

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**

Initial Directors:

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

INTRODUCING THE NEW OFFICERS: AND BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT	ROBERT PFEIFER	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
DEAN MARLOWE JR
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)	762-7857
BARB MUELLER	(2009)	762-2712

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



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

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FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Congratulations to the new officers!

You will find a small insert in your newsletter this month. It is a new way for us to earn some income. If you have an existing account with National City Bank and the account number is linked to the South Milwaukee Historical Society, National City will tabulate all the interest of these accounts and will contribute (of their own money) 2 percent of the total interest to the Historical Society at the end of 2009. If you open a new account, the historical society also gets a donation. You have to tell them to "link up" with the South Milwaukee Historical Society for this to happen. I have already done this. Call Kathy Lubetski at the KK branch. Brochure enclosed today.

The Pot Luck was a grand event. Claudia Ciurlik talked about her Kashube heritage and the fishermen of Jones Island. Her article is included in this issue.

Steve Schreiter is researching Abstracts for original land owners. If you have an abstract could we photo copy the first page for our records?

The Garden Tour tickets are available at M & I Bank in South Milwaukee or at Parkway Floral. This was our biggest fundraiser last year and lots of fun for the participants. Volunteers are welcome, no experience necessary, sitting required. 10 AM to 3 PM. Call Lois 762-5214.

Our community is blessed to have Grant Park in our midst. It was the first county park and the second largest. It also has the most wild flowers of all the county parks and the magnificent seven bridges walking trail. It is 100 years old in 2010. Let's celebrate.

Our scholarship winner is Brianna Vivian of South Milwaukee High School. She will be attending the University of Alabama and pursuing a career in the medical field of dietetics and nutrition. Congratulations, Brianna!

Lois and Steve Schreiter talked with the Pairs and Spares at the First Congregational Church May 13th. The dynamic duo showed slides and had a great time promoting the Historical Society. They also entertained E. W. Luther and Lakeview Students in May with slides and a tour.

Helping to Preserve the Proud Past, Lois Schreiter, Vice-President

HONORING OUR FATHERS

BY CLAUDIA CIURLIK APR 14, 2009

It was a bright warm sunny afternoon, when the people started gathering. Slowly, they came to a little park that is known as Kashube Park. And little it is, being no more than a city lot of about 60 x 120. They say it is the site of the home of Felix Struck the last Kashube to leave what is called Jones Island. Though it is not an island anymore; in the late 1800's and early 1900's it was.

Valentine Struck was the first to settle here. He came in the 1860's. In 1872 Jacob Muza arrived from Germany. He came from Puck. After him a slow steady stream of Kashubes followed. Most Kashubes came from the Hel peninsula, which is a strip of land that juts out into the Baltic Sea near Danzig. Danzig is now known as Gdansk in Poland.

My grandfather was one of those who came to Jones Island. He arrived in 1902, at the age of 2, with his father, step-mother and his brother Bernard, who was a babe in arms. His own mother had died bearing him. Over the years many of the rest of his uncles came with their families also. My grandfather was proud of being a Kashube. He announced to whoever asked that he was born in Danzig. And we, his family, are proud to be Kashube, also.

When we tell people that we are Kashube, very often, we are asked "What is that?" To which I reply, that a Kashubians are a small people group of a distinct ethnic heritage. People who have not known the Kashubes accept this definition but those who know or have heard of the Kashubes will often

say, "Aren't they Polish?" Kashubes could be either Polish or German through inter-marriage but a full blooded Kashube is of a separate and distinct ethnic group.

Professor Tadeusz Dzierzykay-Rogalski of the Polish Academy of Sciences states in the Spring 1961 issue of *Man-kind Quarterly*, "The pre-Slavic Kashubian speaking peoples of the peninsula Hel, in northern Poland, show a physiological similarity to the peoples of southern Sweden." According to Dr. Edward Brandt in the *Genealogical Guide to East and West Prussia [Ost and Westpreussen]* (the Kashubes) "are the first known inhabitants of West Prussia who remained there permanently.") They "alone can call West Prussia their native homeland. The eastern medieval border between them and the Baltic Pruzzen apparently went through the Vistula-Nogat delta and the southward more or less along the Vistula River." The western border was 125 miles west of Gdansk and 250 miles south to the city of Chojncie, Poland. Dr. Brandt said that the Poles arrived in the sparsely populated West Prussia west of the Vistula, except for the southern most area well before the Germans. There were extensive migrations of Poles to the region during the period of Polish Rule (1466-1772), but in 1772 the Poles, without the Kashubes, were not a majority in any county in the tri-ethnic area.

The recorded history, as shown in the Kashube museum in Puck, Poland, goes back to about 1000 A.D. The earliest recorded record of Kashubian settlement that I have found is a

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NEW MEMBERS!

**Lucy Barret Delcore family,
John and Isabelle Gargulak
Nancy Bublitz
Virginia Walczynski**

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) and should be mailed to Addie Becker with your dues.

Don't have a computer? Call Steve at 762-5214.

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

Ornaments featuring South Milwaukee Landmarks

\$5 each, 3 for \$10 (Make great Christmas gifts!)

FOR SALE



Jewell Heise continues to make her great strawberry rhubarb jam. She needs your clean jelly jars with covers. Call Jewell at 762-4650

HONORING OUR FATHERS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

1667 census of the Hel peninsula including Puck taken by King Jan Sobieski. These are the villages and the families listed.

JASTERNIA: Walkowc; Bialk; Dlugi; Zelin; Kunka; Droszka; Buda; Balk; Swinka; Boszk

WIELKA: Balda; Mazurek; Dyblow; Getka; Haza; Derc; Struch; Domreza; Zamerlinka; Ergart;Zelk

BUDIZISZEWO: Budizisz; Kesk;Kunka; Debek; Rata

SWARZEWO; Dytlow; Piper; and Micheal Klow (Kroll) My ancestor.

Perhaps some of the names are familiar. These are the names of some of the people who settled Jones Island so many years ago.

To the question, "who are the Kashubes?" The answer varies. They were mostly farmers and fishermen. They were hard working people who survived living under many different regimes. Ed Brandt says that they owe their preservation to this trait of tenacity. They did not get involved in the politics of the particular regime but went about their lives working, eating, drinking and partying. They were known for centuries as peaceful, even passive group. They were a close knit community depending on each other for survival. And they were religious and mostly Catholic.

These traits they carried over to Jones Island until they were forced to relocate to different areas and lost their community structure. However, their assimilation into the larger community happened well before that time. Henry Rotta writes in his book Jones Island that many think we were only fishermen but we held many jobs. Only small percentages were fishermen. Some of those occupations were banker, lighthouse keeper, boat builder, carpenter, factory worker and postal worker.

My grandfather, Vince Kroll, fell into that category. He was a parcel post delivery man for the U.S. Post Office. He was the first parcel post man in the city of South Milwaukee, Wi. He used his own vehicle to provide this service...My great-grandfather Ignatz Kroll had the reputation as the man to go to when someone was in trouble in Lake Michigan. When he moved his family off Jones Island, he loaded all his furnishing into his boat and traveled to South Milwaukee. This is the boat he used when help was needed on the lake.

My great -grandfather also smoked fish in his backyard and sold them. My grandfather, Vince would tell how he and his brother Bernie had row out and check the fishing line to get those fish early in the morning, even if there were rough seas. My great grandfather, Ignatz always remained close to the sea. He lived less than a block from Lake Michigan. His home had two bay windows facing east so he could view the water. I say that the water is in our blood because most of my family is most at home near Lake Michigan.

These are the people we come to honor today at the annual Kashube picnic. We honor them by cherishing our heritage, by remembering them and by keeping their memory alive. Hopefully, I have honored them by elevating the knowledge of whom and what it means to be Kashube.

So today we gather, at the annual Kashube picnic and for a little while, we touch a part of ourselves that doesn't exist any more.

The Kashube picnic is held on Jones Island the 1st Sat. of August.

I REMEMBER...

My brother and his friends used to go crabbing at the 'crick'. Then they'd build a fire in the charcoal grill and boil them up. I was too chicken to even touch them but my brother peeled one for me to try insisting it tasted just like shrimp. The problem was I didn't like shrimp ei-

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.

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

Historical Society membership form: 2009

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

June 27 TOUR OF 10 FABULOUS HOME GARDENS

10AM to 3PM, Rain or Shine, \$10 in advance; \$15 day of the tour
Tickets available at Parkway Floral and M&I Bank (SM)

July 26 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Historical Society Museum—2 Scoops—2 toppings—\$2

Meet your neighbors:

1:00 Oak Creek Historical Society president, E. Honadel

1:30 Cudahy Historical Society president, C. Nadolny

2:00 St. Francis Historical Society president, J. Goodwin

2:30 Bay View Historical Society president, K Mulvey

Sept. 14 POT LUCK DINNER

First Congregational Church, 111 N Chicago Av

5:30PM Dinner/Meeting

Volunteers needed to help with set up or clean up

Program: "Pilgrims" by Wanda Riel

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