

# THE FRIENDS OF GENTLE HOUSE

*Supporting the renovation, maintenance and promotion of Professor Gentle's historic home.*

**Volume 14, Issue 2**

**Winter 2010**

## **The Dollhouse Tea: a fine time was had by all**

Nearly one hundred guests enjoyed a holiday tea at Gentle House on Friday, December 4, 2009. The house, newly decorated with fragrant greens and holiday ornaments provided a delightful setting for the event. On display were the historic dolls from the Gentle House collection (1875-1930), beautifully dressed bride dolls of famous women, a collection of Marie Osmond dolls, baby dolls in a cradle and a fully furnished Mary Engelbreit doll house. Eight vendors had gift items for sale for last minute holiday shopping. The elegant tea including sandwiches, scones, fruit, cakes and dainties was catered by Althea's Tea Room in Dallas. A wonderful trio from the WOU Music Department provided lovely music during the event which added a great deal to the festive mood. Several guests took advantage of guided tours of the upstairs museum to learn more about the life and times of the Gentle Family in Monmouth. It was a very pleasant occasion enjoyed by all and a successful fundraiser, helping to support the continuing operation of the historic home. Many grateful thanks to all of the wonderful volunteers from the community and campus who made this event possible.



## **Hal Secrest: a Man for all Seasons**

Generous, selfless, resourceful, inspiring, friendly, these are only a few of the qualities that belonged to Gentle House's great benefactor and supporter, Hal Secrest. Hal died on October 16, 2009, leaving behind a legacy of projects without which Gentle House would not function today. Hal designed and constructed the Addition, dismantling the existing woodshed, locating materials, attracting volunteers including Joe Perry who was Hal's right-hand man on the Addition project, and doing finish work. A photo display showing the Addition construction is located in the Addition hallway. Without the Addition, Gentle House would not be able to support itself. Hal strongly supported Gentle House with his enthusiasm for its possibilities and his generous financial contributions. As a Friends of Gentle House Board



member, Hal offered all kinds of practical advice, troubleshooting projects and generating ideas. He even modeled vintage men's fashions at a fashion show fundraiser. Most of all he liked

to get in and do actual work, not just discuss it. And it was a treat to be able to work with Hal. His genuine friendliness and humor added cohesion to any group project, guaranteeing its success. Thank you, Hal Secrest, for all of your good work and inspiration.

In honor of Hal's interest in and contributions to Gentle House, a memorial Workday and Picnic is scheduled for Thursday, June 24, 2010, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the backyard at Gentle House. Among other projects we will be cleaning out the tool shed, labeling the tools, deciding if we need to add some, and refitting some of the compost bin slats. And of course, we will be telling stories about Hal and having a picnic, with particular emphasis on dessert.

### **Workdays Planned**

A full calendar of workdays has been organized to help keep the gardens at Gentle House in good order. Whether you enjoy pruning, planting, weeding or general cleanup, there is a place for you on the Garden Team. Check out the schedule and remember that it is always more fun to work with an enthusiastic group and that refreshments are always served after each work session! Nearly all workdays occur on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 9:30-noon. Be sure to bring work gloves and your favorite hand tools. Call Sarah at 503-399-9436 for further information.

### **Two Garden-care Demonstrations Planned**

Spring is just around the corner so it is time to get all of those winter jobs completed. The Friends of Gentle House are sponsoring two events to assist those interested in pruning ornamental shrubs

and pruning grapes and roses in preparation for the new growing season. Both events will be held at Gentle House, 855 N. Monmouth Avenue, Monmouth and are free and open to the public.

On Saturday, February 13, 2010, 10am-noon, Daryll Combs of Daryll's Nursery in Dallas, Oregon will present a comprehensive program of ornamental shrub pruning techniques. He will share his expertise in feather pruning shrubs, removing suckers, pruning to encourage upright growth, correcting winter damage, and pruning for height reduction and increased visibility.

Thursday, February 25, 2010 is the annual Grape and Rose Day. A demonstration of grape pruning will be held at 9:30 with observers becoming participants during the guided pruning of the 90-year old Concord grapes in the Gentle House back yard. At 11:30 a demonstration of rose pruning and care will be held in the rose garden on the north side of Gentle House. The roses will then be prepared for the spring growing season. Participants are requested to bring gloves and hand pruners to the grape and rose events. For further information, please contact Sarah at (503) 399-9436.

### **Student Study Abroad Grant Update**

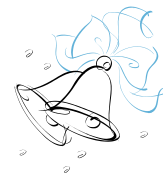
Our Foreign Study Grant Student, Alexa Moss, is a student at the University of Tuebingen in southern Germany. She reports that she is enjoying her classes and that she is getting to do some traveling in other parts of Europe. We will enjoy learning about her trip when she returns to Monmouth next Fall.

The Friends of Gentle House

plan to support another travel grant for the 2010-2011 academic year. Those students wishing to apply should contact Michelle Price at the Study Abroad and International Exchange Office 503-838-8493 for requirements, application materials and deadlines.

### **Upcoming Fundraising Event: Wedding Memories**

A fashion show featuring vintage wedding dresses and their stories will be held on Sunday, April 25, 2010 at 2:00 pm at Gentle House. Traditional wedding refreshments will be served including wedding cake, tea, coffee, mints and nuts. Seating is limited to the first one hundred guests so be sure to make your reservations by calling Sandy at 503-838-8147. The cost is \$10.00, a tax-deductible donation.



*If you would like to become a Friend of the Gentle House, please use the form on the next page and simply mail it back to the WOU Foundation.*



You're invited . . . .  
to become a Gentle Friend!

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like your gift to go towards replacement of the front porch or a new roof on the conference room addition.

Your gift to the Friends could be worth twice as much if your company has a matching gift program. Check with your personnel office to see if you qualify.

For more information, call 503-838-8147 or email newlands@wou.edu.

Make checks payable to:  
The Friends of Gentle House  
The Cottage  
Western Oregon University

Friends of Gentle House

Annual Membership

\$20	Friend	\$250-\$499	Dear Friend
\$21-49	Good Friend	\$500-\$999	Staunch Friend
\$50-\$99	Old Friend	\$1,000 +	Best Friend
\$100-\$249	True Friend		

My contribution is: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to pledge an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Bill Me \_\_\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_\_\_ MasterCard

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. date: \_\_\_\_\_ V-Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to pay my pledge of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ monthly or \$ \_\_\_\_\_ quarterly. Please send me reminders beginning the month of: \_\_\_\_\_

Total pledge \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Workday Calendar 2010

Thursday, February 11, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Winter cleanup, remove blackberries and debris from beds.

Saturday, February 13, 2010

10:00 am to Noon

Daryll's shrub pruning demonstration - Public Invited.

Thursday, February 25, 2010

9:30 am to 11:00 am - Grape pruning - Public Invited.

11:30 am to 1:00 pm - Rose pruning - Public Invited.

Thursday, March 11, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Continue winter cleanup.

Thursday, March 25, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Divide and transplant selected perennials; continue cleaning up beds.

Thursday, April 8, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Deadhead spring blooming shrubs and plants; plant hardy annuals.

Thursday, April 22, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Deadhead flowers, herbs and shrubs.

Thursday, May 13, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Prune boxwood hedges; continue to plant annuals.

Thursday, May 27, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Winter cleanup, remove blackberries and debris from beds

Thursday, June 10, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Deadhead, weed, and trim roses.

Thursday, June 24, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Hal Secrest Memorial Workday and Picnic; prune hedges, clean out tool shed, label tools, repair compost bins.

Thursday, August 26, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Dig and divide bulbs.

Thursday, September 9, 2010

9:30 am to Noon

Workday - Dig, divide and plant bulbs and iris.

Call Sara Chamberlin at 503-399-9436 for more information

# WESTERN OREGON UNIVERSITY

The Friends of the Gentle House  
The Cottage  
345 Monmouth Ave N  
Monmouth, OR 97361

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U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 12  
Monmouth, OR 97361

## WOU Calendar of Events

**February 19, 2010 - 7:00 pm**  
Harlem All-Star Fundraiser  
New PE Gym

**March 10, 2010**  
WOU Retirees & Emeritus Society bus trip to  
Tillamook  
For details visit:  
[www.wou.edu/president/advancement/retirees](http://www.wou.edu/president/advancement/retirees)  
or call Sandy at 503-838-8147.

**March 13, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Smith Fine Arts Series ~ *Inti-Illimani*  
Rice Auditorium

**April 4, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Smith Fine Arts Series ~ *An Evening with Mel Brown*  
Rice Auditorium

**April 6, 2010 - 6:00 p.m.**  
WOU Foundation Annual Scholarship Dinner  
Werner University Center

**April 23, 2010**  
Stan Kenyon Memorial Golf Tournament

**April 25, 2010 - 2:30 p.m.**  
Wedding Memories Fundraiser ~ Vintage Wedding  
Dress Show  
Gentle House

**April 25-27, 2010 - 7:30 p.m.**  
Smith Fine Arts Series ~ *Rebecca Fromherz, a tribute to  
the musical heritage of Vienna*  
Smith Recital Hall

**May 15, 2010**  
President's Club Dinner  
Willamette Valley Vineyards

**May 23, 2010**  
Wolves Hall of Fame Banquet  
Werner University Center

**June 5, 2010**  
Wolfpack Auction  
Salem Convention Center

**June 5, 2010**  
Smith Fine Arts Series ~ *Lizz Wright with the American  
Metropole Orchestra*  
Rice Auditorium