

# *Germantown Historical Society* **Newsletter**



INCORPORATED – 1974

2ND QUARTER 2010

## UPDATED OFFICE SPACE AND MEETING AREAS!



*Carol Barkow (standing), longtime volunteer of the Germantown Historical Society talks with society members in our Jeffris research library.*



*New desk for the Jeffris Genealogy Research Center, Wolf Haus*



*New desk for the office in the loft of The Bast Bell Museum.*

**N**ewly created office areas will make for more efficient use of time. The Jeffris Research Library received a new desk thanks to Robert L. Kohls. Though the old desk had many great memories to those volunteers who spent countless hours there. It literally broke apart when it was slightly moved. The drawers became difficult to open. The new desk is perfect in the space.

Sandi Dhein, provided a new desk in the newly created office space in loft of the Bast Bell Museum for our part-time director. Office files are now located there for the tour director to be more accessible to visitors while working. A laptop was purchased and we are still in need of wi-fi connection which is crucial to reaching the public.

A new table and chairs are also in the loft for Oktoberfest and Board meetings. They will be used as needed outdoors at the annual festival.

Robert L. Kohls, published genealogist, held genealogy classes in June on Wednesdays. He has offered his expertise and experience to our society on Wednesdays at the Jeffris' Research Library in the Wolf Haus. We are grateful for his service. Stop by or call from 1-4 pm if you have questions or want to search our over 75,000 records.

Take a few minutes to collect some information from our archives and get the conversation started among your relatives this summer. Better now than later! Others may have further information for you to start your genealogical research.

The Valentine Wolf Haus Museum and Jeffris' Genealogy Research Library will open on Wednesday, June 3rd. Hours are Wednesday and Sunday 1-4 pm.

**NOW IS THE TIME TO FIND THOSE PHOTOS**  
for the 20th Century Germantown Book! We  
will scan them and return them to you. Be part  
of lasting area history!



# Mark Your Calendars!



## BAST BELL MUSEUM

OPEN April 1-Nov 1, Wed-Sun. 1-4 pm  
Group Reservations of 10 or more open ANY TIME.

### JUNE

- The **GENEALOGY RESEARCH LIBRARY IS OPEN** to the public through September 30th, Wednesdays and Sundays 1-4 pm.
- **THIS 2010 EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED WORLDWIDE WINE TASTING**  
This event or one similar will return in 2011.

### JULY

- **SUN. 4TH** Copper Box sponsored by Germantown Historical Society and Germantown Kiwanis, will play on Homers Towing and Service flatbed during the parade.
- **WED. 7TH** 2 pm Bell of the Month Program, Koffee Haus from 1-4 pm. Refreshments included with regular admission.
- **TUES. 20TH** 6:00 pm Board Meeting, Bast Bell Museum

### AUGUST

- **WED. 4TH** 2 pm Bell of the Month Program, Koffee Haus from 1-4 pm. Refreshments included with regular admission.
- **TUES. 17TH** 6:00 pm Board Meeting, Bast Bell Museum

### SEPTEMBER

- **WED. 2ND** 2 pm Bell of the Month Program, Koffee Haus from 1-4 pm. Refreshments included with regular admission.
- **TUES. 21ST** 6:00 pm Board Meeting, Bast Bell Museum
- **SAT. 25TH OKTOBERFEST 12 - 10 PM**
- **SUN. 26TH OKTOBERFEST 12 - 8 PM**  
(see inside for details)

[www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.germantownhistoricalsociety.org) for full calendar

## LOCAL HISTORIAN FEATURED

Irene Blau, local historian and former President of Germantown Historical Society will give presentations on Thursdays 1pm-4pm.

The Germantown Historical Society is pleased to host former President and life long community member, Irene Blau on Thursdays at The Bast Bell Museum. Blau, history preservationist and co author of Germantown The Early Years 1838-1915, will be on hand to share pertinent and informative tales about the Germantown area and The Historical Society.

The Germantown Historical Society has as part of its mission to collect and preserve all that it can of the stories, artifacts and legacy of those who helped shape Dheinsville, The Village and The Town of Germantown. Please be among those who cherish and respect this part of our history.

You are invited to be a guest of The Germantown Historical Society on Thursdays, 1-4pm and the Bast Bell Museum and hear the legacy unfold from a polished and knowledgeable source.

Please drop in on Thursdays or call ahead to let us know of your desire to attend. 262-628-3170. The Museum is open Wed-Sun 1-4 pm during season.

## THANK YOU FOR THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS:

- John & Lynn Poelzer
- Jim & Sue Dix
- John & Linda Ourada
- Riteway Bus

Roland, Pearl, Ronald & Rochelle Bast

- In honor of Rollie Bast's 90th Birthday given by Ann Fuge
- In memory of Lila Patzen given by Ethel Stephens
- In memory of Elroy Borchert given by Mille and Julie Schuldt
- A donation was received for Genealogy by Lyle & Carol Barkow



*A special thank you to Al Dobberfuhr for the recent donation of tools to the Wolf Haus Museum which have been added to the Shoemaker Shop area.*



# Special Events!



Credit: C.T. Kruger, [www.germantownnow.com](http://www.germantownnow.com)

## PIONEER DAYS – MAY 2010

Chris Kauth awaits visitors to the Germantown Historical Society Museum on May 7 as she and other museum members were on hand to portray various people from Germantown's history, such as Elizabeth Dhein, wife of Phillip Dhein who founded the Dheinsville settlement.

Dheinsville was the place to be on May 6th & 7th with enthusiastic assistance from local high school German students and our society members. Student visitors from three schools: St. Boniface, David's Star and Morning Star Lutheran were given an introduction to local Wisconsin history circa 1850's.

Students toured the Bast Bell Museum, discovered the family life at the Wolf Haus and marveled at the Church and it's stained glass windows. The children had an opportunity to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Dhein, a Civil War soldier and sample molasses cookies.

This two day event is held every other year so now is the time to think about joining the team and introducing Wisconsin to the young people of the area.

**The Historical Society will be re-visiting our methods and scripts for our next session. If you would like to assist, please give us a call at 262-628-3170.**

### — WANTED —

*We are looking for any period clothing to be used at upcoming events including Pioneer Days including: dresses, skirts, shawls, pants, vests etc. We are also interested in finding people willing to sew replica period clothing. Please call with any questions 262-628-3170.*

**MISSING:** A 1900 GREEN wedding dress from the museum donated by the Knetzger Family some time ago is missing. If you have information about the dress, please call Irene at 262-251-6378.

## 34TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF CHRIST CHURCH



Germantown Historical Society board members and volunteers celebrated the 34th anniversary of the Christ Church with cake and conversation! It was a great time to enjoy the museum and historic church.



Christ Church of Local History open Wednesday and Sunday from 1-4 pm for tours. Call if you can volunteer, even one day or for backup. We will provide training.

## MINI GRANT 2010 APPLICATION

The Germantown Historical Society applied May 2010 for a \$650.00 MATCHING MINI GRANT for archival storage and supplies to organize and label our exhibits in its buildings this summer. We applied in 2009 and did not receive the grant. The mini grant was offered again for 2010 by the Wisconsin Historical Society & Wisconsin Council for Local History and we applied.

The Germantown Historical Society has never received a grant from the Wisconsin Historical Society and we look forward to hearing positive news on this year's application. Thank you Tiffany Navin for updating our application and quotes.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE!

*Worldwide Wine Tasting*

**THIS EVENT HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR 2010.**

Either the same event or a similar one will return in 2011.



# Stories of Interest

## MUSEUM CURATOR & LIFELONG ACTIVE MEMBER — Eileen Densow

Thank You....these two words are not nearly enough but a great place to start when talking about Eileen Densow who is a member of our Board of Directors. Eileen has been involved with the Germantown Historical Society since the beginning and continues to help in anyway possible. In April, Eileen stepped down as Secretary a position that she has filled since 1976 when Irene asked her to take over that position, and we thank her for this and many things.

Eileen has been and continues to be a vital part of the historical society. She is currently the curator of the Bell Museum and plans the Bell of the Month program each month. She spent countless hours when the Bell Museum first opened researching and labeling the bells. She assists at many of the tours and can always be counted on pitch in wherever needed. At Oktoberfest, you will find her in the Church.

Eileen first found out about the Historical Society in 1974 from a blurb in the local paper that said there would be a meeting to start the Historical Society downstairs at the former Marine Bank. Eileen attended and joined that night as a lifetime member.



She retired in 1999 from the Brewer Company where she was the Credit and Collection Manager. In addition to her many hours of volunteer time with the Historical Society, she also is active at Grave Evangelical Lutheran Church in Menomonee Falls where she enters the contributions and runs quarterly statements. On Tuesday afternoons, she volunteers at the Economy Center in Milwaukee which is a thrift shop run by the Lutheran Counseling & Family Services of Wisconsin.

Eileen is also involved with the following groups: Frauen Gruppe, Menomonee Falls Quilters, Pommerscher Verein Freistadt and was formerly involved with the Washington County Landmark Commission. With all of Eileen's various activities, we are lucky to have her!

## MEET JANE RILEY BEST

Jane Riley Best, a native of Big Cedar Lake, has accepted the position of Museum Director and Public Relations Specialist for The Germantown Historical Society as of May 1, 2010. The position is seasonal, May-October during regular museum hours, Wednesday thru Sunday 1pm-4pm.



Best brings to the position her experience in Fundraising, Marketing and Volunteer Management. Having served on committees of other nonprofits for the last 20 plus years, Jane has been involved with schools, churches and community organizations.

Jane has 3 children, Abigail, mother of Riley Rose McMahon, Elizabeth and Thomas, II. She attended the College of St Catherine in St Paul and received a degree in Communications. Jane is also a professional freelance writer, specializing in web copywriting. She writes marketing materials for small business and other non profit organizations, as well as ghost writes and is currently writing a semi-fictional book.

For full time work, Jane is an Admissions Counselor for Silver Lake College in Manitowoc. Silver Lake is a 4 year liberal arts college with a Franciscan basis. While not a

Catholic College, it does adhere to the principals of St Francis of Assisi.....a man who was "green" before it was the in-thing!

Jane is fortunate to be able to have her office out of her home and visit High School juniors and seniors to explore their college opportunities at Silver Lake. This flexible schedule also allows Jane to hang out with her two dogs...Louie, a Havanese and Shelby, a female dachshund from Midwest Dachshund Rescue. It also allows her to spend time at the Bell Museum, where her newly located office is in the loft. It is the perfect haven to prepare press releases, contact tour companies, senior centers and reach out to the community to let them know of the educational offerings that the Historical Society has.

Jane's goal for the Historical Society is to advance it's growth and to do it building a solid foundation. Done this way, it will take time, but it will, in fact be solid. Bringing in more tours, increasing membership at a reasonable price point, offering members more for their membership and publicizing educational opportunities for school groups are all part of the plan.

Stop in and visit! Jane is eager to meet any and all GHS Members.

Look for Shelby the last weekend in Sept (25-26) in the Dachshund Races at our Oktoberfest!!! (P.S. Jane is looking for a dirndl for herself...not Shelby!)

# Upcoming Events!



## GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY & PICK 'N SAVE PRESENT GERMANTOWN HUNSRÜCKER OKTOBERFEST

By Jeff Dhein, Oktoberfest Chairman

Plans are well underway for 2010's event at Dheinsville Historic Park! All of our bands are signed and ready to go. Mike and Kelly Krull are doing a great job finding sponsors, including our first presenting level sponsor, Pick 'N Save for 2010! Other volunteers are also contacting businesses for sponsorship and items for our two-day silent auction.

Homer's Towing & Service Inc. has joined in and will be a new face at this year's event. Wayne's Drive-In from Cedarburg will be sponsoring the classic car display. We are still looking for vendors and crafters to add "color" to the weekend. Shawn Frank is working on getting more people to participate in the Bier Races. Judy Ketterer will again be working her magic with the food preparation. Thanks Judy!

I have received permission from the Park & Rec Department to place the potato pancake wagon as a permanent concession stand and am looking for volunteers to help make that happen before the festival. We are expecting more food options this year.

We are anxiously anticipating the 2nd Annual Dheinsville Dachshund Dash, which will be held on Saturday, Sept 25th at 3:00pm. Thank you Sandi Dhein for all your effort, this is really becoming a big hit! Fromm's is again graciously donating the Grand Prize for the Dash, One-year supply of Fromm's Four Star Dog Food. This event is a fundraiser for Midwest Dachshund Rescue (MWDR), racers must be spayed or neutered. Raffles will be open Saturday and Sunday ending at 5:00 pm Sunday with the cash proceeds being donated to the MWDR. If you are interested in donating dog related items for our baskets or raffles, call Sandi Dhein 262-305-7399. We anticipate more racers this year making for a more adventurous race! Watch the website for Dash T-shirt pre-ordering and race info. Registration begins August 1st.

Thanks to everyone that has helped to make this the fun, family friendly, affordable festival that so many of you have come to enjoy over the years. As the song says, I'll see you in September!

### FESTIVAL ADMISSION & PARKING FREE!

Continuous Music & German Dancers! Great Authentic Food, Dheinsville Dachshund Dash, Silent Auction both days, Inflatable for Kids, Pumpkin Painting, Sunday Bake Sale, WI Power Reunion Tractors, Classic Car Display & More!

**1/2 off Bast Bell Museum with canned food item 1-4 pm Sat & Sun of the Festival**

#### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 12 - 10 PM

12:00 - 3:00 pm Music Vendors  
3:00 - 4:00 pm Dheinsville Dachshund Dash (supports the MidWest Dachshund Rescue)  
4:00 - 6:30 pm Austrian Express  
6:30 - 7:00 pm Pommersche Tanzdeel Freistadt  
7:00 - 10:00 pm Copper Box

#### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 12 - 8 PM

12:00 Bake Sale  
12:00 - 3:00 pm Julida Boys  
3:00 - 3:30 pm Pommersche Tanzdeel Freistadt  
3:30 - 7:00 pm River City Blaskapelle

#### CALL TO VOLUNTEER 3 HR. SHIFT - FREE T-SHIRT, BRAT & SODA

(setup Friday, festival Sat & Sun, clean up Mon & Tues)

**BUSINESS SPONSORSHIP:** Call Jeff 262-689-0537 or Kevin 262-227-7908

#### SILENT AUCTION ITEMS/GIF CERTIFICATES & BASKET SUPPLIES:

Bring to Bell Museum Wed-Sun 1-4 pm

**DACHSHUND RACE ENTRY FEE:** \$10 per dog, *Early Pup Special* before 9/1/10 - \$5 per dog  
MidWest Dachshund Rescue, Inc • www.mwdr.org • 8073 Stonegate Drive, Tinley Park, IL 60487

### CONTACT INFORMATION

Germantown Historical Society  
P.O. Box 31, Germantown, WI 53022  
262-628-3170  
www.bastbellmuseum.com  
info@bastbellmuseum.com

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### President

Kevin Nash Shorewest Realtors  
262-437-5830 Direct  
262-227-7908 Mobile  
knash@shorewest.com

#### Vice President

Jeff Dhein Oktoberfest Chair  
262-689-0537 Mobile

#### Treasurer / Acting Secretary

Peggy Bast M&I Wealth Management  
Daughter of Gordon Bast  
262-376-0591 Home  
414-418-6496 Mobile  
psbast@cs.com

#### Board Members

Eileen Densow Bell Museum Curator  
Board Member 1976  
262-251-6688 H

Gordon Bast Bell Museum Specialist  
Nephew of Sila Bast  
262-377-6496 H

Mary Brownell Chairperson Village  
Historic Preservation Comm  
262-677-3177 H

Sandi Dhein Dachshund Race Chair  
262-305-7399

Olive Schowalter Bell Ringer in Church

#### In Support

Jane Riley Best Seasonal Museum Director  
Public Relations Specialist  
262-628-3170

Irene Blau Germantown Historian  
262-251-6378 H

Judy Bast Bell Museum Specialist  
Spouse of Gordon Bast  
262-377-6496 H

William Gay History Book Author  
Retired Germantown High  
School English Teacher

Robert L. Kohls Resident Genealogist  
262-966-9615 H

#### Partnerships

Germantown Volunteer Fire Company  
Germantown Park & Rec Dept  
Village of Germantown Tourism/Betterment Fund

#### Graphic Design / Signage

Tiffany Navin 262-853-9044  
tiffany@eye4graphics.info

## BREAKING NEWS!

### VOLUNTEERS: YOU ASKED FOR IT: YOU GOT IT!

Many of you have shyed away from giving tours at our Museums because you felt that you "didn't know enough".

Those days are over. Hot off the press is a "script"/reference manual for The Bast Bell Museum. This can be gone over before a tour or used during a tour to refresh you and your visitors.

Coming soon will be "scripts"/ reference manuals for The Wolf Haus and Christ Church. We want everyone to feel comfortable and knowledgeable...and now you can.

Call Jane Riley Best, Museum Dir/Pub Rel Specialist to volunteer for Tours! We NEED and WANT you to be an active part of The Germantown Historical Society. 262-628-3170

Congratulations to new member Scott Noegel! He will receive a **FREE DVD of the "History of Germantown!"** for receiving the newsletter via email saving us printing and postage!

NOTE: Please accept our apology for any members who received a notice from the Post Office for postage due on the last newsletter. Some of the newsletters were mailed with the incorrect postage, and we apologize for any inconvenience.

## LOCAL ARTISTS: DEAL OR NO DEAL?

Our area is chuck full of buildings that speak to the origin of Germantown and the first settlers here. Dheinsville Settlement is a perfect example. Philip Dhein and his family arrived in 1842 and purchased land for his family and that of friends who would soon come from the Hunsrück region of Germany and buy directly from him, rather than from the Government. A much simpler process, even then. These families paid \$1.25 per acre!!!

The Settlement is home to the Valentine Wolf Haus, where 12 children were raised and a shoemakers shop was operated out of the home. The Christ Church of Local History was once known as the Evangelical Christ Church and founded by Phillip Dhein Sr. and his wife. The Wolf/Shuster barn is home to the Bast Bell Museum and the original Germantown Mutual Insurance Company office is still standing just a block away, being used as a private residence. There are still buildings on Old Main Street Germantown that sing of our history, as well.

**We are announcing an Art Challenge. Draw some of the Historic Buildings of Germantown, particularly Dheinsville Settlement.** Submit original artwork to us by August 27th and they will be displayed and judged by a group of Society members during Oktoberfest, Sept 25-26. Pick up on Sat. Sept. 25th after judging or donate your artwork for future fundraising. **Age categories are:** Grade School, Middle School, High School, Adult 18+. Judging will be Saturday, Sept 25.

The winner in each category will win a \$25 top prize for the best drawing of an historic building. It will be in the form of a gift certificate from a local establishment or the Bast Bell Museum Gift Shop. **Entry Fee: \$25 (non refundable)**

**Do you accept our challenge? Deal or No Deal?**

E-NEWSLETTERS!  
Submit your email at [info@bastbellmuseum.com](mailto:info@bastbellmuseum.com)



GERMANTOWN HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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