



Historical Perspectives

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Volume 24, Issue 3

SUMMER 2013

QUARTERLY PROGRAM: CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Mary Flierl

We are fortunate to have as our next quarterly program presenter, Rochelle Pennington, an award-winning newspaper columnist and bestselling author of ten books including *High-lighted in Yellow* (co-authored with H. Jackson Brown, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author), *The Historic Christmas Tree Ship* (as featured on national television), *Christmas Gifts: Ten of the Greatest Ever Given*, *An Old-Fashioned Christmas*, and more. Her work has been included in multiple bestselling series over the past two decades.



Pennington has written two books detailing one of the most well-known shipwrecks of the Great Lakes, Lake Michigan's Christmas Tree Ship, which delivered holiday evergreens to the citizens of Chicago each Christmas season before it was caught in the "Great Storm of 1912" and subsequently went to the bottom of the lake fully loaded with trees.

The ship is still loaded with its cargo today and is a popular Great Lakes dive site.

"It is a story which exemplifies the best of humanity," said Pennington. "At its heart we find courage, love, generosity, heroism, and the importance of family. The moment I first heard the story of the Christmas Tree Ship, I understood why it had endeared itself to so many people over the years and was still being shared a century later. The ship's final voyage was not to the bottom of the lake but into the pages of history."

The true account of Captain Schuenemann and his schooner is considered the "most loved story of the Great Lakes" over the past century. The story has inspired paintings, poems, six different Christmas Tree Ship songs, television programs, a musical performed all over the country titled "The Christmas Schooner," and a new Christmas Tree Ship sailed by the Great Lakes Coast Guard each holiday season as a living memorial.

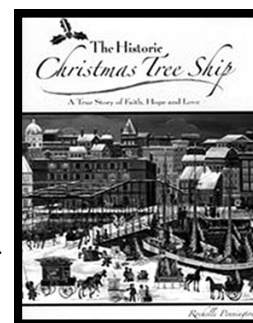
Several of us have experienced the performance of the "The Christmas Schooner" at Memories right here in Port Washington.

Pennington's initial book on the ship, *The Christmas Tree Ship: The Story of Captain Santa*, is an all-age summary of the story and includes vintage photographs complemented by the nautical artwork of famed painter Charles Vickery.

Pennington's follow-up documentary book, *The Historic Christmas Tree Ship: A True Story of Faith, Hope and Love*, is a 325-page expansion of the story and examines the legendary ship from every angle. The book includes more than 60 photographs, along with hundreds of citations from century-old newspaper clippings spanning a period of 140 years.

Pennington's power-point presentation includes many of the century-old photographs of Captain "Santa" Schuenemann, his family, and his ship. In addition, she will bring several artifacts along with her to share with the audience including an axe used to chop trees down,

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Newsletter

Michele Weiland

Quarterly Programs

Mary Flierl

Membership

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portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

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 Port Washington Historical Society

Membership

\$20 Individual
 \$30 Household
 \$10 Student
 \$75 Business
 \$50-\$500 Enhanced

President's Message

Dear Members,

As we near six months in the Resource Center, those of us that work in the building are pleased with how it is accommodating our needs. It is especially so as we work on different projects at the same time whether we are on the first or second floor. Our location on Franklin Street has made a huge difference in foot traffic that comes in the door on a weekly basis. Recently several donors have stepped forward to provide funds for the renovation of the façade. We are grateful for their generosity. Watch as our face on Franklin Street changes over the coming months.

With the completion of the work on the Resource Center, the focus will shift this summer to developing a local history museum. The addition of a museum to the city was something that was suggested by residents in a 2005 community study. Plans have been evolving over the past year. The former bank building, built in 1907 by Henry and Hill, will house that local history museum and will be a wonderful addition to the downtown. With new businesses locating in the city, the rebirth of the Boerner building, and the renovation of the Resource Center façade, the downtown is taking on a rejuvenated look.

On June 16 Afterglow Farm hosted *Spring in Bloom*, a rare opportunity for all that attended. The turnout far exceeded expectations with beautiful gardens and a lovely day. A huge thank you to Jean Schanen, Heidi Janous, and their committee and volunteers for all their hard work in planning and carrying out this fundraiser. Our gratitude is extended to the Uihlein family and the Afterglow staff for sharing their lovely spot of heaven.

In this quarterly issue we have included several of the photos that Ambrose Mayer collected over the years. We hope that you will enjoy them and others in the future. We thank the Mayer family for their donation.

Jackie Oleson, President
PW Historical Society Board of Directors

Extended Hours at Resource Center

With the onset of summer, the Resource Center will be open additional hours.

Monday, Thursday, Friday: 1:00-4:00

Saturday: 10:00-2:00

Special appointment hours can be arranged by calling the office at 262-268-9150.

Volunteers are sought to help man the building and work with archives and artifacts. If you are interested, contact Jackie at 262-268-9150.

CORRECTION:

Debbie Hill was the winner for the basket at the Kiss of Indulgence, not Dawn Hill.

RESOURCE CENTER FACADE

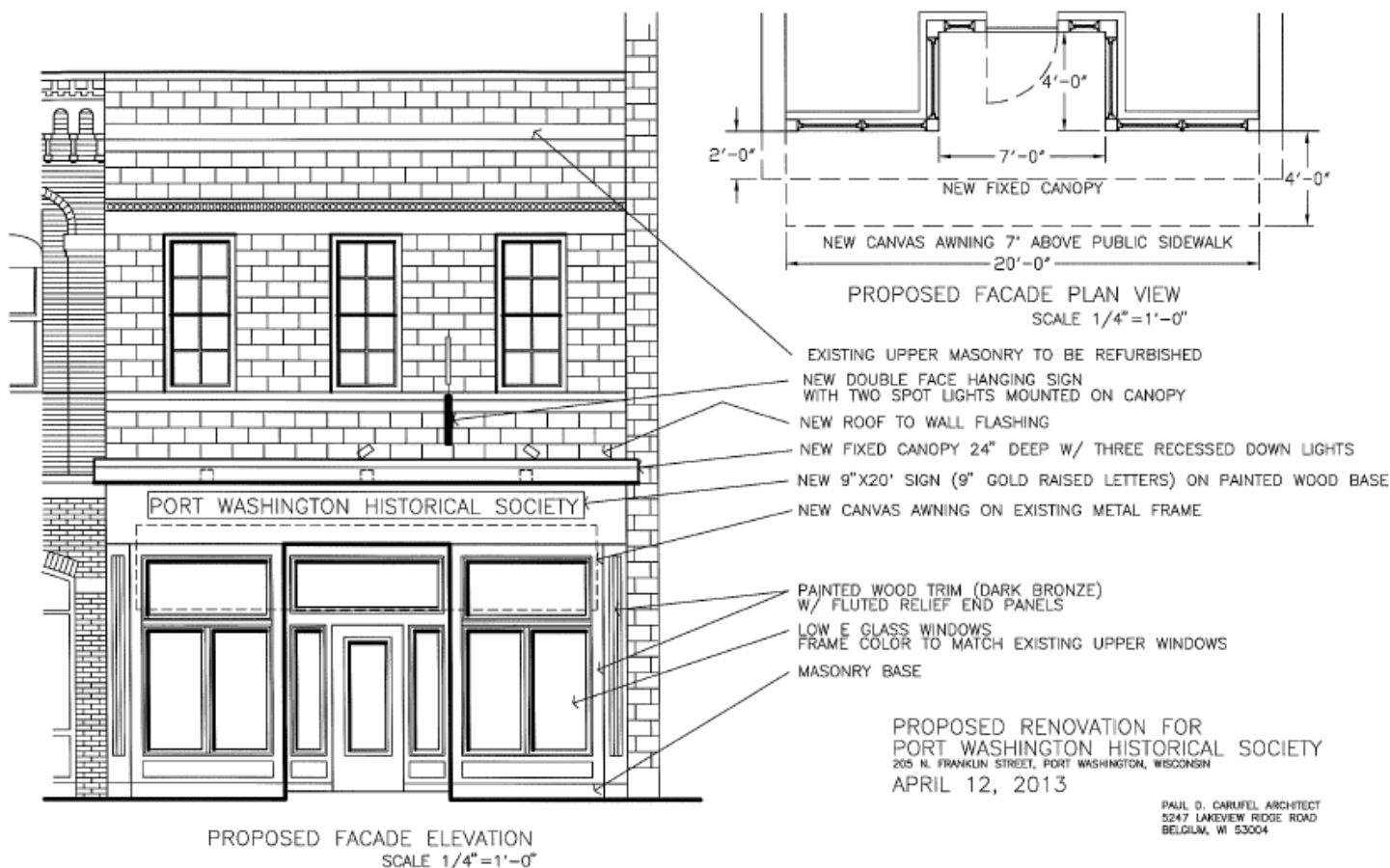
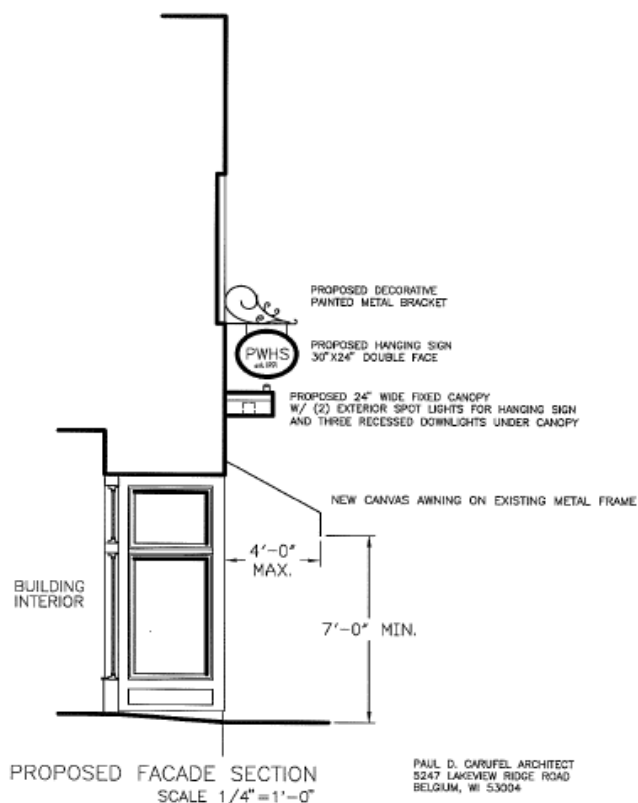
Jackie Oleson

In January of 2013, the Society moved into its new location at 205 N. Franklin Street, having completed renovations on the inside of the building. This completed phase I and II of the project and cost approximately \$184,000.

Phase III will consist of repair to the upper façade, relocation of the door to the center, replacement of windows, and the creation of a 1910 storefront look. Costs will total approximately \$50,000.

Donations to Phase III will make possible the façade renovation later this summer. Every effort will be made to have an entrance open onto Franklin Street during construction.

It is further hoped that the back entrance will also be renovated later in the year. The Capital Campaign Fund has raised over \$420,000. The Board of Directors thanks all of our donors who have helped to make the vision a reality. Please stop into the Resource Center and check us out.



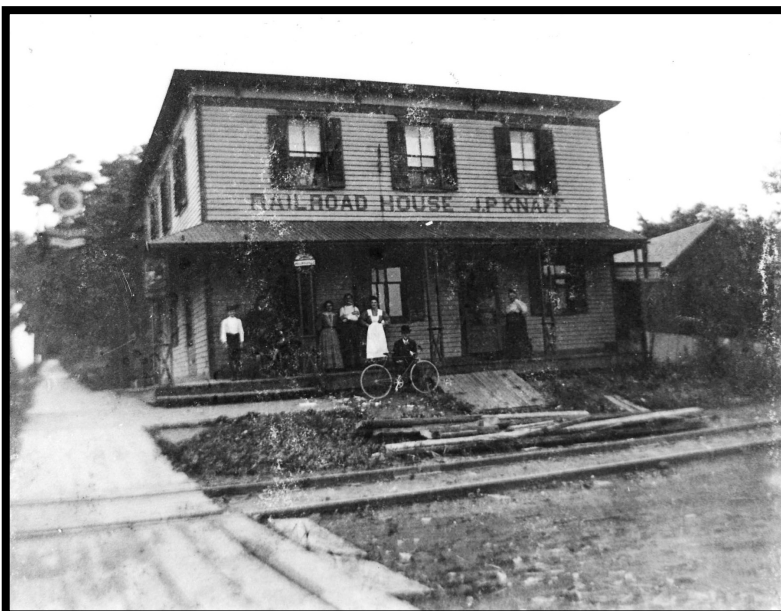
THE AMBROSE MAYER COLLECTION ADDED TO PWHS ARCHIVES

Jackie Oleson



In June, the Society was pleased and excited to accept the donation of the Ambrose Mayer Collection from the Mayer family. The collection consists of over 47 photo albums, numerous scrapbooks, business memorabilia and receipts, over 100 framed photos, negatives, photos, maps, and cream city bricks from a number of demolished buildings.

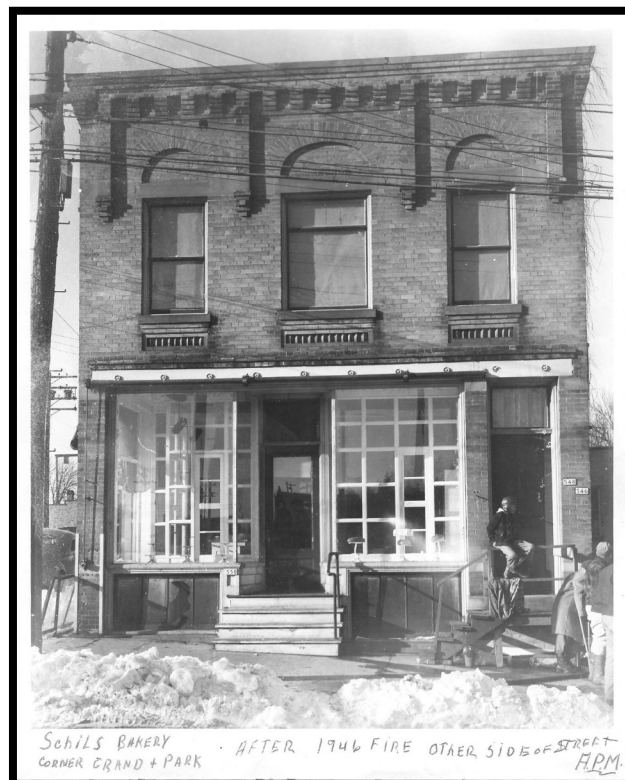
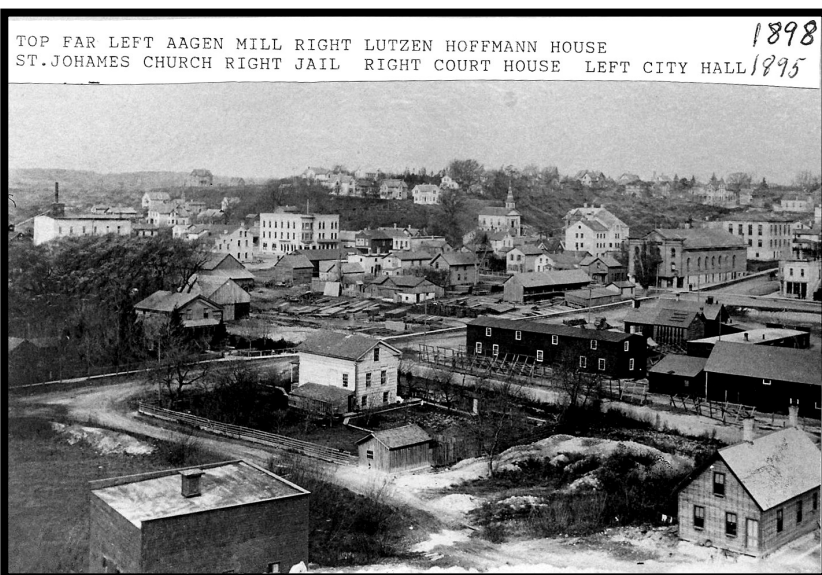
Volunteers have begun the task of cataloging and preserving the photos so that they can be shared with visitors to the Resource



Center.

Ambrose lived much of his life in Port Washington, served as Mayor, and was a founder and President of the PW Historical Society. He developed a passion for the city's history and gathered photos and items in order to document earlier events and the everyday life of Port Washington and its residents. This became the Ambrose Mayer Collection.

The Society is grateful to the family of Ambrose Mayer and for the opportunity to preserve portions of the community's history for future generations.





Second floor, looking East



Lincoln Smith telling Mary Flierl a fish story

OPEN HOUSE AT THE PWHS RESOURCE CENTER



Served with a smile



Celebration under the tin ceiling

LIGHT STATION NEWS

Kathie Gordon

We kicked off the touring season over Mother's Day weekend and have had a steady, if not enormous, stream of guests visiting each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday since. Thanks to Director Rick Smith, the LS building and grounds continue to stay in good repair, although Rick laments that this rainy weather has prevented him from doing any more exterior painting.

While on that topic, if any of you know a good, reliable, yet inexpensive contractor who would be able to

help us out, we really need a professional company to tackle the highest points of the building, soffits and gutters, etc. Just call Rick with that info at the RC office: 262-268-9150 or the LS office: 262-284-7240.

We welcome three new greeters to our LS team: Jim Lorge, Sally Ziegler, and Marcia Vrankin, whose husband, Howard, is now a "seasoned tour guide" after signing on last summer. Thanks for joining our dedicated volunteers. We always have room for more, so if you are inclined to help out, please give us a call.

MUSEUM ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

Many of you may have read the recent *Ozaukee Press* article regarding the most generous gift of Ambrose P. Mayer's extensive collection of historic Port Washington photographs and memorabilia. Mayer's daughter Jeanne Mayer donated the collection to the society, which her father helped found.

The *Press* article detailed the gift stating that "the collection includes several tubs of scrapbooks filled with photos, roughly 40 pictures in old frames and memorabilia — ink blotters from businesses like Bode's Sinclair Service and Port Washington State Bank, caps from Werking's Dairy, a coin purse from Ewig's House of Music and a key chain from First National Bank of Port Washington."

Gifts such as this will be incredibly important to the success of the Society's upcoming museum. They help us tell the history of Port, and especially the stories of those who built this community.

The creation of our museum continues to move forward. Architectural drawings for the building's renovation and restoration have been completed. Plans for a capital campaign are in motion. Work is starting on educational programming. Marketing and membership growth plans are in the works.

The success of each of these initiatives will build a foundation for this new treasure of a museum in Port. However, what is really important in the long run will be the experience that is created for the visitors. Gifts such as the Mayer collection will make the experience relevant and the stories we tell authentic.

Please look in your attics and basements for old photos, letters, diaries and personal articles from your family's past. As Jackie Oleson said in the *Press* article, "Consider donating these to the Society or allowing us to copy or photograph them to create a permanent record for the community."

Bill Moren — Chair, Museum Advisory Board

WELCOME ABOARD!

**That's the theme for this year's
ANNUAL DINNER.**

Date: Friday evening, October 18, 2013

Time: 5 p.m. til midnight

Place: Memories Ballroom

Attire: Casual

Our Annual Dinner Co-Chairs have planning well under way for this year's event. Keep posted for more info, which will come out later this summer.

Once again we will be entertaining at Memories Ballroom. This year's theme is "Welcome Aboard" as we invite all to get onboard with our plans for continued growth and support for the Historical Society.

Along with dinner and dessert, the evening will include music to dance to by D.J. Randy Lallensak, as well as lots of fun and games: 50/50 raffle, live auction, silent auction, money tree, wine pull, and more.

Please plan on joining us on Friday, October 18. And, if you have an item you'd like to donate to the auction, feel free to contact one of our Co-Chairs: Grace & Marc Eernisse at 284-2019, Lee & Pam Schlenvogt at 284-5728, or Kathie & Todd Gordon at 268-9734.

AFTERGLOW FARMS: SPRING IN BLOOM



It was a very special day at Afterglow Farm on June 16 as *Spring in Bloom* offered a rare opportunity for the public to tour the private gardens of Afterglow Farm. The fundraiser for the Port Washington Historical Society

attracted over 1,600 guests on a beautiful sunny day that was a respite from the rainy days of spring. John Eastberg, Afterglow Farm's historian, was on hand to collect stories of the property and the Uihlein family from visitors.

Our thanks go to volunteers from the Society, Ozaukee Master Gardeners, and all the other volunteers who gave of

their time both before the event and during. Thanks to our sponsors: *Ozaukee Press*, Columbia St. Mary's, Port Washington-Saukville Rotary Club, and Duluth Trading Company. A special thank you to Jean Schanen and Heidi Janous for months of planning. Our utmost gratitude goes to Lynde Uihlein for offering the gardens as a fundraiser for the Society and to the Afterglow Farm staff for their work preparing the gardens and property. And many thanks to the many visitors that day who helped make the day so remarkable. The event successfully raised more than \$16,000.

Jackie Oleson and Jean Schanen



DONATIONS & MEMORIALS



Since Spring Newsletter, 2013

PHASE III CAP FUND

ADMIRAL - \$50,000 & Up
Generous Donor

COMMODORE - \$10,000 - \$49,999
Nancy Klever

CAPTAIN - \$7,500 - \$9,999

CHIEF - \$5000 - \$7,499

FIRST MATE - \$2,500 - \$4,999
Geri and Roy Zehren

BOSUN - \$1000 - \$2,499

WHEELSMAN - \$500 - \$999
Gene Schmit

SEAMAN - UP TO \$499
Mary Flierl
Carol Heinen
Mark & Lori McRae

CEILING TILE (\$1000.00)
Sally Gilson Zigler

CEILING TILE (\$500.00)

CEILING TILE (\$250.00)
In Memory of Johannes and
Margarethe Biever from Keith Biever

MUSEUM CAP FUND
Anonymous - \$100,000 for elevator

AMBROSE MAYER COLLECTION
Jeanne Mayer

GIFT SHOPPE
Grace and Marc Eernisse
Toni Krick
Kathy Noltze
P. Gus Wiening

LIGHT STATION
Fabric for chair

Julie and Paul Carufel
RESOURCE CENTER
Fostoria Punch Bowl with Cups and
Brass Plate stand
Grace and Marc Eernisse
Donation for computer purchase
Bill and Pat Moren
Linda Nenn

MEMORIALS
In memory of Linda Torke Goebel:
Beatrice Funke
In memory of Bjorg and Albert
Frackelton: Joyce Trepel
In memory of Hazel Wesson:
Sue Bruner
Michele Weiland

IN KIND DONATIONS
Paul Drews - Drews True Value
Grace Eernisse
Carol Heinen
Bill and Pat Moren
Jackie Oleson
Geri Zehren

SPRING IN BLOOM SPONSORS
Columbia St. Mary's
Duluth Trading Co.
Ozaukee Press

PW-Saukville Rotary Club
Lynde B. Uihlein

**BOOKS/PAPERS/PAMPHLETS/
ABSTRACTS/MAPS**
Jim Fowler
Denise Boerner Lilly
Kathy Noltze
Jackie Oleson
Suzi Schaefer
Lloyd Smith
Judy Thill

PHOTO/NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS
Jim Fowler
Denise Boerner Lilly
Justin Yanke

**ANTIQUE METAL & WOOD /
GLASS/FABRIC**
Nancy Bodenstein
Jim Fowler

Carol Heinen
Alice Horton
Jeanette Kapp
Geri Zehren

FURNITURE/TOYS
Richard Husting
Charles Nitzke

BUSINESS ARTIFACTS
Nancy Bodenstein
Jim Fowler
Carol Heinen
Suzi Schaefer
Lincoln Smith
Jon Weinrich
Geri Zehren

PAINTINGS
Jim Fowler

CD/DVD
Barb Gilmore
Jackie Oleson

MEMBERSHIP

The Society welcomes the following new members...

ANNUAL

Jerry & Pat Baganz
George & Mary Jo Bichler
Andrea Cole Fyhrlund
Flora Larson
Mark & Lori MacRae
Vincent Morano

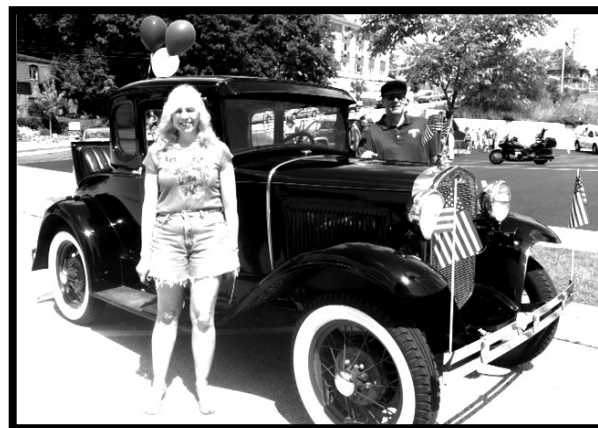
Don & Nina Ryer
Jason Wittek

BUSINESS

W. J. Niederkorn Museum & Art
Center, Inc.

ENHANCED MEMBERSHIPS

Member Plus
Lou Helen Kirschling



Thanks Mike and Lora Sauer for providing our entry in the Fourth of July parade!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPPORTUNITIES

October may seem distant from July and summer, but it is time to think of filling upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors. The Port Washington Historical Society has been most fortunate to have good leaders, and their time and energy is most appreciated. Each October we have elections for those whose terms have expired and for the vacancies that need to be filled for those who can no longer volunteer their time on the Board. The present Board of Directors and their terms' expiration are: Kathie Gordon, Mike Keller, Pat Moren, Michele Weiland (2013); Sue Bruner, Mark Dybdahl, Grace Eernisse, Lee Schlenvogt (2014); Jeff Morgan, Deb Neulrich, Jackie Oleson, Bill Schanen (2015).

It is the hope of the Nominating Committee that individuals who have an interest in preserving the history and heritage of the Port Washington area would step forth and become candidates for the Board of Directors election in October 2013. The Board meets once a month on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm. Meetings are generally held at the new Port Washington Historical Society building, 205 N. Franklin Street. Depending on committee involvement, board members may meet at different times. An application for the Board is included below. Additional copies are available at the Port Washington Historical Society Resource Center. Please consider sharing your time and talents with the Port Washington Historical Society.

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY CANDIDATE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Application for Board of Directors Personal Data Form

Please print or type. Attach a sheet of paper if additional space is required.

Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____ E-mail: _____
Occupation: _____ Education: _____

Biographical information - Family:

Community and civic affiliations, organizations and service club participation - indicate any offices held:

Hobbies or special interests:

Additional information or comments you would like to share:

Please state your intentions or goals as a potential member of the Board of Directors:

I am a current member of the Port Washington Historical Society and am interested in serving a 3-year term on the Board of Directors.

Signature: _____

Return this form to:

Nomination Chairperson, PW Historical Society, P.O. Box 491, Port Washington, WI 53074 by August 1, 2013.

If you have further questions you may phone Mary Flierl at 262-284-4920.

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY 2013 MEMBERSHIP FORM

REGULAR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Individual \$20

Household \$30

Student \$10

- Voting privileges at PWHS membership meetings
- Quarterly *Historical Perspectives* newsletters
- Free admission to Research Center at the Luxemburg American Cultural Center in Belgium
- Use of Resource Center at 205 N. Franklin Street, PW
- Free admission to 1860 Light Station Museum
- 10% discount on PWHS gifts, excluding publications

Business \$75

- Advertising in quarterly *Historical Perspectives* newsletters
- Designated person voting privileges at PWHS membership meetings
- (All benefits of Regular Membership for designated person)

Note: Business memberships run from April to April

ENHANCED ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS

Member Plus

- Individual \$50 or Family of two \$100
- All benefits of Regular Membership
- Complimentary admission to Spring Reception

Premium Membership

- Individual \$200
- All benefits of Regular Membership
- Complimentary admission to Annual Dinner

Supporting Membership

- Individual \$500
- All benefits of Regular, Member Plus and Premium Member
- Special Recognition in newsletter
- Private tour of Light Station for 8 guests

Please cut and return completed form

PWHS MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION

Type of Membership:

- ☐ Regular (\$20/\$30/\$10)
☐ Business (\$75)
☐ Member Plus (\$50/\$100)
☐ Premium Member (\$200)
☐ Supporting Member (\$500)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

e-mail address: _____

Gift Membership:

- ☐ Regular (\$20/\$30/\$10)
☐ Business (\$75)
☐ Member Plus (\$50/\$100)
☐ Premium Member (\$200)
☐ Supporting Member (\$500)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City State Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

PWHS will send a gift card to above person/s

☐ I would like make a donation to the Society at this time in the amount of \$ _____

Date: _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

☐ Please charge to my Master or Visa Card:

Card No. _____

Exp. Date: _____

Amount: \$ _____

Signature: _____


Please note: When charging with credit card, it is necessary to use the address and zip code where credit card is billed

☐ Please add me to your e-mail mailing list so that I can receive updates on upcoming events and *Historical Perspectives*

Annual memberships expire December 31, 2013

Port Washington Historical Society 205 N. Franklin Street P. O. Box 491
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**Ozaukee
PRESS**

Port Washington's newspaper
262-284-3494
www.ozaukeepress.com

(Continued from page 1)

dishes, a medicine bottle, a spittoon, a clay pipe, an ornament carved from one of the first Christmas trees raised from the ship in 1971 when the vessel was discovered, and an actual Christmas tree from the cargo. Underwater photos of the ship with its trees still visible in the cargo area are included with the program as well.

Her books will be available for sale the night of the program with profits going to the Port Washington His-

torical Society. Marc and Grace Eernisse are sponsoring Rochelle Pennington's program.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held Wednesday, July 17, in the Wilson House Community Room, provided by the Port Washington State Bank. The meeting will begin at 6:45 pm with a short business meeting, followed by the program "The Christmas Tree Ship" by Rochelle Pennington at 7:00 pm. The meeting is open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

MARITIME HERITAGE FESTIVAL 2013

August 23rd, 24th, and 25th

Spread the word about another great Maritime Heritage Festival on the shores of this city with a rich history of Lake Michigan. This is the year to stress our heritage - schooners sailing in to settle our shores with immigrants and goods, fishing vessels creating an industry, and memories of coal boats docking with their delivery of tons of coal.

Tall ships will not be present this year. Featured are one of the newer 45' Coast Guard cutters and the fishing vessel *Susie Q*. Both will have deck tours for the public. The Lakeside Spirit will offer harbor tours, "Another First View of the City" for those who approach from the water. It will feature reasonably priced tours throughout the festival with narratives explaining the full history of Port Washington.

Once again the cardboard box regatta will host a variety of vessels crafted out of cardboard, duct tape, paint and glue—to race or to sink—to a cheering crowd of onlookers. Check the times, as the races are featured both Saturday and Sunday.

The Society will engage the local merchants with participation in a contest to match up a display, a picture of an anchor or a tug replica, with their location. We are making it a family walk through the downtown to engage the merchants with the festival, the suggested prize to be Downtown Dollars to spend downtown.

There will be a presence on the grounds in the Educational tent at Rotary Park as we did last year. It was good PR for the Society. The Light Station will be open for tours as will the Resource Center (facade remodeling permitting).

This is your Society presenting the history of the city. As always volunteers are needed to help with the event. Please think about spending a few hours at the Light Station as a greeter (no experience needed), out on the festival grounds, or at the Resource Center. We need you, and your help is greatly appreciated.

Call me at home, 284-2547, or at the office, 268-9150. There is a spot for you to help prepare for this event or to participate in the festival. Ideas are always welcome.

*Geri Zehren,
PWSH Maritime Heritage
Festival Chair*

**** HELP! ****

Each newsletter printing costs the Society \$223. You can help save money by opting to receive newsletters via email rather than snail mail. If you would like to help, please contact the office at:
portwashhistosoc@att.net
or 262-268-9150.



PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 491
Port Washington, WI 53074-0491
www.portwashingtonhistoricalsociety.org

Upcoming Events

QUARTERLY MEETING **Wednesday, July 17** **7:00 p.m.**

The Wilson House Community Room
Business Meeting at 6:45

Maritime Heritage Festival Weekend of August 23-25

Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 16
Election of Board of Directors
Program to follow

Annual Dinner and Dance
Friday, October 18, 5 p.m. to Midnight
Memories Ballroom

Antique Appraisals Monday, September 23, 5 - 8 p.m. W. J. Niederkorn Library

For more events,
visit our Facebook page at:

*[www.facebook.com/
PortWashingtonHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/PortWashingtonHistoricalSociety)*