

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: Southern Oregon Historical Society

There's a jewel hidden in plain sight in downtown Medford – the Southern Oregon Historical Society's History Center at 106 North Central. The huge showcase windows on Central and 6th bring history into full view with changing exhibits featuring historic images and artifacts from the collections. The SOHS's administrative offices are at the History Center and so are the Archives and Library, with thousands of rare photographs, miles of film, and pages and pages from the past.

Open Tuesday-Friday from noon to 4pm, the History Center has preserved Jackson County's past for decades so that this history is available today. You'll find old railroad logging maps, oral histories of prominent citizens and everyday folk, pioneer diaries, local news reels, and photographs of familiar streets throughout the county. On the fourth Saturday of each month, the History Center is transformed into a community conversation with the Tales from the Collection program thanks to guest speakers and unusual artifacts from archives.

Just minutes away, between Jacksonville and Central Point, is the Historic Hanley Farm, established by Michael Hanley in 1857 and today owned and managed by SOHS. Hanley Farm is a magical place at every season. Lovely garden spaces are shaded by century trees, fertile fields grow healthy food, and Bob the Peacock struts about, delighting all with his squawks and tail spreads. History comes alive at Hanley Farm with events throughout the year including a Garden Fair on Mother's Day, the Children's Heritage Festival in May, Living History Days in July, and Community Pizza Nights with music, craft beer and cob oven pizzas throughout the summer and early fall. Cooler weather brings the Scarecrow Festival, Wreath Making and Holidays at Hanley. The Historic Hanley House is often open for docent-led tours during these special events.

Every year, SOHS that draws thousands of in the Golden Valley: History will run from the Rogue Valley Mall. and research from both counties, this exhibition experience through their visitors walk through the learn of Chinese labor and Oregon and see spotlights read, observe, and perception of the local Interactive exhibit connect their present to past. The exhibition ends featuring the faces and Oregon today, sharing exhibition is free and



develops a stunning exhibition Oregonians. In 2016, Courage Southern Oregon Chinese February 6 through April 17 at With artifacts, photographs, Jackson and Josephine retells the story of the Chinese own objects and voices. As exhibition, they can pause to community in Southern on individuals. Visitors can explore, questioning their Chinese experience. features will help visitors this unique story from the with a portrait gallery quotes of Chinese in Southern their own perspectives. The open to the public.

There's more! Monthly Windows in Time lectures are at the Medford and Ashland Public Libraries at noon on the first and second Wednesdays. And if you want to get out and get moving, Healthy History Hikes, Heritage Cemetery Days and Miles through History Roadtrips are new historian-led outreach events sponsored by SOHS, established because history is everywhere if you just know how to look.

Show your support for local history by becoming a member of the Southern Oregon Historical Society or volunteering to help preserve history. Better still, have fun with us, and come on by for a history event!

For more information stop in at the downtown Medford History Center at 106 North Central, visit www.SOHS.org, follow the Society on Facebook or sign up for the monthly enewsletter. You can reach Southern Oregon Historical Society at 541-773-6536