



**Newsletter**  
Winter/Spring 2021

## Colleagues surprise Frankie Bell with OSCF Bell Award



Frankie Bell, namesake and first recipient of the Bell Award.

On Jan. 27, 2021, the Foundation Board adopted a policy to recognize individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the organization. Next, they surprised founding member Frankie Bell with the inaugural Oregon State Capitol Foundation Bell Award.

“It is with immense pride that we recognize Frankie’s foresight and years of hard work,” said former OSCF Chair Kim Duncan, who bestowed the award to Bell. “She demonstrates extraordinary commitment and dedication by serving our organization, the Capitol and Oregonians.”

Bell — the award’s namesake — saw the possibilities of an organization committed to the physical preservation of the Oregon State Capitol and educational programs offered to Capitol visitors and Oregonians. She organized the Foundation’s first volunteer board in 1995, two years before the organization’s founding by statute. More than 25 years later, she continues to nurture the nonprofit’s growth.

Bell was also a key player in creating the Capitol’s gift shop and the volunteer and building use programs. She’s living proof that one person makes a difference!

Daniel Klug of Champoeg State Heritage Area talks to Capitol visitors in the House chamber during the 2019 Oregon’s Birthday and Anniversary of Statehood celebration.

This year’s celebration will be online Sunday, Feb. 14 at 10 a.m. View at [oregoncapitol.com](http://oregoncapitol.com) or on the Oregon State Capitol’s Facebook page. The Oregon State Capitol Foundation is the event’s presenting sponsor.





## At your service

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Nan Heim, Vice Chair  
Kim Duncan, Secretary  
Bruce Bishop, Treasurer

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## Meet the Foundation's new chair and vice chair

### Kim Duncan passes the torch to Judy Hall.

As chair for the last two years, Kim Duncan led the Foundation through strategic planning exercises setting a clear path for the nonprofit. She carried out this impressive feat while navigating the many challenges presented by the pandemic.

On Jan. 1, 2021, Judy Hall became the new OSCF chair, Duncan assumed duties as secretary and Nan Heim moved up to vice chair.

"I'm honored to carry the Foundation's torch for the next two years," said Hall. "I have big shoes to fill. Thanks to Kim's skilled leadership, I'm hitting the ground running."

Hall serves on the OSCF Board because of her interest in the Foundation's mission. She's especially excited about the nonprofit's project to make much needed civics education programs more accessible for students.



Judy Hall  
OSCF Chair

### Nan Heim assumes duties as OSCF vice chair.



Nan Heim  
OSCF Vice Chair

Heim began serving on the Foundation Board in 2017. Heim was the principal of the lobbying and management services company Nan Heim/Associates. She breathed new life into the Capitol alumni reunion for former legislators, staff, reporters and lobbyists. "We're trying to find more Capitol alumni to join us for the next reunion," said Heim.

We invite those who formerly worked in the building to attend the Foundation's Capitol alumni reunions. To learn more, contact staff at 503-363-1859 or [alumni@oregoncapitolfoundation.org](mailto:alumni@oregoncapitolfoundation.org).

*The mission of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation is to connect Oregonians to a shared heritage, enhance the beauty of the Capitol and engage citizens in their democracy.*



Gary Wilhelms  
OSCF Board  
member and  
former state  
representative

## Wilhelms recounts political life in book

OSCF Board member and former state representative Gary Wilhelms shares insights about his involvement in politics in his book, *Count Your Blessings ... and Your Votes: An Oregon Political Experience*. Purchase your copy by calling the Capitol Store, Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at 503-986-1391, or send an email with your name, phone number and request to [capitol.store@oregonlegislature.gov](mailto:capitol.store@oregonlegislature.gov).



On Oct. 29, contractors installed fencing around the

north entrance of the Capitol as part of the **Capitol Accessibility, Maintenance and Safety project**. During CAMS Phase II, the front steps will stage supplies for work on the building's marble and revolving doors and allow for the restoration of relief sculptures. Learn more at [www.oregonlegislature.gov/cams](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/cams).

## Join us in celebrating national Black History Month

Our nation celebrates the many achievements of Black Americans during Black History Month in February. Here's a shoutout to a few of Oregon's influential Black political leaders who helped shape our state's history.

In 1972, Bill McCoy became the first Black person elected to the Oregon State Legislature. Originally serving in the House of Representatives, then appointed to the Senate, he served from 1975 until his death in 1996. McCoy and his wife Gladys McCoy — the first person of color elected to public office in Oregon — engaged head-on with issues facing minority and low-income Oregonians. Learn more at [tinyurl.com/wikipedia-bill-mccoy](http://tinyurl.com/wikipedia-bill-mccoy).



Bill McCoy  
Former state senator  
*Photo courtesy of Oregon State Archives*



Margaret Carter  
Former state senator  
*Photo courtesy of Oregon State Archives*

In 1984, Margaret Carter became the first African American woman elected to Oregon State Legislature. She served in the House of Representatives from 1985-1999. In 2000, Carter was elected to the Oregon State Senate, where she served from 2001-2009. In 2009, she resigned her seat in the Senate to serve as the deputy director for human services programs at the Oregon Department of

Human Services. More information about Carter is available at [tinyurl.com/wikipedia-margaret-carter](http://tinyurl.com/wikipedia-margaret-carter).

In 1996, Avel Gordly became the first Black woman elected to the Oregon State Senate after serving five years as an Oregon State Representative. She served until retiring in 2009. Two years later, O.S.U. Press published her memoir, *Remembering the Power of Words: The Life of An Oregon Legislator, Activist, and Community Leader*. Read about Gordly in her book and at [tinyurl.com/or-encyclopedia-avel-gordly](http://tinyurl.com/or-encyclopedia-avel-gordly).



Avel Gordly  
Former state senator  
*Photo courtesy of The Skanner news.*

## Please join us in remembering these extraordinary Oregonians

**Jim Brockman**, a former lobbyist and Capitol Club member, died Jan. 10, 2021, at age 78.

**Rep. Mitch Greenlick** served in the House from 2003 until his death on May 15, 2020, at age 85.

**Rep. Bob Montgomery**, who served in the House from 1995-1999, died in May 2020 at age 84.

**Dr. Selma Pierce**, former legislative aide to the late senator Jackie Winters, died Dec. 1, 2020, at age 66.

**Rep. Gene Sayler**, who served in the House from 1987-1991, died Dec. 22, 2020, at age 74.

**U.S. Rep. Bob Smith** died Sept. 21, 2020 at age 89. Smith served in the House from 1961-1973, the Senate from 1973-1983 and in the U.S. Congress from 1983-1995 and 1997-1999.

**Louise Isabell (Morrison) Van Vliet**, who aided her husband Rep. Tony Van Vliet during his last three sessions in the House, died Dec. 20, 2020, at age 89.

**Rep. Cliff Zauner**, who served in the House from 2000-2004, died Nov. 29, 2020, at age 86.



Do you miss being in the Capitol while the building is closed? Take a virtual tour at [www.oregonlegislature.gov/capitolhistorygateway](http://www.oregonlegislature.gov/capitolhistorygateway). This educational online adventure — a project of the Oregon State Capitol Foundation — is available in English, Spanish and Mandarin.



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