

November 2022



To the Members and Friends of the Park Forest Historical Society,

It is very exciting to be writing to you today, my first public writing after being elected as the ninth President of our Board of Directors. I'd like to start by thanking Jane Nicoll for her last six years as our President, not to mention her many invaluable years in service to the society. Thankfully, Jane remains with us as our Archivist, Museum Director, and on our Board as Vice President.

We've had a very productive 2022, and we're looking forward to even more in 2023. That is why I write to you today, in appeal of our Annual Fund drive. This past year, we have:

- Received an eleventh \$5,000 matching grant from the Village of Park Forest, which we meet by the sum of your memberships, donations, museum visitors, store sales, etc.
- Inducted seven more members into the Park Forest Hall of Fame, with the ceremony airing exclusively on our YouTube channel.
- Continued releasing our educational/archival programs via YouTube, allowing our channel to grow and content to reach geographies and generations that would have otherwise missed out
- Had a continued demand for our production of the "Remembering Rich East" DVD which is still for sale for \$20 each – plus books, Marshall Field's bricks, and other goods in our online store
- Kept our museum open all year, yet we could always use a few more docent volunteers!

In 2023, I want to keep this momentum up, and have big plans for our team, such as:

- Hitting our next \$5,000 matching grant goal
- Hosting our first in-person Hall of Fame ceremony since before the pandemic
- Increasing the speed and breadth of our archival digitization efforts, so that more of our collection is easily accessible and sharable online, via our social media, etc.
- Increasing our presence on social media, expanding to popular platforms such as Instagram
- Beginning full-scale efficiency reviews of our operations, to make sure your donor dollars are doing the most good
- Expanding our member base to include more local businesses and organizations, as well as to the next generation of Park Foresters, etc.

As you can see, we've been doing some great work around here, and have plenty more ahead of us. Your continued support of us – through your memberships, attending our programs, volunteer hours, or financially – is more important than ever. We thank you in advance for choosing to support our mission.

Respectfully,

Chris Janota  
President, Board of Directors