

Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc.

Annual Meeting
May 17, 2017



Annual Meeting Agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Minutes for 2016
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Capital Campaign
5. Enrichment Series
6. President's Report
7. Executive Director's Report
8. Recognition of Retiring Board Members
 - Mary Burger
 - Sue Hetherington
 - Kandy Kinker
 - Shirley Roberts
 - Jim Sweeney
9. The Circle of May Wright Sewall Induction
 - Grace and John Long
 - Sue and Jim Hetherington
 - Marilyn and Jack Pecsok
10. Presentation of Slate for Board of Directors
11. Voting for 2017-2018 New Board Members
12. Installation of New Directors
13. Memorial Remembrance
 - Jane Browne
 - Julia Lacy
 - Carolyn Litz
14. Dedication of Tree for John Long
15. Adjourn for Lunch
16. Short Meeting—New Board of Directors

2016-2017 Board of Directors

Joanne Solomon, President
James Glass, Vice President
Rose Wernicke, Treasurer
Diane Tolliver, Secretary
Brooke Funkhouser
Othmar Grueninger

Sue Hetherington
Kandy Kinker
Cathy Michel
Georgie Perkins
Debra Renkens
Shirley Roberts
Jim Sweeney

May 2016 Meeting Minutes

The Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

May 16, 2016

The Annual Meeting of the Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc. was held at the house on May 16, 2016. The meeting was called to order by Joanne Solomon, who also welcomed, all present. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jan Wahls, who also recognized the new state flag. The minutes of the May 20, 2015, meeting were approved as moved by Sue Hetherington.

The following reports were given orally: Lucy Emison reported a net loss. Jim Glass reported for the Capitol Campaign Phase II that \$50,000 had been raised, with additional pledges still coming in. \$170,000 is needed by 2017. It was reported that it was hoped that a summer camp could be started, also in 2017. President Joanne Solomon read her written report, which is herewith included.

Outgoing board members were recognized. They were Lucy Emison, Libby Cierzniak, Nelson Price, Pat Rooney, Grace Long, and John Long.

The slate of new board members was presented and voted upon favorably: Fallon Coleman Hadley, Debra Renkens, Diane Tolliver, and Rose Wernicke. The slate of officers was also presented and voted upon favorably: President – Joanne Solomon; Vice President, Jim Glass; Treasurer, Rose Wernicke; Secretary, Diane Tolliver. Nelson Price, Jim Sweeney, and Marilyn Pecsok were honored, and Sherry Watkins spoke about a new series that would be starting.

Announcements: Style Show on October 6. All were asked to complete the survey that had been provided. The program for the June Prop Day was announced to be "Flags of the American Revolution." The tea room was announced to be opening under new management on June 13.

The business meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m, and Ray Boomhower gave the program on May Wright Sewall, after which all sang "Happy Birthday" to May and ate cupcakes provided by Helen Rudisell.

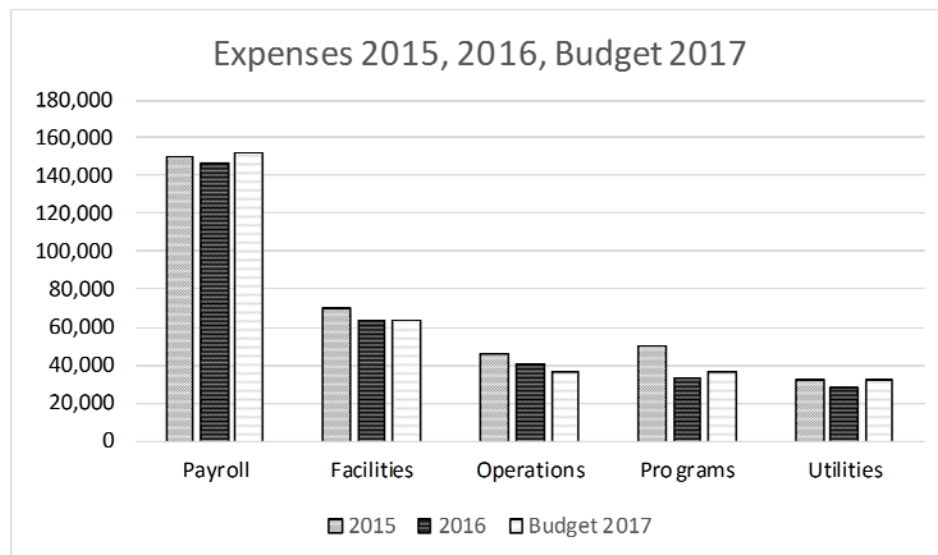
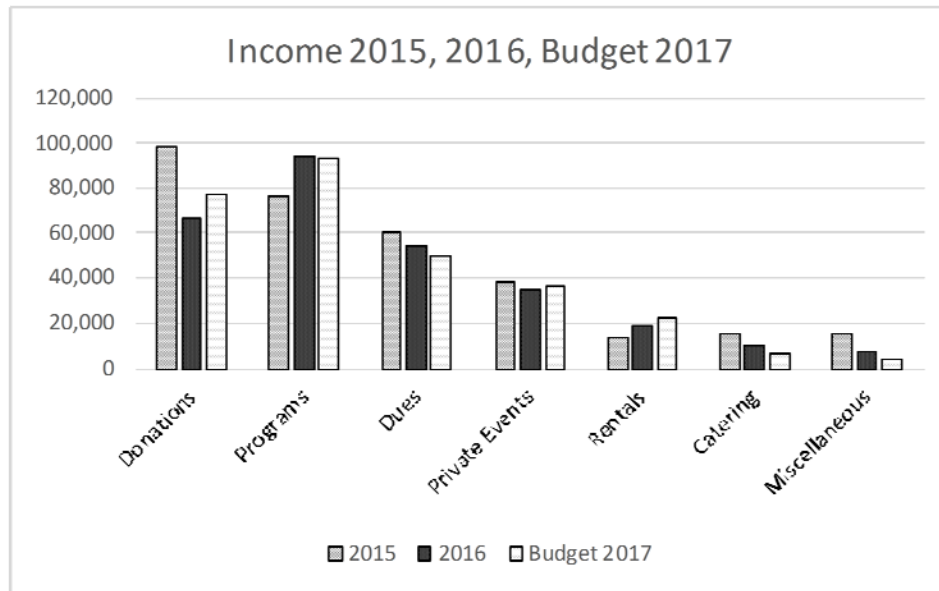
A packet of reports was handed to each one present.

Grace Long, Recording Secretary

Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc.

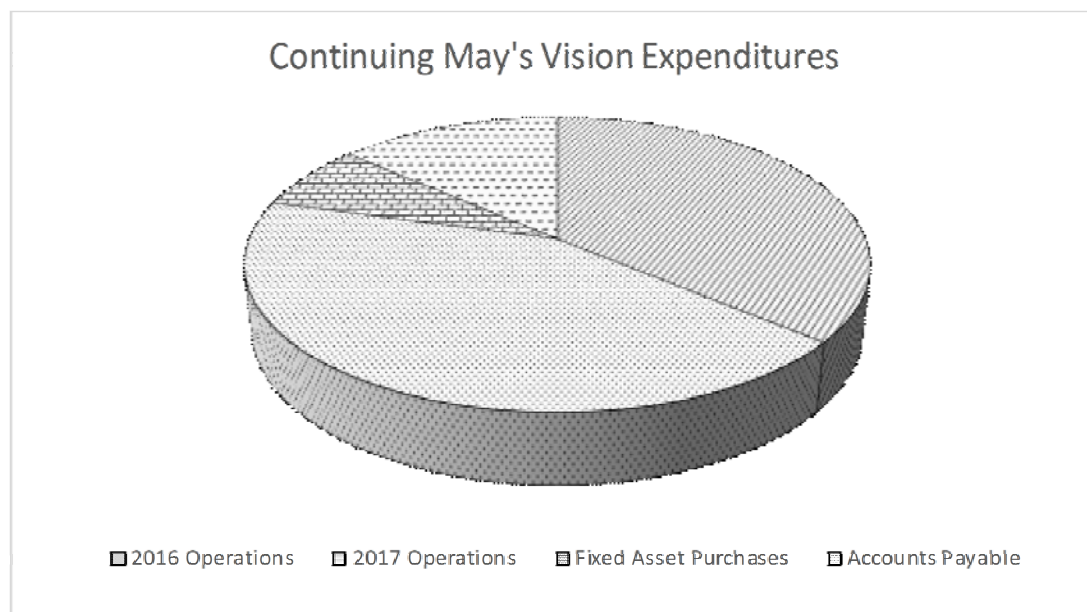
Treasurer's Report

The financial information presented below compares results from fiscal year 2015, 2016 and budgeted results for 2017. More detail may be obtained from the Treasurer or Executive Director.



	2015	2016	Budget 2017	
Income	\$218,702.42	\$218,420.02	\$211,422.34	
Donations	\$98,013.02	\$66,528.11	\$77,056.80	
Expenses	\$316,715.44	\$284,948.13	\$288,479.14	
Fund Balances				
		12/31/2015	12/31/2016	12/31/2017
Operating		9,206.92	45,614.34	5,267.04
Restricted Funds				
Scholarship		1,355.00	1,355.00	1,355.00
Repairs & Maintenance (Phase I) net		43,536.38	49,681.86	52,861.86
Total Restricted Funds		44,891.38	51,036.86	54,036.86

The Continue May's Vision Campaign began in March, 2016 and has raised a total of \$149,070, with outstanding pledges of \$5,700.00. The funds raised through the campaign have been used to pay \$56,159 of our 2016 operating budget and \$68,056 of our 2017 operating budget. In addition, campaign funds have made possible fixed asset purchases for 2016 and 2017 of \$11,363 and payment of \$19,200 for outstanding bills. Our deepest thanks are due to the 73 members and friends of the Propylaeum who have made pledges and helped us fund operations for these two critical years.



Submitted by Rose Wernicke, Board Treasurer

President's Report

So much has happened between May 2016 to May 2017 with the Propylaeum Historic Foundation. You have heard from Vice President Jim Glass about the success of the "Continuing May's Vision" campaign. This has been very helpful.

The accomplishments of the Women's Enrichment Program under the leadership of pegg kennedy and her fantastic committee have been excellent in exposing us to the city and the goals of May Wright Sewall. The three women who were honored this year Eva Kor, Gayle Cook, and Sara Evans Barker, are examples of women who have made a difference. This program also provided the funds for a new lighting system for our House.



Joanne Solomon

Special thanks go to Beverly Watkins and Sherry Watkins, who under their leadership raised a record amount from the PROPerly Chic style show.

We are very happy with the results of the 15th Annual Salon Society, chaired by Cathy Michel with the assistance of Shirley Roberts for the silent auction. At this year's, May Wright Sewall Leadership Award program, we celebrated the career of Myra Borshoff. Attendance at this event was less than we expected so we will be looking at ways to improve this in the next years.

Cathy Michel, the chair of the Membership Committee, has worked very hard to create a new membership application, brochures, and more varied levels of memberships. Cathy has begun Fun Fridays where once a month members go on -one day trips around the Indianapolis area.

Sadly, we have disbanded the Heritage Club.

The Board studied and revised the job descriptions for all paid positions. The Board created an Employee Guideline policy and updated the mission and vision statements of the Propylaeum

Last May, the Café at the Prop reopened but made a change in management in February. We are working very hard with The Food Guys catering business to bring in more people and groups to enjoy our wonderful building. For those who haven't sampled the Café's menu, I think you will find it quite appealing.

President's Report continued ...

In October, after 20 years of loyal service, our club manager, Linda Carlen resigned. Many hours were spent by the Executive Committee discussing what our expectations would be for a replacement. It was decided that we would look for an executive director who would be more involved in development and grant writing. We had over 75 applications narrowed them down to 9 who we interviewed then down to 3 for a final interview. We selected Elizabeth Ellis for this position. In just a little over two months, Liz has settled into her position and helped us develop new strategies for strengthening the Propylaeum. We are very happy to have her with us!

During this summer, the Board will work on developing a new 5 year plan for the Propylaeum. We will have a book sale in conjunction with the Landmarks Treasure Hunt this summer and we will be planning more events for our members and friends.

The Propylaeum continues to face financial challenges even though we have made great strides in this area. We have been making good strides in raising funds for balancing our operating budget, but still have a gap to close each year. Also, in maintaining a home that is over 120 year old, there are constant repairs. We are seeking funding to conduct a comprehensive architectural study of the needs for rehabilitating and restoring our historic property. We will then seek funds to make our house more accessible and useable for events and programs. As a foundation for our future, we need to recruit new members. The Membership Committee is taking the lead on this. The board and our staff are actively working to bring in more revenue from events and grants. We are also going to institute regular appeals to friends and members to provide contributions for our programs and operations. We will be working on a planned giving program to easily assist members in helping to remember the Propylaeum in their estate planning. Our goal for the next year is to achieve a balanced operating budget with stable funding by 2019, and I want to ask all of your support in helping us achieve this goal.

Submitted by Joanne Solomon
President, Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc.

Executive Director's Report

The future of the Propylaeum Historic Foundation is unlimited. I feel strongly that we can grow membership and make the Propylaeum the place where all women want to meet. I am very excited to be part of an organization with such dedicated and extraordinary people.

Programs – With the tremendous success of the inaugural Marilyn K. Glick Women's Enrichment Series the WES Committee plans to carry the momentum into the 2017-2018 series.

I envision the Propylaeum Historic Foundation building on the concept of "women who broke the mold" as we plan new programs and build our membership. We will also look at ways that we can build coalitions with other women's organizations to expand our audience and our reach.



Membership – The Propylaeum Historic Foundation, Inc. is in a unique position to engage new members and donors because our mission attracts those who are interested in a wide variety of topics including historic preservation, women's history and leadership, and arts and culture. We have programs and special interest groups that encourage participation on many different levels. Moving forward we hope to create incentives to re-enlist past members and invite in new members.

Fundraising – While this is not everyone's favorite topic, it is one of the most important areas for our success. We will create a comprehensive development plan that will review and update all aspects of fundraising including:

- Annual Appeal
- Individual Giving and Major Gifts
- Special Events
- Corporate Sponsorship
- Corporate Foundation Grant Writing
- Private and Community Foundation Grant Writing
- Planned Giving

Endowment— To make sure that the Propylaeum will remain vibrant well into the future we must establish an Endowment. Establishing an endowment will mean long-term funds for the physical structure, for programming, and for operating expenses. Gifts of any kind— cash, real property, insurance, retirement accounts, stocks, memorial and estate gifts can all be placed into a Propylaeum Endowment.

Events – Events are essential to the growth of the Propylaeum. We will work with the Events department to help grow both outside and internal Propylaeum events. Elizabeth has some great ideas on events that will bring both existing and new members to the Propylaeum. With the addition of The Food Guys as a catering choice along with MBP, and some creative marketing, we plan to expand and grow all events.

2017 – The staff at the Propylaeum are dedicated to making this a great place and to making everything that you do a little easier. Of course we will still need your time, talent, and treasure, but we're planning to absorb a few more of the details so that you, the members, can focus on great programming, recruiting new members, and enjoying the Propylaeum every day.

Please join us each Prop Day, and bring a friend. Don't miss any of our special events including Pages at the Prop and Gateway Gathering with Vern Petri on July 9. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to help grow this beautiful, historic, organization.

Happily submitted by Liz Ellis

Facilities Report

Facilities Committee

- **Repairs, Town House.** The following repairs to the townhouse have been completed during the past year: repairs on the first floor half-bath floor, second floor bathroom leak under the tub, ceiling in the living room, floor in the living room and the support beams underneath.
- **Repairs, Mansion.** The following repairs have been made to the main house during the past year: new spotlights in Club Room, installed locks on kitchen cupboards, new washer and dryer (generously donated by member), electrical outlets and security lights
- **Analysis of Structure and Life Safety Issues, Third Floor.** In January, Frederick Herget of ARSEE Engineers provided a pro bono analysis of the structural soundness of the third floor. Based on a preliminary examination, it was his opinion that the joist structure below the ballroom is adequate for most functions that the Propylaeum might want to hold there. He and building code expert Dave Cook raised life safety concerns about the existing exits from the third floor and made recommendations for ways to address life safety issues.
- **Architectural Analysis of Property.** The Executive Committee has obtained estimates from three architectural firms for conducting a comprehensive analysis of the property to identify priorities for rehabilitation and preservation and provide cost estimates for addressing each. Grants are being sought to pay for the study and to pay for high priority rehabilitation issues. The study will include estimates for installing an elevator to the third floor of the main house and addressing life safety issues, so the third floor can be used for income-producing events.



Submitted by Jim Glass, Facilities Committee Chair

Programs

Salon Society

With intermittent rain the Salon Society fund raiser to support the Propylaeum was held April 30, 2017. Cathy Morris, an electric violinist, provided wonderful entertainment followed by silent auction, and dinner catered by MBP Distinctive Catering.

Income from the event was \$15,813.00 while expenses were \$2,735.00 making our profit from the event \$13,078.00

This event would not be a success without a wonderful committee whose members are Nancy Haldrup, Joanne Solomon, Diane Tolliver, Marilyn Pecsok, Jill Chambers, Nancy Roth, Monica Vojnovich, Linda Carlen, and Shirley Roberts who undertook the big task of organizing the silent auction.

We also wish to thank all the contributions from members for a successful silent auction.

Submitted by Cathy Michel, Salon Society Committee Chair



Cathy Morris, electric violinist.



Sherry Watkins,. Beverly Watkins and Nancy Fyffe.



John and Monica Vojnovich



Ann Frick and Jan Wahls

Marilyn K. Glick Women's Enrichment Series

The 2016-2017 Women's Enrichment Series featured inspirational speakers on a wide range of topics. Eva Kor brought her message of forgiveness to a sold-out house on October 20, 2016. Full houses for Gayle Cook and Sarah Evans Barker, on February 16 and April 20, 2017, respectively, heard stories of entrepreneurship and passion for conserving historic buildings, and a view from the trenches of the justice system. The series brought guests from the Jewish and legal communities, preservation professionals, and many more attendees who had never experienced an event at the Prop. Proceeds from the Enrichment Series contributed just over \$40,000 to the Propylaeum's operating budget.

Many thanks to the series sponsors:

- Marianne Glick – Title Sponsor
- Barnes & Thornburg
- Bedel Financial
- French Lick Resorts
- Central Indiana Community Foundation
- Great Fermentations
- In Memory of Velma Watkins
- National Bank of Indianapolis
- Printing Partners
- Indianapolis Monthly
- Sun King Brewing



Eva Kor and Marianne Glick

Submitted by Rose Wernicke for pegg kennedy



Sarah Evans Barker and Rose Wernicke



Gayle Cook

May Wright Sewall Leadership Award Event

The dinner honoring May Wright Sewall Leadership Award recipient Myra Borschoff was held on Thursday, November 3, 2016.

The 2016 honoree was Myra Borshoff, well-known public relations and crisis-management professional. She founded Borshoff, a strategic communications company, in 1984. She sold it in 2010, but remained until 2014. She recently started another company, MB Communications. Over the years, she has counted among her clients such recognizable names as the Indianapolis Colts, the Indianapolis Pacers, and Eli Lilly.



Submitted by Grace Long

PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum

Co-Chairs attended style shows to seek ideas and utilized other suggestions.

Changes made from previous year were as follows:

- increased the number of models
- provided for a silent auction as well as door prizes
- provided Secret Ingredient sales both prior to and after the brunch/style show
- obtained donation of Oliver Winery champagne for mini-bar purchases
- included a philanthropic component--collected shoes for Changing Footprints

Utilized Dreamstime graphic (rights purchased in 2015) for program and other marketing. Continued using term "**PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum**" as established for 2015 style show. Designed program, prizes/silent auction handouts, poster of prizes, thank you notes, and marketing materials using the graphic.

• *Suggest that graphic and term "**PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum**" be used for successive style shows.*

Provided the following to reduce expenses:

- Masks, flowers, and other items for table centerpieces
- Frames for table numbers, description for each individual door prize/silent auction item, and individual donor recognition for each item
- Printing costs of programs, posters, and hand-outs of listing of auction/door prizes

Solicited donations for door prizes and silent auction items from members, friends, and family as well as from local businesses and organizations

Sold door prize tickets three for \$5 and seven for \$10. Cathy Michel distributed tickets. Set-up silent auction in Tea Room including bid sheets and pens. Distributed to each attendee a listing of both door prize and silent auction items including recognition of donors and displayed same information on two posters.

- *Suggest that both door prizes and a silent auction be available at next style show with soliciting of more donations from other businesses/organizations to increase income.*

Arranged for Secret Ingredient Style Show with owner Jeanne Rush and for Propylaeum models, Roni Embry, Dawn Fazi, pegg kennedy, Kathy Pratt, Joanne Reynolds, Susie Sencaj, Diane Tolliver, Beverly Watkins, and Rose Wernicke.

Scheduled sales both prior to and after the brunch/style show. Increased the number of models.



- *Suggest eight-ten models for upcoming style shows. Continue providing for Secret Ingredient sales both prior to (one hour) and after the brunch/style show.*

Provided PROPerly Chic announcements for Shirley Roberts to include in the *Bulletin*. Arranged for Shirley Judkins to play the piano during the event, arranged brunch menu with MBP Distinctive Catering, arranged for collection of shoes with Changing Footprints.

Results of Changes Initiated:	2015	2016
Secret Ingredient Commission	\$325	\$545
Door Prize Income	\$270	\$395
New Income:	Bar	\$146
	Silent Auction	\$584
Net Income:	\$1,214.72	\$2664.51

Collected over 200 pairs of shoes for Changing Footprints.

Report of October 6, 2016, PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum

Additional Suggestions:

- Provide more aggressive and earlier marketing including seeking radio announcements
- Provide addition of Table Sponsors as well as individual sales
- Extend invitation list including Indiana Historical Landmarks, Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site, Propylaeum guest speakers, Propylaeum visitors
- Provide announcement for The Secret Ingredient to promote and invite customers
- Encourage members to promote **PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum** at other organizations/events

PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum is consistent with our mission by advancing the following opportunities for women and the community:

- offering member leadership and camaraderie opportunities
- providing experiences for members to showcase their talents
- educating members and community on current fashion trends
- supporting a local woman-owned business
- showcasing our beautiful facility to members, guests, and community
- providing a source of income for the Propylaeum
- most importantly, helping to address the needs of the community and improve conditions in society as a whole, through our partnership with Changing Footprints. This organization collects and distributes footwear to those in need at home and abroad. Even damaged shoes are converted into playgrounds.

Next PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum--October 10, 2017

Report of October 6, 2016, PROPerly Chic at the Propylaeum
Beverly Watkins and Sherry Watkins, Style Show and Brunch Event Chairpersons



Membership

Membership Committee: Meet the Prop was held in September 2016. Women from the IBJ's list of largest women's owned businesses were invited to an evening of getting to know the Prop and possible interest in membership. It was an introduction to the Women's Enrichment Series, Pages at the Prop, and that the home could be rented for events by the general public. Attendance was not as great as hoped for. We are not discouraged and plan on having a membership drive again.

- Pages at the Prop had one Indiana author speak, Tricia Fields who has written a series of mysteries featuring a Texas sheriff named Josie Gray, who is from Indiana. We have some exciting Pages coming up.
- The August Prop day was recognition of members who have been members 25 years or more. It was very well attended and we had fun activities to get to know each other. It is planned for August Prop 2017 to be a recognition day again.
- Fun Fridays have turned into a fun, relaxing way to meet fellow members as we visit new, interesting places. A few of the outings included the Lew Wallace home and museum in Crawfordsville, Garfield Park Conservatory, Scottish Rite Cathedral, and Birch Bayh Federal Building featuring the courtroom of Sarah Evans Barker.

We gained four new members but seven long term members resigned.

Our biggest challenge is continuing to attract new membership. To this end the committee is always trying to think of ways to showcase the organization to new prospective members and create opportunities for current members to enjoy being part of the Propylaeum Historic Foundation.



Cathy Michel and pegg kennedy at the Scottish Rite Cathedral.

Submitted by Cathy Michel, Membership Chair

Special Interest Groups

Book Club

The book club has an exciting group of ten members (other members always welcome) who meet the fourth Tuesday of every month. We gather at noon, order lunch from the café, and discuss the book of the month.

Following is a list of the books we have read this past year:

- May – *Keepsake*
- June – *The Witches: Salem, 1692*
- July – *The Last Policeman*
- August – *Five Days Left*
- September – *First Women*
- October – *The Traitors Wife*
- November/December – *Truly Madly Guilty*
- January – *The Good Girls Revolt*
- February – *Midnight in Broad Daylight*
- March – *State of Wonder*
- April – *The Girl in the Garden*

We combine November and December into one meeting on a date decided by members (usually early December).

We invite all members to join our merry little band of bookies.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cathy Michel for Nancy Haldrup, Chair

Investment Club

We started 2016 basically as a new club after the resignation of several of the founding members. We adopted a Philosophy and Mission Statement. We also changed from Co-Senior Partners to a Senior Partner and Associate Senior Partner and defined that job description, including giving an economic report and handling the educational component. Both have been very useful.

We now have seven spirited members, each of whom gives a report on the stock(s) they are monitoring. Our investments did well in 2016, along with the market in general. We hope to have extra cash in 2017 to invest.

The Investment club meets the 3rd Monday of the month (except in December) from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Those who can stay order lunch from the Café to be served at the end of the meeting. We are always looking for new members.

Cheryl J. Eyed
Senior Partner

Bible Study

Bible Study had Lorraine Bonewitz, a guest, lead us in our fall study. Then we had audio discs by Dr. David Jeremiah following her. We concluded with Searching For Heaven On Earth by Dr. Jeremiah. We look forward to having you join us next fall.

Submitted by Jan Wahls

Talbot Street Festival Parking Fundraiser

With temperatures in the 90's both days, Prop members were able to raise \$2,270 over June 11-12, 2016. This was an all-time high. The dry weather also allowed for parking on the grass grounds around the Prop.

2016 was the second year in a row that we charged \$10 for parking in our lot.

On Saturday of the Talbot Street Art Festival, Indianapolis was fortunate to host the Pride Parade and a number of activities taking place at the Harrison Center. This increased the number of people who used the Propylaeum parking lot as their parking venue for the day. A Prop Hostess was stationed inside the mansion for

those who wanted to use the restrooms, cool off,

and take a self-guided tour. Literature about events at the Prop was distributed to guests who parked. The opening of the Café for guests was not possible in 2016.

Submitted by Diane Tolliver, Talbot Street Art Festival Parking Chair



Diane Tolliver, staying cool and parking cars!



Joanne Solomon—the race is on to park some cars!

Mailing Committee

The mailing committee, three or four members, meets once a month, usually on the fourth Thursday morning at 10:00am. We fold the Bulletin and bills, stuff, seal, and stamp the emailing. Of course, we visit too, and sometimes stay for lunch in the Café. Lately the group has included Georgie Perkins, Monica Vojnovich, and Grace Long.

Submitted by Grace Long

Outreach

Outreach Committee

There were two major events and a new event that the Outreach Committee sponsored during this last year.



Hop to the Prop

- The first project was to provide Christmas sacks for all the students who attend School 27 Center for Inquiry. Each child was given a sack that included gloves and a candy cane. First graders to six graders also received a Christmas pencil and eraser. The middle school students received hats instead of gloves and the younger students got a toy.
- The Propylaeum for many years has sponsored an Easter Egg Hunt for the community. It is held the Saturday before Easter. We have around 80 children and we have the Easter Bunny so parents are able to have their children's picture taken with the bunny.

- Jill Chambers has begun a project "Days for Girls" where some of our members and other community people gather and make kits for girls in Africa to use during their cycles so that they can continue to go to school. Many have to stay home and miss school. Thank you Jill for spearheading this project.



Nancy Roth helps with Day for Girls

Submitted by Joanne Solomon, Outreach Chair

Teachers Treasurers

Normally a load of items for Teacher's Treasures school supplies is delivered every couple of weeks. They are most appreciative of our donations and make good use of them.

Submitted by Jan Wahls

Publicity Committee

A variety of new and repeated events where media attention was sought were promoted May 2016-May 2017. Pages at the Prop, Prop Parlor Party, the May Wright Sewall Leadership Award event, the Salon Society, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Brunch, Mother's Day Buffet, Valentine's Day Sweetheart Dinner, and other events created by both Prop Members and the Event and Marketing Director Elizabeth Turner. The transition between two different caterers in the Café also created additional advertising challenges.

Nancy Roth and I worked together to send information out about these events that are open to the public at Propylaeum. We also try to publicize private members-only events (Prop Parlor Party) by writing articles for the Bulletin and for e-mail distribution.

Nancy and I, working without a budget, are only able to submit items to entities that will post our events without charge.

Submitted by Diane Tolliver and Nancy Roth

Prop Day

September 21, 2016 Prop Day brought Deb Bonte and Gail Folaron who explained the Days for Girls program and resulted in an every other month gathering of Prop members and friends to sew, cut, and make sanitary kits for girls around the world who do not have access to running water or electricity. The kits help these young women to stay in school.

October 19 the Prop Day program featured Theater and Music Reviewer Jay Harvey, whose years at the Indianapolis Star and other newspapers led to his blog which highlights Indianapolis area theater and music offerings.

November 16 Prop Day hosted a party for our departing Manager Linda Carlen, who served in just about every capacity in her twenty years of service. Members were saddened to see her leave, but wished her great success in her next position which will allow her regular hours and time to travel, boat and enjoy.

December 21 Prop Day celebrated the season with a visit from the ecumenical seniors group, the Shepherd Singers, which charmed with their holiday renderings of popular tunes making for a cheerful time in the fabulously decorated house.

January 18, 2017, Prop members and guests were entertained by Dr. James H. Madison's revisiting of 200 Years of Indiana History which was celebrated throughout the State in 2016. He shared our beginnings and the connections between the past and present. He autographed his latest Indiana history book afterwards while visiting with his appreciative audience.

February 15 Prop Day heard about the remarkable Indianapolis native Janet Flanner from Educator, Actor, Director and playwright Gari Williams. Ms. Williams explained that Flanner ended up moving to Paris and became a nationally known columnist known as Genet introducing the likes of Picasso, Stein and Hemingway. She also sounded the early warning of the rise of Adolf Hitler as a journalist reporting from Paris.

March 15 Prop Day gave us the entertaining talk by Sarah M. Halter, Executive Director of the Indiana Medical History Museum who shared the lives of two early women physicians Dr. Sarah Stockton and Sr. Mary Spink who served during the 1880s-1900 at the Central Indiana Hospital for the Insane. She also noted catching a brain tissue thief who tried to sell the stolen Medical History Museum material on line!

April 19 Prop Day brought Damar President and CEO Dr. Jim Dalton who leads DAMAR Services, Inc., has long made his impact on the developmental disabilities industry including autism. A licensed child psychologist with more than 25 years of experience in child and adolescent behavior health, he noted DAMAR's 50th anniversary serving this growing Central Indiana community. He was joined by DAMAR Foundation President Ken File.

May 17 Prop Day serves as the Propylaeum Historic Foundation's Annual Meeting

June 21 Prop Day will feature Amy Griffin, the Indianapolis Marion County Public Library's Special Collections Librarian who will share the information on of May Wright Sewall and other Special Collections.

July 21st Prop Day will feature Correspondent National Patrick Mobley of the Forty and Eight National Headquarters which serves veterans and their communities. Forty and Eight is an honor society of American veterans created in 1920 after WWI and named La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux (translated The Society of 40 men and 8 horses).

August 16 Prop Day will celebrate our long time members and hear about the changes that have occurred at the Indianapolis Propylaeum over the years. The year 2018 will celebrate the Propylaeum's 130th anniversary!

September 20th Prop Day brings us Jeannie Regan Dinius of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to talk about Indiana's participation in the Underground Railroad.

Surprises throughout 2017!

Submitted by Jill Chambers
Prop Day Program Chair