WALK OF PEACE — POT MIRO

Allon Bostwick, Port Washington native, retired physician and outdoor enthusiast who enjoys traveling to places less traveled, will share his experiences on his 18-day, 180-mile solo walk of peace (pot miro) across the Julian Alps of Slovenia to the Adriatic seaport of Trieste, Italy. The journey exposed him to WWI battlefields, outdoor and indoor museums, beautiful scenery, wonderful people, physical challenges of mountain climbing and 10– to 12-hour walks and Peace in many ways! His presentation will be a description of all of these.

The Quarterly Meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Lakeview Room at the former Wilson House. The public is invited. Refreshments will be served.

Mary Flierl
Quarterly Program Coordinator
President’s Message

Dear Members,

In 2019 it has been all hands on deck for our Historical Society. The involvement by our volunteers, Board and staff has been incredible. And, as in the past, the generosity of the many friends of the Society has been overwhelming. All have my sincere gratitude.

On January we closed on the purchase of the lot adjacent to our historic 1860 Light Station. This was a sizeable investment in the future with the opportunity to both expand our programing and enhance our visitors’ experience while touring the Light Station. Port Washington State Bank agreed to provide a ten-year loan for a portion of the purchase price of $130,000.

Then one of our longtime and most generous supporters, Shirli Flack, came forth. With no fanfare or publicity, she wrote out checks to pay the entire purchase price. Shirli has a deep pride in preserving Port’s history and understands its importance. We cannot thank her enough.

Twenty others have joined Shirli with gifts, including wonderful contributions from Dan Smith and Sam DeMerit. All supporters are listed in Donations and Memorials in either this issue or the Winter 2019 edition of Historical Perspectives.

At the March Board meeting, contracts were approved to air condition the Light Station and proceed with landscaping and plantings on the lot. And there is more exciting news. On April 22, Dawn St. George will assume the leadership role of the Executive Director for the Society – please see the separate article introducing Dawn.

The newest exhibit at the Port Exploreum, Murmurs from the Deep – Port Washington Shipwreck Stories, has opened. It received excellent reviews from all who visited. Please come and enjoy – and better yet, bring friends.

The Board approved new membership rates for 2019 - $40 for singles and $75 for families. Honor memberships are available at $250 with the Patron level at $500.

To cap all this off, our new Society website, www.pwhistory.org, has launched – please see the article in this issue.

In closing, thanks to every member for your support.

Bill Moren, President
Port Washington Historical Society Board of Directors

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Looking for an interesting way to spend some time meeting new people, learning more about Port Washington, listening to and sharing local stories? We’ve got the spot for you! The 1860 Light Station requires volunteers for tours. The Resource Center is looking for volunteers for archival work and greeting visitors. No experience is necessary. Check out our website at www.pwhistory.org. Contact the Port Exploreum at 262-284-2406 or the Resource Center at 262-268-9150 for more information.
NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR NAMED

The Historical Society is very pleased to announce the hiring of our new Executive Director, Dawn St. George. She brings to us vast experience working with museums and historical societies. Most recently she served as the Manager of The Cedarburg History Museum. Past experience includes Executive Director of The Park People of Milwaukee County, Museum Director of El Rancho de las Golondrinas in Santa Fe, Assistant Director for Museums and Historic Sites for the Wisconsin Historical Society, and Museum Director of Old World Wisconsin. Currently she serves on the Board of the Ozaukee County Historical Society.

Dawn has a Ph.D. and M.S. in Anthropology from the University Wisconsin-Milwaukee and a M.A. in Counseling Psychology from Western Michigan University.

In a letter of recommendation, Natalie Fairbanks, Development Communications Coordinator at the Milwaukee Public Museum wrote, “I served as a board member of the Park People. Dawn is the type of leader most organizations can only dream about. She’s always clear and concise when sharing information. And she addresses organization needs with skill, tact, efficiency, and passion. She is committed to preserving history, and she recognizes the impact of history education. As well, Dawn understands the world of fundraising and fully embraces that role and responsibility. Dawn’s experience and leadership skills are unparalleled, and she thoroughly grasps the needs of a non-profit organization.”

We look forward to working with Dawn as we chart the future of our Society.

Bill Moren, President

1860 LIGHT STATION REPORT

Friday, May 24, 2019, is opening day for touring season at the 1860 Light Station. Our ad hoc committee has been busy preparing the property for a new and exciting season. As you have already learned, air conditioning will be installed in the next few weeks, which will not only benefit all those who volunteer and tour, but create a better environment for all the artifacts at the LS.

We have also—thanks to a wonderful benefactor—been able to purchase the empty lot west of the lighthouse. This lot will be landscaped, all the pot-holes filled in, and decorative border plantings placed. Once complete, we will have an excellent area to hold more events and, of course, our main event each year: Summer Night at the Light. More on that later in this article.

Thanks to a team of volunteers, the interior will be repainted, floors cleaned and polished, and a few new features added. If you want to know what those new features are, we encourage you to stop in to visit any Friday, Saturday or Sunday throughout the season. We are open from 12 noon until 4 p.m. each of those days. And remember, if you are a member of the Port Washington Historical Society, you have unlimited free admission to tour!

Preservation and restoration of this beautiful property is an ongoing process. We are programmed to have the lifeboat from the S.S. Milwaukee, which sank in 1929, removed from the LS grounds and shipped to a craftsman in Door County, who will restore this valuable artifact. Once completed, the boat will be exhibited on the LS grounds, but in a more protected means of display.

Several items of furniture in the lighthouse proper need replacing. We are in search of a small telephone table for the dining room as well as a small side table for the parlor. If you have such an item, please contact our office at 262-268-9150 to give Geri Zehren the details.

Bottom line: preservation, restoration, painting, landscaping, air conditioning all require not only the help of our wonderful volunteers but financial help from all our generous members. Our major fund-

(Continued on page 7)
PORT EXPLOREUM REPORT

The Port Exploreum opened our newest exhibit, *Murmurs from the Deep – Port Washington’s Shipwreck Stories*, at a special member-only reception on March 22. The stories of seven shipwrecks off the shores of Ozaukee County are featured on the first floor. The Marine Preservation and Archaeology Department of the Wisconsin Historical Society generously provided stunning images of the wrecks and the content to bring the stories to life.

The mystery of the disappearance of the *Linda E.*, the last fishing tug to operate out of Port Washington, is told on the second level through photos, Ozaukee Press articles, and video footage as she lies at the bottom of Lake Michigan.

Also on the second level is an exhibit honoring Port’s Unsung Hero, USCG Captain Roger Erdmann, which was previously featured at the North Point Lighthouse and Museum in Milwaukee.

Those recognized were Victoria Kiefer from the State Historical Society, Joe and Monica Knutson from Digital Design Services who created and installed the exhibit, Gus Peter who rebuilt the exhibit cases and displayed artifacts recovered from the wrecks, Mark Kuehn, curator from the North Point Lighthouse and Museum, and Steve Schowalter, CEO of Port Washington State Bank, sponsor of *Murmurs from the Deep*.

*Bill Moren, President*

**GALA PLANS UNDERWAY**

*Let Us Entertain You* is this year’s theme for the Port Washington Historical Society’s Gala. Save the date: September 14, 2019! This year’s Gala will be held at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. Details will follow. We hope to see everyone there!

**RESOURCE CENTER NEWS**

New exhibits at the Resource Center will open later this month. One exhibit area will focus on the prints from the Bienlein-Burke Maritime Collection. Maritime items from the collection will also be displayed. This collection was donated in 2014 and contains many fine pieces of maritime history. The Bienlein-Burke exhibit will include prints from the collection not shown before, as well as maritime artifacts from the collection.

Our second exhibit will feature the Shirley Schanen Gruen Studio and Gallery, a longtime presence in downtown Port Washington. For nearly 40 years, Shirley had a studio in Port Washington, capturing the life and essence of the city and the harbor. Through her hundreds of paintings Shirley has shared with us her love of the community.

Please come join us for another look at maritime history and a look inside the studio of Shirley Schanen Gruen. An *exhibit reception* will be held on Thursday, April 25, from 4:00-6:00 at the Resource Center, 205 N. Franklin Street. The Resource Center will move to summer hours on May 24 and will be open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

*Jackie Oleson and Geri Zehren*  
*Resource Center Co-Managers*
NEW SOCIETY WEBSITE LAUNCHED

The new Society website, www.pwhistory.org, has launched. It combines the former Society and Port Exploreum websites, so now there is a single source to search for up-to-date content. The site is filled with historical photographs, a list of upcoming events on an interactive calendar, contact information and more.

Visitors will be able to purchase Gala tickets, book a sail on the Denis Sullivan, discover more about our three historic properties and find directions to them, purchase or renew memberships, make a donation and find rental space information.

Educators may view videos of students experiencing hands-on exhibits at the Lake Michigan Learning Lab and print teacher lesson guides for both our Watershed Odyssey and Wisconsin History modules.

Volunteer opportunities and archival donation Q&As are available with a click on a link.

Please visit www.pwhistory.org - you will be impressed.

PORT WASHINGTON GRADUATES

An exciting edition to the Society collection is a set of photographs spanning three decades of graduating classes. The set is not complete but extends from 1927 through the 1950s, with the addition of the Class of 1992.

Earlier graduates may remember that the photo composites hung in the hallways of the high school. It has been fun to see familiar last names that go back generations. Student names were hand lettered under the mounted photographs.

The donation was made possible by Eric Burke and the Port Washington High School. We thank them for this amazing collection.

We invite members to stop at the Resource Center Monday or Thursday afternoons. In May the Resource Center will move to summer hours, adding Friday and Saturday.

Jackie Oleson and Geri Zehren
Resource Center Co-Managers

LUDWIG BECK: RESTORED

Ludwig Beck was born in Germany in 1833 and emigrated to the United States with his family, settling near Port Washington. In 1865 he enlisted and served as a member of Company E of the 52nd Wisconsin Infantry. Ludwig, the great grandfather of former Port Washington resident Fred Beck, is buried in Union Cemetery in Port Washington. Five generation of Becks have lived in the Port Washington area.

The photo, received through a donation by the Ambrose Mayer estate, is a hand-colored photographic portrait on original fiber board backing. An evaluation of the photo in 2017 by Conservator Jackleen Leary of Chicago showed severe structural damage to the photograph and backing and surface damage included that from insects, stains, mildew, surface dirt and dust. The frame is wood with a painted gesso finish with surface cracks and scratches. Efforts were needed to stabilize the portrait before further degradation took effect.

A grant from the Kohler Foundation in 2017 provided the funds for conservation of the portrait. Ms. Leary spent nearly a year working on the portrait, contributing additional personal time and resources to the effort of preservation. Work was done on both the portrait and the frame. The Port Washington Historical Society is appreciative of the work done by Jackleen Leary and the grant from the Kohler Foundation. Both help to support the efforts of non-profits in preserving items of the past. The portrait will be on display in a future exhibit.

Jackie Oleson and Geri Zehren
Resource Center Co-Managers
Shirley Schanen Gruen, born in 1923, did not start out to be an artist. It wasn’t until she was a student at Port Washington High School that Shirley took her first art class. Shirley enjoyed art as a child and received much encouragement from family members. Nevertheless, when Shirley headed off to study art at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, her mother persuaded her to get a degree in teaching art. She subsequently went on to study at the Art Center School in Los Angeles and at local schools in Wisconsin, and later taught at Milwaukee Area Technical Schools.

Shirley established her first studio in her husband Gerald’s Glendale real estate office. It was later in 1978 when the couple relocated to Port Washington that Shirley rented second floor space from Smith Bros., in the former Ubbink Fuel and Dock building at 103 E. Grand Avenue. Her second studio location was at 303 N. Franklin Street where she moved in the 1980s, renting and later buying the building.

Visitors as well as residents of Port Washington came to patronize her 1st floor gallery. The 2nd floor became Shirley’s studio, where she could be found painting, overlooking the corner of Franklin and Washington Streets. Her view took in the harbor and the changing life of the downtown.

Shirley chronicled historic structures like St. Mary’s Church, the Ozaukee County Courthouse, the 1860 Light Station and 1935 pierhead light and favorite local spots. She painted local maritime life, including the fishing tugs and fishing shanties that were an important part of the changing life of the community. Shirley’s paintings hang in many homes and businesses across the city, state, and country, all reflecting iconic scenes and memories of Port Washington.

Shirley enjoys the process of painting. Over the years she enjoyed adopting different styles and techniques, often trying out the style of an admired painter to keep her work interesting and fresh. Shirley has worked with different materials: painting with watercolors, later with acrylics and watercolor pastels. In her seventy years plus, Shirley developed the steps of her process to bring an idea to fruition.

Collecting postcards and photos of scenes and buildings that appeal to her, Shirley then uses these images to create pencil sketches to illustrate the painting of contrasts and composition. Grids on paper are used to enlarge the image onto illustration board, a preference over the use of canvas. Often old credit cards have been used to move pigment around on the boards.

Some of Shirley’s favorite subjects are scenes incorporating the buildings and lakefront life of her hometown Port Washington. Admitting that she is a romantic, her watercolors and acrylic paintings reflect her love of painting and the Port Washington area. Shirley has thought of herself as a “populist painter,” one who wants people to be able to afford her paintings. That is why she often had prints, postcards and note-cards made of her paintings.

Shirley and her paintings received many honors over the years. In addition to many local and state awards, her work was shown in national and international competitions. An important highpoint of her career as an artist was when she won a purchase award in 1980 in the West

(Continued on page 7)
Publishing Co. Art and the Law competition in St. Paul, Minnesota. The painting, an acrylic titled The Last Reunion, captured the 40th reunion of her father’s 1904 graduating law class at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Shirley’s father, Attorney William F. Schanen, was a well-known trial lawyer of the area.

Recognizing her involvement in the Port Washington community, Shirley was honored in 2003 as Citizen of the Year by the Port Washington Chamber of Commerce. She has been involved in the Port Washington Historical Society, Eghart House Museum, Chamber of Commerce, and the downtown Business Improvement District. Shirley was the driving force behind the preservation of the bridge at Fisherman’s Park. A marker that Shirley sponsored recognizes its significance.

In 2018 Shirley gave up her studio on Franklin Street but still dabbles in painting, something she continues to love. The 2019 Resource Center exhibits will feature the Shirley Schanen Gruen Studio and Gallery and The Maritime Prints and Artifacts of the Bienlein-Burke Maritime Collection. The Gruen exhibit will display paintings, artifacts from the studio, and a look at the process that takes place to create a Shirley Schanen Gruen painting. The Bienlein-Burke exhibit will include prints from the collection not shown before, as well as maritime artifacts from the collection.

Jackie Oleson, Resource Center Co-Manager

(Continued from page 6)

Shirley Schanen Gruen Studio & Gallery location for nearly 30 years

Looking for Information

The Resource Center is looking for some information on the significance of the writing and image on the drum skin that was recently found in storage in the Port Washington High School Band closets. Leave a message on the society phone 262-268-9150 or at portwash-histsoc@att.net if you have any information.

GERI’S LUCKY DAY

After Geri Zehren, co-manager of the Resource Center, received a message on March 16, the day of a major snow storm, that there was accumulated snow in front of the Resource Center, she donned her snow gear and used a shovel to start the snow removal. Two kind gentlemen who were delivering products to a nearby building noticed her predicament and jumped in to help her out. Geri was pleasantly surprised and very grateful. She labeled them her angels.

(Continued from page 3)

The raising event for the Light Station is Summer Night at the Light. As always, this event is held the last Saturday in the month of July. This year it will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2019.

Our theme this year: Night on the Bayou, featuring great music, delicious food, and a fun evening for members as well as guests. Don’t miss it! You’ll be receiving your invitation in late May or early June—watch for it!

Finally, once again we are asking for volunteers to be tour guides at the Light Station. Even if you can only volunteer one day a month, from Noon to 4 p.m., it would be an enormous help to us. If you or someone you know is looking for a way to fill a few hours, please let us know. Contact the Historical Society office at 262-268-9150 or email me at momcat23@gmail.com. We look forward to welcoming you to our crew!

Kathie Uttech Gordon, 1860 Light Station Co-Manager
FIRST QUARTER EVENTS

March 12: Dunwiddie students visit new Murmers exhibit (Deb Ryer-Jung, Co-Ed Coordinator)

March 15: St. Patrick’s Day Party

First Quarter Events

Pat Tearney, Ann Chrusciel

Nora & Harry Clark
Vicki & Jerry Lee
Mary Flierl, Elaine Nulph, Pat Moren
Jodi & Mike Dickman
Guest Participation
Jim & Jo Fox, Grace & Marc Eernisse
Irish Pirate
PORT EXPLOREUM ADVENTURE

During the week of February 4, a group of approximately 200 fifth graders from Thomas Jefferson Middle School in Port Washington had the opportunity to visit the Port Exploreum. For many of them, it was their first visit. The children learned about some of the history of Port Washington via a film presentation, which included facts about shipwrecks and the commercial fishing industry in Port Washington.

In addition, the students got to experience three interactive learning stations. Neil Rismeyer, Education Coordinator, engaged the students in bridge building, while the children identified the geometric shapes that would give the strongest support. A second station included the Exploreum’s two high-tech tables, The Lake Michigan Table and the Watershed Table. Here, the students learned about wind patterns, wave heights, lake depths and other points of interest about Lake Michigan. On the Watershed Table, they also made decisions to create environmentally safe communities that would result in achieving good water quality. At the final station, the children saw video segments on the quagga mussel and tried their luck at the Invasive Species versus Sporting Fish Game. The students had a thoughtful discussion on the harmful effects of the quagga mussel on native species in Lake Michigan. They also offered ways to prevent the introduction of more invasive species into the lake environment.

Here are a few comments from the students: Rose stated, “We loved it so much! I learned about invasive species like the quagga mussel.” Savanna said, “My favorite part was when we got to play (Continued on page 10)
### DONATIONS & MEMORIALS

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| 1860 LIGHT STATION | LIGHT STATION IN KIND DONATIONS | LIGHT STATION BRICKS | EDUCATION/LAKE MICHIGAN LEARNING LAB |
| PORT EXPLOREUM | Todd & Kathie Gordon | Geri Zehren | Brookby Foundation |
| Port Washington State Bank | | | |
| Exhibit Sponsor | | | |

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<td>Eagle Scouts Darian Drewitz and Luke Didier completed historic markers for their Eagle projects. Darian created a marker in Coal Dock Park recognizing the Toledo shipwreck and Luke designed a marker at the Town Hall recognizing the history of Knellsville.</td>
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(Continued from page 9)
Port Washington Historical Society Legacy Society Confidential Membership Form

The PWHS Legacy Society has been established as a way to honor and recognize those who have made a planned gift to the Port Washington Historical Society as a beneficiary in their will or trust, retirement account, charitable gift annuity or charitable trust, or life insurance policy.

Please fill out this form and return it to the PWHS office to confirm your membership. The information you provide will be held in strictest confidence.

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE RECOGNIZED IN THE LEGACY SOCIETY?

NAME(S): ____________________________________________________________________________
ADDRESS: ____________________________________________________________________________
PHONE/EMAIL: ________________________________________________________________________

____ I/WE WISH TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS

HOW HAVE YOU INCLUDED THE PORT WASHINGTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN YOUR PLANS?

____ BEQUEST IN MY/OUR WILL ______ LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY ______ REAL ESTATE
____ CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT) OR CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA)
____ IRA BENEFICIARY ______ OTHER

The current value of the gift is approximately (optional) $ ________________

Additional Information PWHS should know: ___________________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

Signature: ___________________________________________________________________________  Date: ____________________

Spouse’s Signature (If joint will): ______________________________________________________  Date: ____________________

Please return to: PWHS Legacy Society P.O. Box 491 Port Washington, WI 53074
Upcoming Events

QUARTERLY MEETING
Wednesday, April 24, 7:00 pm
Port Washington State Bank’s Lakeview Room
Wilson House, 100 East Main Street, Port Washington

Classic Movie Night
Friday, April 12, 6 pm, Port Exploreum

Hippity Hop
Sat., April 13, 11-1 pm, Resource Center

Shirley Schanen Gruen Exhibit Opens
Thurs., April 25, 4-6 pm, Resource Center

Classic Movie Night
Friday, May 10, 6 pm, Port Exploreum

1860 Light Station Opens
Resource Center Summer Hours Begin
Friday, May 24, 1860 Light Station & R.C.

Classic Movie Night
Friday, June 24, 6 pm, Port Exploreum

Fireworks on the Deck
Thurs., July 4, Port Exploreum

Classic Movie Night
Friday, July 12, 6 pm, Port Exploreum

Quarterly Program
Wednesday, July 17

Summer Night at the Light
Sat., July 27, 6 pm, 1860 Light Station

Classic Movie Night
Friday, August 9, 6 pm, Port Exploreum

PWHS Gala—Let Us Entertain You
Saturday, September 14

Note: There is an array of private events as well as group
tours and school groups throughout the summer.
Movie of the month will be indicated on our new website:
www.pwhistory.org or call the Port Exploreum for info.