



# BAY VIEW • Historian

VOLUME 2013, NO. 3

JUNE 2013

**NEXT MEETING:** *Bay View Historical Society Presents "Show and Tell"* and Paul Jakubovich from the City of Milwaukee's Department of Historic Preservation, June 3, Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street. 7:00 pm.

## BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS:

### SHOW AND TELL AND PAUL JAKUBOVICH ON MONDAY, JUNE 3

The next Bay View Historical Society Presents is on Monday, June 3 at 7:00 pm at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street. If you have some item of historical interest to share, please bring it on June 3 to our annual *Show and Tell*. Photographs, family heirlooms or anything that has been replaced by modern technology are great examples of things to bring to the meeting and tell us something about them, if you'd like. People can peruse the items during the social time of the meeting and then you take your item home.

Following *Show and Tell*, there will be a presentation by Paul Jakubovich from the City of Milwaukee's Department of Historic Preservation. In his years with the City, Paul has prepared several books on historical topics, including *Bay View Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey*, *As Good As New: A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exterior of Your Old Milwaukee Home*, *Good for Business: A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exteriors of Older Commercial Buildings* and *Living with History: A Guide to the Preservation Standards for Historically Designated Houses in Milwaukee*. All of these books are available at the Milwaukee Public Library.

Jakubovich will share some of his extensive knowledge in the area of historic preservation and restoration. We hope to see you at this entertaining and informative evening. Refreshments will be served.

## Bay View United Methodist Church Celebrates 150 Years

BY RON WINKLER

The parallel histories of two Bay View churches converged in 1968 to become Bay View United Methodist Church. Those two congregations were originally known as Bethel Evangelical Church and Bay View Methodist Episcopal Church.

### Bay View Methodist Episcopal Church

Bay View United Methodist Church, 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue is 150 years old this year, but Methodism in Milwaukee can trace its roots back to 1835 when Methodists held services in Dr. Enoch Chase's log cabin. When the Milwaukee Iron Company was founded, Methodists held services in the company's offices in 1867.



Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church at 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue in 1921.

Later that year, the company donated land to these English immigrants who spent \$2,200 to build a wooden church that was dedicated April 26, 1868 at what today is 2471 and 2473 S. Wentworth Avenue.

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## LANDMARK DEDICATION: *The Pryor Avenue Iron Well*

BY JOHN MANKE

You are cordially invited to attend the Pryor Avenue Iron Well landmark dedication by the Bay View Historical Society. The ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 15 at 2:00 pm.

The Pryor Avenue Iron Well is located on E. Pryor Avenue between S. Superior Street and S. Wentworth Avenue. After the ceremony, refreshments will be served at the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street.

The Iron Well, although it is a City of Milwaukee landmark, is being given the Bay View Historical Society's landmark status due to its contribution to Bay View History. The original purpose of the Iron Well was to provide drinking water and also to provide water for fire protection for the Village. The water is regularly checked by the City of Milwaukee for purity and is the last open well in the City of Milwaukee.

This is a free event and everyone is encouraged to attend.



READ ABOUT THE IRON  
WELL'S HISTORY ON PAGE 4

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

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Bay View Historical Society

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Bay View, WI 53207

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 bi-monthly newsletter that you are reading - *Bay View Historian* - is the main communication vehicle for the Bay View Historical Society. It is also expensive; last year about \$4,700 was spent on designing, printing and mailing the six issues.

Many non-profit organizations such as ours are confronting this fact of the high cost of producing a newsletter. Some have gone electronic, having their newsletter emailed to members. Doing this eliminates printing costs which are significant. We realize that some of our members do not use the internet, so this is not an option for everyone.

Perhaps you are at a point in life where you would prefer receiving the newsletter in your email or reading it on our website. For over two years, each issue of *Bay View Historian* has been posted on our website, [www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org).

We'd like to hear your thoughts. If you'd like to eliminate some paper in your life, or have any thoughts you would like to convey on this matter, please contact me at [ntawney@aol.com](mailto:ntawney@aol.com) or at (414) 744-5674.

## Milwaukee's Town of Lake to be Published

BY RON WINKLER

Arcadia Publishing Company will publish *Milwaukee's Town of Lake* in its "Images of America" series this coming December. Ron Winkler is writing the text about this colorful area that went out of existence when the last nine square miles consolidated with the City of Milwaukee on April 6, 1954. The image on the cover shows the old Lake Town Hall and fire department that stood on the southeast corner of Howard and Howell until it was replaced by the Tippecanoe Library in 1969. In fact, this building was the Tippecanoe Library from 1960 until 1969.

The Town of Lake was created in 1838 as one of Milwaukee County's seven townships. Its borders were Greenfield Avenue on the north, College Avenue on the south, 27th Street on the west, and Lake Michigan on the east. Beginning in 1850 and ending in 1954, Lake passed out of existence piece-

meal as its farmland became developed and was claimed by the City of Milwaukee or incorporated to become Bay View, Cudahy, and St. Francis. The St. Francis Seminary and Convent, Cupertino tree on the lakefront, Lake Band, Lake Town Hall, Airway Theater, Lakeside Power Plant, Patrick Cudahy Company, Mitchell International Airport, Forest Home Cemetery, St. Josaphat's Basilica, Nunnemacher's Distillery, Grebe's Bakery, Gardetto's Bakery, New Coeln, and the Tippecanoe neighborhood with its landmark water tower are only a small part of what made Lake a unique area of Milwaukee County.

All of this and much more will be a part of the illustrated history of an important part of Milwaukee County. A book signing will be held in December. Look for further information and an order form in future issues of the *Historian*.

## THANK YOU

Klement's Sausage donated the delicious hot dogs used for hot dog sales at the Brinton House on May 5 after the Bay View Tragedy commemoration and on May 18 during the Yard sale. As always, we are extremely grateful for their generosity and continued neighborhood involvement.

Greg Chrisafis has donated a new riding lawn mower to the Historical Society, and we couldn't be more thrilled! Thank you so much to Mr. Chrisafis!

The generosity of these donors is greatly appreciated!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome the following new members who joined the Society since March 1st:  
Barbara Traczek • Mary Ann Lee & Robert E. Lee • Jane Montezon

## Bay View United Methodist Church Celebrates 150 Years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The congregation called itself the Bay View Methodist Episcopal Church and included among its members Elijah and Zebiah Estes, Beulah Brinton, J. C. Bullock, Lewis Funk, W.B. Parks, the Otjens, Davelaars, Seelys, Llewellyns, and Pryors.

In 1887, the congregation began constructing its current Victorian Gothic cream city brick edifice on Kinnickinnic Avenue, designed by parishioner William Davelaar. Dedication of the \$32,000 church was March 3, 1889 and the congregation was renamed Trinity Methodist Episcopal Church.

A pipe organ was installed in 1908 by Bay View's Jerome B. Meyer Company (then located at 2339 S. Austin Street) for \$3,000. The organ, updated in 1936 and 1956, was restored and reconfigured in 2006.

In 1939, the congregation changed its name again. The worldwide Methodist Church dropped the word "Episcopal" and the congregation became Trinity Methodist Church.

In 1955, the church was remodeled using plans of the husband and wife team of Lillian and Willis Leenhouts. The \$110,000 cost included new stained glass windows. The church parsonage on Pryor and Clement was replaced by a school designed by the Leenhouts. It was built for \$90,000 by Stevens Construction Company.

### Bethel Evangelical Church

Bethel Evangelical Church was founded in April 1883 as a mission congregation of Salem Evangelical Church in Walker's Point. A wooden church was dedicated on May 11, 1884 on the northeast corner of Conway and Woodward with all proceedings conducted in German. One of the first ministers was Gustave A. Fritsche, father of the Gustave A. Fritsche who was Bay View High School's first principal.

By 1896, the congregation required a larger church. Bay View's Meredith Brothers Construction Company replaced the old church with the cream city brick Bay View Bethel Evangelical Church that stands today at 2392 S. Woodward. The Victorian Gothic style edifice was designed by Charles D. Crane and Carl Barkhausen. Dedication was

on November 14, 1897 and cost \$7,002.

In 1926, the services were switched from German to English. That same year, the Meredith Brothers built an annex for educational and social functions. The dedication was held on February 28, 1926 and the annex cost was \$38,000.

In 1946, there was a national merger between the Evangelical Church and the Church of the United Brethren. Bethel Evangelical Church became Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church.

Membership in 1959 was 482 and, in the late 1960s, as the congregation continued to grow, plans were drawn up to replace the 1897 building.

### Merger

In 1968, there was a worldwide merger between the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren denominations. Bethel Evangelical United Brethren cancelled its building plans and merged with Trinity Methodist Church. The new congregation called itself Bay View United Methodist Church. On Sunday morning, June 2, 1968 the two congregations left their respective parishes and met on the corner of Kinnickinnic and Potter. After officially becoming one congregation, they walked to the church at 2772 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue for a 9:15 service.

Over the years, the congregation has made a commitment to Bay View. In 1998, parishioners voted to remain in Bay View rather than move to the suburbs. This meant a continuation of their presence in the community through programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, Bay View High



Above: The old Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church at 2392 S. Woodward Street. Below: The meeting of Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church and Trinity Methodist Church on Sunday, June 2, 1968. Notice that although both denominations had a ban on alcohol, they met in front of what at the time was "Stop-N-Shop" liquor store. We can see that California grape brandy sold for \$3.79.



School Outpost Program, Bread and Jam meal program and Loving Start Preschool.

The Bay View United Methodist Church was designated as a landmark by the Bay View Historical Society on May 6, 1984.

The old Bethel Evangelical United Brethren Church was purchased by the Bay View Assembly of God in 1968 for \$40,000. In 2004, the church was purchased by the Milwaukee Hispanic Seventh Day Adventist Church.

### IN MEMORY

In memory of Betty Chovanec, a Charter Member of the Bay View Historical Society, who passed away on April 7, 2013.



## Bay View's Iron Well: A History

BY JOHN UTZAT

The venerable stone aggregate drinking fountain located at 1706 E. Pryor Avenue is a familiar site to many. It is often a busy place where people fill containers with well water.



The Pryor Avenue Iron Well as it looks today.

Photo by John Utzat

The original well has its beginnings with the Village of Bay View's fire and water committee in 1882 for the purpose of establishing a water works. That year, the village board placed ads soliciting bids to drill wells and the contract was awarded to the William Gray Co. The following year on January 30, water was reached at 1,552 feet and flowed with an artesian pressure of 50 pounds per square inch. A T-shaped hydrant with two lateral arms, both having six-inch shut off valves, was then connected to the well.

However, the Wisconsin State Legislature rejected the water works proposal based on the laying of water pipes in March of 1883 on the grounds that the well would raise taxes for many but benefit few. Annexation by the city of Milwaukee was often discussed at the village board meetings perhaps ending any hope of establishing a water works. In April of 1883, a fire hose shed was built next to the well on the property of former village trustee James Hodge and in September, a fire hose cart, nozzles and spanners were purchased by the village board to provide fire protection for the nearby school, then located on Bishop Avenue – what is now Wentworth Avenue. The horse shed and cart were moved to the Bay View Graded School grounds about a year later.

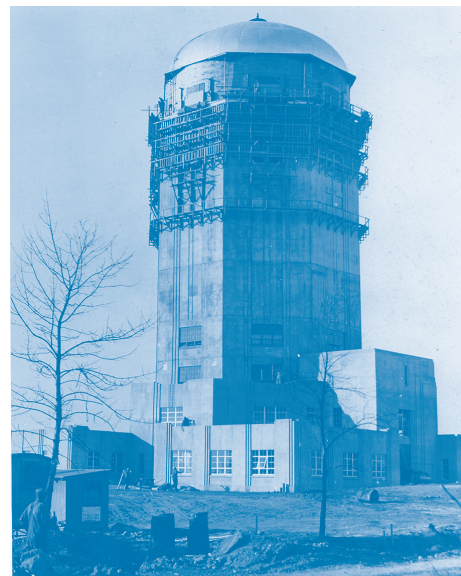
## Annual August Walk to Feature Tippecanoe Neighborhood

BY RON WINKLER

Mark your calendars for this year's August Walk to be held on Saturday, August 3rd starting at 9:30 am. The walk, led by Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch, will be in Tippecanoe, centered on Howell and Howard. It will be a preview of the book *Milwaukee's Town of Lake* to be published by Arcadia Publishing Company in December.

Registration will be at 9:00 am at the Lake Water Tower and Municipal Building, 4001 South Sixth Street. The cost is \$5.00 for Bay View Historical Society members and \$7.00 for nonmembers.

Tippecanoe is where pioneers James Howard, Isaac Austin and Morgan Burdick had their farms. It is where the old Lake Town Hall was located on Howell and Howard (site of Tippecanoe Library). We will see St. Veronica Catholic Church, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Woodlawn Cemetery and the homes of Tom Van Beck, Morgan Burdick and John Saveland. We will see John Saveland's home and Saveland Park, a remnant of his Lake Tippecanoe. Around the corner, we will visit Tippecanoe Presbyterian Church, built on the foundation of John Saveland's dance hall, which itself was built on the foundation of Isaac Austin's barn. This area north of Howard Avenue was Saveland's real estate development which features a diverse housing stock on some of the largest lots in the city.



The Town of Lake Water Tower and Municipal Building under construction in 1939.

Save time after the tour for the farmers market. This area is also known as the Garden District. On 6th Street across from the water tower are the community gardens where the Garden District Neighborhood Association will be holding its farmers market from 1:00 until 5:00 pm.

For more information, please contact Ron Winkler at [rawinkler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rawinkler@sbcglobal.net).

### 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](mailto:ntawney@aol.com). Thank you!

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

# April 27 Annual Dinner

The dining room at the South Shore Yacht Club was filled on April 27 for the Historical Society's Annual Dinner. As guests arrived, they heard soothing music provided by harpist Mary Ann Miller-Soch.

After everyone was seated, Bill O'Brien was honored as Person of the Year for his service to the Bay View Historical Society. This award was presented by Warren and Beulah Brinton (a.k.a. Mark Bucher and Michelle Waide). Ellen Tucker, great-great granddaughter of the Brintons gave an invocation. Dinner followed and attendees bid on silent auction items.

Many thanks to the volunteers who made this event possible: Susan Ballje, Greg Chrisafis, John and Mary Fisher, Erin and Bob Lenz, Penny Manke, Sheila Semrou, Nancy Tawney and Ellen Tucker.

Desserts for the evening, chocolate and vanilla cupcakes, were generously donated by Alterra.

Silent Auction items were donated by:

- Alterra Coffee Roasters
- Anodyne Coffee Roasting Co.
- Atlantis Casino Resort Spa • Reno
- Betty Brinn Children's Museum
- Cabot Cheese
- Comedy Sportz
- Doubletree Hotel
- First Stage
- Girly Girl Baubles & Beads
- Green Mountain Coffee
- Honeypie
- Innovative Health & Fitness
- Green Bay Packers
- Marriott Theatre
- Milwaukee Admirals
- Milwaukee Brewers Baseball Club
- Milwaukee Bucks
- Milwaukee County Zoo
- Milwaukee Public Museum
- Milwaukee Repertory Theatre
- Milwaukee Wave
- Pastiche Bistro & Wine Bar
- Schlitz Audubon Nature Center
- Stampin' Up!
- Walt Disney World

Thank you to everyone who helped make this event another success.



Clockwise from top: (Clockwise from left) Bob Wamser, Richard Knepper, Greg Wernisch, Alice Winkler, Ron Winkler, Todd Smith, Diana David and Donna Pogliano; (left to right) Kathy and Frank Mulvey with Charlotte Crysdale; Fourth District Chairperson Marina Dimitrijevic bids on a silent auction item; John and Mary Fisher; Bay View Historical Society's Person of the Year Bill O'Brien and his wife, Lois; Annual Dinner award presenters Warren and Beulah Brinton, also known as Mark Bucher and Michelle Waide.

# Calendar 2013

## MONDAY, JUNE 3

Bay View Historical Society Presents  
"Show and Tell" and Paul Jakubovich  
from the City of Milwaukee's Department  
of Historic Preservation

Beulah Brinton Center  
2555 S. Bay Street  
7:00 pm

## SATURDAY, JUNE 15

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

Historic Landmark Dedication  
at Pryor Street Well 2:00 pm  
*Reception following at Brinton House*

## THURSDAY, JULY 4

Humboldt Park 4th of July Parade  
Bay View Historical Society in parade  
9:00 am

## SATURDAY, JULY 20

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

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 3

Historical Walking Tour  
9:30 am

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

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

## Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Monday, June 10, 6:30 pm  
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, July 8, 6:30 pm  
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, August 12, 6:30 pm  
Beulah Brinton House

*Board meetings may be subject to change.*

SIX

ENCOURAGING A SENSE OF COMMUNITY BY PRESERVING, CELEBRATING AND SHARING BAY VIEW'S RICH HERITAGE.

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