

MAY 2020

BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



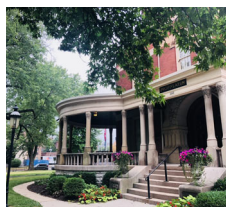
1410 N. Delaware Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-2417
317.638.7881
info@thepropylaeum.org



WHAT'S INSIDE

Propylaeum Annual Meeting

The Propylaeum Annual Meeting will be held on June 9, 2020.



— page 4

Prop Member Spotlight

Interview with Prop member Nora Spitznogle.



— page 3

Propylaeum Mission Statement

Propylaeum Board announces new mission statement.



— page 4

“If the Walls Could Talk” Online Tour of the Prop

We are hard at work planning and implementing programs to help keep members and friends engaged with the Propylaeum—even though we can't be together.

“If the Walls Could Talk” is a multi-part video series highlighting individual rooms and areas of the Propylaeum. Each video gives the history of a specific room or area, discussing how it may have been used in 1890 and how it is used today.

The series also includes behind-the-scenes videos of architectural features

Cont. page 3

May 2020

BULLETIN

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MISSION STATEMENT

The place that connects and celebrates women.

IMPACT STATEMENT

The Indianapolis Propylaeum is a rich part of the history of Indianapolis women. It has always focused on providing a platform for women to express cultural and intellectual ideas and a continuing opportunity to enhance our community in every time period since 1888.

OFFICERS

Rose Wernicke, President
Peggy Kennedy, Vice President
Susan Fasig, Treasurer
Christine Smith, Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS

Alex Barnstead	Cathy Michel
Holly Davis	Karen Pfeiffer
Veronica Embry	Debra Renkens
Jim Glass	Melissa Smith
Gloria Harbin	Tiffany Talbert
Marjorie Kienle	

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Governance: Alex Barnstead
Facilities: Rose Wernicke
Finance and Audit: Susan Fasig
Financial Development: Jim Glass
Membership Services & Recruitment: Cathy Michel
Outreach: Joanne Solomon

STAFF

Executive Director: Liz Ellis
Marketing & Events Coordinator: LaurieAnne Perez
Facilities Manager: Janice Radford
Bulletin Editor: Liz Ellis

Commemorating the
*Centennial of
Women's Suffrage*
1920-2020



President's Letter

Over the past month I have engaged with the Prop from my home, participating in board and committee meetings and interest group gatherings using conferencing applications. I have also enjoyed the virtual tour series, "If the Walls Could Talk." Although we aren't able to gather, the work of the Propylaeum continues. Now, more than ever, the Propylaeum needs our support. Please join me in making a gift to the Annual Fund!

Rose Wernicke



Note from the Executive Director

Greetings, once again, from my home office. As we carry-on we ask for your support.

Many Propylaeum members and friends have stepped-up with financial contributions. I hope that you will consider a tax-deductible donation at this unprecedented time.

The Propylaeum was the recipient of a Payroll Protection Plan loan through the CARES Act which will help off-set payroll expenses as we continue to struggle with loss of income from programs and events.

Thank you so much for your continued support. We look forward to being together again at the Prop.

Liz Ellis

Prop Member Spotlight

Nora Spitznogle joined the Propylaeum after being a featured speaker at a Prop Day Luncheon. Nora, Senior Director of Programs at Second Helpings, shared information about the mission, focus, and volunteer opportunities at Second Helpings.

"Right now, at Second Helpings, we are making 5,000 sandwiches a week and a lot individual family meals to meet needs." Nora said. "We are operating satellite kitchens in restaurants that are closed."

Nora grew up in Indiana and attended Lebanon High School then received a bachelors degree in Restaurant/Food Service Management from Purdue University.

A friend of Prop member Bev Watkins, Nora attended the 2017 Holiday Open House and took advantage of the half-priced membership. "I had been to the Propylaeum in the past for Thanksgiving dinner and to tour the mansion for an event. I was excited to join," she said. When asked



Nora Spitznogle and Dan Wakefield

what she like about he Prop she said "Coming to the Propylaeum is like walking into a big hug. I always feel welcomed at the Propylaeum, even when I haven't been for a while."

Nora has also



The Propylaeum Suffrage Tree at the Festival of Trees. Left to right: Cindy Dillman, Bev Watkins, Sherry Watkins, and Nora Spitznogle

brought two friends to the Prop who have become members, Kassie Ritman and Brenda Rising-Moore. "I knew they would be a great fit for the Prop."

Nora enjoys programs and volunteering when she can, "I would like to volunteer more, but I'm happy to help when I can ... I love parking cars" she laughed, referencing the Talbott Street Art Fair parking fundraiser.

"I have also really enjoyed participating in the suffrage events dressed as a suffragist. I was so disappointed when the St. Patrick's Day Parade was cancelled."

Nora has a daily blog nora-leona.blogspot.com and she has written a column about her experiences at the Indiana State Fair. She is also an avid collector of "ugly lamps and Pez dispensers."

continued from page 1

and non-public areas.

This series is photographed, filmed, and narrated by LaurieAnne Perez. Rose Wernicke and Dr. Jim Glass provide research and historic information.

"We have talked in the past about a virtual tour of the mansion. This seemed like a great opportunity, while the building is empty, to film not just the rooms that everyone sees, but some of the things they don't see," said LaurieAnne.

The videos, posted each Monday, include the northeast and southeast parlors, and the Tea Room so far. Behind-the-scenes videos include the pocket doors, butler's pantry, and Criterion music box.

"I feel like I find some detail that I hadn't noticed in each room," said LaurieAnne. "I have definitely learned more about the history of

Victorian homes and the families who lived in the Propylaeum."

The videos are on the Indianapolis Propylaeum Facebook page as well as on the Propylaeum website www.thepropylaeum.org/history-of-the-propylaeum.

If you have stories that you would like to share please contact LaurieAnne at 317-639-7881 x4. We will be featuring the ballroom in an upcoming video and are looking for photos and stories from Mrs. Gates's dance classes.



Photo from the Butler's pantry featuring the Prop teacup collection.



Prop Tree Taken Down

We are sad to report that the large silver maple tree that graced the front yard of the Propylaeum for over half a century has been removed.

The tree, shown much smaller in photos from the 1950s, was inspected by two arborists on the recommendation of our garden and lawn care professional Nancy Marquart. Both arborists agreed that the tree was in danger of falling due to a roots system that was dying.

"It was a beautiful tree and it was hard to make the decision to have it taken down," said Liz Ellis, Executive Director of the Propylaeum "The tree had become a liability, not just to Prop members and visitors, but also to the mansion. Falling branches could easily have hurt guests or destroyed the front porch."

The Facilities Committee of the Propylaeum is exploring options for the front yard.

Propylaeum Annual Meeting

Notice the Annual Meeting will be on June 9 at 11:30. Join us as we review the highlights of 2019, honor retiring board member, award membership into the Circle of MWS Society, vote for new board members, and present plans for progressing in 2020. Materials will be mailed to members mid-May for voting and to view the meeting remotely.

Propylaeum Mission Statement: The Place that Connects and Celebrates Women

The Propylaeum Board is proud to announce our new mission statement: The place that connects and celebrates women. The revised statement reflects the original purpose and intent of the organization, "...to provide a center of cultivation for the public, and particularly the women of Indianapolis," and provides a roadmap present and future.

While working on refining the special purpose of the Propylaeum, the board and developed statements of goals and values to guide the organization in reaching our vision of becoming the historic place where women meet. Watch for a discussion of the goals and values in future editions of the newsletter.

Goals:

- A welcoming place for women to use their voice, inspire leadership, connect with others and continue the legacy of women supporting women.
- Programs that offer opportunities for enrichment, education, exploration, culture, and community.
- Preserve and maintain the place that has been the home for women since 1923.

Values: collaboration, inclusivity, leadership, stewardship, integrity.

CALENDAR

Until it is safe to resume group activities, we will not be including dates for upcoming programs. All activities listed in the calendar will be web-only.

May

- 12 Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 18 Investment Group, 10 a.m.
- 26 Book Group, 10 a.m.

June

- 9 Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 15 Investment Group, 10 a.m.
- 23 Book Group, Noon.

July

- 14 Board of Directors Meeting, 11:30 a.m.
- 20 Investment Group, 10 a.m.
- 28: Book Group, Noon.

2019 Annual Report

You will have noticed that this month's Bulletin is a few pages shorter than normal. This is due in large part to the pending publication of the 2109 Annual Report. The Annual Report, produced each May, will be sent to members next month. A printed report will automatically be sent to members who normally receive the printed newsletter. If you currently receive the newsletter electronically and would like a print copy of the Annual Report please email Liz Ellis at liz.ellis@thepropylaeum.org.

For all upcoming events, follow us on:



Membership

Active Memberships contribute to the culture and social life of the organization. Dues are partially tax deductible and members may carry a monthly account, receive a 30% facility rental discount for private events held at the Propylaeum, receive special event pricing for Propylaeum Events, and enjoy member benefits through Columbia Club reciprocity. Visit thepropylaeum.org for more information.

May Birthdays

- 1 Carol McHenry
- 9 Virginia Francisco
- 15 Terry Mumford
- 19 Nora Spitznogle

*We love to honor our members. Please let us know if you have an upcoming birthday or if we missed your birthday.