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FLike VOLUME 2017, NO. 3

SEPTEMBER 2017

BVHS to Hold Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Board Members

The Bay View Historical Society will hold its annual Membership Meeting on Monday, October 2, at 6:30pm. Please see the slate of board candidates that have been recognized by the nominations committee in the following pages. (Page 2) This is a very talented list of people with unique skills and qualifications. Attendance of BVHS members is greatly encouraged. Only active members who have paid their dues for 2017 are qualified to vote. Please be sure to attend this important meeting that helps to shape the future of the Bay View Historical Society.









Little Free Libraries in Bay View

BY GLENN A. GIERZYCKI

In your travels around the Bay View area you might have seen little and usually wooden boxes with books in them in people's front or side yards and wondered what they were. Well, I wondered about them too, and I decided to do some research. They are called "Little Free Libraries" (LFL) and the whole concept started right here in Wisconsin. In 2009, Todd Bol of Hudson, WI, built a wooden container that looked like a schoolhouse and placed it on a pole in his yard. He then filled it with books as a tribute to his mother. His mother was a school teacher and book lover. The idea spread rapidly. After the idea took off, the idea was to build more than 2,150 little libraries. That was the number of libraries that Andrew Carnegie had funded around the country. The concept worked well, because so far it has led to over 50,000 free libraries in all 50 states and 70 countries. The concept is pretty simple. It is essentially a neighborhood book exchange where folks can take a book or leave a book, all for free with no paperwork. Nobody is monitoring what you take or leave. The owner of a LFL is called a steward. The steward can build his own box or purchase one of many designs from the parent organization. Registration of the box with Little Free Library gets an official LFL sign and unique registration number. And the location gets put on a worldwide map. Little Free Library was officially incorporated in 2012 as a nonprofit organization. In my travels around Bay View, I found a number of LFL's and took pictures of some of them. The pictures here are all from the area bounded by the KK River on the north, CP Railroad tracks on the west, and Oklahoma Avenue on the south. Those are what I consider the traditional boundaries of Bay View. Some of the photos accompany this article. I'll give you the location of one of these LFL's. The Bay View Historical Society's very own Beulah Brinton house has one in the front lawn. The locations of the others will not be named. It's up to the reader to go out and find them. It may give a sense of adventure to your next walk or ride around the community. And go leave a book or take a book. That's the whole purpose of these little book boxes.

Sources of information for this article included the Little Free Library website, Wikipedia, and several trips around the area.







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Membership

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

\$55 Corporate

Bay View Historical Society 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.

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

Membership Meeting and Nominations (continued from page 1)

BVHS Nominations Committee is chaired by Susan Ballje, with Nancy Tawney, Anne Maedke and Bill O'Brien. The following people are candidates for the BVHS Board of Directors. Their election will be held at the annual Meeting on October 2.

Cherylann Kelly became involved with the society through her ukulele group, and creating events with the focus of bringing people together to enjoy food and music. She is an outstanding caterer and music teacher. Cherylann wants to help with programs and workshops relevant to our members, and promote young families and new people in the community getting involved with the history of our area. She has years of experience organizing and coordinating special events.

John Sargent is nominated for his 2nd term on the Board of Directors and currently serving as our excellent Secretary on the Executive Board. John also serves on the archives committee and keeps the connection between the board and archival projects. He is experienced with computers and data bases, and willing to expand interests in research and landmarks. John wants to create a career ladder with training and service for volunteers to progress from basic to society officers. This is an area that will strengthen the society for the future.

Joe Sliker is a very knowledgeable member of the Bay View community and retired social worker. His experiences and skills include many areas of technology. Joe is offering support to BVHS in website and database design and maintenance. He is also willing to manage social media to have our information current and useful to all members and the on-line community. Taking photographs and sharing stories is another way to establish memories and keep the history of our area alive. Joe is married to Joan Sliker founder of Cream City Real Estate and a super support to the society.

Jane Taugher has been a homeowner in Bay View for thirteen years. She enjoys shopping and eating "local" in Bay View with friends and family. She is a Legal Assistant at Michael Best & Friedrich in downtown Milwaukee. Jane earned a Master's Degree in Modern European History from UW-Milwaukee. She is passionate about documenting and archiving the histories of "ordinary" people, families, and small businesses, and finding out that they are indeed extraordinary.

Jane and Jim Winston reside in the 110 year old Fritsche House at the corner of Pryor and Wentworth, and Jane has lived in Bay view for 40+ years. She has participated in many BVHS events over the years, helping with refreshments and decorations, but only recently became a formal member when she and Jim married 3 years ago. Their wedding reception was held at the Beulah Brinton House during the Doors Open Milwaukee event in 2014. Jane recently retired after 35 years as a Pediatric Nurse at Children's Hospital, and was instrumental in many fundraising projects at IC Parish, and currently helps with their meal program and warming house for the homeless. Jim was a Territory Sales Manager for industrial process control instrumentation manufacturers and brings organizational and communications skills to the BVHS. He has also helped with refreshments at several BVHS events. As a member and Past Master of James M Havs Masonic Lodge, and as a Shriner, Jim is actively involved in charitable and philanthropic activities in the Milwaukee area. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Congregation Shir Hadash a Reconstructionist Jewish Synagogue. and is a guitarist with the Shir Mishugas musical group that provides music for the services. Jim is experienced and wanting to help with fundraising, marketing, programs, and newsletter. Jane has been really helpful with hospitality and gardening and will join the education committee. They will share one board position and have one vote.

VERY SPECIAL THANKS for lawn and garden care all summer!

Joe Erlinger has mowed and kept our grass under control, while Nancy Tawney has been watering and keeping the weeds at bay. Thanks for all your efforts!!

We have **SJLandscaping** on board now to manage trimming of bushes and edging along sidewalks.



President's Message

We've had several great events this summer. Thanks to all our volunteers who made these events successful. Here's a quick recap:

Our Cream City Real Estate Building Landmark Dedication in June was well-attended. Ron Winkler organized the event and presented the BVHS landmark plaque to Joan Sliker, owner of Cream City Real Estate. Sonja Nelson-Gurda, Mary Fisher, and Jane Winston coordinated refreshments. Thanks to Joan and Joseph Sliker for their hospitality.

David Kozlowski and Sandra Raduenz of Pinehold Gardens gave an interesting talk on the history of Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) during our June membership meeting. They gave us a glimpse into the inner workings of operating a small family farm.

In July, we had a group participating in the 4th of July Parade. Susan Ballje coordinated the event. Thank you! We also held a booth at the South Shore Frolics Festival of Arts. Thanks to Anne Maedke, John Sargent, Frank & Kathy Mulvey, and Mary and John Fisher for helping.

Our 2017 August Walk was very successful with over 38 people in attendance. Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch led the walk. Laura Hickman and John Sargent registered walk attendees. Joan and Joseph Sliker were gracious hosts for the start of the tour. Alice Winkler assisted with tour materials. Be sure to check out our Facebook group page for photos from the walk.

Thanks again to all who have helped to make our summer enjoyable! Looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming membership meeting!

- Kevin Petajan, BVHS President



From Left to Right: Valerie Sell, Mary Fisher, Nancy Tawney, Sonja Nelson-Gurda, Joan Sliker



Joan Sliker and Ron Winkler



Membership Meeting with David Kozlowski and Sandra Raduenz



Humboldt Park







▲ August Walk ▶



Lighthouses and Keepers of the Great Lakes

BY PHILLIP BLOCK

After the election of officers and other Society business on Monday, October 2, Phillip Block will present his program on "Lighthouses and Keepers of the Great Lakes." Phillip Block is a lifelong photographer, writer and dedicated lighthouse enthusiast who has visited over 250 lighthouses

in the Great Lakes and Atlantic Coastal regions of the United States and Canada. Block's **Lightstations.com** website provides an insightful background to many of these lighthouses.

2017 Jones Island Kaszube Picnic

BY BILL O'BRIEN

The annual Jones Island reunion is better than Brigadoon, which only reappears every hundred years, and - being mythical - only on stage. The first Saturday afternoon of every August, descendants of former fishing villagers and their friends gather in the county's smallest park, dedicated in 1974.



The first picnic was held 40 years ago. An invitation from then-Alderman Rod Lanser promised "music, beverages, and conviviality." The current edition adds relatives and visitors young and old, curious genealogists, heritage displays, and a bounty of food. The event ran from 1977 to until 1984 and was revived in 2000 by the late Kupferschmidt brothers, Kenny and Jim.

This year's event began with volunteers showing up a little after 10 a.m. Soon, tents and tables were popped up, coolers loaded with ice, and grills started at the roadside. As more people came, more food was laid out, more chairs placed, and the Brewhouse Polka Kings began to play. This accordion-drum (or drum-accordion) duo played for hours, offering polkas and ballads and a brisk, well-attended Chicken Dance.

Retired teacher Tom Myszewski was there, clad in his unique Legends of Jones Island T-shirt, which depicts early community leaders. He displayed his trove of island photo albums, hundreds of 1870s-1940s pictures of island people and places, and shared the property index that he has built from tax and court records. Since the island when settled had a maze of

lanes that never resembled the street grid that city planners hoped for, residences had no regular addresses and appeared in censuses simply as House 1, House 2, and so on. Tom's index lets anyone with a family name ascertain where their ancestor lived in relation to the lakefront or the inner harbor.



Professor Anne Gurnack had her booth with souvenirs and memorabilia of the Hel Peninsula, the Kaszube heartland on Poland's Baltic coast, where she regularly travels. She and I talked genealogy and politics and I explained how an Irish-surnamed fellow came to be a picnic regular: My Polish-descended wife had a grandaunt who married a man born on the island of immigrant parents, so there are half-Polish, half-Kaszube cousins on Lois' side of the tree.

For the displays, I brought a trio of 1910 fire insurance maps that cover the island, showing homes along the winding lanes, boathouses and smokehouses on the west shore, and the old Coast Guard station at the north end of the island. I showed around a picture of the grandaunt in a mock wedding party, hoping to learn something about that lost tradition. Several people told about shivarees of long ago; nobody recalled witnessing such a charade, but one woman called to mind, "We have some funny pictures like that." The history quest continues as we patiently await the next gathering. See you next August on

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - due NOW before Annual meeting and Election of Board Members

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:

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٦	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	
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 Membership Renewal to: The Bay View Historical Society
Attn: Membership
2590 S. Superior Street

2590 S. Superior Street Bay View, WI 53207

Carferry Drive, when the vanished village is once more vital, if only for a few hours.

. . . .

The book on Jones Island, explaining where the Kaszubes came from, how they and other immigrants settled the Island, and were cleared from it, is entitled The Fisherfolk of Jones Island by Ruth Kriehn, published by the Milwaukee County Historical Society and available from our city libraries.



A Pleasant Summer Walk in the Woods: 2017 August Walk

BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society held its annual August Walk on Saturday, August 12th. "A Walk in the Woods" crossed Bay View's southern border into the City of St. Francis. Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch led approximately forty-five walkers, who gathered at Cream City Real Estate, the society's newest landmark.

They viewed buildings on the St. Francis Convent property (partly in Bay View and partly in St. Francis) and in the St. Francis Seminary (entirely in St. Francis). The convent was established in 1849 and is named for St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of merchants, animals, and ecology. The seminary was founded in Milwaukee in 1845 before moving to St. Francis in 1856; it is named for St. Francis of Sales, patron saint of writers and journalists.

We spent a lot of time on the convent property, where we viewed the current state of demolition of St. Mary's High School/Marian Center for Nonprofits. Before purchasing the Beulah Brinton House, the Bay View Historical Society had its headquarters in the Marian Center. It is being razed to make room for a new convent. Other buildings that will be razed, according to an article in the August Bay View Compass, include the Motherhouse on the south side of the chapel, along with the powerhouse, one of the oldest buildings in St. Francis. It was built in 1849 as the Brother's House. "A Walk in the Woods" was limited to the outside of the buildings. Anyone who would like to see the inside of the seminary will have the opportunity during its annual open house, held each April. Next year's open house will be on Sunday, April 29, 2018, following the 11:00am Mass.



Over the years, through a complicated series of changes, Holy Family Normal School and Pio Nono College (named for Pope Pius IX, 1846-1878, known as Pio Nono) eventually became a high school, which today is St. Thomas More High School. The photo is of the original Pio Nono, built in 1871.



The sketch is from the 1876 Milwaukee County illustrated atlas. The original Pio Nono building is in the center, with St. John's School for the Deaf at right. The seminary woods is behind those buildings with the St. Francis Seminary to the left. We are looking east from what today is Kinnickinnic Avenue.

BVHS Archives Committee is Busy, Busy, Busy

BY KATHY MULVEY



Landmarks at the Landmark

For many years, members of the Archives Committee have worked on Monday mornings and then retired for lunch at the Landmark Restaurant on Kinnickinnic Avenue. At the suggestion of neighbor Betsy Tole, committee members mounted a display of photographs of Bay View landmarks at the restaurant in July.

Owner Mike Santacruz was enthusiastic about

the display. We scanned and printed the photographs, which were taken in the late 1990s by Ray Hildebrand and donated to BVHS. Santacruz paid for the frames.

The display features a BVHS poster of drawings of various landmarks as the centerpiece, and sixteen 8" x 10" color photographs. They are mounted on the south wall of the restaurant. Stop in and enjoy them!

Virtual Exhibits

The BVHS Board approved money to purchase software that will enable the Committee to create virtual exhibits to be posted on BVHS webpage. The Archives Committee already has begun working on an exhibit about the Bay View Rolling Mill, because the Mill was so essential to the development of Bay View as a community.

Once Committee members are fluent in using the software, we plan several more exhibits. One will feature businesses that were once in Bay View. Another will highlight buildings named as landmarks by the Society. Bay View High School, the South Shore Frolics, Humboldt Park, and wedding dresses through the years are likely subjects for other virtual exhibits. Let us know what you would like to see.

Be Part of the Fun

We welcome Board Member Donovan Riley as the most recent addition to the Archives Committee. He works on Monday mornings, entering data about items that have been donated to the Society, along with John Sargent and Gail Germanson.

But the Committee needs more volunteers who can help maintain the clipping files. These files, which are now kept by longtime workers Janis Liedtke and Evelyn Trisco, are crucial to our mission of providing information about anything and everything Bay View. Historians, businesses, and neighbors regularly visit to gather facts about their projects.

In addition, we could use more data-entry volunteers on Thursday evenings from 6-8 PM. Right now, Caleb Westphal works that shift alone, but we have two more computers that could be in use. We will provide the training.

If you are interested in joining the Archives Committee, please contact Kathy Mulvey at kfmulvey90@gmail.com, or phone 414.744.0408.

BVHS Receives a Unique Piece of Bay View History

BY KEVIN PETAJAN

The Society recently received a donation of a cast iron wood/coal burning stove from the early 1900's by BVHS member Karen Gersonde. The stove was used in the Shoe Repair shop at the corner of East Russell Avenue and South Wentworth Street. The owner of the shop was Alfredo Lorenzetti, Gersonde's great uncle, who ran the shop from the 1920's through the 1960's before retiring and selling the building. Interestingly, the shoe shop also used to hold Italian masses, as the stove was put to good use heating the space. Special thanks to Karen Gersonde, Ed Travis, Glenn Gierzycki and family for this unique piece of Bay View history.



Ed Travis, Karen Gersonde, and Glenn Gierzycki.

On the Street Where You Live: Kinnickinnic Avenue

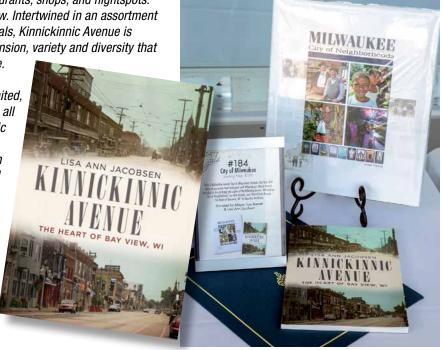
Kinnickinnic Avenue. To many lifelong Bay Viewites, the name evokes fond memories and

BY LISA ANN JACOBSEN

colorful imagery of marching high school bands and drug store soda fountains. To a newer population, it's a modern main drag filled with a variety of restaurants, shops, and nightspots. Regardless of residential tenure, Kinnickinnic Avenue is Bay View. Intertwined in an assortment of beliefs and opinions, cultures and norms, elders and millennials, Kinnickinnic Avenue is representative of the changes and challenges, growth and expansion, variety and diversity that is America, and thus shares a history with our nation as a whole. This shared history is easily observed throughout our country... one city, one neighborhood, one street, at a time. Distinct yet united, combined and mixed together, both the historic and the modern all blended into our American culture, just as it does on Kinnickinnic Avenue. Ironically, most sources indicate that 'Kinnickinnic' is a Native American word meaning 'it is mixed,' in reference to the dried leaves, bark, and tobacco that was mixed

This excerpt is from the book "Kinnickinnic Avenue: The Heart of Bay View", released on July 3, 2017, and available for purchase at arcadiapublishing.com and amazon.com. A signing event will be incorporated with this year's holiday events at BVHS. The book was also featured at Discovery World's Annual Gala auction as part of the Milwaukee Collection.

and smoked. Thus, 'it is mixed' continues to live up to its name



BEULAH BRINTON HOUSE IS UPDATING THE KITCHEN AND BATHROOMS!

We're beginning to plan/design for some remodeling the kitchen and bathroom at the Beulah Brinton House. Contact Susan Ballje at 414.333.5414 with any possibilities!

We are interested in the following:

Dressing vanity with large mirrors, refrigerator, gas stove, microwave, dishwasher

Are you remodeling? Moving? Updating your kitchen cabinets? Keep BVHS in mind!





Cream City Real Estate is Society's Latest Landmark

BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society dedicated its twenty-fourth landmark on Saturday, June 3rd at 1:00pm. The dedication ceremony for the Cream City Real Estate building, 3474 South Pennsylvania Avenue, was free and open to the public. Following the ceremony, refreshments were served.

There was a threat of rain in the weather forecast, but when the assembled multitude moved outside for the unveiling of the plaque, the sun was shining, although the dark sky to the north suggested that the North Shore or Ozaukee County, was getting drenched.



Robert and Erin Lenz (he is on BVHS Board of Directors) welcomed **Harvey Robert Lenz** on August 9, 2017! He joins brother Henson, and sister Loreli - **CONGRATULATIONS!!**



Joan Sliker and Ron Winkler unveiling the landmark plaque for Cream City Real Estate, 3474 South Pennsylvania Avenue on June 3, 2017.

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 the Historian.



Answer to last isssue:

KK Avenue showing Gitzel's Department Store on the left-hand side.

With a Will, There's a Way

The Bay View Historical Society has been in existence for thirty-seven years. BVHS is the keeper of myriads of historical documents and artifacts that tell the story of Bay View's rich history. Over a decade ago, BVHS also acquired the Beulah Brinton House which is the headquarters for the Society, the repository for all its historic items and the gathering place for many community events.

The Society will always need funds to maintain this historic house. Looking to the future, you can help assure that the good work of BVHS continues by remembering the Bay View Historical Society in your will. Will planning is the highly personal process of deciding how your assets will be distributed after your lifetime.

If you value the existence of BVHS and want to help it continue for generations to come, please consider remembering BVHS in your will.

It will give BVHS the way to grow and thrive. For further information, contact Nancy Tawney at 414-744-5674; ntawney@aol.com

Yesterday and Today: The Chapel in the Woods

BY RON WINKLER

The St. Francis Seminary's Chapel in the Woods was built in 1867 and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary. It was built by Father Mathias Gernbauer who came to America as a theological student and became a professor of



In the early photo, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto (built in 1894) can be seen on the left. The Chapel in the Woods is at right, with a bridge and walkway that lead to the stairs by which the chapel was entered. The Cemetery in the Woods is behind the chapel and to the left.

classics at the seminary. It was built adjacent to the Cemetery in the Woods, which is the final resting place for many of the convent's sisters and the seminary's faculty, workmen, and their families. The Way of the Cross was added in 1870 and circled the cemetery. In 1978, after repeated vandalism, both the Chapel and Way of the Cross were torn down.

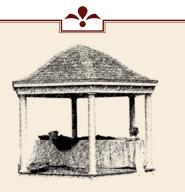


In the photo from today, Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto is at left, while at right, the bridge, walkway, and stairs that lead to the chapel are still visible. The cemetery is obscured by the foliage in the center of the photo.



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Our historic Beulah Brinton House is a wonderful place to gather family and friends. With the new gazebo and landscaping, the yard also offers a lovely outdoor setting!

If you'd like more information about private rentals (consider family reunion, showers, wedding, anniversary, meeting, conference) please contact Susan Ballje - susan.ballje@yahoo.com or 414,333.5414.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 16 Beulah Brinton Open House

1-4pm • Beulah Brinton House

Monday, October 2

Annual Meeting and Election of Officerwith program by Phillip Block, "Lighthouses and Keepers on the Great Lakes"

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

Wednesday, October 11 BVHS Board Meeting

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

Saturday, October 21 Beulah Brinton Open House

1-4pm • Beulah Brinton House

Wednesday, November 8 BVHS Board Meeting

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

Wednesday, December 8 BVHS Board Meeting

6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

Saturday, November 18 Beulah Brinton Open House

1-4pm • Beulah Brinton House

Saturday, December 9 Holiday Celebration: Traditions to Remember!

2-6 pm • Beulah Brinton House

Concerts at The Beulah Brinton House

Friday, September 8

Matt Watroba: Matt is the voice of music in Michigan on Detroit Public Radio and producer of Folks Like Us.

7:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

Sunday, September 10 Matt Watroba Workshop

Beulah Brinton House

Sunday, October 29

Sparky and Rhonda Rucker return to share uplifting music with traditional storytelling, humor and history. Their music is included on Grammynominated anthology, "Singing Through the Hard Times".

4:00pm • Beulah Brinton House

Sunday December 3

Bittersweet: From the reverent to ridiculous Susan Urban, Kate early, Margaret Nelson and Phil Cooper do a mix of traditional carols and new songs for the holiday season.

4:00pm • Beulah Brinton House

For Reservations and Information: beulahbrintonhouseconcerts@gmail.com 414.702.6053

Special Event:

Saturday, November 11 Carole Ferrara, smooth vocals,

Carole Ferrara, smooth vocals, Johnny Plankenhorn, singer songwriter and incredible guitar player, and Ron Kovach, rocking the keyboards.

7:30pm • Beulah Brinton House Snacks and beverages will be served

8:00pm • Concert starts. Dessert intermission 20 minutes then another set of music.

10:00pm • Evening ends

Reserve seats @ housconcertsmke.com.

Community/Education

Projects on Immigration with schools will continue in 2017-18. Susan will be providing professional development and guidance at Fernwood Montessori using the curriculum and syllabus from the University of Minnesota, Immigration History Research Center, and the Immigration and Ethnic History Society created in 2017.

COPPER Beach Tree

BV Historical Society has received rounds from the Landmarked treasure thanks to Marina Dimitrijevic and Andy Gawin. THANKS so much for your assistance in preserving important history of Bay View!