

SHOREWOOD

from the river to the lake

News from the Shorewood Historical Society

Issue 2, April 2022

The mansion at 3534 N. Lake Dr. was razed in 2019. Its fountain was salvaged from the garden wall of the estate's coach house. See story on front page.

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THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 2022

4:30 - 5:30 p.m.

VILLAGE CENTER PLAZA

between the Village Hall and the
North Shore Fire Department

By Karen de Hartog

It has been more than two years since we have hosted a gathering for Shorewood Historical Society members. Dedication of our fountain and tile installation which was recently attached to the Village Hall seems like the perfect opportunity to renew acquaintances.

Original tilework and fountain as it appeared on the mansion's coach house.

The Village Center Plaza also contains an interpretive sign that highlights the history of the surrounding buildings. The sign was put in place last year. Please plan on joining us to celebrate Shorewood history. Invitations will be mailed to all members in early June.

The brass fountain originally hung outdoors on the coach house wall facing the garden of the estate at 3534 N. Lake Dr., a home designed by Eschweiler & Eschweiler for Charles and Laura Albright in 1926. Artist/historian Ben Tyjeski recreated the tile background in homage to the craftsmanship of the Continental Faience and Tile Co. of South Milwaukee (1924-1943), whose decorative tile was included in many Shorewood structures. The fountain was donated to the Shorewood Historical Society by the Abele family when the Lake Dr. mansion was demolished in 2019.



The historic fountain once again adorns a garden wall surrounded with beautiful handcrafted tile.



Artist Ben Tyjeski recreated the fountain's tile background in his studio.

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

It has been my honor to serve as President of your Shorewood Historical Society these past five years. My recent predecessors, Karen de Hartog and the late Sonja Ivanovich, set a very high bar for excellence and competence. Now it is time for me to pass the mantle of leadership. I am proud of what our Historical Society team has accomplished during my term and I am enthused about the future of the organization.

In 2017, I was happily serving as a board member but was not at all seeking the presidency. I had only worked with the board a short time. No one was anxious to fill Karen's shoes. Somehow, I got the nod. I decided that, if I was going to serve, I would give it my best shot. We focused on membership, finances, digitization of our archives, collaboration with other Village organizations and education with our Birthday Markers and informational signs a.k.a. the "fresh air museum". Very good stuff but there is much more to come.

I am pleased to announce that Kathy Kean will serve as the new Shorewood Historical Society president. Kathy recently received the Frederick I. Olson Preservation Award from the Milwaukee County Historical Society. Kathy knows historical preservation and the Society will pivot to focus on preservation. The Society will provide guidance to the Village about the preservation of our neighborhoods. During Kathy's tenure the Society will also complete the remodeling of our archives space. Kathy is the right person at the right time.

I would like to thank our board members who listened to, believed in and executed my initiatives during my five years at the helm. We're fortunate to have a hardworking, dedicated team. I also want to acknowledge Margaret Sankovitz who edits our terrific newsletter, Natalie Carroll for her graphic design, and Keith Schmitz who writes the "Then and Now" articles. Thank you to my wife, Karen, for her sage advice and counsel. Thank you treasured members for your trust and encouragement. I'm handing the gavel to Kathy Kean but will remain on the board and look forward to our continued success.

Robert "Bob" Dean, Jr.

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It has been my honor to serve as President of your Shorewood Historical Society these past five years.



IN-HOUSE RESEARCH

Discovering the history of your home can be great fun, and knowing the history of your home can give you a greater appreciation for the Village as a whole and how it developed. We have gathered many house-history research tools in our Sheldon Room on the lower level of the Library.

In-House Research is available by appointment only. Contact us at shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com to schedule an appointment.

BUNGALOW HUNTING: Examine the entire 3800 block of North Murray Ave. Here one builder produced the classic Milwaukee bungalow on one side of the street, and introduced eclectic elements to his designs on the other side. Additions to and other modifications of the original houses add to the individual personality of each home. Other good examples are the 3500 block of Cramer St. and the 4400 block of N. Morris Blvd. Also look for bungalow duplexes where each unit has the typical bungalow floor plan.

ALL ABOUT BUNGALOWS

By Jennifer Anderson

Although a variety of architectural styles are represented in Shorewood, none is more prevalent than the bungalow.

With its straight lines and solid, workmanlike appearance, the bungalow was originally designed as an antidote to the gingerbread fussiness of Victorian-style homes, and the bungalow became popular during the Arts & Crafts movement (early 20th century), which was itself a rebellion against the industrial era of machine manufacturing.

While bungalow-style homes appear all over the country, the design, materials and craftsmanship feel distinctly Midwestern. These are homes that are well-built, using high-quality natural materials, dependable enough to weather many winters. Never the flashiest house on the block, bungalows are modest but have decorative touches throughout that reflect each builder's unique artistry. And with their clever use of space, these homes are profoundly practical.

Because of the area's narrow lots, "Milwaukee" bungalows tend to be narrower here than in other parts of the country.

Because Shorewood can boast of hundreds of classic examples of the typical

bungalow home, many of which were built in the 1920s, it is instructive to learn a little bit about some signature details that define the style.

Profile: Bungalows are built low to the ground, typically with 1 ½ stories. They hug the landscape rather than grandly loom over it, with dominant gable roofs that mirror the horizon line and often project out beyond the front façade. Ample porches, often bracketed by solid support columns, encourage engagement with the exterior world and recall an era when neighbors sat outside chatting throughout long summer evenings.

Materials: Bungalows are solidly built to last for generations and builders made good use of indigenous natural materials. River rocks, regionally cultivated wood, cedar or slate shingles, and stucco were the preferred building materials, and paint colors often reflect the natural world with brown, green, and tan-colored hues.

Open Interiors: The public spaces inside bungalows are open and spacious. A half wall often separates the living and dining rooms to subtly delineate between the two spaces while maintaining an open feeling. Private spaces,

such as bedrooms, bathrooms and the kitchen, however, are small, spare and simple, designed to be strictly utilitarian and not for hanging out in for extended periods.

Built-In Space Savers: Builders of bungalows were immensely resourceful with the limited space they had available inside these modest homes and they made use of every inch they had. Innovations abounded as designers experimented with new ways to max-out the interior capacity, giving rise to breakfast nooks with hollow benches for storage, pocket doors, drop-down ironing boards, telephone niches, built-in buffets and book shelves and the ever-popular Murphy bed.

Natural Light: Wherever possible, bungalow designers tried to maximize natural light inside the home. Larger-than-usual double-hung windows, lined up side-by-side and often set high on the wall, roof dormers, transom windows, and the open interior spaces all helped to welcome as much sunlight as possible inside.

Decorative Details: The tradespeople who built bungalows may have been exceedingly practical, but they also

(Cont. on Page 7)



3821 N. Murray Ave.



3540 N. Cramer St.



Brick bungalow at 4512 N. Morris Blvd.

THEN & NOW: GUY AND MARY JOHNSON

Couple's Mission is Making a Better Community, In and Out of Shorewood

By Keith Schmitz

In many ways, Shorewood is the kind of place waiting for someone to get as much out of it as they put into it, and such is the case of Mary and Guy Johnson.

Both have gotten a lot out of life in metro Milwaukee and the North Shore – Mary through her profession as a nurse and volunteer affecting lives beyond her neighborhood, and Guy through his consequential service in Shorewood local government.

Getting Grounded in Shorewood

Like many residents, they came from outside the Village. Mary's parents lived very close to Shorewood on Bartlett Ave. in Milwaukee. They moved into the Village because of the schools when she was in 11th grade.

Mary focused on a career in nursing. She attended UWM because it was nearby and had an outstanding nursing program. Her first job was with the Milwaukee health department.

Guy grew up in Milwaukee and attended Custer High School. When he was 17, his parents moved to Alabama, his mother's home. While a student at Marquette University, Guy was in the work-study engineering program, and worked at the heavy equipment manufacturer Harnischfeger. He was employed there for the next 24 years.

While at MU, Guy lived with some buddies on 29th and Wells. It was there that Mary dropped in one night to attend a party with her girlfriends, and she met Guy.

Born in Philly – Raised in Shorewood

They married in 1969 in St. Robert Church and their reception was at the historic Hubbard Lodge. Guy settled in as a permanent employee with Harnischfeger, and they lived in a series of apartments. Guy was transferred to Harnischfeger's Philadelphia office where the Johnsons lived for ten years. Their two sons were born there. Andy, the younger, was born in Pennsylvania Hospital, founded in 1751 by Ben Franklin.

David, the older, arrived eleven weeks early, his impending birth beginning at a baby shower for Mary at her friend's house in Milwaukee. Since David was premature, Mary remained in Milwaukee for a couple of months until Father's Day before returning to Philadelphia with the new Johnson baby.

In the early 80s, Harnischfeger transferred Guy and the family back to Wisconsin where they lived on Shorewood Blvd., their homestead for 34 years.

Harnischfeger and Health Care

Though very involved with their family, Mary and Guy had active careers. In Philadelphia, Mary worked as a nurse in the nursery and delivery units at Bryn Mawr Hospital. In Milwaukee, Mary earned her graduate degree in nursing and taught at the UWM School of Nursing for ten years. During that time Mary also started working at a sexual assault treatment center at Mount Sinai Hospital, later working in the community with high-risk pregnant women and families. She ended her 23 year career with Aurora Health Care as a community-based manager.



Mary and Guy, 1969

When Guy returned to Wisconsin with Harnischfeger, he was the general project manager for the overhead crane group, eventually moving to the automated material handling group.

His job demanded a lot of "on-the-road" time. A graduate of the UWM Executive MBA Program, he applied "on a whim" when the director position came open and he landed it, spending over 20 years in that position.

Shorewood Schools Set the Path

The careers of both did not prevent them from being involved in David's and Andy's lives, participating in school activities, following the boys in sports, band, and orchestra, and being scout leaders.

Shorewood schools gave each of the boys career direction. David became interested in the room-sized ecosystem that sixth grade teacher Marty Gutnick maintained in the basement of Atwater Elementary School.

David went to school early to feed the snakes and turtles and his interest continued as he earned a degree in zoology, followed by a degree in public health at the University of Minnesota. He's the manager for the epidemiology group in Hennepin County, MN, where he lives with his wife and two kids.

The Wisconsin Academy of Music and String Academy of Wisconsin were Andy's influences. Beginning in 4th grade, he studied cello, playing the

instrument through high school, then getting music degrees from UW-Madison and Ithaca College in New York. Andy now lives in Charlotte, VT, with his wife and two children and teaches at the local public school.

Caring for Kids Outside the Family

As the boys grew older and moved on to higher education, Mary has immersed herself in many activities. Being part of the Shorewood poll worker team is part of that portfolio, and her other volunteerism goes beyond the Village's borders.

Mary focused on her participation in the Ladies of Charity organization, one of the St. Vincent de Paul Society ministries. The group's mission is to provide clothing to children in need. "We provide each child," according to Mary, "a wardrobe of clothing," which includes warm outerwear for winter."

She served as president of the organization along with life-long friend Mary Domer, also a Shorewood resident. Mary points out that the local chapter has clothed over 1,000 school children this school year despite the pandemic.

Mary's mother, Ann Klett Hurley, was involved with the program. As a nurse working in the community Mary saw the need and thought that the Ladies of Charity Clothing Center was a way to make a contribution. But most of all, "I thought this would be part of my Mom's legacy that would live on in me."

Guy Goes Public

Sometimes volunteers don't just show up. Instead, they are often recruited, as was the case for Guy.

It's rare when someone says "no" to Shorewood volunteers Lucia Petrie and Diane Buck, and neither could Guy. He recalls, "they knew me because I spent a lot of time in the library, and over a lunch, they told me I was running for the board of trustees."

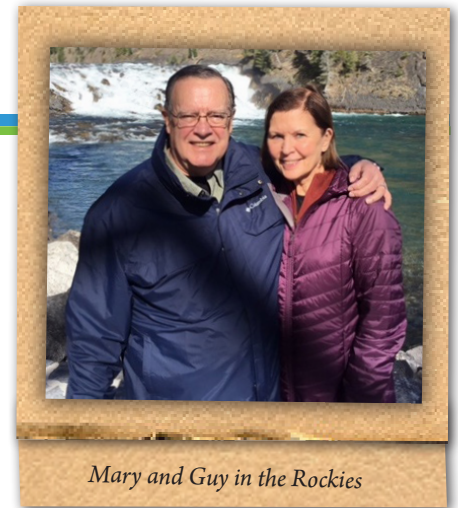
That was in 1998. Since the effort to improve the Shorewood Library was coming up, they suggested that he would be an excellent addition to the board. How could he say no?

Guy served eight years as a Village Board trustee and subsequently 12 years as Village president, until 2018. Along with the successful library expansion, his time in government saw a lot of events that are significant to the Village.

The development of the "downtown" has had a major impact. Coming into the new century, Shorewood's downtown had a tired look. Guy, along with other Village leaders, felt there was a need to ease the tax burden on residents by vitalizing the business district.

When Guy retired from his position as Village president, Shorewood was a much-improved community with revived retail on the north end of Oakland Ave., offering a vibrant nightlife. The action included both commercial property and residential projects. Guy was a great advocate, explaining the benefits of this new direction for residents.

Guy also served on the boards of the North Shore Fire Department and as a member of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Council of Milwaukee County. He currently serves on the board of the Milwaukee County Federated Library System and on UWM's Board of Visitors.



Mary and Guy in the Rockies

Guy points to the great flood of 2010 as another significant event during his time as Village president. On July 22, a week following heavy rains, 7.5 inches fell over two hours, soaking large parts of the North Shore, and turning Edgewood Ave. into a river.

Water rose in many residents' basements, including the Johnsons' home. Village Manager Chris Swartz, the DPW, and the Village Board immediately confronted the problem. As people cleared their basements of flood-damaged contents and the refuse piled up on parkways, the DPW promptly hauled away the detritus to enable neighborhoods to return to normal.

Enjoying the Fruits of Their Labors

In 2015, Guy and Mary moved out of their beloved Shorewood Blvd. home and are living in an Eastwood condominium, taking advantage of the library and Shorewood's "downtown," which has significantly improved during Guy's watch.

They stay busy with travel, being involved in several social groups, and auditing classes at UWM, along with participating in UWM's Osher Lifelong Learning programs.

Both agree that in Shorewood, it's a wonderful life. And like George Bailey in that movie, the Johnsons have done their part to make it that way.



Nicholas Zehren (right), and Emil Bartels (left), posed with Mary Sheldon Green (middle).

EARLY VILLAGE LAW ENFORCEMENT

Nicholas Zehren (right) was the first and only Marshal of the Village of East Milwaukee, holding the post for 20 years until 1930 when the Village Board eliminated the position of marshal and constable. In the position he shoveled walks so people could get to the streetcars on Oakland Ave., handled building and water permits and supervised improvement projects. He provided his own transportation since there were no public vehicles.

Emil Bartels (left) joined the Shorewood Police force as a patrolman in 1920. He quickly rose through the ranks becoming a sergeant in 1924 and superintendent of police in 1926. He became chief of both police and fire departments from 1928 until his retirement in 1969. The young girl in the middle is Mary Sheldon Green, daughter of photographer Charles Sheldon.

VILLAGE'S FIRST FEMALE POLICE CHIEF

Heather Wurth has been appointed as the Village's first female police chief, and was sworn in May 2 as the Village's 10th chief.

Wurth started her career with the Milwaukee Police Department where she rose to the positions of lieutenant in 2009 and captain in 2015. Wurth retired in 2020 as the commander of District 4.

She is certified by the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Standards Board as an instructor in multiple disciplines and trained in fair and impartial policing. She graduated from Marquette University in 2009 with a master's degree in administration of justice and earned a graduate certificate at Marquette in law enforcement leadership and management.

Among other accomplishments, Wurth participated in the Future Milwaukee Leadership Program to help "develop, motivate and empower diverse, ethical leaders affecting positive change in greater Milwaukee through progressive civic engagement;" earned a graduate certificate in human resource management from Cornell University in 2020 and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and the Senior Management Institute for Policing.



OTHER NEWS

Society member Sue Rebolz is featured in a Milwaukee Magazine (May 2022) article, "Throwbacks." The article reflects on the demise of so many privately owned pharmacies and the survival of a few. Among the survivors is Shorewood's North Shore Pharmacy (formerly Thompson's). A nod to Hayek's Pharmacy, that closed 2018 after 100 years of service, is included in the article. Sue is pictured with North Shore Pharmacy owner Kyle Beyer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Judith Buchs	Katherine Kasper
Malado Cisse & Chris Ponto	Maureen McGrath
Carol Gallagher	Larry & Ronna Pachefsky
Ann & Greg Gorlinski	Anna Rabin

Support the Shorewood Historical Society by becoming a member. Join online at shorewoodhistory.org or contact us at shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com for more information.

("All About Bungalows" cont. from Page 3)



*Bungalow duplex at
2023 & 2025 E. Jarvis St.*



3804 N. Murray Ave.



3820 N. Murray Ave.

enjoyed the chance to show off their skills. Intricate stained-glass windows, decorative tiles, carved columns, roof brackets and exposed beams and joinery were evidence of the pride these artisans-in-heart took in their expertise.

Hearth at the Heart: The fireplace is the focus of many bungalow living

rooms (even though it may be fake) and it is often flanked by built-in shelving, cabinets or seats, as well as smaller decorative windows, design elements that collectively create an "inglenook."

Built to be highly sensible homes, bungalows are also charming and people fall in love with their cozy spaces and

clever touches. It's a design that doesn't go out of fashion and is usually easily updated to suit contemporary demands. When taken care of, bungalows hold their value and will always be in demand for anyone who appreciates their enduring appeal and endearing character.

Support the Shorewood Historical Society by becoming a member. Join online at shorewoodhistory.org or contact us at shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com for more information.

SHOREWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS, 2020-2021

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The Sheldon Room, located in the Shorewood Village Center (3920 N. Murray Ave.) is open by appointment using as contact the phone: 414-847-2726 or email, shorewoodhistory@yahoo.com

The Shorewood Historical Society is a nonprofit 501 (c)(3) organization. Your donations and in-kind gifts are tax-deductible as allowed by law.



3930 North Murray Avenue
Shorewood, WI 53211

Please keep the Shorewood Historical Society in mind when cleaning out your attic or basement.

We are in particular need of pictures, abstracts and other information about Shorewood homes and neighborhoods.

CONTACT US AT:
SHOREWOODHISTORY@YAHOO.COM
OR 414-847-2726 WITH QUESTIONS
OR TO MAKE A DONATION.



Statistics regarding Milwaukee bungalows compiled by Research Fellow John Johnson of Marquette University and UWM Professor Emeritus Thomas Hubka (research done in City of Milwaukee):
Average year built – 1924; Total homes – 11,010; Share of total houses – 7.67%



SHOREWOOD BUNGALOWS

Of all the architectural styles represented in Shorewood, none is more prevalent than the bungalow.

Read more on pages 3 and 7.

A row of bungalows once lined the 3900 block of Oakland Ave. south of Capitol Dr. They were razed in 1968 as part of the "urban renewal" program and eventually replaced by Eastwood Condominiums (1986).