



2019 Tour of Homes

Sunday, October 6

see page 6

Fall 2019

Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Calendar of Events

For more information and to register for Guided Walking Tours, visit waukeganparks.org

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September

September 14

Oakwood Cemetery Walk

September 2-December 31

Uncovered Exhibit in Museum

September 2-October 6

Caption This Photo Exhibit

September 13

History of Waukegan's Cemeteries Lunch and Learn

October

October 6

Tour of Homes

October 8-January 21, 2020

Abraham Lincoln Exhibit at Museum

October 11

Waukegan Found in Bradbury's "Something Wicked This Way Comes" Lunch and Learn

October 28

Haunted Waukegan Walking Tour

October 31

Haunted Waukegan Walking Tour

November

November 1

Sunset Cemetery Tour

December

December 3

Waukegan Historical Society Victorian Christmas Open House at Museum

President's Letter

Josh Bill

Ray Bradbury Statue Unveiled

I hope you are all enjoying the final days of summer. As a teacher, my summer has already concluded, and I am back at Waukegan High School to tackle another year. The school year promises to be a good one with a continuation of our Waukegan history elective at the high school, as well as hopes that students and teachers alike come back refreshed and rejuvenated. I wish a safe and happy school year to our student members and to all our members who are teachers (I know there are many of you). The historical society has a very exciting autumn ahead!

Our summer festivities went very well. We were proud to be sponsors of the Ray Bradbury Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival, Lake County's Juneteenth Celebration, as well as the Partners in the Park Golf outing. In the meantime, Bryan Escobar has been hard at work creating a pop-up exhibit for Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15th – October 15th) that will tell the story of Latino immigration to Waukegan. You can start checking out the exhibit at our Oakwood Cemetery Walk or Tour of Homes, which are two major highlights of the fall season. The cemetery walk staff is compiling a "Greatest Hits," where we will re-tell some of our favorite stories over the past several decades. Also, please consult the calendar of events in this newsletter and take note of all our society happenings. Be sure to order your tickets to the cemetery walk and our Tour of Homes this year. There are some wonderful homes to explore!

It was good to see many of you at the unveiling of the new Ray Bradbury statue that now welcomes us all at the front of the public library. We are now one year away from what would be Bradbury's 100th birthday. Stay tuned to see various activities for the summer of 2020 to help celebrate the life and legacy

of Waukegan's most prolific author.

Finally, it is hard to believe that more than a year has passed since we all got together for our 50th anniversary celebration in April of 2018. As I reflect on the past year, I am so grateful to you, our members, as well as our dedicated board of directors and outstanding volunteers. It is you who give life to the society and I cannot imagine where we would be without your help. Thank you so much, and I hope you enjoy the fall. Please come and see us at the museum, research library, or at one of our many events over the next few months.

Cemetery Walk

Tickets: \$5 in advance, \$10 on the day of the Walk. *Limited tickets available.*

Start at Lilac Cottage in Bowen Park (1911 N. Sheridan Road).

Bus departure times:
12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.
2:00 p.m. and 2:30 p.m.
3:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

Public parking is not permitted at the cemetery during the event.

Each tour is expected to run approximately 1.5 hours and will include walking on uneven ground. The Cemetery Walk is held rain or shine.

1031 N. Sheridan Road

25th Annual Oakwood Cemetery Walk

Saturday, September 14
12:00-5:00 pm

We have selected some of our favorite personas and stories from the past 25 years. Experience them again, or for the first time! The Oakwood Cemetery Walk is an annual "living history" event showcasing the rich history of Waukegan using costumed actors to portray local historical figures with connections to the cemetery and Waukegan.



Fall 2019

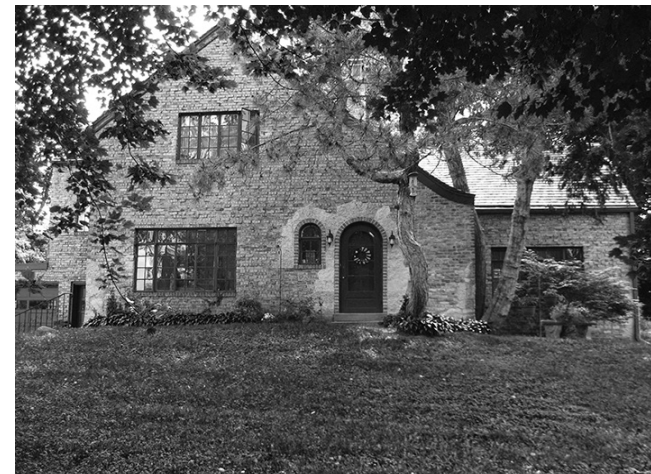
2019 Tour of Homes

Sunday, October 6
1:00-5:00 pm

In the many years we have held the Tour we have included some of Waukegan's finest and most interesting homes. This year we are particularly lucky to have four wonderful homes open for the Tour.

412 Greenwood was on the Tour many years ago and everyone will want to see what the new owners have accomplished in a few years. 2223 Corona sits on a commanding corner overlooking the entrance to Buckley Hills and attendees will love what has been done to the interior of this beautiful home. 452 Glendenning Place is most unusual because it has been in the same family since it was built. The home exhibits quality construction and the care taken to maintain it is evident. 1031 N. Sheridan Rd. has never been on the Tour and attendees will be in awe of this home's situation set back from the street and the spectacular interiors.

Join us for the 2019 Tour of Homes and bring your friends. What a nice gift for your friends to ask them to join you on the Tour of Homes. This is our largest fundraiser each year. If you cannot attend, then please consider a tax free donation.



Newsletter of the Waukegan Historical Society

Day-of Tickets: \$25

Advance Tickets

Society Members: \$15

General Public: \$20

Society Members!
Purchase Your Tickets here:

Waukegan History Museum
1917 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park

Raymond Research Library, Lilac Cottage
1911 N. Sheridan Road in Bowen Park

General Public Tickets

Jack Benny Center
39 Jack Benny Drive in Bowen Park

Downtown Ace Hardware,
239 N. Genesee Street

Cash or check only at all sites except Downtown Ace Hardware.

2223 Corona Road

Waukegan History Museum Update

Bryan Escobar, Arts and History Specialist

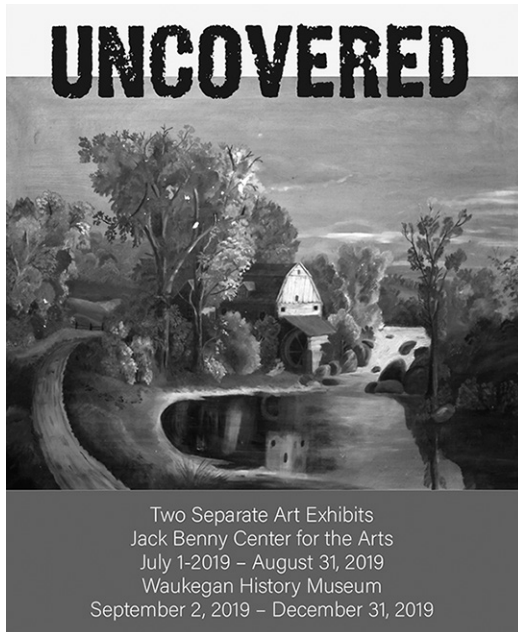
Fall Museum Exhibits

As a continuation of our “Uncovered” Exhibit, our pieces of art will be put on display in the Waukegan History Museum from September 2nd-December 31st. Many of these pieces of art showcase different aspects of Waukegan’s history. Our plan is to integrate these pieces and others as a regular part of the experience within each room. Another small photo exhibit will be called “Caption This,” where we will be posting up photographs from our collection and asking the public to create captions on post-it notes that will be placed next to the images.

Starting on September 15 and running until October 15, we will have a small pop-up exhibit in the museum focusing on Latino history in

Waukegan. This will be up during Hispanic Heritage Month, but our intent is to develop it into an exhibit that can be shown at other locations.

Our travelling Abraham Lincoln exhibit will be on display at the Waukegan History Museum from October 8 to January 31, 2020. If you missed it while it was at the Jack Benny Center, stop on by!



Waukegan Zouaves: Part 1

J. P. Young

Though the Waukegan Zouaves were in existence for a very brief time, their history demonstrates Waukegan’s patriotism and desire to be amongst the ‘first to fight’ for the United States of America. In many wars certain elite military formations attracted the attention of the press and the public. In World War II paratroopers, commandos, rangers and raiders made newspaper headlines and inspired the home front. During the Vietnam War the Special Forces ‘Green Berets’, Air Commandos and Navy SEALs made headlines. In the mid-19th century, Zouaves were all the rage.

The original Zouaves were infantry units of the French Armée d’Afrique created in 1831 in Algeria. Eight companies of the regiment were locally recruited members of the Zouaoua tribe whilst the remaining two companies were European French. The Zouaves record of valor soon established them as an elite regiment in the French Army. They came to American attention during the Crimean War when United States Army Captain George McClellan (later Commander of the Army of the Potomac, Commanding General of the United States Army and an unsuccessful candidate for the Presidency), who had been sent to the Crimea as a military observer, would write that-

The Zouaves are all French; they are selected from among the old Campaigners, for their fine physique and tried courage, and have certainly proved that they are, what their appearance would indicate, the most reckless, self-reliant, and complete infantry that Europe can produce.....With his graceful dress, soldierly bearing, and vigilant attitude, the Zouave at an outpost is the beau ideal of a Soldier...The Zouaves have, combined with all the activity and energy of the others, that solid ensemble, and reck-

less, dare-devil individuality, which would render them alike formidable, when attacking in mass, or in defending a position in the most desperate hand to hand encounter.

Several American state military volunteer formations adopted the colorful Zouave dress and light infantry tactics. Perhaps the most influential person to adopt the Zouave cause was Elmer Ephraim Ellsworth. Born in poverty in upstate New York, he was the son of a door-to-door oyster salesman. Ellsworth was interested in a military career since childhood, but discovered that in time of peace without having powerful friends it was no easy task to be accepted into the United States Military Academy at West Point. Ellsworth travelled to Rockford, Illinois in 1854 where he worked as a clerk in a patents office. He later moved to Chicago to study law and became a law clerk. Small in stature, he strictly avoided tobacco and alcohol, much like Abraham Lincoln. In 1857 the 20-year-old obtained support in Chicago to organize and lead a fire brigade a year before the Chicago created its first paid fire department. In Chicago in 1857 he met Dr. Charles DeVilliers, a Frenchman who had been a surgeon with the French Chasseurs d'Afrique and served alongside the Zouave Regiments in the Crimean War. DeVilliers taught Ellsworth fencing and Zouave drill.

Ellsworth put his Zouave interest to strong use two years later in 1859 when he was commissioned a captain in the Illinois State Militia. He accepted the position as Captain of a company known as the National Guard Cadets which had been organized in 1856, but was on the verge of disbanding. He reorganized the company, renaming them the United States Zouave Cadets and then trained his men in his Zouave style of drill with the assistance of DeVilliers. Ellsworth had his company wear Zouave style of dress of his own design which bore little resemblance to the French style uniform. Ellsworth's men wore large red silk pantaloons and fez, a bright blue tunic

with shiny gold buttons worn open over a collarless shirt and white belts and leggings and performed their three hour drill wearing 25 pound field packs. He also made his men take a temperance pledge and stay out of barrooms, gambling salons, billiard halls and houses of 'vulgar resort' and dismissed twelve of his men for drinking.

In 1860 Ellsworth's 50 Zouave Cadets commenced a 20-city tour of the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic to challenge the local militia volunteer units in military drills in those areas. The members agreed that no efforts in the way of hard and continuous drill, and strictest and most exacting discipline, should be spared to carry out their resolve to defend their colors and save them from capture.'

Ellsworth and the members of the company raised thousands of dollars to finance the trip, and on July 2nd, 1860, with 50 members of the Zouave Cadets, and accompanied by the Chicago Light Guard Band (15 men and five servants), they toured the nation. The tour's first stop was Adrian, Michigan, on July 3rd, then on to Detroit, Cleveland, Niagara Falls, Rochester, Syracuse, Utica, Troy, Albany, and on July 14th the Military Academy at West Point where they preformed their exhibition for Lieutenant General Winfield Scott and Brevet Major William J. Hardee, who was then West Point's Commandant of Cadets and the author of a book of light infantry tactics. They went onto Boston and Salem, Massachusetts, Philadelphia, where they were greeted by the members of the Philadelphia Zouave Corps, then Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington D.C., on August 5th, where they drilled on the White House lawn for President James Buchanan. They continued their tour to Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Missouri, and the final stop of Springfield, Illinois where they were viewed by Abraham Lincoln.

To quote from Whet Moser's Elmer Ellsworth: America's First Pin-Up and the First Martyr of the Civil War- Ellsworth was a star. Women wanted him, and men wanted to be him: "school-girls

dreamed over the graceful wave of his curls, and shop-boys tried to reproduce the ‘Grand Seigneur’ air of his attitude,” Lincoln’s secretary, John Hay, wrote. Goodheart goes even further: “Just a few years earlier, an English inventor had created the first photographs that could be reproduced in large numbers from single negatives. Now Ellsworth became the first pinup in America’s—perhaps even the world’s—history.

They arrived back in Chicago on August 14th, 1860, to a great deal of public acclaim. On August 19th the Zouave Cadets gave what would be their final drill exhibition for the Home of the Friendless in Chicago; two months later in October Ellsworth disbanded his Cadets and moved to Springfield. Forty-seven of the 50 Zouave Cadets who went on the tour served in the Union Army, while two joined the Confederate States Army.

Ellsworth became Paymaster General of the Illinois State Militia, befriended Abraham Lincoln who regarded him as a surrogate son, went to work as a law clerk in Lincoln’s law firm, then used his popularity from his tour to campaign for Lincoln for President.

Upon a visit to his parents in New York in 1859, Ellsworth told his mother that he had decided to make the military his life. His mother laughed and said that it was unfortunate that he had not been born in Europe where wars occur all the time. Elmer prophetically replied that he felt that the problems between the North and South of the United States would eventually explode into war.

Minor in History

The Marriage Mill

Ali Bill

One day in November, 1922, my great-grandparents took the train to Waukegan from Chicago and were married at the stately courthouse downtown. Clarence Schultz was twenty-one; his bride, Frances Malewski, was nineteen. They were next-door neighbors, but both families disapproved because the Schultzes were Lutheran and the Malewskis Catholic, so they decided to elope.

When I first heard this story, about a decade ago, I was excited that I could now claim a small piece of Waukegan history as my own. I conjured up a whole romantic day for them: orange and brown leaves still on the trees and the gray lake out the train window as they came north, holding hands on the walk from the train station to the courthouse, my great-grandma stopping to admire the sun glinting off her ring as they strolled arm-in-arm down Genesee Street afterwards, maybe a stop at the Academy Theater for a movie, laughing with the brazen delight of what they’d done, their secret. I enjoyed this entirely-made-up story until the day over at the Raymond Library that I mentioned it to Ann Darrow. “You know Waukegan used to be a marriage mill back then,” she told me. No, I definitely did not know – in fact I didn’t even know that marriages could be mass-produced.

The marriage mill set-up was deceptively simple: the county clerk, Lew Hendee, allowed pretty much anyone to get married in Waukegan at any hour of the day. If you came to his office during regular business hours, you were charged \$2, one for license and one for a certificate of proof. But if you came after hours, to his home, or if you located him somewhere in town, it was \$5. He claimed to the Chicago Tribune that 65% of his customers were from Wisconsin, where there was a five-day waiting

period, and that he was just making it convenient for people who were busy during the day to get married too without losing a day's salary.

Hendee was something of a character. His own obituary calls him "the Republican party and political king-maker" of his era, and reports that he got married the year that he was the president of the local Bachelor's Club. He claimed to have been one of the Rough Riders in Edward Amet's movie about the Battle of San Juan Hill, and was so popular even with Democrats that a political rival remarked, "let's get a guy [on the slate to run against Hendee] so weak his own wife won't vote for him". This popularity may have been linked to the fact that his marriage mill was profiting everyone, liberal or conservative, who could figure out how to get on the act, and by the mid-1930s, Hendee's cottage industry seemed to be actually staving off the effects of the Great Depression for Waukegan, with notably lower unemployment here.

So my great-grandparents' wedding day likely looked a little more like this: when they got off the train, they would have been greeted by a group of "hustlers" offering different packages or opportunities. First would have been an overpriced cab ride to the jeweler to pick out a ring, then to the doctor, if the victims were from Wisconsin, which required a certificate of health before marriage in accordance with their eugenics law. Then the florist, and then off to find Hendee – at the courthouse, and if not business hours, at his house, where his deputized wife or housekeeper could also have signed and issued the license if he was sleeping. Next, they'd be driven to find a justice of the peace, or minister. The JPs all had signature deals – you could find Michael J. Haney at a favorite restaurant after hours, sipping coffee and performing marriages, with the delivering cab drivers getting an extra cut. Or there was JP Wallenwein, the most prolific of the group, who advertised that he'd marry anyone for free who'd get married on the thirteenth of the month, apparently

a low-traffic date, or if the woman would sign an affidavit stating she had done the proposing. Then there was the aptly-named Bert S. Love, who handed out cards saying "Let Love Marry You". After the hasty ceremony, it was off to celebrate. Overall, this might have cost Grandpa Doc \$25 if he went in for all of the extras.

In 1934, Democrat Russ Alford ran against Hendee, who by then had been in office 23 years, on the platform of shutting down the marriage mill. He contended that Hendee's hustle was in violation of the laws of other states – and indeed it does sound as though interracial marriage and flaunting of eugenics laws were the norm at the Waukegan county clerk's office, though probably in pursuit of profit rather than acceptance. Alford narrowly won, and was not seated for 11 months because Hendee was on the committee that was certifying the election count, and unsurprisingly, demanded a recount and used all manner of delaying tactics. As county clerk, Alford did shut down the marriage mill, but in doing so made a lot of Waukegan citizens unemployed, and thus was not re-elected.

My great-grandparents lived long enough that I knew them, and were always fiercely, noticeably, in love. I wish I'd known to ask them if they were daytime or night-time customers of Lew Hendee, if they thought the lakefront was beautiful, and when they finally told their parents they were married. I know that when they got home from Waukegan that day, they each went silently back to their own houses and initially kept their secret. I know that he affectionately called her "Tootsie", and that my grandpa was born eleven months later - so it couldn't have been a secret for that long.



Find Us on Facebook!

Like the "Waukegan History Museum" on Facebook!

Thank You!

New Members

Helen M. Darsnek
Mary L. Moore
Giselle Thompson
LaDman Linus-Kelley
Karen Gamble
Christian Haunton & Sara Dohrman
Heide K. Olson

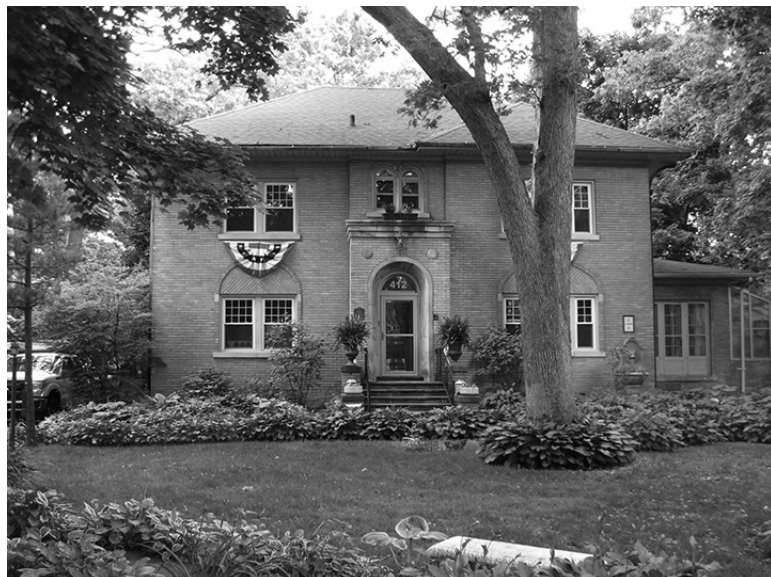
New Life Members

Zachary Sapienza

Building Fund Donors

Lunette M. Eichler
(In memory of Howard and Cleone Petersen)
Gregory M. Alloian

412 Greenwood Avenue



Join Us!

NAME(S) _____

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STATE _____ ZIP _____

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MEMBERSHIP

Senior (age 60+)	\$15.00
Student	\$5.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Patron, Organization	\$100.00
Life, Individual	\$150.00
Life, Couple	\$300.00
My additional gift	\$ _____

Make checks payable to
Waukegan Historical Society.

Volunteer

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Waukegan Historical Society

Founded in 1968, the Society collects, preserves, interprets, and exhibits significant materials about the history of the Waukegan area. The Society, in cooperation with the Waukegan Park District, operates the History Museum and Raymond Library and publishes this quarterly newsletter.

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Waukegan, IL 60087
847-336-1859
www.waukeganhistorical.org
info@waukeganhistorical.org

Visit our website for more information about events, exhibits, and our extensive library.

www.waukeganhistorical.org

Waukegan History Museum in Bowen Park

1917 N. Sheridan Road
Manager of Cultural Arts: Ty Rohrer
847-360-4744
haines@waukeganparks.org
Arts & History Specialist: Bryan Escobar
847-360-4749
bescobar@waukeganparks.org
Tuesday, Thursday: 10am - 4pm
Saturday: 1pm-4pm

John L. Raymond Research Library

1911 N. Sheridan Road
Librarian: Beverly Millard
847-360-4772
library@waukeganhistorical.org
Wednesday, Thursday, Friday
10am - 2:30pm



Tour of Homes

Sunday, October 6
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

452 Glendenning Place

