



RIVER CITY SOCIETY FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

P.O. BOX 565, MASON CITY, IA

WINTER 2013 E-NEWSLETTER

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR
SO YOU DON'T FORGET OUR
MEMBERS ONLY HOLIDAY RECEPTION**



December 6, 2013

HOLIDAY WINE & CHEESE RECEPTION

This is a great time to meet our Board Members and Volunteers as well as other local residents who are also members. Refreshments and other goodies will be served along with great conversation while sharing in Mason City community pride. Our Gift Shop will also be open for your holiday shopping pleasure. Members get a 10% discount on most items.

Location: Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center
Time: 7-9pm, Admission: FREE

January 1, 2014

TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Memberships to the RCSHP are on a calendar-year basis. Now is the time to renew your membership. If you renew now you will save us postage on the reminders we will send out in December. It is very easy to renew by check or credit card through our website: www.StockmanHouse.org. Just click on *Support Us* and follow the directions.

January 20, 2014

OPEN HOUSE FOR PROSPECTIVE VOLUNTEERS

We will be hosting an open house for prospective volunteers who would like to learn more about being a docent, sales

assistant, greeter or volunteering in another capacity.
Location: Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center
Time: 7-8pm

February 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 2014

**MASON CITY'S PRAIRIE SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE -
FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT & HIS ASSOCIATES**

In six lectures Dr. Robert McCoy explores the history of Wright, Griffin and Mason City's architectural heritage. Each lecture will cover a separate topic. A flyer will be emailed with the details.

Location: Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center
Time: 4-5:30pm, Admission: FREE

February 20, 2014

GROWING UP IN A FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT HOUSE

In an entertaining and humorous lecture author Kim Bixler discusses her autobiographical book. Book purchase and signing will be available.

Location: Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center
Time: 7-8pm, Admission: FREE

BARRY BYRNE

On November 19th, RCSHP and WOTP co-sponsored a lecture and book signing by Vince Michael concerning his new book on *The Architecture of Barry Byrne*. Byrne took



over the architectural practice of Walter Burley Griffin, in 1914 when he moved to Australia to oversee the building of their new capitol city, Canberra. Byrne completed the drawings for the Sam Schneider House (1915), 525 E State St, and subsequently designed the two houses adjacent to the west, the Hugh Gilmore House (1915) and the E.V. Franke House (1917). He went on to design dozens of schools and cathedrals for the Roman Catholic Church in the USA, Canada and Ireland. Vince Michael, PhD is the

Executive Director of the Global Heritage Fund in Palo Alto, California and was recently elected to the Board of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy. A few autographed copies of his book are available in the AIC Gift Shop.



SIDEWALKS REPLACED

Several sections of sidewalk near the front door of the Stockman House had sunk over the years and now presented a trip hazard for

our guests. These sections were removed and re-poured. They were joined to the large existing slab, at the front door with rebar so that in the future all of the sections will move together.



Kleen Sweep Construction performed the work.

NEW AIC SCULPTURE INSTALLED

A new sculpture, "Interlocking Squares", has been added to liven up the entry of the AIC. Entirely funded by individual



donations that were specifically designated for this project. The sculpture was obtained from **Hy-Vee's Garden Center** and generously painted in Wright's Cherokee Red by **Ray's Restorations, Inc.** The new concrete base was installed and donated by **Kleen Sweep Construction** and moved to the site with the help of **Ken Petersen**.

NEW LOGO INSTALLED



In an effort to increase our organization's name recognition and our association with the Stockman House and the Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center our new

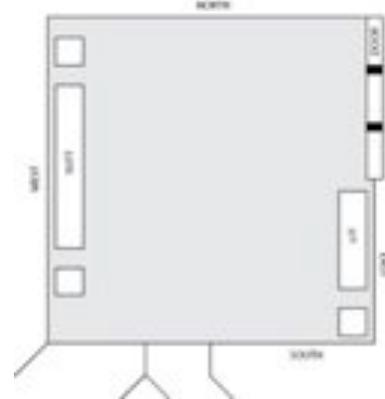
logo has been added to the window next to the front door of the AIC and the NE patio door.

NEW PRAIRIE SCHOOL ARCHITECTURAL RESEARCH LIBRARY PROJECT UNDERWAY

Bids were opened in September and **Steve Nuehring Construction**, along with **Moorehead Electric** and **EZ Masonry**, submitted the low bids for the contract to construct Phase 1 of our Library project in the basement of the AIC. The first phase is valued at \$7,875 and is partially funded by *Worth County Development Authority*. Phase 1 should be done by the end of the year. Funding for Phase 2 has not yet been received. Approximately \$8,500 is needed to finish the project. We would like to encourage you to consider contributing to this project when you make your end-of-the-year donations.

NEW BENCHES TO BE INSTALLED

New benches and planters will be installed before the 2014 tour season on the SW patio of the AIC. They have been funded by a grant from the *Farrer Endowment Foundation* and a donation from the *Mestad Memorial Fund*. They will match the ones installed on the NE patio a few years ago.



END OF THE YEAR DONATIONS

Now is a good time to make end of the year tax-deductible donations to you favorite non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. We welcome donations in any amount to help us maintain and operate the Stockman House and the Architectural Interpretive Center (AIC). You can make donations by check or credit card directly through our website www.StockmanHouse.org. Click on *Support Us*. You can make your check to: River City Society for Historic Preservation (RCSHP) or Stockman House Foundation (SHF).

QUOTE

"No house should ever be on a hill or on anything. It should be of the hill. Belonging to it. Hill and house should live together each the happier for the other.– FLW

**GREAT HOLIDAY GIFT
NOW AVAILABLE**



If you have a friend or relative who is a RCSHP Volunteer, these new shirts would make a great holiday gift for them to wear next year when they are working at the Stockman House or the AIC.

If you have an out-of-town friend who is a big Frank Lloyd Wright fan these shirts will bring them joy throughout the year.

These new custom golf shirts feature an embroidered Stockman House logo and are available for purchase at **Control Print Creative**, 524 N Federal Ave, Mason City (641) 210-4000 (two buildings north of Birdsall's Ice Cream). You may personalize it by selecting the style of the shirt (not just golf shirts), the color of the shirt and the color of the embroidery thread. They are available in both men's and women's styles in any size you need. The cost is between \$30 and \$35 depending on size and they will take about a week to produce.

STOCKMAN HOUSE WINTER TOUR TIMES

When you have friends and relatives visiting from out of town this winter, remember to bring them to the Stockman House for a tour. Tours last approximately an hour and start at the AIC with a video presentation. From November thru mid-May Stockman House tours are by **advanced reservation only** (please call 641-423-1923 to schedule). Groups of 5 or less are \$60, \$10 for each addition person.

**AIC GIFT SHOP OPEN EVERY SATURDAY
YEAR 'ROUND**

Even though there are no regularly scheduled winter tours the AIC is open every Saturday from 10-2pm. Newly restocked for the holiday season our AIC Gift Shop has unique items for your seasonal gift giving. We have several items that are unique to Mason City along with a large variety of Frank Lloyd Wright themed books, photos, jewelry and other merchandise. The AIC Gift Shop profits help support our operations. *Reminder:* Members get a 10% discount on most items.



BECOME A VOLUNTEER

76% of our members are from the Mason City area.
Would you like to help your community?

Such communities as Buffalo, NY and Oak Park, IL as well as others are recognizing architectural tourism as a significant draw of tourist dollars. Now with the addition of the restored Historic Park Inn (HPI) to our other historic sites Mason City is joining that list. Since opening, the HPI 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 Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center and the Stockman House. We are always looking for new volunteers to help us as greeters, docents, sales assistants and gardeners.

We would love to have your help! Call 641-423-1923.
Open House for prospective volunteers on Jan 20th.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

John Henry has been a docent at the Stockman House for 9 years. John recently retired from working in the R&D product development department at Metalcraft, Inc. in Mason City. Before that he taught printing technology at Oklahoma State and Northern Illinois University.

Bob McCoy had a strong influence on John becoming a docent as they sat together in the choir loft at 1st Presbyterian Church. While John had some previous knowledge of Frank Lloyd Wright and had traveled to a few Wright sites, other docents have been novices and were trained regarding the Stockman House.



John has chosen to be one of the docents who has a regular shift each week on Saturday mornings from 10-Noon during our regular tour season from May thru October. Other docents work at a scheduled time or on an as-needed basis when tour buses bring several dozen visitors to see us or to fill in when others are unavailable.

His biggest surprise upon becoming a docent was the large variety of the cities of origin of our visitors. He was amazed at how far some people travel to see Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture as well as the number of young couples in their 20s and 30s who come for a tour. He and his wife have traveled to several Wright sites including the Darwin Martin Estate in Buffalo, NY, Graycliff in Derby, NY, Taliesin East in Spring Green, WI and Wright's Home and Studio in Oak Park, IL.

His interests include history, historic architecture, architectural restoration and historic printing presses, of which he owns five. His avocation is being the proprietor of Cedar Creek Press, a custom printing and binding operation. John and his wife live in an historic Queen Ann house in Mason City that was in much need of restoration when they bought it. He is also an admirer of Elbert Hubbard, founder of the artist's colony called *The Roycrofters* in East Aurora, NY.

When asked what he would tell other people who are considering becoming one of our volunteers, he said that sharing Mason City and its history with others is fun and he would definitely miss it if he did not perform his docent duties every week.

DID YOU KNOW...

During the past year (Nov 2012 thru Oct 2013) we have had 2,431 guests tour the Stockman House. Our visitors included people from as far away as New York City, Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Seattle, Atlanta, Denver, Juneau, London, Malaysia, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Honduras, Mexico, Scotland, France, Austria and Brazil.

ANNUAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION DINNER

On October 25th the RCSHP hosted a dinner in Fellowship Hall of the 1st Presbyterian Church to honor our volunteers



at the end of our 22nd regular tour season. RCSHP is honored to have over forty volunteers who serve in a variety of capacities throughout the year. Several of them have been with us for many years. We award custom-made lapel pins, by local artist Gretchen King, for our volunteers who have been with us for 3, 5, 10, 15 and 20 years. Earning their three-year pin: **Gerri Barker, Dale Jensen, Jay Thede and Susan Urbatsch**. Earning their five-year pin: **Merikay Mestad and Judy Schotanus**. Earning the 20-year pin this year: **Jim Smith**.



(L to R: Dale Jensen, Jay Thede, Gerri Barker, Judi Schotanus, Jim Smith)

We also honor the volunteers who have covered the most "shifts" as a docent, a sales assistant or both. This year's top docents are **Susan Urbatsch** with 25 shifts, **Penny Anderson** with 24 shifts and **Chuck & Nancy Sweetman** and **Avis Jensen** were tied with 22 shifts. Our top sales assistants are **Judy Wagner** with 50 shifts, **Sandy Thede** with 26 shifts and **Merikay Mestad** with 24 shifts. These Super Volunteers covered both docent and sales duties: **Jim Smith** with 40 shifts (20 of each) and **Jay Thede** with 30 shifts (19 sales & 11 docent).

We value all of our volunteers who have made it possible for us to share Mason City's Prairie School Architecture.

OUR WEBSITE

Please visit our website at www.StockmanHouse.org. You can keep up on AIC Coming Events, view tour times, renew your membership, make a donation, and read about the history of Mason City and its Prairie School Architecture and the architects responsible for it. Also, there are current newspaper articles on FLW, a listing of FLW events around the country, a complete listing of all the FLW buildings that are open for public tours and much, much more.

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS

A new campaign is underway to increase the number of 2014 Corporate Members. Please keep an eye out for this decal on the glass front door or window of businesses around town that support our efforts.



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.

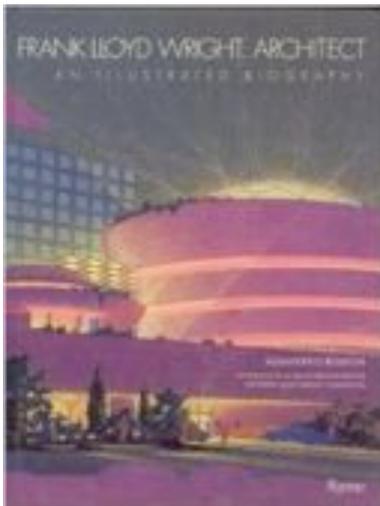
As you shop locally, we would like to encourage you to patronize our valued corporate supporters with your business.

Central Park Dentistry, 23 N Federal Ave, MC
Hawkeye Auto Body, 2111 S Federal Ave, MC
Hy-Vee East, 551 S Illinois Ave, MC
Wright On the Park, 5 W State St #300, MC
North Iowa Community Credit Union, 640 S Federal, MC
Accord Architecture, 208 E State St, MC
Three Eagles Communications, 341 S Yorktown Pike, MC
Schupick & Associates CPAs, 13 N Federal Ave, MC
Historic Park Inn, 7 W State St, MC
Hertz Farm Management, Inc., 2800 4th St SW #7, MC
Petersen Plaza, 202 1st St SE #115, MC
Farm Credit Services of America, 4056 4th St SW, MC
Bergland + Cram Architects, 1002 E State St #A, MC
Kleen Sweep Construction, 1112 N Federal Ave, MC
North Iowa Area Community College, 500 College Dr, MC
Varied Industries Corporation, 905 S Carolina Ave, MC
Henkel Construction, 280 E State St, MC
Marquart Concrete Products, 1714 4th Ave S, CL
Lehigh Cement Co, LLC, 700 25th St NW, MC

BOOK REVIEW

Frank Lloyd Wright: Architect – An Illustrated Biography
 by Alexander Boulton (available at Mason City Public Library)

There are many books about Wright, but this handsomely designed, large-sized volume is an exciting introduction to FLW's life and work. In considerable detail Boulton shows how Wright changed contemporary architecture with his radical approach to creating a uniquely American design for homes and buildings—a design that included an open plan; the use of steel, reinforced concrete, and plate glass; and a harmony with the natural environment. This is a coherent, intelligent portrayal of an extraordinarily fecund imagination, and of the evolution of Wright's architectural innovations and



their importance in architectural history. This is also an art book. Interspersed throughout the spacious text are many fine reproductions of Wright's drawings and color photographs of his famous homes and buildings. His life story, including the scandal that surrounded his private life, is presented in a straightforward style. Most moving are the quotes from Wright himself, which reveal his creative genius, his arrogance, and his political idealism. There are no source notes, but Boulton ends with a detailed chronology and glossary and an annotated bibliography.

RCSHP LEADERSHIP & STAFF REORGANIZATION

Lee Weber RCSHP's President for ten years has resigned to move 2½ hours NW to New Ulm, MN. Lee's wife, Yvonne, is originally from New Ulm and they will be starting a new business there. We would like to thank Lee for his many years of service and wish him and Yvonne the best in their new adventures.



Robert S. "Chip" Kinsey will assume the leadership until the next annual meeting and election in April. **John Duggan** will be Vice President.

In preparation for the upcoming 2014 tour season the RCSHP has reorganized some of its management responsibilities and have written new job descriptions for each position.

Judy Wagner will be our new *Volunteer Scheduler*. She will schedule the Docents who lead the tours as well as the Greeters and Sales Assistants who work at the AIC during the regular tour season. **Joanne Hardinger** will be our *Tour & Operations Coordinator*. She will coordinate the off-season tours that are available by advanced reservation. She will schedule all the large tour groups during the regular tour season and be responsible for opening and closing the Stockman House on tour days and the AIC when it is open. **Kathy Kinsey** will be our *AIC Gift Shop Manager*. She will be responsible for all facets of the gift shop operation.

E-NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE

You are welcome to contribute a topic, a photo, an article, a book recommendation or a book review that you think would be appropriate for our 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 2013 E-Newsletter** is February 15th. We welcome and encourage your submissions. All submissions should be emailed to: info@StockmanHouse.org.

- Paul Ringstrom, *Editor*

2013-2014

RCSHP EXECUTIVE BOARD

Robert S. Kinsey, *President*
John Duggan, *Vice President*
David Christiansen, *Recording Secretary*
Paul Ringstrom, *Corresponding Secretary*
Sandy Ringstrom, *Treasurer*
Robert McCoy
Joanne Hardinger

STAFF

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

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the River City Society for Historic Preservation (RCSHP) is to restore, preserve, protect, and defend historic and/or architecturally significant buildings and sites in Mason City and to convince others to do the same.

The RCSHP owns and operates the Stockman House Museum and the Mason City Architectural Interpretive Center, both of which are open for tours to the public.

Mailing Address:
RCSHP, P.O. BOX 565, MASON CITY, IA 50402