

# James Millikin Homestead Gazette

VOLUME XLVI

125 N. PINE STREET DECATUR, IL 62522

FEBRUARY 2021

## Upcoming Events

### 2021 Homestead Open House Schedule

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
Sunday, April 25, 2021  
Sunday, May 30, 2021  
Sunday, June 27, 2021  
Sunday, July 25, 2021  
Sunday, August 29, 2021  
Sunday, September 26, 2021  
Sunday, October 31, 2021



### Annual Meeting

Thursday, April 22, 2021  
5:30 pm via Zoom



## Mission Statement

Through the preservation of the Homestead, we engage, educate, and entertain visitors with the stories of the Millikins and Decatur.

## 2020 Sweet Treats Bakery Success Story

The show must go on.....and that is exactly what happened with the annual Sweets Treats Bakery event. During a normal year, the Bakery is open during the Homestead's traditional Christmas Open House. Unwilling to be another COVID casualty, the Homestead Board reinvented this affair by offering a pre-order and pre-paid "drive through bakery." Products offered were Christmas cookie trays, mini bread loaves, and four candy varieties. During the planning stages, we pondered whether our alternate plans would be embraced by loyal customers. However, much to our delight, the COVID Sweet Treats Bakery format was a huge success. The Bakery raised approximately \$3,000 for the Homestead's operating budget. Heartfelt thanks to the Board members and friends of the Homestead who donated their time and talent creating delicious treats and also to our patrons who helped to keep the Homestead's holiday tradition alive!

"I can't tell you how happy folks were to receive these cookies! The quality, the presentation and the variety goes unrivaled!" - A Satisfied Customer

## 2021 Homestead Open Houses

Did we ever think we would be stuck inside this long? When you are ready to get out and about, plan a visit to the Millikin Homestead for some safe, interesting, and educational fun. The Homestead will be open the last Sunday of each month April through October from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm with guides available to show you around or just answer your questions. Masks and social distancing will be observed, and sanitation stations available. A suggested donation of \$2.00 for adults and \$0.50 for children will be gratefully accepted from Open House visitors. Homestead members visit for free. We look forward to seeing you soon! See "Upcoming Events" for Open House dates.

## From the President's Desk

Happy New Year from the Homestead! To start with, I want to thank you, the members and community, who supported the Millikin Homestead in what has been a challenging year for all of us. We could not have done it without all of you! It's been a year of embracing new ways of doing things, and finding ourselves invigorated, ready for new challenges. Looking to the year ahead, the Board eagerly anticipates bringing back some old favorites, but still incorporating approaches and programs we developed to cope with the pandemic. The History Room will continue to grow and support the learning mission of the Homestead.

Our use of technology will continue to expand. But best of all, we look forward to welcoming each and every one of you back to the Homestead for an in-person visit or two! Once again, a heartfelt "thank you" for your ongoing support of the Millikin Homestead. See you soon!



## A Drive-Through History

In preparation for this festive evening, your Homestead Board and volunteers from Millikin University Facilities decorated the Homestead with indoor and outdoor lights and garland to accent the architecture of the Homestead. Volunteers met to prepare traditional "crackers;" a cardboard tube about four inches long which was filled with candy, then wrapped with colorful holiday paper and the ends tied. And then we waited and wondered if the joy of driving around neighborhoods to see Christmas lights might have been lost in today's electronic world. But no! A Drive-Through History was a wonderful success! It was a perfect night for a free, old-fashioned family drive, with the kids in tow, to look at twinkling lights and hear joyful Christmas music.

By our count, approximately 48 cars drove through the Homestead grounds and many were loaded with kiddos! It was truly a joy to see families together enjoying the season. Volunteers were on hand to greet the vehicles filled with smiling faces. Christmas music was playing loud and clear from the Homestead. Each child received a "Homestead Cracker." There were numerous grateful folks who, in pure generosity and in the joy of the season, donated to the cause and to them the Homestead says "thanks." The overwhelming response from virtually every visiting vehicle was the desire to see this become an annual event.

## History Room Comes to Life

This past year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we were able to continue work on our History Room project. Millikin University provided the Homestead with two glass display cases. These cases give us an opportunity to offer small, specialty exhibits, change them out with ease, and thereby (hopefully) keep visitors' interested in coming back. This space might become a venue for featuring small, private collections at the Homestead - an exciting possibility! Along the same line, we are planning to install a video system which can play videos, still photos, and any other information pertaining to the Millikins, Decatur history, and the Victorian period at-large. We enjoy exploring ways to offer you, our supportive members, and all interested visitors an informative and fun tour of the Homestead that brings history to life!

## Flagpole Revamp

The Homestead Board is delighted to announce that we will be partnering with a Girl Scout who is a MacArthur student to overhaul the Homestead flagpole area in the coming year. This project will be planned and executed by this young woman, with the Board's assistance, to achieve the highest rank in Girl Scouts, the Gold Award. The winter months are being used to research, plan, and fundraise for the project with hopes that the physical work will begin in the spring. The goal is to complete the project this summer and, at that time, hold an unveiling celebration. Thanks to Millikin University Grounds personnel for clearing the area in preparation for the new plantings. If you would like to contribute to this project, please contact the Homestead or any Board member. You will be assisting both a Scout and the Homestead in establishing a proud home for our country's flag.

## Membership Renewal

The 2020–21 Homestead membership year will conclude on February 28, 2021. We invite and encourage you to renew your Homestead membership for 2021-22. Dues will be the same as last year with the same member benefits: the quarterly newsletter, first notice of upcoming events, free admission to regular Sunday Open Houses, and a 25% discount on rentals of the Homestead or the grounds. An Organizational Membership has been added to give businesses, clubs and other structured groups the opportunity to support the Homestead.

We look forward to providing programming for our members in the coming year that will welcome you back into the Homestead and remind you of the treasure your membership dues help to protect.

Watch your mailbox for your Homestead Membership Pamphlet and return it with your payment before March 1st.

Thank you!

### Please renew your membership!

#### Member Levels:

Friend: \$30

Benefactor: \$50

Patron: \$100

Organizational: \$250

Life Patron: \$1000 (payable in 4 installments)

Membership year -

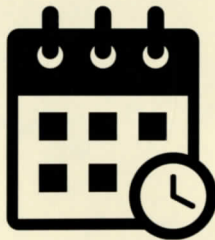
March 1 to February 28

Your membership renewal pamphlet will be arriving in your mailbox soon!

## Annual Meeting

As directed by the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. bylaws, an annual meeting, open to all Homestead members and interested community individuals, is held the fourth Thursday of April. As with last year, a large gathering in the Homestead this spring would be ill-advised.

Therefore, on Thursday, April 22nd at 5:30 pm all interested parties are invited to participate in the Homestead Annual Meeting via Zoom. Please contact the Homestead if you would like to receive a Zoom invitation to attend this meeting.



Annual Meeting - April  
22nd, 5:30 pm via Zoom

## A Call for Help Answered

In October, when the Board was faced with the unsettling reality of mounting operational bills and, due to COVID-19, no source of income, we turned to our faithful community of supporters with a letter requesting help. The response has been humbling and gratifying. The Board is incredibly grateful for your trust and your belief in the value of this beautiful, old home.

Through your support, we met our goal to cover our operating expenses through this fiscal year and are on solid financial footing going into the coming year.

**Many, many thanks for your  
contributions.**

*Thank  
you*

## Members List

Dear Members,  
It is difficult to fully express our gratitude for your enduring support of the James Millikin Homestead. Your membership provides outreach to our community, maintenance of this stately home, and a vision of historical preservation. For all of this we are very thankful. Homestead members are devoted guardians of Decatur's past. Thank you for being members in this difficult year of 2020 - 2021. We hope you will renew your membership for the coming year.

Sincerely,  
The James Millikin Homestead  
Board of Directors

### LIFE PATRONS (\$1000)

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ames  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Andreas  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Arnold  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Atwater  
Charlotte Ballance  
Dr. & Mrs. Howard Beede  
Dr. & Mrs. John Bradley  
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Brown  
Claudia Curry  
Larry DeLong  
Mrs. Thomas Dickes  
Leonard Edwards  
Nancy Eichenauer  
Dr. & Mrs. Alan Frigy  
Mr. & Mrs. James Grady  
Charlotte Hanks  
Joanne Hantel  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerald Hoelting  
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Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hund  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Jacoby  
Barbara Janes

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Mr. & Mrs. Lucien Kapp  
Mrs. John B. Krigbaum  
Marilynn Madden  
Thomas Malenshek  
Laura May  
Mr. & Mrs. John McCoy  
Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Millar  
Dorothy Morey  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Ruff  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Sargeant  
Dr. & Mrs. Joseph Schrodt  
Susy Smiley  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Sweet  
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Thompson  
Betsy Tietz  
Dr. & Mrs. Wesley Tower  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vitale  
Mrs. William Wagner

### PATRONS (\$100)

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ahlenius  
Mr. & Mrs. Alex Anderson  
Mr. & Mrs. Duane Avis  
Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie Barnett  
Mr. & Mrs. Randell Blackburn  
Mr. & Mrs. David Brandon, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Allan Buck  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Carney  
Mr. & Mrs. Dan Caulkins  
Marcia Comerford  
Elta Cooke  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl Curry  
Marilyn Davis  
Dr. Alan Duesterhaus  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Elliott  
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Paul Francis, Esq.  
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Mr. & Mrs. David Hillyer  
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Mr. & Mrs. Ken Kirchner

Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Kunzeman  
Mr. & Mrs. James Livasy  
Millikin University  
Mr. & Mrs. James Millikin  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Mixell  
Dr. & Mrs. Dale Ostrander  
Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Parish  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Phipps  
Mr. & Mrs. David Rathje  
Joyce Robinson  
Jim Romano  
Mr. & Mrs. Tony Romano  
Deborah Scheiter  
Molly Shade  
Mr. & Mrs. William Shade III  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sorensen  
Mr. & Mrs. George Streckfuss  
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Swarhout  
Mr. & Mrs. Troy Swinford  
Dr. & Mrs. James Wade III  
Donna Williams  
Nadine Wimmer  
Rev. Don Wolford  
Betty Zeaman

### BENEFACTORS (\$50)

Mr. & Mrs. John Allen  
Lee Ann Batchelder  
Dr. & Mrs. Tom Bilyeu  
Mary Lou Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. Jason Butterick  
Anna Mae Carlson  
Sonja Carlson  
Dr. & Mrs. Paul DeBruine  
Dr. Jan Devore  
Mr. & Mrs. John Drayton  
Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Dreier  
Dr. & Mrs. Edward Elliot  
Mary Engleton  
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Farrington  
Mr. & Mrs. James Farley  
Dr. & Mrs. Stephen Goetter  
(cont. on next page)

## Members List (cont.)

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Grant  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hill  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Hinze  
 Mr. & Mrs. Cary Hise  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hooten  
 Cheri Hunter  
 Rev. & Mrs. William Keagle  
 Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Kershaw  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Kinney  
 Barb Leihser  
 Donna Meinhold  
 Bonnie Metcalf  
 Mary Miller  
 Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Nims  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Patient  
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 Dr. & Mrs. Paul Stanley  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Stengel  
 Mary Kay Thompson  
 Col. & Mrs. Robert Tyler (Ret.)  
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 Betty Watkins  
 Mr. & Mrs. Luke Weatherford  
 Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Weedon  
 Patricia Wenda  
 Dr. & Mrs. Patrick White  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jim Williams  
 Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Wise  
 Sheila Witts-Mannweiler

FRIENDS (\$30)  
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 Nikki Barker  
 Patty Barr  
 Mary J. Bauer  
 Sara Blair  
 Jeannette Bradley  
 Johanna Brown  
 Mr. & Mrs. Rod Carter  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Chiligris  
 Ruth Cortright  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Dudra  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Dunn  
 Margaret Evans  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Evans  
 Barb Ferrara  
 Mr. & Mrs. Larry Foster  
 Mary Ann Groves  
 Colleen Hillyer  
 Ardith Hubbard  
 Doris Hudson  
 Alice Huebner  
 Irene Huff  
 Linda Hull  
 Dr. Dale Jones  
 Marilyn Kostenski  
 Bruce Leonard  
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 Pam Marty  
 Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Mathews  
 Linda May

Douglas McGaughey  
 R.D. McMillen Enterprises  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Meyer  
 Ruth Milhauser  
 Shirley Moore  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Pelz  
 Mr. & Mrs. Duane Potter  
 Donna Rebert  
 Carol Ropp  
 Audrey Sanner  
 Michael Sexton  
 Betty Query Smith  
 Joan Smith  
 Marilyn Smith  
 Shirley Taylor  
 Debby Trump  
 Marilyn Welch  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zucco

Every effort has been made to ensure that this is an accurate list of the James Millikin Homestead membership. Please forgive any errors of omission.

## Amazon Smile Foundation

A tip of the hat to long-time Homestead members and friends Sandy and Ritchie Barnett who shared with us that the Amazon Foundation (yes, the Amazon we all know) will give to the Homestead one half of one percent (0.5%) of the price of eligible items purchased by you, our members.

### WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO HELP THE HOMESTEAD?

Amazon Smile is simply Amazon. But it is a special charitable program within Amazon's business model. Prices and availability are the same. Simply go to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). Login with your regular Amazon account username and password. Then, pick James Millikin Homestead, Inc. as your preferred charity. Or try this link <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/37-1019918>.

Simple and easy to do. Every time you shop on Amazon you will help us educate and preserve the rich history of the Millikin's Home.



James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

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### **James Millikin Homestead Board of Directors**

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Vice President: Ann-Marie Hillyer

Treasurer: Doug Warren

Co-Secretaries: Deborah Scheiter &

Patricia Wenda

Past President: Linda Ostrander

Mary Lou Brown

Jason Butterick

Julie Carter

Marilyn Davis

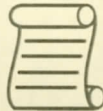
Alan Duesterhaus

Brigitta Kapp

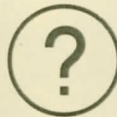
Joanne Kerper

Ruby Mathews

Social Media Manager & Newsletter  
Editor - Laura Shaw



Please consider making your support of the James Millikin Homestead a part of your legacy by including the Homestead in your estate planning.



Not a member of the James Millikin Homestead? Memberships are inexpensive and the support you provide through a membership is immeasurable. Please contact the Homestead for more information.



Stay in touch with the James Millikin Homestead:

Facebook: James Millikin Homestead

Website: [jamesmillikinhomestead.com](http://jamesmillikinhomestead.com)

Email: [jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com](mailto:jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com)

Phone: 217-422-9003

Please leave a message and your call will be returned.