

Volume 31, No. 2
Spring 2015

**Board of Directors
Bi-Monthly Meetings**

April 27
June 29
August 31
October 26
December 28

All meetings are held bi-monthly on the last Monday of each even-numbered month at 7 p.m. at the Society, 1447 W. Morse Avenue and are open to all members.

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2015-2016 New Board and Officers Elected

By Hank Morris

At our annual meeting and election of officers held on Saturday, March 28, 2015, at the Rogers Park Library, many of our long-time board of directors members reached their term limit and had to step down, to be replaced by a new slate. Term limits for board members are three two-year terms, or a total of six years.

We elect new board members every year, but a board member, as suggested serves a two-year term. We elect two slates staggered so that about half get elected one year and the other half gets elected on the following year. This method improves continuity as we never have all novices needing to "learn the ropes." There are always "seasoned veterans" to help maintain stability.

The Society wishes to thank the following retiring members of our board for their service:

Glenna Eaves
Sister Sue Kilduski, OSB
Hank Morris
Colleen Sen
Karen Tipp

All of these retiring Board members have been long-time volunteers with the Society and will continue in other capacities. Glenna Eaves chairs the Membership and Collections Teams, and Hank Morris chairs the Publications

Team and edits *The Historian*. Sister Sue Kilduski and Colleen Sen will continue to serve on the Program Team. Karen Tipp will continue as liaison with several West Ridge organizations.

The new board, elected at this meeting, include:

Bruce Boyd, Co-Owner of the Lang House Bed and Breakfast and manager of the Emil Bach House.

Robert Fuller, Legislative Aide to Alderman Joe Moore of the 49th Ward. David Kalensky, Project Manager at the Gas Technology Institute .

Frank Valadez, Executive Director of the Chicago Metro History Education Center.

Remaining board members carried over are:

Katie Macica
Kay McSpadden
Hope Shannon
Donna Vitale
Ken Walchak

Our 2014-2015 Officers, (elected by the board) are:

Ken Walchak, President
Kay McSpadden, Vice President

The Board is seeking a Secretary and Treasurer or one person to serve as combined Secretary/Treasurer. □

Rogers Park /
West Ridge
Historical Society

**Board of Directors
2014-2015**

President
Ken Walchak

Vice President
Katherine McSpadden

Directors
Bruce Boyd
Robert Fuller
David Kalensky
Katie Macica
Kay McSpadden
Hope Shannon
Frank Valadez
Donna Vitale
Ken Walchak

The Historian
published quarterly by
The Rogers Park/West Ridge
Historical Society

Editor
Hank Morris

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David Richert

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Kathryn Siemianowski

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David Richert
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**The Cabbagehead
E-Newsletter Editor**
Hank Morris

Assyrian Church's Patriarch's Funeral Held in Rogers Park, April 8, 2015

By Hank Morris



Funeral Procession of His Holiness Khanania Dinkha IV, the 111th Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East.

The funeral for His Holiness Khanania Dinkha IV, the 111th Patriarch of the Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East, was held on Wednesday, April 8, 2015 from Mar Gewargis Cathedral, (a.k.a. St. George Church) at 7201 N. Ashland Avenue.

The funeral service was attended by dozens of civil and religious dignitaries, including Roman Catholic Archbishop Blase Cupich. The event was broadcast live by Assyrian National Broadcasting, and was viewed by hundreds of thousands of Assyrians throughout the world. The funeral service began at 10 a.m. at St. George Church in Rogers Park, Chicago, and ended at about 12:30 p.m.

The Patriarch was laid to rest in Montrose Cemetery in Chicago.

The Holy Apostolic Catholic Assyrian Church of the East has communities in Canada, United States, most European countries, Australia, New Zealand, and India.

Patriarch Khanania Dinkha was born in the village of Darbandokeh (Derbendoki), Iraq, on Sunday, September 15, 1935. He was ordained a priest on Monday, July 15, 1957 and appointed to the ministry in Urmia, Iran. He

was consecrated as bishop on Sunday, February 11, 1962.

In 1976, the patriarchal see became vacant with the assassination of Patriarch Mar Eshai Shimun XXIII by an estranged relative. The Assyrian bishops gathered in London, and elected Mar Dinkha, the then bishop of Iran, as the 111th Patriarch of the Church, with the new patriarch taking the name of Mar Dinkha IV. Patriarch Dinkha, served 39 years at his post. His tenure was the tenth longest in church history.

Because of the Iran-Iraq War, 1980-1988, Patriarch Dinkha went into exile and moved the patriarchal see from Iran to the Chicago area. The church officials incorporated in Morton Grove and sought a new site for their patriarchal see; selecting, in 1992, the former Sixteenth Church of Christ Scientist building at 7201 N. Ashland Avenue. They renamed the building Mar Gewargis Cathedral, (a.k.a. St. George Church).

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society extends its condolences.

Additional information can be found at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assyrian_Church_of_the_East □

From the President's Desk



Ken Walchak

Hi All,

I have been involved with the RPWRHS for several years now, and I can honestly say that it is getting more and more fun to be a socialite—is that the proper term for a member of the Historical Society?

Last night I attended a lecture by our longtime Board member Colleen Sen at the Nortown Branch Library on the subject of Indian cuisine, and Devon Avenue. Kay McSpadden has put together a string of terrific talks—one on the Native American community on the North side. The one on the architecture of the Chicago Public Schools was fascinating. Most recently there was a really out-of-the-ordinary talk by survivors of the World War II Japanese Internment camps. Kudos to Kay, who keeps raising the bar for these talks. In order to be sure you don't miss

them, please make sure you are on our e-mail list, or better yet, make sure you are a society member.

We have a new board since last we spoke. We have said goodbye to Board Members, Hank Morris, Karen Tipp, Sr. Sue Kilduski, Colleen Sen, and Glenna Eaves. These folks have been here since before the beginning, and I want to personally thank them again for their service, and encourage them all to remain engaged with the Society, as we go forward. We have also added 4 new members who I hope will challenge the rest of us to continue to do work we can be proud of. Bruce Boyd, the general manager of Lang House B.&B. Bob Fuller, a member of Alderman Moore's staff, and longtime Westridger, Dave Kalensky. I hope you all enjoy yourselves.

By the way, the turnout at every event I have attended lately has been great. We do not charge for these evenings, though we are happy to accept large donations. Seriously, your time could not be better spent, than to join us for an evening. I feel the momentum building, as we head in to summer history season!

Join us.

Ken Walchak

Do you receive our *Cabbagehead*?

Your society sends out an electronic newsletter frequently. It contains news of events that were announced AFTER the previous *Historian* newsletter was mailed and will occur BEFORE the next issue of the *Historian* is published. It's our way of getting the word out to our membership about things they otherwise might not learn about.

Send us your e-mail address to insure that you're on the distribution list. Just send us an e-mail at info@rpwrhs.org with the subject "Cabbagehead".

Membership as of May 1, 2015

Welcome New Members

Individual

Kim Brown
Patricia Barker Foster

Household

Lisa Dichiera & John Kane

Senior

Anna Dominou
James Dunat
Georgia Evans
David Samuelson

Patron

Debra Silverstein

Life

Glenn Woodside

Thanks for Renewing

Individual

LeRoy Blommaert
Linda Bressler
Marguerite Cusick
Mike Eischen
George Glastris
Margaret Gregory
James Hayes
Pat Shaw
Donald Sprague

Household

Laurie Erickson &
Dennis Sherman
Gwen Gregory & Don Meyer
Brett Keller & Andrea Monter
Nancy Jane Lauren &
Frank Pokorny
Hank & Carol Morris
James Redlich & Myra Epping
David & Karen Roeder
William Siavelis & Vicki Curtis
Warren & Eileen Skora
Arlene Swartzman

Senior

Adrian Ford
John Keller

continued on page 4

**Membership as of
May 1, 2015**

continued from page 3

Senior

Gary Knutson
Roberta Motanky
Jerome Yanoff

Senior Household

Robert & Mildred Heinemann
Jan & Carleen Lorys
Michael & Sara O'Connor
David & Ingrid Stalle

Premium

Linda Bloomfield
Elaine Igelman
David & Donna Richert
Steve Silverman & Janet Leder
Amy Windler

Patron

William Kundert
Colleen & Ashish Sen
Ronald Tarrson
Dona Vitale
Ken Walchak

Business

Dorian Bezanis

Life

Frank Valadez

David Alan Fortman

Mon., March 2, 1936-Mon., Feb. 9, 2015

By Hank Morris

The Rogers Park neighborhood lost a long-time resident and our Society lost a good friend with the passing of David Alan Fortman, 6836 N. Ridge Boulevard. Never pretentious, he always seemed humble about himself, but very proud of his family's heritage, his home, and the community.

David was born on Monday, March 2, 1936 to Albert Joseph Fortman (1905-1977) and Mary Madeline Fortman, nee: Mary Madeline Morris (1907-1977) at Swedish Covenant Hospital, 5145 N. California Avenue. At that time, Albert and Mary were living at 6836 N. Ridge Boulevard. David attended St. Henry's School where his father, Albert, was the Scoutmaster for the Boy Scouts.

During May 1964 (the Viet Nam War), 1st Lieutenant David A. Fortman was assigned to Special Forces Headquarters Air Field, Nha Trang, Vietnam where he flew USAF C-123's, ferried parachute insertion of A Teams, flew night protection missions with B-26 Air Cap, and resupply missions, as needed. He was also credited with having flown several SR-71 Blackbird missions.

David retired from the Air Force as a Captain. In 1962, while he was in flight school, David Fortman married Rosemarie "Dodie" Fortman, nee: Rosemarie "Dodie" Schneible, a registered nurse. She held a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Barry College, Florida.

The couple had son Timothy and daughters: Jennifer, Madeline, and Christine.

Sadly, Dodie died at their home Wednesday, April 22, 1998, after a long battle with cancer. David's second wife was Audile Fortman, nee:



David Allan Fortman, Monday, March 2, 1936 to Monday, February 9, 2015.

Audile Bourcier. This made him the step-father of Audile's children, Marc (Kristin) Belanger and Eric-Paul (Kimberley) Belanger.

In civilian life, David was an accountant. He had many clients in Hyannis, MA, Centerville, MA, and, West Yarmouth, MA. His death was reported in the *Cape Cod Times*, February 13, 2015.

Visitation was held Sunday, February 15, 2015 from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the John E. Maloney Co. Funeral Home, 1359 W. Devon Avenue, Chicago. Interment was at St. Henry Cemetery (Ridge Ave & Devon) Chicago. □

Forgotten Hero Finally Recognized

By Hank Morris

Clarence H. Bixler (1856-1892) was a Village of Rogers Park police officer who died from a gunshot wound on Wednesday, June 22, 1892. While the Chicago Police Department has the great **Gold Star Families Memorial and Park**, McFetridge Drive & Museum Campus Drive, (near Soldier Field) dedicated to fallen officers, and the “Honored Star Case” which contains the badges of deceased officers and is located inside the reception area at the Chicago Police Department Headquarters, 3510 S. Michigan Avenue; sadly, there is simply NO memorial to honor fallen officers from the Villages of Rogers Park, and/or West Ridge pre-annexation. So, there has been no place to officially honor Officer Bixler.

Dwayne Bixler contacted RPWRHS to learn if we had any additional information about his fallen relative. He also inquired about local news outlets who might be willing to do a piece about Officer Bixler. We pointed him towards several, and it seemed reasonable to do something ourselves.

Mr. Bixler learned of the **National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund Office** in Washington, D.C. They have a mechanism in place to provide recognition for current fallen officers as well as including those officers who deserved recognition. He informs us that on Wednesday, May 13, 2015, Officer Bixler will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial.

We have not found any reference to Officer Bixler's death other than in a *Chicago Tribune* article published on Wednesday, June 22, 1892, page 5. So, here's a copy of the *Tribune* article:

FATAL QUARREL AT ROGERS PARK

A Dispute Leads to a Suicide and a Probable Murder

A quarrel over the possession of a bicycle caused a double crime in Rogers Park last night. In trying to separate Frank and William Doyle, two brothers who were fighting, Officer Clarence H. Bixler (36), of the Rogers Park police force was fatally wounded, and the denouncement of the shooting was Frank Doyle's suicide. The Doyle boys have always borne a bad reputation in the little suburb, and have caused the police considerable trouble.

At 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon Frank Doyle borrowed his brother's bicycle without asking his permission and rode to

Rosehill Cemetery. This angered William and he started in pursuit of his brother intending, as he said, to take the wheel away from him by force, if necessary. The two men met in the cemetery and William demanded the return of the wheel. “I will give it to you when I am ready and not before,” said Frank.

“We won't settle it now, but we will when we get back to Rogers Park,” was the reply which William made, as he turned and left the cemetery.

Frank Doyle rode back to Rogers Park, arriving there at 7:30 o'clock. On the way he met several friends, and to one he remarked, “I am going to fix the first man who tries to separate me from my brother tonight.” Subsequent developments proved that his prophesy was true.

Near the [Police] station [at 7075 N. Clark Street] in Rogers Park the two brothers met again. The crowd urged the men to fight, it is said, but Frank Doyle showed no such inclination. He went to the home of a friend. It was there that Officer Bixler met him.

“I understand you and William have been quarreling again,” said Bixler in a joking way.

Before he had a chance to utter another word [Frank] Doyle had whipped out his revolver, and aiming at Bixler's head he fired. The officer sank to the pavement unconscious. Doyle quietly replaced the revolver in his pocket and walked to his own home, four blocks distant. At the front steps of his house he paused a moment as if hesitating whether to enter or not, suddenly drew his revolver again and put a bullet into his right temple. Death came to him instantly. His mother summoned assistance and the remains were carried into the parlor.

Two men found Officer Bixler lying upon the sidewalk, and they carried him to the town hall, where a physician was summoned. The officer was very weak from loss of blood and it was not thought that he could live over night. The bullet had entered his forehead just over the right eye, penetrating the brain. All efforts to revive him were in vain. Mr. Bixler is an unmarried man and lives in Rogers Park. The police did not arrest William Doyle. □

How Long-Time RPWRHS Member Frank Glapa Won the Prestigious 2014 Driehaus Medal

By Frank Glapa, Photos By Ann Glapa

My wife Ann and I love to sit on our front porch at 2601 W. Farwell Avenue, and have our breakfast, or lunch, or coffee, or drinks. We watch our neighbors walking by towards Indian Boundary Park or just walking by with their children or pets. The greenery usually hides us from view, but when we see neighbors going by we usually say hi!

The saga of our “Marquee” began about 3+ years ago when Ann heard strange noises while sitting underneath the overhang, drinking coffee and reading on a balmy day.

She told me “snakes are moving up into the overhang.” I laughed; but I also realized that we had to do something soon, because the wood 2 X 4 holding the south end up since 2008, was finally going to need replacing.

Our house’s front entrance metal “Marquee” (overhang) was made in 1924 and needed a complete restoration after 90 years of sun, wind, and weather. [*Marquee: “a rooflike projection over the entrance of a theater, hotel, or other building.”*] It’s a decorative element above the front entry that shelters you from the elements.

We found it leaking and hanging at an angle and stopping the wood screen door from fully opening. It was made of galvanized sheet metal and stained glass. Copper was added on during previous repairs. But, because these two metals cannot be mixed; finally, the resultant electrolysis eroded those places where the parts had overlapped.

Raccoons and squirrels had cut holes and made nests inside. Rainwater leaked in, and the old wood frame inside was wet, heavy, and rotting. It could have dropped and crashed at any time, so we shored it up with a 2 X 4 wooden support structure and went to work.

We paid two different contractors over the last 20+ years to fix the marquee and neither knew how to restore it. They did a patch up, not the restoration work it needed—all they did was to cover up the mess. So I decided that if we wanted things done right, I’d have to do it myself.

The multifaceted solution was to shore up the structure with new chains into the eaves, as originally constructed in 1924, and to build a new metal framework to replace the old wooden



Frank M. Glapa’s Marquee project won the 2014 Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Award for Best Small Project.

one because I figured out that metal would last longer than the pine they used in 1924. Then I would top it off with new sheet metal and, finally, solder everything together.

Next, I added the reproduced bottom piece of galvanized sheet metal to enclose the overhang and make it complete.

Lastly, I stripped the old paint around the stained glass, fixed some metal holes caused by aging; primed things and painted them.

This was my own “modern” idea to help make it last another 90+ years.

We began the work in early September 2013.

First, I removed the galvanized steel bottom piece which I had remade by Lakefront Sheet Metal Supply. Then I deconstructed the marquee, piece by piece, starting with the rotting wood and rusting metal top.

I next relined the perimeter of the overhang with white oak and replaced the wood frame with steel. The whole hanging structure was supported with chains, as originally used; then I put the top back on and finished by removing the wood posts that were used to hold it up.

Work stopped during the frigid Winter of 2013-14.

We started to work again in April 2014.

I soldered the galvanized steel roof that I had fabricated and installed the bottom piece that was made by Lakefront Sheet



The finished marquee by Frank Glapa

Metal Supply. Then I scraped off all of the old, accumulated paint from the overhang around the stained glass, finally exposing all the fine detail, hidden for so many years. Finally, I painted the marquee with appropriate Arts and Crafts colors.

Hallelujah! We finished in August 2014; in time to honor the Bungalow's 90th Anniversary!

Frank and Ann took 48 photos of how the work progressed from beginning to end. [Click Here](#) to see a few of them.

Editor's Notes:

Frank told me that he "definitely would pass on the info to anyone wanting to do their own work; or to their contractor. He'd show them how; step-by-step if needed."

A **Master Roycrofter Artisan**, Frank Glapa provided all of the design, labor, and installation from beginning to end, except for the fabrication of the underlayment piece which was made by Lakefront Sheet Metal Supply. Frank says that as a Roycrofter "I create original and custom designs in copper, hammered brass, nickel silver, silver, and wood. I primarily work in the Arts and Crafts and Craftsman Style, inspired by the works of C.R. Mackintosh, Greene & Greene and The Roycroft Art Metal Shop."

What is the Driehaus Medal?

Each year, the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation honor homeowners whose work demonstrates the best bungalow landscaping, rehabilitation, and restoration projects. It is a juried competition with the panel of judges composed of preservationists, architects, neighborhood development professionals, community members, horticulturalists and energy efficiency professionals. Nominees are judged on the overall visual impression, the creative design solution, and how well the project maintains the integrity of the Historic Chicago Bungalow.

Awards are given in the following categories: Interior Rehabilitation, Interior Restoration, Exterior Rehabilitation; Green Project; Small Project; Landscape Design; and Window Repair.

Frank M. Glapa's Marquee was the 2014 Best Small Project Winner.

For more photos [Click Here](#) ☐

Survivors of Japanese-American Relocation Camps Tell Their Story

By Katherine Mcspadden



Elaine Kaneshiro begins her presentation.

The internment of Japanese-Americans, many of them natural born citizens of the United States, was the subject of the Society's program on Wednesday, April 29, 2015, at the Budlong Woods Branch Library, 5630 N. Lincoln Avenue. Elaine Kaneshiro, the first of three speakers, gave a historical overview of the "relocation" of 120,000 Japanese-Americans from the "exclusion zone" which included all of the west coast of the United States and extended some miles inland. The internees were given one week's notice and could take with them only what they could carry, and that was to include bedding and eating utensils. Ms. Kaneshiro showed poignant photos of belongings lining a street awaiting transport, lodgings some of which were former horse stables, and of families interned in the camps. One photo was a wedding picture of Elaine's parents who were married in one of the camps. Elaine's mother was in the audience for this presentation.

Following Elaine's presentation, Lois and Jim Shikami recounted some of their memories of living in the camps during three years of their childhood. Lois, whose family was

relocated to Idaho—to the camp described in the novel *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*--remembers her years in the camp as mainly idyllic, filled with the usual pleasures of childhood. However, she hid her past until thirty years ago when she received an assignment in a graduate class at Northeastern to write about something she had never told anyone. She read part of that essay at this program. She did not tell anyone because her new friends in Delevan, WI did not seem interested in where she had come from and also because they might make fun or be hostile.

Jim Shikami, spoke of some of the privations that his family suffered. He remembers the loss of privacy. Crossing the desert to Manzanar where his family was sent, he found there was no private place to perform nature's functions. In the camp, the men's washroom consisted of a long trough for urinating and five rows of toilets, none of them enclosed in stalls. When they arrived at the camp, soldiers searched their luggage. His family of eleven was allotted a living space that measured 20 x 25 and had one lightbulb. The desert air was extremely dusty.

The only way to avoid being incarcerated in a camp was to join the United States military—or to marry a soldier which four of Jim's sisters did. An all-Nisei army unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, was formed and, for its size and length of service, became the most decorated unit in U.S. history; Nisei refers to children born in the United States to Japanese immigrants.

Before internment, Jim's family had a thriving plant nursery business; they lost it together with one of two bank accounts, the other guarded by a non-Japanese family friend. When the camps were closed in 1945, families were given just \$25, tickets to where they were relocating, and a ration coupon.

Jim also remembers good times. He and his friends played baseball and basketball—someone rigged up a hoop—as well as cards; Monopoly© —was very popular. The camp had necessary services and shops, including barber and beauty shops, but the most popular and useful shop was the Sears catalog store.

When asked during the Question and Answer period how this shameful event in our country's history was allowed to

happen, Jim noted that the Japanese were not well liked but also commented that according to the FBI, no incidence of espionage was found among Japanese-Americans. At that time, Asians were not allowed to become citizens. (see clarification below) The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, also known as the McCarran–Walter Act, granted the possibility of citizenship to all nationalities.

It should be pointed out that the audience included a teacher and members of an 8th grade class at nearby Jamieson Elementary School, 5650 N. Mozart Street, who were studying World War II.

Clarification: The *Issei* (first generation from Japan) that immigrated to the U.S. (like my grandparents) were, by law, banned from becoming naturalized citizens (until 1952). But the children that they bore here (*Nisei*) were, of course, natural born citizens.

Almost 70% of the internees were American-born citizens.—
Elaine Kaneshiro.

For more photos [Click Here](#) ☐



Camp survivors Lois and Jim Shikami.

Marion Mahony Griffin Beach Park Dedicated

By Kay McSpadden

It was a cold day for beach-going; however, approximately eighty-five community members, beach neighbors, and friends of Marion Mahony Griffin gathered Saturday May 9, 2015, at Jarvis Avenue and the lakefront to celebrate the naming of Marion Mahony Griffin Beach Park and to unveil a stone and plaque commemorating Mahony Griffin and her contributions to the field of architecture.

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is proud to have played a role in naming the park, acquiring the commemorative boulder, and planning the dedication.

Speakers at the brief ceremony represented organizations that advocated for the naming of the beach. They included Michael Wood, Australian Consul General in Chicago; Joe Moore, Alderman of the 49th Ward, Julia Bachrach, Chicago Park District planner and historian; and Ken Walchak, president of the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society. All of the speakers expressed the hope that the naming of the beach would help to make Marion Mahony Griffin better known, especially in the neighborhood where she spent over twenty years of

her life. In serving as Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Bachrach commented that she had worked for fifteen years to name a Chicago Park District facility for Mahony Griffin, trying to earmark a park in the neighborhood identified with her.

The commemorative boulder sits in a prominent location next to the sidewalk which runs through the park. The plaque provides a brief introduction to the career of Mahony Griffin and to her connection with Rogers Park:

Marion Mahony Griffin (1871-1961) was an extraordinary architect, artist, author, and visionary. Marion and her husband Walter Burley Griffin worked for Frank Lloyd Wright early in their careers. Her exquisite drawings helped Wright achieve fame. Marion and Walter created some of the most significant architectural designs and urban plans of the early 20th century in America, Australia and India. Their plan for Australia's capital city, Canberra, remains one of their most outstanding legacies.

Marion was born in Chicago and lived in her family's home in

Rogers Park for more than two decades.

Along with the year of installation, the plaque bears the names of the donors: the Chicago Park District, the Australian Consulate, Alderman Joe Moore, and the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society.

Among those present for the occasion were four university scholars who have researched extensively the life and work of Marion Mahony Griffin: Shibben Banerji, Assistant Professor of Art History, School of the Art Institute; Paul Kruty, Professor Emeritus of Architectural History, University of Illinois; David Van Zanten, Professor of Art History, Northwestern University; and Christopher Vernon, Associate Professor, School of Architecture, Landscape, and Visual Arts, University of Western Australia; the latter traveled to Chicago especially for the occasion.

Two members of Marion's family attended, David Grumman and his daughter Eleanor Grumman.

Others who attended included: Vanda Dei-Tos, Deputy Consul General of Australia; Amanda Roberts, Executive Assistant to the Consul General; John Notz, retired lawyer who was responsible for the relocation and marking of Marion Mahony Griffin's burial site in Graceland Cemetery; Kathy Cummings, professional architectural historian; representatives of professional architecture organizations including Zurich Esposito, Executive Vice-President of AIA Chicago and Joan Pomeranc, Program Director, AIA Chicago; Gail Cavanagh, President, Chicago Women in Architecture; Robert Fuller, Legislative Aide to Alderman Moore and Board Member of the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society.

Ms. Bachrach, Ms. Dei-Tos, Ms. Roberts, Prof. Van Zanten, Mr. Fuller, Ms. Pomeranc, and Ms. Cummings participated in planning the dedication. Additional members of the planning committee included: Victoria Walker, Interim Consul General of Australia; Mary Ann Johnson, President of Chicago Area Women's History Council; Will Ippen, Chair of the Program Team for the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society; and Kay McSpadden, Vice-President of the Historical Society.

Following the ceremony managers of the Emil Bach House Bruce Boyd and Wayde Cartwright provided complimentary tours of the house led by docents of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trust. Tour goers were treated to lunch on the lawn of the Bach House hosted by the Australian Consulate General.

For more photos [Click Here](#) ☐



The dedication plaque on a boulder.

“Angels” Contribute to Mahony Griffin Fund

By Kay McSpadden

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society has the honor of being named as a donor on the commemorative plaque at Marion Mahony Griffin Beach Park. Several participants in the Marion Mahony Griffin mural tour to Armstrong School and others responded to our request for donations to make it possible for the Historical Society to play a role in acquiring the boulder and plaque. Our thanks go to the following contributing “angels”: Nicholas Califano, Barrington, RI; David Grumman, Evanston, IL; Elaine Igelman, Skokie, IL; Dwight Perkins, Belmont, MA; and these Historical Society members: Glenna Eaves, June Finfer, Kay McSpadden, Mary Oellrich, David Richert, Ken Walchak, and Dona Vitale. ☐

Please Help Us Confirm or Dispel a Rumor

I have lived in the West Ridge neighborhood since April, 1943. From time to time, I've heard the following tale being told to me and others. I've asked the People's Energy Company and the Chicago Public Library, but neither could confirm this tale. It would be greatly appreciated if one or more of our members can reconcile this information or refute it. - H.M.

Was the Last House in Chicago to use Gas Lighting in Rogers Park?

By Hank Morris, Photos by Martin J. Schmidt, RPWRHS

For many years, on the northeast corner of Ridge Boulevard at the junction of Rogers Avenue and Touhy Avenue, sat the small frame cottage known as The Phillips/Alsip House, (7207 N. Ridge, Circa: 1860s). It stood as an unofficial community landmark for over 135 years.

In the beginning of its life, it was lit by gas. Over the entire life of this house, little, if any, major changes happened. It was rumored to have remained lit by gas well into the last half of the 20th Century when it was finally razed, replaced then by the Ridge Court Townhomes. Soon after its demise, only memories and some photographs remain.

The house was originally built by the Schubert family. Sometime during the 1860s the Phillips family moved in. At that time, the house was located in the Township of Ridgeville, Illinois--which later was divided, becoming parts of Lake View, Uptown, Edgewater, Rogers Park, West Ridge, and Evanston. Created by glaciers over 10,000 years ago, the higher ground of the Ridge was a natural thoroughfare. First traversed by Native Americans as a wilderness trail, as part of a military road from Fort Dearborn to Fort Howard, Wisconsin, and as the main segment of a stagecoach route. Even now, it's a popular, heavily traveled road.

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society has many hundreds of photographs and artifacts from the Phillips/Alsip house. One favorite image dates from the turn of the 20th Century and shows Rogers Avenue and Touhy Avenue as deeply rutted dirt roads with the house in the background. The setting was very rural with small trees dotting the yard.

Today, these trees are towering black walnuts and there are buildings, paved roads, sidewalks, and a great deal of traffic whizzing by. The only thing that remained virtually unchanged, until 1995, was the Phillips/Alsip house.

Prior to the property's sale in 1995, 7207 N. Ridge rivaled the Smith/Fortman home at 6836 N. Ridge for continuous, single-family ownership. George H. Phillips was a successful commodities broker. He made millions in the corn market



Mary Jo Doyle going into the house.

before moving to Sheridan Park in Uptown.

Phillips' daughter, Nel, inherited the house and lived there with her husband, Frank B. Alsip. Frank's father William founded the Alsip Brick Company in Morris, Illinois. This plant was famous for doubling brick production using special wire molds. Some of these bricks were used to set the front walkway of the house.

Nel and Frank Alsip had two daughters, Helen and Jane, both born in the 1920s. The girls first attended Armstrong Grammar School, then Sullivan High School. Helen and Jane inherited their mother's love of cats and small creatures. Even animals they did not own were tended to and received veterinary care under their kindly auspices.

Jane married, moved to Evanston and had a son James. Helen married, but always lived at 7207 N. Ridge with her mother, raising her daughter Cathy in this house. Helen Alsip Dillon worked for Abercrombie and Fitch in downtown Chicago for many years and later operated Triangle Treasure Antiques across the street from the house in the flat-iron building. Mrs. Alsip died in the late 1970s and recently when Helen became too ill to live alone, she went to live with her sister Jane in Evanston.

The Phillips/Alsip house had fallen into disrepair even while Helen lived there with her many cats.

People often wondered if the weather-worn cottage was inhabited and what went on inside. An addition to the rear of the house was built in the 1890s and was sinking due to an improperly laid foundation. The bam in back was also on its last legs. Sadly, with its demolition, the air of mystery and quaint charm is gone forever.

For more photos [Click Here](#) ☐

Volunteer Profile: Rob Case

By Katherine Mcspadden



Rob Case has been organizing and digitizing our extensive photo collection and training other volunteers to do the same.

Rob Case is a long-time volunteer that the Society would find it hard to do without; he wears many hats. His main task has been organizing and digitizing our extensive photo collection and training other volunteers to do the same. Hence, when someone contacts us in search of a photograph of, say, the intersection of Clark and Greenleaf in the 1920s, Rob is the one to respond. If we have the photo requested, Rob makes a copy for the inquirer who is charged a small fee.

Besides knowledge of the photo collection, Rob can answer almost every other question that comes up. He troubleshoots our technology infrastructure because he has been one of the principal installers. He knows what to do when the wifi goes down, when a printer won't print, when the phone won't work. He also serves on the Membership Team. Whenever there's an event, he and Sue Sosin, another long-time and indispensable volunteer, check people in, recruit new members and remind lapsed members to renew. Furthermore, he is always willing to "man" our booth or table at offsite events such as the West Ridge Community Market, St. Margaret Mary Alumni Night, or Rogers Park Night at Max and Benny's. He also serves on the Volunteer Team, to which he brings advice based on his experience volunteering at other museums.

Here are a few questions we asked him about himself.

You're from London! How did you wind up in Rogers Park?

I met an American woman in Wales, came to Chicago to visit her in 1980, and ended up marrying her and staying. I moved to Rogers Park because I got tired of my long commute from the west side, where we lived, to jobs in the northwest suburbs.

How did you get started volunteering?

I was interested in history. I was attending the University of Chicago and couldn't fit history classes into my schedule. I started volunteering at the Chicago Historical Society thinking that would be a way to learn about Chicago history. The training there was wonderful: I always say I paid back my tuition by volunteering there.

What was your first contact with the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society?

Soon after I moved to Rogers Park, I met Mary Jo Doyle. The Society had a table at a farmers market at Gayle School Park. I asked her a history question: I was living north of Howard St. at the time, and I wondered how and why that neighborhood was part of Chicago.

It isn't necessary to ask how you came to volunteer with us; the mention of Mary Jo Doyle's name says it all. I've heard she could be very persuasive.

Fifteen years ago, Mary Jo put me to work on digitizing the photo archives. I still haven't finished! But now that I'm retired—since April, 2014—I finally have enough time to volunteer.

Congratulations on your retirement; what was your job?

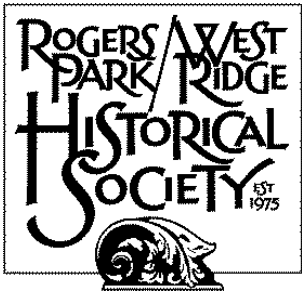
I was a support specialist with the computer storage company EMC. I worked on "the Cloud."

What are the benefits of volunteering for you?

The benefit of volunteering at any institution is the knowledge you gain from volunteering there and also from other volunteers.

I'm sure you experience these benefits from your other volunteer "gig" at the Field Museum. What do you do there?

I volunteer at the Field on Wednesdays, I stand in front of Sue and introduce her to all the school kids. I also do public tours of the Dinosaur Hall. I volunteer in all their special exhibits; next week I am training for "Mammoths and Mastodons" and next month for the permanent China Hall. □



Upcoming Events in Our 40th Anniversary Year

The **Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society** was founded in 1975. Plan now to attend any of these upcoming events as we continue to tell the story of *Rogers Park/West Ridge: The World in One Neighborhood*. For more information, check our website www.rpwrhs.org or our Facebook page *Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society* or call 773-764-4078. We are at 1447 W. Morse Ave.

June 20

Clark Street: Then and Now

Exact Time and Location TBA

Neighborhood-history expert Glenna Eaves will conduct a walking tour of Clark Street from Pratt to Morse Avenue, pointing out the rich history of the people and businesses that have served and sustained the community for over 100 years.

August 12

Jewish Community in Rogers Park

6:30 p.m. Rogers Park Library

Richard Reeder, Events Coordinator at Max and Benny's Restaurant who grew up in Rogers Park, will provide perspective on the history of the Jewish community in Rogers Park.

August 23

Glenwood Arts District Walking Tour

Exact Time and Location TBA

Plan to join a guided tour of the thriving arts district that has brought new life to Rogers Park. Conducted by graduate students from the Loyola University Public History program.

September 13

29th Historic House Tour

Tour location and highlights TBA

The Rogers Park / West Ridge Historical Society Store

Your purchases help to support the Society's mission. We have a wide selection of books and other merchandise available for sale at the museum. Below are four of our items.

You may order by phone, mail, in our store, or from our website. **Please note, for orders in Illinois, we must charge 9.75% sales tax.** For orders to be shipped, please include \$6 shipping and handling per delivery address.



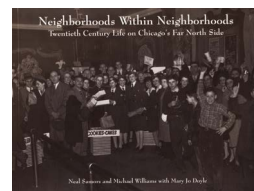
Ceramic "Birches" Mug
Nonmembers: \$4
Members: \$3.25



Canvas Tote Bag
Nonmembers: \$12
Members: \$9.45



Chicago's Far North Side
Nonmembers: \$25
Members: \$20



Neighborhoods within Neighborhoods
Nonmembers: \$25
Members: \$20

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TOTAL ORDER:					

Been in the "hood" a while? Know somebody who has?

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is conducting an ongoing oral history project. We are collecting the memories of those individuals who remember what life was like in Rogers Park and West Ridge "way back when."

Oral histories are a wonderful way to learn more about our neighborhoods before all the complexities of "modern life" settled in.

Memories are precious, whether they're yours, a friend's or a relative's. Help preserve our community's past through oral history today.

You can reach the **Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society** to arrange an interview at **773-764-4078** or e-mail us at **info@rpwrhs.org**.

Do you have photos of Rogers Park or West Ridge?

Our Photo Archives and Cataloging Project is charged with the preservation of our photo collection. In it, we have literally thousands of photographs that have been donated to the Society to be preserved for future generations and today's researchers.

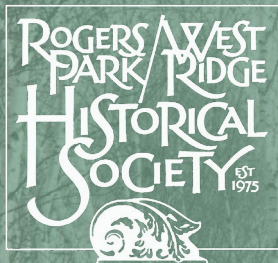
It's one of our most valuable resources. Why not add your old photos to our collection? We will scan them and put them in the Photo Archives. Future generations and today's researchers will thank you for your efforts.

We can scan slides, negatives, prints, whatever. While we would prefer to preserve the originals, we're not greedy. If you want them back, we will honor your request.

It would be most helpful if you could provide notes as to what is being shown in the photographs. We've never met Aunt Martha. Please tell us who is who. Neighborhoods change. Please tell us where the photo was taken and when. **Your photos can be from any time period, that means even the 2000s.**

For more information, contact the Society's offices.

Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society
1447 West Morse Avenue, Chicago IL 60626-3481
Call 773-764-4078 or e-mail us at **info@rpwrhs.org**



- ☐ *New Membership*
☐ *Renewal*

New and Renewing Members

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| <input type="checkbox"/> HOUSEHOLD \$40 | <input type="checkbox"/> PREMIUM \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SENIOR/STUDENT \$20 | <input type="checkbox"/> PATRON \$100 | • SILVER \$500 |
| | | • GOLD \$1,000 |
| | | • PLATINUM \$5,000 |

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:

ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 1447 W. MORSE, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, 60626

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE CALL US AT 773-764-4078 OR USE OUR WEBSITE: WWW.RPWRHS.ORG

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☐ *I would like to volunteer at the Society*