



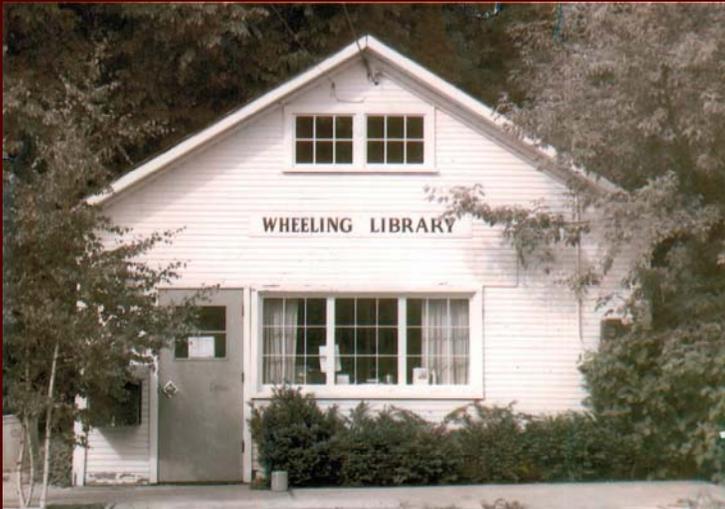
Wheeling Historical  
Society and Museum  
Newsletter

## Spring Is Almost Here

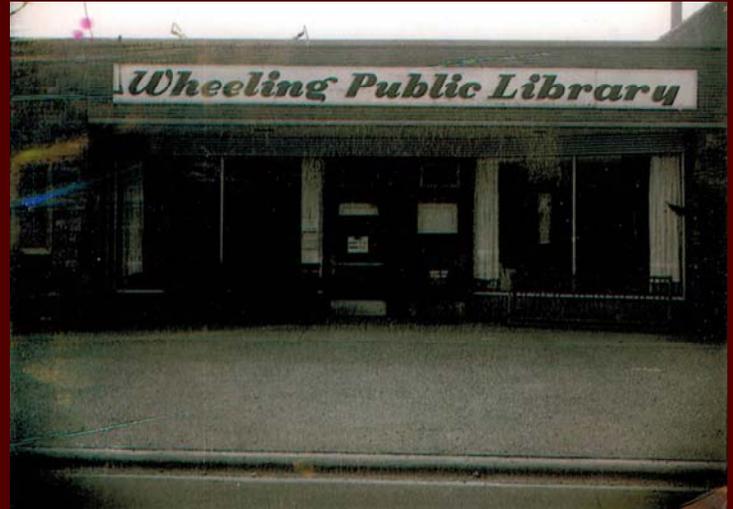
May 2016

Volume 25, Issue 3

The Wheeling Historical Society and Museum celebrates the link between the past and the present. The museum is a cooperative effort of the Village of Wheeling, Wheeling Park District, Indian Trails Public Library.



1st "official" location of Wheeling Library  
A garage behind the Union Hotel.



2nd location of Wheeling Library  
24 S. Milwaukee Avenue.  
Formerly the Welfin Variety Store.

**CHANGES ARE COMING TO THE INDIAN TRAILS PUBLIC LIBRARY. A BRIEF HISTORY AND MORE PICTURES CAN BE FOUND ON THE INSIDE PAGES OF THIS NEWSLETTER. WITH THE UNVAILING OF THE NEW LIBRARY FACILITY DETAILED THEREIN. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO THE UNVAILING OF THE NEW LIBRARY WITH ALL THE NEW FEATURES IT OFFERS TO ITS PATRONS.**



3rd location of Wheeling Library  
Formerly St. Marks Church.



Current Library location  
355 Schoenbeck Rd. --- currently under renovation

## IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR YEARLY MEMBERSHIP

**The Curator's Corner — Patti Steilen**



There are changes in the display cases in the Museum. We have a display of decorative plates and a library display for viewing. Stop in on Sundays to see them.

The history of plates is very interesting. It is believed that flat sea shells and dried leaves were the first items used to put food on. As time passed clay and wooden vessels were used to hold food. The wooden vessels proved to be a problem when milk products and meat were used. Germs would remain in the porous cracks and many people became ill; some even died. For this reason the Jewish community used Kosher dishes, which meant only one set was used for dairy and another for meat to avoid contamination. As time progressed the use of clay, pottery, glass, and china became the everyday

plates of choice. Probably the most sought after plates are the depression glass variety. Initially they were put in grocery products as an incentive to buy that item. Now these items can cost up to \$500. each.

The Indian Trails Library will be closed until the Fall of 2017. Celeste Kuta has loaned items she has retrieved over the years to the Museum to remind us of items used before the electronic age changed the way we use our library. The Library of the future is pictured here with a brief history of it's beginnings.

**The Rest Of The Story**

Many Wheeling residents erroneously assume that the Wheeling Public Library, established in 1958, was the first "official" public library in the Village. Concerned citizens were interested in library service to



the public as far back as 1930 and a community library was housed in the Wheeling Public School from 1939 until 1955. Because funds were limited, the quality of library service in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove until the early 1960's was dependent upon the kind and number of donations received and the willingness of residents to serve as unsalaried librarians and to voluntarily assist in any other capacity needed. Many individuals and organizations gave their time, money, and services freely for this purpose, and it is they who were responsible for library facilities in Wheeling and Buffalo Grove until tax money was available. Even after the Wheeling Public Library was put on the tax rolls, volunteers were indispensable.

The first public library in Wheeling was established in 1930 because the small school library in the Wheeling Public School was inadequate to meet the needs of the students. Members of the schools Achievement Club reported in the local newspaper: "It has been very difficult for us to carry out our Reading Project because we have no public library to help supply us with books." they said that the Chamber of Commerce had donated money to the library, and that the library extension department at Springfield had given them forty-six books. The next week it was announced that a "modest library" was available for Wheeling residents. In addition to the books from the state, residents donated ninety more. The school library was open to the public two evenings a week, for one hour each night. Due to the limited collection, each person was allowed two fiction books and one nonfiction book for a period of one week.

Overdue fees were set at one cent per day.

Continued on Page 3

No 1099

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

**WHEELING LIBRARY BENEFIT RAFFLE**

Sponsored By  
**THE WHEELING LIBRARY BOARD**  
 Prize to be given at The Vol. Firemen's Ball  
 SATURDAY, JANUARY 31ST, 1959  
 Amvet Hall Wheeling

**GRAND PRIZE**  
**Nassau Zenith 17" Port. T.V.**  
 [Copper Mist Color]

Presence Not  
 Required To Win

Donation 25c  
 5 for \$1.00

No 1099

**WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Located in the  
 Wheeling Park  
 District's  
 Chamber Park  
 251 Wolf Road  
 Wheeling Illinois

**2014-2015**

**OFFICERS**

*President:*

Bill Hein

*Vice President:*

Elaine Simpson

*Treasurer:*

Marilyn Chromy

*Secretary:*

Christine Brady

**DIRECTORS**

Celeste Kuta

Terry Steilen

Joan Wiener

**Curator**

Patti Steilen

**Web Site:**

Terry Steilen

**Newsletter Editor**

Patti Steilen

**Communications**

Celeste Kuta

**Program Events**

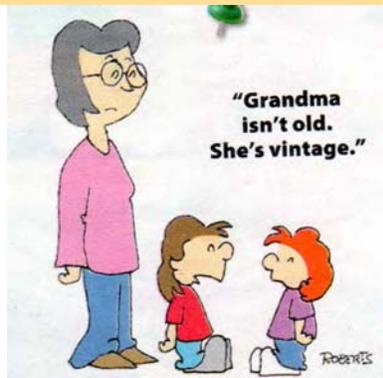
Joan Wiener

**Wheeling Park District**

**Liaison**

Undefined

We are hosting the N.E.I.L. June 11th meeting in the Church. We would like to clean up the Carriage House before the meeting. We will set up a date and time and are asking for volunteers to help. It won't be a major undertaking but we can use some able bodies.



**Q. Can February March?**  
**A. No, but April May!**

**Q. What is a boxer's favorite drink?**

**A. Punch!**

Continued from Page 2 ...

There was also a library at Childerley, a home for widows and children, located about two miles northwest of Wheeling. Childerley, which means "children's meadow," was owned and operated by Frances Crane Lillie., daughter of a prominent Chicago iron master. Childerley had its own school and library for its residents, but Wheeling also benefited from Mrs. Lillie's generosity. In 1932, Childerley Community Center was opened up to the village (for a small fee) to serve as a meeting place for all kinds of activities. At this time the village had no such center of its own. Childerley was used often for PTA sponsored parties and meetings, square dances, plays, and meetings of the Mother's Study Club. Other uses included a Presbyterian Church Young Peoples' Club carnival, a Farmer's Institute, and the Wheeling Public School graduation. Those who visited Childerley on these other occasions may have had access to the library. Because of this close interaction between the Wheeling community and Childerley, it is not surprising that when Mrs. Lillie became ill and was forced to give up Childerley, she donated its library to the village for the purpose of starting a community library.

In the summer of 1937, a vacation time library was organized by the Presbyterian Church school and the Wheeling Public School P.T.A. Books were collected from the church, the school, and from Wheeling residents; the library was open one evening a week for two hours and for a short time on Sunday morning.

According to the local newspaper, the popularity of the library began to decrease in 1946 because there had been no regular librarian for a while. Mrs. Charles D. Balling wanted to increase the library's value to the community. She attended a one week school for librarians, sponsored by the state in August, 1948. The library hours were increased to once a week in the afternoon in addition to the weekly evening hours.

The library remained in operation for more than five more years, during this period it relied upon donations. During these final years of the Wheeling Public Library there was a growing concern about the shortage of books, especially for school children. Enrollment at the school had increased enormously in eight years, from 84 pupils in 1945 to about 375 in 1953, and there was no school library for their daytime use. When state officials inspected the school in January 1952, they criticized the library for not having enough children's books: Mrs. Douglas Cargill complained to the school board in November 1952 about the school using a set of encyclopedias that belonged to the library. It was not until 1953 that the children were allowed to use the library during the day. Ironically, many of the adults in the community did not know that the library was not meant only for the school children and that it was open to the public. "There is a library in our town," Mrs. Cargill reported to the newspaper. The need for funds and books continued, along with a growing desire to form a real school library as well as a tax-supported public library. In 1955 the community library closed and plan was discussed for two new libraries. The rest is history .....

### Teacher Had a Plan

EVEN THOUGH we lived way out in the country in Connecticut and my mother had passed away when I was very young, my dad made sure we got to Sunday school every week. I loved the big white church and visiting with my city friends.

There was one event each year that I never attended—the mother-and-daughter banquet. The girls all talked about how much fun it was and how they couldn't wait for that special night. The year I was 12, my Sunday school teacher was Mrs. Kielman. As everyone started talking, I slid down in my chair and tried not to listen to the excitement. Suddenly, Mrs. Kielman quieted the group, turned to me and said, "Clara Belle, I want you to go to the banquet with me. You will be my daughter for the night." I was stunned for a minute, then quickly recovered and joined the rest of the girls with the fun of planning. Now, more than 75 years later, I often think about that night. Yes, it was the nicest thing anyone ever did for me.

—Belle Brown, Bristol, Connecticut

# COOKS CORNER

*Cook's Kitchen*

## Chicken Blackhawk

Courtesy of Don Roth's  
formerly at 61 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling

2 whole chickens, quartered  
MARINADE:  
3 T. oregano, dried  
3 T. thyme, dried  
1 T. crushed red chilies  
2 t. ground black pepper  
2 T. salt  
1 1/2 oz. fresh chopped garlic  
1 c. olive oil

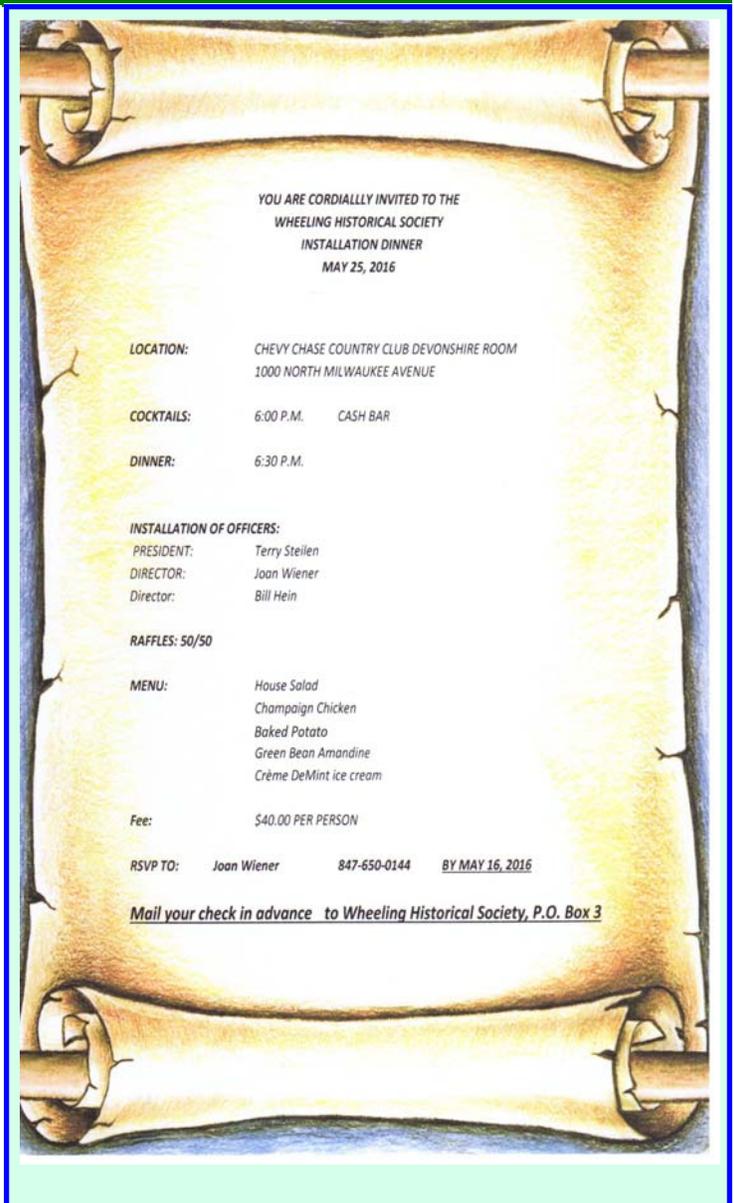
GARNISH:  
1 each: red, green, yellow peppers, julienne cut  
12 pepperoncinis (imported mild green peppers)

Directions:  
Combine 7 marinade ingredients in a large bowl. Add chicken to marinade and toss to coat evenly. Refrigerate a minimum of 2 hours or overnight. Brown chicken on both

sides until golden, do not overcrowd chicken. When browned, transfer to baking pan (repeat until all chicken is browned). Place pan in preheated 350 oven for 20 minutes. During last 5 minutes of cooking, spread julienne peppers and pepperoncinis on top of chicken to heat through.



COMING EVENTS	
May 18 4 PM	Board Meeting
May 25 6:30 PM	Installation Dinner
June 15 4 PM	Board Meeting
June 22 6:30 PM	Steilen's Trip to New Zealand & Australia
July	Museum CLOSED
Aug 17 4 PM	Board Meeting
Aug 21 1:30 PM	History Of Wheeling Farms
Sept 21 4 PM	Board Meeting



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO THE  
WHEELING HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
INSTALLATION DINNER  
MAY 25, 2016

LOCATION: CHEVY CHASE COUNTRY CLUB DEVONSHIRE ROOM  
1000 NORTH MILWAUKEE AVENUE

COCKTAILS: 6:00 P.M. CASH BAR

DINNER: 6:30 P.M.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:  
PRESIDENT: Terry Steilen  
DIRECTOR: Joan Wiener  
Director: Bill Hein

RAFFLES: 50/50

MENU: House Salad  
Champaign Chicken  
Baked Potato  
Green Bean Amandine  
Crème DeMint ice cream

Fee: \$40.00 PER PERSON

RSVP TO: Joan Wiener 847-650-0144 BY MAY 16, 2016

Mail your check in advance to Wheeling Historical Society, P.O. Box 3