

# Friends of the Old School

## FOTOS



Dedicated to saving Hillsboro's classic old school building,  
and to utilizing it for the benefit of our community.

## May, 2009 Newsletter

### Friends of the Old School Speak Out, And the City Council Listens

Despite our months of effort, the Hillsboro School Board remains unwilling to come to the table and look into alternatives to the demolition of the entire J. B. Thomas complex.

So we've approached the Hillsboro City Council for help. While the City of Hillsboro does not have legal jurisdiction over decisions made by the School Board, the City has a reputation for listening to its constituents. And listen they did.

After Friends of the Old School spoke at the April 21 City Council meeting, Councilor Ed Dennis told his fellow councilors and Mayor Jerry Willey that at the next meeting, on May 5, he intended to enter a proposal that the City Council and Mayor appoint a task force made up of members of our community. The task force would look further into the Thomas matter and approach the Hillsboro School Board once again.

This is a great step toward the open discussion we've been seeking with the School Board.

Thanks go out to these friends who, over the past several weeks, have spoken to the Hillsboro City Council and sought their help in finding a way to work with the Hillsboro School Board:

Lynn Adamo  
Kay Demlow  
Gayle Hughes  
Dan Bloom

Jeannette Noble  
Doug Sellers.  
Henry Beglinger

## The "Keep It or Can It" Vote

Thanks to the many Friends of The Old School who wrote letters to the Argus and The Oregonian, and who have supported our cause in the "[Keep It or Can It?](#)" poll on the OregonLive website. **Opinions will be collected through Wednesday, May 13.** Every vote counts, so take a moment to write and show the community you care! If you don't want to write a letter, just send an email to [stutzman@hillsboroargus.com](mailto:stutzman@hillsboroargus.com), with "JB Thomas Vote" in the subject line, and "Keep It" in the message. Results are in the Friday issue of the Argus, with the final result in the May 15<sup>th</sup> issue. As of last Friday's Argus, the vote was 101 to "Keep It" and 27 to "Can It".

# Visit FOTOS at the Hillsboro Farmers Market

FOTOS will be participating in the Hillsboro Farmers Market, which opened on Saturday, May 2. Space isn't guaranteed for us every Saturday, but we'll be participating as often as possible through June and (we hope) beyond. We will have brochures and other information about the Old School. FOTOS has the facts and we will be happy to share them with you, as well as listen to your ideas and concerns. Market hours are from 8:00 am until 1:30 pm. We look forward to seeing you there!



## "You can observe a lot by watching"

Yogi Berra was right. At the first Hillsboro Farmers Market of 2009 FOTOS had an information table, and what we observed is that The Old School has lots of friends, many unaware that it's in jeopardy. With the July 1 demolition date fast approaching, we all need to spread the word about our cause and address the many questions and misconceptions we heard at the market.

- "I thought it was a done deal."* Not so! The Hillsboro School Board may have allocated money for razing JBT, but until it's spent, it's still an open issue. It's definitely not too late.
- "JB belongs to the Board."* Wrong. It belongs to the citizens of Hillsboro. We elect School Board members as stewards of our school facilities; they are accountable to us. They are obligated to listen to the community and spend our money wisely.
- "The School Board is dug in."* The current Board may be unwilling to talk, but after the election on May 19 we may have new and more open-minded members to work with! Be sure to check out the candidates' positions on JBT before you vote on May 19.
- "What could JB be used for?"* Lots of things. Classes, studios, galleries, offices. Many of the arts organizations downtown are outgrowing their facilities and would love space just blocks away. Even private schools have inquired.
- "Hillsboro has a Symphony?"* Yes! We hear they've been selling out concerts at their limited Liberty High venue. Imagine if they had the gorgeous JB auditorium with its 1,200 seats for performances. Portlanders could be taking MAX to Hillsboro for events. Wouldn't that be a boon to our downtown? (<http://hillsborosymphony.org>)
- "Isn't JB full of asbestos?"* Many older buildings and homes have some asbestos: in its time, it was considered a miracle material. Asbestos can be safely contained, and at less cost and risk than removing it. Remember, codes for public-use buildings are less stringent than for schools.
- "Won't upkeep be expensive?"* Everything, whether it's a renovated building or lawn or playing field, needs upkeep. If JB is leased, then upkeep will be covered!

As Yogi said, "It ain't over 'til it's over." And The Old School ain't over - not by a long shot! Help spread the word!

## FOTOS in Cyberspace!



We've finally entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and now have a website! You can find us at [www.fotos-hillsboro.org](http://www.fotos-hillsboro.org) The site is still in a developmental stage, but there are several pages for you to look at, with lots of information and photographs. We hope you'll check it out, and let us know what you'd like us to add to the website in the future. We'll be updating the site as new information becomes available, so visit periodically!

# Old Schools We Have Seen

FOTOS members have looked at several old schools that have been recycled for other uses. Below is a synopsis of those we looked at in depth which have been described in earlier newsletters. Other schools which we did not look at in depth include the Kennedy School in Portland, the St. Francis School in Bend, and the elementary school given by the Tigard School District to the Broadway Rose Theatre Company

## **The DeLake School in Lincoln City.**

The City of Lincoln City purchased the 1929 DeLake Elementary School from the School District and leased it to the non-profit Lincoln City Cultural Center (LCCC).

The LCCC offers classes for all ages in art, literature, dance, music, and theater.

The old gymnasium stage is used for plays and concerts.

The school had been unused for several years, and needed rehabilitation. However, most of the rehab has been done on a pay-as-you-go basis. In fact, the gymnasium, recently refurbished, held a fundraiser featuring band tunes from the 1980's, with drinks, snacks and hors d'oeuvres.

Then-mayor Tom Hughes, City of Hillsboro Economic Development Director John Southgate, and Friends of the Old School Debbie Clarke, Gayle Hughes, Jeannette Noble, and Kay Demlow visited the LCCC in August of 2008. The group discussed ongoing refurbishment with LCCC staff, the Lincoln City Mayor, and City Manager. The DeLake School is a perfect example of co-operation among the City of Lincoln City, the Lincoln County School District, and the non-profit community.

## **The Multnomah Arts Center**

Originally built in 1919, the school is owned and staffed by the City of Portland. They offer classes in art, dance, theater, music, ceramics, textiles, printmaking, photography, and fitness, to name a few.

Current tenants of the building include the Columbia Basin Basketry Guild, The Multnomah Arts Center, the Community Policing Office, National Association of Social Workers, Portland Handweavers Guild, and Sunstone Montessori School, among others.

The building serves members of the Multnomah community.

## **The Jefferson Center**

The community of Roanoke, VA, came together with the school district and non-profits to turn an un-used and derelict 1924 former high school into a state of the art performance center. The project was undertaken by a non-profit board appointed by the Roanoke City Council. Funds were raised and rehab completed in three stages.

While the first phase of the Jefferson Center had to be completed before it could be used, the J.B. Thomas building is "user ready". See [www.jeffcenter.org](http://www.jeffcenter.org) for more information.

# FOTOS Membership

You're invited to join Friends of the Old School. We suggest a donation of \$10, but will happily accept more or less. You'll receive our newsletters, action alerts, and other information as it becomes available. Send your check and contact information to Friends of the Old School, 337 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Hillsboro, OR 97124. Many thanks to those of you who have joined us!

## **FOTOS Board Members**

President      Gayle Hughes      503 648-9098  
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                         kay.demlow@verizon.net

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Board Members at Large:  
Tom Hughes, Margaret Moseley  
Desari Stradar

Friends of the Old School [www.fotos-hillsboro.org](http://www.fotos-hillsboro.org) 337 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. Hillsboro, OR 97124

1938 photo of the Old School courtesy of the Washington County Museum other photos © Carol Berget

# Hillsboro School Board Elections May 19<sup>th</sup>

Here is the list of candidates for the HSB. FOTOS is not officially endorsing any candidates for these positions, but the candidates' strengths and weaknesses are listed below.

## Candidates for Position 1 (no incumbent)

Erik Seligman 503-640-8201 email [erik@erikseligman.com](mailto:erik@erikseligman.com)

Employment: Intel-Engineer

We do not know if Mr. Seligman has experience in the field of public education.

Janeen Sollman 503-642-2707 email [jsollman@juno.com](mailto:jsollman@juno.com)

Employment: Vernier Software

Janeen is active in Stand for Children, a nationwide children's advocacy group whose priorities include early learners, stable, adequate school funding, and teacher training. Janeen tells us she is in favor of an open and transparent board process.

Nina Olson Carlson 503-628-2728 (Scholls Exchange)

Employment: realtor (no current employer given)

Nina was appointed by the Hillsboro School Board of Directors to its "bond oversight committee" which is on record as approving the demolition of the Thomas complex.

## Candidates for Position 2

Douglas G. Lund 503-648-7932 email [doug@aim4thebest.com](mailto:doug@aim4thebest.com)

Employment: Owner, Advanced Injection Molding, Inc.

Mr. Lund favors eliminating English as a Second Language programs in our public schools. We do not know if Mr. Lund has experience in public education.

Gayle Hughes 503-648-9098 email [tomandgayle@verizon.net](mailto:tomandgayle@verizon.net)

Employment: Retired 2002 Qwest Communications

Gayle shows us a well-rounded resume which includes Hillsboro Elementary District Curriculum Advisory Committee, Co-chair Hillsboro High School District Operating Levy Campaign, Downtown Renaissance Advisory Committee, President, Friends of the Old School and many other county, city, and non-profit boards and committees. Gayle will work to make the activities of the School Board more open and transparent to the public.

John Napolitano 971-506-2495 email [john@napolitano.com](mailto:john@napolitano.com)

Employment: Owns translation business. He favors more community involvement by the school board.

We do not know if Mr. Napolitano has experience in public education.

Carolyn Ortman (incumbent) 503-640-6854 email [ortmanc@hsd.k12.or.us](mailto:ortmanc@hsd.k12.or.us)

Employment: wedding planner and director

Carolyn was on the Hillsboro Elementary Board, and with unification, on the Hillsboro School Board, since 1992. Carolyn's resume reflects offices and committees held with the Oregon School Boards Association and the National School Boards group. While commendable, we don't see a direct connection between those offices and the children in our community. Ms. Ortman is in favor of demolition of JB Thomas.

(Continued)

### Candidates for Position 3

Greg Clark 503-615-4282 email [greg.clark@gmail.com](mailto:greg.clark@gmail.com)

Employment: general manager (no employer given)

We do not know if Mr. Clark has experience in public education.

Patti McLeod (incumbent) 503-628-2977 email [pattimc1@juno.com](mailto:pattimc1@juno.com)

Employment: owner, medical transcription business.

Patti is the only incumbent in this election who has indicated a willingness to re-visit the school board's decision to demolish the Thomas complex. We find her willingness to speak out refreshing.

### Candidates for Position 6

Kathy Cvetko 503-591-1768 email [cvet55@comcast.net](mailto:cvet55@comcast.net)

Employment: Program facilitator for Washington & Yamhill counties

Kathy is an educator with a Masters Degree in Social Work.

Adriana H. Canas 503-372-9270 email [conexionas@yahoo.com](mailto:conexionas@yahoo.com)

Employment: Educational Consultant to the Hillsboro Fire Department

Adriana is active with Stand for Children, a state-wide advocacy group for children, which is currently supporting adequate, stable funding for schools, as well as early education and teacher training. Adriana would like to serve on a Board of Directors which projects more openness and transparency to its constituents.

Rebecca Lantz (incumbent) 503-681-0526 email [rebeccalantz@cantery.us](mailto:rebeccalantz@cantery.us)

Employment: Homemaker

As an incumbent, Rebecca's resume does not strike us as well-rounded. In addition, she has demonstrated rigidity in her unwillingness to revisit past School Board decisions, including the demolition of JB Thomas.

We hope you will feel free to contact the candidates to ask them their views on the JB Thomas destruction and any other issues you're concerned about. And don't forget to vote!

