Does Preserving History Really Matter?

The fact that you are reading this newsletter is probably a good indicator that it matters to you. It also matters a great deal to us. It’s in our DNA. Friends of Banning Museum’s very mission is

To Preserve History, Promote Education and Inspire Entrepreneurial Spirit

In 1974, the founder of Friends of Banning Museum, Nancy Banning Call wrote:

“Although we are accustomed to thinking of fossils or archaeological ruins as the artifacts of history, Banning House is also an artifact. Artifacts of history share a common identity, be the cave paintings in Spain, Indian fire rings in Julian, California, fragments of fertility goddesses in central Europe or historic homes across America. They are landmarks along the course of man’s development that help us understand what has gone before and in doing so provide useful perspective on the present. The very fact of their survival gives them responsibility to “speak for” that which no longer remains. Thus, they must become even larger than they were in life, spokesmen for and clues to a whole era. This is the future one dreams of Banning House.”

It is only through your support and steadfast dedication to preserving history that we are able to work every day to make dreams for Banning House a reality.

Thank You!

Please enjoy this edition of Banning & Co. as it highlights the many ways you have impacted our shared mission to show that preserving history does matter.
ALL ABOARD!

Photo (left to right): Lisa Hansen, Guadalupe Pena, and Ally Gonzalez

ON OCTOBER 5, 2018, with over sixty Friends of Banning Museum members present, we opened for the first time our new Stagecoach Office interpreted to recreate what a Wilmington stagecoach office looked like in the 19th century. The office will be added to the curriculum for our educational programs and will offer an additional way to teach Banning history as well as concepts involving Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) for 3rd and 4th grade students.

Thank you for your support in making this important project a reality!

Be sure to check out the new STAGECOACH OFFICE located inside of the barn on your next visit to the Museum!

Members Make Critical Preservation Possible

When you think of textiles, you may only think of clothing and fabric. But did you know that the Banning Museum’s textiles collection contains over 1200 items including formal dresses and gowns, men’s suits, crazy quilts, shawls, parasols, table cloths, napkins, beaded hand bags, gloves, shoes and hats dating from the early 1850s to late 1920s?

Some items of note:

Parisian wedding slippers owned by George S. Patton’s mother

A fantastic shawl collection including several beautiful antique Spanish shawls worn by Rudecinda Sepulveda, daughter of Diego Sepulveda

Over 150 Victorian era dresses and 10 wedding gowns

While we are extremely proud of our remarkable collection, textiles are some of the rarest and most difficult artifacts to preserve. Victorian cloth items were generally hand-made, not mass produced, so most pieces are one of a kind. It is also exceedingly rare for textile items, especially clothing, to survive into the 21st century in their original condition, because clothing items tended to be passed down to family members or altered as fashions changed.

In order to continue to properly preserve our priceless pieces, we need your help. We are in need of proper conservation forms i.e. museum quality mannequins and special storage containers to safely display and protect our collection without damage. You can play a critical role in helping us preserve our irreplaceable textiles by becoming a member of Friends of Banning Museum.

Membership is the lifeblood of the Friends organization. Without our members, it would not be possible to take the necessary actions towards ensuring vital pieces of history are not lost. If you are not yet a member, please consider joining us now. Simply complete the enclosed envelope or go online at www.thebanningmuseum.org/support/membership to sign up.

THANK YOU!

Friends of Banning Museum Welcomes New Board Members

The Friends are thrilled to add two new members to our Board of Directors, Jason Owens and Russell Mohberg.

JASON is passionate about the history of Southern California and learning about the roles that family members have played in its development. Banning House has always been a special place for him as he has learned more of his own history. He is a direct descendant of David W. Alexander, who became Phineas Banning’s first business partner in 1853 when they formed a freight and passenger transportation business at the San Pedro waterfront. Jason’s favorite past time is sailing the Pacific, thinking of the ones that have made the passages before us. He works in the dental industry as a professional supporting the success of dentists.

RUSSELL is a founding partner of the wealth management firm, Regatta Capital Group. Prior to working in the wealth management industry, Russell was an industrial designer, specializing in medical device development. Russell currently serves on the Grazziadio Business School Board at Pepperdine and chairs the Wilmington Community Development Committee for the non-profit, Pacific Unicomm Corporation. Russell lives a half-block away from the Banning Museum with his wife Laura Mohberg (m. Rubio), a longtime Banning Museum volunteer, and son, Evan.

Welcome to the family, Russell and Jason!
Togetheer Again After 130 Years!

On October 5, Friends of Banning Museum members witnessed something that has not happened since 1888. Portraits of Phineas Banning, his second wife Mary Hollister Banning and their two daughters, Lucy and Mary, together again gracing the walls of the dining room as a family. Over a year ago, with your generous support, we took on the arduous and painstaking task of restoring the family portraits and recreating a 19th-century frame from scratch. Many were involved in this important conservation project including Francine Hackerotte (left photo) who spent countless hours ensuring the recreated frame for daughter Mary was just right and Linnaea Saunders who was tasked with cleaning and remounting the portraits to new stretchers. Huge thanks to both Linnaea and Francine for their care and consideration in this major undertaking. The result is quite stunning and we could not be prouder to complete this project in our continued efforts to preserve the deep history of the Banning family.

We also want to thank you most of all for helping make this significant accomplishment possible. We asked and you came through. If you haven’t been to the Museum recently, now is the perfect time to visit and see all four portraits in person. You will not be disappointed!

Terminal Island

Seen In A Whole New Light

On September 22, we kicked off our Keeping History Alive Lecture Series with a fascinating talk by former Port of Los Angeles Executive Director, Dr. Geraldine Knatz, on Terminal Island: Lost Communities of Los Angeles Harbor based on the book of the same name.

Over 100 guests were riveted by previously untold stories of how Terminal Island once served as a resort for the wealthy Southern California landowners and as a refuge for its artists, writers and scientists. Following her talk, Dr. Knatz graciously answered questions and signed books.

Mark your calendar:

Our next Keeping History Alive Lecture:
“SHIPWRECKS OF THE CALIFORNIA COAST”
by author Michael White
January 12, 2019, 11:00 a.m.
Stagecoach Barn
Victorian Christmas Luncheon
Friday, November 30, 2018 11:30 a.m.
For reservations, call (310) 548-2005 or reserve online at www.thebanningmuseum.org

Victorian Christmas Weekend Celebration
December 1 & 2, 2018
Saturday & Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
FREE ADMISSION

THANK YOU to these wonderful sponsors for helping keep the Victorian Christmas weekend celebration FREE!