

Miracle of America Museum

MEMBER:
MUSEUM ASSOC.
OF MONTANA
AND
AMERICAN ASSOC.
OF MUSEUMS

Spring 2021

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

36094 Memory Lane Polson, MT 59860 406-883-6804 www.miracleofamericamuseum.org • info@miracleofamericamuseum.org

Executive Board of Directors

Gil Mangels, Chief Executive Officer;
David Bauer, Board Chair;
Helen Mangels, Secretary;
Ryan Gage, Treasurer;
Board members:
Brandy Wallace,
Cathleen Wilde,
Art Mangels, Sam Allred,
Carol Edger,
and Nola Dupuis-Catlett

MOAM youth visitation strong, enjoys expanded publicity

All things considered, what with COVID and a late winter storm, we are holding our own. Thus far, visitation has increased over last year at this same time by more than one hundred people. We have registered visitors from 33 states and four countries.

What is exciting for us is that so many younger folks, high school to college age have taken such an interest in us. In fact one high school senior, Sara Wolf, from Missoula is excited to serve on our board of directors. She has made the drive up several times bringing friends. Also Helen's daughter, Julie Weber will lend her talents in business administration, customer service, etc. as another new board member.

We've been blessed with increased publicity by freelance writer Mike Broadwater in the Spokesman Review, and Butch Larcombe and his excellent eight-page article in the spring issue of the Montana Quarterly magazine.

Ann Larum did us a courtesy two-page article in her Montana Antiques and Vintage Directory.

We have copies of those publications available for your taking on our front porch.

Bigfork, Columbia Falls, and Kalispell Chambers as well as Destination Missoula realize we are in a key geographical location to be of mutual benefit to one another. In fact Margit Baake of Kalispell Chamber did a walk through and a personal interview of me about the museum and has posted it on their website and Facebook page.



MOAM seeks dedicated board member—

We are seeking to fill board openings. In addition to the wonderful potential of gaining an enthusiastic Missoula high school student to our board, we are seeking another person who's willing to devote some time to helping the museum fulfill its mission. If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact us.

Museum launches YouTube Channel; QR codes and WiFi throughout grounds now enhances displays

We are thrilled to announce the launch of our new [YouTube](#) channel! Thanks to a generous donation from a museum supporter, the Miracle of America Museum is now accessible to people all over the world. We hired a production company to film the history behind several of our exhibits, and have organized these clips into playlists on [YouTube](#). We installed WiFi throughout the museum grounds, and are offering these same clips via QR codes at their corresponding exhibits.

We are thankful to our supporters, visitors, and fellow history enthusiasts who have enjoyed our museum over the years. And, we are very excited to introduce the museum to

collectors, hobbyists, and history buffs around the globe. We would love your help in getting the word out about our online educational experience.

Please forward the link to our [YouTube](#) channel to your family and friends, and subscribe to our [YouTube](#) channel. We will be adding new content to our Facebook page, as well as adding an Instagram and Twitter account for the museum. We have worked hard these past seven months to bring our piece of American History to life, and we look forward to hearing your thoughts and comments! see us the following week.





FLIC Award-winning filmmaker visits; promotes MOAM

The FLIC film festival brought Christian Taylor and her son Hunter to town as producers of the hour and-a-half long documentary film, “The Girl Who Wore Freedom.” This excellent documentary interviewing actual participants and survivors of the D-Day invasion and liberation of nearby French towns emanates the pain of war, the price of freedom and the values of love, forgiveness, and gratitude of life’s simple pleasures. They spent quite a while visiting the museum and gave us a good plug at the

premier showing of the film and also on their internet site. Be sure and see it if you get the chance.

“The Girl Who Wore Freedom” has won an array of awards at other film festivals, and won both the Best Picture, Documentary Feature Award; and the Audience Award at this year’s FLIC.

Although the “Virtual 2021 FLIC Festival” has closed, you may be able to live stream this movie through The Girl Who Wore Freedom website.



Donor fulfills late doll maker-mother’s wish

An interesting folk art doll collection was recently shipped to us from Salt Lake City as a result of visitors to our museum in 2019. The mother, Carol Smith had made dolls representing her children and things of their interest in early adult life. The children wondered if we would like it. The imagination and ingenuity of others makes our museum even more interesting. This note was included in the shipment. We look forward to meeting the late Carol Smith’s family.

Hi! My name is Cindy Davis.

Back in March we talked about our family donating some dolls that my talented Mom made to your museum. Our Dear Mom passed away October 30. We would love to now send them your way. Our Mom [would] be just TICKLED PINK!

THANK YOU EVER SO MUCH!

We’re planning on a reunion there in Montana so we can all visit your museum. Our brother and sister-in-law were just thrilled by its contents last year!

Take care, Our best to you,
Cindy Davis and my five siblings

MISCELLANEOUS DONATIONS

Probably the most distant donation, courtesy of Doran Simonson of Reno, NV was a gift by **Renee Vasnaik** of Lake Tahoe, CA of four nice snowmobiles, a Ski Boose and related period riding gear. It is nice to get items like these that are in such good shape. Museum helper David Bosley has had



them all running. They are 40 to 50 years old, so qualify as vintage, classic, or antique.

Brenda Metzger brought in vintage toiletries and a couple of very nice 1898 books. I love the rich colors on the covers of the children’s books. It was really interesting reading of mostly



herbal cures of most anything that could ail you, in the five-inch thick medical Vitalogy book. It even included a paper pop-up and fold out paper manikin of the human body.

Pickers **Lulu Stock** and **Howard Hudson** brought in medical/drugstore items, antique matchbooks, scouting misc. and advertising gadgets.

One of our WWII vehicles was missing some major parts. Through my military vehicle collectors club, magazine, I located them back in Iowa. Freight would have been horrendous, so I mentioned my plight on Facebook, and lo and behold, trucker **Nick Altvater** was coming through there on a haul to Kalispell, so he graciously dropped them right off at the shop.

Another museum project Gil and David have been working on is a 1924 one ton Model TT Ford truck nicknamed a C cab, obviously because of the shape of the cab sides. The running gear will be fitted with tracks and skis to make a period snowmobile. It already runs well and is complete except for a few period snowmobile modifications Gil will have to fabricate.



Always on the lookout for rare, unique and interesting items, Gil found an unusual trap set gun of 1864 vintage. The pistol grip would be tied to something substantial on the ground or a strong tree branch, and a bait line would be tied to a loop at the muzzle end. When the bait was pulled all six barrels would fire at once. They didn't want to take a chance on missing the varmint, for sure.



Local history book offered at special discount!

We just received thirty copies of Volume 2 of former school superintendent Joyce Decker Wegner's Lake County School History. Harry Fritz, Ph.D. in UM's Dep't of History, said, "This massive book of Lake County School history is not only a treasure for those who are interested in school or local Montana history, but a true treasure for those interested in genealogy."

This 607 page comprehensive school history includes a lot of interesting family histories as well.

This book sold for \$29.95, but *we are offering it as a fundraising special for \$10 here at the museum*, to save the cost of shipping to you.

Museum supporters pass

We were saddened at the passing of long time museum friends, Mike Lies, and Art Robinson, who each had donated some very nice displayable collectibles over the years.

We also send condolences to the family of Larry Smith, of Smith Paving, who was another long time MOAM supporter.

Our financial friends are so important to us

... in building the endowment fund. This is done through outright donations and memberships. We have decided to simply list our generous donors instead of mentioning the amount. These include:

Jim Beyer
Whetzel Concrete Construction
Carl and Cindy Mae Ibsen
Kathryn Johnson
Richard Christopher
Lee and Naomi Barta
Donald Lodmell
Robert Skans
Ralph Westermann
Craig Maltby
Christian Taylor
Robert and Maggie Nickisch
Delrae and Doug Billmeyer.



I am always afraid of forgetting someone, as donations come in at any time during the quarter so it's harder for me to keep track. Some of you might work for a concern or do business with a firm that has a budget for giving and have been doing so for years without realizing we are a 501 C 3 nonprofit, or work with the children, or just never even thought of us before. Please suggest it to them. Coming from you will carry more weight than our petitioning them for funds.

Annual Support Levels:

Single \$50; Family \$100;

Corporate \$200; Life \$1,000

Membership includes free admission, newsletter and discount in our Gift Shop, plus the satisfaction that you are supporting our mission to preserve history.



MOAM receives benefits from Amazon Smile

People smile at us and make a contribution each time they use “Amazon Smile” while purchasing items on the internet. There is no additional cost to the shopper. We are registered as **Miracle of America Story, Inc.** among the nonprofits, even though we do business under our full name.

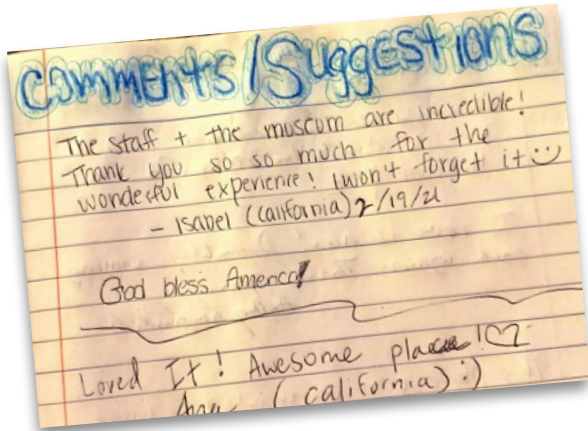
Folks who remembered to select us were responsible for Amazon Smile donating around \$225 to the Museum last year.

We encourage people to shop at home, but when you shop using Amazon Smile and select Miracle of America Story, Inc. as your charity we get a small contribution at no extra cost to you!



**We're open
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
all year long!**

The Museum Gift shop can help with your gift giving needs with meaningful and reasonably-priced books, collectibles and more. Shopping for that person who already “has it all?” Consider a Museum membership! No wrapping or size to worry about! Help MOAM preserve history for posterity. You can choose any amount and it is entirely tax deductible to the extent of the law. Your contribution goes into the MOAM Endowment, or your choice of projects, in the recipient’s name.



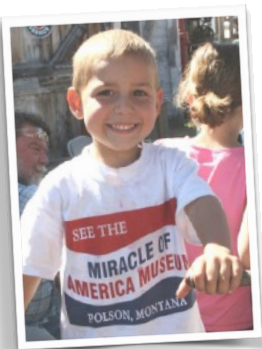
This inspired notation needs little explanation

It was penned by two high school students.

We are thrilled to have hosted so many young persons, and we urge them to continue to plan to visit the Miracle of America Museum. Hopefully, they’ll bring along their parents and grandparents for whole family enrichment!



**You are cordially invited
to bring your family and friends
to Live History days,
July 17 and 18, 2021
for a safe, outdoor opportunity to see
living history,
where kids of all ages
have fun!!!**



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