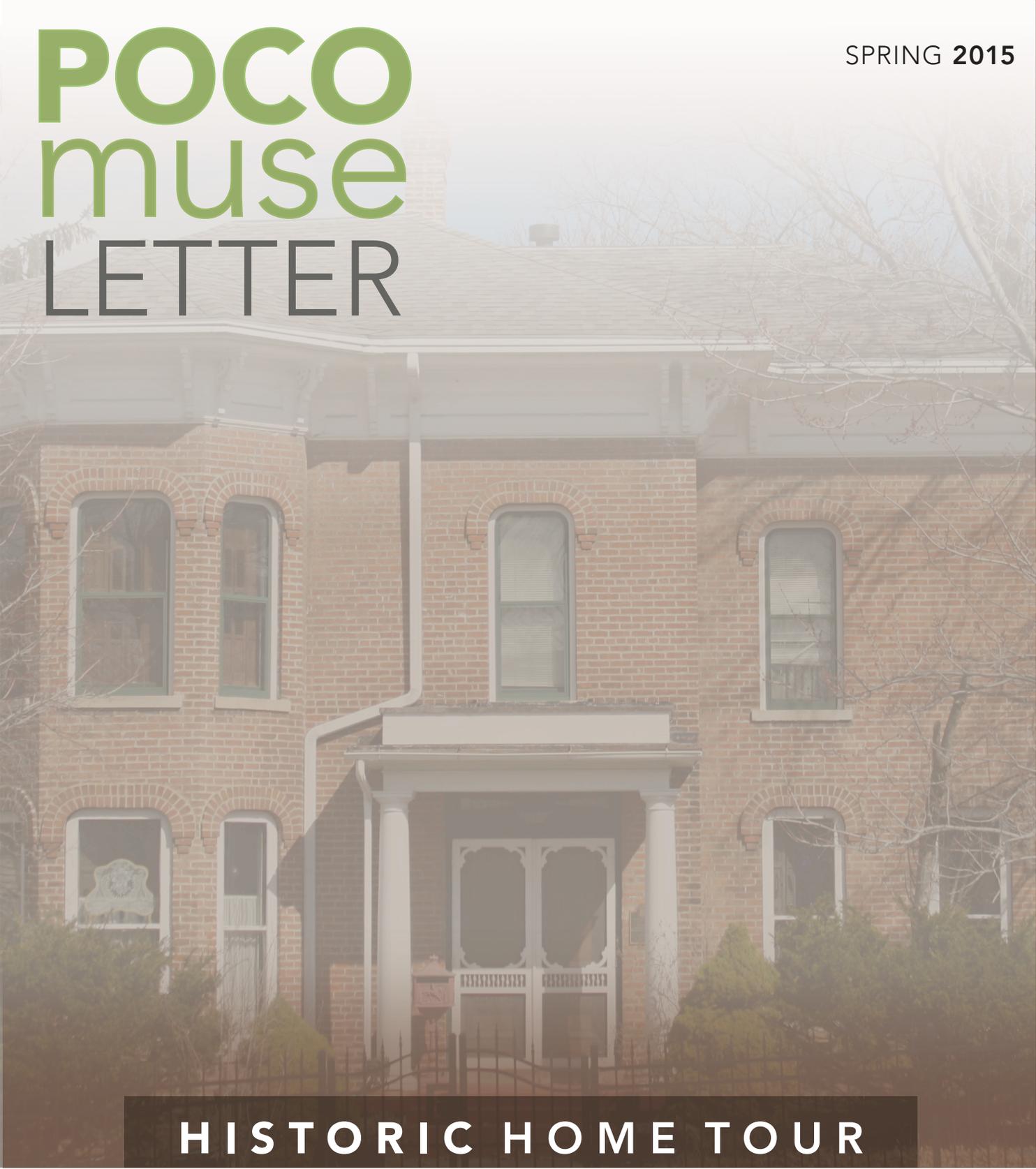


POCO muse LETTER

SPRING 2015



HISTORIC HOME TOUR

CELEBRATING PORTER COUNTY'S PAST

PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

The POCO MUSE LETTER is a quarterly news publication of the Porter County Museum.

SPRING 2015

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POCO muse NEWSWORTHY

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART ON DISPLAY THROUGH MAY 16

During our chilly February, over one hundred art enthusiasts and Museum supporters came out for the opening of *Season Preview: Community Supported Art Valparaiso*. CSA Valpo represents eight emerging and mid-career artists working in a surprising variety of media. Their artists' talk at the public opening focused on the role of their communities in their art, how arts communities are built, and the struggles and successes of these communities in Porter County. If you haven't yet seen the CSA Valpo exhibit, stop by before **May 16**. Do you know any young artists? Stop by the Museum on **May 10 from 1-4p for a Kid's Art Workshop!**

LAKE MICHIGAN IN A DUGOUT BOOK AND DOCUMENTARY COMING SOON

In March of 2015, Amy Lukas and Mary Catterlin returned to the PoCo Muse for a screening of *Lake Michigan in a Dugout: The Documentary*. Everyone who encounters the remarkable story of two young women circumnavigating Lake Michigan in a hand-made dugout canoe is inspired to find and follow their own dreams. Stop by the Museum Store soon to pick up a copy of their book and take the adventure home with you.



WINTER PROGRAMS HIGHLIGHTED INDIANA ENVIRONMENTS

Maybe we were nostalgic for spring during our winter program planning, but during the past few months, numerous environmental programs brought dozens of people to the PoCo Muse. Visitors heard about the early efforts of the Chicago Prairie Club, the History of Indiana State Forests, and the railway garden of Taltree Arboretum & Gardens. We are excited and inspired for the arrival of Spring!



FROM THE CHAIR

The Mission Statement of the Porter County Museum charges the Museum with the tasks to educate, enrich and inspire. Exhibits are one means used to present the county's history. All exhibits are well researched, factual and balanced in presentation. Some history is easier, more comfortable to own, while others are not. Certain topics can make some people uncomfortable. This is the reason I am introducing the Museum's next exhibit, *Civil Rights in the Region*, in this column. The exhibit is about civil rights and diversity of racial and ethnic groups throughout the history of the county.

As a native and lifelong resident of Porter County I consider this area's history my history. Like most children, I really didn't make anything of the fact that I lived in an all-white community, went to an all-white public school, attended an all-white church and had only white friends. As I grew I did start asking questions as to why everyone I knew was white. Visits to Gary, Michigan City and Chicago introduced me to people of color and varying ethnic backgrounds. The people I asked had no answers. Most said that had just always been the case.

As I grew I started learning the answers to my question and I was not pleased. I came to believe that I was living in a place that not only lacked diversity but was afraid of it.

Xenophobia is the unreasonable fear of foreigners or strangers. This fear can lead to exclusion, prejudice and acts of racism. The results of xenophobia are experienced within and between racial and ethnic groups.

Each group of new settlers and future residents of Porter County experienced forms of exclusion. With time that group would be assimilated and the next new group faced what had gone before. For counties abutting Porter County, this continued with eventual membership and acceptance given to diverse groups. This pattern has not been the history of our county. Although there are some small pockets of diversity in the county, Porter County does not reflect in its population the diversity one would expect in this area.

Since the present is predicated on the past, the future is rooted there as well. If we are to learn from our past we must come to understand it. I encourage you to visit the exhibit when it opens June 14. Come and learn. Come and share stories. Come together—we are Porter County.

Joanne Urschel

Chair of the Board of Trustees

FROM THE DIRECTOR

"Progress is best assured by giving thoughtful consideration to previous accomplishment, endeavoring to emulate all worthy examples and striving to advance and improve the application of principles which experience has demonstrated to be of greatest benefit." The words of former Valparaiso Mayor Perry Sisson and his welcoming address to Porter County's celebration of Indiana's Centennial still ring true—especially when applied to the recent progress of the PoCo Muse.

Exploratory demolition of Phase I at 16 Indiana Avenue is now completed. The marred edifices of two historical buildings see daylight once again after being hidden for over a half century. The Porter County Museum Foundation is looking to quickly move forward with Phase II and III of the project. These steps will allow for total interior demolition and the restoration and rejuvenation of the exterior of the building.

In addition to addressing the physical expansion, the Board of the Museum Foundation is re-examining the sustainability of operations now and into the future. Bricks and mortar are necessary for this institution's growth, but so is a firm financial footing. As the seeds of this Museum were planted long ago, we too want to ensure a strong tomorrow.

There are plenty of reasons to visit the PoCo Muse today, too. Spring is an excitedly busy time, especially as the weather warms. I hope you will take part in the Historic Home Tour again this year. It is shaping up to be a spectacular way to spend a Saturday in May.

May also marks the 40th year the Porter County Museum has occupied the former jail and sheriff's residence. To commemorate the occasion, former Sheriff David Lain is going to stop by on Thursday, May 7 at 5:30p to share some of the remarkable law enforcement artifacts he has collected throughout the years.

Lastly, I am excited to welcome Rich Hudson and Chuck Welter to the Porter County Museum Foundation Board of Trustees. Their devotion to preserving the heritage of this area lends itself nicely to the work of the Museum.

Kevin Matthew Pazour
Executive Director

ANNUAL HISTORIC HOME TOUR

Seven Historic Homes Open to the Public on Saturday, May 9

Last May, the Porter County Museum's Historic Home Tour brought over 300 people to see seven storied homes in Valparaiso's Central Neighborhood. The event furthered the Museum's mission to connect our rich past with the evolving present to educate, enrich, and inspire our Porter County communities. Response to the event was overwhelmingly positive. Homeowners learned memories of their homes from people who grew up in the neighborhood, visitors got their first chance to see the inside of homes that have comprised the texture of the neighborhood they experience every day, and neighbors met and shared their struggles and successes with pride.

The Annual Historic Home Tour hosted by the Porter County Museum will take place Saturday, May 9, 2015 from 11a-4p in downtown Valparaiso. The residential neighborhoods surrounding Valparaiso's historic downtown tell the story of the growth of a city, and the homes represent the life and culture of a vibrant community.

The seven iconic homes featured in the second PoCo Muse Home Tour represent three distinct Valparaiso neighborhoods- Hilltop, Banta, and Central- each with their own unique character. Each individual home displays remarkable craftsmanship and beautiful architectural styles. As you walk through these neighborhoods and homes, Porter County's past is revealed as you imagine what it might have been like to live in Valparaiso at the turn of the 19th Century.



Tickets for the Home Tour go on sale April 1, 2015, and can be purchased online or in the Museum Store. PoCo Muse Members receive a presale price of \$20. The non-member presale price is \$22, and the day of the tour all tickets are \$25. Visit pocomuse.org to order tickets.

As the tour approaches, check into pocomuse.org for previews of the homes open on May 9. See you at the Annual Home Tour!



CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE REGION EXHIBIT

The early years of Porter County were characterized by incredible diversity. French traders lived harmoniously with Native American populations until Porter County's incorporation in 1836. The next one hundred years were characterized by people of numerous nationalities moving to work in the many industries that developed due to ease of transportation via railroad or by way of Lake Michigan ports.

The diversity of individuals moving to Northwest Indiana created a vibrant, productive community. This diversity also created tensions, and racially-motivated incidents occurred throughout the county. Cities and towns instituted sun-down laws, and the Klu Klux Klan targeted black, immigrant, and religious populations living in the Region. Black families moving to Porter County faced discrimination and hate.

The history of civil rights in the Region is not without inspirational stories. Individuals, churches, and organizations worked together to welcome new residents. Porter County citizens and leaders privately and publically worked against discriminatory and exclusionary attitudes and policies in Porter County.

Today, there are stories of both exclusion and acceptance. The *Civil Rights in the Region* exhibit opening **Sunday, June 14, 2015** at the Porter County Museum will open conversations about contemporary civil rights issues by educating visitors about the complex social history of Northwest Indiana. Through first person perspectives, you are invited to experience the diverse stories of Porter County residents-- stories that both challenge and inspire us. By displaying this history, the Museum will enrich our communities through depicting a difficult history while highlighting the value of diversity and the necessity of inclusion in overcoming adversity.



Klan Convention at the Porter County Fairgrounds ca. 1923



Thanks to Valparaiso University's Hands On History Students!

This exhibit is indebted to the work of Professor Heath Carter's Hands On History class, who collected information and conversed about the difficult history of Northwest Indiana during the Fall 2014 semester. These students provided the wealth of images, stories, and facts included in the exhibit. We could not have developed this exhibit without the talent and dedication of this group of students.

Professor Carter's students presented their research in December of 2014 at the Museum.

APRIL

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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APRIL 2
WE ARE POCO SERIES:
THE PAST PRESENT & FUTURE OF 16 INDIANA
 Executive Director Kevin Pazour discusses the past, present, and future of 16 Indiana, the former City Hall and Fire Station and future expansion of the PoCo Muse. **PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P**



APRIL 18
PLAY BASEBALL @ POCO MUSE
 Join the WWII Girls Living History Baseball League for a game of catch on the front lawn of the Porter County Museum. Learn more about the league and their efforts to preserve American Baseball Heritage. **PROGRAM FROM 12-4P**

APRIL 19
SUNDAYS @ THE POCO MUSE:
AMERICAN HOME
 Valparaiso University's American Home class will present their research on the Hilltop Neighborhood of Valparaiso. **MUSEUM OPEN FROM 1-4P**
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 2P

MAY 7
WE ARE POCO SERIES:
DAVID LAIN'S HISTORIC LAW ENFORCEMENT COLLECTION
 Join former Sheriff David Lain as he shares some unique artifacts from his historic law enforcement collection. **PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P**

MAY 9
ANNUAL POCO MUSE HISTORIC HOME TOUR
 During the Home Tour, seven iconic homes in three distinct Valparaiso neighborhoods will be open to the public. Tickets are on sale at pocomuse.org or in the Museum Store. **HOMES OPEN 11A-4P**

MAY

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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31						

MAY 10
SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE:
KID'S ART WORKSHOP
 Bring the whole family to the PoCo Muse for a Kid's Art Workshop in conjunction with the CSA Valpo Exhibit. Art projects and instruction will be available for kids of all ages! Free and open to the public. **MUSEUM OPEN 1-4p**

MAY 16
COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPARAISO PICK-UP CELEBRATION
 Say farewell to the CSA Valpo exhibit during the pick-up celebration! Shareholders in the CSA will be stopping by to pick up their packages of art, and celebrating local art on the front lawn of the PoCo Muse! **PROGRAM FROM 12-4P**

JUNE

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

JUNE 4
WE ARE POCO SERIES: 1920'S DOWNTOWN WALKING TOUR
 Join Museum volunteer Mark McColly for a historic walking tour of downtown Valparaiso. Learn what Valparaiso looked like during the Roaring 20's. **BEGINS AT 5:30P**

JUNE 13
MEMBER PREVIEW: CIVIL RIGHTS IN THE REGION EXHIBIT
 PoCo Muse Members are invited to an exclusive preview of the *Civil Rights in the Region* exhibit. Chat with PoCo Muse staff about the stories included and the exhibit development process. **OPEN HOUSE FROM 5-7P**

JUNE 14
POCO MUSE ANNUAL BLOCK PARTY
 Join the PoCo Muse for a cookout on the front lawn of the Porter County Museum. While you visit with friends and neighbors, explore the *Civil Rights in the Region* exhibit. **MUSEUM OPEN 12-4P**



FROM THE COLLECTION

Have you noticed change at 16 Indiana? In March, when the weather broke, RestoreTech began removing the Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS) on the north wall to reveal the substrate surface so that plans can be made to renovate the façade. How does this impact Collections? Simply put, things are on the move.

The Collections office that was on the second floor of the building has been moved to the large cell on the second floor of the Museum. We loaded up tables, chairs, computers, boxes, tissue paper, empty file folders, full file folders, gloves, pencils and an assortment of artifacts in various stages of processing. We are all set up to perform the usual tasks involved in managing Collections.

The new space is considerably smaller, so we are working hard to organize it for maximum efficiency. Many individuals volunteer their time and talents to make the work productive. Rachel Hulslander, Americorps Member, does an outstanding job working with Collections on a day-to-day basis.

The news now is that we have rented clean, dry, climate-controlled space at a facility in Valparaiso just north of Highway 30 thanks to a generous contribution from Stewart and Kathryn McMillan. We are gearing up to move large items including the Hillstrom organ and Dr. Conover's dental chair to this new space along with smaller items that can be boxed.

Members of the Collections Committee participated in an all-day workshop with members of the Portage Community Historical Society at the Alton Goin Museum in Portage. Tamara Hemmerlein and Alan Rowe from the Eugene and Marilyn Glick Indiana

There's always something new to see in the Collections room. Here are some artifacts currently being processed.

History Center in Indianapolis provided training on how to move a museum. They emphasized the importance of planning, discussed best practices, provided opportunities for practice moving items around barriers, and entertained and answered a variety of questions.

The space at 16 Indiana will soon be cleared. Some items will go into temporary storage at the rental facility, and some items will be returned to storage areas at the Museum. It is all part of preparing for the Museum expansion at 16 Indiana. Things are on the move.

Helen Arvidson

Helen Arvidson
Chair of the Collections Committee



THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: 1915

The following stories were selected, transcribed, and summarized by PoCo Muse volunteer Kathy Evans.

APRIL, 1915

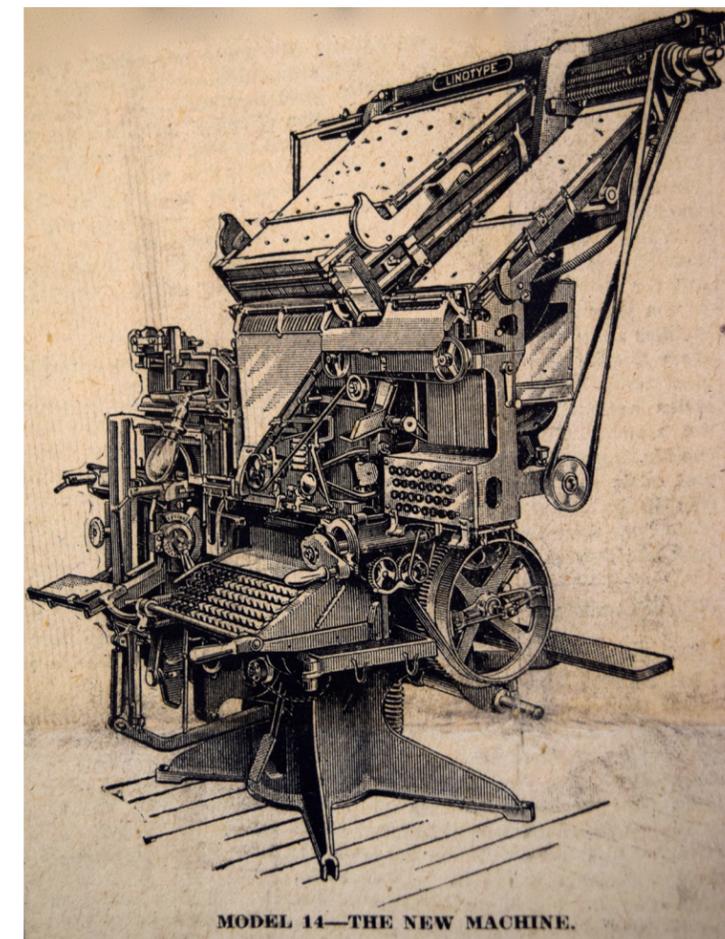
On **April 13, 1915** the local D.A.R. chapter met to hear a lecture by Hubert M. Skinner {to whom "Porter County and Valparaiso owe the preservation of much of their early history"} on the Old Sac Trail. After praising the town itself for possessing "the greatest, noblest, self-sustaining university in the world", Mr. Skinner went on to describe the Sac Trail in equally exuberant language. "It is the greatest highway of man along the globe—greater than that which was between Babylon and Egypt." To back this statement up Mr. Skinner described how the trail followed the natural lay of the land, avoiding hills, valleys, and marshes yet staying near springs and water supplies and staying in the open whenever possible. "I cannot conceive how there could have been a time when the aborigines or early settlers could do without it." Skinner advised the trail was named after a man named Sac. The event was held in the "palatial home" of Mr. & Mrs. J.H. McGill, cousins of Mr. Skinner.

April 21, 1915 The fourth grade students at Columbia School were offered a prize of \$5.00 (to be divided into 3 awards) for the most flies killed in their school. The contest was the result of the Sanitary Inspector finding conditions wanting and was made part of the general "cleanup week" in Valparaiso. The Central and Gardner Schools had also "done much toward bettering the conditions of their premises." The donor of the \$5.00 remained anonymous.

MAY, 1915

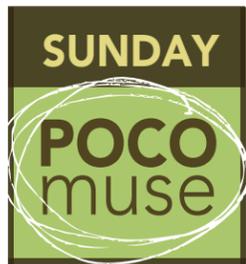
May 19, 1915 The students of Gardner School in Valparaiso celebrated Peace Day with a pageant on the school lawn. The High School orchestra played "appropriate aires" for the silent production and complementary songs were sung. The cast of characters {all "garbed in glowing costumes"} included Uncle Sam, Columbia, Peace, and Red Cross.

Peace had two attendants: Prosperity and Contentment. The countries of England, Japan, Russia, France, Ireland, Scotland, Holland, and Forsaken Belgium, draped in mourning, all bowed to peace. Only Germany, dressed in full armor, was reluctant to accept the olive branch. The School Board and other guests witnessed the spectacle.



JUNE, 1915

June 16, 1915 The Vidette installs the latest word in typesetting machines: a Model Fourteen Linotype. The addition of this machinery results in a strictly modern office in every respect.



SUNDAYS @ THE POCO MUSE

APRIL: AMERICAN HOME

Join the students of Valparaiso University's American Home class as they present the history of the Hilltop Neighborhood. Dr. Gretchen Buggeln's class studied architectural and oral histories to reveal the rich story of a unique Valparaiso Neighborhood. Hear about the students' findings for yourself on **April 19 @ 2p.**



MAY: KID'S ART WORKSHOP

On **Sunday, May 10** from **1-4p**, bring the whole family to the PoCo Muse for a Kid's Art Workshop! Community Supported Art Valparaiso organizer and arts instructor Hannah Hammond-Hagman will help our younger visitors create exciting art projects. Help support the arts in Porter County! This program is free and open to the public!



JUNE: POCO MUSE BLOCK PARTY & EXHIBIT OPENING

The second annual PoCo Muse Block Party will take place **June 14, 2015** from **12-4p**. For three years, the Block Party has brought together neighbors from across the county for a cookout on the front lawn of the Museum. Enjoy hot dogs, hamburgers, and games as we celebrate the opening of our summer exhibit, *Civil Rights in the Region*. The Block Party is free and open to the public, so spread the word!



MUSEUM STORE

As a result of new merchandise and expanding inventory, the Museum Store is experiencing growing pains--soon to be remedied by reconfiguring its layout. The Store is now offering a selection of South Shore Posters. What better way to decorate and celebrate the area! The inventory of Arcadia books has expanded with more local area histories being offered.

As a result of the Community Sponsored Art, exhibit Melissa Washburn's art is available in the store. We still have a few of Robert Cain's original artwork for sale along with acrylics by Sue Connors. Your purchase of the artists' original work helps support both the artists and the Museum.



A NEW FACE @ THE POCO MUSE

WELCOME DANI TO THE POCO MUSE!



Dani Landgrebe recently graduated in 2014 with her degree in Communication from Purdue University North Central. She began at the Museum this March to assist as a volunteer coordinator with Americorps. Dani will be recruiting and supervising volunteers for the upcoming spring and summer events to assist with community outreach.

Dani joins Rachel Hulslander as another Americorps member serving at the Museum through August. Americorps engages more than 75,000 Americans in intensive service each year at nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Next time you visit the Museum, make sure you welcome Dani!



POCO MUSE DONORS WINTER 2015

We would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for supporting our mission by becoming members of the Museum's Foundation this past quarter.

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EDUCATE:
Helen Arvidson

Friends of the Museum SUSTAINING FRIEND:

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Carlos Rivero

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Robert & Sue Cain
Patricia Crise
Larry & Sandra Holt
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Beverly & Gary Overmyer
Craig Shillinglaw

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APRIL

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History of 16 Indiana

19 SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE:
American Home

MAY

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Historic Law Enforcement

9 HISTORIC HOME TOUR

10 SUNDAYS @ POCO MUSE:
Kid's Art Workshop

16 CSA PICK-UP CELEBRATION

JUNE

4 WE ARE POCO SERIES:
1920's Downtown Tour

14 POCO MUSE BLOCK PARTY

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PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM
153 S. FRANKLIN STREET
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

