The Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association Newsletter
December 2013 - January 2014



The ETPA Board

What's Been Happening?

Construction has been rolling right along at the Egyptian. All of the new structural support beams are in place, the roofing above the flyloft and its rain water drainage system has been replaced, and the helical piles that will support the theatre's back wall foundation have been driven to an average 151 foot depth. Foundation support work continues as does work on the main floor ADA compliant restrooms, the sidewalk in front of the theatre, and the enhancement of electrical service to the Egyptian. All is progressing well towards completion of the items required to regain our occupancy permit before the end of this coming January.

For work being done in a close to 90-year-old building, there have been remarkably few surprises that have required contract change orders. The most significant change to-date has been the depth to which helical piles had to be driven to reach a stable depth. Instead of 100 feet as specified by our soil engineers, DBL Construction found that the piles had to be driven to 151 feet to meet our foundation support requirements. The piles have now all been successfully installed and have passed independent inspection by our engineers. To address this and other less significant change orders, we have added $20,000 to what we will be investing in the Egyptian to complete all of the work essential to our reopening (now $722,500, with approximately $4,000 left in unused contingency). With most of our required construction either well underway or already completed, electrical cable pulls through vintage electrical conduit is the only area remaining before us where difficulties we encounter may add to our cost to complete.

Our raised or committed fundraising has continued to keep pace with our construction cost needs. With the help of grants recently awarded us by the Kinsman Foundation and the Plum Creek Foundation, we have now raised close to $726,000. In addition, the Oregon Heritage – Preserve Oregon Foundation has granted us an additional $20,000 that will support City labor in removing the no longer used old heating oil boiler and heavy supporting structure from our stage. Though not absolutely essential to allow re-opening, removing this heavy equipment to reduce the load having to be borne by the theatre's foundation was highly recommended by our structural engineers. This additional work will be completed before the end of January as well.

Are we there yet? Almost. Though we now have funding to complete what is necessary to safely re-occupy the theatre, we are still busy raising the funds needed to thoroughly clean the theatre after construction and restore/preserve the many decorative treasures our theatre holds. We also have additional safety related work we believe we should complete before re-opening (like enhanced emergency exit lighting , raised handrails in the balcony and on the stairwells leading to our mezzanine, etc.). In addition, we would like to restore and enhance our theatre's Broadway exterior (as our advisors say: "to bring the show to the street!") and address other "patron important" improvements that, if not implemented before our re-opening, would require us to close the theatre later to complete.

We have made absolutely superb progress -- re-opening our beloved Egyptian Theatre is no longer an "if" – it is a "when". Our target – celebrating a Grand Re-Opening with you this coming June!

Send a note with your email address to coosbayegyptian@frontier.com to receive this newsletter via email.

2013 ETPA Annual Membership Meeting

On November 16th we held our annual membership meeting. The full slate of directors we recommended was endorsed by our membership, with approximately two-thirds of our members voting either by mailed-in ballot or at the meeting. We welcome Kathy Erickson, Joyce Jansen, Bill Richardson and Jenny Silva to their first member-elected terms as directors. We are pleased to have David Engholm, Teri Fisher, and Susan Watson continue as directors of your association for another term. And we thank Christina Geierman, Bob More and Ed Nichols for their wonderful service to our association. Christina, Bob and Ed will be going off our board at the end of this year.


The New Tile Sidewalk

Those of you who attended our meeting received a briefing on ongoing construction from Randy Dixon, the City's outstanding project manager overseeing construction at our theatre, and a "sneak peak" at what we have planned for restoring and enhancing the Broadway façade and entrance to our historic theatre. Look for the unveiling of our new Broadway tile sidewalk in late December or early January. Look for a re-open and vital Egyptian Theatre before the end of June 2014. And look for our next annual meeting once again being held within our wondrous and gloriously restored Egyptian Theatre!


One of the façade options under consideration.

Upcoming and Ongoing Events

Coos Bay Wine Walk – Enjoy piano music, wine and yummy snacks as you join us at the ETPA's office in the Tioga building on the Coos Bay Wine Walk on Friday, December 6th, and Friday January 3rdfrom 5:00 pm through 7:30 pm

Holiday Lights at Shore Acres --The ETPA will be serving as hosts for the 27th-annual Holiday Lights at Shore Acres State Park on Tuesday, December 10th, from 4:00-6:30 pm. Be sure to come out at dusk as the lights begin to glow and stop by for a cup of cider, a cookie and a cheery holiday greeting from the ETPA!

Sounds of Christmas Concert --The 39th annual "Sounds of Christmas" concert featuring organist Lee Littlefield and The Christmas Brass with Dr. Wilbur Jensen will be held at the North Bend Presbyterian Church (2238 Pony Creek Road), at noon on Saturday, December 14th. The Presbyterian Church has graciously welcomed the annual event while the theatre has been closed. The ETPA, sponsor of the concert, invites one and all to attend this community holiday tradition. Donations are welcome.



In Memoriam

We have some very sad news to share with you. Golden Charioteer and past board member, David Abernathy, passed away in late November. Dave had faithfully served on the ETPA board since 2006, the year the organization was founded, and was also, until recently, a member of the Egyptian Theatre Restoration Steering Committee, which was formed in 2011 after the theatre was closed. As a Golden Charioteer, he held an honor bestowed by the ETPA on those whose devotion, length, and quality of service to the Egyptian Theatre have been exceptional. During theatre operations, Dave served as our sound specialist and could always be found at the sound board or behind the concession stand when the theatre was open for a movie or other event.

We of the ETPA Board express our deepest sympathy for his loss and our thanksgiving for his life and service.

Meet Your Board Members – David Engholm



David Engholm, a founding Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association board member and its first president, has had an appreciation of historic buildings and places almost from birth.

"Before I was a year old," David said, "my grandparents would take us to Santa Catalina Island. We traveled to the island on the historic steamship, *Great White Steamer Catalina*, which just happened to be of the same era as our historic Egyptian Theatre."

His fondness for the vessel only grew. "I met my wife due to the steamer," he said. "We were married aboard that steamer on Cinco de Mayo 1989."

David's love of the Mighty Wurlitzer pipe organs and historic theatres began in the 1970s, when his grandmother took him to the Old Town Music Hall in El Segundo, CA. There he first experienced a Mighty Wurlitzer in action. The organist was Bill Field, who played music and then accompanied the silent movie, *Wings.* From then on, David said, "I was hooked!"

After working at theatres in California, David and his wife moved to Coos Bay in 1990. "Since then," he said, "we were blessed with four wonderful children and are very thankful to have such a fantastic community in which to raise them!"

Early on, David discovered the real treasure here – the Egyptian Theatre. To top it off, he discovered the theatre boasted a Mighty Wurlitzer of its own. The family attended the annual Christmas concerts featuring Lee Littlefield and the Wurlitzer and the Wilbur Jensen Christmas Brass. One concert they attended in the mid 1990's featured accomplished organist Paul Quarino. David said that was a real treat because they had seen him on previous occasions at Portland's well-known Organ Grinder restaurant.

In late 2005, David heard the news that the Egyptian Theatre would be closing and its future was uncertain. David said he decided to take action to save the historic theatre. The first step was to find others who felt the way he did. It was in early 2006 that he and a friend, Patrick Stack, attended a meeting of others who were determined to work to save the theatre. Next, they approached the Coos Bay Urban Renewal Agency with a request that they purchase the building. David and the fledgling organization, the Egyptian Theatre Preservation Association, pledged to manage the theatre at no cost to the city.

"We of the ETPA have a very strong partnership with the Urban Renewal Agency and the City of Coos Bay," David said. "Thanks to them and the ETPA, the theatre was saved for the community and future generations."

David was elected president of the newly formed board and during his tenure, the group had many accomplishments. They tore down a large banister that was built in front of the orchestra pit in the '50s and had obstructed the view of the Mighty Wurlitzer. David built a console for the organ, raising it a good two feet or more. They also demolished the mini theatres that had been constructed in the theatre balcony.

According to Greg Rueger, current ETPA president, David continues to support the Egyptian in many ways. "When we kicked off the capital campaign, we had the idea, borrowed from the Holly Theatre in Medford, to ask local restaurants to feature especially themed Egyptian offerings and David called on restaurants to pitch the idea. When David got to Benetti's, Joe Benetti told David that our idea was too small – that, instead, we should have a $500 a plate dinner and Benetti's would donate the dinner and many other costs associated with the event. In this way, David was the first to facilitate one of our most successful fundraisers!"

Greg added that the removal of the mini theatres was "a much trickier accomplishment than David suggests, one that presented many challenges that he successfully overcame. The restoration of the balcony area to its original look is one of the high points of the entire Egyptian story since it was purchased by the Urban Renewal Agency. What a great moment that was, the joy at the Christmas concert with the house packed to capacity after David's successful restoration of the balcony!

"With David on our team, we look forward to repeating that memorable experience next year when we re-open the Egyptian Theatre after a three-year absence. I know David is looking forward to a truly grand re-opening followed by a reinvigorated and enhanced Egyptian Theatre experience for our patrons."

Contest Continues: the first 4 people to find this symbol somewhere in the newsletter (other than in this announcement) will win a prize of either an Egyptian mug or etched wine glass. We will award 4 prizes per issue - two to the people who email where the symbol is (page & location on the page) and two to the first people who receive the mailed version of the newsletter and call the office (269-8650) with the information. Leave a message with the date and time you called and a number where we can reach you. Start looking!



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Egyptian Theatre Capital Campaign Fund 2013 Donation

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_____

o $25.00 o $50.00 o $100.00 o $250.00 o $500 Other _____

Please make your checks payable to "ETPA" and return this form and your donation to ETPA, 255 N Broadway, Coos Bay, OR 97420. If you prefer to make your donation with a credit card, please fill out the information sign and mail.
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