

# ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM Spring 2024 Newsletter

Official publication of the  
Roselle Historical Foundation

39 East Elm Street, Roselle, IL 60172-2026  
(630-351-5300)

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Facebook: <https://facebook.com/rosellehistorymuseum>



A BIG  
Thank you!

As of March 1, 2024, Ray Hitzemann has retired as President of the Roselle Historical Foundation. For 17 years, Ray has served the museum as chief officer and has been involved in many activities and events along with his wife, Sharon. Ray will be the Grand Marshal at the 2024 Rose Parade. We Thank You Ray, for all your years of service and guidance!

Henry (Hank) Kvintus was a longtime board member and supporter of the RHM and many other community organizations. His cheerful smile and kind spirit were unlike any other and he is missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. His memory will live on forever.

To help that happen there will soon be a bench dedicated to Hank placed in a new memorial garden to be created by Anthony Johnson. Anthony is an Eagle scout and he and some of his fellow scouts will be planting flowers and landscaping a garden on the museum grounds. We are thankful to Anthony for taking on this project and look forward to something beautiful.

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Ribbon cutting ceremony Roselle History Museum.  
Pictured from left: Keri Soukup, Adeline (friend of Marge,) Joan Beauprez, Jeff Engel, Marge Engel, Mayor David Pileski, and Tim Grasso

The ribbon was cut on the Roselle History Museum after the Village completed the outdoor repairs to the history museum campus. The museum is now fully open for visitors once again! Please come see us during our docent hours on Sundays from 2-4. We are also open by appointment Wednesday thru Saturday (Please Call Ahead).

We are now equipped with handicap accessible entrances connecting our buildings! Thank you to the Village of Roselle for the completion of the repair and construction of porches, railings, and walkways on our campus. We appreciate Roselle's commitment to our group.



## Return of an Old Friend



On Feb 20, an old friend returned to her hometown for a day of touring memorable places. Marge Engel, who turned 96 on Feb 23, celebrated her birthday arriving in Roselle on a bus furnished by her assisted living facility. She and a few of her friends visited several locations in Roselle. Her son, our own Jeff Engel, accompanied his Mom on her trip down memory lane. Marge took part in the History Museum ribbon cutting reopening the Museum after its outdoor upgrades.



Visit to Museum accompanied  
by our Mayor Pileski.



Visit to Lynfred Winery with friends Joan Beauprez  
and Tim Grasso. Thank you to Lynfred staff for  
being so hospitable.



Spring is when you feel like whistling  
even with a shoe full of slush.

Doug Larson



Marge Engel, a witness to Roselle's evolution,  
has left her mark on its history.  
Her stories and memories continue to enrich the  
fabric of this charming village.

Pictured here with Joan Beauprez

Marjorie Engel grew up in Roselle and was an involved member of the community alongside her husband. In addition to visiting the Roselle History Museum during her trip to Roselle, Marjorie visited her old home, church, the restaurant where she and her husband had their first date (where 8000 miles is today), and of course Engel Park, which is named for her and her husband.

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## From the Museum Manager's Desk

Spring has sprung! ...and the museum grounds have undergone a renewal process as well!



The village of Roselle has put in beautiful new walkways and a new ramp for the museum buildings, which are less cumbersome than the old walkways were.

The Trex decking is made to last a very long time with minimal maintenance. We are so grateful that the village implemented this project and so happy with the way it turned out!

In addition, Scout Anthony Johnson has volunteered to make over a portion of the gardens as a memorial tribute to long time board member Hank Kvintus – and we know he will do a marvelous job! Maryann Greigel has further offered a memorial bench for the garden, as well!

In February, we had a special inaugural event in the form of a Genealogy Class and WOW! Was it ever popular! We had registration open for 5 weeks and we had to close it after about 2 weeks because the class was full. We are fully committed to having a second Genealogy Class in the Fall (date TBD), so if you are interested, please let us know early.

The Antique Appraisal is coming back to the RHM this Fall, so get those antiques ready and let us discover what they are worth. Certified Appraisers will be on hand from Leonard Auction to answer all of your questions!

We are looking for volunteers! If you have a passion for community, come join us!

Please leave a message at the museum office 630-351-5300 or contact Leslie, the Museum Manager at [museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:museummanager@rosellehistory.org)

Remember, stay curious!

Leslie

### WANTED: Old family and heirloom recipes!

Do you have any recipes that you would like to share? Perhaps recipes that were passed down through your family or those you look forward to at family gatherings.

Then you are just the person we are looking for!

For more information, or to submit a recipe, please contact Leslie Drewitz – by phone, (630) 351-5300 or

email [museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:museummanager@rosellehistory.org).



First Genealogy Class Held in Feb

## Upcoming Events!

Historical Evening— May 4

Rose Festival—May 30-June 2

Rose Parade—June 2

Village-wide Garage Sale—June 7/8

Taste of Roselle—Aug 2-4

Dates TBD: Spring/Antiques Appraisal

Fall/2nd Genealogy class

In case you missed these cute shirts at the Taste, these Roselle historical t-shirts are now available at the museum.

They are \$20 and there are different designs available. If you are interested, you can call Leslie at the museum, 630-351-5300 or email her at [museummanager@rosellehistory.org](mailto:museummanager@rosellehistory.org)



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## Marketing Manager's Corner

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I recently attended the 2024 Rose Ambassador Pageant, held on February 9th. As someone who did not grow up in Roselle, I found it important to experience this large part of Roselle history for myself. The Rose Queen Pageant has been a time-honored tradition in Roselle since the early 1960s that is still held today, albeit with a slightly different perspective.

In 2022, the pageant began inviting male contestants to participate for the new title of Rose Ambassador, allowing participants of both genders to showcase their best evening and casual wear, talent, and question/answer responses. Readers may be surprised to know that despite the feminine-driven history of the Rose Pageant, there have been male participants prior to the official rebranding. In 1980, Mark Funk became the first male to compete for the Rose Queen title.

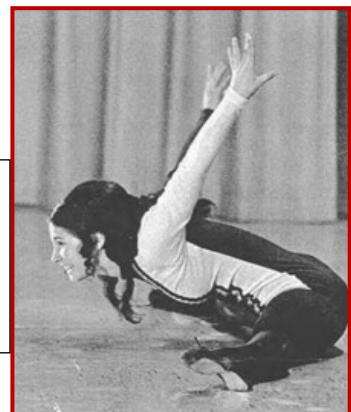


*Anne Marie VanderWerf, center, was chosen Rose Queen of 1960. Betty Chlapaty, left, was the first runner-up and Marjorie Olofson, second runner-up.*

This year, eleven men and women competed for the crown, and there was no shortage of talent and impressive extracurricular activities. Second runner up Anthony Johnson showcased his photography skills and shared community service projects he is working on as an Eagle Scout. Singing, Indian dancing, piano playing, and even dressmaking was also featured in the talent portion.

***Keri Soukup, Marketing Manager***

*1972 Queen Cindy Miller performs her talent portion of the pageant, a free exercise routine.*



*Left to right: 2023 Rose Ambassador Julia Persak, 2024 second runner up Anthony Johnson, 2024 Rose Ambassador Angelina Italia, and 2024 first runner up Frankie Molfese.*



## The Greatest Average American

Poor William Jennings Bryan. In many respects, he had one of the most impressive careers in American political history. In many other respects, however, he is American history's greatest also ran, a footnote in stories where others come out on top. In addition to this, there are countless little anecdotes about him that just seem strange. A teetotaler, for some reason he used bourbon as cologne, meaning this temperance advocate always smelled like he just left a tavern. The most remarkable thing about Bryan, however, is how this man achieved such prominence with a political record that lacks anything of real substance.

In 1896, after having served two undistinguished terms in the US House of Representatives, Bryan captured the nominations of both the Democratic and Populist parties. At 36, he remains the youngest candidate to ever receive a major party's nomination for president and the youngest person to ever receive a vote in the electoral college. He was nominated in part for delivering "The Cross of Gold" speech denouncing the gold standard at the Democratic National Convention. In many ways, this speech would become the highlight of his career in terms of actual accomplishments. He would lose that election in 1896 to William McKinley. Having become a leader of the Democratic Party, he was able to secure the party's nomination for president again in 1900, only to lose again to McKinley. The Democrats took a break from Bryan in 1904 but nominated him again in 1908, only to see him lose again, this time to William Howard Taft. This makes Bryan one of only two three-time losers for the presidency, alongside Henry Clay. The difference between the two is that Clay had numerous other accomplishments

to boast of. To Bryan's credit, however, he does hold the record for most electoral votes ever received by an individual who never became president.

Following this, Bryan was appointed as secretary of state by Woodrow Wilson following his election in 1912 as an acknowledgement of his role as a party leader and as a consolation prize of sorts. Having been denied the presidency three times, Bryan now at least served in the most prestigious cabinet post. His tenure was brief, however, and his resignation in 1915 brought a sigh of relief from many in the administration. Bryan, to his credit as a person, was a pacifist who opposed war under any circumstances. This is not a trait that would have served a US secretary of state well when World War I broke out. By embracing policies that were out of sync with what Wilson desired, he created turmoil within the administration and made himself the odd man out in Washington, a well-meaning but simply in over his head man.

Bryan ended his career with the infamous Scopes Trial, where John T. Scopes was arrested for having taught the theory of evolution. Working as part of the prosecution, Bryan won the case but tarnished his reputation further by coming across as an anti-intellectual who made southerners look ignorant, especially of science. Overall, this seemed a fitting end to his public career. Bryan was the perpetual also ran, always a footnote to a bigger story. He ran for president three times, but he is at best the answer to a trivia question in that regard. He served in the most prestigious cabinet post, but ultimately had to be shunted aside when a real crisis came. And he won a highly publicized trial, only to be criticized by supporters as well as opponents for how he did it. Bryan's legacy is a complicated one. There was much to admire about the man, but there was also much to lament.

By Tom Piorkowski

# Roselle History Museum Newsletter

39 E. Elm St

Roselle, IL 60172

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*Together we'll shape the future*

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.

*Thomas Jefferson*



**Sumner 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 part of our village history and pride tomorrow.

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

#### **Board of Directors & Staff**

Interim President and  
Vice-President:  
Glenn Spachman  
Treasurer: Jeff Engel

Mgr: Leslie Drewitz  
Marketing Mgr: Keri Soukup  
Village Board Liaisons:  
Wayne Domke,  
Tom Piorkowski

Board Members:  
John Binneboese  
Tim Grasso  
Walter Lotz  
Janice Wood

**Friends of the Museum**  
Mary Beahan, Peggy Ott,  
and Michael Drewitz

#### **General Meetings**

Second Saturday of the Month  
10-11:30 am - 39 E. Elm St.

#### **Museum Hours**

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

**Editor:** Janice Wood  
[editor@rosellehistory.org](mailto:editor@rosellehistory.org)

#### **CONTRIBUTION FORM**

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

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- 1) Scan the QR Code at the right to donate
- 2) Go to <https://tinyurl.com/PayPalRHM>

\_\_\_\_ \*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*