



RIVER CITY SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. BOX 565, MASON CITY, IA

FALL 2016 E-NEWSLETTER

ABOUT US

The River City Society for Historic Preservation (RCSHP) owns the Stockman House and adjacent Architectural Interpretive Center. RCSHP is a local all-volunteer 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Our operations are supported by donations, tour admissions, grants, memberships and income from our gift shop.

COMING EVENTS

Mid-September thru December, 2016
EXHIBIT: WRIGHT AND JAPAN



Photo: Karen Sevrens

Description: Exhibit will highlight Wright and Japan that so heavily influenced Frank Lloyd Wright. The majority of the exhibit will be on loan from the private collection of Iowa City residents Anne and Roger Beermann, who lived and taught in Kobe, Japan, for 12 years.
Location: Wright on the Park office, 17 S. Federal Ave.
Time: Tuesday thru Saturday 10am – 4pm
Admission: open to the public
Cost: FREE

Friday, October 28, 2016
VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION DINNER

Description: Annual dinner to recognize the efforts of all of our wonderful volunteers.

Location: First Presbyterian Church

Time: 5-7pm

RSVP: to Kathy Kinsey (rskinsey@msn.com) by October 21

Admission: All RCSHP Volunteers

Cost: FREE, donations always appreciated

Wednesday thru Sunday, November 2-6, 2016

FLW BUILDING CONSERVANCY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Description: Wright's Late Years, 1946-59
Location: San Francisco, California. Conference hotel: Hilton San Francisco Financial District.
Website Info: <http://www.savewright.org>.

Thursday, December 8, 2016

MEMBER HOLIDAY WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

Description: Meet and get to know other RCSHP members and become more involved in our organization. A social hour at 5PM precedes the showing of a film on FLW at 6:30PM. The Gift Shop will also be open for your holiday shopping pleasure. Members get a 10% discount on non-consignment items.

Location: The Robert E. McCoy Architectural Interpretive Center

Time: 5-7:30pm

RSVP: not necessary

Admission: Open to RCSHP Members and their guests.

Cost: FREE, donations always appreciated

June 12 thru October 1, 2017

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT AT 150: UNPACKING THE ARCHIVE



Description: This exhibition marks the 150th anniversary of the architect's birth with a retrospective of 450 works that includes artifacts that have never been seen by the public. The exhibition is divided into 12 sections, each of which investigates a key object or cluster of objects from the Frank Lloyd Wright Archive, interpreting and contextualizing it, and juxtaposing it with other works from the Archive, from MoMA, or from outside collections. The exhibition seeks to open up Wright's work to critical inquiry and debate, and to introduce experts and general audiences alike to new angles and interpretations of this extraordinary architect.
Location: The Museum of Modern Art, 11 West 53rd St, New York, NY 10019-5497, (212) 708-9400
Cost: \$25 adults, \$18 seniors, \$14 students

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Suzanne Hofstrand has been a docent for six years. She is a life-long resident of Mason City, except for ten years while she was teaching in Michigan, after which she moved back to Mason City and raised her family. Her most recent job before retiring was working at NIACC as a Developmental Math Teacher and working at their Learning Center, which provided various tutoring services.



The thing that got her interested in working at the Stockman House was her interest in history in general and local history in particular. Prior to signing on as a volunteer she attended Bob McCoy's annual Life Long Learning lectures at NIACC. Prior to Bob's lectures she knew very little about Frank Lloyd Wright. Since then she has traveled to many Wright sites including the Guggenheim, Taliesin West, FLW Home & Studio, Taliesin East and Cedar Rock.

Suzanne currently has a docent shift from 3-4pm on Fridays, once every three weeks. She also fills in for people who are sick or on vacation that can't make their shift.

Her biggest surprise on becoming a docent was the people who come to Mason City from all over the world to experience Mr. Wright's architecture.

When asked for what advice she would give to someone who is interested in becoming a volunteer, she said that you will have an amazing experience that includes meeting some amazing people. She also was surprised at the nice group of people that the RCSHP has attracted as volunteers.

She enjoys our various Lunch and Learn lectures and would like to see us add a couple of social affairs for the docents and cashiers to get to know each other better and exchange ideas.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

At the end of July we were awarded two grants that will help us repair the exterior stucco on the Architectural Interpretive Center. The **Farrer Endowment Foundation** awarded us \$2,000 and the **Bertha Stebens Charitable Foundation** awarded us \$2,175. We also received two large cash donations. One was in memory of long-time Mason City

resident **Lahoma Counts** for \$1,000. The other was in memory of **Mary Jean Mott** \$2,685, who grew up in the Stockman House. (\$2,500 of which has been earmarked for Stockman House maintenance.) Also in July, **Paul & Sandy Ringstrom** donated a full-size reproduction of Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Barrel Chair. This chair was designed originally for the Darwin D. Martin House in Buffalo, NY in 1904, but was also used in many of his homes subsequently. Unlike the original chairs that tourists encounter in well-known Wright houses, our tourists will be able to sit in this one as it has been placed in the AIC Gallery.


LUNCH AND LEARN

On April 23rd we hosted a very well attended Lunch and Learn event entitled *Meet the Stockmans*. RCSHP docents Colleen Last and John Henry researched information about **George and Eleanor Stockman** and shared that information with us in an informative Power Point presentation. One of the things we learned was that



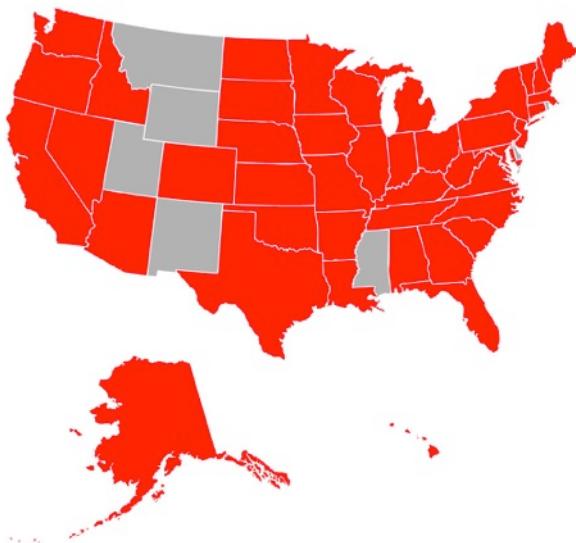
Eleanor was the client who commissioned Frank Lloyd Wright to design a house for them on a city lot in Mason City after reading an article on Mr. Wright's Fireproof House in the April 1907 Ladies Home Journal. The Stockman's were a remarkable couple that lived in Mason City from 1888 to 1927. They were involved in prohibition, suffrage, horse racing and education.

2015 vs. 2016

This summer's tourist season is going exceptionally well. We are currently up about 40% in both gift shop sales and the number of tourists visiting us. The Historic Park Inn brings a lot of folks to town as well as our new signs on US/18/IA27. We have also placed our brochures in all of the 14 Iowa Welcome Sites, at 37 other Wright Sites, at the Winnebago factory in Forest City, as well as at many places around town. We have also increased the numbers of days we are open by adding Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings to our schedule.

WHERE DO THEY COME FROM?

Since our last E-Newsletter we have had 1,679 people tour the Stockman House. According to our guest book we've had visitors at the AIC from 43 states (AK, AL, AR, AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, GA, HI, IA, ID, IL, IN, KS, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MN, MO, NC, ND, NE, NH, NJ, NV, NY, OH, OK, OR, PA, SC, SD, TN, TX, VA, VT, WA, WI, WV) and 12 foreign countries (Australia, Belgium, Canada, Columbia, England, France, Germany, India, Israel, Serbia, Singapore, and Trinidad).

**SPEAKER**

Former Mason City resident, **Shelley Hayreh**, came to town to visit her parents over the 4th of July weekend and arranged to visit the AIC and give a talk. She currently is an Archivist at the Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library at Columbia University in NYC.

Her talk focused on her intimate involvement in the physical moving and subsequent organizing of the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives from Scottsdale, AZ to NYC. The Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation sold these archives in 2012. The existence of the magnificent Frank Lloyd Wright archives is the result of visionary actions and hard work by those who knew and loved Wright. During his lifetime, the architect declined to donate portions of his work to various museums and institutions, preferring to keep his life's work together

under his control. Upon Wright's death in 1959, Mrs. Wright gathered the archive of his work at Taliesin West, thereby preserving and keeping intact the visual and textual legacy of one of history's great geniuses. It was an unprecedented action, since architectural archives of such size and scope for a single architect did not exist at that time. Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer, first as Taliesin apprentice then as Director of the Frank Lloyd Wright Archives, curated and organized the archives since its inception, and earned the appreciation of Frank Lloyd Wright lovers everywhere.

The entire archive has been moved permanently to New York in an unusual joint partnership between the **Museum of Modern Art** and Columbia University's **Avery Architectural & Fine Arts Library**, where it will become more accessible to the public for viewing and scholarship.

The collection includes more than 23,000 architectural drawings, about 40 large-scale, architectural models, some 44,000 photographs, 600 manuscripts and more than 300,000 pieces of office and personal correspondence as well as interview tapes, transcripts and films. Acquiring the archive of a seminal 20th-century architect is a boon for both the museum and the library.

As you can tell this was a mammoth job. Part of the collection was opened to researchers and the public in 2013. The organizing, cataloging, curating and restoration of the archive is an ongoing project.

STOCKMAN HOUSE MAINTENANCE

A donation has allowed us to replace the sagging stucco soffit on the southeast corner of the house and purchase an historically appropriate sisal rug for the veranda. The dark brown trim on the Stockman House will be touched-up this fall.

AIC MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS

A new locust tree has been planted in front of the building. The basement stairway walls were painted prior to the installation of the new ADA stair-lift. The AIC Office/Archive in the basement has been completed. This has been a three-year project that was partially funded by **Worth County Development Authority** and **Farrer Endowment**.



Foundation. This space will provide both an area to store our archives and donated book collections on FLW as well as provide desk space for office functions (photo below).

QUOTE

Every great architect is - necessarily - a great poet. He must be a great original interpreter of his time, his day, and his age. – Frank Lloyd Wright

FLW IN THE NEWS

If you are interested in learning more about FLW you might like to know that since our last E-Newsletter we have posted links to twenty current articles from newspapers, magazines and blogs of news events related to Wright and his buildings. Go to <http://www.stockmanhouse.org>. To read these articles click on **FLW NEWS & EVENTS** and then on **FLW in the News**.

SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO...

The aging paradox: The older we get, the happier we are.

Believe it or not, there are upsides to getting older. Yes, your physical health is likely to decline as you age. And unfortunately, your cognitive abilities like learning new skills and remembering things is likely to suffer too.

But despite such downsides, research suggests that your overall mental health, including your mood, your sense of well-being and your ability to handle stress, keeps improving right up until the very end of life.

Consider it something to look forward to.

In a recent survey of more than 1,500 (published in the Journal of Clinical Psychology) aged 21 to 99, researchers report that people in their 20s were the most stressed out and depressed, while those in their 90s were the most content.

There were no dips in well-being in midlife, and no tapering off of well-being at the end of life. Instead scientists found a clear, linear relationship between age and mental health: The older people were, the happier they felt.

"The consistency was really striking," said Dilip Jeste, director of the UC San Diego Center for Healthy Aging and senior author of the study. "People in later years were happier, more satisfied, less depressed, had less anxiety and less perceived stress than younger respondents."

Experts on the psychology of aging say the new findings add to a growing body of research that suggests there are emotional benefits to getting older.

"In the literature it's called the paradox of aging," said Laura Carstensen, director of the Stanford Center on Longevity, who was not involved in the work. "How can it be that given

the many well-documented losses that occur with age, we also see this improvement in emotional well-being?"

As it happens, Carstensen does not think this is a paradox at all. In her own work, she has found evidence that people's goals and reasoning change as they come to appreciate their mortality and recognize that their time on Earth is finite.

"When people face endings they tend to shift from goals about exploration and expanding horizons to ones about savoring relationships and focusing on meaningful activities," she said. "When you focus on emotionally meaningful goals, life gets better, you feel better, and the negative emotions become less frequent and more fleeting when they occur."

The authors of the new work also suggest that improved mental health in old age could be due to the wisdom people acquire, as they grow older.

Jeste defines wisdom as a multi-component personality trait that includes empathy, compassion, self-knowledge, and openness to new ideas, decisiveness, emotional regulation and doing things for others rather than for yourself.

"As we get older, we make better social decisions because we are more experienced, and that's where wisdom comes into play," he said. Another possible explanation for the emotional benefits of aging could stem from the physiology of the brain, the authors said. Brain-imaging studies show that older people are less responsive to stressful images than younger people.

When scientists showed older and younger adults pictures of a smiling baby — an image designed to make everyone happy — both groups exhibited increased activation in the part of the brain associated with emotion. However, while a disturbing image of a car accident evoked a lot of activity in the emotional region of the brain of young people, older people had a much more subdued response.

Arthur Stone, a psychologist and head of the USC Dornsife Center for Self-Report Science who was not involved in the study, said that while the various explanations for the aging paradox are intriguing, there is still no definitive finding that can explain the phenomenon. "There's lots of speculation about why older people are happier and having better moods even when their cognitive and physical health is in decline, but we still don't have anything that fully explains what is going on," he said. "It's a big puzzle, and an important puzzle."

Another important finding of the study is that despite our culture's obsession with youth, it turns out that the 20s and 30s are generally a very stressful time for many young adults who are plagued by anxiety and depression. They noted that there are many pressures unique to this life

phase including establishing a career, finding a life partner and navigating financial issues.

"It could be that age is associated with a reduction in risk factors for mental health," said Darrell Worthy, a professor of cognitive psychology at Texas A&M University, who was not involved in the work. "Older adults may not have to deal with these stressors as much."

Carstensen said the study had major implications, especially considering that within just a few years, more people on the planet will be over 60 than under 15.

Policy leaders are saying, "How are we going to cope with all these old people?" "But a population which is in good mental health, emotionally stable, more grateful, and more likely to forgive are a pretty great resource for a society with so much strife and war."

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.

Such communities as Buffalo, NY and Oak Park, IL and 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 other Mason City historic sites, the Stockman House has joined that list. Since opening in the fall of 2011, the HPIH has recorded over 35,000 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.

OUR 2016 CORPORATE MEMBERS

We love how our corporate members show their appreciation for the historic built environment by becoming members. Our historic buildings are such a special resource of Mason City. Historic buildings represent the physical memories of life as it was lived during a previous time. If you are friends with the owners of any local businesses 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.

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

ACCORD ARCHITECTURE

BERGLAND + CRAM ARCHITECTS

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WRIGHT ON THE PARK

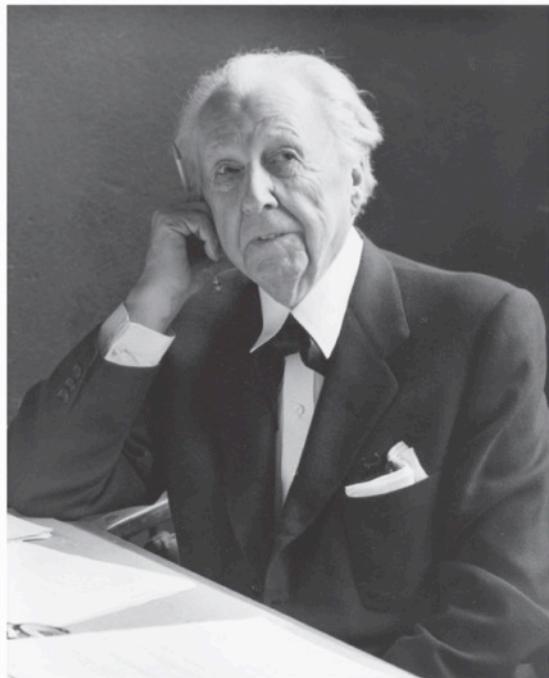
2016 SUMMER TOUR SEASON

We will be open through the end of October. We have added a 10AM and 11AM tour on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Our normal schedule of tours at 10AM, 11AM, 1PM, 2PM and 3PM on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and 1PM, 2PM and 3PM on Sunday remains the same. Requests for Individual, Small Group or Large Group tours can be made on our website.

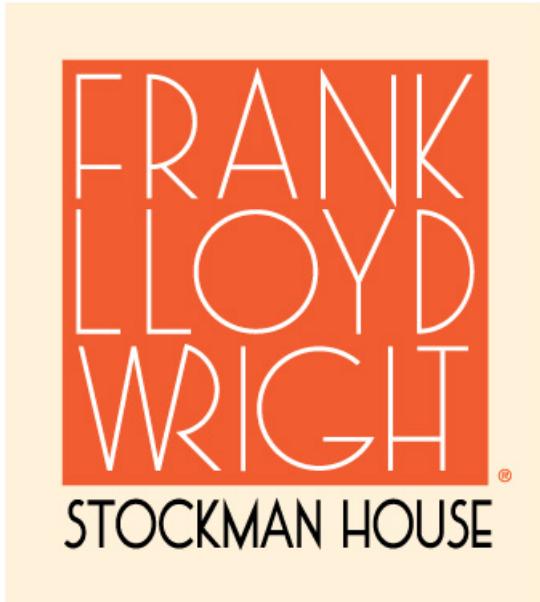
E-NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

All RCSHP 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 an upcoming event that the membership should be made aware of please let me know that, too. These items will be published on a space-available basis and with the approval of the editor. The deadline for the **Winter 2016 E-Newsletter** is November 15th. We welcome and encourage your submissions. All submissions should be emailed to: info@StockmanHouse.org.

— Paul Ringstrom, *E-Newsletter Editor*



Frank Lloyd Wright®



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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 501(c)3 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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