

# South Milwaukee Historical Society

## 717 Milwaukee Ave

## 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	764-7605
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**

January started off with the news that the South Milwaukee's Performing Arts Center will produce a program based on events in South Milwaukee's history. The book of civil war letters that the Historical Society is publishing, "Letters to Mettie" will probably be the basis of the program. The book will be published in February or March of this year. The PAC program is planned for 2015.

It is said that history shapes us. It is easy to forget that South Milwaukee has had a rich and dynamic history. From the first grist mill in Milwaukee County and cream city bricks to the world's largest drag line and from a world class opera singer, Emma Abbott, to the world's first airliner, what happened here changed the world we live in. It is the job of the historical society to remind us of the history that shaped us.

South Milwaukee Historical Society's board/member meetings are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month. We meet at the library at 6:00PM. Everyone is invited. And don't forget our Annual Dinner on February 15<sup>th</sup>. The food is great and the company and the entertainment even better.

*Don Bulley*

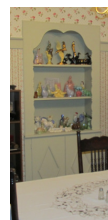
**P.S. From the Editor/Secretary:**

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

*Sue Ziarek*

## CH-CH-CH CHANGES.....

Since Fall, Judy Balestrieri and Sue Ziarek have been doing a lot of "housekeeping" at the museum.....



*Still have a LOOONNNGGGG way to go but it's definitely a step in the right direction.*

To show off the changes and the newest exhibit featuring the Frederick Fowle Jr. Civil War items donated in October the Society would like to invite everyone to stop by the Museum Sunday March 9 between Noon and 3pm for an Open House. Nels Monson, who has done extensive research on South Milwaukee's history will be on hand to share stories of the past and answer questions.



# SAVE THE DATES!

## Historical Society Annual Dinner

Please join us on Saturday, February 15  
at Knights of Columbus Hall in S Milwaukee  
Social Hour 5:30-6:30; Dinner at 6:45  
Entertainment provided by Sweet Music

This year's menu includes:

Roast Beef & Gravy and Roast Chicken  
Oven Browned Potatoes  
Green Bean Almondine and Mixed Vegetables  
Tossed Salad and Fruit Fluff  
Coffee, Milk & Dessert

Cost is \$20.00 per person, Please R.S.V.P. by February 7, 2014  
use the membership form on Page 4 or contact Addie at 414-764-2118

**Get your tickets NOW to this year's fabulous event!**

The South Milwaukee Historical Society Presents:

*6th Annual*

# GARDEN TOUR

June 28, 2014 \* 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
*Rain or Shine!*

**ADMIT ONE**

For more information or to purchase advanced tickets please contact:

Patti Bergeson 414.768.9549 pbergeson@wi.rr.com	Vicki Maloney 414.530.6020 vmaloney@wi.rr.com
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- \* Eight **beautiful** gardens
- \* Great way to **network** with other gardeners and **support** our South Milwaukee Historical Society
- \* **Hand-crafted garden items** created by local artisans will be on sale at the South Milwaukee Historical Society Museum (717 Milwaukee Avenue) 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

What better time to think about summer than in the middle of a very nasty winter!

*Advanced Tickets \$8 \* Day of \$10*

# TIDS AND BITS

**Thanks** go out to the members of the Friends of the Mill Pond and Oak Creek Watercourse and the South Milwaukee Historical Society who helped with the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Tea – from planning, decorating the Clubhouse, baking for the dessert trays and bake sale, raffle donations, manning the sales tables, serving, and clean-up. Thank you also to the students from the South Milwaukee National Honor Society who worked with us to help make the Tea run smoothly.

We had 90 guests who enjoyed the Tea this year. Many of them commented on the ambiance of the decorations and how it brought back many memories of Christmases from long ago. Unfortunately we don't have any pictures to share this year.

The proceeds from this event benefit both organizations. Mark your calendars for the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Tea to be held on December 6th, 2014. Tickets will go on sale November 1, 2014. This event fills up fast, so get your reservation in early.

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.

## *It's that time again....*

You can renew your membership for 2014 any time now. Use the renewal form below. Unfortunately, if we don't hear from you by the time the Spring Newsletter goes out we'll have no choice but to assume you no longer want to be a member and remove you from the membership list. Be sure to include your email address on the form if you'd like to switch over to the electronic newsletter.



## *South Milwaukee Historical Society — Preserving the Proud Past*

### 2014 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 2/15/2014**

*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: \_\_\_\_\_

## TIDS AND BITS (CONTINUED)

While looking for material for the newsletter I ran across some notes I received back in 2011 from member Chuck Baumbach. One in particular included a long list of random “remember when” tidbits. I thought I’d share them, unedited and unconfirmed. Maybe they’ll spark a memory or two or three and if you’d care to share any of those memories send me a note....

*Here is a long loose list of South Milwaukee things rattling in my head, not all of which I can prove, but some have potential: the funny fire engine operated by the American legion in parades in the thirties with odd wheels rigged to make one corner or another jump in the air every few feet; golf-ball Charlie who dressed in women’s silk stockings, golf knickers and shoes, and a tam O’shanter and helped the cops direct traffic at parades; Pinky the motorcycle cop who was killed when someone stretched a cable across North Chicago Ave near the Oak Creek bridge; the motorcycle cop who used to hide behind the huge outdoor advertising sign on the east side of North Chicago facing Rawson Ave; the local abortion doctor on Milwaukee Ave. during WW II; German Oompah bands playing in a vacant lot (maybe in a small bandstand for awhile) on the east side of the Home State bank during the thirties; the “rag man” who went through the alleys on a schedule in a horse drawn wagon before and during WW II; 4<sup>th</sup> of July picnics, races, ice cream sandwiches and evening fireworks watched from blankets on the lawn below the pavilion; victory gardens; raising chickens in the city during the war; food stamps (various colors),*

*gas coupons, air raid wardens and drills; the tile factory on 9th Avenue with a treasure of tiles and pottery in its dump; the suspicious “opium?” poppy planting at the intersection of Grant Park Drive and the pavilion road that was never more than California poppies, but very beautiful; Does anyone remember the bridle paths? the fall football team rabbit hunt? Mr Saros, the Greek grocer who raised silk worms in his flat and fed them local mulberry leaves; S-Creek and the Northwestern barrel Company Stream, one red from steel drum paint, the other brown from the city sewage plant – I always thought of that place when people said, “up S-Creek without a paddle”; the local Welbes Dairy; the wonderful cooperative spirit of the 30s when everyone pitched in to get things done on the cheap with volunteers if necessary; the Bury-The-Hatchet trophy between SM and Cudahy; the daily stinking trucks pouring rotten juices on the streets between the tannery slop pits near College Ave and the Carrollville glue factory; hanging out in the beach parking lot until PARK CLOSES AT TEN!*

**Chuck Baumbach**



## 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.

### 2013-14 BOARD/MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS AT THE LIBRARY

Jan 13, Mar 10, Apr 14, Jun 9, Jul 14, Aug 11, Oct 13, Nov 10, Dec 8

Potluck meetings on May 12 & Sept 8

### Save the dates in 2014

**Feb 15      Annual Dinner**

See Page 3 for details

**Mar 9      Open House at the Museum**

See Page 2 for details

**June 28      5th Annual Historical Society Garden Tour**

See Page 3 for details—*Tickets are on sale NOW!*



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