



# Columbia Historical Society Newsletter



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**Volume: November 2015**

## President's Message

Written By: Karen Richards, President



From Karen's Tree Stump surrounded by a beautiful sunset!

What a beautiful fall and wanting it to continue till April! Awww! But then what would the skiers and winter sports do? Be warm? I have to apologize for the late newsletter for it was due in October and yet I would not have been able to give a Big "Job well done" to the Tea committee for a very enjoyable entertaining Tea they gave in October. Thank you to all that donated, served, created, dressed up, and participated especially the committee volunteers, Sharon Waldecker, Gloria Roth, Barb Hitchcock, Debbie Hitchcock, and Pat Ables. I had no idea the tea pots could come in such a variety of shapes and sizes. It would have not been so smoothly accomplished without the Columbia High School Key Club that served and cleaned up and was so helpful. Thank you to our speaker, Janet Bird, from the Elyria Historical Society! She gave us so much more to think about with those Victorian Secrets. I went right home and checked my closets and drawers!

Along came Halloween and it was so ghoulish but could have been worse! November pounced on us with an hour less but here we are now. Our program on Tuesday will be about the Ravenna Arsenal, and I am looking forward to hearing and seeing this presentation by Ralph Pfungsten. His presentation at the last meeting on the Puritas Amusement Park was fantastic. Hope you can come enjoy with us another informative and educational moment of our past.

The woodchuck under the Bronson House Museum's EL has to either have a cast iron stomach or no nose! We are waiting to see if our treatments to get rid of it made a difference.

I am hoping to have most of the books with pictures labeled and indexed. Cataloging will continue as the weather permits.

Thanksgiving is on its way and soon to follow is Christmas. My thoughts will be of all of you and hoping your holidays come out perfect. It has been a fast and fun year so far.

A little reminder that the Bronson House Museum's Open Houses will resume next year, but if anyone wants a tour or has questions or research, then just give me a call or email. If there are any projects, programs, or fundraisers you would like to see please suggest them to any of the officers. We are working on a couple we have had suggested to us and appreciate any help in this area. Thank you and hope to see you at the next meeting on 11/10/15 at 7 PM in the Columbia Township Town Hall.

## In Memoriam

Written By: Sharon Waldecker, Correspondence Secretary

If you are aware of a member or past member who has passed, please let Sharon Waldecker know.

## Upcoming Calendar of Events

Written By: Sharon Waldecker, Correspondence Secretary

11/10/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Ravenna Arsenal by Ralph Pfungsten. Open to the public.

12/08/15 -- Columbia Historical Society Membership Meeting at 7:00 PM (social time) and 7:30 PM (program) at Columbia Town Hall. Program includes: Christmas Ornaments of Yesteryear, Potluck Dinner, and Annual Board Elections. Open to the public.

## 2015 Columbia Block House Day Raffle

### Winners

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The 2015 Columbia Block House Day raffle winners are:

Laura Hagen -- Longaberger® Large Americana Wall Flag.

[Donated by: Ronald B. Krisko, Longaberger Consultant]

Barbara Hitchcock -- Sewing Basket Starter Set. [Donated by: Anonymous]

Karen Richards -- Columbia Historical Society Collection: 1 Columbia Block House Cat's Meow®, 1 Columbia High School Cat's Meow®, 1 Columbia Paperweight, 1 Columbia is the Berries Ceramic Mug, 1 Columbia is the Berries Pin, 2 Columbia Buttons, 1 Columbia Historical Society Pencil, 2 Packs of Note Cards, 1 Columbia Plaster Ornament, 2 Columbia Block House Magnets, 1 Early Columbia from the Clarion Book, 1 Autobiography of Moses Deming Book, 1 Columbia Township Bicentennial Book, 1 Columbia Township Sesquicentennial Book, 1 Welcome to Columbia Book, 1 We Remember (Vol. 2) Book, & 1 We Remember (Vol. 3) Book. [Donated by: Columbia Historical Society]

Thank you to everybody for their support and congratulations to all of our winners!

## Bronson House Museum Repair Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The officers are updating the list of repairs that are needed and wanted within the Bronson House Museum. Since the last newsletter, the painting of the outside of the museum has been completed and rotted wood has been replaced. The brass dedication sign on the outside has been cleaned by Ken Roth and rehung in its original location. The flower beds outside are maintained by Dot MacIntyre. The ground hog situation underneath the "L" section has gotten worse, but we hope that our home remedies have driven it away. The sump pump area has been dug out and made larger and deeper with a new plastic insert. We hope that this will help to alleviate the standing water issue that the museum has had in the past in the basement. A broken glass door on a display case has been replaced with new glass by Ken Roth. We will keep you updated as more items are completed.



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## Treasurer's Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

End-of-year financials will be shared with the membership via our website so stay tuned for further information. As of 11/01/15, the society has about \$4,716.42 in all of our checking accounts and \$24,101.32 in all of our savings accounts for a total of \$28,817.74 so every new membership, renewed membership, book or item sold, or unrestricted donation really counts. The society made \$50.00 in raffle sales and \$57.00 in promotional items at the 2015 Columbia Block House Day on 09/12/15, and \$192.00 in raffle sales and \$60.00 in promotional items along with \$768.00 in gross ticket sales at the Tea Fundraising Event on 10/18/15. The society also received several cash and in-kind donations for both events. Please remember that all non-Lifetime membership renewals are due for 2016 in February 2016. A reminder will be sent out to all members in 2016. We currently have 65 paid members. Thank you for your support of this society and its mission!

## 2015 Tea Event Raffle Winners

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

The 2015 Tea Event door prize and raffle winners are:

Joy Adams -- Flower Arrangement. [Donated by: Columbia Florist -- Sandy Martin]

Theresa Corona -- Flower Arrangement. [Donated by: Cutting Garden -- Liz Tinter & Becky Thober]

Laura Hagen -- Tin of 120 Assorted Bentley(R) Tea Bags, Floral Tea Cup & matching Saucer, & Round Basket with Ruffle. [Donated by: Deborah Hitchcock]

Theresa Corona -- Swan Creek 9 oz. Green Dove Soybean Candle, Swan Creek 2 oz. Glass Jar Soybean Candle, Daisy Tea Cup & matching Saucer, & Wire Basket with Heart Handles. [Donated by: Town & Country Co-Op, & Deborah Hitchcock]

Blanche Nemeth -- "Style Club" Doll (Maria) with Blue Hair Ribbon, White Hat with Blue Ribbon, Custom Handmade Undergarments & Floral Dress, Handmade Flower Bouquet, Wooden Doll Stand. [Donated by: Granny's Doll Boutique -- Dianne Morlock]

Laura Hagen -- Gift Certificate for 1 Hour Massage at Living Tree Center in North Royalton, OH, & Handmade Basket. [Donated by: Deborah Hitchcock]

Nichelle Marquez -- Fall Leaf Tea Cup & matching Saucer, Package of Apricot Loose Leaf Tea, Raw Sugar, Gold Demi Spoon, & Round Basket with Tall Handle. [Donated by: Clementine's Restaurant Inc.]

Kathy Miller -- Browne & Ashley Gift Box of 120 Assorted Gourmet Green Tea Bags, & Mini Tea Cup & matching Saucer Candle. [Donated by: Barabara Hitchcock & Deborah Hitchcock]

Thank you to everybody for their support and congratulations to all of our winners! We also wish to graciously thank our other event sponsors: Costco Wholesale, Giant Eagle Market District, Jacalyn Ramsey, and Schild's IGA -- Kevin Schild.

## 2016 Annual Elections

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

Elections for the 2016 society officers and directors will take place at the December 2015 meeting so if you are interested in running for one of the positions or wish to nominate somebody else, please contact the Nomination Committee Chairperson, Dennis Ross, at 440-236-5132 before 12/04/15 (Friday).

## Excerpt from We Remember Stories of Columbia Township (Volume 3) Book

Written By: Mary Ellen Jenkins

*"School Days of Yore: Legends and Realities"*

Columbia was fortunate in having its roots planted firmly in the New England belief that a good education was fundamentally important to both an individual's and a community's wellbeing. In The Williams Brothers History of Lorain County, published in 1879, we are told that when the settlers arrived in 1807, "the first school was opened [in 1808] by Mrs. Sally Bronson, in her own home," and that "the number of her scholars was ten." Then in "the following winter her husband, Bela Bronson, taught a school in Lemuel Hoadley's blacksmith shop." It is significant that in this history, written seventy-one years after Columbia's founding, education is mentioned in conjunction with Sally Bronson, Columbia's "first lady," as it shows equally the reverence in which both Sally and education were held in the township, but it also feeds the notion, which persists to the present day, that Columbia pioneers were superior beings filled with a true and mighty zeal for learning. Well, some of them were.

*Interested in reading more? We Remember Stories of Columbia Township (Volumes 1, 2, & 3) are available for purchase for \$20 from the Columbia Historical Society and make a nice birthday or holiday gift.*

## Technology Update

Written By: Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer

We are still working on a redesign of the current website so you will see a slightly new look hopefully sometime in the near future. Unfortunately several of us have been handling double and triple duties beyond our regular officer duties, therefore, I have been unable to get the free time to work on the website redesign yet. Remember, you can "Like" us on Facebook in order to receive Facebook posting updates in your Facebook account or "Follow" us on Twitter to receive updates via your Twitter account. We can share more information more quickly with you this way.

## Officers and Board of Directors

Karen Richards, President      Kenneth Roth, Vice President  
Ronald B. Krisko, Treasurer      Blanche Nemeth, Recording Secretary  
Sharon Waldecker, Corresponding Secretary  
Mary Melnyk, Director of History  
TBD, Director of Publicity  
TBD, Director of Technology