

The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLIII, Issue 1

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62525

March 2018

Upcoming events at the Homestead

- Annual Members Meeting
April 19, Thursday,
(details this page)
- Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days
April 23-27, Monday-
Friday (details this page)
- Spring Homestead Tours*
April 29, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
May 27, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
- Children's Tea**
June 23, Saturday
- Summer
Homestead Tours*
June 24, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
July 29, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
Aug. 26, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
- Happy Birthday Mr. Millikin!
A Lawn Party Celebration
July 31, Tuesday
- Fall Homestead Tours*
Sept. 30, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
Oct. 28, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.
- Sarah Grady Flu Event**
Nov. 3, Saturday
- Christmas Open House**
Dec. 2, Sunday
- A Time Remembered:
Dinner with the Gradys
March 9, 2019, Saturday,
(more details inside)

*Hosted tours of the Homestead
provided; donations accepted.

** Watch for more details to come.

A Decatur treasure

What makes the James Millikin Homestead a Decatur treasure? Let's count just a few of the ways:

1. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1974
2. The Homestead has always helped promote the arts: It was the original meeting place of the Decatur Art Class, founded in 1880, and also housed the Decatur Art Institute from 1942-1969.
3. It is a place for the community to gather at events of all types.
4. 4.5 stars on Trip Advisor, plus reviews that include this one: "...it is one of the most beautiful residences I have ever seen ... a true showplace..."

These are just a few of the reasons why, even if you've been to the Homestead before, it's worth visiting this Decatur treasure again with family and friends. Check out the list of upcoming events in this issue, and plan a visit soon! ❖



James Millikin Homestead Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 19

5:30 p.m., Reception

6 p.m., Meeting

All Homestead members are
encouraged to attend.
No RSVPs necessary.

Mr. and Mrs. Millikin will be "in the house" in April

A long-standing annual Homestead tradition for area schoolchildren continues again this spring with the return of Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days during the week of April 23-27.

Through this educational program for Macon County third graders, the students are transported back to the late 1800s with their visit to the

Homestead, where they learn in person from "James Millikin" and his wife, "Anna," about the day-to-day routines at the Homestead. Volunteers are needed to help staff this valuable historic program. If interested, call co-chairs Linda Ostrander at 217-454-5827 or Ann-Marie Hillyer at 217-855-0363. ❖

"Today's board is a driving force in maintaining the Homestead to be a vibrant example of a time gone by."

President's note

This spring marks the end of my two-year tenure as president of the Homestead Board and my final term as a member of this wonderful board.

During my six years on the Board, I developed a true passion for the former home of James and Anna Millikin. I sometimes think I know more about the construction and contents of the Homestead than I do about my own home!

I will always treasure memories of the events we held at the Homestead, from those planned and hosted by our board to the many events booked by Homestead and community members, including weddings, graduation parties and much more.

My sincere thanks to all our hard-working board members for the hundreds of hours they have volunteered, the thousand of cookies they have baked, the many times they

have set up and taken down after events, and so much more.

Today's board members are fulfilling a legacy started in 1976 when the first board took over management of preserving this 1876 Victorian home for future generations to enjoy. Just as in 1976, today's board is a driving force in maintaining the Homestead to be a vibrant example of a time gone by.

This April, a new slate of officers and several new board members will take the reins in ensuring this living legacy continues. Please help them by becoming a member of the Homestead or renewing your current membership. Your financial and volunteer support are vital to maintaining this legendary Decatur home.

*Sincerely,
Terry Grant, President*

Millikin Homestead Board of Directors, 2017-18

David Bowman
Mary Lou Brown
Dawn Buck
Julie Carter
Marilyn Davis
Terry Grant, Pres.
Ann-Marie Hillyer
Cary Hise, VP
Kristen Hise, Treas.
Mary Alice Johns
Deb Kirchner
Pam Marty
Ruby Mathews
Linda Ostrander, Sec.

Historian
David Bowman

Restoration
Lucien and Brigitta Kapp

Save March 9 for "Dinner with the Gradys"



All Millikin Homestead members, especially Sarah Grady fans, are encouraged to reserve Saturday, March 9, 2019. Join us that evening for "A Time Remembered: Dinner with the Gradys," a special event based on the pre-World War I era and the popular book, "The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady" by local author Mary Lynn Potter. The book, shown at left, is a novelization of the true story of Sarah Grady, who lived with her husband near the Homestead at 5 Millikin Place in the early 20th century.

Guests will enjoy stepping back in time to relive this historic period while enjoying fine dining, sizzling romantic intrigue and lively entertainment.

This fundraising event, in support of the Homestead, will be held in the University Commons on the Millikin University campus. Watch for more details in upcoming issues of this newsletter. ❖ *By Linda Ostrander*



A sweet success

The Homestead's annual Christmas Open House in December drew 260 visitors who feasted on hot mulled cider, endless trays of homemade cookies, gorgeous decorations and live music by (*photo, far right*) Rose Marie Thompson, pianist, and Colleen Hillyer, flutist. Many guests also picked up homemade goodies from the "Sweet Treats Bakery," which raised \$1,156 to support the Homestead's operating costs (*pictured above at the bakery are Homestead board members, from left, Linda Ostrander, Julie Carter and Ann-Marie Hillyer*). A heartfelt thank you to the many hands and hearts that helped to make our Open House such a sweet success. ❖ *By Mary Lou Brown & Ann-Marie Hillyer, co-chairs*



Welcome to our newest board member

Ruby Mathews of Decatur has joined the Homestead board of directors.

An accounting specialist who retired from the Lincoln Trails Council of the Boy Scouts of America, she is active with the Master Gardeners program and enjoys sewing, crochet-

ing, embroidering and reading. She is currently completing her first quilt, the Ohio Star.

Ruby and her husband, Dewayne, have been married over 51 years and have one daughter and two granddaughters. ❖

Guests are always welcome at the Homestead

Rent the Homestead

Searching for a unique location for a party or other special event? The Homestead can accommodate up to 75 people for a stand-up reception or 35-40 with table seating. Rental fees are \$100 hourly, plus a \$50 fee for set-up and take down. Or rent the Homestead lawn for a fee of \$250. Homestead members receive a 10

percent discount on rental fees.

Call Dawn at 429-6943 for more details or to make a reservation.

Take a private tour

Book a private tour by calling 217-429-6943. A four-person or \$20 minimum is required. Also, 48 hours notice is required as a courtesy to our volunteers. ❖

Enter and win!

Win a set of notecards featuring the color version of Board Member Pam Marty's beautiful artwork of the James Millikin Homestead featured on the front page of this issue.

To enter, send your answer to this trivia question, along with your name and mailing address, to debkirchner@gmail.com by April 15. One winner will be selected from all those who submit correct answers.

The Millikin Homestead was completed in 1876 at a cost of:

- A. \$18,000
- B. \$40,000
- C. \$2,000
- D. \$100,000



Good luck!

James Millikin Homestead Inc.

125 N. Pine Street

P.O. Box 1501

Decatur, IL 62525

Phone: 217-422-9003

Website: performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead

Like the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

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SEP-2018

Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kirchner

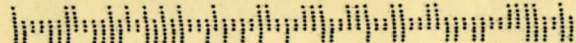
753 Christopher Dr.

Forsyth, IL 62535

Volunteer!

Help staff special events at the Homestead! All volunteers are trained. Call 433-0174 today for info.

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Benefits of being a member of the James Millikin Homestead

- Satisfaction of helping to preserve this treasured Decatur landmark.
- Advance notice of Homestead-sponsored events.
- A subscription to *The James Millikin Homestead Gazette* newsletter.
- 10% discount on Homestead rentals for your special occasion or event.

Join or renew your membership today!



Would you like to become a new Homestead member? Or does your membership expire soon? Help preserve and support this historic Decatur landmark with your annual dues; join or renew at the level of your choice!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

- Member \$30
- Friend \$50
- Patron \$100
- Life* \$1,000

Clip and mail this form with your check to:
James Millikin Homestead Inc.
P.O. Box 1501
Decatur, IL 62525

OR

Call 217-855-0363 to pay by credit card.

**Life memberships may be paid in four annual installments)*

*card #
expiration date
card type
security code*