

THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

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of the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

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Saving the Park Forest House Museum



1950s Park Forest House Museum Update

The PFHS Board continues to look for options for a new home either to house the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, or to house a much smaller Park Forest history museum. **We have, to-date, made very little headway on this task with the clock ticking down toward our move-out date of March 31, 2015.**

The Board is in touch with at least one realtor who is to be notifying us of low-priced condominiums we might purchase to house the 1950s museum. Of course, other investors and future residents are also watching for these units, and have their funding in place. By the time we find out about the units, they usually have contracts before we can even get to see them. We will intensifying our efforts this fall to find a solution.

We invite members of the society or the community to join us in this search for a solution. PFHS Board meetings are usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Park Forest Village Hall, 7:00 p.m. If you have an idea, join us at the board meeting or call Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252, or Mike Gans, 708-305-3308.

Annual Meeting and Program on How Local Museums are Funded

Join us Sunday September 28, 2014, 2:30 p.m. at Village Hall for our PFHS Annual Meeting and election of officers for the coming year. That will be followed by a panel discussion and sharing of how several of our fellow local museums are funded, including agreements they have with their local governments.

As we face an uncertain future for our 1950s Park Forest House Museum, we want our Board members, general membership and our local officials to hear what other communities have done to support the very important contribution historical societies make by working constantly--often for no financial reward--to preserve their villages' histories for current and past residents and future generations.

Work continues at the archive on documenting both museum and archive collections with the help of our IMLS and NEH-PAG federal grants. I want to thank Alice Wasney who spent October through early May accessioning "OH! Park Forest" Oral History collection files audiotapes and transcripts, then beginning to enter them in PastPerfect. It was a very complicated task which she tackled with grace and amazing organizational skills, "PastPerfect-ly."

In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll

Alice and husband Rick have moved to Miami, where Rick found a new position. We have had a wonderful time this summer with Rose Thomas who is marking her second anniversary as a very special volunteer, and with two delightful library student interns Carla Dinnocenzo and Jessica Beno (who liked the work so much she came back as a volunteer when her internship hours were fulfilled). Both library students are now working out new internship projects so they can continue to work on the collection. We also thank Autumn and Jeremiah Price, Tuesday Gallagher and Jasmine Artis, from Southland Prep, who chose to do their community service hours with us. Laura Simpson, GSU history student, has just started an internship for the fall. Jane Addison and Tiffani Graham have also contributed hours on projects. And we have two other high school students waiting to be trained for community service projects.

See our article on volunteers and the wonderful things they do.

Special Visitors

On September 3, we had a delightful tour of the museum and visit with Carolinda Rubenstein Janka from California and her sister-in-law, Chaya. The Rubensteins lived on Gibson Road from 1948-1953 before moving to Homewood. Carolinda attended Forest Boulevard School, her father worked for the advertising firm that held the Lustron Homes account, before that company went under, and she found friends on our Pioneer sign-in sheets.

When she noticed two sisters with whom she is still friends, I discovered they were the daughters of Homer S. Wolf, the artist who drew the early map of Park Forest for the Reporter, which today hangs in the museum dining room. We then discovered he was the H. Wolf who lived in Court E-8 along with E.G. and Terry Ruehl, Edith Warns, Ed and Rose Waterman, and other early residents and long-time members of the society. Carolinda believes he also designed the original Maytag logo.

Alice and Manny Racher

Several of us attended the very lovely memorial service for longtime supporter of the Society and of the Archive Collection, Alice Racher. It was a warm and lovely tribute to an amazing woman. As a fresh, young reference librarian, I served on library committees with Alice, writing long range plans and learning from a true master. When Alice and Manny came to our programs, Manny would always calm down my frantic pre-meeting jitters by saying calmly, "Come here, Baby, and give me some sugar." His little hug and Alice's warm smile would always make me feel so appreciated for the work I was doing.

The week before her memorial, an extra copy of a Reporter newspaper worked its way to the top of my pile of work. The article on the front page was the story and photo for Alice Racher receiving the Bank of Park Forest Citizen of Achievement Award. I made copies for our files and for the family. That kind of coincidence happens all the time!

Beverly Myrow

We have lost another amazing Park Forester, who also lived to 90, Beverly Myrow who was a longtime supporter of the society and my work. She shared with our collection, scores and tapes of Jerry Myrow's 1954 musical, "Analysis in Wonderland." She was our first volunteer scheduler for the 50th Anniversary House Museum, and took another turn at it, later, to relieve my burdens. She was always a girlfriend who could make me laugh with her irreverent commentary on local events. We thank her daughter Melinda "Susie" and partner Bruce Norikeno for helping us secure more "Analysis" material, and history of Jerry and Beverly. A memorial is planned for November.

Lions Club Memorabilia

Cheryl and Allen Warshaw donated documentation and memorabilia from the recently dissolved Lions Club of Park Forest. I was able to show them a file we have on Liondom, the Lions International City which was once planned, but never built, for the area where Lincolnwood subdivision

In My Own Little Corner (Continued from Page 2)

is today. It was a project the Warshaws were never aware of. When Cheryl said she would be back with a scrapbook, I showed her Lady Lions scrapbooks we

have, and found the one Cheryl thought she had. It showed an article with Cheryl and Allen's photo, attending a meeting thirty years ago to find out about the Lions Club of Park Forest, which they then helped run with amazing dedication for the next 30 years.

We began and still operate so we can record the good works of people like Alice and Manny, Beverly and Jerry, and Cheryl and Allen, and the contributions of organizations they worked with. We consider it an honor to keep the record of these good works.



Cheryl and Allen Warshaw , who donated Lions Club memorabilia are flanked by Archive volunteers Jessica Beno (left) and Carla Dinnocenzo (right)

Matching Grant Awarded from the Village of Park Forest Third Year in a Row!

Thank you to Village Manager, Tom Mick, Mayor John Ostenburg, and our Village Trustees for our third \$5000 Matching Challenge Grant. We literally could not keep the museum open without this Matching Grant and without all of YOU who have helped us make the match!

PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY NOTES

Halloween Decorations at the House Museum

"Step Back into a 1950s Halloween" at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, 141 Forest Blvd, Wednesday and Saturday 10:30 to 3:30. It will be Halloween September 13 through November 8, 2014. This will be your last chance to see this exhibit, which is really quite nostalgic, in 141 Forest. Don't miss it!! Remember, members get one visit for free!

PFHS makes the news.

The Historical Society was mentioned in the July-August 2014 Illinois Heritage Association Newsletter, written by IHA director Pat Miller with information she gleaned from the newsletter we send her. It was a lengthy entry which included the names of our library school interns and their work for us as mentioned in the article.

Follow Us on Twitter

ParkForestHistory@PF60466.

We made a Twitter account for 1950smuseum, but it will be changing slightly. If you have "followed" it, try again, soon. We hope to make it 1950smuseum@1950smuseum.

Please bear with us as we get established on some new types of Social Media, as we learn the ropes.

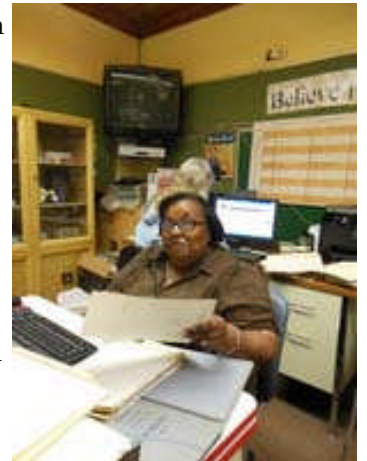
Please renew you membership or join the Park Forest Historical Society from the membership renewal form mailed in September or online at parkforesthitory.org.

Archive Volunteers and the Great Things They Do



Alice Wasney (left) enters "OH! Park Forest" records in PastPerfect. Alice worked from late October 2013 through May of this year.

Rose Thomas (right) has been working in the Archive Office since September 2012. In February 2013 she helped with our African American Genealogy panel. Rose has made incredible progress listing video collections in Excel, listing newspapers in Bernard G. Cunningham's Papers, accessioning two boxes of important photographs, and now typing up the accession list so we will have computer access to what is in the boxes. Rose usually works Thursday and Friday.



Not pictured are Tiffani Graham who has worked on Elmer Beckwith photographs, computer set-up for the IMLS computer and printer, and is starting on League of Women Voters; Noelle Canty, high school intern has worked since February 1, 2013, recording missing Reporter articles, accessioning a large collection of recent Downtown photos and Park Forest maps and is now entering maps in PastPerfect; Sarah Rogers, an archivist who worked a number of Saturdays until her own job hours increased; Jane Addison who has come in to help with boxes; Vivian Purnell who has come in to record missing Reporters; and Lisa Klose, who has spent many hours setting up the DonorPerfect database.

Suzanne Brown reported to the board that she taught the Park Forest History Curriculum unit to 195 4th and 5th graders in School District 162 in Spring 2014. School District 163 was unable to arrange a time for her to teach the unit this spring. Suzie continues her dedicated work transcribing more than 92 World War II veteran interviews she has recorded.

Once again, we thank Linda Daniels for her service as Volunteer Coordinator and welcome back Beverley Sailer who has taken up the job of calling museum volunteers. Thank you, both, for your tremendous help.

And we must not forget Jerry Shnay, newsletter editor, Hall of Fame booklet writer/designer and mailing expert. He continues even though he retired from our board in September 2013. Jerry, thank you for the thousand things you have done and still do. You make us look so fine!

HOLIDAY THEATER PRINTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Prints of the Holiday for sale at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum. Not too soon for Holiday shopping! \$15 per print; can be shipped. We have Marshall Field's Park Forest store bricks, 1 for \$15; 2 for \$25, which can be shipped with ca. \$12 s/h. Visit our Museum Store or Online Store for books, postcards, and 50th Anniversary calendars which are full of dates and photographs from Park Forest history!



Please renew your membership or join the Park Forest Historical Society from the membership renewal form mailed in September or online at parkforesthistory.org.



Park Forest Historical Society

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM

"How Local Museums Are Funded"

A panel of local historical society and museum leaders

Sunday September 28, 2014 2:30 p.m.

Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive, Park Forest, IL 60466



Annual meeting consists of brief reports from PFHS Officers, and election by members of the 2014-2015 Board of Directors.

A panel of local historical society and museum leaders will discuss how they fund their museums and programs, especially what help they receive from local government in their area. Stories of some will be read.

PFHS faces the imminent closing of the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, March 31, 2015, in spite of three generous \$5,000 matching grants from the Village of Park Forest, which have helped pay the rent for two years, and hopefully for this last year, with the equally generous support of our members and friends.

We have invited a group of leaders whose stories we know. If you run a historical society or museum and have a story to share, contact us via our email at www.parkforesthistor.org, or come to the program and contribute from the audience.

PFHS attends the Local History Roundtable and the group Local History South of Chicago where these stories are often shared. We know there are more stories out there.

Members and friends of PFHS, please come hear these stories.

Please be at this important annual meeting!

The Society Board needs volunteers to help with relocating or re-imagining our museum.

If you will help, call Mike Gans, President, 708-305-3308.

It's Halloween at the 1950s Park Forest House Museum!



"Step Back into a 1950s Halloween" with Us!

Vintage Halloween decorations
on display through November 8, 2014.

****Last time for the Halloween Exhibit at this location, or possibly, ever.****

Located at 141 Forest Blvd

(Corner of Forest and Fir) Convenient Street Parking

Open Wed and Sat 10:30 to 3:30;

or for groups by appointment.

Call Mike Gans, 708-305-3308, or Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252 for more information
or to schedule a group tour.

Display items include a collection of Gurley Halloween candles, die-cut
decorations, and a boxed costume with mask.

Be sure to see this exhibit this year!

Admission donation is adults \$5; children 12 and under free
with an adult.

www.parkforesthistory.org

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