>Weekend Workshop: Build a Terrarium.</b> 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. \$30, Members receive a 20% discount. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>	
<p>23 <b>Museum Event: Our Place in the Wilderness.</b> 6:00 pm - 7:15 pm, doors open at 5:00 pm. No-host bar. Café open 5:00 pm - 6:00 pm. Free. RSVP.</p>	
<p>25 <b>Free Day.</b> 10:00 am—4:00 pm.</p>	
<p>31 <b>Exclusive Members' Exhibition Preview: Infinite Moment: Burning Man on the Horizon.</b> 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm. Hors d'oeuvres, no-host bar. Members free, guests \$5. RSVP and prepayment required.</p>	

To RSVP: [www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/rsvp)

or call 541-382-4754. or pre-register:  
[www.highdesertmuseum.org/program](http://www.highdesertmuseum.org/program)