



# Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 22, Issue I

Spring 2011

## Preserving our past ... Building our future

Join us for a champagne and hors d'ouvres reception kick off for the *PRESERVING OUR PAST ... BUILDING OUR FUTURE DRIVE*. This meeting is in lieu of the April Quarterly Meeting.

Come learn about plans for the future and pick up a piece of the past—our new book!

Join us on Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. at the WILSON HOUSE on Franklin Street. The evening begins with a brief presentation describing our future plans for the Society as we embark on the next critical stage of our growth. Help us preserve resources, gather

and share histories of Port, provide more educational opportunities for our community and enhance tourism.



We invite you to enjoy the complimentary champagne and hors d'ouvres, live entertainment, raffles and door prizes.

This evening we are proudly launching our new book fundraising effort. Written by Light Station Co-Director, Richard D. Smith, the new book is entitled *Images of America: Port Washington*. Many of the founding families of Port Washington are noted in the book—you might find some of your families—so plan to pick up a copy or two! Mr. Smith will be there to sign your copy.

**BOOK SIGNING SPECIAL:** Tonight only, we offer the special rate of \$20/book instead of the cover price of \$21.99. Please purchase your copy through the Historical Society to support our fundraising effort.

### *Preserving our past ... Building our future*

**Date:** Friday, April 8<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 6-8 pm

**Place:** Wilson House  
Franklin Street  
Port Washington

*PLEASE R.S.V.P. by April 1<sup>st</sup> to:  
Kathie at 262-268-9734.*

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**Board of Directors**

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 Angie Cope, Vice-President  
 Sue Bruner, Reporting Treasurer  
 Kathie Gordon, Secretary  
 Patricia Moren  
 Grace Eernisse  
 Michele Weiland  
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**Capital Campaign**

Chair—position open  
 Co-Chair—position open

**Light Station Museum**

Rick Smith, Co-Director  
 Linda Nenn, Co-Director  
 262-284-7240

**Newsletter**

Angie Cope

**Quarterly Programs**

Mary Flierl

**Membership**

Ann Flierl

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 the Port Washington Historical  
 Society

# President's Message

Each generation has its challenges and possibilities. With twenty years behind us, we have the future ahead. Will that future include a location for the Port Washington Historical Society that gives the Society the autonomy over its future? Will a location give the Society the ability to not only to preserve but also to educate the community and its visitors? Last summer's outstanding Maritime Museum created by Rick Smith was a tribute to what can be done, if given the chance. The hard basics are that the Society has many artifacts and archives, an ever growing repository of historic files for the city, and a keen and passionate interest in sharing their treasures with the community and its visitors. We can be immensely proud of what we have done and what we can do. Are we capable of realizing our vision? We did once before, back in 2000 when embarking on the restoration of the 1860 Light Station.

With that in mind, I would encourage you to attend on April 8 the introduction of our sponsored publication on the history of Port Washington on which Rick Smith and Kathie Gordon have worked so hard. Hey, your family may even be mentioned in the book.

Since we, as a nonprofit, are sustained through the generosity of our members and friends, I would encourage you to continue to support our efforts and to consider options that would extend your generosity for perpetuity. There are opportunities similar to the Greater Milwaukee Foundation as well as other options that can be adapted to your needs and desires.

Jackie Oleson  
 President

**Membership**

\$20 Individual  
 \$30 Family  
 \$10 Student  
 \$75 Business  
 \$150 Lifetime

**Please note:** quarterly meetings are usually on the third Wednesday. This quarterly meeting is replaced with the April 8th reception at the Wilson House. A special thank you to the *Port Washington State Bank* for use of this beautiful space.

## Capital Campaign

by Jackie Oleson

A recent meeting with the city reaffirmed that the Fire Engine House will indeed be put up for sale, probably in the not too distant future. The request was again made to have the building retained by the city and leased to the Society. The Society will in all likelihood not be in a position to pay market value now or in the near future for the building and build a fund for sustainability.

There is a hope that when planning for a building on the coal dock, consideration be given to including a maritime museum that the Society



would help manage. That would help determine what the Society needs in a permanent location.

The Capital Fund Campaign, **Preserving our Past .... Building our Future**, has planned a kick off on April 8<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the publication of a book on the history of Port Washington. Mailings have gone out to members, nonmembers and businesses.

Fundraising so far has generated **\$12, 911.**

If you have already given, we heartedly thank you. If you have not given, please consider what you can give. If you can give over several years, we can accommodate that. Our short term goal for the end of 2011 is \$75,000. That gives us credibility and allows us to generate momentum.

***Believe ..... we will do this. We need to do this. With your help... we can do this.***

## Maritime Heritage Festival August 19-21, 2011

by Geri Zehren

This year's Festival promises to bring new excitement to Port Washington.

Rick Smith agreed to give his slide presentation on the "History of Port's Harbor" that he developed for a presentation to the Manitowoc Maritime Museum. The presentation will be accompanied by artifacts, photos, maps, and documents on the harbor history. Rick will present once each day, Friday through Sunday, in the meeting room of the lower level of the Holiday Inn.

Did you know that Port's harbor is the first man made harbor on the Great Lakes? In 1870 the federal government allotted \$192,527.00 for the development of an artificial harbor – our historical harbor. Plan to attend one of these programs - and please spread the word – and come learn more about our maritime history.

This year canoes will land on the shores of the lake with fur trader and earlier settler re-enactors. The Historical Society is working on being involved in recreation of those events.

As in other years, the PWHS tent will be on the festival grounds. Volunteers are needed for the tent, light station docents and re-enactors. Call the office... (262) 268-9150, or Geri Zehren (262) 284-2547 if you have ideas or can help.



## David Hackett Artist Prints

The Historical Society would like to thank David Hackett for generously donating \$15 of each sale of his historical Port Washington prints to our Capital Campaign Fund. Each print includes a unique remark capturing the essence of the scene. Prints are 9 x 16 inches and available for purchase through the Historical Society and will be available at the April 8th kick off reception.

# The Light Station 2011 Season

by Linda Nenn

The 1860 Light Station Museum will open May 14<sup>th</sup> - Saturdays 11 - 4 and Sundays noon - 4. Groups can schedule weekday tours as well. A new Generator Building display welcomes visitors and new touches have been added throughout the grounds. Remember, Historical Society members have free admission.

Co-Director Rick Smith replaced outdoor signage, repainted walls, ceilings, tower ladders, floors and landings. Rick handled office duties including group tour reservations and handling email and phone inquiries as that Linda Nenn is working through illness.

Once again, the Light Station is in need of volunteer docents. Anyone age 16 or older may help and no experience is necessary. Tour guide



handbooks and guidelines as well as in person training help prepare volunteers.

Of our original tour guides, only Elaine Nulph, Alice Horton and Marianne Kartheiser remain, willing AND able to volunteer many weekdays and weekends. Leroy Bley continues with group tours and occa-

sional impromptu tour requests. Thankfully others have stepped into the breach, but our Society membership relies on so few, year after year, to donate so much of their time. A small commitment of 10 hours a month makes a difference.

Please contact the Light Station or the PWS Office if you can volunteer this year at the lighthouse: 262-284-7240; Society Office: 262-268-9150; or [1860lightstation@sbcglobal.net](mailto:1860lightstation@sbcglobal.net)

## Light Station Restoration Needs

by Linda Nenn

1. The tower parapet wood railing and posts must be completely replaced with milled hardwood or a manufactured wood product instead of the pine used in the 2002 re-creation. The mortise and tendon crowned railing, lower and vertical spacers as well as the routed and capped corner newel posts have cracked and rotted through, victims of Wisconsin weather and wood that dried and shrank after construction. Despite layers of paint, wood filler and installation of angle reinforcements, portions of the railing blew off the building in 2010 and were temporarily repaired.

The Challenge: The corner newel posts are anchored within the platform structure that was designed and built in two halves, rather than post and beam used in the original structure. It was the only way the platform could be built in Luxembourg and then broken apart for shipping. Once the two halves were bolted together and lifted into place, reasonable access was lost.

Materials and milling: \$4000-\$5000. In-

stallation cost may run as high as \$5000 if scaffolding of tower is required and underside platform boards have to be removed. No contractor has yet expressed interest in bidding on the job.

2. Replacement of exterior lighthouse doors. Current doors were custom built and donated by Stallion Doors, St. Cloud, MN. The company does not build exterior doors, but the Restoration was very pleased to receive Stallion's offer to custom build and donate all the 5 panel doors, two with windows. Since 2002, we've insulated the kitchen and front doors with Styrofoam and plastic. But the doors now have major cracks and have to be replaced. New, exterior, oversized, custom 5 panel solid oak door are expected to cost \$2000. New, exterior kitchen and back lighthouse doors with 4 true divided, panes of insulated glass is expected to cost \$2500-\$3000.

Donations for the railing and doors may be sent to Light Station Restoration, P.O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074.

Thank you for your continued support of the Lighthouse and Light Station Restoration.

# LEAVE A PERSONAL LEGACY

## DISCOVER THE BENEFITS OF GIVING WISELY



Leaving a legacy often means handing down what we value most. For many of us, that includes making certain that our children and grandchildren will inherit our precious history and heritage.

When preparing your estate plan, please consider the Port Washington Historical Society. Your efforts will help ensure that the Society can continue its mission to preserve local history and provide enriching educational opportunities for all generations.

We can show you how to leave a lasting legacy by making a “planned gift” to the Society. Current IRS incentives provide additional tax-related financial benefits.

A planned gift can help you: gain peace of mind; reduce income and or estate taxes; reduce or avoid capital gains taxes; increase your current income; make a larger donation than you otherwise could; or make a gift when you no longer need the assets.

The Port Washington Historical Society can talk to you about simple and affordable charitable gift annuities. You make a gift and receive an immediate income tax deduction for a portion of your gift and in return the Society agrees to make fixed payments to you for life. It’s possible this method will increase the yield you are currently getting from equities or CDs.

There are many options for making planned giving a win-win way to achieve philanthropic and financial goals. Contribute from your will or trust at no cost to you during your lifetime, use a charitable gift annuity that gives you guaranteed income for life or use a charitable lead trust that simply protects your assets. To learn more about these gift options, please contact Jackie Oleson 262-268-9150

## Light Station Kiosk Focus of Eagle Scout Project

William Pfrang has been working with the City of Port Washington and the Historical Society to build an informational kiosk and seating area just east of the Light Station on an area that has been designated *Mariners’ Point*. This point was created with the reconstruction of Powers Street. This project is Will’s Eagle Scout Project for Troop 875 in Port Washington. The kiosk will have a permanent display of photographs and information about the historic Light Station. The kiosk will feature a red roof matching the light station and a seating area with views of the light station and Lake Michigan. This project has been approved by the City of Port Washington and has the support of the

Historical Society. Will’s project includes raising money for the materials to build this informational kiosk. With this in mind, companies, civic groups, families and individuals have been approached and encouraged to donate. All donations will be recognized and individual contributions will be welcomed. This project will help to bring to completion an idea that began within the neighborhood several years ago. Mariners’ Point will bring benefit to both the City of Port Washington and the Historical Society by creating a place to rest and a historical marker giving citizens and visitors the history of the Light Station.

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## Oral History Project

by Jackie Oleson

Oral history has emerged as an international movement with recognition that stories told out loud capture topics scarcely touched on through written records. Interviewing living survivors from our community will help fill the gaps about daily life, every day opinions and offers a perspective and point of view not told in official

records or news reports.

The Port Washington Historical Society is excited to launch an oral history project to capture and archive our stories. If you would like to participate or suggest an individual to be interviewed, please contact the office at 262-268-9150.

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## Happy 99th Birthday Edna Guenther

Our oldest member, Edna Guenther, recently celebrated her 99th birthday on February 25th. Edna, a lifetime resident of Port Washington, was recognized by the Port Washington Historical Society and the City of Port Washington for what she and the Guenther family brought to the City. The family emigrated to the United States in 1852, settled in Port Washington, and

went on to establish Guenther Brothers Brick and Tile in 1885. Their cream city brick continues to grace many fine buildings of Port Washington and beyond. Edna worked and volunteered in the city throughout her lifetime. The Society was pleased to make Edna a lifetime member.

*Happy Birthday Edna.*

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## Quarterly Meeting & Program Planning

by Mary Flierl

### July/Summer Quarterly Meeting

The topic for July 20th Quarterly Meeting will be ***Car Dealerships & Gas Stations***. We will explore the effect of the automobile on Port Washington. If you have any information or photos of any of those establishments to enhance the program it would be greatly appreciated if you share them. Drop them off at the office at 429 W. Grand Ave. on Monday or Thursday afternoons.

### 20th Anniversary Slide Show – January 19, 2011

The January Quarterly Meeting was well attended by over 80 people. Photos were taken of the Charter members and past Board members in attendance and those will be added to an anniversary slide show being produced. This slide show will be available at the Annual Dinner in November. A few corrections were made based on comments and discussion from the January meeting.

Marge Hoffmann's name was added to the Charter members. If you have additional information to add, please call or email the office at 262-268-9150 or [portwashhistsoc@att.net](mailto:portwashhistsoc@att.net)

### Annual Business Meeting October 2011

As specified in the Historical Society's by-laws, there will be an annual business meeting of the membership in October. The Annual Dinner will be in November.

### Call for Stories

In celebration of the 20 year anniversary of the PWHS, readers are encouraged to submit accounts and memories of their past in Port Washington. Scenes, events, people and anecdotes are among the memories that may be incorporated into future programs or newsletters articles.

Please send these articles to PWHS MEMORIES, P. O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074 or e-mail to [portwashhistsoc@att.net](mailto:portwashhistsoc@att.net) with the subject PWHS MEMORIES.

# UPDATE ON THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK AND BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB

by Geri Zehren

At a special meeting of the Common Council in February the vote to proceed with the razing of these two buildings was put on hold. And that is the continued status of the buildings.

The PWHS sent packets to all of the council members, the city administrator, and the Mayor including detailed information on the history of these two buildings. A letter was included from the Board of Directors pleading to not demolish these two historically significant buildings. Members are asked to contacting their city officials regarding the preservation of these buildings.

Reality predicts that the "end user" will determine the fate. Will someone step forward and purchase these buildings and use the historic tax credits to restore them? Or is the value of the land, minus the buildings, a better option for the "end user?" The city continues to encourage the

building's owners to work with potential buyers to restore and save these buildings.

It is the continued hope that the "end user" and owners will keep the historic buildings as part of the landscape of Franklin Street. The

beauty of the downtown's stately buildings is an attribute for residents of Port Washington as well as a major draw for visitors, especially those doing our Historic Walking Tour. Razing these two historically important buildings greatly diminishes that feature of Franklin Street and Port Washington.



B. M. Club House & The Annex, Port Washington, Wis.

The Society encourages anyone with information or ideas on how to make the preservation of these buildings a reality to contact us or the city. Dreams do come true, these buildings are over 100 years old and we hope that the city can give them a chance- every minute of the future to make sure the right decision is made.

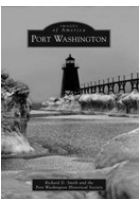
## RUMMAGE SALE FUNDRAISER

by Geri Zehren

As announced in last quarter's newsletter, the PWHS is sponsoring a fall rummage sale. Do you have closets and cabinets full of items you aren't using but that are just too good to toss? As you spring clean, think of "tossing" those items to the Society for this sale. Please hold onto your items but let us know if you're willing to donate or help staff this event. Please note: We will not accept clothing or electronics. We ask donors to

put a price tag on their items. When items are delivered to the Society, a donation slip will be given to the donor for their tax purposes. PWHS is a 501c3 organization and your donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. Value is established by the donor for their contribution to the PWHS rummage sale. Unsold items will not be returned. Please call with questions or if you have items to donate (262)-268-9150.

## Port Washington History from Arcadia Press



Sale of the new book on Port Washington from Arcadia Press will be available for purchase at the April 8th reception, at the office or Light Station. **Proceeds from copies sold through the Historical Society will benefit the Society.**

For more information, contact the Historical Society at 262-268-9150.



# LOST PORT WASHINGTON

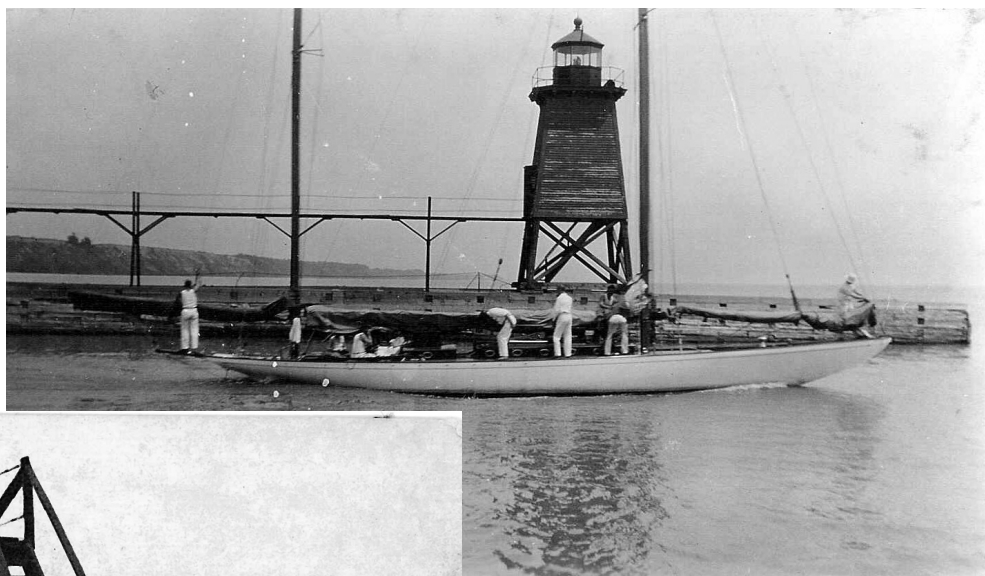


Port Washington Opera House, later the Community Center (left). The Wisconsin Chair factory, Roob's Restaurant and Theater on Grand Avenue (below). The old Fire Engine House (lower left)





The original light beacon and pier. The Light House Restaurant on Grand Avenue (below right).



The Blake house (above) and the Port Washington Train Depot (right)—both formerly on Grand Avenue.



## BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP

During this 20th anniversary year, the Historical Society invites businesses to join for \$75.

As an extra bonus, business members will receive advertising space in *Historical Perspectives*, the quarterly newsletter of the Society.

Please patronize the businesses listed on this page and thank them for supporting the Port Washington Historical Society

### *Tello's*

Family Restaurant Grille & Café  
*Hands down the best Mexican and  
Greek Food in Ozaukee County*

We Cater

262-268-1133

*[www.telloscafe.com](http://www.telloscafe.com)*



*Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow... Since 1899*

**Paulus Printing, LLC**

1270 S. Mineral Springs Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53074

*Serving Our Community  
Since 1970*

Phone: (262) 284-4934  
Email: [pauprint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pauprint@sbcglobal.net)

### *Wardrobe Safari*

228 N. Franklin Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262-284-3300

*Fashion forward adventure*

### *Schooner Pub*

216 N. Franklin Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262-284-4001

*Daily Drink Specials  
Sandwiches & Appetizers Served Daily  
Private Party Room Overlooking the Lake  
Large Selection of Specialty Beers  
Open 7 Days a Week*

### *Sharbuno Jewelers*

216 N. Franklin Street  
Port Washington, WI 53074  
262-284-4001

*Third Generation Jeweler  
Established 1950*

### *Night Owl Services*

Medical and legal transcription,  
manuscript preparation—draft to final  
copy editing, proofreading, general  
secretarial assistance as well as event  
planning/coordination.

262-268-9734      414-460-0045



## MEMBERSHIP



### NEW ANNUAL MEMBERS

Bonne E. Mayer  
Ted Stott

### BUY ONE, GIFT ONE NEW MEMBERS

Bob Charbonneau  
John & Rebecca Boudry

### NEW LIFETIME MEMBER

Edna Guenther  
Merton Lueptow  
Wayne Lueptow  
Louise Reed  
Mike D. Sauer  
Gailya Gieb

### NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

Paulus Printing  
Port Washington State Bank  
Schooner Pub  
Sharbuno's Jewelers  
Wardrobe Safari  
Tello's Family Restaurant

*Welcome New Members!*

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## JUNE 26 MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION DAY

Last year the Historical Society partnered with the Judge Eghart House to offer free tours of both facilities to members. Once again this year, members of each organization may tour one another's facilities. In celebration of the Historical Society's 20th Anniversary, the Light Station is hosting an open house with free tours to the general public. Light Station tours are free and cookies and lemonade will be available.

Bring your friends, family, neighbors and visit the Light Station this summer.

Free tours of the Light Station offered between 1-4pm.  
Historical Society members may tour the Judge Eghart House between 1-4pm

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## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

The second annual membership picnic will be held June 26th at Veterans' Park.

### SAVE THE DATE

**Time:** June 26th 4:30 PM - ?

**Place:** Veterans' Park - Pavilion

**Food:** grilled hamburgers and hotdogs, lemonade and soda available  
Bring a dish to share

Come and enjoy the picnic and stay for the concert at the band shell



## PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 491  
Port Washington, WI 53074-0491  
[www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org)

# Society Calendar

## **CHAMPAGNE & HORS D'OUVRES RECEPTION**

**Friday, April 8, 2011 at 6:00-8:00p.m.**

**Wilson House on Franklin (downtown Port)**

**Capital Fund Campaign Kickoff & Book Signing**

*Public and guests welcome!*

### **April 8, 2011**

Capital Fund Campaign Kickoff &  
Book Signing at the Wilson House  
6-8pm

### **May 14, 2011**

Light Station opens for tours

### **June 26, 2011**

**Light Station Open House**

1-4pm

**Member Picnic**

4:30-evening

### **August 19 – 21, 2011**

Maritime Heritage Festival