



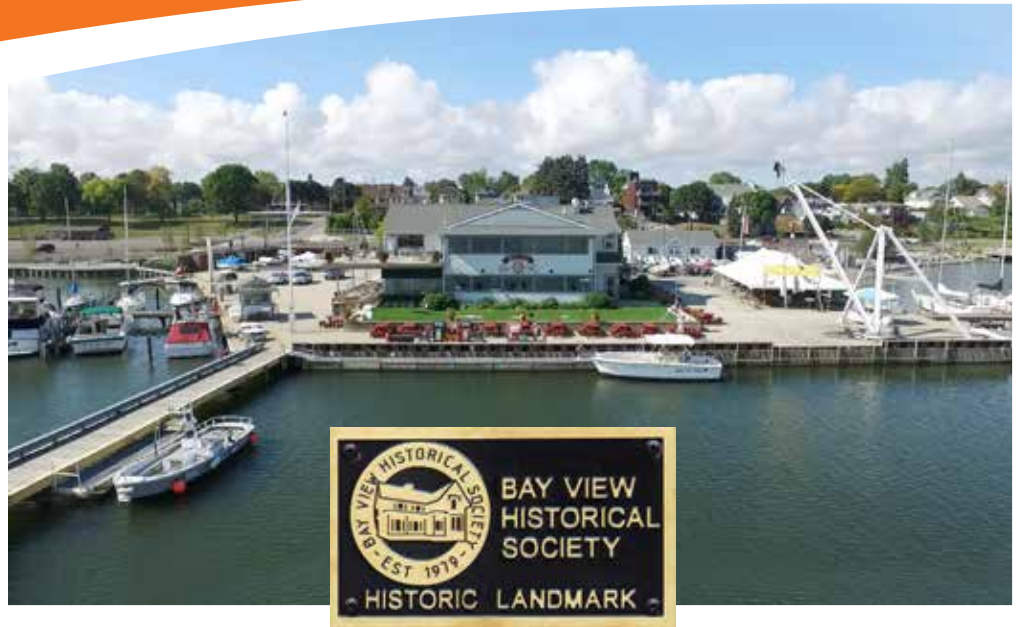
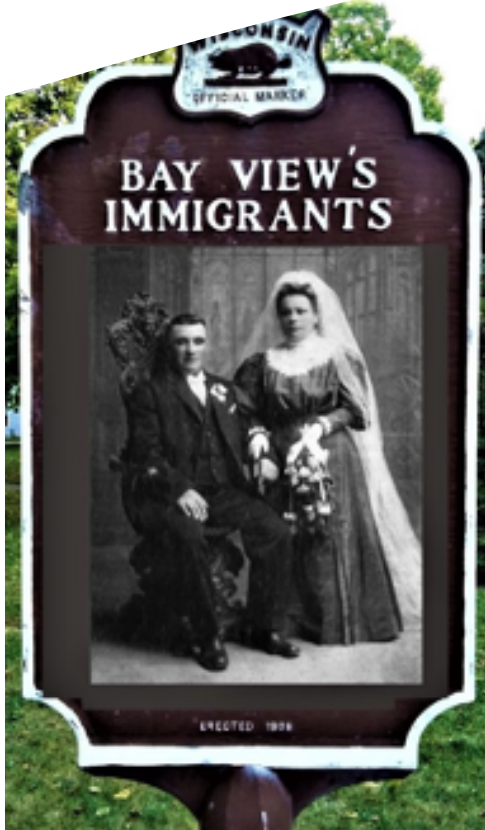
# BAY VIEW Historian



VOLUME 2022, NO. 1

[www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org)

SPRING 2022



## South Shore Yacht Club to Receive Landmark Status

BY RON WINKLER

Landmarking of the South Shore Yacht Club (SSYC), 2300 East Nock Street, which has been on hold since 2020, will finally be held on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Landmarking will be in conjunction with the SSYC's open house and Review of the Fleet. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served.

Bay View Historical Society (BVHS) Landmarks Historian Ron Winkler and BVHS President Hannah

Hazelberg will present the plaque. Times for the day's events will be printed in the next edition of the "Historian" and will be posted on the society's website when they become available. SSYC was founded in 1913 and its current clubhouse dates from 1935.

SSYC will be the BVHS's twenty-seventh landmark. The Beulah Brinton House was the society's inaugural landmark back in 1983. It has been the society's headquarters since 2005.

## The Immigrants of Bay View Johann Franz Drzewicki

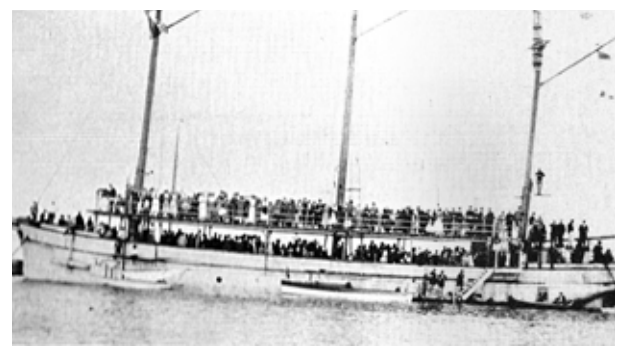
BY DAVID HB DRAKE

Growing up, I never knew my grandfather. For that matter, neither did my father.

He had been orphaned along with his brothers John and Joe Drzewicki at a very early age, consigned to St Joseph's Orphanage on the south side where St. Francis Hospital now stands and soon was sent to work at seven years old to a farm in Marinette WI on an orphan train. His "orphan shirt" is now part of the Wisconsin Historical Society's clothing collection and is featured in an article at: <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Article/CS2765> (some of the information has changed as new information is found, like the spelling of the family name)

Family rumor has it that Jan (Johann) Drzewicki was a rag-picker in Bay View, much like the folks depicted in the current "Scrap Yard" exhibition at the Jewish Museum Milwaukee. After much digging to pick up

*continued page 5*





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\$30 Non-Profit/Small Business

\$55 Corporate

### Philanthropic Levels:

\$100 Friend

\$500 Leader

\$1,000 Patron

\$2,500+ Benefactor

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

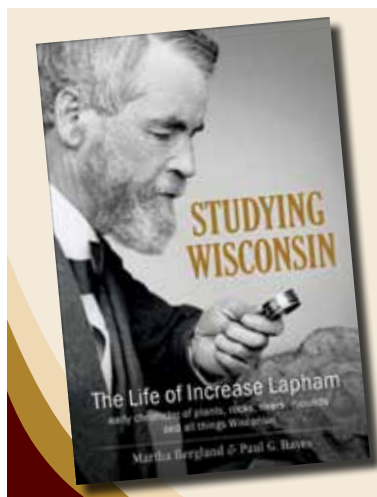
## President's Message

BY HANNAH HAZELBERG

Spring is my favorite season. Flowers, rain showers, and everything turns a pretty fresh green. I am particularly excited for this spring as my husband and I are expecting our first baby, around March 22<sup>nd</sup>. We are patiently awaiting his arrival and nicer weather. This spring will also see the return of our Annual Dinner, Saturday April 30<sup>th</sup>. Don't wait to get your tickets, this event sells out! This year you can buy your tickets in our website shop, so visit [bayviewhistoricalsociety.org/shop](http://bayviewhistoricalsociety.org/shop) today! We also have the return of our virtual book club, and yoga classes. Lots to look forward to and sign-up for, so stay posted on these and other events by liking us and following us on Facebook.

Stay well,

Hannah Hazelberg



## BAY VIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

### "STUDYING WISCONSIN"

FEATURING A PRESENTATION BY  
Authors Martha Bergland and Paul G. Hayes  
"Studying Wisconsin: The Life of Increase Lapham"

MUSIC BY DAVID HB DRAKE  
WINE & SPIRITS PULL

Please Join Us at the Bay View Historical Society's Annual Dinner

**Saturday, April 30, 2022**

**at the South Shore Yacht Club**

*Social / Wine & Spirits Pull 5:30pm • Dinner 6:30pm*

**RSVP at [www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org)**

**March 15 - April 15 or until full**

**Cost: \$75/person**

*Menu items will be available under Shop*

### DINNER CHOICES:

#### Beef Tenderloin Diane

*Sautéed Heirloom Potatoes, and Roasted Brussel Sprouts*

#### Tempura Soft Shell Crab

*Caramelized Shallot and Tomato Demi, Garlic Montrachet Polenta, and Grilled White Asparagus*

#### Grilled Vegetables Medley

*Tomato Balsamic Relish, Garlic Hummus*

### New This Year!! Wine & Spirits Pull!\*

Love a game where you are guaranteed to win? Time to try your luck at the 2022 Annual Dinner. For a \$20 donation, you are guaranteed to take home a wine or spirit valued at or over \$20. Sprinkled in will be bottles valued well over your donation amount. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to support BVHS! *\*Participants must be 21 or older.*

**Books will be available for purchase.**

**Questions? Contact Heather Taylor at 414-218-9598**

*The storm windows need repair. In addition to or in lieu of tickets consider making a tax-deductible donation at [www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.bayviewhistoricalsociety.org)*

**THIS IS YOUR INVITATION TO THE ANNUAL DINNER.  
A SEPARATE INVITATION WILL NOT BE MAILED.**





## Bay View, Bay View, Hats Off to Thee Bay View Alums Running for Mayor of Milwaukee

BY RON WINKLER

*When some loud bragger tries to put me down and says his school is great,*

*I tell him right away, "Now what's the matter buddy, ain't you heard of my school?"*

*We've got two graduates in Milwaukee's City Hall who are running for mayor."*

*With apologies to The Beach Boys:  
Be True to Your School, 1963*

Those of you from the Milwaukee area know that Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett was appointed by President Joe Biden to be Ambassador to Luxembourg. Cavalier Johnson, Common Council President and 2nd District Alderman, automatically became acting mayor. Mr. Johnson and Marina Dimitrijevic, 14<sup>th</sup> District Alderwoman, which includes Bay View, are running to fill Mr. Barrett's vacant seat. Both candidates are proud alums of Milwaukee Public School's (MPS) Bay View High School. Both were outstanding students. Ms. Dimitrijevic graduated in 1999 and Mr. Johnson graduated in 2005.

### Marina Dimitrijevic

Marina Dimitrijevic, daughter of a Serbian immigrant, was born November 30, 1981 and grew up in Bay View. At Bay View High School, where she was in the Math and Science Specialty, she qualified for Advanced Placement in Literature and Calculus. She was also in the National Honor Society and National Beta Club.



*Marina Dimitrijevic's 1999 Bay View High School graduation photo.*

Ms. Dimitrijevic also excelled as an athlete on the Varsity Volleyball team. In addition, she was a member of the City Champion Varsity Fast-Pitch Softball team and was selected for the All-Conference Softball First Team.

At Marquette University, she received degrees in political science and Spanish. From there, she continued her education at UW-Milwaukee, earning a Master of Science in Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

In 2004, she became the youngest woman ever to be elected to the Milwaukee County Board. During her tenure, she was named Chairwoman of the Milwaukee County Board. In 2020, she ran and was elected 14<sup>th</sup> District Alderwoman.



*Marina Dimitrijevic took the oath of office as 14<sup>th</sup> District Alderwoman outside her home in April 2020.*

She chairs the Common Council's Public Safety and Health Committee. She is also a member of the Steering and Rules Committee as well as the Zoning, Neighborhood and Development Committee. She lives in Bay View with her husband Eduardo, who is from Uruguay and their children Lucia, Rafael, and Zoe.

### Cavalier Johnson

Cavalier "Chevy" Johnson was born November 5, 1986. He grew up in Milwaukee's ZIP code 53206, which has the highest incarceration rate of African-American males of any ZIP code in the United States.

At age 14, he was selected by the YMCA to participate in Sponsor-a-Scholar, a pre-college program for low-income students in MPS which he credits for his commitment to community service.



*Cavalier Johnson's 2005 Bay View High School graduation photo.*

As a junior at Bay View High School, he was a cameraman for the "Youth in Government" press corps. Mr. Johnson qualified for Advanced Placement in Literature and was a member of the Law Specialty Program. When he graduated in 2005, he was voted as "Most Intelligent." He then attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison and earned a B.A. in Political Science.

In 2016, Mr. Johnson ran for 2nd District Alderman and

won the primary by defeating four other candidates. He then won the general election with 52 percent of the votes. In 2020, he was re-elected without opposition and was then elected as Common Council President. He is chair of the Steering and Rules Committee and a member of Redevelopment Authority.

Mr. Johnson became acting mayor when Mayor Barrett resigned. He chose to have his inauguration at his alma mater on December 23, 2021. He lives in Milwaukee's Capitol Heights neighborhood with his wife Dominique and their three children, Oliver and twin daughters Madison and Bella.



*Cavalier Johnson took the oath of office as acting mayor at Bay View High School on December 23, 2021. Judge Carolina Stark administered the oath as Mr. Johnson's wife Dominique and children Bella, Oliver and Madison look on.*

### Seven Candidates in Mayoral Race

Seven candidates are vying to become Milwaukee's next mayor. By the time you read this, the February 15<sup>th</sup> primary will be over and the top two will have advanced to the spring election on April 5<sup>th</sup>. The mayor and Common Council have tough issues to face:

- dealing with COVID, which has been an issue since March 13, 2020, when city and county officials in Milwaukee declared public health emergencies.
- combatting automobile theft and reckless driving.
- the rise in gun violence with record homicide rates for the second year in a row.
- replacing police officers who have retired or resigned during the pandemic.

No matter the outcome, two BVHS alums will remain in Milwaukee's City Hall. The possibilities are, 1) one is mayor and one is alderperson or 2) both are alderpersons. Let's hope it's the former.





*Present-day photo of Gitzel's  
Credit: Google map*



*1930 photo of grand opening of Gitzel Furniture  
Store, formerly the music store  
Credit: Courtesy Russell Schmidt*



*While Hermes was in the hardware business,  
he served as Milwaukee alderman for the 12<sup>th</sup>  
district from 1886-1888, president of the Village  
of Cudahy from 1903-1904, and as alderman  
and assessor for the City of Cudahy.  
Credit: Ancestry family tree*



*Exterior photo from pre 1931 when cornice  
was still intact  
Credit: Courtesy Russell Schmidt*

## Greatly Altered Building Conceals a Musical Past

BY ANNA PASSANTE

Along Kinnickinnic and Howell avenues in the heart of downtown Bay View, there are a number of commercial buildings that luckily escaped the urban renewal phase of the mid-1960s to early 1980s. At that time, many were razed to make room for more modern architecture. Some buildings escaped with their lives but were unfortunately greatly altered. Many late 1800s and early 1900s buildings lost much of their wonderful Queen Anne ornamentation. The building at 2235 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue is a good example of that. Once a Queen Anne style structure, it is now a shadow of its former self, just a boxy looking building. The second story bay window was removed, as well as stained glass transoms, glazed terra cotta tiles, and an ornamented cornice. However, the carved stone name and date plaque at the top of the building survived, which still clearly reads: 18 Aug. Hermes 90.

A building permit corroborates the date of construction as 1890, built for August Hermes. Bernard Kolpacki was the architect, and Elias Stollenwerk was the builder. However, city directories record that Hermes had a hardware store at the site from 1884 to 1889, so the 1890 building most likely replaced an older one.

Hermes' store inventory was extensive, like most hardware stores in the 1890s. Customers purchased hardware items and paint. The basement and first floor were dedicated to the store, and the second floor was an apartment. The third floor was a large meeting room rented to social and fraternal organizations. By 1894, John Hoft operated a saloon and rental hall there, and the third floor was known as Hoft Hall. According to the Bay View Historical Resources Survey, "At least eleven different fraternal and labor groups met at the hall from the 1890's through World War I." When Hoft died in 1903, the Kinnickinnic Lodge of Odd Fellows, of which Hoft was a member, conducted his funeral and memorial service. Hoft's brother Martin took over the saloon. The 1920s city directories no longer used the term saloon but rather soft drinks because of Prohibition.

Later, other soft drink establishments occupied the building up until 1926. That year Charles Gitzel bought

the building for his music shop. Gitzel was born in 1892 in a part of Russia that is now Poland. He immigrated in 1907 at age 15. His World War I draft registration records state that he was working as a crane operator at the International Harvester Corp at age twenty-four.



*Interior photo of Gitzel's Music Store from 1920s  
Credit: Courtesy Russell Schmidt*



*Charles Gitzel (right)  
with unidentified  
man circa 1920s  
Credit: Courtesy  
Russell Schmidt*

The Gitzel's Music Shop store was on the first floor of the Kinnickinnic Ave. building, and the Gitzel family lived on the second floor. The third floor was used as a dance hall. Gitzel's shop sold pianos, phonographs, and other music related merchandise. According

to building permits, an addition was constructed to the rear in 1927, and alterations to the front of the building were completed in 1931. (More alterations were done to the facade in 1983.) Gitzel, according to a Milwaukee Journal advertisement, had another music store at 2890-98 S. Delaware Ave.

The music business suffered during the Great Depression, so Gitzel switched to furniture sales. Gitzel's grandson Russell Schmidt said, "During the Great Depression and even after the Depression, Grandfather gave people credit or bartered for furniture. His trust in people paid off as the majority of people who bought on credit did pay him."



*Newspaper ad for Gitzel's furniture store  
Credit: Newspaper ad*

Gitzel anticipated WWII and took on debt to buy steel spring furniture before the war. According to Schmidt, Gitzel's was the only furniture store in southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois, during the war rationing, to have that furniture. During the war, the Gitzel family was residing at 2725 E. Oklahoma Avenue. According to his obituary, Gitzel liked to swim in the lake, and neighbors recalled him in his swim trunks and bathrobe, walking the three blocks from his home to the lake in winter during 20 degrees days.

Gitzel's store made the news in 1938. Arthur Janke was upset about a sales bill from

Gitzel's store, so he threw a brick through a plate glass window of the furniture store. He failed to notice a police officer standing nearby and was subsequently arrested. Two years later, in 1940, Janke was charged with threatening Gitzel with an

*continued page 7*





## The Immigrants of Bay View

*continued from page 1*

the trail of my long-gone father's side of the family, it looks like he was born in 1854 in Konarczyn, Prussia (now Poland) and immigrated to America. He arrived in New York in April 1886- when he moved to Wisconsin is unknown. The trail picks up in the 1900 census, which lists Jan married to Julia Drzewicki and four children at 912 Racine Street. Julia apparently died, because in 1907 he married Anastacia Sziwiska, who had immigrated in 1903 and was some 27 years younger than Jan. Their wedding photo is above. The 1910 census has them living at 919 Pulaski St with two children, John and Joe. My father Frank was born on April 28, 1913.

From there the story becomes fuzzy again, partly because my father never found out exactly what happened. The family story is that Jan died before my father was born. Anastacia, who then lived on Logan street in a house filled to the ceiling with

objects Jan, the rag picker, had acquired, was left with three children. She had a mental collapse and was consigned to the Milwaukee County Mental Institution until she died there in 1960. My father was told both his parents had died in 1913, so it came as quite a shock when he got a call from the County Institution that his mother had passed.

I still have no idea who the children of Jan's first family here with Julia, my aunts and/or uncles were, except that my father's brother John was from the first marriage and my uncle Joe and father, Frank, were from the second. Immigration stories are not always happy, but they are certainly interesting.

I now live in Bay View, not far from the "ancestral" home on Logan Ave.

If you would like to feature an ancestor who brought your family to Bay View or if you have immigrated here yourself, please contact [bbrintonhc@gmail.com](mailto:bbrintonhc@gmail.com) so we can include their story in future newsletters.

## Is it Time to Renew Your Membership?

Please look at your Bay View Historian mailing label to see when your membership will expire.

All yearly membership terms run from January 1 thru December 31. Any new memberships will be current through the end of the calendar year (one year plus pro-rated months). 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.

Thanks for supporting the programs of the Bay View Historical Society!

**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

### Philanthropic Levels:

- ☐ \$100 Friend ☐ \$1,000 Patron
- ☐ \$500 Leader ☐ \$2,500+ Benefactor

☐ 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: \_\_\_\_\_

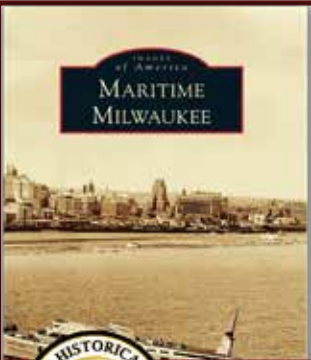
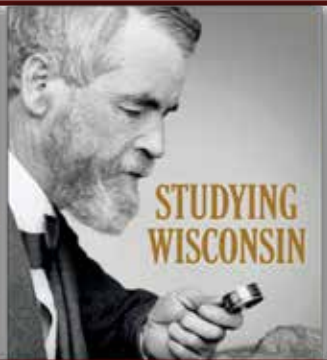
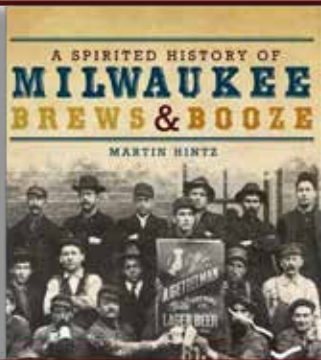
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_


☐ 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 Membership Renewal to:

**The Bay View Historical Society**  
**Attn: Membership**  
**2590 S. Superior Street**  
**Bay View, WI 53207**



## 2022 BVHS Virtual Book Club

Due to popular demand we are excited to host our BVHS Virtual Book Club again this year! Join us for three free book discussions as we explore local history by local authors via Zoom. Mark your calendar for the following:

Thursday • April 14 • 6:30pm	<b>"Maritime Milwaukee"</b> by Wisconsin Marine Historical Society
Thursday • June 9 • 6:30pm	<b>"Studying Wisconsin: The Life of Increase Lapham"</b> by Martha Bergland & Paul G. Hayes
Thursday • August 11 • 6:30pm	<b>"A Spirited History of Milwaukee Brews &amp; Booze"</b> by Martin Hintz



## Do You Have Gratitude for the Bay View Historical Society?

The English writer G.K. Chesterton is credited with this thought: "When it comes to life, the critical thing is whether you take things for granted or take them with gratitude." The Bay View Historical Society has been a vibrant organization for over four decades — a longevity not to be taken for granted. If you feel grateful for the existence of the BVHS and want to help assure that it continues for many more decades, please consider remembering it in your will or other estate plan. **For more information, contact Nancy Tawney, 414-744-5674; [ntawney@aol.com](mailto:ntawney@aol.com)**



## Passing, Seen

BY BILL O'BRIEN

What's an out-of-work dinosaur to do but seek greener pastures or a lush lagoon?

Sinclair Oil adopted a brontosaurus logo in 1930. He was named Dino, pronounced DYE-NO, in contrast to the DEE-NO name of the Flintstones' later pet. Reproduced in signage and packaging and made in full-size copies for World's Fairs, Dino was also molded in fiberglass – 7 feet tall and 10 feet long - for gas station displays.

When Sinclair merged into Atlantic Richfield (Arco) in 1969, Dino's retirement to Florida was announced. At least one of the fiberglass fellows skipped the move south and wandered to Humboldt Park in August 1971. Young anglers spotted him in the lagoon's shallows on a Friday morning, leading Park Patrolman George Zepecki to call into Second District with a "dinosaur in the lagoon" alert. Park District Supervisor Anthony Domencich called the visitor "a shock to my system." Since no Arco operator claimed a delinquent dinosaur, Dino was left "sedately gazing off toward E. Oklahoma Ave."

When dinosaurs want to move, they do. Dino disappeared on Sunday, the 9<sup>th</sup>, later turning up at People's Place youth center, the former South Central YMCA that is now the Bay View Community Center. He was transported to the Second District station, where he greeted Officer Zepecki at the next roll with a placard asking "Where's George?" hung from his great, green neck. Arco had meanwhile approved their former advertising figure's stay in Bay View.

Dino was secured on the island with a staked chain. The plan was to keep him there until the first ice, then take him in for "refurbishment for next spring."



*L: Anthony Domencich and Dino*

The plan and chain held until Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, when Dino ambled south, coming to rest on a front lawn in the 4300 block of South Austin Street. He then returned to the park, presumably until the season's first ice.

There's no sign of where Humboldt Park's mini-monster went next, not so much as a deep footprint or a trace of his tail. Perhaps the replica raptors residing at the northwest corner of South Lake Drive and East Armour Avenue know: <https://www.roadsideamerica.com/tip/26038>



*R: Dino, unidentified (Gilbert Borowick?) and Anthony Domencich*

Arco divested the Sinclair assets west of the Mississippi in 1976, where use of the historic logo resumed and persists. Reflecting progress in paleontology, Sinclair now identifies Dino as an apatosaurus. Reflecting modern marketing and this moment, the company sells all sorts of Dino gear, including apatosaurus-print gaiters and facemasks.

*Pictures courtesy of Anthony's son, Jon Domencich  
News quotes from the August 6, 9, and 13 and  
September 7 Milwaukee Journal*

## What can you tell me about my house in Bay View?

BY KATHY MULVEY

This is the most frequently asked question we get. And, usually, the answer is: Not much.

We have file folders filled with pictures of unidentified houses. We have snippets of information about some houses in our Walking Tour brochures. We have newspaper clippings of houses that have been written up in the newspapers. Most of the buildings in the original Village of Bay View are briefly described in a document produced by the Historic Preservation Commission of the City of Milwaukee.

But there is no way for us to easily track down information on any given house. And the time of the volunteer workers in the archives is filled with many other chores. So, we generally refer people to the Milwaukee Public Library, which has a brochure and workshops that help people find information about their houses.

Enter Grace Pelisek, a volunteer who is a student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and also has a part-time job. With the limited time she has to devote to the historical society, she is organizing into spreadsheets the information we do have in the archives. And together, we dream about following the example of the Shorewood Historical Society, which is doing a door-to-door survey of all the buildings in their community. We went to Shorewood and talked to the women engaged in the project, asking about their methods.

The truth is, though, we simply don't have time to do all this. However, you can help. If you have information about your current or former house in Bay View, you could share that information with the historical society. If you have time to volunteer, the Archives Committee or any of the other BVHS committees would welcome you.

## Maritime Talk on Bay View's Maritime History Now Online



In Case You Missed It: On January 27 the Bay View Historical Society hosted an online lecture focusing on Bay View's maritime history, specifically looking at the USS Cobia. We are grateful to our program partners including presenter and historical reenactor Daniel Palama for sharing his knowledge and research on the

topic, moderator Jim Heinz of the Wisconsin Marine Historical Society, and Kam Lawrence of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum. Please visit [Facebook.com/BayViewHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/BayViewHistoricalSociety) and click on the "Videos" section to watch the full recording of this talk.





## Obituary: "Bay View Compass"

BY RON WINKLER

The "Bay View Compass" passed away peacefully on February 1, 2022 at the age of 17 years and three months (207 issues). Death of the "Compass" was announced by Katherine Keller, publisher and editor who nurtured the paper throughout its entire life.

"The South Shore Bellwether" was the community's monthly paper, which recently faced insurmountable barriers due to the pandemic. The final nails in the coffin were the increased cost of newsprint and decreased advertising income. In the end, the "Compass" was taken off life support and went to that printing press in the sky to join in eternal rest with its siblings, "The Bay View Observer," "South Side Spirit," "South Side Sun" and "South Side Times."

The "Compass" was preceded in death by Bay View icons Stone Creek Coffee, Sven's Café, Jerry's Hobby, Hamburger Mary's, Faust Music, House Pharmacy, Grandma Emma's, Marian Center, American Legion Post, Mound Street School, Dover Street School, Gustave Fritsche Middle School and Strehlow's Hardware.

The "Compass" was the source for information on events in and around Bay View. In addition to reports from local politicians, the "Compass" published "Historic Bay View," a much-loved history column.

The "Compass" was also known for its sense of humor, especially the annual April Fool's issue titled "The Bay View Compost." It never failed to fake out both pea-green Bay Viewites as well as old salts who should have known better. The "Compost" was modeled after the old "Onion" which stopped its print edition in 2013.

The family would like to express its thanks to the readers, contributors, advertisers and distributors. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests thanking and patronizing the many long-time advertisers.



Final issue of "Bay View Compass," January 2022.

One of the "Bay View Compost" April Fool's issues.

## Greatly Altered Building Conceals a Musical Past

*continued from page 4*

unloaded .38 caliber revolver. The two men had been at odds over a purchase of a radio from the store in 1929. The radio deal, according to the Milwaukee Sentinel, preyed on Janke every time he had a couple of drinks, testified his wife. Janke was fined \$50. While in jail he swallowed a signet ring and \$2.79 in bills and coins in an attempt "to end it all." A stomach pump only recovered a \$1 bill.

After the war, in 1946, Gitzel purchased Max Edelstein's KK Cut Rate Grocery store to the south at 2237-39 S. Kinnickinnic, and connected it to his furniture store. Gitzel operated the Charles Gitzel Furniture and Appliance Store until his retirement in 1952. He had sold the business to two employees, Hugh V. Fitzgerald and Elmer A. Kreitzer, but retained ownership of the building. Fitzgerald and Kreitzer operated the business under the Gitzel name from 1952 to 1962, at which time they closed the business.

In 1962, the building was vacant. Gitzel's grandson Russell was in eighth grade that year and spent his summer vacation painting the building's fire escapes. The building was sold shortly after Gitzel's death in 1975.

A number of businesses later occupied the building, such as Bay View Carpet, Custom Cabinetry, and a health club. The late Bill Doyle and his wife, the late Janis Doyle, purchased the building in 1984 and sold it in 1998. Now it is occupied by two businesses, Tippecanoe Herbs and Studio Nails, as well as three apartments on the second and third floors.



Exterior photo from 1950 Credit: Courtesy Russell Schmidt

## August Walk, the Western Border Saturday, August 6

BY RON WINKLER

The Bay View Historical Society's (BVHS) annual August Walk will be held on Saturday, August 6th. The Western Border Walk will be led by society members Ron Winkler and Greg Wernisch. Start of the walk has yet to be determined. Registration will be at 9:00 am and the walk will begin at 9:30 am. We will follow safety guidelines in effect at the time of the walk.

Cost will be \$5.00 for BVHS members and \$10.00 for nonmembers. Anyone purchasing a membership that day will be admitted for \$5.00. Each participant will also receive a copy of the new walk brochure, one of nine walking tours designed to help Bay Viewites and visitors gain an appreciation of Bay View's history, architecture and lifestyle. The walk is approximately two miles, covering the area west of Howell Avenue to First Street and from Lincoln Avenue on the north to Rosedale Avenue on the south.

It is with sadness that I announce this will be Greg Wernisch's final year as co-tour guide. Greg is a good friend who has led these walks with me since 2010. He will be greatly missed. Greg's departure will require someone to fill his shoes. Ideally, we would like to have someone who can accompany us in the background on this year's walk. If you are interested, contact me at rawinkler@sbcglobal.net.

**SUNRISE YOGA**  
1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAYS, MAY - AUGUST  
9AM - 10AM, \$15/SESSION  
BEULAH BRINTON HOUSE  
VISIT US AT [WWW.BAYVIEWHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.BAYVIEWHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG) FOR MORE INFORMATION!

## Events

Visit [BayViewHistoricalSociety.org](http://BayViewHistoricalSociety.org)  
for more information

### BVHS Annual Dinner "Studying Wisconsin"

Saturday • April 30 • 5:30pm  
South Shore Yacht Club

### BVHS Virtual Book Club

Thursday • April 14 • 6:30pm  
"Maritime Milwaukee"

Thursday • June 9 • 6:30pm  
"Studying Wisconsin: The Life of  
Increase Lapham"

Thursday • August 11 • 6:30pm  
"A Spirited History of Milwaukee Brews  
& Booze"

### BVHS Board Meetings via Zoom until further notice

Wednesday • March 9 • 6:30pm  
Wednesday • April 13 • 6:30pm  
Wednesday • May 11 • 6:30pm

### Sunrise Yoga

1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays • May-August • 9-10am  
Beulah Brinton House \$15/Session

### Monthly Open House to Resume

As a COVID safety precaution, the monthly Brinton Open House was discontinued in early 2020. The Bay View Historical Society's Board of Directors has decided to resume the monthly event, beginning this May. The open house will be held on the first Saturday of the month from May to October, 1pm to 4pm. Wearing a mask or face shield will be required. Come see the house and take a tour.

Saturday • May 7 • 1-4pm  
Saturday • June 4 • 1-4pm  
Saturday • July 2 • 1-4pm

## Where in (Historical) Bay View?

BY RON WINKLER

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



### Answer to last issue's quiz (Winter 2021):

Bay View's oldest surviving church is the Welsh Church at 2739 South Superior Street built by Welsh immigrants in 1873. From 1909 through 1956 it was South Shore Lutheran Church, pictured here. In 1958 the congregation built a new church at 3353 South Whitnall Avenue and changed its name to Lutheran Chapel of the Cross. The Christian Science Society purchased this church and recently vacated the building.



## Lawn Mower Needed

The Brinton house is in need of a power lawn mower that is in good working condition. If you have one that runs well but you no longer use, please consider donating it to the Bay View Historical Society.

Call Nancy at 414-744-5674.