



Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
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Fall 2021

The Museum is Back!



The History Museum reopened on July 1, and visitors were welcomed to a new exhibit, "Women and the Vote."

The exhibit was planned for last year, but the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible. So, the major historical event of 1920, which celebrated its centennial in 2020, is being celebrated by the Museum this year. The mannequins' costumes are exact replicas of the 1920 marchers' actual attire.



Photos, artifacts, and documents depict the dramatic activities of the movement.



"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."

For much more about the women's crusade for the

vote, visit www.rosellehistory.org, then go to About, Newsletter, Winter 2020, Page 3. ~~~~~

Historical Evening is Back!

"Halls of Power: Stories of the Sometimes Ridiculous Trials and Tribulations of National Leaders"

Following a cancellation in 2020 and a delay in 2021, the History Museum is happy to announce the return of its annual Historical Evening! Come see presenter Tom Piorkowski as he talks about the humor of politics, ranging from the absurd to the somewhat risqué. Learn about the vice president who missed an important vote because his opponents timed it for his daily nap, the president who faked his temper tantrums to frighten opponents, and the house speaker who rose to power by haranguing an empty chamber.



Tom Piorkowski, a long-time volunteer at the Museum, has been an adjunct member of the faculty at Elmhurst University since 2016, where he teaches U.S. History.

Program

Saturday, October 9

Trinity Lutheran Family Life Center

Reception: 6:30 p.m. - Program: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

After the Program: Q & A

Refreshments that will be provided
will comply with COVID-19 recommendations.

Tickets may be purchased beginning in mid-September
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.

Village's Youngest Mayor Shares His Vision for Roselle & the Museum

We posed a few questions to Mayor David Pileski recently about his vision for Roselle and the History Museum. Here's what he had to say.

"I would like to see a vibrant community that continues to be a relevant destination for people to raise their families, start their business, and enjoy their retirement years in. To accomplish this, we need to ensure we have diverse types of housing and a business-friendly community that people seek out doing business."

His interest in government comes naturally. "I grew up in a family that was civically engaged; where dinner frequently involved debate on the local, state, and national politics of the day. In addition, witnessing the changes to Main Street and the recession impressed on me the potential impact our local government could have. . ."

Vision for the History Museum

"Next year we are celebrating Roselle's 100th anniversary of incorporation, giving us a phenomenal opportunity to share our history. I believe the History Museum Campus should be a focal point for community organizations and events. Its central location and unique facilities make the Museum a prime collaboration partner with other community organizations increasing its exposure and an opportunity to educate more people of Roselle's past."

When asked how he sees the History Museum today and in the future, the Mayor said, "The History Museum is an important fixture in our community celebrating Roselle's story and documenting it for others to learn. What's past is prologue and the Museum serves an important purpose to help inform tomorrow's decisions."

"I believe the digitization of the Museum's records and capturing the stories of the Greatest Generation are of utmost importance to preserve our history and make it accessible to future generations. In addition, I see opportunities for the Museum to collaborate with other entities in the Village to expand its reach in the community."

The Mayor's leadership style is that of "coalition builder." He says he brings together "people that represent different backgrounds, perspectives, and expertise to help develop the soundest policy possible." He believes "it is important to be accessible and a good listener to truly understand the opinions of others. It is equally important



to be candid about what limitations exist and the timeline to deliver solutions to appropriately set expectations."

The Mayor's involvement in the community includes being a member of the Cub Scout Pack 412, a 4-H member, peer jury member, and a "swashbuckling glowstick salesman" for the History Museum as a youth.

Educational Background

"After I graduated from college and settled back in town, I continued to seek ways to give back including

volunteering for the Roselle United Methodist Church Food Pantry and the Lake Park Educational Foundation. I also have been an active member in social organizations including the Roselle Garden Club and League of Women Voters. I was appointed by Mayor Smolinski to the Zoning Board of Appeals for two years where I heard resident petitions. Later I was elected to serve four years as trustee where I was the administration, finance, and community development chair."

Mayor Pileski graduated from District 12 Elementary School, Lake Park High School (a Lancer for Life), and earned his bachelor's degree in Urban & Regional Planning from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. For nearly ten years, he's been working in the supply chain industry.

Family Background

The Mayor is a fourth generation Roselle resident. His great grandfather, Earl Crandall, moved his family to Roselle in 1921 to be the train station manager and was elected the first Village Clerk. Crandall was a charter member of Roselle United Methodist Church and helped build its first proper public school building--still standing today on East Pine Avenue housing NEDSEC. Crandall was named "Roselle Man of the First Half Century." Pileski's grandparents, Vernon and Esther Herbener, remained active in the community operating their small business and serving in numerous organizations in Roselle. His parents were also active members of the community. His mother, Alice Pileski, worked for the Village for a period of time and started a business networking organization to help support local businesses. His father, Gary Pileski, served a term as Trustee (1973-77) and operated his law practice in the Village. Roselle has been an integral part of the Mayor's family's life. He feels fortunate to continue what has become a century-long family tradition of community service. ~~~~~

Thank You to Roselle's Own Philanthropist

A huge "Thank You" to **ROBERT "BOB" KLING**, for his generosity over the years to the town he loved. Bob passed away on Feb. 6 this year of COVID-19-related symptoms, leaving a unique legacy of kindness and generosity.



Bob Kling wanted no recognition for the extremely generous, and highly respected role he played in the History Museum's success.

He was a devoted member for many years and consistently, over those years, gave of his treasure to the Museum as well as to the Library, Park District, Stepping Stones/Bridge Communities, and others.

He insisted, however, that his contributions be anonymous. Museum officials respected his wish while Bob was still living. Now, however, newsletter readers need to know what a generous, unselfish man he was.

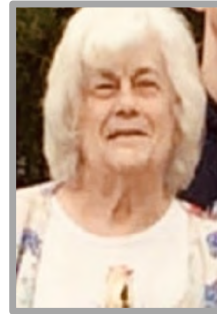
His legacy to Roselle organizations totaled \$1.1 million. Of that amount, he directed \$250,000 to the History Museum. How this gift will be used will be determined by the RHM Board of Directors.

Probably the most public contribution Bob made to the Museum was his participation on the Cookbook Committee 13 years ago, the only male among nine women. Together they published "Cherished Recipes." An accomplished baker, Bob tested and approved many of the recipes himself. When it came his turn to host the annual committee luncheon, he treated the women to a delightful lunch at La Hacienda de Roselle Mexican Restaurant.

Bob Kling's special friend, Rob Burns, shared this: "Robert and I worked together on a number of civic initiatives over the years. He had a great sense of humor, could be stubborn as a mule, and impatient when I didn't move fast enough on one of our energy-efficient LED lighting conversion projects." These improvement projects took place at the Park District and Turner Park. Burns went on to say Bob Kling was also "a huge supporter of Smile Train, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Habitat for Humanity, to name a few of the big ones."



Remembering Frank and Claranne Zielinski



After spending his entire life in service to others, **FRANK ZIELINSKI** died on May 7 at age 93. Sadly, one month later, on June 6, his loving wife, **CLARANNE**, passed away.

Frank and Claranne, who were devoted not only to their family, but also to this town, knew the worst possible tragedy any parent can endure: losing two sons, Peter and Michael. Their faith was indeed tested, but they showed great strength during those very difficult times. Frank and Claranne leave their daughter, Joanne Policht, and their son, David. They also leave six grandchildren.

Frank served in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Later, in Roselle, he served as a Village trustee, a District 12 School Board member, a Cub Scout Master, and a long-time member of the Historical Foundation/History Museum.

Frank's Museum friends will miss his pleasant personality and his valuable contribution to the Museum's mission. In addition to being a member of the Board of Directors, he served for many years as Community Relations chairman. In that capacity, he represented the Museum at Chamber of Commerce meetings and other community events. He took great pride in chairing the Float Committee, entering the Museum's version in the Rose Parade each year. His family supported him by taking an active role in this event. He was a man who got things done.

Frank's Museum colleagues share some thoughts: "Frank played a vital role in setting up the Flag Room exhibit. In addition to the physical setup, he wrote to each of the 50 states requesting its state flag. He particularly enjoyed serving as a docent when school groups toured the Museum, and he spoke to school children on video describing the Military Room exhibit." (Joan Beuprez)

"A very kind and gentle man." (Leslie Drewitz)

"All the time I have known Frank, he was devoted to the Museum. The thing he seemed to enjoy the most was making sure that we had our float in the Rose Parade." (Ray Hitzemann)

(continued on page 6)

On the Joy, and Value, of Keeping a Diary

by Mary Wisniewski

"I never travel without my diary. One should always have something sensational to read in the train." –Oscar Wilde

Oscar Wilde wrote this line for the play "The Importance of Being Earnest," and it may have made more sense in 1895. No one was carrying iPhones back then, beeping with every pop star scandal and whatever it is a friend from sixth grade had for lunch. With everything being publicly chronicled minute by minute, why would anyone need something as quaint as a personal, private diary—a habit that seems as old-fashioned as sock-darning and churning your own butter?

As a professional writer who has kept a diary since the age of 12, I think that journaling is more important than ever. Artists who keep journals, and psychologists who recommend journaling for therapy say that it can be a way of relieving stress, moving past trauma, inspiring creativity, and giving meaning to a life that seems to move too fast to capture. The noise of modern life is intense—a journal provides a moment of quiet honesty—a time alone with your life.

During tumultuous historic or personal times, like now, journaling is a way to strengthen your inner voice—the voice that belongs to you alone and is not the persona you put on for friends, work, and family. Time with a journal allows you time to reflect, and that reflection can allow you to look at what you really feel about something, see your world more clearly, and make better decisions.

Journaling has been put down as self-absorption—something for teenagers who have the time to contemplate their own belly-buttons. But Kenneth Fils, a psychologist who runs a large group practice in nursing homes, has told me that journaling actually can help with empathy. By learning to listen closely to yourself, you can listen better to others, he said.

How do you start a journal? Get yourself a blank notebook—it doesn't have to be fancy—one of those black-and-white marble composition books from the drug store will do. Or you can pick something fancier, but don't make it so fancy that you're afraid of writing in it! Reserve yourself some time, perhaps in the morning before everyone else is up, or in the evening when everyone else is in bed. Or you can steal some time during the day—pretend you're taking a smoking break, even if you don't smoke. Don't be afraid of the blank



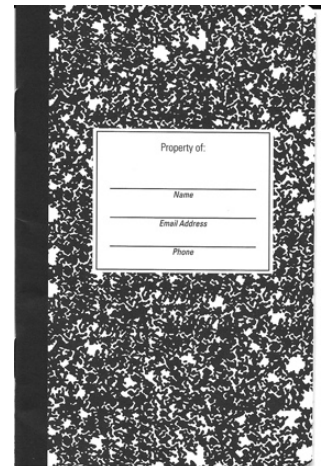
page. Write down objects – what do you see? What do you smell? What do the clouds look like? What dumb thing did your boss say? Have you been vaccinated yet, and how did that feel? That's a way to get started. Try to commit yourself to doing at least 15 minutes a day, every day, for 14 days. That's a way to start a habit, and once you start a habit, it's hard to break it. Make yourself a daily date with your diary.

If you don't have anything to say about the present, think about things you remember from your past. What happened the first time you told a lie? Who heard your lie? What did that person look like?

What was he or she wearing? Try to focus on turning the camera *out* in your everyday life, instead of just looking inside. If you get mad, or sad, or happy at something that happened, try to describe it as if it were in a film. What kind of car was that guy who cut you off driving? Was he eating a hamburger? You'll find that the more you focus on objects and real sensations, the more you put distance between yourself and an event, and the more control you feel over it. You might even start to enjoy it. If I didn't keep a journal, I might get aggravated over hearing someone discuss her love life on the phone in a grocery store line. Instead, it becomes something funny to tell the journal.

Besides the psychological and creative benefits of keeping a diary, diaries also are important historical records. We understand so much more about world events because of diarists like Anne Frank, who offers a heartbreakingly, personal look at the Holocaust, or Samuel Pepys, who lived through both a plague and the Great Fire of London in 1666. We are living right now in what can be charitably described as "interesting times." It may not be much fun to live through, but our personal details of masks and vaccines and protests are going to be fascinating to our descendants.

So get writing. It doesn't have to be literature – it just has to be true. Make time for it. Your future self will thank you. And it will give you something sensational to read on the train.



Adventureland - 60 Years



Before There Was Adventureland . . .

. . . there was a 24-acre plot of land known as Paul's Picnic Grove. Originally owned by Paul Werner, the property boasted a restaurant/tavern and a banquet/dance hall. The Grove was sold in 1952 to John and Marie Spiezio, who managed it until 1958. That year, Spiezios sold the property to Richard (Dick) Barrie, who designed an attraction that would appeal to young children, and he called it Storybook Park. Bill Picha was named manager of the Park.

Nestled in acres of woodland, Storybook Park was located at the northwest corner of Lake St. and Medinah Rd. It featured live nursery rhyme characters including, but not limited to, Little Bo Peep, the Three Bears, and Cinderella. The Park also had kiddie-sized rides.

Barrie wanted to create a "wonderland" for children devoid of commercialism. Some of the Storybook characters were mechanically animated, while others were portrayed by employees of the Park.

The Lollipop Train, a standard-gauge 1890s-style locomotive, ran on 3,000 feet of track around the Park. Each child received a lollipop and a numbered ticket to ride the train. Then, once each hour, a winner would be called out to ride with the engineer.

When the popular venue suffered bankruptcy, Durrell Everding (whose family also owned Santa's Village) purchased the property and proceeded to make some changes to appeal to young adults. He focused on rides and opened the park as Adventureland in 1961. Bill Picha remained onboard for the next 11 years.

Big hits were the roller coasters, especially the Italian Bobs (60 feet high). Other rides and attractions included the Caterpillar, Ferris Wheel, Fighter planes, Flying Bobs,

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Go-carts, Octopus, Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe, Rambler, Rocko Plane, Super Himalaya, Torpedo Tubs, Whip, and Yo Yo Swings.



On weekends, WLS disc jockeys Dick Biondi and Clark Weber emceed dances, and the Cryan' Shames and other dance bands played rock and roll.

Adventureland was open daily from Memorial Day until September, then only on weekends through the end of the season. At a season's peak, Adventureland welcomed as many as 650,000 visitors. About 150 local teenagers had summer jobs at the park.

Donald Holliman came to work at the park as a ride operator when he was 16, and he eventually became park co-manager.

Durrell Everding expanded Adventureland to the west and north by purchasing an existing restaurant/motel, a turkey farm, and the Gossage property.

A Tunnel Under Lake Street? Hmmm

Residents who lived on South Medinah Road around 1970 surely remember Durrell Everding's proposal to create a parking lot on the five acres of land at the southwest corner of Lake

St. and South Medinah Rd.

A public hearing was held, and Werner Troesken and Wally Geils were in attendance (two men entrenched in Bloomingdale history). It was at that hearing that Everding announced his plans to build an underpass below Lake St. and construct a ride that would carry people from the parking lot to the amusement park safely.

(continued on page 6)

Garden Club

Proud of Successful Summer

Vintage Sale - June 5



Despite the heat and humidity on that Saturday, the Museum Campus provided a perfect setting for the Vintage Sale sponsored by the Roselle Garden Club. Yard art, garden tools, and household items were sold from artistically arranged

tents. Club President Valerie Della Penna said members had been gathering items for the sale for the past two years. The Vintage Sale was a cooperative event with the Prospect Street Market's Flea Market.

Annual Garden Walk - July 10

Prior to the Garden Walk, Katie Kilbridge, Walk Chairman, stopped for a photo op during the Preview Walk with Garden Club members Katy Suchy, Karen Ryba, Lesley Carrion, Pat Rummelhart, and Vice President Renee Poulopolous.



At the Walk's stepping off point (the Museum Campus) Garden Club

members provided maps to facilitate the tour of several wonderful backyard gardens. Over 120 "tourists" gained inspiration for their own gardens, met the Club members and homeowners at each yard, and chatted with Master Gardeners at select locations. This is an annual event, so watch for next year's promotions in Spring 2022.



Proceeds from the Walk and the Vintage Sale support the Garden Club's youth education efforts, civic beautification, and the Roselle IMPACT Garden, which provides fresh organic produce to the Roselle Food Pantry.

Flags for Roselle

Nearly 400 flags were installed in Roselle on the Fourth of July as part of the FFR program. Next installation: Patriot Day, Sept. 11.



Adventureland *(continued from page 5)*

The residents were not convinced, even when Everding assured them turning lanes on Lake St. would alleviate the traffic problems that were also a concern to them. The plan was not approved. The project never happened.

Durrell Everding died in 1970. His family ran the park until 1974, when Medinah Investors bought the property.

Adventureland closed in 1977 due to a decline in attendance, gradual deterioration, and the opening of Great America. The rides and attractions were sold at auction. The amusement park sat idle, decaying, for years. Then, in the 1980s, it was bull-dozed and cleared.

Today, the Old Woman and the Shoe enjoys a place of honor at the Green Valley Golf Range on the south side of Lake St. in Hanover Park. The huge Indian and Pirate entrance greeters were also relocated.

The eastern part of the Adventureland property now is home to the Scottish Rite--Valley of Chicago. Owner of the western portion, formerly the Bridgestone/Firestone building, is the Medinah Woods Corporate Center.



Thanks to the Bloomingdale Public Library (Leslie Drewitz), the Bloomingdale Historical Society (Charles Goodman), and the Addison Historical Society for the historical data for this article.

Remembering Zielinskis *(continued from Page 3)*

Claranne Zielinski wore many hats in Roselle. She was a lover of the arts and had a passion for education, having taught preschool at Roselle Methodist and the Park Dist. She was the 5th grade catechist and early childhood coordinator of religious education at St. Walter's. She was president of the PTO, a Girl Scout and Service Unit leader, and she was active in Cub Scouts, the Roselle swim team, school bands, the Council of Catholic Women, the University Women's Club, and many other organizations. Claranne also helped each year with the Museum's Christmas Open House by baking cookies and making sure every visitor received the souvenir cookie booklet. The Zielinskis have left their mark on Roselle.



Adventureland Memories:

Aside from our family visits, I sold

concessions one summer with Lori Baumann. Her parents had a stand. I remember spinning cotton candy in 90 degree heat and coming home covered in the stuff. Lots of fun and definitely an "adventure." (*Betty Barclay Bentley*)

I grew up in Bellwood and lived there with my wife when we were first married. An elementary school teacher at the time, I had summers off. . . . In the Summer of 1971, I took a job as a cab driver. One night, I picked up a woman in Melrose Park whose destination was a motel just west of Adventureland. When I got home, I told my wife . . . "I took her to a motel next to Adventureland, almost all the way to Bloomingdale." At that time, I knew Bloomingdale as a country town notable only for its reputation as a speed trap on Lake Street. (*Charles "Chip" Goodman of the Bloomingdale HS, has lived in Bloomingdale for the past 45 years.*)

More Shirl's Memories: *After the Summer newsletter went to press, we received several more poignant Shirl's Drive-In memories that will provide a smile or two.*

My first and clearest memory of Shirl's is from the day my family moved into Tall Pines apartments, which was right next door. I was six years old and excited about the prospect of ice cream so close to my house. While the adults were carrying boxes upstairs from the truck, my cousin Marcy offered to take me to Shirl's. When I saw what they had to offer I insisted on an M&M Flurry. This combination of candy and ice cream shattered the pleasure center of my brain and left an indelible mark on my psyche. We walked back to the apartment complex, where my mom was mortified to see that I'd made my teenage cousin buy me the most expensive item on the menu. Marcy was cool with it, though. Thanks, Marcy! (*Lucius Wisniewski*)

Happy Days and Milwaukee had their Arnold's; Roselle had Shirl's. Arnold and Mrs. C. were replaced by Vic, Marion, and Mrs. Vana. It's hard to imagine that Arnold's had better hamburgers, fries, and shakes than we did in Roselle. Most of those of us who worked there were also their biggest customers, and we were all like family. It was a great place to work because it was fun--not much like work at all. Friends and family members would drop by for something to eat and a chat. During the school year, students worked afternoons, evenings, and weekends while the counter was manned during the day by the Yosts, Doris Levey, and Ethel Vana. Besides the usual drive-in fare, they served fabulous barbeques, fried chicken, and pork tenderloin sandwiches. I worked there for several years, including the transitional year, from one long counter with stools and two windows to an indoor dining area with picnic tables. My favorite jobs were cutting French fries, making banana splits, and helping to

fill the soft-serve machines. It took a while, but I did eventually master the perfect swirl on a cone. (*Nancy Bokelman Stetter*)

I moved to Roselle in 1987. Initially, I had trouble making friends. I was picked on and kept getting beat up by this one kid. My father bought a 70 lb. punching bag and gave me boxing lessons. The next time I saw this kid, I punched him as hard as I could and knocked him off his bike. He proceeded to beat the stuffing out of me. I finally cried, "Why won't you be my friend?" He took me to his house; his mother cleaned me up and gave him \$10, and he took me to Shirl's for a chocolate and peanut butter milk shake. We were best of friends until he moved to Georgia and even reconnected years later. We always talked about Shirl's.

We also used to go there after baseball games, junior high school dances, and every Taste of Roselle. I had to get my chocolate peanut butter shake. When I had my first girlfriend in junior high school, we used to walk up to Shirl's and have ice cream. Even after I got my license, I took dates there in high school. I was heartbroken when they closed, and where I kick myself the most is that, from the time I was 11 until they closed, I never deviated from that chocolate peanut butter shake. Since they closed, I have never had a shake as good as the one at Shirl's. (*John Messamore*)



What Else is New!

Centennial Committee

continues to put together ideas for how the History Museum will celebrate Roselle's Centennial in 2022. For logo contest information, visit www.roselle.il.us/Centennial.



Thank You Notes to

ERIC SHUTES, MARYANN GRYGIEL, and local Boy Scout Troop 408, for getting this newsletter to local businesses and organizations.

View the Video Jay Mikes, a faithful contributor to the newsletter, created a video documentary in 2009 entitled, "*Schaumburg Roots: Beginnings through Civil War.*" Jane Rozek, Schaumburg's local historian, tells us they have a copy available for check out. Patrons who don't have a Schaumburg Library card will need to register their own library card with Schaumburg Library to check it out.

Also, the title is, indeed, spelled with an "e" in Schaumburg. Here is the link to the record:

<https://catalog.schaumburglibrary.org/Record/1008320>

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
39 E ELM ST
ROSELLE IL 60172



We're Open! Come Visit!

*"It is amazing how much can be accomplished if no one cares
who gets the credit." (John Wooden)*

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 & Staff

President: Ray Hitzemann
VP/Treasurer: Glenn Spachman
Secretary: Tom Piorkowski
Members: Joan Beauprez,
Lee Beauprez, John Binneboese,
Tim Grasso, Walter Lotz

Museum Mgr: Leslie Drewitz
Marketing Mgr: Keri Soukup
Village Board Liaison: Wayne Domke

General Meetings

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

Museum Hours

Sundays: 2-4 pm
Wednesday-Saturday: 10 am - 2 pm by appt

Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1 – May 1 – Aug 1 – Nov 1
Editor: Kay Cahill
editor@rosellehistory.org

CONTRIBUTION FORM

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

Name _____

Phone _____

Address _____

City _____

Email Address _____

State/Zip _____

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

____ *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 * Docent * 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. Fall 2021