



# BAY VIEW • Historian

VOLUME 2012, NO. 3

JUNE 2012

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, June 4, 7:00 pm, Milwaukee's Preservation Planner Paul Jakubovich and Show and Tell at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street.

## Beulah Brinton Awards Dinner to be Held October 4

The Bay View Historical Society will hold its very first Beulah Brinton Awards Dinner on Thursday, October 4. This awards dinner will take place at the South Shore Park Pavilion and will be emceed by speaker, award-winning actor and storyteller John McGivern. The awards pay homage to Beulah Brinton, a Bay View pioneer who worked to provide immigrants with educational and social opportunities and helped them to develop a sense of community.

This premier event will honor two outstanding citizens: Sr. Edna Lonergan, President of St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care, and John Gurda, noted local historian, writer, lecturer and columnist.

Sr. Edna Lonergan is beloved by the community and the thousands of people that she has helped. She has assisted seniors in achieving independence and provides them with opportunities for a better quality of life. Her work is symbolic of the special passion that Beulah Brinton had in helping people maintain self-respect and inspire hope.

John Gurda has distinguished himself by calling attention to Milwaukee's rich heritage. He brings to life significant historical events that have



Beulah Brinton, namesake of the Beulah Brinton Awards.

shaped and enhanced people's lives. His observations exemplify that history can repeat itself for the betterment of all. Gurda is perhaps best-known for his Emmy award-winning documentary series, *The Making of Milwaukee*, which is based on his book by the same name.

The Bay View Historical Society is honoring these exemplary individuals to recognize their contribution to the community as well as to encourage and reward community leadership that has a direct bearing on improving people's lives and making Milwaukee and Wisconsin a better place to live and work. The Society wants to ensure that Beulah Brinton's history of leadership continues to repeat itself in the community.

Beulah Brinton's historic home, built in 1872, was purchased by the Bay View Historical Society, resulting in a significant mortgage. This home is once again serving as a vital center to Bay View and beyond but successful community building can only continue with sustainable funding. Proceeds from this dinner will support this endeavor. We hope that you'll plan to attend this inaugural event and celebrate the importance of leadership in the community.

## BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY PRESENTS: SHOW AND TELL AND MILWAUKEE'S PRESERVATION PLANNER, PAUL JAKUBOVICH ON JUNE 4

BY RON WINKLER

Two events have been planned for the Bay View Historical Society Presents on June 4 (formerly known as the Membership Meeting). The event is free and open to the public, as always, and refreshments will be served.

### Show & Tell

You are the star for our June 4th meeting! Show and Tell is our June meeting tradition! You bring something of historical interest to the meeting and tell us about it. Members can take a closer look at the items while refreshments are enjoyed, and afterwards,

you take your item home. Everyone has something of historical interest to share, so we hope you'll bring yours. Suggestions include photographs, family heirlooms or items that have been replaced by modern technology.

### Paul Jakubovich

The evening will also feature a talk by Paul Jakubovich, preservation planner for the city of Milwaukee's Historic Preservation Commission. Milwaukee adopted a historic preservation ordinance in 1981 to protect the city's designated historic sites. Jakubovich

has been preservation planner for the past eight years. He has a unique background of education and practical experience, including a degree in architectural history with studies in preservation technology, business and finance. He has training in bricklaying, carpentry, plastering and electrical work. As such, he has unique blend of knowledge and hands-on experience. In his years with the City, Paul has prepared several books on historical topics. His works include: *Bay View Neighborhood Historic Resources Survey*, *As Good as New: A Guide to Rehabilitating the Exterior*

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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

---

**President**

Nancy Tawney

**Vice-President**

Candice Owley

**Secretary**

Stephanie Harling

**Treasurer**

Michael Krolick

**Board Members:**

Susan Ballje

Mary Fisher

Karla Iseler

Donna Pogliano

David Reinelt

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

jkresse@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

"Help Preserve the Past for the Future" is a slogan used by the Wisconsin State Historical Society. It also describes a big reason why the Bay View Historical Society exists.

This summer the grounds of the Brinton House will be adorned with another Bay View Observatory, an installation prepared by Bay View High School students with guidance from staff at Discovery World.

The project is now being built and will be a unique structure depicting aspects of Bay View's past. Bay View residents will again have the opportunity to share artifacts and oral histories that will be recorded and made available for future reference.

Be sure to visit the Observatory and help us preserve some of your recollections of the past for the future.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR...

I find the park to be a unique a great place to hold family gatherings such as reunions, picnics and weddings. I always enjoyed playing there and went sledding with my siblings there in the winter.

I've always loved the Bay View area and I even have a little saying about it: wherever I may roam, I will always call Bay View my home! When I moved away in 1995, I realized how much I missed being part of Bay View so I moved back in 2001 and am happy to be home again!

I'm looking forward to the Frolics and the Bash this year and look forward to meeting fellow Society members!

Sincerely,  
Carol Johnson

## SHOW AND TELL AND MILWAUKEE'S PRESERVATION PLANNER

FROM PAGE 1

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. Paul will share some of extensive knowledge in the area of historic preservation and restoration.

This is sure to be an entertaining and informative evening and we hope to see you there!

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since April 1st:  
Jason Haas • Ryan Hudziak • Carol Johnson

## 2011 FINANCIAL REPORT CORRECTION

On page 7 of the April 2012 issue of the *Historian*, the 2011 Financial Statement was printed.

We regret that there were some printing omissions and errors in that report. The correct report has been posted on the Society's website. To view the report, please go to [www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org) and click the "Newsletter: The Historian" tab on the left side of the homepage.

# Annual Dinner a Great Success

The second floor of the South Shore Yacht Club was filled to capacity on April 28 for the Historical Society's Annual Dinner. Guests were greeted by the soothing music provided by harpist Mary Ann Miller.

After everyone was seated, three special people were recognized for their service to the Bay View Historical Society. A Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to John Utzat. Amy Mihelich was noted for Outstanding Leadership and Ron Winkler was honored as Person of the Year. The awards were presented by Warren and Beulah Brinton (a.k.a. Mark Bucher and Michelle Waide). Dinner followed the presentations and attendees bid on silent auction items.

Many thanks to Susan Ballje who chaired this event as well as her assistants John and Mary Fisher, Erin Lenz, Penny Manke and Ellen Tucker.

Bay View resident Nichole Larson generously loaned Michelle Waide the blouse that she wore while dressed as Beulah Brinton. Larson is the owner of vintage clothing business LeMollusque. Find out more about LeMollusque by calling 326-6808, or visit online at [www.etsy.com/people/LeMollusque](http://www.etsy.com/people/LeMollusque).



Top: John Utzat receives his Lifetime Achievement award. Middle: Amy Mihelich receives the award for Outstanding Achievement. Bottom: BVHS's resident historian receives the Person of the Year award. Top Right: Presenters Mark Bucher and Michelle Waide dressed as Warren and Beulah Brinton.

## CONTRACTORS NEEDED FOR THE BEULAH BRINTON HOUSE

The Brinton house is in good shape, however there is much work to be done to maintain this property. We are looking for electricians, carpenters, and plumbers that are willing to donate a few hours of their time to make small repairs throughout the house. If you are a skilled and licensed tradesperson who's willing to help, please call Stephanie Harling at 744-5343.

## Milwaukee's Job Corp Students Extend a Hand at the Beulah Brinton House

BY STEPHANIE HARLING

Students from the Milwaukee Job Corp Center, located on the City's far northwest side, came out to the Beulah Brinton House to help us with our spring clean up in the yard. About 20 students came out and raked, planted flowers, mowed our lawn, and weeded our flowerbeds. They worked very hard and did a fantastic job.

Job Corps is a career technical training program administered by the U.S. Department of Labor that helps young people ages 16 through 24 improve the quality of their lives through vocational and academic training. The Milwaukee Job Corps Center's mission is to teach eligible young people the skills they need to become employable and independent and placing them in meaningful jobs or further education.



Job Corp student hard at work beautifying the Beulah Brinton house.

# BVHS Archives is being transformed

BY KATHY MULVEY

The Archives Committee is moving forward with its project to digitize BVHS' Archives. Volunteer Trevor Berman has put together a customized computer program, and we are now ready to begin testing how it will work for our needs. As soon as we have refined the program, several additional volunteers will be trained and begin entering data.

Additionally, Clint Walker, a student in UWM's doctoral Public History program, is spending the semester with BVHS as an intern, helping us write up policies and best practices for collecting and caring for archival materials and artifacts. He has gathered information and taken photographs of hundreds of artifacts, which will be included in the database, and also will train volunteers to enter information into the system and care for the collection.

To make better use of space in the Beulah Brinton House, the Board of Directors has approved a plan to move the gift shop downstairs to a display case in the dining room. The former gift-shop room will become a library that will house the hundreds of books, maps and photographs that the Society has collected. Board Member and architectural planner Sheila Semrou is helping us decide what to put where.

Hearty thanks to all of the volunteers involved in this project, and especially longtime Archives Committee members Janis Liedtke, Evelyn Trisco, Nadine Barthuli and Sandy Schuetz (recently retired from the committee), as well as all the volunteers who have cared for the BVHS Archives over the years. It is exciting to know that the results of their hard work soon will be more readily

available to BVHS members, historians, Bay View residents and area students.

## Archives Committee Needs:

- Sturdy book shelves
- Small chest freezer (to ensure against bugs in clothing and materials)
- Window unit air conditioner
- Bay View High School Oracles from 1998, 2007 and 2008
- Anyone who is knowledgeable about repairing historic furniture

If you can help fill any of these needs, please contact Kathy Mulvey at 744-0408, or [kfmulvey@yahoo.com](mailto:kfmulvey@yahoo.com).

## 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".

## ORDER RON WINKLER'S *BAY VIEW*

Ron Winkler's history of Bay View boasts 128 pages that are packed with 233 photographs, maps and illustrations from the Bay View Historical Society's archives and private collections.

Order your copy by returning this portion.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of copies mailed to you  
(\$21.99 + \$3.01 shipping/handling) \_\_\_\_\_ X \$25.00= \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to Bay View Historical Society  
2590 S. Superior Street, Milwaukee, WI 53207

Shipping Information:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

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



# Annual August Walk to Feature Northern Border

BY RON WINKLER

Mark your calendars for this year's August Walk on Saturday, August 4, starting at 9:30 am. This ninth and final walk in the series of Bay View walking tours will cover the area north of Lincoln Avenue. Most of the walk will be along Kinnickinnic Avenue with its many historic buildings. This section of Bay View represents an area that was part of the city of Milwaukee, yet attached itself to Bay View sometime after 1887 when Bay View joined the city of Milwaukee. Here is the story of Bay View's growth.

## Stage One

The area that today is known as Bay View grew in three stages. Stage one was incorporation as the Village of Bay View in 1879. In 1887, the village became part of the city of Milwaukee to obtain the amenities offered to Milwaukee's residents. Those amenities included sewers, streetlights, schools and numerous other city services.

Technically, Bay View no longer existed, but its sense of community was so strong that the Bay View name was retained. The boundaries were Lake Michigan, Oklahoma Avenue, Howell Avenue, Rosedale Avenue, 1st Street and Lincoln Avenue.

## Stage Two

Over the years, residents of the town of Lake saw what could be theirs as residents of Milwaukee. These town residents in the areas to the south and west of Bay View worked with Paul Gauer, Bay View's alderman, to fight the town government as it tried to halt

these annexations that occurred between 1926 and 1929. These areas south to Morgan Avenue and west to Sixth Street adopted the Bay View name.

## Stage Three

The area north of the original village of Bay View between Lincoln Avenue and Becher Street/Bay Street is considered part of Bay View today. It's not clear when this area "officially" became part of Bay View or how this part of Milwaukee, with its own history, became associated with Bay View.

### Growth of a Community

As we have seen, Bay View actually grew in area after joining the city of Milwaukee. Today, Bay View is bordered by St. Francis on the southeast and its other borders are Lake Michigan, Morgan Avenue, 6th Street and Becher Street/Bay Street.

I admit that 6th Street as the western border is stretching it a bit. However, Enoch Chase owned land bordered by 6th Street, Lincoln Avenue, Howell Avenue and Oklahoma Avenue. His farm included what today is Baran Park. He platted his land and named the streets in what was part of the village of Bay View.

Today, there is a Bay View High School, library, park and post office as well as many businesses that have attached Bay View to their names. Even the media refers to Bay View by name when reporting events, so it is no surprise that many people believe that Bay View still is a Milwaukee suburb.

# SPENCER TRACY IN BAY VIEW

BY NANCY TAWNEY



Actor Spencer Tracy lived in Bay View from 1905 until 1915.

Actor Spencer Bonaventure Tracy was born in Milwaukee on April 5, 1900. His family lived in various areas of the city - Merrill Park, Story Hill, Prospect Avenue, Grand Avenue (now Wisconsin Avenue) and Bay View.

While in Bay View from approximately 1905-1915, the family resided in several different locales. One of these homes was located at 2536 S. Delaware Avenue, a small cottage tucked at the back of the lot; in the early 1900s, this home was the first house on the block. The family also lived in the upper level of a duplex at 2902 S. Wentworth Avenue. Tracy attended Trowbridge School.

At some point in these Bay View years, fire damaged a flat rented by the Tracy family and Beulah Brinton invited the Tracys to live at her residence, 2590 S. Superior Street, until their home was restored. They did, and while there the family's mischievous young son Spencer is said to have wreaked havoc with the furniture and would slide down the house's distinctive rail from the second floor.

From an early age, Tracy was interested in acting and gave shows in the basement of his family's home. He became fascinated with motion pictures, watching the same ones repeatedly and then re-enacting scenes for his friends and neighbors. Tracy's career spanned more than 30 years, up until the time of his death on June 10, 1967. He appeared in numerous films, including *Inherit the Wind*, *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*, *Father of the Bride*, *Desk Set* and *Woman of the Year*. He is perhaps best known for his Oscar-winning roles in *Captains Courageous* and *Boys Town*.

# LOOKING FOR TALENTED GARDENERS AND LANDSCAPE PROFESSIONALS

BY STEPHANIE HARLING

Now that our spring clean up is almost complete, we are looking for gardening enthusiasts to establish a Beulah Brinton Garden Society. The role of the garden society would be to design and lay out a garden that is historically accurate. This is an excellent opportunity to get to know other gardeners and put your creative talents to good use while having fun. We also would welcome talented gardeners to design our planters to make the house welcoming to our summer guests. Those interested may call Stephanie Harling at 744-5343 for further information.

# Calendar 2012

**MONDAY, JUNE 4:**

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 16:**

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

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 4:**

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

**SUNDAY, JULY 15:**

South Shore Frolics Festival of Art  
Bay View Historical Society booth  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm

**SATURDAY, JULY 21:**

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

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 4:**

Historical Walking Tour  
9:00 am

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 18:**

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

## Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Monday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.  
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, July 9, 6:30 p.m.  
Beulah Brinton House
- Monday, August 13, 6:30 p.m.  
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.

Return Service Requested

Non-profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 4184  
Milwaukee, WI

Bay View Historical Society  
2590 SOUTH SUPERIOR STREET  
BAY VIEW, WI 53207

