

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

August, September, October 2016

Hours: 1:00pm-6:00pm, Wednesday & Saturday

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

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www.lphistorical.org/ also on Facebook

LINCOLN PARK ARTISTS HIGHLIGHTED IN NEW MUSEUM EXHIBITS

GARY GRIMSHAW EXHIBIT opens Aug 13

Beginning on August 13th, the historical museum will present the long-term exhibit, “**Gary Grimshaw: the Master Artist’s Studio**”. Gary, who passed away in early 2014, was a native of Lincoln Park and a 1963 graduate of LP High School. Gary was a renowned and highly-respected poster illustrator who started his career in the mid-1960s at the same time the rock group, **MC5**, also from Lincoln Park, was spreading its wings. Gary was high school friends with **Rob Tyner(Derminer)**, the lead singer for The MC5. The two friends were also fellow artists.



Gary's first concert poster for the Grande Ballroom, October 7, 8, 1966, "The Seagull"

In the fall of 1966, when **Russ Gibb** began his incarnation of the Grande Ballroom as a rock and roll concert venue, he approached Rob to create poster designs for the new concerts. Rob, in turn, recommended his friend Gary. The rest, as they say, is history. Gary's individual style has been recognized as mirroring the Detroit scene during those revolutionary times; his art would greatly influence a

generation of artists who came after.

We are grateful to Gary's wife, Laura for generously loaning these pieces to the historical museum. Included in the exhibit - which now shares space with the permanent **MC5** exhibit in the former Postmaster's Office - will be a number of personal items, drawing board, photographs, and a representation of Gary's creative output from his decades-long career. The exhibit's opening reception, held from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., will be a celebration of Gary's life and his art.

BILL MORRISON EXHIBIT to open October 15

The museum's exhibit “**The Art of Bill Morrison**” will be a retrospective on the career of Lincoln Park native son, **Bill Morrison**, an award-winning cartoonist and illustrator. The exhibit opens Saturday, October 15, and will be the featured exhibit through the coming holiday period, closing on Friday, December 30.

Bill will be in town from his home on the west coast

to attend the exhibit's opening at an evening reception scheduled for 6pm to 9pm on October 15th.

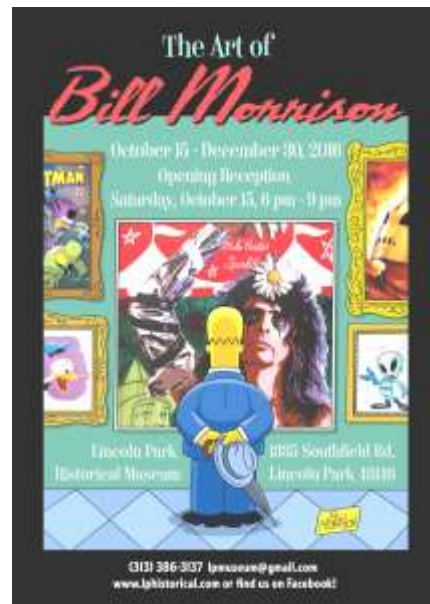
A 1977 graduate of LP High School, Bill continued his art studies at the Detroit College for Creative Studies, becoming a technical illustrator.

When Bill decided he had rendered his last

diesel fuel pump, he moved to Southern

California with his wife, Kayre. With a career covering work in motion picture advertising, painting movie posters including *The Little Mermaid*, *Bambi*, *The Jungle Book* for Walt Disney Pictures among many others, Bill has more recently spent his time on projects related to *The Simpsons*. For that series he has created thousands of drawings for T-shirts, video games, posters, toy packaging, books calendars, limited edition prints, etc.

When *The Simpsons* creator Matt Groening founded Bongo Comics, Bill was hired on as art



Bill's design for the exhibit postcard

director. Bill realized his cartoonist dreams when he drew the very first Simpsons comic, leading to his eventual role as Creative Director for Bongo's publications. Bill also worked with Groening on early character designs for the TV show *Futurama* and served as the series' art director. In addition, Bill has written and drawn his own comic book series; the four-time Eisner Award-nominated *Roswell*, *Little Green Man*; and co-created two other comic book series, *Heroes Anonymous* and *Lady Robotika* (the latter with Jane Wiedlin of the legendary all-girl rock band, The Go-Gos.)

Bill is currently tending to Bongo Comic's digital comics endeavors, and writing and drawing his new series "Dead Vengeance" for Dark Horse Comics. Bill is honored to be serving as the current President of the National Cartoonists Society.

Please plan to join us on October 15th in welcoming Bill back to Lincoln Park for this celebratory exhibit.

Note: There will be official exhibit posters and T-shirts designed by Bill available closer to the opening in October.

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

Saturday, August 6, last chance to see the historic U.S. Presidential Campaign artifacts exhibit; a public reception with collector Morry Greener held at 2pm; open 1pm-6pm

Saturday, August 13, The opening of "Gary Grimshaw: The Master Artist's Studio" exhibit (see article); public reception 4pm-7pm with DJ Richie Wohlfeil of Lo & Behold Records, and live performances from Detroit soul legend Melvin Davis, and the band, "Belle Isles".



Art work by Kristi Pesick. after Leni Sinclair

(Calendar continued)

Wednesday, September 21, is the next deadline for orders of the Heritage Plaza engraved bricks.

Saturday, October 15, 12 noon, the dedication of new bricks for Heritage Plaza, museum lawn.

Saturday, October 15, 6pm-9pm, opening of "The Art of Bill Morrison" exhibit, and a public reception with Bill; the exhibit runs through Friday, December 30th. (see article)

HISTORIC PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN EXHIBIT ends AUGUST 6th

On Memorial Day weekend, the museum opened a temporary display of historic presidential campaign memorabilia, containing over 200 items from the private collection of **Morry Greener**, of West Bloomfield. Among the items on display is the exhibit's earliest piece, a campaign ribbon for Henry Clay, the Whig Party candidate in 1844; another highlight is a 1848 chromolithograph depicting Lewis Cass, Michigan Senator who ran for president on the Democratic ticket that year with running mate, William Orlando Butler. (Cass lost the election to Mexican-American War hero Zachary Taylor, the Whig Party candidate.) If you haven't yet seen this unique exhibit, we hope you can join us for the closing reception with Mr. Greener held on Saturday, August 6th at 2:00 p.m. The museum will be open regular hours 1pm-6pm that day.



Photo showing part of the Presidential Campaign exhibit in the main display case through August 6th

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

August is the month when the annual Historical Society member renewals are mailed out. Renewal envelopes are enclosed here with your newsletter. (*Life members and recent members will not receive envelopes.)

Please take a moment to fill out and return with your dues at your earliest convenience.

*We **thank you** for your continuing support !*

HERITAGE PLAZA NEWS

The Historical Museum's Heritage Plaza project is scheduling a fourth installation of bricks for the coming fall. The deadline for submitting new orders for engraved bricks is Wednesday, September 21, with the dedication held on Saturday, October 15th at 12 noon.

Please contact us if you'd like an order form or more information on the Heritage Plaza project. Order forms are also available at city hall and the public library. The next order period will be in the spring of 2017.

Fort Street Photo project

Beginning this month, the Historical Society will work with a number of businesses along Fort Street in displaying large format historic photos in their store fronts. A variety of photos will depict the district from past eras. Next time you are out along Fort Street stop by and check these out. Historical Commissioner Joe Turinsky spearheaded this project and we are grateful to Joe for helping to bring his idea to fruition.



D.A. LeBlanc's saloon, pictured here on Fort Street in the 1890s, is one of several historic photos to appear along the Fort Street corridor starting in August.

IN MEMORIAM



Robert C. Heyer, Jr.

1929-2016

We extend our deepest condolences to Delores Heyer and family on the passing of former Lincoln Park mayor Bob Heyer on July 24th, at age 87. Bob and Dolores have been friends and supporters of the historical museum for many years, through their retirement to Florida and a return to settle near family in Brownstown Township. A Lincoln Park High School graduate of 1947, Bob married Delores Terry, his high school sweetheart, in 1948. He was with the LP Police Department for 37 years, serving as Police Chief from 1981 to 1987 when he was elected mayor for two successive terms.

The Museum building will also be getting in on the act; the photo below – to be on view in a front window of the museum – shows a community park (where horseshoes were played) at Fort Park and Southfield in the late 1930s, before the post office building was erected on the site in 1938.



[this view is from the roof of City Hall, built in 1935]

The Rouge Legacy Project

The year 2017 will mark the 90th anniversary of the legendary Ford Model A, which began production in 1927. The Model A became the first automobile to be produced entirely at Ford's mammoth Rouge plant, just months after assembly of the Model T came to an end at Highland Park earlier that year. The Highland Park factory continued to produce parts for the "T" for servicing the ten million cars on the road, but it was the Model A that was intended by Ford to usher in a new era of automobile design and engineering. The Rouge was busy for months preparing to produce the modern car, which finally made its delayed debut on December 2, 1927.

It was the increased production at the evolving Rouge complex that had brought thousands here to settle in LP in the decade of the 1920s. Many of the families here today came to the area because of the work available in the auto industry.

Because of this, because of Lincoln Park's umbilical relationship with the Ford plant - and in conjunction with the 'Model A' 90th anniversary next year - the Lincoln Park Historical Museum is introducing a **Ford Rouge Legacy Project**. The project aims to tell the story of how Ford Motor Co and the Lincoln Park community's relationship evolved over the decades.

Long before the birth of the Model A, however, an influx of families coming to LP from elsewhere began after the close of WW I in 1918, just as the Rouge was starting to emerge as a manufacturing hub. The Rouge was largely instrumental in the settling of Lincoln Park, having drawn thousands of workers to make their home in the area. The population of our little village in 1921 was under 400. By 1925 when Lincoln Park reincorporated as a city, we were over 9,000 strong!

Our aim is to make record of those Lincoln Park families whose lives have touched The Rouge over the intervening years, whether your family was one of the early ones or settled here after World War II, or later. If your family has had a relationship with The Rouge over the years, we want to hear from you. And do pass the word along to your neighbors and friends, too.



The Ford Rouge complex pictured here in 1927

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2016-2017

President/Secretary	Dolores Walker
Vice President	(vacant)
Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Mary Meyer
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Trustee	Grace Wangbickler

Board meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday at 1:30 P.M. The Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to the emailing list and receive a color version of the newsletter and up-to-date notifications - and to help save on postage costs - please send an email to lpmuseum@gmail.com.

Museum Curator: Jeff Day

Historical Commission News

The City of Lincoln Park Historical Commission has received three appointees this year to bring the panel up to its quorum of seven members. Earlier this year the commission welcomed **Don Chenier**, a retiree who has lived in LP for 25 years. This past month two new appointments to the commission were made by the mayor and council: **Kathy Carter**, who also serves on the LP Board of Education, and **Merritt Solomon**, a recent graduate of U of M Dearborn with a degree in Communications. These three join current members, Chairperson **Jim Goodell**, Vice-Chair **Joe Turinsky**, Secretary **Sherry Huntington**, and Treasurer **Sue Amorose**. We are excited to share this good news and wish each of the Commissioners well as they help to guide our museum into the future.