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**OHS ANNOUNCES NEW TEAM AND EXHIBITION;**

**ENTERS NEW PHASE IN FUNDRAISING FOR MEETINGHOUSE, LINNELL**

The Orleans Historical Society (OHS) is welcoming two new team members, announcing a major exhibition for its Meetinghouse Museum this spring, and entering a new phase in its “Two Landmarks, One Vision” capital campaign to update its current facilities and acquire the historic Captain Linnell House.

Dr. Edith (“Deede”) Tonelli has joined OHS as Guest Curator and Interim Director, and Lisa Franz has been named Marketing Specialist, effective immediately. Tonelli has been leading the Heritage Museums and Gardens’ 50th Anniversary exhibition, and was formerly Director of the Cape Cod Museum of Art in Dennis. She is now responsible for strategic program development and planning at OHS. Franz, formerly Executive Director of the Chatham Chamber of Commerce, has extensive graphic arts, marketing and public relations experience and will focus on fundraising, promotion and publicity for the Society. Together, in their part-time positions, they succeed former OHS Executive Director Pamela Feltus.

They and volunteers already are hard at work on a major exhibition set to debut in May at the Meetinghouse Museum. “Models of Maritime Courage and Adventure” will highlight the courage and adventurous spirit behind the maritime history of Orleans and Cape Cod from the 17th century to today. Told through selected models of historical seafaring vessels and dynamic personal narratives of the men and women behind those adventures, the multi-media exhibition will be open to the public throughout the summer and early fall. More details will be announced in the weeks ahead.

Meanwhile, the organization has been quietly raising more than $550,000 in individual donations/pledges and grants, with another $550,000 pending, towards its $3 million goal. The funds are needed to update its 1834 Meetinghouse and adjacent Hurd Chapel, acquire the 1850 Captain Linnell House and provide for the long-term care of its buildings, collections, and CG36500 motor lifeboat. Now the campaign begins a much more visible phase with public newsletter updates, special group mailings and, soon, a general appeal for individual donations.

Significant improvements already were completed at the Meetinghouse in 2018, including fire suppression and new alarm systems, HVAC and electrical updates, and repairing and painting the original wide-plank floors. All were made possible by donations from OHS members and a Community Preservation Act Grant from the citizens of Orleans. More work is being scheduled for later this year to make the Meetinghouse compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, including accessible front entrances and restroom.

Other donations will support the purchase of the Captain Linnell House, a unique historical preservation opportunity with tremendous potential for the community and OHS. Both the Meetinghouse and Linnell will provide expanded museum space and serve as cultural centers where residents and visitors can gather for concerts, stage productions, history presentations, youth summer programs and many other activities.

Meeting and event spaces at the two locations will be available for rent by public, non-profit and private groups with food and services provided by caterers and other suppliers. These spaces are unmatched in the area and would provide sustainable income to OHS, offsetting operating costs.

To learn more about donating to OHS, volunteering and/or upcoming programs, please go to OrleansHistoricalSociety.org or call 508-240-1329.

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