



# Newsletter of the

# WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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## **President's Letter**

I am delighted to report that our annual Tour of Homes was a huge success. Over 350 people attended the tour, and even Mother Nature cooperated with beautiful weather. The three private homes, the Presbyterian Church and the Haines Museum all looked wonderful and were enjoyed by all. It is interesting to note that almost 50% of our visitors were from outside Waukegan, representing twenty-eight communities and several states! I would personally like to thank everyone who helped make the tour such a success, from the members of our hard-working tour committee, to our room watchers, members of the Presbyterian Church, and most of all to our homeowners for sharing their lovely homes with us. It really is a great opportunity to showcase the best Waukegan has to offer. We are always looking for homes for future tours, if you know of anyone who may be interested, please let us know.

A great deal of work was completed in and around the museum for the tour. The Park District paid for carpeting, which was installed in the dining room and second floor workroom. In addition, park employees did a masterful job repairing and repainting the shed located immediately east of the Haines. The generous bequest from the Palo family allowed us to furnish the dining room, and items loaned from Harry Came allowed the table to be set with wonderful period china and crystal. See the article on page 5 for more information on the dining room and how we have utilized the Palo gift.

Our next meeting and program will be held on Sunday September 19, 2004 at 2:00pm in Lilac Cottage. Wayne Munn will be sharing information and images of 119 N. Genesee St., the building which contains a 2nd floor sealed off in the late 1930s and just recently rediscovered. It is a virtual time capsule of life in the years prior to World War II, and the program should be fascinating. See the notice on page 2 for further details.

As school starts up again for the year, we will be turning our attention to the great materials prepared last year for the schools, which assist in teaching local history. Our museum supervisor Brian Hora and new board member Gretta Dieck will be working closely with the schools to make sure these materials are being used, and to encourage teachers to bring their classes to the museum.

Our other new board member, Margaret Martin, has agreed to undertake a complete redesign of our website. In this day in age, we realize the importance of having an interesting and attractive website, as more and more people utilize this resource for primary information. We are grateful to Margaret for sharing her expertise with us, and look forward to seeing the finished product in the coming months.

As always, we continue to look for volunteers to help with a variety of tasks in both the museum and the research library. If you are interested in helping in any way (some projects could even be done at home), please contact our museum supervisor. I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming programs and events.

Bill Tyre, President



# OAKWOOD CEMETERY WALK

1911 N. SHERIDAN ROAD

The City of Waukegan, the Cultural Arts Division of the Waukegan Park District, and the Waukegan Historical Society are proud to announce this years annual Cemetery Walk! Being held on **September 25th** at Oakwood Cemetery from **12:30 to 4:30pm**, this years walk will be a celebration of the end of World War II. Four people have been selected to be featured and represented by military re-enactors. William N. Gardner, Henry H. Kolbe, James R. Routt, and the Fighting Olsen Family featuring Anna Olsen mother of 5 sons who went to Annapolis and served in the US Navy.

Period costumes are encouraged. There will also be a scavenger hunt for kids, as well as free refreshments! This event is FREE, however tickets need to be obtained and will be available at noon the day of the event at the **Bowen Heritage Circle, 1911 N. Sheridan Road, Waukegan, IL**. Bus transportation will be provided from Bowen Heritage Circle due to parking restrictions near Oakwood Cemetery. The first bus is scheduled to leave the Bowen Heritage Circle at 12:30pm with the last bus departing for the cemetery at approximately 3:30pm.

The Haines Museum will also be open from noon to 3:00pm during this event allowing visitors to glimpse Victorian life through period parlors, dining room, kitchen, and bedrooms.

For more information call (847) 360-4740

Brought to you by:



## Current Exhibits!

### Education in Waukegan

In this newest exhibit, we have put together objects and images within our collection that display how learning has changed in Waukegan through the years. Come see how schools both past and present continue to shape our children.

### Evolution of the Republican Party

2004 marks the 150th Anniversary of the Republican Party and we here at Haines Museum have put together a small exhibit celebrating the "Grand Old Party"!

## September Program - Frozen in Time!



### "Time Capsule Apartment"

Imagine a real-life Hardy Boys, Nancy Drew adventure about a Waukegan building with a 65-year-old mystery. On Sunday September 19 at 2 PM join Wayne Munn for a journey into the "Time Capsule Apartment" closed-up in 1939 and rediscovered last autumn above 119 N. Genesee. You may have read Ralph Zahorik's "Time Capsule Apartment" columns in the News-Sun. Even more of the mystery has been uncovered since then. Wayne will take you through the Time Capsule using the magic of digital pictures. Beginning in the spring of 2004, by special arrangement with building owner Paul Frischer, Wayne spent several days documenting this 4,500 square foot second floor with still pictures and video. The only access to the space was up an extension ladder through a hole in the tin ceiling. Head Librarian Beverly Millard and Wayne also spent many hours researching this mystery in the Waukegan Historical Society's John Raymond Memorial Library. You'll get an up-close and personal tour and see some of the artifacts found in this once-again accessible space. You'll also learn interesting details about the building and the family that owned it. Both the documenting of the space and the research are on-going, so you may even be able to provide additional clues and leads.

Wayne Munn

## Recent Donations:

<u>Donor</u>	<u>Object</u>
Anonymous.....	Book: Incredible Illinois
Anonymous.....	Book: Illinois Crime
Anonymous.....	Waukegan High Schools Alumni Directory 2004
Theron Boyce.....	Feb. 22, 1950 Bonnie Brook School Newsletter
Kay Burbacki.....	Lake County Art League Notebooks, Minutes, Records 1945-2001
Vince Castellanoz.....	Photos and Negatives of early Bowen Country Club
Ela Township Historical Society.....	Jello Advertisement with Jack Benny & Photos of Geraldis Bakery Closing
Joan M. Hansen.....	Theodore Hansen WWII Marine Memorabilia
Jean Lowry.....	First Baptist Church Sesquicentennial Program 1996
Jill Martin.....	Assorted Newspapers
Dianna Millard.....	Jack Benny CD
Eleanor Moore.....	1927 Waukegan High School Graduation Certificate
Scott Ostrander.....	Advertising Cards Postage Stamps
Deborah Shank.....	Serio-Comic George Chandler Alice Montee Photographs
William Tyre.....	Photographs: Sheridan Road, County, West, and Genesee Streets, Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue
Marge Werenski.....	1910-1912 Waukegan High School Annuals
Fran White.....	1861 Map of Lake County - 1885 Plat Book Historic Front Pages
Sean Wiedel.....	"The Barns of Lake County"
Jean Worling.....	CDRom Photos of Late 1920's Chicago North Shore RR Accident

*We thank each and everyone of you who thought enough of us to donate these wonderful objects!*

## NEWPORT TOWNSHIP OPENS HOUSE MUSEUM

The Newport Township Historical Society held a grand opening for their house museum over the weekend of July 31 - August 1. Located at 15155 Wadsworth Road in Wadsworth, the 1902 frame home was willed to the Society by Grace Shields, a charter member of the Society who lived her entire life in the house and died at the age of 91 in 2002. There are currently six furnished rooms in the house including the kitchen, dining room, sitting room and three bedrooms, all of which feature original furnishings from the Shields family. The parlor has been transformed into a space where items regarding the history of Newport Township will be displayed. The Society plans to have the museum open on Saturdays. To verify hours, call President Joyce Shelley at 847-623-2703.

## Elections

Two significant events occurred in Waukegan's recent past in close proximity to each other. Running under the Republican banner, two women were the first of their gender to be elected to their respective offices.

Ann Christensen became the first woman on Waukegan's City Council in 1957. She had worked at Abbott and in her husband's business when she became interested in elective office. When she ran in the 5th Ward primary she defeated four men. In the general election she garnered 64% of the vote. Her ticket was headed by Harry Kilbane in the mayoral race, but he lost to Robert Sabonjian for his first term.

Ms. Christensen faced some opposition by other members of the City Council who were not accustomed to having a woman seated among them. Nonetheless she worked on the council, served on various committees and chaired the Street Lighting Committee at one time.

In her re-election primary she easily defeated former mayor Joseph Keber and went on to repeat her 64% victory in the general election. She retired from the council in 1965.

During her campaign she said she hoped her efforts might "open the door for other civic-minded women". Perhaps she was some inspiration in 1960 when Stephanie Sulthin became the first woman elected to a county office.

Stephanie Pucin Sulthin was born and raised in the Waukegan/North Chicago area. She joined the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court in 1933 and was made deputy clerk in 1944. Following the resignation of L.J. Wilmot, Ms. Sulthin was appointed clerk in January, 1960. Campaigning for the position in her own right, she was elected in November of that year with 57% of the vote.

She faced no primary opposition in her successful re-election runs of 1964 and 1968. She announced her retirement, but changed her mind and ran again in 1972. In that election she was the top vote getter of all candidates in Lake County.

She was a member of many civic and social organizations, including serving as president of the Illinois Association of Court Clerks. She served as a delegate to the 1976 Republican National Convention. She retired that year and passed away in 1983.

By Ed Link

## Donation & Thanks

### PALO GIFT BENEFITS MUSEUM AND LIBRARY

Last year, the Society was the recipient of a very generous gift of \$5,000 from the family of the late Ed and Eevi Palo, long-time supporters of the Society. This bequest was a wonderful opportunity for the Society to undertake two projects. The first was the replacement of the old outdated photocopier at the library. The new machine is not only much faster and efficient, but it allows for more sizes of copies to be made. The copier receives heavy usage from the constant stream of researchers using the facility.



The gift also allowed for the furnishing of the dining room, a project we have long desired. A beautiful Renaissance Revival dining table was purchased, which was then refinished and outfitted with new leaves. Randy Bowcott donated four coordinating chairs, and Harry Came donated two additional chairs, which had originally belonged to Jack Stewart. These chairs were then refinished and reupholstered in dark green velvet. In conjunction with the new carpeting in the room, and the sideboard installed in 2002, the room is really looking wonderful.

The Board is extremely grateful to the Palo family for remembering the Society and we are glad that their gift could be used for two such worthwhile projects.

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### The Waukegan Historical Society's Collections Policy

*"The objectives of the Waukegan Historical Society in operating its museum, library and archives are to collect, preserve, study, interpret, and exhibit significant materials relating to the Waukegan area; and to provide related educational services for the purpose of increasing and enriching public knowledge."*

If you or someone you know is interested in donating to the Waukegan Historical Society we are always looking to fill gaps in our collection for future exhibits. In particular, we are currently looking for Victorian era flatware and crystal. However, we always welcome objects and archival materials that pertain to Waukegan history. Help us preserve the storied history of our city, give us a call today!

# IMPORTANT UPCOMING WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

<u>September</u>	<u>October</u>	<u>November</u>
<p><b>September 4th</b> <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p><b>September 7th</b> <i>WHS Board Meeting 7:00pm</i></p> <p><b>September 11th</b> <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p><b>September 19th</b> <i>Meeting and Program</i> 2:00pm Lilac Cottage</p> <p><b>September 25th</b> <b>Annual Cemetery Walk</b> 12:30-4:00pm FREE The Haines Museum will also be open from noon to 3:00pm during this event. For more information call (847) 360-4740</p>	<p><b>October 2nd</b> <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p><b>October 5th</b> <i>WHS Board Meeting 7:00pm</i></p> <p><b>October 9th</b> <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p>	<p><b>November 2nd</b> <i>WHS Board Meeting 7:00pm</i></p> <p><b>November 6th</b> <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p> <p><b>November 13th</b> <i>Museum Work Day</i> 9:00am - 12:00pm</p>

## OTHER EVENTS IN WAUKEGAN AND THE SURROUNDING AREA!

<p><b>Through - September 10th</b> <b>Lake County Discovery Museum</b> <i>Special exhibit, Color in the Mail: Postcards of the 1933-34 'Century of Progress' Chicago World's Fair.</i></p> <p><b>September 7th</b> <b>Warren Township Historical Society</b> <i>Pot Luck Dinner at Mother Rudd House 6:30pm</i> 847-263-9540</p> <p><b>September 8th</b> <b>Grayslake Historical Society</b> <i>Meeting. State Bank of the Lakes. Speaker TBA. 7:30pm</i> 847-223-7663</p> <p><b>September 11th</b> <b>McHenry County Historical Society</b> <i>Museum open free in memory of September 11, 2001 tragedy.</i> 815-923-2267</p> <p><b>September 12th</b> <b>Grayslake Historical Society</b> <i>Open House. Baby pictures of village officials and community leaders will be identified as part of baby memorabilia exhibit. 1:30-3:30pm</i> 847-223-7663</p> <p><b>September 12-18th</b> <b>Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country</b> <i>Pride Week. Museum Open House all week. Refreshments, 1-4pm</i> 847-566-7743</p> <p><b>September 27th</b> <b>Long Grove Historical Society</b> <i>Dynamic speaker/performer, Barbara Rinella. All the President's Children, including a surprise selection! Full breakfast served at the Arboretum Club</i> Call for more info 847-438-7656</p>	<p><b>October 2nd</b> <b>Lake County Discovery Museum</b> <i>Opening of Special Exhibit, Sweetness: The Walter Payton Story</i> 847-526-7878</p> <p><b>October 2nd</b> <b>Historical Society of the Fort Hill Country</b> <i>Open House and Youth Event. Scavenger hunt for children 6 and older accompanied by adult.</i> 11-3 p.m. 847-566-7743</p> <p><b>October 2nd</b> <b>Waukegan Park District</b> <b>Octoberfest</b> Bowen Park 6-10pm</p> <p><b>October 3rd</b> <b>Grayslake Historical Society</b> <i>Living History Tour, Grayslake Cemetery</i> South Lake Street 1:30 &amp; 2:30pm 847-223-7663</p> <p><b>October 3rd</b> <b>McHenry County Historical Society</b> <i>Annual Cider Festival</i> 815-923-2267</p> <p><b>October 10th</b> <b>Grayslake Historical Society</b> <i>Open House. Opening of toy exhibit.</i> 1:30-3:30pm 847-223-7663</p> <p><b>October 20th</b> <b>McHenry County Historical Society</b> <i>Historic Haunted Wake.</i> Seatings at 7:00 and 8:00pm 815-923-2267</p> <p><b>October 25-31st</b> <b>Cuneo Museum and Gardens</b> <i>Haunted Forest. Refreshments.</i> 847-362-3042</p>	<p><b>November 11th</b> <b>Downtown Waukegan</b> <b>Veterans Day Celebration</b> 10:00am Washington &amp; Genesee Streets</p> <p><b>November 13th</b> <b>Waukegan Park District</b> <b>Turkey Trot</b> 11:30am 412 S. Lewis Ave.</p>
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**WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS**

In addition to learning more about the long and fascinating history of Waukegan, membership in the historical society comes with many additional benefits. Use the membership application below. Consider becoming a member, or giving a gift membership to a friend. It also makes a great welcome gift to a new neighbor.

**Benefits of membership:**

- \* \$2.00 discount on any ticket to the Waukegan Symphony Orchestra, Waukegan Concert Chorus, Bowen Park Theatre, or Bowen Park Opera;
- \* 10% off any entree at Kong's Restaurant, 40 N. Genesee Street;
- \* 10% off any entree at Madison Avenue, 34 N. Sheridan Road;
- \* 10% off any sandwich at the Uptown Cafe, 300 N. County Street;
- \* 10% off Society gift items including the Jack Benny CD and the book *Images of America: Waukegan, Illinois* when purchased at the museum.

*(Restaurant discounts at the discretion of management, call to confirm.)*

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE SOCIETY  
AND HAINES MUSEUM**

The Society is a volunteer organization, and we are always seeking new volunteers to assist with a variety of tasks. We have many different opportunities available to match your interest. No previous experience is necessary; we will gladly train you. Listed below is a summary of the positions available.

- \* **Museum Docent** - serves as a guide for visitors to the museum, including 'room-watching' during special events;
- \* **Program Aide** - assists with the educational programs;
- \* **Exhibition Assistant** - aids in the planning and implementation of displays and exhibits;
- \* **Collections Assistant** - helps with the historical collections, including cataloging and conserving objects;
- \* **Administrative Aide** - assists with clerical activities;
- \* **Researcher** - investigates subjects for upcoming exhibits and responds to requests from scholars and residents;
- \* **Maintenance Assistant** - assists in the upkeep of the museum facility.

*(Use the form below or call Brian Hora at 847-336-1859 to volunteer or to get further information)*



**Membership Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- Senior (age 60+).....\$7.00
- Student.....\$7.00
- Individual.....\$15.00
- Family.....\$25.00
- Patron, Organization.....\$50.00
- Life, Individual.....\$100.00
- Life, Couple.....\$150.00
- Corporate.....\$500.00
- Please Accept My Additional Gift.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to the **Waukegan Historical Society**

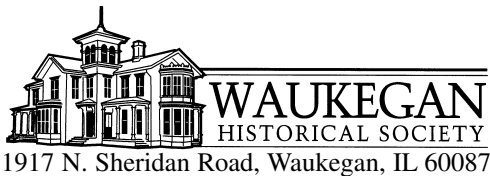
**Volunteer Application**

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**(Check as many as you are interested in!)**

- Museum Docent
- Program Aide
- Exhibition Assistant
- Collections Assistant
- Administrative Aide
- Researcher
- Maintenance Assistant

Mail To: Waukegan Historical Society  
 1917 N. Sheridan Road  
 Waukegan, IL. 60087



<p><b>WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY</b></p> <p>William Tyre.....President  Harry Came.....Vice President  Betsy Alleman.....Treasurer  Ellen Frew.....Recording/Corresponding Secretary  Sara Griffin.....Immediate Past President  Gretta Dieck.....Director  Margaret Martin.....Director  Denyse Waters.....Director  Sean Wiedel.....Director</p> <p>Website.....www.waukeganhistorical.org</p> <p>Contact:  William Tyre  Telephone (evenings/weekends).....847-625-7896  Email.....w.tyre@comcast.net</p> <p><i>Newsletter published quarterly in March, June, September, December</i></p>	<p><b><u>Haines House Museum</u></b>  1917 N. Sheridan Road  Waukegan, IL. 60087  Telephone.....847-336-1859  Email.....<a href="mailto:haines@waukeganparks.org">haines@waukeganparks.org</a>  Museum Supervisor.....Brian Hora</p> <p><i>Open for public tours:</i>  Mon - Fri.....1:00pm - 3:00pm  1st &amp; 2nd Saturday of each month.....1:00pm - 3:00pm  Group Tours by Appointment</p> <p><b><u>J. L. Raymond Memorial Library</u></b>  Lilac Cottage  1911 N. Sheridan Road  Waukegan, IL. 60087  Telephone.....847-360-4772  Librarian.....Beverly Millard</p> <p><i>Library Hours:</i>  Wednesday through Friday.....10:00am - 2:30pm  Call for Seasonal Weekend Hours.</p> <p><i>Photocopying services available for 25 cents per page.  On site assistance with genealogical and general research.</i></p>
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