



Volume 24, No.2
July 2009

Upcoming Events

**Founders' Day Event,
September 13**

**Board of Directors
Monthly Meetings**

All meetings are at 7 p.m.

Monday, July 27

Monday, August 24

Monday, September 28

Monday, October 26

Board Meetings are open to all members and are held at the Society offices, 7344 N. Western Ave. (additional meetings may be called as needed)

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The Historian

Preserving And Promoting Neighborhood History

Save the Date! Founders' Day Event

On Sunday, September 13, 2009, Society members will have the opportunity to tour the Chicago area's oldest Catholic Cemetery, Calvary Cemetery, just across the Evanston border.

We will visit the graves of many early Rogers Park and West Ridge leading citizens, including Patrick Leonard Touhy, Phillip Rogers, and Howard Street pioneer Charles W. Ferguson, as well as prominent Chicago political and sports leaders like Chicago Mayors Martin Henry Kennelly, William Emmett Dever, Edward Joseph Kelly, Edward Fitzsimmons Dunne; John Patrick Hopkins; and, notorious first-ward alderman Michael "Hinky Dink"

Kenna, and Chicago White Sox owner Charles Albert Comiskey.

More details to follow soon on the Society's website (www.rpwrhs.org), by e-mail, and by special notice. If you'd like us to call you or e-mail you as soon more information is available, please call the society at (773) 764-4078 or e-mail us at rpwrhs@aol.com.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for this informative and enjoyable event!

Sunday, September 13, 2009
Tour of Calvary Cemetery
301 Chicago Avenue
Evanston, IL 60202
1:00-5:00 pm



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**Rogers Park/West Ridge
Historical Society**

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2009-2010**

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Historical Society

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Your New *Historian* By Hank Morris, Director of Publications

Welcome to the newly redesigned *Historian*. After we put out the March issue, several members of the Publication Committee took a long and hard look at our newsletter and literally dozens of newsletters put out by other organizations. Our goal was to keep those features that were good about the current design, and to make changes that would better serve our readers.

The results of a number of meetings and working sessions are reflected in this issue.

Do You Miss Our Neighborhood Paper?

First we had the Lerner newspapers. Then Pioneer Press seemed to care enough to report on our region of Chicago. Then we had the News-Star, part of the Chicago Journal family. Then ... nothing ... that is, until now.

Print newspapers are failing all around us. The Tribune and Sun-Times are both facing bankruptcy. Even the New York Times isn't immune. So, it's no surprise that neighborhood-oriented papers are also on the decline.

Those of us who care about our community felt betrayed when the *News-Star* went away. But, the driving force, Lorraine Swanson, hasn't gone away. Instead, she's created an on-line news outlet tailored to report on our community. **The Lake Effect News.** Read it at: <http://www.lakeeffectnews.com>.

Thanks to the talents of Kathleen Paluch and Nick Dorochoff, we arrived at a design which is more open and flexible than past issues, and better suited to the kinds of information typically included in the *Historian*.

We welcome any comments you may have, positive or negative.

Feel free to send them to me in care of the Society's office or by e-mail at henrymmorris@att.net.

Kudos to our Intern

Congratulations to Society intern Rochelle Caruthers, and her project partner, Pam Kyle for their work on the Multiple Property Document "Suburban Homes of Rogers Park." Upon completion, the Multiple Property Document will be submitted to the Illinois Historic Preservation Office. If it is approved, homes that were built between 1872 and 1893 that were part of the original Rogers Park Subdivision may be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

Rochelle and Pam are graduate students in the Public History Program at Loyola University and want to thank the Historical Society and its members for their help with the project.

The pair received an "A."


Do We Have Your E-mail Address?

We've been emailing issues of our new **Electronic Newsletter**

If you didn't get yours it's because we don't have your e-mail address.

It's a simple enough problem to fix; just send us an e-mail asking to be added to the list.

Send it to: rpwrhs@aol.com



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From the President's Desk

By Jonathan Dixon

How I got Involved

I want to talk to you about some doors that are opening at the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society to improve and expand our organization, and I want to invite you to participate.

First, let me share my own story about how I came to be a member of the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society, and how I eventually came to serve on the Board of Directors.

When I moved to Rogers Park—all the way from Edgewater—in 2000, I heard about the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society, and sent in a check to become a member. I had never been a member of a local historical society, but I was a casual history buff, and liked the idea of putting down some roots in my new community. As a member, I liked getting the Society's newsletter, and I attended a few events here and there when I could. I was impressed with the Society's historical books and enjoyed tapping into a historical connection with my neighborhood.

This, by and large, probably describes the experience of many of our members.

Later, I read in an issue of the newsletter that the Nominating Committee was looking for members to serve on the Board of Directors. Thinking that it might be an interesting opportunity, I called the Society and spoke with Mary Jo Doyle. If I had been expecting any kind of rigorous screening process, I would have been disappointed since Mary Jo's words were, "I'm so glad you responded, we're desperate."

Well, they must have been desperate, because I attended one Board Meeting just to see what it was like, and the next thing I knew I was being slated to serve as



Volunteer Services Director at the upcoming Annual Meeting. Not that I knew exactly what I would be doing as Volunteer Services Director.

For me personally, serving on the Board these past several years has allowed me to see the real challenges a small non-profit organization has to grapple with. Just as often, I have seen people step up to serve the particular needs the Society. We have needs in such a wide array of areas, including membership development, membership services, resource development, grant writing, events, volunteer services, publications, diversity development, office operations, the oral history project, and organizing and cataloging our archives. And that's just the beginning.

This leads to my invitation to you. We need the resources each of our members can bring, and we have an opportunity to match your talents and the time you can spare. I hope we can promise not to take too much from you, and I know we can promise to pay you back with a sense of ownership in your own history and your community.

(continued on next page)

Welcome New Members

Individual

- Jennifer Albom
- Leonard Kliwinski
- Bill Morton
- Kathy Mulligan
- Eva Mullinax
- Margaret Redlich
- Helen Voris

Senior

- Irving Amado
- Judith Cody
- Janet Hauser
- Mary Oellrich

Family

- Bill & Gail McGraw
- William Siavelis & Vicki Curtis

Sponsor

- Laura Jenkins

Life

- Mary (Eischen) Quinn

Honorary

- Lee & Julie Gawron
- Dave Skora & Lorrie Woos
- Carl Steward
- Tom Sullivan

Thanks for Renewing

Individual

- Stuart Alpern
- Denise DeBelle
- Mike Glasser
- George Glastris
- Gwen Gregory
- Gary Houston
- Ken Kopper
- Jackie Brokaw Moore
- Pat Motz
- Robert Rashkow
- Daniel Schwegel
- Ahadi White
- Jay Woldenberg

(continued on next page)

Membership Renewals
(continued from previous page)

Senior

James Corman
Pat Daly
Jackie Dupon
Tony Eberhart
Hank Morris
Roberta Motanky
Thomas O'Keefe
Carl Robst
Mervyn Ruskow
Kevin Sampson
Suzy Travers-Byster

Family

Richard & Kathy Anderson
Mark Armendariz & David Fox
Leonard & Darlene Bock
Kevin & Irma and Kyle & Mia Dixler
Harold & April Hansen
Harry & Robin Hunter
Michael O'Connor & Sara Mauk O'Connor
James & Sandi Price
Ken & Peggy and Caitlin Swedroe
Steve & JoAnn Tres
Greg & Margaret Wojcicki

Senior Family

Roy & Soula Alexander
Milton & Joan Blum
Darwin Corrin & Dennis LoBue
Paul & Jean Einsweiler
Mike & Rita Eischen
(continued on next page)

Society Members in Print!

In the May 2009 *Smithsonian*, RPWRHS's Director of Events, Colleen Taylor Sen, author of *Food Culture in India* (2004), was quoted in the article "Chicago Eats." She explained to the article's New York-based author, Jamie Katz, that Bhabi's Kitchen, 6352 N. Oakley Avenue, was unique. "This one has some dishes that you don't find at other Indian restaurants," said Colleen.

Colleen informs us that her new book, *Curry, A Global History (Edible)*,

(Reaktion Books, London, UK, ISBN 9781861895226), will be released in September, 2009. Amazon is already taking pre-publication orders.

Publications Director Hank Morris recently released his latest book, *The Flight of the M-497*, co-authored with Don Wetzel, which is presently available online from on demand publisher Lulu (<http://books.lulu.com/M497>) and from Amazon.com.

Let us know what you've been doing.

From the President's Desk, continued from previous page

Do you have talents in the areas of Marketing? Event planning? Resource development? Grant writing? Do you think you might be interested in membership outreach or membership services, and expanding our reach to the diverse communities in Rogers Park and West Ridge? Would you like to get involved in the strategic planning of the Society? Are you curious about the Society's archives and interested in working in that area?

You can explore any of your potential interests in the Society's programs by serving on one of our standing committees. Let me briefly describe our standing committees and their functions. I invite you to explore whether you might be interested in finding a fit with one of our committees. (And I'll tell you in advance, we still have the same "non-rigorous" standards as when I first joined the Board, and we're happy to include everyone.)

The Membership Committee's basic tasks include keeping track of our membership, reaching out to the community, expanding our membership, and making sure that our members feel rewarded and satisfied with their membership.

Our Resource Development Committee has the very important function of promoting sources of income for the Society, seeking donors and donations, and planning strategies for raising funds for the Society.

The Events Committee arranges and organizes our Annual House Tour, Founders' Day, and other events throughout the year. These events are opportunities to raise money for the Society and to allow our members to connect with each other and the community.

The newsletter that you are reading right now is the job of our Publications Committee, as well as the e-newsletter you may get (and if you aren't getting it, but have an e-mail address, let us know and we'll add you to our list). The Publications Committee also oversees our website and manages the sales of our historical books. Writers, editors, web-savvy people, graphic designers, and ideas; people are always needed.

Our *Diversity Development Committee* plans the Society's outreach to the many diverse communities in our neighborhoods and recruits new members from diverse backgrounds so that the Society membership reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity of Rogers Park and West Ridge.

(continued on next page)

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Operations Committee Report *By Glenna Eaves*

During the past 18 months, the operations team has been working to improve the physical condition, effectiveness and morale of our office and administration functions. We have made significant progress in:

- ☞ Consolidating, reviewing, and organizing our paper documents.
- ☞ Organizing, cleaning up, and backing up our electronic files.
- ☞ Developing written processes and procedures for administrative tasks.
- ☞ Providing timely and constructive resources for our constituents.

In the coming months we will focus on preparing for the Society's new home and developing additional volunteer resources to provide back-up for our current

activities and expanded capabilities in the future. We can use your help at this critical time.

Specifically, we need volunteers to train in the key areas of:

- ☞ Staffing the Society office during hours we are open to the public and greeting visitors.
- ☞ Data entry. Knowledge of Quickbooks and Excel is helpful, but not necessary.
- ☞ Monitoring phone and/or internet communications.
- ☞ Continued organization of paper and electronic files.

If you have interest in volunteering for any of these activities, please contact Glenna Eaves at 773-764-4078 or rpwrhs@aol.com.

From the President's Desk, continued from previous page

Through our **Oral History Project** we have begun a very important undertaking to chronicle the histories of individuals having ties to West Ridge or Rogers Park. This project involves interviews, transcriptions, editing, and archiving. The members of the Oral History Project are truly witnesses to history as they glean the oral histories of members of our community.

The **Museum/Collections/Archives Committee** oversees, manages, catalogs, and maintains the Society's archive collection. Currently, the members of this committee are sorting through much of the archives to organize our holdings for research.

One other unique committee that we are starting is our **Bylaws Task Force**. This committee is charged with reviewing our current bylaws and suggesting any necessary changes. The health and good functioning of the Society depends on good bylaws that support our efforts.

Each of these committees is open to participation from the membership. The

members of each committee can expect to meet around once a month—some more, some less. We can find a committee for you that will match your interests and time availability. Once you decide to participate on one of these committees, you'll enjoy a new sense of ownership and connection to the Society. Please e-mail us at rpwrhs@aol.com or call the Society at (773) 764-4078 if you are interested in exploring one of these opportunities.

Let me close by saying this: I'm glad I responded to the invitation in the newsletter to get involved. Being a member of the Board of Directors has been a way to be involved in the community that has suited my own interests and personality. I hope you can feel the same way.



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Our Thanks to Mary L. Quinn

The Board of Directors of your Society wishes to acknowledge the generous donation made recently by Mary L. Quinn, a retired school teacher and long-time resident of Rogers Park, in Memory of the Peter Eischen family, the Adam Pinnel family, and Mary Jo. Doyle.

Ms. Quinn also shared some photographs and other memorabilia from her family. Her father, Peter Eischen, was a Bowman Dairy Company milkman and was featured on a poster produced by the company. Another relative was a captain of the lifeguards at Leone Beach.

Thank you, Ms. Quinn, for your support!

Membership Renewals (continued from previous page)

- John & Judy Fitzgerald
- Chester & Naomi Gaynes
- Frank & Ann Glapa
- John Lee & Sally Kasper Lee
- Roy & Norma Luce
- Alexander & Katherine MacGregor
- Michael & Mary Pack
- James & Delores Patton
- Richard & Susan Varno

Sponsor

- Clark & Sue Davoust
- Dick Hurwitz
- Frank Pokorny & Nancy Lauren
- Ashish & Colleen Taylor Sen
- Marcee Williams

Sustaining

- Jonathan Dixon
- Carl Lingenfelter & Stacia Smith

Memberships as of May 31, 2009

Highlights of Our 2009 House Tour and Historic Walk

By Nancy Jane Lauren

On May 3, 2009, the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society held its 23rd Annual House Tour, featuring historic points of interest along Howard Street and homes in the Eastlake Terrace and Germania neighborhoods. The starting point featured photos from the Society's archives of Howard Street and Germania from the days of the Model-T to the present.

The tour began with the site of the old Howard Theatre at 1621 W. Howard. The Howard was built in 1917 as one of those beautifully ornate palaces of the era and was also one of the largest theatres in Chicago. Traveling east on Howard were several other stops including the site of the old Limehouse Restaurant at 1559-61, and of long-gone nightclubs such as Club Silhouette at 1555 and the Club Detour, which was in the Bishop Building Mall.

A quick side-step to the 7600 block of N. Bosworth lead to the Broadmoor Hotel, built in 1922, which was one of the most luxurious buildings of its day. It was also where WBBM radio broadcasts originated, from 1924 to 1927. Revisiting it stirred up some sentimental feelings for one tour guest, Jackie Moore who attended events at the Broadmoor while in high school. "The Broadmoor had or has a lot of sentimental memories for many of my fellow Sullivanites."

Back on Howard, our walk passed 1426-the Birchwood Beach Country Club Cottages, which were built around 1903 (top right photo). Then on to Eastlake Terrace, stopping first at 7617 to see the garden, a central common patio for a townhouse

condominium, circa 1954, filled with vivid red geraniums and other colorful annuals. The garden leads to a private pier on the lakefront, with spectacular views of sunrises, moonrises, rainbows and, on occasion, fireworks.

Speaking of piers on Eastlake Terrace, the next tour stop was Northgate Pier at 7361-49 (top right, next page). The four buildings in this complex, built about 1925, have long, sweeping common hallways that all emerge onto a substantial lakeside pier used by residents. These buildings were rental until 1994 before being converted to condos. Many of the units retain their wood burning fireplaces, while other fireplaces are only are decorative.

The area north of Howard was called Germania a name dating to the early 1900s when the area was inhabited by German immigrants and Luxembourgers. Originally

considered part of Evanston, the area was also referred to as "No Man's Land" because it was physically cut off from Evanston's electricity and sewer services. All that changed in 1915 when Germania seceded from Evanston and was annexed to Chicago.

On to Juneway Terrace and a stop at 1427—the home of Larry Tobiasz and Sharon Kozak who told us "It was our pleasure to participate in this year's event. I can't tell you how



1500 W. Juneway (top) and 1426 West Howard (bottom), stops number 16 and 10 respectively on this year's tour. (Photos by Roy Alexander)

pleased I am to know that at least some people have a renewed opinion of our “little corner” in RP. Thank you so much for the opportunity.” This beautiful, classic bungalow was originally built in 1917 and occupied by a wealthy lumberyard owner. It was completely renovated in 2004. Rumor has it that Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy hosted children’s birthday parties here and that a Chicago mayor lived here in the early ‘20s.



Lakefront views are a key feature of 7617-19 N. Eastlake (above right—photo by Nancy Jane Lauren). Sr. Sidulski, the Society’s Secretary, assists with ticket sales in the storefront kindly provided by The Rogers Park Business Alliance—formerly DevCorp North (above—photo by Glenna Eaves).

Next on the route was 1420 Juneway Terrace, the home of Lee and Julie Gawron, built around 1922. It has been undergoing restoration (stripping and refinishing the fireplace) and renovations (opening up the kitchen, creating another bedroom and installing an upstairs bathroom).

1500 Juneway Terrace (top left photo) was the next tour stop, a four-story home built around 1910 for Charles Ferguson, the developer of Germania. Helen and Harold Voris bought the home in 1983 and have taken pains to restore much of the oak woodwork and crown molding in the living room. It has the original

leaded-glass windows and has a garden that was featured in a garden walk. Helen says “We’ve tried to be very respectful of the past and maintain as much as we could.” She and her husband added “Thanks so much for allowing us to participate in the house tour! We had such fun, and got to talk to so many people about our house and their amazement at the huge backyards we have here on Juneway” (220 feet long on the north side of the street, 210 feet on the south).

The next stop was also a lovely garden at 1526 W. Juneway Terrace, an eclectic mix of beehives, ponds with koi, grasses, bamboo, ferns,

trees, bushes, vegetable garden, vines and flowers. Lots of them. According to the owners, Dennis LoBue and Darwin Corrin, more than 1,000 tulips and jonquils come up every spring.

From single family homes on Juneway the tour continued to a 3-flat, built in 1913, at 7727 N. Marshfield. Here Carl Steward told us “What a wonderful event!! Thank you so much for allowing me to participate in this year’s Historical Walk in Germania and its surrounding areas. While my planting of my rear courtyard garden was not complete, the attendees were very gracious and kind while viewing the property, and some fell in love with my friendly cat Callie.”

Two viewing stops remained on the tour-1631 W. Jonquil, the Stephen F. Gale Math and Science Academy, completed in 1922 and named after a successful businessman who opened Chicago’s first book store on South Water Street-and 7616 N. Paulina, the Werner Fireproof Building.

(continued on next page)

The Bishop Building 1501-19 West Howard Street

The Bishop Building, highlighted on our recent House Tour and Historical Walk, is named for the man who commissioned the building. Harry G Bishop, a lumber magnate, who came to Chicago from Canada. He bought the land which was originally an Indian Reservation. Rogers Ave was originally named Indian Boundary Road and was initially an Indian trail.

Harry Bishop was instrumental in the development of Howard Street. He and his fellow entrepreneurs laid out Howard Street in a way so that it was a major strip of nightclubs, restaurants and stores, in a manner much like Rush and Oak Streets are today.

The Bishop Building was the home of The Club Detour—a nightclub that hosted such stars as Louie Armstrong, Ella Fitzgerald, Count Basie and many other legends. The building, itself was the first shopping center that people could walk upstairs to the shops without going outside.

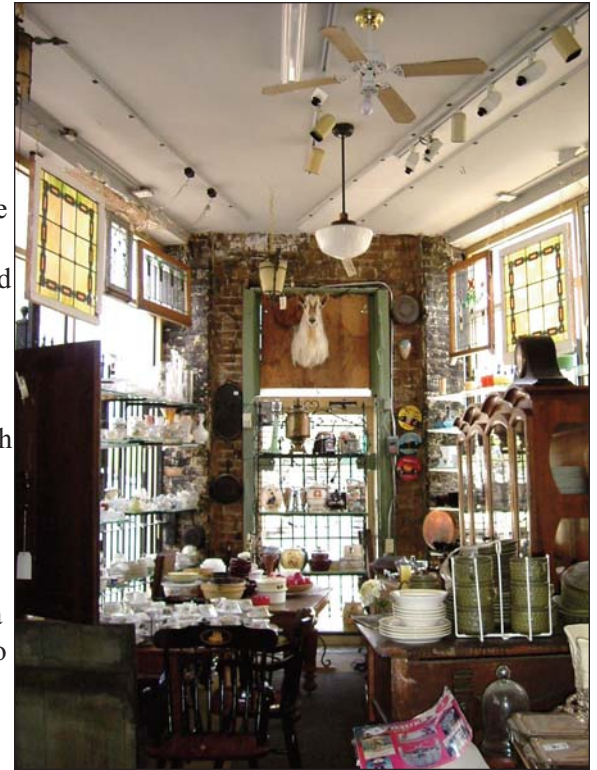
Originally the building was a nightclub and the upstairs housed twenty offices and shops. Many famous people were connected to the building, including Preston Bradley, Frank Lloyd Wright and Wright's friend and apprentice, architect Bruce Goff.

The building was completed sometime in 1923, constructed of

Indiana Limestone. The original cost for the construction of the building was \$224,000; a significant amount at that time.

Mr. Bishop owned and ran the building until 1970, when William C. Simmons inherited the building from Mr. Bishop and it has been in his family since.

The building has gone through many changes since its beginning and has seen many changes in the neighborhood. The first floor has been operated as everything from a laundry to health food store to a hippie shop. Currently as you can see (right) it is an antique, collectible, stage props and costume shop.



Interior of the Bishop Building. (Photo by Roy Alexander)

House Tour, continued from previous page

What did we hear from others during our tour, on a delightful sunny and pleasant day I might add:

- ☞ “As a first-year participant, I was more than pleased with the feedback on the condition of my property, recommendations and all of the wonderful comments afforded.”
- ☞ “You guys should be very proud of your commitment, contributions, continued enrichment of Rogers Park and West Ridge; You, individually and as a organization are a true Rogers Park/West Ridge treasure of untold worth.”

- ☞ “Thank you for a day of wonderful people, new friends, old neighborhood friends whom I have not seen in years, and just a really wonderful and memorable event. You guys did good!!!”
- ☞ “The volunteers were great, and it was such fun to get to meet and talk with them! It really takes a lot of effort to make something like this happen so smoothly so my most sincere congratulations and thanks to all of you! And thank you too for the lovely gift of the books on Rogers Park/West Ridge! Your only challenge is to try to top this tour next year-Good Luck!”

What can we say, other than just wait to see what we can do next time.

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A New Web Service for RP/WRHS Members

Hank Morris, Director of Publications

The Society now offers an interactive discussion group where members can share information about the history of the area and people who lived here. The group's web address is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpwrhs>.

If you've never used a discussion group before, here's how it works: Any member of the group can log into the site and pose a question by sending an e-mail to the discussion group address. The question is then automatically forwarded to all members of the group. Anyone replying to that message is actually sending their reply to all members of the group.

Groups like this encourage participation and increase the likelihood that an answer may be forthcoming. All members will see the question and any discussion that results.

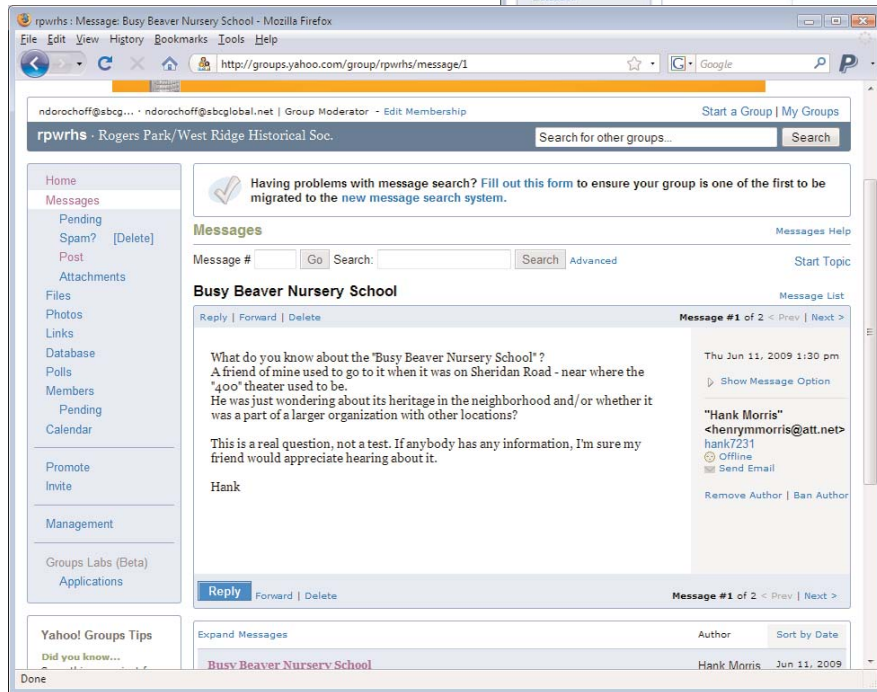
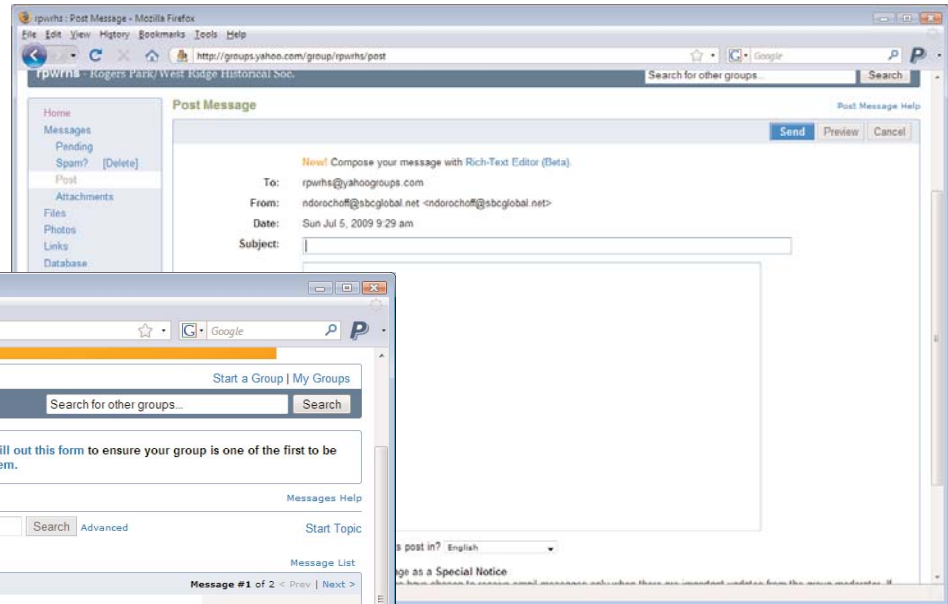
The site is intended for members of the Society and other interested parties to share information about the history of the Rogers Park or West Ridge neighborhoods. Please note: This forum is specifically for history-related questions and comments. There is, however, another site you may be interested in joining for political issues, community concerns (such as pot holes) and current affairs: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WROGERSPK>

Some topics you might expect to find on the Rogers Park/West Ridge

Historical Society group include discussions about whatever happened to the cannon that was in the "Birchwood Triangle." Or information on the original location of the big gas storage tank. Or the names of the railroads that ran in Rogers Park and/or West Ridge.

So try it out for yourself by visiting <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/rpwrhs>. Simply sign up and let the discussions begin! Your participation will help make the discussion group a very lively and interesting membership feature that everyone is sure to enjoy.

Members of this service type their message or question into the "Post message" page (below), and every member receives the question via e-mail.



In addition to receiving and sending messages to the group via e-mail, members can log onto the site to review posted messages.

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Memories of Marty Schmidt

(May 15, 1921-May 17, 2009)

Martin J. Schmidt, one of our founders, passed away on Sunday, May 17, at the age of 88. Shortly thereafter, Kate Sosin, daughter of Sue Sosin, wrote about Marty's life for Lorraine Swanson's new on-line Lake-Effect News (<http://www.lakeeffectnews.com/?s=marty+schmidt>).

Marty's contributions to history as a WWII Army Photographer helped to bring the war home to millions who saw his photos. His contributions to his Rogers Park roots, in part by helping found our Society, lives on in this, the Society he loved.

To honor his passing, I felt that we could best remember Marty's great photographic talent by publishing a sampling of his thousands of photographs and selected reminiscences by those who knew him best.

This is his true legacy. It's how Marty saw us.

—Hank Morris, Director of Publications

"He especially liked landscape photography and wandered around his own neighborhood all through that horrible blizzard of 1979, taking pictures of everything from cars half-buried in snow to trees with white branches and homes and apartment buildings with snow-covered lawns."

—Bob Rashkow



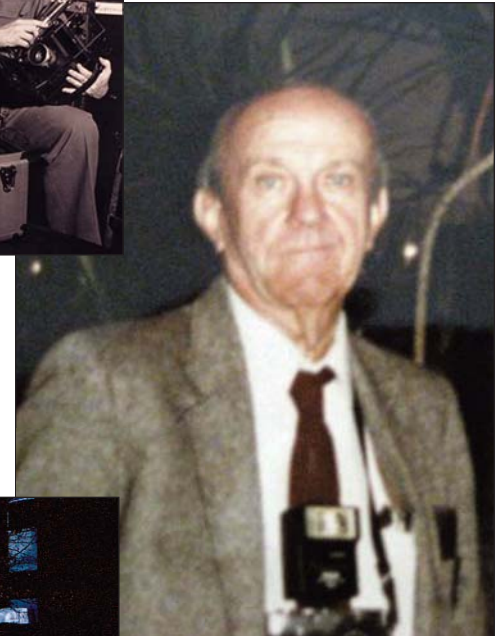
Car in Snowfall of 1979 (above); the demolition of the Grenada Theater, 6435 N. Sheridan (below).



"Before Marty Schmidt became the 'eyes' of Rogers Park, he photographed the 'Blitz,' Winston Churchill, and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth."

—Kate Sosin,

The Lake Effect News



Photos above and below, Marty as we knew him then, and more recently. (photographers unknown)



"Marty had a keen sense of humor."

—Kathie Paluch



“Martin J. Schmidt is one of the treasures of the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society.”
—Mary Jo Doyle



Marty captured the life of the neighborhood. Here, it’s Janes Pumpkin Patch on West Devon Avenue (above) and a tuckpointer & friend [in lower window] (left).



Marty never hesitated to share his love of photography with others.

“I asked him, as a special favor, to reproduce a photograph of my mother as a young woman, which he did most kindly.”

—Arlene Weiss



Marty’s photos also document the architecture of the neighborhood. Clockwise from above right: the house at 1929 West Touhy, St. Margaret Mary and a community sculpture at Pratt and Lake are examples.



Memories of Marty Schmidt

continued from previous page

In documenting the architecture of the north Chicago neighborhoods, Marty's roving eye focused equally on traditional and contemporary buildings, on both the sublime and mundane. The result is a photographic record that reflects a broad range of topics over a significant span of time. His photos are marked by a simplicity of composition, often emphasized by the play of light and shadow.

Clockwise from right: Maria Della Strada Chapel at Loyola University, apartments at 1116 West North Shore, Congregation Ezras Israel at 7001 N. California, former site of Joseph Lumber at 7700 N. Western, and Benefit Trust Life Insurance Company, 1771 W. Howard (built on the site of the Northshore Theater, demolished to make way for Gateway Plaza).



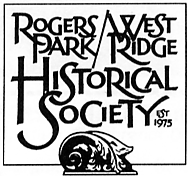
“Marty has left RPWRHS with a legacy of treasures unsurpassed even by all of the Lerner papers’ photos.” —Bob Rashkow



Marty’s photos are marked by a simplicity of composition, often emphasized by the play of light and shadow.

Clockwise from left: The Schreiber Monument, St. Henry’s Cemetery and industrial and municipal buildings (unknown location).

“What better way to show our respect to Marty than to display his photos —Glenna Eaves



New and Renewing Members

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

| Member Category | Annual Dues | Member Category | Annual Dues |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life | \$750 | <input type="checkbox"/> Family-Sr. | \$25 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$200 | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor | \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business | \$100 |
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New Membership Renewal I would like to volunteer at the Society.

Mail your check to *RP/WR Historical Society, 7344 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60645*

For Credit Cards please call us at 773-764-4078 or 773-764-4079.

The Society's Website: Under Construction

Hank Morris, Director of Publications

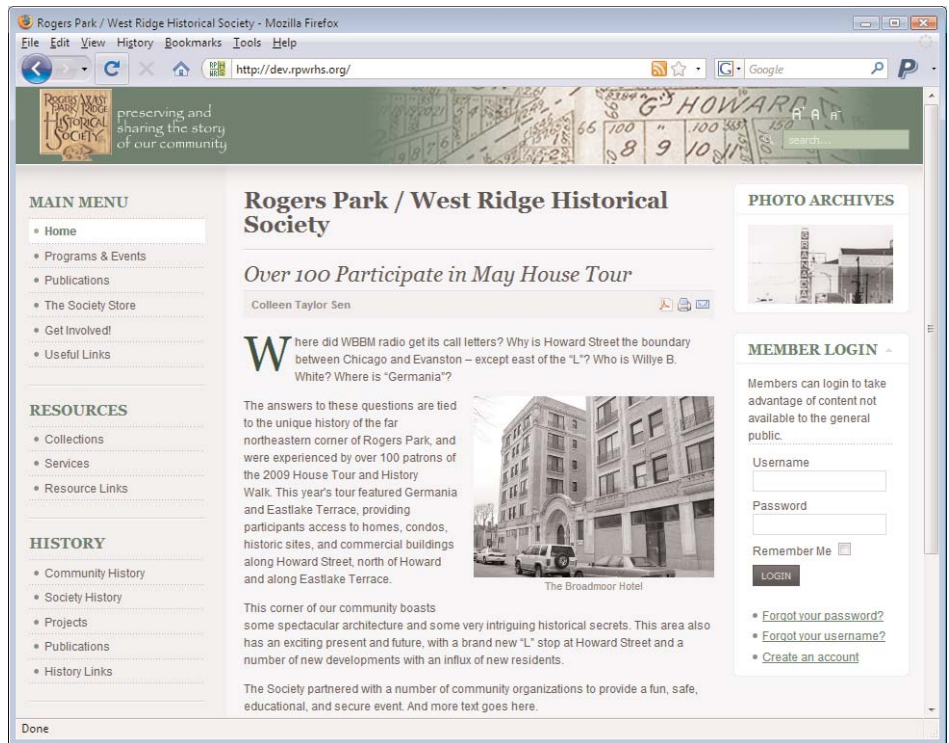
Since its beginning, our website (<http://www.rpwrhs.org>) was hosted by John Hagstrand as a courtesy to us. First, and foremost, we must extend a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Hagstrand for the support he extended to us over the years.

All good things must come to an end, however, and earlier this year, Mr. Hagstrand informed us that he was unable to continue supporting the Society in this way. Mr. Hagstrand worked closely with Society volunteer Nick Dorochoff, who moved the entire existing site to a temporary location so there would be no interruption in service. To those that visited the website during these times, the transition was transparent. Their computers found the site and they conducted whatever business they wished to do with no apparent hindrances or inconveniences. That is the website you will see if you visit us online today.

These changes provided an opportunity to review the existing site, consider the needs of our membership, and implement some improvements. Some of these were identified by a focus group conducted in 2006, and others have been gathered from members over the last six months.

What now? The redesign of the website. We are incorporating a revised organizational structure and new features. These will include:

- Better handling and presentation of photos
- A security feature which will allow only registered members access to special content, like research materials



One potential design option for the Society's redesigned website.

- Easier updates, allowing more current information to be available to users
- An online store, which allows visitors to purchase Society merchandise—like our popular books and posters—or renew their membership online.

The online shopping feature will use the secure and encrypted PayPal system to transfer payments electronically from your Visa, Mastercard, Discover or American Express card. You do not have to be a member of PayPal to make these transactions, and thanks to PayPal, your card information is kept secure. (The receipts of the PayPal transactions only receive billing information; no credit card information is shared.)

These features will be presented using a new “look

and feel,” making it easier to find what you need (screen shot above).

Until the design and development of the new site is complete, the current site will continue to be available to users.

Further down the line, we have planned more improvements and enhancements. More on these as they become available.

Take time to visit the Society online at <http://www.rpwrhs.org>. Keep checking it out. It will keep getting better and better.

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FRANK HENGELMANN

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Chicago, IL 60645 Hours M-F 8-7 Sat. 8-6 Sun. 10-3
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West Ridge Bungalows Receive National Historic Status

Excerpted from the Friday, March 13, 2009, Chicago Tribune, Real Estate Section

Chicago's West Ridge neighborhood recently gained official status on the National Register of Historic Places. West Ridge was granted this status by the National Park Service after a year-long process involving the research and documentation of this bungalow neighborhood.

It was a long process that took the effort of an entire neighborhood. Finally, a representative for the West Ridge historic bungalow districts said "The national recognition of this district is confirmation of what we already knew, the Chicago bungalow is a durable and timeless architectural genre."

In seeking the designation, homeowners in the neighborhood contacted the Historic Chicago Bungalow Association (HCBA), which worked with them to achieve state and national historic status.

"We learned a lot about the history of the homes in our area as well as their original inhabitants," said Maribeth Brewer of West Ridge. "We are an ethnically diverse community, and it

was interesting to see that this was the way we started out. We all have a greater sense of neighborhood pride than ever before."

Pride, however, is not the only benefit for bungalow owners in this neighborhood. Homeowners in a National Register historic district are also eligible for an eight-year property-tax relief should they undertake renovations equal to 25 percent of the market value of their homes.


In gaining National Register designation, West Ridge joins other Chicago bungalow communities that have won such status due to the work of the HCBA. In an effort to assist bungalow communities in nominating their neighborhoods for designation, the HCBA created the Chicago Bungalow Multiple Property Listing on the National Register of Historic Places. This document sets up the historic context and historical significance of the residential building type known as the Chicago Bungalow and serves as an umbrella under which districts of Chicago

bungalows and individually significant Chicago bungalows can be nominated for listing on the National Register.

Annette Conti, Executive Director of the HCBA, explained that the designation is available to all of Chicago's Historic Bungalow communities and that the association welcomes interested parties.

Ms. Conti added that the national designation is not the only way to get recognition for neighborhoods and bungalows. The HCBA certifies all qualified bungalows, offers grants and loans for historic preservation, and has a special energy savers program, offering grants of up to \$6,000 to make bungalows more energy-efficient. The HCBA is part of the Historic Chicago Bungalow Initiative, launched by Mayor Richard M. Daley in 2000 to help preserve the city's bungalows, which comprise nearly one-third of Chicago's single-family houses.

For more information visit <http://www.chicagobungalow.org>



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Recycled Paper

We Are Now "Green!"

This issue was printed on recycled paper using soy ink.



We're trying to do our part to reduce our carbon footprint, just like so many other responsible organizations.



To that end, we're now offering this newsletter by e-mail. Rather than receiving a printed copy in the US mail, subscribers to this service will receive their newsletter electronically, in Adobe's Acrobat (PDF) format. This will allow us to reduce the number of copies we print and recipients will get their copies much sooner than those copies that we send out by snail mail.

If you want to participate in this effort, please send an e-mail to rpwrhs@aol.com using "Green" as the subject line.

Issues will also be available for download from our website.



Charmers Café
and The Dogel and Beli Shop

We're open until 10pm
every day at
1500 W Jarvis (at Greenview)
½ block east of the Jarvis 'L' stop
773-743-2233 (CAFÉ)



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

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is conducting an on-going oral history project. We're 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 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 Nancy Jane Lauren to arrange an interview at: 773-338-5365 or nancyjanel Lauren@sbcglobal.net

Oral History Project Ongoing

By Nancy Jane Lauren

Over the past year, the Resource Development Committee has conducted several oral history interviews, questioning people who have recollections of our area as far back as the 1920s. The interviews are usually held at the Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society or the candidate's home and are always digitally recorded. They are then transferred to a CD and eventually transcribed. These recordings then become part of our archives for future generations to enjoy.

We are looking for volunteers to help transcribe the interviews on an ongoing basis. Currently we have several recorded interviews that still need to be transcribed, each one lasting approximately one-half to one hour. If you are interested in volunteering your typing skills please contact Nancy Jane Lauren at 773-338-5365 or nancyjanel Lauren@sbcglobal.net

Volunteers Needed . . .

In addition, the Resource Development Committee is looking for volunteer grant writers and people with non-profit fundraising knowledge to help raise money for our move to a permanent home. If you are interested, please contact Nancy Jane.

Do You Know?

If you recognize this local apartment building, send the solution to rpwrhs@aol.com. The first to correctly identify the building gets a copy of one of our books. We had no takers on last month's photo.



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Chicago, IL 60645

773-764-4078
<http://www.rpwrhs.org>
rpwrhs@aol.com
Open Wed. & Fri. 2 pm – 5 pm
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To participate, send an e-mail to rpwrhs@aol.com with the subject line "Green."

**Save the Date for Founders' Day!
Sunday, September 13, 2009
See page 1 for details**