

## The Indian Hill Historical Society

# Annual Meeting

Sunday, April 21, 2024, 4:30 p.m. – Little Red Schoolhouse

### President's Report

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Indian Hill Historical Society. It's been a great year – celebrating the Historical Society's 50<sup>th</sup> year and the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Little Red Schoolhouse! We honor Tyler Emerson, our Founder, and Andrew C. Hauck, our Co-Founder and the Trustees whose photographs are displayed on the Wall of Visionaries. Each has made outstanding contributions to the success of the Society and advancing its goals.

We kicked off the program season in September with a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party at Peterloo enjoyed by nearly 200 guests. Ginny White, President Emerita of the Historical Society and the author of *From Camargo to Indian Hill*, autographed books for her enthusiastic fans. In October, the Authors Series featured Allen Guelzo, one of the nation's foremost experts on Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Guelzo lectured about "Abraham Lincoln and Democracy" at Cincinnati Country Day School and Indian Hill High School. He praised Lincoln's commitment to democracy in the face of a civil war which threatened its very survival – a lesson for us in 2024.

The year concluded with the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Village Christmas Party at the Schoolhouse. A record crowd enjoyed refreshments and crafts under a tent, a balloon artist, and a magician. Cincinnati Country Day School's brass band played in the yard, and Indian Hill High School's string quartet performed inside the Schoolhouse. And as always, Santa arrived in a horse-drawn carriage from Turner Farm to the delight of everyone present.

In February, we invited local fourth graders for the 30<sup>th</sup> session of the One-Room Schoolhouse Experience. The youngsters learned what a classroom was like in the late 1800s with blackboards and slates. As part of the field trip, they practiced cursive writing with pens dipped in ink, received instruction from schoolmistress Lindsay McLain in period dress, and read from *McGuffey Readers*.

In March, food writer Polly Campbell shared her insights on the history of Queen City Cuisine from goetta to chili to ice cream, illustrated with photographs from her book, aptly titled Cincinnati Food. In April, we will welcome author Steven Early to tell the

story of 45 settlers who travelled up the Little Miami River in 1790. They established a frontier settlement known as Covalt's Station in what is now Terrace Park.

The program year will conclude with the annual Patron Party in May to thank our most generous donors. As always, it will be held in a beautiful home in the Village. Invited guests can look forward to a lovely afternoon in an historic house and garden.

In addition to the outstanding program year, the Historical Society completed several major projects. Last Spring, the Society premiered "A Legacy of Green" a documentary produced by the Trees and Trails Foundation. This led to a collaboration with the Village and other community organizations to improve and enhance the Green Areas and bridle trails. The Society's new Advisory Board continues to thrive. Its current chairman, Ashley Kothehal, will be elected to the Board of Trustees at this meeting along with Allison Kahn and Beth Onthank.

Although you won't see much change from the outside, the renovation of Buckingham Lodge will begin this summer. Buckingham Lodge, our headquarters, was built during the Civil War. The Society has worked with a space planner to make the interior more efficient, comfortable, and attractive for our members and our staff -- the lifeblood of the organization. Our Administrator, Lawre Bonekemper, Historian, Lindsay McLean, and Archivist, Trish Krehbiel have served the Society magnificently for a combined total of nearly 50 years.

We have much to be grateful for and much to look forward to. Thank you for your generous support of the Society and its mission: "Keeping Indian Hill's Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow."

Rosemary D. Welsh  
President