

Holy Names HERITAGE CENTER



February 2010 • Issue 3

Florida History Added to Center's Archives

Karen Kinzey, Program Manager

When twelve intrepid Holy Names sisters left Quebec in 1859 for their congregation's first foreign mission in Oregon, one of their first stops was in Key West, Florida. The sisters were distressed at the dearth of educational opportunities on the island and promised to return. In 1868, six sisters arrived in Key West to open the first Holy Names' school in the state. The SNJMs have been a strong presence in Florida ever since, establishing schools in Key West, Tampa, and several other locations. During the 19th century, the sisters established schools for African American and Cuban students for whom few educational opportunities existed.

This tradition of educational outreach and community service remains strong today. Thirty-one sisters live and work in Florida, primarily in the Tampa area. These

sisters are engaged in a variety of works to provide educational opportunities for underserved students and to promote social justice. Last

ministries in which they are engaged. Sisters who completed interviews are Suzanne Hixson, Margaret O'Brien, Josephine Paleveda, Lillian Schneider,

Ann Regan, Theresa Cecilia Lowe, Mary Spellicy, Mary Glavin, Barbara Cooper, Luke Marie Capling, Rose Christina Momm, Carmella DeCosty, Giovannina Saleeby, Mary Patricia Plumb, Anne Celine Turner, Elinor Sevingy, and Mary Haskins. These interviews have been added to the Center's archival collections.



First Communion class, St. Peter Claver, Tampa, c. 1965

November, Program Manager Karen Kinzey conducted oral history interviews with most of the Florida sisters to document the important

Besides their many years of teaching, these sisters have served their communities in a remarkable variety of ways for over

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Holy Names
HERITAGE CENTER

www.holynamesheritagecenter.org

17425 Holy Names Drive
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
503-607-0595

RESEARCH LIBRARY:
Wednesday–Friday
10:00–3:00
by appointment

ADMINISTRATION:
Monday–Thursday:
9:00–4:00
Friday: 9:00–3:00

Calendar

**Lake Oswego Everybody Reads:
One Room School House
Panel Discussion
Holy Names Heritage Center
February 9, 2010 2–4PM**

Celebrate Lake Oswego Reads 2010 and this year's book selection, *The Whistling Season* by Ivan Doig. Have you ever wondered what it was like for an entire school with children of all ages and abilities to be the responsibility of a single teacher? Join us at the Heritage Center for an afternoon of memories about one room school houses. Speakers Steve Eklund, Clemie Moody, Doris Robertson, Mary Neely and Donna Reiff will share their memories of their adventures attending and teaching single room schools. Come just to listen or share your own stories about this unique experience. Holy Names Heritage Center is a proud partner of Lake Oswego Reads 2010.

**Sustainability Fair:
Food, Wine and Home
Holy Names Heritage Center
May 22, 2010 11AM–4PM**

As an official partner of the Lake Oswego Centennial Celebration, the Heritage Center is hosting an especially exciting event during the month of May, which is both sustainability and historic preservation month. Come celebrate an earth-friendly lifestyle at the Sustainability Fair: Food, Wine and Home on May 22, 2010 at the Heritage Center. Sample local and sustainable food and wine from local restaurants and hear guest speakers discuss earth-friendly remodeling and building, sustainable historic home choices, locally grown food options and earth-friendly vineyards and vines. The event is free and open to the public with plenty of free parking.

Letter from the Executive Director

Tamra Brosseau

The Heritage Center has many new and exciting changes coming!

The Heritage Center's new look for the newsletter is just one of the wonderful transformations that will be implemented over the next three to four months. Our website is under construction to create user-friendly features and an exceptional new page on the uses of the Center's beautiful building and gardens.

The Heritage Center's upcoming exhibit on the convent hospital that operated at Key West during the Spanish-American War in 1898 will "open" soon on our website, kicking off a new format and schedule. In lieu of yearly exhibits with broad topics that are displayed at the Heritage Center and appear as PDF files on our website, we are shifting to a completely virtual model. Exhibits will be posted several times each year, offering a more in-depth look at specific topics about the sisters' history from around the U.S.-Ontario Province. This will enable us to utilize our collections more completely and to publicize some of the wonderful material they contain. Past exhibits will remain on the site as resources. Please check them out!

The Center's Facebook page may already be up and running by the time you receive this newsletter. News and events updates will be posted as soon as they are available. Photo "albums" will feature events and the sheer beauty of the Center and our surroundings. It will be a place for you to interact with me or Karen and Sarah. We would especially like to hear comments about one the Center's events you have attended. You will need to be a member of Facebook, then look us up under Holy Names Heritage Center and please become a fan!

Sincerely,
Tamra Brosseau

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sixty years. One launched a small prison ministry that has evolved into a nonprofit agency offering a continuum of social services. Another sister dedicated herself to caring for disadvantaged children at a day-care facility while another established a thriving program to train disadvantaged adults to become caregivers for seniors. Two served as nurses for many years and later established a much-needed college nursing program. Another sister labored for a decade to establish a retreat center to provide an antidote to the stresses of modern life. Like their 19th century predecessors, today's Holy Names sisters are tireless in their efforts to bring academic excellence, community service, and a spirit of compassion to those in need. Generations of Floridians have benefitted from the sisters' presence and will continue to do so for many years to come.

News from the Archives

Sarah Cantor, Director of Archives

In recent months word has traveled in archival circles about the SNJM U.S.-Ontario Province archives at the Heritage Center. In early November, Fernanda Perrone, Archivist and Head of Exhibitions at the Rutgers University library in New Brunswick, New Jersey, arrived for a two-day visit of the Heritage Center and its collections. Perrone is a historian with scholarly interest in congregations of women religious. She came to the Heritage Center as part of her research on archival collections of women religious. Her findings will appear as a chapter of a book on international women's archival collections, to be published by the Society of American Archivists in 2012.

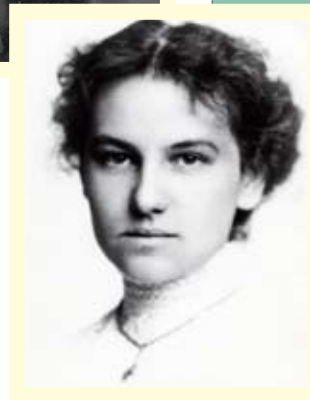
Over the course of her research, Perrone interviewed archivists at more than sixty communities. In her initial contact, Perrone said she had heard from another community that the Heritage Center was a "model facility" for religious archives. During her visit, she toured the building and asked questions about our practices, policies and collections before spending time looking through the earliest chronicles.

Shortly after Fernanda Perrone's visit, John Diefenderfer, archivist for the Daughters of Charity, Northeast Province in Albany, New York, contacted the archives looking for practical information about archives consolidation. The Daughters are in the process of combining four American provinces and are trying to decide whether to consolidate their archives or to leave them as regional facilities. Diefenderfer had spoken to an Albany SNJM who directed him to the Heritage Center.

The U.S.-Ontario Province leadership's decision to consolidate its regional archives was forward-thinking and done with great care and attention. As more communities consider consolidation, it is likely that we will continue to be consulted about our experience, both with the consolidation process and how it has affected our ability to provide access to the collections.



S. Miriam Theresa Gleason, c. 1917



Caroline Gleason, c. 1910



A primary function of the archives is to make material available for researchers. In 2009 there were two notable publications utilizing our collections. Oregon historian Janice Dilg, after researching the Sister Miriam Theresa (Caroline Gleason) Papers, published an article in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* entitled "For working women in Oregon": Caroline Gleason/Sister Miriam Theresa and Oregon's minimum wage law" (Spring 2009). Last March Dilg gave a presentation on her research at History Pub, a program we co-sponsor at McMenemy Kennedy School in Portland. The presentation was repeated at the Heritage Center in November.

Lewis and Clark College law professor Paula Abrams just published a fascinating and scholarly book entitled *Cross purposes: Pierce v. Society of Sisters and the struggle over compulsory public education* (University of Michigan Press, 2009).

As part of her research, Abrams utilized the collection of material we hold on the Oregon School Bill of 1922, which sought to eliminate private schools. Supported by the Ku Klux Klan and the Masons, this legislation was a thinly-veiled attempt to close Catholic schools. It was struck down in 1925 in a landmark case decided by the United States Supreme Court, in which the Sisters of the Holy Names were the lead plaintiff. It remains an oft-cited case today: United States Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor made reference to it in her confirmation hearings in July. Abrams' book references our collections and includes two photographs from the archives.

Both Abrams' book and the article by Janice Dilg are available for perusal in the Heritage Center's library.





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HERITAGE CENTER

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*Srs. Eileen Kelleher, Barbara Andes, and Suzanne Huntsman
Florida, c. 1960*



Miller family, St. Paul, c. 1913

Family History Project Strikes a Chord

In December, the Center's new Family History Deluxe membership option premiered at a reception that drew over 100 people. The Family History Deluxe membership package includes a range of services to preserve family history, documents, and photographs. The Heritage Center's state-of-the-art recording studio provides an ideal venue for oral history interviews. The Deluxe membership includes a one-hour interview conducted by a professional historian. To learn more, go to the membership page on the Heritage Center's website.

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter via email, saving us resources, please send your request to alindsay@snjmuson.org



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HERITAGE CENTER

17425 Holy Names Drive
Lake Oswego, OR 97034



Holy Names HERITAGE CENTER

February 1, 2010

Dear Heritage Center Friends and Supporters:

This past year was a financially challenging one for many people and organizations and the Heritage Center was no exception. We are grateful to those of you who continue to support us in myriad ways: by donating to the Center, by attending programming events, by volunteering time and expertise, or by taking advantage of the Center as an event venue. Your support helps us expand our programming and educational offerings and preserve the unique history of the Sisters of the Holy Names contained in the archives.

Last year we saw steady growth in the popularity of the History Pub program, a monthly event held at McMenamins Kennedy School in Portland and co-sponsored with the Oregon Historical Society. The January program attracted around 325 attendees! Our fourth grade program on the sisters' history in Oregon reaches schools in both Oregon and Washington and new schools are added each year. Requests from around the country for information from the archives arrive regularly and are increasing in number. All these things lead to expanded name recognition for the Heritage Center and further growth.

Thank you for your past support of the Heritage Center. We hope that you will continue your support in 2010.

Sincerely,

Tamra Brosseau
Executive Director

Jane Hibbard, SNJM
Chair, Board of Directors

MEMBERSHIP ENROLLMENT FORM

Send to: Holy Names Heritage Center, Attn: Membership, 17425 Holy Names Drive Lake Oswego, OR 97034

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Membership levels:

\$35	Individual	\$55	Household	\$100	Family History
\$250	Family History Deluxe	\$500	Patron	\$1000+	Sustaining

Enclosed is my membership amount of \$ _____ Payment type ___ check ___ Visa ___ MasterCard

Card number _____ Exp. date _____ Security code _____

Name on card (please print) _____

Signature _____

History Pub

Developed by Holy Names Heritage Center, History Pub is a collaborative program of the Heritage Center, Oregon Historical Society, and McMenamins. Each program features a presentation by a humanities expert from fields including history, journalism, law, and women's studies. Whenever possible, individuals who participated in or were affected by the events share their memories as part of the program. The voices of actual historical participants add a unique perspective to the discussion of these important issues.



Two History Pub guests enjoy themselves during intermission



McMenamins Kennedy School

The series is held at the historic McMenamins Kennedy School in Northeast Portland. Where else can you hear fascinating history while enjoying a slice of pizza and a frosty pint of handcrafted ale? History Pub appeals to a broad and diverse audience and is also a family-friendly event. This innovative program typically draws a crowd of 150 people each month.

What History Pub guests have to say:

“Love the History Pub concept and this program was compelling!”

“This is so needed - thanks!”

“This series is a great idea.”

“Tonight is our 30th wedding anniversary - and we both said we want to spend it at History Pub!”

Upcoming Programs

February 22

“Renewal and Removal in North & Northeast Portland” will focus on the dramatic changes to the landscape radiating from NE Broadway and Interstate Avenue, beginning in the 1950s. Presented by Carl Abbott, PSU Professor of Urban Studies and Planning, Thomas Robinson, Historic Photo Archives, and former residents.
7PM at the Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland.

March 29

“The Historic Columbia River Highway: Its History, Decline, and Preservation” will include the history of the highway, the restoration and reconnection work that has occurred since the highway was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983, and future plans for complete reconnection. Speakers will include: Robert Hadlow, PhD, Senior Historian, Oregon Department of Transportation; David Sell, recently retired from Western Federal Lands Highway Division of the Federal Highway Administration; and George Fekaris, Western Federal Lands Highway Division.
7PM at the Kennedy School, 5736 NE 33rd Ave., Portland.