



BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2016, NO. 4

DECEMBER 2016

An Old Fashioned Christmas

Saturday December 10, 2016 at the Beulah Brinton House featuring holiday fun for families. Bring your kids, grandkids, and camera! Snacks and beverages provided. Find special Bay View gifts in our Gift Shop including books, hats, maps, and more!

3:00 PM Jean-Andrew, Storyteller
Artist info at www.storylore.net

3:45 PM Christmas songs with
Gnorman the Gnome
Artist info at www.davidhbdrake.com

4:30 PM Father Christmas visits with stories and photo opportunities for the kids
Artist info at www.paulakert.com

Producer: David HB Drake and Bay View Historical Society. For information contact:

Susan Ballje
414-481-3369
susan.ballje@yahoo.com
www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org



Thomas More - Modern Pio Nono, today's St. Thomas More High School.

Marian Center to be Replaced by Convent

BY RON WINKLER

The Marian Center for Nonprofits, 3195 South Superior Street, closed since July 1st of this year, will be demolished and replaced by a convent. It is owned by the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi. The original structure, was designed by Milwaukee architect Peter Brust and created as St. Mary's Academy for girls in 1904. Two adjacent additions to the south were built in 1931 and 1935. The Marian Center is a Milwaukee County and State of Wisconsin Landmark.

The high school closed in 1991, shortly after nearby St. Thomas More High School for boys went coed. That same year, the sisters renovated St. Mary's and founded the Marian Center for Nonprofits, whose tenants included the Bel Canto Chorus and Redbird Studios. It also housed the order's nuns. The Bay View Historical Society had its headquarters there before purchasing the Beulah Brinton home in 2005.

The Marian Center provided affordable offices, studios and performance areas. However, by 2003, it was apparent to the sisters that inexpensive rent would not provide sufficient revenue for the estimated cost of \$4 million needed to repair and improve the ageing buildings.

In 2012, they announced a joint plan with Cardinal Capital to raze the center and construct forty-four reasonably priced housing units for low-income individuals. It was hoped that federal housing tax credits, Milwaukee County money and other grants would provide the necessary funds. The plan with Cardinal Capital expired at the end of 2015 when the sisters were unable to obtain the funds. The 62 tenants were notified in early December 2015 that

the center would close on July 1, 2016.

The new convent, designed by Groth Design Group, will house up to 80 nuns along with office space for the order.



St. Mary's Academy 1904. This is the original St. Mary's Academy (Loretto Hall) before the 1931 and 1935 additions to the south.

Continued on page 3



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

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Membership

\$20 Individual/\$17 Seniors (Age 65+)
\$30 Household/\$25 Senior Household
\$30 Non-Profit/Small Business
\$55 Corporate

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2590 S. Superior Street, Bay View, WI 53207
www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org

Bay View Historical Society is a non-profit organization with 501(c)3 status operating for educational purposes.

President's Message

Hey BVHS Friends! We had a great turnout at our Annual Membership meeting. We celebrated the completion of our new gazebo with David Drake, elected new board members, and finished with a great presentation by Dick Blau on polka. It was nice to see many new and familiar faces.

Special thanks are in order to our retiring board members: Denice Laack, Candice Owley, and Sheila Semrou. Denice was steadfast in her role as treasurer. Candice, endlessly fascinated by rules of order and bylaws, made huge progress in cleaning up our bylaws. Sheila's interior design expertise helped to guide numerous projects around the Beulah Brinton House. Thank you!

Please plan on attending our "Old-Fashioned Christmas" party on December 10. Stories, carols, and Father Christmas will be in abundance. Kids are welcome! For more details, check our website.

Looking ahead to 2017, we will have a dense schedule of membership programs and music events, continuing work on the Beulah Brinton house and a revitalized website. We are working hard to engage our membership and the Bay View community. Stay tuned.

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and a fulfilling New Year

-Kevin Petajan

Letter to the Editor

BY KATHY MULVEY

Lisa,

I wanted to let you know that I enjoy reading the Historian, because

Bay View will always be my warm fuzzy hometown.

I was somewhat surprised and delighted that you chose to review Eric Dolin's book in the last issue. It, after all, explores a time long before Bay View became Bay View. It sounds very interesting. You were right on the mark, noting that a book discussing the fur trade would typically not mention the lifestyle of a beaver. We humans are most definitely very self-absorbed animals. Because of your review, I plan to search out this great sounding book.

Thanks for all you do for BVHS!

Respectfully,

Annemarie Adsén



Marian Center Continued on page 3

History of Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi

The history of the religious order dates from 1848, when a lay community of five men and six women was formed in the parish of Our Lady of the Assumption in Ettenbeuren, Bavaria. These Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi came to the United States in 1849 and established a religious community and cooperative farm along the Lake Michigan shoreline in what today is Bay View and St. Francis. (The area on the east side of Superior Street is Bay View Park.) Milwaukee Bishop John Henmi welcomed them to serve Milwaukee's growing number of German-speaking immigrants.

The sisters formed the "Third Order of St. Francis," the first congregation of Franciscan women in the United States. They wanted to teach in parish schools, but the sisters were not allowed to teach boys until the 1870s. In 1885 they were assigned to teach at St. John's School for the Deaf at present-day 3680 South Kinnickinnic Avenue where they taught until it closed in 1983. That building is now Deer Creek Elementary School, purchased by the city of St. Francis in 1992 to replace Thompson School.

The Marian Center consists of three sections. The main building is known as Loretto Hall, while a 1931 expansion to the south created Rosary Hall and a further expansion to the south in 1935 created Clare Wing, the birthplace in 1937 of St. Clare College. In 1946, St. Clare College was renamed Cardinal Stritch College (for former Milwaukee Archbishop, Samuel Cardinal Stritch, who had encouraged the sisters to found a college). In 1962, when Cardinal Stritch College moved to 6801 N. Yates Road in Fox Point, St. Mary's Academy expanded into Rosary Hall and Clare Wing.

Pio Nono/St. Thomas More

Other educational facilities in the Bay View/ St. Francis area have disappeared over the years. Dr. Joseph Salzmänn (1819-1874) came from Austria and established the St. Francis Seminary, which opened in 1856 (named for St. Francis of Sales). Salzmänn also founded Holy Family Normal School in 1871 to train male teachers because many religious orders (including the Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi) would not allow their sisters to teach boys. Holy Family was the first Catholic normal school in the United States.



Pio Nono original building- This four story German Gothic revival style building on Kinnickinnic Avenue was the original Pio Nono College building.

Catholic boarding and day school. Enrollment increased and in 1931, the building was razed and replaced by Salzmänn Hall at 3680 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. It was designed by Peter Brust in Tudor Gothic revival style.

In 1941 the archdiocese separated its major seminary from its minor seminary. Minor seminary students moved from the St. Francis Seminary to the Pio Nono campus to create St. Francis Minor Seminary, a four-year high school and junior college. Salzman Hall closed, but reopened in 1965 as Pio Nono High School. In 1972, Pio Nono merged with Don Bosco High School to become Thomas

That same year, Salzmänn organized Pio Nono College in the same building to prepare men for the business world. Pio Nono College was named for Pope Pius IX, 1846-1878, who was known as Pio Nono. The college became more popular than the normal school as more orders allowed nuns to teach. In 1922, the college/normal school closed and Pio Nono became a

More High School. In 1991 St. Mary's Academy for girls closed and Thomas More became coed. In 2007, the school was renamed St. Thomas More High School.

In 1963 the minor seminary was renamed De Sales College Preparatory Seminary and moved southeast of the major seminary to a new fifty acre campus at 3501 South Lake Drive. It closed in 1979 due to low enrollment and now houses the Archdiocesan offices. In 1983 the complex was renamed the Cousins Center for William Cousins (1902-1988) who was Milwaukee's Archbishop from 1958 until 1977.



St. John's school for the deaf - The 1907 St. John's School for the Deaf building.

St. John's School for the Deaf

St. John's School for the Deaf was founded by Father Theodore Bruenner in 1876 in the same building as Pio Nono College. In 1879 a two-story building was constructed on Kinnickinnic Avenue just south of Pio Nono College. In 1895 St. John's became independent of the Seminary. Most of St. John's was destroyed by a fire in 1907, but the next year, a new school was built, designed by Brust and Philip in the Italianate style.

By the early 1960s, St. John's School for the Deaf was too small and was considered a fire hazard. It was razed and replaced by a new school designed by Brust & Brust. The elementary school was dedicated on October 19, 1966 and the high school was added as the north wing which opened in 1967.

St. John's closed in 1983 due to lack of funds and the practice of mainstreaming students with disabilities into regular classrooms. It was renamed St. John's Center and housed offices for various archdiocesan programs. The building was sold to the city of St. Francis School District in 1990 for \$1.2 million. It opened as Deer Creek Elementary School in 1992 to replace Thompson School.



Deer Creek Elementary School - The new St. John's School for the Deaf building, 1966 to 1983. Today it is Deer Creek Elementary School.



Origin of Christmas Customs

BY LISA ANN JACOBSEN

Christmas in colonial America was quite different from our twenty-first century celebrations today. For example, there are no eighteenth-century sources that show the importance of children at Christmastime. The diary entry of December 18, 1773 of Philip Vickers Fithian, tutor to the children of Robert Carter III at the Nomini Hall plantation in colonial Virginia, gives no mention to children's participation or presence at celebrations, but he does go into detail about the dinners, the balls, and the fox-hunts, none of which included children. The inclusion of children and the emphasis of Christmas as a magical time came about during the nineteenth-century following the immigration of large populations of both Dutch and German to America, who centered Christmas celebrations in the home and within the family.



In addition, Santa Claus is also an American invention, stemming from Dutch, and English traditions. Many "countries and ethnic groups have a Christmastime gift bringer, the "right jolly old elf" dressed in red and fur and driving his sleigh and reindeer sprang from the pen and imagination of New Yorker Clement Clark Moore. In his 1823 poem "A Visit from Saint Nicholas," Moore created the new look for the Christmas gift-giver. Cartoonist Thomas Nast completed the vision with his 1860s drawings that still define how we see Santa."

Christmas trees are also German in origin. "Tannenbaum" gained acceptance in "England and the United States only very slowly. The first written reference to a Christmas tree dates from the seventeenth century when a candle-light tree astonished residents of Strasbourg," with



nothing recorded in the eighteenth century about holiday trees in Europe or North America. By the nineteenth century a few of the "German toys" (to use Charles Dickens's phrase) appeared in London. But these foreign oddities were not yet accepted. When a print of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's very domestic circle around a decorated tree at Windsor Castle appeared in the Illustrated London News in 1848, the custom then caught on.

In addition, the length of the Christmas season was longer, based upon the celebration of the Nativity following Advent, a penitential season in the church's calendar. December 25, not a movable feast, began a festive season of "considerable duration. The twelve days of Christmas lasted until January 6, also called Twelfth Day or Epiphany. Colonial's thought Twelfth Night a good occasion for balls, parties, and weddings. There seems to have been no special notice of New Year's Eve in colonial days...Most music historians agree that the song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" with all its confusing rigmarole of lords a-leaping and swans a-swimming was meant to teach children their numbers and has no strong holiday connection."

For more information visit:

<http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/xmas/customs.cfm>.

Beulah Brinton House Concert Schedule / Winter-Spring 2017

■ 6:30pm • SAT, JAN 14, 2017

"Bits' Of Buena" - Latin Jazz

Reservations required
\$30.00 suggested donation...includes food, beverages, concert prepaid

6:30pm Doors Open/Food, Beverages Served
7:30pm Concert Starts

To Reserve Your Seats: Please send checks to:
Cherylann Kelly - 1217 East Morgan Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207 - 262-951-1915

■ 4pm • SUN, FEB 12, 2017

Stephen Lee Rich - Vaudeville & Old Jazz

\$10.00 suggested donation at the door

■ 4pm • SUN, MAR 5, 2017

Debra Cowen & John Roberts - Maritime & Old English Songs

\$15.00 suggested donation at the door

■ 6:30pm • SAT, MAR 11, 2017

"Dave Bayles Trio" - Old School Jazz & Originals

Reservations required
\$30.00 suggested donation...includes food, beverages, concert prepaid

6:30pm Doors Open/Food, Beverages Served
7:30pm Concert Starts

To Reserve Your Seats: Please send checks to:
Cherylann Kelly - 1217 East Morgan Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207 - 262-951-1915

■ TBA • SUN, MAY 7, 2017

Bay View Massacre Memorial Event

Producer: Bay View Historical Society*

■ 6:30pm • SAT, MAY 20, 2017

"Sara And Kenny" - R&B, Flamenco, Classical Jazz, Originals

Reservations required
\$30.00 suggested donation...includes food, beverages, concert prepaid

6:30pm Doors Open/Food, Beverages Served
7:30pm Concert Starts

To Reserve Your Seats: Please send checks to:
Cherylann Kelly - 1217 East Morgan Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53207 - 262-951-1915

If you have suggestions for next season, email David at: orgarts@gmail.com

Passing, Seen

BY BILL O'BRIEN

Can a twinkling last a year? Even when something long familiar departs over several seasons, its final removal seems sudden. For years and years, my morning commute has taken me along Becher Street and the north edge of the old Vilter Works. The afternoon's return takes me down First Street, back through the middle of the plant for my turn east onto Lincoln Avenue. Each



work day I noted the watch turret built to guard the plant during World War II, when the company's accustomed production of refrigeration equipment was adapted for ships and complemented by the manufacture of armaments, including howitzers. Properly called an oriel, it always seemed a curiously castellated thing to spring from a factory wall.



Since Vilter's relocation to Cudahy, many of the buildings had been repurposed. When plans for new tenants and new purposes were announced, I expected further changes, if not the clearances that have taken place. Warehouses along the train embankment have been succeeded by a long swath of grass. From buildings once numbering in the dozens, a mere handful remain. The old numbering was quite clear, with white numerals painted on large black squares. You may know Building 28 as Bay View Bark. Building 20 next door was company headquarters. A stone panel above its entryway carried the company name and the dates of its founding and construction of the offices: 1867-1919. Other buildings west of First Street were taken down this summer. One was the shipping center, the office front of which had the 1950s flair of an asymmetrical porch. It got nibbled apart by the T Rex of excavators, which tore away sections of brick and stone work before separating recyclable metal from the debris.



While the west side of the site was cleaned and graded, things seemed quiet on the east. While paused at the stoplight one morning, I was surprised to see shattered windows in the turret. They were my first clue of the next big change. Out of sight, working from trackside, three diligent drivers took the day to devour most of the long building through which a huge overhead crane once ran. The north wall and turret stood a few more days before the work of sorting metal from rubble began. I can only suppose that they ignored the warning signs on several parts of the buildings, which promised a thousand-dollar reward for information leading to the arrest of anyone "doing damage to any of the buildings." The signs direct the witness to call Big Louie at Mallory Properties. When Louie hears what these three have been up to, they are going to be in Big Trouble.

Trending as a New Year's resolution: fewer articles about demolitions and more about enduring structures, seen as I pass them.

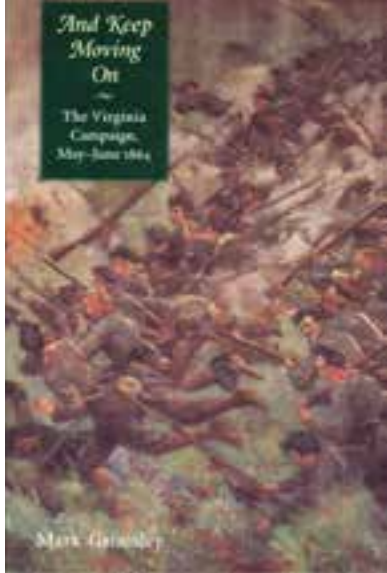


Featured Book Review

BY LISA ANN JACOBSEN

***And Keep Moving On: The Virginia Campaign, May-June 1864.* By Mark Grimsley**

Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press, 2002. ISBN 0-8032-2162-2. Maps. Illustrations. Notes. Index. Pp. xvii, 282.



The debate continues on from its inception through to the current day...is the history correct that describes the noble confederate General Robert E. Lee as an equally genius and gallant southerner gentleman with no other choice but the honor-bound one before him to secede with his beloved Virginia, and the bold Union General Ulysses S. Grant, the drinking butcher yet ultimate winner of the American Civil War, but only because Federal forces eventually overran the Confederates though numbers only? Or is the historical writings that highlight the

foresight of Grant and the folly of Lee the more accurate account, and the "Lost Cause" school is merely grasping at romantic straws while the truth of the matter is the Federals, through Grants brilliance in tactics and strategy, won the war? Like Newton's third law of motion that holds that every action must have an equal and opposite reaction, whichever school of thought happens to favor either Lee or Grant, the denigration of the other seems always to be the concurrent result. Rare is the historian who attempts and then foreseeably achieves an absolute best effort in avoiding bias and personal preference in the writing of the history of the American Civil War in general and an account involving Lee and Grant in particular. Excepting perhaps historian Mark Grimsley in his work entitled *And Keep Moving On: The Virginia Campaign, May – June 1864*.

Published as part of the University of Nebraska series "Great Campaigns of the Civil War," Grimsley's volume focuses on the first few months of operations during the Overland Campaign in Virginia during the spring of 1864 as Lee and Grant meet in the Battle of the Wilderness and the Spotsylvania Courthouse, along the North Anna River and the Battle of Cold Harbor. Grant, with his Army of the Potomac totaling 120,000 troops, begins its advance toward Richmond in order to engage Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, again outnumbered nearly two-to-one. These campaigns witness Lee and Grant meeting head-on, which has provided Civil War historians with the opportunity to closely compare the actions of each as they run up against and right alongside one another.

Rather than add to the number of books published that focus on either the attributes of Lee to the detriment of Grant or vice-versa, or on one or the others' tactical decisions and

ensuing outcomes, Grimsley instead attempts to provide an account of this period as Lee and Grant saw it and as they each understood it, as it was happening, rather than looking through a lens from which events are beheld more than one hundred and fifty years later.

In addition to staying within this historical context, Grimsley also provides an interweaving of bits and pieces of biography and motivation of the players involved, such as Major General J. E. B. Stewart, for example, who Grimsley describes as a "banjo player" with a "penchant for flirting with young females...a self-created cavalier whose public reputation actually ran counter to real values and gifts," who was, in fact, a "happily married man and devoutly religious." It is seemingly without detection to the engrossed reader that Grimsley intertwines this other biographical material within the more bloodstained details of attack and retreat, regiment formation and strategic movement, or the fate of the prisoners, as well as detailed descriptions of the effects of stress and fatigue on the troops, how each respective side lived while in service, and the effects of war on the home-front as well. As a result, *And Keep Moving On* at times reads as sweepingly as a well-written historical novel. Thus Grimsley, in addition to providing comprehensive and precise historical fact and detail, also widens his potential audience to include the novice as well, having the talent also of historical narrator.

While the narrative of this campaign began with Grant attempting to divide and break Rebel strength by launching several offensives against Virginia with his eye on the ultimate destruction of Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, his offensives ultimately fail due to the brilliance of Confederate Major General John C. Breckinridge, perfectly coupled with the flawed and lacking Union command. However, the battles encompassing the Overland Campaign would ultimately result in a Union victory, but at an expense to be paid in the future, as Grimsley later explains, for the Overland Campaign would as a whole greatly influence the post-war historiography that would develop into the "Myth of the Lost Cause," thus utilizing this element of the War to illustrate the butchery of Grant against the elegance of Lee, with Southerners portraying the struggle of Virginia during the spring of 1864 as a Confederate victory that Grant was too stupid to realize. Grant, in response, simply called in more and more troops and ultimately won the battle through numbers alone. Grimsley includes a nicely compacted discussion of this "Myth of the Lost Cause" in the last chapter of the book and, is further and more deeply detailed in his work entitled *The Collapse of the Confederacy* (Nebraska, 2002), which focuses on this very topic.

In the end, the story of these campaigns is the story of two great armies clashing with casualties. Grimsley provides a succinct yet captivating discussion, including not only its battles but also its political context, the motivations of troops, and post-war interpretations, providing for an excellent read for scholar and layman alike.



On the Street Where You Live

BY LISA ANN JACOBSEN

Estes Street:

In 1835 Elijah Estes left his native South Carolina and moved northwest to Milwaukee, claimed a large portion of lakefront property that would come to be Bay View, and built a log cabin for himself and his wife, Zebiah Wentworth. The Estes family began subdividing their land along the same time as the founding of the rolling mills, naming streets for family members such as daughter Ellen and son-in-law Reverend Linebarger. Elijah named Estes Street in 1871.

Where in (Historical) Bay View?

Do you recognize this Bay View landmark? Look for answer in Where in Bay View? in the next issue of Historian.



Answer to last issue:

Lumber yard in old Bay View. The Basilica of St. Joseph can be seen in the distance in the middle of the photo.

A Christmas Poem

*At Christmas play and make cheer
For Christmas comes but once a year
Good bread and good drink, a good fire in the hall
Brawn, pudding and souse, and good mustard withall:
Beef, mutton and pork, shred pies of the best:
Pig, veal, goose and capon and turkey well drest:
Cheese, apples and nuts, jolly carols to hear,
As then in the country is counted good cheer.*

— Thomas Tusser (c. 1520–1580)

Thank You to CR Electric

The new gazebo in the Brinton House yard has been improved with the addition of electricity. Chris Lange, owner of CR Electric in Oak Creek, donated his company's services to run electricity from the garage to the gazebo. Plans are also underway for CR Electric to provide lighting in the gazebo. Having electrical power and lighting will enhance concerts and other events. Bay View Historical Society is very grateful to CR Electric for its exceptional generosity with these two additions to the new gazebo.

Making a Gift to Bay View Historical Society in Your Will

The simplest way to make a future gift to Bay View Historical Society (BVHS) is through your will. BVHS is always in need of funds to maintain the Beulah Brinton House. Gifts received from wills provide vital financial resources to keep this historic house in good condition. Making a gift in your will allows you to make a difference in the future even after you are gone. Please consider remembering BVHS in this manner...thank you.

For more information contact Nancy Tawney at 414-744-5674; ntawney@aol.com

Has Your Membership Become Historical?

Check your membership card now. If your expiration date is past, then it's time to renew. Just complete the form below and send it in with your dues to keep your membership current. Members receive our newsletter, The Historian, with interesting articles and the latest information on all our events as well as discounts at a variety of Bay View merchants.

PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY!

Membership Dues:

- ☐ Individual.....\$20
☐ Household.....\$30
☐ Senior (65 or older).....\$17
☐ Senior Household.....\$25
☐ Nonprofit/Small Business.....\$30
☐ Corporate.....\$55
☐ Also enclosed is a tax deductible contribution of \$ _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____

Please make checks payable to: **Bay View Historical Society**

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Please contact me! I'd like to volunteer for a project or committee.

☐ Please save a tree and send The Historian to the email address above.

Send your
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Attn: Membership
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Bay View, WI 53207



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BAY VIEW, WI 53207

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Calendar of Events

Saturday, Dec. 10

An Old Fashion Christmas for kids and families!

- 3:00 pm • Stories by Jean Andrew
- 3:45 pm • Songs and carols with Norman the Gnome
- 4:30 pm • Tales with Father Christmas

Bring your camera and kids/grandkids for special photo opportunities! Beverages and snacks available.

Tuesday, Dec. 14

Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM • Beulah Brinton House
- 2590 S. Superior Street

Tuesday, Jan. 11

Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM • Beulah Brinton House
- 2590 S. Superior Street

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Board Meeting

- 6:30 PM • Beulah Brinton House
- 2590 S. Superior Street



Saturday, Jan. 14, 2017

"Bits of Buena" – Latin Jazz

- 6:30 PM • Food & Beverages
- 7:30 PM • Concert

Donation \$30 Reservations required.
Cherylann Kelly 262-951-1915

Sunday, Feb. 12, 2017

"Stephen Lee Rich" – Vaudeville & Old Jazz

- 4:00 PM • Concert

\$10 donation at the door

Saturday, Mar. 11, 2017

"Dave Bayles Trio" – Old School Jazz & Originals

- 6:30 PM • Food & Beverages
- 7:30 PM • Concert

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