

NEW BERLIN

*H*ISTORICAL
*S*OCIETY



March 2022

Dedicated to
the four Rs...
Rescuing ... Recording ...
Restoring ... Re-creating ...
the *authentic*
New Berlin history

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Spring Membership Meeting

Monday, April 11, 2022—6:30 pm
New Berlin Public Library

Program Presented by Jim Liska

Service is Our Only Product

***A History of The New Berlin Fire Dept.
1954-2018***

(See flyer on the back)

Open House

Sunday (Father's Day) June 19—1-4 pm

Open House

Sunday, July 17 —1-4 pm
Ice Cream Social

Kid's Holiday Fest

We tried a new event this year—Historic Kid's Festival—and it was a huge success. Kids were able to make simple jewelry, ornaments, sachets, flowerpots and more—all for free—and then visit with Santa. Boy Scouts sold hot dogs and there was hot cocoa and cookies. We



were overwhelmed by the great turnout. Thanks to Marlyene Pfeiffer and her friends Tamara, Mary and Sandy—it was their brainchild—and to all of the volunteers that helped make it a successful event.

Museum News

Our dedicated team of volunteers spent countless hours this winter working on displays. After our contractor, Neighbor Dave, built the walls for the Swartz Farm Office, Police and Military Rooms and the new *L.S. Winton Store*, we called on the strong employees of our City departments to bring up the very heavy cabinets that were in the old store and post office. The team then went to work putting down flooring and putting up shelves which are filled with items "for sale." We are sure visitors will enjoy how bright and spacious the store is now.



Annual Meeting

It was nice to have a roomful of people for our meeting this year. There were at least 50 in attendance. After a brief Annual Review of the highlights of 2021, we proceeded to the election of board members. The slate of Ken Derra, Joanne Erickson, Barbara Koeppen, Judy Menting and Frenchi Trottier-Wasielewski was presented and were voted in. We then enjoyed a presentation by author Matthew Prigge on his book "*Damn the Old Tinderbox*," the story of the 1883 unsolved arson fire at the Newhall House Hotel in Milwaukee.

A BIG Thank You

Two of our long-term members retired from the Board of Directors—Jackie Hermann and Rhoda Flagg. Rhoda was on the Board for 9 years. She was an enthusiastic volunteer as a docent in our buildings during our Open Houses and, more recently, as part of the Food Team in the Gazebo. Jackie was on the Board for 50 years—yes, I said 50. At this point, Jackie holds the record for longevity. She held every Director position on the Board and was the President for 14 years and still works at our Open Houses. We cannot thank these ladies enough for their long years of dedication to growing the Society and making it strong.

New Members

Nancy Pearson Dr. Marie Rausch
 Rich & Ruth Rogahn Mary Gillies
 Milt & Bernadette Henn Bob Weidman

THANK YOU!

... to all of our donors since our last newsletter:

To **Joe and Becky Sanfelippo** who once again donated a beautiful Christmas tree that was displayed in our Gazebo.

GENERAL:

Mary Winton Green—\$1,000 toward the construction on the new “L.S. Winton” store in the Museum.
 Bill Bentley—\$100
 Mary Gillies—\$200

ARTIFACTS:

Buzz Taves—antique toy collection.
 Steve and Beth Ann Hartung—drain tile equipment for use in farm fields.

MEMORIALS:

Eileen Pennington—\$50 in memory of Ila Dietscher

In Memoriam

John Martin, age 84, passed away Dec. 28, 2021. John ran *Martin’s Tap* on National Ave. He loved playing his accordion and had a group called *The Misfits* that played for years on the front porch of the Winton/Martin house during Open Houses.

Bob Leair passed away in Nov. 2021, a long-time member who was not afraid of hard work and always seemed to have a smile on his face.

Gerry Bensing, age 91, passed away in Sept. 2021. He was a long-time member and contributed two *Almanacks* about growing up on a truck farm in New Berlin.

Al Mueller, age 89, passed away Feb 20th. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the Historical Society for many years, along with his wife Ella. He contributed his time, talents and numerous artifacts. Al loved restoring antique automobiles and owned a number of them including two Model A Fords. He donated, restored and maintained a windmill which stands in the Historical Park. He will never be forgotten.

Jim Liska presents

SERVICE IS OUR ONLY PRODUCT

**A History of the
 New Berlin Fire Department**

1954-2018



Monday, April 11th at 6:30 pm

**New Berlin Public Library
 Community Room
 15105 Library Lane**

Free and open to the public

Author Jim Liska served 16 years with the New Berlin Fire Department, retiring in 2003 as Captain of Fire Station No. 4. He has been a part time fire instructor at WCTC and at UW-Whitewater, and he was an EMT for 10 years with the Paratech Ambulance Service of Milwaukee.

Jim received both his BS and MS degrees from UW-Whitewater. He served 39 years as an American History and career education teacher in the West Allis – West Milwaukee School District. There he developed a very successful community based training program for high school students interested in firefighting and emergency services as a career.

In retirement, Jim is a key contributor to the team preserving and exhibiting our Fire Department’s History at the New Berlin Historical Museum.

Sponsored by the New Berlin Historical Society

Call 262-679-3461, visit www.newberlinhistoricalsociety.org -or-
 New Berlin, WI Historical Society for more information.



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New Berlin, WI Historical Society