



RIVER CITY SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. BOX 565, MASON CITY, IA

WINTER 2014 E-NEWSLETTER

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

We have valued your membership with the River City Society for Historic Preservation (RCSHP) over the past year and would like to urge you to renew your membership for 2015. RCSHP memberships are on a calendar year basis with most expiring on 12/31/2014. Individual Membership: \$25, Dual Membership: \$40, Corporate Membership \$100. You can quickly renew by going to our website: www.StockmanHouse.org and click on **SUPPORT US**. We depend on your membership, tours, gift shop revenue and your donations to fund our regular operations.

A new feature this year will be attractive for those of you who like to travel. The **Frank Lloyd Wright Reciprocal Membership** will allow you to get ONE FREE admission to each of the 29 Wright Sites throughout the country during 2015 for \$125 (includes an RCSHP Membership). Dual Reciprocal Memberships are \$240.

The list of sites participating this year has doubled.

EAST REGION: Zimmerman House, NH; Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, NY; Darwin Martin Complex, NY; Graycliff Estate, NY; Fallingwater, PA; **MIDWEST REGION:** Stockman House, IA; Historic Park Inn Hotel, IA; Taliesin, WI; Burnham Block, American System-Built Homes, WI; Seth Peterson Cottage, WI; Monona Terrace, WI; John Christian House, IN; Kraus House, MO; Westcott House, OH; Allen-Lambe House, KS; Meyer May House, MI; FLW Home and Studio, IL; Robie House, IL; Unity Temple, IL; Rookery Light Court, IL; Emil Bach House, IL; Charnley-Persky House, IL; B. Harley Bradley House, IL; **SOUTH REGION:** Price Tower, OK; Florida Southern College, FL; Rosenbaum House, AL; **WEST REGION:** Hollyhock House, CA; Taliesin West, AZ; Gordon House, OR

Thursday, December 11, 2014

HOLIDAY WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION



"Keep the Flame Burning"

Description: Come meet and get to know other local members and become more involved in our organization. A social hour at 5PM serving wine and hors d'oeuvres, precede the premiere showing of "The Moving and

Restoration of the Stockman House" at 6:30PM. Join with us as we celebrate our beginning and renew our passion to keep the flame burning! This year marks the 25th anniversary of the moving of the Stockman House. Our Gift Shop will also be open for your holiday shopping pleasure. Members get a 10% discount on non-consignment items. *Location:* Architectural Interpretive Center (AIC) *Date:* Thursday, December 11, 2014 *Time:* 5-7pm *RSVP:* not necessary *Admission:* Open to RCSHP Members and their guests. *Cost:* FREE, donations appreciated.

Mondays, January 5, February 2, March 2, and April 6, 2015
MONDAY NIGHTS WITH MR. WRIGHT



Description: We will host a movie or slideshow on a topic related to Frank Lloyd Wright on the first Monday of the month during the winter.

Location: AIC

Time: 7-8pm

RSVP: not necessary

Admission: Open to RCSHP

Members and their guests.

Cost: FREE, donations appreciated.

Monday, January 12, 2015

VOLUNTEER OPEN HOUSE

Description: This meeting is for any interested person to learn more about what's involved in becoming a docent or sales volunteer.

Location: AIC

(Snow Date: Monday, January 19, 2015)

Time: 7-8pm

RSVP: not necessary

Cost: FREE, donations appreciated.

LIFELONG LEARNING LECTURE SERIES

Robert E. McCoy will be presenting his annual lecture series at the AIC titled: *Frank Lloyd Wright, Walter Burley Griffin and their Architecture*. All the lectures are free and you don't have to be a LLI member. They will be presented on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4:00-5:30 PM.

Tuesday, Feb 17: *How Prairie School Architecture Came to*

Mason City: The Personalities who Brought it All

Thursday, Feb 19: *The Development of Wright's Style up to 1908 and his Stockman House*

Tuesday, Feb 24: *The Stockman House: Its Significance as Challenger to the Prevalent Four Square*

Thursday, Feb 26: *The Architecture of Walter Burley Griffin and his wife, Marion Mahony*

Tuesday, Mar 3: *The Park Inn Hotel: Its Place in the Body of Wright's Work*

Thursday, Mar 5: *The Restoration of 'The Historic Park Inn Hotel*

HOLIDAY GIFT GIVING

The AIC Gift Shop is open from November through April on Saturdays 10-2.

Surprise someone special, or perhaps yourself, with a unique gift!



These are some of the Wright-inspired Christmas Tree ornaments available.

The AIC Gift Shop has a variety of distinctive Frank Lloyd Wright-inspired gifts, including home décor, books for all ages, and locally crafted consignment items that include hand-crafted clocks and lamps by Dennis Marsh, stained glass by John Larsen, and jewelry by Gretchen King.

Stop in and see what's in store for you and don't forget that your membership grants 10% off non-consignment items.

AN AFTERNOON TEA WITH FLW

The RCSHP Operating Committee hosted "An Afternoon Tea with Frank Lloyd Wright" as a fun way to generate interest in volunteering. Our current volunteers were asked to invite a guest in order to attend.



Frank Lloyd Wright and Eleanor Stockman dropped in at a tea party Tuesday at the Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center. John Henry portrayed Frank Lloyd Wright, and Joanne Hardinger portrayed Eleanor Stockman. The year was 1909 and Mr. Wright was in town finalizing

plans for the soon-to-be-built City National Bank and Park Inn Hotel. After Mr. Wright and Mrs. Stockman had a brief chat they took questions from the audience. Here is a portion of the dialogue that ensued: "I'm checking on the progress of the hotel," said Mr. Wright. "It's so sophisticated," said Mrs. Stockman. "That's right," said Mr. Wright, (drawing laughs from the audience at the tea party who were familiar with the famed architect's penchant for not being humble about his work). Mr. Wright said, "I want the hotel to be not too large but with spacious rooms and a free-flowing atmosphere." One of the guests said she heard there was going to be a women's parlor. "Yes," said Wright. "We have to accommodate the ladies. We don't want them in the smoking areas downstairs." As for the planned bank adjacent to the hotel, Wright said, "It has to have a look that will give confidence to investors." The architect mentioned he was hoping to take a trip to Europe when the hotel project was completed (drawing some snickers from the well-read guests). After Wright mentioned he would be going to Europe, one of the tea party guests who knew the history, asked, "Will you be taking your wife with you?" Not missing a beat, Wright answered, "She'll be busy with the family!"

Coffee and Chai Tea were served along with finger sandwiches, homemade scones, and pecan tarts, all provided by the committee members. Guests were then given an abbreviated tour of the Stockman House. After the tour, the new DVD: *The Moving and Restoration of the Stockman House* was shown. Volunteers capped the afternoon by sharing with the guests what they enjoy about being a volunteer with RCSHP. *Edited portions of this article were reprinted, with permission, from the GlobeGazette.*

STOCKMAN HOUSE WEBSITE

The RCSHP has been honored by a request from the Columbia University Libraries *Web Resources Collection Program* to include our organization's website, <http://www.stockmanhouse.org/>, in its *Avery Library Historic Preservation and Urban Planning* web archive to ensure its continuing availability to researchers. The Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library collects books and periodicals on architecture, historic preservation, art history, painting, sculpture, photography, decorative arts, city planning, real estate, and archaeology and makes archival copies of important web resources for preservation and access purposes. The Avery Library also includes a *Frank Lloyd Wright Collection* and is especially interested in preserving websites related to Frank Lloyd Wright's buildings.

RCSHP VOLUNTEER AWARDS DINNER

Volunteers are the backbone of our organization. The contributions of each individual matters. Every hour, every tour, every sale, every task all adds up. RCSHP has proven to be a key player in the economic and cultural health of our community. While tourism dollars in the context of historic

preservation are most welcome, the educational value our volunteers provide to our visitors is priceless. Our volunteers deserve an incredible amount of thanks for supporting our mission to interpret the significance of the Stockman House to the world.

We would like to express our appreciation to our new volunteers this season: **Shirley Kropf** – sales, **Nancy Lass** – docent & sales, **Colleen Last** – docent, **Judy Mills** – sales, and **Jennifer Sliwinski** – docent.

Earning special pins to indicate THREE years of service: **Sandy Thede**, **Dale Mills**, **Barbara Hof**, **Chuck Sweetman**, and **Nancy Sweetman**. For FIVE years of volunteer service: **Joanne Hardinger**. For TEN years of volunteer service: **Marj Culver** and **John Henry**. Earning special recognition for having volunteered for the most number of docent shifts were **Avis Jensen** (25), **John Henry** (24) and **Jim Smith** (24). Earning special recognition for having volunteered for the most number of sales shifts were **Judy Wagner** (30), **MeriKay Mested** (28), and **Shirley Kropf** (23).

SPECIAL AWARDS

The *To the Rescue Award* went to **John Duggan** for coming to our aid when the security alarm goes off, when the heat doesn't turn on, when the air-conditioning fails, when door locks get stuck or anytime anything minor needs to be fixed. In no time at all, John is *to the rescue!*

The *Golden Roller Award* went to **Sandy Ringstrom** for sanding, priming and rolling fresh paint on every square inch of the new and existing hand railings. The *Golden Spade Award* awarded to **Rosalyn & John Barron** for planting and taking care of the flowers and vines that add to the beauty of the Stockman House, as Wright would have intended. **Colleen Last** received the *Golden Gardener Award* for voluntarily weeding and nurturing the stephandra and mulching along the south walkway of the Stockman House. The *Golden Gardeners Award* went to **Chip & Kathy Kinsey** for the many landscaping improvements on the grounds including trees, bushes, vines, and other attractive plantings, and making sure they're all watered and protected from the deer. **Paul Ringstrom** received the *Mr. Action Award* for planning and moving the facility projects forward, for facing down the illusive CenturyLink people to upgrade the internet service, and for coming to the AIC in a flash as often as twice a day to assist with sales troubles. The *House Beautiful Award* went to **Linda Johnston** for her fresh and creative flower arrangements that appear each week in rooms of the Stockman House to the delight of our visitors. The *Bronze Globes Award* was awarded to **Jim Smith** for making a DVD to document "The Moving and Restoration of the Stockman House." Produced with help from Bob McCoy & John Henry and for his DVD production of "A Tour of the Second Floor of the Stockman House," narrated by Mary Smith.

2014 STOCKMAN HOUSE GROUP TOURS

At any time during the year we welcome large groups of ten or more to schedule tours of the Stockman House. From September through May we will accommodate small group tours by appointment, if made a week in advance.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

In the last three months since our last E-newsletter we have had many visitors from Iowa and all the surrounding states. We also had visitors from 21 states and five foreign countries: AK, AZ, CA, CO, FL, KS, KY, MA, MI, MO, MT, NC, NE, NJ, NM, NY, OH, OR, PA, UT, VA, Canada, Denmark, Germany, Norway, Singapore. We welcome over 2,000 visitors each year.



QUOTE

"We have no longer an outside and an inside as two separate things. Now the outside may come inside and the inside may and does go outside. They are of each other. Form and function thus become one in design and execution if the nature of materials and method and purpose are all in unison." – FLW

THREE KEYS TO HAPPINESS

American clergyman George Washington Burnap (1802-1859) said, "The grand essentials to happiness in this life are something to do, something to love, and something to hope for." As an RCSHP volunteer we can at least help you with the first one of these and give you "something to do." We are always looking for new volunteers to help us as greeters, docents, cashiers, sales assistants, gardeners and window washers.

We would love to have your help! Call 641-423-1923.

Such communities as Buffalo, NY and Oak Park, IL as well as others are recognizing architectural tourism as a significant draw of tourist dollars. With the recent addition of the restored Historic Park Inn Hotel (HPIH) to our other

historic sites, Mason City has joined that list. Since opening in the fall of 2011, the HPIH has recorded visitors from every state and over 50 foreign countries. Because of this we need your help to represent our city to these tourists at the Architectural Interpretive Center and the Stockman House.

AIC MAINTENANCE

The AIC has had gutter covers installed to keep leaves from clogging them. The interior gallery CFL recessed can lights have been replaced with airtight LED recessed can lights to reduce air infiltration and save energy. Improvements to the landscaping have been made. **Rick Johansen** of Johansen Welding & Fabrication of Mason City donated the fabrication and installation of new railings to the parking lot.

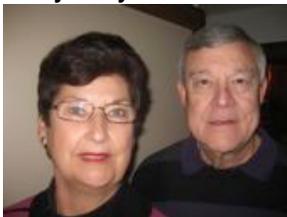


STOCKMAN HOUSE MAINTENANCE

The attic of the Stockman House has been air-sealed and insulated to R-49. The basement rim-joint has been insulated with closed cell spray foam and the casement windows have been sealed closed with a clear removable caulk. This should save us money on our utility bills.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Sandy & Jay Thede have been RCSHP volunteers for



three and four years respectively. Sandy volunteers as a cashier and Jay as a docent. They both are members of our Operations Committee and Jay is a member of our

Buildings & Grounds Committee as well as an At-Large Member of the RCSHP Board of Directors. They are retired schoolteachers for the Central Springs Community School District. Sandy taught K-7 Health and P.E. and Jay taught 4,5, and 6th grade.

They both got interested in helping out at the Stockman House after attending Bob McCoy's Lifelong Learning Institute Lecture Series on *FLW, WBG, and Prairie School of Architecture*. Sandy didn't know anything about Wright before joining, but Jay knew some from his college

architecture classes. They've traveled to a few Wright sites over the years: Taliesin East, Cedar Rock and attended the last three Wright Plus Housewalks in Oak Park, IL. Sandy and Jay don't have a regular volunteer shift every week, but fill in as needed when large bus tour groups come to town. The things that surprised them the most after becoming volunteers was the amazing distances that many of our guests travel to get to Mason City. They have found the guests to be very nice to work with and have met a wide variety of very interesting folks over the years.

They are both interested in sports and also volunteer as assistant coaches for 7-12 grade track at Central Springs. They are big Hawkeye football fans and attend most of their games. Sandy is very active at St. James Lutheran where she is both a Trustee and a member of the Church Council. Both of them are very active with the Mason City Retired School Personnel at both the local and state level.

They are involved with Milkhouse Candle Creamery that makes soy wax candles with infused pure beeswax. These customized candles are not only available in our gift shop but also for fundraisers and promotional items for churches, schools, community groups, towns celebrating anniversaries, etc. and businesses that need a small gift.

When asked what advice they would give to someone considering becoming volunteers, Sandy said, "Just do it." They both said that, as volunteers, they find that having the opportunity to meet and work with some very interesting people to be really fulfilling.

DID YOU KNOW...

...that there are over eighty buildings that Wright designed that are open to the public? If you go to our website: www.StockmanHouse.org and click on *FLW NEWS & EVENTS* and then *FLW Buildings Open to the Public* you can find an up-to-date listing of these buildings and their addresses sorted geographically by region and state. Clicking on the underlined name of the site will take you to their website that will detail their tour times, and costs, etc. Some of these buildings are available for a minimum two-night rental so you can personally experience Wright's vision. You can also pick up a printed version of the list at the AIC.

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

A campaign was undertaken to increase the number of Corporate Members. If you are friends with the owners of any local business please encourage them to join. They can go to our website www.StockmanHouse.org and click on *Support Us* and follow the directions to join for 2015.

As you shop locally, we would like to encourage you to patronize these valued corporate members with your business:

Accord Architecture
 Bergland + Cram Architects
 Blackmore Nursery Inc
 Burgmeier Dentistry
 Central Park Dentistry
 Community Auto Group
 Digits Communications
 Farm Credit Services Of America
 Hawkeye Auto Body
 Henkel Construction Co
 Hertz Farm Management Inc
 Historic Park Inn
 Hy-Vee East #2
 Johansen Welding & Fabrication
 Jon L Hardinger DDS
 Kleen Sweep Construction
 Lehigh Cement Company LLC
 Midland (formerly Marquart) Concrete Products
 North Iowa Area Community College
 North Iowa Community Credit Union
 NSB Bank
 Petersen Plaza
 Schupick & Associates PC
 Tierney Properties
 Varied Industries Corporation
 Westview Apartments Corp Of Mason City
 Wright On The Park

E-NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All members are welcome to submit information, contribute a topic, a photo, an article, a book recommendation or a book review that you think would be appropriate for the next quarterly newsletter. If you know of a coming event that the membership should be made aware of please let me know that too. The deadline for the **Spring 2014 E-Newsletter** is February 15th. We welcome and encourage your submissions. All submissions should be emailed to: info@StockmanHouse.org.

— Paul Ringstrom, *E-Newsletter Editor*

FY2015

RCSHP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Robert S. Kinsey, *President*
 John Duggan, *Vice President*
 David Christiansen, *Recording Secretary*
 Paul Ringstrom, *Corresponding Sec./Membership*
 Sandy Ringstrom, *Treasurer*
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 Robert McCoy, *At-Large Director*
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 Judy Wagner, *Operations Cmte Chair*

STAFF

Judy Wagner, *Volunteer Scheduler*
 Joanne Hardinger, *Tour & Operations Coordinator*
 Kathy Kinsey, *AIC Gift Shop Manager*

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of RCSHP is to restore, preserve, protect, own/operate historic and/or architecturally significant buildings and sites in Mason City, educate the public about historic architecture and encourage others to do the same.

The RCSHP owns and operates the Stockman House Museum and The Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center, both of which are open for public tours.

The RCSHP is a 501c3 non-profit organization run by volunteers and relies on donations, memberships, grants, tours and gift shop revenue to maintain our buildings and support our activities. Please go to the website and click on SUPPORT US to donate or renew your membership.

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