Upcoming Events

QUARTERLY MEETING
Saturday, January 20, 1:30 pm
Port Washington State Bank Lakeview Room
The Wilson House

Love Our Great Lakes Day
Sunday, February 10, 1:00 pm
Port Exploreum and Discovery World

April Quarterly Meeting
Wednesday, April 18
Program TBA

WWI Exhibit Reception
TBA
Resource Center

Love Our Great Lakes
Day celebration

Mark your calendars. Four days before Valentine’s Day, on Saturday, February 10, the Port Exploreum will join with Discovery World in Milwaukee to celebrate Love Our Great Lakes Day. Enjoy presentations starting at 9:30 am in the First Congregational Church by Val Klump, Senior Director and Dean of the UWM School of Freshwater Sciences, Dan Egan, author of The Death and Life of the Great Lakes and Russ Green, Regional Coordinator of the proposed Lake Michigan National Marine Sanctuary. Beginning at 1:00 pm, experience the Lake Michigan Learning Lab at the Port Exploreum. Through interactive exhibits and videos, discover how you can best protect our watershed and support the future health of our lake. Visit Gallery 224’s art exhibit at the Lakeview Community Room, featuring the work of a current artist in residence. Also bring your children or grandchildren to make Love Our Great Lakes Day valentines. Throughout the day hear music celebrating the lakes from Port High School music departments. There will be no admission charged at any of these venues as The Fund for Lake Michigan is generously covering the costs. Please bring friends and family and enjoy this day.

Bill Moren, PWHS Volunteer

IN ANTICIPATION OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD WAR I

Ken Grigas, the founder of Metro Milwaukee Military Historians based in Graf ton, will be the featured speaker at the Quarterly Meeting Saturday, January 20, 2017, at the Port Washington State Bank Lakeview Room in the Wilson House. The program begins at 1:30 pm and will be followed with the usual refreshments and time for visiting. The program is open to the public.

Ken will talk about WWI with connections to Ozaukee County and Port Washington. This information is in preparation for the upcoming exhibit at the Research Center.

Mary Flierl, Program Coordinator

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

Dear Members,

The year 2017 ended as another successful year for the Port Washington Historical Society. We had robust attendance at the Port Exploreum and the Light Station and an ever increasing number of visitors to the Resource Center.

We continue to develop the educational program of the Society to make it meaningful and attractive not only to Port Washington schools but schools throughout the southeastern Wisconsin area. As part of that commitment, our 2018 budget has a provision for a part time education director.

We also had a strong year in financial performance. Our membership dues, admission revenues and facility rental revenues were close to budget but the donations from our members far exceeded our budget! This continued incredible generosity from our members helps greatly in pursuing our mission. The fantastic results from the 2017 Gala also gave a significant boost to our financial results for the year.

I would like to welcome two new board members that were elected at the annual meeting. Jack Rooney and Mark Koenig both joined the board, and the November meeting was their first official board meeting.

Jack grew up in Port Washington and is a long time member of the Society. He is an advertising executive and will bring great business and organization experience to the board. Mark also grew up in Port Washington and has been a long time member of the Society as well. Mark is a business owner and has extensive non-profit organization experience that will be a great benefit to the board. Jack and Mark happen to be childhood friends and were classmates at Port Washington High School.

Our need for volunteers continues. All three properties need volunteers in various capacities. The Light Station is closed through the winter but it is not too early to sign up to be a guide for next season. Volunteering will help the Society fulfill it’s mission, give you an opportunity to get to know fellow members better and meet visitors to our city. You don’t have to be a member of the Society to volunteer, so encourage family, friends and neighbors to volunteer. Volunteer today!

Our quarterly meeting will be held on Saturday, January 20. The program will be a presentation about participation in World War I by residents of Port Washington and the surrounding area. It will be held at the Port Washington State Bank Lakeview Room. I would like to thank the Port Washington State Bank and the Schowalter family for generously providing us this beautiful room for our programs. It is greatly appreciated!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

David Kuester Family
Daniel Norris Family

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
DONATIONS & MEMORIALS

MEMORIALS
In Memory of Bobby Jean Chruscziel
Bill and Pat Moren
Eric and Jackie Oleson
In honor of Harry Clark's 90th Birthday
Rebekah and Brian Barsch
Sandy and Dick Buchman
Don Deutschmann
Cooper and Patricia Dyke
Robert C. Fredrickson
Kathie and Todd Gordon
Mary Hancock and Samuel Paque
Patricia J. Johnson
R. Reed and Peenele Kaping
Dr. and Mrs. Kim
Kathy L. Schmitz

SOCIETY IN KIND DONATIONS
Ann Fleri
Geri Zehren

1860 LIGHT STATION NEWS
LIGHT STATION IN KIND DONATIONS
Light Station Brickers
William & Martha Pauly Banning
Edwin N. Pauly
Margaret Pauly
Fr. William Pauly, SJ

RESOURCE CENTER
RESOURCE CENTER IN KIND DONATION
Port Exploreum
Timothy and Amy Kenesey

LAKE MICHIGAN LEARNING LAB AT THE PORT EXPLOREUM
Sweetwater

PORT EXPLOREUM IN KIND DONATIONS
Clém’s Locksmith Service

BOOKS/PAPERS/PAMPHLETS/ ABSTRACTS/MAPS
American Legion Post #82
Charlotte Barnick Arndt
Nancy Bodenstein
Paul Hansen
Linda Keller
Kathy Ketcher
George Paul
Sarah Smith
Michael Timm
Michele Weiland
Kevin Weyer

FURNITURE/TOYS
Charles Larson

CD/DVD/VIDEO/RECORDS/TAPES

BUSINESS ARTIFACTS
PHOTOS AND NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS/PRINTS/POSTERS/ POSTCARDS
Archie Ahsmann
American Legion Post #82
Charlotte Barnick Arndt
Linda Keller
Pat Poole
Ned and Judy Thill
Diana Verheyen
Kevin Weyer

ANTIQUE METAL & WOOD/GLASS/FABRIC
Archie Ahsmann
American Legion Post #82
Nancy Bodenstein
Arla DelBouroux
Paul Hansen
Mike Jagtner
Gary and Trudie Kelly
David L. Kuester
Karen Rasmussen
Sarah Smith
Bob Membera
Christopher John Wachholz

As we move into 2018, it is good to look back at our accomplishments and forward to the challenges of the new year. Our continued efforts in engaging our members has resulted in an active group of people who are part of the effort to bring alive the rich history of the Port Washington area. While we are still working on the deck, night at the Light, St. Patrick’s Day, and of course our Gala Fundraiser, then to the society’s participation within the community, where we strive to continue to create opportunities for inspirational discovery.

During the 4th Quarter the Society’s budget for 2017 was approved and prepared by the Board of Directors. Some highlights from the plans for 2018 are:

• The Maritime Heritage program will continue and be expanded throughout the year. This program, which includes the efforts of Jackie Oleson, Geri Zehren (Resource Center co-directors) as well as our Maritime Curator Sarah Smith, is charged with the creation and implementation of concrete rules and strategies for the acquisition, storage, care, conservation and display of maritime objects and artifacts. While the Historical Society has been doing all of these tasks in the past, our Maritime project is guiding us as we go into the future.

Another season has come to an end at the Light Station, and it is buttoned up for the winter. Now is the time to do all the interior maintenance and behind the scenes work that people don’t see, like floor polishing, cleaning from attic to basement floor, polishing brass and silver, washing woodwork, taking inventory and other exciting necessities.

We had 2054 visitors at the Station this season. Although bus tours were down, family groups were up. I am concerned that with all the concomitants and other buildings being built that will partially block the view of the Light Station that the number of walkups is going to decrease in the future.

The main building and the generator museum were painted professionally by Golden Brush Painters this year, and they did excellent work. We also replaced the 15-year-old hot water heaters that were starting to show signs of failure. The 1935 garage doors (only one of which works) hopefully will be replaced before winter really sets in, and a garage door opener will be installed on the tenant’s side.

Next year we hope to have tuck pointing done on the generator building, a small repair on the main chimney and installation of some kind of heating and climate control system in the generator building museum. Also next year the emphasis of the tours will be on Women Who Kept the Light, particularly on Margrethe Schommer but also the first Mrs. Lewis.

I personally want to thank our greeters, guides and especially our donors who made the Light Station a beautiful, people-friendly place to visit. They also made my tenure an adventure and history exciting.

Rick Smith, 1860 Light Station Director
FOLLOW THE DROP: A WATERSHED ODYSSEY

From the inception of the Port Washington Historical Society’s Port Exploreum Museum, opportunities for inspirational discovery have been at the core of its mission.

The Lake Michigan Learning Lab is a project of the Port Exploreum in Port Washington that provides an innovative, interactive set of learning experiences for middle and high school students—particularly grades six to nine—in southeastern Wisconsin. Tuesdays are reserved for classroom visits.

The Lake Michigan Learning Lab offers students an opportunity to study Lake Michigan ecology and maritime heritage as a scientist would—making predictions, gathering data, analyzing results, drawing conclusions and identifying relationships.

The Port Exploreum has selected the theme of Follow the drop: A Watershed Odyssey as a focus for student learning based on input from local stakeholders. A watershed focus provides an opportunity for students to study an array of issues associated with both the natural and human factors affecting water quality for our region and the future health of Lake Michigan.

Through this program, students have the opportunity to build understanding and expertise on the causes, effects and possible solutions for issues such as flooding, erosion and water pollution using a set of six thematic exhibits at the Port Exploreum and eighteen pre- and post-visit lessons. These resources are provided to teachers and students in the form of a Teacher Lesson Guidebook—a collection of existing and new resources—and a Student Science Notebook that serves as a resource for data collection, reflection and analysis.

One of the thematic exhibits is the Virtual Watershed Table, in interactive 55-inch touchscreen table that students think of as a giant iPad. When a student touches the surface, the attract screen divides into four different two-dimensional settings: urban, suburban, industrial and agricultural.

When the screen image is touched, the student is presented with a challenge. In the case of the industrial setting, that challenge is “You are an elected official deciding how to use limited funds and tax incentives to help industry, but your choices will also affect the health of your waters. Your goal is to recommend projects that are good for your citizens and that don’t harm the water for fishing, swimming and drinking.”

A touch on the screen then opens to a series of three questions with multiple-choice answers. When an answer is chosen, the industrial image changes to reflect that answer, and a table appears displaying nine categories of potential watershed impacts. After answering the questions, students are able to learn if they made good, OK or poor choices in regard to the waterways being swimmable, fishable and drinkable.

The next exhibits cover soil infiltration, stormwater runoff and the results of green infrastructure. First the students make predictions and then observe infiltration rates through four different soil types. Then, using two rain garden models, they develop an understanding of how human manipulation of soil composition within green infrastructure can prevent adverse water events.

Two exhibits, Fish Daze and the Lake Michigan Table, are unique to the Port Exploreum and not found in any other museum. Fish Daze is an interactive game where two contestants compete against one another and the clock to identify and grab virtual images of sport fish invasive species and pollutants and place them in the correct container. It is a fast moving, fun learning experience.

For many students and visitors, the Lake Michigan Table is the most compelling exhibit. This is an eight-foot, three-dimensional table in the shape of Lake Michigan. Live feeds from NOAA of current wind direction and speed, cloud cover, wave height, surface temperature and, in winter, ice cover are projected from above onto the table’s surface. When the table is touched, its image changes to five geographic zones. When the zone’s selection wheel is touched, information on lake conditions, history, water depths, areas of interests, locations of shipwrecks and the real time location of vessels with the AIS software is displayed. When the image of the vessel is touched, its name and course are displayed.

The final activity in the students’ visit is a scavenger hunt. Students develop an awareness of the ecology and maritime history of Lake Michigan and Port Washington by interacting with maritime exhibits noting important facts and answering related questions on the interactive Lake Michigan Ecology touchscreen. The quiz contains eleven multiple choice questions from the nine pre-visit lessons. When the correct answer is selected, a
The following is a clipping from a scrapbook found in the Research Center. Unfortunately, the date and the name of the newspaper were not on the clipping.

Judge Bert Hedding of the civil court Milwaukee, was a member of the first football team ever to play in Port Washington. Fortunately he had a remarkable picture of this remarkable team and he kindly gave us (the newspaper) permission to use it.

This is what he wrote about the days when he was a resident of Port:

The opening of the school year of 1897 the high school had a new principal—Thomas J. Jones. He interested the boys in organizing a team and had a relative from Carroll college come up to Port for a few days to get the team started. The school had about 25 pupils, including girls, and didn’t have enough boys to form a team. Consequently some—and I was one of them—were drafted from the 8th grade. Stanley Eckel was chosen captain of the first team. His cousin Eugene Wright from Wauwatosa, coached the team for its first game with the Grafton village team. This game was played November 12, 1897, at Grafton and was won by Port 18 to 4. The second game was played Thanksgiving day of that same year at Central Park which was then located south of the Bolens and Gilson Foundry. That game ended in a nothing to nothing tie. That was the first game played in the city.

Waubeka had for its captain and coach Richard Beger who was principal of the Waubeka village school, he having played while a student at Oshkosh state normal, organized a team at Waubeka. On that Waubeka Team I remember the two Safford boys, Dan and Frank, the two Mizz boys, and the two Ryan boys. Ed Graf now of Milwaukee and a member of the State Assembly played on the team that same year at Central Park which was then located south of the Bolens and Gilson Foundry. That game ended in a nothing to nothing tie. That was the first game played in the city.

The type of play was the so called T without the modern variations of ornamentation during the transition from sailing ships to steam. Sailing ships often had intricately carved figure heads, steamships were built differently and did not have room for these carvings. Maritime carvers began making ornaments that could be placed atop the flat pilot house roofs. The eagles were intricately carved, with feathers, talons, eyes, and other details.

Maritime carvers were skilled carpenters and the emerging industrial shipping economy.

The PWHS pilot house eagle is currently on display at the Resource Center.

Jackie Oleson, Resource Center Co- Director

TRIBUTE TO CHRISSY

We were saddened by the loss of Chrissy the Lighthouse Dog. Chrissy was a tribute to her service as visitor greeter at the 1860 Light Station atop St. Mary’s Hill. In that role, the gentle dog who loved to meet people was an irresistible ambassador for the PWHS and City.

Chrissy was adopted by Sarah Smith about 12 years ago from the Green Lake Animal Shelter. Chrissy was literally a rescue dog; she was scheduled to be euthanized the day after Sarah rescued her. As an archeologist, Sarah traveled to many parts of the world for extended periods of time and Chrissy would stay at the home of her parents, Rick and Ellen Smith, in Port. Rick is the director the Light Station and Chrissy became his companion. Thus Chrissy assumed her position as Lighthouse Dog.

She had many duties, including patrolling the Light Station grounds, assuring that the doors were open on time for visitors and taking naps in the sun, but her favorite was greeting visitors. Chrissy had an unusual gift of reading people and approaching those who could not resist her kind and gentle ways.

When Sarah moved to Vancouver, Canada, earlier this year, Chrissy became a permanent resident at the Smith house. An unbreakable bond developed between Rick and Chrissy. They walked the beaches and ventured out on Lake Michigan with Chrissy serving as first mate on Rick’s boat. The two were frequently seen walking in downtown Port with Chrissy carrying her leash in her mouth.

All the volunteers and staff will miss Chrissy and her understanding eyes, madges looking for a pat, treat or just attention. She was familiar with the Resource Center and Exploreum also. The presence of this gentle animal with the wonderful dog smile and wagging tail will be remembered as Chrissy the Lighthouse Dog and special figure at the Society’s office and Exploreum.

(Continued from page 4)

The Port Washington Historical Society pilot house eagle recently was returned to the Resource Center after undergoing cleaning and minor repair. The eagle was part of a donation of maritime items given to the Society by Dr. Eugene Burke in 2014.

Restoration work was completed by Meghan Thumm Mackey in her Madison studio and primarily funded by a Kohler Foundation Grant.

This carved, gilded eagle was originally mounted on the pilot house of a 19th century steamship. Pilot house eagles became popular forms of ornamentation during the transition from sailing ships to steam. Sailing ships often had intricately carved figure heads, steamships were built differently and did not have room for these carvings.

Maritime carvers began making ornaments that could be placed atop the flat pilot house roofs. The eagles were intricately carved, with feathers, talons, eyes, and other details.

Each eagle is a unique work of art created to express the artist’s admiration, respect, fear, and awe towards both eagles and the emerging industrial shipping economy.

The PWHS pilot house eagle is currently on display at the Resource Center.

Jackie Oleson, Resource Center Co-Director

Additionally, special weekend events are planned at the Lake Michigan Learning Lab for the general public as they, too, have a keen interest in a healthy watershed and Lake Michigan.

The Lake Michigan Learning Lab is preparing future community leaders to understand, appreciate and protect our valuable Great Lakes resources.

Bill More and David Libert

(This article was originally published in the Wisconsin Great Lakes Chronicle, 2017.)
WORLD WAR I: REMEMBERING 100 YEARS

Like cities large and small across the country, Port Washington was dramatically affected by unfolding events in Europe. These events ultimately drew the United States into the conflict which became known as The Great War. As the news became dire and the reality that the US would become involved set in, groups of Port Washington men began drilling daily upon the streets of Port Washington, preparing for the inevitability of being called to serve. A machine gun company formed prior to declaration of war. It would later be a part of the 127th Infantry which would become part of the 32nd Red Arrow Division, formed from National Guard units from Wisconsin and Michigan.

America entered the war in April 1917. When a call for volunteer enlistments did not provide enough men, a draft was instituted. The call for men brought in twenty-one contingents of Ozaukee County residents, the last on November 11, 1918, Armistice Day.

Supplies being transported in wagons

Wartime residents, the contingents of men, would be brought in for men to serve. The call for men, from the City and Town of Port Washington would come 228 men and women.

A number of the young men of Port Washington would form part of the Supply Company for the 127th Infantry and serve as wagoners, managing teams of horses that carried supplies across France, Belgium, Luxembourg and into Germany, later becoming part of the Army of Occupation.

Frederick Boerner and Andrew Van Ells were two of those wagoners. Boerner would return to raise a family and be a part of the business life of Port Washington. Van Ells, a young man of 22 years, was wounded and died in France. The nurse who cared for him was Martha Schumacher, a classmate of his from Port Washington. Two other nurses from Port Washington, one being Evelyn Smith, served with the troops. It was common to have several members of a family serving, sometimes brothers and cousins, but also brother and sister as a nurse.

As the war developed, the American Red Cross would fill a need both abroad and at home, supplying nurses and supplies to assist the troops. The residents of Port Washington supported the troops by making items like bandages, night shirts, bed socks and gowns for those hospitalized. Liberty bond drives raised funds to finance the war.

The World War I exhibit at the Resource Center will open this winter. Visitors will reflect on the war through the stories of several of those who served. We have a unique opportunity to learn about the war through written accounts and also through journals and personal letters that collaborate what was transpiring.

Gustav Stearns of Milwaukee was the chaplain for the 127th Infantry. He wrote about the daily happenings of men in the 127th, giving a unique glimpse into their lives on the front. Life in the trenches, the hardships of war, death and burials, but also the exhilaration of an end to the fighting gives a connection that spans the 100 years from 1918 to 2018. We hope that you will join us for this look back at what was considered to be the war to end wars. A reception for the exhibit will be held in Spring.

We continue to look for photos and items that pertain to World War I and Port Washington. If you have items that could be loaned for the exhibit or photos we could scan, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact us at 262-268-9150.

Port Washington Historical Society’s Mission Statement:
To create opportunities for inspiration-al 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.

(Continued from page 3)

Light Station.
It is anticipated that we will have revenues in 2018 of $307,000 and expenses of $305,000 versus projected income of $300,000 and expenses of $280,000 for 2017.
Wayne Chrusiel, Executive Director

(Continued from page 6)

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