

# The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLIV, Issue 1

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522

February 2019

## Upcoming events at the Homestead

- **Annual Memberships due March 1, 2019**  
Details next page and membership form on back panel.
- **A Time Remembered: An Evening with the Gradys**  
March 9, 2019, Saturday, Millikin University Commons; invitations were mailed to all members in late January. More details inside.
- **Annual Meeting and "Keep Looking Up!" Reveal Party**  
April 15, Monday, 5:30 p.m. meeting; 6 p.m. Reveal Party. Refreshments served, including hors d'oeuvres and adult beverages. Don't miss this year's annual membership meeting as we go over the past year's accomplishments and unveil recent restoration work on the second floor of the Homestead. The work was completed by Chicago artist Thomas Melvin. (See more details, at right.)
- **Spring Homestead Tour**  
Sunday, April 28, 2-4 p.m., \$2 per person; children \$.50 each.
- **Greater Decatur Youth Band Concert**  
Wednesday, July 10, watch for more details.
- **Set your own tour!**  
Call 217-412-0093 to book a private tour. A four-person or \$20 minimum is required. Please give 48 hours notice as a courtesy to our volunteers.

## Two local grants to help fund major restoration projects

The Homestead Board is pleased to announce two local grants have been received in support of the James Millikin Homestead from the James Millikin Estate Trust and the John Ullrich Foundation.

"We are very grateful to these two local organizations for their investment in the future of the James Millikin Homestead," says Linda Ostrander, Board President. "In less than 10 years, we will celebrate the 150th anniversary of this magnificent Decatur landmark. Financial commitments such as these are vital in helping us to preserve and protect the Homestead for the benefit of future generations."

The James Millikin Estate Trust awarded funds to replace the two aging Homestead furnaces with up-to-date, more energy-efficient models. Millikin University's facilities department also has the Board's thanks for offering to

assist with project management.

The John Ullrich Foundation awarded a grant in support of restoring the ceilings and walls in two second-floor bedrooms. Thomas Melvin, the Chicago artist who in 2015 completed extensive restoration on the Homestead's first and second

floors, will begin work on the second-floor bedrooms this month. Homestead members are invited to attend the reveal of his finished work at a party held in tandem with the annual membership meeting on Monday, April 15.

Since 1976 when the

Homestead Board was created, this nonprofit, volunteer board has been responsible for maintaining and preserving the interior of this 1876 historic landmark to ensure that the Homestead thrives for years to come. Grants such as these, as well as donations, membership dues and events all help drive the Board's efforts. ❖

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*"Many thanks to the people whose names are listed in this issue for their membership in the Homestead."*

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**Millikin Homestead  
Board of Directors,  
2018-19**

Linda Ostrander, President  
Julie Carter, Vice President  
Kristen Hise, Treasurer  
Ann-Marie Hillyer, Secretary  
Mary Alice Johns, Secretary

Mary Lou Brown  
Dawn Buck  
Jason Butterick  
Marilyn Davis  
Brigitta Kapp  
Joanne Kerper  
Deb Kirchner  
Ruby Mathews  
Doug Warren

**Historians**

Lucien and Brigitta Kapp

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## A note from the President

Dear Friends,

More than 120 visitors were awestruck by an inspiring display of 42 much-loved nativity sets loaned to the Homestead by community members for our inaugural "No Room at the Inn" event in December (*see details at right*).

One young visitor, Matthew, struggled to decide which set was his favorite, finally deciding on one where dogs depicted members of the holy scene. That's just one example of how the afternoon afforded a special holiday experience for young and old alike. This event followed close on the heels of our annual Christmas Open House and Sweet Treats Bakery, a crowd-pleasing event for all ages that drew hundreds more to view the Homestead in its holiday splendor (and enjoy a homemade cookie – or two.)

Connecting with our community is

an important goal of the James Millikin Homestead Board, and 2019 will bring even more opportunities to forge those connections. Our members make these activities possible through their support, and we are very grateful. Many thanks to the people whose names are listed in this issue for their membership in the Homestead.

Membership renewal is now underway, and we ask you to continue your patronage of the Homestead for another year. Your membership dues help the Homestead remain a vital piece of the Decatur community through programs, preservation and restoration. Thank you for your commitment to the Homestead.

*With warm regards,*

*Linda Ostrander, Homestead President*

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## Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days celebrates 40th anniversary in 2019

The week of April 22 will once again bring hundreds of area third graders to the James Millikin Homestead to experience life in the late 1800s.

This is the 40th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Millikin Days, a program begun in 1979 by a group of volunteers led by then Homestead Board Member Adele Glenn. Forty years later, her vision continues to come to life each spring

We depend on our faithful volunteers to play the roles of the Millikins, the organist, Sophie the kitchen maid and others. Please mark your calendars now and be ready to say "Yes" when



we contact you to participate or call us at 422-9003 to volunteer your time to this educational event. Thanks for your ready support! ❖ *By Ann-Marie Hillyer and Linda Ostrander*



### **“No Room at the Inn,” but plenty of room to view this exhibit**

The first-ever nativity display at the Homestead in December featured 42 sets loaned by local residents, with unique styles ranging from vintage to modern. More than 120 guests toured the display. Our sincere thanks to all who trusted us with showcasing these special family heirlooms!

Visitors were asked to vote for their top choices in each of three categories. These winners took top honors:

**Favorite:** Father Don Wolford’s very extensive traditional wooden creche, all hand carved and painted.

**Most Unusual:** Claudia and Jim Williams’ “Dognivity.” The meaning of Christmas was uniquely showcased in a dogs-only nativity.

**Most Creative:** Dawn Buck’s Hawaiian nativity of a carved coconut with plain wooden figures. ❖ *By Mary Lou Brown & Brigitta Kapp, Co-Chairs*

### **Great year for Christmas Open House/ Sweet Treats Bakery**

The Homestead Board members hosted 215 guests at the annual Christmas Open House in December. Co-chairs Mary Lou Brown and Brigitta Kapp were instrumental in preparing the Homestead for this festive occasion. The lavish decorations, polished silver, delectable homemade cookies and aromatic warm cider created an elegant and merry atmosphere. Many guests took home a tasty treat for themselves or to share with friends and neighbors. More than \$1,200 was raised through bakery sales, funds that will assist in the ongoing preservation and operating costs of this Decatur treasure. Special thanks to the board members and volunteers for their delicious and attractive homemade bakery donations and for their ongoing commitment to the Homestead. ❖ *By Ann-Marie Hillyer, Sweet Treats Bakery Chair*

### **Rent the Homestead**

Need 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. Homestead members receive a 10 percent discount on rental fees. Call Dawn 412-0093 for details. ❖

### **Looking for speakers?**

Homestead Board members are available to speak to your group or organization about the history and impact of the Homestead.

For more information, call Linda at 217-454-5827. ❖

### **Make a difference**

Want to help our community and work alongside great people who are having fun AND making a difference? Volunteer at the Homestead!

Call Mary Alice at 433-0174 or 422-7614 to volunteer for Homestead events. ❖

### **Welcome**

The Homestead Board welcomes new member Jason Butterick. Jason is pastor of Prairie Avenue Christian Church, president of the DOVE board and a proud graduate of Millikin University. Following his graduation, Jason was Millikin’s first full-time archive staff assistant and spent many hours researching the university’s history, including the life of MU Founder James Millikin. One of his goals as a Board member is to help ensure that the Millikins’ contributions to the Decatur-area community are recognized and long remembered. ❖



# A Time Remembered

HOSTED BY WM. & SARAH GRADY

PRESENTED BY THE JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD



For one night only, step back into 1915 as history comes alive with fine dining, sizzling romance and lively entertainment!



*The evening's entertainment will be based on the book  
"The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady"  
by Mary Lynn, bringing Sarah and her tumultuous story of life.*

Saturday, March 9th, 2019

Cocktails & hors d'oeuvres at 6:00pm. Dinner at 7:00pm

University Commons at Millikin University  
1140 W. Main Street  
Decatur, Illinois

Proceeds from this event will be used to preserve and maintain the James Millikin Homestead.



# Thank you, Current James Millikin Homestead Members!

## LIFE MEMBERS

Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Arnold  
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Atwater  
 Ms. Charlotte Ballance  
 Mrs. William Barnes III  
 Ms. Jeane Best  
 Dr. & Mrs. John Bradley  
 Mr. Larry DeLong  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Dickes  
 Mrs. Lilly Eckert  
 Mr. Leonard Edwards  
 Mrs. Nancy Eichenauer  
 Dr. & Mrs. Alan Frigy  
 Ms. Charlotte Hanks  
 Mrs. Robert Hanna  
 Mrs. Joanne Hantel  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerald Hoelting  
 Ms. Anne Hostetler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas K. Hostetler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hund  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Jacoby  
 Ms. Barbara Janes  
 Mrs. Clarence Johnson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Kapp  
 Mrs. John B. Krigbaum  
 Mrs. Marilynn Madden  
 Mrs. Peggy Madden  
 Mr. Thomas Malenshek  
 Ms. Laura May  
 Mr. & Mrs. John McCoy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Millar  
 Mrs. Dorothy Morey  
 Mrs. George Prust  
 Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Schrodt  
 Mrs. Susy Smiley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith  
 Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Thompson  
 Ms. Betsy Tietz  
 Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Tower  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vitale  
 Mrs. William Wagner

*We are grateful to those listed here for their support of the Homestead's mission of preservation, restoration, education and community outreach.*

*Our apologies for any errors of omission or incorrect entries. If you notice either on this membership list, please email jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com or call 217-422-9003.*

## MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Charles H. Ahlenius  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Alpi  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ames  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andreas  
 Mr. & Mrs. Duane Avis  
 Mr. & Mrs. Steve Bainbridge  
 Mr. & Mrs. T. Stephen Ballance  
 Ms. Nikki Barker  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie Barnett  
 Ms. Lee Ann Batchelder  
 Ms. Mary Jean Bauer  
 Dr. & Mrs. Howard Beede  
 Mrs. Joan Bliler  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Bowman  
 Mrs. Jeannette Bradley  
 Mr. & Mrs. William J. Braun  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Brown  
 Ms. Mary Lou Brown  
 Mr. & Mrs. Allan Buck  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jason Butterick  
 Mrs. Anna Mae Carlson  
 Ms. Sonja J. Carlson  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Carney  
 Ms. Julie Carter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan Caulkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Chiligris  
 Ms. Marcia Comerford  
 Ms. Elta T. Cooke  
 Ms. Ruth L. Cortright  
 Ms. Claudia J. Curry  
 Ms. Marilyn Davis  
 Ms. Sandy Davis  
 Mrs. Cindy Deadrick-Wolfer  
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul DeBruine  
 Ms. Elena Delaney  
 Dr. Jan Devore  
 Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Dove  
 Mr. & Mrs. Aloys P. Dudra  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Elliott  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Empen  
 Mrs. Margaret M. Evans  
 Mr. & Mrs. Allen Fagin  
 Dr. & Mrs. Robert Farrington  
 Mrs. Carol Ferry

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Fisher  
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Foster  
 Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Goetter  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Grant  
 Ms. Wylleene Griffy  
 Mrs. Mary Ann Groves  
 Drs. Greg & Amanda Haarman  
 Mr. Elmer Hawkins  
 Mrs. Carole Hill  
 Mr. & Mrs. David Hillyer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Cary Hise  
 Mrs. Ardith Hubbard  
 Ms. Doris Hudson  
 Ms. Alice Huebner  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Huff  
 Mrs. Irene Huff  
 Ms. Linda Hull  
 Ms. Phyllis Hunt  
 Ms. Cheri Hunter  
 Mrs. Sara Jerome  
 Mr. & Mrs. Chris Johns  
 Dr. Dale K. Jones  
 Mrs. Pauline Jurgens  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Keagle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dan J. Kerper  
 Ms. Heather Kimbler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kirchner  
 Mr. & Mrs. Elmer Kostenski  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kunzeman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Leihser  
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 Ms. Pam Marty  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Mathews  
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 Mrs. Marjorie A. May  
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 Mrs. Donna Meinhold  
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 Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Pelz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dirk Peterson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Duane Potter  
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Mr. & Mrs. David Rathje, Sr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Rau  
 Mrs. Thelma Raupp  
 Ms. Donna Rebert  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Robinson  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Romano  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tony Romano  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Ropp  
 Mrs. Audrey Sanner  
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 Mr. & Mrs. William Shade, III  
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 Dr. & Mrs. Philip Sharkey  
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 Mrs. Betty Query Smith  
 Mrs. Joan Smith  
 Mrs. Marilyn Smith  
 Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sorensen  
 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Stanley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom Sweet  
 Ms. Mary Kay Thompson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dave Tyrolt  
 Dr. & Mrs. James Wade  
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Warren  
 Ms. Betty Watkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Weedon  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Welch  
 Dr. & Mrs. Patrick White  
 Ms. Donna Williams  
 Mrs. Joann Williams  
 Mrs. Nadine Wimmer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Phil Wise  
 Mrs. Sheila Witts-Mannweiler  
 Fr. Don Wolford  
 Mrs. Betty Zeaman  
 Mrs. Linda Zinn

# James Millikin Homestead Inc.

125 N. Pine Street

Decatur, IL 62522

Phone: 217-422-9003

Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com (Coming soon!)

Like the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

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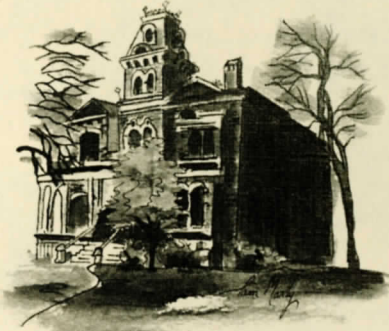
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Annual memberships are due **March 1** each year. Join or renew your membership today at the level of your choice. Complete and mail the form at right or call 217-855-0363 to pay by credit card.

### James Millikin Homestead Member Benefits

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

## Join or renew your Homestead membership today!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address/P.O. Box No. \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay:

By check (included) **OR**

By credit card:  MasterCard  Visa  Discover (complete info below)

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ 3-Digit Security Code (on back of card) \_\_\_\_\_

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

Clip and mail this form with your check or credit card information to:

**James Millikin Homestead Inc.**  
125 N. Pine St., Decatur, IL 62522

*\*Life memberships may be paid in four annual installments.*