

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

August, September, October 2019

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

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

313-386-3137

lpmuseum@gmail.com

also visit our Facebook page

POST OFFICE 80TH ANNIVERSARY



Photo from Historical Museum collections

The future site of the Lincoln Park Post Office - throwing horseshoes in Quandt Field at the corner of Fort Park and Southfield Road, shown in the mid-1930s, looking east (photo was taken from the roof of the new city hall built in 1935.) The property was owned by Herman and Mary (Goodell) Quandt, who sold it to the U.S. Treasury Department for \$15,000 in 1938.

The Lincoln Park branch of the Detroit Post Office was opened to the public on August 11, 1939 by the U.S. Treasury Department. The opening followed a celebratory parade and dedication ceremony held August 5. Mayor Jasper Howard, U.S. Congressman John Lesinski and Detroit Postmaster Roscoe Huston were counted among the many dignitaries in attendance as well as a crowd of 10,000 people. (Lincoln Park's population at the time was about 15,000.) James Southers was the first Postal Superintendent, serving until 1954. In that year Lincoln Park became an independent post office and was led for the next decade by Postmistress Marguerite (Irene) Wilson. In late 1991 the post office moved to its new modern headquarters at 1515 Fort Street. The building began its second chapter a few years later when the Historical Society raised the funds for the purchase of the building for our museum home.

Through significant efforts of the Lincoln Park Preservation Alliance, the Depression-era post office building, designed by architect Louis Simon, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2003 and subsequently received a State of Michigan Historic Site designation with a marker dedication in 2007.

An Open House celebrating the building's 80th anniversary will be held Saturday August 10th from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. Photos, blueprints and other items from the post office's early years will be on display.

FUN! DRAISER EVENT

Flea-Arts Market, Saturday, September 21st
10:00am to 3:00pm

The Historical Society is sponsoring a fundraising market taking place at the cusp of summer and autumn, on the third Saturday of September. Held on the museum grounds, the market will feature a variety of vendors with a focus on vintage or antique items and arts and crafts pieces. The Historical Society will have its own booth at the market and also a Bake Sale inside the museum.

***** Vendor space information including fees is available by contacting the museum at 313-386-3137 or via email at lpmuseum@gmail.com. Vendors will need to supply their own tables and pop-up canopies if desired.*****

Planned as a special feature of the event is an Antique Appraisal Clinic held inside the museum from **11am to 3pm**. A donation to the Historical Society of \$10 per appraised item will be accepted, with a limit of three items per person. Appointments can be made by contacting us at the number above.

We are excited to have **DJ Adam Stanfel** return to provide some cool entertainment for the day. Many will recall that Adam spun tunes for our MC5 anniversary celebration a few years back.

The purpose of the fundraiser is to help raise money for several museum projects that are taking place concurrently: 1) work continues on restoration of the 4-sided Sears Clock with installation to follow; 2) the new Lincoln Park History Coloring Book (see article); 3) the imaging and museum installation of the Zoltan Sepeshy Post Office Mural reproduction (see article); and 4) the acquisition of a period juke box for the museum in which to "exhibit" our extensive collection of vintage 45-rpm records received from the estate of Lucille Stroh.

We hope to see everyone on September 21st!!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

The public is invited to attend all Society events.

Saturday, August 10, from 2pm to 4pm

Open House celebrating the 80th anniversary of the Lincoln Park Post Office which opened to the public on August 11, 1939.

Saturday, August 31 – closing day for the Sears Department Store exhibit. Regular hours 1pm to 6pm.

Saturday, September 14, from 10am to 2pm

Cleanup Day of museum grounds. Helping Hands Needed! If possible, bring along work gloves, wheel barrels, rakes, shovels, brush trimmers, small and large branch pruners, saws for larger branches, and yard waste bags. Refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, September 21, 10am to 3pm.
FUN!DRAISER Flea-Arts Market. With variety of vendors, music, bake sale and food. Vendors sought for participation! (see front page)

Wednesday, October 2, 7pm Historical Society First Wednesday Speaker program; presentation by author **Gregory Sumner**, professor of history at University of Detroit Mercy, on his book **“P.O.W. Camps in Michigan During World War II”**. Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Monday, November 11, 11am – The Lincoln Park Historical Society Annual Veterans Day observance, with bell-ringing ceremony on the museum grounds; followed by indoor reception and the formal opening of the museum’s new Military Services Exhibit. Local vets and their families are invited.

Wednesday, November 13, 7pm “The Story of the Zoltan Sepeshy Mural” (please note scheduling shift of First Wednesday evening program to the second Wednesday this month.) **Gregory Wittkopp**, Director of the Cranbrook Center for Collections and Research, will speak. Mr. Wittkopp has been instrumental in working with the Beaver Island Maritime Museum on the restoration work being done on the Zoltan Sepeshy mural “Great Lakes Fishermen” originally located in the Lincoln Park Post Office. (See article in the next column.)

POST OFFICE MURAL UPDATE

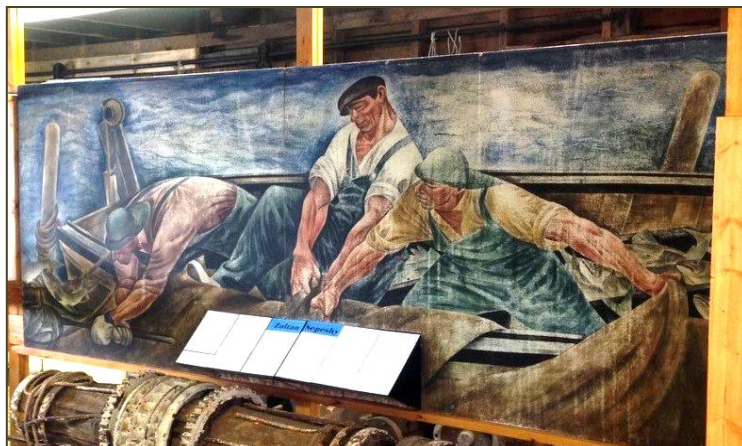


Photo of mural courtesy of Beaver Island Maritime Museum

Zoltan Sepeshy, artist and Cranbrook Academy of Art instructor, painted the mural for the Lincoln Park Branch of the Detroit Post Office in 1940, soon after its opening in 1939. Sepeshy’s tempera mural, created in his Cranbrook Studio, was entitled “Great Lakes Fishermen”. The mural, measuring 5’ by 15’, was originally located in the post office lobby on the wall above the postmaster’s office. Sepeshy’s work was one of some 1,200 post office murals created by artists through the U.S. Treasury Department’s ‘Section of Fine Arts’ beginning in 1934. The Federal Section of Fine Arts, like the WPA and Federal Arts Project, was one of many New Deal-era programs created to help bring the country out of the Great Depression.

The mural was later removed by the post office in 1967 for unknown reasons, and with cooperation from the Federal Government was relocated to the Beaver Island Maritime Museum the same year. There it has remained on view for over 50 years now. The B.I. Museum is currently having the work restored by an art laboratory in the Detroit area. We are pleased to report that prior to its return to the island, plans now call for a photographic image to be taken of the restored mural, enlarged to a mural-sized photograph, and placed in our museum in its original location.

Zoltan Sepeshy, Hungarian by birth who emigrated to the U.S. in 1921, eventually became the Director of the Cranbrook Academy of Art and then its President in the 1950s and 60s. Read more about him and the mural project in our November newsletter and make plans to attend the talk on his career on Wednesday, November 13th.

IN MEMORIAM



Jack Hinske 1930-2019

We extend our deepest sympathies to Joan Hinske on the passing of her husband of sixty years, and our friend, Jack, on June 10th at age 88. Jack Hinske was the organizing curator of the Lincoln Park Historical Museum when it opened in 1972 and the driving force behind its growth for several years, all done while teaching full time.

Jack will be returned to his hometown of Oshkosh, Wisconsin for inurnment.

Jack Hinske - A Remembrance and a Legacy

Jack Hinske was the central force in guiding the city's Historical Commission, then a newly-commissioned city entity in 1972, in its efforts to get a museum organized and opened to the community. His aim from the start was to create a space that would especially serve to educate young people about their community's history. Then-Commission Chairman, Jack Tallman, recently wrote of Jack,

"What a find he was for us because he actually knew what we were facing. Not only did Jack help guide us through the experience of being the "political football" that first year, but also with the starting structure of opening the museum. I can attest that we would not have had a successful start if it hadn't been for Jack Hinske."

When Jack volunteered to become involved with Lincoln Park's effort to open a historical museum, he was working full-time as an instructor of electronics and photography at the high school. We were extremely pleased that he and his wife Joan were with us this past March when Jack was recognized with a commendation for his many contributions to the museum and to the city.

At its July meeting, the Historical Society Board voted overwhelmingly to establish the **Jack Hinske Memorial Fund**. Jack's service to the museum in its formation and its early years is invaluable and a vital part of our community's lasting legacy.

At the same meeting, it was decided that the initial funds received for the memorial fund will be used to produce a Lincoln Park History Coloring Book designed for elementary students. The Board feels that it is fitting that the coloring book - with its emphasis on history and education - be the first recipient of funds from the Jack Hinske Memorial.

Donations to the **Jack Hinske Memorial Fund** should be made to the "Lincoln Park Historical Society" and sent to 1335 Southfield Road, Lincoln Park, Michigan, 48146.

Lincoln Park Coloring Book Project

The Historical Society Board has approved its sponsorship of the project to produce a history-themed coloring book. The Lincoln Park History Coloring Book is being designed for elementary students, specifically for second-grade level local community curriculum studies. It will be filled with illustrations of historical places and events in Lincoln Park history and descriptive texts, and will be augmented with puzzles and games.

The book is being developed by Laura Jackson, a 1979 grad of Lincoln Park High School, who together with school mates are observing their 40-year reunion this fall. The group is helping to put the book project together, honoring their 40th anniversary by providing artistic input and some of the funding. Laura came to us with this idea after working on a similar project for the city of Plymouth earlier this year. The total costs for the Lincoln Park book will be approximately \$4,500, to cover the printing, artist fees and copyright. (Future printings will be a fraction of the initial cost.) Grants have been applied for to help cover the project's costs. Contributions made to the Jack Hinske Memorial Fund will also assist.

This will provide for a first printing of a minimum of 1,000 books for free distribution to Lincoln Park students. The printing is expected to cover several years' worth of second grade classroom distribution. Plans are to have the book ready by January of 2020, as the community of Lincoln Park approaches its centennial celebration.



**The museum's
extended and
refurbished
Military Service
Exhibit**

will formally open on November 11th in conjunction with the Historical Society's annual Veterans Day ceremony.

Beginning with a listing of the Ecorse Township men who

fought as soldiers for the Union Army during the Civil War over 150 years ago, the exhibit aims to feature men and women from our community who have served in the armed forces during times of conflict and peace. But we need your participation. **Please see the form enclosed with your newsletter for submitting information to add to this project.**

This will be a fluid exhibit, updated and changed periodically as we place much of our extensive military collections on display. We continue to seek items and memorabilia as well as information on the military service of those from our community.

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2019-2020

President/Treasurer	Jim Nelson
Vice President/Secretary	Dolores Walker
Trustee/Membership Chair	Alyce Riggs
Trustee	Bea Partridge
Trustee	Jim Mixter

Museum Curator & newsletter editor: Jeff Day
 Director Emeritus: Muriel Lobb

Board meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:30 P.M. The Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to our email list and help save on postage costs, send us an email at: lpmuseum@gmail.com

**Historical Society Membership
Renewals Due Now**

Dear members, Enclosed with your copy of the August newsletter is your renewal envelope. Please fill out and return with your dues as soon as possible. Renewals begin in August for the next year with reminders sent out with the November newsletter. (Life members and recent members will not receive an envelope.)

We thank all of our dedicated members for their continued support of our mission, and our many programs and activities that serve the community.



At the Historical Society's Annual Dinner held on May 23rd we heard from speaker **Mike Grobbel**, right, of the Michigan Military and Space Heroes Museum. Mike talked on Michigan's little-known 'Polar Bear Regiment' which fought the Bolsheviks in North Russia at the end of World War I. Attending the dinner were **Jim Stocking**, left, and **Arvilla Pegouske**, center, who were presented with certificates of service from the Polar Bear Memorial Association for their ancestors, **Vernie Stocking**, and **Walter Pegouske**, who had served with the Polar Bears expedition in 1918-1919.

**MUSEUM GROUNDS CLEAN-UP DAY
SATURDAY, SEPT 14TH 10AM TO 2PM
HELPING HANDS APPRECIATED!**





Military Service Registry Lincoln Park, Michigan

For those men and women from the Lincoln Park community who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, through the current day.

NAME OF INDIVIDUAL WHO SERVED: _____

Hometown: _____

Birth date: _____ [Death date: _____ if applicable]

Period of Conflict: _____
i.e. World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, Iraq, War on Terror, or peacetime

Branch of Service and Unit if known: _____

Years of Service if known: _____

Rank if known: _____

Years Lived in Lincoln Park _____



Local family contact name and contact information:

Other information you would like to provide: _____

Please return to: Jeff Day, Curator, Lincoln Park Historical Museum
1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146
or email to lpmuseum@gmail.com or call us at 313-386-3137 for additional information