

# James Millikin Homestead Gazette

VOLUME XLVIII

125 N. PINE STREET DECATUR, IL 62522

FEBRUARY 2023

## Upcoming Events

### Homestead Open House Schedule

Monthly Open Houses are held the last Sunday of the month March - October. Remember you can always schedule a private tour by contacting the Homestead at 217-422-9003 48 hours prior to the desired time.

### February 12, 1 pm Poetry at the Homestead

### March 26, 1 - 2:45 pm Poetry at the Homestead March 26, 3 - 5 pm Monthly Open House

### April 30, 1 - 2:45 pm Poetry at the Homestead April 30, 3 - 5 pm Monthly Open House

### Annual Meeting

April 27, 5:30 pm

This meeting is open to all members and interested parties; light refreshments will be served.

## Poetry at the Homestead



February 12, 1 pm

March 26, 1 pm

April 30, 1 pm

\$10 admission

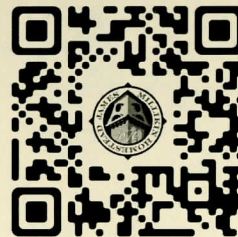
Children under 10 are free

Light refreshments will be provided.

You are invited to hear poetry from local authors. Millikin professors, students, and alumni will be sharing their poetry in February, March, and April. In April we will also have music from Millikin alumni Colleen Hillyer.

Our first event in February will feature Millikin Professor of English, Dr. Stephen Frech and recent Millikin graduate, Sydney Sinks.

For more information visit our Facebook page, our website, or scan this QR code with your smartphone!



*We have partnered with Kroger Company so that now you can feel great about your shopping!*

Kroger Rewards will contribute a portion of every eligible purchase to James Millikin Homestead Inc. as a donation.

If you do not already have a Kroger Plus card, you can ask for one at the service desk of any Kroger store. The store cashier can help you to set up James Millikin Homestead Inc. (Kroger code "JMH - PM 852".) Or you may call Kroger Customer Service at 1-800-576-4377, Option #3 for assistance in choosing the Homestead to be the beneficiary of this program.



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## From the President's Desk

**Support** of the James Millikin Homestead is given in a variety of ways. As we closed out the 2022 calendar year, we were the recipient of monetary support from generous donors—a grant from the John Ullrich Foundation, a grant from the First Evangelical Lutheran Church, both of which are earmarked for tower restoration work, and an overwhelming response from our members and the community to the Homestead's fall appeal. As we begin a new year, our spirits are invigorated knowing that our work to maintain and renovate the Homestead is supported by so many.

Another way of **giving** is through time and talent. Three new board members—Christine Ossowski, Ginny Murphy, and Kelly Springman, were recently appointed to the Homestead board. Each of these individuals brings enthusiasm and assorted talents that they are willing to share. Christine, a former educator in the Decatur Public Schools, has knowledge of HVAC systems and developing educational programs. Ginny has recently moved to Decatur from Oklahoma City. She has considerable experience in the financial arena and is excited to utilize her knowledge in her new community. Kelly, a life-long resident of the Decatur area, was married at the Homestead years ago and is thrilled about her new role. She has experience in establishing projects, fundraising, marketing, public relations, media awareness, event planning, and design. We look forward to working with Christine, Ginny, and Kelly.

Are you looking for ways to **give** and **support** our mission? One way is to become a member of the Homestead. There is a membership level for all budgets, and new members are always welcome! The renewal for current members is March 1, so watch your mailbox for membership materials. Membership monies support our ongoing operating costs. Another way is to become an auxiliary member. This "behind-the-scenes" group works throughout the year on various projects of personal interest. And lastly, shop! Kroger provides a way to designate the James Millikin Homestead as a recipient of community shopping awards. Information regarding this program can be found separately in this newsletter.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the **giving spirit** of our current board—Doug Warren, Joanne Kerper, Nola Wilkinson, Donna Williams, Mary Lou Brown, Brigitta Kapp, Jason Butterick, Jennifer Brandyberry, Karla Miller, Deroan Peters, Jim Wilkerson, Mike Gibson, and Kim Mangan. These folks are dedicated, creative, and industrious with a shared passion for the James Millikin Homestead. It is through their gifts of time, talent, and treasure that the James Millikin Homestead continues to be a beacon in the community.

Best wishes to each of you for a happy and healthy new year. We look forward to welcoming you to Decatur's most famous address in 2023.

Sincerely,  
Ann-Marie Hillyer

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## The Sweet Treats Bakery Tradition

"Baking for the holidays" takes on a whole new meaning when you are one of the Homestead elves charged with baking cookies and creating candies to be sold to benefit the James Millikin Homestead. Orders for our much sought after cookie trays and pecan brittle began on October 15 and we sold out on November 21. That is when the real work began as 3300 perfect cookies and candies were needed to fill orders for 110 cookie trays! In addition to the trays, boxes of pecan brittle drizzled with dark chocolate and sprinkled with sea salt were popular, too. The elves - 28 elves this year - are board members, auxiliary members and friends that enjoy baking, and we are most grateful for their donations. Thank you to all that supported this fundraiser either by baking or making a purchase. Our Treasurer smiled all the way to the bank!



# Christmas Open House 2022

Christmas decorations at the Homestead this year were under the artistic oversight of one of the newest Millikin Homestead board members, Kelly Springman. Kelly brings her experience in decorating the Dana Thomas House in Springfield and numerous commercial locations to give our decorations at 125 N. Pine a fresh take for 2022. The Homestead had its annual Christmas Open House on December 4 from 12:30 to 4:30 pm and welcomed about 150 guests. Those attending enjoyed decorations on both floors, ranging from the sophisticated themes on the first floor to more traditional offerings on the second floor. Vintage Christmas cards were featured on the parlor tree and in various locations on the second floor. A new feature this year was jolly St. Nick looking out of the South Parlor window and making his last-minute preparations for the big night! At the conclusion, punch and small treats were served in the dining room to attendees.



Our Christmas decorations were also enjoyed by a group of seven Family and Consumer Science students from Cerro Gordo led by their teacher, Ms. Cassie McCleery. The students learned about the Second Empire style used in the Millikin Homestead and the Millikin Homestead architect, William Boyington. The various interior decorative elements, such as the use of naturalistic versus stylized representations of nature were discussed. They also got to hear about the architectural styles in Millikin Place, which include Prairie School as well as Arts and Crafts. Architects Frank Lloyd Wright and Marion Mahony, landscape architect Walter Burley Griffin and the interior furnishings designer, George Niedecken were discussed before the students headed out for a driving tour of our local landmark!



## Nativity Event

The weather cooperated and 150 people toured the exhibit during the weekend of January 7 and 8. We had 168 nativities on display, varying greatly in cultural origins and sizes. Brazil, Peru, Guatemala, Mexico, The Holy Land, the Philippines, Europe, and of course our country, including Alaska and Hawaii, were represented. We are grateful local residents agree to share their treasures. Already we have possible exhibitors lined up for next time. These are visitors who came this year and mentioned their willingness to participate the next time around. We were fortunate to have extensive news coverage before /during / after the event! Two local radio stations, WAND TV and the Herald & Review newspaper promoted this event- thank you!



## Donation Letters

In compliance with Federal guidelines, tax/donations letters were mailed to all donors that made an aggregate contribution of \$250 or more to the James Millikin Homestead, Inc. in the 2022 calendar year. If you did not receive your letter, please contact us (217-422-9003 or jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com).

Thanks for Supporting the Homestead as an Organizational Member!



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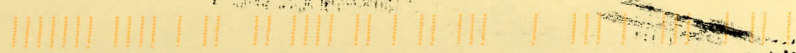
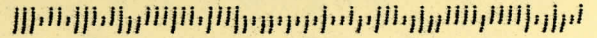
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Please consider making your support of the James Millikin Homestead a part of your legacy by including the Homestead in your estate planning.



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  
Instagram: @jamesmillikinhomestead  
Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com  
Email: jamesmillikin1876@gmail.com  
Phone: 217-422-9003  
Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

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**Mission  
Statement**

Through the preservation of the Homestead, we engage, educate, and entertain visitors with the stories of the Millikins and Decatur.  
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**James Millikin Homestead  
Memberships March 1, 2022-  
February 28, 2023**

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The James Millikin Homestead strives for accuracy in their recordkeeping. If there is an error, please accept our apologies and in turn, notify us so that we can make the appropriate correction.

Please note that any membership monies that were received after November 15, 2022, were credited to membership year March 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024.