



**The Egyptian Theatre
Preservation Association
Newsletter
February - March 2014**

What's Been Happening? By Greg Rueger, ETPA Board President

Christmas came early last year for the Egyptian Theatre. On December 20th the Meyer Memorial Trust informed us that they had awarded us a grant of \$160,000 -- the largest award we have received in our capital campaign! A very merry Christmas indeed! The Meyer Memorial Trust is a private foundation focused on supporting Oregon communities (the Trust is not connected to Fred Meyer, Inc.) The award was targeted at assisting us to complete many of the renovation and restoration projects that we felt were high priority to tackle after we had completed the seismic and structural repairs and before we re-open the Egyptian. We now have the funds needed to enhance our emergency exit lighting, restore internal features such as the two main decorated columns in our auditorium, restore/repaint the ceiling and balcony facade, and several other patron safety and comfort related enhancements. In addition, the Meyer Memorial Trust award provided us a little more than half of the \$154,000 we estimated was needed to restore and enhance the facade of the Egyptian Theatre -- to recreate wonderful historical elements and "bring the show to the street".



The new façade

There was one catch to our Christmas present. As is often the case with large foundation grants, the Meyer Memorial Trust award was a "top-off" grant. That means before we received any of the \$160,000 awarded we would need to demonstrate that we had received, or had firm commitments for, the remaining funds we estimated were needed to complete the projects for which we had requested their support. At the end of 2013, we were about \$70,000 short of meeting the "top-off" condition. Since the Broadway facade restoration/enhancement was the specific project needing additional funding and we

believed the facade restoration would be a major enhancement to downtown Coos Bay, we decided to apply for a facade improvement grant from Coos Bay's Urban Renewal Agency (URA). With our City friends strongly behind us, we moved with lightning speed. On December 30 we went before Coos Bay's Design Review Committee and received a strong endorsement of the facade design our historic preservation consultant, George Kramer, had produced for us. A week later we presented our request to the URA and, with unanimous and enthusiastic support from the URA, received a facade improvement grant of \$70,000 -- fully funding our facade restoration project and providing us what we needed to meet the Meyer Memorial Trust "top-off" condition. Thank you board members Joyce Jansen and Bill Richardson, fundraisers supreme, and George Kramer, designer supreme, for putting together and moving our facade grant request to success. Way to go team!

Have we completed our fundraising? The lion's share of it, yes. We are still seeking some funding for post-structural repairs clean-up work and have 2 high priority projects only partially funded. We

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New beams support the theatre's back wall.

would like to restore and enhance our lobby and concessions area. In addition, though our structural work fully replaced the roof over the Theatre's fly-loft (new beams had to be added to the roof there), the flat portion of our roof near the Theatre's Broadway facade, and its drainage system, has not been repaired. We need to re-roof this area sometime over the next several years -- ideally before we re-open if the necessary funds can be raised.

Lastly in the fundraising arena, your board is turning its attention to re-opening our Theatre as a truly vibrant and crowd-pleasing entertainment center for our community. To expand and enhance our programming, as many of you

have requested, we will need to hire an experienced Executive Director/Theatre Manager (ED/TM) for the Egyptian. Over time we are convinced that expanded programming and the larger audiences that will bring should pay for the ED/TM. Initially, however, we will need financial support from both a "capacity building" grant and our local community to make this a reality. One of our local supporters has issued a challenge donation to help us raise the funds we need for the ED/TM: for every \$5,000 we cumulatively receive from others for the ED/TM before the end of May, this donor will give us a matching \$5,000 -- up to a maximum of \$20,000.

As is now very visible outside of our Theatre, construction has been progressing rapidly. On the back wall you can now see the completed structural supports and our new, upgraded electrical service to the Theatre. In front, you see a plywood structure attached to the Theatre's awning that encloses the area in front of our entrance doors. What mysterious things are we doing behind this enclosure? We are laying the new tile sidewalk designed by City Councilor Mike Vaughan that we shared with you at our annual meeting and in our last newsletter. The enclosure provides Jim Pallo Construction, a local tile artisan, with the dry and heated space needed to lay the tiles this time of year. Come join us at our grand unveiling of the tile sidewalk, now scheduled for Saturday March 1st. Be among the first to "Walk Like An Egyptian" across our new tile pavement!



On February 24th all of the remaining structural, seismic and ADA restroom work will be completed and our volunteers and contractors will be allowed entry into the Theatre to start clean-up, interior restoration, and getting the Theatre fully ready for re-opening. Our construction schedule for the interior and exterior enhancements carries us out to early June. Our Grand Re-Opening series of celebratory events will take place in late June and ...

The Egyptian Theatre will open its doors for regular programming on July 1st!

Upcoming Events

Coos Bay Wine Walk – Friday evenings from 5pm to 7:30pm **February 7** and **March 7** -- Find out what we are up to and enjoy piano music, wine, snacks and good company as you join us at the ETPA's office in the Tioga building during Coos Bay's Wine Walks.

Egyptian Theatre Broadway Tile Sidewalk Grand Unveiling - On Saturday **March 1st** at high noon come see what is under the plywood surrounding our Theatre's front entrance. Enjoy the festivities and be among the first to "Walk Like An Egyptian" across our new tile pavement. After March 1st our new tile entrance will again be covered while we commence restoration and enhancement of our Theatre's façade – so don't miss this once in a life-time unveiling opportunity!

2014 ETPA Membership

We have had a very good response to our membership renewal campaign for 2014. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please consider doing so soon. Memberships help us re-open our theatre and, this year, will earn you an invitation to special Grand Re-Opening member-only "sneak peak" events! Membership forms are available on our web page (www.egyptian-theatre.com) or can be picked up at the ETPA's Tioga building office or the Antiques and Collectables store next door.

Al Ellis and Laura Fisher join the ETPA's Board

Our board elected Allen (Al) Ellis and Laura Fisher to director positions through the end of 2014, at which time they will be placed on the ballot for member election to longer-term board service.

Al is a widely-recognized and respected community member who managed Stamper's J & J Tire Company (later Les Schwab) stores in Coos Bay, Coquille and North Bend before retiring in 2005. He brings management experience, a reputation of knowing how to please customers, and strong ties to our Bay Area community in which he has lived since attending first grade in Coos Bay.

Laura Fisher, a native of Coos Bay and a founding member of the ETPA, brings strong financial acumen and business skills to our board. Laura is a Certified Public Accountant and has helped the ETPA in the past by reviewing our accounts and financial controls to help us ensure that we are managing your donations properly. Laura is a Partner in Hough, MacAdam & Wartnik, LLC and is responsible for their auditing and financial review business.

Both Al and Laura have many fond memories of our Egyptian Theatre and a strong interest in preserving and operating it as a vibrant and active community entertainment center.

Dine at these fine restaurants
and help restore the

EGYPTIAN THEATRE

Empire Café & Bakery End of Newmark
The Coach House Eastside
Little Italy 2nd St., Coos Bay
Shark Bites Broadway, Coos Bay
Hilltop House North Bend
Café Mediterranean North Bend

Buy a glass of wine in an
etched Egyptian Theatre glass
for \$10 and keep the glass.
Build a set.

A portion of the proceeds go to support the
restoration of the theatre.

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!



Business Sponsors \$250 and up

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Egyptian Theatre Executive Director/Theatre Manager Hire Fund 2014 Donation

Name _____ Date _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

\$25.00
 \$50.00
 \$100.00
 \$250.00
 \$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.

Thank you! Circle one: VISA MasterCard

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