

MOAH UPDATE

February 2023 Number 93 Invention & Technology 1750 - 1950

Holy Toledo!

By Ken Kormanak

This edition's article will be about the largest and heaviest artifact in our museum's collection. It is so big that it will never be exhibited at our Palo Alto location but will remain permanently in our San Carlos warehouse. It came to us as a donation from our warehouse's neighbors across the street at the Devil's Canyon Brewery. The item in question is a Toledo floor scale. We don't know how heavy it is, since we don't have a scale large enough to weigh it. Let's go back in time and explore the history of how this and other scales from this Ohio company became a world standard for weighing groceries, meats and many other commodities.

At the turn of the last century, grocers were open to cheating their customers by charging more than the actual weight of the goods being sold. Many of you have heard about the notorious grocer's "thumb on the scale." Members of the public were subject to cheating on a large scale every time they shopped for food. Even if the grocer was honest, changes

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in temperature and wear would cause existing scales to give erroneous weights, since they were all based on springs to measure the goods.

At the beginning of the 1900s a man named Allen DeVilbiss, Jr. (1873-1911) came up with an idea for an automatic computing pendulum scale. The pendulums used actual weight (gravity), rather than spring tension, as a counterbalance. To prevent the customer having to rely on the butcher taking the scale's weight and calculating the price-per-pound amount to pay, DeVilbiss automated the process. Thanks to the addition of a set of markings on the face of the scale with their corresponding price per-pound, customers could readily see how much they should pay for each item. However, DeVilbiss was an inventor, not a businessman, and was not interested in commercializing his invention.

See Holy Toledo!, Page 5.

From Our President

Jim Wall



Take it or leave it

Each of us occasionally has to make a decision as to whether or not to get (or get rid of) some "thing" (article of clothing, gardening implement, piece of art, etc.). When faced with such a decision, what are the questions you ask yourself? Do I

really need this? What condition is it in? Do I have another one just like it? Do I have room for it?

Well, as custodians of "things," museums often have to make just this sort of decision. And, as a museum, MOAH has a responsibility to make these decisions in an orderly and consistent manner.

What I really want to discuss in this column is the removal of items from the museum's collection (de-accessioning), so naturally we will start with the opposite of that (③): how they are added in the first place, i.e., accessioning.

To be clear, while an individual merely acquires an item, a museum accessions an item by legally accepting it into its permanent collection. Likewise, while you or I can dispose of an item in any way we choose, a museum must follow a formal process to remove an item from its permanent collection.

Keep in mind that some museums rarely add to their collection of artifacts, and others accession only a few items each year. In contrast, MOAH has often added dozens of items to its collection in just a single month. Currently, for us to consider adding an item to the collection, we follow several guidelines:

- Is the item consistent with what we collect (pre-1965 electrical or mechanical devices)?
- · Is it a complete item rather than just part of a device?
- Do we already have an identical item (or one virtually so) in the collection?
- And (the theme of this article), do we have the room to store it indefinitely?

In an unconstrained environment, MOAH could keep adding artifacts forever. But we have a hard limit: the space available in our current warehouse. Over the years, our collection has been located in a series of leased warehouses, and each time we moved, we acquired additiona storage space. But because we purchased our current warehouse (along with a hefty mortgage), it is likely that we will be constrained to fit within it forever.

See From Our President, Page 10.

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From Our Executive Director

Allison Wong



MOAH staying green!

In 2010, in line with Santa Clara County's Green Business Program and the City of Palo Alto's commitment to become a Zero Waste community by 2021, MOAH launched an initiative to become a green-certified business, with the goals of reducing our carbon footprint and adopting

policies within our organization to encourage sustainability.

MOAH eventually received its initial green certification in 2014, recertified in 2018 and recertified again during the COVID pandemic. In order to meet the County of Santa Clara's requirements for recertification, MOAH had to go through an extensive audit of our grounds and practices. For example, we had to show what types of bulbs we are using to light the museum, where recycling takes place, how our storm drains look and many other facility-related items.

During our recent recertification, one of the projects we embarked on was to change the halide bulbs in the Frank Livermore Learning Center to LED bulbs. Thanks to Jim Wall and Charlie Gillis for doing the research on the LED bulbs, rewiring and installing the light system. Under the Green Business Program, LED light bulbs are encouraged because they use less energy. Changing these light bulbs is expected to save MOAH 7,000 kWh per year!

Other initiatives MOAH committed to include purchasing remanufactured ink cartridges and designating a space dedicated to recycling light bulbs, batteries and ink cartridges. To prevent us from having excessive water usage, janitorial staff now checks for toilet and sink leaks on a monthly basis. The gardener and staff continue to monitor the garden for leaks on a weekly basis. Every MOAH staff member has received training on proper recycling

and composting techniques. These small changes add up to both save the museum money and reduce our carbon footprint.

When you see MOAH use the Green Business symbol, you now know what the certification involves.



Volunteer Opportunities for 2023

MOAH is always on the lookout for curious and active adult volunteers. We have a variety of jobs that can provide you with some fun and rewarding volunteer experiences while you meet and work with interesting people. There is also the possibility of task-based volunteering, allowing you to help us on your own schedule. For more information about volunteering at MOAH, please contact us at 650-321-1004 or admin@moah.org.

Gallery Assistant

Are you looking for a weekend volunteer position that requires only an occasional 2.5 to 4 hour commitment? Would you like to be part of MOAH's exciting exhibits and share your knowledge? We are looking for Gallery Assistants to take occasional shifts on Fridays, Saturdays or Sundays either from 11:00AM to 1:30PM or from 1:30PM to 4:00PM. This is one area in which MOAH can really use your help!

Garden Volunteer

Do you have experience in gardening and have an interest in working in a historic garden? Join us on Tuesday mornings to beautify and maintain the Williams House gardens. Tasks include watering, weeding, transplanting, fertilizing and more.

Warehouse Team Member

Do you enjoy fiddling with and/or fixing mechanical or electrical things? Our Warehouse Team works on site at our warehouse restoring incoming artifacts and maintaining them over time as needed. In addition, team members are responsible for organizing the collection. MOAH's warehouse is located in San Carlos.

Publicity and Public Relations Team Member

Are you interested in communications and public relations? Are you skilled at writing or editing? Do you wish more people knew about all of MOAH's great services? How about working with our Publicity Team to get the word out to our community?

Current Main Gallery Exhibit

Around the World: A Collection of Vintage Global Artifacts

Open through February 26, 2023

If you haven't seen the current exhibition yet, don't forget to view it before it closes on February 26, 2023.

Take a trip around the world with MOAH! On display are a variety of mechanical and electrical artifacts made abroad. See a selection of artifacts from many countries including Argentina, Canada, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, the Netherlands, Poland, Singapore, Switzerland, the United States and more.

A few notable artifacts include a Swiss rototiller, an Italian toy donkey cart, Japanese cameras, vintage compasses, antique clocks from Germany and English safety bellows.







Baby, oh Baby!

In December of 2018, MOAH was lucky to add Michelle Fabian (nee Overton) to its staff as Exhibits & Administration Assistant. Michelle was eventually upgraded to her current position of Exhibits & Opera-

tions Manager.

In the February 2021 issue of this newsletter, we congratulated Michelle and Kerwin Fabian on their marriage, which occurred in the midst of the COVID-19

pandemic on June 26, 2021.

We now have the great pleasure of congratulating Michelle and Kerwin on the birth of their beautiful baby girl, Koralìa, on October 7, 2022.

Welcome, Koralia!



^{*} Icon made by Amico from https://storyset.com

Holy Toledo!, continued from front page.

Along comes Henry Theobald (1868-1924) (see first photo to the right). Around the same time as DeVilbiss was working on his improved scales, Theobald, age 31, was working as general manager in Dayton for the National Cash Register Company (NCR). He implemented changes in NCR's production system that he felt would decrease costs and improve the product. Unfortunately for Theobald, he implemented these changes without getting prior approval from John Patterson, the founder of the company. For this oversight, Patterson fired Theobald from the company. Out of work, he searched around for what to do next and eventually decided to start his own business. Theobald came across DeVilbiss and learned about his invention. Seizing the business opportunity inherent in this new scale (i.e., accuracy in weight in the retail environment meant happier customers and higher profits), he purchased the patent rights from DeVilbiss around 1900.

In 1901, with the help of other investors, Henry Theobald founded the Toledo Computing Scale and Cash Register Company. He added cash registers, perhaps to get back at his former employer. Sure enough, NCR sued Theobald for infringing on its cash register patents. Theobald dropped cash registers from the product line, and eventually the firm's name became the Toledo Scale Company. He later coined the phrase "No Springs, Honest Weight" as a slogan for the new company.

Theobald also hired the inventive Allen DeVilbiss as his manufacturing manager. Due to the obvious improvement in accuracy over that of spring-based scales, Toledo Scales dominated the market and in just 10 years the still young Theobald sold more than 75,000 scales. These were called "fan" scales due to the shape of the display area that showed the weights and prices (see second photo to the right).

In 1912 the company introduced a double pendulum style that had an automatic indicating dial, rather than a beam and poise (the weight you slide across the beam to approximate the weight). Thus, the scale we have in our warehouse is the pre-1912 style. By the way, given the shape of the main body, these models were called "lollipops" (see third photo to the right).



The headquarters would remain in Toledo until 1975, when it was purchased. Through a series of other sales and mergers over the years, the company is now part of Mettler Toledo, headquartered in Polaris, Ohio, a suburb of Columbus.

The only way to see MOAH's large scale is to come to the warehouse during our annual open house. Otherwise, visit our Palo Alto museum and enter the General Store exhibit. There you will find a smaller-sized scale that was used in my grandmother's grocery store when I was growing up in Chicago. Look closely at the viewing window and you will see how it calculated the price of the item, based on its weight and the price-per-pound. All done without computers!



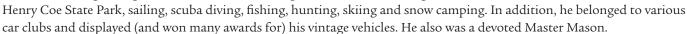




In Memoriam

David (Dave) Stoner April 6, 1936 - July 11, 2022

Born in Oakland, California, David B. Stoner was employed by Northrup, followed by General Dynamics and, finally, Lockheed, where he completed his career as Labor Relations Director. In his private life, Dave enjoyed a wide variety of activities, including hiking the John Muir Trail, serving as volunteer Park Ranger at



In addition to collecting and restoring vintage Ford automobiles and antique farm tractors, Dave and his wife Donnis collected Maxfield Parrish art, early California fine art by Anni Baldaugh, antique clothing buttons and 19th century cast iron cap guns.

As a couple, Dave and Donnis participated in MOAH's annual Vintage Vehicles & Family Festival event and supported the museum's lecture program by presenting lectures featuring Dave's collection of toy cap guns in June 2010 and Donnis's collection of buttons in March 2012. Dave also served as a docent.

As discussed in the From Our President column in MOAH's August 2022 newsletter, the beautiful 1915 Model T touring sedan that resides in the museum's garage was generously donated to us by Dave and Donnis.

MOAH sends sincere condolences to Donnis and to the Stoners' extended family.

In Memoriam

Shirley Rose Ely January 8, 1927 - July 22, 2022

For many years, there has been a strong relationship between the Ely family of Palo Alto and MOAH. On October 2, 1923, Leonard Wheeler Ely, Jr., was born, delivered by Dr. Thomas Marion Williams, whose home is now occupied by the museum. In 1947, Mr. Ely married Shirley Rose and, over the course of their life together, the couple generously provided support and significant funding to numerous local organizations, including MOAH.



In particular, Leonard served on both our Board of Directors and our Community Advisory Board (CAB), and Shirley served on the CAB until her recent passing. In August 2001, MOAH honored the couple at its annual gala dinner party. In 2009, the museum established the Ely Wing in the Williams House to include a restoration of Dr. Williams' original office. Leonard Ely, Jr., passed away in 2011, and Shirley Rose Ely followed him in July, 2022.

Born in Oakland, California, Shirley received her education at Anna Heads School, Berkeley High School and Stanford University, where she met her husband. They married at Stanford Chapel in 1947. Among her favorite pastimes were bridge, the symphony and skiing. She volunteered for the Children's Hospital through the Allied Arts Guild, the Red Cross, and the Peninsula Ball for the benefit of Peninsula Family Service as well as Planned Parenthood.

MOAH extends sincere condolences both to Shirley's son Leonard Wheeler Ely III, who currently serves on MOAH's Board of Directors, and to the rest of her family.

In Memoriam

Arthur (Art) F. Adams, Jr. January 4, 1926 - August 10, 2022

Arthur Adams, Jr., was born in Kansas City, MO, was inducted into the army in Chicago to serve his country in the second world war, was trained to be a soldier in Fort Hood, Texas, sailed to England, was sent to Germany on a mission to capture the small town of Kesternich, was captured and transported to a prisoner-of-war camp in Hammelburg, Germany, was liberated in 1945 and taken to a hospital in France, spent time at "Camp Lucky Strike," was sent back to New York, earned a degree in engineering from the University of Illinois, was employed by Cook Electric and Lockheed Martin, worked with the Redwing atomic program for the U.S. government and eventually landed in Palo Alto to spend the



rest of his long and colorful life. In 2004, Art published a book entitled "A Young Man Goes to War - 1944," recounting his experiences during World War II.

Art's published obituary states that he was "an avid collector of vintage radios and a self-proclaimed garage sale aficionado" who "spent his later years as a volunteer for the Museum of American Heritage, traveling with his beloved wife, and scouring the local garage sale circuit every Saturday morning." In addition to being a MOAH member/supporter/volunteer since its earliest days and contributing artifacts to various MOAH exhibits, Art delivered many lectures at MOAH, including four about radios, two about garage sales, one about his World War II experiences and, finally, a musical journey through time that illustrated Art's premise that recorded music reflects the events and mood of the time.

MOAH offers sincere condolences to Art's wife Frances and to the rest of his family.

In Memoriam

Nicholas (Nick) Andrew Kiya November 3, 1948 - August 18, 2022

Born in Osaka, Japan, and raised as an "Army brat," Nick Kiya graduated from high school in Glen Burnie, Maryland, and attended Foothill College and Southwest Texas State University (now Texas State). Over the years, he worked for Cost Plus, Revo (manufacturer of high-end sunglasses) and Owens & Minor (at Stanford Hospital). After he retired, Nick enjoyed part-time volunteer work at MOAH.



Among Nick's many hobbies and interests were fishing, sports (especially the 49ers - but also the Giants, Warriors and Sharks), music and photography. A photographer himself, Nick was a collector of photographs taken by Ansel Adams, Ruth Bernard and Edward Weston. He also had an impressive collection of movie, television and sports memorabilia.

Beginning in 2016, Nick volunteered regularly at MOAH's warehouse in San Carlos, participating in various artifact moves and using the forklift to retrieve boxes. He also helped at the museum's signature fundraising event, VVFF, by show-casing MOAH's "Guess What?" artifacts. In preparation for one of MOAH's exhibits, Nick said, "One of my favorite MOAH artifacts is the Sunbeam Waffle Iron Square that reminds me of the one my family had. My favorite artifact displayed at the museum is the Scopitone, which I first saw in 1965."

MOAH sends sincere condolences to Nick's family.

What Was MOAH Up To Over the Summer?



Yuri Liberzon & Patrick O'Connell (Duo Equilibrium) Concert June 16, 2022



Traditions of Chinese Lion Dancing with Jason Chan and his team June 25, 2022



Open Warehouse July 16, 2022



Polly and the Morphics Concert

July 21, 2022



Garden Luncheon July 25, 2022







Rive Gauche Concert August 4, 2022



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



August 9, 2022 * Icon made by Rafiki from https://storyset.com



Peralta Consort Concert September 30, 2022

MOAH thanks ...

the following for their contributions over the past six months (as of October 7, 2022):

Joseph Beshay * John & Pat Davis * Francesca Eastman * John Ford * Rita & Perrin French * Betsy Fryberger *

Charlie & Roberta Gillis * John Goldie * Bob Katzive * Mathews-Carlsen Body Works * Karen Pei * Photosprouts

LLC * Shou Song * Silverthorn Family Fund * Nandita Srinivasan * William Ulibarri * Jingwen Xu

the late Fielding and Mary Jane Tapp for their generous bequest gift, which will directly support museum operations and restore the historic gardens as Mary Jane enjoyed gardening

the Garden Club of Palo Alto and our MOAH garden volunteers who take wonderful care of MOAH's grounds and gardens:

Robin Allen * Betsy Fryberger * Leslie Fish * Nan Knoblauch * Sue Krumbein * Delia Laitin * Herb Perry * Girvin & Lesley Peters * Kevin Quinn * Winnie Siegel * Jeny Smith * Indy Ting * Ellie Thomas * Cathy Wachtel

the talented musicians who graciously performed in MOAH's concert series this year: Peralta Consort * Polly & the Morphics * Rive Gauche * Yuri Liberzon & Patrick O'Connell (Duo Equilibrium)

MOAH Sponsors

The Moore Family Foundation * Hassett Hardware * Frank Livermore Trust

The MOAH Legacy Society

Larry Boysen * John Davis * Charlie Gillis * Trevor & Lori Heathorn *

Jim & Bev Nelson * Jim & Eileen Wall

MOAH Welcomes its New, Upgrading and Returning Members!

New Members New Members, cont. Upgrading

w Members New Members, cont.

Individual Family

Poul Andersen David Shawcross

Jason Chan
Bill Chen
Upgrading Members

Martha Cohn Family
Daniel Fisher Alan Cooper
Aaron Hessler Carrie Gordon

Chun Yan Mai Sustaining
Mitch Minarick Brian Adams
Sharon Parkinson Rick Rairden
Maria Roldan Bob Crockett

Zhichun Huang

Tanja Sattler Joyce McClure
Larry Wertman Oscar & Margaret Rosenbloom

Upgrading Members, cont.

Supporting Sarah & Tom Clark

James & Peggy McClenahan

Patron

Dean & Lorraine Johnson

William Reller

Returning Members

Family

Harris Romanoff Meg Smith

MOAH Recognized by Study.com

In 2022, MOAH was ranked #18 out of 45 in Study.com's list of Top 45 Educational Places in the Bay Area Peninsula and South Bay. Study.com's list focuses on destinations that are accessible and available, provide high-caliber educational opportunities and appeal to a broad audience. Study.com particularly loves that our focus is on American inventions and the fact that we are the only museum in the Bay Area that is dedicated to collecting mechanical and electrical inventions ranging from 1750 to 1950. Study.com is an online platform that aims to make education affordable through video lessons by instructors. MOAH is honored to be among the institutions listed.



From Our President, continued from Page 2.

Small- and medium-sized objects are fairly easy to store. Large ones (sewing machines, televisions, washing machines, etc.) are the items that have a big impact on our storage space. With MOAH's current collection, storage space for large items is already at a premium, and this constraint is something we now must factor in every time we consider adding a new item to the collection.

In the early days after the museum was founded, increasing the size and breadth of the collection was important. This goal led to accessioning some items in questionable condition. As the years went by, the museum accessioned various items that were very similar to others already in the collection. Some examples are Singer treadle sewing machines, desktop radios and floor-standing phonographs.

It is inevitable that at some point MOAH will need to de-accession some items just to free up storage space for new items that we wish to add to the collection. In some cases, we would do this to replace an earlier accessioned item with one that is in better condition. Other times, it would be because the museum had accumulated too many substantially identical items. And occasionally, we might look at an item in the warehouse and experience a "what were we thinking?" moment that might lead us to de-accession said item. We have known for some time that the thinning of our collection of some large items has been needed, but, so far this has happened in only a few unusual situations.

So what is our process for de-accessioning? For an artifact in MOAH's collection to be removed, a vote must be passed by the museum's Board of Directors (BoD). This is consistent with the guidelines of the American Alliance of Museums (AAM), of which our museum is a member. The BoD must be provided with information on the item (or group of items) to be de-accessioned, the reason(s) that they are to be removed from the collection, and how they would be disposed of (gifted to another museum, transferred to a particular person, sold, recycled, etc.). If the BoD approves of the de-accessioning of the object, it is removed from the database, its identifying MOAH artifact number is removed, and it is disposed of as approved by the BoD.

Our museum's policy has always been that we do not accept donations of items unless they are desired to be added to the collection and to remain in the collection. We do not accept donated items with the intent to sell them to help fund the museum's operations. Consistent with this approach, we do not plan to thin out the collection by selling the de-accessioned items in order to raise operational funds. All de-accessioned items with collectible value will first be offered at no cost to other museums (consistent with AAM guidelines). If a new museum home cannot be found, other disposal options will be considered.

I am sure that no museum has ever embraced the idea of thinning its collection nor joyously anticipated that day when some of its artifacts are identified for permanent removal. And yet, these processes seem to be part of the growth cycle of most museums. For many years, MOAH has been fortunate to avoid de-accessioning, but we are now approaching the time to consider it, even if it is focused primarily on the larger items in the collection. Our alternative is to refuse offers of larger artifacts that might improve the quality and diversity of our world class collection.

So, while removing items from the collection is nothing that we look forward to, it is something that we are preparing to do. In a future President's column I will talk about potential options for increasing our storage space at the warehouse.

Volunteer Spotlight: Yanni Zhou

Yanni Zhou found MOAH through Volunteer Match (www.volunteermatch. org), a website that connects volunteers with nonprofit organizations). Hoping to get some work experience in the museum world, Yanni enthusiastically signed on to volunteer in both the warehouse and the gallery.

Yanni has enjoyed working with our collection, and she feels that "there are so many incredible historical objects of great craftsmanship, aesthetics and wisdom that really made [her] fall in love with what MOAH does as a museum."

Yanni served as a docent at the museum and helped in the warehouse. Some of her notable projects included assisting with exhibitions, which involved both using the forklift and pallet jacks to pull out artifacts and packing up artifacts for transport. She also had a hand in researching and accessioning artifacts. In addition, she worked on restoring a gramophone and a vintage cabinet.

She enjoyed being involved in all aspects of the museum. She dived right in and learned how to docent, restore artifacts, catalog, curate and move the collection. Overall, Yanni feels that she had a holistic experience. She also feels that the sense of involvement in a small team is one of her favorite aspects of MOAH. Getting involved in different jobs and becoming acquainted with everyone was something Yanni really enjoyed during her time at the museum.

Yanni, who is Chinese, spent her summer in the United States but has been studying in the United Kingdom for five years and just graduated with a degree in Art History. She plans to begin working on a Master's Degree in Islamic Art and Architecture.



We wish Yanni all the best in her future endeavors.



How to Join and Get MOAH for your Money!

Museum members receive this newsletter; attend lectures free of charge; receive a discount on workshops and special events; and are invited to special members-only receptions for each exhibit.

A
THE MUSEUM
of $AMERICAN$
HERITAGE

☐ Livermore Collector\$ 2,500	Name —	
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□ Sponsoring\$ 500	Street	
□ Supporting\$ 250		
□ Sustaining\$ 100	City/State/Zip —	
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□ Individual Adult\$ 35	Phone E-m	ail ————
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Web site: www.moah.org	Signature	CVV

February 2023 11

Remit to: Museum of American Heritage, P. O. Box 1731, Palo Alto, CA 94302-1731



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> Fax: 650.473.6950 Website: www.moah.org

E-mail: mail@moah.org Located at 351 Homer Avenue, Palo Alto, between Bryant and Waverley Streets

Hours: Friday through Sunday, 11 am-4 pm Admission: Free

Donations welcomed

Group tours available by appointment

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-MOAH EXHIBITS, EVENTS, CLASSES-

Exhibits: Friday - Sunday, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (Group tours available at minimal fee)

Around the World: A Collection of Vintage Global Artifacts

In the Main Gallery

Now through February 26, 2023

Ring Ring! Let's Talk Telephones: The Evolution of Communication

In the doctor's surgery room Now through February 26, 2023

Toys in the Attic

In the Ehrlich Gallery Now through February 26, 2023

2023 Summer Concert Series

Yuri Liberzon

In the MOAH gardens July 20, 2023 at 7:00pm

Permanent Exhibits: Kitchen; General Store; Dr. Williams' Office; Gardens; Print Shop;

Marshall Mathews Garage; Ely Family Children's Room

Please Note

MOAH follows all regulations related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visitors to the museum are encouraged to wear face masks while indoors.

Please continue to check for updates to our schedule at:

www.moah.org/calendar