



BAY VIEW • Historian

VOLUME 2011, NO. 3

JUNE 2011

NEXT MEETING: June 6th, 7:00 p.m. *The Kaszubes of Jones Island* featuring Rick Petrie, Beulah Brinton Center, 2555 S. Bay Street.



Don't miss this year's Annual Wine and Beer Tasting Event! Space is limited.

Don't Miss the Annual Wine and Beer Tasting, Saturday June 18

The sixth annual Wine and Beer Tasting will be held on the grounds of the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street, on Saturday June 18 from 5:00 - 8:00 pm.

Over 75 types of wine and beer will be provided along with hors d'oeuvres and desserts by G.Groppi Food Market. The event will also feature live music and a silent auction. Space is limited to 150 reservations. Advance event tickets are available

at G. Groppi Food Market, 1441 E. Russell Ave., for \$45.00 or may be purchased on our website at bayviewhistoricalsociety.org. Admission at the door will be \$55.00.

For more information, contact Karla Iseler at (414) 975-1210. Proceeds support the preservation of the Beulah Brinton House which was built in 1872 and is the home of the Bay View Historical Society.

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Kaszubes of Jones Island: The People That Nobody Knew

The June membership meeting of the Bay View Historical Society will feature a viewing of the documentary film *The Kaszubes of Jones Island: The People That Nobody Knew*. This 45 minute film tells the story of a fish-erfolk community that once thrived on Jones Island and then disappeared. Dominated by immigrants from the Kaszuby region of Poland

on the north coast along the Baltic Sea, Jones Island was a unique fishing village in the midst of Milwaukee.

The film will be shown by Rick Petrie, Executive Director of Urban Anthropology, Inc. Following the viewing, Mr. Petrie will answer questions.

Please plan to attend this fascinating

presentation on Monday, June 6, at 7:00 pm at the Beulah Brinton Community Center, 2555 S. Bay Street. Refreshments will be served.

To learn more about documentary producer Urban Anthropology and preview *The Kaszubes of Jones Island*, click the 'films' tab at urban-anthropology.org.

Williams House to Receive Historic Designation Saturday, June 4th

The Williams House at 606 E. Homer Street is the 2011 recipient of the Bay View Historical Society's annual historic designation. This Italianate-style home was built in 1865 and is one of the oldest houses in Bay View.

The ceremony will take place on Saturday, June 4th at 2:00 pm in the front yard of the Williams House. Following the ceremony, there will be a reception with refreshments served. We look forward to seeing you at this year's dedication.

To view a complete list of Bay View sites that have received landmark status, please visit our website at bayviewhistoricalsociety.org and click on the Highlights of Success tab.

JUNE IS FILLED
WITH A VARIETY
OF INTERESTING
EVENTS – WE
HOPE YOU'LL
PLAN TO ATTEND
THEM ALL!

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

President

Nancy Tawney

Vice-President

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Secretary

Kathy Mulvey

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Michael Krolick

Board Members:

Karla Iseler

Dean LaGrow

Shemagne O'Keefe

Candice Owley

Sheila Semrou

Greg Wernisch

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

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

Recently I had the opportunity to visit two new local exhibits that feature Bay View: *Milwaukee Mills: A Visual History* at the Grohmann Museum and *Faith, Family, Festa: Milwaukee's Italians* at the Milwaukee County Historical Society.

The iron mill in Bay View was the area's key employer beginning in the late 1800s. Many immigrants, including Italians, came to Bay View to obtain employment at the

mill. The content of these exhibits illustrates the inter-connection of these two facets of Milwaukee's past. Both exhibits are skillfully displayed and exemplify the high quality of cultural and educational life that is available to us here. It gave me a feeling of great pride to see our community represented in these shows; I hope that you'll all take advantage of the opportunity to enjoy these exhibits and experience this feeling, too.

COME ALONG ON OUR SUMMER FIELD TRIP, FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Paul Kohlbeck, co-founder of the Bay View Historical Society, is organizing a bus trip to take place on Friday, June 24. Plan to meet up at the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street, at 9:30 am to board the bus.

The first stop will be the Grohmann Museum to view the exhibit *Milwaukee Mills: A Visual History of Milwaukee Iron Company*. John Kopmeier, Jr., director of the Grohmann Museum, will give a personalized tour of the exhibit. Lunch at Maders will follow.

St. Josephat Basilica will be the next stop and attendees will be given a tour of this southside architectural gem. The Old South Side Settlement Museum, one block west of the Basilica, will be the final stop.

Trip cost is \$45 and includes bus, lunch and all admissions. Please call Paul at (414) 483-8455 by Friday, June 17 to reserve your place on the trip.

Summer Evenings of Croquet at the Brinton House

The lawn of the Beulah Brinton house will be the site of croquet games this summer. Everyone is invited to the Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street, on four Wednesdays this summer beginning at 6:00 pm: July 13, July 27, August 10 and August 27. Refreshments will be available.

Bay View Historical Society member Muriel Blackwood is lending her croquet set to make this possible ... thank you, Muriel!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome the following new members who have joined the Society since March 1:
Sara J. Christianson and Erin & Robert Lenz

Walking Tour Explores Bay View's Southwestern Border, Saturday, August 6

BY RON WINKLER

The walk will begin and end at Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 E. Oklahoma Avenue. Participants will tour the church, which was built in 1939, with additions in 1949 and 1967. The cost of the tour is \$5.00 for Society members and seniors, and \$10.00 for non-members. Tickets may be reserved in advance by calling Ron Winkler at (414) 744-9404, or purchased from 9:00-9:30 am at Unity Lutheran Church on the day of the walk.

Here are some of the highlights:

- St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 3200 S. Herman Street, built in 1951 when the congregation moved from its original location at 1114 E. Russell Avenue.



- This cream city brick, Gothic revival home of Henry J. Riesen, 3174 S. Herman Street.
- Nash/American Motors/Chrysler Motor Company, 3820 S. Clement Avenue, founded by Charles Nash.

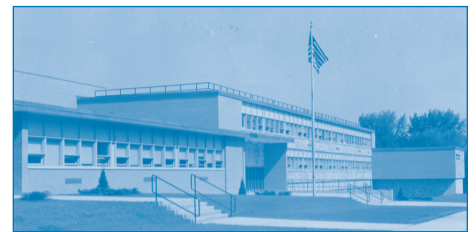
- The brick farmhouse of the Gombar Family at 3273 S. Clement Avenue, built in 1877.
- Christ Church built in 1940 at 915 E. Oklahoma Avenue. The original wooden Gothic revival church (1896) still stands at 2644 S. Pine Avenue (not on tour).



- The red brick Humboldt Park School, 3230 S. Adams Street, built in 1930 to replace this original town of Lake school.
- Nordberg Manufacturing, 3079 S. Chase Avenue, founded in 1886 by Bruno Nordberg. The plant is now occupied by South Milwaukee's Bucyrus International.
- Taqueria Azteca, 119 E. Oklahoma Avenue, originally a rooming house for Nordberg employees and then a restaurant to entertain visitors and sales people. Later the restaurant was open to the public as Ye Olde Dinner Bell.



- 2759 S. Howell Avenue, where the E. H. Liebenstein Blacksmith Shop stood before being razed in 1932.



- Fritsche Junior High School, 2957 S. Howell Avenue, built in 1963 to ease crowding at Bay View High School.
- Gauer Circle, named for Bay View alderman Paul Gauer by real estate developer Henry Otjen.

DOORS OPEN MILWAUKEE

Historic Milwaukee, Inc. is spearheading the effort to stage Doors Open Milwaukee (DOM) on the weekend of September 24th and 25th of this year.

The idea is deceptively simple: one weekend a year, HMI will open the doors of up to 100 wonderful buildings free of charge to the public - buildings that hold hidden treasures and special stories - from churches to office buildings, theaters to historic homes, museums to hotels, clubs to markets, architectural firms to transit hubs; any site of historic, architectural or cultural interest.

Doors Open Milwaukee will be like getting a backstage pass to buildings often closed to the public or to restricted areas that visitors never see. Based on the study of successful Doors Open events in other cities, HMI can expect 5,000 attendees in the first year.

We hope you'll take advantage of this wonderful event! For further information, visit HistoricMilwaukee.org.

Frolics on Display at the Brinton House

Did you know that before it was called the South Shore Frolics, the famous summer celebration was called Hijinx? Memorabilia from past South Shore Frolics celebrations will be on display, Saturday, July 16 from 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm at the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street. Come to view photographs, program books and other items from previous years.

Images of America: Bay View

BY RON WINKLER

As you know from previous issues of *The Historian*, Arcadia Publishing Company of Chicago, Illinois will publish a book about Bay View in its *Images of America* series. Ron Winkler is writing the text and the bulk of the photos are from the Bay View Historical Society's archives. The publication date is expected to be in late 2011.

While we do not have any specific information about ordering at this time, we will be taking advance orders. You will be able to pick up your copy at society events which will include a special book signing, or you may have your copy mailed to you.

Look for further information and an order form in future issues of *The Historian*.

Songs in History Program, September 15 at the Brinton House

Bay View Historical Society member Gail Toerpe and her son, Ted Toerpe, will present their *History of Songs and Songs in History* program at the Beulah Brinton House this fall. The presentation begins at 7:00 pm on Thursday, September 15. Refreshments will be served following the program. Hope to see you there!

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
or 414-531-0225
to find out more!



Historic Round-up

FAITH FAMILY FESTA: MILWAUKEE'S ITALIANS

The Milwaukee County Historical Society has prepared a new exhibit called *Faith, Family, Festa: Milwaukee's Italians*. The exhibit opened on April 14 and will be on display for the remainder of 2011.

Faith, Family, Festa gives an excellent overview of the settlement of Italians in Milwaukee. Drawn by the promise of employment at the Bay View Iron Works, many northern Italians from Piedmont, Marche and Tuscany settled in Bay View. This and other facets of Bay View life are part of this very in depth exhibit.

The Milwaukee County Historical Society is located at 910 N. Old World Third Street. It is open Monday through Friday from 9:30 am until 5:00 pm and on Saturday from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm. General admission is \$8; children under 12 free.

A VOICE OF THEIR OWN

The Polish Women's Alliance of America is pleased to announce the Milwaukee area viewing of the Glos Polek Centennial Exhibition. The exhibition will be on display at the Polish Center of Wisconsin, 6941 South 68th Street in Franklin, until June 26. This Polish women's newspaper exhibit is traveling to various cities in the United States this year before returning to Poland in 2012.

BVHS Along the Parade Routes

The Bay View Historical Society will be seen in the Humboldt Park 4th of July parade, beginning at 9:00 am and the South Shore Frolics parade on July 16, beginning at 11:00 am. Save a spot along the routes for some summer fun and make sure to wave when you see us!

Don't Forget to Bring Your Pocketbook! BVHS's Yard Sale is Saturday, May 21

The Bay View Historical Society will hold a benefit yard sale at its headquarters, the Beulah Brinton House, 2590 S. Superior Street on Saturday, May 21st. Items for sale will be located on the lawn and inside the house from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm.

Society members and other generous donors are cleaning out their attics and basements to offer a wide variety of goods for sale, including furniture, antiques and collectibles, books, toys and other household items. There will be a boutique and book shop as well as refreshments available for purchase. The Society's second floor gift shop will be open, featuring Bay View Historical Society logo items, note cards and reproductions of vintage post cards depicting familiar Bay View scenes. We hope to see you there!!"

THANK YOU!

Students from Carol Legrand's class at Bay View High School came to the Beulah Brinton House to help out with some spring cleaning. The house had a new glow after they washed windows, polished silver, dusted and vacuumed. Many thanks to all these students for their fine work.

VISIT THE BVHS AT OUR BOOTH AT THE SOUTH SHORE
FROLICS FESTIVAL OF ARTS ON SUNDAY, JULY 17!



Milwaukee Mills Exhibit Explores History of Iron Industry

by Kathy Mulvey and Bill O'Brien

About 100 people braved a stormy evening to attend the opening of *Milwaukee Mills: A Visual History* at the Grohmann Museum on April 15. John H. Kopmeier, Jr. – museum director, exhibit curator and friend of BVHS – gave an informative slide-show introduction.

The exhibit tells the story of the iron industry that flourished in southeastern Wisconsin from 1845 until 1930, and features the Milwaukee Iron Company, founded in 1866 by Eber Brock Ward, Stephen Clement, Orrin W. Potter, Alexander Mitchell, Charles F. Ilsley and Edward H. Brodhead. If you recognize the names of Bay View streets and businesses in that list, it is because the company and its founders played a crucial role in the development of Bay View. Beyond the local history familiar to us, the exhibit goes into detail about the Dodge County mines that initially supplied ore to the Bay View works, and also supported the growth of a substantial mill complex in Mayville, which started in the 1850s and operated into the 1920s.

"Although little trace of these companies exists today, they were once huge complexes," Kopmeier noted in his introduction.

He continued, "while the plants are long gone, they left their mark...and in Milwaukee, started a plethora of businesses using iron and steel in the manufacture of products from compressors to cranes."

A number of artifacts and photographs from the BVHS archives are included, along with items loaned by BVHS members John Ebersol and David Zach, and a painting by Arthur J. Dadd loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Keith Tucker, brother of Ellen Tucker. John Gurda and Bill O'Brien also contributed their knowledge and talents to the exhibit. Of these gems, Kopmeier attested, "I have never been involved with an exhibit that made use of so many sources." Major contributors include the Great Lakes Marine Society of the Milwaukee Public Library/Wisconsin Marine Historical Society and the Mayville Limestone School Museum.

The exhibit will be on view at the Grohmann Museum, 1000 N. Broadway Street, through August 21. Learn more at the Grohmann Museum tab at the Milwaukee School of Engineering's website, msoe.edu.

BVHS Want Ads

WOODWORKER

The Beulah Brinton House has received two donations of old furniture: a Victrola and a dresser - and both of them are in need of some repair. Both of these items will add to the interest and beauty of the Beulah Brinton house. Are you a woodworker who would be willing to donate some expertise and time to help restore them, or do you know of someone who would? If so, please contact Nancy Tawney at (414) 744-5674.

ORGANIST

There is a foot pump organ in the living room of the Beulah Brinton House which was donated to the Bay View Historical Society by Richard Nephery. It is beautiful to look at but it also needs to be heard. Do you know how to play this instrument, or do you know someone who does? If so, please contact Nancy Tawney at (414) 744-5674.

House Management Committee Needs Volunteers

BY STEPHANIE HARLING

There has been great progress made on preserving and maintaining the Beulah Brinton House. Volunteers before me have painted the interior beautifully, restored the hardwood floors and performed basic ongoing maintenance. But there is much more work to be done to make this historic gem shine and be a source of pride for our community.

The House Management Committee will be holding its first formal meeting at the Beulah Brinton House on Wednesday May 4th at 6:00 pm. The priority for the House Committee is to develop a project plan to address the many maintenance needs of the house. If you have an interest or skills in house restoration, project planning, landscaping or yard maintenance, this is a great opportunity for you to get involved.

If committee meetings aren't your thing, we understand - there are plenty of short term tasks that need to be completed. Volunteer opportunities include exterior house painting, yard maintenance and garage clean up. This is a fantastic chance to get to know new members, enjoy fellowship and make a visible difference in the community!

If you are interested in helping with any of these tasks, please contact Stephanie Harling at (414) 744-5343 or stephharling@hotmail.com.

Calendar 2011

SATURDAY, JUNE 4:

Bay View Historical Society Landmark
Dedication Ceremony
Williams House, 606 E. Homer St. • 2:00 pm

MONDAY, JUNE 6:

General Membership Program: *Kaszubes
of Jones Island* with Rick Petrie
Beulah Brinton Community Center,
2555 South Bay St. • 7:00 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 18:

Beulah Brinton House Open to Public
2590 S. Superior St. • 1:00 - 4:00 pm

SATURDAY, JUNE 18:

Annual Wine & Beer Tasting
2590 S. Superior St. • 5:00 - 8:00 pm

FRIDAY, JUNE 24:

Summer Bus Trip • 9:30 am - 4:00 pm

MONDAY, JULY 4:

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

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13:

Croquet at the Beulah Brinton House
Beulah Brinton House lawn • 6:00 pm

SATURDAY, JULY 16:

South Shore Frolics Parade - Bay View
Historical Society in parade • 11:00 am

SATURDAY, JULY 16:

Beulah Brinton House Open to Public
Display of South Shore Frolics Memorabilia
2590 S. Superior St. • 1:00 - 4:00 pm

SUNDAY, JULY 17:

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

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4:

Historical Walking Tour • 9:00 am

Upcoming Board Meetings:

- Tuesday, June 14, 6:30 p.m.
Beulah Brinton House
- Tuesday, July 12, 6:30 p.m.
Beulah Brinton House
- Tuesday, August 9, 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.

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