



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)
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Spring 2017

ALL ABOARD!

The race to link East to
West was on!

Who would be the first
to build the

TRANSCONTINENTAL RAILROAD ?

Historical Evening – April 1

The Roselle History Museum invites you to its annual Historical Evening on Saturday, April 1, to discover how this important event impacted our country's history. The evening will begin with a wine and cheese reception at 7:30 p.m. featuring wine from Lynfred Winery followed by the program at 8:00 p.m. After the program, guests will be invited to enjoy homemade cookies along with their choice of coffee or lemonade.

The story of the Transcontinental Railroad was an impossible dream made possible by hand, arm, back, shovel, cart, horse, wood, iron, dynamite, brains, and a whole lot of money. Singing while they swung their hammers, more than 10,000 laborers pounded the tracks to progress that transformed our continent forever. Learn about the events that paved the way to western expansion through the eyes of the people in this fast-paced, fact-based, musical tale brought to life by the award-winning duo, Amy Lowe and Megan Wells. These gifted performers presented our enthusiastically-received program a few years ago about the Great Chicago Fire, *Fire in Boomtown*.

Tickets may be purchased in advance at the Roselle History Museum Office, Roselle Village Hall, or from museum members at \$15 for adults; students ages 6-12 will be admitted free. Tickets purchased the night of the performance will be \$18 for adults.



Advance tickets may be ordered using the form in this newsletter. Send your check, along with the form, to Roselle Historical Foundation, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172. Tickets purchased by mail

may be picked up at the door the night of the performance.



FLAGS FOR ROSELLE

**SIGN UP NOW!
CALL YOUR NEIGHBORS!**

They're here! The Flags for Roselle have arrived and are waiting to be placed in front yards throughout Roselle. Memorial Day (May 29) will be the first of four holidays that American flags will fly in front of residents' homes. This unique community activity will be repeated on Flag Day (June 14), Independence Day (July 4), and Veterans' Day (November 11).

Lake Park High School students and other volunteers will install a flag in your front yard in the morning of the holiday, and remove it at the end of that same day. You have until April 1 to subscribe to the program. Make it a neighborhood event!

Consider a gift for someone or some organization. Simply provide us with the name and address of the recipient of your choice. Perhaps you'd like to have a flag installed some place special. Several subscribers have requested their flag be placed at the Veterans' Memorial on Irving Park Road.

"Flags for Roselle," brand new to our community, is a fund-raising effort to benefit the Roselle Historical Foundation, the Roselle American Legion Charitable Foundation, and the Lake Park High School Educational Foundation. All three are 501(c)(3) organizations.

To subscribe, you may either send a check for \$40 to the Roselle Historical Foundation, 39 E. Elm St., or you may pay online at www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com.

This is your opportunity to revive a spirit of patriotism throughout town. If you would like more information or have questions, call the Roselle History Museum at 630-351-5300 or email rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.

LKF: It was almost unheard of for Americans to fly the flag at their homes or businesses until the fall of Ft. Sumter in April 1861. Until then, the flag was primarily used by the military as a communications device (mostly on Navy ships). (*Flag: An American Biography*)

Two Houses in “*Roselle-That-Was*”

Pastor Charles S. Mueller, Sr.

There are still a few farm houses in Roselle filled with family memories reaching back a hundred years or more. But most houses are of more recent vintage, usually bought on the open market by today's occupants.

Intermingled in the world of Roselle housing are a few that were built by their first occupants, sometimes with their own hands. Here's the tale of two.



In the 1920s and later, folks drove out our way on a winding, bumpy and two-laned Irving Park Road from as far away as Bensenville and even Chicago. They came to look at lots that developers like William Fenz offered. Some who bought a lot turned to Roselle Lumber Yard for building material and names of local skilled workers who could build for them. Others turned to family and friends for help in building. Overarching this process was the matter of finding financing.

Buying a lot, finding a builder, and working out the financing all played a part in building a home for Marge and Al Engel at 112 W. Maple. In 1951 Al's dad, Martin, took a year's leave from the railroad, without pay, and built the young couple their house. What a gift for the twosome who early in their marriage bought a lot in Roselle so they could raise their already developing family in the same community in which they had grown up.

Financing? The lumber yard let them run a construction materials tab until the house was under roof and they could get a bank loan. That happened because as a kid Al had mowed the lawn for and gained the trust of the lumber yard owner.

Memories can be a long-term blessing as Bertha and Bill Thorsell (lovingly known as Ma and Pa) learned when they built their home at 18 W. Maple in 1928. Early in her life Bertha had worked for a farm couple around the couple's home. Bertha was energetic, dependable, and served the couple well. Bill trained for and became a skilled carpenter before he and Bertha met and married.

Once married they saved as much as they could to buy a lot and build their own home. They would need a bank loan. In days before FHA, getting a loan called for a miracle. Ma and Pa told me they needed one – and got it! The story includes Roselle's own banker Ed Gieske (an acquaintance of Ma but no relative) and that couple for whom Ma had worked while growing up. Small town bankers often brokered one-to-one loans between various of their depositors and someone they believed was trustworthy. Banker Ed believed Ma and Pa filled the bill.

After saving as much as they could, the Thorsells bought a lot at 18 W. Maple. Then they turned to banker Ed for advice about a loan. To their surprise he offered them what they needed – almost immediately. What Ma and Pa didn't know was that the older couple for whom Ma had worked had already told banker Ed that if Ma and Pa ever needed a mortgage loan they would fund it – anonymously.

Pa built their beautiful house at 18 W. Maple with a great sun room. Years later, after a debilitating stroke, he would watch the changing seasons and the comings and goings on Roselle Road from there. Smiling through tears Ma told me they didn't learn about the how and why of their “bank” loan until years later in life.



Two stories about homes still standing on Maple Avenue that have helped make Roselle the Camelot that it is.

Sip & Paint



Try something new. No experience necessary. Enjoy a festive evening creating a painting while enjoying a selection of wines and cheeses. In only three hours, the beginner and the experienced will be guided by local artist *Paulina Engel* (seated, far right) to create a completed work of art. Great for singles, couples, as well as friends and family groups. Sponsored by the Roselle History Museum.

When: Friday, February 17, 2017 and
Friday, March 17, 2017
7:00 – 10:00 pm

Where: Roselle History Museum Office
39 E. Elm St., Roselle

Cost: \$40 per person
all supplies included

Registration: Call 630/351-5300
Advance registration required
Min. attendance 5; max. 10

Neither Snow nor Rain nor . . .

. . . heat nor gloom of night—nor 6-10 inches of snow—stayed the faithful visitors to the museum's Christmas Open House on December 4. Wonderful aromas and sweet snacks greeted them as they brushed off snow, stomped boots, and loosened scarves. Each year museum volunteers outdo themselves bringing back the traditional cookies and coming up with new creations to comfort the weary soul. This year was no exception.

While the visitors made their sugary selections, they had an opportunity to browse the Sumner House Museum and the beautifully-decorated Richter House to view the exquisite displays depicting Roselle's history.



Farewell to Mayor Smolinski

Gayle Smolinski joined the Village Board of Trustees in 1986. Since that time, she has devoted her life to Roselle, becoming the Mayor, and bringing the town into the 21st Century with innovative planning and development.



She leaves office this spring after 31 years of service to the community to test the retirement waters and spend more time with her family. We wish the Mayor well and encourage her to visit the Museum often in her well-deserved free time.

Village of Roselle Celebrates 95 Years in 2017

Roselle incorporated and received its charter on October 7, 1922. Herman Thiemann was voted the first Village President. The first members of the Village Board were Reuben Baker, Herman Bartles, Henry Haberkamp, William Thurnau, Al Roloff, and Ed Zarndt. (*Village of Roselle website*) Since 1922, 29 citizens have served the Village as elected officials.

MAYORS

Herman C. Thiemann	1922-1927
Claude A. Peterson	1927-1933
John G. Shellenberg	1933-1945
Wallace H. Womeldorf	1945-1949
Nick W. Lies	1949-1953
George P. Tews	1953-1955
Albert W. Jordan	1955-1957
Peter J. Erickson	1957-1959
Albert W. Jordan	1959-1965
William J. Florence	1965-1967
Robert W. Frantz	1967-1973
Joseph L. Devlin	1973-1981
Sandra J. Birdsall	1981-1988
James L. Rak	1988-1993
Gayle A. Smolinski	1993-2017

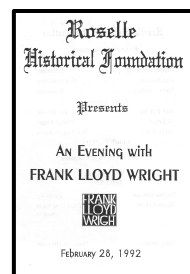
VILLAGE CLERKS

Earl H. Crandall	1922-1927
E. Herman Troyke	1927-1937
Clarence C. Schmoldt	1937-1945
Martin A. Niemann	1945-1945
Iva B. Young	1945-1949
Edward E. Brewer	1949-1951
Iva B. Young	1951-1953
Earl H. Crandall	1953-1957
Mildred A. Winkler	1957-1973
Ruby R. Karner	1973-1981
Diana Koekenberg	1981-1983
Harriett M. Ward	1983-1987
Linda J. McDermott	1987-2009
Patricia E. Burns	2009-

25 Years of Historical Evenings

What a success story for the museum! Back in 1992, a small group of volunteers conceived the idea of inviting a portrayer of a famous person in history to visit us and share that individual's experiences, successes, failures, inventions, etc. And so, one of the Foundation's most successful fund-raising, educational, community service projects was launched. Typically, one presentation is made each year, except in 1992, 1993, and 2013 when two were held.

"An Evening with Frank Lloyd Wright" was the first visit. The noted architect was portrayed by the late actor Lyman Shepard of Oak Park. The format for the evening has remained the same: a wine-and-cheese reception, the presentation, a question-and-answer session, a few words from the Foundation President, and a social gathering with refreshments.



The first five Historical Evenings were co-chaired by Joyce Kerr and Kay Cahill. Donna Benson chaired the event from 1995 until 2004. Sue Spachman took the helm in 2005 and has been chairing the event since then. Mark your calendar: 7:30 pm, Saturday, April 1. No foolin'.

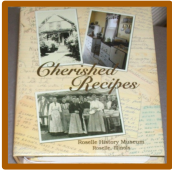
Don't Let the Parade Pass You By

Pencil sketches are being transformed into a tangible brick-n-mortar (more like plywood-n-glue) float that will assume its place in the 2017 Rose Parade lineup on Sunday, June 4.

Float chairman Frank Zielinski and his committee held a brainstorming session recently and came up with a plan that calls for a lot of red-white-and-blue – and why not. The *Flags for Roselle* program will be its theme, Betsy Ross will be the central figure, and hale and hearty walkers will toss the traditional Tootsie Rolls to the children. Give a big, proud salute to the American Flag when it is carried past you in the parade.



TEN YEARS AGO . . .



"You oughta write a book," someone said, and so they did, and it's a TEN.

Ten years ago, ten museum volunteers came together to produce a brilliant compilation of tried-and-true recipes from family and friends, and they called it "Cherished Recipes."

Marie Piraino's idea to create a cookbook as a fund raiser for the museum was the topic of a brainstorming session that kicked off nearly 18 months of teamwork that brought out the best in every one of the ten. Outstanding bakers, cooks, amazing artists, a gifted photographer, typists, proofreaders, researchers. These were the hidden talents of "the ten" that went into a magnificent addition to anyone's library.

Perhaps you're one of the lucky ones who has one of these treasures, for they sold out in short order. Proceeds from the book continue to bring new and improved exhibits to the museum.



Marie Piraino
Ruth Bagel

Sue Spachman
Susan Jankowski
Joyce Kuhlmann



Bob Kling
Sharon Hitzemann

Not pictured:
Joan Beauprez
Kay Cahill
Marge Engel

Another Visit from Our Sister City – Bochnia, Poland



Anna Kocot-Maciuszek and Laura Kaczmarczyk

RHM Historian Joan Beauprez guided Anna Kocot-Maciuszek, Director of the Bochnia Park District and Cultural Affairs, and her translator, Laura Kaczmarczyk, on a tour of the museum. Kocot-Maciuszek has facilitated several exchanges of the mayors of Bochnia and Roselle, as well as school principals, librarians, and students.

The museum has been the destination for a number of foreign visitors over the years. Back in 2013, Bochnia's Mayor Stefan Kolawinski and his wife, Sophia, visited the museum. Also, a Bochnian museum director/author as well as the President of the Town Council have been here. For more information about the program, visit www.roselle.il.us/259/Sister-City-Commission.

Saluting the Flag in a Parade

As the American Flag passes by in a parade, citizens should stand at attention, face the Flag and place the right hand over the heart. Men, when not in uniform, should remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at the left shoulder, the hand being over the heart. Persons in uniform should remain silent, face the Flag, and render the military salute. (Resource: *The Flag Code*)



ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM STREET
ROSELLE IL 60172



A touch of Americana in your own front yard. Sign up now. See Page 1.

Upcoming Events

Feb 17 Sip & Paint
 Mar 17 Sip & Paint
 April 1 Historical Evening

May 29 Flags for Roselle
 June 4 Rose Parade
 June 14 Flags for Roselle

July 3 Fireworks/Glowsticks
 July 4 Flags for Roselle
 Aug 4-6 Taste of Roselle

Nov 11 Flags for Roselle
 Dec 3 Christmas Open House

Mission Statement

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas

To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be our village history and pride tomorrow

To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors

Board of Directors

Ray Hitzemann, President
 Glenn Spachman, VP/Treas
 Ruth Bagel, Secretary
 Milan Bagel * Hank Kvintus
 Walter Lotz * Frank Zielinski

Historian - Joan Beauprez

Museum Hours

Sundays 2-4 p.m.
 Other times by appointment

Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1, May 1
 Aug 1, Nov 1

Editor: Kay Cahill

General Meetings are held on the second Saturday from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Museum Office, 39 E. Elm St. Everyone is welcome.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Email Address _____
 City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

_____ New Member Circle one: \$30 \$50* \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____
 _____ Renewal

_____ *My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the *Remembering Roselle* history book.

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible.

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