

# 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 | LOIS SCHREITER   | 762-5214 |
| 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 |
| CAROL BRABY          | (2014)          | 870-7857 |
| ROSE NOSACEK         | (2015)          | 762-4279 |
| BOB PFEIFFER         | (2015)          | 764-1135 |
| ADDIE BECKER         | (2015)          | 764-2118 |
| JB BULLEY            | (2015)          | 762-7605 |
| BARB MUELLER         | (2015)          | 762-2712 |
| SUNSHINE CHAIRPERSON |                 |          |



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**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

A new year has begun. The successes and failures of the old year are history and prospects for 2015 are unlimited – well maybe not unlimited, but certainly good. I would like to start off the 2015 with a resolution. “I resolve to volunteer to open the museum for visitors on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of June, July and August from noon to 3:00 pm”. I will also try to recruit volunteers to open the museum on Monday thru Friday of Heritage week. The volunteers will not need to be able to discuss the details of the collection or of our history. When needed, they can collect written questions and pass them on to our curators. Go team!

*Don Bulley*

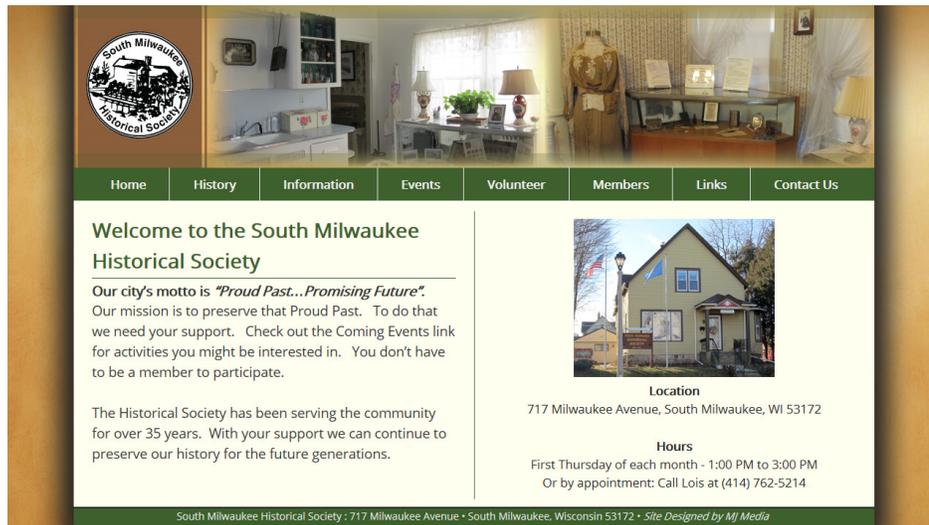
**P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:**

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 [sziarek@wi.rr.com](mailto:sziarek@wi.rr.com) and I'll add you to the list.

*Sue Ziarek*

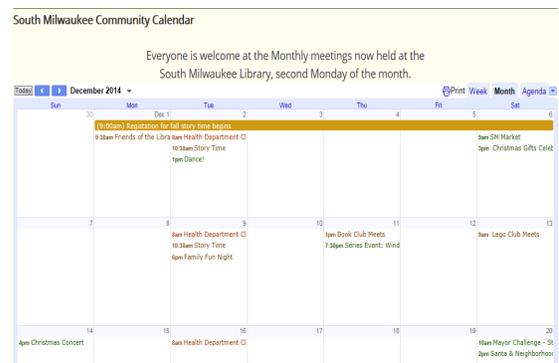
# NEW LOOK ON LINE

A few months back we learned that our old website would no longer be supported. Thanks to life member Jim Shelenske and his company, MJ Media, Inc we have a brand new website.



## Among the new features.....

Clicking on the **Events** tab opens up the South Milwaukee Community Calendar so now you can see what else is going on in town as well as our doings.



Clicking on the newsletter link under the **Information** tab now opens the latest newsletter right on screen. Links to the older versions are below.

Want to ask us a question???

Under **Contacts** you'll find this:

**Contact Us**

Name:

Email Address:

Message:

Just fill in the blanks and click

Keep in mind this is still a work in progress. Please be patient as we work our way thru these 'growing pains'. And if you have a suggestion for something you'd like to see on the new website, use the **Contacts** page to send us your ideas.

UPCOMING EVENT

Annual Dinner

Join us for dinner on Saturday February 14th at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 600 Badger Av

Social Hour 5pm-6pm; Dinner at 6pm; Entertainment at 7pm

Menu: Roast beef & gravy, baked chicken, mashed potatoes, oven browned potatoes, mixed vegetables, tossed salad, baked beans, rolls.

Cost is \$20 per person.

Include your dinner reservation with your membership renewal by using the form below or mail a check for dinner only to:

Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore St. South Milwaukee WI 53172 414-764-2118

Please RSVP by 2/7/15

A little over twenty years ago the Hubble Telescope was put into orbit around the earth. Our after dinner viewing will have to do with images from and about the Hubble Telescope, and the planet, Jupiter. We live in a fantastic time. Come and enjoy fellowship and some real history about light years, dinosaurs and comets

It's that time again.....

Don't let your membership expire! Clip out the form below and mail it TODAY!



South Milwaukee Historical Society — Preserving the Proud Past

2015 Membership Renewal Form

Please renew my membership at the following level:

Individual (\$10) Family (\$15) Business (\$25) Individual Life Member(\$100)

Make checks payable to South Milwaukee Historical Society and mail to Addie Becker, 526 Sycamore Av, South Milwaukee WI 53172

All Payments due by 2/07/2015

If payment is not received by then you will be removed from our mailing list

Name: Phone:

Address:

Check here if you would like to receive your newsletters by email and write the address below

Email Address:

Annual Dinner Reservations: attending @ \$20.00 each. Total enclosed:

# MUSEUM UPGRADES

We're still making changes at the museum. One of the most noticeable is the major "haircut" the bushes along the front steps got recently.... Our intent was to open up the front entrance making the museum more inviting. Come spring, we may decide to take them out entirely and try something completely different. Anybody have a big truck, a strong chain and an hour or so of free time just in case??



We also did a bit of holiday decorating inside prior to the open house in late November.

And old sled and toboggan greeted visitors in the front entry



A small tree loaded with vintage ornaments and a desk full of items for sale.

Vintage ornaments and a string of bubble lights wrapped in garland topped the long display case in the living room. Thanks to Richard Thinnies for having the patience to get the bubble lights working!



A basket of poinsettias topped the trunk belonging to Jesse Dibley, one of the oldest piece we have in our collection.



Vintage candle holder ornaments, a string of 'popcorn & cranberries' and an old cast iron tree stand — all found in the basement — were perfect for this little tree in the dining room.



Old ornaments nestled among the lights completed the display



Getting ready to do some cookie baking in the kitchen



It wasn't all about the holidays.....

The display case in the kitchen was sorted and shuffled to better show off what was inside; the paperback Lincoln books in the small bookcase outside the office were moved and a display focusing on Bucyrus Erie is in the works and some of the mannequins are sporting new outfits for the winter!



Our focus thru the rest of the winter will most likely be on the office. There's a lot of work to be done sorting thru files and especially trying to identify pictures. And believe it or not, there are still things in the basement we haven't finished going thru! We'll keep you posted on our progress....

# TIDS AND BITS

## Holiday Tea



The Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse and the South Milwaukee Historical Society entertained ninety-three guests at their 8th Annual Holiday Tea. The Tea was held on December 6th, 2014 at the beautifully decorated Grant Park Golf Clubhouse.

Thanks go out to the event coordinator, Judy Balestrieri, Kathy Briesemeister, Janet Cook, Lois Schreiter & Nancy Wucherer.

Thanks also to members of both groups who helped with the tea - decorating the Clubhouse, set-up, baking for the bake sale & dessert trays,



...serving, raffle & door prize donations, and clean-up.

The students from the South Milwaukee National Honor Society were wonderful to work with - they were attentive to our guests and cheerfully helped with whatever was asked of them.



Many of the ladies stated that the Holiday Tea is the start of their Christmas celebrations and they look forward to it every year. They enjoy dining in the historic Clubhouse that is transformed by the Christmas decorations and elegant table settings - antique teacups, silver tea spoons, luncheon plates, and tablecloths.

The proceeds from the Holiday Tea benefit the Friends of the Mill Pond & Oak Creek Watercourse and the South Milwaukee Historical Society and are divided equally between the two groups. Thank you to all who attended and for your continued support of our organizations and the work we do in our community.

Mark your calendars for the 9th Annual Holiday Tea on December 5, 2015. We look forward to seeing you there!

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 for the electronic version of the newsletter. You get 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 [sziaiek@wi.rr.com](mailto:sziaiek@wi.rr.com). If you change your mind I can always put you back on the list for paper copies.

*In 1928—  
Bottled drinking water had become a popular item. The Eagle Soft Drink Company sold Eagle Rock Water which came from a one hundred fifty-two foot deep well.  
A crew of federal prohibition agents raided a farm home on Drexel Av and found a 100 gallon still, 1250 gallons of mash and 60 gallons of moonshine.*

## 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

Mar 9, Apr 13, Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 10, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14

**Feb 14      Annual Dinner  
                 Details Inside**



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