PRESERVATION
RACINE NEWS

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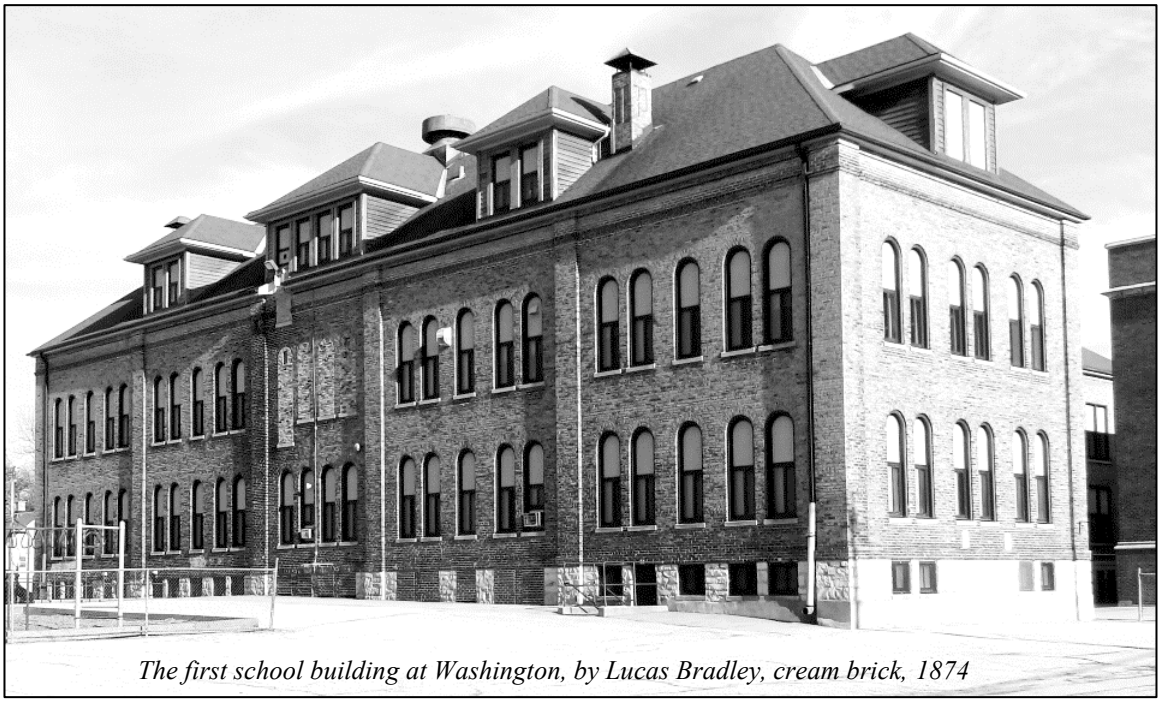
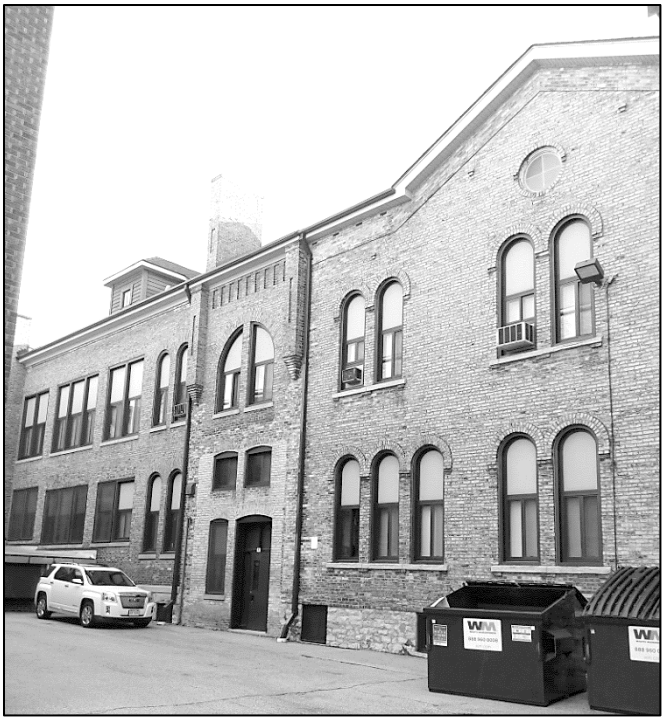
HERITAGE BUILDINGS: Schools II

In the last newsletter I discussed the history and significant architecture of some early Racine schools (Janes, Winslow, Garfield/Julian Thomas, Lincoln and Howell). Noteworthy local architects Lucas Bradley and James Gilbert Chandler either built, redesigned, remodeled or added on to the schools. The welfare of these buildings has varied from survived or repurposed to demolished or in limbo. Racine Unified School District is planning to close and replace Janes School, Winslow stands empty, Julian Thomas School has been expanded and is still in service, Lincoln School is a handsome senior apartment building, and Howell was razed. This article will examine Washington/Red Apple, Franklin/Walden III, and Jefferson Lighthouse schools and their futures.



The first school building at Washington, by Lucas Bradley, cream brick, 1874



Not often seen: the east side of the building above

Washington School

The first school on the site of Washington School (914 St. Patrick Street) was a frame structure built in 1869, called the Mt. Pleasant School. The area was known as "Canada" because it was north of the city boundary in the town of Mt. Pleasant. The city of Racine annexed the area and the school became city property in the 4th Ward. The school was overcrowded, but it took a fire destroying it for a new school (above) to be built in 1874. It was another Lucas Bradley school, with his usual

The new front extension was added to Washington School in 1920–21

features: a two-story, 50-foot square cream brick building with four rooms. It was built for $11,888 and reopened as the new 7th Ward School in January 1875 with 247 students. In 1890 the principal H. S. Tibbets asked the Board of Education to rename it Washington School in honor of our first president. Two cream brick additions were later built; the first in 1895 to the south adding five rooms, was designed by City Engineer C. Burlingame. The second addition on the north side built in 1908, added eight rooms and an auditorium, designed by Racine architect James Gilbert Chandler. The school featured paired and single, tall arched windows and arched entrances, numerous dormers and a hip roof. A third addition of light brown brick (above) was added in 1920-21 for the new Washington Junior High School. It should be noted that this addition is quite attractive with cast stone decorative detail. The arched main entrance is surrounded by a double tower has four belted courses, the top one with a floral design matching detail around the doors. Tower windows have quoin decoration and between the windows above the doors are two friezes of shields and flowers.

Washington School became known as the Red Apple Elementary School in 1986. The Red Apple program, built on the "optional school principles," had started at Franklin School in 1974, occupying the West Wing, the original part of the elementary school building, after Franklin had closed. *RUSD plans to close this school and replace it with a new elementary school.*

The Franklin School

The original school (not shown) on the Franklin site was the 3rd Ward School built in 1869. Boundaries were redrawn and in March of 1870 it became the 6th Ward School with 350 pupils. It was a two-story cream brick building with 6 rooms and a large assembly room and cost $21,132. Located on the southeast corner of Franklin and Tenth Streets; it was likely designed by Lucas Bradley also. Classrooms

The old 6th Ward school received this addition by James Gilbert Chandler in 1897, and the whole school re-opened as the Franklin School in 1899. Here, it is in process of being razed, and the glass has gone from the windows.

were plaster colored (unpainted) with very little decoration and heated by coal stoves. The 1897 addition (above), designed by James Gilbert Chandler in a Victorian Eclectic style, doubled capacity with a total of twelve classrooms, a kindergarten, a principal's office, a cement floor basement with bathrooms, hot air heat, ventilation, and sanitary drinking fountains making it a modern building. Paired, tall arched windows were used throughout except in the center of each side which has four windows and three stories and on the north and south faces are graceful bowed apses, smaller than Winslow's, but equally attractive. At the roof is dentil brickwork. It reopened as Franklin School in 1899 with an enrollment of 562.

In 1921 a red brick and steel two story addition (not shown) was built to the east of the original school to house the Franklin Junior High School (1012 Center Street). It was Racine's first junior high program. Franklin Junior High closed in 1966 and the elementary school closed in 1975, mainly due to the need for better racial integration of the school. Walden III program moved in and remained there until it moved to McKinley School in the fall of 2018. *The razing of Franklin School has recently started. RUSD will build a new STEM/ STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math/ Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) school on the Franklin site. Interestingly, Red Apple program will return there when the new school is complete in 2023.*

The Jefferson School

Jefferson School was built in in 1899 on West Sixth Street for $45,000. It is an Eclectic Victorian three-story cream brick structure built with Neoclassical and Italianate style features. Missing are the most distinctive features of both styles, namely the Italianate wide eaves and the Neoclassical full height porch with columns. The building's characteristics which are shared by both styles are the paired and tripled double hung, rectangular windows, a simple

The 1899 portion of the Jefferson School is scheduled to be torn down, while the 1962 addition (not seen here) will be renovated

hip roof and dentil cornice molding. Subtle decorative features include smaller than normal double brackets in the eaves, stone window lintels and sills, a stone band between stories, walls that protrude over roofed entrances with small columns and dentil cornices and fancy brick work at the main entrance. Both the east and west sides have arched entrances.

Jefferson School officially opened in September 1900, added a seventh grade in 1901, and graduated 13 students in 1903. In 1919 the Board of Education adopted a plan with elementary, junior high and senior high schools replacing the K-8 and 9-12 plan and it became Jefferson Elementary School. Three additions were added in 1957, 1958 and 1962. In the late 1970s it added a program for gifted students. *Today the 1899 portion of the building is scheduled to be closed and torn down to make basketball courts and greenspace. The 1962 addition will be renovated to house the alternative learning program.*

In summary, where do our handsome, historic and locally designed schools stand?

- In operation – Julian Thomas School
- Repurposed – Lincoln School
- Razed, or soon will be – Howell, Franklin and the original Jefferson Schools
- Empty, or soon will be – Winslow, Janes and Washington Schools

Preservation Racine needs to celebrate the survival of Julian Thomas and Lincoln schools, and concede to the demise of Franklin and the only part of Jefferson that has an ounce of history, beauty and style. RUSD owns the property and facilities and has a plan to continue to use parts of Jefferson and rebuild at the Franklin site. But we must now focus on Winslow, Janes and Washington and fight to save the buildings. Also, we can concede that they are not needed or fit to be schools any longer. Let us put our energies and imagination into an appropriate repurposing of these important buildings.

Debbie Yale

Farewell and Thank You, Sharon Baldukas

From chaos to functioning archives is what Sharon accomplished during her thirteen-year tenure on the board as Preservation Racine's historian. Unlabeled boxes, broken down file cabinets and bookcases were what she inherited. Lacking background in the field, Sharon wisely sought direction from Anna Stadick, the archivist at UW-Parkside. Anna also recommended other sources, one of whom was the Wisconsin Historical Society's Emily Pfotenhauer. Emily coached Sharon through "Recollection Wisconsin" that uses the Congressional Library's format for scanning printed material into digital format. Sharon entered 37 years of Preservation Racine's newsletters into the Internet.

A short list of volunteers includes Roberta and Jim Fiene, Mary Whitman, Bonnie Sommer, Teri Lillich, Jim Mercier and Barbara Walter. Bonnie has for many years assisted in the sorting, labeling, etc. which have provided our organization with the workable archives that now exist. In her words "Knowledge is the word I think of when I think of Sharon. In joining Sharon's archive team, I became instantly hooked on Racine and its history. Sharon's knowledge of Racine has shaped our archive which will continue to educate the members of Preservation Racine and the City of Racine for years to come."

In addition to the paper work, the archives needed expanded and usable equipment. Frugal Sharon found this at Habitat Restore. All this was accomplished while Sharon was employed full time. Health issues determined that it is time to retire and Sharon will be residing in the warmer climate of Lancaster, S.C. Debbie Yale, a retired reference librarian, has assumed the responsibility as archivist. We could not be more fortunate. The archives now reside in her excellent hands.

Preservation Racine extends its deepest appreciation for a job well done and also its wishes for the best possible in the years to come, Sharon. You will be missed.

Barbara S. Walter

Sharon Baldukas is relocating to South Carolina

From the President

There has been a lot of change since our last newsletter. There are significant building, remodeling, and replacement projects in the city of Racine; a building has been lost; and a beloved board member is leaving us.

As you'll read in a fuller article in this newsletter, Sharon Baldukas will be parting from us soon, as she is going to live near one of her sons. This is such sorrowful news, as we lose a beautiful and clever lady, sound historian, successful activist, and dear friend. Sharon, may all go well with you in your new home!

Tragically, also, we failed to save the Capitol-Park Theater. There is nothing left of it now but a strip of bare earth. I personally am sick at heart about this as it was entirely unnecessary. The city's decision to go ahead with the raze is inexplicable: there was no danger to the public, and no financial support was requested but only *forbearance!* As if to prove its sturdiness, the building easily withstood the worst (*continued on page 9*)

Made in Racine – Malted Milk Dispensers

One of my fondest memories of growing up in Racine was the many soda fountains that seemed to be in abundance at one time here in the Belle City. They could have been inside the corner drug store (such as Pokorny's, downtown), since many of the larger ones had their own soda fountains complete with "soda jerks" behind the counter, eager to take your order. We also had many ice cream stores (or malt shops, as they were also known), including Dutch Maid (located both in Downtown and Uptown), Tompkins (in Elmwood Plaza), the Mari-Gold dairy stores, and so many more. Anyone remember the ice cream stands, such as Tastee-Freez on Durand Avenue? Well, they all had one thing in common ... they made delicious malts! AND, there was a huge "Racine connection" when making these malted milks ... not one, not two, but THREE distinct "Made in Racine" products were used.

Now, I don't have to explain that Horlick's "invented" malted milk right here in Racine many years ago. In addition, many of you know that Hamilton Beach manufactured a line of drink mixers that were used throughout the world to make these tasty concoctions. However, there was a THIRD ingredient that was indeed necessary, besides the two mentioned above, and that was the malted milk dispenser. To be sure, not every soda fountain, malt shop, or ice cream store used them, since the malted milk powder could have been scooped out by hand, straight from the container. However, it was a "judgement call" as to the correct amount ... was it too little, or too much? Well, the malted milk dispenser removed all the guesswork, since by flipping the handle, the exact amount needed was dispensed. They also LOOKED beautiful with their green porcelain base, glass canister (which held the malt powder), and chrome top.

There were actually three different manufacturers of dispensers (well, sort of) here in Racine. Of course, everyone who reads this column recognizes the name "Hamilton Beach," right? Need a refresher? OK but only a short one. Louis Hamilton and Chester Beach both worked for the United States Standard Electric Works, a manufacturer of electrical devices founded in Racine in 1904 by Frederick Osius. Beach was the inventive and mechanical genius who developed a small, lightweight "universal" motor that could operate small appliances that revolutionized the American home. In 1910 Osius formed a new company to market a line of products centered around Beach's innovation. Forsaking his own name for the new venture, Osius settled on "Hamilton Beach" for the firm's name. One last note ... after Osius sold the United States Standard Electric Works in 1910, the company was reorganized in 1915 as the Arnold Electric Company. So, did you get all that? I knew you would ...

Now, I'm going to ask you to view the malt dispensers made by ARNOLD and HAMILTON BEACH ... did you see anything unusual? I'm sure everyone noticed that they look notably similar! Well, there's a reason for that. It was ARNOLD that applied for a patent way back in 1916 for their malted milk dispenser, which proved to be quite successful. However, Arnold was sold to Hamilton Beach in 1931, so all subsequent dispensers displayed the HAMILTON BEACH metal badge on the unit. It's interesting to note that even though Hamilton Beach was now the manufacturer after purchasing Arnold Electric, the name, "Arnold" still appeared above the Hamilton Beach logo for some time before eventually being removed.

There was a THIRD Racine company that manufactured dispensers, and that was the RACINE DISPENSER MANUFACTURING COMPANY. Organized in the late teens. It was located at 1313 Clark Street for a number of years before later moving across the street to 1342 Clark Street. Throughout the 1920s and '30s, they were listed in city directories as soft drink wholesalers, machinery manufacturers and makers of juice extractors. Malted milk dispensers were never mentioned, however, which may imply that they were manufactured as a sideline and not on a regular basis, despite their name!

I know, some of you are asking how they actually worked. Well, here goes ... (from an article in a 1917 issue of Popular Mechanics, describing patent information). "A malted milk dispensing machine has been designed for soda fountains which discharges a carefully-measured amount of powdered malted milk at each operation, thus preventing waste and at the same time serving as a sanitary container. The upper part of the apparatus constitutes a hopper, in which the supply of material is kept. By pressing down a lever projecting from the side of the machine, the desired amount of powder is discharged from a measuring device into the glass placed to receive it. This measuring device can be set for any one of eight different amounts."

These malted milk dispensers would have been a fixture at most malt shops, soda fountains and other locations where malts were served and enjoyed. However, it was the many malted milk manufacturers that purchased these dispensers direct from Racine factories, placed their own logo on the glass canister and then furnished them to the many soda fountains that would sell their brand of malt powder exclusively. For example, the Racine Dispenser Manufacturing Company. made dispensers for Racine's White Cross Foods, Thompson's (out of Waukesha) and Kraft, while Hamilton Beach and Arnold sold dispensers to Horlick's, Carnation, Borden's and even Coors (yes, they made malted milk powder as well as beer). The predominant dispenser color was green, although white and black were options as well.

(left) *As you can see, the **Hamilton Beach** malt dispenser looked almost the same as the Arnold dispenser, since Hamilton Beach purchased the Arnold Electric Co. back in 1931. They continued to manufacture dispensers under their own label to malted milk manufacturers, including Horlick's;* **(middle)** *The **Arnold Electric Co**. applied for a patent way back in 1916 for their malted milk dispenser;* **(right)** *The **Racine Dispenser Manufacturing Co**. made malted milk dispensers for Racine's White Cross Foods, a short-lived competitor to Horlick's malted milk.*

Now, how many of you would like to join me and run to the nearest Dairy Queen for a delicious, thick, and tasty malt? Make mine vanilla!

Jim Mercier

Our Newest Board Members

When someone moves into a new place, it takes living there for a few years before that person begins to call it home. And when a person takes a new job, it takes a term or so to feel really comfortable in that position. In order to welcome three new members to the Preservation Racine Board of Directors, we'd like to introduce them to you with a bit of information as to their backgrounds and talents. Karen Verbeten has agreed to a two-year term as Secretary and Peter Sisak and Kim Eschmann have agreed to serve as Members-at-Large for two years. They would, of course, appreciate any insight or guidance that members could provide.

Karen Verbeten

Karen remarked that she felt like she was composing her obituary when she was replying to our request for information about her biographical history. This Racine born and raised (reared) lady is definitely not ready to use an obit any time soon. She graduated from St. Mary's Elementary School, St. Catherine's High School and Dominican College. She achieved a Master's in Education from National Lewis University when that school came to Racine to offer classes at Starbuck Junior High School. She taught in the Racine Unified School system for 35 years and wants to equal that number of years in retirement. She'll be 92 when she achieves that. A mother of four, grandmother of twelve and great grandmother of one, she still has time to volunteer with West Racine Kiwanis, American Association of University Women, Racine Art Museum, Racine Theater Guild and Ascension Hospital, and now Preservation Racine.

When asked about her favorite style of architecture, she immediately replied "Frank Lloyd Wright". She's been a member of Preservation Racine for about four years, enjoys traveling and has been to 30 countries including Turkey a couple of times where her daughter was stationed with the military. She loves all the Arts, but especially music, dance and drama. She was attracted to Preservation Racine by the excellent programs presented. She said that even when the program was not something she was interested in, she came away thinking it was an outstanding presentation. In her next life, she's going to be an architect.

Peter Sisak

The second new member to the Board is Peter Sisak who also was born and raised in Racine. He has been a member of Preservation Racine for several years, but not all in one stretch. Pete's grandfather Russell V. Zahn built the Zahn building on Monument Square. The department store that occupied the building was sold by the Zahn family in 1950 after Russell Zahn had served as President from 1932 to 1950. As the youngest grandson of the builder, he is a font of information about it and the family history. His ancestral lineage in Racine dates back to the early 1840s.

Pete attended St. John of Nepomuk's Elementary School, and also like Karen graduated from St. Catherine's High School. Pete is a fourth-generation member of St. Nepomuk's Catholic Church. He attended the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. He is single and moved back to Racine from Watertown in 2015. His late mother was Sue Zahn Sisak, and his interest in local history and the Zahn's building is done so in her memory. Since his widowed father

lived alone, he moved in with his father where the father has lived for many years. They share a collie named Angus, who prefers to be called Gus.

He has worked for Chevrolet dealerships since college and is now employed by Frank Boucher Chevrolet. He has also worked in Burlington, Kenosha and Watertown dealerships as a parts counter man. He loves history, especially anything about Lake Michigan and the Mississippi River. He is presently serving as the Vice President of the Catholic Cemeteries Association.

Kim Eschmann

Our third new board participant is Kim Eschmann, again Racine born and raised. She attended school in the Racine public school system. Starting at Giese, then Starbuck and graduating from Horlick High School. She received certification from a Travel, Tourism and Hotel Management program in California. While in California she took a position with a small regional air carrier as a Customer Service Agent. Shortly after she was hired by TWA as a Flight Attendant, but new ownership and labor strife made it a difficult place to work. After less than a year at TWA, she got the call from Midwest Airlines. Beginning her career there as a Flight Attendant, she would move up the ranks to Supervisor, Trainer, and then became the Manager of the Inflight Training Department. She would end her career there "back on the line" as a Flight Attendant where she had a flexible schedule and more time with her family. Kim flew on the last day Midwest would be in service as an airline in December of 2009. Midwest Airlines had been bought out by another airline and dissolved.

Kim is a now a Flight Attendant for United Airlines having traveled through the turmoil of the airline industry, including a four-year furlough and multiple air carrier realignments. Kim has worked for Continental Express, TWA, Midwest Airlines and then "landing" with United. She has never "failed" a layover which she describes as not being a "slam-clicker" (i.e., getting to a layover hotel, clicking shut the hotel room door, until the pick-up hour). She has used her time in different cities to explore via tours, house museums and walks in the historic districts.

Guess what? When asked what was her passion, she replied, "History and Architecture."

Kim has a grown son and a grown daughter who occupied all of her off days through the years. However, she now has the time to devote to her passion. She has only been a Preservation Racine member for about three years, but she has attended every possible Preservation Racine Tour of Historic Places since about the year 2000. She really missed it the year there wasn't one. She thoroughly enjoyed volunteering and doing ticket sales for the 2019 tour. She wants to get more involved with the workings of the annual tour. Vivian must be clicking her heels together.

Please welcome our newest board members and get to know them.

Linda Ingram Schubert

(*continued from page 5*)
snow in more than ten years (as others in the city did not), and it went down fighting, as we said it would. So, now we have lost another historic jewel because we simply could not get the Mayor or the Chief Building Inspector to listen or wait.

On the same day that demolition began, the Mayor celebrated the possible redevelopment of the old Zahns building as a new hotel, somewhat delayed, he told us, because it had been necessary for the city to find a $6-million grant for the project, which had now been achieved. Naturally, we wish that project well.

Another city project that is causing some anxiety to members is the remodeling of Gateway Technical College's Lincoln Building in West Park . This building stretched the limits of what was possible in the early 1960s with the wide spans between the slender supports of its wrap-around loggia, and building-quality glass in its curtain walls. Severely geometric, it nonetheless charmed many who now worry to see the work being done and its style and colors inverted.

The Lincoln Building (also called The Lake Building), Gateway Technical College, West Park, Racine, 1963 The masses are balanced vertically and horizontally; the building quality glass and wide spans between the piers are remarkable for the period

Yet, the building needed rehabilitation, and the $7-million plan, which involved close collaboration with city officials, was announced in February 2020. The visuals suggest that the building will retain its existing footprint and structure (outlined in black), but will gain a transparent and horizontal emphasis with multi-paned glass walls and an emphatic projecting cornice.

Replacing the West Sixth Street bridge was first proposed in 2015, and we first reported on it in our Winter 2016 volume, following the first public charrette meeting. At that time, it was hoped (but not promised) that the replacement bridge would echo the form of the current one and feature a few preserved terracottas (notably the winged dolphin rain-spouts) and some of the tiles. The bridge has now come to the end of its life. Demolition for the $5–6 million replacement has begun and, as feared, the terracotta dolphin rain-spouts and city symbols have not been saved.

Obviously, we cannot save all historic structures, but we need to learn from these losses where we are failing as a historic preservation society. One common thread through all these losses is that we are too late on the scene: by the time any of these projects become public there is almost nothing left to be done. Another is that we are unpaid, spare-time volunteers, where planners and developers are paid, full-time professionals with a strong support system. That makes it seem that the dice are loaded against us – but we have the advantage in numbers! There are more than 200 of us, each with contacts, skills, resources, special interests and knowledge. We *should* be able to come together as a formidable grape-vine! Consider how well this was done by the French Resistance, and by prisoners of war in concentration camps. These were not strong, public, well-connected people: they were ordinary quiet folk who simply did their little bit for the action – in all sorts of unexpected, unobtrusive ways. It's the "little bit" that interests me: I would like to see every one of us doing one little thing to keep the information coming in, soon enough to be effective. Let's not exhaust ourselves – but let's do it! Help me organize!

Meanwhile, we are becoming quite hopeful that we will be able to host a Tour of Historic Places again this year. If so, it will take place in Elmwood Park, whose forty-year anniversary was last year when we originally planned for the tour. Unfortunately, that had to be shelved for the lock-down, but things are

moving again now and we expect to see it through for the traditional date of the last Sunday in September.

That being so, we would be so pleased if all our members will consider volunteering in some way. We will need researchers, house captains and guides, ticket-table clerks and "runners" (or drivers) to help top up supplies of booties, water, tickets and tour books. We will be contacting you!

Another project we have under development is adding a "shopping cart" to the Preservation Racine website. That will not only make it easier for people to buy Preservation Racine memorabilia, posters and booklets, but will also offer a convenient option for purchasing tickets and paying dues, in addition to supporting fund-raising efforts at need. Indeed, I hope that by making our merchandise more visible and easily available, we might stimulate new ideas and create a vibrant new aspect to the website.

So, I wish everyone a happy, healthy summer, full of new interests and projects, excitement and fun!

Pippin Michelli

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Thank you for your continued support of Preservation Racine

Dear Members,

March is the time to renew your annual Preservation Racine membership. Your membership dues are important. Your time and talent are important too. We are asking you to complete and return the form on the reverse side. We would like to know your areas of interest. The many ideas and the participation of all our members make our organization stronger. Non-lifetime members, please complete the form, enclose a check for your current membership dues and mail to the address listed at the bottom of the form. You cannot vote if you are not current with your dues.

Sincerely,
Marcia Pfost
Membership Chair

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Membership renewals are due in March each year, except for Lifetime Memberships. The address label on the newsletter shows your membership expiration date. To renew and invest in your community's preservation, please fill out the membership form.

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