

PROGRAM

Hat's Off to

Music

Sunday, Sept 17
3:30pm

The Haines
Museum will
be open before
the program
(2:15-3:15 pm).

See page 4.



Rosenwald Cottage in Bowen Park was built for the Hull House project (Bowen Country Club) and named for philanthropist Julius Rosenwald of Sears, Roebuck & Co.



Roosevelt Park

OAKWOOD CEMETERY WALK

Waukegan's Parks

see page 5

September 2006

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society



President's Letter

by Harry E. Came

The Waukegan Historical Society's Annual Tour of Homes was held in June and attended by more than 600 guests with a large percentage from neighboring towns. Even with predictions of bad weather it turned out to be a great day for the tour. I would like to sincerely thank the homeowners who graciously allowed their homes to be included, the Tour Committee who worked for months to plan the tour, and all of the people who gave of their time on the day of the Tour. This event was also supported by the City of Waukegan; in particular, David Motley (Director of Public Relations & Marketing) was very helpful. Many more thanks can be given for the hard work of Chandra Sefton in finding homes, Margaret Martin for putting together all of the graphics for the brochure, and Bill Tyre for being the hard working leader of the Tour Committee and writing so many of the descriptive articles for the brochure and the media. We are always looking for a wonderful houses to be included on the next Tour, so if you have any suggestions, please contact us.

We have been lucky to have our summer intern, Lucas Bucholtz, working in the museum on many different projects. He has been writing articles for the website, organizing images in the library, preparing an exhibit on the American Legion and the GAR and working hard with the collections trying to organize many new articles. While we look for a

new Museum Supervisor, it has been Lucas who has opened the museum for extended summer hours and greeted our many Museum visitors.

We hope that you and your out of town guests will visit the Haines Museum and enjoy the period rooms and current exhibits. The current exhibits include "A Visit to the Millinery Shop" and "The Photography of Dr. Julius Wineberg." In conjunction with the current hat exhibit, our September 17th program presents an entertaining look at hats (see page 4). One of the most popular events of each year is the Oakwood Cemetery Walk (see page 6) on Saturday, September 23. The theme this year is Waukegan's Parks and the history of the Park District. Please mark your calendar for that program and for the Christmas Open House on December 10 from 2-4 PM (see page 5).

We are so pleased with the completed "blanks" for the Historic Marker Program which have been recently completed. The Program is designed to make our residents more aware of the rich history which surrounds them in Waukegan and to identify buildings of architectural or historical value. The Markers identify the original builder or owner and the date of construction. Soon, we hope to see many of our beautiful buildings proudly wearing their new informational signs. More information can be found on page 13 of this newsletter.

Inside

Page 4

Fall Program

Page 5

Events

Pages 6-7

Historically Speaking

Page 8

Recent Acquisitions

Page 12

Calendar

Page 14

Preservation Corner

WHS Board

Officers

President

Harry E. Came

Vice President

Gretta Dieck

Treasurer

William Tyre

Secretary

Ellen Frew

Directors

Betsy Alleman

Sara Griffin

Margaret Martin

Denyse Waters

Sean Wiedel

Fall Program: Hats Off to Music

Sunday, September 17

Kirstin Synnestvedt

3:30pm

Dr. Lynn Schornick Theatre

39 Jack Benny Drive

Bowen Park, Waukegan

“Hats Off to Music” is a one-woman show of sixty hats modeled by the performer, who also sings art songs and old favorites, accompanies herself on the piano, and relates amusing anecdotes about the

glamorous, historical, and humorous hats and the people connected to them. Kirstin Synnestvedt holds a degree in music from Juilliard and has performed across the country. She has been heard on four Chicago radio stations, has been a National Anthem soloist at Wrigley Field and the Chicago Stadium, and teaches piano, organ and voice privately on the North Shore. Attendees are encouraged to wear a favorite hat.

The exhibit “A Visit to a Millinery Shop” currently on display at the Haines Museum in Bowen Park will be open from 2:15pm-3:15pm preceding her

performance.



Events

Oakwood Cemetery Walk

The hugely successful annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk will be held on Saturday, September 23 with buses leaving Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park at 12:45pm, 1:45pm, and 3:10pm. The theme is Waukegan's Parks and special attention will be given to Hinkston, Yeoman, King, Kirk, and Fireman's Park. Viking Middle School in Gurnee will be presenting information on Bowen Country Club at Lilac Cottage, and Waukegan High School students will concentrate on Powell Park.

The Haines Museum will be open from 12:00pm-3:00pm. Sponsored by the Historical Society, the City of Waukegan, and the Waukegan Park District, the Cemetery Walk is always a favorite. From past experience we have found that the first bus departure is usually quite well-attended while the later departures have more room, so why not think about leaving at 1:45pm or 3:10pm? Refreshments will be served in Lilac Cottage and there is no charge for the Tour or the Museum.

Annual Holiday Open House

One of the most popular events of the holiday season is the Open House that we have every year at the Haines Museum. The large Christmas tree is decorated with Victorian ornaments and placed in the bay window of the south parlor, the staircases are draped with garlands, and the dining table is set to welcome guests to a lavish turkey dinner. Please come join us for the Open House and enjoy the music and holiday atmosphere. This is a great way to start off the season and get into the holiday mood. An even better way to get you in the mood is to join us on Saturday, December 2 and December 9 to help decorate. Give us a call and let us know you would like to help so we can plan accordingly.

Buses leave
Lilac Cottage at:
12:45 pm
1:45 pm
3:10 pm

Parking is not permitted
at the cemetery.

Holiday Open House

Haines Museum
Sunday, December 10
2-4 pm

Historically Speaking

Waukegan Park District

by Ed Link

Waukegan is fortunate to have a wonderful series of parks spread throughout the city. Utilizing them allows residents to take part in numerous sports or simply to enjoy nature while in an urban setting

But it wasn't easy to get the district going. In 1891 John and Marcelleen Powell gave 1.6 acres on Park Avenue to the city for a public park. An attempt to establish formally a part district failed in 1900 when a referendum was soundly defeated with 83% of the votes against it.

In 1909 the Waukegan Park Opening Celebration was held. The idea was to increase the public park fund enough to purchase the area constituting today's Bowen Park. The three day fair was endorsed by city officials and many local businesses. By all accounts, the fair was a huge success, but the area

didn't become a park, and was later sold to Hull House.

Finally, through the efforts of the Waukegan Women's Club, the Waukegan Park Day Association, and the Chamber of Commerce, an election was held on December 26,

1916, to create a park

district. Following passage of that referendum, the board first met on January 8, 1917, and set out to acquire property for parks.

One of the first acquisitions was 6.5 acres on Grand Avenue. Initially called Grand Avenue Park, it was named Powell Park after a former police chief and sheriff. Other land was received in differing

ways. In 1921 Upton Park was purchased. The city relinquished the original Powell Park, along with Kirk Park. Bonnie Brook golf course, the largest single purchase, was bought in 1931 for \$160,000. Bowen Park was purchased from the Hull House Association which had used the property for a camp for inner-city children for 50 years.

Many more parks (over 30 in total) became part of the district, along with new offerings designed to improve the quality of life for residents. Swimming pools, cultural activities (plays, music, singing, instrumental instruction, etc.), youth and adult sports, all have become available. And change continued. The original Powell Park was re-named for Ray Bradbury, the author and native son, in 1990. A skate park opened in 2003. A BMX track at Callahan Park was dedicated in June, 2005. The Veterans Memorial Plaza at Washington Park was dedicated on November 11, 2005. The new fieldhouse at Hinkston Park is to open soon.

New grounds, new buildings, and new services are all a part of on-going efforts to help Waukegan's citizens enjoy themselves.



Postcard. Roosevelt Park was named for President Theodore Roosevelt.



Roosevelt Park was originally the Jensen farm and was purchased in 1918.

Thank You!

New Life Members

Claudia and Rob Freeman
Bill Tyre

Donations

Eleanor Hall
Renate Martin
Mary Wong

Recent Acquisitions

Thank you for your recent donations to our Museum and Library collections.

Gay Lee Abbott

Hat from Feinberg's, Junior Red Cross bookmark
Postcard of Waukegan Inn postcard, American Steel and
Wire plans, photograph

Betsy Alleman

Chamber of Commerce ashtray

Richard Bairstow

Pair of spats

Virginia M. Black

Two hats and boxes belonging to Jane Freeman Carman

Connie Brunke

Autographed Jack Benny program, Otto Graham au-
tograph on songbook, Jerry Orbach program from
Waukegan High School (1952)

Lewis D. Clarke

Three photographs of a group of women in costume
Photograph of Lake County Bar Assn. 1957-58
Boy Scout pin (1911)
Medal: Illinois Bankers Assn. (1926)
Medal: Commemorating the Soldiers and Sailors
Monument (1899)

Bette-Ann Grube

1938 "W" Yearbook

Barbara Mullen

Program from the Schwartz Theatre for Madam Butterfly

Bill Tyre

Dolen & Broecker bottle from demolition of Simmons-
Cooke House, two pavers from Genesee Street, Glen Flora
C.C. golf trophy, four "Souvenir of Waukegan" items

Jan Young

Fire Bucket, two coal scuttles, kitchen utensils, porcelain
doll head

Mathon's-for Ichthyophagists

Lucas Bucholz

Ichthyophagist is the Greek word for someone who eats fish, and in using the Greek word for fish (ichthyo) eater (phagist) in his signage and advertising, Mathon Kyritsis not only demonstrated his confidence in the fare he prepared for his guests, he also displayed pride in his Greek heritage. Mathon emigrated from Greece in 1919, and for over fifty years Chicagoland's celebrities, politicians and seafood lovers regularly visited his Waukegan restaurant.

What initially made the restaurant so special was that Mathon operated two fishing boats (one named *The Mathon*) out of Waukegan's harbor. His own daily supply of lake catch, coupled with the restaurant being only a block and a half from the harbor, allowed Mathon to serve his patrons the freshest freshwater fish in the area. Mathon's specialty was planked fish—typically whitefish—which was briefly grilled or broiled then placed on an oak plank surrounded by mashed potatoes for the remainder of its cooking time, giving the fish and potatoes a smoky flavor. Even after Mathon's stopped running its own boats, the restaurant would cook any fisherman's catch for them.

Opened as a small lunch counter at 6 E. Clayton, Mathon's small stand would eventually grow into a large structure with a maritime aesthetic suggesting the nature of its cuisine: portholes for windows, ships' lights, ribbed interior walls and clapboard siding suggesting the bulkhead of a ship. Mathon died in 1973 at the age of 71, and his son John ran the restaurant until it closed.

Before the building was razed in 2004, it was used in the filming of two movies: *Gotham, IL* (2004) and *The Ice Harvest* (2005).





Rosenwald Cottage lies on the corner of Sheridan Road and Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park.

Rosenwald Cottage

In 1978, Bowen Park (called Joseph T. Bowen Country Club when operated by Hull House), was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in recognition of its national historic importance. When the application for the National Register was submitted, few buildings remained which represented the rich history of the Bowen Park Country Club. Today there are even fewer.

Luckily, we still can see Lilac Cottage (the summer home of Jane Addams and Mrs. Bowen), the caretaker's farmhouse (now the Haines Museum), Goodfellow Hall (Jack Benny Center), and Rosenwald Cottage, built to house mothers and children during the summer camp days. Rosenwald Cottage was named for Julius Rosenwald, the head of Sears, Roebuck & Co., and a major supporter of Hull House. It was built in 1913 in the popular colonial revival style and is a large gray building located at Sheridan Road and Jack Benny Drive. The Waukegan Park District owns Rosenwald Cottage and has been in discussions with the Historical Society about the building's future. The Historical Society is currently unable to restore the building. Although structurally sound, the building will need reinforcing on the west side and must be brought up to code. At the moment the Park District does not have a use for the building and is concerned about the safety and expense of having the building sit empty.

The obvious solution is to find the right group who could use this large structure and whose activities would mesh with the Park District. With the right group, grants and donations could rehabilitate this historic structure. We ask our membership to think about possible programs or groups which might be able to work with the Park District and save this venerable structure for generations to come. If you have thoughts on the possible adaptive reuse of Rosenwald Cottage, please contact Harry E. Came at the Historical Society.

Rediscovering the Historical Society's Collections

by Lucas Bucholz

Two of the projects of my 2006 internship with the Waukegan Historical Society yielded serendipitous results beyond the practical skills I gained.

My first assignment was to arrange a display case with objects donated by Homer Dahringer American Legion Post 281. Among the artifacts given by Post 281 in 2001 were several objects donated in 1944 by one of the last surviving members of the Grand Army of the Republic. In a sense, the American Legion had done for Civil War Veterans what the Waukegan Historical Society is now doing for American Legion Post 281—safeguarding its material history.

I also included the American Legion's auxiliary groups, the charitable and civic duties of these veterans' wives and children. To tell this part of the story, I did a considerable amount of research at the Raymond Library and added two reproduction newspaper articles to my visual narrative.

My second task was to reorganize the oversized photograph collection at the Raymond Library, re-filing the photographs by catalogue number. While working on this project, I came across several photographs taken by Dr. Julius Wineberg. These architectural images show an understanding of formal composition beyond that found in the documentary-style photographs currently on display at the Haines Museum.

These photographs are just one example of rediscovery. Librarian Beverly Millard told me that she had known for many years about the images but that it often takes fresh eyes to give new perspective to things now taken for granted. While I am only the first intern to spend a summer at the Haines Museum, Beverly's observation demonstrates how important it is for the Historical Society to foster new perspectives both within the organization and the community. I hope to see the Historical Society and the Waukegan Park District continue with its internship program.

The Photography of Dr. Julius Wineberg is an ongoing exhibit at the Haines Museum. Approximately thirty of his images will be on display through November.

WHS Calendar

September 2006

Vintage Hats

Sunday, September 17

3:30pm

Lynn Schornick Theatre

Haines Museum open 2:15pm-3:15pm

Cemetery Walk

Saturday, September 23

Discover Waukegan's Parks

December 2006

Holiday Open House

Sunday, December 10

2:00pm-4:00pm

Haines Museum

While the Historical Society interviews applicants for the Museum Supervisor position, the Haines Museum will be open for the above events and by appointment only.

Please leave a message at the museum (847.336.1859) or the Jack Benny Center (847.360.4740) to arrange a time when we can open the museum just for you!

Area Events

Please call to confirm dates and times.

Grayslake Historical Society (847.223.7663)

September 10, Open House 1:30-3:30

September 13, Al Westerman speaking on Early Landowners of Lake County.

October 1, Living History Tour of Grayslake Cemetery

October 8, Open House

October 11, Meeting

Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country (847.566.7743)

September 11-16, Open House 1-4, Activities and Tours

October 7, Youth Event, Give the Past a Future, Children's Activities

October 22, 50th Anniversary Banquet

Cuneo Museum & Gardens (847.362.3042)

September 13, 10-3 Cuneo Fest Car Show and Fall Festival

Lake County Discovery Museum (847.968.3381)

September 16, Capture the Moment, The Pulitzer Prize Photographs

Newport Township Historical Society

(847.336.6840)

September 21, 7PM Meeting at former Grace Shield Home.

Lake Villa Historical Society (847.265.8266)

September 30, Third Annual Civil War Ball at Lehmann Mansion, Civil War Reenactment and Living History Weekend.

McHenry County Historical Society (815.923.2267)

October 1, Union, 29th Annual Cider Festival, 10-4, Tractor parade 1PM.

October 25, Union, Quilt Show at 1:30 plus drawing at 3:30.

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society (847.234.LAKE)

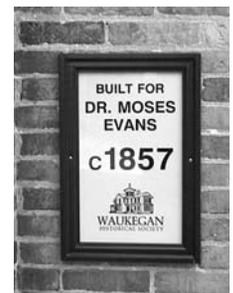
November 7, Janice Hack, Gentlemen Farmers of Lake County 7PM, Mother Rudd House.

A Perfect Christmas Gift

Do you have a husband or wife, son or daughter, or good friend that is busy restoring one of Waukegan's proud old buildings? Do you know of someone who talks of nothing else except what is the correct color to paint a 1870s Italianate home? Do you own one of those beautiful Tudor Revivals or a gem of a Craftsman bungalow?

We have the perfect gift for every one of you—a gift of a Historic Marker from the Waukegan Historical Society. The cost is only \$75.00 and part of it is tax deductible, but we won't tell the recipient. If the home is architecturally or historically significant, and many pre WWII homes in Waukegan are, then take the application over to the Raymond Library and they will assist you in finding out for whom and when the subject building was built. What a great gift for that house proud person in your life.

For more information and an application, see our website: waukeganhistorical.org.



606 N. Sheridan Rd.

Preservation Corner

News from the Waukegan Historic Preservation Commission

On June 19, 2006, the City Council designated 606 N. Sheridan Road as a landmark. The house was built for Dr. Moses Evans in 1857 in the Italianate style, and features tall arched windows and a broad



606 N. Sheridan Rd.

open porch across the facade. Dr. Evans traveled extensively with General Grant during the Civil War and was wounded at the battle of Chattanooga. Dr. Evans sold the house soon after the close of the war and it has had six owners since that time. Randy Bowcott, the current owner and a former president of the Waukegan Historical Society, purchased the house in 1981 and has extensively restored it and returned it to single-family use.

On August 11, the Preservation Commission held a public hearing to consider the application for landmark status for the South Side Fire Station, located at 424 South Avenue. The fire station was built in 1911 and features a prominent four-story tower in which the fire hoses could be hung inside at full length to dry. The massing of the building is reminiscent of Italian villas, but the detailing is more typical of the Craftsman style popular at the time of its construction. Since 1993 the building has served as the Staben Center, a shelter for homeless men operated by Waukegan Township and named in honor of longtime Township Supervisor Milton Staben. A recommendation to landmark the property was forwarded to the City Council for action.



424 South Ave.

Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+) & Student	\$7.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Patron, Organization	\$50.00
Life, Individual	\$100.00
Life, Couple	\$150.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

VOLUNTEER

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Contact Us

Waukegan Historical Society

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information about events, exhibits, and our extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org

Haines House Museum

1917 N. Sheridan Road
847-336-1859
museum@waukeganhistorical.org
Call or check the web site for hours of operation.