



## NEWS FROM THE GROVE HERITAGE ASSOCIATION

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### President's Message

Happy New Year! The past few months at The Grove were the busiest all year. We hope you had a chance to attend The Grove's Arts and Craft Faire, which was a success thanks to all of the crafters, workers and volunteers. A special thank you to those who supported the Craft Faire with your purchases! Later in November, I had the pleasure of attending the Christmas in the Woods program. GHA and private donors sponsor this wonderful event which benefits families supported by the Northfield Food Pantry. Families enjoyed making crafts, eating delicious sweets, and meeting Santa. Everyone was in such good spirits and had a lot of fun. Jeff and Helene Beckman, who lead this event with the help of many volunteers, work all year preparing for the evening. This year, Channel 7, the local ABC television affiliate, taped a spot for the news broadcast. I'm already looking forward to next year.

Here are a few announcements: There are two vacancies on the GHA Board of Directors; one for Membership and the

other to assist with the *Rustlings* newsletter. If you are interested in joining the GHA Board, please let me know. Next, Kris Van Voorhis, Program Supervisor at The Grove, retired at the end of December. We are so grateful for all she has done for The Grove and especially GHA, overseeing and developing Craft Faire and acting as staff liaison to the Board. She also was the first person to give me a job when I was 16 years old. I am sure I speak for everyone when I offer our deepest thanks and best wishes.

Finally, the Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners voted to place a referendum on the March 20, 2018 ballot. It would provide funds for improvements to The Grove, as well as the Glenview Ice Center, and the purchase of open lands in Glenview. The Grove Heritage Association supports this referendum and encourages those who are eligible to vote, to vote "yes." Wishing you all the best in 2018!

**Megan Carroll, GHA President**

### Remembering the Shaws

Ted and Dorothy, fondly called Dottie, Shaw were actively involved with The Grove and the Grove Heritage Association for over thirty-five years. In the 1980s, Ted volunteered to be a member of the Grove Heritage Association Membership Committee and as such was in charge of welcoming new members and later mailing the *Rustlings* newsletter to GHA members and friends. Dottie also helped with one aspect or another of the mailing process. If there were special mailings, Ted and Dottie took care of them as well, especially the eleven hundred postcards that announced the annual Craft Faire. Kris Van Voorhis was particularly thankful for their time and dedication.

In September of 2017, Ted and Dottie, who generally, always did things together, died within two weeks of one another. Both will be remembered for their generous spirit of giving.

**Mary Lee Attea, GHA Board Member**



*Ted and Dottie Shaw. Photo courtesy of Beryl Bills.*

## 2017 Year in Review

With the New Year beginning, it is always nice to sit back and reflect on the year that has just ended. The past year was a great one for GHA thanks to our many friends. Let's look back at the exciting events and activities that took place at The Grove during 2017!

- Grove Arrival Day was celebrated March 12 at the Glenview Public Library. The day was designed to introduce the local Korean community to The Grove. The presentation, given in Korean and English, focused on the significance of The Grove, both historically and as a nature preserve.
- Lorin Ottlinger stepped into the role of The Grove Director, following the retirement of Steve Swanson after 38 years of accomplishments and acquisitions. The Kennicott Archives Building was dedicated to Steve Swanson in honor of his service from 1979-2017. During this period, Steve's vision, guidance and determination made The Grove a national historic treasure. A plaque acknowledging his work has been placed on the Archives Building.
- The Smithsonian opened the *Objects of Wonder* exhibit at the National Museum of Natural History. The exhibit, which showcases rarely displayed artifacts and resources from the museum's collections, features the skeleton of Robert Kennicott. Robert, a naturalist, collected many specimens for The Smithsonian Institution from 1852-1866.
- The pair of brass chandeliers, which once hung in the Beck Room of the Kennicott House, were, for the first time in approximately 50 years, re-hung there in June. While The Grove already possessed one of the original fixtures, the second was only recently donated back to The Grove.
- Nearly 100 GHA members and friends found a delicious way to support the Grove Heritage Association by attending a Farm to Table dinner, at the Redfield Pavilion in September.
- The Illinois Nature Preserves Commission unanimously voted to approve new nature preserve land at both The Grove and the Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie at their September meeting. At The Grove, a 21.5 buffer and 23.2-acre nature preserve were added to the existing 50-acres known as "Kennicott's Grove Nature Preserve." At the Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie, 30.24 acres of the 32-acre site have been dedicated as the "Glenview Naval Air Station Prairie Nature Preserve."
- This year, we welcomed 19 new Grove Heritage Association members. Won't you consider becoming a GHA member and help us in our mission of *Restoring the past...Preserving the future*.
- 2017 was also another successful year for ongoing programs, including: Christmas in the Woods, which offered clients of the Northfield Food Pantry (children and adults) the experience of Christmas at The Grove, our annual Plant Sale, Grove Folk Fest, the Arts and Craft Faire and the Holiday Store.
- The face of The Grove Heritage Association changed as we said goodbye to Board members Jeff Beckman, Elizabeth Kopp and Cheri McNish. And, we say happy retirement to The Grove's long-time Program Supervisor and Grove Heritage Association Staff Liaison, Kris Van Voorhis, who announced her retirement in December.

**Beryl Bills, GHA Treasurer**



**Lorin Ottlinger, new Grove Director, making the classic Grove Fest stew with Judy Piccico and Phil Munro. Photo courtesy of Ashley DeAngeles.**



**Robert Kennicott feature at the Objects of Wonder exhibit. Photo courtesy of Ashley DeAngeles.**



**Winter at The Grove. Photo courtesy of Julie Reilly.**

## The Grove bids a fond farewell to Kris Van Voorhis

The Grove's long-time Program Supervisor and Grove Heritage Association Staff Liaison, Kris Van Voorhis, announced her retirement in December. Kris has been a mainstay at The Grove for over thirty years. She began her tenure as a volunteer with school programs and in the Kennicott House retail store in 1983. Kris was hired by the Glenview Park District in 1986 as a part-time program instructor and camp director. Her outstanding service led to a promotion to the part-time role of Grove Program Coordinator in 1995 and the full-time position of Program Supervisor in 1996.

Kris's duties over her long career have included managing countless programs, events and The Grove's museum store. She was instrumental in furthering the joint curriculum with Glenview School District 34 for historical and environmental education. School field trips have grown exponentially under her direction from just a handful of classes to over 800 groups annually! Kris developed many recreation program opportunities at The Grove such as birthday parties, sleepovers, hayrides, preschool enrichment, adult arts, and home school week. She established numerous special events over the years including Civil War Days, Earth Day, Upscale Resale, Pumpkin Trail, Dessert with Santa, Ladies Night, Redfield Designer Show House, and Pioneer Day.

Of course, her true passion has always been the Holiday Craft Faire. Kris is an avid crafter and sold her creations in a small bazaar out of a friend's home. In 1985, Kris and two partners approached the Glenview Park District and Grove Heritage Association with the idea of hosting a craft fair at The Grove. The event was very popular, with long lines of people wrapping around the houses. Some 33 years later, the Holiday Craft Faire has generated hundreds of thousands of dollars in revenue and grown into a holiday tradition for so many shoppers. The success of the show can largely be attributed to Kris's dedication, creativity and attention to detail. Kris has also worked closely with the Grove Heritage Association as Staff Liaison to their Board. She collaborated with GHA on dozens of other programs, events, and fundraisers resulting in substantial income for land acquisition and other projects at The Grove.

I have had the pleasure of working with Kris for the past 22 years and she's been a wonderful role model, coworker, and friend every step of the way. Kris was always there for me and many other staff members with kind words of encouragement and sage motherly advice. Her contributions, commitment, and integrity did not go unnoticed. On December 21, 2017, she was recognized by the Glenview Park Board of Commissioners with an official proclamation. Please join us in congratulating Kris on her retirement and wishing her nothing but the best in the next exciting chapter of her life!

**Lorin Ottlinger, Grove Director**

## The Grove

### Kris By the Numbers

**32** ...Craft Faires



**38** ...Grove Folk Fests



**6** ...times she drove a tractor in the Glenview 4th of July parade

 **200** ...GHA meetings attended as the staff liaison

**1986** ...started as a part-time employee at The Grove

**21** ...years as a full time employee 

**1000s** ...of school and recreation programs supervised

**Number of trips to Costco, GFS, Target, Walmart, JoAnn Fabrics, etc.**



**...countless!**

## From The Grove Archives

For those of you who have walked The Grove's "back fifty," have you ever wondered about the small cemetery that lies between The Grove's property and the property that once belonged to our neighbors, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer? I have been asked about this cemetery more than once and I thought the answer might be of interest to our readers.

In 2010, the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer, commonly known as the Redemptorists, decided to sell the Villa Redeemer property on Milwaukee Avenue, in Glenview. On April 22, 2015, this land was sold to David Weekley Homes, a builder, who then used the property to construct a community of 48 single family homes on the site. Eight acres of this land were donated to The Grove by the developer and 12.5 acres were obtained with a grant. This preserved land, on the north side of the property, created an improved buffer between the residential development and The Grove.

The Glenview Park District maintains the Villa Redeemer cemetery containing the remains of 102 Redemptorists. This is the cemetery you will come upon during your walk. We have a list of the Brothers buried in this cemetery and we often show relatives where their relations are buried.

If you visit The Grove and decide to take a walk in the back fifty to visit this cemetery, we ask that you enter it on The Grove's side because of the home construction on the other side. I think it is a peaceful place to spend a few minutes and learn some new history about The Grove's former neighbors.

**Elizabeth Kopp, Grove Archivist**



*View of the Redemptorist Cemetery. Photo courtesy of Meredith Churchman.*

## Membership

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members to the Grove Heritage Association:

Roxanne Junge  
Ellen Bryant  
Peder Davis  
Michael Field  
Keith Christensen  
Steven Burval

Thank You for joining us! Your faithfulness to GHA is appreciated and very important. We are thankful that our members support our important mission. We hope to see you at many of our future events.

Please email me with any membership questions or concerns. The address is: [ghamembers@gmail.com](mailto:ghamembers@gmail.com).

**Jeff Beckman, Membership Chair**

*Join us!*

Visit [www.groveheritageassociation.org](http://www.groveheritageassociation.org).

Thank you for your support!

*Gifts to GHA are tax-deductable to the full extent of the law.*



### Grove Heritage Association Board Members

Megan Carroll, <i>President</i>	Marilyn Anderson
Judy Beck, <i>Vice President</i>	Terry Anderson
Sue Munro, <i>Secretary</i>	Mary Lee Attea
Beryl Bills, <i>Treasurer</i>	Anne Feeney
Beryl Bills, <i>Editor</i>	Cheri McNish
Ashley DeAngeles, <i>Assistant Editor</i>	John Munro

## Referendum Information Meeting March 11, 4:00 p.m. at The Grove Kennicott House

The Glenview Park District Board of Commissioners voted to place a referendum on the March 20, 2018 ballot that would provide funds for improvements to The Grove, as well as the Glenview Ice Center, and the purchase of Open Lands in Glenview. The Grove Heritage Association will provide a brief overview of the "Save the Grove" effort at 4 p.m. and how the referendum could help continue this effort. Park District Representatives will also be available to answer questions.

## The Grove Craft Faire 2017

As the historic buildings and grounds of The Grove are decorated for the holiday season, the excitement for the annual Arts and Craft Faire begins. It is hard to believe that the Gingerbread House, with all the lights and festive decorations, is normally the Science Room with snakes, turtles, and mice on display. The Redfield Estate, usually filled with wedding parties and caterers, becomes the charming Christmas Cottage. And, once again the Kennicott House, outlined in bright lights and grandeur, transforms into the Holiday House. This year, I found that I was not the only employee who lingered after work to admire the beauty of the houses and grounds lit up at night, especially at dusk.

A successful Holiday Craft Faire requires much planning and teamwork. The primary reason The Grove Arts and Craft Faire is so special is because Kris VanVoorhis and Carol DiLorenzo carefully select genuine, unique handmade gifts and holiday décor from vendors during the year. Visitors come back, year after year, to attend this traditional event looking for special items that you can't find in a store. Judy Picicco and Ashley DeAngeles keep the very busy Gingerbread House running smoothly and stocked with a variety of homemade baked goods and candy. For those visitors who want to enjoy desserts, similar to their own family recipes, without the work, this is perfect! With the guidance of Lorin Ottlinger and Phil Munro, all the details were in place to make the shoppers' experiences wonderful.

As always, it is fun to work with other Grove employees and volunteers for this, our biggest event. Being part of The Grove Arts and Craft Faire is a wonderful way to cheer in the holiday season!

**Sue Stevens, Grove Staff**



*Photo courtesy of the Glenview Park District.*

## Grove Volunteer News

It's been a great year for volunteering at The Grove! Visitors and volunteers alike are drawn to the beauty of the grounds, the history, the events, and the Interpretive Center. Special events are an especially big draw and this year volunteering exploded beginning with Vintage Market in May. Volunteers greeted visitors and helped buyers transport their treasures. In one day, volunteers contributed 165.5 hours, up significantly from Vintage Market's inaugural year.

Pioneer Day, in June, welcomed many volunteers as well. Volunteers helped in food service, historical games, crafts, and pioneer skills ranging from candle making to cooking. At the close of Pioneer Day, volunteers, both new and veteran, generously contributed 94 hours of their time and enthusiasm to The Grove.

Our signature events, Grove Fest and Craft Faire, continued to rely on the amazing contributions of volunteers.

# VOLUNTEER

## Save the Date

**GHA & Be a Buddy,  
Special Behind the Scenes Event  
Wednesday, February 21  
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Mark your calendars for the first annual behind the scenes event to be held in The Grove Interpretive Center Animal Room! The event is a thank you to GHA members and Be a Buddy sponsors. Guests will receive a behind the scene look at the wonderful animals in our exhibits.

Enjoy appetizers along with the opportunity to hear from and ask questions of our Animal Care staff and Dr. Byron DeLaNavarre, veterinarian extraordinaire.

Invitations will arrive in your inbox in January.

**Elizabeth Cline, Grove Volunteer Coordinator**

*Find gifts for the nature enthusiast  
at The Grove Store, located in the  
Interpretive Center.*

**Open Daily, 10 am-4 pm**

*The*  
**Grove Store**

The Grove Heritage Association  
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Glenview, IL 60025

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*Save the Date!*



Celebrate

# GROVE ARRIVAL DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 11

2 p.m. - 4 p.m.



The new program, "Grove Girls" will be introduced! Come and hear what girls at The Grove in the 1840s liked to do, what they learned, how they dressed and what they did for fun. (We will also hear about what the boys did.) The answers will surprise you. The program is appropriate for all, young and old.

The Grove • 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, IL