

Germanatown Historical Society **Newsletter**



INCORPORATED – 1974

FEBRUARY 2017

Hello to all of you and thanks again for taking the time to read this letter.

As some of you may know, we have an opening on our board. If anyone is interested, talk to an existing board member or give the Society a call. There seems to be a lack of interest in what we do. If that is the case, maybe some new "blood" on the board will help get people interested. We meet once a month. The meetings normally take less than an hour. Please, come join us.

We will be planting seedlings again this spring. The ones that weren't mowed over seem to be doing well. We will attempt to do a better job of marking these so we don't lose so many to the "mad mower". We have also started looking into getting a trail to extend around the park, and get the archery area linked with the parking lot. The little free library has been moved to make it accessible year round.

I have also begun talking to the High School wood shop teacher to see if we can get some picnic tables built. These would become Historical Society property and would stay in Dheinsville.

There have been meetings to get a project that is long overdue on the fast track. We have been talking for many years about getting some recognition for Irene Blau and the rest of those responsible for starting the GHS. Those meetings have been ongoing and I hope we have something ready for the wine and cheese hour. Wouldn't that be great? Other happenings at the church museum will include new storm windows to cover the repaired stained glass windows on the steeple. Repainting the trim and doors, front and back. I would also like to take a "peek" behind the (2) round window openings on the north wall. If anyone has info about what might be hidden let me know.

Some other projects that are going on are; going through the items in the church balcony and the upstairs of the Wolf haus, painting the summer kitchen, re-roofing the pancake wagon and some new plantings all around the park.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you may see the dates for this year's Bier Gardens. If we don't get more volunteer help we will not do these. Too few people are doing way too much around here and we need more help. If you are interested call us at 262-628-3170.

Oktoberfest always could use more help. We need to find someone who has some hours to help get donors/sponsors. There are a lot of new companies in the village and a few of them have German roots. Any ideas? We will also need some help to build a new bar for Oktoberfest. Let us know if you can help.

The Festhalle continues to move at a snail's pace. I am working with the Washington County tourism director on this. Let's hope we can begin to pick up to at least a tortoise's gate. I really feel that this will be a good thing for the park, not just something that will sit unused for most of the year. We don't have as many connections as we could use, but, we are committed to getting this done.

Please check out our calendar for other upcoming events. We are always looking for new fundraising ideas, maybe a road rally or scavenger hunt. Possibly a picnic during the summer would work. We are open to suggestions.

Thank you,
Jeff Dhein
President

Save the Date....2017 Annual Meeting: Tuesday, April 18th.....more details to follow.

2017 Season: The year is off to a great start! We had a group of 48 people from the Bay View Senior Center tour all three of the museums on Friday, January 28th. Thanks to Judy Bast, Marge Miller and Peggy Bast for helping with the tour. We finished off the 2016 season with a visit from the Menomonee Falls Historical Society in November. A group of their members toured our three museums.

“Around the Corner with John McGivern”

On Thursday, February 9, the Sila Lydia Bast Bell Museum was featured on a special episode of “Around the Corner with John McGivern.” The episode is titled Around the Map and fourteen people and/or places are highlighted in the episode in three different categories of work, play and live. The Bell Museum is featured in the live category. “Around the Corner with John McGivern” is seen throughout Wisconsin and Northern Illinois on both Milwaukee Public Television and Wisconsin Public Television. It is also seen on Minnesota Public Television and Chicago Public Television. It is one of the highest viewed PBS shows in the nation on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm.

Board of Directors:

Jeff Dhein - President (2014-2017)
Mike Raab – Vice President (2014-2017)
Peggy Bast - Treasurer & Secretary (2015-2018)

Sandi Dhein (2016-2019)
Oliver Schowalter (2014-2017)
Marge Miller (2015-2018)
Judy Bast (2015-2018)
Keith Ceman (2016-2019)
OPEN



Genealogy

Our Genealogists, Bob Kohls and Jim Dix, will be starting their season on June 1st.



Memorials & Donations

- A donation has been received for the Wolf Haus from Bob O’Keane.
- A donation for the church has been received from the Estate of Millie Schuldt.
- A donation has been received in honor of Irene Blau from Harris & Beverly Wilke.
- A donation for upkeep at the church has been received from SC Kraemer.
- A donation for the Fest Halle has been received from Dennis Dhein.
- A donation has been received from Charles Koehler.

Memorials

- In memory of Sila Lydia Bast on what would have been her 116th Birthday, a donation for the Sila Lydia Bast Bell Museum has been received from her niece, Muriel Underwood.

Volunteers Needed



Are you looking for a new opportunity to volunteer this year? The following opportunities are available:

- Spring Cleaning at the museums: Saturday, April 22 from 9 am – 12 pm. Please contact Jeff Dhein for additional details at 262-628-3170.
- Volunteers 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.
- Bier Gardens: Volunteers are needed the following Saturdays from 12 pm – 8 pm for set up, clean up and assistance throughout the event. Please contact Jeff Dhein at 262-628-3170 for additional details.
 - May 27*
 - June 24*
 - July 29*
 - August 26*

***if enough volunteers**

- We also have various projects that come up throughout the year. If you have time to assist, please call at 262-628-3170 ahead of time and we can let you know what we currently have.



Thinking ahead, we will need items and baked goods for Oktoberfest Sept 23 & 24th. 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!



2017 Dates to Remember:

Annual Meeting	Tuesday, April 18th
Spring Cleaning (9:00am – Noon)	Saturday, April 22nd
Bell Ringing & Wine & Cheese	Saturday, May 6th
Bier Garden*	Saturday, May 27th *
Bell Museum Opens for Season	Friday, June 2nd
Christ Church Museum Opens for Season	Sunday, June 4th
Wolf Haus/Genealogy Opens for Season	Wednesday, June 7th
Bier Garden*	Saturday, June 24th *
Bier Garden*	Saturday, July 29th *
Bier Garden*	Saturday, August 26th *
Oktoberfest	September 23rd & 24th
Wolf Haus/Genealogy Closes for Season	Wednesday, September 27th
Christ Church Museum Closes for Season	Sunday, October 1st
Bell Museum Closes for Season	Sunday, October 29th

***if enough volunteers**

The Wolf Haus & Genealogy Research Center will be open on Wednesday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The Christ Church Museum of Local History is open on Sundays from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

The Bast Bell Museum is open Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

We Hope to See You!

GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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