



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of
the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

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September 2011

Annual Meeting to Honor PFHS Volunteers

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

September is Membership month and we need your support.

We appreciate all of you who join annually to support our missions! Please take time to renew your membership. If you have not joined, yet, please take this time to become a supporting member.

Your membership support goes to keeping the museum open by helping us pay the rent and utilities, and to make occasional purchases of new items.

Your support also helps pay for offsite storage of the rest of the museum collection.

The board has been trying to find a site for free or less expensive storage of that collection, and also for the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive.

We are striving to find a space where the collection is accessible for research.

Currently it is completely inaccessible for our volunteers and researchers except for the small portion residing in the Park Forest Public Library and a portion in open storage at Celebration Ministries. We thank Celebration Ministries for their ongoing support!

We are close to a solution, but we will have to pay for rental space.

We need your membership support to get this valuable collection open again!

In January we celebrated 25 years of the Park Forest Historical Society. A timeline of our programs and projects, and a binder of all are available at the museum. Stop by for a visit and see how much we have done over the years to celebrate the history of this unique village.

We have, for this year, accepted the landlord's challenge to get the museum open for 10 hours a week. The museum's hours are being increased every few months as we strive to add enough volunteers to man it. It will take many more people to accomplish this.

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Members to vote on 2011-12 Board

This is the first celebration we have held honoring current and past Volunteers, who have greatly assisted in the Society's 26-year history. We will be celebrating those who docent at the House Museum, as well as those who have given their time in other ways. This coincides with the Park Forest Historical Society's Annual Meeting, **at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 25, 2011 at Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive.**

In past annual meetings, as well as during Hall of Fame presentations, volunteers were recognized, however, this program will take it a step further. Please join us for a fun-filled afternoon, which includes meeting some of our newest House Museum docents. Refreshments will be served.

A brief Annual Meeting of the membership will precede the program. The membership will vote on members of the Society board and hear brief reports from the officers.

The Society depends on its friends, which include Members, Sponsors and Volunteers. Without any one of these Friends, the organization cannot survive.

In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll, Museum Director

We hope you will join us on Sunday, September 25, at 2:30 p.m. in Park Forest Village Hall to celebrate our past and present volunteers.

I recently trained about 10 new volunteers, who we hope will help fill our increasing open hours. We still need more volunteers to accomplish this goal. We would love to see even more Second and Third Generation Park Foresters join our volunteer ranks. The Society and Museum can not continue without several fresh smiling faces on board!

We really appreciate those who have recently volunteered and hope you will all bring in some friends. A warm welcome to all of you who have been trained, or expressed interest!

On Art Fair Saturday, September 17, we are expecting to see a number of visitors from the Rich High Class of 1965 Reunion. Also, watch for PFHS to be at a table in Downtown Park Forest, promoting membership and the Museum. On Pancake Day, the Museum will be open from 11-4, two extra hours in our Fall schedule. Bring the family by while they are together and make a day full of memories.

There are other volunteer jobs that need to be done. Check our website at www.parkforesthistoricalsociety.org under the Museum and the Archive for lists of suggestions.

We may be moving things around again in the next month or two, and will need extra hands for that. We are increasing our presence at public functions and are distributing brochures and notices to more locations. Those duties are falling on too few people. Contact us via the email links on the site if you are interested.

Visit the museum and see what you have been missing. Join the Society if you have not, yet. Volunteer. We need you!

Jane Nicoll

Archivist, Park Forest Historical Society
Director, 1950s Park Forest House Museum
Museum tour at www.parkforesthistoricalsociety.org
Park Forest, IL 60466
parkforesthistoricalsociety1@yahoo.com
"Like" the Park Forest Historical Society,
and the 1950s Park Forest House Museum
at their pages on Facebook.



Our new trained docents are, from left, Sarah Slack, Lisa Klose, Gloria Garza, Elizabeth Johnson, Pam Moore, Board member Sally Wallach, Eila Jones and Historical Society president Mike Gans

Membership Supports the Society

Your membership in the Park Forest Historical Society helps support the work of preserving the history of this unique community. Become a member or renew your membership today by filling out the enclosed membership brochure or by visiting our website: parkforesthistoricalsociety.org and clicking the "Join Us" tab. The Society is an independent 501 (c) 3 corporation. Your donation is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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If we can not man the Museum for 10 hours a week, we be forced to close our doors in May.

In an effort to become more visible in the community, we are trying to be at more public events with brochures and flyers about the museum and the society, and soliciting more memberships and volunteer participation. We need more volunteers willing to help in this effort, and also to help distribute brochures and flyers to buildings around town, and to nearby libraries and communities.

Membership numbers are a very important component of showing we have support of the residents of Park Forest, and also of people around the country.

Send in your membership today.

Help "Save our History," and thank you for your aid!

Warm regards,
Michael Gans, President