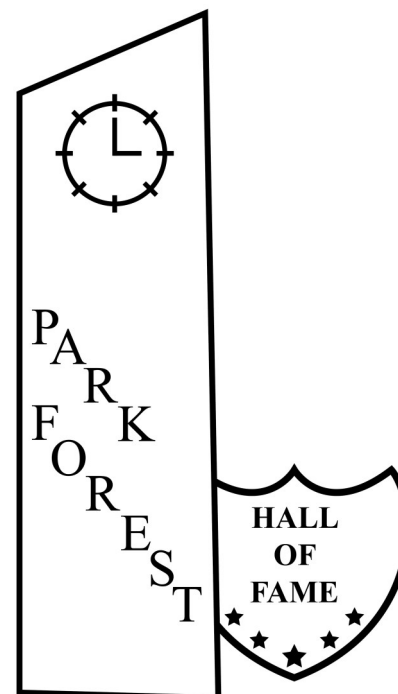


HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS 2023-2024

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| \$250 | |
| Bruce and Julia Ziegler | Chris and Megan Janota |
| \$100+ | Marla Dillard-Lemons |
| Barbara and Jean Arola Family | Paul David Levi |
| Gordon Brenne Family | Christine G. Long |
| Georgette and Andrew Gladstone | Jill and Bob Martin |
| Stephen and Elizabeth Lloyd | Betty and Thomas McDonnell |
| Mary L. Lubertozzi Family | Kathy and Dennis McDonough |
| JoJo Martin Family | Judy McGee |
| Norman Schickedanz Family | Janet Whitson-Marcus |
| Thomas L. and Vicki L. Taradash | Terry Medhurst |
| John and Nancy Taylor | Barbara J. Moore |
| Douglas Ulreich Family | Stan Moore |
| 75+ | Bernadette Morrison |
| Verena Ellenberg Family | Mel and Janet Muchnik |
| Anne Marie Leofanti Family | Ray Myles |
| Col. Mitchell Steinberg Family | Tava Oosterbaan |
| Stuart Zuckerman Family | Helen (Lyn) B. Ward Page |
| Members | Paul and Debbie Page |
| Kerrington Adams & Blaise Parker | Anne H. Rest |
| Jane and Joe Addison | Michael Root |
| Safiyah Al-Amin | Ruth Ellen Saul |
| Dave Bartlett | Jerry & Penny Shnay |
| Lee Carroll | Jane Nicoll & Carl Stover Family |
| Jean Chaney | Barbara Sturges |
| Ferbie Claudon | Kathy Vagt |
| Maureen Cribbs | Diane Van Pelt |
| Diana Cruz | Fritz and Jean Wildermuth |
| Mary and Brad Dankowski | Betsy Williams |
| Friends of Thorn Creek Woods | Warren & Janette Wood |
| Raymond Funderburk | |
| Michael Gans | |
| Lindsay Gladstone & John Hudzik | |
| Therese Goodrich | |

PARK FOREST HISTORICAL SOCIETY 30TH ANNUAL HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

Class of 2024



**Freedom Hall
April 14, 2024**

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 "Remembering Rich East" video.

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 2020-2022, including the 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023 Hall of Fame Inductions. Contact the Society by e-mail: parkforesthistory1@yahoo.com or by phone at (708) 481-4252. Find the museum and society on Facebook.

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 Wednesday and Saturday 1-3:30 p.m.; or by appointment.

**HISTORICAL SOCIETY CORPORATE
SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM**

\$5000

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

**\$400 Corporate Member
Blackbaud Giving Fund**

\$100-\$200 Corporate Members

**Wish Photography Wendy@
wishphotographyvideo.com**

Zen Business

\$50 Corporate Members

**Your company name
could be here next year.
Basic corporate membership
is \$50.**



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**

Historical Society Board

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

Board of Directors

Safiyah Al Amin Michael Gans
Maria Dillard-Lemons
Raymond Myles Debbie Page
Warren Wood

Hall of Fame Selection Committee

Kerrington Adams Therese Goodrich
Chris Janota Jane Nicoll

SAM BEBER

The list of achievements for Sam Beber (1902-1976) extends from serving the needs of his Jewish identity to partnering in establishing the village of Park Forest and helping to transform the ancient city of Ashdod into Israel's largest seaport.

At the age of 22, magna cum laude graduate of Creighton University in Omaha, Beber organized AZA, the initials of Aleph-Zadik-Aleph, into a Jewish boy's counterpoint to Greek letter college fraternities. Within a few years, the boys' group, along with a girls' division, BBG, became the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. Sam later founded a camp for Jewish youth still in existence.

One of Beber's "disciples" was Philip Klutznick, who enrolled in AZA and later served as President of the B'nai B'rith.

Beber, a Russian born attorney, became the brother-in-law of Philip Klutznick, who became president of American Community Builders, developers of Park Forest, and worked with Klutznick on numerous projects throughout his life. Sam became executive vice-president and counsel to ACB. When Klutznick left Park Forest to lead B'nai B'rith, Sam remained helping to run the development. At one time Beber's residence was 91 Monee Road, a few houses down from the Klutznick home, both homes designed by nephew Bud Fitch.

In the 1950s, Beber worked with Klutznick in his development of Ashdod, which Klutznick recalled, "consisted of nothing but sand dunes, a few houses and a small power station." Today high-rise buildings dot the city which has a population of 225,000.

Beber was active in numerous civic and philanthropic organizations, serving on the national board of the Boy Scouts, the Jewish Welfare Board, and the United Jewish Appeal.

GREGORY C. RANDALL

Greg Randall's family moved in 1952 to Ash Street then to 157 Algonquin Street until 1957 when father John, an "Organization Man", moved them to Chicago Heights.

Greg remained connected to the village during his Marian High School years through close friends and relatives. Now, as historian, novelist and non-fiction writer, he has used the village and area for many of his stories. Park Forest became for him his hometown, the place of his earliest memories.

He studied architectural and industrial design at Kent State and completed a bachelor's in landscape architecture at Michigan State.

From 1971 until 1993 he worked as a designer then senior principal, project manager with planning and design firms in San Francisco. His works included many planned residential communities, corporate campuses, retail centers and high-density residential complexes which received numerous awards.

From 1993-2020 he served as principal and president of Randall Planning and Design of Walnut Creek, California, a landscape and architectural planning firm specializing in large-scale residential communities.

He developed a lifelong interest in the history of planned communities which in 1994 led him to begin researching Park Forest. He rediscovered the attributes, qualities, and history of Park Forest as the seminal post-war planning concept that inaugurated the suburbs of today and guided his writing of America's Original GI Town, published in 2000, revised in 2010.

Greg used and credited many of our images and quoted oral histories bringing attention to our Archive from national museums, authors and publishers.

This book serves as a scholarly, incredibly thorough study of how Park Forest came to be developed and built the way it was. He covers every aspect of the subject—history of the principals of American Community Builders, planning and design, construction methods, the social and political development of the village, and his own projections as a planner.

Randall is now a prolific murder mystery author.

ANNUAL FUND DONORS 2023-2024

\$1000

Therese Goodrich

\$500

Bob DeFoe

James B. and Judith Klutznick

Rich East Class of 1968 c/o

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Terry Medhurst

Bruce and Julia Ziegler

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Maureen Cribbs

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Col. Mitchell Steinberg

Betsy Williams

Maureen Cribbs
In Memory of
Leona DeLue

Hall of Fame Sponsors

**Special thanks to Therese Goodrich and Terry Medhurst
for their generous support.**

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

2020

Katherine “Katie” Felt Armstrong
June Defoe
Anna Bonita Dillard
Roy R. Dillard
Janet Fiorenza
Edwin Fizer
Bruce Ziegler

2021

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

2022

Robert W. Annett
Margaret Q. Annett
Edward Czupryn, Jr.
Allen S. Warshaw
Cheryl Levinson Warshaw
Charlotte L. Wolf

Homer S. Wolf

2023

Gary V. Friedlund
Hon. Raymond Funderburk
Andrew Gladstone
Georgette Gladstone
John A. Ostenburg
Dave Rudolf

2024

Sam Beber
Gregory C. Randall
Vernice Johnson-Warren
Betsy Williams
Janette Rodriguez Wood
Warren J. Wood

VERNICE JOHNSON-WARREN

A lifelong resident of Park Forest, Vernice Johnson-Warren was a founding member of the Youth Commission and served as the Vice-Chair and Chair during her 15 years on it. She was actively involved in the annual Youth Day program, the Park Forest Carnival, the Youth Job Fair as well as numerous activities connected with the youth and families of the village and surrounding communities.

Her unwavering commitment and dedication have played an integral role in the life of the community.

For the last seven years she has been on the board of and is currently the Vice-chair of the Will County Community Health Center. Here, she represents the eastern portion of Will County (from Crete to Frankfort). The Center now has a clinic in Monee making it easier for residents to access care closer to home.

Vernice also served as President of the Talala School PTO, and during her tenure changed the status of the PTO to a not-for-profit and wrote grants to revitalize and renew the school’s playground equipment as well as update the school’s interior and provide funds so that no students need to pay for class-sponsored trips.

Along with Park Forest resident Kim Schaefer, she began a Haunts Against Hunger Halloween fund-raiser to help feed families at local food pantries by turning the Talala School gym into a haunted house with an entrance fee of non-perishable food. For 16 years this program has brought awareness to the need for food donations to those who are in need.

Vernice is a Kiwanis member, once Club President and is an owner of Flamin’ Hotties Chili.

***- Oral History transcripts available at the Archive.
-Transcripts also available on the digital project, “Park Forest: An Illinois Planned Community” at www.idaillinois.org. More transcripts will hopefully be added soon.

BETSY WILLIAMS

Whether it was her volunteer efforts to feed the hungry, or helping to raise money for projects that touched the lives of Park Forest residents, Betsy Williams has helped untold thousands for more than 30 years.

In her role as Food Service Manager for Rich Township High School Dist. 227 she has impacted lives by providing support to both students and their families. During the COVID crisis, from the day the country “closed down” in March 2020 the district’s Food Service Department provided meals to any family, regardless of where they lived through curbside drive-up service.

Her staff was both brave and creative, sewing their own masks, redesigning school kitchens into an assembly-line, erecting tents, collecting bags and boxes, and hoping that volunteers would help. Meals for up to seven days for every child in a household were prepared, boxed and distributed from curbside tents in all kinds of weather. In the first year, she estimates more than two million meals were provided.

This service continued until students returned to school for the 2021-22 school year.

She established links with churches, the Chicago Food Depository, and created the School Food Pantry in the Fine Arts and Communications campus in Richton Park. Students play a large part in running the pantry.

Williams was a Girl Scout leader, raised funds for the Park Forest baseball and softball programs, has twice won the Illinois State Board of Education “Award of Excellence”, former treasurer for the Kiwanis Club of Park Forest, and is on the board of South Suburban Diversity Dinners. She was fundraising chair for Crete Monee Show Choir for over 8 years and a PTSO member.

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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

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
Lubertozzi, Larry
Lubertozzi, 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, St.
Mary E. Schmittgens
Kiwanis Club of Park Forest

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

2002

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

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

JANETTE RODRIGUEZ WOOD

You may know her as the Rock Queen of Park Forest for her delivery of more than one thousand "kindness" rocks, decorated with inspirational messages, which she believes spreads a positive tone throughout Park Forest. She has been an ardent volunteer since she came to Park Forest at the age of nine.

As a teen and adult, she led or took part in various programs at Faith United Protestant and Trinity Lutheran Churches, taught Sunday school and led the children's choir at Grace United Protestant and was youth guitar mass leader at St. Irenaeus.

Janette met husband Warren at an Aunt Martha's function and together they became foster parents for runaway and foster youth before having two children of their own.

As a mother, she served on multiple boards and in support roles, Grace Nursery School Board, with team sports and treasurer of the Algonquin School PTO and for seven years as scorekeeper for her daughter's softball games.

Janette put herself through college, graduating from Prairie State College as a registered nurse and later from Governors State University with a degree in Healthcare Administration. Then, for more than 20 years, she worked as a home care-visiting nurse in the South Suburbs, including with the Village's Nurses Plus.

Her rock projects began during the early months of the COVID epidemic. What started as a creative outlet has become her passion and are sprinkled throughout the community. Those rocks have been left in parks, book and food boxes, the Downtown area, and churches. She is now involved in creating rocks for "Somonauk Sam, the Slithery Snake" which winds its way in newly restored Somonauk Park.

WARREN J. WOOD

A life-long resident of Park Forest, Warren Wood has been dedicated to village activities and service programs throughout his years.

A product of local schools Warren took part in scouting activities from Cub Scouts to Explorers, earning the God and Country Award for his work with a migrant day care program, focusing on recreational activities for children.

After graduating from Western Illinois University with a degree in psychology and minors in sociology/anthropology and law enforcement administration, Warren returned to Park Forest and began his life's work with Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center for more than 40 years and comprising more than 30 community-based programs for youth, adults, and families, including childcare, Head Start, youth participation, job training, substance abuse prevention and treatment, violence prevention, juvenile justice diversion, foster care, teen parenting, homelessness, mentoring, after-school programs and more.

He served on several county and state-wide boards and coalitions, including three terms as President of the Illinois Prevention Steering Committee.

Influenced by Grace United Protestant Church and its Youth Fellowship, he later taught Sunday School and eventually became its superintendent. He coached his daughter's Girls Softball team for eight years and served on the Girls Softball board.

Warren served three times as President and as a board member of the Ash Street Housing Cooperative.

After retiring from his distinguished career in social work, he continues to serve the community as a board member and docent for the Park Forest Historical Society. That is where this living legend will give you a tour and tell you about the history of our community when you visit.

HALL OF FAME MEMBERS

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