

# MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

KEEPING HOMETOWN MEMORIES ALIVE

## MUSEUM



## JOURNAL

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### SOCIETY NAMES ITS RESEARCH LIBRARY AFTER CAROLYN KRAUSE

BY JEAN MURPHY

Carolyn H. Krause, former Mayor of Mount Prospect and Illinois State Representative of the 56<sup>th</sup> District, has broken barrier after barrier over her years in public service and contributed greatly to her adopted hometown of Mount Prospect.

Among those many contributions was her participation in the formation of the Mount Prospect Historical Society in the late 1960s. The work Krause did on behalf of the Mount Prospect Historical Society during its early years and her impact on the history of Mount Prospect recently prompted the Society to honor her by naming its local history research room in her name.

The ceremony at the Society on October 1 drew old Mount Prospect and State of Illinois friends and acquaintances who wished to celebrate Krause's many contributions.

"Carolyn has been a loyal and stalwart supporter of the Society since its infancy," stated Deb Rittle, Society president, "and has done great service for the residents of Mount Prospect in many roles and capacities, so we feel it is fitting to honor her within our museum where future researchers will undoubtedly spend many hours working in our archives."

A NATIVE OF MILWAUKEE, Krause moved to the Chicago area after graduating from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1960 and shortly thereafter met David Krause, a native of Boston. She worked for Compton Encyclopedia in Chicago and he was a chemist with a small Mount Prospect-

based firm. The two soon married and decided to attend Chicago-Kent College of Law together, graduating in 1966. She was one of only three women in her law school class and went to work for a Chicago firm. David worked with a solo lawyer in the suburbs.

By 1970 they had purchased a home in Mount Prospect and five years later chose to open a joint general civil law practice (real estate, civil lawsuits, divorce) almost literally under the Mount Prospect water tower.

Krause was on the cutting edge of women in law. It wasn't easy for a woman to get an offer from a law firm in those days. She recalls one man at a firm telling her to use just her initials on the application form so they wouldn't immediately know she was a woman. Another told her he could hire her to do probate work behind the scenes but that a male would have to interact with the clients.

While she was settling into Mount Prospect and still living in an area apartment, Krause read about a group starting a local historical society for Mount Prospect. History had always interested her, so she decided to attend a meeting at the Mount Prospect Country Club and became involved with the fledgling group.

"We had no facility so when people donated items, we all took them home to store them until we had a museum," Krause recalled. "I helped out whenever and wherever I could, often finding speakers for meetings and the like."



Carolyn Krause outside the newly dedicated Research Library

(Photo by Mike Zarnek)

Before long, Mayor Bob Teichert named her to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals for Mount Prospect.

"There was lots of development going on in Mount Prospect during the 1970s. In fact, the Village was still annexing land. People would make requests for special use permits, rezoning and so forth and I would go out and look at the property and see if I thought it would work for what they were asking and then report to the other Board members."

By doing this, Krause got a taste for "homegrown local politics" and liked it. So, when Mayor Teichert chose not to run for re-election in 1977, the 38-year-old Krause ran against two men and was elected.

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Summer flew by at the Historical Society! We were excited to host two sessions of History Camp on our museum campus for the first time since 2019. The Historians-in-Training had a blast learning about Mount Prospect history through hands-on activities and visiting the historic buildings on the museum campus. Some of their favorite moments were playing with old-fashioned toys, learning to dance the “Heel-Toe Polka,” and churning butter. I was so impressed with their enthusiasm for not just the activities, but also the history behind it all.

The highlight of this fall was definitely the dedication of the Carolyn H. Krause Research Library. This room in the Dietrich Friedrichs House was originally Dietrich’s office, but it has been a research room since the Historical Society moved in. A room full of historical resources is a fitting tribute to a woman who helped the community in so many ways, as well as made history herself. I especially enjoyed meeting Carolyn after having spent so much time learning about her and her work in the area. It was a like meeting a celebrity! Next time you’re on a tour of the

Dietrich Friedrichs House, make sure you peek in to see the space.

Have a fantastic fall, readers!



*Emily Dattilo*

## FROM THE COLLECTION



This pair of roller skates belonged to local roller derby star Sammy Skobel. Although legally blind, he had a long and incredibly successful career in the sport. By the time Sammy retired in the mid-1960s, he had been voted Most Valuable Player three times and inducted into the Roller Derby Hall of Fame. His feats include setting a world speed record on the banked track.

Sammy continued to inspire others after his retirement by speaking at local schools and advocating for other blind athletes. In 1971 he helped found the American Blind Skiing Foundation, which continues his advocacy to this day.

Many Mount Prospect residents probably remember him best for his restaurant on Main Street: Hot Dogs Plus. Sammy (pictured at right) and his wife, Vee, started this restaurant after Sammy’s retirement from the rink. Customers fondly remember not just the delicious food, but also Sammy and Vee’s warm, welcoming personalities.



## 34TH ANNUAL MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY HOUSEWALK

The Mount Prospect Historical Society will hold its annual Holiday Housewalk on Friday, December 2 in the neighborhoods surrounding Fairview School.

Tickets will go on sale November 1 for the Mount Prospect Historical Society’s 34th annual Holiday Housewalk which will begin in a tent on North Oak Avenue (north of Gregory Street) and will run from 3:30 to 9 p.m.

The interiors of six private homes, built between about 1868 and 2022, will be featured on the tour this year. Those homes are: 319 N. Prospect Manor, owned by Martha and Vien Phong Trinh; 407 N. Prospect Manor, owned by Laura and Rob Ryndak; 420 N. Prospect Manor, owned by Sherie Thomas; 400 N. Fairview, owned by Anne and Dean Granato; 402 N. Oak Avenue, owned by Kari and Dan Schacke; and 300 N. Oak Avenue, owned by Katie and Nick Papanicholas.

All of the homes will be exciting to tour in their own ways, whether because of the historic flavor or the lovely decorating, according to JP Karlov, Housewalk co-chairperson. It should also be noted that any COVID protocols in effect at the time will be followed.

As usual, this walking tour will be accented by beautifully-lit luminaria. Parking will be available along neighborhood streets.

Commentary in the homes will be provided by volunteers from local organizations, businesses, schools and the community. Local florists and homeowners will provide the decorations. This year’s featured florists are Busse Flowers and Gifts of Rolling Meadows,

*(Continued on page 3)*



Three mayors: Skip Farley, Carolyn Krause, and current Mayor Paul Hoefert

(Photo by Mike Zarnek)

*Krause (Continued from page 1)*

She had her campaign headquarters in the Holiday Inn near Randhurst and that is where they tallied the votes and partied on election night.

“It was absolutely thrilling to win. Just like things were changing for women in the law, they were also changing for women in

government and I became Mount Prospect’s first woman mayor with the help of voters who wanted to see what a female mayor could do,” she said.

During her tenure as Mount Prospect’s ninth mayor (between 1977 and 1989), Krause dealt with the conversion of 300 acres of Northern Illinois Gas-owned land into the Kensington Business Center.

Krause also cut back on the construction of multi-family housing units in Mount Prospect – something that her predecessor had been pushing hard and constantly expanding. She also worked to find a way for charitable groups like Clearbrook Center to get special use permits to establish group homes within the Village’s residential neighborhoods. And Krause brought Lake Michigan water to Mount Prospect (via Chicago), ending the Village’s reliance on local wells.

“I enjoyed being mayor and poured a lot of time into doing the

job, participating in regional initiatives like the Northwest Municipal Conference and the Solid Waste Commission so that communities could work together to solve problems,” she explained.

After she had served 12 years (the first Mount Prospect mayor to do so), Krause felt it was time to leave the leadership of the Village to someone else and she stepped down and went back to practicing law.

“I was so pleased to see two other women eventually follow me into the Mayor’s office,” she recalled.

APPROXIMATELY THREE YEARS after stepping down as Mayor, Krause decided to run for State Representative of the 56<sup>th</sup> District. She was elected to represent much of Mount Prospect and Arlington Heights, as well as small parts of Prospect Heights, Buffalo Grove and Des Plaines. She would serve in that capacity for 16 years (until 2009) under the administrations of Jim Edgar, George Ryan, Rod Blagojevich and Pat Quinn and is still the only Mount Prospect mayor who has gone on to earn a seat in the Illinois General Assembly.

“In those days Republicans and Democrats worked well together, regardless of party. But that is no longer the case in Springfield,” she lamented.

During her years in Springfield, Krause concentrated her field of work on healthcare and human services legislation.

“David carried on our law practice while I was in Springfield and then it became time to shut it down. Now we spend our summers on Cape Cod and our winters in Mount Prospect. This community has always made us feel comfortable, so we have never wanted to leave,” she added.

*Visit [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org) to see more dedication ceremony photos!*

*Housewalk (continued from page 2)*

Mount Prospect Flowers and The Purple Rose of Mount Prospect, Pesche’s Flowers of Des Plaines, and The Flower Studio of Rolling Meadows.

Non-refundable tickets will be sold for \$28 each through December 1 at the Mount Prospect Village Hall, 50 S. Emerson St.; Busey Bank, 299 W. Central Rd.; River Trails’ Weiss Center, 1500 E. Euclid Ave.; RecPlex, 420 Dempster St.; the Central Community Center, 1000 W. Central Rd.; Millie’s Hallmark, 1024 S. Elmhurst Rd.; LePeep, 10 E. Northwest Hwy.; and the Dietrich Friedrichs House museum, 101 S. Maple St. Tickets are also available through PayPal at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org). Those tickets can be picked up at a “will call” desk located at the tent headquarters during the walk.

Same-day tickets will be available for purchase beginning at 3 p.m. at the tent headquarters for \$30 per person.

“The Housewalk is the Society’s largest fund-raiser of the year,” Karlov explained. “Its proceeds support the many educational endeavors of the Society and help to pay for upkeep on our museum. We urge the public to support our effort to preserve local history through enjoying the Housewalk and our other activities throughout the year.”

This year’s major sponsors are Nicholas & Associates, Tina Haffey of @Properties, Busse Automotive, Novak & Parker, Hearth & Home, Mary O’Malley and Sally Chang of @Properties, and Mrs. P & Me.



300 N. Oak Avenue, owned by Katie and Nick Papanicholas



## MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

101 South Maple Street  
Mount Prospect, IL 60056-3229  
[www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org)

Located on the southeast corner of Maple Street and Busse Avenue

Phone: 847/392-9006  
Fax: 847/577-9660  
Email: [info@mtphistory.org](mailto:info@mtphistory.org)



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## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Holiday Housewalk

Friday, December 2  
3:30pm—9pm  
Location: Surrounding Fairview Elementary School

The 34th Annual Holiday Housewalk features six private homes in the area surrounding Fairview Elementary School. Homes will be open for tours and decorated for the holidays by the homeowners with additional floral arrangements and décor provided by area florists. Tickets go on sale November 1. Tickets are \$28 before December 3; \$30 on day of walk. Purchase at various locations in town or online at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org). Historical Society members can purchase tickets for \$26 in advance at the museum only.



### Second Sundays at the Society

11:30am—1:30pm  
Location: Mount Prospect Historical Society Central School (103 S. Maple St.)  
The Dietrich Friedrichs House (101 S. Maple St.) will also be open for tours.  
Fee: Free!

*December 11:* Gingerbread Open House



*January 8:* Meet the Friedrichs

*February 12:* Making Valentines

### Needlecraft Nights

7pm —9pm  
Location: Mount Prospect Historical Society Central School (103 S. Maple St.)

Get out your needles and thread. Starting November 9 the Mount Prospect Historical Society will be hosting Monthly Needle Craft Nights. Bring your own knitting/crocheting/embroidery project

or try our spotlight project each month. All experience levels are welcome. Advance registration is recommended and a \$5 donation is suggested.

*December 14:* Plastic canvas ornaments

*January 11:* Visible and invisible mending



For more information, call the Society or visit our website at [www.mtphist.org](http://www.mtphist.org).

Save the Date!  
Annual Meeting  
Thursday, January 19