



2704 Newton Street, Suite A  
Jasper, IN 47546  
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www.DuboisCountyMuseum.org

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JASPER, IN  
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# DUBOIS COUNTY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Regular Hours:**  
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. • Sunday 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.  
Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Closed Monday

### March 14

Storytime at the Museum sponsored by the Optimist Club of Jasper  
Theme: Dr. Seuss Stories, crafts and activities for our young visitors

### March 25

Free Night at the Museum 5:30-8:00 p.m.  
Blake Buechlein and the Jasper Reptile Center here at 6:30 p.m. for program on reptiles.

### March 26

Dubois County Historical Society meets 6:30 p.m. at Museum  
New members welcome. Speaker Bill Bartelt on "Abe's Youth: Shaping the Future President". Cost \$15. Reservations for dinner by March 20, call Mary Ann Hayes at 812-482-2847. \$5 dues.

### March 28

Farm Bureau hosts breakfast 7:00-10:00 a.m. \$1.00 per breakfast, food prepared by St. Anthony K of C. Sausage patties, eggs, pancakes, and drinks. Public welcome.

### April

- 7-9 4th Grade Heritage Days
- 10 Good Friday, Closed
- 11 Storytime at the Museum sponsored by the Optimist Club of Jasper - Spring Stories, crafts and activities for our young visitors
- 12 Easter Sunday, Closed
- 23 Free Night at the Museum 5:30-8:00 p.m. Program TBA

### May

- 2 Teddy Bear Tea with Grandma and Me 10:30 a.m. \$5 per adults, \$2 per child
- 9 Storytime at the Museum sponsored by the Optimist Club of Jasper - Theme: Garden/Flowers - Stories, crafts, and activities for our young visitors.
- 16 Coin Show sponsored by Area Coin Club 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- 16 Free Admission Day to the Museum
- 28 Free Night at the Museum - 5:30-8:00 p.m. Program TBA

## Welcome New Director

The Dubois County Museum Board of Directors is pleased to announce the hiring of our first Museum Director, Ms. Shirley J. Ray. Since January 2, 2020 Ms. Shirley J. Ray has been on the job as our new director and she is finding out something she already knew-our museum is pretty special. Ray is a native of Knox County, Indiana. She earned her Bachelors of Arts degree in Humanities at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota and her Masters of Arts degree in Museum Studies at the University of Nebraska. In the past twenty years, she has served as Executive Director at museums in Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York and Indiana, often serving as the first professional staff at these institutions. For the past 10 years, she has also served as an adjunct professor in the Social Sciences department at Vincennes University. Ray was the first Executive Director of the Red

Skelton Museum of American Comedy in Vincennes after she secured a 1.3 million dollar funding grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. These funds were the final step in a long range plan for the development of a museum honoring the legacy of Red Skelton. The museum opened on July 18, 2013.

Shirley reported to the Dubois County Museum Board on January 9, 2020 that she spent her first month on the job meeting with individuals and committees including exhibits, collections, marketing, building maintenance and special events (membership dinner). She has been reading through the institutional files including the master plan, blueprints and board minutes from the inception of the museum. She continues to be inspired by the tremendous effort and altruism that created this organization. In short, she is thrilled to be here. Now beginning her third month with the museum, she has been meeting with the area libraries and is setting up and promoting themed satellite exhibits of museum artifacts within the libraries. Ferdinand Branch Library has an exhibit in place on the Roaring Twenties till March 28. She is also investigating several grants that would aid our operations.



Director, Ms. Shirley J. Ray

## Board of Directors

- Bruce Heeke, *President*
- Mary Ellen Backer, *Vice President*
- Dr. Ryan Flanion
- W. Jean Hoffman
- Cheryl Sermersheim
- Amy Weyer
- Vic Betz
- Terry Flick
- Margaret "Reg" Wagner, *Treasurer*
- Kathy Bachman *Secretary*
- Mary Ann Hayes
- Sandy Miller
- William Weikert
- Joe Shelton
- Janet Klumpper
- Mark Kunkel
- Kurt Vonderheide
- Vicki Wiederkehr

please cut and mail

**DUBOIS COUNTY MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP**

2020 memberships can be paid at any time. Check date above address and see if your dues are due. If the date is 12/31/2019 or before, then your dues are coming due. We appreciate your continued support to the Dubois County Museum.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send check, money order or accepted credit cards to:  
Dubois County Museum  
2704 N. Newton Street, Suite A  
Jasper, IN 47546

Exhibits  Greter/Giftshop  Cleaning

Tour Guiding

Individual (\$25)  Couple (\$40)  Family (\$50)  Bronze (\$100)  Copper (\$250)  Silver (\$500)  Gold (\$1,000)

Benefactor (\$5,000)  Platinum (\$3,000)

Check appropriate box(es):  Renewal  New Member(s)



## Letter from OUR DIRECTOR

DEAR MEMBERS, DONORS, AND VOLUNTEERS,

It is a great honor to be addressing you as the new director of the Dubois County Museum. I am very passionate about history and being surrounded by a multitude of individuals who have dedicated literally decades to ensuring that it is preserved here is a true privilege. To me, the lessons of the past are tangible. The challenges our ancestors faced inspire us to fulfill their vision for us. Our artifacts, records and stories define who we are as people. I feel this within my own family and as a member of the human species. Sharing our experiences with one another is the key to communication, understanding and ultimately, compassion.

In the coming year, we will be presenting our popular annual events as well as adding new exhibits and programming. For example, in February, we launched a new satellite exhibit program in order to share our artifact collections with citizens of Dubois county in the communities where they live. We will begin offering a monthly free night at the museum in March as a way to expand the hours the exhibit galleries are open and to welcome new visitors. We will be adding enhancements to our website within the next few months which will allow you to shop our museum store online, buy or renew memberships and buy tickets for our events. These are just a few of the projects that are underway.

As members of our great institution, I know you will agree that there are a great many opportunities here. This museum is what you want it to be and the result of what we create together. I want to encourage all of you to ponder this and let us know what ideas and suggestions you have. This summer, you will find a survey in your newsletter and on our website which will give you a chance to provide feedback to us. We hope that you enjoy being a member of the Dubois County Museum as much as we enjoy having you!

With Great Cordiality,

Shirley J. Ray  
Director

## Visitors

We again had almost 10,000 visitors come to our museum last year. The recorded total was 9,721. In 2018 we saw 9,399 people step inside our building and enjoy what we have to offer. From the data collected from the lobby visitor sign in sheets, 9% of our visitors were from out-of-state and 15% were from out-of-the county; thus leaving 76% coming from our county. That is outstanding! The surveys indicated that many of our visitors learned about our museum from word of mouth praise given from previous visitors. Thank you members for promoting and aiding in attracting visitors to our museum. Maybe this is the year that we go over 10,000 visitors!

## Board Member Additions and Retirements

The Dubois County Museum, Inc. welcomed two new members to the Board of Directors and thanked two faithful members for their service as they retire from the board.

The Board welcomed Vicki Wiederkehr and Terry Flick. Vicki Wiederkehr is the owner of Cardinal Selling Services, in Huntingburg. She has taught at VUJC on the subjects of economics, law and entrepreneurship. She has an accounting background, has written two books and is an active blogger, and motorcyclist. She is from Huntingburg. She has two adult children, Natalie who is a special education teacher and Brett who serves in the US Navy.

Terry Flick is from Huntingburg and was appointed by Huntingburg Mayor Denny Spinner. He is retired and had worked for Kimball International as their Director of Corporate Taxes. He is married with 3 children. He is an avid biker and hiker and enjoys the outdoors.

Thank you to Charlotte Schneider and Beverly Schmutzler for their many years of service to the Board. They were a large piece of our working Board. They helped with making decisions and were willing to chair events, such as the Festival of Trees and Log House dinners. They also offered their "eye to detail" to committee work and assisting with many programs. They are also helpful volunteers in the lobby and have agreed to continue at that position.

Restructuring of the Board was held after the Membership Dinner on January 23. The Dubois County Museum Board has elected Bruce Heeke as President; Mary Ellen Backer as Vice-President; Margaret "Peg" Wagner as Treasurer; and Kathy Bachman as Secretary. The eighteen member board is now made up of these members: Vic Betz, Dr. Ryan Flamion, Terry Flick, Mary Ann Hayes, W. Jean Hoffman, Janet Kluemper, Mark Kunkel, Sandy Miller, Cheryl Sermersheim, Joe Shelton, Kurt Vonderheide, Judge William Weikert, Amy Weyer and Vicki Wiederkehr.

## Free Night at the Museum

A new program called, "Free Night at the Night" will kick off on Wednesday, March 25. The doors will be open from 5:30-8:00pm to allow visitors to come see our museum during the evening hours. We will be having a special program this evening with Blake Buechlein and the Jasper Reptile Center. His program of live reptiles will begin at 6:30pm in front of the log house. Donations will be accepted to benefit the Reptile Center. Each month the museum will be offering a "Free Night". Check the calendar on the front of this newsletter for the dates and times. Different upcoming program ideas are being discussed.



*Blake Buechlein and the Jasper Reptile Center is here on Wednesday night, March 25, at 6:30pm*

## COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

44,500 Collection Items to Date

### Miami Gardens

Gene Thieman donated items from the Miami Gardens owned by his parents. Included in the gift were two chairs, fourteen photographs, several documents and news articles. When Gene Thieman's parents, Urban and Lorene Thieman, operated the Miami Gardens in the 1930's, it was a popular place that was open 24 hours 7 days each week. An ad in the Jasper Herald on March 8, 1933, said about the Miami Gardens, "The Most Beautiful Spot on State Road 45-56, 1/4 mile North of Jasper." It also said, "Special for Saturday Night and Sunday, Spring Chicken, French Fried Potatoes, Salad, Bread and Butter, and a Bottle of Beer - 50 cents."

The Miami Gardens was sold in 1939 to John and Leona Tewell who added the Palm Room with a seating capacity of 300 people before selling the property to the VFW Post 673. In 2017, the VFW sold the property and moved to 3131 Newton Street. Their former building was razed in 2019, which makes the items given to the museum important in preserving the history of the building.

There are 1930's photos of the outdoor dance area, surrounded by tables and chairs, and later photos of the large indoor room with its stage. One photo shows a large group of people at a dinner with Mayor Herb Thyen at the head table. The museum is grateful to receive artifacts, photos and documents that reflect the social life of Dubois County, and we look forward to sharing these items with museum visitors.

For more information or to donate items to the museum, please contact Mary Ann Hayes, Collections Committee Chair, at 812-634-7733 or mhayes@duboiscountymuseum.org.



## VOLUNTEERS

Our museum would not be able to operate without our many fine volunteers. Here are some interesting facts compiled from 2019.

The total of recorded number of volunteer hours was 10,271.5. This is up over 600 hours from 2018. The number of volunteers who came and gave an hour of their time (or several who gave over 800 hours of their time) was 154. Thank you so much for giving of your time and talents. Many volunteers assist with programs and exhibits and give of their time weekly and monthly to the museum. We welcome anyone who would like to volunteer. We especially could use volunteers to be present during our "Free Nights" each month. Contact Kathy Bachman at 812-630-8696.



## Memorials & Honorariums

11/21/19 through 2/27/20

### IN MEMORY OF

Charlene Bachman	Marietta (Mary) Bachman
Dr. George P. Backer	Mary Ellen Backer
Elaine (Lani) Cook	Art & Irene Kapp
	Sandra & Trent Miller
Marie Denu	Ray & Nancy Larkin
Sylvester Erny	Gerald & Alice Apple
Leon Fleck	Fred & Pat Hollinden,
	Leola Heeke, Bruce & Denise Heeke,
	Delbert & Sharon Himsel
James Fritch	Alice Noblitt
Ruth Goepfrich	Michael & Kathy Bachman,
	Sandra Miller, Donna Koval
Manfred Groemminger	Gerald & Alice Apple
Robert & Elfrieda (Hemmerlein) Heeke	Sharon (Heeke) & Harold Kennedy
	Gerald & Alice Apple
Marian Hopf	Gary & Marlene Eck
Joe Kendall	John & Kathleen Ziliak
Paul Kreilein	Leola Heeke
Cletus Lubbehusen	Gerald & Alice Apple
Luther Mann	Margaret J. Wagner,
Mary Catherine Mehringer	Alice Noblitt, Anonymous,
	Ray & Nancy Larkin, Michael & Kathy Bachman,
Evelyn Merkel	Margaret J. Wagner
Curt Meyer	Xavier & Irma Vonderheide, Jr
Richard Meyer	Michael & Kathy Bachman
Dan Mundy	Mary Jane Fischer,
	Don & Mary Ann Hayes, Theresa Mundy
Marilyn Jean Nathan	Charles & Linda Rasche,
	Don & Mary Ann Hayes, Pat & Jim Riley,
	Steve & Marilyn Trinkel, Dennis & Debra Wickman,
	Schott Electric Company, Michael & Kathy Bachman,
	Art & Irene Kapp, Jack & Becky Nathan and Makenzie,
	Trish & Dennis Gibson, Ethel & Marshall Gravley,
	Arnold J. & Lucille Mehringer, Janet & David Kluemper,
	John & Mary Park
Charles "Rocky" Rewneisen	Alice Noblitt
Ed Sander	Xavier & Irma Vonderheide, Jr
Lou Schaeffer	Family of Claude & Martina Eckert
Charlene (Perkins) Schitter	Delbert & Sharon Himsel
Patrick Schmitt	Bruce & Denise Heeke
Richard Sendelweck	Tom & Miriam Bryan
Dick Seng	John & Kathleen Ziliak
	Bernard & Norma Kress
Dixie Settle	Gerald & Alice Apple
Fred Vittitow	Charles & Jan Stenfenagel
Irene Wendholt	Mary Ellen Backer
Maurice & Esther Yaggi	Jack & Connie Yaggi,
Roy Yocum	Bob & Judy McCarty, Dave & Brenda Buehler,
	Bernita & Harvey Berger, Dan & Linda Wehr,
	Gerald & Alice Apple

### IN HONOR OF

Jim & Pat Fritch	Daniel & Sara Fritch
Junie & Sharon Himsel 60th Wedding Anniversary	Bernard & Norma Kress
Larry & Carolyn Kuntz	Scott & Jennifer Kuntz
Rita Sendelweck	Tom & Miriam Bryan
Sheila Wilson	Nonte & Company