



***Willamette Women: Our History is Our Strength -
2nd Annual Heritage Invitational Extravaganza
Opens January 2012 at The Willamette Heritage Center
For Immediate Release***

CONTACT: The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, 503-585-7012, www.willametteheritage.org
WHAT: *Willamette Women: Our History is Our Strength*
WHEN: Friday, January 20 through Saturday, March 10, 2012
WHERE: 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR 97301
COST: FREE with Mission Mill Museum admission; FREE admission for members of the participating museums and organizations

Willamette Women is our second Annual Heritage Invitational Extravaganza, and gives 21 Mid-Valley heritage, cultural and history museums and organizations the opportunity to shine a light on women from their communities. This is up from 18 who participated in our first Heritage Invitational Extravaganza in winter 2011. Throughout the exhibition's run, visitors can take a walk through the history of women in the Mid-Valley, as they view a wide array of local, regional and nationally important objects and images. *Willamette Women* encourages the preservation and appreciation of our local organizations that do so much to foster understanding and enjoyment of our community's heritage.

Participants for *Willamette Women* include: Keizer Heritage Museum, Forest History Center, Polk County Historical Society, Yamhill County Historical Society, Hoover-Minthorn House, Linfield Anthropology Museum, Lord & Schryver Conservancy, the Gordon House, Oregon State Hospital Museum, the Bush House, Old Aurora Colony Historical Museum, Historic Deepwood Estate, Brooks Historical Society, Salem YWCA, the Jensen Arctic Museum, Willamette University Archives, Western Oregon University Archives, Silverton Country Historical Society, Mt Angel Historical Society, Aumsville Historical Society, and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

Some examples of topics include Polk County Historical Society presenting "Words We Leave Behind: Women Authors of Polk County," Silverton Country Historical Society displaying "Women Making History in Silverton Country," the Gordon House looking at "Evelyn Gordon, Another Frank Lloyd Wright Woman," and the Aurora Colony Museum highlighting Emma Wagner Giesy.

For more information, please contact Keni Sturgeon, 503 585 7012 or email kenis@missionmill.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.willametteheritage.org>.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies.

Submitted by: Cheryl Clark, Aura Marketing, cclark@auramarketing.com ###