

# THE ONTARIO MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ART

Volume 22, Issue IV • October, November, December • 2017

## Día de los Muertos: Everyday Heroes

Thursday, October 5, 2017 to Sunday, November 12, 2017

On display Thursday, October 5 through Sunday, November 12, 2017, *Día de los Muertos: Everyday Heroes* will showcase vibrant pieces of art honoring the deceased. This year's artists bring their highly personal views of life and death to a diverse array of media, including painting, sculpture, mixed media, photography, and altar installations. Whether exhibiting serious tributes to loved ones, or light-hearted and humorous pieces, the collective result is as broadly educational as it is entertaining.

The museum will host an Artists' Reception on Saturday, October 7, 2017 from 1 PM to 3 PM. On Thursday, October 19, 2017 from 6 PM to 8 PM come to the Museum's Día de Los Muertos Headband Workshop led by Stephanie Hibbard. This workshop has a cost of \$5 and space is limited. On Saturday, October 21, 2017 from 1 PM to 3 PM and Wednesday, October 25, 2017 from 6 PM to 8 PM there will be



The Ontario Museum of History & Art is a public-private institution operated by the City of Ontario with support from the non-profit Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates.

The Museum Associates is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit support group for the Ontario Museum of History & Art. We provide support financially, through our fundraising and membership efforts; educationally, through our support of the docent program; and throughout the community with our representation at events and activities.

This newsletter is prepared by the Museum Associates.



ONTARIO  
MUSEUM  
OF HISTORY & ART  
ASSOCIATES

a Calavera (Skull) Piñata Workshops led by artist Dulce Soledad Ibarra. Materials will be provided. Join the museum from Noon to 4 PM on Saturday, November 4, 2017 for our Family Discovery Day. Celebrate Día de los Muertos through art workshops, live performances and activities. Admission to all programs are free, unless noted otherwise, and reservations are required. Call the museum at (909) 395-2510 for additional information and to make reservations.

## Through Darkness to Light: Photographs Along the Underground Railroad

Thursday, November 30, 2017 to Sunday, January 7, 2018

Between 1830 and the end of the Civil War in 1865, an estimated 100,000 slaves chose to embark on a journey in search of freedom. They moved in constant fear of being killed or recaptured, returned, and beaten as an example of what would happen to others who might choose to run. Occasionally, they were guided from one secret, safe location to the next by an ever-changing, clandestine group known as the Underground Railroad. Many consider the Underground Railroad to be the first great freedom movement in the Americas and the first time when people of different races and faiths worked together in harmony for freedom and justice.

Photographer Jeanine Michna-Bales has spent more than a decade meticulously researching “fugitive” slaves and the ways they escaped to freedom. While the unnumbered routes of the Underground Railroad encompassed countless square miles, the path Michna-Bales documented covers roughly 2,000 miles and includes actual sites, cities, and places that freedom-seekers passed through during their journey. This exhibition features beautifully dramatic color photographs, ephemera, and narratives that together tell the story of the Underground Railroad. This exhibition was organized by ExhibitsUSA, a program of Mid-America Arts Alliance.

On Saturday, December 9, 2017 from 2 PM to 3:30 PM, join the Museum for Trunk Show and Lecture: Quilted Pages featuring artist-author Allyson Allen. On Saturday, January 6, 2018 from 1 PM to 4 PM there will be a book chat on Colson Whitehead’s *The Underground Railroad: A Novel*. All programs are free and reservations are required. Call the museum at (909) 395-2510 for additional information and to make reservations.



Jeanine Michna-Bales, *Decision to Leave*. Magnolia Plantation on the Cane River, Louisiana, 2013; digital C-print, 25 x 36 inches; © Jeanine Michna-Bales.



Jeanine Michna-Bales, *Wading Prior to Blackness*. Grant Parish, Louisiana, 2014; digital C-print, 17 x 24 1/2 inches; © Jeanine Michna-Bales.

## The Women Beside the Men of the Graber Olive House - 1892 to the Present

Thursday, September 7, 2017 to Sunday, December 31, 2017

Since 1894, Graber Olives have been enjoyed by locals and olive connoisseurs worldwide. Many Ontario residents are familiar with the early story of C.C. Graber and how his tasty barrels of cured olives began as a small neighborhood business. Today, the Graber Olive House is the oldest existing business in the City of Ontario, and is the oldest operating olive packer in the United States. The history of the Graber Olive House is over hundred years old with rich stories – many of which have never been told.

The Ontario Museum of History & Art has partnered with the Graber family and is honored to host a new unexplored narrative. *The Women Beside the Men of the Graber Olive House* uncovers the women who contributed to the family business as entrepreneurs and visionaries. For the first time, the Graber family is sharing personal artifacts from Betty Graber and other family matriarchs. Visitors will be drawn-in by photo albums, private journals, scrap books, and correspondence from these influential women.

*The Women Beside the Men of the Graber Olive House* is curated by author and etiquette expert, Maura J. Graber. Maura J. Graber is the wife of owner Cliff Graber, son of Bob and Betty Graber. Mrs. Graber continues the tradition by contributing to the family business in the spirit of the women before her.

*The Women Beside the Men of the Graber Olive House* is on display September 7 through December 31, 2017 in the South Wing, Carlson Gallery at the Ontario Museum of History & Art. Come learn about the 125 years of contributions by the women of the Graber Olive House and how they helped shape its legacy. For more information call (909) 395-2510.

## Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Museum Building

Saturday, December 16, 2017 (Beginning at 2:00 PM)



Photo courtesy of the Ontario Museum of History & Art, Ontario

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was one of the most ambitious agencies created during the New Deal era, employing millions of people to carry out public works projects, including the construction of public buildings and roads. Built in 1937, the City of Ontario’s second City Hall was constructed under the WPA program. The building served as City Hall until 1979 and now is home to the Ontario Museum of History & Art. As the building celebrates its 80th anniversary, come learn more about its history from local historian Joe Caskey on Saturday, December 16 at 2:00 PM in the old City Council Chambers. Admission is free, and reservations are required. Call the museum at (909) 395-2510 for additional information and to make reservations.



## Hispanic Heritage Month

The Museum commemorates National Hispanic Heritage Month with events throughout the months of September and October. The Museum offers opportunities to learn more about Día de los Muertos through a Community Altar Workshop held on Saturday, September 30, 2017 at 2 PM. Participants have the opportunity to contribute to the altar with a craft. Our popular Calavera (Skull) Piñata Workshops will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 1 PM and Wednesday, October 25, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM) led by artist Dulce Soledad Ibarra. Free Admission. To make a reservation, please call (909) 395-2510.



DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS EXHIBIT RECEPTION  
Saturday, October 7, 2017 (1 PM to 3 PM)

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS HEADBAND WORKSHOP WITH STEPHANIE HIBBARD  
Thursday, October 19, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM)

CALavera (SKULL) PIÑATA WORKSHOP  
Saturday, October 21, 2017 (1 PM to 3 PM)  
Wednesday, October 25, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM)

FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS  
Saturday, November 4, 2017 (12 PM to 4 PM)

## Common Courtesy: A Look at Proper Etiquette from the Graber Olive House

Thursday, November 16, 2017 (4:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

Etiquette expert and author Maura J. Graber uncovers the fascination behind polite behavior and social customs with a special focus on the Victorian and Edwardian eras. Discover how society's customs changed throughout the 20th century with artifacts from the Graber Olive House. Reservations Required. Free Admission. For more information or to make reservations, call (909) 395-2510.

## From the Director

Museums are, for the most part, dedicated to showcasing and preserving some vital part of our culture. This certainly holds true for Ontario Museum of History & Art. It can also be said that each museum has its own culture – its set of values and ways of working that also help to shape the identity of the institution. For OMHA, our culture is all about community involvement. The Museum Associates, our nonprofit support group (and the creative entity behind this newsletter), is one of the most vital aspects to the museum's culture, embodied by their all-volunteer driven activities and support. The Museum Associates has its own mission statement, included in each newsletter issue:

The Museum Associates is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit support group for the Ontario Museum of History & Art. We provide support financially, through our fundraising and membership efforts; educationally, through our support of the docent program; and throughout the community with our representation at events and activities.

As members of the community, the Museum Associates Board of Directors is filled with civic leaders from many walks of life. They are a crucial part of the museum team, invested in everything from the museum's comprehensive strategic plan, to our many outreach and volunteer recruitment efforts.

The Museum Associates has revitalized their membership program, which is a great way to stay in touch with the museum's many activities, and also to support the museum. To learn more about becoming a member, visit the Museum Associates' website, [www.oma1996.com](http://www.oma1996.com), or visit the museum's website at [www.ontarioca.gov](http://www.ontarioca.gov).

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## Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates' Annual Appeal

The Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates kicks off their annual appeal fundraiser each November. This year the State-funded Urban Greening Project was completed and displays water-conserving plantings, landscaping, and a Tongva Native American garden. We are excited to use the renovated grounds to increase educational opportunities for area students and increase the numbers served in previous years.

Your support helps us to provide the programs and endeavors of the museum. There are other opportunities to contribute by becoming a volunteer. Simply contact the museum at (909) 395-2510. This is a chance to provide a rewarding experience for the thousands of children and families that visit the museum each year. To learn more about the Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates visit [www.oma1996.com](http://www.oma1996.com).

# In the Museum

For a few moments on June 29, 2017 an item in the collection of the Ontario Museum of History & Art was a television star. It was a grape brick, a chunk of dehydrated grape juice and pulp to be dissolved into a gallon of water. Its box carried dire warnings not to leave it too long in water because it could cause fermentation. The museum has one of the last remaining grape bricks which helped people get around the rules of Prohibition.

The Vino Sano Grape Brick was featured on “Mysteries at the Museum” on the Travel Channel. The brick and its box were donated in 1992 by local vintners René and Barbara Biane, explained Michelle Sifuentes, curator of collections. During Prohibition, wine producers were barred from making most wine products, but a few turned to this novel way to get around federal laws. On the stained box of the grape brick is the “warning” telling users NOT to use this to make alcohol because the grape mixture in water will ferment in about 20 days. Anti-alcohol officials figured out grape bricks were just a thinly veiled way to dance around the Volstead Act, whose rules regulated Prohibition. Some Vino Sano salespeople were even arrested, as was the owner of the firm. But as the end to Prohibition was looming on the horizon, the desire to go forward with prosecutions seemed to wane, as did the need for grape bricks.

To learn more about the Vino Grape Brick and local viticulture visit the exhibit, *Gem of the Foothills* at the Ontario Museum of History & Art. For more information, call (909) 395-2510.

# Volunteer Spotlight: Frankie Valenzuela

Frankie Valenzuela is one of those rarest and most valuable of all people -- she volunteers, and a lot. For more than a year she has been a gallery guide for the Museum, providing assistance at such events as Día de los Muertos where she helped visitors make flowers and piñatas. But she also donates blood, works at the Multiple Sclerosis Walk and Relay for Life, and helps at Habitat for Humanity. She came to the Museum as part of the United Way’s RSVP program which finds volunteer opportunities for those 55 and older. And that came in an odd way -- her son Henry works for the United Way, seeking people to volunteer through RSVP. Through him she volunteered at schools in Fontana as part of the Promise Scholars program. As she works in the aerospace field in Riverside and lives in Montclair, her son also suggested volunteering at the Museum as being perfect for her. One problem: She’d never been to the Museum, but that soon changed.

“And now, I’m letting my friends know about the Museum and how they should visit it and view all of its exhibits and activities.”

And, perhaps, even join Frankie as a regular volunteer. To learn more about volunteer opportunities at the museum please call (909) 395-2510.



# Event and Program Calendar

## OCTOBER

### EXHIBITION

THE WOMEN BESIDE THE MEN OF THE GRABER OLIVE HOUSE - 1892 TO THE PRESENT  
DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS: EVERYDAY HEROES

Thursday, September 7 to Sunday, December 31, 2017

Thursday, October 5 to Sunday, November 12, 2017

### ARTIST RECEPTION

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS EXHIBIT RECEPTION

Saturday, October 7, 2017 (1 PM to 3 PM)

### PROGRAMS

DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS HEADBAND WORKSHOP WITH STEPHANIE HIBBARD

Thursday, October 19, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM) \$5 fee, RSVP

CALavera (SKULL) PIÑATA WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 21, 2017 (1 PM to 3 PM) RSVP

CALavera (SKULL) PIÑATA WORKSHOP

Saturday, October 25, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM) RSVP

## NOVEMBER

### EXHIBITION

THROUGH DARKNESS TO LIGHT: PHOTOGRAPHS ALONG THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD

Thursday, November 30, 2017 to Sunday, January 7, 2018

### PROGRAMS

FAMILY DISCOVERY DAY: DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS

Saturday, November 4, 2017 (12 PM to 4 PM)

COMMON COURTESY: A LOOK AT PROPER ETIQUETTE FROM THE GRABER OLIVE HOUSE

Thursday, November 16, 2017 (4:00 PM to 5:30 PM)

HOLIDAY WREATH WORKSHOP

Thursday, November 30, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM) \$5 fee, RSVP

## DECEMBER

### PROGRAMS

HOLIDAY CRAFT NIGHT

Thursday, December 7, 2017 (6 PM to 8 PM)

TRUNK SHOW AND LECTURE: QUILTED PAGES

Saturday, December 9, 2017 (2:00 PM to 3:30 PM)

CELEBRATE THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MUSEUM BUILDING

Saturday, December 16, 2017 (2:00 PM to 3:30 PM)



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# MEMBERSHIP

- New
- Renewal
- Gift Membership

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Category (check one)  Student \$15  Educator \$20  Individual \$25  Family \$35

Contributor \$100  Sponsor \$250  Corporate \$500  Benefactor \$500

Please make checks payable to: Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates.

Clip this and send it with your check for membership. Mail to: The Ontario Museum of History & Art, 225 South Euclid Avenue, Ontario CA 91762. Please make checks payable to the Ontario Museum of History & Art, Associates, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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Museum hours: noon - 4 PM  
Thurs. - Sun  
Admission Free  
Office hours: 9 AM - 5 PM, Mon. - Fri.  
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