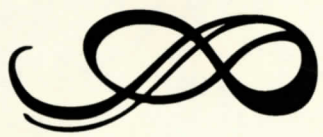
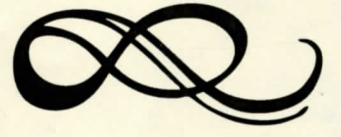


# THE HOMESTEAD FAMILY



## GAZETTE



Volume XLII, No. 3

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC. 125 N. PINE, DECATUR, ILLINOIS

November 2017

### A Note from Your President ...

Fall is here, and the Homestead hasn't looked better, thanks in large part to the hard work of the Master Gardeners. We are so fortunate to have their support.

Now that November is upon us, we have begun decorating the Homestead for Christmas. See the beautiful holiday transformation yourself at the Christmas Open House on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 1-4 p.m.

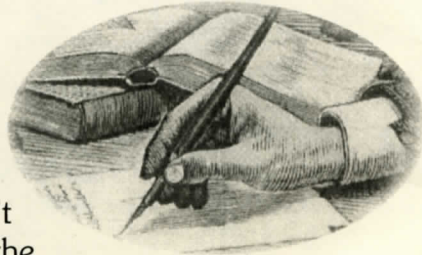
We welcome two new board members, Cheryl Sweet and Ruby Mathews. They are great additions to our already awesome board.

Millikin University and the Homestead have signed a new Memorandum of Understanding renewing our cooperative efforts to maintain and continue restoration of the James Millikin Homestead as a historic landmark.

As I write this, WAND-TV is scheduled to broadcast live from the Homestead on Nov. 6 at 5, 6 and 10 p.m. as part of their November series focusing on historical places in Central Illinois. We feel honored for WAND's interest in featuring the Homestead in this manner, and I hope many more people come to learn about this beautiful facility as a result of the television coverage.

Have a happy Thanksgiving, and I hope we see you at the Homestead during one of the December events you'll learn about in this issue!

by Terry Grant, President



### Large Crowds Enjoy Homestead's Event about True Story from Decatur's History

Local author Mary Lynn Potter's book, "The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady," has captured the hearts and imaginations of Decatur-area residents. Three presentations at the James Millikin Homestead were able to bring to life a portion of Sarah Grady's life for an appreciative audience. Lucien and Brigitta Kapp set the stage, describing life at the Homestead during the early 1900s, complete with anecdotes about the nearby residents of Millikin Place including Sarah's husband, William "Bill" Grady. Nurse Pearl Waddell (aka Board Member Linda Ostrander) told the story of the Homestead's vital role in the 1918 Flu Pandemic. Mary Lynn shared readings from her book and welcomed Sarah Grady (aka Board Member Julie Carter) to discuss her memories of that time. All three presentations included refreshments and tours of the Homestead and were well attended as the visitors were entertained and informed about an interesting period of Decatur and Millikin Homestead history.

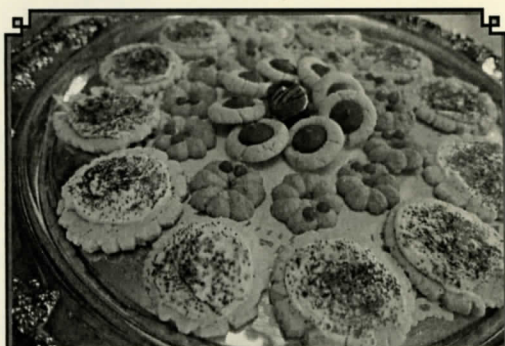
Sarah's story will continue as the Homestead plans to host a formal dinner fundraiser in fall 2018. Watch this newsletter and the Homestead website for more information!  
by Linda Ostrander



Some current and former James Millikin Homestead Board members who staffed the successful Sarah Grady event. From left, front row: Linda Ostrander, Julie Carter. Second row: Pam Marty, Dawn Buck, Mary Alice Johns, Ann-Marie Hillyer, Deb Kirchner, Mary Lou Brown and Brigitta Kapp.



Author Mary Lynn Potter and Speaker/Historian Lucien Kapp address the crowd at one of three presentations about Potter's book, "The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady," held at the Homestead in August and September.



James Millikin Homestead  
Christmas Open House  
Sunday, December 3rd, 2017  
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Please come see our beautiful Christmas decorations and enjoy delicious homemade holiday cookies, candies and mulled cider.

We will also have our Sweet Treats Bakery with wonderful baked goods, candies and treats to purchase.

All goodies will be wrapped for gift giving, to take home and enjoy, or share with your friends!

This annual event is free and open to the public.

### Christmas Open House Set for Dec. 3

You are invited to enjoy a holiday tradition – the annual James Millikin Homestead Christmas Open House. The Homestead, beautifully decorated for the season, will be open to the public on Sunday, Dec. 3, from 1 to 4 pm. Sample delicious homemade treats, including mulled cider, and get a start on your holiday shopping with a visit to the Sweet Treats Bakery. Mark your calendar now, and plan to visit the Homestead for this free and festive event.

### Homestead Again on Annual Heritage and Holly Tour

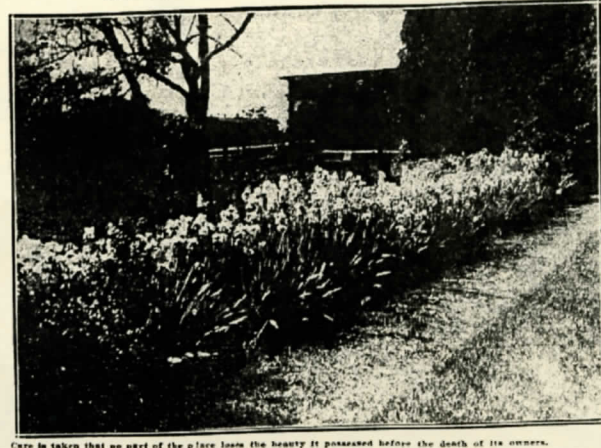
The Homestead will again be featured on the annual Heritage and Holly Tour scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend.

DOVE Inc., the new sponsor of this event, graciously asked the Homestead to again showcase this Decatur landmark which is listed on the National Registry of Historical Buildings.

The Homestead will be beautifully decorated for the Christmas season. We invite the community to attend and enjoy this Decatur gem on the 2017 Heritage and Holly Tour on Friday, Nov. 24, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 25, from noon to 6 p.m. Happy Holidays!  
by Dawn Buck

### A Blast from the Past

IRIS BLOOMING IN REAR OF MILLIKIN HOME



Care is taken that no part of the place lose the beauty it possessed before the death of its owners.

As the weather outside gets frightful, it's a good time to think about something delightful: Flowers! The above newspaper photograph, published in the Decatur Herald newspaper on June 11, 1916, shows a full-bloom/cut-flower

iris border at the rear of the Millikin home adjacent to the carriage house. This image provided many of us with the first glimpse into Anna Millikin's garden interest. Such blooms decorated the Homestead from early spring to late fall. These garden details were long ago overshadowed by James Millikin's fondness for pastoral lawns dotted with large specimen trees – several of which still grow ever so silently on the Homestead grounds.  
by David Bowman



# In Memoriam



Jeannine Schaub, Ann Seidman and Marge Evans. All three were members of the first Millikin Homestead board in 1976.

Being an octogenarian at that time was no deterrent to Ann; she gave the position all her attention and energy.

In 2012, she and her fellow "original" board members Jeannine Schaub and Marge Evans, joined us for our fund-raising gala, "Gangsters, Gals & Gumshoes."

Ann embodied an everlasting curiosity for learning. She was a member of a serious study group. As was her custom, she had purchased season tickets for this year's series at Millikin's Kirkland Fine Arts Center and at the University of Illinois' Krannert Center. In her obituary she was aptly described as "a vigorous and determined woman who did not like to be idle and discouraged idleness in those around her."

Ann swam daily in the early morning at Decatur Health Club, part of her disciplined routine which no doubt helped keep her young and active to the very end.

The Millikin Homestead is very grateful to Ann for giving of her time, talents and financial support to support this great Decatur landmark. With fond memories, we extend our sincere sympathy to her family for their loss.

by Brigitta Kapp

Ann Seidman, a loyal supporter of the James Millikin Homestead, passed away Sept. 10, 2017, at age 94.

Ann was involved with the Homestead from the very beginning; she was a member of the first board from 1976 to 1981, and she and "re-enlisted" in 1999, serving until 2007. She was president for four

## Take a Private Tour of the Homestead!

Did you miss the Homestead open house tour season? (Open houses are held the last Sunday of the month April through October). Book a private tour of the Homestead by calling 217-429-6943. A four-person or \$20 minimum is required. Also, a 48-hour notice is required as a courtesy to our volunteers.

## Rent the Homestead for Your Event!

Searching for that unique location for a holiday or birthday party, wedding reception, baby shower, graduation celebration or other special event? The Homestead may be the perfect answer! We can accommodate up to 75 people for a stand-up reception or 35-40 with table seating. Rental fees are \$100 per hour, plus a \$50 fee for set-up and take down. Or rent the Homestead lawn for your event for a fee of \$250. Current Homestead members receive a 10-percent discount on rental costs! Call Dawn at 429-6943 for more details or to make your reservation.

## Volunteer for the Homestead

Call Mary Alice Johns at 433-0174 or 422-7614 to volunteer at the Homestead to help with special events, such as the Christmas Open House, Mr. & Mrs. Millikin Days and more. All volunteers receive training.

## Renew Memberships/Donate by Credit Card

The Homestead now offers the convenience of making credit card payments to donate to the preservation of this historic landmark or to fulfill for your membership dues. Call the Homestead today at 217-855-0363 to renew your membership or to donate.

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JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD, INC.  
P.O. Box 1501  
Decatur, Illinois 62525  
217-422-9003

### Mission Statement

The Mission of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. is to restore and preserve the interior of this irreplaceable Decatur landmark, thereby raising community awareness of our historical heritage, and promoting preservation for future generations.



LEAVE A LEGACY™  
Decatur, Illinois

Please consider the Millikin Homestead in your estate planning.

## James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

Regular Member - \$30.00

Friend - \$50.00

Patron - \$100.00

Life - \$1,000.00

(May be paid in four annual installments)

Please make checks payable to James Millikin Homestead, Inc. and mail to:

James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

P.O. Box 1501

Decatur, Illinois 62525

(Membership is tax deductible)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to "like" the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

Check Our Website for Upcoming Events: [performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead](http://performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead)

### Millikin Homestead 2017-2018

#### Board of Directors

David Bowman  
Mary Lou Brown  
Dawn Buck  
Julie Carter  
Marilyn Davis  
Terry Grant  
Ann-Marie Hillyer  
Cary Hise  
Kristen Hise  
Mary Alice Johns  
Deb Kirchner  
Pam Marty  
Ruby Mathews  
Linda Ostrander  
Cheryl Sweet

#### Officers

President - Terry Grant  
Vice-President - Cary Hise  
Secretary - Linda Ostrander  
Treasurer - Kristen Hise

#### Historian

David Bowman

#### Restoration

Lucien and Brigitta Kapp