



# BAY VIEW Historian

VOLUME 2012, NO. 2

APRIL 2012

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 2, 7:00 pm, Beulah Brinton Center, 2555 S. Bay Street – Marion Carini will present “Milwaukee’s Italians in Bay View and Beyond.”

## Bay View Historical Society Presents... Mario Carini on April 2

Mario Carini, born in Milwaukee’s Little Italy of immigrant parents, is an authority on the history of Milwaukee Italians. Don’t miss Carini’s discussion, “Milwaukee’s Italians in Bay View and Beyond,” at *Bay View Historical Society Presents* (formerly known as the Membership Meeting) on April 2.

Carini’s book, *Milwaukee’s Italians: The Early Years*, reflects his decades of research about the Italian experience in Milwaukee. In fact, he has been granted numerous copyrights from the Library

of Congress on the primary research materials he has collected on the Italians of Milwaukee from 1850-1969.

Carini inherited his love of history from his parents and his presentations reflect his passion for the history of Milwaukee Italians. This discussion is sure to transport you to an earlier era – and it’s free and open to the public.

Please join us at the Beulah Brinton Center, 2555 S. Bay Street at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 2. Refreshments will be served.

## Memories of the Corner Grocery

by Susan M. Molden

The lure of the corner grocery remains with me even now, perhaps more vividly than ever. Then it was just a part of every day – now it’s the stuff that memories are made of: there were the treks to Groppi’s, skipping lightly while dangling from Mom’s hand. There were the pilgrimages with Cousin Eddie for the luxurious popsicles or ice cream cones financed by Nonna. There was the nose-pressed-against-window adoration at the candy counter, eternally pondering the sweetest investment.

The pasta and hard-crust bread bins held less fascination, but the mysteries behind the smokey-glassed meat and cheese counter piqued my imagination. Shoe-worn, raw wooden floors squeaked and invited me down aisles of produce, tempting the grape-nabber in me.

With hands flying, the Groppi brothers chatted with neighbors while bundling sausage in brown paper and string. Breads and pastas were bagged, pennies traded for strips of candy dots and news about health exchanged.

I seldom get back to Groppi’s corner these days. It’s no longer just down the block. Miles – and years – separate us. But certainly that double-edged distance doesn’t mean that its memories don’t lure me.

Your invitation to  
the Annual Dinner  
is on page 3

Don’t miss out on this  
great event!

## Listen to Live German Folk Music at the Brinton House on Monday, May 21

A group of German folk musicians from Ismaning, Bavaria will be touring the Milwaukee area in May and will give a free performance at the Beulah Brinton House on Monday, May 21 at 7:00 pm.

All of the instrumentalists are members of Musikschule Ismaning. These German music-makers are thrilled to share their love of music as well as interact and make new friendships and connections. Treat yourself to a delightful evening of music on May 21 and make some new friends! Learn more at [www.musikschule-ismaning.de](http://www.musikschule-ismaning.de).

The Bay View Historian is published six times a year by The Bay View Historical Society.

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Sheila Semrou

**Committee Contacts:**

**Archives**

Janis Liedtke, 414-481-2648

**Beulah Brinton House Management**

Stephanie Harling, 414-744-5343

**Fundraising**

Nancy Tawney 414-744-5674

**Historian Lead Editor**

Jenn Kresse, 414-531-0225

jrkresse@gmail.com

**Nominating**

Leslie Bachhuber, 414-294-4377

**Landmarks**

John Manke, 414-304-5039

**Programs**

Ron Winkler, 414-744-9404

**Sunshine**

Nadine Barthuli, 414-744-8535

**Membership**

\$20 Individual/\$17 Seniors (Age 65+)

\$30 Household/\$25 Senior Household

\$30 Nonprofit/Small Business

\$55 Corporate

Bay View Historical Society

2590 S. Superior Street

Bay View, WI 53207

[www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org)

The Bay View Historical Society is a nonprofit 501 (c) (3) organization. Your donations and in-kind gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

*By Nancy Tawney*

This summer at the visioning session held to target ideas for the Historical Society's future, the topic of educational programs was discussed. One of the visions expressed was to bring every school child in Bay View to the Beulah Brinton House to hear the story of this neighborhood.

It was a delight to experience this vision being brought to life on January 25. Students from Fernwood School came to the Brinton House for a day of immersion in Bay View history and activities from the past.

The Brinton House truly came alive with their presence. This was only the start of an initiative that will be ongoing. The archives and artifacts in the Brinton House are there to help us all learn more about our past and that day was a fantastic use of them.

The students' tour is another excellent example of our carrying out the mission of the Bay View Historical Society: to preserve, celebrate and share Bay View's rich heritage. Dedicated volunteers made this day a reality and I thank them all for their involvement.

## Goodbye and Thanks to Mike ... Hello, Denice

Mike Krolick joined the BVHS Board as its Treasurer in October 2008 while he was the manager of the Kinnickinnic Avenue M&I Bank. He had served as treasurer on the boards of the Bay View Community Center, Redcat Academy Foundation and the Bay View Business Association. Mike believed in the importance of volunteering

and he was a tremendous help to the Bay View Historical Society. Mike retired from M&I last July and brought an end to his service to the BVHS in January 2012. Thank you, Mike, for your outstanding work on behalf of the Historical Society. The excellent order that you brought to the Society's financial records will always be appreciated.

Denice Laack, a longtime Bay View resident and accountant, has assumed the duties of Treasurer. We welcome you, Denice, and are very grateful that you will be assisting the Society as custodian of its financial records.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

**We welcome the following new members who joined the Society since January 1st:**

- Mary Ann Beaumont • Michael Deikalo
- Raymond & Eleanor Dietrich
- Earl Gutbrod • Sandra Keiser
- Rocky Marcoux • Cristy Niemiec
- Jack & LaRee Savlan • Bess & Harold Worden



## Join Us for Our Annual Yard Sale – Saturday, May 19

by Ann Hahn

Spring is just around the corner and time to do some spring cleaning. Why not donate your items to the Bay View Historical Society? Our annual yard sale will be held from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Saturday, May 19 at the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street. Proceeds from the sale will be used for the upkeep of the Beulah Brinton House.

Please let your friends, neighbors and relatives know about the sale. We ask that you note the sale price on your donated items. We regret that we cannot accept donations of clothing or holiday items, but we will gladly accept donated plants.

Donations may be dropped off at the Brinton House garage the week of May 14 between 1:00 and 5:00 pm or on the morning of the sale, between 7:00 and 9:00 am. If you are donating items that need to be picked up, please call Annie Hahn at (414) 769-7173 or Donna Pogliano at (414) 324-5690. The sale could use plenty of help as well! If you would like to volunteer with set-up, donation collection, packing and clean up, please contact Annie or Donna to find out how you can join in on the fun!

## Join Us for the Bay View Tragedy Commemoration, Sunday, May 6

The Wisconsin Labor History Society will observe the 126th anniversary of the Bay View Tragedy on Sunday, May 6 at 3:00 pm. On the fifth of May in 1886, thousands

of workers marched peacefully to the Bay View Rolling Mill as part of a nationwide effort to bring about the 8-hour workday. As marchers approached the mill, the state militia fired upon them, killing seven. This was the bloodiest labor disturbance in Wisconsin's history and it began the struggle for a more humane workplace. The drama of this event will be brought to life using puppets

and original music composition.

The event will be held at the State Historical Society Marker grounds on the corner of Superior Street and Russell Avenue. Everyone is invited to proceed to Club Garibaldi, 2501 S. Superior St., immediately following the commemoration for discussion about the Tragedy moderated by historian John Gurda.

### This Is Your Invitation To The Annual Dinner

A Separate Invitation Will Not Be Mailed

## Please Join Us As We Celebrate The Bay View Historical Society's Annual Dinner

**Saturday, April 28  
at the South Shore Yacht Club**

Cash Bar 5:30 pm

Dinner 6:30 pm

Silent Auction / Entertainment

**RSVP by April 18**

Tickets \$49

Questions? Contact Susan Ballje at (414) 481-3369

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please reserve:

☐ Chicken Marsala ☐ Orange Roughy ☐ Vegetarian Pasta

In addition to or in lieu of tickets, I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Bay View Historical Society.

Please make checks payable to Bay View Historical Society.  
Mail your reservation to:

**Susan Ballje  
1707 E. Iron Street  
Milwaukee, WI 53207**

### This Is Your Invitation To The Annual Dinner

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# Eliminating the Town of Lake Confusion

By Ron Winkler

On April 6, 1954, the town of Lake went out of existence. On that date, the citizens of the town voted to accept Milwaukee Mayor Frank Zeidler's invitation to join the city of Milwaukee. Prior to that date, Milwaukee's border had been moving southward through Lake, swallowing chunks of town land in the process.

Lake was one of seven townships in Milwaukee County. The town of Lake dwindled as parts were annexed by the city of Milwaukee between 1856 and 1954 and by the incorporation of Bay View in 1879, Cudahy in 1895 and St. Francis in 1951. While Cudahy and St. Francis remained independent, Bay View became part of the city of Milwaukee in 1887.

## Early Years

Pioneers first moved into Wisconsin Territory during the mid 1830s. They replaced the Native American Indians who were forced to move west of the Mississippi River. These pioneers set up a town government to handle their rural lifestyle. The town of Lake was established as one of seven towns in Milwaukee County. Lake's original boundaries were Greenfield Avenue, Lake Michigan, College Avenue and 27th Street.

The city of Milwaukee was founded in 1846, and in 1856 the city annexed the northern section of Lake from Greenfield Avenue south to Burnham Street. The following year Milwaukee extended its border south to Lincoln Avenue.



*Milwaukee County's seven townships and city of Milwaukee (clockwise from upper right) town of Milwaukee, city of Milwaukee, Lake, Oak Creek, Franklin, Greenfield, Wauwatosa, Granville.*

## First Suburb

Lake remained stable for over twenty years until Bay View incorporated as a village in 1879 making it Milwaukee's first industrial suburb. Bay View joined the city of Milwaukee in 1887 and Lake continued to shrink as Milwaukee next claimed land south to Cleveland Avenue in 1891. In 1895, the extreme southeastern corner of Lake was lost with the incorporation of Cudahy as an industrial suburb.

Lake again was stable, this time for more than thirty years. However,

starting in 1926, the losses were fast and frequent as town lands south and west of Bay View were gobbled up by Milwaukee. By 1931, Milwaukee's southern border in Lake was just south of Howard Avenue. Lake's Town Hall was on the southeast corner of Howard and Howell (site of today's Tippecanoe library) which meant that the town was conducting its business in the city of Milwaukee.

## The End

Annexation came to a halt during the Depression and World War II, but post World War II, prosperity and returning GIs created an unprecedented demand for housing. Milwaukee responded with an aggressive annexation program.

The town of Lake fought back, trying to keep land from becoming part of Milwaukee. St. Francis was

born in 1951 when the area of Lake between Milwaukee and Cudahy incorporated and took the name of the seminary included within its borders. The incorporation had the blessing of the town of Lake and the plan was to eventually incorporate more town land into St. Francis. However, St. Francis had its own problems and was unable to expand.

Lake was down to only 9.5 square miles of its original 23 square miles that it had started with in 1840. Three years later, the town's residents accepted Milwaukee Mayor Frank Zeidler's invitation to join the city of Milwaukee and the town of Lake was history.



# Thoughts About Hats

## *Charity Covers a Multitude of Sins, but Hats Cover More Sinners*

By Ruth Simos

On March 23 last year, the Bay View Historical Society honored me with a fundraiser for my 88<sup>th</sup> birthday. The program included a fashion show featuring the Society's collection of hats, many of which had been mine or my mother's. More hats were donated to the Society's collection by Marion Guild, a former Dover St. School teacher and a member of the Dancing Grannies, which is where I met her. When she recently moved, she graciously agreed to donate the hats to the Society.

My mother was always very fashionable. Hats were an important part of her wardrobe and it was always fun as a little girl to try them on. Also, since we had to cover

our heads for mass, hats were a necessity for Sunday mornings.

Back then, department stores had millinery departments the likes of which do not exist anymore and they were staffed by older women who really knew their product. It was a fun place to try hats on and they had a lot more than my mother had! Even if you didn't purchase a hat every time, it was still a nice way to spend some time.

There were summer hats and winter hats, and Easter hats were an important part of spring. There were even songs written about hats! Women who usually did not

think much about hats or fashion would make an exception for Easter; going to church on that day had the extra bonus of being an impromptu fashion show. Winter hats had the extra job of keeping one's head warm as well as being an attractive part of a wardrobe. However, women being women, warmth sometimes took second place to fashion.

Nowadays, hats are not as important as they once were and that's kind of sad. They are more utilitarian and not as much fun. But they still can be - and if you have a crazy hat, don't be afraid to wear it. My hat will be off to you if you do!

## *Bay View Book in Second Printing*

Arcadia Publishing's Bay View, written by the Bay View Historical Society's Ron Winkler is now in its second printing! Arcadia Publishing's goal is selling the first run of a book in a year. Winkler's Bay View is well ahead of the curve by selling out in six weeks. If you don't have a copy yet, here's your opportunity!

*Bay View* has received outstanding critical acclaim and author Ron Winkler has appeared on television, radio and at slide show presentations to promote the book, which sells for \$21.99.

The Bay View Historical Society receives all proceeds from books purchased through Winkler or the Bay View Historical Society.

You can watch Jim Peck's interview of Winkler for *I Remember* at [www.mptv.org](http://www.mptv.org) (Program #1813). Listen to Dan Harmon's *Lake Effect* interview for WUWM, 89.7 FM, [www.wuwm.com](http://www.wuwm.com) with a keyword search of "Winkler," or catch Winkler live on Tuesday, March 20 at the Tippecanoe Library, 3912 S. Howell Ave., at 6:30 pm! The event is free and open to the public and a signing of the book will follow.



Ruth Simos models one of her fabulous hats.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies to be picked up \_\_\_\_\_ x \$21.99 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies for delivery \_\_\_\_\_ x \$25.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_



## Historic Roundup

The *Wisconsin Slovak Historical Society* is sponsoring a special event on Thursday, April 26. Two of the grandsons of Frank J. Hess will give a presentation on the story of their grandfather's cooperage business. Frank J. Hess started an independent cooperage in Wisconsin in 1904. He made white oak barrels for beer, wine and whiskey until 1966. The program will include a slide presentation and display of barrels, oak staves and cooper tools.

The program will be at 6:30 pm at the Knights of Columbus Club, 1800 S. 92nd Street. For more information, please call (414) 476-1528.

The Slovak Historical Society will also present a Fashion Show of Slovak Folk Dress on Sunday, April 22 at 2:00 pm at St. John's Lutheran Church, 4850 S. Lake Drive, in Cudahy. Admission is \$5 - free for seniors and children under 10.

Slovak pastries and refreshments will be served.

**Urban Anthropology Inc.** offers genealogy services at no cost to Milwaukee residents. The services are limited to gathering information on ancestors that lived within the borders of the United States. Interested parties can simply stop at the Old South Side Settlement Museum at 707 W. Lincoln Avenue and pick up a form that asks for some information on parents and grandparents. The family tree (or what parts can be found) will be provided by Urban staff within two weeks. If it is inconvenient to stop at the office, email Rick at RickPetrie@gmail.com and he will email a copy of the form to you!

The **Wisconsin Historical Society** is currently running their exhibit Ghost Ships of the Schooner Coast at the Wisconsin Historical Museum, now through June 9. Explore the underwater world of Lake Michigan via photography and shipwreck lore of the Continental and Francis Hinton steamers and the Rouse Simmons and Home schooners. Diving equipment and artifacts from the Home schooner,

one of the oldest known shipwrecks in Wisconsin, will all be on display. Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for children under 18 or \$10 for a family. The museum is located on Madison's Capitol Square, 30 N. Carroll Street and is open from 9 am until 4pm, Tuesday through Saturday. For more information, please call the Wisconsin Historical Museum at (608) 264-6555.

## Historical Figures Return to Forest Home Cemetery – Monday, May 28

by Ron Winkler

Several long-term residents of Forest Home Cemetery will be resurrected for a day as the cemetery presents its free Memorial Day program on Monday, May 28, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.

Forest Home Cemetery is located at 2405 West Forest Home Avenue, but this year's program will take place just inside the Cleveland Avenue gates (just west of 20th Street). This year's historical figures will include beer baron Henry Bill, Northwestern Mutual President Edmund Fitzgerald (but better known because of the sinking of the ore freighter named for him and memorialized by Gordon Lightfoot), Harley Davidson's William Davidson, Falk Corporation's Herman Wahl Falk and tanner Albert Trostel. Bay View manufacturer Bruno Nordberg will be portrayed by the Bay View Historical Society's Ron Winkler.

These historic figures will be at their headstones as they present entertaining autobiographical talks. There will be plenty of free parking and refreshments will be available for purchase. Hope to see you there!

## Making a Gift in Your Will

The Bay View Historical Society depends on the generosity of individuals now, and in the future.

The simplest way you can make a future gift to the Bay View Historical Society is through your will. Charitable bequests to the Bay View Historical Society are removed from your taxable estate and are not subject to estate taxes. Planning to make a gift this way allows you to make a difference in the future - even after you are gone. We hope that you will consider remembering the Bay View Historical Society in this way.

For more information, contact Nancy Tawney at (414) 744-5674 or ntawney@aol.com. Thank you!

*"We make a living by what we get,  
but we make a life by what we give."  
Winston Churchill*





## Bay View Historical Society Balance Sheet December 31, 2011

### Assets

#### Bank Accounts

Anchor Bank - House Account.....	\$2,088.49
M&I Bank Checking .....	\$3,696.99
M&I Savings .....	\$14,885.75
Capital Campaign .....	\$36,948.40
USPS Postage Deposit.....	\$16.25
<b>Total Bank Accounts.....</b>	<b>\$57,635.88</b>

#### Other Assets

2590 S Superior .....	\$450,000.00
Personal Property .....	\$8,164.94
<b>Total Other Assets.....</b>	<b>\$458,164.94</b>
<b>Total Assets.....</b>	<b>\$515,800.82</b>

### Liabilities

2590 S Superior Loan.....	\$310,970.27
Security Deposit.....	\$20.00
<b>Total Liabilities.....</b>	<b>\$310,990.27</b>
<b>Net Worth.....</b>	<b>\$204,810.55</b>

#### Total Liabilities &

<b>Net Worth.....</b>	<b>\$515,800.82</b>
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## Bay View Historical Society Financial Statements December 2011

Revenue	Actual	Expense	Actual
Direct Public Support	\$387.00	Board Expense	\$844.00
Donations at House	\$7,804.00	D&O Insurance	\$844.00
Unrestricted		Total Board Expense	\$58.40
Restricted - Principal	\$12,100.00	Conferences & Meetings	
Reduction	\$9,993.00	Occupancy	\$13,161.57
Restricted-Other	\$30,284.00	Mortgage Interest	\$20,219.63
Total Direct Public		Principal Reduction	\$(6,000.00)
Program Income	\$145.00	Restoration	\$620.00
Walk	\$(276.50)	Insurance	\$142.50
Walk Expense	\$(131.50)	Maintenance	
Total Program Income	\$3,424.00	Utilities	\$1,461.00
Membership Dues	\$7.08	Gas & Electric	\$532.19
Interest Income-Bank	\$820.00	Water	\$1,993.19
Rent		Total Utilities	\$36,136.89
Special Events	\$5,991.34	Total Occupancy	
Annual Dinner	\$(2,642.61)	Other Expenses	\$125.00
Annual Dinner Expense	\$3,348.73	Advertising	\$-
Total Annual Dinner	\$-	Archives	\$1,814.53
Bay View Bash	\$(70.00)	Annual Fund	\$60.00
BV Bash Expense	\$(70.00)	Dues & Subscriptions	\$83.39
Total Bay View Bash	\$325.00	Supplies	\$385.00
May Worker's Memorial	\$3,219.00	Web site Maintenance	\$1,141.43
Rummage Sale	\$(360.49)	Telephone	\$3,609.35
Rummage Expense	\$2,858.51	Total Other Expense	\$654.18
Total Rummage Sale	\$6,055.00	Postage & Shipping	
Wine Tasting	\$(1,826.82)	Printing and Publications	\$3,315.00
Wine Tasting Expense	\$4,228.18	Historian	\$-
Total Wine Tasting	\$10,690.42	Other Printing	\$3,315.00
Total Special Events	\$700.00	Total Printing and	
Grants Received	\$7,136.98	Publications	
Sale Inventory	\$(3,694.32)		
Inventory Expense	\$3,442.66		
Sale Inventory			
		Total Expense	<b>\$44,617.82</b>
Total Revenue	<b>\$49,236.66</b>	Total Income less Expense	<b>\$4,618.84</b>

## See Your Name in Print!

Write an article about Bay View history or of historical interest to BVHS members and we may run it in **The Historian**! Word documents are ideal and articles must be 1,000 words or less — photographs are a plus!

### Contact

Jenn Kresse  
at [jrkresse@gmail.com](mailto:jrkresse@gmail.com)  
or 414-531-0225  
to find out more!



# Calendar 2012

## MONDAY, APRIL 2

Bay View Historical Society Presents  
Mario Carini will speak on "Milwaukee's  
Italians in Bay View and Beyond."  
Beulah Brinton Center,  
2555 S. Bay Street  
7:00 pm

## SATURDAY, APRIL 21

Beulah Brinton House  
Open to the Public  
1:00 - 4:00 pm

## SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Annual Dinner  
South Shore Yacht Club  
5:30 pm

## SUNDAY, MAY 6

Bay View Tragedy Commemoration  
State Historical Marker Grounds  
Corner of Superior St. and  
Russell Ave.  
3:00 PM

## SATURDAY, MAY 19

Annual Yard Sale  
Beulah Brinton House  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

## MONDAY, MAY 21

German Music Performance  
Beulah Brinton House  
7:00 pm

## Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Tuesday, April 10  
Beulah Brinton House  
6:30 pm
- Tuesday, May 8  
Beulah Brinton House  
6:30 pm

*Board meetings may be subject to change.*