

SUMMER 2023

Celebrating 15 Years for the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation

By Peggy Babyar, President, Elmhurst Heritage Foundation

Oh, what a night! On April 20, 2023, the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation celebrated its 15th Anniversary at the beautiful Wilder Mansion in Elmhurst. It was a wonderful evening, and we were honored that so many of our valued members were on hand to join in this special event commemorating 15 years of serving the community through advocacy, education, and fundraising.



The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation Board celebrated 15 years on April 20th at the Wilder Mansion, shown here with the restored portrait of Jane Byrd Bryan.

Our guests were treated to delicious food, great company, and fantastic music by the Bill Riddle Jazz Trio. Highlights included the unveiling of the portrait of early Elmhurst resident Jane Byrd Bryan and presentation of awards to our exceptional volunteers and supporters (read more about the awards on page 2). The photos shown here offer a glimpse of a truly special evening, and we thank everyone for joining us.

During these past 15 years, the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation has raised significant private sector dollars to support initiatives at the Elmhurst History Museum and the Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse. With the ongoing support of the City of Elmhurst, elected officials, and Elmhurst Heritage Foundation members and donors, we will continue to support these local gems that have become known through the Chicago area as vibrant places to experience history. A heartfelt thank you to our members and donors for being a part of these accomplishments! We are so appreciative of your continued support.

Our Town. Our History. Our Heritage.

ELMHURST
HISTORY
MUSEUM



EHF Members Mike and Peggy LoCicero and EHM Curator Dan Lund unveil the portrait.



The Bill Riddle Jazz Trio created a festive atmosphere at the 15th Anniversary Celebration.

EHF Honors Volunteers with Alben F. Bates Award and Outstanding Volunteer Service Award

By Cathy Jordan, EHF Board Member

The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation recognized a group of hard-working, dedicated volunteers at our 15th Anniversary Celebration at the Wilder Mansion on April 20, 2023. The following volunteers were honored for rendering exceptional and outstanding service consistent with the missions of the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation and the Elmhurst History Museum, and all have made lasting contributions and a positive impact on the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation and the Elmhurst History Museum.

Alben F. Bates Award Nominee: Pete Cruger

The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation recognized Pete Cruger's ongoing efforts to preserve and share the history of the greater Elmhurst area, collaborate with the museum's Curator of Collections to ensure researchers have access to local news sources, and his ongoing support of major museum endeavors including the annual Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest. The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation also recognized Rock Valley Publishing's eight-year commitment as a media sponsor for the Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest, which helped to raise critical funds for the museum and the Churchville Schoolhouse and raised the visibility of the Elmhurst community in a positive way. Pete is pictured (left) receiving his Bates award from EHF President Peggy Babyar and EHM Executive Director Dave Oberg.



Alben F. Bates Award Nominee: Tony Gambino

The EHF also recognized Elmhurst business owner Tony Gambino's efforts in supporting many major fundraisers in town, including the Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest. Tony has been the volunteer food sponsor for the Craft Beer Fest for five years, and he also contributed to the Museum's recent *Eat Your Heart Out: Iconic Chicagoland Foods* exhibit, including a participating in a podcast with Food Network celebrity Jeff Mauro. Tony is pictured receiving accolades from EHF Board Members Cathy Jordan and Peggy Babyar.

Outstanding Volunteer Service Nominee:

Rob Moskal

Rob Moskal has been a volunteer for the Craft Beer Fest for the past seven years and has made extraordinary efforts to help our event sponsor, Krisi Blessing of Pints Elmhurst, to recruit, coordinate and secure quality brewers and provide organization support. We are happy to have Rob on our Craft Beer Fest team as he continues to elevate the participation of quality brewers for the local community to enjoy. Rob is pictured at the event with Cathy Jordan (left) and his wife Michelle Moskal (right).



We deeply appreciate your partnership and contributions to the Elmhurst History Museum, the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation and the Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest. Congratulations!

Elmhurst Heritage Foundation 2022 Board of Directors

Peggy Babyar, *President*
George Szczepaniak, *Vice President*
Jean B. Baker, *Secretary*
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Nora Baxtrom
Ellen Braun
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Michael LoCicero
Jake Meding
Ann Palumbo
Andrea Pokrefke
Kitt Recker
Joyce Slone
Darlene VanMeir
Yeena Yoo

Staff Transitions

The EHM team will be saying farewell to Communications & Marketing Specialist Patrice Roche after 16 years of service. Patrice joined the staff in 2007, and during her tenure she helped the museum promote more than 50 exhibits and 300+ programs and events, created three websites for us, built strong relationships with the media, and professionalized the institution through a major rebranding project. Please join us in thanking Patrice and wishing her well in retirement!

We also want to extend a warm welcome to new team member, Jonathan Sebastian. Jonathan joined the staff in April as our new Education & Programs Assistant. He will be working with Supervisor of Education Services Jess Wandersee to provide high-quality history programs and events for students, families, and visitors. Welcome Jonathan!

Save the Date for the 2023 Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest

By Mike Baker, Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest Committee

Be sure to mark the date, September 16, 2023 from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m., on your calendar when the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation will present the annual Elmhurst Craft Beer Fest on the museum grounds. Once again, we will gather with friends, family and neighbors to lift a glass welcoming the end of summer and the hope autumn brings!

The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation has teamed up with our main sponsor, Pints, to raise funds for the Elmhurst History Museum and Churchville Schoolhouse. Top area brewers will be offering beer, ciders and seltzers to fest attendees. and the popular bands Petty Cash and Lake Effect will be back on stage with great music. Our top level Platinum Sponsors for the 2023 fest include Lakeside Bank, Kelly Stetler Real Estate, Elmhurst Bank, The Katris Law Group and The Hinton Agency - Farmers Insurance.



Don't miss out on the opportunity to purchase early discounted tickets to the fest at the **Craft Beer Fest Pre-Sale Party on Saturday, June 17** at Pints, 112 S. York Street in Elmhurst, from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. This is the day before Father's Day, so don't forget about dad! Tickets to the fest make a perfect Father's Day gift. Attendees at the Pre-Sale Party will get a \$5 discount on Craft Beer Fest tickets, so be sure to join us to take advantage of this special pricing. Tickets will go on sale to the general public on July 1. For more info, to volunteer, buy tickets or if your business would like to become a sponsor, please contact the Beer Fest Committee at www.elmhurstcraftbeerfest.com. We look forward to seeing you, and cheers!



Vintage Baseball Game Returns this Summer

The Elmhurst Heritage Foundation is once again presenting the annual old-fashioned Vintage Baseball Game played by the wildly different rules of 1858 on **Sunday, June 4 starting at 2:00 p.m.** This "Town vs. Gown" style game pits the Foundation/City of Elmhurst staff and volunteers against Elmhurst University faculty and alumni. It promises to be a fantastic outing for all ages, so bring a picnic and lawn chair and get ready to cheer, jeer, and enjoy an afternoon of old-school family fun. The Vintage Baseball Game takes place in front of Hammerschmidt Memorial Chapel on the Elmhurst University campus, and free parking is available in campus lots. For more information, visit the EHM website at www.elmhursthistory.org. Huzzah!

Welcome to New EHF Board Member Kitt Recker

Carolyn "Kitt" Recker (pictured at right) recently became a member of the Elmhurst Heritage Foundation Board of Directors. She has lived in Elmhurst for eight years and she said, "now that I am retired, I have time to invest in our vibrant and unique community. It is a great opportunity to use business and professional skills to support and grow our town." Kitt is a member of the Greenman Theatre Troupe, acting and storytelling. She has performed live radio dramas over a period of 10+ years at an award-winning Wisconsin NPR station, doing comedy, drama and narrations with a live audience and on the air. Kitt has two married daughters, three beautiful grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. From Oregon to Florida to the western suburbs, her family can be found to keep her busy most of the year. Welcome to the EHF Board, Kitt!



EHM Exhibit News



NEW EXHIBIT OPENING!

The Bicycle: Two Wheels to Adventure June 9-Sept. 17, 2023

Explore the history of the “human-powered carriage” and find out how the bicycle redefined an era of newfound leisure and independence. Learn about Elmhurst educator, adventurer and “World’s Most Traveled Man,” J. Hart Rosdail, through tales from his record-setting journey across the globe on his trusted bicycle, Jacqueline. Experience many interactive displays for all ages including a pop-up display along the Illinois Prairie Path. *Sponsored by: Feze Roofing, Lakeside Bank and Michael V. LoCicero Attorney at Law.*



UPDATED EXHIBIT **By All Accounts: The Story of Elmhurst Ongoing**

If you’ve seen the *By All Accounts* exhibit before, be sure to stop by soon to see the new updates that have been added including: Discovery Drawers for kids, a Schoolmarm interactive, more robust Biography Wall, and new video options as well as the recently installed portrait of Jane Byrd Bryan by G.P.A. Healy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

— JUNE —

Museum Maker Monday

**June 19, July 17, Aug. 7
11AM-3PM FREE**

Families can drop in to see exhibits and make a travel-themed craft on a day reserved just for families. No reservations needed.

More info:
elmhursthistory.org

Elmhurst Community Bike Ride

June 22, 6:30PM FREE

Join members of the Elmhurst Bicycle Club for a fun summer ride throughout Elmhurst. **Register online at:** elmhursthistory.org

— JULY —

Special Event BIKE BONANZA!

**July 9, 1-5 PM
FREE**

Celebrate summer and bicycle fun at this special event for all ages on the EHM grounds. Participate in family-friendly activities, games, and facepainting. See a champion BMX bike performer, music by School of Rock, kids’ hot wheels obstacle course and lots more.

More info:
elmhursthistory.org

Gallery Talk with Exhibits Curator

**July 16, 12 PM
FREE to Members**

Join Curator of Exhibits Sarah Cox for a gallery talk in the new exhibit. **Register online at:** elmhursthistory.org

— AUGUST —

World’s Most Traveled Man Lecture Aug. 13, 2PM FREE to Members

Learn about Elmhurst resident and adventurer J. Hart Rosdail’s worldwide adventures and legacy. **Register online at:** elmhursthistory.org

**CHECK OUT EHM’S NEW
WEBSITE: elmhursthistory.org**

From the Collection

By Daniel Lund, EHM Curator of Collections



One of the many improvements made in our recent website upgrade is the increased accessibility of our historical photograph database. In prior versions of our site, our online photographs had to be accessed through external pages. The process has now been streamlined so that researchers and patrons can view the museum’s photos right from our own site via desktop or mobile platforms.

To view these photographs, you can access the digital collection through the Collections & Research tab on the navigation bar of our website. From there, you can search specifically for an image or browse the catalog at your leisure. When accessing the collection via a desktop platform, you can browse the collection through smaller, more manageable subject collections. Use Boolean search operators to produce more relevant results (use of quotation marks or combining keywords with modifiers such as AND, NOT and OR) when looking for specific images. The museum has almost 7,000 photographs ready to view online, and more are being made available every day.

If you have any questions about any photograph or interest in ordering a high-resolution image for print, feel free to reach out to Dan Lund, Curator of Collections, at daniel.lund@elmhurst.org or at 630-530-3322. The museum has over 15,000 photographs in its collection, and the hope is to one day make each and every one of them digitally available to the public.