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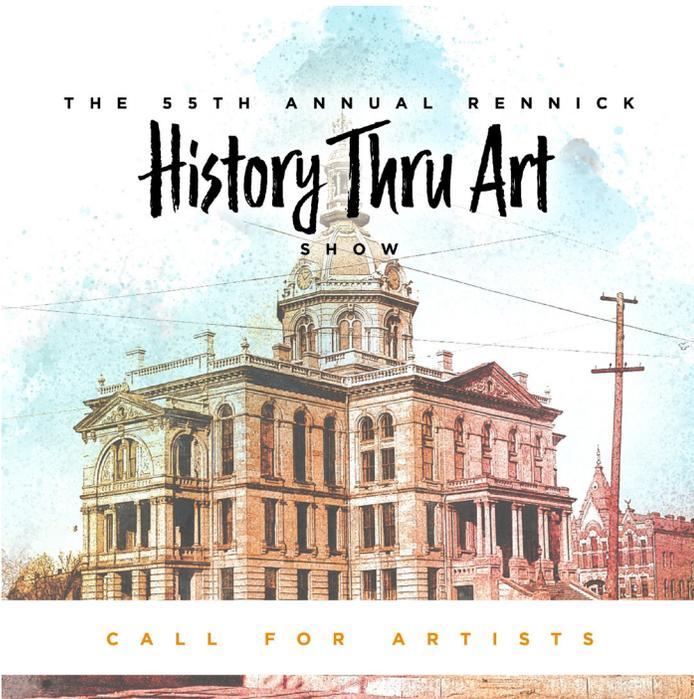
Art Show Makes History!

by John Parks

WHAT:
Rennick ‘History Thru Art’ Show
WHERE:
the Peoria Riverfront Museum Auditorium
WHEN:
Opening Reception May 3rd
Public Opening
May 4th – May 27th

Celebrating talented local artists and Peoria area history, the Peoria Historical Society is proud to announce the 55th Annual Rennick ‘History Thru Art’ Show. For over 20 years, Marjorie Schwebel has generously chaired the Show, gratefully featured at the downtown Peoria Public Library in the month of May.

For 2019, PHS is proud to announce a new collaboration with the Peoria Riverfront Museum where the Show will be presented in the lower level Auditorium.



The ‘History Thru Art’ Show will be open to the public May 4th through May 27th in the Peoria Riverfront Museum Auditorium during regular business hours. This year’s Show has many exciting new features, including a new theme ‘History Thru Art’ that recognizes Central Illinois’ rich history and reflects the Society’s Mission to “Preserve, Protect, and Share the Many Stories of the Peoria Area”.

On the evening of Friday, May 3rd, the Peoria Historical Society will celebrate the Show with a special Opening Reception that includes hors d’oeuvres and a wine & beer cash bar. Individual \$50 tickets are available through the Peoria Historical Society. Evening festivities will include Cash Awards for artists totaling over \$1000, Purchase Awards, and the opportunity to thank and honor Artists and Patrons alike. The Peoria Historical Society extends a special gratitude to Show sponsors Sharon and John Amdall.

For Artist criteria and additional Reception and Show information, please visit www.peoriahistoricalsociety.com/, or call the Peoria Historical Society office at 309-674-1921.

From the President

Spring is here (thank goodness!) and it is the perfect time to celebrate our wonderful volunteers and the outstanding work they do. From never-ending yardwork, dusting and vacuuming to planning programs, weddings, art exhibits, history tours and fundraising events, nearly 100 local volunteers donate their time, energy and resources to help “preserve, share and celebrate the stories of the Peoria area.”

National Volunteer Week is April 7th – 13th. Thank you to our volunteers. The work you do is greatly appreciated.

Regarding wonderful volunteers, we send a special thank you to Linda Herron, who served as House Chair at the Judge John C. Flanagan House for the past eight years. Linda stepped away from the Chair responsibilities earlier this year, but is still active as a volunteer and continues to post on the Flanagan House Facebook page. Many, many thanks to Linda for her dedication and creativity.

This winter was long...and cold. People stayed indoors. Nevertheless, great progress was made on a variety of projects. Collaborations continue with the Peoria Riverfront Museum including a new venue for Rennick “History thru Art” Show in May, a revamp of the annual Rennick Juried Art Show by Marjorie Schwebel and John Parks. Information about the Show is available on the Peoria Historical Society website. Meanwhile, Maureen Naughtin, Curator, is planning and preparing artifacts for a Peoria Historical Society exhibit that will run simultaneously during the month of May at Peoria Public Library, Main Library, Gallery. Two great opportunities to experience Peoria area history...and both events are downtown! Plan to visit both!

In terms of house maintenance, two projects were recently completed. The second phase of brick repair and tuckpointing in the basement of the Pettengill-Morrison House wraps up a project that remedies the deteriorating brick on the interior foundation. A new on-demand water heater and LED lighting upgrade for the basement at Flanagan House greatly brightens up the winter kitchen exhibit along with the household/tool collections. Both projects were funded through donations from individuals who are also volunteers. It is so good to see progress and again, we thank our volunteers!

Leann Johnson, President 2018-2019

“Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.” - Arthur Ashe

In Memoriam

by Beth Johnson

We regret to announce that PHS has lost two veteran history tour guides this year. Guide Judith Maurice passed away on February 11, 2019. Judy gave many tours during her time with the Peoria Historical Society. She loved to visit with people from all over as she gave her favorite tours: the River City Tour and Haunted Peoria. We will miss her friendly ways and great sense of humor as well as her vast knowledge of Peoria and its history. Guide Margaret Steenrod passed away on February 23, 2019. Maggie was a Springdale Cemetery expert—we dubbed her the Grand Dame of Springdale! She also very capably gave most of the other tours on the PHS roster. Maggie was a history writer as well as a guide; her articles in 50+News and Views were well researched and always very interesting. Maggie’s sparkling smile and friendly manner will be sorely missed.

Peoria Historical Society Exhibit at the Peoria Public Library

by Maureen Naughtin

Historic Art Inspired by Local History will exhibit works of art from the Peoria Historical Society’s collection as well as collection artifacts which help tell the story behind some of the art. PHS is pleased to display several works by well-known Peoria painters such as Hedley Waycott and William Hardin. Embellishing the art will be select artifacts which connect in some way to the art on display. The exhibit will open at the Peoria Public Library, Main Library Gallery on Friday, May 3 and will close on Wednesday, May 29.

Welcome New Members!

PHS would like to extend a warm greeting to those who have become new members since our last publication.

Pete & Jill Hanley

Laura & John Evancho

Shirley Nack

Jerome Conlon

Sean Crombie

Bruce Thiemann

Brenda Wilson

Charles Schwartz

Second Annual Trivia Night

by Beth Johnson

A fun way to share Peoria's history took place on Saturday, January 26th! Almost a hundred avid trivia players turned out for the second annual Peoria Historical Society Trivia Night at the Contemporary Arts Center, in spite of the cold and snow! Eight categories of trivia were played. Current News, Famous Peorians, Brewing & Distilling, Sports, and Out & About were the typical Q and A categories. Three picture categories added to the fun: What/Where is This, School Days, and Then & Now. Participants were well versed in both Peoria's Famous and in our Brewing & Distilling industries but Current News proved to be more challenging! The top team (pictured) called themselves Clueless, but they definitely weren't. Team members were John Parks, Patti Armstrong, John Rosa, Kenny Sutter, Linda and Joe Couri and Zach and Heather Oyler. Second place went to the Flyin' O'Briens, composed of Tim and Donna O'Brien, Ben Bladel, Beckie and Brian Christensen, Jan and Keith Sheldon and Carol Knox. Both teams donated their winnings back to the Historical Society, helping to raise the profit for the event to more than \$1500. Thanks to both teams for their generosity. Everyone seemed to have a great time enjoying each other's company, competing for the win, and learning more about Peoria's history.



And, of course, the entire affair would not have been possible without the trivia questions. So we wish to thank Chris Farris at the Peoria Public Library for his help. We also wish to thank the Peoria Historical Society Trustees for their support for this fun filled evening and for their contributions to the Wine Pull.



A Special Option for a Special Occasion

by Deb Maxwell

Do you have an upcoming event to plan? No matter the size, please consider Pettengill-Morrison House as your venue. We had many varied events last year, from garden weddings to an organization who transformed the library into a Speakeasy, complete with elaborate costumes! Possibilities are endless...we can accommodate groups up to thirty for social and business meetings, with or without catered food; weddings in our newly renovated back gardens for as many as 250 guests with the option of a catered reception; elegant front porch weddings for smaller groups, or even intimate parlor weddings; birthdays, anniversaries, showers, and graduation parties. For this year we have already booked a garden wedding, a wedding rehearsal dinner, and a graduation party, so dates are filling quickly!

We are anxious to hear your plans! Please call Peoria Historical Society at 309-674-1921. Or you may contact me, Deb Maxwell, Event chairperson at d.max85rdh@gmail.com. Thank you!

Pettengill-Morrison House

by Mary Hamm

Restoration

Things are moving along with the basement restoration at Pettengill-Morrison House Museum. PHS contracted with Hoerr Masonry to replace crumbling bricks and repair mortar last summer on most of the basement walls. In November, we had a work day where volunteers moved items from the basement. In February, John Rosa removed an old wood floor in preparation for the final phase. Hoerr Masonry returned to complete the replacement and tuckpointing of the remaining basement walls.



New Volunteer

Peoria Historical Society is happy to welcome Michele Lehman, our new volunteer at the Pettengill-Morrison House as well as a member of the Peoria Historical Society Marketing Committee. Her career began in journalism and she was a reporter for the Bloomington Pantagraph. She was the editor and photographer for the Woodford County Journal and

is currently a part-time reporter for that paper. Michele retired as the Eureka College Media Relations Director.

In addition to being a member of PHS, she is also a member of the Woodford County Historical Society. Michele values history and believes that history should be passed on.

A Metamora native, Michele lived in Eureka for 37 years and now lives in Peoria with her husband, H. Wayne Wilson. She has 3 sons and 9 grandchildren.

During this winter's Holiday Home Tour, Michele portrayed Mrs. Wm. Jack, one of the former owners of the home. She did extensive research about the family, which you will read about in this publication.

Michele has proven to be a valuable asset to P-M doing research, polishing silver or whatever is needed. Welcome to PHS and the P-M team!

Future events

The Upscale Porch Sale will be held on Sunday, June 2, from 1 pm to 4 pm. The sale coincides with our regular 1st Sunday Open House. Tours will be given. Adults are \$10.00 and we give discounted prices for students and children.

Load up the car and bring your friends to shop the lovely items on the porch and continue into the Butler's Pantry Gift Shop in the kitchen. You will find vintage china, crystal stemware, jewelry, home décor and a wide variety of linens plus other unusual finds. Please note that the porch sale is being held one week before the Moss Avenue Sale and we will be open for that sale, as well.

We are accepting donations of items for the gift shop, porch sale and the Moss Ave. Sale year 'round. We accept any clean, usable items with the exception of clothing or anything with an electrical plug. You will be given a receipt for you tax deduction. Items can be dropped off at the Pettengill-Morrison House any Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. or by calling the office for an appointment, 674-1921.

The Pettengill-Morrison House is open every Thursday for tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no admission charge to shop in the gift shop. Thank you for supporting PHS and our Historic Homes.



Passing of a friend

Luanne Overstolz Hurst passed away in January. She was our new found friend who was the niece of the 5th owners of P-M House, Herman and Ysobel Overstolz. They owned the home in 1944.

We are thankful that she was able to participate in the recent Holiday Home Tour sharing the stories of her relatives. She greeted visitors in the Servant's Quarters, where her Aunt and Uncle housed a Japanese couple during WWII.

Luanne was 95, had a twinkle in her eyes, a great sense of humor and charmed everyone with her wit. We were lucky to spend time with her, albeit short.

Our deepest sympathy goes out to her daughter, Tory Hurst.

More History from Pettengill-Morrison House

by Michele Leman

As I portrayed former Pettengill-Morrison House owner Annie Grier (Mrs. William) Jack as a docent at the Historical Society's Holiday Home Tour in December, it was apparent that many attendees were intrigued by the history of the four Jack children.

The Jacks -- Robert, Sara, William J and Elizabeth -- all remained single, according to historical records. What's more, the four siblings resided together throughout their lifetimes, becoming separated only by death. Those facts struck visitors to the Home Tour as unusual. They expressed surprise that none of the four married and that, apparently, there were no grandchildren for Annie and William to enjoy. The couple had lived in the Pettengill House only briefly, from 1901-1903, then resided at 720 Moss Ave. for the remainder of their lives. William, an attorney, died unexpectedly at home at the supper table in 1916; Annie died in 1925, also at home.

The couple's oldest child, Robert, was a prominent Peoria attorney who died in 1940 at age 68. Robert's obituary in The Peoria Star reported that he was never married. It said at the time of his death his three siblings resided with him at his home on Grandview Drive.

After Robert's death, siblings William J., Sara and Elizabeth moved to Springfield, where William J. worked for Allis-Chalmers Co. The three lived in Springfield for 17 years before Sara died in 1959 at age 83. Sara, who had worked at the Illinois Department of Welfare, made her home with her sister and brother, according to her obituary in the Illinois State Journal.

Following William J.'s retirement, he and Elizabeth moved back to their native Peoria. Both lived at Proctor Endowment Home. William died there in 1965 at age 85. Elizabeth followed two years later, also at age 85. Her obituary in the Peoria Journal Star lists three cousins as her survivors.

Oldest son Robert is buried near his parents at Peoria's Springdale Cemetery. However, Sara, William J. and Elizabeth are buried together at Oak Ridge Cemetery in Springfield. It's interesting that while the sisters' years of death are inscribed on the siblings' shared tombstone, William J.'s death date remains blank. A cemetery official said recently it's likely no one ever ordered the work to be done. Cost today to complete the siblings' memorial with the addition of William J.'s death date is \$175.



The Jack's story is only one of the interesting accounts that capture the imaginations of many who visit our Pettengill-Morrison House and Flanagan House museums throughout the year, providing a bit of human interest as well as history about the Peoria area and its former residents.

Celebrate the 4th at Flanagan

Flanagan House's big back yard overlooking the city is the place to be for family friendly 4th of July fireworks viewing! The gate opens at 6 p.m., adult admission 15 and over \$5.00, ages 6 - 14 \$3.00, preschool and babies free.

Bring your lawn chair or blanket. Games and picnic baskets are OK. Fresh popped popcorn, can soda and bottled water will be available. Enjoy a house tour at half price while you wait for the fireworks to begin. We hope to see you at Flanagan on the 4th.



Sharing Peoria's History: Joseph Petarde, Peoria Sculptor

by Maureen Naughtin

A recent presentation to Heartis Senior Living Village residents about the contributions of Joseph Petarde, an Italian immigrant of artistic renown, allowed Peoria Historical Society to use and share some of its rich archival materials. Upon the request of Heartis Community Life Manager Lynette Steger, PHS curator Maureen Naughtin collected and organized into a PowerPoint presentation a brief biography of Petarde's life as well as an overview of his best known works, notably those found in Peoria. Resident requests for field trips to see some of Petarde's work was a happy result of the February 19th presentation.

Born Joseph Petardi in Vichiaturio, Italy, young Joseph, who was trained as a stone carver by his father, immigrated to the US, landing in Peoria in 1883 to help construct the Upper Free Bridge, near the current location of the McCluggage Bridge. The construction of the Upper Free Bridge was funded by Captain Alexander Patridge, a ferry boat owner. While working on the bridge, Petardi lived with the Patridge family and eventually fell in love with daughter Hannah. Joseph and Hannah married, had eight children and settled in the Averyville area, specifically on Fairholm Street. Employed first by Alexander King and Company Stoneyard in Galesburg, Petardi later worked for Enterprise Stone Company in Averyville. Joseph served in WWI, and he changed his name, it is believed, from Petardi to Petarde soon after the war. Joseph lost his beloved wife Hannah in 1932, he passed in 1942 and both are buried in Springdale Cemetery. Ironically, their burial sites are marked with a very simplistic stone.

During his lifetime, Petarde created several unique works of art – intricately designed tombstones, carvings on buildings and life-sized sculptures. Perhaps his most distinctive grave markers are those he created for his wife's parents; their elaborately carved tombstones can be found in Spring Bay. Other Petarde grave markers - one for the LaRocca family and one for Eugene Crandell – are found in Springdale Cemetery. Noted for carvings on the Consistory Building in Bloomington as well as the two musical instruments which grace Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music, the Peoria building which perhaps best represents Petarde's artistry is the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) Greenhut Memorial Hall. Joseph Petarde is listed as "Stone Carvings Sculptor" on the Central Illinois Landmarks Foundation's plaque outside the building. But perhaps the work that still most intrigues fans of Petarde is the house that sits at 623 Fairholm. To this day, Petarde's home and its sculptures arouse interest. In three corners of his front porch, Joseph carved life-sized figures – two "semi-nude females and Atlas holding up his loincloth" (as the figures were originally described.) Needless to say, Petarde's neighbors of 1922 were shocked! Yet, some of Petarde's other work was not without controversy. In the 1930's the G.A.R. Auxiliary commissioned Petarde to create a life-sized seated figure of President Lincoln for the Illinois State Capital grounds in Springfield. Re-modeling and other work re-located the statue which in 1976 was discovered in a maintenance shed. Sadly, the Lincoln statue was missing its head. Fortunately, though, Petarde created a slightly different replica of The President which he gave to Kingman School, an Averyville area school attended by Petarde's children; Kingman closed in 2009. The smaller statue now rests comfortably at Lincoln School in Peoria.

As the Heartis Village residents learned, Joseph Petarde was a talented sculptor who contributed greatly to the art and history of Peoria.



History Tours

by Beth Johnson

History will again be on the move when the new tour season begins on June 1st. This year we will have an all-Springdale tour as well as another new tour leaving from Peoria Heights. Several new destinations for the popular Tours Plus feature are being scouted and planned for the last tours of each month. Reservations can be made by calling the Peoria Historical Society at 674-1921 or online through the Peoria Historical Society website. Last year many of the tours were sold out well before the week of the tour. In fact, the Haunted Peoria tours for September and October were completely sold out by July, prompting PHS to set up added tours. Making reservations early will help make sure you get to enjoy the tour of your choosing.

Tour Guides Urgently Needed

by Beth Johnson

If you enjoy history and love meeting new people, become a history tour guide! Our experienced guides are ready to assist new guides with the process of learning, practicing and becoming certified. Then you choose when you wish to give tours. This is the perfect time to begin, since the season doesn't start until the first of June! There are seven different tours from which to choose. If you are interested, contact Beth Johnson at 264-6119.

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Pass along your passion for history and consider becoming a Peoria Historical Society Membership Sponsor. Someone you know has the same interest in “preserving, sharing, and celebrating the stories of the Peoria area”. Your gift of membership not only helps further the PHS mission, but encourages others to do the same. Please use the form below or go online to peoriahistoricalsociety.org for a printable membership form and add a note that you’re sponsoring the new member when you submit the form.

Thanks for your continued support.

Become a PHS Membership Sponsor!

Yes, I would like to sponsor a one year membership to the Peoria Historical Society.

New Member Information

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City _____ Zip _____

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Membership Level: Student: \$25___ Individual: \$35___ Family: \$60___

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Thank you! The new member will receive a special “Welcome to PHS” note in your name.

Peoria Historical Society

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Fax: 309-674-1882

adminphs@peoriahistoricalsociety.org

www.peoriahistoricalsociety.org

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Special Collections Center

Bradley University Library
Bradley Avenue at Glenwood

Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday-Friday

Phone: 309-677-2822

John C. Flanagan House Museum

942 NE Glen Oak Avenue
Peoria, IL 61603

Phone: 309-674-1921

Pettengill-Morrison House Museum

1212 W. Moss Avenue
Peoria, IL 61606

Phone: 309-674-1921

Tours by appointment.

Cost: Adults \$10
Children 6-12 \$3
\$20 minimum for tours