

# Roselle History Museum Newsletter



Sumner House

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation  
39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)  
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Website: [www.rosellehistory.com](http://www.rosellehistory.com)

Summer 2019

## Record Crowd for “D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy”

Nearly 150 history buffs attended the annual Historical Evening on April 13. The big-screen presentation by historian Jim Gibbons was dynamic, emotional, and informative. In just one hour he took his audience through the years before and during World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II.

He described the thinking and the actions of the American and foreign powers-that-be who would determine the War's direction.

Unbeknownst to the audience, a special guest was among them: 97-year old Walter Trojan

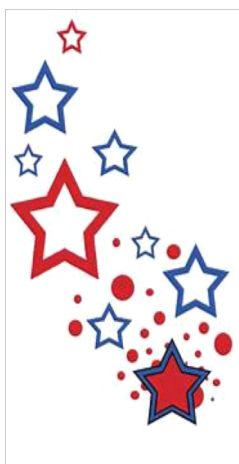


of Bloomingdale, a tank commander who landed on Omaha Beach in Normandy on June 6, 1944. Upon being introduced before the program by his nephew, Bill DiCianni of Roselle, Trojan received a standing ovation.

After the program, individual members of the audience took the opportunity to express their appreciation to Trojan with their heartfelt words, “Thank you for your service.” To those sentiments, Trojan replied simply, “I’m thankful to be here.”

*(photo by Joyce Kuhlmann)*

## Don't Let the Parade Pass You By !



The candy—oh, yes!—the candy! If you were to ask any little kid at the Rose Parade, “What’s the best part?” you can bet the answer will be “The candy!”

The music is great, the marchers are in step, the Rose Queen and her court are beautiful, the floats are impressive, the red-white-and-blue everything is inspiring, but to those in the 3 to 5 age group, it’s the candy.

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Frank Zielinski, RHM Float chairman, assures the kids that the Roselle History Museum will be handing out its traditional Tootsie Rolls from its float on Sunday, June 2.

The artist who granted us permission to print this picture is Rollie Brandt (@2019, all rights reserved). For a whole array of hometown-type paintings, visit her website at [www.rolliebrandt.com](http://www.rolliebrandt.com).

## Flags for Roselle



The Flags for Roselle program is off and running for the third year. Installers will be out in force early on Memorial Day, May 27, to install flags in about 250 front yards, businesses, and other locations in Roselle. They'll be back on Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day—and each time, they'll return in the evening to remove them for storage at the Roselle Fire Department. Did your street/cul du sac/neighborhood reach 100 percent participation this year?

**Feedback:** “Good morning! I just have to start out by saying how much I love this program! There is nothing like looking out my window and seeing that beautiful flag in my front yard! I am a historical commissioner in Addison and a government teacher at Addison Trail High School, and I want to start this program there . . .” (Levonne Cescolini-Boyer)

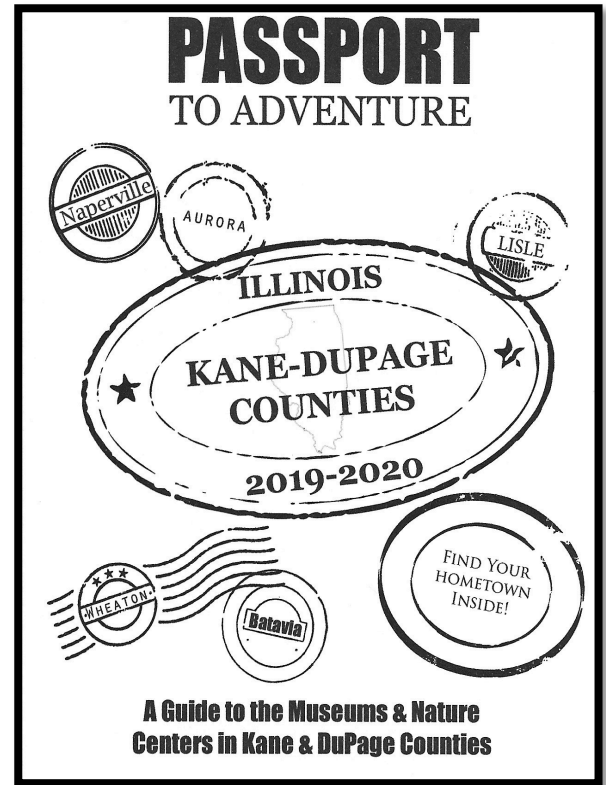
“How great to have the publicity for such a fabulous program! It is true that coming outside of the house during flag day is incredible. All of my neighbors love it and my hope is to get everyone in our area to have one next year. We all love our country and those that have worked so hard to keep it free. The flag program gives us a way to demonstrate that pride on an ongoing basis. Thanks . . . for letting me be a part of the group effort.” (Barbara Devlin)

**A Must-See:** The new Flags for Roselle website. Go to [www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com](http://www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com).

The program is looking for help with the installing and removing process. You may volunteer for one of the holidays or several holidays. If you're available, contact Dominic Manola at Lake Park. [dmanola@lphs.org](mailto:dmanola@lphs.org).



“When good people work together, we have the potential to create something extraordinary.” (Michelle Sherbun)



(Image of the Passport Book)

## Here's How You Can Win a \$25 Gift Card

The Roselle History Museum confirmed the good news that it will participate once again in this unique program. The Kane-DuPage County Passport to Adventure allows you to track your visits to many of the museums and nature centers in the area.

Sites are arranged in the passport book alphabetically by city, and an index by subject is in the back. Get your book stamped before you leave sites to be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift card. One entry per passport.

Visit six (6) sites from May 2019 through August 2019. Then mail in the stamped page by September 15 for entry into the *first* drawing. Instructions are in the book.

Mark your calendar! Visit two (2) sites from September 2019 to October 2019; two (2) sites from November 2019 to February 2020; and two (2) sites from March 2020 to April 2020; then mail in the stamped page by May 15, 2020, for entry into the *second* drawing.

Use #passport2museums to post your adventure on social media.

Passports are available now and you can pick them up at Roselle's Sumner House Museum, 102 S. Prospect on Sundays from 2-4 p.m. Or, you may call 630-351-5300 or email [rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net) to arrange a time to pick them up at the Museum Office, 39 East Elm Street.



## Historic Property Recognition Program

Back in 2004-05, Bonnie Rimer (now the Roselle History Museum Manager) launched the Historic Property Recognition Program (HPRP). A number of properties were discovered to have great historic value, and the impeccable files Bonnie created on those properties are now archived at the Museum Office.

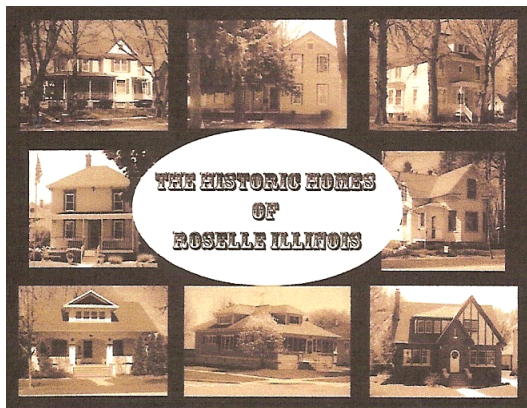
The following is a reprint of an article that appeared in the Winter 2005 issue of this newsletter. Keep in mind, this article was written 14 years ago.



### HPRP Establishes Its Mission

There have been many changes to our town since its beginning. The German school was moved to west Pine Street and became a private home so a new school could be built to house the ever-growing population of school kids. The Hattendorf Store is now Diamond Lil's • Most of us shop at Pik-Kwik • Candy is a bit more expensive. But the safety and serenity of the town center remain intact. As the town grows, and progress takes hold, many of the homes and original commercial buildings that remain are threatened with demolition.

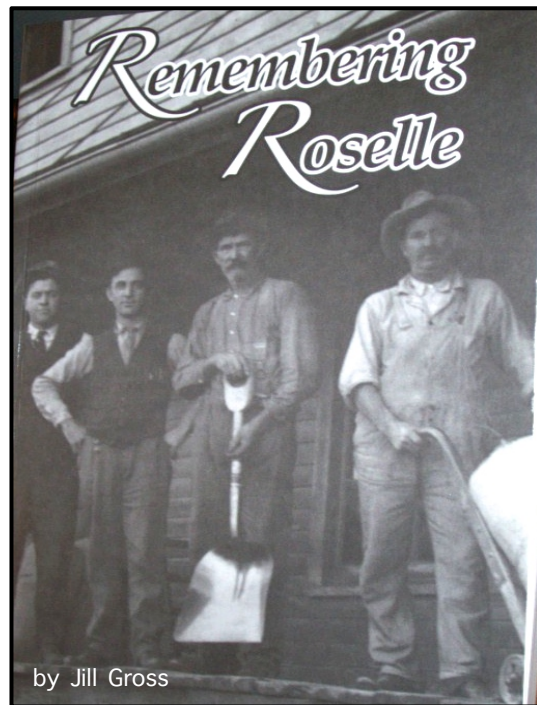
In an effort to identify and preserve these resources, members of the Foundation established the Historic Property Recognition Program. This group recently established its mission which includes a commitment to continue its research, to create a survey of significant properties, to educate property owners, to create a system of recognition and preservation, and to designate individual properties and districts as local landmarks.



For more information about this project, send an email to the Museum Office – [rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net).

**Articles** about the HPRP appeared in three issues of the newsletter: Winter 2005, Summer 2006, and Fall 2006. If you would like copies of any of these articles, contact [kaycahill@comcast.net](mailto:kaycahill@comcast.net).

## A History of Growth and Progress



*Workmen standing on the platform of the Roselle Mill rebuilt in 1917*

TAKEN FROM THE BACK COVER OF THE BOOK: “The Village of Roselle is rich with fascinating history. From its beginning as a farming community to the growth of its mills and the arrival of the railroad, it’s the people of Roselle that made it all happen. Visit their homes. See their businesses. Walk through their town as it was so many years ago.

“Meet feisty businessmen. Savor vintage photographs. Form your own conclusion about how Rosell Hough managed to convince the railroad to make its way through downtown Roselle. Find out why the Village of Roselle ends with an e.

“*Remembering Roselle* takes you into the past through pictures and narrative. Take your time. Enjoy your visit.”

The book is available for purchase for \$20. An order form can be found on the museum’s website, <http://www.rosellehistory.com>. Scroll to Bookstore. Or, you may send a check payable to the Roselle History Museum to 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172. Write “history book” in the memo section of your check.

*Remembering Roselle* is free to individuals who contribute membership dues of \$50 or more.



## What Does it Mean to be a Member of the Foundation?

To all our readers who are already members, a heartfelt



If you're not already a member of this commendable community effort to keep Roselle's history alive, you can sign up now. It's easy to do. Simply complete the form on page 8 and send it with your check. Since the Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation, your contribution may be fully tax deductible.

Where does your money go? A huge part of the Museum's success is due to the past efforts of staff members Joan Beauprez (now retired) and Bonnie Rimer, who have been responsible for coordinating a myriad of activities.

Your contribution makes it possible to publish this newsletter four times a year. It is sent out in the regular mail as well as via email. Your editor and other contributors to the publication are all volunteers, but the printing, postage, and emailing costs are paid for by member contributions.

A portion of your dues contribution goes toward buildings and grounds maintenance. The Museum Campus is a thing of beauty, with its three historic buildings and beautiful landscaping on the corner of Prospect and Elm Streets. The Village of Roselle maintains the outside of the property, and volunteers do the gardening and minor repairs to the interiors. Your contribution covers the cost of materials the volunteers need. Now and then, work needs to be done by a contractor, who needs to be paid.

Occasionally, adding to the collection will involve expenses. Archival supplies are needed to preserve the precious collection. Office supplies, equipment, and equipment care depend on your contributions.

Special events and programs that are not of the fund-raising variety have related expenses, and your membership contribution covers those. Even fund-raising events cost money upfront. That money comes from the treasury, which comes mainly from you, the member.

It's important that the Foundation maintains membership in other history-related professional organizations. Dues for those affiliations come from the treasury. The Village of Roselle helps in a major way on an annual basis. Some generous donors occasionally send large contributions.

The Foundation is indeed grateful to those individuals and businesses. You know who you are.

"So," you ask, "What's in it for me?" The Board of Directors and staff can only hope that you enjoy the sense of belonging to something vital, important, and lasting ♦ that you enjoy having a museum of which you can be mighty proud right in the center of town ♦ that you have a destination where you can bring friends and family to learn things about your town that you may not have known ♦ that you know you are an integral part of its success ♦ that you know you're always welcome to come to the general meetings and share your ideas for maintaining and improving the Foundation and its museum as they move forward.

(Pictured: Walt Lotz, Membership Chairman/

Board Member; Bonnie Rimer, staff; Hank Kvintus, Board Member )

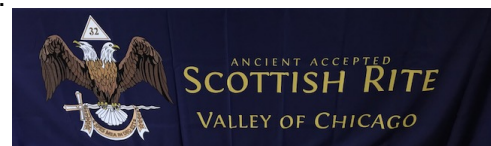
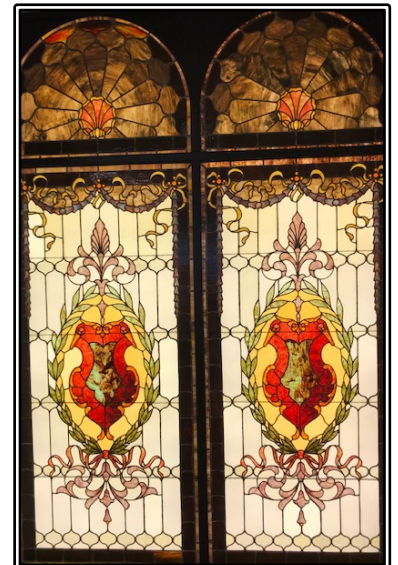


## Local Museums Shareshop

by Joan Beauprez

"Shareshop" is the name given to meetings of local museum people and librarians who meet four times a year. This April the Scottish Rite Valley of Chicago was the host in their building and museum in Bloomingdale.

Several new people from various museums joined the group and afterward there was a tour of the Masonic organization collection. There are artifacts in cases in a closed room, plus other collections on the second floor balcony. The building itself is a work of art, with its two-story atrium, statuary, and stained glass windows in a beautiful wooded setting on Lake St. and Medinah Rd. It is located on the site of the old Storyland/Adventureland park and lagoon.





## *A Rose is a Rose is a Rose . . .*

(Ed. Note: The following "Excerpt from the Palatine Enterprise paper November 14, 1924" is printed here as it appeared originally. Permission to print this excerpt was granted by [www.NewspaperArchive.com](http://www.NewspaperArchive.com).)

Roselle is making good its name. It is going to be known in all the country around, and to the motoring city folk as the suburb where the Roses in Rose time bloom in such profusion that it will be a place for everybody to visit and to know and talk about as the Rose Suburb.

This did not happen by accident. It happens because a small group of progressive and live men, who have real business interests at stake, have determined that Roselle shall be known as a progressive, and a go-get-em town, and as a place of beauty close to the big city of Chicago.

Already building is in such progress, and subdivisions already laid out that its growth has begun. In common with other localities, far less advantageously situated, Roselle has risen above the morgue stage, in which it has [been] kept so many years, and even the least progressive of the old timers see the handwriting on the wall, and there is now the happiest kind of a common inspiration locally to make Roselle not only a Rose Suburb, but a real Chicago suburb.

The organization that is behind these new, modern movements—and the Rose doings are only the beginning of what is planned—has no personal axes to grind, and seeks no personal glory. They have been going along quietly for several months, as a very much alive, willing-to-spend-a-little-money crowd, and call themselves the Roselle City club. And their object is to accomplish, of course at some cost to themselves, and confine themselves to those substantial things only that mean so much in the up building of a community. In short, the club is an incipient Kiwanis club.

The City club is not going to monopolize anything and welcomes all and any aid to Roselle's well being that all other social clubs and organizations can bring to municipal welfare in general, and each in its own way.

Another big movement of the City club is about planned in detail and will be announced shortly. Meanwhile, May Thiemann and the trustees of the villages have promised all the help they can give in the Rose propaganda to put Roselle on the suburban map. The mayor has kindly consented, in his own willingness to do anything to help Roselle, to help in the Rose distribution.

The first consignment of Roses will be in Roselle next Saturday, Nov. 15, and will be stored in the ice house of Weber's hotel, whence distribution will be made.

Of course these Roses are absolutely free to all Roselle property owners who will immediately set them out and simply agree to care for them.



Let every patriotic citizen of Roselle telephone at once either to the mayor, Herman Thiemann, Roselle 66-J, or to H.B. Schmidt, Jr., at the Roselle Farmers Co-operative Elevator Co., Roselle 12, and state how many plants you can use. Do it now. You who are residents of Roselle and of course eager to not only help Roselle, but beautify your grounds, you are welcome and

invited to telephone what you desire in this matter. Now, altogether, for Roselle.

About the publication: "Palatine Enterprise" was published by H.C. Paddock & Son from 1905 to 1969 in Palatine, Illinois. Prior to 1905, it was known as the Enterprise-Register and from 1969 to 1973, it was called the Palatine Herald.

## *How Does Your Garden Grow?*

*With garden gates  
And some updates  
And busy hands willing to sow!*



The Museum's Garden Committee is prepared for the planting season. First, a new split-rail fence was installed on the Elm Street side of the Museum Campus by Marcos Henriquez Landscaping. Funding was provided by the Roselle Garden Club's generous donation in 2018.

Next, thanks to the Village of Roselle, 50 bags of mulch will be delivered for the Museum gardeners to spread. And, lastly, the gardeners will begin refreshing existing shrubs and florae and planting new beds of color. (Pictured: Marcos Henriquez)

# The Story of Post 1084



## Northwest DuPage American Legion 344 E. Maple Ave., Roselle



Back in July 1946, a group of local World War II veterans met with the intention of forming a post of the American Legion. Within a few months, that small group received its charter as Northwest DuPage American Legion Post 1084, elected its officers, approved bylaws, and held its first installation. Planning meetings were held in the basement of Roselle School (now Northern DuPage Special Education Cooperative [NDSEC]), and the installation was generously hosted by Roselle Country Club (later called Golden Acres, and now Schaumburg Golf Course).

Early meetings were held in public schools in Roselle, Bloomingdale, Keeneyville, and in the village halls of Roselle and Bloomingdale, then at DeWulf's shop (originally at Prospect & Main, next to Shirl's Drive-in) followed by Bill's Barber Shop in Roselle.

A building committee, formed in July 1947, was assigned the task of finding a site for a permanent home for the Post. In December 1950, the Post purchased the lot at its present site for the grand sum of \$1,500. The first event on the vacant lot was a picnic in August 1952. A permanent home was still needed, and by February 1954, plans were drawn up by Waldo Svenson, bids were received in May, and construction was underway. Post members did much of the work on the grounds and the building.

In November 1954, the first "Paint-up-Party" was held and the first meeting in the present Post home was on November 23, 1954. In January, eighteen (18) members were initiated into the Legion at ceremonies held at the new "home." Fourteen years later, the final \$500 in bonds for the building's construction was paid off.

The Post became the favorite meeting/gathering place for community organizations such as the Lions Club, Jaycees, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Little League, and Civil Air Patrol. The Post sponsored Boy Scout Troop 55 for over 20 years, and during 1965 and 1966, the Post sponsored a Civil Air Patrol Squadron.

By 1972, Post membership consisted of over 200 veterans from four periods of armed conflict in our nation's history. Through the 1970s, WWI veterans began to pass on to Post Everlasting. WWII and Korea

veterans supported the Post, and soon Viet Nam veterans began to participate.

With ever-increasing costs due to taxes, insurance, and other expenses, the Post used fundraisers such as the New Years Eve Party, St. Pat's Party, Halloween Dance, Turkey Trot, and of course the Friday Night Fish Fry, in order to continue to be able to support community events such as the Rose Parade and the annual Summer Carnival.

In 1981, the Post entered into an agreement with the Village of Roselle to lease the back lot to the Village for use as a commuter parking lot. As part of this agreement, the Village upgraded, paved, and landscaped the back lot. The income from this lease helped to cover some of the expenses of the Post through the 1980s and 1990s.

As more and younger veterans from Viet Nam became active in the Post, the need for expanding and modernizing the Post home became apparent, so a committee was formed and plans were discussed. Architect A.A. Bonavolonta was chosen to draw up the plans, and, with general contractor Jerry Macko, plus the help of members and friends (who were contractors and tradesman themselves), the present building took shape.

As new, younger members began to participate, the *American Legion Auxiliary* increased its membership and activities. In February 1998, a charter was endorsed and approved for the Sons of the American Legion (SAL), Northwest DuPage Squadron 1084. This added new strength to the membership and the American Legion family. SAL has participated in the American Legion Color Guard and other Legion events.

Today, the American Legion Post 1084 Family has a combined membership exceeding 350.



(Excerpted from "About Us," American Legion Post 1084 website. Thanks to Ty Cobb for permission to print.)

*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."  
(Margaret Meade)*



## "Wait! You're From India?"

by Sarah Abraham, Senior LPHS



**Sarah Abraham**  
**2019 Rose Queen**

"Wait, you're from India?" "So do you speak Indian?" "You probably don't eat meat, right?" Growing up, these were the questions that followed me through every stage of life. Being Indian was something I only thought about going to my church and now, at the cusp of adulthood, I'm attempting to figure out how to embrace my history.

Many moons ago, my ancestors lived in Syria. According to the books, a man named Thomas of Cana and 72 immigrant families arrived in Kerala (a southern state of India) somewhere between the 4th and 8th centuries. When Thomas and the families arrived, Kerala was under the control of the Chera dynasty. Cheraman Perumal, the head of this dynasty, took a liking to these Syrians (who became known as Knanayas) and awarded them 72 privileges for the 72 families written on copper plates. These plated privileges served as a buffer for the Knanayas in Kerala until the colonization by the Portuguese in the 17th century. With the arrival of the Portuguese, some of the Knanaya people intermarried. According to "the experts," those who married the Portuguese became the Knanaya Catholics and those who remained steadfast in their endogenous beliefs became the Knanaya Jacobites (myself included).

Today, the Knanaya Catholics consider themselves under the umbrella of the Catholic Church in Rome following the Pope, while the Knanaya Jacobites follow the Patriarch of the Orthodox church of the East. There are more than 300,000 Knanaya people in the world with the most dense region (other than Kerala) being Chicago.

In Chicago, the Knanaya Catholics outnumber the Jacobites by a wide margin. There are thousands of Catholics here but only about 30 Jacobite families. Since there are so few of us, there is only one church—St. Mary's in Waukegan—which is approximately an hour's car ride from Roselle. I dreaded going to church every Sunday because of the lengthy transit time and the four hour mass followed by one hour of religious education. The mass was an all-encompassing recreation of what the original Knanaya did, which is why it was so long. We would leave the house around 8:30 in the morning and



## What Else is New!

*Glow sticks*

are on the calendar once again for the Fireworks display sponsored by the



Village at Lake Park's West Campus on Wednesday, July 3, beginning at dusk. This is a fund-raising event benefiting the museum.

*What happens to your newsletter* after you've read it? Jan Swiontek has a great idea. When she's finished reading it, she puts it into her "Roselle Book," confidently expecting that one day her grandchildren will want to read about the history of Roselle.

*Taste of Roselle:* August 2-4—Once again, the history museum will have a booth—Be sure to check it out.

*(cont'd from previous column)*

return around 3:00 in the afternoon making it the sixth school day of the week. The masses were held in a combination of Syrian and Malayalam—the native language of Kerala when the families arrived. Although I speak Malayalam, the words used in the service were ancient so I wasn't able to follow along.

My siblings and I always fell asleep on the way home because the 8 hour day really took a toll. Before starting high school, I never really thought much about spending the entire Sunday at church. During my freshman year, I realized that high schoolers get homework—lots of it. There was no way I could spend the whole day at church and still get everything else done. My parents let me stay home on Sundays if I said I had homework to do so I began going to church less frequently. I also thought less about my culture and what it meant to me since I wasn't being surrounded by similar people.

Nowadays, people are still surprised to hear that I am Indian. They've guessed that I'm Hispanic, Brazilian and Persian—which I'm pretty sure isn't even a country anymore. I've noticed that many of my classmates take pride in their ethnicities and their families' histories whether it be through celebrations or just talking about it. Seeing this has inspired me to further inquire on how I got to be the me I am today. Just because my family's history isn't something I've embraced before doesn't mean it's something that I can't take pride in now. No matter where I go and who I end up becoming, I've still got to stay in touch with my roots so I don't forget where I came from.

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM  
39 E ELM STREET  
ROSELLE IL 60172



## Red-White-'n-Blue Summer Newsletter

### **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**

President: Ray Hitzemann

VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman

Secretary: Tom Piorkowski

Milan Bagel \* Hank Kvintus

Walter Lotz \* Frank Zielinski

Museum Manager: Bonnie Rimer

### **General Meetings**

Second Saturday of the Month  
10-11:30 a.m. – 39 E. Elm

*Everyone is Welcome!*

### **Museum Hours**

Sundays 2-4 p.m.

Other times by appointment

### **Newsletter Deadlines**

Feb 1 – May 1 – Aug 1 – Nov 1

Editor: [kaycahill@comcast.net](mailto:kaycahill@comcast.net)

### **MEMBERSHIP FORM**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Send RHM Newsletter via email (Y/N) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

I am interested in helping in one of the areas of the Foundation's work. Circle one:

**Computer/Clerical \* Exhibits \* Parade float \* Research \* Single Event \* Buildings/Grounds**

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

*Summer 2019*