JOIN US on Saturday, March 23 for Friends of Banning Museum’s annual scholarship presentation and largest fundraiser of the year. Set in the Roarin’ Twenties, this year’s event will be unlike any other. Guests will enjoy a fun-filled evening of suspense and intrigue as active participants in the murder mystery of The Last Gala. With Cole Porter tunes as the backdrop, it will be a classic “Whodunnit” with each table working together to solve the mystery of who killed Miss Otis. So, don’t miss it! Here’s your chance to have an entertaining night out and support the Friends of Banning Museum’s mission to Preserve History, Promote Education and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit.

Scholarship presentation by California Sulphur Co., Fastlane Transportation, Inc., and the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce.

Wisteria Regale
“Mysteria Regale – The Last Gala”
Dinner, Libations, Silent Auction & Murder!

Saturday, March 23, 2013
5:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Hilton Doubletree Hotel, Madeo Grand Ballroom
2800 Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro, CA
Tickets are $150 per person, $1,250 for a table of ten.

For more information and to make your reservation, please call 310-548-2005
Dear Friends,

Last year was an exciting and successful year for Friends of Banning Museum. Summarized below are just a few of the highlights. These accomplishments were possible because of your support:

• More schoolchildren than ever were inspired by our one-of-a-kind educational programs — nearly 12,000 children joined us for these outstanding programs.
• The Rose Garden has been upgraded with 18 new antique rose bushes. Many colorful daffodils were added and the wisteria is still receiving a much-needed trimming.
• The Harlyne and Kenneth Norris Visitor Center received a beautiful new paint job.
• For the first time in our history, we presented a very successful authentic Victorian Mourning exhibition, which included a coffin in the parlor!
• New cabinetry was installed to safeguard our priceless textiles collection.

For all of us who love The Banning Museum and cherish its roots in the community, we are very proud of the increased print exposure. Specifically, we were extremely honored that the Automobile Club of Southern California chose to feature the Banning Victorian Christmas in their November/December 2012 edition of their premier magazine, Westways. We had a record attendance of 4,000 visitors during the Victorian Christmas weekend! Word about The Banning Museum is getting out, and we could not be more pleased.

This year promises to be another exciting year, as we are preparing for the 150th Anniversary of the Banning Residence in 2014. As most of you know, the mansion is in great need of restoration and conservation. It is our goal to bring the building back to its former glory. Please read about our Operation: Restoration appeal in this issue of Banning & Company. Please join us in this important effort to preserve this Los Angeles icon.

Your support of Friends of Banning Museum is vital, and very much appreciated. Thank you for supporting our mission and for being such an important part of the future of The Banning Museum.

Sincerely,

Peter Kunoth
President, Friends of Banning Museum

President’s Message

2013 Calendar of Events

Banning Family Treasures: Selected Items from 1860-1920
Harlyne and Kenneth Norris Visitor Center
March 9 - August 4, 2013

Wisteria Regale 2013
Saturday, March 23, 2013

Spring Banning Heritage Week
April 22 - 26, 2013

From Darkness to Light: Discovering Harriet Mason
Lecture by Museum Director, Michael Sanborn
April 27, 2013

Victorian Christmas Luncheon
December 6, 2013

Victorian Christmas
December 7 and 8, 2013
THE BANNING MUSEUM’S

Wisteria Gets a “Haircut”

YIKES!
What happened to our beautiful, bushy wisteria?
The historic wisteria in The Banning Museum garden finally got its long-overdue “haircut.” Todd Wales, the park supervisor at the Pt. Fermin District, was in charge of the pruning. He came to Wilmington to conduct an orientation and supervise the project on a chilly January 15th, early in the morning, just as the pruning of the rose bushes was winding down.

Todd learned the techniques from the Japanese gardener and has nine years of experience pruning The Banning Museum’s wisteria vines. He gave general information about wisteria and instructions accompanied by demonstrations on how the vines should be properly pruned to maximize blossoming in the spring. Two Garden Gloves volunteers, and six City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks employees, including two women who had been on his crew when the wisteria was last pruned about 7-8 years ago, were present.

The crews were assigned to different sections of the arbor and the work was begun. The pruning was expected to take one to one and a half weeks, and Todd recommended that a January pruning be scheduled once a year.

Garden Gloves volunteers Kathy Sauers and Angi Ma Wong were among those present. Angi, who is writing two children’s books on Phineas Banning, brought and shared historical pictures of The Banning Museum’s wisteria taken in the 1950s, with the original wooden post trellis and the current arbor that has square vertical posts and is painted white. Seeing how the wisteria would grow back to about a foot above the arbor with very lush and prolific blossoms below gave the crews a good idea of the results of their labors.

Volunteers have painstakingly gathered, packaged and labeled packets of our wisteria seeds with instructions for their planting and care. These are now available for purchase in the gift shop as a unique and attractive souvenir of The Banning Museum.

Our thanks to FBM Board member Angi Ma Wong for sharing this fascinating visit into the garden!

A special THANK YOU to Kellogg’s Garden Products for their generous donation of compost and rose fertilizer.
JOIN US IN
OPERATION: RESTORATION

OPERATION: RESTORATION is one of the most important appeals that Friends of Banning Museum has ever initiated. YOU ARE THE KEY TO ITS SUCCESS.

The beautiful Banning mansion was once a showplace in the Harbor Area. Today, it is a one-of-a-kind treasure, both for its historical and architectural significance. But it was built long ago, in 1864, and nearly 150 years of exposure to the elements and use has taken its toll. Despite careful ongoing maintenance over the years, the mansion is in dire need of Restoration and Conservation.

Here is where you can help – and become part of something wonderful and lasting.

The City of Los Angeles has already allocated significant resources to cover a portion of the restoration and conservation costs, provided that Friends of Banning Museum can raise the balance of the estimated $200,000 project cost. Your monetary support will go directly into restoring and conserving the exterior of this National Historic Landmark.

Please donate today!

We are asking everyone who loves and appreciates The Banning Museum to become a part of OPERATION: RESTORATION. Since launching the appeal in December, 2012, we have already received over $17,000 in donations! Please help us reach our goal to protect this treasure for future generations.

You will see with your own eyes what your generosity helped to accomplish.

One of the greatest joys of contributing to OPERATION: RESTORATION is that you will actually see what your donation has accomplished. You will be proud that you were part of a key restoration project.

Anniversary of a local gem!

The 150th Anniversary of the Banning Residence is in August 2014. It is our objective that the mansion be as beautiful and sound as it was in 1864. Please donate today. It is easy. You can use the enclosed envelope. Please be sure to indicate clearly that your contribution is for “Restoration and Conservation.” If you send a check, please write it on the check. This way, we know exactly where you want your money to go.

Thank you for your generous support!

www.thebanningmuseum.org
WHAT A GREAT WEEKEND IT WAS! Thanks to community enthusiasm plus the fantastic exposure we received in the Automobile Club of Southern California’s *Westways* magazine, we welcomed more than 4,000 visitors to Victorian Christmas.

The annual open house was held on December 1 and 2, 2012, and despite inclement weather, the crowds had a great time celebrating, touring the Museum and enjoying all the festivities. Our congratulations to William York from Costa Mesa, the winner of our “A Taste of Terranea Holiday Traditions” raffle! We had to wonder...how many more visitors would we have had if not for the rain? We’ll just have to wait for next year to find out!

The Victorian Mourning Exhibition at The Banning Museum was truly one-of-a-kind. Visitors learned how Victorian society was bound and structured by elaborate rules of etiquette when it came to mourning practices. They were able to see the various stages of mourning throughout the house, with unique displays of mourning attire and jewelry. Our visitors were also fascinated, if not stunned, to see the authentic replica of a Victorian-era casket sitting in the parlor of the Residence!

For the first time, The Banning Museum was open to the public on Halloween day. We had capacity crowds, and it was clear our visitors were most intrigued by this unusual exhibition!

Thank You To Our Victorian Christmas Sponsors:

Tea & Tunes
AN AFTERNOON OF ELEGANCE AND STYLE

Our 8th Annual Tea & Tunes was held February 9, 2013, a beautiful Saturday afternoon. Guests enjoyed a selection of teas and an elegant light luncheon and were able to tour The Banning Museum. Lovely and amazing string music by local artist Maestra Valerie Geller graced the event. Judging from the gorgeous hats and finery many of our guests were wearing, old fashioned elegance truly never goes out of style!
It’s All About the Kids!

As you know, education is one of our highest priorities. Our kids are our future, and we want to give those in our local area positive experiences they will remember for a lifetime. Experiences that engage, intrigue and delight them – and inspire them to believe in themselves and all the possibilities that are ahead of them.

In 2012, we had more children than ever participate in our programs. This is very gratifying and reinforces our belief that the programs are very important to the community.

In past issues of Banning & Company, we’ve introduced you to many of our programs. Now, we’d like to tell you a little bit about another program, which is both a great deal of fun for the children and educational as well – Halloween at The Banning Museum!

Halloween at The Banning Museum

Halloween at the Banning Museum is an after-school, one-day program that takes place at The Banning Museum in cooperation with the City of Los Angeles Banning Recreation Center on October 31. Friends of Banning Museum provides an exciting trolley ride, a healthy treat and a one-of-a-kind Halloween treat, and a tour of the Mansion.

This program offers local children the opportunity to learn more about the Halloween holiday from a historical point of view in a safe, positive environment. We were delighted to host over 250 children for the 2012 program! Our most sincere thanks to the Boeing Employees Community Fund for making this program possible.

Our thanks to those who make these programs happen!

Membership in Friends of Banning Museum helps to support our educational programs, and we thank all our members for helping us achieve this most important mission.

We are also very grateful to the companies and organizations that share in our belief and have been so generous with their support of our educational programs.

Living History School Program for 4th grade students

Evolution of a Town Program for 3rd grade students

Summer Days at The Banning Museum

Banning Heritage Week
DID YOU KNOW...

Did you know that there is a fascinating mystery surrounding Phineas Banning’s gold pocket watch?

Phineas Banning’s beautiful gold pocket watch is proudly displayed in the Improbable Gateway: The Los Angeles Transportation Legacy exhibition at The Banning Museum. This watch was originally a gift, commissioned for Phineas by his employees and presented to him in 1867, possibly to commemorate the expansion of Banning & Company’s Union Wagon Factory. The new shop in this factory produced the first Concord coaches on the west coast—a stagecoach that continues to appear today as an annual entrant in the Pasadena Rose Parade.

The watch was customized with a lovely hand-tinted profile portrait photograph of Phineas’ first wife, Rebecca Sanford Banning, and hand engraved with “Presented to Gen. Phineas Banning by his employees, Jan. 1, 1867.” While we are most fortunate to have Phineas’ pocket watch in our collection now, there is a bit of mystery associated with exactly where it has been over the years.

When Phineas died in 1885, he still could have been wearing that watch. We have pictures of him in his later, more prosperous, years when he would dress in a suit with a vest always showing a pocket watch chain and fob in many of the pictures we have of him driving six horses pulling a Concord coach. Was it the same watch? William, a bachelor for all of his 88 years, lived longer than any of his siblings and was a most beloved uncle to his many nieces and nephews and his grand-nieces and nephews. In fact, they called him simply “Uncle,” an endearment that reflected the time and attention he showered on his two brothers’ many descendants. Who received the watch after William’s death? One of his four nephews or seven grand-nephews?

We know the watch was passed down to William’s grand-nephew George Hugh Banning. There was a particularly special bond between these two men. They had a mutual fascination with the history of horse-drawn coaches in America, particularly the Concord coach, drawn by six horses. William and George collaborated to write Six Horses, a book about this history that was published in 1930.

In present day, the watch came to light again in 2010, when Marianne Banning Adey, Phineas’ great-granddaughter and George Hugh Banning’s daughter, opened a safe deposit box that had belonged to her brother Douglas and was happily surprised to find this beautiful gold pocket watch. Thanks to the engraving, it was soon determined that this watch had belonged to Phineas. Thanks to Marianne, the watch has been returned to Phineas’ home, where we can all enjoy it and imagine exactly where it has been over the last 146 years!
Meet Our New Volunteer President

MARSHA KELLY, a retired classroom assistant, has been deeply involved with The Banning Museum’s Volunteer efforts for nearly nine years. She knows firsthand how rewarding it is to be a part of this wonderful and dedicated group. Marsha says, “Volunteering at The Banning Museum has offered me the opportunity to meet others with similar interests and to continually learn about history. I also enjoy the school program because it allows me to spend time with children since my grandchildren are so far away.”

If You Love History, We Need You as a Volunteer!

JOIN US! Are you fascinated with history? Love working with people? Have some free time you’d like to spend on a great cause where you can also have a lot of fun? Then you’re the one we’re looking for! The Banning Museum Volunteers are looking for new members, and there are so many ways you can help, including:

• Public Tours of the Museum, Stagecoach Barn and Grounds
• Conservation and Maintenance of Antiques
• Decorative Arts Exhibitions
• Lecture and Discussion Committees
• Living History Program
• Museum Shop
• School Programs
• Special Events

Our next Get to Know Us meeting for prospective Volunteers will be held in the Fall.
For more information, please give the Museum a call at 310-548-7777