



“Tales Our Houses Tell” Returns to River Forest Spring House Walk features some of oldest homes in village

A two-flat built by a man for his mother-in-law. A house built by a father for his daughter. A home that stayed in the same family for nearly a century. Two houses, built at the same time by close friends, that probably looked quite similar in 1872 but look completely different 150 years later. A home designed by E. E. Roberts’ studio, considered to be one of its finest works. And an 1876 home that has been an iconic River Forest landmark since the day it was built.

We talk about these homes from the sidewalk on our River Forest neighborhood walking tours, but on May 1st you will have a one-time opportunity for a rare peek inside these seven remarkable residences. The owners have generously volunteered to open their homes to us for the 18th edition of our annual *Tales Our Houses Tell* Spring House Walk.



Join us on Sunday, May 1, when *Tales Our Houses Tell* returns to River Forest for the first time since 2019. We have subtitled this year’s edition *West Side Stories* because, when taken together, the stories of these homes and the people who lived in them on the western edge of River Forest paint a vivid picture of the early days of the village as well as its growth and development into the thriving community we know today.

All seven homes are conveniently located on Thatcher and Keystone Avenues from Lake Street to Oak Avenue, so you can park once and easily walk to all seven. Four of the seven actually predate River Forest’s 1880 incorporation, which ranks them among the oldest homes in the village!

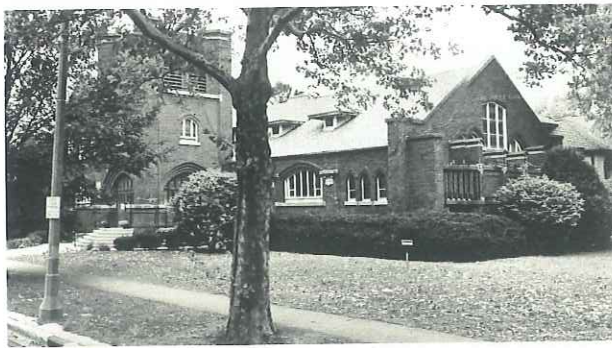
At each house, OPRF Museum docents stationed throughout the first floor will recount not only the history of the building, but also the history of some of

(Continued on page 2)

House Walk (Continued from page 1)

the families who called it home over the last century and a half. Some of these homes have seen drastic changes since they were built. Some are virtually unchanged. Your guides will address any additions, major reconfigurations, or renovations that have been made to the homes. In addition, they will point out easily overlooked details and original elements in each house. They will highlight changes that were made through the decades and recount the efforts of the owners to restore and maintain the architectural integrity of the house. What's more, they will share stories-- some humorous, some tragic, some inspiring, and some just plain odd-- of the people whose lives transformed these structures from houses into homes.

On the day of the house walk, registration and guidebook pickup, as well as day-of-event ticket sales, will be at River Forest United Methodist Church at the northwest corner of Lake Street and Keystone Avenue. It is only appropriate that your tour starts here, because four of the seven first families who lived in the homes you will be visiting were founding members of this congregation.



River Forest United Methodist Church

As you begin your tour, take a moment to appreciate this splendid church building. Built in 1912 to replace a wooden structure from 1871, it is itself an architectural treasure, designed by

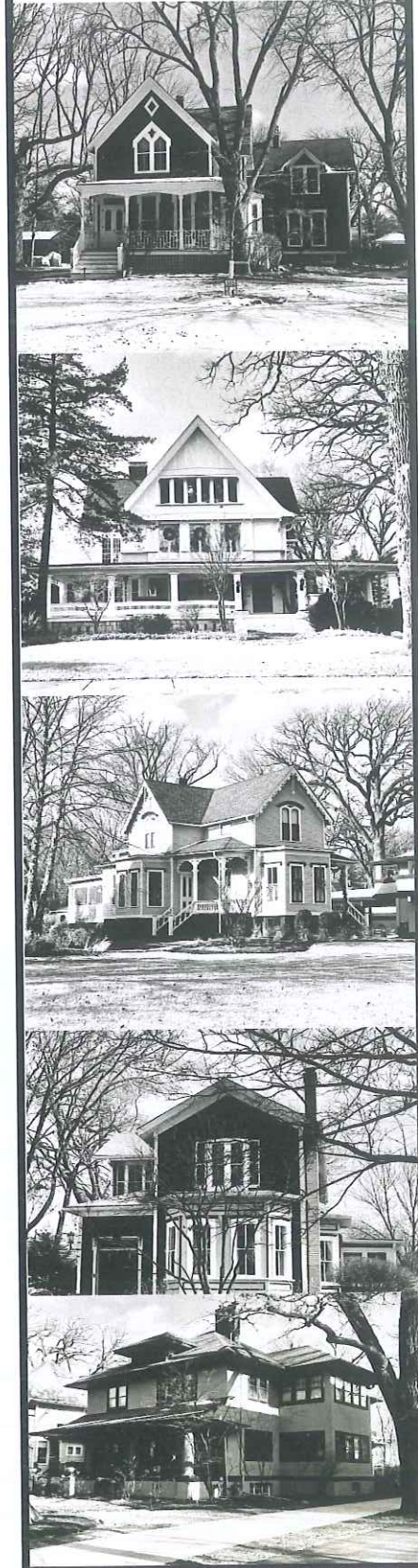
noted River Forest architect William E. Drummond who lived just a block away. Drummond was inspired by the small Gothic churches of rural English villages but he brought the building into the 20th century with the addition of Prairie School design elements and ornamentation.

So don't miss this rare opportunity to see the interiors and learn the stories behind these seven historic homes. And then, later this summer, take one or both of our River Forest Neighborhood Walks, where you'll learn the history of many more amazing houses and their fascinating former residents. But you won't get to look inside them then. At least not this year!

Tickets for *Tales Our Houses Tell: West Side Stories* are available in advance online at oprfmuseum.org; by phone at (708) 848-6755; or in person at the OPRF Museum gift shop. Tickets are \$25 per person for OPRF Museum members or \$30 per person for non-members if purchased in advance. Tickets purchased the day of the event will be \$35 per person for everyone, so order your tickets now and save!



In addition to the two homes shown on the front page, you will visit these five remarkable homes:



Telling stories about remarkable villagers, raising funds for Oak Park River Forest Museum

It was a glorious party on the last Thursday in March, marking a return of the Museum Gala and Heart of Our Villages Award after a two-year pandemic hiatus.



Kevin Jackson (center), Oak Park's new Village Manager, congratulates McLouis and Harriette Robinet.

And the party raised \$25,000 for the daily operation of Oak Park River Forest Museum, even as it put a bright spotlight on the life stories and accomplishments of the 2022 *Heart of Our Villages* award winners: Carlotta Lucchesi of River Forest and Harriette and McLouis Robinet of Oak Park.

The Robinet and Lucchesi families had a front row seat as *Wednesday Journal* writer and long-time editor Ken Trainor told the Robinets' story of nearly 60 years in the same home in Oak Park, overcoming adversity and discrimination even as they passed on their community spirit to their children. Harriette's career as an award-winning children's author and



Carlotta Lucchesi (center) with River Forest Village President Cathy Adduci (left) and OPRF Museum President Peggy Tuck Sinko.

Mac's career at Argonne Laboratory were lauded, but the couple's dedication to building community was highlighted.

River Forest Village President Cathy Adduci introduced Carlotta Lucchesi as her mentor, telling stories of Carlotta's long service as an elected school board member, and board member and volunteer for numerous Oak Park and River Forest not-for-profit organizations, including the Historical Society of OPRF. Described as a woman whose wise counsel and humble leadership has made her native Oak Park and beloved River Forest a better place, Lucchesi was lauded by Museum President Peggy Sinko as a woman who cuts through the extraneous to get to the heart of the matter.



The historic Nineteenth Century Club building proved to be the perfect venue for this celebration of service to our two villages.

(Photo by Debbie Mercer)

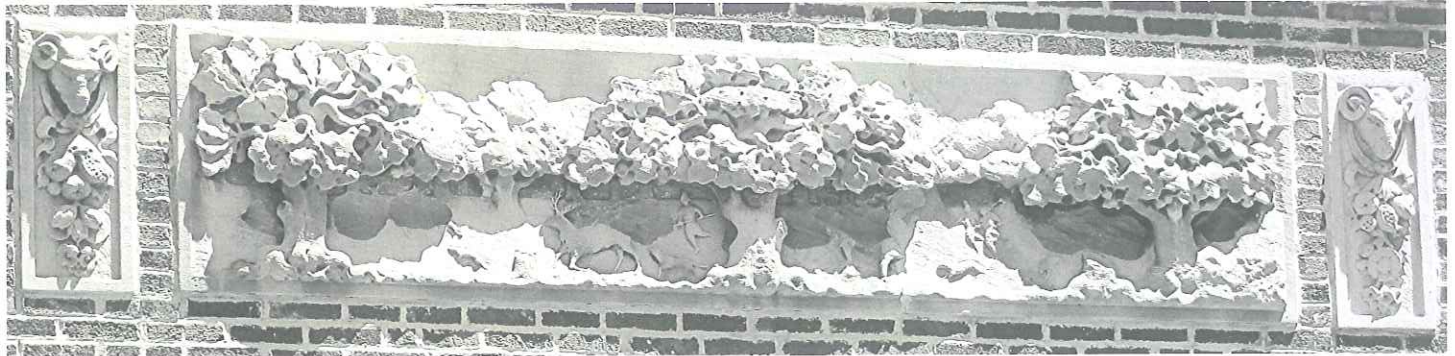
Support from the business community and the work of dedicated volunteers were essential to the success of the event (see logos on back cover of the newsletter) and Gala Committee members Mary Ann Porucznik, Jan Novak Dressel, Fran Knechel, Wendy Daniels, Jennie Stevens, and Peggy Tuck Sinko spent months planning the event.

More than 150 guests enjoyed drinks and appetizers as they re-connected with old and new friends in the Oak Park Landmark Nineteenth Century Club building in Downtown Oak Park. A video of the event was created by John Roberts to document the event for posterity and share to remote viewers via Zoom.



A Statement Carved in Stone: The Alexander Kryl House

by Debbie Mercer



Carvings over the portico of the Kryl House depict a forest deer hunting scene, flanked by rams' heads above a variety of fruits, vegetables, and flowers. The carvings are symbols meant to mark the home as a place of vitality, fertility, and plenty, as well as being a public exhibition of Alex Kryl's skill.

All houses have stories to tell. Babies are born in them, people die, couples get married, birthdays and anniversaries are celebrated. But more often than not, those stories are only known to the participants or their descendants. That is not the case with the house at 304 Home Avenue in Oak Park. Many of the stories of this house are written, or should I say carved, all over its façade.

The original owner of the home, Alexander

Kryl, was born in 1876 in Bohemia (today's Czech Republic) and emigrated to the United States in 1890 with his father, Jan, a stone carver; his mother, Josefa; and his siblings Bohumir (who became a famous cornetist and band leader),



The Kryl House is covered with carvings that are both a tribute to Alex Kryl's heritage and an advertisement for his skill.

Jan Jr. (John), and Frank. According to an article in the October 2011 issue of *Heritage Happenings*, *The Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery Newsletter*, Jan Sr. became a dairy farmer in McHenry County soon after his arrival, but not before he had passed

along his previous trade as a stone carver to his sons Jan Jr., Bohumir, and Alexander.

In 1901 Alex married Mary Witeska and moved to an apartment on 19th Street in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood, then a Czech enclave. Three children arrived in quick succession: Charles in 1902, Helen in 1904, and Blanche in 1906. It makes sense to assume that a growing family was the impetus for Alex and Mary to decide to build a house of their own and in 1913 *Construction News* magazine reported that Alex Kryl applied for a building permit for a 2-flat at 304 Home Ave. in Oak Park, A. G. Burter [sic], architect. The architect was actually Adolph G. Burtar, who designed many homes in Oak Park and Chicago both by himself and with his partner, Andrew Gassman.

Alex Kryl clearly had at least two objectives with his new home: show off his stone carving skills and pay tribute to his family, his heritage, and his success in America. The façade is completely covered with intricate carvings in Indiana limestone of faces, animals, trees, festoons of fruit, and other symbolic elements. It is a statement that proclaims both "This is who I am!" and "Look what I can do!"



Alex Kryl's mother, Josefa, identified by her granddaughter, graces one of the columns of the portico



This carving likely represents Jan Kryl, father of Alex.

According to his daughter, Blanche, who grew up in the house and is quoted in a 1978 article in *Oak Leaves*, the woman in the babushka is Alex's mother, Josefa, who had died in 1906.

There are several other faces carved on the house as well. Who they represent can only be

speculation, but the dapper fellow carved on the same pillar as Josefa is likely Alex's father, Jan.

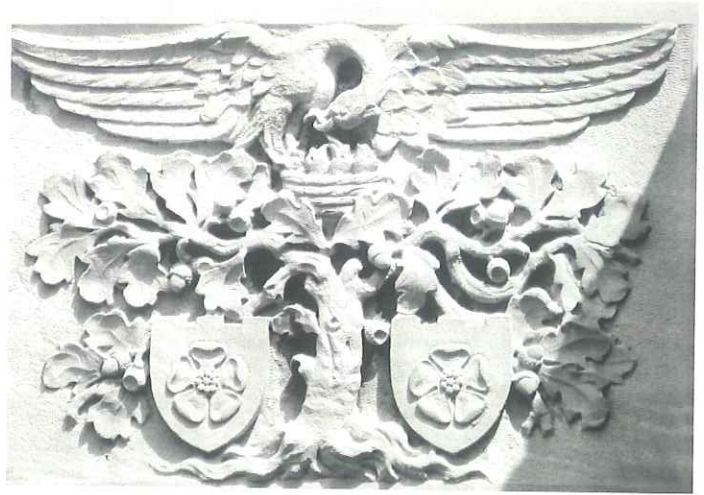
There are other female faces carved in various places on the porch who might represent Alex's two daughters or perhaps other female relatives. Unfortunately, some are suffering from severe erosion of the stone and other damage and sorely need restoration.

The house tells other stories, too. There are several high relief panels depicting forest scenes of animals and of men hunting. Some of the trees are obviously oaks, which Blanche said were a tribute to Oak Park. Other scenes appear to depict Alex's memories of the forests of Bohemia.



One of several bucolic forest scenes gracing the Kryl House.

There is another panel depicting what looks like an eagle feeding its young. I wasn't sure of the meaning and contacted the noted Chicago sculptor



The vulning pelican feeding its young. The five petals of the flowers on the shield represent faith, hope, charity, justice, and peace.

Walter Arnold, who has worked on Washington's National Cathedral among many other buildings, to get his input. He said that this scene depicts a pelican "vulning," or wounding herself to feed her young with her blood. In Christian and heraldic iconography it symbolizes both resurrection and parental self-sacrifice. The three chicks in the nest represent Alex's three children.

By 1920, Alex and his family had left Oak Park and returned to Chicago. He continued his work as a stone carver in the area, contributing to St. Catherine of Siena Church on Austin Boulevard, Lewis Hall at Rosary College (now Dominican University), and the Soldier's Monument outside the Cicero Town Hall.

Alex and Mary moved to Cicero where he died in 1943. They are buried in the Kryl family plot in Bohemian National Cemetery alongside his parents and many other family members.

We can be grateful to Alex Kryl for telling some of his story in the beautifully carved limestone at 304 Home Avenue. Wouldn't it be lovely if we could all leave behind a permanent reminder that said "I lived here"?



Kryl Family Monument

All pictures were taken by Debbie Mercer who loves taking architectural photos. See more of her work on Twitter at [DMercer @53viroqua](#).

A Woman for All Seasons: Nena Wilson Badenoch

by Jan Saeger

There is a long-standing tradition to name a significant home after the man who first lived in it and paid for it to be built, and River Forest has more than its fair share of such houses. However, the beautiful Tudor Revival style home at 555 Edgewood should be named for the woman who first lived there, for it was Nena W. Badenoch, not her husband Ben, who worked closely with architect William E. Drummond to design her dream house. Her goal was to "fill the needs of her family, avoid conflicts and build family happiness" according to her article entitled *A House To Grow Up In* which appeared in the March 1928 edition of *Good Housekeeping* magazine.

Nena Frances Wilson was born in Washington, Iowa, in 1889. After graduating from high school there, she came to Chicago to continue her education, majoring in Home Economics at the University of Chicago. It was there that she met her future husband, Ben H. Badenoch of Chicago, a fellow U. of C. student. They married shortly after she graduated in 1912.

After living in Chicago for a few years, the Badenochs (now a family of four) moved to 716 Bonnie Brae in River Forest in 1919. The need for a larger home became apparent in 1923 when they were expecting their third child. It was then that Nena Badenoch started working with Drummond to plan



Nena Wilson Badenoch in 1939, from *Delectable Dinners: Menus with Recipes*.

the interior of their new home on Edgewood Place. She believed children as well as adults, should have their own spaces, including their own bathroom.



The Badenoch House on Edgewood Place that Nena helped design.

There was even a powder room at the front entrance, which was quite uncommon in the 1920s. One of her children complained to an Auntie, "There are too many places to wash your hands!"

Nena believed in community service in River Forest, serving on the School Board when Roosevelt School was built, belonging to the River Forest Women's Club and the First Presbyterian Church and serving on the River Forest Library Board when the library was built. She often said one of her most enjoyable experiences was to captain the first River Forest Girl Scout troop, established late in 1926.

But, in addition to her prodigious volunteer work, she carved out an impressive professional career as well. In 1921, she wrote a promotional series titled *The Taylor Home Set* for Taylor Instrument Company, a manufacturer of cooking instruments. This was a guide to using Taylor instruments for roasting, baking, canning, making jams and jellies and candies when customers bought the complete set of Taylor Kitchen Instruments.

Now the mother of three, Nena still found time to co-author a cook book with Anna J. Peterson published in 1924, entitled *Mrs. Peterson's Simplified Cooking*. It sold well over 100,000 copies.

As a faculty member of the American School of Home Economics, Nena lectured on home economics all over the Midwest. She advocated for recognizing housekeeping as an economic contribution to the family as much as an external job would be, and argued persuasively that it therefore should be treated as employment. She published articles in numerous magazines and newspapers and wrote and produced radio shows about home economics. She was co-editor of as well as contributor to the 12-volume *Library of Home Economics: A*

Badenoch (continued from page 6)

Complete Home Study Course. In 1930, she wrote a charming children's book titled *Ring: The Story of a St. Bernard*, and a few years later wrote another children's book, *Go Home, Puppy*.

In the 1930s, the Badenoch family moved to the Boston area where Ben had taken a job, but before the decade ended, they returned to Chicagoland. Nena continued to pursue her career as a writer and professional home economist. She collaborated with Anna J. Peterson again to publish another cookbook entitled *Delectable Dinners*. It contains separate menus along with corresponding recipes and timetables to "save your time and simplify your daily household problems." The book "will be a special boon to housewives who are also business women, and to housewives whose social obligations are such that time consuming meal-planning is an abomination. In the hands of your maid, this book takes your place in directing while you're away." Nena herself was most likely the model for such encouraging statements on the back jacket cover.

During World War II, Nena was co-chair of the Women's Coordinating Committee for Civil Defense, organizing and coordinating the war efforts of all women's groups in Oak Park and River Forest. She lectured to community groups about "Efficiency on the Homefront," offering helpful suggestions for budgeting time and money and discussing the importance of food conservation in war time.

She served as President of the U. of C. alumni club and in 1949, was awarded the Citation of Merit from the University of Chicago for her public service to the community, the nation and humanity - a well-deserved honor.

After the war, she worked as the Director of Radio and Television Public Service for the Easter Seal Foundation. A 1954 article in *Forest Leaves* newspaper reported that Mrs. Badenoch had been posted to New York for the current year and would leave soon for Europe to set up programs in advance of the society's

September International Conference at the Hague. Mixing business with pleasure, Nena first toured several countries in Europe with her friend Besse Boynton, a founding member of the Oak Park River Forest Historical Society!

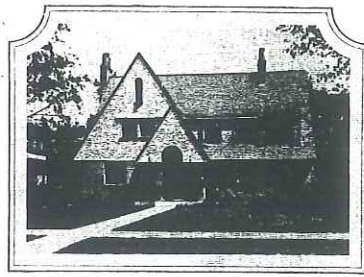
Nena retired from Easter Seals in the late 1950s, but she continued to stay busy. Recognizing that people of all ages and backgrounds have disabilities, she hosted a TV show on WTTW Channel 11 entitled *Grandma's Kitchen*, aimed at teaching children with hearing loss how to cook. As a member of American Women in Radio and Television, she received a McCall's Award for her public service work for youth, bringing stories of children with disabilities and their needs to the public.

In the mid-1960s Nena, now a senior herself, turned her talents to working with the Senior Citizens' Center of Oak Park and River Forest. In addition to serving six years on the Board of Directors, she was in charge of publicity and public relations. Among her greatest publicity triumphs was arranging for 35 members of the Center's chorus to travel to the studios of WGN

Television to film a program of Christmas carols. The program was so well received that WGN ran it again the following year. She was also a leader of the Center's creative writing group and would fill in when the regular teacher wasn't available.

Nena Wilson Badenoch remained active in charitable and community affairs almost to the end of her long life. She died on New Year's Day, 1985, at age 95. An incredibly talented and accomplished woman, she used her wide range of skills and interests throughout her life to benefit people of all ages. What can we add, except to exclaim, "What A Woman!"

Nena Badenoch lived at 544 Thatcher in River Forest, a two-flat she shared with her son and his family, from 1950 until 1985. This is one of the homes featured on *Tales Our Houses Tell*, our annual house walk coming on Sunday, May 1.



We wanted in our home a charm of exterior which would suggest hospitality and friendliness, and a hominess which would make it a contributing factor to the community in which it is placed.

A HOUSE TO
GROW UP IN By NENA WILSON
BADENOCH
The Example of These Thoughtful
Parents is a Good One for Others to Follow

Badenoch's brilliant essay in Good Housekeeping magazine. (March 1928)

Never Forgotten

By Robin Wardle and John Borland

When our board president Peggy Tuck Sinko donated the artifact pictured below to the museum recently, our millennial-aged Operations Manager Rachel Berlinski had never seen one before. But people of a certain age will know immediately what this item is: a POW/MIA bracelet. The bracelets were a means of remembering those who were Prisoners of War, Missing in Action, or whose fate was not known during the Vietnam War.



POW/MIA bracelets were a common sight during the early 1970s. Usually of nickel-plated steel (some were made of copper), they carried the name, rank, and date of loss for a service member missing in Vietnam. They were a non-partisan way of focusing attention on the war and showing support for the families of service members.

The bracelets were the brainchild of Carol Bates Brown and Kay Hunter, members of VIVA (Voices in Vital America), a Los Angeles based student organization. After the American withdrawal from Vietnam in 1974 and the return of POWs, public interest in the war and MIAs waned. VIVA shut down operations in 1976 having distributed nearly five million bracelets.

Lt. Charles Stackhouse is the name on this particular bracelet. A 1961 Naval Academy graduate, he was on his second tour in Vietnam when his aircraft was shot down on April 25, 1967. He was a

POW until March 4, 1973 when he was released. He returned to duty, retiring as a commander in 1982.

We wondered if Oak Park and River Forest were the homes of any who may have had their names on bracelets. We found a website called Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (dpaa.mil) that lists MIAs by state and home town. Looking through the Illinois list, there was exactly one from each village.

Army Lt. Joseph Paul Nolan Jr. of Oak Park was the pilot of a UH1H (Huey) helicopter in the 101st Airborne Division operating in northern South Vietnam. On May 16, 1971 Nolan was flying as part of a combat drop of South Vietnamese Marines in Thua Thien Province, near the city of Hue. As he landed, Nolan reported that he was taking heavy fire and that his crew chief was wounded. He immediately took off and climbed to about 250 feet. At that point, his engine lost power and the helicopter crashed into the treetops and exploded.



Joseph Paul Nolan, Jr. of Oak Park

All personnel were assumed killed, and a search and recovery mission found only a few burnt remains and no evidence of survivors. About six months later, the U.S. Army posthumously promoted Nolan to Captain. By that time, his family had left Oak Park and moved to Ohio.

Navy Aviation Electronics Technician 2nd Class Ronald E. Galvin of River Forest was an enlisted crew member on a Douglas A-3B Skywarrior assigned to Heavy Attack Squadron 4 flying off the aircraft carrier USS Kittyhawk. On March 8, 1967 his aircraft was on a strike mission over the Tonkin Gulf when it

(Continued on page 9)



Ronald Edmond Galvin of River Forest

disappeared. The wreck was never located and he remains unaccounted-for. Following the incident, the Navy promoted ATN2 Galvin to the rank of Chief Aviation Electronics Technician (ATC). Today, Galvin is memorialized on the Courts of the

Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific.


The bracelets and the mission they represented changed the life of one of the bracelet creators, too. Carol Bates Brown was majoring in Public Relations at San Fernando Valley State College (known today as California State University, Northridge) when she co-founded the bracelet program. She soon dropped out of college to devote her full-time efforts to the project.

While VIVA closed its doors in 1976, Brown never stopped working to help returning POWs and to bring closure to the families and loved ones of soldiers who never returned. She worked for decades in the Pentagon's P O W / M I A Intelligence Office under the Secretary of Defense. Now 73 years old and retired, she still lives



Carol Bates Brown in 1973 and in 2020

in the Washington, D.C. area and is still volunteering to help the families of POW/MIA's.

POW/MIA bracelets were initially made during the height of war in order to bring immediate awareness and remembrance of the sacrifice that comes with service to our country. Today, fifty years later, we still find these bracelets doing their duty. 

Glory Days: Brothers come home to OPRF Museum

In early March, the Pezza brothers stopped in at Oak Park River Forest Museum to walk down memory lane together.

Larry Pezza, a spry 93-year-old 1948 graduate was especially interested in material in our collection about the undefeated 1947 OPRF High School football team, whose unblemished record included a Suburban League championship and the No. 1 ranking in the state before the days of actual high school football playoffs, outscoring the opposition 240-18.



Pezza, a fullback on the team, even brought a jersey with his old number and wore an OPRF cap.

George (left) and Larry Pezza enjoy browsing through editions of Oak Leaves newspapers and OPRFHS Tabula yearbooks as they share memories of growing up in River Forest and their teen years at OPRF High School.

Younger brother George, a 1954 graduate, also played football. He shared a wide range of stories about classmates and teachers. The brothers talked about their large Italian family who lived just west of Harlem Avenue between Lake Street and the railroad tracks in a neighborhood with a number of Italian immigrants of modest means near Bowman Dairy and the Continental Baking plant.

Both shared humorous stories about their ill treatment at the hands of the Smoking Council, a group of junior and senior boys charged with enforcing the "No Smoking" regulations at OPRFHS. A sort of "kangaroo court," these classmates piled detention upon detention on the Pezza brothers for getting caught smoking on Lake Street near Euclid—off campus but still too close to avoid being penalized!

The Pezzas now live in the west suburbs. Their cousins enjoyed a visit to OPRF Museum last year and suggested they come home for a visit!



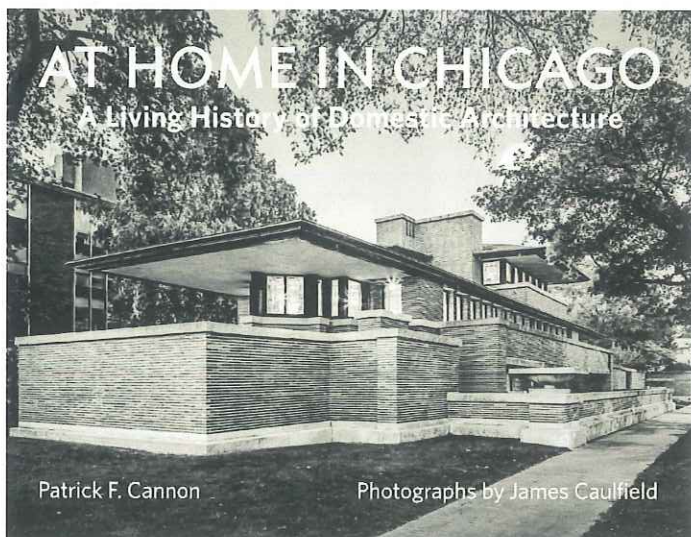
Coming Soon to Oak Park River Forest Museum

Thursday April 21st at 7:30 p.m.


The History of Chicago Told Through Fifty Iconic Houses

Please join us as we welcome author Patrick F. Cannon to tell us about his new book, *At Home In Chicago: A Living History of Domestic Architecture*.

Imagine a book that takes you into more than fifty of Chicago's most striking homes. No need to knock or ring. Here's your chance to take a slow virtual ramble through lavish dining rooms, working



kitchens, private bedrooms, and cozy patios of homes reflecting the city's history from before the 1871 Great Chicago Fire into the 21st century.

The presentation will last approximately 40 minutes, followed by a question and answer session. Admission is free for museum members. All others will pay the regular Museum admission price (\$5 for Oak Park and River Forest residents, \$7 for non-residents.) Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door. Autographed copies of the 360-page book will be available for \$65. 

Wednesday May 4th at 7:00 p.m.

The Happy Invention: Postcards and Visual Culture

The first picture postcards were published for the 1889 Paris Exposition, celebrating the completion of the Eiffel Tower. In America, the first picture postcards were printed for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago – making Illinois the birthplace of the American picture postcard. Since those flowery Victorian originals, billions of postcards of every aspect of life have been printed.




Katherine Hamilton-Smith

Katherine Hamilton-Smith, the founding curator of the Curt Teich Postcard

Archives-- the world's largest public collection of postcards and related materials-- presents a look at the documentary power and significance of picture postcards. She touches on the Curt Teich Company of Chicago, the role Illinois played in the history and development of postcards, and the picture postcard as a cultural icon.

This lavishly illustrated presentation runs about 50 minutes and will include examples of postcards from Oak Park and River Forest, plus questions/answers at the conclusion of the prepared remarks.

Tickets are \$5 for museum members and \$7 for non-members and may be purchased in advance or at the door. 

Tickets for these and other events are available online at oprfmuseum.org, by telephone at (708) 848-6755, or in the Museum gift shop at 129 Lake St., Oak Park, at the corner of Lake Street and Lombard Avenue. At present, wearing of masks within the museum is optional. Visit our website for the latest announcements and updates about programs and events from OPRF Museum.

More Fun Events Coming Later This Spring

Mark your calendars now and then visit OPRFMuseum.org or follow us on Facebook for updates as we finalize the details for these events

Saturday, May 14th

Thatcher Woods History Walk

John Elliott, a retired Cook County Forest Preserve naturalist who is also one of our great volunteers, will lead a walk through Thatcher woods while he relates the natural history of the forest and stories of the people who lived and worked here. This walk will start from and end at the Trailside Museum and include a brief history of that River Forest landmark.



Saturday, June 11th

Vintage and Antique Auto Show

OPRF Museum in association with the Oak Park Vintage Auto Club invites you to see dozens of classic, vintage, and antique automobiles that will be on display in front of OPRF Museum, along Lombard Avenue south of Lake Street, and on South Boulevard from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. Don't miss this free event that the whole family will enjoy.

Sunday, June 19th

Celebrate Juneteenth with us



Come take our free self-guided bicycle tour of historic sites that tell some of the many stories of African-American life in Oak Park. (If the weather is

bad or you're not a cyclist, you can take the tour by car.) And we're planning more to commemorate this day of joyous celebration and quiet reflection so please watch for updates. Our events will be scheduled earlier in the day so they will not conflict with the Village of Oak Park-sponsored car caravan and community picnic.

Selected Saturdays and Sundays
May through October

Neighborhood Walking Tours

OPRF Museum offers a variety of walking tours around different neighborhoods in our communities. These walks generally cover about one mile in distance and take 60 to 90 minutes. Each of our sidewalk tours are led



by OPRF Museum docents who share the history of the neighborhood while pointing out significant buildings and sharing stories about the people who built, worked, and lived in them.

Tickets for each of these tours are \$8 per person for OPRF Museum members (\$10 for non-members) and each tour is limited to no more than 20 people.

Watch for the announcement of this year's schedule of walking tours, coming soon. Any of our tours may also be booked as a private event for your company, club, or family. Call the Museum for information about booking a private tour.

History Matters

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We welcome your suggestions and comments. Please email us at: oprphistorymatters@sbcglobal.net



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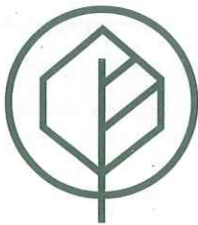
Thank You!



Photo by Debbie Mercer

Your generosity and support made the OPRF Museum Gala and Heart of Our Villages Awards Presentation an evening we will long remember!

With special thanks to the evening's corporate sponsors:



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