

"THURSDAY NIGHT FEVER" GALA

Save the Date Thursday, July 20

The 2023 Gala Committee has been busy over the winter getting all the fun in place for our annual fundraiser. This year we'll be partying under the disco ball to *Thursday Night Fever* at *Flannery's* at Fire Ridge Golf Course. A big thank you to all who have already donated. If you have any silent or live auction items you'd like to donate, we'll be accepting them through May. If you'd like to become a sponsor, please give us a call, and we'll be happy to talk with you. This year many sponsorship levels include tickets to the Gala. Tickets are \$50 each and you may purchase them now on our website <u>pwhistory.org</u>. Invitations will be mailed out June 1. We look forward to you digging out your bellbottoms and joining us. Night fever, night fever ...



Bid on Silent Auction Items Hors D'oeuvres/Complimentary Wine/Beer/Cocktail

> **7-8 PM** Live Auction and Paddle Raise

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Resource Center 205 N. Franklin Street RC: 262-268-9150

Website <u>www.pwhistory.org</u>

Historical Perspectives is published 3 times per year

President's Message

Dear Members,

Being strategic . . .

Your *Board of Directors* has been involved in a strategic planning exercise since last November to evaluate the *Society's* existing mission statement in light of current opportunities and future goals. This effort was organized by Dawn St. George, our Executive Director. Michael H. Dickmann, emeritus professor in the Department of Educational Leadership at Cardinal Stritch University, has led our planning ses-



sions *pro bono*. The sessions have been held at the new Port Washington State Bank Community Room at 218 East Washington Street.

What has become abundantly clear is that our greatest assets are our volunteers, donors and members. Our volunteers keep our operations going, our collections growing, and make our programs possible. Our donors financially support So-



ciety operations and programs. Our members support our efforts by donating to our collections, attending



our programs and da for the last planning meeting

spreading the stories of Port Washington's past to our community and its visitors. The last couple of pandemic years have strained our resources, limited our volunteers and reduced our active mem-

bership. However, you can rest assured that we are thinking strategically about how to increase the number of our volunteers, members and donors, and how to utilize and



preserve our facilities and collections for Port Washington's future use and enjoyment.

Nancy Holley, President Port Washington Historical Society Board of Directors



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

This past month was a wonderful reminder of why we all embrace the vagaries of spring in Wisconsin. It

can reach 70 degrees one day and snow the next day. Either way, the light has changed, and the days are growing longer. Spring is upon us.

And joy is in the air as I watched the completion of the lifeboat shelter and planned for the June 3 Family Fun Day celebration for the reopening of the 1860 Light Station. We are hopeful that this year visitation at our historic lighthouse will

approach pre-pandemic numbers. The world may never be the same, but it is good to affirm that there is always a place and a need to experience our heritage in the presence of historic artifacts and other people.

Other upcoming experiences, where you can discover your history, include our speakers' presentations

which range this year from the 1862 Civil War Draft Riot to Lake Michigan shipwrecks. Speaking of shipwrecks, we will be mounting an exhibit at the Resource Center this summer of shipwreck artifacts from our own collection. Spring is an exciting time in Wisconsin and our new walking and audio tours are the perfect way to showcase our historic town to family and friends. You will learn more about all

these things to do as you read the newsletter. On another joyous note, it is an honor to have been selected to serve on the Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast

capture the souls and hearts of the Korean people.

262-268-9150.

Roy's slides have been donated to the Wisconsin Veterans Museum in Madi-

son where staff transferred 780 of his

original slides onto a DVD. The sum-

feature some of these slides.

mer exhibit in the Resource Center will

If you or someone you know served in

exhibit either with a donation or a loan of an artifact, please contact us at

porthistinfo@gmail.com or leave a mes-

sage at the Resource Center by calling

Korea and wish to participate in this

(Continued on page 9)

RESOURCE CENTER NEWS

Wreck of the schooner Northerner

This past Fall the Lake Michigan interactive table

and the Ozaukee Press interactive table were relocated to the Resource Center from the Port Exploreum. The Lake Michigan table displays not only current weather conditions and vessels traveling the lake, but also many of the shipwrecks of the past. The Ozaukee Press table displays the history of Port Washington, its events, and places.

Summer Resource Center exhibits will include visiting the wreck of the Toledo through Society artifacts and remembering the Korean War as seen

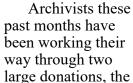
through the eyes and the photos of Roy Zehren who served there for 15 months, 1952 into 1953. His photos show aspects of the war, the countryside and the people



of Korea. Roy served as a photographer for the

public information department tos for Public Relations

Roy's M.A.S.H. photo



first of which being the carpentry tools of Nic C. Peters, a Port Washington



Roy's underground bunker

carpenter who worked his trade in the late 1880s into the early 1900s. His toolbox contained many tools of the trade, including braces, bits, planes, saws, wood folding tape measures, a wood level,

Army's

taking pho-

release. He also took many personal photos and slides with his 35mm camera, always trying to

Girl with Christmas present

(Continued on page 11)

1860 LIGHT STATION REPORT

The lighthouse is currently closed for the season, but we are available for pre-arranged private tours.

Currently, we are making some exciting plans for the coming 2023 season. The season officially starts Memorial Day weekend, May 29, and continues through to September 4, Labor Day Monday. You will hear more about some of our plans as you read through this newsletter.

The 2023 lighthouse season promises to be our best season yet! We hope to see you there, and you may want to consider becoming one of our *Port Washington Historical Society* volunteers.

Patrick W. Curtiss 1860 Light Station Manager





FAMILY FUN DAY AT THE LIGHT STATION

Time to Celebrate! Saturday, June 3, 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Oh, the fun we'll have with the annual reopening of the lighthouse to visitor tours. Join us on the lawn for a spectacular event on Saturday, June 3. Watch artist demonstrations and play family-friendly games. Listen to live music while you make your own lighthouse to take home. There will be free ice cream from Cedar Crest while supplies last. And, best of all, the tower will be open and waiting for you to climb to the top.

IT'S COMPLETE!

Landscaping to Follow

Thanks to *Fine Line Carpentry* for recently completing the open design exhibit and protective shelter



for the restored lifeboat from the shipwreck rail car ferry *SS Milwaukee*. Construction began late last fall and was completed in March. There's still landscaping to do once it warms up. But we're so

Boat shelter before the final cleanup

proud of the effort by so many dedicated people beginning with the design and architectural drawing gener-

ously donated by architect Mike Ehrlich. We are grateful for the initial funding for the project which was donated in honor of Marshall and Edith Moeser. When postpandemic construction funds increased, additional funding was received from the *Wisconsin Tourism Capital Grant Program*.

We're hoping that the lifeboat can be one of the first boats moved this spring by Jim and Mike Burt from



The beautiful red roof accentuates the boat shelter

Great Lakes Marine Services to its new home on the west side of the *Light Station*. Another couple of folks to thank!





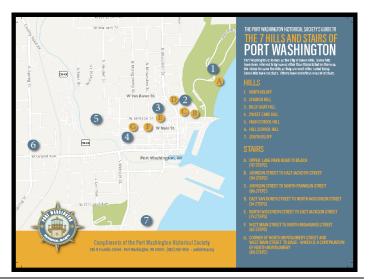
Docent-led tours
Art activities for all ages
Artist demonstrations
Welcome back the restored lifeboat
Free treats from Cedar Crest Ice Cream
Live Music



MAGICAL HISTORY TOURS

This summer, along with our wildly popular walking tour of the historic buildings in downtown Port, you may pick up maps of three exciting new walking tours from the *Resource Center* and/or the *Port Washington Visitors Center (Pebble House)*. One new walking tour is a guide to the *Seven Hills and Seven Stairs of Port Washington*. Taking that tour will get your heart rate up and keep the kids busy. The second new walking tour is a guide to Port Washington's historical markers.

The maps of these walking tours are made possible through your memberships and donations. So, when you have family and friends visiting and you want to showcase our beautiful historic downtown, take them on one of the walking tours. They will fall even more in love with our lakeside village.



SHIPWRECK WALKING TOUR

The Port Washington Historical Society will soon release an app-based Shipwreck Walking Tour of Port Washington, the brainchild of PWHS board member and children's author, Barbara Joosse, and Executive Director, Dawn St. George. The recorded voices of Joosse and her brother, Don Monnot, take visitors and guests along the marina, entertaining them along the way with dramatically told stories of six shipwrecks, in the style of an old-time radio program, complete with sound effects, photographs and dramatic dialog.

Designed to entertain and educate, the tour will take advantage of some of the best views in Port Washington. It will tell both the story of the shipwrecks and the story of Port Washington itself, offering visitors a peek into the dramatic, historic elements that formed our town. It takes visitors from the *1860 Light Station* to Heart of the Harbor, Rotary Park, Fisherman's Park and Coal Dock Park. Except for the link between the *1860 Light Station* and Heart of the Harbor, the entire walk is wheelchair (and stroller!) accessible.

After the initial idea, Joosse and St. George met with Russ Green, superintendent of the *Wisconsin Shipwreck Coast National Marine Sanctuary (WSCNMS)*. The pair wanted to create a pilot for the sanctuary, with Port Washington as the first southern stop along the shipwreck coast. They hoped other communities (Sheboygan, Manitowoc and Two Rivers) might extend the tour within the next year or two based on the pilot created by Joosse and St. George.

Normally, the app would cost \$6 to download, but Green was very enthusiastic about the idea and the sanctuary organization has offered to pay for the first 1,000 visitors to the app site: *VoiceMap*. Once loaded onto your phone, the app can be used again and again, and can start and stop as the user chooses. The *VoiceMap* app will be co-hosted and promoted by PWHS and the WSCNMS.

The stories will include: an introduction to the 1860 Light Station, the SS Milwaukee, Niagara, Mary Ludwig, fisherman sculpture at Rotary Park, Smith Bros. FISH building, Senator, Toledo and Northerner.

To enhance the experience of the tour, PWHS' spring exhibit will be a collection of shipwreck artifacts displayed at the *Resource Center*.

The tour's official launch will be on *Family Fun Day at the Light Station* on June 3, 2023.

Barbara Joosse

Port Washington Historical Society Secretary

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Do you enjoy talking about the history of Port Washington? Meeting others? Being a part of an endeavor that supports the *Historical Society*?

We need your help. There are many ways to help out, whether at the 1860 Light Station, Resource Center or society programs or activities.

If you can help, please email us at <u>porthistin-fo@gmail.com</u> or call us at 262-268-9150.



Port Washington Historical Society's Mission Statement

To create opportunities for inspirational discovery through preservation, education and exploration of the Port Washington area's history and its maritime environment.

SEASONAL HOURS

Resource Center 205 North Franklin Street Monday & Thursday 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. and by special appointment Beginning June 3: Monday, Thursday & Friday 1:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. Phone: 262-268-9150

1860 Light Station

311 Johnson Street May 27 through September 3 Saturday & Sunday 11:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. Please contact us at 262-268-9150



NEW MEMBERS & RENEWALS

Thomas and Allison Antoine Nancy Bodenstein Robert and Sue Boland Allen Buchholz James and Mary Burmesch Suanne Cavanaugh Lynn Costentine Majka and Adrian Drewitz Diane Fowler Andy and Susan Gumm Jerry and Diana Gutzman Kent Knudsen Terrence Knudsen Don and Lynette McCown Louise Mollinger and David Franks Terry and Mary Murphy James and MaryJo Pauly Allen Salyer Erna Schatzman Jane and Mike Spaulding Julie Wirgau Marie and Gary Zirbes

PORT'S FIRST GAS STATIONS – NOW DISAPPEARED

When automobiles became the mode of transporta-

tion at the turn of the century there was a demand for fuel to operate the cars.

Before gas stations existed, motorists bought gasoline from hardware stores, general stores, pharmacies, blacksmiths, etc. The fuel was available in five-gallon cans which were stacked



Standard Service Station



near the curbs. The fuel was poured into the gas tank of the automobile using a funnel. This was quite dangerous. After a series of fires and explosions, regulations forced businesses selling gasoline to be moved from city centers to

Dee Bee's Mobil

the roadways beyond the cities. This called for creating a filling station that evolved into what was then a gas station with a gas pump. The gas pump is a subject in itself because it began as a hand pump with no measurement device. Over time it evolved into a complex ma-

chine measuring gallons pumped and calculating prices.

Some of the first gas was sold at dealerships, but individual stations began to serve all areas of the city. Many of what were gas stations have disappeared. Here is a listing of some of the past gas stations in Port Washington:

1. Fulop's Clark Station on Grand



Peiffer Auto Service



Otto Blumenberg's

Avenue (plans for "green" station abandoned in 2011)

- 2. Dee Bee's Mobil Service at 404 N Franklin St.
- D-X Gas & Oil owned by Romie Eidenberger (1952)
- 4. Biever Oil Company at 765 Grand Ave.



Sinclair Service Station



 Dixie Oils Gasoline Service Station (1927)
 Port Amoco at 223 W Grand Ave. It changed to Beck's Grand Ave Mini Mart in 2005. Before it became Port Amoco, it was The Standard Station run by Harold Muehlberg

Standard Service

who sold it to Harold Hayes in 1943. Harold retired in 1968. In 1975 Jos. Mueller was the Prop.

7. Peiffer Auto Service opened in 1952 on site of the former Eidenberger Garage. The



Jess Moon's Standard Service

business sold many different brands of gasoline, including Pate, Enco, Exxon, Oklahoma, City and Union
76. They had full-service pumps but added self-service in the '70s. They closed in March 2007. In 2000 they discontinued the gasoline pumps.
8. Port Service Station, owned by John C. Kohl, Jr. (1923 -1941)
9. Port Washington Standard Auto Service

PWHS AGAIN HOSTS A SATURDAY BEER GARDEN IN UPPER LAKE PARK

This year we'll be tapping kegs for a third straight year on Saturday, August 5, to fundraise for the Historical Society. If you'd like to volunteer, we'd love to hear from vou. Shifts are usually 2 hours.

We'll need more volunteers this year as we'll also be grilling brats and burgers to sell. Our proceeds are combined with other local nonprofits including the Friends of Port Washington Parks and Rec and split at the end of the season. We do keep our tips from the day,

so even if you're unable to volunteer, we'd love to have you come out and support our mission. Summer is just around the corner.

Woo-hoo... and PROST!



(Continued from page 8)

- 10. Port Standard Service at 134 E Grand Ave. Joe Mueller (1966)
- 11. Quik Stop Shoppes
- 12. Sinclair Service Station at 702 W Grand Ave, owned by Jerry Kietlinski (1954)
- 13. Jess Moon's Standard Service at 134 E Grand Ave - now Harborview Cleaners
- 14. Swatek Oil Co. at 483 W Grand Ave. sold Super Shell Gasoline
- 15. Ted's Cities Service at 230 S Spring St. Ted Flierl took over the Cities Service Station from Otto Blumenberg in 1936. He ran it until he retired. The station is now a



Ted's Cities Service

16. Virgil's Gasoline at 1557 N Wisconsin St. (1961) -Virgil's filling station was open for business at the

north side of Port Washington at N Wisconsin and Beutel Road. In 1961 Virgil Eidenberger was the owner and proprietor. He offered Spur gasoline. Now Tires Unlimited is at that location.

17. Butch's Texaco Service at 1605 N Wisconsin St (1975)

As electric cars become more popular, the demand for gas may decrease. This could lead to gas stations becoming less common, or even obso-

lete. Many may be replaced with charging stations that will recharge the battery of an EV within minutes. But that is another topic for another day.

(Continued from page 3)

residence.

National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council as the representative for the History, Heritage, and Public Interpretation seat. The first meeting was held at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum in Manitowoc on March 16. It was a pleasure to meet with other council members and members of the NOAA team. We will be meeting bi-monthly at cities bordering the Sanctuary coast. I am looking forward to hosting one of the meetings in Port Washington.

Finally, a big shout out to Grace Eernisse for impecca-



ble timing in rescuing the former Wilson House Restau*rant* sign from the dumpster. We have added it to our

collection, preserving a special piece of Port Washington history for generations to come.

With all that is happening this spring and summer, there is simply no better time to renew or upgrade your membership. It is a real investment in our future and helps fund our programming and projects. As always, thank you for the support you show your Society.

Dawn St. George, PhD Executive Director

Services DONATIONS & MEMORIALS

SOCIETY DONATIONS Kate Brown Jerry & Diana Gutzman Allen Slayer WE Energies Foundation, Inc.

ANNUAL APPEAL

George & Mary Jo Bichler James & Mary Burmesch Pat & Yvonne Curtiss Walter & Judith Dauska Mike & Jodi Dickmann Michael & Alison Didier Mary Flierl Vaughn & Carol Hallada Paul & Joan Hansen Gwen & Bryon Johnson Barbara Josse Gary & Trudie Kelly Ken & Pat Kozak Richard Laske Raymond G. Meyer II Elaine Nulph Eric & Jackie Oleson James & Mary Jo Pauly Virginia Pierson Mark & Cathy Schowalter Ronald & Elizabeth Schowalter Steve Schowalter Dean & Norma Jean Shaver Doug Smith A. Lu Steinert Theodore Stott Lawrence & Diana Verheyen Barbara Wengert Geri Zehren

MEMORIALS

In Memory of Leroy Bley Robert & Kathleen Bentley Amy Bley Mary Bley John & Gladys DeMerit James & Susan Didier Giacomo Fallucca, Palermo's Mary Flierl Todd & Kathy Gordon Congressman Glen Grothman Mary Fran Lepeska & Pat Tearney Eric & Jackie Oleson Mary Kay Schuknecht In Memory of Laura Goeden Mary Flierl

SOCIETY IN KIND DONATIONS

Pat & Yvonne Curtiss Fleet Farm, Grafton Port Washington Kiwanis

ARTIFACTS, ARCHIVES, PHOTOGRAPHS

Grace Eernisse Jim Pape

PWHSTUESDAY NIGHT SPEAKER SERIES

The PWHS Tuesday Night Speaker Series is brought to you by the Port Washington State Bank. Our first speaker this year will be David Zeh on May 16 who will be presenting his research on *Captain Pabst and the Port Washington Draft Riot*. Following him, on June 3, will be diver Brendon Baillod who has titled his talk, *The Ghosts of the Ozaukee Coast: Port Washington's Shipwreck Graveyard*. Brendon will also be displaying recovered artifacts from his many dives to shipwrecks in the Great Lakes. In the fall, Dr. Patrick Jung will present *Nicolet and Marquette in Wisconsin: The History of the Early French Period, 1634-1675* on Tuesday, September 19, at the PWSB Community Room.

All the talks will take place at the Port Washington State Bank Community Room at 218 E. Washington Street beginning at 7:00 p.m. Reservations for the talks can be made through our website at *pwhistory.org*. We recommend making reservations as the talks usually fill up before the evening of the presentation. Admission is free for members of the *Port Washington Historical Society* and \$5.00 for nonmembers.

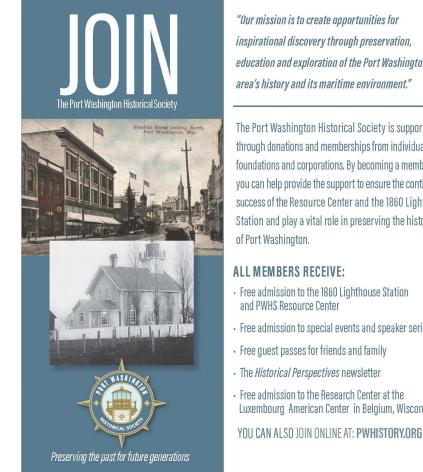
You may join or renew your membership on our website. FYI, only members may attend our annual meeting and speaker presentation in October, and you won't want to miss it. Following the annual meeting which begins at 7:00 p.m., Dr. James Skibo, state archaeologist, will be discussing the indigenous canoes found last year in Madison's Lake Mendota. You can find further information on all the speakers in the calendar on the back page of the newsletter.

THE KOREAN WAR -CALL FOR EXHIBIT ITEMS

The *Resource Center* is looking for help with its exhibit on the 70^{th} anniversary of the Armistice that formally ended the war in Korea.

If you have items that can be lent to the *Port Washington Historical Society* for the exhibit, we would be most grateful.

If you can contribute, please leave a message at 262-268-9150 and someone will get back to you.



inspirational discovery through preservation, education and exploration of the Port Washington area's history and its maritime environment."

The Port Washington Historical Society is supported through donations and memberships from individuals, foundations and corporations. By becoming a member you can help provide the support to ensure the continued success of the Resource Center and the 1860 Light Station and play a vital role in preserving the history

- Free admission to the 1860 Lighthouse Station
- · Free admission to special events and speaker series
- · Free admission to the Research Center at the Luxembourg American Center in Belgium, Wisconsin

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Choose your membership lovel

GHOOSE YOUT MEM	nerguih ieac	71			
Patron Dono	\$ 75 \$ 250 r \$ 500	Membership Level Amount \$ Additional Gift Amount \$ Total Amount Enclosed \$			
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MAKE CHECKS OUT T Port Washington Hi P.O. Box 491 Port W	O : THE PORT istorical Soci	WASHIN iety	GTON HISTO		

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and items that we struggled to figure out their function.

His treasures prompted us to add a catalog of tools, Dictionary of American Hand Tools, to our library of reference materials. Needless to say, our volunteers have learned much about tools of the 1800s, and also that many hand tools have been replaced with electrical ones.

This collection had been on display in the 1860 Light Station generator building. Work progresses on the cataloging of the contents of the 1860 Light Station buildings. Five volunteers have spent the past 10 months on this work.

The second large donation is Russell Knetzger's city development plans from the time he worked with the City of Port Washington. These site plans extend to areas across the city and document many of the changes that happened in the 1970s and 1980s.

Thanks to the Kiwanis Club we now have printed editions of the updated Architectural and Historical Intensive Survey Report done for the city by the Wiscon-



Peters' toolbox

sin Historical Society. The 144-page document gives an overview of the history of the city, summarizes the the-

> matic research and survey results, and gives recommendations to the Port Washington Planning Commission. It covers notable places and people of the community. Stop and browse. You will recognize many of 518 resources of architectural or historical interest.

> The Resource Center will return to summer hours the first weekend of June — open Monday, Thursday, and Friday 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. and Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Leroy Bley covered our Friday hours

these past 10 years, so we are now especially in need of someone to cover those days so the Resource Center can be open to visitors. Please consider joining our crew of volunteers. Email porthistinfo@gmail.com or call 262-268-9150 if you can help.

Geri Zehren & Jackie Oleson Resource Center Co-Managers



Port Washington Historical Society

P. O. Box 491 Port Washington, WI 53074-0491 www.pwhistory.org

Save the Date

2023 Gala: *Thursday Night Fever* Thursday, July 20: 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. *Flannery's at Fire Ridge Golf Club, Grafton*

Speaker Series: David Zeh

Captain Pabst and the Port Washington Draft Riot Tuesday, May 16: 7:00 p.m. *PWSB Community Room**

Family Fun Day at the 1860 Light Station Return of the Lifeboat

Saturday, June 3: 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. *1860 Light Station*

Speaker Series: Brendon Baillod Ghosts of the Ozaukee Coasts: Port Washington's Shipwreck Graveyard Saturday June 3: 6:00 p.m. PWSB Community Room*

PWHS Hosts the Beer Garden Saturday, August 5: 1:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. *North Bluff, Upper Lake Park* **Speaker Series: Dr. Patrick Jung Baillod** *Nicolet and Marquette in Wisconsin: The History of the Early French Period, 1634-1675* Tuesday, September 19: 7:00 p.m.

PWHS Board Meeting/ Annual Members Only Meeting

PWSB Community Room*

Presentation by Dr. James Skibo and Amy Rosebrough *Wisconsin Historical Society's State Historic Preservation Office: What's Canoe With You?* Wednesday, October 18: 6:00 p.m. *Board meeting at the Resource Center followed by annual members' meeting at the PWSB Community Room**

*PWSB Community Room, 218 E. Washington St.

The Port Washington Historical Society is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.