

# WYANDOTTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

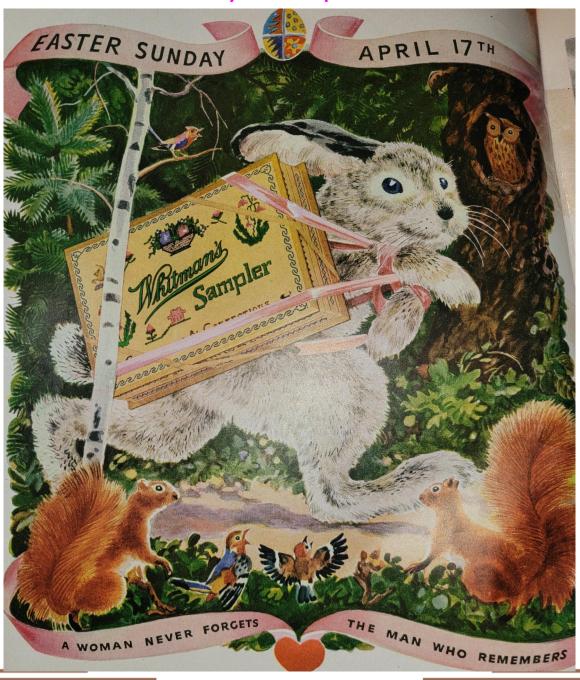
**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** 

# **APRIL 2023**

# **VOLUME 4**

This color advertisement appeared in the April 11, 1949 issue of LIFE Magazine.

Easter Sunday falls on April 9th in 2023.



# Message from the Prez~

Did you know that Roosevelt high school turns 100 years old this year? Many memories have been made behind those walls and many amazing people have walked those hallways. Over the years thousands of students have graduated from RHS and have gone on to do great things. However, behind every great student was a great educator who pushed them to do their best, these educators have touched the lives and hearts of many and that is why we decided to honor ten former educators and purchase seats in the auditorium to honor their lives and legacies.

**Katherine Woodward (1904-1988)** was an English teacher at RHS for nearly fifty years. She was hired in at a time in history where women were not aloud to be married and be a teacher. She was passionate about her job and she loved what she did, so she never married and spent the majority of her life teaching her students about literature.

**Milton Powell (1900-1984)** taught history and coached the track and cross-country teams at RHS. He retired from RHS in 1965 and became an active member of the Historical society.

**Earl W. Nellis (1908-2001)** attended Roosevelt High school in the 1920s. He was the president of the aviation club, president of the rifle club, member of the rowing crew, and volunteered as a carpenter on the sets of school plays. After high school, Earl went on to become a shop teacher. He helped to build and install the original display cabinets at the museum.

**Eleanore Bennick** was the vocal music teacher at Roosevelt for more than thirty years. She was also the organist at the first Congregation Church. During programs, events and weddings at the MacNichol home; Eleanore would provide the music and entertainment.

**Kenneth Hauer (1906-1999)** was the chairman of the music department for nearly fifty years. He taught band, orchestra, and even swing music classes. Not only was Ken an active member of the historical society but at one point in time he held the position of WHS president.

**Hervey Lyle Lyon (1906-1984)** was a science teacher and counselor at Roosevelt. During his lifetime Lyle was a very active member of the historical society.

**Billee Simmons (1905-1999)** taught primary education within the Wyandotte Public Schools. Billee was also a very active member of the society who held the positions of officer and trustee.

**Virginia Bufe (1911-2002)** graduated from Michigan State in 1933. She went on to do her graduate work at Columbia University and Julliard school. She came to Wyandotte to teach in the public school system. Virginia taught elementary music in the district for thirty-two years.

Mary Elizabeth Nelson (1908-2011) not only taught in Wyandotte, but she was in one of the first graduation classes to come out of Roosevelt. Mary Adaier graduated in class of 1927. She went on to get a degree in English. She worked as a third grade teacher at Jefferson elementary, and in her many years she touched many lives. Mary regularly attended services at the United Methodist Church of Wyandotte, she was an active and enthusiastic member of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), Wyandotte Historical Society, West Mound Cemetery Board, Michigan Retired School Personnel, and The Friends of Bacon Library.

George H. Gouth (1932-2022) of course, you know him...

Mary-Johna Wein

If anyone is interested in purchasing auditorium seats or sponsoring the mural restoration project, the information can be found here:

#### SUPPORT THE RHS MURAL RESTORATION!

Donate in honor or in memory of graduates, alumni, classmates, family members, or friends. Great Gift Idea! All proceeds benefit the RHS Mural Restoration Project and are Tax Deductible

#### MAKE A CASH DONATION!

Approximately \$88,000 is needed to restore and preserve the five 1940s-era murals at RHS Auditorium. All donations are welcome. The names of donors who provide \$100 or more will be inscribed on a commemorative plaque. Work begins in early 2023. Follow the progress on our social media!



#### BUY A BRICK FROM 'THE WALL'!

RHS Centennial Special- Only \$50 each!



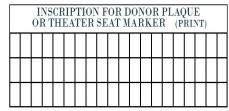
Certificate of Authenticity included. Free Delivery in Wyandotte – Add \$10 per brick for shipping

#### SPONSOR RHS AUDITORIUM SEATS!

This is your opportunity to sponsor theater seats in the historic RHS Auditorium. A brass marker will be installed on each seat that is sponsored. Fill out inscription information below. ~ A Sponsorship does not reserve seats at events



NAME:				
ADDRESS:	CITY	S	TATE_	ZIP
PHONE:	EMAIL:			
• Cash Donation (\$10 • Bricks from Stadiu	00 or more for Plaque r um Wall: #BRICE	,		\$\$
SINGLE THEATER SE	ATS: # SEATS	X \$50	=	\$
Block of 10 Theati	ER SEATS:	\$450	=	\$
• PREMIER CLUB - E	ENTIRE ROW OF 30 SEATS	s): <b>\$1000</b>	=	\$
(TAX ID 38-6004	:195)	TOTAL ENCLO	SED	\$





#### RHS MURAL PROJECT - PO 266 Wyandotte MI 48192

Email RHSmurals@gmail.com for more information FOR CREDIT, DEBIT OR PAYPAY PAYMENT WRITE "RHS MURAL PROJECT" IN THE 'NOTES' FIELD

GO TO HTTPS://PAYPAL.COM/DONATE/?HOSTED BUTTON ID=5MQVZFCMQ8334

FACEBOOK@ RHSMURALRESTORATION PROJECT INSTAGRAM@ RHSMURALS



WHS library, 1937 RIGHT— WHS basketball, 1950s

LEFT-

#### WYANDOTTE ROOSEVELT HIGH SCHOOL 1923-2023

### CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Saturday, April 29 11 AM - 2 PM

**REDEDICATION CEREMONY** 11:00 AM

TOURS, DISPLAYS & REFRESHMENTS



L FEATURING RHS JAZZ BAND AND FRIENDS

WITH GUEST VOCALIST SARAH D'ANGELO

ADULTS \$20 STUDENTS \$10

ADVANCE TICKETS AVAILABLE BY CREDIT CARD VIA EMAIL AT RHSMURALS@GMAIL.COM CASH PURCHASES AT RHS OFFICE, THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OFFICE

BENEFITS THE RHS MURAL RESTORATION PROJECT



Hello lovely WHS Newsletter Readers!

It is bittersweet to announce that I am leaving my position at the Wyandotte Museums after two years as the Museums Assistant. I have accepted a full-time position at the Detroit Historical Society as the Digitization Collections Coordinator. In this new position, I will be cataloging and photographing (using new 3D technology) large items such as architectural pieces, agricultural equipment, furniture, etc. so that this information can be accessed digitally for users around the world. I am very excited to learn more about new database and technology practices in the museum field!



It has been my pleasure to be here the last two years: Wyandotte is my hometown and I am very grateful for all the friends and memories I have made because of this job. It's been very fulfilling to know that I contributed in preserving Wyandotte history in some way and I have learned a lot about this city through writing articles for this newsletter. I will not be gone permanently and I plan to volunteer as much as I can, especially for my favorite event: the Cemetery Walk. It's been a ride everyone, thank you! – *Audrey Wicklander* 

## WILD WYANDOTTE WEATHER!!!

It was quite a stormy month in the city, causing both beauty and destruction.



**Feb. 22, 2023:** An Ice Storm drapes Bishop Park in a mantle of crystal beauty, but many in Wyandotte lost power or tree limbs.



Mar. 3, 2023: Blizzard conditions as seen on Biddle. The heavy snow also came with sleet, rain, thunder, & lightning



Mar. 10, 2023: Snow thickly caked to everything, creating a winter wonderland as seen here at the corner of 2nd & Vinewood.

Pics by: Josh Halasy

# Myeerah: The Search for the Chief

Join us Friday May 12, 2023, at 7pm at the Marx Home for a presentation on Walk in the Water by Elizabeth Ann-Berton Reilly. Elizabeth is a Ph.D. candidate in the Language, Literacy, and Sociocultural Studies program at the University of New Mexico. She is working on her dissertation concerning the identity and meaning-making of tribal members of a non-federally recognized tribal community, the Wyandot of Anderdon Nation. She moved to Wyandotte in 2020 so she could work with them.

Come and uncover who was early nineteenth-century Chief Walk in the Water, and why is so little information about him? This talk will explore the mysteries behind Wyandot Chief Myeerah, also known as Walk-In-The-Water, including what happened to his skull. 18th century Wyandot Chief Walk-In-The-Water died a hero to his people — but someone took his skull. Where is it? Delve into the mystery of the early nineteenth-century Wyandot Chief and learn about his impact on the downriver communities, and the mystery of his remains.

The Wyandotte Museum's Valentine's Open House, held Friday, February 10, 2023, was a huge success. People could not get enough of the gorgeous wedding dresses!







Also very popular was the Pisanki Class (Polish Easter Eggs), held at the Marx home on Friday, March 10, 2023. The class, hosted by WHS members Sue Halasy & Josh Halasy, drew rave reviews from those who attended. WHS members should be on the lookout for plenty more fun activities to come in 2023!!!





#### Return Service Requested

**Wyandotte Historical Society** 

Burns Home 2624 Biddle Ave.

Wyandotte, MI 48192-5208 **Phone:** (734) 324-7299

**Email:** wyandottehistory@gmail.com **Website:** wyandottehistory.org



Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #106
Wyandotte, MI 48192

Address Label



## **Wyandotte Historical Society Board of Directors**

- President: Mary-Johna Wein
   Vice-President: Dan Galeski
   Secretary: Ken Munson
   Treasurer: Karen Adkins
- \* Trustees:
  - **♦** Kaylyn Crayne
  - **♦** Josh Halasy
  - ♦ Beth Labadie
  - **♦ Ken Navarre**
  - **◊** Karen Ramirez
  - ♦ Keith Steffke
- Past President: Chris Stieler
   Office Consultant: Beth Labadie

## **Wyandotte Cultural and Historical Commission**

- \* President: Sue Pilon
- \* Vice President: Anne Ronco
- \* Commissioners:
  - **♦ Nancy Bozzo**
  - **♦ Rebecca Free**
  - **♦** Eula Grooms
  - ♦ Don Gutz
  - ♦ Wallace Hayden
  - ♦ Jakki Malnar
  - **♦** Kenneth Munson
  - **♦** Rebecca Pilon
  - ♦ Jane Rasmussen
- Museum Director: Jesse Rose
- \* Museum Assistant: Audrey Wicklander