

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	762-6382

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)	762-2084
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

2015 has been another good year for the SM Historical Society. Our members made important contributions to the quality of life In South Milwaukee again last year. There was an Egg Painting class, a Plant Exchange, a Leaf Casting class, a Garden Tour and a Trolley History Tour. Old copies of the SM High School "Harbinger" were preserved. We also participated in Evening on the Avenue, the Heritage Day Parade, an old fashion Holliday Tea, a scholarship and presented a skit based on our book, "Letters to Mattie" for the St. Francis Historical Society.

Our curators continued improving the yard by adding a privacy fence, trimming trees & shrubs, and replacing tattered flags. They also organized badly neglected files, cleaned, painted, replaced shades, and up-graded exhibits in our museum. The museum has never looked better.

My two year term as President of the society ends with the Annual Dinner on February 13, 2016. I am not a historian, but I have been honored by the opportunity to serve the members of this society who have contributed so much of their time and talent to our city. I thank you and wish you all a happy 2016.

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 and I'll add you to the list.

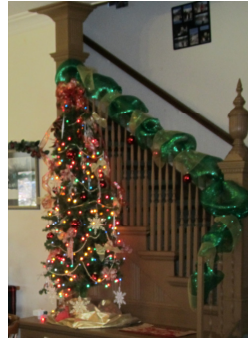
Sue Ziarek

9TH ANNUAL HOLIDAY TEA

PRESERVING THE PROUD PAST



Ninety-one guests attended the 9th Annual Holiday Tea held on December 5th at the Grant Park Clubhouse which had been beautifully decorated for the holidays.



The guests were treated to sandwiches provided by Charlie's Catering (the chicken salad is a favorite!), Holiday Tea Jello Salad, relishes, and a variety of teas. Dessert was Christmas cookies made by members of the South Milwaukee Historical Society and Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse, Inc. and was served with coffee provided by MKE City Sippers.



A favorite with the guests is always the raffle – including items

such as a Waterford vase, wine rack with glasses and 3 bottles of wine, a Lia Sophia jewelry basket, hair care basket, pedestal cake plate, owl garden sculpture, and Golf certificates. Thank you to all who generously donated items for the raffle.

Thanks go out to the members of both groups for their help in planning, decorating, baking, serving, manning the bake sale, and clean-up. The students from the South Milwaukee National Honor Society were a great help with set-up, serving and clean-up.



Another favorite is the bake sale! Thanks to the warm weather the golf course was open that day and we had a boost in sales from the golfers waiting for their tea times!



It was a pleasure to see the enjoyment of our guests at this event. Thank you to all who attended. We appreciate your support of our organizations and our efforts to make a difference in our community.



Next year will mark the 10th Anniversary of the Annual Holiday Tea and will be held on December 3, 2016. Tickets go on sale November 1, 2016.

As part of South Milwaukee's Christmas on the Avenue, the Historical Society brought back the Trolley Tour. Tour guides Steve and Lois Schreiter along with Richard Thinnies divided the route into three segments.

Richard also collected the tickets and jumped out to move the barricades that blocked 11th avenue next to the depot.



Surprising to all of us was the attendance. Despite the cold & snowy weather we had four tours, each filled the trolley to capacity with standing room only on the last tour! Trolley driver Dan only needed help on the first of the four trips. After that he had the route memorized. He told us that he was a driver for Gertrude Endthoff when she gave tours years ago and remembered some of her descriptions, especially the "Monkey Skunk" boat which was used to deliver lumber from the first sawmill. Special recognition went out to Tony G's Grant Park Garage. Not only did Tony make a substantial donation to help underwrite the cost of the trolley rental, back in the early 1900s his garage was known as the Yellowstone Trail Garage and was a popular stop for tourists who needed their vehicles serviced while travelling the Trail.

COMING EVENT

South Milwaukee Historical Society Annual Luncheon Saturday, February 13 Muskie's Gourmet House 800 Milwaukee Av Doors open at noon, lunch at 1:00

**Menu includes: Baked Chicken, Stuffed Pork Loin & Polish Sausage
Mixed Veggies, Fingerling Potatoes,
Coleslaw and Rolls
Apple Cobbler with Ice Cream & Coffee**

Following dinner, well known Historian John Gurda will present "History of Milwaukee's South Shore - The story of the industrial corridor from Bay View to Oak Creek".

**Tickets are \$20 per person and seating is limited to 50
Use the membership renewal form on Page 4 to sign up**



If you drive down Milwaukee Avenue you can't help but notice how many of the businesses we grew up with are gone. Frank's Cycle Shop where you could rent a bicycle built for two; Richard's Shoe Store and that wonderful treasure chest you could hunt thru when you got a new pair of shoes! Grand Discount where you could go every winter to exchange your ice skates because you outgrew them; Segall's where you got a new gym suit every year; Acme Wall Paper Store; F. W. Woolworth's (later Drew's). Dretzka's Furniture Store? Fenger's Bakery & Sally's Candy Cupboard!! Sadly, not only are the businesses long gone but we aren't finding many records of them in our files so we're asking for your help. Does anyone have pictures of Milwaukee Avenue from the 1950s, 1960s, even the 1970s that you could share with the Society? What about other businesses from that era that are gone? All those corner grocery stores or the neighborhood bars. We have a fair number of promotional items from those places but it would be wonderful if we had pictures to go along with them. If you want to donate what you have that would be great but we can simply scan whatever you have to an electronic file and return the pictures immediately. History isn't just the things nobody still living remembers! History is alive and constantly evolving. Please help us preserve ALL our history. If you have something to share you can leave a message for Sue at 414-520-1959 or just mail the pictures to the Museum.

The Historical Society is looking for someone to come up with a design to use the pieces of tile that were saved when the "Continental Faience and Tile Company" office was torn down. The city has been storing them since they were removed but they don't want to store them any longer and have offered them to the Society. The tile is quite special and needs to be preserved. There are about 10 pieces of floor tile, each slightly less than 36 inches square, and about 6 inches thick with the concrete base attached, about 13 pieces of 8 inch square tiles of various lengths and about 4 pieces of wall tile, perhaps 2 to 2-1/2 feet square with several inches of concrete on the back side. If you're the creative type who likes a challenge give Don Bulley a call.



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 You can always change your mind.....

Yup...it's that time again. Time to renew your membership. All dues for 2016 are due by February 16. If we don't receive payment by then we'll have to assume you no longer want to be a member and will remove you from our mailing list.

Even though she said I didn't need to I would like to apologize to Annette Loper. In the Fall newsletter I accidentally identified the Leaf Casting teacher as Barb Schouten! Annette was the actual teacher and I'm hoping she doesn't hold my mistake against us and agrees to teach another class this spring!

In case you're wondering....we had a number of members ask if we could hold the Annual Dinner during the day. Some of them would rather not venture out in what is often bitter cold weather after dark. We decided to give it a try and are debuting the Annual Lunch. We'd appreciate your feedback on the change. We've got some great entertainment lined up this year so we hope to see you all there!

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.

2016 BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Jan 11; Mar 14; Apr 11; Jun 13; Jul 11; Aug 8; Oct 10; Nov 14; Dec 12

- Jan 30** **Pysanky Egg Decorating Class**
 South Milwaukee Library, 930am—noon
- Feb 13** **Annual Luncheon**
 Details Inside
- May 9** **Pot Luck Meeting**
 First Congregational Church



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