TRANSITION OF PORT’S UNSAFE HARBOR TO IMPRESSIVE MARINA

Harbormaster Dennis Cherny and his assistant, Lisa Rathke, are presenting Transition of Port’s Unsafe Harbor to Impressive Marina at the Quarterly Meeting. Pictures will show how the harbor changed from an industrial site and a harbor that suffered from damaging storms to the beautiful present-day marina.

The program will be held Wednesday, April 18, at the Port Washington State Bank’s Lakeview Room in the Wilson House at 100 East Main Street. The meeting begins at 7:00 pm with a Society update followed with the program and refreshments. The event is open to the public.

Mary Flierl, Program Coordinator
Dear Members,

It is April in Wisconsin and that marks the beginning of the busiest time of the year for the Port Washington Historical Society. The 1860 Light Station opens Memorial Day weekend and will be ready to welcome thousands of visitors throughout the season. Port Washington will have many more visitors during the summer season and that means increased traffic at the Resource Center and the Port Exploreum. The location of both of these properties is ideal in light of all the new development in the downtown area that will bring more visitors and more residents to the area.

The 1860 Light Station, our jewel on the hill, has an exciting change coming. When the National Park Service decided to divest the 1860 Light Station, the existing law required the property to be transferred to a government entity. The City of Port Washington took title to the property, but the Port Washington Historical Society took on the task of restoring, improving and operating it. Since the 1860 Light Station was acquired by the City, the Society has spent over $350,000, and volunteers have spent thousands of hours working on the restoration and operation of the building.

In 2017, as the Board of Directors was contemplating the future of the 1860 Light Station, it was decided that we should ask the City to transfer the ownership to the Society. The City, acknowledging that the Society was the virtual owner of the 1860 Light Station due to its incredible investment of volunteer time and financial resources, agreed to pursue transfer of ownership to the Society. We are on the cusp of that transfer. The deed has been drafted and is awaiting signature. Although there will be no visible change in the appearance and operation of the 1860 Light Station, the transformation will be huge in terms of acknowledging the Society’s role in making and keeping the 1860 Light Station the wonderful property that it is.

Our need for support continues as we operate and maintain these three wonderful properties and plan for the future of the Society. In addition to current gifts, please consider becoming a member of the Port Washington Historical Society Legacy Society by making a planned gift in your estate plan. These planned gifts can take many forms, but the most common are a bequest in a will or trust, establishing a Charitable Remainder Trust or Charitable Gift Annuity, and naming PWHS as a beneficiary of an IRA or Life Insurance Policy.

Our need for volunteers increases at this time of year. With the Memorial Day weekend opening of the 1860 Light Station, we need more volunteers to serve as guides (docents). We would like to have more open hours at the Resource Center as well. You don’t have to be a member to volunteer with the Society. It is an excellent opportunity for people who have recently retired or college students home for the summer to get a taste of volunteering. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Kathie Gordon or make contact through our website.

Jeff Morgan, President
Port Washington Historical Society
Board of Directors
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

The Port Washington Historical Society has grown from a small group in the early 1990s into today’s organization that is making a real difference in its members’ lives as well as our community. This has happened due to the hard work of many, including members, volunteers and now the staff of the Historical Society. Together, we have watched the transformation of the Historical Society into a vibrant and enthusiastic organization that strives each day to fulfill its mission of creating 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.

One important way that the Historical Society has evolved is through its use of committees to organize and accomplish the many tasks and projects of the group. While there have been committees from the beginning, the Historical Society has now been organized into eight committees, each charged with specific responsibilities:

**Executive Committee:** Comprised of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Board of Directors, as well as the Executive Director. Main responsibilities are current major issues of the Board and Society, Strategic Planning, Personnel and Board issues.

**Governance Committee:** Responsible for new Board member recruitment, updating by-laws and policy and procedures, and providing input back to the Board as to the effectiveness of the organization.

**Finance Committee:** Led by the Treasurer of the Board, this committee is responsible for monitoring and managing the budget, cashflow and capital expenditure planning of the Historical Society.

**Marketing Committee:** Charged with developing a Marketing and Communications Plan for the Historical Society. This group is responsible for insuring that the proper messaging is being done through our materials, newsletters, programing and website.

**Buildings and Grounds:** This committee deals with both current as well as long term issues concerning the buildings and grounds of the three facilities of the Historical Society. This ranges from on-going maintenance to long-term capital issues.

**Development/Membership:** Raising funds for both the short term as well as long term needs of the Historical Society is the main thrust for this group. In addition, this group provides strategies and goals for increasing membership.

**Curatorial and Collections Committee:** This committee is charged with providing guidance and direction in the planning and execution of our collections policy, as well as making sure upon upcoming exhibits at each of our facilities.

**Education Committee:** This new group is responsible for developing and overseeing our Education Initiative, assisting in the recruitment of volunteers for the program, as well as providing guidance in the development of other curriculum that can be used at our three facilities.

Assisting and providing needed manpower in making the committees’ work impactful is the staff of the Historical Society. Amy Clark, Event and Membership Coordinator, and Kathie Gordon, Volunteer and Marketing Coordinator, work closely with these committees (often as committee members) and provide both input as well as the execution of many of the plans developed. As Executive Director, I also assist and provide guidance, and it is one of my top priorities to make sure each group is moving forward, as well as ensuring that collectively we keep our mission front and center. Together, the Board of Directors, the committees, and the staff will continue to

(Continued on page 5)

1860 LIGHT STATION NEWS

This winter after the closing of the 1860 Light Station many maintenance items were addressed. The building was thoroughly cleaned, the floors were vacuumed, washed and polished. As we approach Spring and the reopening of the 1860 Light Station, the building will only need a light cleaning and dusting.

The main building and generator building were painted by professional painters, Golden Brush, who did an excellent job. New hot water heaters were installed since the others were 15 years old and were showing rust and possible failure. New garage doors for the Generator Building were installed in February.

Our beloved Chrissy the dog who passed away near the end of last year was laid to rest. A permanent marker at the Light Station honoring Chrissy will be installed come Spring. Chrissy will continue to be greatly missed.

The 2018 maintenance items which will need to be addressed are painting the oil house and well houses, and the life boat should be moved west. Additionally, landscaping around the 1860 Light Station will include re-seeding and leveling the lawn.

As of May, Rick Smith, our long-time 1860 Light Station Director, will no longer be doing the day-to-day managing of the operations but will be available to help with the upkeep and display work when requested or consulted.

Rick Smith, 1860 Light Station Director
In the early months of the war, America was ill-prepared to supply the necessary troops and to equip them. Armaments produced were being sent overseas to equip the Allies. Food for civilians became scarce early in 1918 as much was diverted to the war effort. Citizens were encouraged to limit their use of items like sugar, bread, and meat. People were asked to participate in “breadless and meatless” days and “gasless Sundays.”

Citizens became resourceful: community and school gardens sprang up, alternatives for sugar like honey, corn syrup, maple syrup, and molasses were used as sugar became scarce. The government embarked on a program to educate the public in how to preserve perishable food. Foods were canned, pickled, preserved and dried.

The Wisconsin State Defense Force, referred to as the Home Guard, was created in 1917 to protect the homeland when the National Guard was called to serve overseas. The Guard served within State boundaries, and in Port Washington the group included nearly all the city businessmen. Practice was held every Monday night. Otto Thill was a part of the group. His uniform is on display as part of the Resource Center’s World War I exhibit. The group was disbanded in 1920 after the end of the war.

In order to finance the war, local fund loan drives were held to raise monies through the purchase of Liberty Bonds. Communities were given quotas to meet. Purchasing bonds often brought hardship to families. The first bond drive in Ozaukee County brought in $67,500 with little effort. Five subsequent bond loan campaigns brought in over $2,000,000. Additional monies were raised through a war savings stamp program in which teachers and students raised over $127,000 through the purchase of stamps with pennies.

As it became apparent that items were needed by the troops, residents responded by sewing and knitting items like bed pajamas, hospital bed shirts, stockings, knitted blankets and such. Local Red Cross groups became the channel for items made by local citizens. The county had sent its young men and young women to war, and its people realized the probable cost. They were determined to back up their soldiers with hard work at home, and they succeeded. The busiest businessmen and manufacturers, professional men, farmers, and women of the county joined into groups to work out fulfilling the war needs. No call went unanswered and all were involved.

Regular meetings were held at the Ozaukee County Court House where sewing and knitting classes met every afternoon for months. From September, 1917, until the end of the war the following items were made by Ozaukee County women:

- 222 pairs of pajamas
- 212 hospital bed shirts
- 83 convalescent gowns
- 68 pair bed socks
- 84 pair made socks
- 564 pair knitted socks
- 23 mules
- 10 blanket bath robes
- 16 hospital leggings
- 28 comfort pillows
- 13 wash cloths
- 11 pair wristlets
- 2 scarves
- 268 sweaters
- 9 helmets
- 1 knitted blanket
- 3 hot water bags
- 60 wrappers
- 80 petticoats
- 224 gowns
- 27 jackets
- 260 pair drawers

Jackie Oleson & Geri Zehren
RC Co-Directors

Sources:
- WISCONSIN IN THE WORLD WAR: OZAUKEE COUNTY, R.B. Pixley, Approved by the War History Commission
- PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD WAR, Willis J. Abbot
- THE 32ND DIVISION IN THE WORLD WAR, 1917-1919, Issued by the Joint War History Commissions of Michigan and Wisconsin, Wisconsin War History Commission, 1920
It has been an intriguing past few months at the Resource Center as we looked through World War I donations made by families of Port Washington and the surrounding area. These donations provide us with insight about the impact of the war that was to end all wars, not only to the men and women who served but also to those that remained at home. Thus, the exhibit Remembering... World War I, 100 Years Later developed.

From the Home Front to the War Front, from the Home Guard to nurses on the European front, we have attempted to share some of the stories of these brave individuals from the Port Washington area through artifacts, posters and photographs. Our thanks to the families of Felix Werking, Frederick Boerner, Peter M. Jentges and Erik Schwanz who have donated family items. Our thanks to the Van Ells-Schanen American Legion Post #82, the National Flag Day Foundation, Ozaukee County Historical Society, Fred Schaefer, Rick and Ellen Smith, the family of Evelyn Smith, Bryan Wilburn, Geri Zehren, Jackie Oleson and Mark Schowalter for their loan of items for the exhibit. Special thanks to Margaret Bussone for her knowledge of France. Special recognition to Ozaukee County for sharing a joint electronic presentation of our project. We salute you and are grateful for sharing a part of the history of this generation.

We invite the membership to join us to celebrate this exhibit on Thursday, April 12, from 4:00 – 6:00 pm at our 205 N. Franklin Street location. Light refreshments will be served.

Geri Zehren & Jackie Oleson
Resource Center Co-Directors

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.

Wayne Chrusiel, Executive Director

2018 GALA PLANS UNDERWAY

This year's Port Washington Historical Society Annual Gala will be another fun event for our members and guests. The theme: Tikis and Torches--A Lake Michigan Luau. The date: Saturday, September 29, 2018. The place: Port Washington Yacht Club. Break out your sarongs, Hawaiian shirts and flip-flops. We are going to have a le 'ale' a manawa! So SAVE THE DATE! If you would like to be part of the planning, please contact Amy or Kathie at the Port Exploreum: 262-284-2406. Ike oe malaila!

Kathie Gordon & Amy Clark, 2018 Gala co-Chairs
The Society recognizes its many volunteers. Their generous donation of time and talent is greatly appreciated. There are many who work quietly behind the scenes upstairs at the Resource Center cataloging and organizing an array of interesting donations, guides at the 1860 Light Station and at the Port Exploreum, the Board of Directors, the office volunteers, building and grounds committee, historians and all who make the Society’s three entities destinations for our community.

**Resource Center**

Ardie Ahsmann  
Bonnie Bartel  
Barbara Bichler  
George Lefty Bichler  
Leroy Bley  
Bob Bretl  
Kate Brown  

Sue Bruner  
Teresa Charewicz  
Sr. Joel Christy  
Sigrid Degner Kozon  
Jodie Dickmann  
Mary Downing  
Ann Flierl  
Mary Flierl  
Andrea Fyhrlund  

Joan Groh  
Peter Groh  
Diana Gutzman  
Nancy Haacke  
Carolyn Heatwole  

Craig Heatwole  
Marge Hoffmann  
Wayne Hoffmann  
Carol Jushka  

Trudie Kelly  
Jan Leone  
Mary Fran Lepeska  

Dick Liersch  
Karen Morris  
Jackie Oleson  
Jim Pauly  
Mary Jo Pauly  
Diane Pike  
Marlene Richart  

Lonie Ross  
Kathie Schaefer  
Bethanne Scheel  

**Building & Grounds**

Allon Bostwick  
Don Gilmore  
Kathie Gordon  

Todd Gordon  
Mark Koenig  
Eric Oleson  
Geri Zehren  

**Light Station**

Ardie Ahsmann  
Martha Banning  

Leroy Bley  
Allon Bostwick  
Claudia Burek  
John Enright  

Angie Fowler  
Jim Fowler  
Carolyn Heatwole  
Brenda Hofschulte  
Alice Horton  
Elaine Nulph  

Robert Henkle, Jr.  
Mark Koenig  
Bill Moren  
Jackie Oleson  
James Pauly  
Jack Rooney  
Dan Solorzano  

(Continued on page 7)
EXHIBIT CHANGEOVER AT EXPLOREUM

In early May we’ll be changing exhibits at the Port Exploreum. The historical society’s aim is to balance our maritime heritage with other stories and narratives from our community. To accomplish this we alternate between exhibits on shipwrecks/maritime culture and exhibits on other histories. The To the Waters series of shipwreck exhibits will return in 2019.

Over the past two years our interns, volunteers and staff researched the Ozaukee County poor houses and the potter’s field at Union Cemetery. The project started by happenstance; while reviewing older maps from Union Cemetery I came across two maps with sections indicating a “potter’s field.” Potter’s Fields are areas (and sometimes entire cemeteries) reserved for those individuals that cannot afford to pay for a private burial. Poor houses or almshouses often had an associated potter’s field cemetery where they buried residents. This led us to research if Ozaukee County ever had a poor house and who might have resided there. In fact, Ozaukee had a series of poor houses between the 1850s and 1890s.

The exhibit doesn’t focus primarily on the institutions. Instead, we wanted to introduce the community to the people we “met” while researching and examine life in early Port Washington through their eyes. In the exhibit, visitors will meet Bridget, who moved from Ireland to Nova Scotia to Grafton and lived until well over 100 (she says). Visitors will also meet Charles (who worked for Smith Bros.), Emma (a homemaker) and her husband Ben (a brick worker), Olive (a dressmaker) and many others. We look forward to sharing their experiences, lives and perspectives with our members and guests.

Sarah Smith, PWHS Maritime Curator

Potter’s Field and Union Cemetery

Photo Credit: Beth Merrick

(Continued from page 6)
SHOWING THE GREAT LAKES LOTS OF LOVE

By all accounts the inaugural Love Your Great Lakes Day celebration on February 10 was a big success. Almost 130 people filled the pews of the First Congregational Church to hear discussions of the challenges facing lake Michigan by noted experts Val Kump, Dean of UWM’s School of Freshwater Sciences, and Dan Egan, Pulitzer Prize nominated author of The Death and Life of the Great Lakes. Russ Green, NOAA Regional Supervisor, and Don McMaster, a member of the Thunder Bay Advisory Council, discussed the shipwreck sanctuary proposed to run from Port Washington north to Two Rivers. Susan Bence, Milwaukee Public Radio Environmental Reporter moderated the morning session, which was opened by the Limited Edition, Port Washington High School’s award winning a capella group. Mayor Mlada followed with a brief welcome.

At noon, attendees were invited to come downtown to eat and shop at 17 local businesses, which offered Love Your Great Lakes Day specials. Thanks go to Baltica Tea Room and Bistro, Beanies, Bernie’s, Chocolate Chisel, CoCa Lena, Cousins Subs, Daily Baking Co, Dockside Deli, Java Dock, Newport Shores, Pear & Simple, Schooner Pub, Smith Bros, Tello’s, Twisted Willow, Wicked Grill and Yummy Bones for participating.

In the afternoon, 157 visitors at the Port Exploreum experienced the Lake Michigan Learning Lab, watched video of divers exploring shipwrecks, listened to music performed by members of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra and learned about Riverridge Nature Center’s sturgeon reintroduction project. At Studio 224, visitors made Love Your Great Lakes valentines and made and hand-colored linocut prints. They also experienced Lake Effect, works created by artist in residence Nicole Shaver.

Val Kump, Dan Egan, Bill Moren
Russ Green program
Susan Bence interviewing Dan Egan
Bill Moren, PWHS Volunteer
Port Exploreum Learning Lab
Bill Moren & Lynde Uihlien
MKE Symphony Violinists
ST. PATRICK’S DAY MEMBERSHIP PARTY

It was the wearing of the green time. Great food, merriment, singing, foot stomping and sharing time was enjoyed by all. Music was provided by Green Sail.

HIPPITY HOP

The Society joined in the Hippity Hoppy event in downtown Port Washington Saturday, March 24. Children visited the Resource Center and were delighted to see the Easter Bunny and receive a treat.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED:

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO CONTINUE TO TELL THE STORY OF THE 1860 LIGHT STATION

If you or someone you know is looking to fill a few hours as a volunteer, we have a place for you. We need your help greeting visitors to our 1860 Light Station (the one on Johnson Street around the corner from St. Mary’s Church) and telling them the story of what a lightkeeper did back in the 1800s. No experience necessary, just a willingness to learn a little and share the story with others.

Opening day is May 26 for our 2018 touring season. Shifts are from noon to 4 pm on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. You needn’t commit to more than one day each month, and you’ll be joining a great crew of volunteers.

For more information please contact Kathie Gordon at 262-284-2408 or 414-460-0045.
DONATIONS & MEMORIALS

SOCIETY DONATIONS
AXA Foundation
  Matching gift - Brian Barber
Eclectic Avenue LLC
Jim and Bette Langford
Lorna Nagler
  Bridge Marker
B. K. Patterson
Wiki Wool & Wares

LEGACY SOCIETY
2017 ANNUAL APPEAL
George and Mary Jo Bichler
Kurt and Kelly Blum
Sue and Ken Bruner
James and Mary Burmesch
Paul M. Ehrlich
Ann Flierl
Barbara Holt
Gary and Trudie Kelly
Jack Rooney
Angela Sikowski

MEMORIALS
In Memory of Bobby Jean Chrusciel
Kathie Gordon
Chrissy the Lighthouse Dog Memorial
  Bill and Pat Moren
Bob and Holly Wilke
Geri Zehren
In Memory of Marie J. Irwin
  Bill and Pat Moren

SOCIETY IN KIND DONATIONS
Mike Didier
Bill and Pat Moren

LOVE YOUR GREAT LAKES DAY
Fund for Lake Michigan, a donor advised fund of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation

1860 LIGHT STATION
Lloyd Smith

LIGHT STATION IN KIND DONATIONS
Jeff Morgan

LIGHT STATION BRICKS
RESOURCES CENTER
Lloyd Smith

RESOURCE CENTER IN KIND DONATION
2017 PORT EXPLOREUM PLEDGES
Bruce and Candy Pindyck

LAKE MICHIGAN LEARNING
LAB at the PORT EXPLOREUM
PORT EXPLOREUM IN KIND DONATIONS
BOOKS/PAPERS/PAMPHLETS/ABSTRACTS/MAPS
  John Enright
  Doris Feider-Schlenvogt
Ozaukee County Historical Society
  Ruth Ruege
  Sarah Smith
  Mark T. Wente

FURNITURE/TOYS
CD/DVD/VIDEO/RECORDS/TAPES
BUSINESS ARTIFACTS
PHOTOS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS/PRINTS/POSTERS/POSTCARDS
  Maren Finnegan
  Lou Krupp Family
  David L. Kuester
  Sarah Smith
  Jan Young

RECOVERIES FROM SHIPWRECKS
David L. Kuester

ANTIQUE METAL & WOOD/GLASS/FABRIC
  Paul Hansen
  Ruth Ruege

IN MEMORIAM
Ron Mans
Rhea A. Yovanovich
Jeff Grady

NEW SUMMER HOURS AT THE RESOURCE CENTER
Beginning May 25
Monday and Thursday 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Friday 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Saturday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

LIGHT STATION TO OPEN SOON
Starting May 25
The hours are the same for Friday, Saturday and Sunday:
  Noon to 4 pm.
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

___ CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUST (CRT) OR CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY (CGA)

___ IRA BENEFICIARY

___ LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY

___ REAL ESTATE

___ STOCK

___ OTHER ___________________________________________________________________________

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PWHS SHOULD KNOW:

_____________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________

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

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 18, 7pm
Port Washington State Bank’s Lakeview Room
Wilson House, 100 East Main Street. Port Washington

Ladies Night Out Registration
Wednesday, April 11, Port Exploreum

WWI Exhibit Opening Reception
Thursday, April 12, Resource Center

Movie: The Russians Are Coming
Friday, April 13, Port Exploreum

1860 Light Station Opens for Season
Friday, May 25, Noon—4 pm

Resource Center Summer Hours Begin
Friday, May 25, 10am—2 pm

Community Street Festival
Sunday, May 27, Noon—5pm

Classic Movie Night
Friday, June 8, Port Exploreum

Fireworks on the Deck
Wednesday, July 4, Port Exploreum

Classic Movie Night
Friday, July 13, Port Exploreum

PWHS Quarterly Program
Wednesday, July 18, TBA

Night at the Light
Saturday, July 28, 1860 Light Station

For a complete list of PWHS events, click here to visit:
www.facebook.com/PortWashingtonHistoricalSociety
or
www.portexploreum.com/calendar/