

# South Milwaukee Historical Society

## 717 Milwaukee Ave

### 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**

**Initial Directors:**

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

**OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT	ROBERT PFEIFFER	764-1135
V. PRESIDENT	LOIS SCHREITER	762-5214
SECRETARY	SUE ZIAREK	520-1959
TREASURER	RICHARD RAATZ	761-3941

**BOARD OF CURATORS**

JUDY BALESTREIRI  
RICHARD THINNES  
STEVE SCHREITER, GENEALOGY

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS (TERM EXPIRES):**

ADDIE BECKER	(2010)	764-2118
JAMES D ROTHSCHADL	(2010)	766-1633
BARBARA SCHOUTEN	(2010)	764-2315
ESTELLE HAACK	(2011)	762-8124
CAROL BRABY	(2012)	870-7857
BARB MUELLER	(2009)	762-2712

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS**  
JEWELL HEISE, DELORES KOWALSKI,  
BETTY CHOVANEC  
EUNICE HAHN, CECIL POMAHAC

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**F R O M   T H E   P R E S I D E N T ' S   D E S K**

I would like to encourage members to participate in the activities of the South Milwaukee Historical Society. As the city's slogan says "A proud past and a promising future". We have a very rich history. For example our public library is celebrating 110 years making it the third oldest library in the county. We need to preserve our history for the future generations. Your participation and support in the Society will ensure that we will be around for the next generations.

We are changing the newsletter publishing cycle to coincide with the seasons. I.e., Fall, winter, spring and summer. Our good editor encourages members to submit articles relating to the history of South Milwaukee for the newsletter.

We will be doing a survey of the membership, survey enclosed with the newsletter, to find out your thoughts on what activities you would like to see the Society do. Please take time to complete the survey and return it to our secretary.

In mid-September we received a check from Bucyrus International for \$1000! A special thank you to all of you who have made donations to the Society or renewed your membership. We now have a computer and are looking for donations to purchase special software so we can begin organizing our collection.

Above all, we are looking for volunteers to help with the various projects. I know everyone is very busy. However, your volunteer time is greatly appreciated.

**Bob Pfeiffer**

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

Please send your stories or even just story ideas to me. I also need your memories for the *I Remember* feature (found on page 3 in this edition). Trust me, I can put words in your mouth (so to speak) so don't use the excuse that you aren't a good writer. Call me (414-520-1959) or email me (sziarek@wi.rr.com) or send me a letter along with your survey (1429 Marshall Av in SM). Together we can make our newsletter something uniquely special to our Historical Society.

*Sue Ziarek*

## LOIS & STEVE'S LABYRINTH ADVENTURE!

I love being in a garden. There is something wonderful about it to lift your spirit. Lois and I visited Janesville's Rotary Gardens, a 20 acre location with a variety of gardens. Madison has the Olbreich gardens. Milwaukee has Whittall, Boemer Gardens and Mitchell Park Domes Gardens. West Bend has a labyrinth garden.

Lois and I drove to West Bend yesterday, to Regner Park in that city for an opportunity to view their "Natural Sculpture, A Labyrinth"

It is a 90-foot circle, bordered with a series of about 150 low shrubs, and consisting of concentric rings of flowers and grass paths, all of which lead to a center circle containing a small bench. None of the paths go all the way around the circle, rather they turn back much like a switchback road going up a mountain. One would think that each switchback would take you closer to the center but sometimes a 180-degree turn result in a path further from the center.

The attraction was built in 2005, with brick edging provided by a landscape contractor and a donor who provided the shrubs for the outside border. Today, volunteers plant and maintain the labyrinth in 15-foot segments, one or two volunteers to each segment. An underground sprinkling system waters the entire garden.

When we visited, in early September, late flowers and grasses still provided much color and contrast. The paths are grass, and were lush green, and some flowers still provided vibrant colors for our enjoyment.



Lois at the center of the labyrinth

Children who were visiting the labyrinth enjoyed running around the paths to see if they could reach the center quickly and jested with their parents who sometimes stepped over from one path to the next in an attempt to shorten the walk.

A brochure available at the site gives some of its history and invites volunteers to adopt a 15-foot segment. Also commemorative stones can be purchased and placed around the labyrinth as a fundraiser.

Researching labyrinths (note this is not the same as a maze, which has some dead end paths) reveals that a person beginning their walk to the center should dwell upon a problem in their life, and the labyrinth walk will help reveal solutions.

**Available at the South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum**

*Images of America, South Milwaukee*, a picture history book

By Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr — \$20

*Then to Now* by Gert Endthof — \$10

FOR  
SALE

## Genealogy by Steve Schreiter

One hour of genealogy for anyone with a new \$10.00 membership. Basic information forms can be found at our website ([www.southmilwaukee.org/historical\\_society](http://www.southmilwaukee.org/historical_society)) and should be mailed to Addie Becker with your dues.

The Historical Society would like to extend our wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. Please contact sunshine chairperson Barbara Mueller at 762-2712. Be sure to leave a detailed message or a number where she can contact you.

## TIDS & BITS

**Our Garden Tour ticket sales** were down this year but the spirit, or the bicyclists! were high. Donations were up also. We received some generous donations totaling almost \$600. Donations plus Garden Tour receipts totaled around \$1300 and the Board of Directors voted to get a computer for the museum. Thank you to all our gardeners and volunteers!

**Gardeners:** Richard Thinnis; Jerry & Kay Grant; Sue Ziarek; Bill Polachek; Sue & Ed Janowski; Jeanne Hugel; Peggy Clark; Lois & Steve Schreiter; Mark & Gail Honadel; Jim & Jill Recely.

**Volunteers:** Annette Loper; Pat Forsythe; JB Bulley; Dee Balsis; Carol Braby; Paulette Radtke; Bob Pfeiffer; Richard Raatz; Iris Olivaria; Theresa Aghbashian; Kathy & Mike Leffel; Suzanne McKinney; Lisa, Sarah & Rachel Foyer; Estelle Haack; Linda Daly & James Rothschild

**In September** we received a letter and donation of \$400 from the South Milwaukee Amateur Radio club. The club promotes radio and electronic projects and holds a huge swapfest every July at the American Legion park in Oak Creek. We hope to use that money toward the purchase of museum software for our new computer. Thank you!

### I R E M E M B E R . . .

On Sunday afternoon we got to go to the movies. Afterwards we'd stop at G&G ice cream store! They had a square shaped cone that held 1/2 a pint of ice cream. Mrs. Georgevitch would take the square pint and cut it diagonally so that it fit right in the cone. It cost 5¢!

*Mrs. Clara Wilkowski*

**CDA** commissioned a memorial for the Lawson Building and erected it at Heritage park on 10th & Milwaukee Av.

**Happy Birthday Grant Park!** Well, almost. Grant Park will be 100 years old in 2010. Our community is blessed to have Grant Park in our midst. It was the first county parks and is the second largest. It also has the most wild flowers of all the county parks and of course the magnificent seven bridges walking trail. We working to put in our own labyrinth garden as a birthday present. Stay tuned for more details....

**Our Fall pot luck dinner** on Monday, September 14 featured Wanda Riel, an expert on the Pilgrims and their plight before and after coming to America.

**The Society would like to extend a special thank you** to the Janowski family. During the summer, the Janowskis donated money and planted a new hosta garden at the museum! Ed and his son created the new garden on the west side of the yard. We look forward to watching it flourish in the years to come. Thank you again

**We are saddened by the news** that Pearl Swendrowski died recently. She was a long time active member of the South Milwaukee Historical Society with a genuine love of history who passed that love on to her grandchildren. Our condolences to her family and our thanks for their generous donation received in her memory.

**A reminder** to "link up" with the National City Bank. New and existing accounts earn money for the Historical Society based on the interest you earn on those accounts.

**WHAT A GREAT DEAL!!!!!! ONLY \$10.00**

### Historical Society membership form: 2010

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address

City

Zip Code

Phone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Type : \_\_\_\_\_ Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society and mail to Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Ave., South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Dues:  
 Single—\$10.00;  
 Family—\$15.00;  
 Individual Life—\$100;  
 Business—\$25

Due to the increased cost of postage & printing, we can no longer send newsletters to members who are not current with their dues. Don't let this be your last issue! Fill out the membership form and mail it in TODAY!!

## COMING EVENTS

**Nov 21 CHRISTMAS TAG & BAKE SALE**

9AM to 2PM at the Historical Society Museum  
Gently used Christmas items at give away prices plus  
Wonderful home baked goodies!!

**Dec 12 CHRISTMAS TEA at the Grant Park Club House**

11am to 2pm. \$17.50 per person  
Reservations required by December 5th  
Contact Lois Schreifer or Judy Balestreiri for tickets

**Feb 13 HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**

Details to follow in the winter newsletter

**Don't forget our regular monthly meetings held on the second Monday of every month at the Historical Society Museum. Meeting start at 6:00 and anyone is welcome to attend!**

SOUTH MILWAUKEE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
717 MILWAUKEE AV  
SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI 53172



JUNE ACHERSON 2015  
331 SYCAMORE  
SOUTH MILWAUKEE, WI 53172

Fold here first

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SOUTH MILWAUKEE WI 53172**

Place Stamp  
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# ***We need to revitalize!!***

According to the records we have about 125 members but it seems we only see the same few faces at our activities. We'd really like to get more of you involved but we don't know how. So...we decided we needed to ask you what you'd like to do. Below is a short survey. Please take the time to read it, think about it, fill it out and send it back.

## **What are you interested in doing?**

<u>Fund Raisers:</u>		<u>"Fun" Raisers:</u>	
	Work	Attend	Donate Items
Garden Tour	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rummage Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bake Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Craft Sale	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Community Cookbook	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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When are you most likely to participate? Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_ Weekend \_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to pay to participate in activities? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How much would you pay: Less than \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ \$10-\$20 \_\_\_\_\_ More than \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Suggestions: Here's your chance to tell us what YOU want to do.

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