

# South Milwaukee Historical Society

## 717 Milwaukee Av

### South Milwaukee, Wi. 53172

P R E S E R V I N G   T H E   P R O U D   P A S T

**FOUNDED  
MARCH  
1972**

Founders

- Dennis Rankin
- Penny Rankin

Initial Directors:

- George Hook
- Mary McCarrier
- Bruce Rayeske
- Dora Lee Szewczuga
- William Domoe
- Lillian Dishong
- Chester Grobschmidt

<b>Officers:</b>		
President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
V. President	Patti Bergeson	768-9549
Secretary	Sue Ziarek	520-1959
Treasurer	Judy Bal estreiri	762-6382
<b>Board of Curators</b>		
	Judy Bal estreiri	
	Richard Thinnes	
	Steve Schreiter, Genealogy	
<b>Board of directors</b> (Term Expires):		
	Todd Michal ek	(2018) 762-6876
	Lee Loveal I	(2018) 301-9171
	Rose Nosacek	(2017) 762-4279
	Pharis Brooks	(2018) 762-2084
	Addie Becker	(2017) 764-2118
	JB Bul ley	(2017) 762-7605
	Barb Muel ler	(2017) 762-2712
	Sunshine chairperson	



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Hi everyone,

I hope you were able to attend at least one of the Canopy Classes this summer. The presenters were awesome. Thank you for sharing your expertise. Our biggest number of attendees was 30. We have 4 new members and many people came through our wonderful museum. If you have an idea for next summer give us a call at 762 5214. At least, come and see the new garage door, air conditioning, and the new sign in front of museum in memory of Rick Grobschmidt. Another big thank you to all who made this happen.

I would also like to welcome our newest Board Member, Todd Michalek. Todd was elected to the Board as my replacement at the September meeting.

*Lois Schreiter*

**P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:**

Help?? Do you have a memory of South Milwaukee you'd be willing to share with our readers? How about an interesting picture of a place or event from our city's past that we could use. Maybe you'd like to try your hand at writing a short article for the newsletter? Contact any one of the officers at the numbers above or send us an email. [southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com). We'd love to hear from you



The Canopy Talks held in July & August were a big hit. First up was Rita Wiskowski's "Birds of The Mill Pond". There were a few "technical difficulties" and Rita had to present the pictures on her lap top rather than a larger screen but the crowd still enjoyed the talk. Rita mentioned there are a lot more birds that followed the Grant Park Lake shore. Perhaps we can convince her to come back next summer and do a Canopy Classes on them?

Next up was curator Richard Thinner and "The History of South Milwaukee". Being a former history teacher at the South Milwaukee High School, Richard started his talk with a quiz but he still managed to squeeze a two week course into half an hour! Students had fun giving him a hard time when he took a phone call during "class"!!



The third talk was "The 1929 High School Fire" given by Pharis Brooks. Even though the temperature was close to 90° that day turn out was good and everyone enjoyed Pharis's enthusiastic presentation.



Next up were Don Bulley & Nancy Wucherer with "The Mill Pond". Bad weather forced that class indoors. A couple of floor fans did their best to keep everyone from overheating (another hot humid day!) and the presentation went off without a hitch.



The final talk was "The Lawson Airliner" by Steve Schreiter. Weather forced us inside again but nobody seemed to mind. Steve did a great job and we all wished he would have talked longer but his wife, Society President Lois Schreiter, very strictly held him to half an hour!

Plans are underway to hold another set of Canopy Talks next summer. If you have a topic you'd like to present or a subject you'd like to learn about contact us thru the website or give Lois a call. Oh...and we've since acquired a 27" TV capable of reading computer files so hopefully no more "technical difficulties" AND we have air conditioning in case it's another hot humid summer!

# Past Events



In August, members Catherine Hensiek and her husband Bill from California visited the museum . Catherine & her sisters Ellen & Marian, donated the Frederick Fowle Civil War items we have displayed in the museum. They wanted to check out the display for themselves as well as do some additional research on their family history. After a morning spent touring the museum with Judy, Richard & Sue they headed off to a local restaurant for lunch. The afternoon was spent visiting relatives at the First Congregational Church Cemetery. We had so much fun we can't wait for their next visit!

Also in August, board member and photography buff Lee Loveall created a display for the entryway at the library titled "The Evolution of Photography". The display included items from Lee's personal collection as well as from the museum. Thanks to Lee for all his time researching and putting together the display. It received favorable reviews from library patrons.



We had a very small turn out for the potluck this time but on the plus side it gave us the opportunity to hold a full meeting after dinner and boy did we get a lot done! The board voted to get the A/C installed, get a new garage door with opener, get the trees on the property trimmed and to put up a new and improved sign at the museum. Thanks to an anonymous donor for covering the cost of materials for the sign. By the time the newsletter goes out most of those things will be done!



Lois Schreiter working on our new sign

In September we held our second rhubarb leaf casting seminar. Turnout was great, even if the weather wasn't on the first day but we had canopies to work under and the heaviest rain was nice enough to hold off until right after we finished. The second day was much nicer and the creativity came out in full force with the sun. Three of the participants mentioned they hadn't been in the museum in over 10 years so Richard gave them a guided tour. They were very impressed by all the improvements!





# TALES & TOMBSTONES



**JOIN CITY HISTORIAN  
NELS MONSON**

**FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE HISTORIC  
FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH CEMETERY  
NORTH CHICAGO AVENUE & PINE STREET IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2016**

**6:00 PM**

**\$5.00 DONATION SUGGESTED**

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CEMETERY PRESERVATION**

*Join the Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc  
and the South Milwaukee Historical Society*

*for our 10<sup>th</sup> Annual **Old Fashioned Holiday Tea**  
Saturday, December 3, 2016*



*11:30 am\* - 2:00 pm*

*at the*

*Grant Park Golf Clubhouse*

*100 Hawthorne Avenue - South Milwaukee*

*Enjoy a delicious lunch with tea and dessert  
in this beautifully decorated Historic building*

*\*Note: Doors open at 11:00 am*

**Cost: \$25.00 per person. Invite a friend!**

*Reservations will be taken after 8:00 am on 10/29/16*

*By calling 571-1191 **Limit 6 reservations per call***

*Mail checks to:*

*Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc*

*810 Hawthorne Avenue, South Milwaukee WI 53172*



**South Milwaukee Historical Society — Preserving the Proud Past**

**Membership Renewal Form for year \_ \_ \_ \_**

**Please renew my membership at the following level:**

Individual (\$10)     Family (\$15)     Business (\$25)     Individual Life Member(\$100)

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society  
and mail to **717 Milwaukee Av, South Milwaukee WI 53172**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would like to receive your newsletters by email and write the address below

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Save the Date!

Plans are currently under way for the Annual Lunch in February, 2017. The date isn't finalized yet but will be either the 11th or the 18th. We will definitely be moving to a larger venue and hope to have another great speaker. All the details will be in the winter newsletter.

In case you're wondering why the weather turned so cold last week...WE HAVE AIR CONDITIONING!! Uttke HVAC installed the units (one on the main floor, one on the second floor) on October 11 & 12. Hmm...perhaps the cold weather moved in so we could try out the heat pump that's part of the new unit. We expect that will be just as welcome this winter as the AC will be next summer.

We also have a new garage door and opener. The old door was deteriorating and very heavy. The new door is much lighter weight and controlled by an opener making it much safer for everyone.

The board has been tossing around the idea of a joint picture preservation project with some of our neighboring Historical Societies. The idea is to get residents to bring pictures of local people, places and things to a central location so they can be scanned for inclusion in the Society's archives. The pictures are immediately returned to their owners. We'll keep you posted as plans solidify.

Mayor Brooks recently asked the Society if we could share any pictures we had of Milwaukee Avenue business or activities. Board Member Don Bulley spent some time hunting thru the files and came up with quite a few that he passed on (they've since been returned!). Keep an eye out as you travel down Milwaukee Ave. Some of those pictures might be showing up in shop windows. Since many of the photographs we have are unidentified, if you happen to recognize anyone please pass on the information!

It's that time again....

Be sure to fill out and return the membership form on Page 4 to renew your membership for 2017. You have until the annual lunch to re-up. After that we have no choice but to remove you from our member list.

Just a reminder that all new Historical Society members are entitled to one hour of genealogical research from Steve Schreiter. If you haven't taken advantage of that yet give Steve a call. You can download the basic information form from the *Contact Us* page of our website if you have access to a computer.

The Historical Society would like to extend our wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. Please leave a detailed message for the Sunshine chairperson at 414-762-7605 or 414-762-2712. Be sure to include a phone number where you can be reached if she has questions.

As always...I'd like to encourage anyone who's able but hasn't done so yet to sign up to receive electronic notification of the newsletters. You get access to it sooner, the picture quality is much better, it saves the Society money on printing & postage and it helps the environment! If you'd like to give it a try send an email to the Society email address: [southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com) You can always change your mind.....

Facebook Fanatics: We're still looking for somebody to get the Society set up on Facebook. Send us an email thru the website and we'll talk.....

Since the next newsletter won't be out until January....



## COMING EVENTS

Our monthly meetings are now held at the South Milwaukee Library. Meetings begin at 6:00PM **and are held on the 2nd Monday of each month. We'd like to invite ALL our members to attend.**

2016 –17 BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Nov 14; Dec 12; Jan 10

Oct 29            Tales and Tombstones Cemetery Tour  
Dec 3             Old Fashioned Holiday Tea  
Feb 2017         2017 Annual Lunch (either the 11th or the 18th)

See inside for details on these events



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