



South Milwaukee Historical Society

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717 Milwaukee Ave, South Milwaukee, WI

Meetings are held the second Monday in even numbered months at the Museum. Please join us to learn more about South Milwaukee's history.

The Museum is open on the third Saturday of each month from 10am to 3pm. You may also call 414-520-1285 for questions or to arrange for a private tour.

From The President's Pen—July, 2025

Well, summer is finally here! The weather is great and the holidays are coming. This month Americans are celebrating the Fourth of July as the day of our Independence.

We, at your Historical Society, think about our **inter**-dependence. On this day, we set aside some time to reflect on our vital dependence upon **you**, our faithful supporters. We should all contemplate the vast number of people we depend on. It is a time to think about all those who **we** need and who need **us**!

The very nature of modern life means that all of us are increasingly dependent on each other. Our Society will survive **only** if we can find some way to remember that fact and act accordingly.

We are thankful for Connie U'Ren (who passed away last fall) and her donation of the scrap books from the High School Musicals and Holiday Feasts that she was a part of.

We also would like you to remember to keep the dates for our Walking Tour of South Milwaukee on July 12th; the Open Doors on September 13th; the Vintage Rummage Sale on September 27; and of course, the monthly Open House here on the third Saturday of every month.

So, as we prepare for the summer "fun times", we hope you will remember us—your Historical Society. Come visit us!

Happy Summer,

Richard Thinnies – President

Preserving our Proud Past since 1972

Founders: Dennis Rankin, Penny Rankin

Initial Directors: George Hook, Mary McCarrier, Bruce Rayeske, Dora Lee Szewczuga, William Domoe, Lilia Dishong, Chester Grobschmidt

Garden Tour Recap

The hot and steamy weather may have kept a few folks away but the garden tour on 6/21 was still well attended. Visitors enjoyed beautiful gardens with musical entertainment and garden themed craft items



Visitors to the Historical Society received a swag bag, shopped at the Vintage Rummage Sale, checked out the many great raffle prizes, and purchased tickets.



Many Thanks!! To Patti Bergeson, John Bazan & Donna Bundalo for their hard work and dedication organizing the garden tour. To Judy Balestrieri, Janet Rodman, Richard Thinnies & Sue Ziarek for their behind the scenes work at the Museum. To Tony G's, Park Family Dental, Educators Credit Union, SM Police Dept., SM Fire Dept., and Friends of the Mill Pond for supporting us with items for the swag bags. To Miron Construction for their many years of support. And finally to the gardeners, volunteers, vendors, musicians and especially the visitors. Without all of you none of this would be possible. **Hope you'll join us again next year!**

Do you have a garden you'd like to share next year? Contact Patti at 414-651-9549

The Society
hosted the
Pre-tour lunch
the weekend
before the
Garden Tour.



**South
Milwaukee
Historical
Society**

***Downtown
Walking Tour***

The South Milwaukee Historical Society

invites you to lace up your walking shoes
and join us on Saturday July 12 for a
walking tour of Downtown South Milwaukee
led by City Historian Nels Monson.

Tour starts at the Railroad Depot
1:00 on Saturday July 12
and is expected to last about 2hrs

This is a free event but free will
donations are greatly appreciated.

*This is a Rain or Shine event so come prepared.
However...tour will be cancelled if there is a
heavy downpour or lightning,*

Mark Your Calendar

The Society will again be participating in Open Doors South Milwaukee on Saturday, September 13. Be sure to stop in and check out the latest displays, take a chance on some great raffle baskets and purchase some of the Society items we have for sale. In addition to t-shirts, sweatshirts, magnets, books and postcards, we have some Midwest Pottery pieces, spare Bay Mists, Spectacle Books and City Directories.

SAVE THE DATE:

Plans are in the works for a Vintage Rummage Sale on Saturday, September 27th at the museum, from 9 am—3 pm. Details will be on our website and Facebook page closer to the sale.

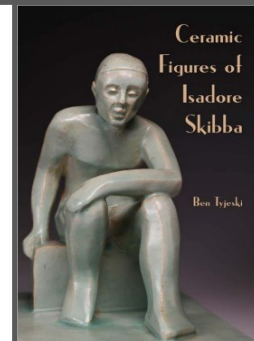


Welcome Visitors!!!

In late June the Society enjoyed a visit with Catherine Hensiak from California and her sister Ellen Frei from Iowa. Their family donated the Frederick Fowle items on display at the Museum. Catherine tells us she unearthed some letters from Frederick to Mettie Rawson recently and will share them with the Society when she gets them transcribed. We're excited to read them and add them to the display.

Coming Soon

From Ben Tyjeski



Isadore Skibba, also known as "Izzy," was a practicing artist during the 1920s-40s, primarily when he worked at the Continental Faience & Tile Co. in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin. While the artist had worked in wood and painting, he created a series of ceramic figures and pottery during his tenure at Continental. For decades these sculptures remained at the family home in South Milwaukee, until they were recently donated to the South Milwaukee Historical Society by his daughter. This book showcases these fascinating sculptures as well as a biography about this artist "behind the scenes" from South Milwaukee.



Thank you to Gary Wetzel, South Milwaukee native and Medal of Honor recipient for gifting us with two challenge coins as well as an autographed copy of the book *Giant Killer, War Heroes, and Special Legends* by David A. Yuzuk which details Gary's time in Vietnam. Currently in our collection is Gary's book *Jake, The Forgotten Warrior*. Both of these books are available thru the library or on line and we encourage all of you to check them out. We'll be updating our display on Gary to include these new items before Open Doors.

From all of us:

Thank you for your service Gary.



TIDS & BITS

We have a rather large amount of unidentified photos. People, places and things! We'll be asking for your help in the future to identify them. Here are a few examples. Anything look familiar?



Reminder to New Members...

Your membership comes with one hour of free genealogy research. Contact Steve Schreiter at 414-762-5214 for details.

SENIORS CAN AVOID TAXES ON RMDs BY DONATING THEM TO QUALIFIED NON-PROFIT CORPORATIONS.

DONATIONS ARE 100% DEDUCTIBLE
UP TO \$100,000
(\$200,000 FILING JOINTLY).
(IRA custodians must arrange for transfer of funds.)

For detailed information,
google: "IRS RMD QCD"

The South Milwaukee Historical Society
is an all-volunteer 501 C(3) Corporation.
PROUD PAST, PROMISING FUTURE

Come on in... we're open!

Upcoming Saturdays
10am—3pm

July 19
August 16
September 13
(as part of Open Doors-SM)
October 18
November 15

Visitors to the museum
receive a coupon for
\$5 admission to the
Bucyrus Museum
Hope to see you there!

Tours

The Museum is available for
tours to Scout Groups, Civic
Organizations and School Groups.

It is also available to
individuals for research or tours.
For more information or to arrange
a tour, please call 414-520-1285

Thank you to everyone who signed
up for the electronic newsletter. So far
it's a big success! If you'd like to give it
a try let us know. You can call or text
414-520-1285 or email us at
Southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com
You can always go back to a paper copy
if you decide you prefer that.

The South Milwaukee Historical Society is a 501.c.3 organization whose mission is "to preserve, honor and promote South Milwaukee's rich history for generations to come."

Hello Summer



South Milwaukee Historical Society
717 Milwaukee Ave
South Milwaukee, WI 53172