

MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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SCHOOLHOUSE SUPERSTAR

Heroes have existed since the beginning of civilization and played a pivotal role in both history and epic novels. Heroes are people or characters who overcome obstacles and hardships for the sake of their community. Some of these heroes were mythical beings, while others were real people. Right here in Mount Prospect we have had heroes of our very own. Some of our heroes protected Mount Prospect by fighting fires; others protected the community by going off to war to fight in foreign lands; and others educated our youth. It takes a special type of person to be a hero. Heroes are selfless, humble and courageous. One of Mount Prospect's more recent heroes is possibly its youngest yet. Nolan Hahn, a third grader from Lions Park Elementary School, has earned the title of hero because of the selfless actions he has shown toward the community.

As some of you already know, Mount Prospect's 1896 one-room Central Schoolhouse was originally built by William Wille in 1895 and served as Mount Prospect's first public



Nolan Hahn selling his hand-crafted jewelry at the Historical Society's Silent Movie

school until 1930. Central School was the first home to the Mount Prospect Volunteer Fire Department, the Mount Prospect Woman's Club, the Campfire Girls, the Mount Prospect Public Library and Boy Scout Troop #23.

Having moved the building in 2008 to save it from being razed, the Historical Society has been restoring the building as quickly as funds allow so Central School can once again serve as a community center. The interior of the building will be furnished to look like it did in 1896 when it was a one-room schoolhouse. With new educational programs, classes from around the area will have the opportunity to visit

Central School and experience what school was like in the early 20th century.

Each board member of the Historical Society has pledged to donate a certain amount of money to the Central School over the next several years. The restoration of the school house has also been funded by donations from local businesses and members of the community.

Nolan Hahn has gone above and beyond with his support for the restoration of Central School and because of this has been given the unofficial title of "Schoolhouse Superstar" by the Historical Society.

(SEE "SUPERSTAR," PG. 3)

SAVE THESE DATES...

Nov. 13, 2014:
Mount Prospect Stories: Life on the Homefront during the Great War at the Mount Prospect Public Library, 7 p.m.

Nov. 22, 2014:
Night with the Wolves
Join the MPHS and MPPD for a night of fast-paced hockey action with the Chicago Wolves at the Allstate Arena, 7 p.m. Tickets for this event may be purchased through the Mt. Prospect Park District at mppd.org until Nov. 9. Cost: \$22

Dec. 5, 2014:
27th Annual Holiday Housewalk
Located in the Prospect Park and Prospect Highlands subdivisions along S. Main and S. Emerson Streets, 3:30 to 9 p.m. \$25 in advanced, \$27 day-of-event purchase.

Dec. 6, 2014:
Christmas with the Friedrichs
at the Mount Prospect Historical Society, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. This is a free event.

For more information contact the Historical Society, 847/392-9006.

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FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

One of the stereotypes of museums, specifically historic house museums, is the "Please Do Not Touch" attitude. Make no mistake, protecting the artifacts of a collection is highly important and should always be taken seriously. But the "Please Do Not Touch" signs can often deter people from visiting museums or even from enjoying their experience.



Lindsay Rice
Executive Director

The boundaries between visitors and artifacts can make for a tense environment. So, how does a museum protect its artifacts while keeping its visitors engaged?

One of the first steps to solving this problem for the Mount Prospect Historical Society was the creation of the Living History/ Education Committee by Board members of the Society and other interested members of the community. The committee members are Michele Runde, Judy Lamac, Debbi Campbell, Lori Fitzgerald, Julie Vowinkel and Erin Runde. The goal of the committee is to create new educational programs for the Dietrich Friedrichs House Museum and the Central School.

One project already set in motion is a revision of the tours for the

Dietrich Friedrichs House. The committee felt

that instead of having a tour guide interpret each room of the house, the tours could instead be given by "Bessie Barnes" herself. Through a new high school internship program, students interested in history or theater could portray Bessie Barnes and give tours of her family home. Along with playing the part of Bessie, the tour guide would also wear historically accurate clothing. The goal is to make the tour more interactive and engaging. By bringing history to life, visitors will be able to experience the past instead of

"We want to bring life back to the museum, both past and present."

just hearing or reading about it. The committee has also thought

about having historic activities like, games, crafts, and workshops for younger visitors. We want to bring life back to the museum, both past and present.

In addition to our Holiday Housewalk, we will be adding a program to our holiday festivities this year. Join us on December 6th for "Christmas with the Friedrichs" at the Mount Prospect Historical Society. Travel back to the 1920s for a Christmas tour of the Friedrichs' family home. Learn how to make traditional German Christmas crafts and have your photo taken with Santa Claus! The program starts at 1:30 and goes until 4:30 p.m. This is a free event.

We will be introducing new programs throughout the next year, so stay tuned!

MOUNT PROSPECT STORIES: LIFE ON THE HOME FRONT DURING THE GREAT WAR

At the turn of the 20th century, the world was witnessing profound changes in technology, fashion, politics, society and culture. Electricity was available to those who could afford it. Automobiles were on the verge of going commercial and radio was in its infancy.

While the new technology dazzled on the home front, old wounds in Europe festered and the world experienced one of its darkest times. The Great War cast a grim shadow over the bright optimism of the new era. Battles were now fought with chemicals, machine guns, armored vehicles, wireless

communication, telephones and aircraft. The changing technology of war had outpaced the military strategies and tactics of an earlier era with devastating and sobering results. This was indeed a time of change for humanity.

As war raged in Europe, the people of Mount Prospect were rolling up their sleeves not only to support the war effort overseas, but also to build a town and initiate change of their own. Just three years before the start of the war, Mount Prospect was equipped with kerosene street lamps, sidewalks and oiled streets. Not only was Mount Prospect in the



111 S. Maple St. with kerosene street lamps, 1915

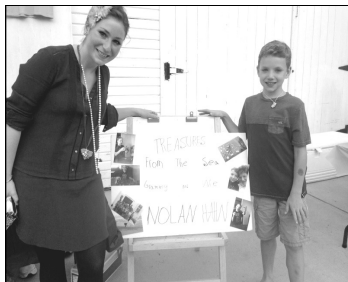
process of becoming a town, it was also busy maintaining businesses that had been established prior to 1914.

How did early residents of Mount Prospect manage to adapt to the modern age, cope with the horrors of war and develop a new community?

The Historical Society will explore that question in the upcoming Mount Prospect Stories: Life on the Home Front During the Great War at the Mount Prospect Public Library on November 13 at 7 p.m. Registration for this free event is required through the Library website at www.mpppl.org.

“SUPERSTAR”,
CONT FROM PAGE 1

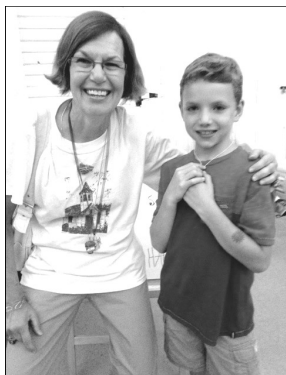
He was inspired by his former second grade teacher, Julie Vowinkel, who in 2006 initiated a fundraising program for Central School. The program, still underway, encourages the entire second grade to do chores to earn money and then donate it to the Central School at the end of the year. The second graders earned \$616 for the 2013-2014 school year. Since 2006, second graders of Lions Park



Nolan at the Silent Movie Night with Historical Society executive director, Lindsay Rice

Elementary have raised over \$5,000.

Nolan was a student in Ms. Vowinkel’s second grade class this last school year and was inspired to take further action to save the Central School. After the end of the school year, Nolan, his sister Marin and their neighbor friends decided to have a lemonade stand in their driveway and donate all profits to Central School. The total amount raised from the lemonade stand was \$22.22. This was just the beginning of Nolan’s efforts to save local history.



Nolan and Julie Vowinkel at the Silent Movie Night

Soon after, Nolan had visited Wilmette Beach with his family and collected rocks, shells and beach glass. He and his grandmother, Janet, then used copper wire to handcraft unique jewelry and sold it at our August Silent Movie Night. Nolan attracted quite a crowd selling \$128 worth of jewelry which he donated to the school restoration effort. The official name of his jewelry collection is “Treasures from the Sea by Grammy and Me.”

Because his jewelry was so successful at our Silent Movie Night, Nolan decided to sell more at our September Bake Sale. Nolan and his grandmother handcrafted more jewelry, each one more stylish than the last. The Historical Society provided Nolan with his own table and he ended up selling a grand total of \$473 worth of jewelry. He went

back the following Sunday and sold about \$200 more.

The Historical Society is beyond grateful for his generous donations. Nolan has expressed an interest in continuing his jewelry sales at other Historical Society events to keep raising money for the Central School. He has gone above and beyond for history. Although Nolan did not take down a giant with a slingshot or slay a dragon, he raised \$828.22 so that the heroes of Mount Prospect before him are able to live on within the walls of Central School.



Nolan presenting Ms. Rice with the profits from the Bake Sale.



NEW SECTION! HOMETOWN MEMORIES

It is up to us as a community to make sure that we keep our hometown memories alive.

In this newsletter, we ask you to share with us one memory that you have about a wedding in Mount Prospect. It could have been a wedding at which you were a guest, or played a role, or may have read about in the newspaper. We are interested in hearing about the fashion, the traditions, the culture, the ceremony, the reception, the romance and yes, the drama.

The memories that we receive will be incorporated into an exhibit about weddings, coming in spring 2015.

Using the form on the right, mail your memory to the Mount Prospect Historical Society 101 S. Maple St., Mount Prospect, IL 60056

OR

Email your memory to info@mtphistory.org.

Name: _____ Date: _____

*All content that is submitted may be edited by the Mount Prospect Historical Society to fit accordingly in the exhibit.



MOUNT PROSPECT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

101 South Maple Street
Mount Prospect, IL 60056-3229
WWW.MTPHIST.ORG

Located on the southeast corner of Maple Street and
Busse Avenue, across from the Chase Bank Building

Phone: 847/392-9006
Fax: 847/577-9660
Email: info@mtphistory.org



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HOLIDAY HOUSEWALK 2014

This year's 27th Annual Holiday Housewalk, from 3:30 to 9 p.m., Friday, Dec. 5, will highlight portions of Mount Prospect's historic Prospect Park and Prospect Highlands subdivisions along South Main and South Emerson Streets. Tickets go on sale November 1st for \$25 each (\$23 for members, sold at the museum only.)

The interiors of five historic homes, built between 1930 and 1948, will be featured and the exteriors of four other historic homes will be highlighted.



Farmhouse at 409 S. Main St., owned by Joshua and Karen Hess

The homes featured this year, both inside and outside, are:

- 401 S. Main St., owned by Rick and Caren Schmehl
- 404 S. Main St., owned by Robert and Amy Cimarusti
- 409 S. Main St., owned by Joshua and Karen Hess
- 419 S. Main St., owned by Kevin and Cecilia McTigue
- 514 S. Emerson St., owned by Mark and Karen Ackermann

The exteriors of 405 S. Main St., 502 S. Main St., 509 S. Main St. and 506 S. Emerson St. will be highlighted with historical notes featured on lighted outdoor signs.

The tour will begin at The South Church, 501 S. Emerson St., where refreshments will be offered and watercolors of the featured houses displayed. Museum store items will be available for purchase.