



Sumner House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Spring 2020

Old Time Rock 'n Roll

2020 Historical Evening

features

Top Hits of the 1950s



RICK PICKREN's popular new program features the top hits of the marvelous 1950s—songs and stories from every year of the decade. Rick sings, plays, and shares the histories of the various songs as well as stories about the people who made them popular.

Sing along with Rick to classics such as *Blue Suede Shoes*, *Blueberry Hill*, *Rock Around the Clock*, *Love Me Tender*, and many more favorites.

Rick is a two-time winner of the Marlboro Country Music Round-Up and has shared the stage with B.J. Thomas, George Strait, Merle Haggard, the Judds, Dolly Parton, and Alabama.

He is a graduate of the University of Michigan with a Bachelors degree in Music and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theater. His recordings have been featured on the TV show *The Good Wife* and many PBS programs.

RHMnewsletter – Spring 2020

PROGRAM

April 25



6:30: Wine and Cheese Reception

7:00: Program

After the Program: Coffee, Homemade Cookies

Meet Rick Pickren

Tickets may be purchased beginning in mid-March at the Museum Office or the Village Hall.

Adults: \$15 in advance

Students ages 6-12: Free



You may also reserve tickets by using the order form enclosed in this newsletter.



Tickets purchased at the door will be \$18 for adults.



First in a Series of Children's Programs

April 4

Paint with "Characters of Character"



Register today! See enclosed form. Children ages 1–10 are welcome. The 1-5-year-olds need to have an adult to paint with them. Older children can paint on their own. A maximum of 30 children can be accommodated. All supplies will be provided. Registration deadline: MARCH 21

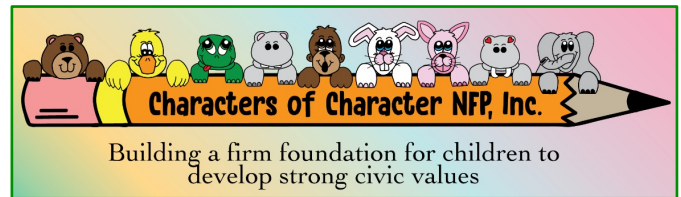


The April program, "Manners Monkey," is only one part of Joni Downey's repertoire, which includes costumed characters Friendship Frog, Behavior Bear, and Respectful Rabbit.

Characters of Character provides tools and resources to educators and parents to help teach children nine positive character traits: behavior, perseverance, friendship, healthy habits, manners, respect, responsibility, self-esteem, and kindness.

"Our mission is to provide a firm foundation for children to establish strong civic values – making a difference, one child at a time.

"We believe that introducing these traits at a younger age will create a better-quality society for everyone. Our



organization has developed a unique way to reach children and help them internalize the nine traits that we focus on. Our Characters allow children to identify with the traits correlating with each Character," Downey said.

About the Presenter

President and Founder Joni Downey says, "Teaching children brings me much joy through our stories and art activities. When they meet the character in costume, it makes the character that much more real, and the children truly embrace the meaning of the character."

Downey presented a pilot program in an elementary school in 2006. Since then, she has brought the characters to life in costume, published over 30 books, painted with hundreds of children, and donated to many children's hospitals.

Her husband, Joe, and adult children, Joey, Josh, and Jennifer, have played play major roles in the program, too. Son Joe helped transform Downey's sketches into products; Josh created illustrations for her values-related educational tools; and Jennifer helped create the books, including "Let's Behave," "Let's Be Friends," and "Let's Have Manners." Occasionally, Manners Monkey (volunteer in costume), appears to bring the "character" to life.

For more information about the Characters of Character program, visit www.charactersofcharacter.org.

**Together we will make a difference
in the life of a child.**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
for future children's programs!

July 11: 10 a.m.-12 noon – Bentley Academy of Irish Dance show and lessons for children 3-12 at Trinity Lutheran Family Life Center.

October: (Date TBA) Halloween Hunt.



Flags for Roselle Recognizes Brian Joanis

Brian Joanis, administrative intern for the Village of Roselle, was recognized recently by the Flags for Roselle Board of Directors for his behind-the-scenes work to bring the FFR program to the attention of the committee for the Governor's Hometown Award for Excellence Through Volunteerism. He provides here an account of the impact the FFR program has had on him and why he was enthused about compiling the comprehensive application for consideration.



"It was all so fun it never felt like an ounce of work. When I began writing the application for the GHTA on behalf of the Flags for Roselle (FFR) program, I knew little about the people involved and the work they did. I worked hard to make sure I got every detail as correct as possible because I knew of the tireless work people put into managing and operating a nonprofit. Still, it was hard representing people I had never met for something so important to the community.

"I did not meet all the wonderful people leading the FFR program until I attended my first board meeting upon word that we would need to present the program in Springfield. I then volunteered on Patriots Day 2019, with (American Legion) Post Commander Bob Benko, who shared with me reasons why he and his wife, Joyce, feel so connected to the FFR program. He told me about how rare, but incredible it is to see people working together that you do not normally see. He was right. The program brings together organizations and a mix of volunteers that may seem out of the ordinary. American Legion members work with the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Roselle, the Roselle History Museum, and the Lake Park High School students who all volunteer for the same cause—to spread patriotism and love for a unified community.

"We were able to spread the same message to leaders in Springfield and other community organizations across the state when the FFR program was awarded a Governor's Hometown Award in November. What a special moment to see recognition for a number of Illinois organizations that represent thousands of volunteers in the State who all give their time to impact so many communities. The GHTA application required that I measure program impact. The best part about the FFR program is the

immeasurable impact that is produced by the shared proceeds that are rippled back into Roselle through multiple community organization initiatives. The number of lives impacted keeps compounding as the program moves forward.

"I would not have been able to be a part of the GHTA process if it were not for Village leadership who recognized my interest and background in nonprofit organizations. The entire experience has proven that cross-sector partnerships strengthen communities and increase the quality of life for all residents. I am forever grateful to the Village and the FFR program for allowing me this opportunity, and will always remember the people who shared the experience."

Brian Joanis of St. Charles, is an alumnus of St. Charles North High School and Elgin Community College, and is currently working on his Masters in Public Administration degree at Northern Illinois University.

2020 Program is underway. Subscriptions are \$50 for the year, and are now available online at www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com.

(For more details about the FFR program and the award, check out the Winter 2020 Roselle Reporter Newsletter at roselle.il.us/745/Roselle-E-News.)

Lake Park Major Reason for FFR's Success

Over 70 volunteers will spread out over town on five holidays throughout the year to place 300+ beautiful 3x5-foot U.S. Flags in front yards and businesses—and return at the end of the day to remove them. The majority of these volunteers are Lake Park students. Surely, that's impressive. And, the State of Illinois thought so, too, so they recognized this effort by awarding the program the Governor's Hometown Award. Look for the sign in town, and be proud. Goal this year is to reach 400 locations. www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com.



L-R: 2019 LP Graduate, Nick Nie; Principal Dominic Manola; and Board of Education members Bob Marino and Barbara Layer

Roselle Public Library Celebrates 80 Years

By Tom Piorkowski

Eighty years ago the Roselle Public Library first opened its doors. Started as a Work Projects Administration (WPA) Project in January 1940, the quaint beginnings of our Library seemed fitting for the quaint small town it was to serve.

Initially the Library was housed in the local public school—Salk Pioneer School, 132 E. Pine Ave.—and the first librarian was paid a monthly salary of twenty dollars (\$20). From these humble origins, the Library began to grow along with the town it served. Following the dissolution of the WPA in December 1942, funding came from the local Lion's Club as well as individual donors until the Village of Roselle took over its operation following a referendum in 1943. The initial tax levy netted the Library the whopping sum of \$982!

As the town grew in the coming decades, the Library continued to grow with it. In 1945, the Library moved out of the public school and into its own space at 127 Main Street (top picture on the right), where it would stay until the current building was built in 1982. Even before this move, the Library had continued to grow. In 1962, the residents of Roselle approved a referendum that allowed the Library to add an additional 4,200 square feet to the Main Street location.

The current building at 40 S. Park St. is pictured here. In addition to the books one expects to find in a library, and the assortment of things residents can check out, the Roselle Library has also grown in the variety of services it provides. Included among these are voter registration and notary public services.

In terms of items that can be checked out, this service has grown as well over the years as residents have access to movies, video games, and even science kits! Another way the Library continues to grow is through the expansion of services it provides online. While residents can still go to the Library and check out their favorite books and movies, attend various programs, or even just find a quiet place to study, they can also go to the Library website and check out items such as eBooks as well as peruse several databases that cover a wide of array of topics.

To celebrate the last 80 years and, looking forward to the years to come, the Library plans to commemorate the 80th anniversary with an event this April. Keep on the lookout for more details!



Then...



...and Now!



Preserving Stained Glass Windows

at 153 South Roselle Road

By David Pileski

Stained glass windows have captured the imagination and hearts of people for centuries turning the seemingly mundane into works of art. Some of the earliest examples of stained glass were discovered in England from St. Paul's Monastery circa 686 AD. Since then the art has gone through many reinterpretations as new styles came into vogue and the art shifted from a religious hallmark to a common architectural feature of residential homes.

Within our own community many of our original homes were built with varying styles of stained glass windows. Homes constructed closer to the turn of the century have very colorful, artfully composed windows such as the one on the Becker House at 132 S. Prospect Street (SW corner Maple and Prospect). Others built later incorporated intricately patterned or geometrically inspired clear beveled glass. Both are beautiful in their own respective ways, but what they all have in common is their age.

In order to preserve these priceless treasures, Katie and I took on the task this summer to have the original stained glass windows from the Siems home completely rebuilt and preserved for the next 100 years. Built in 1913, family photos of the home clearly show the stained glass windows have been a consistent feature of the home. Preserved in their original wood frames by the storm windows, the glass was in remarkable condition; however, the lead was beginning to crack and show signs of future failure. Fortunately, this is not an unexpected situation for a century-old window and—much like we elect to have knees and hips replaced—it is a routine, though a tedious, process to replace lead.

The windows were removed and taken off site to begin their preservation makeover. This included a detailed schematic being made to document how each piece was put together, like a glass jigsaw puzzle. Then each piece of glass was carefully removed from the lead joints to be cleaned. Some glass had stress fractures from time and pressure being applied as the windows bowed in and out. We were fortunate that damaged pieces could be repaired by using special epoxy. In more severe instances, most glass companies do their best to use recycled glass from reclaimed windows to cut a replacement piece.

Next, the team worked to cut and form the new lead channels and solder the pieces together again. Prior to that, we had only one iron support bar placed in the middle, but for good measure we added an additional one and spaced them in thirds to provide more even support for the windows. Our windows are no different than the common form found in Roselle where they are short and



Home of David Pileski and Katie Kilbridge
(Built in 1913 for Heinrich and Marie Siems)

wide, resulting in increased risk of bowing as weather goes from hot and humid to cold and dry. The result is very satisfying, and we rest assured that the windows will continue to grace the area for passersby on Roselle Road for another century sharing their story of a bygone time in our community.

To the right is a view of the window from inside the house.

Thanks to David Pileski for sharing this historical moment with our readers. David, a Village Trustee, is the great grandson of Earl Crandall, Roselle's first train station agent and first Village clerk.



David and Katie's house received Historic Landmark designation in March 2017. For the full story, check out the Summer 2017 issue of the RHMNewsletter at www.rosellehistory.com. You can find the Becker House story in the Summer 2018 issue of the newsletter.

Joanne Johnson is “Remembering Roselle”

As the book title suggests, *Remembering Roselle* is a trip down memory lane, and when Joanne Johnson received her copy of the book, she took that trip and generously shared the memories that were stirred up as she turned the pages. She hopes other readers will be inspired to do the same.

Joanne Johnson grew up and taught school in Roselle before moving to Fairfield, Iowa.

If you have the book, perhaps you'd like to take the journey back in time with Joanne.

The Parkside, Lincoln, and Spring Hills schools are pictured on pages 58 and 59.

Joanne was a student at Parkside. She said, when she began teaching there, that it felt weird to be teaching in a school where she had been a student from third to sixth grade. She went on to teach in all three of the schools and did some tutoring.

“I remember in third grade at Parkside when we walked over to get vaccinated for polio with the Salk vaccine. They were testing it. Some got the real thing; some did not. I got the real thing. One girl, as we left the building to return to Parkside, fainted.” The vaccinating took place at the Salk-Pioneer School, 132 East Pine Avenue. Originally called the Roselle Public School, the school was renamed in 1951 to honor Dr. Jonas Salk, inventor of the vaccine. Since 1995, the school has been the home of the North DuPage Special Education Cooperative (NDSEC). You can see more about this school on page 55. (Ed. Note: Parkside School is now Trinity's Community Ctr.)

Joanne continues to reminisce. “In seventh grade (at Salk-Pioneer), I was in a small section of the class that was given French lessons with a teacher from Lake Park High School—something new they were trying. In eighth grade, since that went well, it was continued, and the larger portion of the class was given Spanish lessons. Salk-Pioneer had two classrooms upstairs, two on the main floor, and one in the basement. My homeroom was on the first floor to the right. Rest of the class was in the room on the left. When we rotated from my room to their room, where they had just had a Spanish lesson and some Spanish phrases were still on the board, someone would change it into French. We thought it was fun.”

In 1959, during the construction of the addition to St. Walter's School (p. 64), Joanne and her young friends tested their entrepreneurship. They made lemonade—from scratch, she boasts—and sold it to the workers. When the girls decided it was too much work, Joanne's dad gave them “a case of pop free to sell; it was clear profit. We took it to the workers in a little red wagon.”

The invoice on page 72 stirred up Joanne's memory of the tragedy that struck the Gieseke Hardware Store in 1957 when an explosion leveled the building. She

remembers that several people were killed and several severely injured. “I was young, and it was hard to imagine such a thing happened. I can still remember the loud noise of the explosion. Scary and strange in a quiet town like Roselle.”

Milk was delivered by Rodewald Dairy (p. 80) to the Johnsons' second-floor flat. “I saved the milk caps and used them to learn my numbers and other things.”

Shirl's Drive-in and the Pizza Cottage (pp. 82, 83) were great places to hang out in high school. “I remember

Snyder's Drug Store and its soda fountain where we could get Cherry Cokes and hang out. I loved shopping at Gorski's (p. 85).”

“I remember when a home on Roselle Road was turned into Lynfred Winery (p. 87).” Joanne also recalls the Jewel Food Store and Pik-Kwik Foods for grocery shopping—both businesses are gone now.

“I remember the canopy of elm trees on Maple Avenue (p. 111). We lived near there. My mom, who also taught school in Roselle, always loved that. So majestic. I remember Dr. Nagro who wrote ‘Roselle, Dear Home Town.’ I remember learning the song in grade school. His wife taught me piano lessons. Also, on page 112 is a picture of the 1961 Rose Queen Pageant . . . I knew Sandra Ladd from my class in school and Diane Schwolow who lived near us.”

Joanne also comments on several old newsletters that the museum staff sent to her along with *Remembering Roselle*. She especially enjoys reading stories about the years when she lived here.

Referring to the Summer 2019 newsletter, she was taken aback by a comment that appeared in the article, “A Rose is a Rose is a Rose,” in which the author of the article wrote this in the 1924 *Palatine Enterprise*:

Roselle is making good on 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.

Joanne quips: “In all my years living in Roselle, I never noticed any ‘profusion’ of roses in rose time. Maybe once it was so, or maybe I just didn't notice.” She really enjoyed the “If Buildings Could Talk” series, which were inspired by Museum President Ray Hitzemann.

Frank Mikes Celebrates 100!

FRANK MIKES celebrated his 100th birthday last July and treated himself to a haircut for the occasion. Cindy Kerr, barber and stylist, looks forward to his regular visits and shared this photo of Frank sporting his new haircut—front and back.

Cindy says, “He always tries to be my first customer on a Thursday when he says, ‘the wife says he is due for a haircut.’ Then he never looks in the mirror after he gets it cut. He says, ‘the wife will o.k. it when he gets home.’ He is always smiling.”

Frank’s wife, Loretta, passed away in 2019 after 75 years of marriage, but Frank continues to get to the barber shop on Thursdays.

When Frank, a WWII veteran, came home from the War, he joined his brother Jim to form the Mikes Construction Company. The brothers went on to build many of the buildings in town. Frank also served as a Village Trustee.

The RHMNewsletter staff wishes Frank “many happy returns” – to the barbershop.



Cindy Kerr and Frank Mikes

Thank You, Scouts! Scout leaders Eric Shutes & Maryann Grygiel and their scouts are delivering the RHMNewsletter to local businesses. Great job.



What Else is New?

Flags for Roselle Deadline

for subscriptions is set for **May 1, 2020**, but don’t wait until the last minute. Do it today. Send a check for \$50 to Flags for Roselle, P.O. Box 72001, Roselle, IL 60172. To pay online, go to the FFR website at www.flagsforroselle.weebly.com. To volunteer for an installation team or if you have questions, email FlagsforRoselle@gmail.com. (Flag photo by Dan Barclay)

Garden Club Members

decorated the entire Museum Campus for the holidays. Space permits only one picture, but you can see more on the museum’s website. Borrowing from George M. Cohan, “Our collective mother thanks you, our collective father thanks you, our collective sister thanks you, and WE thank you!”



346 – That was the magic number of visitors who

came to the museum during the Village’s Cocoa Crawl in November. Karen Schulz, Deputy Clerk for the Village of Roselle, presented Leslie Drewitz with a Christmas ornament in recognition of the museum’s participation in the program. The ornament is on display in the museum.

Remembering Roselle: You may pick up a copy of the photo history of Roselle by author Jill Gross at the Museum Office for \$20. Or you may order one by emailing rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net, or by calling 630-351-5300. The books are also available for purchase at the Village Hall.

Roselle Remembers Bob Leeper. Bob will be remembered as the long-time owner of Pik-Kwik Foods on Irving Park Road (now part of Wickstrom Chevrolet). He died in December after a long illness. Bob, whose illustrious business career began at age 13, served terms as Chairman of the Board of Directors for Central Grocers as well as Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Roselle Bank. His familiar words of wisdom were, “Do as much as you can as fast as you can, and be kind along the way.”

Welcome to New Proofreader, Peggie Jones, as she joins newsletter proofreaders Joan & Bob Beauprez, Leslie Drewitz, Ray Hitzemann, and Tom Piorkowski.

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM STREET
ROSELLE IL 60172



Spring 2020

April 4 Children's Program-Manners
April 25 Historical Evening
May 25 Flags for Roselle
June 7 Rose Parade
June 14 Flags for Roselle
July 3 Fireworks/Glowsticks

July 4 Flags for Roselle
July 11 Children's Program-Irish Dance
July 31-Aug 2 Taste of Roselle
Sept 11 Flags for Roselle
Oct (tba) Children's Halloween Hunt
Nov 11 Flags for Roselle
Dec (tba) 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

President: Ray Hitzemann
VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman
Secretary: Tom Piorkowski
Members: Milan Bagel,
Joan Beauprez, Hank Kvintus,
Walter Lotz
Museum Mgr: Leslie Drewitz
Marketing Mgr: Megan Wozniak

General Meetings

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

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

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.

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