

# Historical Hoopla!

## Come celebrate our Centennial

The Time Machine is set to the year 1893. Be sure to hop aboard during the first weekend in April when friends of Rogers Park and West Ridge celebrate the Centennial of the two communities' annexation to the City of Chicago.

The festivities will begin on Friday, April 2, at 7 p.m. with an Opening Ceremony in the Sky Auditorium at Loyola University - Lake Shore Campus. Norman Mark, Chicago TV personality and our master of ceremonies, will introduce local entertainers and members of theater ensembles who will perform historical skits. A reception will follow in the Skyscraper Lounge.

A Neighborhood Reunion will highlight a busy Saturday of activities. It will be held from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. in the Student Union/Rambler Room at Loyola University. The two communities will be represented by 29 four-block-square zones. Friends and neighbors can return home to their "zone" and reminisce with others from their neighborhood.

More than 4,000 photos from the collection of the Rogers Park Historical Society will be on display, with the best ones behind each neighborhood booth to spark keen memories. When you visit, please

bring any old photos you may have. We will make copies and return them. Also, folks will be encouraged to leave memories behind on video and audio tape.

From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, a Community Organization Fair will be held in the adjoining State Room. Many community groups, including block clubs, civic organizations, parks, libraries, schools and religious institutions will staff exhibits. A

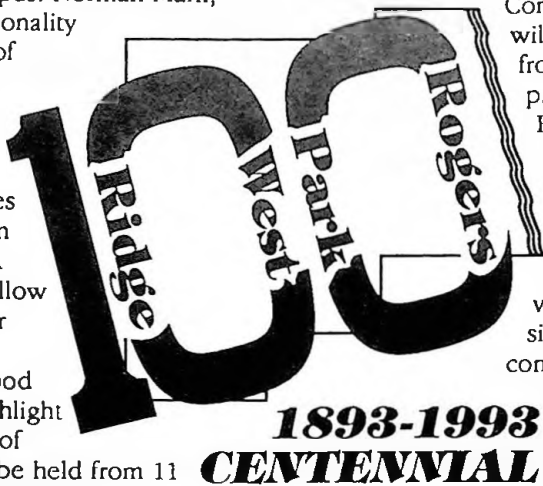
Community Forum will cap the fair from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Representatives from civic groups, arts, business and education will share their vision of our sister communities in years to come.

A Juried Art Fair will take place in the Warren Park

Fieldhouse, 6601 N. Western, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Various media will be accepted, including arts and crafts. Best of Show Awards will be given. High school students are also encouraged to exhibit.

Children will not be forgotten either. They can watch Classic Looney Toon Cartoons, including Bugs Bunny, Tom & Jerry, Sylvester



## WEEKEND AT A GLANCE

### Friday:

Opening Ceremony/  
 Reception, 7 p.m.  
 Sky Auditorium Loyola University

### Saturday:

Neighborhood Reunion, Historical Photo Exhibits, Oral History/Video Taping — 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.  
 Loyola Student Union  
 Community Organization Fair/Forum  
 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Loyola Student Union

### Saturday & Sunday:

Art Fair — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
 Warren Park Fieldhouse  
 Cartoon Classics — Sat. 11 a.m.  
 Sun. 1 p.m. Adelphi Theatre  
 Kids Fun Days — 1 to 4 p.m.  
 Loyola Park Fieldhouse

### Sunday:

Double-decker Bus Tours — 12:30, 2, 3:30 p.m.  
 Warren Park Lot  
 Ecumenical Service/Reception — 5 to 8 p.m. St. Scholastica  
 Note: Daylight Savings Time goes into effect on Saturday, April 3.



# The Way It Was

## Six Vignettes

For a change, I think we are about due for a few short trips down memory lane, touching upon a variety of happenings from the mid-1920s or thereabouts.

### SKYWRITING

Each morning as I look out my kitchen window and note the vapor trails from the many jet planes honing in on O'Hare Airport, I recall the skywriting adventures of the era that received so much acclaim.

The phenomena was caused by the use of engine exhaust, probably augmented by kerosene in the fuel of a small plane which caused it to exude a trail of smoke. The smoke was then used to spell out various words, with appropriate punctuation and spacing. And they were really good! The problem was that by the time the last part of the words Lucky Strike was written, the word "Lucky" had faded away. The same thing happened to Pepsi-Cola, then a new item on the market. But it certainly was the start of a new advertising method.

### SOMETHING TO CHEW ON

In the same era, small boys tried to act like working men, especially the ice men, who were avid tobacco chewers. Boys did their best to emulate their heroes, but instead they used licorice as an expectorant. And they would let a small amount trickle down their chins to call attention to their vice. Almost as disgusting as the grown-ups!

### CHAMBRAY SHIRTS

With the exception of a few "white-collar" workers, such as doctors, some storekeepers and business owners, it seemed that every male had not just one, but several blue chambray shirts. This led to the term "blue-collar" workers.

These time-honored garments were worn by many men in all types of jobs and even by small boys. First, they were practically indestructible. Second, they never showed the dirt, which allowed many wearings.

For 79 cents, which seemed to be the universal price, they represented one of the great buys of all time.

### DOUBLE-BREASTED VESTS

While on the subject of men's finery, do you recall the rebirth around 1928 of the double-breasted vests that came with men's suits?

That was one time that I was up to the minute in men's fashion.

I had just gotten a part-time job at Bornhofen's Grocery (after school). My pay was burning holes in my pockets, so I went down to The Hub to get a new suit. It came with a double-breasted vest. I

was so enamored with the fad that I kept the vest in one of my drawers up until the time I left for the service about 15 years later.

### "THE BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE"

In some fashion, most folks acquired a set of "The Book of Knowledge" to answer the many questions that arose while raising a family. They touched on all subjects and young and old alike could learn from them. I believe they released annual yearbooks to keep them up-to-date. It was a great part of growing up!

### PENNY CONFECTIONS

Now, to close out on a note for those who had the taste for the good things in life.

Does anyone recall the big daddy of all jawbreakers — the "Big Walt"? It sold for a penny and was a taffy-like item about two inches long by three inches wide, a real investment in time and subsequent dental bills.

And what about the parents who allowed their offspring to smoke Cubebs, a cigarette-like item with no nicotine content? They could be used by anyone and were available in drugstores. They were completely stupid in all concepts.

Norm Coughlin

### *Taking exception to 'drivel'*

A note arrived taking heated exception to a line in a prior Newsletter. "How dare Norm Coughlin refer to his articles as 'drivel'? The very idea! Please insist that he refrain from saying such a thing ever again." While we don't really control Norm's writing, we must concur that "drivel" is the last word in the dictionary our readers would apply to those very special pieces of his. Please, Norm, keep them coming.

## Constitution and bylaws changes

On Saturday, March 20, members will consider the recommendation by the Board of Directors to change the name of the Society to the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society. The Rogers Park/West Ridge Centennial Commission was formed to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the annexation of the villages of Rogers Park and West Ridge to the city of Chicago. Thus, this is now an appropriate time to change the name of our Society. The two community areas have been equally represented in our Society through memberships, photographs, memorabilia and sponsor support.

Also at the meeting, other revisions to the Constitution will be considered, including holding monthly business meetings and additional meetings only when a program is scheduled. For the last 17 years, the Society has held two meetings every month on the first and third Saturdays. Try to attend this meeting or mail in your vote(s). Thanks a lot.

## RPHS elections

Society elections were held on Saturday, Jan. 16, at the Rogers Park Historical Society meeting. Re-elected were Martin J. Schmidt-president, Chris Kringle-vice president, Bettie Jasper-recording secretary and David Miller-treasurer. New officer, Peggy Hall-Heineman was elected corresponding secretary. Newly elected board members include John Armendariz, Glenna Eaves and Frank Maguire. We welcome you and wish you well. New members join J. E. Arcand, Gail Cronin, Mitzi Golden, Patrick Hartnett, Kathleen Krokar, Patricia Mooney-Melvin, Hank Rubin and Jeanette Statland who are continuing their terms. Thanks to outgoing board members Loretta Bamman, Herb Fagen, Nancy Kelly, Ruth Shatzel and Steve Tres.

## From the president

As I start my second term as your president, I want to thank the members of the Board of Directors for assisting me in running the Society.

Thanks also to the dedicated volunteers who gave of their time and energy last year.

Now here is an easy volunteer role for each member to play — let every one of us try to sign up one new member during our Centennial year. That would double our membership to over 1000.

And speaking of the Centennial, I'm sure that I don't have to remind you to mark your calendars for our spectacular weekend celebration, April 2-4. Hope to see you at several activities. Don't forget to smile!

Martin J. Schmidt

## Calendar of Events

### Sat. March 20

11:30 am - 1:00 pm  
RPHS Meeting - Constitution & By-laws Voting  
(See article on this page)

### Fri., Sat., & Sun. April 2-4

Rogers Park/West Ridge  
Centennial Weekend  
(See article on page 1)

### Sat. May 1

11:30 am - 12:30 pm  
RPHS Program  
History of Roosevelt University  
by Rolf Weil - President  
Emeritus of the University

## What We've Been Doing

Sun. Dec. 6 - Mary Jo Doyle and Marty Schmidt viewed many historical exhibits at the Good Counsel High School history fair. A few area students applied for the RPHS scholarship award based on their local history projects.

Sat. Jan. 9 - Mary Jo and Marty attended the N.E.I.L. meeting at the Winnetka Historical Society and saw an excellent slide program titled "A Slice of Life", little vignettes about early settlers in the north and northwest suburbs. The Society

purchased David Hammer's book of the same title.

Fri. Jan. 15 - Mary Jo and Marty visited with other community leaders at the Rogers Park Community Council President's Breakfast. Congratulations to the Block Organization Network - Citizens of the Year!

Sat. Feb. 6 - J. E. Arcand and Mary Jo attended a meeting on how to obtain funds from the Mayor's Office of Special Events. Hope our 1890s

Summer Picnic receives some support.

Sat. Feb. 6 - Member Tom McGann gave a fascinating insight into the life, death and funeral of Rudolph Valentino. A large crowd was on hand to listen to the many stories of this well-known celebrity. We hope Tom will be back with another in this series.

Wed. Feb 10 - Members J. E. Arcand and Ed Ehmann attended a nonprofit funding program sponsored by WLS Radio at the Holiday Inn O'Hare. They reported that it was an interesting experience and may benefit us in the future.

Tue. Feb 23 - Mary Jo, Marty and member Ken Little were judges at the first annual history fair at Jamieson School. Several very interesting history projects were done by the 7th and 8th grade students, including one on WBBM. (See RPHS Fall 1992 Newsletter article.)



## ROGERS PARK/WEST RIDGE CENTENNIAL UPDATE

### RESTAURANT & THEATRE DISCOUNTS

More than 30 restaurants and six theatres are participating in our Centennial Weekend by offering 20% discounts to their customers who present a special coupon. You can obtain a guide with attached coupons when you attend one of the weekend activities. Bon Appetite before or after the Show!

### CENTENNIAL CALENDARS

Keep the spirit of the Centennial Weekend alive throughout the year by buying a Centennial calendar.

You'll want to preserve this historical keepsake long after December 1993 goes into the books. The old-time photos and historical tidbits alone are worth the price.

And on the Centennial Weekend, a free Centennial commemorative key chain will accompany each purchase. So put aside some bills from your wallet and grab a little piece of Rogers Park/West Ridge history.

By the time the year 2043 rolls around, and we're celebrating the Rogers Park/West Ridge Sesquicentennial, you'll be glad you did.

### PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

Watch for our newest Centennial promotional items over the next few weeks. A stunning tee shirt to celebrate our 100th anniversary will go on sale for \$8. These are high quality white tee shirts with

the Centennial logo highlighted in green and gold and available in medium, large and extra-large sizes.

Be the first person on your block to show off your Centennial Logo key chain. They are green and white plastic and make a great souvenir or gift.

### RAFFLE WINNERS

Russ Morbee and his wife Laura were our first Centennial Calendar raffle winners! A check for \$100 was presented to Russ at the Centennial office (photo below). You can be the next lucky winner! Just pick up your calendar soon; drawing will take place toward the end of 1993.



### This Old House

Ever wonder about your house, how old it is, who were its previous owners, when did it change hands? Now you can find out. RPHS announces this new service at a special rate, including a membership discount. Contact J. E. Arcand at 764-4078 for further information.

### PHOTOS WANTED

Carr's gas station at Pratt & Clark

Chicago Lawn & Tennis Club or the Elks Club on Thome

Lakefront/beach near Loyola around 1906

Polo grounds on site of or near Mather High School

Old theaters in our area

## Building Fund Update

Donations are appreciated for this ongoing project. A pledge can be made and paid in monthly installments. Names of all donors will be on hand at the Society's table at the Centennial Weekend and permanently displayed in our future home.

CATEGORY:	AMOUNT:
Founder .....	\$1,000 and up
Settler .....	500 - 999
Farmer/Gardener .....	100 - 499
Builder .....	25 - 99

### BUILDING FUND DONORS:

Settler:

- Norm Coughlin
- Jeanette Statland
- Barbara Young

• Pledges

Other:

Sue Carlson

Our appreciation to member Pat Daly who assisted us with a recent grant application. The Society's long-range goal is still for our own historical center/museum.

### LOCAL ANNIVERSARIES

St. Philip Evangelical Lutheran Church - 100th

### CHICAGO AREA ANNIVERSARIES:

Art Institute - 100th

Columbian Exposition - 100th

Cracker Jack - 100th

Kup's Column - 50th

Lincoln Park Zoo - 125th

### NATIONAL ANNIVERSARIES:

Buick - 90th

Denny's - 40th

Dial 911 Emergency - 25th

Thomas Jefferson's Birth - 250th

Laugh-In - 25th

Orek Vacuum - 40th

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - 100th

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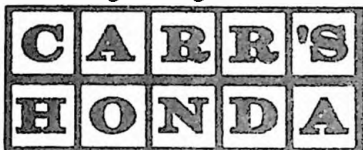
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*Please keep these ads handy and patronize  
our Rogers Park/West Ridge sponsors.*

# Snowflakes inside and out

*...and a great party to boot*

The giant snowflakes hanging in St. Jerome's parish hall on Jan. 9 certainly helped set the theme of our annual Holiday Party.



Those flakes outside, however, were an altogether different matter. One partygoer almost literally blew in, saying "What is it about the Rogers Park Historical Society events that ticks off the weatherman?"

Yet, in spite of the really nasty blizzard, at least 90 hardy souls enjoyed the evening to the hilt. Wonderful food, catered by Gene Budzonsky

was supplemented with lots of homemade goodies. The door prizes



*Mike and Loretta Keegan enjoy the dancing at our Annual Holiday Party.*

were delightful, the formalities short and the dancing wonderful. The band, of course, was Rogers Park's own Rick Veras and the Veracity String Band.

We loved the line from someone who said "Great band — we can hear each other while they're playing." Obviously, conversation is a



big part of our parties!

We heard from a few who just couldn't venture out into the weather, and know of only one misadventure involving a frozen car door lock.

And since this was our first Volunteer Recognition Night, a very special thanks goes out to all our dedicated volunteers.

All in all, it was a splendid festivity to end the holiday season, and we extend many thanks to the committee members, including chairperson Mary Jo Doyle, food chairs John Arcand, Mitzi Golden and Kathy Krokhar, decorator extraordinaire Pat O'Neal, and set-up co-chairs Chris Kringle and Marty Schmidt. Special thanks to St. Jerome's for the use of their facility and to Ray Ward for his assistance. Hope to see you all again next year!

## Hoopla

*Continued from page 1*

the Cat, and the rest at 11 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday at the Adelphi Theater, 7074 N. Clark. Parents are encouraged to attend with their children. However, adult supervision will be provided.

Each child will be asked to donate a nonperishable item for a neighborhood food pantry. Tickets will be distributed through local schools, the aldermanic offices and the Centennial Commission office at 6424 N. Western.

Youth activities will also take place at Loyola Park Fieldhouse, 1230 W. Greenleaf on Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. Young people will participate in gymnastic exhibitions, and awards will be handed

out for the Special Olympics.

There will also be carnival games to test your skills sponsored by the parks in the Loyola Cluster.

You may want to hop on board one of the open-air double-decker buses for an exciting one-hour historical tour. \$1 off for RPHS members. The rides will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 4, our actual 100th anniversary. Tour guides will point out many of the highlights of the area. Buses depart from the Warren Park parking lot adjoining the fieldhouse. Bring your friends and come join us for this part of the celebration!

Watch for our special historical trivia contest in the Lerner News.

Coming soon. Centennial Banners will be on display at main intersections to showcase our community.

For any information or to volunteer, please call 764-4078 or 764-4079.

## OFFICE LOCATION AND HOURS

The Rogers Park Historical Society and the Rogers Park/West Ridge Centennial Commission maintain offices at 6424 N. Western. We are open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Thursday evening from 7 to 9 p.m.

We will probably take a break on Thursday evenings after the Centennial Weekend, so please call to make appointments, at 764-4078. The Centennial Commission number is 764-4079. You also can reach us at 764-2401.

# Society Scoop

## 1992 in review

For RPHS, 1992 was an excellent year for growth and accomplishments. Here are some highlights of the year:

- Establishing the Rogers Park/West Ridge Centennial Commission, a committee of the historical society. The Commission provided more exposure for the Society. People are discovering our rich heritage and using the services of the Society.
- Best House Tour ever both in attendance and in proceeds. The tour booklet contained the most advertising ever. Much thanks go to our sponsors.
- Three-year memberships introduced at reduced rates. We

now have more than 60 three-year members.

- Membership increased about 25%. The Society is now fast approaching 600 registered members.
- Great attendance at both the Holiday Party and Summer Picnic.
- College scholarship fund for area high school students was established for the 1992/93 school year.
- Redesign of the Society newsletter. The new format is more attractive and easier to read.
- The Society nonprofit mail permit was obtained.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Our newest life member Jackie McNicol, was selected as our fifth Life Member at the RPHS Board of Directors meeting on December 18. Jackie was a charter member of the Society and has worked on many special projects during the past 17 years, especially research and writing.

### "Joy beyond words"

The phone rang. "A singing telegram for you" said a deep voice. Then another laughing voice joined in and it was Mary Jo. "This is to inform you that you've been elected a Life Member of the Rogers Park Historical Society". It took a moment to sink in. What a lovely, lovely moment! Such an honor would be a joy to anyone at any time or place. But for me, from the Rogers Park Historical Society I've loved since it was just a hope in Mary Jo's heart, it's a joy beyond words. My happiest thanks to you all.

Jackie McNicol

### CONDOLENCES

*Our deepest sympathy goes to the entire Meriens/Thiry families on the death of their beloved Mary, one of the first Life Members of RPHS. She was an inspiration to all members of our Society who were lucky enough to come in contact with her on many occasions. Mary not only attended many functions over the years, but also gave programs with her daughter Joan. Mary will be remembered in our prayers.*

*Member Janice Rodenback passed away on Jan. 2. Jan supported and attended many Society functions. She will be especially remembered for her delicious meatballs that graced the table at many of our parties. Our sympathy goes to her sister Jean Chase.*

## Recent Donations

J. E. Arcand - RPHS Board Member  
Two yellow and black street signs, one from Fairfield and the other from Ardmore

Robert & Virginia Burns - RPHS members

Photos of family members and the Burns home in the 1700 block of Farwell - dated early 1910s

Jean Chase - sister of recently deceased member Jan Rodenback

A few of Jan's household items, including serving plates, plus some historical books. Other books were donated to the Friends of the Rogers Park Library for their sale and a set of her encyclopedias was presented to Field School.

Helen Teich - long-time Rogers Park resident

Rogers Park Woman's Club Cookbook - dated 1941

Eileen Zahnen - RPHS member and former West Ridge resident

Childhood photos of family members and neighbors on Touhy west of Western - dated 1920s

## Special Thanks To:

**D**onations to the Scholarship Fund were received by J. E. Arcand, Glenna Eaves and an anonymous donor. These contributions pushed the fund over \$1000.

A generous donation was received from John Appel for a special educational use.

We appreciate the coverage that the Lerner Newspaper continues to provide for our Centennial celebrations. Watch the paper for upcoming activities.

# Membership Memos

PAID YOUR DUES? PLEASE DO!

The Rogers Park Historical Society is a membership organization — we would be nothing without you! Your interest, support and time help us toward our goal of gathering and preserving the rich history of our area. So please take a few minutes now to review your membership status.

The information on the top line of your mailing label indicates your member number(s), your category (see below), N for New or R for Renewal and the month and year that your membership expires. Please consider a 3-year membership

available in the Family and Individual categories (see rates below). We encourage you to go with this money-saving option to really show your support and commitment. Besides, it will help alleviate us of bookkeeping time! Renew now or join us if you would like to be a member.

If you can donate more by becoming a Life, Donor or Sustaining member during our Centennial year of 1993, you're entitled to receive a special complimentary copy of our Centennial Commemorative Calendar.

## HISTORY COMMITTEE

Betty Schonbrun, oral history committee member, completed her interview with Erv Mondl, owner of Ed & Erv's Centrella on Touhy Avenue for many years. In addition, she conducted a combined history with Howard and Sara Kern and neighbor Jane Palm. Sara and Jane both grew up in West Ridge and told many interesting stories. These interviews are now a part of our permanent oral history archives. Coming up in the near future will be an interview with Marie Bornhofen Roti, whose father owned Bornhofen Meats on Devon for many years.

## MATCHING FUNDS

Do you know that many corporations donate matching funds to nonprofit organizations such as ours? Or do you know that some companies simply donate outright if an employee makes a request or volunteers time? Please check to see if your company is one of these. Perhaps you can help us raise additional funds for our historical center/museum or our scholarship fund.

All members who are paid up by May 31st will be eligible for a special drawing. The winner will receive a certificate for "Dinner for Two" at one of our local restaurants.

MEMBER CATEGORY	PERIOD	MEMBERSHIP DUES
Life Member (L)	—	\$ 500.00
Donor (D)	Annual	100.00
Sustaining (Su)	Annual	50.00
Sponsor (Sp)	Annual	30.00
Family (F)	Annual	15.00
Individual (I)	Annual	10.00
Family (F)	Tri-annual	40.00
Individual (I)	Tri-annual	27.00

### Application for Membership and/or Centennial Calendar

1993 annual dues are \$10.00 per person and the membership period is from January 1st thru December 31st. (See additional categories on page 10.)

**Membership:** New  Renewal  **Cent. Calendar**  (\$12.00 each)

Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ made payable to: **Rogers Park Historical Society.**

---

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Rogers Park Historical Society  
2555 W. Farwell Chicago, IL 60645**

[ ] I would like to help the Society when I am available.

## Welcome New Members

### INDIVIDUAL:

Mindy Bass  
Gus Bernard  
(Des Plaines)  
Edward Endre  
(Mt. Prospect)  
Dorothea Federgren  
(West Ridge)  
Nancy Horn  
(West Ridge)  
Frank Maguire  
Karlene Mostek  
Basilia Oswald  
(Chicago)  
Eileen Zahnen  
(Chicago)

### FAMILY:

\*Rachel Abramson & Bill Dolnick  
(West Ridge)  
John & Estela Armendariz  
and Robert & Sergio  
(West Ridge)  
Fred & Beverly Carter  
Cheryl DeNicolo & Mike Snodgrass  
(West Ridge)  
Michael & Laura Gaster  
and Toby, Jonah & Gabriel  
Jill Kempson & Gene Rehmert  
Jan & Carleen Lorys  
(West Ridge)  
Russ & Laura Morbee  
(West Ridge)  
\*Marvin & Phyllis Siegel  
Fred & Olivia Thomas  
and Scott  
Jaime & Ginny Trevino  
Jackie Turlow Family  
(West Ridge)

\*3-year membership

## Thanks For Renewing

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Edythe Balster  
Le Roy Blommaert  
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Tony Eberhart  
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\*Mitzi Golden  
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Don Sack  
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Florence Selko  
\*Bill Steinfeld  
Hazel Reinsch Stevens  
Rita Stineman  
Jon Willarson

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Leonard & Lillian Adler  
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### NEWSLETTER NOTICES

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### SPECIAL RATE MAIL

This is our second Newsletter mailed with our nonprofit permit. Because of this, several flyers are enclosed for community events. For your information, the scheduled mail date is approximately March 15.  
**WE WELCOME GUEST COLUMNISTS AT ANYTIME.**



Rogers Park  
Historical Society  
2555 W. Farwell  
Chicago, IL 60645-4617

### MEETINGS

1st and 3rd Saturdays  
11:15 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

ROGERS PARK LIBRARY  
6911 North Clark St.  
Chicago, IL 60626  
744-0156

*Centennial  
Weekend April 2 - 4*