

# THE LINCOLN PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

## NEWSLETTER

Established 1955

February, March, April 2020

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

1335 Southfield Rd, Lincoln Park, MI 48146

313-386-3137

lpmuseum@gmail.com

also visit our Facebook page

### “Leap Into The Past” Saturday, February 29, 2020 12:00pm-6:00pm

After being closed to the public for two months, the museum reopens with a special event held on Saturday February 29<sup>th</sup> – Leap Year Day – titled “Leap Into the Past” (special thanks to member Sandi Horst for that title). We invite our members and other Lincoln Park residents to bring their family histories that day to add to the museum’s collections and archives. We will be scanning photos and written histories from 12 noon to 6pm. We will also provide amusements for young visitors who can journey into the past of wooden toys and games, dial phones, transistor radios, a 45-rpm record player, and other time warp ‘artifacts’.

So, what have we been up to for two months, you might ask? Mainly, focusing on the cleaning and re-organizing of the museum’s lower level storage areas which have been largely neglected for too many years. Quite a number of items that came from the previous museum, located on Cleophus, to our new building in 1993 have been found wrapped up in newspapers dated that year. Among the finds is a large collection of 38 historic LP Police Department photos that were at one time displayed in wooden frames on the walls of the old museum. These were carefully wrapped and boxed over 25 years ago and were recently rediscovered in a back-storage area. We were very excited to run across this collection, with their neatly-typed caption cards.

For March and April, a selection of the rediscovered items will be placed on display in the main exhibit case, along with unique pieces that have been recently donated to the museum. These include a wonderful collection of Native American artifacts from the family of member Doris Blessing; the Blessing family is descended from Detroit’s original French settlers and Potawatomi elders.



Some of the recent donated Native American artifacts - a gift from the Doris Blessing family, are currently being assessed.

Also acquired recently is a Milligan Special Slingshot – whose mail order address in the 1950s was a P.O. Box in Lincoln Park, Michigan! We are still researching this item, so if anyone knows anything about the Milligan slingshot please contact us. We hope to update you in the May newsletter.

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*DuMouchelles*  
*Antique Appraisal Clinic*

**An antique appraisal clinic**, conducted by Detroit’s DuMouchelles Art Gallery and sponsored by the Lincoln Park High School class of 1970’s 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary reunion committee, will take place at the museum on **Saturday May 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** Proceeds will benefit the upcoming Class of 1970 Reunion and the Historical Museum. DuMouchelles appraisers will be on site to evaluate antiques and family treasures and give attendees a verbal appraisal. Two items are allowed per each 15-minute appointment. **\$8 fee per item appraised.** Appointments are required, call Sue at 734-424-9998 as soon as possible to assure an appraisal slot. On the morning of Saturday, May 2nd, please call the Museum for additional information: 313-386-3137.

## Raupp School Memories

*Our thanks to member Richard Kohs  
for submitting the following article*



*William Raupp School on Ethel at Cicotte circa 1940s.*

**We four Kohs boys were born at home** – 1316 Ethel Street – a half block away from Raupp School. Dr. Herkimer, who was our family doctor, brought each of us to the house in his little black bag (that was the extent of sex education in the 1930s). Dad worked at the paper mill in Delray. Mom worked at home raising four boys in a typical one-bathroom, two-bedroom Lincoln Park bungalow. Thanks to Grandpa, a dormer was added, creating a large bedroom for the three older boys. The Raupp School quadrant was bordered by Montie on the north, Le Jeune on the east, Southfield on the south, and Fort Street on the west. Except for the few who went to St. Henry Catholic School, everyone went to Raupp. I could name dozens of blue-collar families like ours.

My brothers and I went to Raupp for K-8 and then LPHS for 9-12, (Robert January 1947, Charles January 1949, Richard (me) January 1950, and Gerald June 1956). During the war years there were plenty of vacant lots for playing whatever sport was in season. A few of the lots were used for 'victory gardens' - Dad had one. We learned how to dig, rake, plant, and hoe early on.

The best part was the tomato fights in late autumn - after all the good tomatoes had been picked. After the war the vacant lots were built up with new pre-fab bungalows, forcing us to either play in the street, or play on the Raupp baseball/football field.

## In Memoriam

Loretta Kohs September 1, 2019

G. Lewis Laney April 4, 2018

Margorie Laney September 9, 2019

Virginia Smith November 1, 2019

*Life member No. 159*

Kathleen (Crowley) Tabin January 4, 2020

*Life member No. 62*

Marian Vandenberg October 23, 2019

Jack Vincent July 11, 2019

We have also learned of the passing of Lincoln Park native Clark DuBois, Sr., last August 20<sup>th</sup> at age 85 in Rockwood. DuBois & Sons Plumbing & Heating had been a multi-generation family business, located on Southfield Road for over five decades. Family patriarch Joseph DuBois was Lincoln Park's first chief of police in the early 1920s.

A typical Saturday morning (after chores) went like this: baseball in summer, football in fall, hockey (on the Ecorse Creek) in winter. And if Mr. Knacker, the Raupp janitor, would allow us, basketball in the Raupp gym in the winter.

I would like to include the names of all the wonderful families and teachers whom I have not forgotten, but will not do so for fear of leaving someone out. I cannot end this without mentioning Potter's store on Cicotte. Mrs. [Lorraine] Potter allowed us to put groceries on our 'tab' which would then be paid off on payday. Mr. [Edward] Potter made homemade ice cream, all the while with that long cigar in his mouth.

Carhopping in the winter was dangerous but fun. For those of you who don't know – carhopping was done when the roads were icy and we would grab the back bumper as the car took off from in front of Potter's. It was not really much fun, though, if you had holes in your soles, as many of us did in those poor, but wonderfully happy days - growing up near Raupp School.

It would be great to hear from any of you who have been blessed with longevity, as I have been.

Dick Kohs [rfklmk@aol.com](mailto:rfklmk@aol.com)

[ed. info from 1940s LP Polk Directory]

## **CALENDAR of EVENTS**

*All events are free unless otherwise indicated  
The public is invited to attend all Society events.*

**The Museum is closed in February as we continue the cleaning and re-organizing of our lower level storage areas; Open by appointment only.**

**Special event: Sunday February 16, the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Lincoln Park/DDA Chocolate Walk** – from 1pm to 4pm. Stop by Park Restaurant on Fort Street to register and pick up a list of participating sites, which includes the museum. The route may be walked or driven.

**Saturday, February 29** – 12 noon to 6 pm, the Museum will reopen on Leap Day with a special **“LEAP INTO THE PAST”** event; see the page 1 article.

**Wednesday March 4** – 7pm; The first evening Society program of the new year: A selection of historic silent films from the Blackhawk film catalog, shown on a real, live movie projector! Program is expected to last about 50 minutes; popcorn available. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**Wednesday April 1** – 7pm; program: **“Incredible Journey to Midnight: Detroit Underground Railroad** - in a presentation by Lincoln Park author **Karin Risko**. Doors open at 6:30pm.

**Saturday April 4** – The Historical Society’s visit to the Conservation and Museum Services studio in Detroit – see article on this page. This is a fundraising event for members only. Limit of 20 people. Advance reservation needed by April 1, or until the 20 spaces are filled.

**Wednesday April 15** – deadline for submitting Heritage Plaza brick orders for 2020 (dedicated on May 16th)

**Saturday May 2** – 9:30am to 3:30 p.m. Antique Appraisal Clinic – see article on page 1.

**Saturday May 9** – Spring Museum Grounds Clean-Up Day, 10am to 2pm; refreshments provided.

**Saturday May 16** – 12 Noon, Historical Society’s Annual Memorial Bell-ringing Ceremony and dedication of the new Heritage Plaza engraved bricks.

**Sunday May 17** – 1:00pm, The Annual John D. Dingell Memorial Day Parade along Fort Street followed by the Memorial Park ceremony.



Zoltan Sepeshy’s mural, *Hauling in the Net*, is undergoing restoration at Conservation and Museum Services studio in Detroit before it returns to Beaver Island.

Photo credit, Jeff Day

**Historical Society Members are being offered a special treat** – a visit to Detroit’s Conservation and Museum Services studio to observe the Zoltan Sepeshy Depression-era mural “Hauling in the Net” up close during its conservation process.

We will meet with the studio’s head conservator, Ken Katz who will explain the steps that have gone into the mural’s restoration. This visit is offered as a member fundraiser to benefit the cost of the mural’s full-scale replica. The replica will make its way to the Lincoln Park museum later this spring for installation as the original is returned to Beaver Island. (see November 2019 newsletter for more of the story.)

The studio visit takes place on **Saturday April 4**, with car-pooling from the Lincoln Park Museum lot leaving promptly at **9:30 a.m.** We will return no later than 12 noon. Members who plan to go are being asked to contribute a \$20 donation per person, paid in advance. Any non-members who wish to attend will need to first become members at the individual member rate of \$15. (Memberships are renewed annually.) **Please note there are only twenty reserved spaces available for the tour, on a first-come, first-served basis. For reservations or more information, contact the museum at 313-386-3137 or [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com).**

When the restoration is finished, a full-scale replica will be made from a hi-resolution image and installed here, above the door to the postmaster’s office in the lobby. Look for information on the dedication in our May newsletter.

The restored mural will return to the Beaver Island Historical Museum and be re-dedicated there in the museum’s new building addition this July.

## The Annual Giving Campaign Report & Building Windows Fund for 2020-2021

Over \$1300 was received from the Historical Society's 2019 annual giving campaign, monies which are earmarked for new windows for the historical museum. Current quotes for the work received from area companies have ranged from \$12,000 to \$15,000; and quotes are still being sought. The work will be completed in stages as money becomes available. Our expectation is that all will be completed when the 100-year celebration of Lincoln Park is observed in 2021. Direct gifts can be made to the museum's window campaign at any time. Contact us for additional information.



Our recent holiday display of dolls in the main case was put together by volunteers Sandi Horst, Jackie Clark and Merritt Solomon. Our thanks to these ladies!

### “Many hands make light work.”

The Museum Grounds Spring clean-up day is planned for Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> under the guidance of our chief gardenier, Annette DeMaggio. The hours are from 10am to 2pm. Refreshments will be provided to all helpers. If you can come, bring yard tools and work gloves.

**HERITAGE PLAZA BRICK ORDERS FOR 2020** are being accepted through April 15<sup>th</sup>. Order forms are available at the museum, city hall, and the library, or via email from [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com). These will be dedicated on Saturday, May 16<sup>th</sup>. Call us for information, 313-386-3137.

We are happy to report that the Lincoln Park History Coloring Book project, sponsored by the LPHS Class of 1979, has so far received gifts of \$1,500, halfway towards its goal of \$3,000. Contributions are still being accepted, including those gifts made to the Jack Hinske Memorial Fund. Most recently, illustrator Bill Morrison of the class of 1977, has signed on as a participating artist. Other alumni artists are invited to assist with the book's illustrations. Contact project manager Laura Jackson for more information, at [ljackson48154@gmail.com](mailto:ljackson48154@gmail.com)

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY PROGRAMS

### Blackhawk Films

We will hold our first Wednesday evening program of the year on March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. with a showcase of short silent films from the Blackhawk historic films catalog; the films to be shown are from the personal collection of downriver historian and educator George Gouth. These films will be exhibited using a real, live film projector! The program is expected to last about 50 minutes - and popcorn will be available.

On Wednesday April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 p.m. join us for an opportunity to experience the “**Incredible Journey to Midnight: Detroit Underground Railroad**”, a presentation by Lincoln Park author Karin Risko. A secret network of routes and safe houses that led enslaved African-Americans from the slave states of the south to the free northern states and Canada, the story of the Underground Railroad is a critical element in the understanding of early Michigan and Detroit history.

### *Lincoln Park Historical Society Board 2019-2020*

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

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

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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 your email at: [lpmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:lpmuseum@gmail.com)