



ELECTION 2014  
ONE YEAR TERM  
 VOTE FOR TWO  
 BARBARA BANNON  
 TONI BLAESER

THREE YEAR TERM  
VOTE FOR THREE  
 CAROL GARIBAY  
 RICHARD HOMERDING  
 DORIS PETERMAN

# Cornerstone

Lemont Area Historical Society  
 306 Lemont Street Lemont IL 60439  
[lemontahs@gmail.com](mailto:lemontahs@gmail.com)  
[www.lemonthistorical.org](http://www.lemonthistorical.org)

NOVEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER  
 NOVEMBER 18: 6:45pm GENERAL  
 MEMBERSHIP MEETING &  
 7pm.PROGRAM AT VFW HONORING  
 VETERANS  
 DECEMBER 7: CHRISTMAS CHORAL &  
 COOKIE FEST 1:30-4PM.  
 Drop-off Cookies: Dec 6 10-2pm or Sat 8-  
 Noon



**PATRICIA GWODZ FITZGERALD  
 P. J.**

It is with deep sadness that we wish to inform our members that one of our staunch supporters and Life Members, Patricia (P.J) passed away on October 23, 2014. Here is a graduation photo of her in 1960 full of promise not knowing what life had to offer but eager to begin the journey.  
**MEMORIAL SERVICE:NOV 16 AT MUSEUM 1:30PM.**

## **VFW – NOVEMBER 18 GIVING THANKS TO OUR VETERANS**

**7pm.**

We would really appreciate your getting the word out about our upcoming program honoring veterans WWII Our President Susan Roy has mentioned this in her letter too. If you know someone who served in this war please invite them. If you have any memorabilia from your family relating to this please bring it. Share the memories or relate those that were told you by someone who served and is no longer alive. Thank you.

## **UPCOMING EXHIBIT ON 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF EASTLAND DISASTER IN CHICAGO**

**If you or your family, friends have anything to share about this disaster please contact us. We know that there were people from Lemont that were on it.**

**Lemont Historical Society  
and  
VFW Post 5819  
Present Veterans' Day Tribute**

2014 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Normandy invasion, D-Day, on June 6 1944. This most important battle of WW II in Europe between the Western Allies and German forces, was the "beginning of the end" of the war in Europe.

The Lemont Historical Society and Veterans from VFW Post 5819 will combine to present firsthand accounts of WW II events on November 18, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the VFW Post, 15780 New Avenue in Lemont.

The public is encouraged to attend this event to pay tribute to those who have served our country and given their all to the cause of freedom. Free Admission. Students and families welcome. Refreshments available.

***President's Message .Best Regards, Sue***



Dear Members

First I would like to thank those who came to "Fright Nite" and also to those who pitched in to help us pull off another successful event: Barbara Bannon, Barb Buschman, Gayle (New Story Winner) & Joe Deskovich, Susan Donahue, Carol Garibay, Rick Meyer, John Quinn, Jackie Uznanski, Bill Uznanski, and Rose Yates. Gary and I were happy to share our encounters with the spirit world too. Special thanks to Karen Bushman for allowing us to borrow her popcorn machine – it is always a treat pleaser.

Please circle your calendars for November 18 as we honor the veterans of WWII at the Lemont VFW on New Ave starting at 7pm. If you know of anyone who served please invite them to come and share their stories as we give them a well deserved night of, "God Bless & Thank You!" Note: Our election and General Membership Meeting will start at 6:45pm. that evening.

The holidays will soon be upon us and I just want to friendly remind our members that yes, we will have our Annual Christmas Choral and Cookie Fest on Sunday, Dec 7th. Your skills as bakers are well known so please bake some small cookies, or fudge for us. The dates for drop-offs are Fri, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>, from 10am-2pm and Sat, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, from 9am-noon.

We wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Patricia (PJ) Fitzgerald on her passing. She was a mainstay of the LAHS for years and will be missed.

I want to finally thank all of you for making 2014 a special and successful year for the LAHS and to wish you and your families a "Merry Christmas & a Happy, Prosperous, and Healthy New Year – 2015!

Best Regards, Susan Roy

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT CHANGES TO BE VOTED ON AT NOV GEN. MEET**

Proposed at May 7, 2014 LAHS Bd.  
Meeting by Life Member, Gail August  
Proposed Amendment #1: Article VI:  
Executive Board, Section #4-Term, Part B.  
Directors

Current Wording: A Director shall serve for 3 years or until a successor is elected. A Director shall serve not serve for more than 2 consecutive terms and shall not be eligible for election as a Director until a lapse of 1 year.

New Wording: A Director shall serve for three years or until a successor is elected. A Director shall serve for not more than 8 consecutive elected years which includes full and partial elected terms and shall not be eligible for election as a Director until the lapse of 1 year.

Proposed Amendment#2: Article VI:  
Executive Board, Section #4-Term, Part C.  
Partial Term

Current Wording: The time a person has served filling a vacancy by appointment shall not be counted in term limitations.

New Wording: The time a person serves filling a partial term by election will count in term limitations

## *Genealogy Corner*



*By Barb Bannon*

### **Interview Yourself**

The first steps suggested to someone new to Family History research is to start with yourself and work backwards. Talk to your closest relatives while you still have that rich source of information available. The standard is to begin your family tree by writing down as much basic information as you can remember about your relatives. This might include dates and locations of birth, marriage, and death; names of spouses and children; schools & churches attended occupations and military service.

What is not stressed is the gap that you may leave in your research by not including yourself. You know more about your own history than anyone else; be the interviewer and interviewee at the same time. Have patience, don't just jump to the Internet to find all you can about your family, but accumulate all of the facts you can about your own life. The more information you have gathered about yourself prior to searching the multitude of Genealogical websites, the better you will be able to determine your relatives from the many people with the same name.

Don't think of this as writing a detailed autobiography, but take the time to record some of the major events, feelings and experiences from your own life. Begin with just the basics. Add more stories overtime and eventually cover every stage of your life; what you know about your birth, childhood, school years, raising your own family etc. Touch on the major points of your employment, beliefs, travels and favorites. No matter how routine you think it seems to you, years from now your descendants will be intrigued by your

thoughts. The effort you put into this will likely mean as much to your descendants as the family tree you create.

It's wonderful to find a journal, diary or even a simple letter or card in the handwriting of a long deceased ancestor, maybe one you never met, it's a real treasure. I am lucky to have from relatives a few notes on photographs, cards from special occasions and also some letters written during WWII. To be able to read about their life in their own words, learn how the events of the war impacted their day to day lives is true family history. Add your own handwritten note along with scans of handwritten documents to a family tree program to give it a much more personal touch and bring a sense of closeness to those who passed before us.

There are many family history sites that have suggestions about conducting interviews and what questions to ask. I have saved a list of fifth that I like to use; below is just a sampling.

How did your family come to live where you were born?  
Who were your friends when you were growing up?  
Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?  
Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?  
When and how did you meet your spouse?  
What did you do on dates?

Just think of all the questions you would have like answered by the people that are no longer with you; those are the questions you should ask yourself.

**Genealogy - where you confuse  
the dead and irritate the living**

## Mailbox



**Question:** My children, ages 8 and 12 have shown a bit of an interest in our family history. They have started asking questions about the lives their grandparents. What is a good way to get them interested in genealogy?

**Answer:** Ideally having conversations with living relatives about the way life was when they were growing up is great. If they are not available you can introduce them to their grandparent's generation through photographs showing how clothing and hairstyles have changed. Music and movies are also a way to get young people interested; they may be amazed at seeing the silent movies from the past! For recording the information they will find along the way, there are many books and websites intended for children.

If you have a general genealogy question please send it via regular mail or email to [lahsgenes2@yahoo.com](mailto:lahsgenes2@yahoo.com) with "Genealogy Corner Mailbox" in the subject and we will do our best to have the answer in the next newsletter.

## **Connecting Branches**



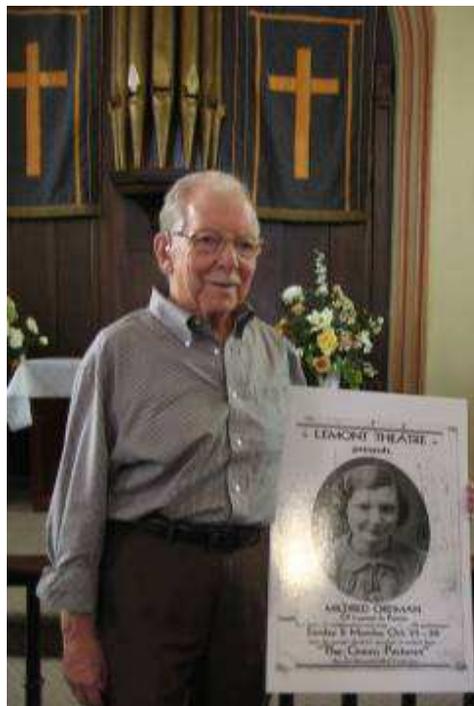
The Genealogy Committee has been made aware of the following new family names being researched:

**Virginia Burkhardt - researching Salika and Kromryk names**

If you are doing research and would like to contact these or other genealogists, please let us know by leaving a message at the

Museum 630-257-2972 or by e-mail to [lemontahs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lemontahs@sbcglobal.net)

## **LEMONT STREET FAIR 2014**



**ABE (RED) ORDMAN**

Mr. Abe Ordman was gracious enough to come to our Lemont Street Fair and share his memories of his family and the early beginnings of their store here in Lemont started by his father and uncle.

We know that there were people who were disappointed that they were unable to attend and we do apologize but were limited in the time frame of getting the word out.

Mr. Ordman also donated a poster of his late sister, who was able to mimic entertainers of the time and appeared in theaters recreating the illusion that these entertainers were there in person.

We are grateful for his presentation and look forward to other programs in the near future on subjects relating to his family history.

*SOCIETY NEWS* 

*By Susan Donahue*

**TWO NEW LIFE MEMBERS**

Bruce Taylor & Rick Homerding recently received Life Memberships for their efforts to upgrade our museum lighting among other things. We appreciate all their hard work as they keep the tradition alive of volunteers answering the call to help the LAHS.



**NEW MEMBERS:**

Welcome Lucy Gscilwind, Hope Shannon as new members along with Cathy Bouly, who is involved in the Bolingbrook Preservation Commission, into the LAHS fold.

We also congratulate the Bolingbrook community on being 50 years old this year. "HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOLINGBROOK!"

**ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH  
CELEBRATES 175 YEARS –  
CONGRATULATIONS!!!**

I think everyone probably knows that my family has been a parishioner of St. Patrick's for generations and I happened to be on an ad hoc committee that presented a program at the library. Several parishioners joined me including Rose Yates as we reminisced about our time at St. Patrick Church & School each giving a different perspective of our experiences depending on when we were there. It turned out very well thankfully due

to those who participated. We also had David Carroll, artist, who donated two daguerreotypes to the church. One as a remembrance and one to be later auctioned off. On Sunday there was mass and afterward a luncheon at CogHill. One of our own LAHS Board Members, John Quinn's son, Gavin, honored us by playing the bagpipes at church. .



**ST. MATTHEW'S EVAN. LUTHERAN  
CHURCH: 140<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY-  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

We would also like to congratulate St. Matthew's on their 140<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary, which they also celebrated on Oct 19<sup>th</sup>. Their services included the Chicago Gargoyle Brass and former choir members were also invited to join in singing in the choir.

They had their luncheon at the Crystal Ballroom on Archer where a table of artifacts were on display and a video presentation done with a pro-camera of their bell tower along with a dvd presentation on their history was shown.

**ST. CYRIL & METHOIDIUS CHURCH  
CELEBRATES 130 YEARS!  
CONGRATULATIONS!**

We wish to acknowledge the celebration of St. Cyril & Methodius Church who are celebrating 130 years on November 8 with a mass and dinner/dance at the Palos Country Club. Know one of my cousins, Claire, is in preparation for adding her voice in the choir.



## STEPPING BACK IN TIME

By Susan Donahue

### REMEMBERING P.J.

You will forgive me if I wax nostalgia as I celebrate the life of a very good friend, who adopted me as little sister. She took me under her wings when I first joined the LAHS showing me the ins and outs of the organization. It was quite an adventure and I do so appreciate her patience.

She and I shared enthusiasm for writing and history. She was a fighter encouraging others to join in making Lemont a better place. Who can forget the “Ban the Billboard” campaign that brought the Chicago press to our doorstep. I remember going out with her to pass out flyers alerting people to the cause – one person called the police because we had touched her car, but the police just drove by and didn’t approach us. Petitions were circulated. The railroad backed off and in 1997 P.J. was honored as “Lemont Citizen of the Year” because of this victory for all of us.

She formed an organization called LCAN-Lemont Citizens Awareness Network. There were public hearings and environmental issues to take on and I can still remember how she struggled to speak holding her jaw as her insidious MG tried to silence her, but she wouldn’t let it win.

She was editor of the LAHS newsletter for many years and she told me that both Sylvia Savage and Sonia Kallick would contribute to it. They would never talk about what they would write about but somehow the day they meet to paste it together it was like all three were of the same mindset and each column blended like it was planned.

Just recently she told me that one of the things she had enjoyed doing was working on the LAHS calendar that she, Rose Yates, and I had worked on and she especially liked the photo of my parents wedding picture. Kind heart.

She worked the Rummage Sales when we had them, was a Sunday Volunteer and privately told me that she hoped I didn’t mind, but she choose which parts of the museum interested her and that was what she shared with our visitors. I said, “It’s ok whatever works for you.”

P.J. was part of the Lemont ‘s 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Book Committee. She was one of the proofreaders and I can still remember Barb Buschman, Rose Yates, P.J. and myself going to the Village Hall on Memorial Day when the building was officially closed. We were wrapping up the book and it was our last meeting before sending off the final material to the publisher as we wanted it done by Heritage Fest for sale. As we discussed it P.J. fought for an index – now the rest of us said, “Tomorrow is the deadline for getting it to the publisher.” She said, “That gives me 24 hours and I so believe it needs it and I will make sure it gets done.” I asked her if she needed help, no I can do this. Well if anyone looks in the back of the book you know it has an index and now you know why.

She was the one who pushed for us to rent the museum out for weddings, etc. and was so grateful to Joanne Pick that she became Chair and followed through on it. I would tell her stores about the weddings and how important they were to us and how her persistence made it happen and she would say, “I am glad to have been a small part of it.”

Her body failed her but her mind was sharp as was her wit. Getting back to my being adopted as her “Little Sister” I told her I was honored that she had thought of me that way and I would try to live up to it, but didn’t

really have any experience in what a little sister should be like but I would look into it. I had read that one ingredient is being annoying in a good way and so I told her what I had read and I would try to practice to live up to it and she said, "Susan, you don't need to practice you have got it down pat." "Your not just saying that to make me feel good." "No, you are a fast learner." We both laughed.

On November 16 at the museum there will be a Memorial Service for P.J. at 1:30 to celebrate her life, but her spirit will always be a part of my life --"God Bless You, P.J."

**Lemont Area Historical Society**

*In the Old Stone Church at*  
306 Lemont Street Lemont, IL 60439  
630-257-2972  
www.lemonthistorical.org

**Museum Hours**

10 am to 2 pm Tuesday, Friday  
10 am to 1 pm Saturday  
1 to 4 pm Sunday

**Library Committee**

Meets 10 am to 12 noon on Wednesday.  
Visits by appointment only.

**The main floor of the museum is available for weddings, meetings, and events.**

**Board of Directors**

President Susan Roy  
1st Vice President Rose Yates  
2nd Vice President Richard Lee  
Secretary Susan Donahue  
Treasurer Gary Roy

**Board Members**

Barbara Bannon ,Patricia Camalliere, Carol Garibay, Richard Homerding, Doris Peterman, John Quinn,Wm. Uznanski

**Committees:**

**Strategic Planning:** Gary Roy, Susan Roy

**Resource Center:** Carol Garibay  
Collections, Library, Genealogy,  
Oral Histories, Photographs

**Community Outreach:** Rose Yates  
Publicity, Historic Sites

**Human & Financial Resources**

Fund Raising- Richard Homerding, Grant Writing

**Exhibits:** Richard Lee

**Program:** Gary Roy, Susan Roy

**Tours:** Gail August

**Membership:** Susan Donahue

**Wedding Committee:** Carol Garibay, Susan Donahue

**Building & Maintenance:** Bill Uznanski, Richard Lee, Richard Homerding

**Web Master:** Paul Froehle

**Society members are encouraged to participate in Committees and Subcommittees**

ATHENS MARBLE CLUB MEMBERS  
VILLAGE OF LEMONT  
LEMONT TOWNSHIP  
LEMONT PARK DISTRICT

**Lemont Area Historical Society Membership**

**Student**

**Senior Citizen:\$10.00 -----**

**Individual: \$15.00 -----**

**Family: \$25.00 -----**

**Corporate:\$50.00 -----**

**Life Member:\$200-----**

**Old Quarry Club:\$250.00 -----**

**Friends of Keepataw:500.00 -----**

**Athens Marble Club:\$1,000.00 ----**

**Additional Donation \_\_\_\_\_**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: LAHS 306 Lemont Street  
Lemont, IL 60439**

The Cornerstone newsletter of the Lemont Area Historical Society, a not for profit organization as set forth by the provisions of the State of Illinois. *Cornerstone* is published six times a year with a circulation of 200 to 300 issues. Offices for Cornerstone are located at 306 Lemont Street, Lemont, IL 60439. The editor may be contact or writing to the Lemont Area Historical Society, 306 Lemont St, Lemont, IL 60439, or leaving a message at the museum at 630-257-2972. We reserve the right to edit and rewrite to comply with our style. For information about membership in the Lemont Area Historical Society and memorials see the membership application elsewhere in the newsletter