

News and Notes



Open for the Season!

The Harding Museum and Log Post Office opened for the season on Sat., May 7. Both will be open Saturdays, 11 to 3, through September. The Log Post Office will be open 8 till 3 on June 4, the day of the Great Miami River Ride, and have extended hours during the Downtown Saturday Nite Car Show on Aug. 13.

Cruise down memory lane with the Harding's summer exhibit: **Past Play: Toys, Games, and Entertainment through the Years**, a spotlight on how people have entertained themselves through the years. Maybe you'll see something you recognize!

Docents are needed at both buildings. Why not spend a relaxing Saturday afternoon sharing your love of history? Call **Mary Nenninger** to sign up, (937) 743-5832.

Paint the Museum ... Yellow!

It's been 20 years since the Harding Museum has been painted. It shows. The cost is projected be in the range of \$20,000 for repair and painting. We are identifying grant sources but grantors expect FAHS to put up matching funds and to show that our membership has contributed. Your donations are vital. Please see the enclosed letter.

We have set up a Go-FundMe account for donations as well. The address is

<https://www.gofundme.com/c4y5dhdb>



Annual Dinner June 13

Time: 6 p.m., dinner; 7 p.m., speaker

Location: Anderson Life Celebration Center (behind Anderson Funeral Home).

Speaker: Susan Talbot-Stanaway on *Looking at The Monuments Men from an Ohio Perspective*. Behind the recent film, "The Monuments Men," there is an incredible story about Ohioans who took part in the greatest treasure hunt and cultural rescue in the history of the world.



Cost: Dinner is \$22 for members; \$25 for non-members.

RSVP and pay By June 6. Call (937) 743-5832 to RSVP. Mail checks to 302 Park Ave., Franklin, 45005

Enjoy an evening with fellow history lovers. Help honor our member and volunteer of the year.

About our speaker: Susan Talbot-Stanaway is retired Director of the Zanesville Museum of Art. She is an art historian, concentrating on American Art, and has curated over 500 exhibitions. Recently her research and curatorial efforts have focused on World War I posters, American illustrators, and contemporary art quilts.



Our speaker is made possible through the courtesy of the Ohio Humanities Council.

Donation funds computer purchase

Miami Valley Propane, Middletown, Ohio, has generously donated \$4500 to FAHS. The donation is designated for the purchase of a computer, a scanner, and Past Perfect Museum Software.

Harriet Foley has painstakingly cataloged the Society's collection and maintained written records over the years. The computer donation will enable us to manage the collection and records pertaining to the collection in an easily accessible format. We will also be able to assure photos and documents are preserved by making electronic copies.

The role of Museum Registrar has now been passed to **Julie Kellis**. Julie has previous experience using Past Perfect Museum Software with her curatorial work at two museums.

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The organization # for FAHS is 99930. If you have designated FAHS, remember that you must re-designate the Society on your account every April.

Bob Evans Fundraiser

Thanks to all who helped us raise \$ by eating at Bob Evans. We'll be doing it again soon!

Franklin Trivia at April meeting

Intense competition and a lot of laughter came together at the April 25 meeting held at Franklin Tavern. Participants were led through a series of Franklin trivia questions and interesting bonus options by our volunteer Trivia Master, **Tim Carberry**.

Between the two-round competition, **Bob Bowman** quizzed local "celebrities" divided into boys vs girls

teams. Local author

Weesie Polley and Franklin-Springboro Pubic Library Director,



Martha Bush, managed to push Franklin High School Athletic Director **Brian Bales** and **Bob Alexander** to the edge of their Franklin knowledge but the men prevailed. Thank goodness for sports questions!



Final results for the evening and recipients of the Bronze, Silver, and

Gold log cabin trivets were: Third place: The Ladies Team consisting of **Weesie Polley** and **Martha Bush**; Second Place: **Dan Darragh**; First Place: **Brian Bales**, whose knowledge of the Franklin High School Alma Mater served him well.

Special thanks to **Jackie and Brian Graves** of Franklin Tavern for hosting the meeting.

See page three for a selection of the questions and answers from the evening.

Life Membership

Thank you, **Mary Ann Tracy Evans**, for your new life membership!

Membership Benefits

The board wants to make sure you find your membership valuable and have added two new benefits:

New for all members: 10% discount on purchases in the FAHS Historical store. Members will receive a discount on events (to be determined for each event.)

New benefit for new individual and family members: Free Christmas ornament (current year).

Plus, you receive:

- The Historical Society Newsletter/e-newsletter.
- Advance notice of meetings/events (Ind./Bus.)
- Free Admission to the Harding Museum (Individuals).
- Use of the museums for small (approx. 20) corporate meetings (Business)
- Listing on our website, linked to your site (Business).
- Recognition on our Facebook page. (Business).

Do you have fond memories of Miami Valley Chautauqua?

Would You Like to Share These Memories for Posterity?

The Miamisburg Historical Society, in collaboration with the Franklin Area Historical Society (FAHS) and Carlisle Area Historical Society produced two video programs on the history of the Miami Valley Chautauqua parks and community during 2015. This summer our organizations would like to conduct video interviews with past and current Chautauqua residents, visitors, and former park workers to record their remembrances on the people, events, and lifestyles at Chautauqua. These interviews would be collected and edited into a broadcast program on local cable TV and would also become available on DVD.

Current plans are to hold two sessions of video recordings in the FAHS Harding Museum, 302-Park Ave., Franklin, 45005, for those living in the Franklin and Carlisle areas. Dates are Thurs., June 30, and Sat., July 9, starting at 1 pm. To schedule a 15-minute interview time slot, please contact **Bob Bowman** (937) 903-4350 or email rbcjr1967@gmail.com. If travel to the museum would cause a hardship, arrangements for an interview recording session at your home would be possible.

Rehse prints available

Late local artist Bill Rehse did a number of wonderful watercolors of Franklin

scenes. FAHS has five prints available. They are available either matted or matted and framed. Call

Terry Easton

for information, (937) 746-8534.



Renewal reminder!

Have you renewed your membership? Your memberships dues are a vital part of our income. If you have renewed, thank you! If you have not, please do so. There is a renewal form on the last page of this newsletter, along with a chance to provide some feedback and suggestions to us. Please do!

Email renewal reminders have been sent. If you received one, please renew.

Mark your calendars

What's on our calendar for the remainder of the year?

Saturdays, 11 to 3. Both museums open.

Fri., June 17. Teen Ghost Investigation. Private event at the Harding Museum.

4th of July Parade. Watch for members of FAHS!

Annual Yard Sale, date TBD. Save your gently used items and donate them to our sale. Watch for info.

Monday, Sept. 12, 7 p.m. Speaker: **Joel Getts** on "The History of the North American Funeral Home." Location: Deardoff Center.

Franklin Fall Fest, Oct. 21-22. FAHS participation to be determined. Watch for details.

November date and speaker: to be determined.

Sunday, Dec. 11, 2 to 4 p.m. Christmas Tea, Ballroom at Pisanello's. Details TBA.

Are you smarter than ...?

Here's a sample of the trivia questions asked at the April 25 meeting. How's your command of Franklin history? Answers below.

1. **James Schenck**, son of the founder of Franklin, became a Rear Admiral in the Navy. During his service in the Mexican-American War, James raised the first American flag to fly over what current state?
2. Franklin residents recently elected **Debbie Fouts** to the City Council. Who was the first woman to serve on Franklin City Council?
3. Franklin's first mayor was elected in 1837. Who was it?
4. **Weesie Polley** notes in her book "African American Life in Franklin, Ohio," that Anderson Street would be blocked between Fourth and Fifth Streets to allow for what children's activity?
5. Who is the monument located on Dixie Highway near Woodhill Cemetery dedicated to?

Board news

Matt Wilcher recently stepped down as Board President due to time constraints. Thank you, Matt, for serving. We hope you'll be back when time permits

Welcome and thank you, **Liz Buchanan**, who assumed the remainder of Matt's term of Board President.

Our current Board members are:

Liz Buchanan, President

Bob Bowman, Past President

Harriet Foley, Treasurer

Julie Kellis, Secretary

Peggy Darragh-Jeromos, Membership

Dan Darragh, Holly Dean, Terry Easton, Cheryl Miller, Shanna Rebholz, and Brian Sleeth

Trivia Answers:

1. California
2. Betty Grizzell
3. Dr. Absalom Death
4. Sledding
5. Robert E. Lee

Mackinaw District in the Top 12

An online site called OnlyInYourState recently named 12 charming, historic residential areas around Ohio.



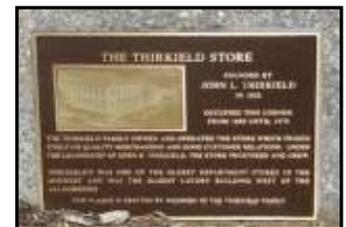
From their page: "Ohio has several beautiful, historic towns, but there are also several neighborhoods that are full of charm, unique architecture and history. The following are just 12 of our favorites. See if you recognize any of them."

1. Columbia-Tusculum (Cincinnati)
2. Ohio City (Cleveland)
3. Tremont (Cleveland)
4. German Village (Columbus)
5. Boneyfiddle (Portsmouth)
6. Historic South Park (Dayton)
7. Oregon District (Dayton)
8. Wick Park Historic District (Youngstown)
9. Harmer Village (Marietta)
10. **Mackinaw Historic District (Franklin)**
11. Old West End (Toledo)
12. Sugarcreek (Tuscarawas County)

The description of our lovely Mackinaw District says, "Added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1980, this historic neighborhood features homes built between 1825 and 1925 with numerous architectural styles, such as Queen Anne and other Victorian styles."

Can you guess?

A description of our 2016 ornament: It was originally located on East 6th ST., this store moved to the corner of Main & 4th Streets in 1850. Goods and services included men's, women's, and children's wear; shoes; yard goods; a bargain basement; and gift wrapping. Many Franklin students purchased "Wildcat" jackets there.



Did you guess Thirkield's?

Watch for info about the ornament's availability.