



**WAUKEGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Officers**

*President*

Josh Bill

*Vice President*

Chris Lanning

*Treasurer*

Patrick Cosgrove

*Secretary*

Vicki Mattson

**Directors**

Harry Came

Diana Dretske

Lori Nerheim

Maryfran Troha

Sandra Pokett

## **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

Josh Bill

This has been a difficult year for all of us. A global pandemic closed down the Waukegan Historical Society's Museum and Research Library. However, we have learned how to adapt and attempt to create new kinds of experiences. One of the most successful ways we were able to reach out to people during the "Stay at Home" order was through our companion app, designed by our own Bryan Escobar. It allows people access to historical society resources at the touch of their fingers.

The Board of Directors, in partnership with the Waukegan Park District, have also been working tirelessly to continue planning for the restoration of the Carnegie Library. We have hired Harboe Architects to work on the Schematic Design phase, and the society is working on interviewing different exhibit design firms from all over the United States. It is truly an exciting time for the Waukegan Historical Society.

Unfortunately, this has been a year of loss, and the Historical Society was not immune. This year, we lost one of the greatest researchers we had, Ed Link. Ed provided us with more time, research, and resources than we could ever get from anyone else. His work inspired the Waukegan Park District to pass a resolution to declare Ed Link as an official historian of the city of Waukegan. In that capacity, Ed served as a cherished researcher for the Oakwood Cemetery Walk, and he took on the monumental task of writing *Waukegan: A History*, a comprehensive book that I know are on many shelves in your homes. Ed, you will be greatly missed!

In happier news, the Waukegan Historical Society was named Patron of the Year by the Waukegan Park District for our work in helping to secure funding for the Carnegie Library project. Life member and longtime volunteer, Ann Darrow was awarded the Waukegan Park District Jack Benny Arts and Humanities award winner this fiscal year as well. Finally, many members and volunteers of the Oakwood Cemetery Walk committee were recognized by the Waukegan Park District for outstanding community service. I cannot thank our volunteers enough. This recognition is very well-deserved.

**PROGRAMS AND EVENTS** – Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most society events took place virtually this fiscal year. Still, you can see that the Waukegan Historical Society remained active in our outreach.

**January 16, 2020** – In partnership with Lake Forest College, the Waukegan Historical Society led a historical tour of the city to 25 student-interns about to work in Waukegan Public School District # 60 schools.

**February 19, 2020** – In honor of Black History Month, the Waukegan Historical Society provided a free program on the Underground Railroad in Waukegan.

**February 20, 2020** – Waukegan History Museum opens its doors to visitors in a special “after dark” tour.

**February 27, 2020** – The Waukegan Historical Society was honored to receive the 2019 Patron of the Year Award from the Waukegan Park District. Additionally, Ann Darrow, life member and longtime volunteer for the society received the Jack Benny Arts and Humanities Award for 2019 in recognition of her tireless dedication and more than she has given to society researchers. It was announced that Darrow would also be winning a lifetime achievement award from the Illinois State Historical Society.

**March 20, 2020** – In the midst of a global pandemic, the Waukegan Historical Society shuttered its museum, but it launched its inaugural virtual “Lunch and Learn” on Influential Women in Waukegan’s History to 320 viewers through a Facebook live stream.

**March 27, 2020** – The society’s virtual “Lunch and Learn” on Bowen Country club draws 720 viewers on Facebook live.

**April 1, 2020** – Through Facebook, the Waukegan Historical Society begins a weekly series to educate the public on the history behind the names of the parks within the Waukegan Park District.

**April 3, 2020** – A virtual “Lunch and Learn” on the history of baseball in Waukegan draws 325 viewers onto the history museum’s Facebook page.

**April 6, 2020** – The inaugural episode of the “SITcom,” featuring the movement and stories of the historic chairs in the Waukegan History Museum is featured on Facebook. By popular demand, “SITcom” has become a daily feature on the museum’s Facebook page.

**April 10, 2020** – 490 viewers learn the story of Waukegan’s connection to the Titanic in a virtual “Lunch and Learn” event featured on the Waukegan History Museum’s Facebook page.

**April 17, 2020** – This week’s virtual “Lunch and Learn” told stories of Civil War bravery from Waukegan soldiers. 485 viewers tuned in to learn from the Waukegan History Museum’s facebook page.

**April 24, 2020** – Animal lovers around the globe tuned into the Waukegan Historical Society’s virtual “Lunch and Learn” on quirky animal stories. At 630 viewers, this event was a hit.

**April 26, 2020** – In place of our canceled spring program, the Waukegan Historical Society featured a virtual program on the influence Waukegan had on the genius of Ray Bradbury. This facebook live event drew 1,300 viewers.

**May 1, 2020** – Fans of Al Capone tuned in to our facebook live “Lunch and Learn” and enjoyed hearing of the notorious mobsters exploits in Waukegan. At 1,800 viewers, it was our most watched event of the year.

**May 8, 2020** – To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of V-E Day, the Waukegan Historical Society’s virtual “Lunch and Learn” featured stories of Waukegan soldiers during the Second World War. 880 viewers watched through the museum’s facebook page.

**May 15, 2020** – 1,100 viewers listened to stories of famous visitors to Waukegan. This virtual “Lunch and Learn” including a firsthand account of life member and longtime volunteer, Betsy Alleman telling her story of hearing Amelia Earhart speak at Waukegan Township High School.

**May 22, 2020** – Virtual “Lunch and Learn” featured stories from Waukegan’s lighthouses. 540 viewers tuned in on the Waukegan History Museum’s facebook page.

**May 29, 2020** – The final virtual “Lunch and Learn” of the fiscal year shared stories of past celebrations in Waukegan to 485 viewers.

**June 5, 2020** – Historical Society President, Josh Bill joins Ty Rohrer to tell the story of Waukegan’s Sugar Refinery in a virtual “Lunch and Learn” program.

**June 13, 2020** – Volunteers and members of the society gave their time to assist the Waukegan Park District in bringing a virtual Dandelion Wine Fine Arts Festival into people’s homes. Society members joined local and national celebrities in reading Bradbury’s *Dandelion Wine* in its entirety to kick off the event.

**June 16, 2020** – “SIT-com” reaches its 50<sup>th</sup> episode. Bryan Escobar and Ty Rohrer entertained thousands of virtual viewers over the course of “SIT-com” by moving furniture and creating a storyline with the historic chairs of our Haines House Museum.

**June 19, 2020** – Virtual “Lunch and Learn” engages viewers at home on the history of Waukegan’s Mineral Springs.

**June 26, 2020** – The Waukegan Wire Mill took center stage in a virtual “Lunch and Learn” program.

**July 2, 2020** – Waukegan Park Opening Celebration of 1909 was the storyline of a virtual “Lunch and Learn” telling the story of the space that eventually became Bowen Park.

**July 4, 2020** – The Waukegan History Museum enters a “shoebox float” during the Waukegan Park District’s Annual Independence Day Parade. The event was a way to celebrate Independence Day in a safe, virtual setting.

**July 10, 2020** – The Waukegan Historical Society launches a companion app with the Waukegan Park District. The app provided historical information about the city and allowed for people to take self-guided tours of the downtown, parks, and museum. Also on the 10<sup>th</sup>, the society held another virtual “Lunch and Learn” about the Blodgett Family and their profound contribution to Waukegan’s early history.

**July 17, 2020** – Virtual “Lunch and Learn” is held featuring “The Merchant Prince” of Waukegan: Isaac R. Lyon.

**July 20, 2020** – Waukegan History Museum re-opens. Tickets were by appointment. Masks required.

**August 13, 2020** – The Waukegan Park District acquires the historic Carnegie Library building and announces that it will be the future home of the Waukegan Historical Society’s museum and library archives.

**August 21, 2020** – To celebrate Ray Bradbury’s 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday, the Waukegan Historical Society’s companion app features a scavenger hunt of some historically significant locations around the city.

**September 3, 2020** – 100<sup>th</sup> Episode of “SIT-com” is featured on the Waukegan History Museum’s facebook page. Viewers cannot get enough of the storylines and movement of historical chairs throughout our museum.

**September 15, 2020** – In honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Waukegan Historical Society’s companion app features stories of Latinx history in Waukegan.

**September 20, 2020** – Annual Meeting of the Waukegan Historical Society Members takes place for the first time on a virtual platform. Changes to the Waukegan Historical Society Constitution were approved and we welcomed a new board member, Diana Dretske.

An episode of “History Plots” has its debut this day as well. Ty Rohrer and Bryan Escobar brought a bit of the Oakwood Cemetery Walk into people’s homes with historical stories that could be viewed virtually.

**October 25, 2020** – Sara Griffin, founding member of the Waukegan Historical Society, and Ty Rohrer appear in a special on *Antenna TV* sharing stories of Waukegan’s own Jack Benny.

**October 31, 2020** – To help celebrate Halloween, the Waukegan History Museum’s Facebook page broadcasts ghost stories from Waukegan’s historic haunted locations.

**November 10, 2020** – Representatives from the Waukegan Historical Society, along with the Illinois State Historical Society present to the Waukegan School Board to co-sponsor a historical marker commemorating the landmark Illinois State Supreme Court case that led to the integration of Whittier Elementary School.

**November 11, 2020** – In honor of Veteran’s Day, the Waukegan History Museum’s Facebook page brings viewers an episode of “History Plots” that told the stories of several Waukegan veterans buried at Oakwood Cemetery.

### **AWARDS AND RECOGNITION**

The Waukegan Historical Society continues to gain recognition for its exciting, interactive programming and its dedicated volunteers. This year, the Illinois Association of Museums gave us two Awards of Excellence. One of the awards was for our Covid Response and the other was for our Education Outreach. Our hats off to Ty Rohrer, Manager of Cultural Arts, Bryan Escobar, our Arts and History Specialists, the Board of Directors, and our many members and volunteers who help make great things happen.

#### **WAUKEGAN HISTORY MUSEUM**

**240** Total Visitors  
**No** Pop-Up Exhibits (Covid)  
**No** Guided Tours (Covid)

#### **RESEARCH LIBRARY**

**23** Total In-Person Research Requests  
**112** Email/Phone Research Requests

#### **WAUKEGAN HISTORY MUSEUM APP**

**819** Total App Users  
**25,000** Total App Views

#### **OUTREACH PROGRAMMING**

**12** Total Community Programs Presented  
**76** Total School Outreach Programs Presented  
**0** Community Walking Guided Tours  
**0** Guided School Walking Tours

(8,387 participants)

For more than a decade, the Waukegan Historical Society has been planning an addition to our current museum space. Our plans changed from an addition to the restoration of the Carnegie Library. As we move forward with this project, fundraising continues to be a major focus of the Society.

Donors this fiscal year to the building fund as well as general support of the Society are as follows.

**\$10,000**

Jay Link (from the estate of Ed Link)

**\$1000 to \$5000**

Alice Schultz & Joshua Bill (in memory of Randy Bowcott)  
Kathryn Clay (in memory/honor of H. Clay)  
Dourelle Kweder  
Wayne Munn  
Ann Taylor  
Maryfrances Troha (in memory/honor of Frances Hrovatin Troha)

**\$500 up to \$999**

Gregory Alloian  
Charlotte Callahan Wozniak  
Harry Came (in memory of Sammy Readdie, Billy Klass, Randy Bowcott, and Ed Link)  
Diana Dretske (in memory/honor of Walter F. & Georgia L. Dretske)  
Lori Nerheim  
Ann Olson  
Larry & Jesse TenPas (in honor of the TenPas family)

**\$100 up to \$499**

Frank & Alice Alviani  
Anonymous (3)  
Jennifer Berzin  
Monica Burmeister  
Sharon Came  
Jan & Scott Castillo  
Frank & Linda Cisek  
Patrick Cosgrove  
Robert & Michelle Crombie  
Richard Cutler, Jr. (in honor/memory of Betty Cutler)  
Lida Gail Dever (in memory/honor of Thomas C. Dever)  
Daniel Drury

Charlotte Duncan (in honor/memory of Richard A. Duncan)  
Joseph & Barbara Esdale  
Margaret & Glenn Ferruzzi  
Jane Ferry (in honor of Charlotte Callahan Wozniak's 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday)  
Roseanne Fitko  
GFWC IL Waukegan Woman's Club (a donation to further Waukegan programs)  
Charlotte Gissel (in honor/memory of grandparents Larry & Margaret Whyte Doolittle  
and parents Gar & Charlotte Doolittle Leaf)  
Michael & Vicki Mitchell Hohf  
William Holland (in memory of Ed Link)  
Jeanne & Thomas Houle  
Steven Kaiser (in memory of Paul W. Kaiser, Jr.)  
Janet Kilkelly  
Sharon Labelle (in honor of Bill & Teddi Dunham)  
Wayne Munn (in honor of the work and deeds of Ed Link  
and the tireless good works of Beverly Millard)  
Katherine Oldham  
Partners in Parks (various donors)  
Marianela & Douglas Peterson (in memory/honor of Harry Peterson)  
Richard & Joyce Riddle  
Carlotta Rotman (in honor/memory of Ray Bradbury)  
Janice Schroeder (in memory/honor of Thomas F. Donohue)  
Rebecca Solano  
Marni Stanfield  
Susan Styx  
Kathleen Swett (in memory of Leo & Carol Swett)  
Philip Tobin  
Ethel Tsausis  
Jacob Vick (in honor of Eleanor Vick)  
William Wagner  
Jane Drew & Michael Waller  
Patricia Weber Petitclair (in memory/honor of Bill & Marnie Weber)  
James Peter Young

**\$50 up to \$99**

Anonymous (2)  
Daniel Angarola  
William Benjamin  
Robert & Charylene Brose  
Margaret Capitani  
Sherry & Jimmy Cohn (in memory/honor of Nellie Eustace Reid)  
Samuel Cunningham  
Sherrill Eichler (in memory/honor of Howard & Cleone Petersen)  
Helen Darsnek  
Marilyn Diehl  
Lunette Eichler (in memory/honor of Howard and Cleone Petersen)



Donna Fortney (in memory of Fred Fortney)  
Ruth Anne Hickman (in memory/honor of Ruth Heringlake)  
Louis & Barbara Mareello (in memory/honor of Hank Clark)  
Vicki Mattson (in memory of Bill Mattson)  
Rachelle Mendez  
Antoinette Minuzzo (in memory of Georgia "Dody" Dretske)  
Charlotte Renehan (in memory of Ed Link)  
Ann Richter  
Ann Rippel (in memory/honor of Ethel Rippel)  
Donald Taylor  
Sandra Tippet  
Janet Young  
Ralph Zahorik  
June & Peter Zaragoza

**Up to \$49**

Anonymous (7)  
Anonymous (in memory/honor of Gertrude (Reid) Landers)  
William Benjamin  
Faith Clark (in memory/honor of Hank Clark III)  
Nancy Coolley  
Sherrill Eichler (in memory of Ed Link)  
Dorothy Evenhouse  
Kathleen Hansen  
Dennis Peffley & Patricia Hentosh  
Robert & Carole Johnson  
Cynthia Kirk-Carpenter (in honor/memory of Jamie O'Meara)  
Charles Lange  
Mary Ross-Cunningham (in memory/honor Army Private Alvin Cunningham)  
Michael Smole  
Emma Styx  
Donald Taylor

# FINANCIAL REPORT

## 2020 Fiscal Year

### INCOME

#### ***UNRESTRICTED***

Membership Dues	\$ 1,095.00
Contributions	\$ 1,180.00
Community Programs	\$ 1,548.00
Sales	\$ 240.76
Royalties	\$ 0
Museum Donation Box	\$ 45.00
Library (Research)	\$ 0
Interest (First Midwest Money Market)	\$ 2.60
Interest (Federal Savings 18-month CD)	\$ 6,969.42
<b>Total Unrestricted Income</b>	<b>\$ 11,080.78</b>

#### ***RESTRICTED***

Carnegie Project Contributions	\$ 20,720.00
Endowment Contributions	\$ 1,922.00
<b>Total Restricted Income</b>	<b>\$ 22,642.00</b>

**TOTAL INCOME** **\$ 33,722.78**

## EXPENSES

### ***UNRESTRICTED***

Museum Cleaning Service	\$ 340.00
Programs	\$ 885.26
Mailings	\$ 32.26
Online Stripe Fee	\$ 63.06
Donations/Sponsorships	\$ 300.00
Memberships/Subscriptions	\$ 228.00
Bank Fees	\$ 0
Park District Museum/Library Rent	\$ 0
Historical App	\$ 228.00
Insurance	\$ 1,962.00
Squarespace Website	\$ 379.17
Library	\$ 0
State of Illinois Annual Report	\$ 10.00
Other (lightbulbs for museum)	\$ 12.99
<b>Total Unrestricted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 4440.74</b>

### ***RESTRICTED***

<b>Total Restricted Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>
----------------------------------	-------------

<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 4440.74</b>
-----------------------	-------------------

## CASH ASSETS

	<i>Restricted</i>	<i>Unrestricted</i>	<i>Total</i>
<b>12/31/2019</b>	<b>\$ 162,596.60</b>	<b>\$ 25,550.34</b>	<b>\$ 188,146.94</b>
Income	\$ 22,642.00	\$ 11,080.78	\$ 33,722.78
Expense	\$ 0	\$ 4,440.74	\$ 4,440.74
<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>\$ 185,238.60</b>	<b>\$ 32,190.38</b>	<b>\$ 217,428.98</b>

## IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS

Margaret Martin	\$ 1,725.00
Waukegan Park District	\$ 70,000.00