Our speaker for the Port Washington Historical Society July quarterly program is Mark Kuehn, the Curator at the North Point Lighthouse Museum in Milwaukee. He lectures on the maritime history of the Great Lakes, and he happens to be the nephew of the late Captain Roger F. Erdmann, USCG, featured in our Port Exploreum exhibit on the second floor.

As many of you already know, Erdmann, a Port Washington native, joined the Coast Guard in 1940. His career in the United States Coast Guard put him in the history books for his bravery and accomplishments.

Erdmann lived at the North Point Lighthouse from 1957 to 1961 when he was stationed in Milwaukee. Kuehn will talk about Erdmann’s life and heroics starting with his birth in Port Washington in 1919 to WWII and to the day he got the distress call from the Andrea Doria, the Italian Liner that sank off the coast of Massachusetts in 1956.

The Quarterly Program will be held on Wednesday, July 17, 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

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Newsletter’s now more computer friendly—click on hyperlinks throughout!
President’s Message

Dear Members,

Our actions are like ships which we may watch set out to sea, and not know when or with what cargo they will return to port.

- Iris Murdoch

Twenty-five years ago I was flying in a 12-seat passenger plane from Pittsburg to Altoona, PA. The late afternoon was turning to early evening as I looked out the window. When we were approaching the runway, I saw below a grove of trees glorious in their fall colors of red and gold. In the midst of that grove was a white steeple with a cross on top.

My mind wondered back to that time when a group from the congregation planted those young trees around their country church. Perhaps some were young enough to see those trees mature; many others could only imagine what beauty their work would bring. And none would imagine the view that I saw that October day.

And so it is with many of the gifts we all make. While we often see the immediate result of our gifts, such as the recent acquisition of the lot adjacent to the Light Station made possible by Shirli Flack, its long term positive impact to our members and the community may not be understood for years. A gift like this is a gift that keeps on giving, providing programming opportunities for all who visit.

Another such gift was made by Judith and Paul Trump, in memory of Marshall and Edith Moeser. Their generous gift will fund the repair and restoration of the historic lifeboat from the sinking of the SS Milwaukee and make possible the construction of a protective shelter to display it.

On October 22, 1929, the Milwaukee sailed off on Lake Michigan into a storm bound for Grand Haven and was lost. A lifeboat containing four dead crew members was found on October 26 floating near Holland, Michigan, on the other side of the lake. It is that lifeboat that has been displayed at our Light Station as a permanent exhibit. It has been an important part of telling the story of our rich maritime history. The Trump’s gift will ensure its story will not be lost but continue for future generations.

Gift planning is another type of giving that will impact the future of Port Washington Historical Society. Planned gifts integrate charitable giving into the donor’s overall financial, tax and estate planning to maximize benefits for both the donor and the Society. Examples of planned gifts are naming the society as a beneficiary in a will, life insurance policy or retirement account.

Donors can direct their planned gifts to accomplish many goals. Some deferred gifts are unrestricted, allowing the Society to fund current needs and priorities. Other gifts may be directed to certain programs. When deciding on a designation for a planned gift, donors should consider the delay inherent in planned giving; what may be the greatest benefit to the Society when the gift is ultimately received.

To paraphrase the quote at the beginning of my message, these gifts are like the ships which we may watch set out to sea and not know when or with what treasures they will return to port.

All individuals with a planned gift in place are welcomed into the Port Washington Historical Society’s Legacy Society, our way of thanking those who make this philanthropic commitment.

Bill Moren, President
Port Washington Historical Society Board of Directors
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Hi everyone,

Thank you for the warm welcome you’ve extended to me. I’ve been overwhelmed by the support the board, staff, volunteers and members have shown me.

I’m extremely excited to join the Port Washington Historical Society community. Your energy for the Society is a great asset, and I thank you in advance for sharing that with me as I take on the new responsibility as Executive Director.

My official start date was April 22, and since then I’ve continued to learn more about this wonderful organization. With the summer season just around the corner, I hit the ground running to update our marketing to reflect our current exhibits at the Port Exploreum and the Resource Center. If you haven’t enjoyed the PE’s Murmurs from the Deep exhibit on eight shipwrecks off Port Washington’s shores and the Roger Erdmann exhibit, you won’t want to miss either one. The Resource Center has two exhibits you’ll also want to take in: The Artwork and Studio of Port Washington Artist Shirley Schanen Gruen and Maritime Art and Nautical Artifacts from the Society’s Bienlein-Burke Collection.

Speaking of just around the corner, I invite you to join me for Night at the Light on July 27. We’ve planned a fantastic family picnic for all ages. Come join in the fun and take in the gorgeous view from the tower at dusk. It’s easy to make your reservations online this year!

And...be sure to watch your mail for the invitation to this year’s Gala, Let Us Entertain You, coming up on September 14 at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. The Gala’s Auction Committee would love to hear from you if you have items for either the silent or live auction. Always appreciated are restaurant certificates, vacation rentals or hotel stays and tickets for sporting and cultural events.

I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the days and months ahead. Do stop in the Resource Center to say hi if you’re passing by and see you at Night at the Light.

Dawn St. George, Executive Director

1860 LIGHT STATION REPORT

Now that the A/C and electrical work has been completed and the dust has settled, we are back to giving tours at the 1860 Light Station. Many thanks to the cleaning crew for pitching in to mop, dust and polish the lighthouse to prepare for opening. Several pictures were re-framed, new window treatments hung, and the gift shop was moved to the sun room.

Our big news, of course, was the wonderful donation to purchase the west lot, which gives us ample space for future events. Landscaping on that lot is complete and, if the local herd of deer don’t munch all the new plantings, we should be ready to use this property by the end of the season.

Our historic lifeboat from the SS Milwaukee is now being lovingly restored in Sturgeon Bay. The SS Milwaukee sank in a storm in 1929 and lies offshore between Whitefish Bay and Shorewood, WI. One lifeboat beached in Holland, Michigan. Over 15 years ago Bob Manglitz, owner of the SS Badger, which still runs between Manitowoc, Wisconsin, and Ludington, Michigan, donated that lifeboat to the Historical Society. It was well overdue for repair and restoration. Once returned to us, the lifeboat will be displayed in a sheltered structure on the Light Station grounds.

Finally, we welcome four new docents to our Light Station Crew: Pat-

(Continued on page 7)
PORT EXPLOREUM REPORT

We have been busy at the Port Exploreum with Weddings and Parties. If you know anyone looking for a beautiful and unique venue, please refer them to the Port Exploreum!

Amy Clark, Port Exploreum Manager

WHAT’S UP AT THE RESOURCE CENTER?

Upstairs or downstairs the Resource Center is a busy place! It is hard to believe that in less than six months from receiving a very special collection from the Shirley Gruen studio, Shirley Schanen Gruen, the Artist has become a very popular exhibit. The exhibit features a vignette of how Shirley composed her artwork, plus recognition of her many accomplishments. Others have shared paintings from her renowned career.

Shirley was the star at the society May Exhibit Opening, with many of her admirers thanking her for putting onto canvas much of the history of Port Washington. We are thankful to the Gruen family for funding the exhibit.

The Bienlein-Burke exhibit gives pleasure to those that appreciate all things maritime. This year’s exhibit of Dr. Burke’s collection of prints and artifacts is a treasure to be enjoyed. Signal flags on the wall draw interest with their maritime significance.

The newest artifact donated by Dr. Burke is an AGA buoy. The buoy, developed in 1905-1907, when equipped with a Sun Valve, allowed the beacon to be turned off and on. Gustaf Dalen, inventor, received the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1912. The buoy light can be viewed at the Exploreum. Thanks again to Dr. Burke and family for their contributions and for gathering earlier in the month to view the exhibit.

The Resource Center was instrumental in late 2018 and early 2019 in developing an historic display on the history of the high school from the mid-1850s to the present day. Included in the display are photos, yearbooks and mementos of student life and graduations in display cases, as well as drawers that are a part of the exhibit. It is worth a look.

The Franklin Street Walking Tour, paper version, is getting an update by volunteer Kate Brown. The history of the street (Continued on page 6)
YOUR HOME PORT

Is the Port Washington Historical Society contributing to making the City a destination spot? Have you toured the Light Station atop the "Church Hill" which is located on one of our city's "Seven Hills?" Or toured the Port Exploreum in the heart of downtown Port Washington? Or visited the Resource Center located amongst the local establishments? Now is the time to visit "Your Home Port."

NIGHT AT THE LIGHT

We will celebrate the 1860 Light Station with our annual Night at the Light party on Saturday, July 27 from 6-9 pm. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs, enjoy picnic fare and prepared by Pitch’s, listen to music by Green Sails and participate in kid-friendly games. Of course, tours of the lighthouse and climbs to the tower are always part of this event. Everyone id welcome.

$15 for adults, $7 for children: Register online or call 262-284-2406

A special thank you to our event sponsors: Anchor Enterprises, Allied Insulation, Ansay & Associates, John & Vici Dohrwardt, Shirli Flack, Bill & Pat Moren, Jeff & Rose Morgan, Port Washington State Bank, Bill & Jean Schanen, Umansky/BMW Milwaukee North, Eric Von Schledorn EVS, and Antoine, Hoefi and Eberhardt.

Kathie Gordon, 1860 Light Station Co-Manager

GALA PLANS UNDERWAY

Preparations are underway for the Annual Gala, our major fundraiser. This year's theme is Let Us Entertain You. It will be held at the Cedarburg Cultural Center on September 14 from 5 to 9 pm.

A fun evening is being planned. A preview of some of the silent auction items are shown in the picture to the left.
Shhh… listen carefully, and perhaps you can hear...

WEST SIDE
- The steam engine puffing along the Chicago Northwestern rails on the west side of Port Washington and stopping at the water tower to fill the tank. The shrill sound of the steam leaving the stack. The chug of the train as it powered up for its journey.
- The chugging and releasing of the steam from the freight trains as they rolled along the tracks past Gilson’s foundry, across the wooden trestles, past the soda factory at Oakland Avenue, behind Kwik Mix, past Ubbink Fuel and Dock at the harbor to the Wisconsin Chair Factory.
- The crowing and scratching in the early morning from neighbors who had chickens, roosters and rabbits in their backyard sheds.

DOWNTOWN
- The whistling of the wind in the Electric Company Crane. The sound of the crane as it moved back and forth as it emptied the coal boats or rearranged the coal piles.
- The welcoming or exiting coal boat horn as the ships moved in and out of the harbor.
- The low “be-ow” of the foghorn.
- The one o’clock Wisconsin Chair Factory whistle calling all workers back to work after lunch.
- The fire siren sounding the call to the volunteer fire department.

NORTHSIDE
- The slow stroke of the tolling of St Mary’s bells when someone died and when there was a funeral.
- The chanting of the litany of saints in the processions around St. Mary’s neighborhood during Rogation Days.

NEIGHBORHOODS
- The sound of coal rushing down the coal chute into the coal bin in the basement.
- The milk bottles clattering in the basket as the milkman replaced the empties with new bottles in the milk chute.
- The clinking of the ice when the ice man hacked off chunks of ice for the neighborhood ice boxes (and of course small pieces for the children who gathered around on a hot summer day).
- The sound of the automobiles’ manual shift of gears, especially on the hills of Port Washington.
- New Year’s Eve with the bells ringing and the sirens blaring at midnight to witness the New Year in Port Washington.

Were you listening? Did you hear the nostalgic sounds of the past?

Mary Flierl, Resource Center Volunteer

(Continued from page 4)

is captured in a printed format and also available as a download onto a smart phone for anyone who enjoys a stroll into Franklin Street’s past. Twenty markers along the street give the history and photos of the buildings along Franklin Street. Walking Tour pamphlets can be acquired at the Resource Center or the Visitor Center.

We welcome new volunteer, Jill Cavanaugh, a 2019 graduate of Port High, who will pursue the study of history at Whitewater in fall.

Summer hours have the Resource Center open Monday, Thursday and Friday 1-4pm and Saturday 10am-2pm.

We continue to need volunteers to greet visitors that come in to view the exhibits on Saturdays.

Jackie Oleson and Geri Zehren
Resource Center Co-Managers

Franklin Street
Historic Walking Tour
Presented By
The Port Washington Historical Society
205 N. Franklin Street
Port Washington, Wisconsin 53074
262-268-9150
Scan QR Code or Visit Our Website
https://zzaaapro.com

Quick Start from Marker No. 1
Join us on Monday, August 5, for a presentation and book signing of *Stories from the Wreckage: A Great Lakes Maritime History Inspired by Shipwrecks* by author John Odin Jensen, professional historian and maritime archaeologist. The event starts at 7 pm at the Port Exploreum, 188 N. Franklin in Port Washington.

In *Stories from the Wreckage*, Jensen examines a selection of Great Lakes shipwrecks from the wooden age in a deeper dive into this transformative chapter of maritime history. He mines the archaeological evidence and historic record to show how their tragic ends fit in with the larger narrative of Midwestern history.

Jensen participated in investigations of more than fifty marine archaeological sites around Wisconsin and has written extensively on the Midwest's maritime history and archaeology. The book also features the underwater photography of Tamara Thomsen.

Dawn St. George, Executive Director

(Continued from page 3)

and came to us through our volunteer search at the high school. Ann Louise, whose family has an extensive history in the Port Washington area, has a background in every aspect of the retail world. Jeff Morgan, past President of the Historical Society, lends his dulcet tones to calling the plays at Port High football games and sings in the Ozaukee Chorus. All four of these wonderful new volunteers are an asset to our Light Station Crew. Welcome!

Kathie Uttech Gordon
1860 Light Station Co-Manager

**BOOK SIGNING**

Join author Pamela Cameron and illustrator Renee Graef as they share the remarkable, true story of Sport, a rescued puppy who sailed aboard the *Hyacinth*.

Port Exploreum
1pm-2pm
August 1
QUARTERLY EVENTS

Hippity Hoppity

Quarterly Program

Street Festival

German Students Visit

Pirate Fest

Gruen Exhibit Opening
A LOOK AT BOB BRETL, VOLUNTEER

For many of us, Bob Bretl is a volunteer with the Port Washington Historical Society working with its many photos. But over the years Bob has worn many hats.

Born in Sturgeon Bay, Bob moved to Port Washington as a teenager in 1947, spending his last two years of school at Port Washington High School. Bob’s dad had gotten a job as a driver with the local bus line that operated four buses shuttling passengers across the city and beyond. Bob went on to attend the University Extension in Sheboygan and later the University of Wisconsin–Madison. When home, he often filled in as a driver for the bus line. Bob remembers kids taking the bus home for lunch. Buses ran 6 am until 11 pm. On Friday nights after fish fries and beer, buses took many a resident home. Bob recalls a time he dropped a couple off and even helped the husband into the house. Buses provided transportation for residents to attend away football and baseball games. Bob remembers driving residents to the Melody Top in the Town of Grafton to see professional musicals. The Melody Top would later move to the Brown Deer area.

As the United States entered into the Korean War, there was pressure to enlist. Bob volunteered for the draft and served 1953-1955 in an engineer group out of Fort Leonard Wood. After service Bob completed his education. He taught 7th and 8th grade in Grafton for two years and later was librarian at Washington Heights in Port Washington. When planning began for the construction of Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Bob assisted in plans for the library for which he would later go on to be the librarian.

Bob has been married to Bernie for 62 years, and they have two children, Catherine and David. Following retirement, Bob also volunteered with the Niederkorn Library Board for 15 years. He and Bernie continue to manage their book store once a week.

Bob has volunteered with the Port Washington Historical Society for 17 years, as the society moved through four locations with its archive. Over the years Bob cataloged several thousand photos of the history of Port Washington and the surrounding area. For a number of those years Bob’s brother Darrell worked on the photos with him.

Through the decades Bob has worn many hats: student, bus driver, soldier, teacher, librarian, volunteer, husband, father and grandfather. We thank Bob for his many years as a volunteer with the Port Washington Historical Society. We salute his dedication and appreciate the hundreds of hours he has given over the years.

Jackie Oleson
Resource Center Co-Manager

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**Port Washington Historical Society's Mission Statement**

To create opportunities for inspirational discovery through preservation, education and exploration of the Port Washington area’s history and its maritime environment with sustainable programs that honor the past while looking to the future.

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**SEASONAL HOURS**

**Port Exploreum**
Open Thursday thru Monday 10am - 5pm
Closed Tuesday and Wednesday

**1860 Light Station**
Friday, Saturday and Sunday
12 Noon to 4pm

**Resource Center**
Monday and Thursday 1pm to 4pm
Friday 1pm to 4pm
Saturday 10am to 2pm
SOCIETY DONATIONS
Nora and Harry Clark
Shirli Flack
Joe and Joan Groh
Thomas and Nancy Holley
Tim and Amy Kenesey
Bill and Pat Moren
William Provis
Nicole Sova and Dave Garacci
We Energies Foundation, Inc
Geri Zehren

LEGACY SOCIETY

SOCIETY IN KIND DONATIONS
Geri Zehren

EXHIBIT SPONSOR
Shirley S. Gruen Trust

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Jeff and Rose Morgan
Port Washington State Bank
Bill and Jean Schanen

SILVER SPONSORS
Eric von Schledorn EVS
Uamsky/BMW Milw. North

BRONZE SPONSORS
Antoine, Hoeft and Eberhardt

MEMORIALS
In memory of Lil Hasley
Joyce Trepel

IN HONOR OF THE MARY KAY OLSEN/SCOTT SHARPE

WEDDING
Gerry and Kathi Abshire
Nora and Harry Clark
James Dries
Tim Kelley
Carol Mastranardo
Thomas Pagel
Ellen Tyler

2019 GALA SPONSORS SILVER LEVEL
Todd and Kathie Gordon

2019 GALA AUCTION DONATIONS
Baltica Tea Room and Gift Shop
Marc and Grace Eernisse

1860 LIGHT STATION
Judith M. and Paul L. Trump
Lifeboat restoration and housing in memory of Marshal and Edith Moeber

PORT EXPLOREUM
Brad and Heidi Bertler Pledge

LIGHT STATION IN KIND DONATIONS
Todd and Kathie Gordon

LIGHT STATION BRICKS

RESOURCE CENTER

RESOURCES CENTER IN KIND DONATION

EDUCATION/LAKE MICHIGAN LEARNING LAB

PORT EXPLOREUM IN KIND DONATIONS
Eric Oleson
Janet Trzecinski

BOOKS/PAPERS/PAMPHLETS/ABSTRACTS/MAPS
Ned Bartel

FURNITURE/TOYS
Jackie Oleson

MARITIME ARTIFACTS
Tom Jaskulski
Amy Mason

CD/DVD/VIDEO/RECORDS/TAPEs
Mary Downing

BUSINESS ARTIFACTS
Ned Bartel
Jane Runkel Frederick
Eric Kempfer

PHOTOS/NEWSPAPER CLIP PINGS/PRINTS/POSTERS/POSTCARDS
Mary B. Federspiel
Nancy Haacke
Kent Kohn
Linda Nenn
Mary Kay Schuknecht
Randy Weyker

GRUEN PAINTINGS
Dennis R. Mayer

ANTIQUE METAL & WOOD/GLASS/FABRIC
Patrick W. Curtiss
Mary B. Federspiel
Barb Hunsicker
Jackie Oleson
Geri Zehren

VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

Summer is upon us. 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 Light Station requires volunteers for tours. The Resource Center is looking for volunteers for archival work and greeting visitors. No experience necessary. Check out our website at www.pwhistory.org. Contact Port Exploreum at 262-284-2406 or Resource Center 262-268-9150 for more information.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Tom Cotter
Patrick and Yvonne Curtiss
Carl Eisenberg
Tanja Holden
Barbara Joosse
Ann Louise Lorge
Lou Probst
Nicole Sova
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     ___ STOCK
___ 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, July 17, 7:00 pm
Port Washington State Bank’s Lakeview Room
Wilson House, 100 East Main Street, Port Washington

Niles Senior Group Tour
Thursday, July 11, 4:15pm, Port Exploreum

Jeanneau Rendezvous Brunch
Saturday, July 27, Port Exploreum, 2nd floor

Night at the Light
Saturday, July 27, 6-9pm, 1860 Light Station

Sport: Ship Dog of the Great Lakes
Author & illustrator presentation & book signing
Thurs., Aug. 1, 10:30-11:30am, Port Exploreum

Wedding
Saturday, August 3, 1-4pm, Port Exploreum, 1st floor

Stories from the Wreckage
Author presentation and book signing
Monday, August 5, 7pm, Port Exploreum

2019 PWHS Annual Gala
Saturday, September 14, 5-9pm, Cedarburg Cultural Center

Wedding Reception
Saturday, October 5, 3-10pm, Port Exploreum

PWHS Annual Meeting
Wednesday, October 16

Volunteer Recognition Reception
Thursday, October 17, 5-7pm, Port Exploreum

Note: There are an array of private events as well as group tours and school groups throughout the summer. View our website www.pwhistory.org or call the Port Exploreum for information.

The Port Washington Historical Society is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization.