

# *The Vintage*

*Publication of the Madeira Historical Society*

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***The year is 2019**, 47 years since our founding in 1972, and 21 years since Elizabeth Miller gave her home to the Madeira Historical Society. What does the society look like after 47 years? In 1972 the society began as the main tenant of the historical B&O Railroad Depot. Our organization gutted the Depot, completely rewired and installed new plumbing including a new bathroom. We painted the exterior and the interior, but it wasn't long before city council decided that the Depot would better serve the community housing a business. The first business in the Depot was a gift shop run by two sisters. Later it became Wally's Ice Cream, owned by Walter Albright, a Madeira resident and member of the society. The Madeira Historical Society was left without a place to call home, until 1998, when Elizabeth Miller decided that the community needed a place to display Madeira history. Elizabeth also decided that the society needed a permanent home, here's how it happened.*

***It was a very cold snowy night** when Elizabeth Miller invited me into her living room, she had some news and wanted me to be the first to be told, she had made the decision, her home was to be donated to the Madeira Historical Society, after all some of our most prized possessions including the B&O RR Depot Pot Bellied Stove was already stored in her garage. This was 1998, I had been her neighbor since 1988, was already taking care of her two acres, mowing grass taking down fences and helping her husband Bruce with his vegetable garden. For some Madeira Historical Society members the gift was intimidating and even our president refused to sign his name on the documents accepting the property. Vice President Les LeFevre stepped up and put his name on the dotted line. We lost one board member who also was concerned about liabilities of accepting the property, he resigned as a board member. That was 21 years ago, our little museum today is a tribute to Elizabeth and to our members whom have contributed so much in blood, sweat and financially. What most Madeira residents and elected officials don't know is that Elizabeth left her property to every Madeira man, woman and child, the Madeira Historical Society serves only as "Caretakers", but no one should doubt Elizabeth Miller would be proud of the transition of her home if she were here today, 47 years after our founding and 21 years since the Miller House was left in our care.*

*Doug Oppenheimer, Memories.*

***Since our last newsletter, November 2018**, we had another enjoyable Christmas dinner at the Kenwood Country Club. Entertainment was provided by the Madeira Eighth Grade Choral*

*Group. Amendments to our Constitution were approved , and the membership approved the 2019 officers and Board members as follows, Douglas Oppenheimer, President, Donna Lienhart, Treasurer, Suzanne Floyd, Communications Secretary, Steven Ballman, Recording Secretary, Dianna Davis, Board Member, Bob Bartlett, Board Member, Liz Frederick, Board Member, Tom Frietch, Board Member, Les LeFevre, Board Member, and Todd Woellner, Board Member. The search goes on for a Vice President and a Board Member. Interested? Let us know.*

***New Museum Director Appointed,** Your board confirmed the appointment of Liz Frederick as the Miller House Museum Director. Liz has been a dedicated member of the society for most of the last decade, succeeding Dianne Davis as Museum Director. Dianne was the first person appointed as Museum Director, prior to her appointment Marian Brown and Dona Brock had the title of Museum Curator, meaning that Liz is only the fourth person in 21 years having the responsibility of overseeing the Miller House Museum. The society has been fortunate to have had four incredibly dedicated women overseeing our museum.*

***Madeira Historical Society 2019 Calendar,** Your 2019 calendar of events is enclosed with your newsletter. Will you post the calendar on your refrigerator? Some still do. The calendar highlights fundraisers, programs presented at our Madeira Branch Library, Miller House open House dates, Membership meeting dates, and much more. Please review your calendar.*

***Yard Sale / Madeira Mart,** May 18<sup>th</sup> drop off you gently used items for resale, call first, 561-9069 and let us know ahead of time, see calendar for details.*

***Miller House Grounds Cleanup,** March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9 AM – 1 PM, see calendar for details.*

***Ferrari's Little Italy Fundraiser,** April 7<sup>th</sup> 4 – 9 PM, see calendar for details.*

***Special Thanks,** Ken Neyer Plumbing repaired the drainage pipe located outside at no cost to the society, Karl Mattes Roofing repaired downspouts on the Miller House and installed new downspouts on the Greenhouse, and cleaned out our gutters, at no cost to the society. Todd Woellner, Board Member & owner of Woellner Enterprises, repaired many Museum artifacts, at no cost to the society.*

***Membership Expiration Dates Changing,** Your society is transitioning to an annual membership renewal date of May 1<sup>st</sup>, beginning May, 2019. Membership renewals are included with this copy of our newsletter, including a return envelope. Also we are asking that you confirm your current contact information, Name, Address, Telephone Number and an email address. If you have been a member but have overlooked keeping your membership current, we are including with your newsletter, a reminder notice and an opportunity for becoming current. The Society will be reviewing memberships that have been lapsed for a period exceeding 18 months, before removing those names from our list of members. Your membership in the Society is important and we want you to continue as members. Last, please be advised that you can*

*have your newsletter emailed and / or view the Vintage on our website, [www.madeirahs.org](http://www.madeirahs.org). Please advise us, phone, 561-9069 or [madeirahistoricalociety@gmail.com](mailto:madeirahistoricalociety@gmail.com). See our Website for further details regarding membership changes.*

### ***Miller House Museum, Director...***

***Thoughts & Ideas***, Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your new Miller House Museum Director, only the fourth to have this opportunity. I am excited and proud.

***It has only been a few weeks*** and it seems like time is flying by, as we prepare for the annual Miller House Museum 2019 reopening. Every room in the museum has been touched, furniture has been moved upstairs and downstairs, to accommodate our new look. I will be inviting visitors this year to imagine themselves not as visitors, but as residents living in the Miller House at a particular moment in time, a time in Madeira history. Our Museum is displayed as it might have been in 1948 back in time, all the way to the 1800's. Early Madeira is now displayed in what was Elizabeth's 1<sup>st</sup> floor Bedroom. Who were the first families responsible for the earliest settlements in Madeira? The Hoffmann Library still is home to our collection of Greater Cincinnati, Northern Kentucky, and Madeira books and personal picture albums. The extra space in the Hoffmann Library will be used for changing displays, beginning with the current display of toys of historic significance.

***Volunteers willing to serve*** as Docents and Greeters are needed at the Miller House Museum. Our museum is open beginning in April through December, and help is needed for "special" events including the spring visit of Madeira 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. Leave a message for Liz at 561-9069 if you are able to help at the Miller House.

***More*** Other important parts of the Miller House Museum experience include, the refurbished Chicken Coop, The Green House, and the Alligator Garden, located on the Museum grounds.

***Special Events***, "En Plein Air" Art Event, "Teddy Bear Picnic" for Preschool children, are in the planning stage.

***Your Support will be needed and appreciated,***

*Liz Frederick*

***Miller House Museum, Director***



# *Can You Help?*

*Our most  
urgent needs  
include a new  
driveway, six  
new front  
Porch columns  
And a sump  
pump installed  
in the garage.*



*Our driveway must be dug up and replaced, we can no longer just have it sealed. There are six columns on the front porch that are disintegrating and must be replaced. In our garage rain water flows from one end of the garage to the other, requiring that a sump pump be installed. There will be some repairs needed to the driveway retaining wall when replacing the driveway. It is estimated that the three projects can be completed for \$6,500.00. Please contact Doug Oppenheimer or Bob Bartlett if you are able to contribute to our three projects, 561-9069, or [consultdoug@cinci.rr.com](mailto:consultdoug@cinci.rr.com). Thank you in advance, for your consideration.*

*Your President and Board Members...*