



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

APPRECIATING HISTORY AND ITS RELEVANCE



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The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society had another banner year celebrating the best of our community, past and present.



Curator Laurie Stein hanging West Side Stories panel at Lake Forest Place.



Members' Preview of West Side Stories.

West Side Stories

The exhibit **West Side Stories: The History of West Lake Forest** opened to rave reviews in April 2014. The exhibit focuses on the history Lake Forest west of Route 41 (Skokie Highway) which, according to our survey, was the most commonly cited boundary line.

The exhibit features dozens of artifacts, maps, informative panels and a timeline that tell the history of the area — the first time such a comprehensive compilation has ever been made.

The panels travelled to many locations on the west side, reaching a wide audience, including Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital, Lake Forest Place, Everett School, the Milwaukee Road Train Station, The Private Bank and Elawa Farm.

Connecting with our Youth

The Historical Society was given a special plaque and recognition at the centennial celebration of Everett School this past April. Curator Laurie Stein worked closely with the Everett Centennial chair to research and document the school's history from which a video was developed. Laurie and Executive Director Janice Hack also worked with the fourth grade classes on projects highlighting local people, places and events from 1917 to 1935. And, several students wrote a column for *The Gem* mock newspaper. Perhaps we have inspired some future historians!

Inside:

Centennial Family Awards

Events & Programs

Donations to the Collection

Donors and Members

And More...





Centennial Family honorees Juliet Stein-Davies, Katherine Saville, and Jan Larsen Polep.

Centennial Family Awards/ Annual Meeting

At our Annual Meeting on May 4, 2013, we honored three families with Centennial Family Awards: the **Beye-Rickhoff-Witberg-Stein Family** nominated by Juliet Stein-Davies; the **Mark-Saville Family**, nominated by Katherine Saville; and the **Sneddon-Larsen Family**, nominated by Jan Larsen Polep. All of these families arrived locally in the first decade of the 20th century.

The Annual Meeting was held at Dickinson Hall in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the Ridge Farm Preventorium for which Dickinson Hall was built. A tour of Ridge Farm/Grove School rounded out the day.

The Centennial Family Awards honor families that have lived in the community for 100 years. To date, the Historical Society has honored 29 families. More information about the families, and old photographs featured in the presentations, are on our website. Nominations are being sought for our 2015 awards.



Membership

We hit record levels with our membership numbers and held a special members' party at Market House on the Square to preview our spring programs. Many members joined our new benefit to get a special email in their birthday month detailing interesting snippets from 50 and 75 years ago.

Collection Cameos

When we revamped our website in 2012, one of the features we added was the Collections Cameo blog. Written by Curator Laurie Stein, with occasional guest appearances by volunteers and interns, the blog features a new artifact from our museum collection each month. Because only about 2% of our extensive collection is on exhibit at a time, the blog allows us to give readers a behind-the-scenes look at the contents of our archives. Recently highlighted artifacts include: a circa 1915 Lake Forest Volunteer Fire Helmet; *The Lake Forest Gem*, our town's first printed newspaper from the 1860s; and Margaret Lindman's Marionettes, which appeared on a children's story hour TV program in the 1950s-60s. Above: Lake Forest fire helmet featured in our April 2014 Collections Cameo.



		<h1>The Gem.</h1>	
		\$40 Membership Lake Forest, Illinois	
A Publication of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society Volume 2, Number 1 News of 1926			
<h2>SPECIAL ELECTION RESULTS: LAKE FOREST VOTES 303-5 FOR ANNEXATION</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>City Triples in Size</i></p>			
<p>Lake Forest residents took to the polls on Tuesday, May 11, voting in favor of a proposition to annex some nine square miles of territory west of the present city limits. Though voter turnout was low, annexation carried the day by a wide margin, 303-5.</p> <p>The special election was called at the City Council meeting on Monday, May 4, when petitions to be annexed, signed by property owners and voters of the territory in question, were read.</p>	<p>Broadly, the newly added land extends west from Green Bay Road to the Libertyville and Vernon township lines, north to the Lucius Teter estate at the slight bend in Telegraph Road, and south to a line 1/2 mile north of Half Day Road.</p> <p>Louis F. Swift, the largest affected property holder at 1,000 acres, has been vocal in his support of the plan. Other estates in the area include A. B. Dick's Westmoreland, A. Watson Armour's Elmsa Farm, and J. Ogden Armour's Melksdy</p>	<p>Farm, as well as those on the west side of Green Bay Road. The Onwentsia Club, the Ridge Farm Preventorium, and the village of Everett will also now be incorporated into Lake Forest.</p> <p>The annexation was the first task of the Lake Forest Plan Commission, newly instituted in February. It is said that the next area under consideration is the Knollwood Club to the north.</p>	<p>The Historical Society's new exhibit West Side Stories opens with a special preview for members on Friday, April 25th, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.</p> <p>Join today to attend this exclusive members event!</p> <p>West Side Stories explores Lake Forest's western regions, beyond the Skokie Highway. You'll get a chance to see the entire exhibit before parts of it go on tour our west. West Side Stories will be open at the Historical Society and various locations in the community through the end of 2014.</p>
<p>WENBAN BUSINESSES THRIVE ON HORSEPOWER</p> <p>It has been a year since the patriarch of the Wenban family and one of Lake Forest's pioneer residents (and former alderman) Curtis Gibson Wenban, passed away. The Wenban family has been transporting the people of Lake Forest from cradle to grave since 1889. You may have seen family members around town operating the heavy trucks, setting the children at Carlton School, running the ambulance service or leading the fire brigade. Their Busk leadership is well known. Frank Wenban does his best to keep Lake Foresters from meeting their maker by running the pharmacy on Market Square. But when we eventually pass away, it is the Wenban Funeral Home where we all make our last stop before the Lake Forest Cemetery.</p>	<p>is playing at the Oriental Theater. Who knows? Maybe in the future, the movie will be made with talking voices.</p> <p>The Historical Society presents the lecture Pils, Poutine and Penoshe: Lake Forest During the Great Gatsby Era on Tuesday June 17th. The "Tin Age" is usually thought of as the time between the end of WWI in 1918 and the crash of the Stock Market in October of 1929. The lecture will present a readable Lake Forest during the period. It will include the community's connection to the gang and Gatsby, Irene Curdie, and P. S. Fitzgerald's novel <i>The Great Gatsby</i>. It was an era of growth, good times by most standards. Details follow on the page prior to this.</p> <p>The lecture takes place at the Knollwood Club 7:00 p.m. A cash bar will provide the wine at 8:30 p.m. and follow the lecture. The program is for members of Knollwood Club. \$10 for members of the Historical Society, and \$15 for nonmembers. Reservations are requested.</p>	<p>a different parking lot. The audience will then walk to the sanctuary. Many roads will be one way to Mundelein in the morning and the reverse in the pm.</p> <p>May 16-18th pilgrims will be directed to walk from Lake Bluff to Mundelein. Mechanic's Grove Road/Rockland Road will be closed for this purpose.</p> <p>May 30-City Council approves for employees to be excused to attend the Congress.</p> <p>June: It's estimated that the state road leading to Mundelein will be able to carry 288,000 people in a space of 8 hours. Every available piece on the North Shore rolling stock will be pressed into service and the Chicago Rapid Transit Company will loan cars for this purpose.</p>	<p>people to the 103th International Executive Congress in New Jersey. Historical Society members receive four weeks of tickets, so join or renew today.</p> <p>LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS UP AND RUNNING</p> <p>Group organized in response to women getting vote</p> <p>The Lake Forest branch of the League of Women Voters is having a busy first year. The League works to educate voters, especially women, so that votes can be cast intelligently with proper understanding of quality candidates and the importance of issues. The club reminds everyone they can see and hear candidates for office at a public meeting at the Young Men's Club on Oct.</p>

The Gem

This past year, the Historical Society won an Award of Superior Achievement from the Illinois Association of Museums for the 1916 mock newspaper, distributed in April 2013.

Because of the success of the newspaper, another issue was published in April 2014. Renamed *The Gem* (after the first published newspaper in Lake Forest), the second issue focused on the year 1926. This was a pivotal year in our local history with the annexation of much of west Lake Forest (tripling the size of the City), and the end of an era with the death of Howard Van Doren Shaw.

Once again, the project was supported by generous donations from the local business community, many of which were in existence in 1926.

Historical Society Programs



Board Member Bob Banks directing guests at the Downton Abbey tea.



Guests dressed for the Edwardian tea.

Our **Downton Abbey** tea was held in the perfect setting: the 1915 Scheppe Estate. One hundred guests attended the afternoon tea which was conducted by “head cook” Mrs. Eaton and “butler” Mr. Howe who instructed guests on the proper way to set up a British manor house. *See more photos on back.*



The Lasker Estate bike tour in the courtyard of the estate house.

For the first time, the Historical Society offered two **tours by bike** — one of the Lasker Estate and one about the North Shore Interurban. Recognizing the importance of linking stories with places, we offered a lecture about the history of Ft. Sheridan in the old Fort stockade building and visited the home of temperance crusader Frances Willard with a lecture about her role in the Lake Bluff Camp Meeting.

We connected with area organizations to offer **tours of Ragdale, Ryerson Woods, Crab Tree Farm, and St. Patrick’s Cemetery and Church**. We also collaborated with the First Presbyterian Church to offer a community-wide program in connection with the new full-length history by author Reverend Christine Chakoian.

One of the most unique programs of the year allowed guests to relive the **“Millionaire’s Special”** as the private commuter railway car used to be called in the press. The special ride on Car 553 (the only remaining private commuter car in the country) was enhanced with a talk about the history of the car and railroad.



Guests enjoying cocktails aboard Car 553.



2013 Local Legend Richard Marx (right) and interviewer Roe Conn.

Local Legends

The Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society honored singer, songwriter and producer Richard Marx as our 2013 Local Legend. Mr. Marx was interviewed by his good friend, radio and TV personality Roe Conn. Richard Marx earned a Song of the Year Grammy for co-authoring Luther Vandross’ Dance with My Father and is the only male artist in history to have his first seven singles reach the Top 5 on the Billboard charts. Mr. Marx shared many personal and touching stories about his parents, his start in music and his career today.



Intern Kylie Mannion transcribing oral histories.

Oral history transcriptions

With the help of two summer interns, the Historical Society embarked on an ambitious program to transcribe oral histories in collection of the Historical Society. Kylie Mannion from Lake Forest College transcribed oral histories of World War II veterans. Stephanie Allen, of Carleton College, transcribed oral history interviews that were conducted by a local Girl Scout troop in the 1970s with local residents. The oral history project, which continues, is important as it not only allows the information to be searched, but it provides a more permanent record that is not affected by changing technology.

Donations

The following donors made a gift to the Historical Society between June 1, 2013 and May 31, 2014.

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- *Lake Forest: Art and History Edition* (1916), donated by Jim and Phyllis Stewart
- *To The Manor Born* (1979), donated by Maxwell Gregory
- 2013 BMW Championship programs, Conway Farms Golf Club, donated by John Ormsby
- Lake Forest High School letter jacket, 1966, and Deerpath Junior High letter sweater, 1960s, donated by Elizabeth deVogelaere
- Photograph of a cross country skier on a snow-covered road in Lake Forest, donated by the Glencoe Historical Society
- Convocation address, "The Warfare of Peace," given by Lake Forest College President John Scholte Nollen in 1913, donated by Mike Rush
- Items from Joytime Preschool, 1953-2013, including a child's chair, a bell, a flag, a poster, a puzzle, an award, and several photographs, donated by Kathleen Hodgen Knarvik
- Framed drawing of Lake Forest Academy's Reid Hall, donated by Douglas R. Karsten
- Blueprints of house on Westleigh; wedding dress, shoes and petticoats of Isabel Gates, donated by Michael Dau
- Small storage cabinet from Barat College chapel, found in Barat attic by Tony Cascarano, 1957, donated by James A. Cascarano
- Seven boxes of League of Women Voters records, donated by the League of Women Voters – Lake Forest/Lake Bluff
- Friends of Gorton Auxiliary Board materials, including posters, invitations, photos, minutes and other ephemera, donated by Brenda Dick
- Baseball jersey, Winter Club, found at First Presbyterian Church rummage sale, donated by Emily J. Anderson
- Photographs and advertisements related to history of Lake Forest Scots, donated by David Forlow

Leslie T. Chapman Fellowship Fund

The Leslie T. Chapman Museum Internship is offered to Lake Forest College students. It was established in honor of Leslie Chapman who provided immeasurable leadership and dedicated service to the Historical Society as Treasurer for 12 years. Sadly, Leslie passed away in May 2014.

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If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact
Lisa Frey at 847-234-5253 or lfrey@lfbhistory.org

*Asterisk denotes deceased.

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Scenes from our Downton Abbey event

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If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please contact
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