

The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLIII, Issue 3

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522

November 2018

Upcoming events at the Homestead

- **Christmas Open House**
Dec. 2, Sunday,
12:30-4:30 p.m.,
free admittance and
refreshments; Sweet Treats
Bakery goodies for sale.
More details at right.
- **“No Room At The Inn ”
Nativity Display**
Dec. 9, Sunday, 1-5 p.m.,
See details, back page.
- **Annual Memberships due
March 1, 2019**
Details next page.
- **A Time Remembered:
An Evening with the Gradys**
March 9, 2019, Saturday,
Millikin University
Commons; invitations will be
mailed to all members in late
January. More details inside.
- **Set your own tour date!**
Book a private tour by call-
ing 217-429-6943. A four-
person or \$20 minimum is re-
quired. Also, 48 hours notice is
required as a courtesy to our
volunteers.
- **Considering a year-end chari-
table gift to the Homestead?**
Your tax-deductible donation
helps provide our volunteer
Board with the resources
needed to preserve and protect
this 142-year-old community
treasure. Thank you for consid-
ering the Homestead when
deciding your charitable contri-
butions.

Holidays at the Homestead

**We're doubling your holiday
pleasure at the Homestead this
December with the return of a be-
loved Christmas event and the
introduction of a new one.**

Christmas Open House

Plan now to attend the annual
James Millikin Homestead Christ-
mas Open House. In fact, why not
make it your family's annual holiday
tradition, too?

The Homestead will be festively
decorated and open on Sunday,
Dec. 2, from 12:30-4:30 p.m.,
allowing you to enjoy both Millikin
University's Vespers and our Open
House if you choose.

Per tradition, trays of delicious
cookies will be served along with
our signature spiced cider. Also, the
Sweet Treats Bakery will once again
offer an array of holiday treats pack-
aged and ready for holiday gift-
giving. All profits from this event
support ongoing maintenance pro-
jects and restoration of this Decatur
treasure. ❖ *Ann-Marie Hillyer*

Nativity Display

On Sunday, Dec. 9, from 1-5 p.m.,
the Homestead will present a display
of nativity sets in a variety of styles.
This unique display will definitely
get you in the holiday spirit. See
complete details, back page. ❖



"Historic Preservationist Robert Yapp has completed his Homestead site visit and we look forward to his report outlining the repair needs of the Homestead."

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
Marilyn Davis
Brigitta Kapp
Joanne Kerper
Deb Kirchner
Ruby Mathews
Doug Warren

Historians

Lucien and Brigitta Kapp

President's note

Dear Friends of the
Millikin Homestead,

Since your last newsletter was mailed, the Homestead has been a busy place! The Board has been hard at work with initiatives that support the mission of the James Millikin Homestead, Inc.

"Restore and preserve..."

Historic Preservationist Robert Yapp has completed his Homestead site visit and we look forward to his report outlining the repair needs of the Homestead.

"Raising community awareness..."

The Taste of History event successfully brought many community members into the Homestead for an evening of delicious food, wine and good company. Our ice cream social held in celebration of Millikin University's Homecoming and Parents Weekend provided an opportunity to share James and Anna Millikin's home with students, staff, families and alumni of

the institution he established.

"Promoting preservation ..."

Thanks to the many generous donors who responded to our recent fundraising drive, as well as to those who provide ongoing financial support for operating expenses and major projects. Because of commitments like these, the Homestead will continue to be maintained...

"...for future generations."

Our mission-centric activities are possible only through our dedicated members' continued support, and we thank you. Outlined in this newsletter, there are some wonderful upcoming opportunities to visit and be an active member of the Homestead. I hope you will jump in and, once again, provide your steadfast support for this beautiful historic Decatur landmark.

*Warmly,
Linda Ostrander
Homestead President*

Membership renewal process changes

In order to streamline the Homestead's annual membership renewals and ensure a more efficient financial reporting structure, the Board recently voted to institute a new membership renewal system.

Beginning in 2019, all Homestead memberships come due for renewal on March 1. Previously, an individual's annual membership due date was staggered depending on when dues were first paid. Moving forward, all yearly memberships will begin March 1 and end the following Feb. 28.

In January, all *Regular*, *Friend* and *Patron* members will each receive a renewal letter encouraging them to

send in their 2019-20 membership dues by March 1. Those members who paid for memberships after March 1, 2018, will receive a pro-rated credit applied to their dues for the 2019-20 fiscal year. Each member's credit, if applicable, will be listed in the January renewal letters.

"I know this all sounds complicated, but I assure you that we will do the work to ensure that this new system works seamlessly and causes no headaches for our members," says Board President Linda Ostrander.

"Thank you for your patience as we implement this new structure to further improve our membership process." ❖

In Memoriam

Our condolences to the Eckert and Snelson families.

John Eckert, husband of Lilly Eckert, passed away Sept. 11. Lilly was a board member of the Millikin Homestead from 2010-2016. She still volunteers for Homestead events.

Mary Lou Snelson passed away Sept. 11. Mary Lou served on the Homestead board from 1994-2001. After leaving the Board, she stayed active as our historian and wrote extremely well-researched articles for this newsletter for many years.

Both families listed the James Millikin Homestead as one of the suggested recipients for memorial donations. We appreciate their faith in our stewardship of this historic house. ❖ *By Brigitta Kapp*



a Time Remembered 

HOSTED BY WM. & SARAH GRADY
PRESENTED BY THE JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD X

A formal evening with
William and Sarah Grady
Saturday, March 9
6 p.m. Cocktails — 7 p.m. Dinner
University Commons, Millikin University
Lively Entertainment Following Dinner
\$100 Per Person
Sponsorship Opportunities Available
Invitations Mailed in Early 2019

Share your tasty treats

If your homemade baked goods are the talk of your family and friends, we invite you to contribute your sweet creations to our Sweet Treats Bakery which will be open during the Christmas Open House on Sunday, Dec. 2. Call Ann-Marie Hillyer at 217-855-0363 or Linda Ostrander at 217-454-5827 for more information. See the front page for more details about the Christmas Open House. ❖

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. ❖

Explore Heritage Network Kiosks

Looking for interesting activities in our community with a focus on history? Check out Heritage Network Kiosks! One video kiosk is at the Decatur Public Library and the other is at the Decatur Civic Center. Both display event info from area Heritage Network members, including the Homestead. ❖

Applications now accepted

The Homestead is currently accepting candidate applications for its Board of Directors. The ideal Board candidate is someone with an interest in local history who likes to work on a wide variety of projects and desires to give back to our community. Call President Linda Ostrander at 217-454-5827 or VP Julie Carter at 217-521-0208 to learn more. ❖

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 at 429-6943 for details. ❖

James Millikin Homestead Inc.

125 N. Pine Street

Decatur, IL 62522

Phone: 217-422-9003

Website: performance.millikin.edu/millikinhomestead

Like the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

11/2018

Nonprofit Org.

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit 226

Decatur, IL



*"No Room At The Inn"
Nativity Display at the Homestead*

*Featuring a large variety of styles,
from vintage to modern, loaned to us by local residents*

1-5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018

*Adults \$5 each; children 13 and younger free
No reservations necessary. Refreshments served.*

*For information on showcasing your nativity at this exhibit, please call
Mary Lou Brown at 217-855-4255 or Brigitta Kapp at 217-428-9527.*