
Germantown Historical Society
Newsletter



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MARCH 2019

Hello Everyone,

Thanks for taking the time to check in with us again. We are heading for what could be a very big year for our society. We hope to have the installation of the final storm windows on the Christ Church Museum completed this spring. On the East side of the church we plan to add some more color to the fern area by adding some flowers. The thought is to plant something that will have nice color during Oktoberfest. With a little more sprucing up, that area will look great. On the other side of Maple Road we are planning to erect some fencing to discourage vehicle traffic on the walking path. I am working with the Village to come up with a plan that works for everybody.

In the Wolf Haus, it would be nice to freshen up the displays (in the church, too). All ideas will be considered. We will leave the genealogy area to the experts. The garage/summer kitchen is in need of some TLC. repairs, cleaning, painting and maybe some ventilation. In the food court area, the pancake wagon needs new doors, counters and outside trim. It's not far from needing a roof too. We also hope to add storage to the "blacksmith" shop and clean that area up.

Now for the big news (I hope), we have financial backing from the Village of Germantown for \$150,000 to build the Festhalle! I am in the process of nailing down other sources of financing to make this happen. With some luck we could have a brand new pavilion for this year's 25th annual event. In reality we will more than likely break ground this fall and have it ready for 2020. No matter what, we are much closer to having this than we were a few weeks ago. Thanks to all for helping.

If you have any ideas for us please share them at 262-628-3170.

Thank you,
Jeff Dhein
President

We are very pleased to announce our Museum Director for 2018, Shane O'Neil will be staying on with us for 2019. See notes from him further in this newsletter.

Welcome

to our Newest Member - Debbie Tucker

Save the Date....2019 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, April 16th....invitation enclosed.

Board of Directors:

Jeff Dhein - President (2017-2020)
Peggy Bast - Treasurer & Secretary (2018-2021)

Judy Bast (2018-2021)
Sandi Dhein (2016-2019)
Marge Miller (2018-2021)
Oliver Schowalter (2017-2020)

THANK YOU! To our 2018 Oktoberfest Sponsors, we couldn't do it without them! Please keep them in mind for future needs...

- Al's Locksmith
- Aldo's
- APQ
- Armour Coatings
- Arrowhead
- Autotech Slinger
- Better Brands
- Bubs
- CGS
- Edward Jones
- Go Riteway
- Happy Hounds Doggie Daycare
- Homers
- Jim Murray
- Midwest Dachshund Rescue
- Midwest Gutter Guard
- Premier Flooring
- PRP Wine
- Robert's Frozen Custard
- Shorewest—Kevin Nash
- Sports Corner
- Village of Germantown
- Wetterau Homestead
- Window Solutions
- Window World
- Wisconsin Fried Cheese

Notes from our Museum Director:

Visitors enjoyed the Bast Bell, Wolf Haus and Church museums last summer. Open as usual June through October, guests found themselves fascinated by the pioneering story of Dheinsville Settlement and the blossoming of Germantown and the surrounding area.

Every visitor seemed to be an interesting guest in one way or another. On one occasion a retired music professor from Arizona State University and her elderly mother from Grafton--both pianists--offered a mini-concert on the 1903 Bast family organ in the church. Another time, grandparents and their five year old grandson from Stevens Point toured the Bell Museum. The boy had become captivated by bells, after seeing and hearing Big Ben in London on television a few years earlier.

A few suggestions to enhance the museum experience that we will be reviewing: Explore a "hands-on" experience for children with the bells at the museum; Additional signage explaining the use of bells in history; Better lighting and signage for the tools and devices warehoused in the back entrance of the Church Museum; Featuring the cemetery more prominently in any tours as many visitors were interested in the cemetery as an important part of Settlement history.

Finally, a few volunteers would be helpful for accomplishing any suggestions and improvements, and for setting up our museum tour mailing list with mail merge capability.

Shane O'Neil

Genealogy: Our Genealogists, Bob Kohls and Jim Dix, will be starting their season on June 1st. We thank them for all their time and dedication.

Annual Dinner: Please join us for the Annual Meeting & Dinner on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00 pm at the Fox & Hounds Restaurant & Tavern. Additional details are provided on the enclosed invitation.

In Memory of Shirley Schowalter

Shirley Schowalter passed away on November 22, 2018 at the age of 76 in the home where she spent her entire life. She is survived by her husband Oliver, children Sandy (Mike) Hug and Scott (Cassy) Schowalter, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and her sister, Betty (Jerry) Fuller. Shirley was a lifetime member of Our Saviour's UCC.

In Memory of Shirley Schowalter, donations have been received from the following:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Jerry & Betty Fuller | - Mary Starosta | - James & Diana Prah |
| - Douglas & Stacy Fuller | - Joel & Linda Pless | - Edward & Judith |
| - Neal & Judith | - Lila Bast | Krepsky |
| Weitermann | - Judy Bast | - Lorna Klumb |
| - Michael & JoAnn | - Peggy Bast | - William Wetterau |
| Stiever | - Brian & Debra Wojcik | - Ellsworth Adhesives |

Memorials - In memory of Sila Lydia Bast on what would have been her 118th Birthday, a donation for the Sila Lydia Bast Bell Museum has been received from her niece, Muriel Underwood.



Volunteers Needed



Thinking ahead, we will need items and baked goods for Oktoberfest Sept 28 & 29th. Items to put together for silent auction baskets and goods for the Sunday bake sale. Cookies, pies, breads, cupcakes... Plan time the week before to bake a batch!

Are you looking for a new opportunity to volunteer this year? Volunteers still needed to assist with group tours at the museums. We usually have 6-10 group tours during the season which runs June 1st thru November 1st. The groups range from 20 – 60 people, and we need up to 3 volunteers for the larger groups to assist our museum employee with the tours. Responsibilities include guiding the groups between the three museums and sharing with them the history of the area, the settlers and the museums. Tours are booked weekdays usually between 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Each tour last approximately 2 hours. If you would be interested in being added to our list of volunteer docents, please contact Peggy at 414.418.6496 or psbast@cs.com.

2019 Dates to Remember:

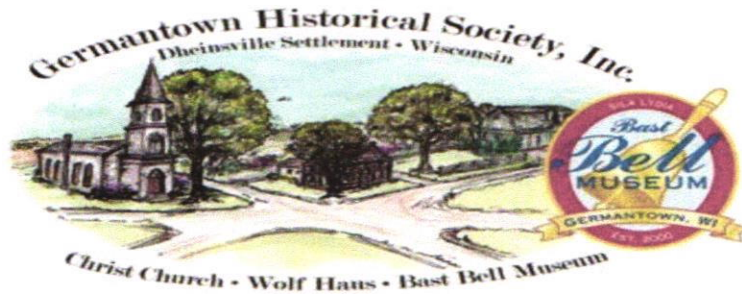
April 16—Annual Meeting
May 4—Bell Ringing & Wine & Cheese
June 1—Bell Museum Opens for the Season
June 2—Christ Church Museum of Local History Opens for the Season
June 5—Wolf Haus Opens for the Season
September 28 & 29—Oktoberfest
September 25—Wolf Haus Closes for the Season
September 29—Christ Church Museum of Local History Closes for the Season
November 1—Bell Museum closes for the season

The Wolf Haus & Genealogy Research Center will be open on Wednesdays from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm from June 1st thru October 1st.

The Christ Church Museum of Local History is open on Sundays from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm from June 1st thru October 1st.

The Bast Bell Museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm from June 1st thru November 1st.

We Hope to See You!



Annual Meeting
Tuesday, April 16th
6:00 pm

Fox & Hounds Restaurant & Tavern
1295 Friess Lake Road, Hubertus

Cost: \$30 per person
(includes: dinner and dessert)

Please RSVP by April 6th

For questions, please contact Peggy at (414) 418-6496 or psbast@cs.com

Name: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Please return reservation and payment by April 6th to:

Germantown Historical Society, PO Box 31, Germantown, WI 53022