

The James Millikin Homestead Gazette

Volume XLIV, Issue 2

125 N. Pine Street, Decatur, IL 62522

May 2019

Upcoming events at the Homestead

- **Hosted Homestead Tour**
Sunday, April 28, 2-4 p.m., \$2 per person; children \$.50 each.
- **Hosted Homestead Tour**
Sunday, May 26, 2-4 p.m., \$2 per person; children \$.50 each.
- **Hosted Homestead Tour**
Sunday, June 30, 2-4 p.m., \$2 per person; children \$.50 each.
- **Greater Decatur Youth Band Concert**
Wednesday, July 10, see inside for details.
- **Hosted Homestead Tour**
Sunday, July 28, 2-4 p.m., \$2 per person; children \$.50 each.
- **Hosted Homestead Tour**
Sunday, Aug. 25, 2-4 p.m., \$2 per person; children \$.50 each.
- **Taste of History**
Saturday, Sept. 14. Last year's sold-out progressive trolley tour of historic Decatur venues is back, now with scheduled stops at the Homestead, Culver House, Hieronymus Mueller Museum and the Ogelsby Mansion. Hold the date and watch for complete details to come in your mailbox this summer.
- **Set your own tour!**
Call 422-9003 to book a private tour (leave a message and a Board member will return your call). A four-person or \$20 minimum is required.



Success with Sarah!

Truly an evening to be remembered, the Homestead's fundraiser, "A Time Remembered" brought in nearly 200 guests, many in 1915-period attire such as those pictured above. All in attendance enjoyed an evening for a good cause that included fine food, sparkling conversation and good, old-fashioned fun — plus intriguing drama based on the book, "The Forgotten Life of Sarah Grady." Final results are still being tallied, but first reports show that at least \$15,000 was raised. Our thanks to the guests and sponsors of this event for helping to preserve the Homestead for generations to come (see complete sponsor list inside this issue). Photo taken by Julie Carter. ❖

Check out our new website

View the Homestead's new website at jamesmillikinhomestead.com

The website is thanks to the efforts of Millikin University Webmaster Jessica Landgrebe and her student interns, Greg Schwoeppe and Tom Emola. The three started developing the website last fall after discussing the project's needs with Homestead Board members.

Moving forward, the student-run business, MUPC (Millikin University Professional Consulting), will assist with maintenance and updates for the site, another collaboration between the Homestead and Millikin. We think James would be please to see his historic home being well served by students of the university he founded. ❖

"Our recent membership drive garnered a gratifyingly strong response. Thank you members — longstanding and brand new — for your support of this beautiful historic treasure."

**Millikin Homestead
Board of Directors,
2019-20**

Linda Ostrander, President
Julie Carter, Vice President
Ann-Marie Hillyer, Secretary

Mary Lou Brown
Jason Butterick
Marilyn Davis
Alan Duesterhaus
Brigitta Kapp
Joanne Kerper
Ruby Mathews
Doug Warren
Pat Wenda
Donna Williams

Historians

Lucien and Brigitta Kapp

Greetings from the President

Dear Members,

The first quarter of 2019 has been a very active time for the Homestead!

Our recent membership drive garnered a gratifyingly strong response. Thank you members — longstanding and brand new — for your support of this beautiful historic treasure. If you have not yet renewed your membership, I encourage you to do so today!

"A Time Remembered," the fundraiser held March 9 at Millikin's University Commons, was an amazing evening of lively socializing, dashing costumes, delicious food and tantalizing entertainment. Sincere thanks to our guests, talented performers and generous sponsors, who are listed on the next page. Proceeds from this event will help fund several ongoing Homestead projects.

At our annual meeting held April 15, we bid a fond farewell to four outgoing Homestead directors: Dawn Buck, Kristen Hise, Mary Alice Johns and Deb Kirchner. Their dedicated service to the Homestead Board is very much appreciated, and they will be missed! We are thrilled to welcome new directors Alan Duesterhaus, Pat Wenda and Donna Williams to the Board. Learn more about each of them on the next page.

It's going to be a bustling spring and summer at the Homestead. I hope you'll read the articles in this newsletter and identify events of interest to you. Hope to see you soon at the Homestead!

With happy regards,

Linda Ostrander, Homestead President

You're invited to an old-fashioned lawn party

Come enjoy an old-fashioned lawn party at the Homestead at 6 p.m., Wednesday, July 10 (rain date is Thursday, July 11).

Bring your friends and family, along with your lawn chairs or blankets, and enjoy a free concert by the Greater Decatur Youth Band and the Summer Strings music program.

Ice cream, popcorn and water will be available for purchase, and proceeds from the sale of these items will help support the Homestead.

The Homestead Board is planning a few surprises for this event, so watch for updates by checking our James Millikin Homestead Facebook



page. Or visit our new website located at www.jamesmillikinhomestead.com. See you July 10! ❖ *By Ann-Marie Hillyer*

Thank you, sponsors!

Our sincere thanks to the following sponsors who helped make "A Time Remembered" such a rousing success. Your support of the James Millikin Homestead is deeply appreciated!

LEGACY

Skeff Distributing Company
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Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hostetler
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HERITAGE

The James Grady Family
Mrs. Peggy Madden
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Mrs. Dorothy Morey
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Nims
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Mr. & Mrs. Chris Johns
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Mr. Pat Nolan
Ms. Marilyn Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Sorensen
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Vitale
Ms. Betty Zeaman

Three new members join Board

The Homestead Board welcomes new members Alan Duesterhaus, Pat Wenda and Donna Williams.

Alan Duesterhaus is assistant professor of management and marketing in the Tabor School of Business at Millikin University. He also is managing partner for Duesterhaus LLC, a marketing and management consulting firm. He currently serves on the boards of The Ability Experience, Pi Kappa Phi fraternity and Millikin Heights Neighborhood/NWRAPS.

Pat Wenda, a native of Claymont, Del., worked for the Domino Sugar Corp. as an industrial salesperson while living in Baltimore,

Md., for 26 years. She moved to Decatur in 2006. Pat is very active in PEO and has held the offices of president, vice president, treasurer and chaplain. She also volunteers in the Decatur Public Schools for DOVE as part of the BABES Program for kindergarten through third grade students.

Donna Williams, an electrical engineer for Ameren who currently does transmission work for the company, has lived near the Homestead for the past 13 years. Committed to the promotion and preservation of Decatur's historic West End, she served as president of the Decatur Heritage and Holly tour for nine years and also was president of NWRAPS for 10 years. ❖

In Memoriam

With fond gratitude, we remember Martha Grohne and Ruth Prust, two very special women who were dedicated Homestead supporters:

Martha "Marty" Grohne died Jan. 18. Marty, the epitome of positive thinking, a go-getter with an infectious smile, exuded endless energy and enthusiasm and tackled any project cheerfully! Marty served on the Homestead board from 2004-2010 but volunteered both long before and long after her time on the board. She was a superb tour guide—third graders and senior citizens alike enjoyed listening to her stories.

Ruth Prust died Feb. 2. Ruth's involvement with the Homestead started in 1977; she served six years on the board and was board president from 1979-1981. Even after leaving the Board, she supported Homestead activities until she and her husband moved from the area in 1999. In 1979, she and fellow board member, Bobbie Wolfe, were the driving force in furnishing the Homestead with items from the estate of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Shellabarger Hall — many of those items are still in the Homestead today. Ruth also portrayed Mrs. Millikin for the third grade program many times; always a very elegant performance! ❖ *by Brigitta Kapp*

JAMES MILLIKIN HOMESTEAD INC.

125 N. Pine Street
Decatur, IL 62522
Phone: 217-422-9003
Website: jamesmillikinhomestead.com
Like the James Millikin Homestead on Facebook!

5/2019

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Join or renew your membership today at the level of your choice. Complete and mail the form at right or call 217-422-9003 (please leave a message and a Board member will return your call).

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.
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- Regular \$30
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Clip and mail this form with your check or credit card information to:

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125 N. Pine St., Decatur, IL 62522

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