

The Indian Hill Historical Society
Annual Meeting
Sunday, April 23, 2023, 4:30 p.m. – Little Red Schoolhouse

President's Report

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Indian Hill Historical Society. We are in full swing with in-person events this season and excited to welcome everyone back to the Little Red Schoolhouse – which celebrates its 150th Anniversary this year!

We started the program season in September with the Cheetah Lady, Catherine Hilker. Author Kathy Merchant offered a fascinating look at Catherine Hilker's life. As a tribute to Ms. Hilker, the Cincinnati Zoo brought a beautiful young cheetah to the Schoolhouse for an up-close and personal experience.

In October, we hosted the inaugural event of the Society's new *Authors Series*. Peter Cozzens, author of *Tecumseh and the Prophet*, gave an evening presentation open to the community and met with high school students at both Cincinnati Country Day School and Indian Hill High School. The event was a resounding success, and we are already planning for the next *Author Series* on October 12 with Allan C. Guelzo, an accomplished Civil War historian. Dr. Guelzo is one of the country's foremost Lincoln scholars and a three-time winner of the prestigious Lincoln Prize. He will speak about "Abraham Lincoln and Democracy" – a timely topic.

The November program, *Treasures Uncovered*, was presented by Wiebold Studio and Riverfront Auctions. A la *Antiques Roadshow*, staff members appraised more than 40 "treasures" that members and guests brought to the Schoolhouse. A plethora of paintings, figurines, and WWII memorabilia to be admired and discussed made for an intriguing afternoon.

The 39th Annual Village Christmas Party was held on a beautiful winter afternoon with refreshments and crafts under a tent, games and CCDS's Nighthawk band in the yard, and Santa and IHHS's string quartet inside the Schoolhouse. The children swarmed over the horse-drawn carriage from Turner Farm that delivered Santa and his elves for their annual visit to the Schoolhouse.

After a two-year hiatus, we were once again able to open the Schoolhouse doors to local fourth graders for the 30th session of the One-Room Schoolhouse Experience. The youngsters experienced what a classroom was like in the late 1800s with blackboards

and slates. As part of the field trip, they practiced cursive writing with ink-dipped pens, received instruction from schoolmistress Lindsay McLain in period dress, read from *McGuffey Readers*, and played marbles for fun.

In March, our Treasurer, Chip Hunter, presented *Little Known Facts of Indian Hill* to a packed house. Chip regaled the audience with entertaining tidbits about people, places, and events in Indian Hill's history – all interesting and some amusing and colorful!

Next month, a film titled *A Legacy of Green: The Trails and Trees of Indian Hill* will be premiered at the Schoolhouse. Trustee Pam Middendorff and prize-winning videographer Meg Hanrahan have been hard at work interviewing residents, shooting footage, and drafting the script. The film will showcase the contributions of O. DeGray Vanderbilt, Julius Fleischmann, Jr., and other community leaders whose vision resulted in the creation of the Green Areas and development of the bridle trails – making Indian Hill one of the greenest communities in the nation.

The program year will conclude with the annual Patron Party in June 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. After years of planning, the septic system at the Schoolhouse was replaced. The archive retrieval software system at Buckingham Lodge was replaced, too. The digital files have been ported to a new software system called Catalogit. We look forward to being able to share the Society's extensive archives on-line in the future. The Society also adopted a strategic plan with the goals of broadening its appeal, improving its visibility, and increasing its accessibility.

And this year a new Advisory Board was created. The Board is comprised of members of a younger generation who are willing and eager to assist the Society in fulfilling its mission.

In the upcoming 2023-2024 season, we will celebrate two important milestones: the Historical Society begins its 50th year, and the Little Red Schoolhouse marks its 150th year! Stay tuned for more information about these anniversary fetes.

Six members of the Board of Trustees whose terms expire have agreed to continue for another 3-year term. These Trustees include: John Armstrong, Doug Manzler, Pam Middendorff, Michael Muth, Dan Peters, and Ray Schilderink.

Several good friends passed away in the last year. One of them was our Vice President, Greg Miller. Greg joined the Society in 2004 and became a Trustee in 2011. He was an active and committed member and will be greatly missed.

Thank you for your incredible support of this organization and its mission: "Keeping Indian Hill's Past and Present Alive for Tomorrow."

Rosemary D. Welsh
President