

Charbonneau has always been an Engaged Community

In March Charlotte Lehan returned to give us the much-anticipated Part 2 of our local history, "After the Boones". We learned about the steamboats on the river (the first Oregon super highway) in the mid 1800's, with most gone by the 1930's. Changes in transportation continued to be a focus as we heard how the locks by Oregon City changed entire communities after they opened in 1873. Railroad access included our local train station with 19 trains a day, including getting high school students to schools in Portland. The opening of Interstate 5 with the Boone Bridge in 1954 had the unforeseen consequence of bypassing our local area so many local businesses closed or moved to other locations. History is visible from the bluff along the river where you can see the concrete and steel trestle built in 1940 to replace the original wood trestle which burned the year before; still used for trains today.

The Boones Ferry closed in 1954 and the town of Wilsonville dwindled to less than 800 people! What rescued the area turned out to be the Dammasch State Hospital, opening in 1961 after a 500-acre land deal that involved 13 different landowners. This brought 400 jobs to the area and shifted the population to more residents with advanced educations changing the Wilsonville demographic.

Our April event features Abby & Sally Egland of Abby's Closet. Their story began in 2004 when Abby was leaving for college and wanted to ensure her favorite pink prom dress could still bring joy to someone else and have another chance to dance! Founding Abby's Closet with her mom, Sally Egland, the non-profit has hosted more than a decade of Prom Dress Giveaways for students from more than 250 schools in Oregon and Southwest Washington and has given away over 30,000 dresses since then. Please join us April 12th to hear their amazing story and how they inspire confidence and respect in high school women.

We finalized our 2021-2022 CWA Board and presented the slate at our March event as well. There is great continuity with Lynda Huber-Marshall continuing as President and Lindy Anderson identified to be President the following year; Lindy is continuing as Treasurer this coming year and will work with Pat Tewell who is joining the Board to be the 2022-2023 Treasurer. Kathy Fuller is continuing as Decorations Chair joined by Darlene Crosby. Claudia DeVries will be our new Secretary, and Laura Curran will continue as Sunshine Chair and Wine Purchaser. Cathy Renken and Paula Johnson will continue with Nametags/Membership for the coming year, as will Elaine Swyt and Lindy Anderson for Publicity/Historian/Communications. We are excited to welcome Jackie Murdoch and Sandy Shaner to our board, joining Arlene Kraft as First VP of Programs. We still have a vacancies for the Second VP of Catering, December and May event Chairs. We will work to fill these vacancies in the upcoming months.