



THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication of
the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

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Underground Railroad Program February 26, 2017

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Be sure to join us Sunday, February 26, 2017
2:30 p.m. to hear renowned author,
**Glennette Tilley Turner on "The Underground
Railroad in Illinois."** Co-sponsored by **Matteson
Historical Society**. After the program, Ms. Turner
will sell and sign copies of her books. For in-depth
details on Ms. Turner, connect to
[http://www.illinoisauthors.org/authors/
Glennette_Tilley_Turner](http://www.illinoisauthors.org/authors/Glennette_Tilley_Turner), and read our flier.
Open and free to the general public.
**Village Hall Park Forest, 350 Victory Drive,
Park Forest, IL 60466.**
Information, with Jane Nicoll, 708-481-4252.



Antique Valentine
Exhibit,
1880-1950.



Interested in helping preserve

Park Forest History?

We are looking for new
board members.
Contact Jane Nicoll,
708-481-4252, or via
email on the website,
parkforesthistor.org.

Connect with the Society

On Twitter:

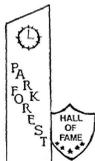
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PARK FOREST HALL OF FAME 2017 Awards Ceremony and Reception Honoring THE PARK FOREST HALL OF FAME 2017 INDUCTEES

PEG AND JACK DONOHUE
CARL AND PEGGY GLASSFORD
WILLIAM "BILL" AND JUANITA SIMPSON
HERSCHEL W. AND HELEN D. WARD
ILLINOIS PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

The ceremony will take place
Sunday, April 23, 2017
3:00 p.m.
Freedom Hall
410 Lakewood Boulevard

Please join us on this happy occasion.

Official invitations will be mailed soon.

Congratulations to our future Class of 2017!

In My Own Little Corner
By Jane Nicoll

The 1950s Park Forest House Museum: I hope you all read the wonderful article written by Erin Gallagher published in the Neighborhood Southtown section and in Community News of the Chicago Tribune Dec. 27 and 29. By January 7, 2017, an article by Jessi Virtusio including the Valentines Day exhibit should appear in the Weekend section. We had an incredible increase in visitors in late December due to Erin's great article and photographs, and some heavy plugs and advertisements on Facebook, including an impromptu video tour by board member Matt Wenzel. Thanks Erin, Matt and Jessi! And thank you to the newspapers for covering us. We had about 70 visitors with 50 of those in the last three days! Thanks to all the docents who pitched in to cover those hours to give our visitors very nostalgic and satisfying visits.

We had entire families come through --grandparents, parents, young children-- and as we say it was a great inter-generational experience for them. We also had brothers and sister, mothers and daughters, and I think a set of cousins. We all had fun sharing memories.

Exhibit: "Step Back into a 1950s Valentines Day," February 1– March 4, 2017. This year the exhibit includes a very **special display of Antique Valentines dating from 1880 up to 1950**, and Valentines decorative items through the decades. Jim St. Ledger of Chicago Heights donated his wife's collection to the Society a few years ago. Karen Blackful has designed this lovely display for us.

Do not miss this exhibit this year!!

Volunteers: We **must** have more volunteers to be docents/tour guides at the museum in order to maintain these hours!! Please be trained to volunteer, and help us stay open in this new location.

We need a Volunteer Coordinator to schedule docents. I currently have to take on this duty, too. Someone else is needed!

January 30, 2017 marks the 32nd Anniversary of the Park Forest Historical Society.

Board Service: The Society is looking for Board members. We must have more active volunteers serving on the board in order to keep operating. We need new blood, and more hands to serve our mission.

Currently, the board meets 2nd Tuesdays, 7 p.m., usually in Park Forest Village Hall.

If you are interested in applying to be a board member, contact me.

The Society will not continue much longer with so little involvement!

Speaking of Membership—Did you remember to sign up to be a member or to renew?

You can opt to join via PayPal on the website or print out and mail in your form. **Just Join!!**

Archive: Questions via phone calls, email or Facebook continue to increase. Jessica Jacko Barnes, Rich East grad, and Librarian, is currently writing biographical information we need in order to get electronic versions of several transcripts on to Illinois Digital Archives. I continue to appreciate the contributions of Paul Blobaum and Rose Thomas to the work we do. Rose has been volunteering for us for four years! I also appreciate the contributions this year of Jane Gibson and Diana Acosta.

In addition to January being the 32nd Anniversary of the Society, it marks the FIFTH Anniversary of our opening the Archive Office in St. Mary's.

Thank you to St. Mary's for a wonderful five years of cooperation and generosity, and for being a tremendous help to us preserving and sharing Park Forest history.

The Local History File Cabinets were moved to the museum in April, 2016, and area available for your research and ours. **Park Forest newspaper microfilm** has been transferred from the Park Forest Public Library to Governors State University Library. Keep these resources in mind!

A few copies of The Suburban Church: Modernism and Community in Postwar America by Gretchen Buggeln, are available for purchase in our museum store at \$35. The book, researched in the Archive and containing collection photos, includes **37 pages on Park Forest Churches. Other sale items include: Park Forest Dreams and Challenges, The Lincoln Highway Around Chicago, Carroll F. Sweet, Jr.'s Memoir on the first ten years Park Forest, John Perry's Blueprint for Building Community, Remembering Marshall Fields, Marshall Fields Bricks, postcards, buttons and more.**



THANKS TO MEMBERS AND ANNUAL FUND DONORS FOR SAVING YOUR HISTORY!

