



## Oak Park River Forest Museum Named 2018 Small Museum of the Year



2018 will go down in history as a banner year for The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest.

As the not-for-profit organization marked its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the first full year of operation of its new Oak Park River Forest Museum in fall 2018, Illinois Association of Museums honored it as the “Small Museum of the Year” at its Annual Meeting in Springfield.

We were in good company, with Brookfield Zoo named Large Museum of the Year and the Illinois State Museum given a special award recognizing its strong recovery from state budget cuts which closed the museum for a time and resulted in massive staff layoffs.

As if that honor was not enough, former Historical Society President Jan Dressel also received the IAM’s Lifetime Volunteer Award for more than 30 years of dedicated service and the Historical Society received an Award of Merit for its new website [www.oprfmuseum.org](http://www.oprfmuseum.org) that makes our resources more accessible to everyone. The organization also received a separate award

marking its Golden Anniversary dating from its first meeting in spring 1968.

“To be recognized by our peers in this way is really an honor,” said Dressel. “So many small museums across the state are mounting amazing exhibits and doing wonderful programming. That the Oak Park River Forest Museum was singled out for our achievements after only a year of operation is very special.”

The honors, received Oct. 4 at the ceremony at the new Kidzeum of Health and Science in Springfield, cap the year since the September 16, 2017 grand opening of OPRF Museum in our renovated 1898 home at Lake

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## Museum of the year (continued from page 1)

and Lombard in Oak Park. Illinois has more than 1,300 museums, and IAM membership ranges from very large institutions—such as the Chicago History Museum—to small historic homes. The awards are broken into different categories in recognition of the wide range of institutions and their budgets, scope of operations, and size.

The award presenter recognized the challenges overcome by Oak Park River Forest Museum to open a completely new museum building funded entirely with private donations. This herculean effort was part of the rationale for the award.

“What impressed everyone about Oak Park River Forest Museum was that the Historical Society raised \$1 million in renovation funds, all from private individuals, with no public funding,” said Kurt Etchingham, vice president of the museum. “The contributions of so many people and the pro bono work of so many professionals were what made this museum possible, and a very special community treasure.”

Jan Dressel has promoted local history since the 1970s, when she became involved in the restoration of the Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio in Oak Park, living on-site as caretaker. She joined the board of the Historical Society in the late 1980s at the invitation of key founder Elsie Jacobsen and is the longest serving board member in the organization’s history, a streak that will likely stand forever because of recent bylaw changes limiting consecutive board terms. But she says she will continue to volunteer, hoping to focus more on attracting field trips from students and youth groups.



IAM President Karen Everingham (center) presented the awards to the delegation representing OPRF Museum. (Left to right: Jan Dressel, Mary Boyaris, Operations Manager Rachel Berlinski, Everingham, Frank Lipo, Barbara Etchingham, Kurt Etchingham)



OPRF Museum was also recognized for its new, reimagined website

“Jan is the ultimate volunteer,” said president Peggy Tuck Sinko. “We honored her with this year’s Philander Barclay Award at our Annual Meeting, and it’s just wonderful that the IAM also decided to honor her with this Lifetime Award.”

The Historical Society’s website was driven by a team including Operations Manager Rachel Berlinski, Vice President Kurt Etchingham, and Board Member Mary Boyaris. It is interactive and colorful and provides a robust way to explore community history and e-commerce capabilities. Unique features of the website include the “Hometown Legends” section, the “This Month in History,” and the interactive “Ask the Historian” option. All of these honors are putting the pressure on in 2019! Staff and volunteers are working hard to build on these accolades and to make certain your community’s museum is telling many entertaining and important stories with engaging exhibits, programs, and other activities.





# Golden Gala Celebration Honors Great Villagers, Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2018



Museum President Peggy Tuck Sinko (right) presents the first Heart of the Villages Award to River Forest's Harriet Hausman

It was a party a long time coming as The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Carleton Hotel and honored two long-time villagers who have left their mark on our community and the world at large.

The event in November was underwritten by the Carleton Hotel, which itself was marking its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of serving our community. More than 100 guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and beverages,



Guests enjoyed socializing over drinks and hors d'oeuvres before the formal presentation of awards to Hausman and Deuchler

including a signature drink called the Gowdy, the Carleton's original (albeit brief) name when it opened late in 1928.

Besides the fun had by all, the event raised more than \$10,000 toward the operation of Oak Park River Forest Museum.

To mark its 50<sup>th</sup> year, the Historical Society initiated a new award—the Heart of Our Villages—which aims to honor individuals whose life of activism and service have made Oak Park, River Forest, and the wider world a better place because they have generously shared their talents and passion.

The inaugural awards were presented to Harriet Hausman of River Forest and Doug Deuchler of Oak Park.

Harriet Hausman, a 65-year River Forest resident literally wrote the book on her adopted hometown in 1976. She has been an active community volunteer and crusader for social justice.

Doug Deuchler is a renaissance man whose contributions to culture, history and story-telling in our community are unique.

Also recognized was Executive Director Frank Lipo's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of working for the organization. He began working part-time as its director in fall 1993, after the resignation of long-time director Carol Kelm and led the drive with board members and volunteers to create a new museum in a vacant old firehouse.



Doug Deuchler shows his Heart of the Villages Award





# Recently at Oak Park River Forest Museum...

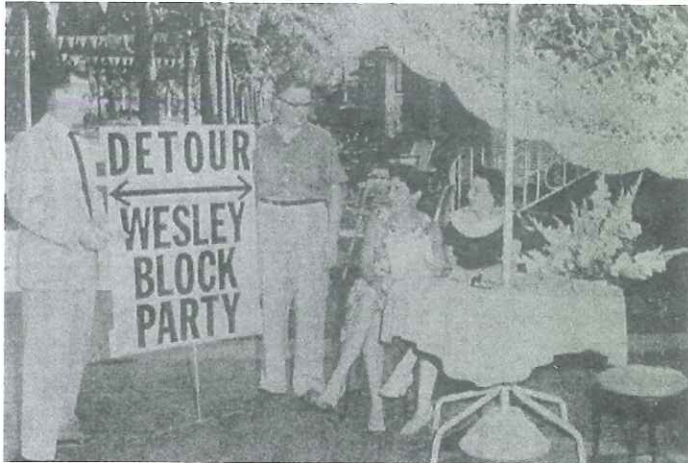


Here are a few snapshots of the many ways OPRF Museum is sharing the stories of our villages: 1) Realtors from Coldwell Banker visit our *Open House: The Legacy of Fair Housing* exhibit; 2) Jan Dressel tells the history of *Twelfth Night* to a sold-out crowd; 3) Jerry Ehernberger, founder of *The Golden Glow of Christmas Past*, shares stories about his collection at a gallery talk; 4) A group from Good Shepard Lutheran Church tours our *Ghosts of Christmas Past* exhibit; 5) Beye School students learn about Native American history; 6) A history class from North Park University visits to learn about our villages' struggles with integration and fair housing; 7) John Elliott, Museum volunteer and retired Cook County Forest Preserve District naturalist, presents a lecture on the history and development of the Forest Preserves.



# Party in the OP: When was Oak Park's First Block Party?

Field Trip: Tales from the Fields Research Center, by Rachel Berlinski, Museum Operations Manager



Was this Oak Park's first block party? The 1100 block of Wesley in 1958

Oak Park is known for its sense of neighborliness. As a lifelong resident of the south suburbs I can attest to the idea that this is a unique trait about the OPRF community. For Oak Parkers today, togetherness is a way of life.

Around Labor Day I received a research question from a resident of the 1100 block of Wesley. He informed me of the great tradition on that block—this year was their 61<sup>st</sup> annual block party. Surely this must be the oldest block party in Oak Park. In the research I did working on our exhibit “Open House: The Legacy of Fair Housing,” I learned about Oak Park's Beautification Commission, which formed in 1968 under the direction of Historical Society matriarch, and the woman who defines community activism, Elsie Jacobsen. This group promoted the unity of their community through dances, village-wide flower-planting, and of course block parties. A delightful letter from this group described the idea of “100 Clubs”, encouraging each block of houses to host its own party. This was the beginning of many annual or biannual block parties throughout the village. But this block party on Wesley came together ten years prior to the encouragement of the Beautification Commission. So was this truly the first?

An *Oak Leaves* article from September of 1958 reporting on 1100 Wesley's first block party states, “[the party] scored such a success that many believe such neighborhood gatherings might become an annual event,” which could very well indicate, at the

very least, that these festivities were not yet routine. And just to set the bar for your next block party, this one ended with “a grand march led by a clown.”

So, call me a bad detective, but I would like to pass this question along to our reader. Is your block party older than 60 years? Do you have photos or stories of your grandparents' block party? If you know what the oldest block party in the neighborhood is, contact the Historical Society to earn your bragging rights.

60 years later, the party's still going! The 1100 block of Wesley in 2018



## History Matters

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# A Forgotten Voice Rings Out in Letter to Library

By Elizabeth Nichols

Welcome to my Archivist's Corner! I'm Elizabeth Nichols, the archivist here at Oak Park River Forest Museum. As a graduate student, I interned at OPRF Museum to complete a practicum for my MLIS degree from Dominican University. I graduated from Dominican in August 2017 and started to work at the Museum. In the Archivist's Corner, I'll share stories about interesting documents from the archives. I'll highlight stories about the everyday people of Oak Park and River Forest, not just stories about giants like Wright or Hemingway. I'll also share some little-known stories about Oak Park and River Forest's pioneer families as well as the tales behind documents in the collection that have been waiting to be rediscovered for years!

For the first story, I present to you a revealing letter from the River Forest Public Library Collection:

## Document 1: 1909 Letter Addressed to the President of the Board of Directors of the River Forest Library

I uncovered this letter while I was curating the materials donated by the River Forest Public Library

in 2016. It is addressed to the man in the highest position in the River Forest Public Library: the President of the Board of Directors. It is from a woman in one of the lowest social positions: abandoned wife and mother, Rose Cortina.

#76 So. Park Ave.  
River Forest, Ills.  
Febry. 15th, 1909

To the President  
& Board of Directors  
of River Forest Library  
Gentlemen -

My husband Joe Cortina before he left home last August was filling the position of Janitor of the River Forest Library, and when leaving neglected to provide for my support or the support of his child now two months old, and my little girl six years and a half old. I am desirous of securing the position he quit under your Honorable Body.

I am not afraid of work and desire to earn a living for myself and children.

Any favor your Hon. Body can do me will be gratefully and sincerely appreciated by

Yours very Sincerely  
Rose Cortina

(continued on page 7)

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The startlingly personal content of Rose Cortina's letter makes it stand out within the River Forest Public Library Collection's sea of correspondence. Most letters deal with the library management, the purchase and acquisition of printed materials, and various other business matters.

The letter itself is interesting because Rose Cortina's signature is unlike the handwriting that makes up the body of the letter. Her signature is unsteady, its cursive letters made of shaky loops and halting connections. Her name slants downward in black, hard-pressed ink unlike the light sepia touch of the letter's text. These inconsistencies suggest that Rose Cortina was illiterate. However, the 1910 United States Federal Census states that Rose Cortina could read and write. It is thus more likely that Rose Cortina was not fluent, or fully fluent, in English and employed someone to help her write the letter so that its desperate contents would be clear.

I imagine Rose inviting the letter-writer to her home, opening the door, her face harried and pale as she listens to her baby—the baby he abandoned—fuss in the background. I imagine her with her small daughter hovering at her side as she dictates the letter in Polish. Each line is short, because there is too much to say. There is a flood inside of her that she must leave unsaid. To stay in her home—her children's home—this letter may be her last resort. I am not afraid of work...only of hungry mouths, questioning eyes.

Based on other primary documents in the River Forest Library Collection, Rose Cortina did not take over her husband's late janitorial position at the River Forest Public Library. She is not found on any of the Library's annual employee expense reports for the years 1909 or 1910. Any response to Rose Cortina's letter from the River Forest Public Library is lost, or was never written.

So, what happened to this young abandoned mother? With the Oak Park River Forest Museum's resources and checking census and other outside records, we were able to find out a little more. In the 1908 Oak Park and River Forest Directory, Joe and Rose Cortina are listed on Park Avenue in River Forest. Records from St. Luke's Parish in River Forest

reveal that Frances Catherine Cortina, daughter of Joseph Cortina and Rosie Dacick Cortina was born on December 10, 1908. Frances is the "child now two months old" that Rose refers to in her letter. When she wrote the letter, Rose was just 27 years old.

Frances Catherine Cortina's baptism, as recorded at St. Luke's Church

The 1910 Census reveals that Rose Cortina was unemployed for 20 weeks that year but had found employment cleaning houses. She is listed as the head of her household, living on 76 Park Avenue in River Forest. The only other household member is her seven-year-old daughter, Mary L. Cortina. Frances Catherine Cortina is missing. Child mortality rates were still high in the early 20th century, but I hope that Frances Cortina did not perish. I hope that, instead, Rose sent the baby to live with a relative because she could not afford to feed and keep both children. We do not yet know for sure. Rose Dacick Cortina disappears from Oak Park, River Forest, and Forest Park records after 1910. There are no further census records for her or her children in the area. She is not mentioned in local newspapers. She no longer appears in local phone books or directories. While there is another Rose Cortina living in River Forest after that date, it is clearly not the same person. This other Rose Cortina is a different age, is of Italian rather than Polish descent, and has two boys and no girls.

It is easy to trace the steps of the wealthy, but sadly, the indigent often disappear from history. Rose Cortina's letter to the President of the River Forest Library Board of Directors sheds a flicker of light on the life of one of the immigrant, working class families in River Forest. It is the voice of a woman on the social fringes of early twentieth century society: an impoverished, single mother. It is a voice preserved in our archives that otherwise would be lost to history.



# The Oak Park Boy Who "Couldn't Wait for the Yankees"

by Kurt Etchingham, Vice President of OPRF Museum

Among the missions of OPRF Museum is rediscovering and preserving forgotten stories of our villages. The centenary of the end of World War I and our exhibit commemorating the participation of Oak Park and River Forest in that struggle brought this story, among many others, to light.

The World War I monument that stands in Scoville Park honors the 2,446 Oak Park and River Forest men and women who served during the Great War. All of their names are recorded on the monument's brass plaques, but the names of the 56 who gave their lives in service are given special recognition on the monument's north side. The first of these 56 was killed 5 days before any U. S. soldier's death.

John Knowlton Fisk, always called Knowlton, was born in Chicago on August 31, 1896, the only child of Arthur N. Fisk and Florence Overmeyer. The family moved to Oak Park in 1902.

Florence Overmeyer Fisk died in January 1905 after a brief illness. Arthur Fisk remarried in 1907 to Annie Platt Mengis, a widowed piano teacher with no children. She and Arthur never had children, so Knowlton grew up as an only child.

Knowlton Fisk was attracted to the military from an early age, perhaps because of the strong tradition of military service in his mother's family. His grandfather, John B. Overmeyer, served with distinction in the Civil War, enlisting as a 19-year-old private in 1861 and rising to the rank of colonel by war's end. His great grandfather also had served in the army and both his second and third great grandfathers fought in the American Revolution.

So it was that, on September 1, 1914, the day after his 18th birthday, Knowlton Fisk enlisted in Oak Park's own Company D of the Illinois National Guard. He was a senior at Oak Park River Forest High School at the time, but he trained with Company D on weekends and for a month during the summer

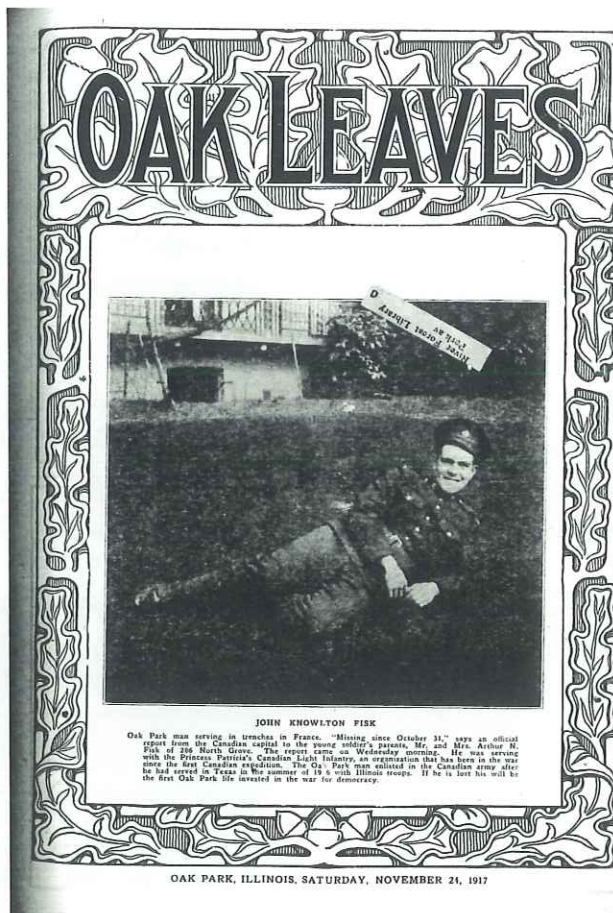
after graduation in June. His enlistment and the history of service in his family may explain the ironic epigram that accompanied his photo in the OPRFHS yearbook of 1915: "I Didn't Raise My Boy to Be a Soldier," the title of a popular anti-war song of 1915.

In September 1915 Knowlton Fisk entered the University of Michigan, but remained a member of the Illinois National Guard. In 1916 National Guard units across the country were called to active duty and sent to the Mexican border in response to Pancho Villa's attack on the town of Columbus, New Mexico. At the end of the school year in June, Knowlton Fisk joined his

unit at the Texas-Mexico border. He served on active duty until mid-September of 1916 when his unit was relieved.

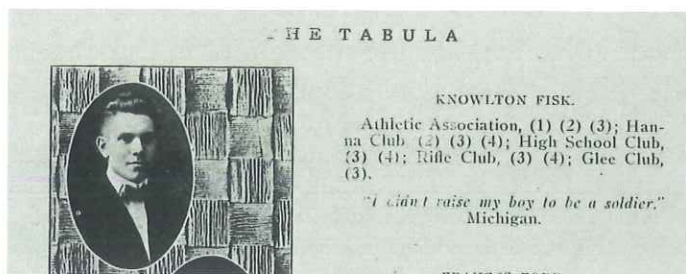
Because the fall semester at the University of Michigan had already begun, Knowlton took a temporary job at a Chicago bank, but military service soon called to him once more. On November 21st, 1916, Knowlton went to Montreal and enlisted in the Canadian Army.

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Knowlton Fisk was still listed "missing in action" when this story ran on November 24, 1917. It was another month before his death was confirmed.





Knowlton's Senior OPRF High School yearbook entry with its ironic epigram

Again, his family's story may well have played a part in his decision. While the United States had not yet entered World War I, the British Empire had been at war for two years and was suffering horrifying losses. Knowlton's father, Arthur, had been born in Canada and was a citizen of the British Commonwealth. Knowlton's stepmother, Annie Platt, had been born in England and had family still living there.



From the Chicago Tribune, November 21, 1917

Knowlton Fisk hoped to join the Royal Flying Corps, but he was assigned instead to Canada's 6th Universities Training Company, one of several companies made up of college student enlistees. The 6th UTC completed basic training in Canada and then was sent to England in April 1917 to await assignment to regular units. Fisk's deployment was delayed a bit when he came down with measles, but on June 16, 1917 he was assigned to Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry Regiment serving in Belgium.

On October 26 Fisk's unit was sent to the front to relieve decimated Australian units in the infamous Battle of Paaschendaele, one of history's most brutal trench warfare campaigns and a symbol of the horror and futility of the war. The carnage of Paaschendaele had begun on July 31 and lasted more than 100 days until the town finally fell on November 10. The losses were appalling: over 275,000 allied soldiers and over 225,000 Germans killed or wounded, all for an advance of less than five miles.

Knowlton Fisk died on October 30, 1917, during an assault on a German trench line. At first, he was reported missing in action. His body had been hastily buried near the front where he died and the location had not been recorded. His remains were not recovered and positively identified until late in December. Knowlton Fisk was reinterred in the Tyne Cot Commonwealth Cemetery just outside of Paaschendaele. The following account of his death appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* on January 5, 1918:



Knowlton Fisk's grave, Tyne Cot Cemetery, Belgium

#### OAK PARK BOY KILLED GOING OVER THE TOP

Knowlton Fisk, former Oak Park High school boy, who enlisted in the Princess Pat's Canadian light infantry and was reported missing on Oct. 30, has been killed in action. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. N. Fisk, 206 North Grove avenue, received word yesterday to that effect.

Fisk met his death 'going over the top' in a charge on the German trenches. According to a letter from Lieut. Orrin B. Retford, his immediate superior, Fisk started off with two of his chums, Hoile and Aldwinckle.

"I don't know how far they got in the attack," said the lieutenant in his letter, "as the man who found them is at present in the hospital. A shell landed close to them and all three were instantly killed. The next night they were buried on the field. I will send you the grave location later.

"Knowlton was one of the best men in the company. I saw him just before he went into action and he seemed quite happy and certainly very well. The commanding officer offers you his sympathy, which he asked me to express, and all the officers and men join with him in this."

Knowlton Fisk rests beneath a marker bearing his name, but tens of thousands of the allied dead of Paaschendaele lie unidentified in the graves of the unknown. Thousands more simply disappeared in the Belgian rain and mud, their remains lying where they died, never recovered.

If you haven't yet visited OPRF Museum's special exhibit commemorating the end of World War I, there is still time. It will run through January 2019.





# Mark Your Calendar for These Great Events

Monday, February 4, 1:15 pm

## Musical Mementos: The Sounds of the Columbian Exposition

Oak Park River Forest Museum and the Nineteenth Century Charitable Association are cosponsoring a program of "Musical Mementos" from the 1893 Columbian Exposition at the Nineteenth Century Clubhouse, 178 Forest Ave., Oak Park. Historical Society members who present their membership card will be admitted free of charge.

Award-winning musicians- violinist Kate Carter, pianist Chris White and baritone Brad Jungwirthoffer- give you a front row seat to the sights and sounds of the Columbian Exhibition. This exceptional musical and visual program includes original album cover artwork, sheet music, and commentary on the history of the music. All three performers are on the music faculty at Lake Forest College.

Brad Jungwirth has been praised for his "dulcet and lyrical" voice and "no-holds-barred intensity." Chris White attended Indiana University's prestigious Jacobs School of Music and pursued his Master's degree in Jazz Studies, graduating with a Phi Kappa Lambda award. Kate Carter, an avid chamber musician, collaborates frequently in recital with pianist Louise Chan.

Please be sure to bring your Historical Society membership card for free admission.

Wednesday, February 6, 7:00 pm

## A Night at Your Museum with Dr. Sarah Doherty

Oak Park River Forest Museum is adding evening hours to allow the whole community some extra chances to visit us.



Dr. Sarah Doherty

This evening will include a gallery talk with Dr. Sarah Doherty, Historical Society Board Member and Professor of History at North Park University, on the Women of

the Ku Klux Klan chapter that formed in Oak Park in the 1920s. Learn more about this dark and largely unknown chapter of Oak Park's past.

This event is free to our members or included with regular museum admission for all others.

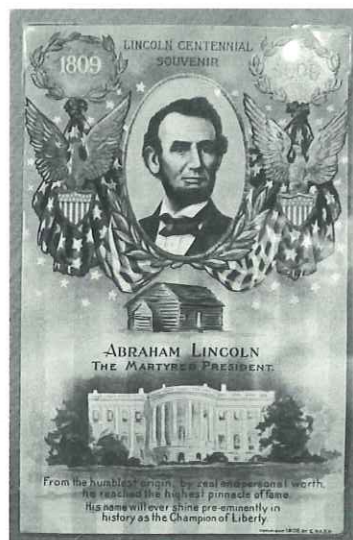
## Seasonal Postcard Gallery Rotating Picture Postcards Reflect the Changing Seasons

River Forest resident Joe May, an avid collector of antique postcards, has amassed an incredible treasure trove of early examples of this popular art form. OPRF Museum is honored to have a portion of his remarkable collection on loan to share with visitors to the museum.

The first picture postcards in the U.S. appeared at the Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago as a souvenir of the fair. Their popularity grew quickly, both as an inexpensive keepsake of a place or event and as a quick and easy way to communicate with friends and relatives before the widespread use of the telephone.

Here are two of the many cards from May's collection on display now at the Museum for the month of February. They look even better in color!

Visit us often as we change the postcards on display during the year to reflect the changing seasons and holidays.





# That Are Happening in February and March

Saturday, March 2, 3:00 pm

## Styles of the Past Take Center Stage at Museum Fashion Show

In 1919, a group of Oak Park women decided to open the Economy Shop to raise funds for five local charitable organizations. OPRF Museum and the Economy Shop will kick off the 100th anniversary celebration of the charitable organization with a very special fashion show. Volunteers will model some of the amazing fashions that have been recently donated to the Economy Shop.

The show is a preview of a special exhibit spotlighting Economy Shop's history that will run through May 2019 at OPRF Museum.

Tickets for this event are \$10. You can buy them through our website or at the Museum. Order your tickets soon because seating is limited!



Saturday, March 16, 3:00 pm

## For the Love of Trains: Stories of Model Railroading

Like so many baby boomers, Kevin Kell received a Lionel train set as a Christmas present when he was a young boy, but lost interest in trains when he entered high school. Then, in 1973, his wife gave him an HO train set for their first Christmas together and the bug was rekindled. He has been involved in model railroading ever since.

Please join us as Kell shares his love of model railroading, shows some items from his collection, and talks about current trends in the hobby.

Kell, a recently retired civil engineer, is a member of the LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago, the Chicago Area Garden Railroad Society, and the national Big Train Operator Club, all of which are devoted to large scale and garden railroading. Most of his personal modeling is in HO scale, as well as a select group of special collections. He is especially proud of the brass locomotives he has collected over the years.

Admission to this program is included with the regular museum admission. Museum members are always free.



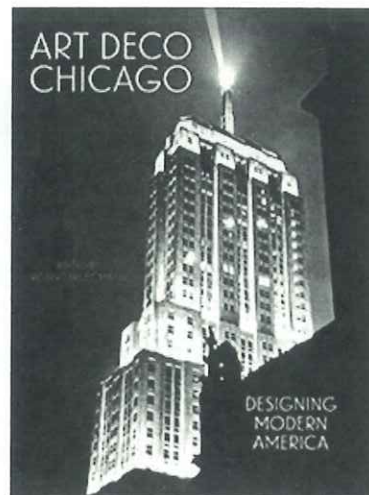
Sunday, March 24, 1:00 pm

## Chicago's Place in the History and Development of Art Deco

Frank Lloyd Wright's lost Midway Gardens, the iconic Sunbeam Mixmaster, and Marshall Field's famed window displays: despite the differences in scale and medium, each belongs to the broad current of Art Deco style that developed in Chicago in the first half of the twentieth century.

Join us at the Oak Park Public Library for a presentation by a panel of editors and contributors to the new book *Art Deco Chicago: Designing Modern America*, an expansive take on American Art Deco that explores Chicago's pivotal role in developing the architecture, graphic design, and product design that came to define middle-class style in the twentieth century.

Appearing will be editor Robert Brueggmann, Distinguished Professor Emeritus of architecture, art history, and urban planning at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He will be joined by contributors to the book, including: Keith Bringe; Art Historian Ruth K. Meyer, who



will speak about the contributions of Oak Park's Mills Family to art deco design; Vicki Matranga; Joe Loundy president of the Chicago Art Deco Society, publishers of the book; and OPRF Museum Executive Director Frank Lipo who will talk about the importance of preservation in light of the building boom our village is experiencing.

This event is cosponsored by the Oak Park Public Library and Oak Park River Forest Museum and is free to all.







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RIVER FOREST  
MUSEUM

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Named 2018 Small Institution  
of the Year by the Illinois  
Association of Museums!



Illinois  
Association of  
Museums

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## In this issue:

**Illinois Association of Museums names us as the 2018 Small Institution of the Year—and more!**  
OPRF Museum is honored with awards in three categories, and one of our Board members receives well-deserved recognition for over 30 years of dedicated service to The Historical Society of Oak Park and River Forest

**The Historical Society marks its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and honors two local legends at Golden Gala**  
Community gathers at the Carleton Hotel to celebrate our Golden Anniversary and the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carleton and to honor two local legends with the inaugural “Heart of our Villages” award.

**A century-old letter recalls the heartbreaking story of a deserted wife and mother**  
In the first of a planned series telling the stories behind artifacts in our collection, Museum archivist Elizabeth Nichols shares a letter she encountered while curating material donated by the River Forest Public Library.

**The story of the first casualty from Oak Park and River Forest during World War I**  
Knowlton Fisk died in Belgium five days before the first member of the U.S. Allied Expeditionary Force. How did this OPRF High School graduate come to be fighting with the Canadian Princess Patricia’s Light Infantry?

**The longest running block party in Oak Park?**  
In another story inspired by a museum research request, Operations Manager Rachel Berlinski reports on a street in Oak Park that celebrated its 61<sup>st</sup> consecutive block party last summer. Plans are in the works for Number 62.