



Volume 26, No. 1
Winter 2011

Upcoming Events

Teri Embrey, Senior Librarian at the Pritzker Military Library, to speak about Angel Guardian Orphanage

Saturday, January 8, 2011
10:30 a.m. to noon at the Society

Annual Meeting

Saturday, February 12 at the Society

Board of Directors Monthly Meetings

All meetings are held on the fourth Monday of each month at 7 p.m.

January 24
February 28
March 28

Board Meetings are open to all members and are held at the Society offices, 1447 West Morse Avenue. (Additional meetings may be called as needed.)

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The Historian

Preserving and Promoting Neighborhood History

We're Open! *by Hank Morris*



49th Ward Alderman Joe Moore cuts the dedication ribbon held by Society board members Paul Bluestone (right) and Hank Morris (left). The weather forced the ceremony indoors. (Photo by Maribeth Brewer)

The weather ganged up on us and made a terrible day for traveling. What with the freezing rain, sleet, snow, and big winds, many of us were sure the turnout would be minimal to bleak.

But, things like bad weather can't keep our members away! Over 200 people (estimates vary) braved the elements to make our Grand Opening a day to remember. Those who made the trip weren't disappointed. A great time was had by all.

Because many people couldn't make it, and for posterity's sake, this issue is going to be made up primarily of photos. There are photos of the construction of our new display wall,

the installation of our new awning, and lots of photos of the event itself.

Many people were involved in making our new temporary home a major Rogers Park destination.

We're fortunate that we have Paul Bluestone as a member of our Board of Directors. Paul designs museum exhibits and has done so for over 30 years. He created a wonderland for the curious as well as the serious researcher. As you will see in the accompanying photos, we have a great story to tell, and Paul's talents have given us a fabulous tableau to introduce the story.

(continued next page)

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Historical Society**

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2010-2011**

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The Historian

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Hank Morris

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The Next Six Months

The Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society is pleased to announce a slate of events for the first half of 2011, including "Second Saturday at the Society," our new monthly program in 2011 featuring speakers and presentations on history and culture. Fittingly, Second Saturday at the Society will be held on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to approximately noon.

Our inaugural program will be on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Teri Embrey, the Senior Librarian at the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago. Ms. Embrey will speak about Angel Guardian Orphanage, which played a significant role in our community's history, and was located where Misericordia is now.

Please join us for this engaging presentation from an accomplished local scholar! Second Saturday at the Society will be free for Society members and a suggested donation of \$5.00 from nonmembers.

Saturday, January 8: Second Saturday at the Society @ 10:30 a.m. at RPWRHS.

***We're Open!**, continued from previous page*

Try to make the trip to our new location. We're readily accessible. The CTA 155 and CTA 96 bus routes stop just across the street from our door. The Red Line is just a block east.

For those interested in conducting research into the history of our combined commun-

Saturday, February 12: Second Saturday at the Society @ 10:30 a.m. at RPWRHS.

Saturday, March 12: Second Saturday at the Society @ 10:30 a.m. at RPWRHS.

Saturday, April 9: Second Saturday at the Society @ 10:30 a.m. at RPWRHS.

Sunday, May 1: Annual House Tour featuring Morse Avenue and the surrounding area.

Saturday, May 14: Second Saturday at the Society @ 10:30 a.m. at RPWRHS.

Saturday, June 11: Second Saturday at the Society @ 10:30 a.m. at RPWRHS.

Our annual house tour this year brings us back to Rogers Park after 2010's successful tour of Indian Boundary Park and surrounding environs in West Ridge. To help celebrate the Society's new interim home, we will be featuring the history and culture of Morse Avenue and the surrounding area in this year's tour.

Just remember:


*if it's the second Saturday of the month,
we're meeting, and you're invited!*

ities, we will arrange an appointment and allow you to investigate our archives.

Our photo archives (a separate collection) are quite extensive. We have around 4,000 photos already scanned in and identified, with several thousand more waiting for attention from our photo archives team.

We're collecting oral histories, and in the near future many of these will be made into podcasts and will be available for a download on our website.

We're not through. Not by a long shot. We're working on a new interactive terminal that will be available to all



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From the President's Desk

by Jonathan Dixon

We have some momentum going!

Despite the very worst that Mother Nature could throw at us, our Grand Opening for our new home at 1447 Morse on December 12 was a monumental success, with big attendance and big sales of our new merchandise! Best of all, we were finally able to show everyone our new digs!

Our new home is an outward sign of an internal process we have been undertaking for a few years. We're living out our mission to make local history more available and more relevant to everyone. Specifically, we're doing this by carefully cataloging and sharing our archives, by our interactive exhibits and our website, and by our events. Our new home should be a welcoming place for everyone in the community to come and share their story and hear the stories of so many others.

I encourage you to come to our new home early and often! We are hosting frequent events, and we will have vastly expanded open hours. You'll continue to learn new

We're Open!, continued from previous page

visitors and members. Our photo archives will be searchable from this terminal, as well as other resources.

There will be other surprises in store.

A new monthly program in 2011 will feature speakers and presentations on history and culture. Fittingly, "Second Saturday at the Society" will be held on the second Saturday of each month from 10:30 a.m. to approximately noon.

Our inaugural program will be on Saturday, January 8, 2011 at 10:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Teri Embrey, the Senior Librarian at the Pritzker Military Library in Chicago. Ms. Embrey will speak about Angel Guardian Orphanage,



things and gain fresh perspectives about history and about life.

We also welcome you to join in as a volunteer in our efforts, as your time and talents allow! On our website, and in person at the Society, we have information about volunteer opportunities. I promise that we can use you and your efforts will go toward keeping up the momentum we have been building.

Thank you to everyone for helping to keep the Society on its upward trajectory!

which played a significant role in our community's history, and was located where Misericordia is today.

More hours

We have extended our hours. We used to be open just six hours a week, but we will now be open five hours a day, from 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. daily. This will take the assistance and support of many volunteers. We welcome your offer to help out. Give us a couple of hours a week if you can.

This is YOUR society. Help us grow so we can tell the stories of our combined neighborhoods and make new discoveries about them. These are your stories. Help us tell them.

Memberships as of December 1, 2010

Welcome New Members!

Individual

Joseph Hollenkamp

Senior

Chuck Askins

Jesse Nasta

William Redlich

Family

James Redlich & Myra Epping

Membership Renewals Thanks for Renewing!

Individual

Dorel Dittmann

John Hoffmann

Vicki Kruzel

Patricia Reding

Anne Schaefer

Glen Timmerman

Family

Denise DeBelle Family

Joe & Peggy Penkrot

Senior

Ronald Ammon

continued on page 7

Building Our Exhibit Wall

Photos by Hank Morris

Dominating our new home is a huge display wall containing a montage of photos from our archives, a timeline spanning three centuries, and a flat-panel display which cycles a repeating program of slides.

Here's a look at the erection of the wall.

1: Manuel positions a section of the wall. The notch will house a flat-panel display. **2:** The various images that make up the wall are held on with Velcro. Here you can see these panels after they've been prepared for installation on the wall.



3: Moises Aguirre uses a level to make sure that this section of the wall is properly in place while Manuel looks on. **4:** While the various pieces were almost an exact fit as received, some tweaks, such as the edge Moises is sanding, were still needed. **5:** The installation has progressed to the doorway. The wall showing the streetcar is curved at this point. **6:** If you look at the trees to the left you will see that many of the illustrations rise above the wall. Jesse Garduno is installing a support for the top of the building.





7: Here we see Jesse installing a support which will help hold up the top of the Granada Theater image. 8: The supports are ready for installing the top of the theater's image. 9: Jesse and Moises put the finishing touches on the theater image. 10: The top of the Granada Theater completely installed. Notice how the supports have been custom fitted to insure that they do their job without drawing attention to their presence. The detailed sculpting of the theater top can readily be seen.



11: Paul Bluestone (right), Moises, (center) and Jesse (left) confer about installing the top of the Granada Theater. 12: Advanced planning and great craftsmanship made camouflaging the door possible. It just blends into the overall image. The left-hand area next to the door has a notch to clear the door when opened. It was hand painted to blend the scene properly. The attention to detail was intense, and the results were worth it.

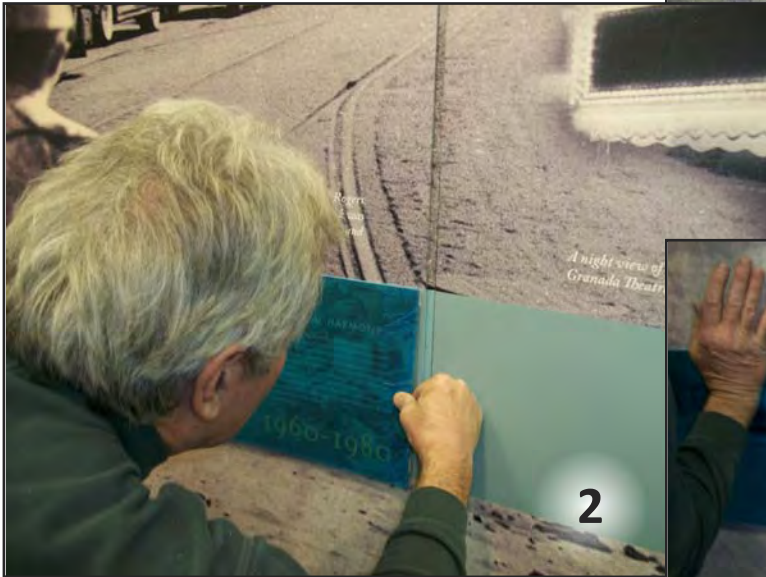


For more photos, turn the page . . .

Installing the Timeline

Photos by Hank Morris

Installing the timeline on the wall required different skill sets and patience. A mistake here could destroy the integrity of the wall image. No mistakes were made.



1: The green swath is the path that the timeline will follow. It extends from one side of the wall to the other. The white stripe is a double-sided strip of Velcro to which the timeline will be attached. 2: Paul Bluestone carefully aligns one of the timeline panels before permanently affixing it to the wall. This took great precision and care. This is where Paul's 30+ years as a museum display designer really came in to play. 3: Installing straight plastic on a curved surface takes more work. Here Paul is firmly pressing the timeline onto the Velcro underneath to insure a good bond. Note the flat screen display in the upper right-hand corner.



4 & 5: Sections of the timeline after their installation.

Behind the Wall—A Peek at Our Office

Photos by Hank Morris

Most visitors to our office will only see the wall and other front-of-house displays. The serious work happens behind the wall, out of sight from inquisitive eyes. Here's a chance to see what's behind the wall.



1: Because we work with so many paper artifacts, such as newspaper clippings, deeds, family records, etc., our archivists need a large surface to lay things out and the wall-mounted “egg-crate” makes sorting much easier. **2:** We store many of our artifacts in these plastic bins. Each is labeled as to content to aid in locating materials. Binders contain family histories, references, and other historical information we use in our research. It's also where the results of some of our efforts are stored for future reference and review.



Membership Renewals *continued from page 3*

Thanks for Renewing!

Senior, Continued

Helen Carlock

Judge Ronald Davis

Joe Gutstadt

Barbara Isaacson

Robert La Plume

Sr. M. Kathleen La Plume

Rita McClure Koehler

Jackie Brokaw Moore

Doug Nelson

Gene Ruth

Lily Venson

Senior Family

David & Audile Fortman

Franklin & Catherine King

Al & Diane Sofiakis

Sponsor

Bill & Tiana Benway

Bill & Gail McGraw

Robert Packer

Sustaining

Chris Boebel &
Glenna Eaves

David Levinson &
Kathy Kirn

Thomas & Sandy Sackley

Our Grand Opening: Sunday, Decemeber 12

Photos by Hank Morris

1: Paul Bluestone holds high the ribbon just cut by the two oldest visitors to our new office. The weather delayed Alderman Joe Moore, so these gentlemen graciously agreed to step in on his behalf. After Alderman Moore arrived, a second ribbon cutting was conducted (see page 1).
2: Board member Denis Paluch provides complimentary bottles of water to visitors who braved the inclement conditions to visit our new home.



3: While not the greatest photo ever taken, this shot illustrates the variety of items offered for sale at our new home. 4: The map table proved to be a popular destination for many of our visitors during the open house. 5: A lighted display about business in Rogers Park graces the Morse Avenue window.



6: Barbara Moore, wife of Alderman Joe Moore, chats with her husband (center) and Society volunteer Robert Case.



7: Passers-by were alerted to coming events and other information by our new LED moving message sign.



8: Society President Jonathan Dixon helps a visitor with selections from our merchandise and gift items. **9:** Visitors to our back office were met by volunteers Laura Jenkins (right) and Robert Case (left). Laura provided an overview of the Society's collections, and Robert discussed our photo archives.



10: Electric transit historian Roy G. Benedict spent a few moments with Paul Bluestone discussing mass transit. **11:** Various artifacts were available on our conference table for visitors to investigate.



Authors Needed, No Experience Necessary

History happens all around us. What was news today will be history tomorrow. We never run out of projects to write about certain events, people, buildings, etc.

This is your Society and this is your newsletter. We want to hear from you.

Whether it's personal reminiscences from your childhood or something more contemporary, let us hear about it.

The most interesting pieces come from members. What's important to you? Write about it. Did your folks throw you a birthday at Hollywood Kiddieland? Did you ride the fire engine? Did you play miniature golf inside in Rogers Park? Share it with our members.

Contact us at:

Rogers Park/West Ridge Historical Society, 1447 West Morse Ave., Chicago, IL 60626

Do We Have Your E-mail Address?

We regularly send issues of our e-newsletter

The Cabbagehead

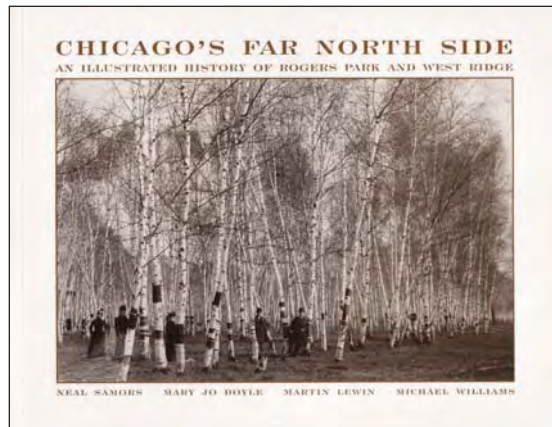
to those on our e-mail list. You won't get yours if we don't have your e-mail address.

If you want to get your copy, we have to have your e-mail address. It's a simple enough procedure; just send an e-mail asking to be added to the list.

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The Society Store

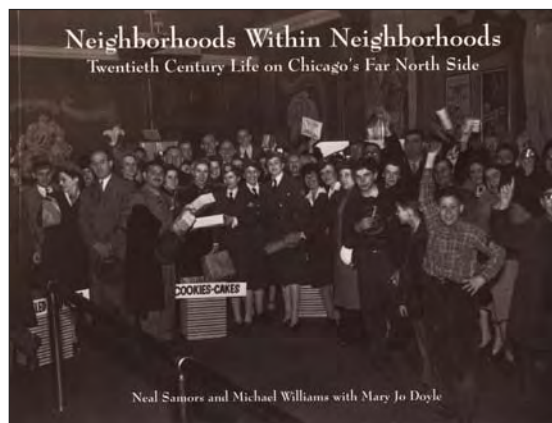
You may order these items by phone, mail or from our Web site.



Chicago's Far North Side: An Illustrated History of Rogers Park and West Ridge

by Neal Samors, Mary Jo Doyle, Martin Lewin and Michael Williams (162 pages, paperback, ©2000–2001)

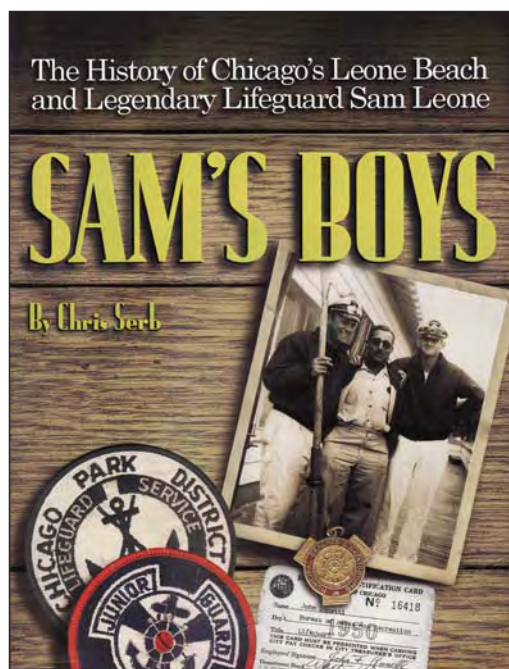
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Neighborhoods Within Neighborhoods: Twentieth Century Life on Chicago's Far North Side

by Neal Samors and Michael Williams, with Mary Jo Doyle (240 pages, paperback, ©2002)

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members \$20.00



Sam's Boys: The History of Chicago's Leone Beach and Legendary Lifeguard Sam Leone

by Chris Serb (169 pages, paperback, ©2000).

nonmembers \$20.00, members \$16.40

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Chicago, IL 60626

To pay by credit card, please call us at 773-764-4078 or use our Web site: www.rpwrhs.org.

Putting Up Our New Awning

Photos by Hank Morris



The Society's offices are easily located on Morse because of our beautiful new green awning.

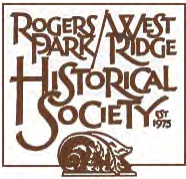
1: The lightweight frame came in two pieces.

2: Putting the frame up was a simple enough task. The crew had already installed anchors on the building.



3: The awning material just slid into place on the frame.

4: After lacing the fabric to the frame, we had an awning.



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"/> Senior Family	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Business / Sustaining	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> Senior/Student	\$15

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

New Membership Renewal I would like to volunteer at the Society.

Mail your check to RPWR Historical Society, 1447 W. Morse Ave., Chicago, IL 60626

To pay by credit card, please call us at 773-764-4078 or use our Web site: www.rpwrhs.org.



**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

Do you have old 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.

For more information, contact the Society's offices.

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Phone: 773-764-4078 or e-mail us at rpwrhs@aol.com.

Do You Know?

What do you know about this house?
Send your solution to rpwrhs@aol.com.
The first person that correctly identifies the house gets a copy of one of our two Society-published books.



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To reduce our carbon footprint, we can send you this newsletter electronically instead of in print.



To participate, send an e-mail to rpwrhs@aol.com with the subject line "Green."

Save the Date!
Second Saturday at the Society
Topic: Angel Guardian Orphanage
Saturday, January 8, 10:30 a.m.