



# BAY VIEW Historian



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## 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 1, at 6:30pm. Please be sure to attend this important meeting that helps to shape the future of the Bay View Historical Society. During the meeting an election of board nominees will take place. Only active members who have paid their dues for 2018 are qualified to vote. Please review the slate of board candidates that have been recognized by the nominations committee in the following pages. This is a very talented list of people with unique skills and qualifications.

The BVHS Nominations Committee is chaired by Susan Ballje, with Amy Mihelich, Nancy Tawney, Anne Maedke, Kevin Petajan, Jane Taugher, Sheila Semrou and Candice Owley.

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## Way Down South Walk

BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society's annual August Walk, the Way Down South Walk, was held on Saturday, August 4th, starting from Unity Lutheran Church, 1025 E. Oklahoma Avenue. Ron Winkler, a member of the church, gave a tour and history of the parish.

Thanks to society members Laura Hickman and John Sargent who helped with registration and the other duties of the day. Thanks also to President Kevin Petajan, official greeter and photographer.

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Location of the Bay View Branch Library in 1908. Today it is Solid State Tattoo (2658 S. Kinnickinnic Ave.).



The Neoclassical style, state of the art, Henry Llewellyn Branch Library at 907 E. Russell Ave. shortly after its 1914 dedication.

## Bay View Library Celebrates 25 Years

BY RON WINKLER

**Author's note: On Monday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm, I will be giving a talk at the Bay View Library as part of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations. This is a preview of that talk.)**

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, the Bay View Library will celebrate 25 years at 2566 South Kinnickinnic Avenue. However, there has been a library in Bay View since 1870 when the Bay View Library Association was formed and charged annual dues of fifty cents. That was eight years before the Milwaukee Public Library (MPL) was founded in 1878. Officers of the Bay View Library included Christian Otjen and Beulah Brinton.

In 1879, when Bay View incorporated as a village, the library was reorganized by Beulah Brinton, who established the Bay View Reading Room, located on Niagara (today's Potter Avenue) between Huron and Michigan (today's Delaware and Wentworth, respectively). The Bay View Library dropped its annual dues, probably in response to MPL's free library.

At some point thereafter, the Bay View Library moved a little further south on Michigan into a grocery store between Russell and Pryor. Then, in 1887, when Bay View joined the City of Milwaukee, the Bay View Library came under control of MPL. William Hegerty was hired to manage what became known as the Bay View Branch of the Central Library and received \$5 a month.

In 1908, the library moved into a store in a new building at 1266 Kinnickinnic Avenue. Today, this building, home to Solid State Tattoo, is addressed as 2658 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.

### The Llewellyn Library

In 1914, the Henry Llewellyn Library opened at 907 East Russell Avenue, as MPL's first

neighborhood library. It was built on four lots donated by Silas J. and John T. Llewellyn in memory of their father Henry. He had owned a grocery store that still stands on the southeast corner of Russell and Wentworth across from Groppi's Grocery.

The Neoclassical style library, built on an eight-foot hill with 23 steps leading to its entrance, was designed by Van Ryn and De Gelleke. The children's section was on the east side of the library while the adult section was on the south and west portions. Estimated cost was \$2000.

By the mid-1950s, Llewellyn was inadequate. In 1958, its steps were removed and replaced with a street-level entrance. The remodeling, which cost approximately \$150,000, included an elevator to connect the lower-level adult section to the second floor children's library. Unfortunately, the contemporary addition, dedicated on May 9, 1959, completely obliterated the magnificent architecture of the original library.

### Need for a new library

By the mid-1980s, the Llewellyn was MPL's smallest neighborhood library. A 1987 study recommended building a larger library with adequate parking. Twelve sites were considered, including the Avalon Theater, 2479 S. Kinnickinnic Ave. and Sijan Field, 2821 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue.

The "Otjen site," a triangle of land where East Otjen Street met South Kinnickinnic Avenue, was finally chosen. The main concern was how much property needed to be acquired as four residences and two businesses occupied the site. Ultimately, all of the land was acquired and all structures were demolished.

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

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## President's Report Fall – A Time for Change

Well, it's that time of year again. Our annual meeting on October 1, is approaching fast. And with that comes a change of board members. This fall we have five board members who are retiring: Anne Maedke, Laura Hickman, Donovan Riley, Sonja Nelson-Gurda and myself. We greatly appreciate the many contributions that they have made to the Society.



**Anne Maedke** spent two full terms on the board. Contributions during Anne's tenure include chairing the house and program committees as well as holding the position of vice president for the last three years. Anne also co-chaired

the Vision 2020/house remodeling committee. Anne plans to continue her work with the Society on the Vision 2020 committee and perhaps a few others.



**Laura Hickman** served one term on the BVHS board. Laura loves to work behind the scenes. Laura was instrumental in converting the BVHS's archives and membership databases to a new software platform, PastPerfect. Laura's many

months of dedication to this project was unparalleled. In addition, Laura coordinated membership records with the new system on a regular basis. Laura also volunteered on several BVHS events, including many historic walks.



**Donovan Riley** spent two years on the board. Donovan is leaving the board early due to increasing out of town commitments. Even though Donovan's time on the board was cut short, his contributions were significant. Donovan spent

time helping the archives committee. Donovan also

helped to coordinate the Bay View Tragedy after-event at the Beulah Brinton house. Donovan's quiet but observant and wise nature will be missed.



**Sonja Nelson-Gurda** is retiring from the board after five years. Sonja's coordination of the Annual Dinner over the course of several years was invaluable as she handled reservations, talent, desserts and many other

tasks. Sonja also helped with hospitality on many events. Sonja's thoughtful idea generation during meetings was always helpful and productive.

### Thanks to all of you for your time and talents!



After six years on the board, it's also my time to step aside from the board. I've had a truly wonderful experience working with all of you to further our mission of encouraging a sense of community by preserving, celebrating, and sharing Bay

View's rich heritage. It's been a wild ride, from helping the Society improve its technology with new computer systems and AV equipment to working on an enhanced vision for BVHS called Vision 2020. Moving forward, I'll continue to co-chair the Vision 2020 committee, help out with photography, and work on some historical projects with Ron Winkler.

I'm looking forward to seeing what our new, revitalized board does in the coming months and years. Their skills are impressive to say the least. There is always a lot of work to be done to keep the Society going. We are always happy to have volunteers. If you've got a little time to share, the Society would love to have you!

Thank you!

Kevin Petajan  
President

## "Kinnickinnic Avenue: The Heart of Bay View" - Presentation and Q&A to Follow BVHS Annual Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2018.

Local author Lisa Ann Jacobsen will be doing a presentation with Q&A and signing copies of her first book entitled "Kinnickinnic Avenue: The Heart of Bay View". Bay View has a very rich and diverse history, so much so that it is impossible to cover all its deserving scenes and stories in one book. So, in order to narrow it down a bit, this volume focuses on aspects that involve Kinnickinnic Avenue, the main artery that runs through the center of Bay View. Originally an Indian trail that traversed north and south from Milwaukee to Chicago, Kinnickinnic Avenue was well utilized by Native Americans, European traders, explorers, and settlers. Kinnickinnic Avenue, or KK, as it is known by Bay Viewites, witnessed virtually all aspects of local history, including the beginnings of the French fur trade, the settling of the area following the Homestead Act of 1862, America's first labor strike in 1886, and other events. Today, KK remains the main artery of Bay View, and bustles full of restaurants and shops, nightclubs and residences, most of which are housed in buildings that still stand today just as they did when first constructed many years ago.

**From Amazon.com:** "Lisa Ann Jacobsen is a freelance writer and photographer, serves as editor for Bay View Historical Society in the Milwaukee area, and holds graduate degrees in both history and theology. Her other upcoming works with Fonthill Media include: "The Catholic Church in Milwaukee", "The Great Lakes Fur Trade in Wisconsin", and "Milwaukee's Pioneer Beginnings". Lisa Ann is an avid reader and book collector and lives close to the Lake Michigan shoreline with her very sweet, yet stubborn French Mastiff-Pitbull mix named, Peaches." Peaches also served as inspiration for her upcoming children's book entitled, "Mushy the Pitbull".





## Election of Board continued

### Claire Gallam

MLS-Library Science, MA

After graduating with an Masters in Library Science from Villanova University and an MA from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Claire Gallam enjoyed a fruitful career as a librarian on a variety of levels, from public librarian in Glenside, Pennsylvania; to MGIC business librarian; to Medical librarian at Trinity Memorial Hospital (now Aurora South Shore); among others.

Claire coordinated many special events and organized young adult groups. Claire wrote a newsletter for three years for the Suburban Library System (Chicago) which was sent to over 120 libraries throughout the system.

Claire enjoys reading, walking and attending performances of the Milwaukee Ballet. Research is still close to her heart. Claire spends time researching Beulah Brinton, Bay View and art history.

Claire is interested in working on the Historian, membership programs, and research with the archives.

*Committees of Interest: Membership, Newsletter, Research/ Archives*



### Hannah Hazelberg

Membership Coordinator,  
Jewish Museum of Milwaukee

BA-Anthropology, Certificate  
in Museum Studies

Growing up in a family that  
believed in public service,  
Hannah Hazelberg has spent  
her entire life volunteering,

fundraising and being involved in her community. Hannah's mother founded a nonprofit organization and laid the basis for Hannah's understanding of donor relations, volunteer management, and business management.

After graduating from UW-Milwaukee with a degree in Anthropology and a certificate in Museum Studies, Hannah Hazelberg interned at the Milwaukee Public Museum and Chudnow Museum of Yesteryear. Hannah currently works at the Jewish Museum of Milwaukee as a Membership Coordinator. Hannah also has volunteer experience with the Waukesha County Historical Society and Museum.

As a board member of the BVHS, Hannah is interested in strategic planning, membership and program development.

*Committees of Interest: Membership, Fund Development, all of the above.*



### Heather Taylor

MBA, BA-Economics &  
International Relations

Heather Taylor is currently a  
data analyst at Milwaukee  
Tool. Previously, Heather was  
a global account analyst at  
Manpower for many years. She  
lives in Bay View and enjoys

community activities. Heather's skills include accounting/finance, fundraising, education/mentoring, writing and event planning.

Heather's previous volunteer experience includes: Rank Advancement – Boy Scouts Troop 393; Nicolet Foundation – Performing Arts Board, drama volunteer organizer; Girls on the Run financial committee; North Shore Congregational

Church - benevolence & education boards.

Heather is interested in working on events like the BVHS Annual Dinner, communications, fund development, membership and programs.

*Committees of Interest: Communications, Fund Development, Membership, Programs, Refreshments*



### John Fisher

BA-Journalism

John Fisher recently completed his first term on the BVHS board and fulfilled his responsibilities as treasurer of the BVHS admirably. John's volunteering activities on the board also include working

on membership databases as well as help on the Annual Dinner raffles and silent auctions.

As a charter member of the Bay View Historical Society, John Fisher can often be found helping out at events and meetings. He earned a BA in journalism at Marquette University, and often wrote for the BVHS Historian. Fisher recently retired as the manager of Milwaukee's main post office. He also spent about 30 years as president of the St. Joseph Benevolent Association, an insurance/fraternal/social group, which later merged with Catholic Financial Life, where Fisher now works part-time as a lobby guard. John's community involvements include coordinating the parish festival at Immaculate Conception Church, serving as treasurer for the Shamrock Club, and sponsoring a night of sailing each year for visiting students in the Ulster Project. John and his wife, Mary, raised five children in the family home of her parents on Wentworth Avenue.

*Committees of Interest: Finance, Annual Dinner*



### John Toutenhoofd

MBA, YMCA Certificate of  
Directorship, BS-Philosophy

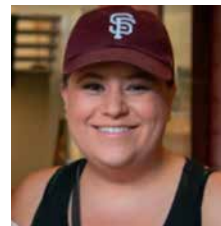
John Toutenhoofd is a  
Strategic Planning Analyst,  
Tax Analyst and Investment  
Consultant for T Enterprises, a  
firm that Toutenhoofd founded  
in 1968. As a consultant,

John provides administrative direction and support to senior management and Boards of Directors of small and mid-sized companies and nonprofit organizations to prepare long range business plans related to finance, marketing (domestic and international) and operations.

John also has vast experience in nonprofit organization administration. John was Executive Director for the Marian Center for Non-profits/St. Mary's Academy from 2001-2005 where he was responsible for full administration and operation.

A supportive member of the BVHS for many years, John is interested in helping the BVHS with strategic and financial planning.

*Committees of Interest: Finance, Fund Development, Leadership Development*



### Margaret Herzfeld

BS – Supply Chain  
Management, BS – Information  
Technology Management

Margaret Herzfeld has 3.5+ years of heavy analyst experience at a marketing firm and wholesale distribution company. Margaret has

worked directly with clients to analyze social media platforms and websites to gain insights and opportunities. She also volunteers on a marketing committee for Kathy's House in Milwaukee, a non-profit hospital guest house, where she analyzes social media, creates marketing campaigns and Facebook live events.

Outside of work, Margaret enjoys reading, trying new restaurants, traveling and playing tennis. Margaret spent the majority of her childhood years in Bay View. Margaret doesn't currently live in Bay View but is planning to a return to the neighborhood very soon. Margaret is also a member of South Shore Yacht Club and enjoys sailing and being on the water. Margaret and her mother, Susan, have thoroughly enjoyed being members of the Bay View Historical Society and have been on every single walk with Ron Winkler since 2003!

Margaret is interesting in introducing more young people to the society through her work on communications/marketing and technology committees.

*Committees of Interest: Communications/Marketing, Technology*

## Way Down South Walk continued

Approximately forty people attended the walk, again led by Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch. Many former residents of the area attended, including Bonnie Rae and John Karrigan who drove all the way from Minneapolis!

After leaving Unity Church, the first half of the tour was spent in Humboldt Park, created in 1890 as one of Milwaukee's first six public parks. The tour covered approximately two miles between Humboldt Park on the west, Milwaukee Forge on the east, Oklahoma Avenue on the south and Kinnickinnic Avenue on the north. Sites visited included the Eugene Jewell Home, Henry Mann Mansion, Bruno Nordberg Home, Jacob Kwarigrock Cottages, Graham's Subdivision and Sijan Field.

Although the day was hot (90°) and sunny, the humidity was low and it was shady and cool during our time at the Humboldt Park Beer Garden.

Mark your calendars for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual August Walk, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 3, 2019.





## A Bay View Story: Growing Up in Bay View

BY PAUL TROGLIA

I'm seventy-two years old and still see that snowball coming right at my face. I was eight. The thrower was maybe 18, a wooer of my cousin Tina. I was hooting at their kissy-face silliness in that chilly winter air. The trajectory was perfect, its range, drop, and adjustment for wind calculated in a nanosecond, the arc so mesmerizing I didn't duck. It knocked me flat. Tina and Dead-eye-Dick rushed over, saw I was OK – the snow was soft – and returned to canoodling, the ambience restored.

I tell this anecdote because it serves as a metaphor for me as I witness the ebb and flow of life in our community. The change in Bay View since I was a kid has left its mark on me as much as that expertly thrown snowball of long ago. Nostalgia is fallible, memories with a delete key, but I'm going to cite it anyway since I lived it. And as my history teacher at Bay View High was saying and made me write twenty-five times for not paying attention – I was flicking bits of Junior Scholastic at cute Connie Randula – Primary sources are the best for an accurate study of the past. All communities change over time, but Bay View's story includes a reckoning, where it faced its past and its culture and came away a different community, beyond its architecture, economy and infrastructure.

I was born and raised here, a block from Groppi's store. Groppi's and Club Garibaldi, a block apart, acted as the cultural center of 'Little Italy,' the trapezoid between St. Clair and Superior streets and Trowbridge to Conway. All names ended in a vowel – Cialdini, Massaro, Foti, Martinetto, Ferraro, Jendusa, Passomani, Giadrone. OK, maybe not all, we did have the Yakoviches.

Yet 'Little Italy' it was! Mrs. Bucharelli walked her geese around the block daily. Mr. Fucilli butchered backyard chickens and sold them to his neighbors. I can still see that white-feathered carcass hanging from our cellar door, headless and draining, ready for my mother to pluck it for supper. I don't think anyone said 'dinner.' PS: It was 'supper' and if you went out, you had to be home by 'supertime.' Yes, parents could and would turn children loose for hours in the Bay View of yore. The thing we feared most was the Spiri Fulut, the ogre living in dark corners and basements that grandmas and grandpas warned you about. Old man Bertone, living at the flophouse above Lecci's tavern at the end of St. Clair limped around the neighborhood, each kid waiting for him to ask, 'How old are you, my sonny boy?', then swatting their culo gently with his cane that many times – uno, due, tre, quattro, cinque. We played Bing-Bing-Cucho, a fast-reaction hand-slap game. Even the sidewalks had a paisan pedigree, the slabs poured by and inscribed M. Zanchetti, Milwaukee.

The 'Iceman' delivered his product in a horse-pulled wagon – this in the early '50s! We kids loved to pick up the broken chunks from the alley,

where the horse had just been, and sip the slippery, melting shards. Sometimes the 'Ragman' came along, chanting in broken English, ah-REKS, ah REKS, the neighbors dutifully handing over their old towels, sheets, overalls, you name it, for who knows what. Wah-dee-melohn! Wa-dee-melohn! another alley-peddler sang as his wagonload of watermelons clopped by. I still hear the ding, ding, ding of the Knife Sharpener pushing his cart down Delaware, a serenade compared to the bubbly monotony of today's ice cream trucks. Nostalgia conjures up scenes right out of Godfather II.

The aptly named locomotive Old Smokey, that coal-fired steam-belching behemoth, plowed its way through Bay View, spewing ash over clothesline linens. It later sat in rusting neglect in a field at the end of Delaware, our own dormant Vesuvius.

Club Garibaldi had a social purpose beyond serving beers to bleary-eyed late shift workers who 'stopped' there on the way home from the factories. Hey Gustavo, you stoppin'? Yeah, I'm stoppin', but only one. And call me Gus, I'm not just off the boat. The Garibaldi Mutual-aid Society was created in 1908 to help 'assimilate' Italian immigrants into neighborhoods, to a better life, to America. It still meets at the building on Russell and Superior, though assimilation has long-since passed as its reason for being.

A most important ritual was bringing a new bambino, often the first in a family born in America, to Groppi's to be weighed on the meat scale. You were 'christened' beneath the spools of butcher's string and flypaper dangling from the ceiling. It was, in a very real sense, a baptism. You were now in the club, in the neighborhood, part of something bigger than yet you knew. And nostalgia says it was all good, the right place to grow up, to find out how things work.

The hyphen wasn't used yet to tell what kind of American you were. Precision wasn't necessary. You were one of two things, either from the 'Old Country', as our parents and grandparents called their European home, or you were the New Generation. Old Country people spoke their native language as if they'd never left. They cooked the sauces, soups and suppers of their upbringing, whether it was rustic dishes of the countryside or the fruiiti di mare. The rate of change in most of life could have been determined with an abacus. There were no satellites, computers, cell phones – unless you count two soup cans on a string – Wi-Fi, Siris, or anything close. That was the stuff of Flash Gordon, a hero of round screen television, duly forgotten today. It was life lived in the two-sided world of plane geometry.

As charming and quaint as it is when seen through the Viewmaster of nostalgia, sometimes when you click the lever to rotate the next picture into view, you begin to notice something. You click it

once more. It's there at South Shore Beach. Click it again--yes, in the crowd coming out of the Mirth Theater. Click – there, at Puddler's Hall with Joe Schott and the Hotshots. Click – yes, at the House Pharmacy soda fountain. Click – same for the jelly bean and jaw breaker bins at Champeau's Five and Dime. Click – it's in the glow of the smelt fishermen lanterns. Click – the miracle-cure pilgrims filling their jugs at the Iron Well. Click – the Sunday row boaters on Humboldt Park lagoon. Click – God, even the 4th of July Doll and Buggy parade. This can't be. It's not true. Yes it is – pictures are primary sources – the best for an accurate study of the past! Did nostalgia lie? Click it faster. It's there – the Miss South Shore Beauty Pageant. The band shell audience singing Funiculi Funicula. The Frolics. The Yacht Club. The gin mills. The schools. The neighborhood. The people – they're all white! Not by fate, not because there was no Hoan Bridge, not cost of living, but by an Old Country tenet that people should 'stay with their own kind' – we call it something else today – and its corollary, a de facto sign that read No Vacancy. If we used the hyphen for the type of American we were then, we would be ashamed; it would be 'Un.' So that too is a part of our Bay View story.

I graduated from Bay View High in 1964. There was one African-American student but that term was waiting for the future. If you were nice, you said 'Negro.' Some people weren't nice.

When the movement for school desegregation and open housing began in the '60's, we were not the Welcome Wagon. 'Troublemakers' were going to ruin this thing we had going. But with the leadership of a Groppi, a man raised in the cobblestone alleys and concrete playgrounds of Little Italy in Bay View, our community changed. We began to see the light. Look at the pictures of this neighborhood now – use your Flash Gordon gadgetry – and you see a much more varied and dynamic community, grown out of an old world lifestyle into a new culture – a gamut of ethnic adjectives preceding '-American.' Yes, 'paisans' too. You'll also see a variety of business thriving in this deeper, richer, 3-D place to live.

I'm often asked if I'd like to go back to the way it was, and my answer is always the same – not a snowball's chance. Sometimes I think weighing those babies on that scale at Groppi's was more than just a cute tradition. It just may have been their entry on the scale of justice.







## Bay View Library continued

Of the six buildings razed, one was considered a landmark. That property, at 2570-72 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, had been built by Dr. Paul G. Hankwitz in 1902 and three generations of doctors had used it as their home and office, a common practice in the days before medical clinics. There was a carriage house in the rear that had been converted to a two-car garage. The Dutch Colonial revival style home had been designed by Ed Kiesslich and built by Edward Koch & Son for an estimated \$4000.



*The old Hankwitz property at 2570-72 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue, one of six buildings razed to make room for the Bay View Library.*

Groundbreaking was held on Thursday, April 2, 1992 with Bay View Alderman Chris A. Krajniak as the Master of Ceremonies. Krajniak was the vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the MPL. Remarks were given by Mayor John O. Norquist, Kevin O'Connor, president of the MPL Board and Charles M. Engberg, of Engberg-Anderson, designers of the library.

Although MPL budgeted \$2.2 million for the project, the actual cost was \$1.1 million to acquire, clear and prepare the site. Then, an additional \$2.2 million was spent for construction, architectural fees, furnishings and equipment.



*The newly remodeled Llewellyn Library in April 1959.*

The Bay View Library, addressed at 2566 South Kinnickinnic Avenue, had space for 60,000 volumes on one floor spread over 15,000 square feet. This was in contrast to Llewellyn's 40,000 volumes on two crowded floors.

The new library had more space for both the staff and patrons. It was very open, horizontally and vertically, with a 1-1/2 story open ceiling. The seating was more comfortable, with study carrels, and there were facilities for computers. Finally, there was a security system, which was lacking at Llewellyn.

Llewellyn's meeting room held fewer than fifty and there was no parking lot. The new library's meeting room had a capacity for 100 and was named the Llewellyn Room to preserve the old library's name; it had a parking lot for 34 cars.

The library was designed as a trapezium, which is a four-sided figure with no two sides that are parallel. It fit in well with its urban surroundings. The cantilevered south wall was constructed entirely of panes of glass and, together with the windows along Kinnickinnic Avenue, was designed to resemble a lantern to give the impression of a beacon of knowledge. Thus, the library was nicknamed the "Lantern on the Hill."

Artist Peter Flanary from Paoli, Wisconsin, a small town southwest of Madison, was chosen to provide art related to both the library and Bay View's history. He titled his artwork "The Bay View Series" with artwork for the inside and outside. He used nature and industry to link the library with the community.

For the lobby floor, Flanary used mosaics to depict aerial views of Bay View in three different periods: in 1836, when it was in a primitive state; in 1900, when the rolling mill dominated the community; and in present day 1993.

On the outside, Flanary used different trees, each identified by a plaque within a granite boulder. At the southern tip of the site is a six-ton chunk of iron ore from the Mesabi Range in northern Minnesota. It was donated by U.S. Steel, owner of the mill when it closed in 1929.

### Final preparations

After 79 years, the Llewellyn Library closed for the final time on Saturday, October 9, 1993. Dedication took place at 11:00 am on Saturday, October 23rd as more than 2200 people attended. Bay View resident Fern Kruse was selected to check out the first book. She chose *A Portrait of Everyday Life in Wisconsin*. Kruse was an avid reader who recalled watching the construction of the Llewellyn Library in 1914 when she was 5 years old and lived across the street at 910 East Russell Avenue, where she continued to live for her entire life.

The new library was an unqualified success. In its first year, the circulation doubled. Then from 1995 to 1996, circulation increased another 10%. Mike Kinney, branch manager at the time, attributed the increase to the new building. He applauded its location and user-friendly design by saying, "It's a beautiful place to work. It's inspirational."

In 1995, the Bay View Library was honored with a listing in Joseph Korom's, *Milwaukee Architecture, A Guide to Notable Buildings*. The book features 150 buildings that were selected "based on architectural merit, historic value, and overall importance to the community." The Bay View Library is in the company of other South

Side buildings such as the Allen-Bradley Clock Tower, Basilica of St. Josaphat, St. Stanislaus Roman Catholic Church, St. Sava Serbian Orthodox Church and the Mitchell Park Domes.



*The "Lantern on the Hill" viewed from the south, with the six ton chunk of iron ore donated by U.S. Steel.*

### The Bay View Library features the following:

- Weekly story times for young children
- Monthly Book Club discussion
- Computer lab with desktop computers for public use
- Laptops for use inside the library
- Free Wi-Fi for all visitors
- Homework help after school with teacher in the library
- Free computer classes for city residents
- Drop-in job search and resume help
- Public meeting spaces
- Meeting room (accommodates 75)
- Printing, faxing and scanning service
- Color printer

*Leave a Legacy...  
for your family and for  
the Bay View  
Historical Society*

We all want the best for our families and the organizations that are important to us. Including a gift to the Bay View Historical Society in your will, trust or beneficiary designation will help ensure that the Bay View Historical Society will be here or your children and grandchildren.

*For more information, contact  
Nancy Tawney at 414.744.5674  
or [ntawney@aol.com](mailto:ntawney@aol.com)*





## South Shore Yacht Club

BY KAREN GERSONDE

Well, I finally did it! Another item off of my bucket list! On April 28, 2018, I finally got to see the inside of the South Shore Yacht Club. Yes, to me, this was a big deal and I will tell you why.



*Susan Molden, Edward Travis and Karen Gersonde*

On this day, my cousin Ed Travis was honored with being the Volunteer of the Year for the Bay View Historical Society. This was a huge honor that was bestowed upon him and he was very deserving of this award. For the past several years, he has been giving tours of the Beulah Brinton House when it is open on Saturdays for the public to come and view and enjoy the house for all it has to offer. He is the tour guide and is very knowledgeable about Bay View, as he has lived here all of his life. He knows more tidbits about the area, history, people and buildings than anyone I know. As such, I was invited to join him for this gala event as a guest.

The evening was wonderful and the banquet went off without a hitch. It was held at the South Shore Yacht Club, so you see, I finally got to see the inside of this establishment. This is a private club, so I have never been in this building. I grew up always looking at this building and always wondering what it was like inside. Let me tell you, it has incredible views of Lake Michigan and downtown Milwaukee. Although the boats



were not in their slips just yet, it still was a sight to behold. With the upstairs banquet room overlooking the beautiful blue lake, it made for the perfect setting for this event. After the event, we went downstairs to the main bar area where a very friendly and helpful bartender explained that anyone can join this club, even if you did not own a boat. He explained all of the activities that members do every month and that they have year round activities and events

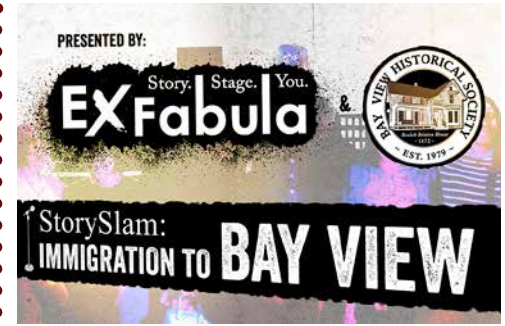
for their members. They are a very active group, even though their main purpose is boating and sailing. He then provided us with some brochures that explained what this yacht club was all about. I was very impressed with what I saw and experienced that evening. So now I can say that, yes, I have been inside of the South Shore Yacht Club.



This further was a big deal for me as I have old time photos of my relatives from Bay View (The August Decesari Family) picnicking in South Shore Park and enjoying the shores near the yacht club. I believe these photos may be from the 1940's. My grandparents lived two blocks from Beulah Brinton's house. Obviously, they loved the lake and South Shore Park as much as I do. That is where I must get my sense of adventure and love of water from. I can never get enough of swimming, boating, picnicking, etc. I love the outdoors, always did, always will.



So that is why April 28, 2018 was special to me. I still live in Milwaukee but on the Northwest side of town. I still try to get down to Bay View as much as I can, well, because I love it, and it is part of my past. Just as my ancestors had loved and cherished their time growing up in Bay View. So do I! So consider coming to next year's BVHS annual dinner. See you there!



## StorySlam: Immigration to Bay View was a HUGE Success!

BY KEVIN PETAJAN

On June 4, the Bay View Historical Society held its first ever StorySlam with Ex Fabula at Puddler's Hall. The main room was jam packed with 100+ people who were interested in hearing stories about immigration to Bay View. For this curated StorySlam, six community members were picked by Ex Fabula in advance during pre-show workshops with unique backgrounds and stories.



John Gurda, historian and charter member of the BVHS, opened the program with a brief history of Bay View and Puddler's Hall. John was followed by our storytellers who didn't disappoint. Some stories were funny, others were thought provoking and insightful. Storytellers for the evening included Suzanne Jurva, Antoine Carter, Alexis Carter, Ellen Tucker, Erin Lenz (below) and Sue Miller.

Special thanks to Ex Fabula for their coaching during the pre-show workshops, to Anne Maedke for chairing the event, Cherylan Kelly & Thor Jaquish, Kevin Petajan and



to all who made this evening extraordinarily successful. This event was made possible through a grant by the William Stark Jones Foundation. Thank you!

If you'd like to see the performances online, please head over to Youtube and enter: "StorySlam: Immigration to Bay View."





## Passing, Seen

BY BILL O'BRIEN

Without a literary critic or political philosopher in sight, deconstruction has come to Bay View. The new deconstruction is not the scholar's analytical practice of dissecting and examining textual and social structures, but the careful disassembly of buildings to make way for their successors. The salvaged components get reused, landfill costs are avoided, and developers gain tax credits for going green.

Apartments, stores, and a plaza are planned for the "gateway" southeast corner of Bay Street and Kinnickinnic Avenue, a tract described in project publicity as on the site, then as nearby, and lately as not far from the site of the old rolling mills, which were a half mile to the east.

Readying for this work prompted the delicate leveling of the former Burger King-Omega Burger-Hamburger Mary's restaurant, from roof tiles and trusses through wall panels and pillar stones down to its concrete slab. Three houses on Archer will get the same treatment.



Formal history is often written from the bold acts of notable people. Local history recalls and records familiar and fleeting people and places and keeps them from fading. My experience of the restaurants included plenty of Whopper stops, a few meals at the elaborately remodeled but short-lived Omega Burger, and a singular seating at a Sunday Gospel drag brunch.



That meal was passable, with the accompanying singing of more Motown than anything I've heard in church. Both of my adult children were called to the Hamburger Mary's stage to join a chorus. The former band member refused to join in. The teetotaler sang but declined the singer's reward of a mimosa. The band veteran was able to help with that.

More traditional demolition is underway a few blocks to the west. While bridge repairs keep us off First Street north of Becher, an adjacent parcel is being cleared for new commercial and residential use. This early Harbor District redevelopment is one of several that will bring new neighbors to live, work, and play along the KK and the banks of the Inner Harbor. The former fire department pumping station, which had turns as the Pump House and the Horny Goat, has been bashed and hauled off.



## Upcoming Events

### BVHS Board Meeting

Wednesday September 12  
6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

### Open House

Saturday September 15  
1-4pm • Beulah Brinton House

### Anne Hills Concert & Workshop

Saturday September 22  
1:30pm • Workshop • Beulah Brinton House  
4 pm • Concert • Beulah Brinton House

### BVHS Annual Meeting

Monday October 1  
6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

### David Roth in Concert

Thursday October 4  
7pm • Beulah Brinton House

### BVHS Board Meeting

Wednesday October 10  
6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

### Open House

Saturday October 20  
1-4pm • Beulah Brinton House

### Jack Grassel and Jill Jensen Concert

Saturday November 3  
8pm • Beulah Brinton House

### BHS Board Meeting

Wednesday November 14  
6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

### Open House

Saturday November 17  
1-4pm • Beulah Brinton House

### Bounding Main Holiday Concert

Saturday December 1  
6:30pm • Beulah Brinton House

Go to  
<http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org/events/> and click on the event to take you to the Facebook event description.

## Good Turnout for Three Brothers Landmarking

BY RON WINKLER

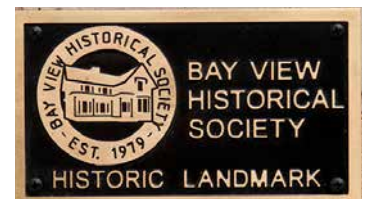
The Three Brothers Restaurant, 2414 South St. Clair Avenue, was dedicated as the Bay View Historical Society's 25<sup>th</sup> landmark on Saturday, June 3, 2018 at 1:00 pm, with about 50 people in attendance. Landmarks historian Ron Winkler gave a brief history of the restaurant and its significance to the community. The restaurant was built in 1897 by the Schlitz Brewery as a "tied house." It was designed by architect Charles Kirchoff, whose granddaughter Mary Eastwood attended the ceremony.

Also attending was Milwaukee County Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic, who presented the restaurant's owners, Patricia and Milunka Radicevic, with a proclamation from Milwaukee County. The ceremony was followed by refreshments inside the restaurant.

*Sketch of Three Brothers Restaurant by charter member Ruth Simos who passed away in February. The sketch was found among Ruth's belongings by her daughter Mary Mendez.*



Ron Winkler with Patricia Radicevic (left) and Milunka Radicevic (center), owners of Three Brothers





Randy Borland

## A Slice of History in the Making

BY KEVIN PETAJAN

As many of you know, one of the oldest European Copper Beech trees in the United States was right here in South Shore Park. The Bay View Historical Society made it a landmark back in 2005. However, the tree had deteriorated significantly last several years, and it was decided in 2017 that it would be cut down.

A coordinated effort led by community volunteer and BVHS member Randy Borland along with the Bay View Historical Society, Milwaukee County Parks, and Friends of South Shore Park, resulted in the salvage of several slices of the trunk for research and education purposes. The Bay View Historical Society and Friends of South Shore Park each received one of the slices.

Since Randy and his family are descendants of the Estes family, as well as several other pioneer families in the area, they are very interested in the tree's disposition and overall age. They would like to determine if the tree was planted by the Estes family. Randy is working with the Wisconsin DNR and UW-Platteville Tree Laboratory to arrange a "tree ring study", or dendrochronology. When the study is completed, Randy will share the information with the Society.

We greatly appreciate Randy Borland's efforts in seeing this project to fruition.

## Where in (Historical) Bay View?

BY RON WINKLER

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

Beginning with this issue, we will connect the photo from the previous issue's quiz with its description by printing the photo and answer. For this issue, we are including the photos and answers for the past year.



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



**Answer to June 2018 and September 2017 quiz:**

Looking south on Logan Avenue toward the triangle defined by Kinnickinnic Avenue, Russell Avenue, and Logan Avenue. The Bay View Village Hall is on the left and the Bay View Baptist Church is on the right. Note: Due to a printing error, the September 2017 photo was reused for the June 2018 quiz.



**Answer to March 2018 quiz:** Keller Winery, 324 E. Deer Place. Frederick Keller (1866-1943) came to the

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United States from Germany in 1897. He founded his winery in 1910 on three lots at 318 and 324 East Deer Place. He dug the wine cellar into the side of the hill to eliminate the need for artificial cooling. At its peak before Prohibition, the winery produced fifty different wines. The property preserves the wine cellar, stable, home and some of the grape vines. The Keller Winery received landmark designation by the Bay View Historical Society on September 30, 2006.



**Answer to December 2017 quiz:** Looking north on Kinnickinnic Avenue toward the triangle defined by Kinnickinnic Avenue, Russell Avenue, and Logan Avenue. The Standard Oil Service Station (today's Sven's Café) is just behind the triangle. The sign above the gas station which reads, "Paul J. Grunau," is on the building at 2697 S. KK. It was the home of Grunau Plumbing and is today's Shape Up Shoppe.