

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**

Founders

- Dennis Rankin
- Penny Rankin

Initial Directors:

- 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	(2013)	762-2712
SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON		



HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS
JEWELL HEISE,
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 thank the committee who worked on the February annual dinner. It was a great evening. Check out the Year in Review article from the dinner program on Page 2.

As we move into Spring just a reminder that on Saturday, June 26 we will be having our Garden Tour fund raiser from 10 AM to 3 PM. Lois has contacted eight people who have agreed to show their gardens. We're still looking for volunteer ticket takers/garden tenders for the day of the tour. Contact Lois Schreiter at 762-5214 if you're interesting in signing up. This is a great way to help the Society.

A reminder that we are now holding our Board/Membership meetings at the library. We invite all Historical Society members to attend. We need your input! The meetings are at 6 pm on the second Monday of the month, except May,

September and February. Those are our dinner meetings. Speaking of which, mark your calendar for May 3rd when we will have one of our famous pot luck dinners. Dinner starts at 5:30 and will be held at the First Congregational Church. Entertainment will be announced. Be sure to bring a dish to pass!

This year Grant Park will be celebrating their 100th anniversary. Lois is working with the group on a celebration to mark the anniversary. Watch for more information on this and on the garden tour in the Summer Newsletter or on our website www.southmilwaukee.org/historical_society

Bob Pfeiffer

P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:

The newsletter is now available electronically!! To sign up, send an email to sziarek@wi.rr.com with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' in the subject line and you'll receive all future newsletters by email.

GO GREEN! And save the historical society some money at the same time.

Sue Ziarek

2009 YEAR IN REVIEW.....REPRINTED FROM THE ANNUAL DINNER PROGRAM

Our 'year' started last February with the annual dinner at Knights of Columbus. David Lang from Bucyrus gave us a slide presentation on the history of Bucyrus. Everyone agreed the show was both entertaining and educational.

In April a new Board of Curators consisting of Judy Balestreiri, Steve Schreiter and Richard Thinnes was created and given the daunting task of going thru our collection. Late in the month they were joined by Christel Maass from the UWM Libraries who offered her expertise to get them started. Sue Ziarek took over as editor of the newsletter and we debuted a new updated format.

Elections at the May pot luck meeting brought Bob Pfeiffer to the President's chair, Lois Schreiter stepped down to Vice President, Richard Raatz became Treasurer, Sue Ziarek took over as Secretary and Carol Braby joined the Board of Directors. Barb Mueller's term on the Board of Directors was extended to 2013.

In June all our efforts were directed toward the Garden Tour. While fewer people attended this year, we actually made more money thanks to the sponsorship of area restaurants. June also saw the resignation of long time curator Dean Marlowe.

In July we turned our attention to Evening on the Ave and the Open House/Ice Cream Social. The Presidents from the Oak Creek, Cudahy and Bay View Historical Societies joined us for an informal, but informative, discussion regarding historical society business. Later that month Ed Janowski and his son spent a day at the museum creating a lovely hosta garden on the west side of the property. We're all looking forward to watching it flourish in years to come.

In August, after extensive research by Steve Schreiter, we were finally able to buy a computer for the Historical Society using the proceeds from the Garden Tour.

September brought our second pot luck meeting for the year where Wanda Riel presented her program "A Pilgrim's Life". The third issue of our new newsletter contained a survey for our members asking what activities they'd be interested in. Responses were very positive and we hope

And that brings us to tonight.....

After a wonderful buffet dinner that included tenderloin tips & roast pork, roasted rosemary potatoes, Italian noodles & marble cake from Gregg's Soup-er Desserts, guests were treated to Jessica Michna's portrayal of Mary Todd Lincoln as she recalled her childhood in Lexington Kentucky, her marriage to Abraham Lincoln and her life after his death at Ford's Theater.

Photo Courtesy of First Impressions

to follow up on some of the ideas in the months to come. We also received a \$1000 donation from Bucyrus.

With the 100th birthday of Grant Park fast approaching, our Vice President Lois Schreiter created a brochure highlighting 100+ things to do in Grant Park which can be found at local businesses. Plans for a formal celebration this coming July are underway.

November was our Christmas Tag & Bake Sale and turnout was great. The dining room table was filled with fantastic home baked goodies and the living room was loaded with gently used Christmas items. A number of visitors to the sale were quite interested in the museum itself and bought Historical Society books and ornaments.

The 3rd Annual Christmas Tea, jointly sponsored by the Historical Society and the Friends of Mill Pond was held in December at the Grant Park Club House. As always, good food, great fun and a beautiful setting. New this year was a bake sale with a wonderful selection of treats. Plans are already underway for next year!

In January the officers decided to move our monthly board meetings to the Library. Space was limited at the museum and our hope is that more people will join us now that we have a larger meeting room available. We're even providing refreshments as added enticement. Our first meeting there saw twice as many participants as usual so maybe our strategy is working. We can hope.....

This past year we were saddened by the loss of long time member Pearl Swendrowski, Lifetime Members Laura Erwin and Josephine Logic and Honorary Board Member Dolores Kowalski. Our condolences to their family and friends.

Last but not least.....our newsletter is now available electronically! We're hoping members who have computer access will sign up to receive their newsletter by email, going 'green' and saving the Historical Society some money at the same time. Instructions on how to sign up will be in all future newsletters .



TIDS AND BITS

Stay tuned for more information on the proposed museum trip. We've postponed it until Fall. This spring we will join the Library Foundation in presenting a talk by Milwaukee Historian John Gurda. Watch for signs in local businesses and of course the library with details.

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.

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? Contact Steve at 762-5214

Happy Birthday Grant Park! Plan on joining us at the Grant Park Golf Club House on July 18th for a formal celebration. Watch for details in the Summer Newsletter.

CURATOR'S CORNER



Baby Scale from the Smith Hospital in South Milwaukee

About a year ago the Society was contacted by a gentleman (who prefers to remain anonymous) wishing to donate several items to the museum. When we went to his home to pick up the items, it was obvious that he was moving and also obvious that his health was not good.

After we had picked up the items and placed them in the van, he mentioned that he had a scale from the Smith Hospital and would we like it also. Of course the answer was yes, and he led us to it - the scale was out in the open on his front porch. He said he had salvaged it from some trash but that it was from the Smith Hospital and had been used to weigh the children born there. We asked how he could be sure and his answer was "I met a woman who was a nurse at the hospital and she looked at the scale and confirmed that it was genuine". He said he would try and contact the nurse but we have never heard further.

The Smith Hospital, named after Doctor Smith, its founder, was located at 1217 Milwaukee Ave. The 1953 South Milwaukee City Directory lists it as "South Milwaukee Hospital" Also listed is Dr. George O. Dempsey, physician, with offices at the same address.

The scale has a large pan (infant carrier) and tops out at 10 pounds, both of which appear to suggest it was used to weigh babies. Can anyone out there help us confirm it's provenance??

Steve Schreiter, Board of Curators

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

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

Email Address: _____

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

Schedule of Events for 2010

- Apr 1 Museum Open 1-3PM**
- Apr 12 Board/Membership Meeting, SM Library—6:00 PM**
- May 3 Pot Luck Dinner—5:30 PM**
First Congregational Church
- May 6 Museum Open 1-3PM**
- Jun 3 Museum Open 1-3PM**
- Jun 14 Board/Membership Meeting, SM Library—6:00 PM**
- Jun 26 Garden Tour Fund Raiser—10AM-3PM**

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