



INDIAN HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Keeping Indian Hill's
Past and Present Alive
for Tomorrow*

E-Newsletter

January 2025

Vol. 25

What's Been Going On?

Summervisik Came to the Schoolhouse!

A string quartet from the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra visited the Little Red Schoolhouse on November 17th and provided a wonderful and intimate experience with music. Not only were the compositions selected melodious and pleasing, but the musicians provided their perspectives on the challenges and fun of playing the various pieces. They shared the ultimate "insider's view" on the music which included Classical and Baroque selections.

The audience truly enjoyed this rich musical performance which was followed by a delicious meal and conversations among new and old friends. It was a delightful way to spend a Sunday evening at the Schoolhouse.



Quartet musicians playing



Audience enjoying the melodies



Sharing insights about the music



1st & 2nd Violins



Cello & Viol



Pam Middendorff, Ted Jones,
Louise Head, Janet Reynolds



The Nesbitts

Authors Series 2024: Dr. Jonathan White

Lincoln's Presidential Pardons: Difficult Decisions in Challenging Times

On Thursday, October 24th, the Historical Society held the 3rd Annual Authors Series which is a free event, open to the public. Dr. Jonathan White examined some of Abraham Lincoln's most important presidential pardon decisions and explored how he used his power to pursue justice and a moral vision for society. He has written many books and published numerous articles, essays, and reviews. The Gilder Lehrman Lincoln Prize was awarded to him in 2023. He is a professor of American Studies at Christopher Newport University in Newport News, VA.

Dr. White visited with students at both Indian Hill High School and Cincinnati Country Day School where the topic was based on his book, A House Built by Slaves, which is about African American visitors to the White House during Abraham Lincoln's presidency. The ensuing question and answer periods provided very interesting "food for thought".

The evening lecture, which was held at Indian Hill High School's auditorium, provided a fascinating look into history. Several high-profile pardons were discussed including the famous "Sleeping Sentinel," the infamous slave trader Nathaniel Gordon, and the 38 Dakota warriors who were hanged after the US-Dakota war. Several lesser-known instances involving African Americans who sought justice as they were rising out of slavery were reviewed, too.

The event provided a unique opportunity to connect with the local schools and the community and to learn about history.



Class at Indian Hill High School



Jonathan White, Rob Guy, Marley Cady, Andy Gruber



Class at Cincinnati Country Day School



Marley Cady, Jonathan White, Rosemary Welsh



John Armstrong & Jonathan White



Indian Hill School Auditorium

Village Christmas Party

For the 44th year, the Annual Village Christmas Party was a fan favorite again! It was a perfect day weather-wise for December - sunny skies and mild temperatures. Santa was delivered to the Little Red Schoolhouse in a wonderful carriage pulled by a majestic horse from Turner Farm. The mare's tail was braided with candy-cane striped ribbons, and she seemed pleased to be part of the pageantry. The children were so excited to greet Santa and share their wish lists with him.



Cincinnati County Day School's Nighthawk Band provided happy holiday music. A magician entertained the crowd - both young and old - with his various tricks. Animals and figures of all sorts were expertly crafted out of colorful balloons by a creative balloon artist. Children sported many fun images on their faces and arms provided by a talented face painter.

Home baked cookies and treats along with fruit punch and eggnog were served in the tent. Tables were provided for writing notes to Santa, making holiday cards, and coloring wintery scenes. Beanbag games were also available for fun.

It was a delightful day full of family fun at the Little Red Schoolhouse!



Upcoming Events:

January	February	March
Monday, 20th Martin Luther King Day	Sunday, 17th Presidents Day Week of 23rd: <u>One-Room Schoolhouse Experience</u> for local 4 th graders 	Sunday, Mar. 16th, 4:30 p.m. <u>Cincinnati Bengals:</u> <u><i>An Illustrated Timeline</i></u> Local historian, Jeff Suess, will provide an informative and entertaining look at the history of the Cincinnati Bengals. 

Member News: 4th Quarter, 2024 Updates

Thank you to all the new & renewing members this past quarter!

New Members this quarter:

Shirley & Michael Burroughs
Beth & Andy Donnelly

David N. & Ann Early
Foundation

Sheila & Brian Murphy
Donna Steutermann

Renewals this quarter:

Jennifer & Harold Angus
Bonnie Bachman
Ann & Todd Bailey
John Brooks
Stephanie & John Busam
Jeanie & Rob Champlin
Lydia & James Chantalias
Sue & Kent Cunningham
Carin Fike
Lisa & Mark Greene
Kathy & Rich Hidy
Kim & Michael Hoeting
Sandra & Stephen Joffe
Ann & Jon Keeling
Suzanne & Tiger Kite

Marsha Lindner
Mary & Michael McGraw
Pam Middendorff
Judith Mitchell
Emily & Gregg Pancero
Marjorie Rabenold
Stephanie & Keith Rabenold
Alison Rink
Buffie & Eppa Rixey
Lauren & Sterling Sams
Janet & Scott Sayre
Carol & Robert Scallan
Emily Schoeny
Sheila & Reed Schroeder

Candace Grafton &
Gregory Schuler
Melinda & Robert Sherman
John Shields
Sarah & Steve Steinman
Rita & Don Stolper
Coco & George Taliaferro
Carol Thoman
Brenda & Morley Thompson
Andrew Wiebold
Debbie & Bill Zimmer
Alison & Jim Zimmerman

Member News: *4th Quarter, 2024 Updates, continued:*

New Businesses this quarter:

Indian Hill Neighbors Magazine.

Business Renewals this quarter:

First Edition Rare Books

Interested in becoming a member? [Click here](#)

Please [contact](#) the office if you have any questions.



Thanks to Our Business Members

 Doggie Day Care <i>8185 Camargo Rd.</i>			
 GINA DUBELL-SMITH 513-477-1219			
<u>MICHAEL F. GEHRIG</u> Attorney At Law	<u>ERIC HOLZAPFEL</u> Attorney At Law	INDIAN HILL <u>Neighbors</u> <u>Magazine</u>	
 Mariemont Inn Best Western Premier			
	Taft FOCUSED CAPITOL SOLUTIONS LLC		
			
 			



From The President:

The Story of Rheinstrom Park

When James “Jimmy” Rheinstrom died in 1977, he bequeathed his Clearwater Farm to the Village of Indian Hill to be used as a park. The property at 8105 Graves Road was Jimmy’s home from 1926 until his passing, lasting more than 50 years. The main house was a shingle style structure, and the larger barn complex was U-shaped with living accommodations for a caretaker. Mr. Rheinstrom was a longtime member of the Camargo Hunt and hosted numerous Hunt gatherings at his estate, always entertaining lavishly.

The 29-acre site contains rolling green woods and meadows with native trees and plant life. Village Council, with the Recreation Commission and Green Areas Advisory Committee spent several years in the 1970s studying the “Rheinstrom Project”. Various scenarios were considered. The future of the buildings was deliberated. One idea was to have a permanent resident live there to manage and care for the structures and grounds.



Clearwater Farm

This was advertised in the Bulletin in April 1978. There were several applicants each of whom sought to be a “park ranger”, and some submitted proposals to Council. Individuals, couples and a group wanted to be custodians, to rent the barn and pasture for equine purposes, or to purchase the property.



After careful review by the Law Committee of Council, it was determined that the property should be maintained by the municipality and kept as a park, otherwise by the terms of Mr. Rheinstrom’s will, the site would revert to the Rheinstrom heirs. Studies of case law included the fact that a park ranger/ inhabitant would have to be “available for duty at all times”. In the end, Council adhered to the terms of the will and did not permit the use of any of the buildings as a residence. The buildings were razed in the early 1980s, and plans to create the park ensued over a few years.

On Memorial Day 1985 Rheinstrom Park officially opened to the public. It had a mile long asphalt track for walkers and runners – bicycles and mopeds were not allowed. Essentially it was a nature trail where residents could view local flowers and fauna. The park improvements were paid for by the Village. It is maintained under the same regulations as other Village parks, opening at dawn and closing at dusk. Parking is available at the entrance. In 2012, a sign was installed providing a brief biography of its donor, James Rheinstrom.

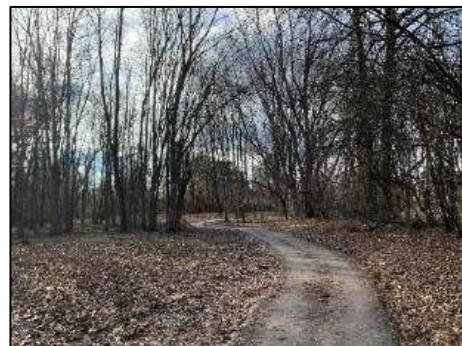
Individuals, families, Girl and Boy Scouts, and garden clubs have frequented the park over the years. They have enjoyed fresh air and exercise in a beautiful setting. In 2011 the Green Areas Advisory Committee sponsored a “clean-up day” in November. Members of that committee and other residents voluntarily helped one Saturday morning. Chain saws and handheld tools were used to remove invasive plants and overgrown bushes, thus sprucing up the acreage.



As Rheinstrom Park became more popular, problems arose. Too many visitors were not cleaning up after their dogs. One regular walker wrote about this in a local publication, and she urged people to be conscientious and dispose of their pet's droppings properly. There is a sign at the park entry "Please pick up after your pet". Mutt mitts and trash receptacles are located throughout the park for everyone's convenience. The

Bulletin has articles about "Pet Responsibility" and reminds residents of Village Ordinances 91.06 and 91.99 which prohibit leaving fecal matter of pet animals in parks and neighborhoods and encourage compliance to make the community a pleasurable place to be.

This past year (2024) was busy at the park. It was closed for 5 days in August to remove honeysuckle and invasive vines. It was the featured green area for the Reforest the Hill program. Tree plantings were installed in the autumn months. Additionally, a new pedestrian bridge was donated by Graeme Daley (Daley Design & Build) and Jeff Hinton (Hammer - Rite Construction). This year (2025) marks the fortieth anniversary of a true Village treasure, Rheinstrom Park.



Office News:

December and January are typically slow months at the office, but not this year. Big changes are underway at Buckingham Lodge. The Historical Society moved into this wonderful 1860s farmhouse in 1989, and not much has been done since then. As times have changed, the archives have grown, and technology improved, the Trustees felt it was time to make some updates. After months of planning, the renovation work has begun. The goals are to improve the working space for efficiency and accessibility, enlarge the library, and create dedicated spaces for the archives. The work is expected to take about 3 months. The office is open during this process, but there may be a few days when we will be unable to work there due to excessive noise or dust. Please call before you plan to stop by to ensure that someone is here.



Buckingham Lodge

Additionally, as noted with the 150th Anniversary of the Little Red Schoolhouse fund raising campaign, there is much maintenance work to be done there. The first of these needs was met at the end of December when new shutters were installed at the Schoolhouse.



Before



----- After -----



Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. You may contact us through email: history@indianhill.org or phone: 513-891-1873.

Happy Winter!

The Indian Hill Historical Society

Indian Hill Historical Society Trustees

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