

The Vintage

Publication of the Madeira Historical Society

September 2024 madeirahistoricalsociety.org 513-561-9069



Miller House Museum

After a hot, dry summer, where we experienced many days when temperatures reached the 90's, there is finally some relief with morning temperatures in the low 60's. The year 2024 has also been a busy year including projects and events exceeding our original planning. The Madeira Historical Society Board and membership have done an outstanding job. Thank you for all your efforts.



Our new fundraiser, the major raffle began in May and ended in August, when winning names were drawn during the Madeira Street Dance. The Street Dance is an annual City of Madeira event that includes food trucks, music, and opportunities for mixing with old and new friends. Our major raffle was very successful bringing in needed revenue beginning at the Madeira Art Fair. The raffle revenue allowed the society to acquire two new laptops, tree removal on the Miller House grounds, and Memorial Project landscaping. In addition the society invested in a ticket hopper that can be used in future raffles. Attached photo shows the winning raffle tickets being drawn with assistance from Madeira Police Officer, Ed Farris.



The memorial bench has arrived

and the landscaping has been installed. Our bench and landscaping will be a lasting memorial to those Madeira Historical Society members that have served the society since our founding in 1972. The bench was made in Lebanon, Ohio at Art & Stone, a business specializing in stone products. Inside the museum, a small digital photo frame will be placed that will allow

the society to insert the names of deceased members. We are still in need of a volunteer to post the names of those deceased members, call 513-240-4348 to help. An official dedication date will be in October TBD.

First annual "Membership Picnic" The society officers and board members just held the "First Annual Madeira Historical Society Membership Picnic". The picnic was held on the Miller House grounds which included games, food, refreshments, and music. Music was furnished by husbands of board members Carol Heck and Lisa Violand. Member Matt Brockhage played his trumpet. All of the men were very





entertaining. The band from left to right include, Norm Heck, Bob Littmann, Trevor Scott, and Bruce Violand. The picnic attendees enjoyed hot dogs, hamburgers, and chicken sandwiches, with many sides that were provided by officers and board members. Grill man was Mike Widmeyer with help from Tom Frietch. Hospitality was overseen by Carol Heck with assistance from other board members. Due to better-than-expected attendance, tables and one more large tent had to be purchased. The



picnic afforded the board an opportunity to meet society membership. It has been proposed that our membership cost should be increased slightly in the future, and



the picnic should become an annual event.

Christmas Dinner at the Kenwood Country Club,

Wednesday, December 18th beginning at 6 PM. The Madeira Historical Society is looking forward to your attendance at this year's Christmas Dinner and Business Meeting. Invitations will be mailed out in October with all the details. The cost per person this year will be \$60.00, a slight increase.



We are pleased that the Madeira's 4th grade Choral Group will be at our Christmas celebration again this year.

Yes, we did have Christmas in July, our museum director Liz Frederick has tried "new ideas"

this year at the museum on days that the museum is open. In July we had Christmas in July. Liz and her helpers decorated the entire Miller House Museum including Christmas trees in nearly every room. Santa



Claus stopped by in his summer attire, he brought candy canes for the many children. Can't wait to see the ideas Liz will come up with for next year.

“Carol’s Madeira History Stories”, for several years Carol “Klenk” Heck wrote and had her Madeira stories published in a monthly magazine. The stories were vastly popular but were not available online until now. Carol, who serves as the Miller House Librarian and Archivist, decided that her stories needed a permanent home where Madeira residents and others would be able to access and read her stories at will. Carol also wanted a place where she could begin adding new and exciting Madeira stories. That place is the Madeira Historical Society Website, madeirahs.org. The author, as a young child, began her life in Madeira when the community was still relatively a small town. Her father, Bob Klenk, was part of a large Madeira family. Carol’s home was on Laurel Avenue across from the Brockhage Landscaping company but her house would eventually be sold, making way for a new Madeira Kroger Store. Today the site is home to the McCabe Do-it Center. After her home was sold, Carol resettled in Noth College Hill, but her heart was always in Madeira. It was about five years ago when she became active in the Madeira Historical Society as both the Librarian and Archivist. Since then her achievements have continued, making her an important part of the society.



Cincinnati's Abandoned Subway

Saturday, October 12, 1 p.m.
Madeira Branch Library

Beneath the streets of Cincinnati lies a vast man-made cavern. Never used for its intended purpose, the subway that never ran still exists and is maintained today. Presented by Ray Grothaus at the Madeira Library in partnership with the Madeira Historical Society.

For Adults



Cincinnati & Hamilton County
Public Library: Madeira
7200 Miami Ave.
Madeira, OH 45243
513-369-6028
CHPL.org/events

Plan to attend, October 12th Open MHS Meeting but before this fantastic program we will have an open membership meeting at the library from 12 PM -1 PM. Board members will be on hand to discuss past and future meetings and events. Hope to see you at the membership meeting beginning at 12 PM, and the 1 PM program.



Identification tags, It was more than two decades ago when society member Art Adamson suggested that we should identify the more than 38 trees found on our property. Art

offered to underwrite the entire cost of the project, including assistance from the Horticulture

Taxonomist employed at Spring Grove Cemetery. The project was a huge success but over time our tags have worn out or have been damaged as shown in the attached photos. We are ordering new tags that will replace all of our existing tags, including the white temporary tags. If this project appeals to you and you would be interested in underwriting the cost please call Carol or Doug at 513-561-9069.

Horseshoe Gardens Rehabbed, Elizabeth Miller is responsible for the name “Horseshoe Gardens” located in the back of the Miller House grounds. Over time, some of our plants have died out and need to be replaced. Members, Mike and Kathy Brunner, have recently given the society \$200.00 towards plant replacement. It was decided that the new plants should be peonies, complimenting the surviving plants currently still in the Horseshoe Gardens. The new peony plants have been purchased and are being kept in the sellers greenhouse until Bob Brockhage decides the right time for planting. Thank you to everyone helping in this project.

Remembering Tom and Bruce

*Thomas R. Frank, on the left,
April 3, 1938-June 14, 2024*

*Bruce R. Miller, on the right
March 10, 1944-August 18, 2024*



Tom Frank is sitting at the left of Les LeFevre selling drink tickets at our annual Christmas Dinner at Kenwood



Country Club. Bruce Miller Jr. is shown on right, handing Bob Bartlett a donation from the Miller Family. His mother Elizabeth, donated her home and grounds to the Madeira Historical Society in 1998. The Society has prospered and grown since receiving the Miller House. We owe it to our members like Tom and Bruce for our success. If you know of a member that has recently passed, please notify the Vintage staff so that we can acknowledge their passing; thank you.

You are invited! Please plan to attend our last “open meeting” on **November 16th** at 12 PM and stay for our last program beginning at 1 PM. The meeting and subsequent program will be held at the Madeira Public Library. Madeira Historical Society officers and board members will be present at the membership meeting. We hope to see you on the 16th. Presentation will be done in first person. Annie Oakley comes to life right in front of your eyes. Presented by Joyce Lovins Browning.



Annie Oakley- 1860-1926- Born Phoebe Anne Moses in Greenville Ohio, “Annie” as she was known by her family, was an American Sharpshooter. Her amazing talent first came to light at age 15 when she won a shooting match against traveling-show marksman by the name of Frank E. Butler, a man whom a year later she would marry.

The couple joined *Buffalo Bill's Wild West* show where Annie Oakley became a renowned international star, performing before royalty and heads of state. She was also known as “Watanya Cicilla”, a name which was given to her by

Chief Sitting Bull and in his Lakota Sioux language it meant, “Little Sure Shot”. This presentation is portrayed around 1914 after her retirement as she looks back on her eventful life.

She often said that her philosophy about women and guns was-
“I would like to see every woman know how to handle firearms as naturally as they know how to handle babies.” by Annie Oakley



NOTE: Annie will be bringing gun replicas for her presentation, please make sure your group is aware and acceptable of this. They are for display only. An example of the rifle replica is shown in the picture above. The other replica is an 1800's style pistol. A small table for pictures is needed too.

Personal BIO- Joyce Lovins Browning- is a native of Ohio growing up in Harrison and living in the Millville area for the last 48 years. She has been performing Living History for more than 20 years. She retired in 2018 from Great Parks of Hamilton County as the Naturalist Coordinator and a has retired from Amazing Travel Treasures as a Tour Coordinator in May of 2024.



Liz continues dreaming up projects, our Museum Director Liz Frederick came up with this project this past August that was well attended and enjoyable by those that participated. Liz explained canning utilizing the Hoffmann Library as the Demonstration area. Some of the participants were lucky enough to take home canned tomato sauce. Thank you, Liz, for this project.

So, you want to Learn to Can?
Join us Sunday, Aug. 18th starting at 1:00 for a water-bath canning demonstration. Fun, Free, & Fruitful



Miller House Museum
7226 Miami Ave.

Madeira Historical Society
513-561-9069

Letter From the President September 26, 2024

Madeira Historical Society, Friends

I can't recall a busier year, yet our Board Members and Officers with membership have always risen to every occasion. The society has aged, meaning that we began in 1972, and have a lot to be proud of since that time. There was no Miller House in 1972, there was strong support early on for a historical society. No one could have guessed that we would be given and trusted with a 1922 Sears & Roebuck Home just outside of Downtown Madeira. Elizabeth Miller expected that her home would be kept as a museum, displaying the history of the community that she had embraced since 1948. I am confident that my friend Elizabeth Miller is looking down on her home and grounds, happy with the results since her passing, and now she has her son Bruce at her side. Bruce was her strongest supporter when she decided to give her home to the Madeira Historical Society in 1998. It was an incredible gift legally, but in effect was a gift given to the community. I was there from the beginning, sitting in her living room when Elizabeth told me about her plans giving her home to the society, understanding her expectations, a museum and maintaining the surrounding grounds. The Madeira Historical Society has risen to the occasion meeting and surpassing her expectations. But the society is in need of a few good people with an interest in history, specifically Madeira history. Our Board consist of 12 members, officers and board members. Every board member accepts some degree of responsibility and commitment, attendance at board meetings, helping at open houses at the Miller House Museum, and making decisions on the spending of our monetary resources. Our volunteers work hard when needed but enjoy the results of their work. If you are willing to serve the society as a board member or participate in other society activities, please let me know, consultdoug@fioptics.com. Thank you for supporting the society.

Douglas Oppenheimer,
President

Thank-You Jim for all your help and expertise. You are amazing!

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