

South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Rd

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 Domoie
- 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):		
ESTELLE HAACK	(2011)	762-8124
CAROL BRABY	(2012)	870-7857
ADDIE BECKER	(2013)	764-2118
JB BULLEY	(2013)	762-7605
BARBARA SCHOUTEN	(2013)	764-2315
BARB MUELLER	(2013)	762-2712
SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON		



HONORARY BOARD MEMBER
BETTY CHOVANEC

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

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I hope everyone made it thru the winter safe & sound. As we begin the season of growth & renewal I'd like to personally invite all of you to join us at the May Pot Luck meeting on Monday May 9. Details are on Page 7. I'd also like to extend that invitation to all of our monthly meetings. Since moving our meetings to the library we have a lot more room *and* refreshments. We also have FUN and lively discussions about the history of our city. The Board of Curators (Steve, Judy & Dick) have been hard at work sorting thru our collection & Lois has spent a lot of time organizing the Lincoln books. Our thanks to all of them for their continued hard work and dedication. We'd also like to thank Lois & Addie for doing the Pysanky classes. Everyone who participated said it was a lot of fun (check out the pictures on page 5). Do you have a skill or interest you'd like to share? Contact one of the officers & we'll see what we can work out. Better yet, come to a meeting, tell us about it and we'll go from there.



From the April meeting

Happy Spring!

Bob Pfeiffer

P.S. From the Editor:

Our newsletter staff is expanding! Check out Page 3 for the inaugural article from our first contributing editor. We've also found a great "staff photographer". You can admire his handiwork on Pages 4-5. Welcome aboard to both of you! Any one else have something they'd like to contribute?? I will take all the help I can get! Just drop me a line, give me a call or send me an email. And, as always....If you'd like to sign up for the electronic newsletter send an email to sziarek@wi.rr.com and I'll add you to the list.

Sue Ziarek

The Silver Star Riding Club

We have discovered in the files of the South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum the 1957, 1958 and 1959 applications of the Silver Star Riding club to the Spectacle of Music. The following is a transcription of the reverse side of the application for 1959, handwritten by the Club president:

"The Silver Star Riding Club is going into it's 5th year. They placed first at the Butler Frontier Days 3 years in a row now and has won first in all parade competitions. They have won the title of being the Number One club in the state of Wisconsin. The Silver Star Riding club has earned there title and will fight to keep it. This club is run under its own power with no backers and it consists of mostly teenagers. They are noted for there good sportsmanship and horsemanship. This club is backed 100% by the Wisconsin Humane Society and it's officers. This riding Club loves competition and is always seeking it. The Club would like to see competition in the Spectacle of Music because of their hard work and efforts to come to your parade. They know that they are the last in your parade but they are the proudest. This year for the first time they rode in the Waukesha County 125th Jubilee July 18 and won first against a large amount of uniformed Riding clubs. We thank you again for your invitation to the Spectacle of Music.

Yours Truly,

Pres. Archie Kamakian
Silver Star Riding Club

PS We lead the Parade in Oak Creek the 4th of July"

According to the front side of the application, the club consisted of uniformed horseback riders and was based at 3401 5th Avenue in South Milwaukee.

We would very much like to hear from any 'teenager' who participated in the Silver Star Riding Club. Please call Steve Schreiter at 414-762-5214 or email him at sfs@execpc.com

I REMEMBER.....

BY: CHUCK BAUMBACH

I would like to introduce all of you to Chuck Baumbach, our first Contributing Editor! Chuck, who was born in South Milwaukee in the early 1930s, recently became a life member of the Society. He sent me an email asking to be added to our electronic mailing list and included a story—which you'll have to wait until next winter to read! But I enjoyed his story so much that I asked him to send me more. And he did!! Starting with this issue, I plan to share some of his stories with you. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do.

Until the summer of 1939, when I turned six, I lived at 508 Park Avenue, less than 200 feet from the main north entrance to Grant Park. As soon as the snow and muddy trails were passable, my farther took me on frequent walks down a ravine toward the lake and back. Starting at the park entrance, a narrow graveled trail declined eastward along a row of big hefty cages painted green. Inside were beautiful peacocks. It seemed they were always displaying their incredible huge multicolored tails—especially in spring. There were numerous modest brown females too, probably nesting, but one hardly noticed them. The displays seemed quite constant but in reality probably required a great deal of waiting, watching and coaxing by spectators. In any case, they were a constant lure to a pre-six year old to go and see them.

Across the street from us lived Mr. Seidel, the City Postmaster. He had a son, Jackie, my age—maybe a year younger. But neither of us were able to cross the street alone so we could only play rarely. It was like looking across the straits of Hormuz at someone in a different country. In some ways it's awful being under six. Still, in summer there were wondrous flowers (purple lilacs, giant peonies, little orange lanterns growing on vines and many other living amazements) plus buzzing bees, beetles, bugs and sour red ants to try and make into ant-jelly (That last experiment never quite worked out.)

In the summer of 1939 we moved to 722 Monroe Ave, a giant house with three floors including an unfinished 12 foot high attic and a basement—complete with a coal-bin, a rain barrel (for shouting into) and a diagonal cellar door (for sliding down per the popular playmates song). After we moved I was allowed to get a red wagon. But it was still the Depression, people out of work and everyone very frugal, and who knew if a kid wanted something, or whether he would use and appreciate it after he got it. Well, necessity is the mother of invention. The W.P.A. (Works Progress Administration) had the answer: "The Toy Loan Center" located at the Fourth Ward School on Rawson Ave! In a small sheet-metal building the Toy Loan Center renovated old toys and lent them out like library books for a fixed period of time. Voila! I got a newly painted red wagon for the rest of the summer. And the center by itself was wonderful—and all free—every kind of doll (complete with newly glued hair

and newly painted faces) and every sort of sports equipment and wondrous things that to a six year old had never been seen before—but an adult had to sign it out if you were under twelve I think.

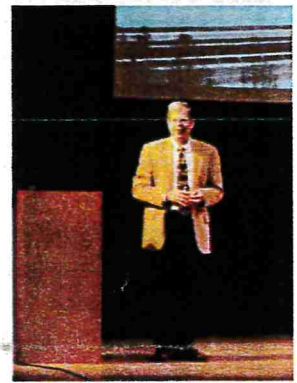
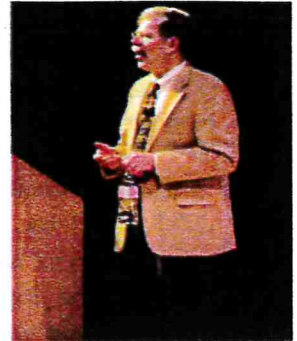
Chuck



The Author at Age 5

Past Events!

There were a number of fun events since the last newsletter starting with John Gurda's 'The Making of Milwaukee' presentation at the South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center on February 19th. Mr. Gurda was very pleasantly surprised that almost 400 people attended! The program lasted about an hour followed by a 30 minute question and answer session.



Mr. Gurda was available to sign copies of his books and DVD



After the program the SMPAC, South Milwaukee Library and the Historical Society jointly sponsored a dessert reception. Lois Schreiter & Honor's Society student Abby Mahsem along with Sue Ziarek, Estelle Haack and Carol Braby watched over the dessert tables.



On February 25th two dozen members met at the Knights of Columbus Hall for an informal Fish fry 'meeting'. We had the smaller, front hall to ourselves and while the staff was a little overwhelmed by the size of our group everyone agreed it was a fun evening!



Photos courtesy of Lee Loveall, our new staff photographer!

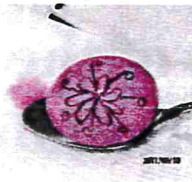
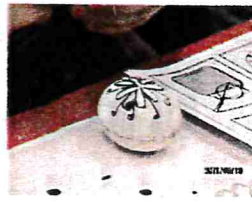
Past Events!

Our thanks to Lee Loveall again for taking these great photos!

Lois Schreiter & Addie Becker shared their knowledge of Pysanky, the Ukranian art of egg decorating with members (and non-members) on three occasions. After the first class was held at the Historical Society Museum on March 26 they realized they needed a bigger table and moved the second class to a Saturday at the South Milwaukee library and even added a third class!



Some students brought their own raw eggs; Lois & Addie supplied the tools.



Students first drew the pattern on their egg, outlined it in wax to keep the original white color then set it in the dye. More wax was applied on different parts of the pattern before dipping it in the next color. After the final color the wax is melted off to reveal the colors underneath.



Everyone agreed it was a lot of work but well worth the fun they had doing it!
Thank you Lois & Addie!



The egg on the far left was decorated using onion skins, another technique Lois showed the students.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**2011 Historical Society
Garden Tour
Saturday June 25,
Rain or Shine!**

**Tickets are \$8 in advance;
\$10 the day of the tour,
and will be available at:**

Parkway Floral or M&I Bank

**1001 Milwaukee Av
South Milwaukee, 53172**

**1001 Marquette Av
South Milwaukee, 53172**

**or by contacting Lois Schreiter
at 762-5214.**

**Tickets can also be purchased at the
Historical Society Museum the day of the tour.**

***This is your chance to peek into
the secret gardens of
Eight South Milwaukee homes.***

Mark your calendar:

Tickets go on sale June 1st!

TIDS AND BITS

Earlier this year the Historical Society was very fortunate to receive a donation from the estate of Eunice Hahn. The board has been discussing the best use of that donation but the general consensus is to make some much needed improvements to the museum itself. At the top of the list is the heating system and possible addition of air conditioning. Bob Pfeiffer, Dick Thinnes, Steve Schreiter and Lee Loveall have been appointed to look into the situation.

The Historical Society has also been fortunate enough to have found Honors Society student Abby Mahsem! Abby, an 8th grader at the South Milwaukee Middle School, has a keen interest in history and has been fulfilling her community service requirements by helping Lois Schreiter and the curators at the museum. You may have noticed her picture on the "Past Events" page; she also came along to help out at the John Gurda presentation. *Thanks Abby!* For all your hard work.

The Downtown South Milwaukee Farmers Market will start up Thursday, June 2nd. Over 20 vendors have already committed to the season. The South Milwaukee Performing Arts Center is again sponsoring concerts the first Thursday of each month. And the Historical Society will have a booth although we haven't locked in our dates yet. This is a great opportunity to show your support for our community.

The 2010 South Milwaukee Ornament (Grant Park Centennial) was so popular that we sold out! But the Chamber of Commerce ordered an additional supply and they are for sale at the South Milwaukee Library. They're already going fast so if you want one, don't wait! We also have ornaments from 2007, 2008 and 2009 available at the museum. You can stop in during our open house hours (the first Thursday of each month from 1pm-3pm) and we will also have them for sale at the Farmers Market. The 2011 ornaments featuring the South Milwaukee Lion's 75th Anniversary should be here the end of April.

In addition to ornaments, the board as decided to reissue the South Milwaukee Postcard and Note card collections. The postcards are a series of eight hand drawn sepia images of historic sites in South Milwaukee. The note cards are in packs of 10 and are based on the same drawings. These are also available at the museum, the Farmer's Market, or by calling Lois Schreiter at 414-762-5214.

Last but not least...you can order a South Milwaukee Historical Society t-shirt. These are red with the Society logo in white on the front and are available in sizes Small to XX-Large. The t-shirts are printed to order, cost \$10 for any size and must be paid for in advance. Again, stop by the museum, the Farmer's Market or give Lois a call.

The Historical Society is still in need of docents to staff the museum during open house hours the first Thursday of each month (1pm-3pm). You don't have to commit to every month but any help would be appreciated. If you are interested you can contact Lois Schreiter at 414-762-5214. Training will be provided

UPCOMING EVENTS—CONTINUED

ONE MORE EVENT TO REMIND YOU ABOUT.....

MAY POT LUCK MEETING



MONDAY, MAY 9TH

AT THE FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
1111 S CHICAGO AV, AT 5:30PM.

THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO GET TOGETHER
WITH FELLOW SOCIETY MEMBERS

BRING A DISH TO PASS!

COMING EVENTS

Our monthly meetings are now held at the South Milwaukee Library. We'd like to invite ALL our members to attend. As an added incentive, we'll be serving refreshments. UPCOMING MEETINGS ARE: May 9; June 13; July 11; August 8; Sept 12

May 9 Spring Pot Luck Meeting
First Congregational Church

Jun 2 South Milwaukee Downtown Farmers Market Opens

Jun 25 3rd Annual Garden Tour
Look inside for more information!

Sept 12 Fall Pot Luck Meeting
First Congregational Church



53172+1215

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MILWAUKEE WI 532
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