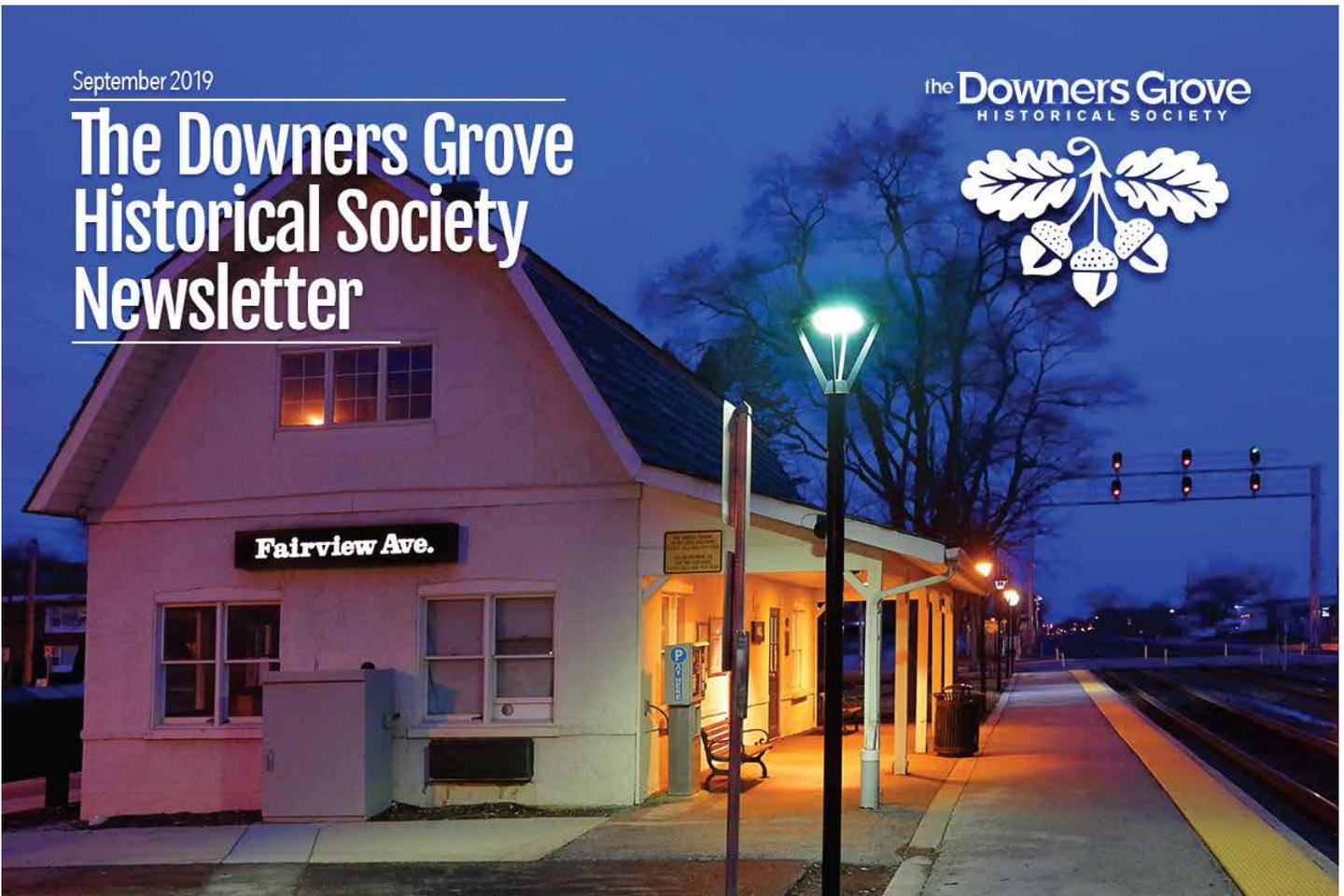


September 2019

The Downers Grove Historical Society Newsletter

the Downers Grove
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWEST HISTORIC HOME PROGRAM APPLICATION APPROVED 1514 Thornwood Drive



with its original architecture. Many of the original architectural features of the home are still present, including original interior and exterior doors and hardware, original porch window, front and back shingles under the eaves, and crown/base/entry and window woodwork. The current owners recently restored the front porch to the original look, removing the 1960's alterations.

The home was originally owned by Earnest E. and Emma Bunge who built the home. Their son Gordon became an attorney who worked with his uncle Gustav H. Bunge, a Downers Grove community leader, attorney, and developer of the Tivoli Theater and Hotel.

Our appreciation goes out to owner Juanita Shaw and her daughter Pamela Shaw for completing the application and research for our Historic Home Program.

This wonderful 1927 craftsman-style bungalow has been lovingly maintained and the owners have done much to restore the home in keeping

The owners had already successfully landmarked this home in mid-2018, helping to safeguard this home's history and architecture for future generations to enjoy. (Research assistance was provided by Amy Gassen.)

Upcoming Historic Preservation Awards Ceremony



There are many historic preservation success stories across Illinois: Come hear about some of these projects and individuals and celebrate their efforts at the Landmarks Illinois Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards Ceremony! Each year Landmarks Illinois, the State's leading historic preservation advocacy group, hosts the event which honors projects and individuals for their advocacy, leadership, and preservation efforts.

This year Downers Grove Historical Society Vice President Amy Gassen had the honor of being part of the awards jury! We are proud to support historic preservation not only in Downers Grove but throughout the State as well. The ceremony will be held on Friday, October 18 from 6-9pm at the Chicago Cultural Center. Click here for more information about this event.

2019 HISTORIAN OF THE YEAR Helen Myers

Each year the Downers Grove Historical Society recognizes a person who has contributed to the Society's mission of celebrating and preserving Downers Grove history. We are pleased to recognize long time member, volunteer, and Historical Society Director Emeritus Helen Myers as the 2019 Historian of the Year.



Recognition of her many years volunteering for

the Historical Society as well as many other worthy organizations will take place on September 22nd at 2pm at the Downers Grove Public Library. Immediately following this tribute, the library will be presenting "Below the Stairs" by Leslie Goddard who will portray the British maid whose memoir inspired Downtown Abbey. We hope you can join us.

Date: Sep 22
Time: 2pm
Place: Downers Grove Library
Cost: Free



Whether keeping a vintage home in tip top condition, restoring a home from former "remuddling" efforts, or just making it work for today's lifestyles...join seasoned restoration contractor, Neal Vogel, as he presents the challenges, pitfalls, lessons learned and success stories of historic building restorations spanning two decades.

Tickets are required to attend. Seating is limited. Free buffet dinner included. Beverages available for purchase.

Date: Sep 24
Time: 4pm
Place: Gatto's Restaurant & Bar
Cost: Free for DGHS Members;
\$15 for Non-Members

Cemetery Lost and Found

On your next walk through the Main Street Cemetery you will see something new in the old burial ground. Our continuing efforts to restore the cemetery includes the addition of 3 more monuments that were lost over the years.



The graves of Davis Paige and his wife Anna Parker Paige are now marked on lot 130. David born in 1796 is one of the earliest settlers in Downers Grove coming here with his family in 1837 from Vermont. The graves are just one row over from their daughter Mary Alzina Paige Pratt who died in 1856.



Another family now reunited is the Faul Family, A monument has been placed on the grave of Louis Faul, son of Henry and Lena Faul on lot 99. Louis was only 16 when he died in 1863. Next to him are the graves of his sisters Leah and Martha. Baby Martha was the first person buried in the Main Street Cemetery when she died in 1856.



The last family group we are happy to complete is that of the Shepards. On Lot 101 a monument is now placed on the grave of John Shepard's daughter, Lucy Ann Shepard Sucher. Lucy, the wife of Henry B. Sucher, died in 1870 and is buried here with her newborn son. Next to her are the graves of her father and sisters Edith, Sarah and Helen.

Constant research is done to find evidence of those who are interred and to replace missing stones so future generations will know a more complete history. In future years we hope to reunite more of the families in the Main Street Cemetery.

We will be adding this new information to our cemetery web app, take a look and listen at www.mainstreetcemetery.com

Lions Club Hosts Downers Grove Teachers Again

On August 13 the Lions Club invited the new teachers and guests to a luncheon. This may seem like an everyday thing but the history of the Lions Club teacher luncheon goes back a long way.



The Lions Club has been a part of Downers Grove for more than 92 years. Over the years they have sponsored many community activities but the annual teacher's luncheon they sponsor is the oldest annual event in Downers Grove by any organization. When and why it started is well documented in the Downers Grove Reporter Newspaper.

On the first day of school in September of 1930 the first luncheon was given by the Lions Club. Held at the Masonic Temple, invited were some 80 teachers, principals, supervisors and department heads of the Downers Grove School system. The reason for the lunch was simple. It was to welcome the teachers to the community and let them know the people of Downers Grove are interested in them. At long tables the teachers sat next to members of the community as they broke bread together.

What is truly remarkable is that the Lions have held this welcoming luncheon every year since 1930. So, this year's luncheon was the 89th they have sponsored. Over the years the luncheon has changed to the new teachers luncheon but the idea of welcoming the teachers to Downers Grove has not changed.

The Downers Grove Lions Club is honored to do this and the community of Downers Grove is honored to have them recognize the teachers for all these years.

Main Street Cemetery Living Cemetery is Near



Mark your calendars for our annual event where you always learn something new. Take a walk through our treasured Main Street Cemetery and visit with some of those early settlers who built Downers Grove from scratch. Actors along with the Herrick Middle School Drama Club will be portraying our early pioneers and they'll have many stories about life in the mid-1800's to share with you.

The Downers Grove Historical Society will be collaborating with the Cellar Door to bring you a fun Halloween afternoon/evening. Sign up for one of 4 different start times; 2 drinks included and a fun history-treasure hunt in the cemetery.

Prizes for those who can find the correct answers.

Date: Oct 31

Time: 3-9pm

Place(s): Cellar Door and Main St. Cemetery

Cost: \$20



Save the Date for Nov 14

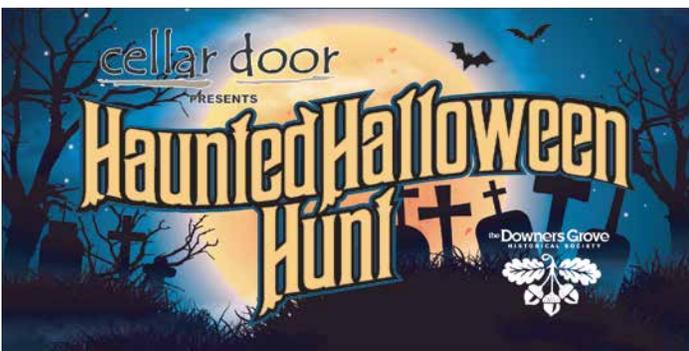
DGHS presents History On Tap - the first annual pub crawl with a little trivia! Join us for an evening you'll (hopefully) never forget, while exploring Downers Grove history you may or may not know yet! Enjoy a drink at four of Downers Grove's local watering holes we like to call our own & partake in a bit of historical trivia at each location. There's even a chance to win gift certificates for each location.

Date: Nov 14

Time: 6-10pm

Place: Multiple locations on Main Street

Tickets: Stay Tuned



Make a Difference in Downers Grove

It's true that you can volunteer, have fun, and not feel like you have a second job. The Historical Society meets once a month in our mission to promote history throughout Downers Grove; although not in a text book, slide show, boring kind of way. We're looking for fresh new ideas that will excite a younger audience about the history all around them. To be more specific, we are looking for people like you that have talents in the following areas:

- Writing
- Social Media
- Public Relations
- Interviewing
- Photography
- Passion for History
- Leadership

You really can make a difference! Hurry up and reach out to our fearless leader Liz Chalberg at 630-660-6767, or feel free to send her an email. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your ideas at our next meeting!



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