

# The Historian

Preserving & Promoting Neighborhood History

Volume 32, No. 3  
Fall 2016

## In This Issue

Historical Society Holds Retreat  
to Follow Up MAP Assessment  
Recommendations  
page 2

From the President's Desk  
page 4

RPWRHS Holds Open House  
at New Headquarters  
page 4

Hank Morris, Long-time  
RP/WRHS Volunteer, dies at 75  
page 5

Helen Doria, Long-Time  
Rogers Park Resident is  
Newest Park Honoree  
page 6

Volunteer Profile: Elliot Schwarz  
page 8

A Tipsy History of Rogers Park:  
the Legal Limits Bar Crawl  
page 9

Culinary Tours of Devon Avenue  
Combine History and Food  
page 11

Armstrong-Bartelme 8th Grade  
Class of 1966 Reunion  
page 12

## Annual House Tour Highlights Historic West Ridge Bungalow Neighborhood

By Dona Vitale

On September 11, 130 visitors spent a beautiful Sunday afternoon touring the Rogers Park Manor neighborhood to view six award-winning bungalows on the 30th Annual Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society House Walk.

Rogers Park Manor is the area directly south of Indian Boundary Park. It was designated a Historic Chicago Bungalow District in 2005 and also appears on the National Register of Historic Places. The tour was part of a year-long celebration of the Indian Boundary Park Centennial. It kicked off at architecturally-significant Indian Boundary Park Cultural Center, which also enjoys landmark status, and included homes on Coyle, Morse, and Farwell between Western and Washtenaw Avenues. All the homes on the tour, as well as the Cultural Center, have received preservation awards from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation for their efforts to maintain the historic characteristics of the buildings while making improvements suitable for 21st Century life.

Tour-takers came from around the city and suburbs, some returning to the neighborhood where they grew up, while others came to enjoy a glimpse of an unfamiliar part of the city. Many local residents also attended, including some who joined the tour after seeing the crowds of visitors pass by their homes. The six homes



House Walk visitors enjoy a home's private garden.  
Photograph courtesy Stephanie Barto.

on the tour featured beautifully-restored interiors and lovely outdoor spaces complete with koi ponds, native plants and distinctive landscape designs.

Many thanks to the homeowner hosts: Frank and Ann Glapa, Jean and John Brabeck, Michael Williams and Karen Burke, Ron and Sue Waldron, Chris Gent and Sergio Nunez and Richard Concaaldi and Lauri Datta-Concaaldi, as well as to Phil Martini and his staff at Indian Boundary Park. Thanks also to volunteer greeters Dana Bergeron, Rob Case, Kate Donon, Jill & Brad Falco, June Finfer, Gerardo Gallegos, Phoenix Heller, Mary Hopkins, Dave Kalensky, Earl Manesky, Kay McSpadden, Howard Mock, Colleen Sen, Gwen Sinks, Jean Smiling Coyote, Nancy Syburg and Mary Willis. Members of the House Walk Planning team were Matt Amyx, Linda Bressler, Stephanie Barto, Dave Kalensky, Katie Macica, Hope Shannon and Dona Vitale. □

New and Renewing  
Members

Thank you for your support!

Richard Anderson  
Vivian Barry  
Dorian Bezanis  
Karen Burke  
Richard Concaaldi  
Laurette Datta-Concaaldi  
James Differding  
Frank Glapa  
Joe Hollenkamp  
Diane Kellenback  
Kathy Kirn  
Marge Ludwig  
Mike McGuire  
Joyce Ovaert  
Carole Reed  
Donald Sprague  
Cecilia Wasisco

# Historical Society Holds Retreat to Follow Up MAP Assessment Recommendations

By Kay McSpadden



RPWRHS president Ken Walchak with Bob Remer, president of the Edgewater Historical Society, at the retreat.  
Photograph courtesy Hope Shannon.

(Note: The Board invites members and readers to submit any comments they might like to share on the direction of the society. Please email comments to [comments@rpwrhs.org](mailto:comments@rpwrhs.org).)

Board members and active volunteers gathered on Saturday July 23, 2016 for a retreat for the purpose of thinking together about the direction of the society for the next few years. The retreat was held in St. Scholastica Monastery's Oasis Room, a comfortable living-room-like meeting room. Some of the same people had gathered there two years ago, developing the organizational structure that has guided the society since then.

The retreat grew out of the final report received from the Museum Assessment Program (MAP) of the American Alliance of Museums. As reported in the spring issue of the *Historian*, the Historical Society applied for the grant in 2015. The purpose was to assess the strengths and challenges of the Society so as to remain faithful to the vision of founder Mary Jo Doyle and to continue to adequately fulfill its mission to "collect, preserve, and share the story of the history of Chicago's far north side."

The final report was prepared by Ms. Allison Weiss, Executive Director of the Shady Springs Museum in Maryland. After an extensive

self-study completed in December, 2015 by a MAP committee composed of RPWRHS Board members, Ms. Weiss spent two days in Chicago in March 2016 meeting with Board members, key volunteers, our office assistant, and community leaders, and experiencing the Rogers Park and West Ridge neighborhoods.

The report stated that our first order of business should be to hold a “strategic vision” retreat with a view to establishing a unified vision of what the society should be. The word “resource” became a common theme of the retreat: How could the society best serve as a resource for the communities of Rogers Park and West Ridge? Under the direction of Marc Hilton, consultant to nonprofits, the group was divided into three groups: Resources, Relationships, and Collections.

The Resource group had the task of brainstorming what the Historical Society currently offers that is of value to the community. They came up with two types of resources, tangible and intangible. The former would include: programs including the speakers programs at local Chicago Public Library branches and the walking tours, exhibit space, an extensive photo collection along with the collection of documents and artifacts, the website and social media, the *Historian*, the extensive contacts list. Intangible resources include: forty-years of existence collecting, preserving, and sharing the history of the neighborhood, commitment to the people of the neighborhood, reputation, expertise in running events such as tours, and the relationship with the Public History Lab of history graduate students at Loyola.

The group began to think about how our identity is now and will in the future be shaped by building upon these resources. They discussed how the Historical Society could offer these resources more effectively to the community.

The Relationship group had the task of thinking about the relationships we have in the community and beyond and how we can develop these relationships. The group determined that the society should continue to be a facilitator by making the stories of the community come alive. Three characteristics that the community has become known for over the years could become themes of our activities: diversity, activism and the Jewish community. The group was especially enthusiastic about the theme of activism since it is an aspect that has been an unrecognized constant of the community at least since the “cabbage wars” of the nineteenth century.

The Collections group was charged with the task of determining how best to fulfill our mission to “collect,

preserve, and share” the documents and artifacts that we have and that in the future we will be asked to house. The group decided that we should see ourselves as a conduit for collections as well as a repository. They saw the need to evaluate what we have by asking the question, “Do we derive value from it?” They indicated that as certain collections come our way, such as papers of prominent residents or from significant neighborhood businesses or organizations, we should think of ourselves as an “adoption agency” for these collections. We can best insure that these valuable collections become readily available for study by becoming aware of the scope of area collections and recommending or donating them to an appropriate collection. In particular we should know what nearby historical societies have and are looking for. We should also know the provenance of collections that come into our hands.

Those who participated in the retreat were the Executive Committee: Ken Walchak, president; Kay McSpadden, vice-president; Dona Vitale, treasurer; Board members Dave Kalensky and Frank Valadez; Loyola University Public History Lab chair Hope Shannon and volunteers Chelsea Denault and Matthew Amyx; active volunteers Glenna Eaves, Rob Case, Linda Bressler, Hank Morris; and office assistant Stephanie Barto.

An additional participant was Robert Remer, president of the Edgewater Historical Society. Bob expressed interest in exploring further ways for Chicago and area historical societies to collaborate.

The facilitator Marc Hilton recently retired as a vice-president of Campbell and Company, a leading firm supporting nonprofit organizations. His forty years experience in development and successful fundraising for nonprofits such as Chicago History Museum and Illinois Institute of Technology made him a valuable resource in planning and conducting the retreat. Mr. Hilton volunteered his services to the society. □

## From the President's Desk



President Ken Walchak

years in an entirely too large home, my wife and I finally pulled the trigger and downsized. We have been working for what seems like forever to deal with 31 years of ‘stuff’. It’s history—our history, and reinforces how history is part of all of our lives. Do we keep that brilliant painting done by our daughter when she was in 2nd grade? How about that antique cabinet that can’t possibly be squeezed in to our new dining room?

More and more, history seems to me to be less about stuff, and more about experiences. A record number of you just turned out for a talk at the Northtown library the other night. Professor Theodore Karamanski talked about the first Chicagoans, the American Indians who have lived here since the last ice

Greetings to all members and readers,

I am the reason that this issue of the *Historian* has been delayed. After 31 years in an entirely too large home, my wife and I finally pulled the trigger and downsized. We have been delayed. After 31

age. These talks, curated by our own Kay McSpadden and hosted by the Chicago Public Library, have grown more and more popular, to the point now where they are like Cub games. Standing room only.

The Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society (can’t we find a shorter name for our organization?) is really becoming more than a museum of old stuff. We are morphing in to a new organization for the 21st century. We are still a society that our founder Mary Jo Doyle would certainly recognize, and, I hope, approve of, but we are not remaining static. That is the exciting part. We want to incorporate more of you in to our day to day activities. Our community is filled with smart people who can share their skills with the rest of us.

I want to encourage all who are reading this to become members, and forward it on to both current and former Rogers Parkers/West Ridgers, wherever they may live now. Even if you can’t attend our programs, you can keep up on both the current, and past history of the old ‘hood’.

Anyone need an old ashtray covered in seashells? □

Ken Walchak  
RPWRHS President

---

## RPWRHS Holds Open House at New Headquarters

By Rachel Boyle

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society welcomed neighbors and friends to a Community Open House Tuesday July 19, 2016. This, our first public event in our new headquarters at 7363 N. Greenview, was intended to announce to the world that we have moved and to give people a chance to see our new “digs.” It was a very warm summer evening, convincing president Ken Walchak that we need to invest in a covering for our front window to shade guests and display items from the late afternoon sun.

Nevertheless, more than a dozen people came together to enjoy snacks and beverages and enter a drawing for Historical Society gifts. Sandi Price, Executive Director of the Rogers Park Business Alliance, won two tickets to our upcoming house

walk Sunday September 11. She plans to offer them as a silent auction item at RPBA’s fundraiser September 8. Beth Ulion, Director of Development at Howard Area Community Center, and Cecelia Salinas of the 49th Ward Aldermanic Office each won a book on the history of the neighborhood.

Other guests included Jarvis Square neighbors, friends from local organizations, key volunteers, and board members. The event was organized by the Community Relations Team to grow and foster relationships within the local community. Team members helping with the open house included: Rachel Boyle, Chair; Dona Vitale, Chair of the Outreach Committee; Chelsea Denault, Carol Veome, and Josh Wachuta. □

# Hank Morris, Long-time RP/WRHS Volunteer, dies at 75

By Ken Walchak, RP/WRHS President



Hank Morris

Henry (Hank) Morris passed away Monday. Hank was in many ways the soul of the Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society. Hank served as the editor, publisher, and chief article writer for *The Historian*, the primary publication of the Society. He also spent most of his retirement working on one project or another for us. Willing to do almost anything to further the goals of the RPWRHS, Hank was one of the people who carried around the institutional memory of the organization in his head. 75 and in poor health for some time, Hank was the guy I referred to as my long suffering editor. A lifelong Chicagoan and West Ridger, Hank knew more about the history of our community than anyone I knew. He was a rail buff who wrote

countless articles on streetcars, and transportation in general, for *The Historian*. He shepherded *The Historian* from the very beginning—long before my tenure—and turned it into an award-winning publication.

I don't know how long Hank has been a member, Board Member, Editor, and keeper of the [Wiki of the Society](#). He was especially proud of his work on the Wiki, easily citing how many thousand photos and articles were on it at any given time. We will miss his hard work and generous nature. I'm pretty sure there will not be another one like him.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his wife Carol. Though I never asked him about this, I'm quite sure that Hank would appreciate contributions in his name to the Rogers Park West Ridge Historical Society. He wasn't a flower kind of guy. As I write this, I am looking at a mock up of a plaque that we planned to present to Hank. We had created the award just for him: The Hank Morris Historian Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions to the RPWRHS and its publications. It makes me sad to think that we won't be able to hand it to him personally. □

# Helen Doria, Long-Time Rogers Park Resident is Newest Park Honoree

By Dona Vitale

How did you spend your summer? Did you go to a free concert at the Pritzker Pavilion in Millennium Park? Enjoy a neighborhood festival? Take a class at Indian Boundary Cultural Center? Attend a Theatre-on-the-Lake performance at Berger Park? If you've done any of these things, this year or in the past, your life has been touched by the work of the most recent Rogers Park/West Ridge woman to be honored by the Chicago Park District.

On September 17, 2016, the beach at Lake Michigan and Columbia Avenue was dedicated in honor of the late Helen Doria (May 4, 1951– December 23, 2012), following a vote by the Park District Board of Commissioners to rename the beach on April 13<sup>i</sup>. Ms. Doria, who was born and grew up on Chicago's South Side, was a Rogers Park resident for more than forty years. She was an internationally-recognized advocate for cultural programming in open spaces, and served as the first Executive Director of Chicago's Millennium Park.

The dedication was attended by close to 100 friends and family members who celebrated the occasion with moving remembrances of Doria and her many contributions to the neighborhood and the city.

From 1969, when she came to the neighborhood as a student at Mundelein College, to her death in 2012, Helen Doria was active in the Rogers Park community. She took part in the peace movement during the Viet Nam conflict, worked as an early employee of the Heartland Café, was a cultural affairs aide to former 49th Ward Alderman David Orr, served as a judge for the Artists of the Wall and throughout her life was a constant advocate for the community and its cultural diversity.

High school friend and Heartland Café co-founder Katy Hogan started the program with a recollection of how important Lake Michigan, and especially the beach at Columbia, was to Helen in her student days and for the rest of her life. "We were from the Southwest side of Chicago," Hogan explained, "which is about as far as you can get from Lake Michigan in Chicago. When we came to Mundelein and the lake was right there, we felt like we were entering a whole new world, and this place never lost its magic for us." Two of Doria's other Mundelein-era roommates, Susan Rans and Barbara Tuss, who shared an apartment with her on Columbia near the beach, added

their insights into how the beach and the lake inspired Doria's life-long commitment to making open space accessible and appealing to everyone in the community.

Reflecting on his long-time friend, David Orr, now Cook County Clerk, said, "From the time we first crossed paths at Mundelein College, where I taught before running for alderman, Helen knew she wanted to do something meaningful with her life. When she was on my aldermanic staff and took on the task of saving the two mansions on Sheridan Road that became Berger Park, she found the path she followed for the rest of her life, bringing people together through the sharing of cultural experiences in beautiful open spaces. The beach at Columbia is a place where people stand in awe of nature, where children play, and where neighbors gather. It is a nexus of inspiration and community -- a place that signifies what Helen strove to bring to all Chicagoans.<sup>ii</sup>"

After the election of Harold Washington, in 1983, Doria left Orr's staff to join the City of Chicago Department of Special Events where, among other responsibilities, she worked on the annual July 3 concerts and fireworks in Grant Park. She later joined the Department of Cultural Affairs helping to establish Chicago's Sister City relationships with cultural partners around the world. The Department of Cultural Affairs was also where she was responsible for creating innovative cultural program partnerships between the City of Chicago and the Park District, according to Forrest Claypool, who hired her in 1993 when he became Superintendent of Parks.



The Doria Family. Photograph courtesy Beth Doria.



The dedication ceremony audience. Photograph courtesy John Doria.

"In the early '90s, the Chicago Tribune ran an investigative exposé of Chicago's parks, calling them 'ghost towns' with more employees than people," Claypool said at the time of her death. "As a new parks superintendent, I hired Helen to help me bring people back to the parks. As program director, she launched mini-festivals in the neighborhood parks, drawing thousands with an array of creative arts and cultural programs."<sup>iii</sup>

True to her belief that diverse groups can become a united community when given the opportunity to share their individual cultures, Doria created programs bringing art, artists and art lovers to parks in every neighborhood. "All who worked with her remember the joy and passion she brought in bringing cultural attractions to local neighborhood parks, whether it was a troupe from Red Moon Theater, a scientific display imported from the Shedd Aquarium or an indigenous neighborhood artist group incubated in one of the park district's 'artists in residence' programs," Claypool stated in his letter endorsing the park renaming, and again at the dedication.<sup>iv</sup>

In 2004, Doria became the first Executive Director of the newly-developed Millennium Park. In a 2010 interview, she described her approach to creating public programs for the now-iconic space.

"We wanted the park to reflect the city, its artists, its values; for people who visited to have fun, and find their own special place in the park; and for all of it to be free. Everyone was welcome and there were no financial barriers to enjoying the concerts or other programs. We were very clear about offering excellent programs. We needed to match the ongoing programming and live up to the high standard of excellence of the park design and the artistic level of the Pritzker Pavilion, Cloud Gate, The Crown Fountain, and Lurie Garden."<sup>v</sup>

At the same time, Doria expressed a commitment to her belief that open spaces are an important contributor to urban well-being. "The total package needed to be democratic,  
[www.rpwrhs.org](http://www.rpwrhs.org)

extraordinary and reflective of our City. I think public space needs to be about creating a unique 'place'. In the end public spaces are about community and democracy. Hopefully they are beautiful, have their own energy and bring people together who would not normally cross paths. It's that interaction where place fosters a sense of people coming together that fascinates me," she continued.<sup>vi</sup>

Even as she occupied herself with citywide responsibilities -- at Millennium Park, as part of Mayor-elect Rahm Emmanuel's Transition Committee in 2011 or as member of the Board of Directors of the Young Women's Leadership Charter School -- Doria remained active in the Rogers Park community she called home. She was well-known as a "connector" who constantly worked to bring people together to accomplish ambitious creative projects.

Bonnie Tawse, who planned the dedication ceremony, is a consultant to the Trust for Public Land, and one of those who claims Doria as a mentor and advisor. Emphasizing the degree to which Doria was engaged with the neighborhood, Tawse shared this memory. "When Helen and I were working together on The 606, we would meet pretty much weekly at the Starbucks on Columbia, just around the corner from her condo. Every week, someone would walk in the door and Helen's face would light up and she'd introduce me to yet another one of her old and dear friends, almost always a fellow Rogers Park resident."<sup>vii</sup>

As a special commemoration of the occasion, Dona Vitale presented Helen's mother, Marie Doria, with a miniature sign replicating the permanent Park District sign at the beach.

Other speakers at the dedication were 49th Ward Alderman Joe Moore, Park District Assistant Director of Culture, Arts and Nature Peggy Stewart, and Rose Doria, Helen's sister. Guitarist Carlo Basile provided music and Julia Bachrach, Park District Historian, acted as MC. □

i. Chicago Park District Minutes of Meeting, April 13, 2016

ii. Cook County Clerk David Orr, remarks at dedication and letter of support to Park District, June 17, 2015

iii. Obituary, "Millennium Park's first executive director helped city make strides in arts, culture" Chicago Tribune, December 30, 2012

iv. Chicago Public Schools CEO, Former Park Superintendent Forrest Claypool, letter of support to Park District, July 13, 2015

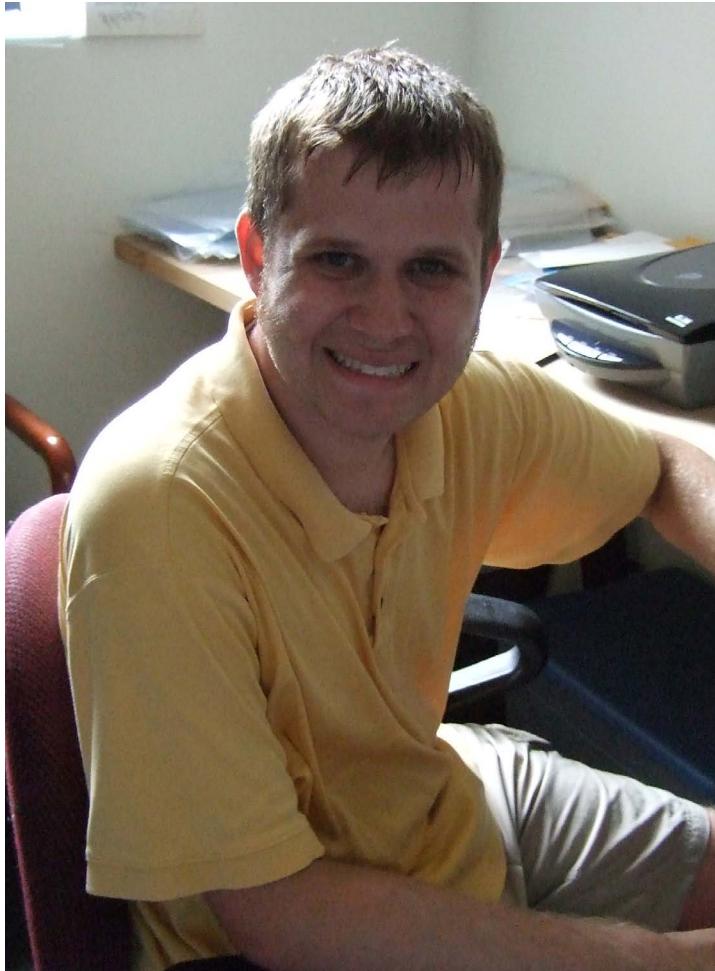
v. eVolo Magazine #3: Cities of Tomorrow, May 11, 2010. "Helen Doria Director of Millennium Park Chicago on Designing Public Spaces" interview by Andrew Micheler

vi. eVolo Magazine #3: Cities of Tomorrow, May 11, 2010. "Helen Doria Director of Millennium Park Chicago on Designing Public Spaces" interview by Andrew Micheler

vii. Private email, Bonnie Tawse to Dona Vitale, November 20, 2015

# Volunteer Profile: Elliot Schwarz

By Kay McSpadden, Director of Volunteers



Elliot Schwarz

We'd like to introduce our summer volunteer: Elliot Schwarz, a history major entering his senior year at UIC. Since his career plan involves working in a museum-like environment, he decided to spend this summer gaining experience in a neighborhood historical society; his stepfather suggested that he volunteer with the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society. He may eventually combine his interest in history with a degree in library science. He says he found volunteering for us "very beneficial"; he learned something about what is involved in organizing and maintaining a document collection and about the unpredictable environment of an all-volunteer society.

Elliot has been a local resident since 2012, moving to Evanston because his father became head of safety at Northwestern University. As a former resident of Hanover, New Hampshire, he received the "Mr. Murphy Award" at Hanover High School as an outstanding student in American history. In an instance demonstrating that school projects matter, Elliot traces his interest in history to a Middle School project on Abraham Lincoln in the Civil War. Since that project, he has developed an interest in American and European history of the early twentieth century.

If you participated in the Clark Street Walking Tour, you met him helping set up the room at Pottawattomie Park and checking people in. He also checked people in at the genealogical workshop on June 25. He worked on Collections every Thursday morning, sorting documents into those related to RP and WR history, those related to the history of other neighborhoods such as Edgewater, and those not fitting in with our collections policy. He rounded out his summer volunteership by assisting Rob Case who is digitizing our extensive photo collection.

In addition, during this summer Elliot also continued his year-round job, working two days a week at UIC as a surveyor technician in the Department of Radiation Safety. He conducts surveys of rooms that use radioactive materials, by collecting swipes of the rooms, processing them, and filing the results. He has worked at this job since 2014. He spends his spare summer time biking, running, and swimming.

Elliot's last Thursday regular volunteering with us was August 18. He said that he'd like to continue to volunteer with us occasionally if his UIC class and work schedule permitted. □

# A Tipsy History of Rogers Park: the Legal Limits Bar Crawl

By Matthew Amyx



Outside Bruno's, tour guide Julia Lacher points out the neighborhood fixture's historic terra cotta decor. Fellow guide Ellen Bushong stands behind her.  
Photograph courtesy Matthew Amyx.

In May and July, three groups of guests led by Loyola University history graduate students joined the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society on a trek through the history of bars and nightlife in the southeast corner of Rogers Park. While introducing guests to some of the most-loved local bars, the tour recounted how the politics of drinking shaped the boundaries and culture of the neighborhood.

The tour was conceived in a Loyola University graduate public history course taught by Professor Patricia Mooney-Melvin, which has worked with the RPWRHS several times through the efforts of Public History Lab, a Loyola history graduate student-led group that facilitates partnerships between history graduate students and communities in the Chicago area. The partnership between Public History Lab and Dr. Mooney-Melvin's class, facilitated by Loyola PhD students Katherine Macica and Hope Shannon, has produced other walking tours as well, including the Glenwood Avenue Arts District tour in August 2015 and the Rosehill Cemetery tour, which is planned for spring 2017. Students in Dr. Mooney-Melvin's class have also undertaken fundraising projects with the RPWRHS. The bar crawl tour was created in fall 2015 by Matthew Amyx, Ellen Bushong, Julia Lacher, and Hannah Zuber. Amyx,

Bushong, and Lacher led the tours, along with Stephanie Barto, the society's office manager.

The tour kicked off at Cunneen's on Devon Avenue, where participants got acquainted and enjoyed one of the bar's affordable drinks served by friendly staff. Outside, they learned about how Rogers Park and West Ridge split in 1896, largely because the West Ridge farmers – whom the Rogers Parkers insulted as “cabbage heads” – enjoyed a beer at the end of the day, while Rogers Parkers – mocked as “silk stockings” by their neighbors to the west – advocated temperance. Northwestern University's 1848 charter forbade any taverns within four miles of the campus, which made Devon Avenue the nearest oasis for those who were thirsty in Rogers Park. A couple blocks east, the tour learned about Uncommon Ground, once the site of a Jewish-owned Irish restaurant, the Glenway Inn, now home to a growing local brewing movement.

At Devon and Broadway, the group learned about the battle between moral reformers and saloon owners over the legality of the Devon Avenue saloons, a conflict temporarily settled in 1916 in the drinking man's favor by Mayor William “Big Bill” Thompson. The battles continued, however, due to local bars' creative skirting of cabaret laws (which outlawed drinking and

dancing in the same room) and occasionally getting involved in the criminal underworld. (The famous Northern Lights Cabaret – located where the Starbucks is now – witnessed an intense attempted kidnapping and gunfight in 1924.)

The tour then moved up Sheridan Road to visit Bruno's with its wonderful original terra cotta mural and resolute resistance to change or purchase by the university. One couple in the group related how they met and shared a first kiss at the much-loved bar, which has been open since 1956. After three-fifths of a mile in the summer sun, the group was ready for a drink at the beer-and-shot taproom.



Tour guide Matthew Amyx recounts the history of gunfights, cabarets, and punk rock clubs at the corner of Devon and Broadway. Photograph courtesy Matthew Amyx.

Next stop was the New 400, the oldest movie theater in Chicago. Managers Christian Grey and Amber Bekkering created historically-themed cocktails for the guests to drink on their recently opened front patio. The tour-goers discovered the history of the theater, Prohibition, and Chicago's peculiar 'local option' policy enacted in 1936, which mandated that each precinct in the city determine whether or not it would be wet or dry. This development effectively ended Rogers Park's long-standing lack of legal liquor, and by 1948 there were 47 bars and 30 retail stores selling beer, wine, and liquor in the neighborhood.

Afterwards the whistle-wetting walkers learned about the Oasis bar's special dispensation to stay open until 4 am – and also of its original, 1922 urinals. Then they moved west to Glenwood Avenue and stopped in at the Red Line Tap, the city's northernmost music venue, which survived a tremendous gas explosion in 1948 to become, in turn, Catalano's, Hamm's, Roy's, and, in 1996, the beloved neighborhood bar and music venue owned by the Heartland Café's Michael James and Katie Hogan. (Ownership of the Heartland and Red Line Tap has recently moved to Tom Rosenfeld, whose daughter Sydney manages the latter and was very kind in letting the society tell their story inside the space.)

After a brief stop at the Glenwood – Chicago's "straightest-acting gay bar" – the tour concluded at Rogers Park Social. The building previously housed the much-loved Duke's, a musical dive-bar headed by the much-missed Neil Lifton until 2012. Rogers Park Social specializes in delicious, creative cocktails, and they crafted especially for the tour the "silk-stockings", a libation similar to a Brandy Alexander containing tequila and chocolate.

While the society hopes the tour's stories and research were entertaining and educational, the best parts of the trek were the tales and personal memories of the guests, including childhood reminiscences from longtime residents, informed opinions from former employees, and delightful discoveries by new members of our community. Guest feedback also improved the tours; the first tour only featured four stops for drinks, but after a participant survey showed interest in more stops, the tour leaders added a fifth, Bruno's, to the next two events with great success. All three tours sold out with over 30 participants, with many interested parties waitlisted, so the society hopes to do more historic bar crawls in the future, perhaps focusing on bars along Ridge, Howard, or Clark Avenues. Readers with suggestions for future tour stops are enthusiastically encouraged to email the society at [info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org). □

# Culinary Tours of Devon Avenue Combine History and Food

By Colleen Sen



Tour participants enjoy a delicious meal at Haandi, 2742 Devon Avenue.

Photograph courtesy Dona Vitale.

On Sunday, August 21 and September 25, the Society held its first Historical and Gastronomical tours of Devon Avenue, led by author and Society member Colleen Taylor Sen. Participation was limited to twenty and both tours sold out.

The participants met at 11 AM at Sukhadia's Sweets, 2559 West Devon Avenue, where they were served cups of chai and an assortment of sweet and salty Indian snacks. The group was welcomed by owner Jayant Sukhadia whose family has been in the sweet business in India for 130 years. He explained how his home town Surat in the state of Gujarat in Western India has been a center of sweet making since antiquity.

Colleen gave a brief account of the history of Devon Avenue. The first immigrants in the 1850s were farmers from Luxemburg and Germany. In the 1920s the construction of street cars led to the development of housing, including classic Chicago bungalows. After World War II young Jewish families moved here from Lawndale and Albany Park and the street became a major Jewish shopping center. The reform of U.S. immigration laws in 1965 opened the doors to Asian immigrants, who were attracted by the access to transportation and low housing costs of West Ridge. Starting in the early 1970s, they opened sari shops, jewelry stores and grocery stores. In the late 1990s, Muslim immigrants from Pakistan, India and Bangladesh began arriving in greater numbers and opened shops and restaurants serving halal and zabiha (ritually slaughtered) meat.

The first stop on the tour was Patel Brothers (2610 Devon) the flagship of the 26-store nationwide chain of Indian grocery stores. (The brothers' first store opened at Damen and Devon in 1974.) The group wandered the aisles, impressed by the vast assortment of spices, grains, fresh and frozen breads and vegetables, pickles, and dairy products. The next stop was another Indian grocery Kamdar Plaza (2646 Devon) with its own little café. The groups visited different Bengali fish shops, marveling at the number and size of imported fish from the Bay of Bengal, including the giant hilsa fish which cost hundreds of dollars. Other stops included Georgian Bakery (2812 Devon) with its beehive-shaped brick oven, Babylon Meat Market (2800 Devon, now closed), and Levinson Bakery (2856 Devon), one of the last remaining Jewish stores on Devon Avenue.

The tour ended with a delicious Bengali/Bangladeshi meal at Haandi restaurant (formerly Mithai Restora, 2742 Devon), specially prepared by chef Shaker for the group. Appetizers included puchka, little squares of fried dough filled with vegetables; moghlai parathas – fried bread stuffed with an omelette; and samosas. The main course featured tihari, rice with pieces of meat and spices with lamb curry for the first group and chicken kebab for the second. Both meals ended with the hit of the day: mithai, a sweet and sour yogurt dessert that had most people asking for seconds.

More gastronomical/historical tours are planned, including a visit to the African stores in Rogers Park. □



In front of Daallo Halaal. Photograph courtesy Dona Vitale.

# Armstrong-Bartelme 8th Grade Class of 1966 Reunion

By Arona Fay Roshal



Arona Fay Roshal was a student in the first kindergarten class at Mary Bartelme. She grew up on “old” Seeley in Rogers Park. During her senior year at Roger C. Sullivan High School, she wrote the “Strictly Sullivan” column for Lerner Papers’ Nortown News. Currently she and her husband live in St. Paul, MN. She was kind enough to send us this report of the reunion of a class from Mary Bartelme Branch of Armstrong School.

“I see all of you turned out to be good people. And you got that way because of your teachers.”

Mrs. Cherie Goldman, the first kindergarten teacher at Bartelme Elementary School, beamed as she spoke to former students from her first kindergarten class. Her observation was directed to all 33 former classmates gathered for an Armstrong-Bartelme class reunion.

Fifty years after 8th grade graduation, classmates reminisced about school days and their old neighborhood. Alumna Lisabeth Weiner opened her Lakeview home for this reunion at which friendships were renewed and people shared memories and memorabilia. A few people even displayed their still bright gold and blue Armstrong graduation ribbons. And the 10 guests, spouses and siblings of graduates, enjoyed hearing about pranks, crossing guards, patrol boys, Field Day, and Book Fair.

As stated in the Spring 2016 the *Historian*: “In September 1957, a new elementary school opened. It was named for Mary

Margaret Bartelme. It was built to accommodate more than 400 students. Mary Bartelme Elementary School was located at 1914 [1908] W. Loyola Avenue.”

Mary Bartelme, a branch of George B. Armstrong, no longer exists. Those from the Bartelme era will remember that after 4th grade, depending on where you resided, you either went to Armstrong or to Stone starting in 5th grade. You might also remember the large colorful picture tiles, mostly of animals, bordering the kindergarten entrance to Bartelme’s one-story building.

Leander Stone is now Stone Scholastic Academy. Armstrong is now George B. Armstrong School of International Studies.

On this last Sunday of August, 2016, which included overflowing brunch buffet platters, nostalgia reigned. Whether people had attended one of those three schools for all grades or only a few, each had fond remembrances of school, classmates, teachers, and Rogers Park.

One classmate summed it up with this sentiment, “This reunion felt special, I think the reason being we were all ‘babies’ and grew up together.” □

© Arona Fay Roshal September 9, 2016

Arona Fay Roshal, aroshal@uwalumni.com, (651) 699-2275

# The RPWRHS extends a special thank you to its sponsors.

## Silver Sponsor



## Bronze Sponsors

**State Farm Insurance - David J. Frederickson Agency**

6263 N Clark St

Chicago IL 60660

[www.MyAgentDave.com](http://www.MyAgentDave.com)



# Winnemac Properties

*Property Management & Investment*

Winnemac Properties: 4818 N. Damen Avenue.



**FRANK MAGUIRE**  
Broker Associate  
**773.793.4448**  
[frank.maguire@bairdwarner.com](mailto:frank.maguire@bairdwarner.com)

# HYDRA-STOP®

## 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 RPWRHS office. Below are four of our items.

You may order by phone, mail, or at our office. **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.



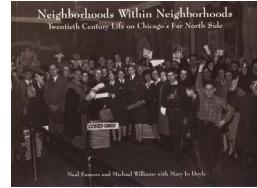
**Ceramic "Birches" Mug**  
Nonmembers: \$4  
**Members: \$3.25**



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



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



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

### Ship to

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD TYPE  MC  VISA  DISCOVER  AMEX  
CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ BACK \_\_\_\_\_ EXPIRATION \_\_\_\_\_

QTY	ITEM	PRICE	S&H (\$6)	TAX	TOTAL
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](mailto: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.

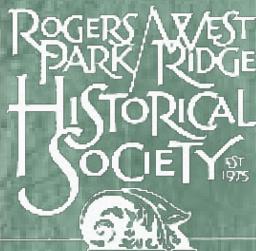
It’s one of our most valuable resources. Why not add your old photos to our collection? We will scan them and put them in the Photo Archives. Future generations and today’s researchers will thank you for your efforts.

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 office.

**Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society**  
**7363 N. Greenview Avenue, Chicago IL 60626-3481**  
**Call 773-764-4078 or e-mail us at [info@rpwrhs.org](mailto:info@rpwrhs.org)**



*New Membership*

*Renewal*

## New and Renewing Members

*Please check the appropriate category box for your renewal or new membership*

ANNUAL MEMBER \$25

ANNUAL SUPPORTING MEMBER \$50

LIFETIME MEMBER  
\$1000

ANNUAL STUDENT  
MEMBER \$40

ANNUAL SUSTAINING MEMBER \$100

ANNUAL SENIOR  
MEMBER \$20

ANNUAL BENEFACTOR \$250

PLEASE MAIL YOUR CHECK TO:

ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 7363 N. GREENVIEW AVE., CHICAGO, IL, 60626

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD, PLEASE CALL US AT 773-764-4078 OR USE OUR WEBSITE: [WWW.RPWRHS.ORG](http://WWW.RPWRHS.ORG)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_



*I would like to volunteer at the Society*