

# 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

**OFFICERS:**

PRESIDENT	DON BULLEY	762-7605
V. PRESIDENT	BOB PFEIFFER	764-1135
SECRETARY	SUE ZIAREK	520-1959
TREASURER	JUDY BALESTREIRI	

**BOARD OF CURATORS**

JUDY BALESTREIRI  
RICHARD THINNES  
STEVE SCHREITER, GENEALOGY

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

LEE LOVEALL	(2014)	301-9171
ROSE NOSACEK	(2015)	762-4279
PHARIS BROOKS	(2016)	
ADDIE BECKER	(2015)	764-2118
LOIS SCHREITER	(2016)	762-5214
JB BULLEY	(2015)	762-7605
BARB MUELLER	(2015)	762-2712

SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

Maybe it was the bright, sunny, summer evening. Or maybe it was the smiling faces under the new bright green canopy, but I think it was the bright red tablecloth with, "South Milwaukee Historical Society" emblazoned across it. Whatever the reason there was a steady stream of visitors, sometimes even a crowd, at our Evening on the Avenue booth Thursday afternoon. The sale of merchandise was impressive as well. A very big THANK YOU everyone who made it happen.

Next up is our pot luck dinner on September 14<sup>th</sup> and on December 5<sup>th</sup> is the Holiday Tea. Many volunteers will be needed to decorate the Club House and for the Holiday Tea. Plan now to support these events and wear your red "Historical Society" T-shirts if you have one. Its great advertising.

*Don Bulley*

**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? Give me a call or drop me a line. I'd love to hear from you. And, as always....If you'd like to sign up for the electronic newsletter just send an email to our new Historical Society address: [southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com) and I'll add you to the list.

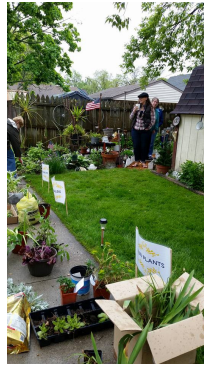
*Sue Ziarek*

# PAST EVENTS

Quite a lot has been going on the past few months. In May we were asked to do the plantings at the War Memorial. They even spray painted stars on the grass!



Also in May was the 2nd Annual Plant Swap held at the Museum. Day was cold and rainy but the swap was still a success!



Also in June, Nels Monson, South Milwaukee's City Historian conducted a walking tour of downtown SM. In case you missed it, copies of the brochure are available at City Hall as well as on our web-site.



The Society was asked to put together a display for City Hall in June. The board decided it was a good opportunity to promote our book "Letters to Mettie" so we transferred the Civil War display from the museum and added a number of pieces lent to us by Nels Monson. Word from City Hall is that it's one of the best displays they've had! Hard to get a good picture so I hope you have a chance to check it out in person. Since they've already left it up a month longer than expected we're not sure exactly how much long it will be up...





# 7TH ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR

Weather was perfect and only positive comments from the happy crowd regarding the eight beautiful gardens that were featured for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden tour that was held Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>.

We had attendees from New Berlin, West Allis, Riverwest, Racine, Bayview, Franklin, Milwaukee and Hartford just to name a few and also some out of state attendees as well from Florida, Minneapolis and Tennessee! Attendance was slightly greater than past years and a substantial deposit was made to the Society treasury.

Many thanks to Parkway Floral who was very busy selling tickets for us again this year and a big thank you also goes out to the local artisans who set up on Milwaukee Avenue in front of the Historical Society to sell their hand crafted garden items, and plants.

The Garden Tour would not be possible without all of the wonderful volunteers who manned the stations at each of the gardens and the Historical Society, their participation greatly contributed to our success, we cannot thank them enough!

Mark your calendars! Next year's garden tour will be held Saturday, June 25<sup>th</sup> and we are already busy looking for gardens that will be featured, if you or someone you know has a beautiful garden and would like to share its beauty please let us know!

*Happy Gardening~*





# GARDEN TOUR CONTINUED

## PRESERVING THE PROUD PAST

The Garden Tour gets bigger and better every year. In addition to 8 beautiful gardens, tour goers got to enjoy live music (sponsored by our new neighbors to the west *South Milwaukee Candy Company*—Opening soon!) while checking out the vendors set up in the street in front of the museum. Thanks to the city for coming thru on our request to close the street and to all our neighbors on the block for putting up with the inconvenience!!



The volunteers who came back to the museum after the tour posed with Mayor Erik Brooks



Volunteers get to view the gardens the week before the tour. They posed for a picture at one of the gardens, and got to enjoy an early 'thank you' luncheon at another.

New this year was the Mayor's Choice Award. Mayor Brooks was so impressed with the gardens he ended up giving out *FOUR* awards instead of one! Grand Prize went to Jerry & Kay Grant who's backyard is home to a working model railroad complete with a station. The award, presented to them on Monday July 13th, included a piece of window art, \$50 in local restaurant gift certificates, a Historical Society membership and a proclamation from the city.

Honorable Mention Awards went to Becky Gresser, Judy Lewandowski and Tom & Peggy Bartelt. Each received a Historical Society membership, a copy of the Society's book "*Letters to Mettie*" and recognition in the Mayor's proclamation.



Volunteers at the Society's tent sold tour tickets and raffle tickets for some really great prizes



Many tour goers took the time to tour the museum as well. Over 100 people stopped in. Thanks to the volunteers who greeted our guests and showed them around. Everyone was impressed with the ongoing improvements! While it wasn't one of the 'official' gardens on the tour, the museum's gardens were also spruced up for the occasion.



The Spring pot luck was a good time as usual. Before dinner, Steve & Lois Schreiter along with Lee Loveall did a test run on the Picture Preservation Project the Society is working on. The project is a way for South Milwaukee residents to add a bit of their history to the archives. They bring us a photo, people & places identified, we scan it and return the photo. The test run was a success and the plan is to hold a Picture Preservation Day at an open house during Heritage Week. Pictures can be scanned and added at any time. One woman brought over a postcard of the 2nd Ward school when she stopped by to check out the vendors the day of the garden tour and we were able to scan it then. It's great way to preserve our proud past. If you have some photos you'd like to share let us know and we'll work something out.

*Mark your calendars for the Fall Potluck...*



# Fall Potluck



*Monday  
September 14*

1st Congregational Church  
1111 N Chicago Av  
South Milwaukee

*Bring a dish to share!*  
**Everyone is welcome!!**

### **Taking our show on the road....**

The library approached us about doing some kind of history presentation. Plans haven't been finalized yet but we're looking at sometime in fall. One possible topic being discussed is the Yellowstone Trail. Watch for posters at the library with details.

Facebook Fanatics: anybody out there interesting in getting the Society set up on Facebook??? Send us an email thru the website and we'll talk.....

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 contact Sunshine chairperson Barbara Mueller at 762-2712. Be sure to leave a detailed message or a number where she can contact you.

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 our new Society email address: [southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com](mailto:southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com) You can always change your mind.....

### **Didn't get enough of the garden tour??**

There were literally hundreds of great pictures taken at the garden tour. Unfortunately, printing and mailing limitations make it impossible to share more than a handful here. If you have access to a computer check out our website. Additional photos will be posted there soon...

## 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.

### 2015 BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Aug 10, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14

The museum will be open on Sunday August 16 from 1pm-3pm  
Stop in, say Hey!, and check out all the changes you've been reading about!

Sept 12 Fall Potluck—Details inside



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