



South Milwaukee Historical Society

Board of Directors

Richard Thinner, President
Janet Rodman, Vice President
Judy Balestrieri, Treasurer
Sue Ziarek, Secretary
Don Bulley
Mark Draeger
June Acheson
Karen Lyon

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 2026

A fond hello to all of our friends, members, and supporters!

We, here at your Historical Society, hope your summer is progressing as well as ours! The Society has had a very rewarding spring! We received some very generous donations, and several of our helpers have brightened up your museum. We dedicated the "Chet Shed" – named after past Mayor and Past President of the Historical Society, Chet Grobschmidt. Also, we completed the "Grobschmidt Garden." Come and see what our volunteers have done – it is beautiful! Next, our hope is to get a new, more noticeable sign for the museum.

The 2026 Garden Tour had beautiful weather and great attendance. The raffle gifts were a big hit – hope you won one of them!

We, your Board, are now looking to improve the security system for the museum, as well as new, updated signage for our indoor displays.

We look forward to South Milwaukee's Heritage Days activities and our 2nd annual rummage sale coming up in September. Hope you can stop by during the summer days. We have been told that we are one of the "hidden gems" of South Milwaukee.

Respectfully,

Richard Thinner – 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



A luncheon was held at the museum for gardeners and volunteers the Saturday before the tour.



especially our volunteers who keep things running smoothly at the gardens and the museum.



We are happy to report that Chet's Memorial Garden is flourishing. While our dahlias aren't anywhere near as big as the ones Chet grew we think he'd still be pleased to see them here. Our thanks to Joan Lindstrom & Karen Lyon for their efforts this spring sprucing up the gardens!

We hope to have a new sign installed by fall to complete the picture.



Happy Anniversary!!

Zion School is celebrating it's 100th anniversary this year. The current owners stopped by the museum recently looking for pictures and shared some stories with us.





Our first treasure hunters!! Audrey and Brooke visited the museum during the garden tour and were the first to check out the Richard's Shoe Store treasure chest that we recently restocked. They even picked out a toy for their little sister Claire. Hope you all enjoyed your treasures!



Member Joan Lindstrom recently hosted a group of former SM band members to go thru the band scrapbooks at the museum. They were big help identifying people and places. Thanks ladies!!



Niko, another recent visitor, found a treasure! Niko's parents are the current owners of the old Zion School and were at the museum to look through our files. The school is celebrating it's 100th anniversary this year!



Justin, a transplant from New Orleans, came to the museum to do research and found something in Richard's Shoe Store treasure chest to remind him of his former home.

HELP!!!

Starting with the next newsletter we'll have a completely new look and it might not be near as nice! The program we use is going away at the start of October and we are struggling to figure out how to move forward. If anyone can offer any assistance please reach out to us at southmilwaukeehistory@gmail.com or call 414-520-1285

Congratulations to the Bucyrus Museum on their national recognition in the USA Today article published July 3rd. Thank you for mentioning the South Milwaukee Historical Society in the article. We are honored to partner with you!

Tids & Bits

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

**DONATIONS ARE 100% DEDUCTABLE
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

August 15
September 19
October 17
November 21

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

We have a new look!

T-shirts are \$20
and available in
sizes Small to 3XL

Spruce up your wardrobe
and support the Society
at the same time.



Additional items for sale at the museum include:

Pewter ornament—\$5

Note cards, postcards, SM ornaments (2 styles)

Midwest Pottery pieces

Books:

South Milwaukee Then to Now

Letters to Mettie

Carl Bergmans

Isador Skibba

Images of America

The Forget Me Not

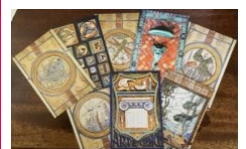
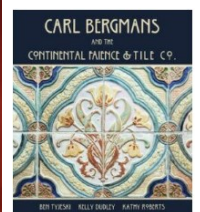
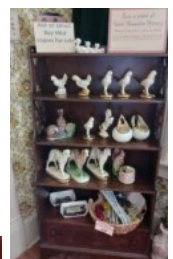
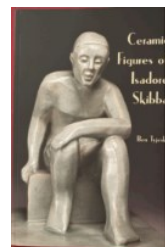
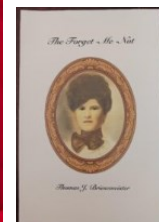
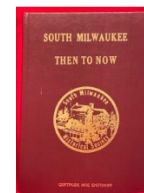
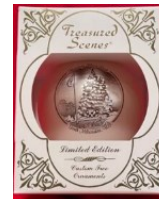
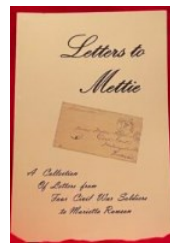
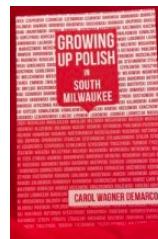
Bay Mists and Spectacle Books

All purchases help support the Society's mission
to preserve & share our city's proud past.

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



Upcoming Events

Rummage Sale

Saturday, September 19

8am to 1pm

We're still gathering up all the treasures we'll have to offer.

Watch our Facebook page and website for pictures and reminders closer to the date!

TALES & TOMBSTONES



JOIN CITY HISTORIAN
NELS MONSON

FOR A GUIDED TOUR OF THE HISTORIC
CONGREGATIONAL CEMETERY
NORTH CHICAGO AVENUE & PINE STREET IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2026

6:00 PM

\$5.00 DONATION SUGGESTED

ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT CEMETERY PRESERVATION

The July 26 walk with Nels Monson is a great way to learn more about South Milwaukee. His tours are always entertaining as well as informative!



Suburban Soles

GUIDED NATURE WALK
2026 SCHEDULE







July 26, South Milwaukee Takes Root ■ 10am, Grant Park Clubhouse South Parking Lot

Join local historian **Nels Monson** as we learn about South Milwaukee's first settlers— the family of John Fowle and the family's impact on the founding of both South Milwaukee and of Grant Park. The south parking lot is near the site of their original 1835 log cabin. We will walk to the mouth of the Oak Creek where some of South Milwaukee's earliest enterprises were located.

August 9, Benefits of Walking with Children in Nature ■ 10am, Area 5 parking lot

Join retired physician **Mike Minter** to learn the multiple benefits of walking with children in nature as well as a review of safety measures to consider. Children and adults of all ages are welcome.



August 23, Tree-mendous Love for Trees ■ 10am, Area 5A

Join **Brian Morrison**, Wisconsin Master Naturalist, park caretaker at Virmond Park in Ozaukee County, and chair of the Events & Education committee for the Cedarburg Bog to learn foolproof ways to identify native trees! Why are some species so common in this area? And is it true that trees can communicate with one another? Let's discuss photosynthesis on a biology level and discover the miracle of this intimate, mutualistic relationship we hold with nature.

Free to attend. All events held rain or shine unless noted.
Details also on facebook and our Website: www.FOGP.org/soles

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."



Summertime fun at Grant Park
Beach circa 1960



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