

THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER

Est 1955

February, March, April 2024

www.lphistorical.org

lpmuseum@gmail.com

Visit our Facebook page

313-386-3137

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

Museum Hours: Wednesday & Saturday 1 pm to 6 pm

APRIL 25TH ANNUAL DINNER

BILL MORRISON SPEAKER

Artist Bill Morrison will be our featured speaker at the Historical Society annual dinner this year, held on Thursday, April 25th. Bill grew up in Lincoln Park and graduated in the Lincoln Park High School Class of 1977. He began his career in Detroit as a technical illustrator, but when Bill decided he had rendered his last diesel fuel pump, he moved to Southern California with his wife, Kayre.

He began working immediately in motion picture advertising and painted dozens of movie posters, including many for Walt Disney Pictures, such as *The Little Mermaid*, *Bambi*, *Peter Pan*, *Cinderella*, and *The Jungle Book*.

In addition to his work on *The Simpsons* and *Futurama*, 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-Go's). Bill is a past President of the National Cartoonists Society and former managing editor of *Mad Magazine*. He and Kayre currently reside in St. Clair Shores.

In 2016, Lincoln Park honored Bill with the "Key to The City" at the museum's career retrospective. Then-Mayor Tom Karnes stated, "Bill's talents were renowned in Mixer Elementary and Huff Junior High School before they were shared with the world. He left his mark as a great artist while retaining hometown values. He is a true Lincoln Parker."

In 2021, Bill created the illustration 'Made in Lincoln Park' to honor the 100-year anniversary of the incorporation of the Village of Lincoln Park; his design featured many seminal figures who left their mark on American culture over the century.



Bill and one of his muses at the drawing table

Members will receive their dinner invitations mailed to them in March. Reservations for the event are necessary and can be made with the museum office at 313-386-3137 or lpmuseum@gmail.com, prior to April 20th or until we reach seating capacity. Contact us for making online payments or for more information.

The cost for our members and their guests is \$15 per person. Non-members are invited to attend at the cost of \$20 per person. (Note: Membership fees are \$15 a year for one and \$20 a year for couples.)

Payments can be made to "Lincoln Park Historical Society". The dinner location is the Lincoln Park High School cafeteria, accessed at the school's east end parking lot off Champaign Road. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. with live entertainment provided by "Darin and Jonny" playing soft rock and everyone's favorites. Many will recall them giving a fantastic performance at last year's event. A variety of strolling food and beverage stations will be available prior to the program beginning at 7:00 p.m.

PLANNING AHEAD

All events held at the historical museum unless otherwise noted.

Saturday February 10th 12 pm to 4 pm – **Lincoln Park's Annual Chocolate Walk**, includes a stop right here at the museum! Start off at Park Restaurant 1681 Fort Street, with a map, grab a treat at each of the participating locations and enter to win prizes!

Wednesday March 13, 7:00 pm – Presentation by museum curator Jeff Day, offering background on the City's 100-year anniversary coming up in 2025.

Wednesday April 3, 7:00 pm – “Clara – The Believer” a presentation on Clara Bryant Ford, the wife of Henry Ford, by Mark Campbell and Ruth Gatza of the Henry Ford Heritage Association; a follow-up to their Henry Ford program of last fall.

Thursday April 25th, 6:00 pm – **Historical Society Annual Dinner**, will feature award-winning illustrator and cartoonist, Bill Morrison, a Lincoln Park native, offering a unique look at his 40-year-plus career. This event is sure to be a sell out! Held at the Lincoln Park High School cafeteria (see article on page 1 for more info.)

Saturday May 4, 10am to 1pm – **Museum Grounds Clean-up Day!** Able-bodied volunteers needed! Yard gloves recommended; refreshments available for the work crew. [Rain date will be Saturday May 11.]

Wednesday May 8, 7:00 pm – “The Incredible Journey to Midnight”, the story of the Underground Railroad in Detroit, presented by Karin Risko, city tour guide and author of “A History Lover's Guide to Detroit”.

Saturday May 18, at 12 noon – **The Annual Memorial Bell-Ringing Ceremony** on the Museum lawn; held the day prior to the city's Sunday noon Memorial Day Parade/ ceremony at Memorial Park.

Below, Annette DeMaggio, of the Lincoln Park Garden Club, leads a class on Butterflies and Your Garden, one of three gardening classes held at the museum during the month of January.



Building Preservation Grants Sought

The **Tom Roberts Architectural (TRA)** building assessment of the museum/historic post office building – the first conducted in some thirty years – was submitted to the Lincoln Park Historical Commission last fall and in January a study session was held to discuss the report and its recommendations. Major issues for the building involve the north façade, where the main entrance to the 85-year old building has been slowly dealing with structural brick and stone issues, limestone, granite, and concrete; mortar joints; iron railings; window trim; and chimney and roofing issues. The Commission has begun the process of reviewing grant possibilities to help with these matters. We will keep you posted about any developments.

CURRENT DISPLAY & CONTRIBUTIONS

A varied selection of artifacts received over the past year is on exhibit in the museum's main display case for the next couple of months. (photo at right)

We are also grateful for the most recent contributions to the collections from: Ed Clemente, Kathy Carter, Tom Karnes, Arvilla Pegouske, and 'anonymous'.



Wednesday, April 3rd 7:00 P.M.
“Clara – The Believer”

Will serve as a follow-up to the Henry Ford Heritage Association’s presentation here last fall on Henry Ford the man. In April, we will hear the story of **Clara Bryant Ford** from HFHA’s Mark Campbell and Ruth Gatza.

Henry Ford was an automotive and business icon, but at home Clara was both head of the household and his most cherished advisor. Henry said many times, “The greatest day in my life is when I married Mrs. Ford.”

In addition to her steadfast support of her husband’s endeavors, Clara Bryant Ford was influential at pivotal points in the history of the Ford Motor Company and was instrumental in their philanthropic efforts like the Henry Ford Hospital.

You will also learn about Clara’s love of gardening, family, and the charities she supported in her lifetime. The program is at 7:00 p.m. at the museum and is open to the public; there is no charge to attend.

Wednesday, May 8th 7:00 P.M.
“The Underground Railroad in Detroit”

On Wednesday May 8 at 7:00 p.m. author Karen Risko will present her talk entitled “The Incredible Journey to Midnight” on the history of The Underground Railroad in Detroit; MIDNIGHT, the final juncture before freedom, was the code name for Detroit.

Karin operates City Tour Detroit; among her offerings are walking tours that lead participants along two miles of the path freedom seekers took. A former schoolteacher, Karin has a Major in History from Central Michigan University, and has written two books about local history, “Michigan Civil War Landmarks”, and a “History Lovers Guide to Detroit”. Her tours website can be accessed at <https://citytourdetroit.com/> (see photo on this page.) The talk is open to the public with free admission.

In addition to the above spring programs, on Wednesday March 13th, at 7:00 p.m. curator Jeff Day will review with us some of the milestones that occurred in 1924 as the flourishing community headed toward a vote for cityhood in January of 1925.

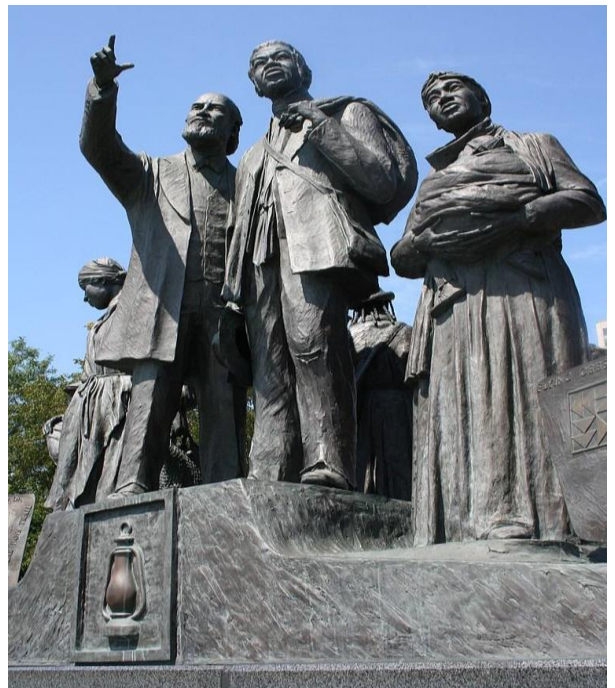
MEMBERSHIP

We are very pleased to welcome “The Henry Ford Heritage Association” of Dearborn as our newest Life Member!

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their memberships for the new year. Those members who haven’t yet renewed for 2024 recently received a reminder letter in the mail.

We are also grateful to those who contributed to the Annual Giving campaign for 2023.

Membership dues and contributions go far in supporting the mission, the operations, and the programs of the Historical Society, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization. Keep in mind that contributions over and above your membership dues are tax-deductible.



“The Gateway to Freedom” International Underground Railroad Memorial in Detroit’s Hart Plaza; its sister piece, “Tower of Freedom”, sits across the river in Windsor. Both monuments, completed in 2001 for the Detroit Tricentennial celebration, were created by renowned Denver sculptor Edward Dwight.

From our intern, Adrian Ace

As my time at the museum has continued, I’ve had the pleasure of assisting in a number of projects. Such as the newsletter, digitizing, indexing, scanning, and storage of museum documents and collections, grant writing assistance, and much more. Having the ability to help my community and work with a wonderful group of likeminded members of the community such as those at the museum has been a fantastic experience.



THEN & NOW The Victorian-era home of Herman and Mary (Goodell) Quandt, located on State Street (Southfield Rd) where Fort St. once ended, is seen below circa 1924; when Fort Street was cut through to the south in 1925, the home was moved to Fort Park where it still stands at 2119 Fort Park, at left.



1924 - A Decisive Year

When we look at early Lincoln Park history, we usually think about two years in particular: 1921 and 1925 – the former the year the community of several hundred voted to incorporate as a rural Village, and the latter year, which introduced a vigorous, reincorporated city of over 9,000, supported by thriving businesses, schools and churches. The centennial anniversaries of these two years coming just four years apart rightly warrant a community’s celebrations.

In between, our population had grown to accommodate the demand for labor in the ever-increasing industrial economy centered at Detroit. Issues of housing and real estate, commercial and municipal development came to dominate the local conversation and governmental action; topics of water and sewers and roads very likely took precedence over the 1924 U.S. presidential election.

Those intervening years require a closer look. Having crossed into 2024, we can take this time – this year – to look back one hundred years to Lincoln Park’s most active growth spurt just prior to its citizens’ vote for cityhood.

The museum will be using our Facebook page to post many of these stories and will share them on our website through the coming year. A special newsletter issued in the fall will look at 1924 and the run-up to the city’s centennial commemoration next year.

In Memoriam

In the past year, we sadly said goodbye to many of our long-time members:

Former director **Muriel Lobb**, at age 105 (Muriel worked until she was nearly 97!)

Frank English

Jim Fox

Hilda June

James Magyari

Joyce Szabo

Jean Wilk

MEMBERS AND READERS - As we were heading to the final draft and printing of the newsletter, we received sad news of the passing of musician Wayne Kramer, guitarist and vocalist for the MC5, Lincoln Park’s rock ‘n’ roll pioneers, on February 3, 2024. Wayne was 75. We will share Wayne’s amazing story and his music career with our readers in the next newsletter due in May.

Lincoln Park Historical Society Board and Museum Staff 2023-24

President	Jim Nelson
Vice President/Treasurer	Jim Mixer
Secretary	Linda Mixer
Trustees	Tom Karnes
	Bea Partridge
	Alyce Riggs

Museum Curator & newsletter editor: Jeff Day
 Membership Chair: Sandi Horst
 Website Admin.: Emily Solomon
 Custodian: Robert French
 Intern: Adrian Ace

 Board meetings are held on the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 3:15 p.m. The Historical Society Newsletter is published quarterly. To be added to our email list and help save postage costs, please email us at: lpmuseum@gmail.com As of last fall, we are now emailing more newsletters than mailing them. Thanks to you!