



Summer House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

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

Email: rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.rosellehistory.com

Summer 2017

Flags for Roselle



God Bless America – and Roselle!
All systems are ready to go!
Response to the Flags for Roselle
program has been nothing short of
American. Patriotism is alive and well!

Watch for the Lake Park High School students and other volunteers to arrive on May 29 to install 3x5-foot American flags in nearly 200 front lawns.

Where would you like your flag installed?

The Village of Roselle recommends the flags be installed between the sidewalk and house on private property. The flags may be installed approximately ten feet from the sidewalk. They will be secured by a ½-inch metal support that will go into the ground, at a 70-degree angle, between 10 & 12 inches. The Village also recommends that, prior to installation, residents contact J.U.L.I.E. at 1-800-892-0123 or at 811, to avoid possible interference with any underground utilities.

You may choose to “mark the spot” with spray paint or you may want to be on hand when the installers arrive to give them directions.

Teams are being established now for the installation and removal process. Fifteen (15) teams of 3 are needed. If you would like to help with the driving, installing, and/or removal, please contact Kay Cahill at kaycahill@comcast.net. Pickup trucks and vans are needed, too, since the flag poles are 8 feet long.

All proceeds from this fund raiser will be shared equally by the Roselle Historical Foundation, the Roselle American Legion Charitable Foundation, and the Lake Park High School Educational Foundation.

Flags for Roselle is the brainchild of a similar program in Blue Mounds, WI, where the program is chaired by LPHS alumna, Kelly Barclay Deterding. That program has grown to include three more towns in just three years. For more about Roselle's program, call 630-351-5300, or email rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.



A LANDMARK DECISION!

David Pileski

In March 2017, the Village of Roselle designated the Siems Family home, built in 1913, as its first Historic Landmark. The house, which retains many of the original details, stands at 153 S. Roselle Road, located at the northeast corner of Roselle Road (then State Street) and Pine Avenue (then Center Avenue).

The Village's Historic Landmark Designation allows the community to recognize historic buildings and features that are important to our heritage or that demonstrate a specific architectural style. Unlike other designations managed by the county, state, or federal government, the restrictions to participating property owners are at the discretion of the local village board. This under-utilized program can help property owners to restore their property and allow us to celebrate our past.

Heindrich (Henry, Sr.) and Marie Siems moved into Roselle in 1912, after decades of successful farming in Bloomingdale Township. Following the Siemses, four other families have cared for the home while adding a few personal touches. The most recent family, Kurt and Jan Gore, added salvaged wood from houses in Elgin and Roselle to maintain the house's authenticity.

The home was built as a Queen Anne of the free classical style with asymmetrical details in the facade and steeply pitched hip roofs. The dominant front

(Cont'd on Page 2)

THOSE WHO WOULD DISRESPECT OUR FLAG HAVE NEVER BEEN HANDED A FOLDED ONE.



gables are adorned with different decorative lights during the holidays. Many of the original windows are intact including three leaded stained glass windows. The inside has many original features, including a built-in china cabinet and classic push-button light switches.

David Pileski and his partner, Katie Kilbridge, shared these comments. "As the newest caregivers, we are committed to preserving our home. We are often reminded of what the Roselle Historical Foundation means to Roselle. We keep the booklet from the 1996 Historical Walk (sponsored by the Foundation) in our china cabinet, along with the visitor log and notes from a Siems granddaughter, as reminders of the love and passion that goes into preservation. We hope this designation will highlight the benefits of historic preservation and lead to future Roselle house walks. We love sharing the joys of historic preservation while encouraging others to pursue designating their historical Roselle homes."



GLOW STICKS
Monday, July 3

Museum volunteers will be out in force, once again, selling the ever-popular glow sticks on *Monday, July 3*, during the Independence Day Fireworks event at Lake Park's West Campus, 500 W. Bryn Mawr, 6:30 p.m.

One glow stick – \$2
Three glow sticks – \$5
Seven glow sticks – \$10

Proceeds from the glow stick sales go to fulfilling the mission of the Roselle Historical Foundation to provide an outstanding museum and educational programs for residents of Roselle and the surrounding areas.

It Takes a Village

Thanks!

A few years ago, a special feature was added to the ever-popular annual Historical Evening: a drawing for bottles of wine, *plus*. Attractively attached to each bottle of wine in the drawing was an envelope containing coupons from local restaurants. Chairman Sue Spachman and the Historical Evening Committee acknowledge these businesses and extend a huge Thank You!

Bloomington Café, Bonefish Grill, Brunch Café, Bulldog Ale House, Cooper's Hawk, Crave Café, Doctor Dogs, Egg Harbor Café, Granny's Restaurant, Jameson's Original Charhouse, Jimmy John's, La Hacienda de Roselle, Lynfred Winery, Macc's Café, Mr. A's, Pilot Pete's, Riccardo's Restaurant, Rooster's Barn & Grill, Shaw's Crab House, Silver Lake, Uncle Bill's Diner, Village Tavern & Grill, and Villaggio Ristorante. Bon Appetit!

DID SHE, OR DIDN'T SHE?

Well, we're going to give Betsy Ross the benefit of the doubt when she takes her place on the history museum's float in Roselle's 58th Rose Parade Sunday, June 4. Whether she actually made the first flag or not, Betsy remains one of our endearing symbols of Americana. She'll be proud to show off the 13-star flag, which is a stand-out any time of year in the museum's Flag Room.



Betsy Ross will have something to write home about when she observes, from her position on the float, the people of Roselle proudly saluting the American flags carried in the parade by the various local organizations.

Float Committee chairman Frank Zielinski announced that Betsy's (aka Elizabeth Zielinski) pint-sized co-stars will be Avery and Isabella Zielinski, and Eliza Blue Lotz.



RHM will host a Museum Shreshop on Wed., June 7, at 10:30 a.m. at the museum office. Representatives from several local historical societies will gather to share their experiences and lessons learned in operating organizations designed to bring local history to the people. All this over a ☕ of coffee (or tea or juice) and a munchie or two.

Fond Memories of the Library

by Rhonie Zymboly



Rhonie Zymboly

I have many fond memories of my association with the Roselle Public Library. My husband, Dennis, and I and our two daughters moved to Roselle in 1971, the result of a corporate transfer from New Jersey. We loved the small town amenities, especially the library!

At that time the library was located at the corner of Main and Park Streets in the building now occupied by the Senior Center

Universal Industries and the Metropolitan Asian Family Services. This was within walking distance of our home and I enjoyed frequent visits introducing our girls (Melissa, 3½, and Amy, 1 year) to the treasures found in the front room children's area.

I joined the newly formed Friends of the Library in 1972 and soon became active in its many projects. These included book sales, enhancing the children's collection with puzzles and books, sponsoring Meet the Candidates programs, and preparing the lower library level to establish a separate Children's Department. Much of the interior painting was done by volunteers who also helped move books and arrange the shelves.

Friends meetings were held monthly with babysitting service available. These meetings provided both social and informational opportunities for the Friends and guests. Friends also participated in the annual Rose Parades.

A major undertaking of the Friends was the annual Country Fair held during the summer at Parkside Park. Originally this was a "down-home" family affair with bake sales, three-legged races, egg toss games, watermelon seed spitting contests, and judging for best vegetables. This popular event grew to become more "carnival-like" with rides, a moon walk, food service and Bingo. Having Bingo in the Park required the Friends' officers and the Fair chairperson to be finger printed and registered with DuPage County!

When a part-time employment opportunity became available in 1979, I was accepted as a Children's Department staff member in the newly furnished lower level. During this time the Library Board and community members began planning for a new library. Space had dwindled as the collection grew, eliminating reading and meeting areas in the existing building. Construction for a new building began in the Spring of 1981 on the corner of Park and Elm Court. This opened in 1982.

IN MEMORIAM

A smile for all, a heart of gold,
The very best the world could hold.
Those we love don't go away;
They walk beside us every day.

Rhonie Mae Zymboly
1937-2017
Roselle Historical Society President
1979-1980

(Editor's note: We were stunned and deeply saddened when we learned of Rhonie Zymboly's sudden passing on February 24. She will always be remembered as the consummate professional. On February 4, we had received a note from her indicating she would send an article describing her experiences at the Roselle Library, and we're grateful to her husband, Dennis, for sending it on to us. Many readers will remember Rhonie's gentle way and her passion for reading.)

Passport to Adventure

Nature, History, and Culture Right Around the Corner!

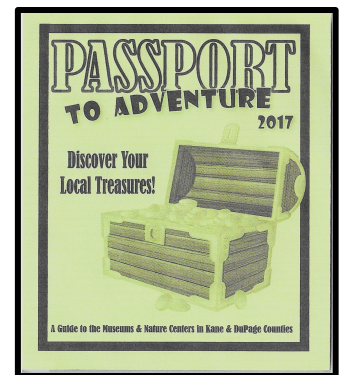
Easy as 1-2-3 for
Kids from 4 to 12

1) Between May 1 and Labor Day, passport booklets are available at participating museums and libraries. Pick up your *free* passport booklet at the Roselle History Museum office, 39 E. Elm St., or the Roselle Public Library, 40 Park St.

2) Visit as many sites as you wish—museums, nature centers, and historic sites—described in the booklet. Receive a stamp at each participating site. Some sites are free, some charge a modest entry fee.

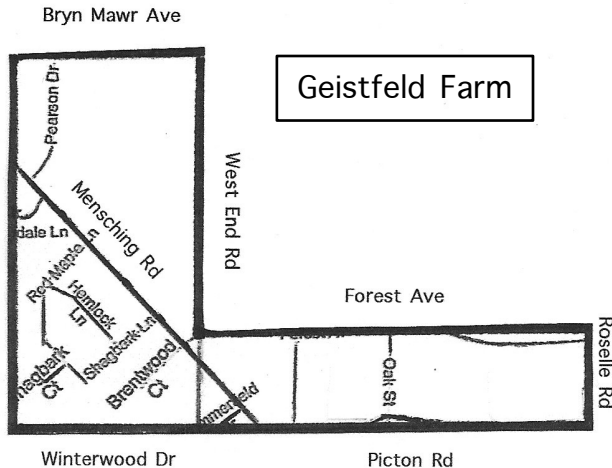
3) Visit six (6) sites listed in the book and be entered for a chance to win a \$25 gift card. Then, return your stamped booklet to the Roselle History Museum.

The Passport to Adventure Program is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 12 and is sponsored by the Kane-DuPage Regional Museum Association. Visit kdrma.com/passporttoadventure.



GEISTFELD FAMILY FARM MEMOIR

Always wanted to live on a farm? Well, maybe you do. If you live in Roselle, chances are you're living on property that once was farmland, owned and managed by a family with a familiar name; i.e., Bokelmann, Clauss, Geistfeld, Hitzemann, Hough, Meyer, Siems, Thiemann, and others. This story is about the Geistfeld farm.



Your home may be located in the L-shaped landmass shown in the graphic, which is bordered by Bryn Mawr, West End, Forest, Roselle Road, Picton/Winterwood, and a western boundary of a line from Winterwood to Bryn Mawr, which is just east of Autumn Drive. If so, you're living where the Geistfeld family farmed from 1904 until 1958.

Gustav Geistfeld, Sr., one of seven children of Henry and Engel (Becker) Geistfeld, was born in Keeneyville. He married Anna Lichthardt in 1895. The couple had two children: Ann, who died shortly after birth, and Gustav, Jr. The senior Geistfelds started farming in Keeneyville, but the land was mostly slough and not productive.

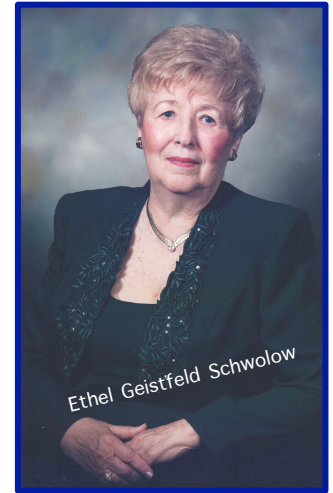
In 1904, they purchased the 123 acres of mostly wooded land depicted in the graphic. The property boasted a barn, a home, and some outbuildings.

However, the original home was too small, so Gustav, Sr., built a larger home and a separate garage. They also built chicken and brooder houses.

Gustav, Jr. ("Gust"), by now, circa 1912, a student at Trinity Lutheran School, numbered among his classmates the children of many prominent Roselle families: Henry Botterman, Elsie Sauerman Hitzemann, Emil Becker, Ella Bokelmann Rinne, and Albert Bokelmann.

Eventually, Gust inherited the farm from his parents and constructed two storage sheds to house some of the farm implements. He married Itasca native Lydia Forke in 1920, and went on to have two children: Verdell, who died at 18 months, and Ethel (pictured).

It was around this time that the senior Geistfelds (Gustav and Anna) retired from farming.



Over the years, parcels of the Geistfeld farm were sold, and in 1958, the remaining 58 acres were sold. Gust and Lydia moved to a 180-acre farm in Burlington, Wisconsin.

Both homes on the Roselle farm were razed in the 1970s. The first barn was destroyed by fire in 1935. It was replaced in 1936, and that barn is being used today by the Roselle Park District for equipment storage.

When Gust died in 1972 at age 74, Lydia returned to Roselle to live with her daughter, Ethel Geistfeld Schwolow. Lydia died in 1993 at age 92; Ethel still lives in Roselle. Her daughter, Diane Meiggs of Golden, Colorado, generously provided the facts and timeline for this story. Thank you.

Legend: Family histories often seem to have one or two "tales" that are never forgotten. The Giestfeld story is no exception. Seems Farmer Giestfeld routinely sent his cows out to pasture for exercise, uneventfully—usually. But one day, one of the cows had an encounter with a tree, and the tree won. The cow returned in the evening for milking minus one perfectly good tail.

**August 4, 5, 6
Friday, Saturday, Sunday**

While satisfying your taste buds on the food-as-you-go at the Taste of Roselle, visit the history museum's booth.



Volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about the museum and its programs.

Then, visit the Museum Campus at Prospect & Elm to see what it's all about. Buildings will be open from 1-5 p.m. Saturday, the 5th, and Sunday, the 6th. If you're not already a member, you can sign up on the spot.

1 in 7 Americans Struggles to Get Enough to Eat

by Donna Benson
Darryl Roby, Volunteer



Today the Roselle United Methodist Church Community Food Pantry serves more than 60 families or nearly 200 people each month. Approximately one-third of these are children. The remaining two-thirds are divided between fixed-income seniors and adults with financial difficulties such as job loss or medical expenses.

Established in September 2014 with hopeful but modest goals, the Food Pantry has become a strong, muscular creation committed to ending hunger in Roselle.

Like many great ideas, it all began simply enough. One sunny day in July 2014, Vicki Johnson, a registered nurse on disability, was working in the Roselle UMC Giving Garden. Hoe in hand, she turned to fellow volunteer, Leanne McRill, and said, “You know what, too many people who need this food never get it. Why should someone have to prove how much they make to receive a box of mac and cheese?” Leanne observed, “You have the same passion to feed the hungry as our pastor, Melissa Hood.” A three-hour meeting with Rev. Melissa Hood followed.

Within a week, a task force of nine volunteers headed by Vicki Johnson set to work. Research: 4 percent of Roselle’s residents live below the poverty line. That translates into 900 people. Vicki and her fellow volunteers visited established food pantries, looked for funding sources, and evaluated the church’s storage and refrigeration facilities. What was needed? Shelves? Storage? A van?

“We were ecstatic,” Vicki Johnson exclaimed. “\$7,000 in seed money from the Roselle United Methodist Church Council. Signed a contract with the Northern Illinois Food Bank. Got donations from corporations and deeply discounted food from the Harvest Foundation. It was a GO!”

The Food Pantry is dedicated to serving every current Roselle resident who wants to participate. Proof of residency and registration are the only requirements. Clients are given a membership card and get a courtesy reminder on the Friday before their monthly Saturday morning appointment.

The first month, 12 families were served. Each received a pre-packaged bag of food. Rice, beans, flour, sugar, cooking oil, peanut butter, canned fruits & vegetables, etc. Not surprisingly, this assortment delighted relatively few. “I appreciate what you give me, but I can’t use some of it. I wish I could pick out what I get,” a client apologized. Thus, was born the next great idea. Give them the dignity of choosing the items they want.

This created the restructuring that formed a Food Pantry for all of Roselle. Today the pantry offers everything from soup to nuts, shampoo to steak, fresh bread, fruit, vegetables, and sometimes flowers.

Donations come from very generous corporations, individuals, and stores. Mariano’s and Walmart are the newest to join the list. The community enthusiastically pitches in with donations as well as volunteers from Trinity Lutheran, the Roselle Garden Club, Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Police force, and the Village.

Originally, some of the workers were doing court-ordered community service. A few have stayed after completing their sentences—because “I know I’m helping people. It makes me feel good about myself, and I want to be a part of the Community Food Pantry project.” Want to be a part of the Roselle UMC Food Pantry? Contact Vicki Johnson at 630-529-1309 ext. 5.

Need a Night Out?



Who doesn’t every little while! Artist and coach Paulina Engel has an offer you can’t refuse. All you have to bring is yourself and maybe a friend or sibling.

Sip & Paint

is the answer. You don’t need any experience. Not only will all the painting supplies be provided, but you can also select from a delectable assortment of wine and cheese (sip-sip-hooray!). Talk a little, sip a little, talk a little - and create your master-piece! You need to register in advance. Call the office (630-351-5300). You may pay the \$40 in cash or by check when you arrive. The classes are small, and are held at the museum office, 39 E. Elm St.

Friday, May 19 • Friday, June 16 • 7-10 pm

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM STREET
ROSELLE IL 60172



May 19 Sip & Paint

May 29 Flags for Roselle

May 29-Sept 4 Passport Program

June 4 Rose Parade

June 14 Flags for Roselle

June 16 Sip & Paint

July 3 Fireworks/Glow Sticks

July 4 Flags for Roselle

Aug 4-6 Taste of Roselle

Nov 11 Flags for Roselle

Dec 3 Christmas Open House

Apr 7 Historical Evening (2018)

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
 kaycahill@comcast.net

General Meetings are held on the 2nd Saturday, 10-11:30 a.m. at the museum office, 39 E. Elm. Everyone is welcome.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____

_____ 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.

Summer 2017