

**PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
27TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME  
CEREMONY**

**Class of 2021**

**Historical Society Board**

Jane Nicoll, President  
Chris Janota, Vice-President  
Judith McGee, Secretary  
Kerrington Adams, Treasurer  
Jane Nicoll, Archivist

**Board of Directors**

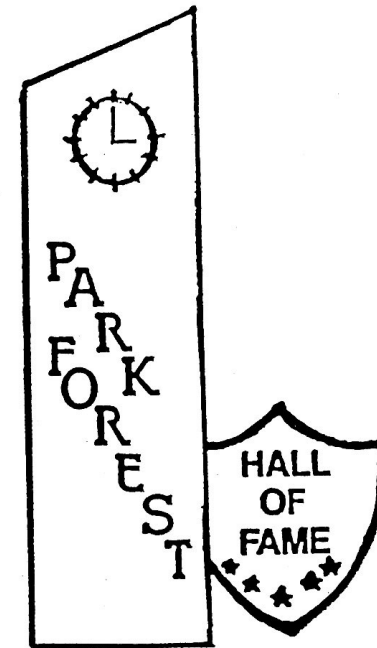
Safiyyah Al Amin  
Maria Dillard-Lemons  
Raymond Myles

**Business Manager**

Michael Gans

**Hall of Fame Selection Committee**

Therese Goodrich Chris Janota  
Jane Nicoll



**Presented on YouTube  
Park Forest Historical Society  
April 11, 2021**

## Park Forest Historical Society

The Park Forest Historical Society, founded in 1985 to promote and preserve the history of Park Forest, is an independent 501(c)(3) not-for-profit which presents programs sharing perspectives on the village's unique past. The Society supports and solicits donations and volunteers for the Park Forest Local History Collection and Archive and cares for the collection. Check online for items needed for the Archive and for Volunteer tasks. The Society operates the 1950s Park Forest House Museum, in its new home at St. Mary's Catholic Church, 227 Monee Road, and accepts donations toward expenses.

We are proud to announce the induction of six new members to the **Park Forest Hall of Fame** today. The main criteria for election are consistent, substantial and beneficial contributions to the life and citizens of Park Forest over a considerable span of time. Hall of Fame inductions began in 1989; the ceremony and celebration became an annual event in 1994.

Visitors to the 1950s Museum can purchase Carroll F. Sweet, Jr.'s book Park Forest – the Early Years, 1946-1956, Jerry Shnay's pictorial history, Park Forest: Dreams and Challenges, Gregory Randall's America's Original G.I. Town, or 50th Anniversary calendars and postcards.

We invite you to join in the efforts to preserve, interpret and celebrate the history, diversity and achievements of Park Forest. Membership applications are available online. Programs are posted on YouTube for 2020-2021, including the 2020 and 2021 Hall of Fame Inductions. Contact the Society by e-mail: [parkforesthistory1@yahoo.com](mailto:parkforesthistory1@yahoo.com) or by phone at (708) 481-4252. Find the museum and society on Facebook and Twitter.

## THE 1950S PARK FOREST HOUSE MUSEUM

The Museum began as a temporary, two-month exhibit at 397 Forest Blvd, as the kick-off to the 50th Anniversary of Park Forest, hence it was the 50th Anniversary House Museum. The Society assumed responsibility for its operation in 2001. The museum existed at 397 Forest for nine years, having added a second unit at 395 Forest, from October 2005 through May 2007. We paid no rent due to the generosity of Thorn Creek Townhomes owner, David Clapper of Atlantic Associates. In January 2007, we adopted the name, "1950s Park Forest House Museum" to increase public awareness.

We lost those two units in May 2007.

In October 2007, one unit at 141 Forest Boulevard offered by Central Park Townhomes, thrust us into paying rent, and storage for the contents of our second unit. New owner, Andrew Brown, Central Park Apartments, increased rent to \$565, asked us to leave by May 31, 2014, extended to March 31, 2015, then rent two months at \$900.

Unable to purchase a cooperative due to covenants or a condo due to cost, the Society moved to two classrooms in St. Mary's Catholic Church, 227 Monee Road where we continue to interpret an early Park Forest home, life for its residents, and tell the story of Park Forest. Visitors are appreciating accessibility of being on one level and increased space within the museum. All are amazed that the layout so closely resembles the original, with the actual kitchen in place.

Open by appointment only due to Covid-19.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS 2018-2019

### \$200+

Anne Abramson Family-\$200  
Therese Goodrich Family-\$500  
Kay Lockridge-\$1000  
Terry Medhurst Family-\$400  
Bruce & Julia Ziegler Family-\$400

### \$100+

Gordon Brenne Family  
Katherine Christopher Family  
Verena Ellenberg Family  
Marie lafollo Family  
Stephen Lloyd Family  
Larry McClellan Family  
David Narter Family  
Tava Oosterbaan Family  
John Perry Family  
Norman Schickedanz Family  
Jonathan Smith Family  
Jane Steinmetz Family  
Julie Townsend Family  
Elmer and Anna Washington Family  
Claire Zaret Family

### \$75+

Kerrington Adams & Blaise Parker  
Georgette Gladstone Family  
Harriet Marcus Gross Family  
Larry A. McClellan Family  
Vivian Purnell Family  
Margo Rannells Family  
John Ray Family  
Jane Nicoll & Carl Stover Family

### Members

Jane and Joe Addison  
Safiyyah Al-Amin  
Ben Armstrong  
Jean & Barbara Arola  
David Bartlett  
Karen Blackful  
Paul Blobaum  
Mae & Calvin Brandon  
Ferbie Claudon  
Diana Cruz  
Marla Dillard

Gretchen and Walter Falk  
Mark Gans Family  
Michael Gans  
Lindsay Gladstone Family  
William Houston  
Martha Whitman Humphreys-Edwards  
Dora Ivory  
Bill Janota  
Chris and Megan Janota  
Michelle Johnson  
Robert Kolkebeck  
Barbara Korasek Family  
Philip Kurjan Family  
Anne Marie Leofanti  
Stephen Lloyd Family  
Mary Lubertozzi Family  
Betty McDonnell  
Dennis & Kathleen McDonough  
Judith McGee  
Bob & Jill Martin  
Myrtle Martin Family  
Phyllis Monks Family  
Barbara Moore Family  
Bernadette Morrison  
Janet & Mel Muchnik  
Ray Myles Family  
Network For Good  
Helen Norton  
John Ostenburg Family  
John Ray  
Michael Root  
Theresa Settles  
Jerry & Penny Shnay  
John Snider  
Richard Stuenkel  
Tom Taradash Family  
Celia-Ann Toll  
Theresa Townsend  
Faith Vaught  
Janet Whitson

## ANN HERNANDEZ

Public safety, public welfare and public schools were the three elements of the late Anne Hernandez's public life. Born in Massachusetts in 1947, the daughter of an FBI agent, her family moved to Park Forest in 1963, where she attended Mohawk Elementary School and graduated from Rich East High School.

After receiving leadership training at both Governors State University and National College of Education in Evanston, she quickly became involved in school affairs and was first elected to the School District 163 board in 1969 at the age of 22. She quickly became a voice for schools by organizing residents to help renovate Blackhawk School playground equipment and in 1972 was co-chairman and member of a citizen's committee planning desegregation for the Illinois Office of Education.

In the fall of 1972 Ann helped organize the Park Forest-Chicago Heights "Light Brigade, which in eight weeks overcame eight years of indecision by both communities and the state, securing a traffic light at the intersection of Western Avenue and Beacon Boulevard to help facilitate the movement of school buses. Those Saturday marches in all kinds of weather may have angered motorists but led to the needed light.

An organizer and mover, in 1976 she was named the director of the Center for Economic Development Authority (CEDA) in Harvey, which serves more than 10,00 persons each year. Throughout her public life she campaigned for safety and pollution controls on trucks that used Sauk Trail as a passage to and from the I-57 interchange and contributed numerous articles for both the Park Forest Reporter and the Park Forest Star.

Married and the mother of two children (Joseph and David), she was stricken with an intestinal inflammation and died in 2008 at the age of 61.

## DR. JEROME KHARASCH

After completing his medical residency in Chicago, in 1957 Dr. Kharasch and his wife Sheila moved to Park Forest; first to a house on Waverly Street and later to a house on Monee Road. For the next 16 years he quickly became involved with both the health aspects and civic affairs of the community. Well known as an obstetrical surgeon through his 16 years of medical practice at both St. James Hospital in Chicago Heights and Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Harvey, Dr. Kharasch was a vital force in the political life of the community.

In 1967 he led opposition to a proposed referendum to build a nine-hole golf course in Central Park, thereby preserving the space for future generations. He established "Community Now" to address issues of poverty and education among surrounding communities and was deeply committed to issues relating to both poverty and education in Park Forest and surrounding communities.

Despite being a busy physician with fellow doctor Jerome Warren, Dr. Kharasch was a committed activist for the health and well-being of the community and was dedicated to numerous liberal political projects. During the height of the Vietnam War, Dr. Kharasch co-founded an anti-war group "Democrats for Free Debate in Vietnam" which became a vehicle where he was able to run as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic Convention pledged to Senator Robert F. Kennedy.

The Kharasch family were parents of five sons; Ira, Sigmund, Morris, Isidore and Dean.

In 1974, Dr. Kharasch moved to Israel, where he did cancer research at the Weizmann Institute and later returned to general practice at Tel Aviv University. After spending the last 29 years of his life there, Dr. Kharasch died in 2003.

## ANNUAL FUND DONORS

<b>\$500</b>	Maureen Cribbs
Scott Lanum	Diana Cruz
<b>\$200+</b>	Mary Davidson
Kerrington Adams	Andy Goodwin
Marie Iafollo	William Houston
Bob and Jill Martin	Michelle Johnson
<b>\$100</b>	William Koelling
Paul Blobaum	Barbara Korasek
Verena Ellenberg	Anne Marie Leofanti
Mary Lubertozi	Larry McClellan
Myrtle Martin	Kathy & Dennis McDonough
Raymond Myles	Samuel Maselli
John Perry	Phyllis Monks
John Ray	Janet & Mel Muchnik
<b>Donors</b>	Lois Navid
Jane Addison	Valerie Nicholson
Ben Armstrong	Helen (Lyn) B. Ward Page
Paul Blobaum	Michael & Sharon Root
Mae and Calvin Brandon	H.T. Stowell
Cheryl Bryan	Celia-Ann Toll
Ferbie Claudon	Fritz & Jean Wildermuth

### In Memory and In Honor

Theresa Townsend \$10

### In Memory of George Townsend

Rouse Frets White Goss Gentile Rhodes, P.C. \$50

### In Honor of Mary Schmittgens

Carl and Jane Stover \$100

### In Memory of Matt Wenzel

Kay Lockridge \$1000

**In Honor of Jane Nicoll and those who work to preserve  
Park Forest history.**

## **HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

### **\$5000**

**Village of Park Forest  
350 Victory Drive  
Challenge Match Grant**

### **\$200 Corporate Members**

**Ned the Computer Guy  
Ned@nedthecomputerguy.com**

### **\$100 Corporate Members**

**Garden Club of America  
in Park Forest**

**Tower Cleaners  
Janet Fiorenzo  
230 Forest Blvd. Park Forest**

**Wish Photography  
Wendy Heise  
Wendy@  
wishphotographyvideo.com**

### **\$50 Corporate Members**

**Network for Good  
Tall Grass Art Association  
State Farm Insurance  
Mike Jordan  
308 Forest Blvd, Park Forest**

### **\$20 Monthly Donor**

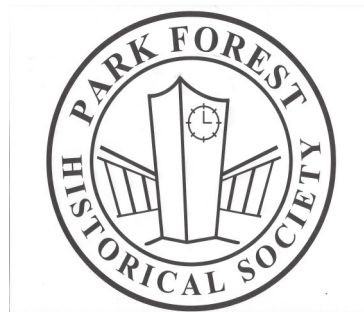
**Dianna Effner Porcelain Dolls  
dianna@diannaeffner.com**

### **Benefactors**

**Freedom Hall  
Nathan Manilow Theater  
410 Lakewood, Park Forest**

**Park Forest Public Library  
400 Lakewood, Park Forest**

**Thank You to St. Mary's  
Catholic Church  
For daily courtesies extended**



## **YUAN LIANG**

The late Yuan Liang was the longest standing cardholder in the history of the Park Forest Public Library and was a revered presenter for 18 years at the library's Potpourri series sharing expertise on his world travels, the National Park Service, and the work of artist Norman Rockwell. He also served as an ambassador at library events.

Born in Canton, China, the youngest of six children. At one time his father was the Chinese ambassador to Australia. After China was invaded by Japan, Liang was sent to Hong Kong where he completed his high school education and met wife, Olivia. Married in 1947 they came to the United States as graduate students the following year.

At one time Liang worked in the marketing department of the Chicago Tribune, and in 1958 was named the assistant research director for the City of Chicago planning department. He started his own demographics company which was the first to compile complete demographic data for the county's five digit zip codes.

The Liangs joined Faith United Protestant Church in November, 1957. Yuan's influence and support was multifaceted and consistent throughout until the time of his passing. He was especially instrumental in two projects - the Millennium Fund, a fund whose interest is used for various long-term projects, and a columbarium, where his ashes lie today.

Yuan was an active 30-year member of Rich Township AARP and delivered opening prayers for Rich Township Senior Center holiday parties and for AARP chapter meetings.

In 1958, Liangs were the first family to move into the Lincolnwood subdivision. In 2004, Yuan and Olivia moved to Brookdale Senior Living in Olympia Fields. Olivia died in 2012 and, and in his 90s, Yuan married Mary Chisholm in 2017. Sadly, both Yuan and Mary died within one month of each other in early 2021.

## HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

### COLONEL MILAN PLAVSIC

Called "Colonel," having become a member of the Honorary Association of Kentucky Colonels in his youth, as Public Safety Director for the growing village of Park Forest, Milan Plavsic was dedicated to protecting its citizens.

Under his leadership in less than 10 years the Park Forest Police Department more than doubled its force, growing from nine officers in 1952 to 19 in 1962. He instilled a sense of pride with new uniforms, distinctive pie-shaped badges, hats, and a patch featuring the village Clock Tower.

During his 10 year tenure, Colonel Plavsic was an innovative leader in the field of law enforcement, serving as President of the Illinois Chiefs of Police Association and technical adviser for the Illinois Police Training Academy at the University of Illinois. Plavsic was the first recipient of the Park Forest Jaycees "Citizen of the Year" award in 1961. He was instrumental in the construction of the police facility at the corner of Lakewood and Forest Boulevards on a 2 and one-half acre site donated by American Community Builders.

Under his guidance, Plavsic created the police response to the first African American family's moving into the village in 1959, insuring a peaceful integration of the village.

Concerned with juvenile misbehavior, Plavsic once urged the Park Forest Village Board to hire a psychologist with a background in casework with juveniles.

After retiring in 1963, Plavsic moved to Michigan and served on numerous youth protection committees in both Texas and Michigan. From 1970 to 1978 he was a township supervisor in Clare County, Michigan.

Upon hearing about the historical society in the late 1990s, he sent a letter reflecting on his service, along with photos and articles.

Milan and wife Eloise raised 7 or 8 children.

Colonel Plavsic died on February 15, 1998 at the age of 91.

#### 2013

Gallagher, James  
Gallagher, Marlene H.  
Joyce, John  
McCray, Alicia Rodman  
Tilley, William M.  
Park Forest Nurses Club

#### 2014

Henkel, James  
Henkel, Ruth  
Mann, A. Wayne  
Medhurst, Ralph C.  
Medhurst, Terry J.  
Navid, Robert A.  
Navid, Ruth P.  
Pierce, Robert G.  
Rich East High School

#### 2015

Crabb, Joan Bogar  
Cribbs, Maureen Hubbard \*  
Mendelson, Jon  
Mendelson, Judy Dolan  
Neel, Bruce L.  
Perry, John  
Olson, Dr. Magne B.  
Friends of Thorn Creek Woods

#### 2016

Demarco, Don  
Lubertozi, Larry  
Lubertozi, Mary  
McDonough, Kathy (Cardona)  
McNamara, Michael  
Tieder, Herbert E.  
Tieder, Patricia M.  
Grande Prairie Singers

#### 2017

Donahue, Jack  
Donahue, Peg  
Glassford, Carl  
Glassford, Peggy  
Simpson, Juanita  
Simpson, William "Bill"  
Ward, Helen Davies  
Ward, Herschel Wayne  
Illinois Philharmonic Orchestra

#### 2018

Gregory C. Baker  
Mary Dankowski  
Deloris Janota  
Yvonne Robinson\*\*  
Douglas C. Ulreich  
Committee for Non-Partisan  
Local Government

#### 2019

Cliff Butz  
Vivian A. Purnell  
Chuck Sabey  
Eugene P. Schmittgens, Sr.  
Mary E. Schmittgens  
Kiwanis Club of Park Forest

#### 2020

Ann Hernandez  
Dr. Jerome A. Kharasch, MD  
Yuan Liang  
Colonel Milan Plavsic  
John L. Scott  
H. Thomas Stowell

\*- Oral History transcripts available at the Archive.

\*\* -Transcripts also available on the digital project, "Park Forest: An Illinois Planned Community" at: [www.idaillinois.org](http://www.idaillinois.org). More transcripts will hopefully be added in the coming year.

## HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

### 2003

Johnson, Ralph Gordon  
Lachmann, Rudy  
O'Neill, Georgia  
Osterling, Blaine "Bud" \*  
Osterling, Hope  
Peterman, Frederick W. \*  
Taradash, George

### 2004

Bennett, Richard Marsh \*\*  
Falk, Gretchen  
Hamby, William I. \*  
Johnson, A. Oscar  
McDonnell, Betty L.  
Oliver, Florence  
Star, Dorothy Rubin  
Star, Jack \*

### 2005

Brooks, Robert  
Collins, Norma  
Lohr, Judy  
Maeyama, Robert "Bob"  
Mathews, Jerry  
Moore, Patricia

### 2006

Hauge, Keith  
Muchnik, Janet R.  
Muchnik, Mel  
Steinmetz, Jane  
Steinmetz, Jon  
Van Horn III, Alfred "Al"

### 2007

McCall, Mary  
Nicoll, Jane (Stover)  
O'Sullivan, The Rev. Daniel  
Saul, Anna T.  
Saul, James D. \*\*  
Townsend, George  
Townsend, Theresa "Terry"

### 2008

Bernstein, Jean  
Brown, Suzanne

Kramer, Kenneth  
Moore, Barbara  
Nicholson, Valerie  
Washington, Elmer  
Wheeler, Michael

### 2009

Kopycinski, Gary  
Martin, Myrtle C.  
O'Neill, Marty  
Ray, John R.

### 2010

Baker, Ivan A. "Ike" \*  
Blue, Christine  
Brandon, Mae  
Cruz, Diana  
Loebl, Jerrold  
Schlossman, Norman S.  
Shnay, Jerry  
Shnay, Penny

### 2011

Brunner, Helen S.  
Cunningham, Florence D.  
Glassner, Adele \*  
Glassner, Alvin \*  
Humbert, Richard "Dick"  
Toll, Celia-Ann  
Aunt Martha's Youth Center

### 2012

Davidson, Mary  
DioGuardi, Francis H,  
Iafollo, Marie A.  
McDannel, Leonard  
McDannel, Margaret  
Paris, Roger D.  
Sturges, Al  
Sturges, Barbara G.  
Tall Grass Arts Association

## JOHN LOGAN SCOTT

The late John Scott was the second Village Manager of Park Forest, serving from 1953 to 1962. In his 1996 Oral History interview he said "how fortunate" he was that the caliber of both Board of Trustees and the citizenry helped shape his tenure.

He came to Park Forest after serving as Finance Director of Winnetka. His wife Eleanor said Park Forest was his "favorite job because of the newness and spirit of the "created community."

Scott helped set the budget for the new Village government, planned and helped raise funds for the three separate buildings that would comprise the Public Safety Building, as well as helping oversee the construction of the Village Hall on Forest Boulevard.

In 1959 he was instrumental in peacefully integrating Park Forest at a time when communities around the country experienced violence. When a mob formed in the summer of 1959 at the rumor of a potential home sale to an African American family, Scott worked with Village President Robert Dinerstein and the Commission on Human Relations to draft a "Statement of Village Policy" regarding integration of Negro families, which affirmed that Park Forest will extend equal services to protection of the law it affords to any other resident in the village.

Scott helped negotiate purchase of the water plant from the developers for \$3 million, and was instrumental in construction of Orchard Drive through the Lincolnwood subdivision with two underpasses.

John was involved in the successful referendum campaign to build the first public library building, and the Parks and Recreation center in Westwood Junior High

Scott went on to serve in Greenwich, Connecticut and Santa Barbara, California. He passed away in 2012.

## HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

### H. THURBER STOWELL

The now 100-year-old H. Thurber Stowell's impact on Park Forest remains undiminished some 70 years after he, his wife Gladys and their children moved to the embryonic community of Park Forest. Finding there was no kindergarten on the Will County end of town, along with some 12 other families, they formed a group to form one. American Community Builders provided an empty residence, the families hired a teacher, and soon some 30 children were enrolled in the facility.

That experience underlined Thurb's public life in the village; involvement in local government helps shape the community's future. In 1954 he was appointed to the Plan Commission, and soon became its chairman.

Because of the village's mushrooming growth, the Commission met two times a month where as an architect with city planning training, he became an advocate for and advisor on the Orchard Drive railroad underpasses. He worked with Hall of Fame members Leo Orsi, Lynn Brenne, and Blaine "Bud" Osterling in shaping the village's future.

In 1959, he was called to chair the Commission on Human Relations and played a vital part in the peaceful integration of the village at a time when communities across the country experienced unrest. In a report to the Board of Trustees, Stowell wrote that the key to peaceful integration was to uphold the law that permitted anyone to own and occupy property. Along with Village President Bob Dinerstein and Village Manager John Scott, Thurb was responsible for the now-famous letter of how Village employees should respond to the first Negro move-in.

On December 24, 1959, Charles Z. Wilson's became the first family to integrate Park Forest, accomplished peacefully due to the foresight of the Commission's recommendations, and the actions of many Village officials and residents.

The Stowell family moved in 1962 and he pursued an illustrious career in architecture.

#### 1989

Klutznick, Philip M. \*\*

#### 1994

Coxworth, Lois  
Cunningham, Bernard G. \*\*  
Dietch, Henry X. \*\*  
Dinerstein, Robert A. \*\*  
Engelmann, Gerson \*  
Helmick, Dewey \*  
Hodes, Art \*  
Manilow, Nathan  
Ringering, Leona \*  
Sweet Jr., Carroll F. \*\*  
Wade, Earl M.

#### 1995

Garretson, Elaine S. \*\*  
Garretson, James L. \*  
Gold, Gertrude L.  
McDade, Tom \*  
Vande Berg, Lester B.

#### 1996

Marzuki, James \*  
Marzuki, Mary Lou  
Racher, Alice B. \*  
Racher, Dr. Emanuel M.  
Scherr, Marge Friedman  
Waldmann, Charles

#### 1997

Adler, Rhoda  
Bean, Ron  
Brown, Harold \*\*  
Brown, Rose Carol  
DeLue, Leona \*\*  
DeLue, Ross \*\*  
Edwards, E.C.  
Edwards, Margaret

#### 1998

Goodrich, John  
Goodrich, Therese  
Myrow, Beverly \*

Myrow, Gerald (Jerry)  
Orsi, Leo E.  
Scariano, Anthony \*\*  
Skaggs, Lester S.  
Skaggs, Ruth  
Waterman, Edward \*\*

#### 1999

Brenne, Lynn \*  
Brenne, Wilma  
Janota, Raymond W.  
Maeyama, George  
Maeyama, Josephine \*  
North, John  
Robinson, Leonard Carl  
Walker, Sam

#### 2000

Billig, Mrs. Steven \*  
Gross, Harriet P. \*  
Knight, Jerry Arthur \*  
Moore, D. Stanley \*  
Moore, Janice S.  
Schechter, I.E. "Pappy"  
Smart, Robert C.  
Utes, Warren  
Walker, Rita C.

#### 2001

Kelly, F. Patrick  
Leinberger, Hugo  
McLeod, J. Ron \*  
Morrissey, John L.  
Singerman, Mayer \*  
Singerman, Peggie  
Teshima, Harry

#### 2002

Colson, Dorothy  
Hill, Doris F. \*  
Hill, John  
Lawrence, Bo \*  
Lawrence, Helen  
Thayil, Shanti C.