

THE SPIRIT

Preserving the life of America's unique community

A publication
of the
Park Forest
Historical
Society

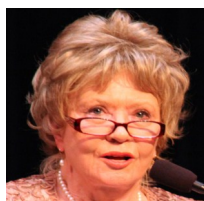
Vol. 7, No. 4

June 2012

NINE INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Here are the 2012 Honorees

MARY H. DAVIDSON



A tireless worker for 25 years she helped transform a small art club into a major cultural contribution to the area.

Shortly after moving to Park Forest in 1968, Mary and her late husband Glenn became members of the Park Forest Art Center, and her name became synonymous with the arts in Park Forest.

Mary served as Program Chair, Art Fair Co-chair, Art School Director, curator of the permanent collection and began Young at Art, a hands-on children's art workshop. Mary also served as President when the Art Center moved from the Public Library to Freedom Hall and helped create the building's Art Center gallery.

She documented the Art Center's exhibitions, fairs, classes and Beaux Arts Balls, producing a slide presentation which was shown to various civic organizations and broadcast on local television.

Mary was a grade school teacher in both Indiana and Arcadia schools where she instilled a love of learning in her students, including an appreciation for art and environmental studies. In 1989 she was named School District 162's Outstanding Teacher.

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FRANCIS G. DIOGUARDI

Rising through the ranks from auxiliary officer to Police Chief, Francis DioGuardi devoted more than three decades of his life in distinguished service to the residents of Park Forest and served as a model citizen of the village he swore to protect.

In 1982, eleven years after joining the police force, he was named the Department's first Director of Crime Prevention and Youth Services where he pioneered both the D.A.R.E. anti-drug, anti-violence campaign and "Stranger Danger" program in schools. Fran was instrumental in the fight against domestic violence, helping to craft the 1986 state law on the subject. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1995, Commander in 1999, Captain in 2000 and Chief of Police in 2003 before retiring in 2004.



Recognized for his contributions to Park Forest, DioGuardi received the Good Egg Award in 1983 from the Park Forest Human Relations Commission. He received both the Outstanding Citizen Award from the Park Forest Jaycees and was selected Officer of the Year by the Police Department in 1987. In 1989 he received the Community Service Award from the Knights of Columbus.

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MARIE A. IAFOLLO



After teaching in both Japan and Italy, Marie began teaching art in Park Forest's Sauk Trail school in 1956. Here she began a Gifted Program that soon was implemented for all seven District 163 schools.

Marie taught all forms of art and devised a student art fair in connection with the Park Forest Art Fair. Marie also gave 22 art workshops for teachers and an extensive workshop for teachers on the use of the Montessori Method. Twice a year she organized student field trips to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Art Institute.

In 1990, Marie helped start the Tall Grass Art School with donations of time and money.

In 1993, she retired as the District's Art Director, but returned in 1995, working with the Lyric Opera of Chicago in its "Opera in the Classroom" program where students perform an opera with the use of costumes and props. This led to a production of "Barber of Seville" by fifth grade students at Mohawk School which was filmed by Channel 11. She is also active with the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra, the Illinois Theatre Center acting lessons program, and as a "Friend" of the Steger-South Chicago Heights Library where she teaches art classes.

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2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

(Continued from Page 1)

LEONARD McDANNEL

Leonard McDannel was a sixth grade teacher at Lakewood School, where he also served briefly as the interim principal. He subsequently taught social studies at Blackhawk Junior High School until that facility was closed in 1980. At that point, he began teaching social studies at the new Forest Trail Junior High School where he remained until his death on January 2, 1990.

Leonard was instrumental in the creation of the American Federation of Teachers local union within School District 163, with many of the organizing meetings being held at the McDannel residence. The majority of teachers in the district previously had been affiliated with the National Education Association, but through the persistent efforts of Leonard and 11 of his colleagues, three successive elections for representation were held in which the AFT challenged the NEA and ultimately was successful.

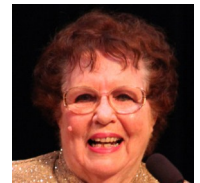
As part of the work to win that representation election, Leonard and one of his colleagues visited every teacher in District 163 in his/her home. Thanks to his efforts, the AFT continues to this day to be the official bargaining agent for District 163 teachers.

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MARGARET McDANNEL

Since 1959, when she and her late husband Leonard moved to Park Forest, Margaret McDannel has spent most of her days working for the betterment of schools, housing and civic affairs.

She is currently a member of the School District 163 Board of Education, serving in almost every capacity. Margaret was President of the Board for two years, and also served terms as Vice-President and Secretary. She has been Finance Chairman for the past eight years and has been a member of the Negotiating Committee for 16 years.



Recently Margaret was honored by Cook County Clerk David Orr and the Board of Elections for her 47 years of service as an election judge. She also served as a Deputy Registrar. Margaret was elected to the Board of Directors for Area B (now the Birch Street Townhomes) and represented that area on numerous National Housing Cooperative conventions. She is presently the Secretary of the local Board. Her efforts in fostering better educational opportunities includes service from 1993-1995 on then State Representative John Ostenburg's advisory committee for the selection of legislative scholarships for the Congressional District.

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ROGER D. PARIS



For most of the last two decades, Roger Paris has brought both his business skills and artistic creativity to the Tall Grass Arts Association and helped impact the quality of life in Park Forest.

Even before joining the Tall Grass Board in 1993, Roger was a vital member of the Art Fair committee, judging new artists hoping to exhibit at the annual event and designing the layout of each year's Fair. He served as President of the Board in 1996. After retiring from Governors State University in 2003 he became director of the Tall Grass Art School for six years. He taught classes at the school including an "Artist's Way" workshop, a class on short story writing, as well as digital photography for beginners and started a weekly Open Studio and live drawing class. Roger is an active member of the Park Forest Rotary Club; was its President in 1995 and a member of the club's Board for six years. A creative photographer and painter in his own right, he is a member of Tall Grass Gallery Committee and creates a yearly photography exhibit for the gallery.

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TALL GRASS ARTS ASSOCIATION

For more than one-half century, the Tall Grass Arts Association has been the most visible cultural asset in Park Forest and through its school, its gallery and its renowned Art Fair, has helped make the Village a bastion of the arts.

The Tall Grass Arts Association is almost as old as the Village of Park Forest. It began as an art club and incorporated in 1956 as the Park Forest Art Center. In the 1990s it was renamed "Tall Grass," reflecting its growth as a regional center for artists and the arts. Since the 1950s it has hosted a gallery that features exhibits of primarily local artists, but often artists of national and international stature.

The 56-year-old Park Forest Art Fair, sponsored by Tall Grass, attracts artists from across the country and Canada displaying a variety of media from painting and photography to jewelry, glass, wood and fiber arts.

The Tall Grass Art School offers classes to children and adults, including watercolor and acrylic painting, photography, knitting and weaving. Classes for young adults have been offered in cooperation with a local high school district and offsite at Glenwood School for Boys and Girls.



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In My Own Little Corner

By Jane Nicoll, Museum Director

We hope you will join us on Sunday June 24, 2012 at 2:30 p.m. in Ryan Hall of St. Mary's Catholic Church for our Archive Office Open House, and my presentation on the history and highlights of the collection. We will serve refreshments to celebrate, and small groups will be given tours of the Archive Office.

The collection is still being settled into the space (750 square feet), and we hope to have more of that done by June 24. The **Park Forest Reporter** in hard copy (24 boxes) and some other collections still need to be integrated in from their storage space at Celebration Ministries. The photograph collection has been moved from the museum.

I have written three grants--one to the Village of Park Forest for support in preserving Park Forest history; and one to Illinois State Historic Records Administration Board (ISHRAB) asking for a large format scanner to scan 11 x 17 issues of **Park Forest Reporter**, **Park Forest News**, and **The Park Forest View**. We will know by early June about the ISHRAB grant. The third grant request was the NEH Preservation Assistance Grant for hiring a conservation consultant to do a survey of the collection and environment it is housed in. We also asked for preservation supplies we would otherwise not be able to afford, like a DataLogger to record variations in Temperature and Relative Humidity and a small Hepa filter vacuum to clean the collection. Most important to us is asking for about 200 archival boxes to re-house the collection, because it is covered in fine soot after being in PODS for five years. We will hear in January 2013 about PAG.

With a much higher rent for the museum, beginning June 1--\$534--we face yet another challenge to keeping the 1950s Park Forest House Museum open. This requires looking for another rental unit or co-op to house us. My friend, Elaine Egdorf of the Homewood Historic Commission and Vice-President of the Illinois State Historical Society says, "In such a historic community, it shouldn't be this hard to do history!" We agree--but it certainly is!

We have three exciting tours lined up for June, so are staying in place for the summer. Ted Golat of Seecago Tours will be bringing in a bus tour on June 2, The Rich Township High Class of 1962 will visit June 16, and The Rich East Class of 1967 hopes to come June 23. **If you visit, too, we could pay our rent of \$534 with visitor donations! Bring your friends and neighbors, and your summer visitors!**

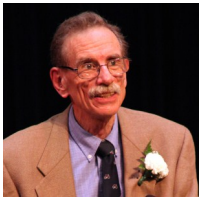
The Society needs help in "doing history." Contact me if you would like to be trained as a museum guide. We still need many more to fill the 10 hours required, and to help with these tours! Call me: 708-481-4252, or email parkforesthstory1 (at) yahoo.com.

With the Archive Office open, we now need volunteers to work with the collection. Come learn how to handle archival materials, and help save our history. Check our website at www.parkforesthstory.org for descriptions of the volunteer opportunities for the museum, archive and Society! **It takes a village to do it--not just a few people.**

2012 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

(Continued from Page 2)

AL STURGES



An early member and Chairman of the Park Forest Plan Commission, he helped streamline the process for business proposals brought to the Village and worked to relax and rewrite restrictions on housing co-op properties, enhancing the area's beauty, efficiency with the use of minimal amounts of green space.

He is a member of the Committee for Non-Partisan Local Government in Park Forest and served as its chair for several years. He is currently on the Board of the Nathan Manilow Sculpture Park at Governors State University and is a coordinator for the Friends of the Park Forest Library's successful "Potpourri" series of Thursday morning lectures.

For more than four decades, Al Sturges has worked diligently in efforts to promote bicycling in and around Park Forest and was instrumental in placing bike racks in the Downtown area and bike lockers at the Park Forest parking lot of the Matteson METRA Station. His enthusiasm on the subject extends to numerous talks he gives about his bicycle trips to China, Africa, Central Europe and Russia. He has served as Executive Director of the League of Illinois Bicyclists as well as president of the local Folks on Spokes bicycle club.

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BARBARA G. STURGES

From the arts to civic affairs to recreation, Barbara has been connected with all things Park Forest for more than 40 years.

In the 1970s she was Board Secretary of the Park Forest Orchestra at the time of its reconstitution to the Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra which she now serves as treasurer and is on the selection committee choosing a permanent conductor.

Barbara has long been active in the League of Women Voters of the Park Forest Area, was the chair of a study on dual public office holders, served as the group's observer on the District 227 School Board and has been the League's Vice-President.

Along with her husband Al, Barbara has taken an active role in promoting bicycling in the South Suburbs. She served as President of Folks On Spokes, the local recreational bicycling club, and was actively involved in the creation of the Old Plank Trail Road. Both Barbara and Al campaign for increased access to cycling opportunities throughout the area, including a plan to provide a bicycle rental program in Chicago.



RECOGNIZING THE BEST

Twenty-nine members of the Park Forest Hall of Fame gather for the annual picture taken at the conclusion of this year's induction ceremony in Freedom Hall.

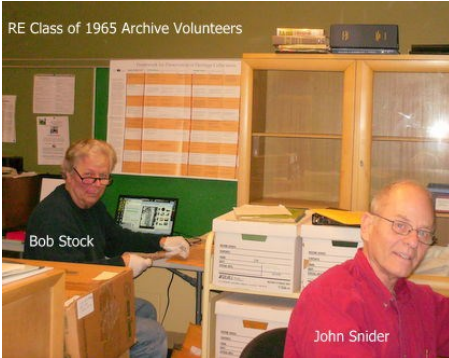
Volunteers/Donors Help Save our History

This spring, Steger resident Cait Phipps, a senior at Alverno College in Milwaukee has been a valuable intern for us. Besides working at Tower Cleaners in Park Forest, Cait worked 180 hours on the collection, documenting and marking collections under the Archivist's direction. Good luck to Cait as she takes a year off from school, gets married, and plans for Graduate School!

Thanks for all you've done!



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We are also delighted to have two volunteers from the Rich East Class of 1965, Robert Stock of Cary and John Snider, of Grayslake. They come to work for two days, paying for their own motel rooms; they have worked single days as well. For several days John looked for parts in an effort to make our 14 year-old large format scanner work. A friend, George Fox, helped install the large-format scanner with the SCSI adapter John bought on eBay, and John updated the drivers to make it work!

John also found the secret to make the transparency adapter work; two little blue plastic screws saved by Jane. It was the first time this \$400 piece of equipment worked in 14 years! They also helped getting us reconnected to St. Mary's Internet, using a part Jane donated, and John may donate wiring to upgrade the connection at a later time. Bob and John are both scanning photographs and documents, and will help with the Reporter scanning if the ISHRAB Grant (see Jane's column) comes through.

They started scanning for their own class Reunion in 2011, and will be sharing with our collection everything they scanned on their own, as well as images Bob has purchased online. Faced with a lack of tables for volunteers to work on, John and Bob bought two!

Thanks Bob, John, and George for all your help! What a blessing you are to us!

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Marcy Marzuki has also donated news service photos she purchased online, along with many items for the museum, which she bid on and paid for online. Marcy, Jane and Jerry Shnay acquired 16 mm footage of then Vice-President Richard Nixon campaigning in Park Forest. These reels still need to be converted to DVD. John Faris comes "on call" to help resolve computer issues. He gave our digital files safe haven while our computer was in storage for 5 years.



John Faris

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The Rich Township High School Class of 1960 donated \$500 they collected the night after they toured our museum in 2010. This year, with the help of Ed Zuckerman, the class donated another \$250. Ann Hiller Rest donated her yearbook and reunion materials.

A huge thanks to all for their behind-the-scenes efforts and donations to support our mission! What talents large or small can you share?

OUR WEBSITE HAS BEEN ENHANCED!
VISIT WWW.PARKFORESTHISTORY.ORG.
SEE HOW WE'VE CHANGED!

Docent Scheduler Vivian Purnell turns over the job to new hands.

Vivian Purnell, board member extraordinaire, has done a wonderful job in scheduling our museum docents for the past six years. We were shaking in our boots when we heard she wished to pass the job on. Who else could do the job so well?

Within days of beginning our search we found two wonderful successors!



Vivian Purnell

Beverley Sailer, a longtime docent herself, will begin calling for June 2012 docents and Janet Patten, a new docent, will share the job on a rotating basis. Expect to hear these new voices calling you to schedule your museum volunteer time.

Be sure to take their phone numbers and email so you can contact them if you need to change hours. We thank Beverley and Janet for taking on this very important job to keep us going and a very special thanks to Vivian who has been so dedicated to the task for six long years!

We appreciate you all so much!



Historical Society Secretary Jerry Shnay (left) welcomes Andrew Brown of Central Park Apartments to the Museum.

Join The Park Forest Historical Society

As a Member you will receive the quarterly newsletter and program notices.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State _____

Zip _____ Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

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Please send newsletters and announcements via my email.

Membership Category

Individual \$ 20.00

Family \$ 40.00

Contributor \$ 75.00

Benefactor 1 \$534.00

(One month Museum rent)

Benefactor 2 \$225.00

(One month's Archives rent)

Corporate \$ 50.00

Our membership year begins in September.

Make checks payable to:

"Park Forest Historical Society"

Mail to: Park Forest Historical Society

400 Lakewood Blvd.

Park Forest, IL 60466-1619

☐

Please contact me about volunteer opportunities.

Contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954, as amended.

HELP SAVE OUR HISTORY!
VOLUNTEER AS A TOUR GUIDE,
WORK ON THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION.
IT TAKES A VILLAGE!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE IN
PARK FOREST TO HELP.



HALL OF FAME SCENES

An audience of nearly 200 in Freedom Hall witnessed the 2012 Hall of Fame induction ceremony. Shown clockwise from the top are: a view of the stage during the event; Village Trustee Mae Brandon and Janet Muchnik, President of the Tall Grass Arts Association, who accepted for the Association; the billboard outside Freedom Hall; the new members of the Hall of Fame; Park Forest Mayor John A. Ostenburg, Janet Muchnik and Fran DioGuardi; Society Board members Suzie Brown (left) and Vivian Purnell (right) greet Marie lafollo (center); Historical Society President Michael Gans (right) and Board member Sally Wallach congratulate Roger Paris; Board member Therese Goodrich pins a corsage on Fran DioGuardi.



TRANSFORMING A CLASS ROOM INTO AN ARCHIVE

It took weeks of preparation and hard work to enable us to turn a school room in St. Mary's Church into a setting for the Archive Collection. Here are some before and after photographs of how the change was accomplished.



Archive office East wall, Just after our move in January 2012 (left), and with all lockers moved by May (right)



Archive Office west wall, January 2012(left) now a functional work area at west end today.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many thanks to individuals and families, for helping keep the Park Forest Historical Society successful! YOU support us through your yearly individual membership, the annual fund, visiting the Museum, making purchases online & at the Museum, and by supporting our Marshall Field's Brick Fundraiser, which began December 2010. Bricks are still available thanks to help from Tom Mick and a second donation from ECC.

This year, YOUR donations continue to assist in: providing free community programs, providing a successful Hall of Fame program in April, helping open the new Archive Office in January, keeping the 1950s PF House Museum open this fiscal year for nearly 350 visitors through May 2012.

To assist with increased expenses, the board has authorized me to develop a business sponsorship program. Today, our **NEW business sponsors** include, **Hallett Movers, Park Forest Auto Service, State Farm Insurance – Mike Jordan, and Tower Cleaners.** So, please patronize our sponsors. A brochure on this program will be available in July. If you own, or know of a business that may be interested in becoming a sponsor, please contact me.

In addition, our **partners**, include, **Celebration Ministries, Central Park Apartments, Environmental Cleansing Corporation (ECC), Park Forest Public Library, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the Village of Park Forest.**

With support from all of you, the Historical Society will continue to be successful in its Missions. Thank you!

Warm regards, Michael Gans, President

E-mail: parkforesthistory3 (at) yahoo.com

Cell phone: 708-305-3308