



South Milwaukee Historical Society

717 Milwaukee Avenue
South Milwaukee, WI 53172

NEWSLETTER January, 2018

OFFICERS

President	Todd Michalek	762-6876
V. President	Lois Schreiter	762-5214
Secretary	Sue Ziarek	520-1959
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Curators: Judy Balestreiri
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Term Expires)

Lee Loveal	2018
Rose Nosacek	2018
Don Bulley	2019
Stephen Schreiter	2019
Vicki Bartoshevich	2020
Carol Novak	2020

The President's desk!

I would like to welcome everyone to the start of the 2018, 46th Anniversary, South Milwaukee Historical Society Year. I would also like to thank everyone for everything you have, are, will be doing for the Society. I'm Todd Michalek. I have the pleasure and honor of serving as your Society President in 2018. I'm an almost lifelong resident of South Milwaukee. My parents and I moved to South Milwaukee when I was three years old. I attended Parkway Elementary School (now City Hall), etc.), South Milwaukee Junior High School (now called a Middle School at the Senior High School location, with the old Junior High School being a flat piece of land and only a somewhat fading memory to many), and the South Milwaukee Senior High (OK, some things don't change???, or are at least still standing with a whole lot of improvements having been made).

I'm hoping we as a Society have a fun, educational, informative 2018. As we have in the past, the second Monday of each month, starting at 6:00 p.m., will be our Board/Membership meeting at the South Milwaukee Public Library. All are welcome to attend!

I look forward to meeting and working with everyone this year. Remember, good ideas come from good people, and we have some of the Greatest! I guess that means Great ideas...

As always, should you have questions, comments, concerns, or memories to share, I can be reached at 414-762-6876. Todd Michalek

Check out our coming events in the next pages.

Please note the Annual Luncheon will be Saturday, April 14 at the S. M. Fire Department. 11:00 am to 1:30pm Reservations / payment required.

Joint meeting with Oak Creek Historical Society and Tour of St. Matthew's Old Brick Church on May 11, 4:00 tour, Fish Boil after. More information on the next pages.

FOUNDED MARCH 1972 BY MR.. AND MRS. DENNIS RANKIN

INITIAL DIRECTORS — DENNIS RANKIN • PENNY RANKIN • GEORGE HOOK • MARY McCARRIER • BRUCE RAYESKE
DORA LEE SZEWCZUGA • WILLIAM DOMOE • LILLIAN DISHONG • CHESTER GROBSCHMIDT

Events to add to your calendar:

Monday, February 26 —Oak Creek Historical Society Annual Meeting at Oak Creek Diner (6874 S. 13th St., Oak Creek) 5:00 pm to ?. It is a Pay as you go/Order off the Menu Social/Dinner with a fabulous presentation to follow the dinner by our own Steve and Lois Schreiter, speaking on The Yellowstone Trail.

Friday and Saturday, March 9 and 10-- Pysanky-Ukrainian Egg Decorating at the Museum with Lois Schreiter, starts at 10:00am until noon. Space is very limited. Equipment and supplies furnished. Cost is \$8.00. Reservations required called 762-5214.

Saturday, April 14-- South Milwaukee Historical Society Annual Meeting—11:00 am to 1:30 pm at South Milwaukee Fire Department Tour/ Lunch/Talk with Fire Chief Joseph Knitter, and everything is taking place at the Fire Station. Reservations/payment required by Friday, April 6. Send form found in this newsletter.

Friday, May 11—The Oak Creek Historical Society welcomes the South Milwaukee Historical Society and Friends to Tour St. Matthew's Landmark Old Brick Church followed by an old-fashioned Door County Style Fish Boil—Tour: 4:00pm, Fish Boil: 5:00 pm—No need to reserve, just show up, and if you're staying for the Fish Boil, bring some cash. It costs \$10.00 per person.

The History Mystery---

The Kensington Rune stone discovered in 1898 in Alexandria, MN were thought to be fakes until 2000. When Scott Wolter, a forensic geologist, tested it and said it was buried for at least 200 years. The writing was thought to be strange until it was found on the island of Gottland. It is dated 1362 in regular numbers and in Easter table code. Who? What? Why? Come and learn more at the summer Canopy Classes. We will be starting on Saturday, June 30 at 10:00 am for four Saturdays at the Museum.

Canopy Class schedule will be announced in the next Newsletter.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society would like to extend our wishes, condolences or congratulations to its members. Please contact Sunshine Chairperson, Vicki Bartoshevich, 764-2836. If you leave a message, please indicate if the card should be sent to their home, hospital or nursing home. The name of the hospital or nursing home would also be appreciated.

Genealogy by Steve Schreiter: One hour of genealogy for anyone with the new \$10.00 membership. Basic information forms must be filled out and returned with dues to Carol Novak, 1818 Elm Ave, South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Books on Sale at the Museum – First Thursday of Month, 1:00pm to 3:00PM

Images of America, South Milwaukee, a picture history book by Nels Monson and Dean S. Marlow, Jr. \$20.00.

Then to Now (History of South Milwaukee) by Gertrude Endthof is \$10.00,

Letters to Mettie Civil War Soldiers letters to Mettie Rawson, \$7.50,

Growing Up Polish in South Milwaukee, by Carol Wagner Demarco, \$15.00

Interim editor: Lois Schreiter

Thursday, March 2, 1893 - Fire Destroys Lake View Clubhouse
South Milwaukee, WI - Built in 1892 and originally intended as a cultural and civic center, a "defective chimney" was blamed as this beautiful 3-story building burned to the ground at 1214 Milwaukee Avenue (the 1894 to 2004 site of the city's water tower) in South Milwaukee's First Major Fire.

June, 1893, South Milwaukee, WI - Village trustees call for the creation of a Fire Department.

South Milwaukee Historical Society - Annual Meeting
with South Milwaukee Fire Chief Joseph Knitter

When: Saturday, April 14, 2018

Fire Station Tour: 11:00 a.m.

Lunch and Talk at the Fire Station: Noon

Where: South Milwaukee Fire Department

929 Marshall Ct., South Milwaukee, WI 53172

Cost: \$13.00 per person

This year's Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to tour the South Milwaukee Fire Station, built in 1981, and see firsthand how South Milwaukee is prepared to handle fire and medical emergencies in the city and the surrounding area. Our tour guide will be Fire Chief Joseph Knitter who joined the department in February, 1985 and was sworn in as Fire Chief in December, 2012. During and after the tour, we'll have the chance to meet some of the firefighter/paramedics who provide services to the city and we'll be able to thank them for their years of dedicated service. After the tour, we'll be staying at the Fire Station for a catered lunch. Lunch consists of Build Your Own Sandwiches (choose from Barbequed Pork or Beef Tips w/Gravy, or try them both), Salads (American Potato Salad, Broccoli Salad, and Oriental Cabbage Salad), Desserts will be provided by our very own resident "Queen of Cakes, Pies and Bars" Lois Schreiter, Beverages will include "Fire House" Coffee, Water, and Soda. Once everyone is seated with their lunch, we'll hear Chief Knitter speak on: "The South Milwaukee Fire Department: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow". Chief Knitter assures me the day will be a "(Non-)Smokin' Good Time" for all those who attend. While the tour is optional, please consider joining us for it. Who knows, you may be the lucky individual who gets to ring the bell! We look forward to seeing you there.

South Milwaukee Historical Society Annual Meeting - South Milwaukee Fire Department Tour/Lunch/Talk
Saturday, April 14, 2018

Reservations are required. Please send reservation and payment by Friday, April 6, 2018

Number of people attending: _____ x \$13 = _____ Total Due

Name(s) _____

Contact's Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____ Phone _____

Please make checks payable to the South Milwaukee Historical Society and mail to:
Todd Michalek, 1628 Manistique Avenue, South Milwaukee, WI 53172-2908
For additional information contact Todd at 414-762-6876

Join the Oak Creek Historical Society in
Welcoming
the South Milwaukee Historical Society and Friends to
Tour St. Matthew's Landmark Old Brick Church
followed by an
Old-fashioned Door County Style Fish Boil

When: Friday, May 11, 2018

Tour: 4:00 p.m. - Meet at the entrance of the Old Brick Church

Fish Boil: 5:00 p.m. - Cost of the Fish Boil: \$10 per person

Where: St. Matthew's Catholic Church

9303 S. Chicago Road, Oak Creek, WI 53154

Please join the Oak Creek Historical Society in welcoming the South Milwaukee Historical Society and its Friends for an opportunity to tour historic St. Matthew's Old Brick Church with Fr. Patrick O'Loughlin, Pastor of St. Matthew's Parish and St. Mary's by the Lake in Racine.

In 1836 first meetings for religious purposes, in Oak Creek Township, were held at the log cabin of Oliver Rawson, on the south side of Rawson Avenue. These meetings would soon lead to the founding and construction of a school and parsonage in 1840 at what is today the First Congregational United Church of Christ in South Milwaukee.

By 1838 Catholics would begin worshipping in present day Oak Creek, setting the stage for what would become St. Matthew's Parish in 1841, with the erection of a log church. The old brick church, which we'll be touring, was built around this original log church, which was then disassembled and removed through the front door of the brick church. The old brick church was dedicated in 1861 and served the parish for a century. It was completely renovated from 1981-1991 and rededicated on the Feast of St. Matthew in 1991 (Saturday, September 21, 1991).

In 1961, an extensive fundraising campaign was launched to build a new church and the parish's first school. The new building was dedicated on Sunday, September 23, 1962. An octagonal Gathering Space and lower-level meeting rooms were added in 2005.

On completion of our tour, please consider joining the group as we take a short walk to the St. Matthew's Fish Boil. Dinner is pay as you go, \$10 per person, with soda or beer available for a very reasonable additional charge. As you walk through the serving line, the servers will happily add to your plate what you would like to eat. Dinner consists of a plate full of Door County Style Fish Boil: boiled potatoes, carrots, onions, that delicious boiled fish, cole slaw, bread, a home-made dessert of your choice and a beverage (coffee, milk). Once your plate is full, you'll be able to join the two historical societies in an area that has been reserved for our use. Good food, good conversation, and the chance to meet some new, or rekindle some somewhat forgotten, friendships with those who have an equal, or maybe even greater, love of the history of the Oak Creek Township. Yes, South Milwaukee broke away from the Oak Creek Township in late 1891 and was incorporated as a village, based on an August 8, 1892 census of 517 people within the village boundaries, in 1892. Additional questions, call Todd: 414-762-6876