Celebration Central

Celebration Central is open for business. Everyone is ready to celebrate and the Friends of Chinook School volunteers are in high gear getting everything ready for the community party of the year, Oktoberfest 2012. Auction items are flowing in, menus are being set, music makers have been hired and fabulous decorations are about to go up. Come October 20, all will be ready. Mark your calendars, don your dancin’ duds and be ready to celebrate!

Oktoberfest is our largest event each year with proceeds benefitting the FOCS continuing efforts to renovate Chinook School. But Oktoberfest Chinook Style is so much more than that. Oktoberfest beckons us to throw open the doors, set the stage and fire up the kitchens welcoming friends far and near to join a celebratory gala. As we look forward to a wonderful night of great food, spunky music, exciting auctions and community camaraderie, we are mindful of countless ways and reasons to celebrate. There is so much to admire and appreciate.

First, the big celebration at hand, Oktoberfest 2012. Saturday, October 20th beginning at 5:00 you will be welcomed to look over all the wonderful items organized for silent/live auctions and advance your bids. Or, you may head first to the dining areas to enjoy a wonderful meal featuring Bavarian-style pork and delicious trimmings created by Chef Joanne Leech.

Maybe you will want to visit the adult refreshments center or take a few moments to peruse the historical photo gallery upstairs. The evening, 5:00 to 9:00 offers time and space to enjoy it all. Note, however, food service and silent auction will end at 8:00 to prepare for the live auction beginning at 8:15.

To be sure, shared community celebration is a primary reason for our Oktoberfest tradition but the mainspring of our big night is the awesome auction. With Oktoberfest only about three weeks away, Chairwoman Karen Leu repeats the call for high quality donations to enliven the bidding action. If you have donations ready or have any questions regarding pick up or delivery, please call Karen at 360-642-8108 (h.) or cell 206-713-6981. We will again produce a catalog listing auction items with detailed descriptions. In order for your item(s) to be included in the catalog, they must be received no later than October 15th.
The CELEBRATION Continues...

And, there’s a gold star extra for Oktoberfest 2012. Our original auctioneer returns!

Cliff and Gloria Fox have been valuable friends of Chinook School and are treasured by our fundraising committee. A number of years ago they were visiting Chinook and while attending the local Lutheran church they met Loma Billups. At that time the committee was busy planning the 2007 Oktoberfest. They chatted about FOCS plans to renovate the local school complex and our annual dinner and auction fundraiser. Cliff mentioned that he was an auctioneer and had helped with fundraising in the Tacoma area. Immediately Loma asked him to consider helping us with our auction…and help us, he has! He and Gloria traveled here to volunteer for two years in the Sanctuary Restaurant and one year in the old school building, making our auctions increasingly successful. How grateful we have been for their time and efforts to our cause and for their friendship.

They have been out of state for the past two years, too far away to travel to our annual fundraiser. We have missed them, but they are back living in Sequim and will be here for Oktoberfest this year! We are so pleased to have them return and proud to show them our renovated gym. Please come to Oktoberfest, meet Cliff and Gloria to say thanks, and participate in the lively auction!

Plan to attend Oktoberfest and be ready to bid on some amazing auction items including beautiful art, exciting event packages, and restaurant certificates. Here’s a small sample of the some of the great bidding items!

“Stock up your wine cellar” The Wine Raffle is back! Bring a bottle of wine to Oktoberfest, donate it to the auction collection, buy raffle ticket(s) and take your chance! Last year’s winner took home almost 100 bottles of great wine!

“Win a big screen 3D LED TV” - The latest technology for home video. This fantastic prize can be yours with the lucky raffle ticket!

Kindle Fire HD with Wi-Fi - The newest model just released in September; one of the many electronic items up for bid at this year’s auction.

Seahawks Tickets for 6 people and 3 nights at a 3 bedroom 3 bath townhouse at Alki Beach! Watch the Minnesota Vikings game on November 4th. Come enjoy Seattle’s fine dining, do your Christmas shopping, or take in a performance at the 5th Avenue or Paramount Theaters. Invite your friends and come prepared to bid on this great package for a fun weekend in Seattle.

Celebrate the arts, Chinook, and also the venue for showcasing them. The Chinook Events Center has the most wonderful stage complete with modern sound and lighting, backstage dressing rooms, improved access for performance needs from pianos to props, sets to scenery. There is room for the large audiences coming to enjoy arts presentations and a kitchen facility often requested for serving intermission refreshments. Performance groups have noted these qualities and many have come to try out our community gem. Columbia River Symphony has presented two wonderful concerts:

- Sunday, June 3 offered a symphony based on Homer’s Odyssey and on Tuesday, August 14 performed a selection of patriotic music, “A Salute to Our Country”. Both concerts were well attended and much enjoyed. On Sunday May 20th the Bayside Singers entertained local music lovers and on Saturday, June 2, audiences applauded a concert by Ilwaco High School Jazz Band.

Some performers reported being very happy with the acoustics available in the new gymnasium facility. Chinook resident and Columbia River Symphony performer, Rollie Lindstrom, commented that players love the way the sound “bounces” off the hard surfaces and resounds with clarity. To be sure, audiences agree that the music sounded terrific. We look forward to many more performance opportunities. In fact, ideas for more presentations float through the community like musical notes through the air - “What about a gallery show of visual arts? Could there be plays staged here? Ever thought about an Open Mic event? Ooh, it would be nice to have dance performance!” We would love to hear your thoughts about celebrating the arts Chinook style. Drop us a note at P.O. Box 243, Chinook WA or ask to visit a FOCS board meeting to present your ideas.

Celebrating you - you, our supporters, our members, our community. You are the wind at the backs of our FOCS board and many, many "step-up-to-the-cause" volunteers. You are the people joining, renewing and bringing your friends along to maintain a strong membership. Engaged members add to understanding the work and to funding the bottom line to help the work along. You personally make a positive difference and consistently benefit others with your generous support.

What a bargain, this membership in FOCS! For a fee of just $10.00 per individual, per couple or family, members receive great value all year long. You will have three newsletters informative about property and program; your fee and donations continue to help support a fine website, www.friendsofchinookschool.org; you are invited to be a guest at monthly board meetings and you now have real-life proof of involvement's power to improve. You are in on the ground floor as we push forward with renovation of the main school building. You gain an extra measure of personal pride in belonging to an organization doing exceptional community service. It is humbly and proudly that we ask again for your support. Do take a moment at Oktoberfest to renew your membership. We need you all.
Memorials

Monetary donations since the June newsletter have been received in memory of:

ERNESTEEN HELEN (BELKNAP) LITSCHKE
KENNETH LEE (KENNY) ROSS

$13 for ‘13—FOCS Calendar Coming

Our special FOCS calendar debuts at Oktoberfest 2012. This all-new calendar will be a 13-month, full-color design featuring photographs of 13 of the oldest houses in Chinook. We will include snippets of information about original owners, dates the homes were first built and current owners of these Chinook landmarks. We hope to include more vintage homes/buildings of Chinook for our 2014 calendar. Pay special attention to the sponsors of this calendar. They represent many local businesses and we encourage your patronage of their goods and services. Be sure to come ready to purchase a copy for yourself and more for great gifts; $13.00 each or three for $30.00. All proceeds go toward the Chinook School Restoration.

Celebrate life, memorial donations support restoration of Chinook School properties and now remembrances arrive in honor of a lady deeply connected to these properties. Throughout much of her life Ernesteen Helen (Belknap) Litschke, called Ernie and known to many children as the school cook, served her community by cooking lovingly for the students attending Chinook School. Ernie lived to see the beautiful restoration of the Chinook gym enjoying the changes with much the same pride she exhibited for the growth and accomplishments of students she had helped set on their way. Love of the greater community was exhibited in her daily tasks of baking for special group needs, picking up mail for neighbors, visiting the sick and comforting the bereaved. Such a lady; such a person!

From the FOCS Board

Construction complete

As you have read in our news articles, FOCS has many reasons to celebrate.

The gymnasium floor has been refinished, insulation has been installed and the exterior staining/painting completed—the Chinook Gymnasium is now restored. The FOCS Board and Project Manager Corky Wilson are thrilled to have the work finished before winter.

The focus now is on the restoration of the Chinook School building. Work has already begun on this initial phase. A new roof has been placed on the school and structural improvements have been made.

Working together the Port of Chinook and FOCS have applied for funds from the Washington State Heritage Capital Project Fund (WSHCPF) for doors and windows. A grant request filed in May was approved and recommended for funding by the WSHCPF advisory committee. A final decision will be announced in spring of 2013.

There is hard work ahead and money to be raised but with your continued support the project to restore both buildings for the community will become a reality.

Take the first step in faith.
You don't have to see the whole staircase,
just take the first step.

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
★ Oktoberfest - Chinook Style, Saturday October 20th. See you there!

★ Get a jump on your 2013 FOCS membership by renewing at Oktoberfest. Encourage friends and neighbors to join as well!

★ Commitment to Community -
   Children’s Halloween Party, October 27th
   Christmas Concert with Columbia River Symphony, December 8th

Consult the FOCS website for rental availability and upcoming events:
friendsofchinookschool.org
Celebrate final touches. New insulation is installed in the Chinook Gym and protective entry rugs are in place as we ready for more happy human traffic making use of our special space. The insulation project was completed by Gale Contractor Services of Gearhart whose excellent work will increase comfort at a lower energy cost.

In the last newsletter we showed you the beautifully refurbished gym floor and promised more information about the experts who made that happen.

Early this year, project manager Corky Wilson realized we would need one of the best in the business to refurbish this fine old floor. His search led him to connect with John Osborn and son running the Seattle company called A Higher Plane. The Osborns had an excellent reputation known widely for top-of-the-line work on school gyms. They came to Chinook from Seattle and did an exemplary job of bringing the well-worn floor back to its original beauty using thoroughly modern protective techniques.

Now all that remained to complete this phase was the exterior painting of the gym. Just this week the John Carriere Paint and Drywall crews got busy on that task. Crew members clearly took pride in their work and the freshly painted gym is just beautiful.

Begin with the end in mind.

- Stephen Covey
Celebrate new beginnings with a brand new roof. If buildings could talk, one might have heard The Chinook School saying “Hey, what about me? Could you help me spiff up for Independence Day? I have my flag unfurled.” And because we are celebrating community support, we must say that Port of Chinook and Friends of Chinook School were ready to answer, “Right-io. Let us begin this phase of rehabilitation work with a protective new roof.” The groundwork had been done, so on June 25, 2012, the “way-above-ground” work began. Dr. Roof crews made short work of this first important step in Phase 2 rehabilitation of the Chinook School property. The school now has protective headgear paving the way toward further property updates whenever funds become available. And, as a point of pride for the main school building, she is housing a special effort of community caring: the Chinook Food Bank.

Celebrate Sharing The Chinook Food Bank continues to grow and improve. We are for sure up and running and honored to serve. Dedicated volunteers work to organize and distribute food to local area residents in need. In addition to the foods we are able to share, we often have extras such as soaps and paper products. There is a selection of simple, delicious recipes and money-saving coupons available for our clients. The recipes are specially designed to use food ingredients we have in abundance. At this time our food bank is open the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 to 1:00. We coordinate well with the food banks in Ilwaco (open each second and fourth Friday 11:00 to 2:00) and Ocean Park (open each T-F from 10:00 to 3:00). Spread the word to help FOCS volunteers fight childhood hunger and relieve local area poverty through efforts at the Chinook Food Bank. Oh, and to celebrate sharing, consider donating shelf-stable food items or offering a monetary donation to help our staff purchase and distribute healthy foods not available from our suppliers. Contact food bank coordinator, Tammy Engel at tammy.engel@gmail.com or 360-244-2448.