

# *The Vintage*

*Publication of the Madeira Historical Society*

November 2020

[www.madeirahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.madeirahistoricalsociety.org)

513-561-9069

**ADAPT....** Since our beginning (1972), the Madeira Historical Society has always had to Adapt but nothing compares to 2020 and the effects of COVID-19. Looking on the bright side, we were fortunate that COVID wasn't a distraction before March, allowing for the restoration of the Miller House kitchen. The kitchen was restored back to a 1922 look, the year that the Miller House was built. When our last newsletter was mailed out in June, the Miller House Museum was required to delay opening, our programs at the library were all cancelled and we cancelled most fundraising activities. There was a flicker of hope in July when Governor DeWine allowed Museums to open with practices assuring that our guests would be safe from COVID 19. Docents and visitors alike were required to wear a mask and the society provided hand disinfectant at places throughout the museum. Reopening the Miller House Museum has turned out to be good for the society, including higher than expected number of visitors and cash donations.

**Board meetings....** COVID-19 has not prevented your Officers and Board Members from meeting and carrying out their duties. The Board in June, under the direction of our new President Steve Ballman, made the decision that because of COVID-19, and a drop in the value of our investments, transfers from investment accounts to our operations account had to be delayed. Also the society had unexpected cost exceeding \$5,000 following the tornado earlier this year, including tree and debris removal and a new Miller House roof. Insurance paid for the roof with the exception of a \$1,000 deductible.



There were at least ten trees cut down and removed from the Miller

House grounds. The view of the Miller House from Miami Avenue is greatly improved. Early next spring, the society will be required to raise \$3,700 for the removal of the towering White





Pine, just 20 feet from the house and leaning in that direction. The tornado already took out the mid-section of large branches, most of which landed on the house.

**Brochure Update....** More than a decade ago, plants and trees throughout the museum grounds were identified and labeled by the horticulturists from Spring Grove Cemetery & Arboretum. Since then, things have changed and we are in process of making a new trifold with some additional species. A new drawing will be made and we will try to get some new plaques where needed. We are hoping to get the same kind so everything is again uniform. Any friends of the society who would like to assist us with the cost, please let us know. We have visitors and neighborhood families touring our grounds even when we are not open. New brochures will be available outside in the information box when completed.

**Christmas Dinner....**Our Annual Christmas Dinner and Business Meeting has been cancelled due to COVID-19. At past annual meetings we have held the elections of officers and board members. Since this can't be accomplished in the normal way, we are including a mail-in ballot, for members in good standing, to cast their votes. For more details, see letter from President Ballman, included. This will be our last newsletter of 2020.

**End of Year Activities....** Miller House Open House dates are as follows:  
Sunday, November 15, 2020 1:00-4:00 PM  
Saturday, December 5, 2020 1:00-4:00 PM  
Sunday, December 20, 2020 1:00-4:00 PM

January through March of 2021, the museum will be closed for maintenance and repairs. If you are interested in being a volunteer, in 2021, contact the society at 513-561-9069.

**2021....** It is hard to believe that next year is fast approaching, hopefully the society will not need to ADAPT in 2021 as much as was required in 2020. It is expected that vaccines will be available for the fight against COVID-19 and that the worse will be behind us. Our society is working on a budget for next year and may soon know what activities can be reinstated in 2021. The society Officers and Board Members are optimistic, and are looking forward to a new year. Soon the society will begin year number forty-nine: proud owners of an outstanding museum, picturesque grounds and a supportive membership.

**THANK YOU!**



# Madeira Historical Society

*The Miller House*



November 8, 2020



Dear Members and Friends

Well, this has been an interesting year, and I want to say that I hope you and your family are doing well. For many of us this year has been a challenge, but there is a lot we can learn from times like these. We have learned to be flexible and adapt to what life throws at us. Despite the COVID 19 epidemic, your officers and board members have had four board meetings, and will have our final board meeting before years end. Board members have met outdoors, on the Miller House Grounds, while practicing "social distancing". As you can see, from our newsletters, members of the society have been busy, working inside and outside at the Miller House Museum. Dead trees have been removed by professionals, and several removed by members of our board. I personally want to thank my board members for everything that they have done, and continue to do. The Museum and grounds are in excellent shape.

Having to cancel our Christmas Dinner and Annual Business meeting is very disappointing and unfortunate. If you are willing and able an end of year tax deductible contribution to the society would be appreciated.

As temperatures drop this winter, new COVID 19 challenges will be introduced, try to stay positive, and stay in contact with your friends and family. Here at my home, the kids are back in school and I am mostly working from home. For the first time in memory, my twins were ready to go back to school.

If you have the time please stop by one of the three remaining Miller House Open House dates where you will admire our museum and grounds. We look forward to your visit.

Madeira Historical Society

*Steve Ballman*

Steve Ballman, President

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