



# Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's winter season 2011

Volume 4, Issue 1

## Winter in Sainte Marie

As I write this newsletter in early January, Sainte Marie (SM) is covered with 3 – 4 inches of snow. The trees are bare; all is quiet. As **Ron Kirts** says, "We kind of like to hibernate in the winter." Good time to do so, because come spring, the town will spring back to life and action (well, still a *calm* action compared to the lives many of us lead in urban areas!). Foundation leaders have been planning ahead though. See articles on the Flower Baskets, the Foundation House and plans for the next Labor Day weekend concert with mezzo-soprano, **Dorothy Helregel Mathious**. (From editor *Pat Reis*)



## Flower Basket Sponsors

Our appeal for our Street Flower Basket sponsors drew a flurry of replies. We actually expanded our baskets to 14 (from 4 last year) and still had to turn down requests. Those listed below paid \$100 to sponsor a basket for the 2011 season:

- State Representative **David Reis and Family**
  - Ste. Marie American Legion Post 932
  - Peoples State Bank of Newton
  - Mont Eagle Mills, Inc.
  - Hahn Construction & Remodeling
  - Hartrich Meats, Inc.
  - Sainte Marie State Bank
  - BJ's Interior Decorating
  - ASL Solutions Inc.
  - Annette Kirts Family
- Baskets "In Memory of"
- Francis & Maude Wagner (from their daughters)
  - E.C. and Mildred Ablinger (from daughter **Judy Ablinger Brangeon**)
  - Rosemary Hartrich Mullinax (from her children)
  - James & Louise Keller (from daughter **Katie Keller Wait**)

The sponsors' names will be listed on the old bank windows at the four-way-stop.

## **To Book the Foundation House**

Plan ahead, if you and your family wish to stay at the Foundation House. Make reservations with **Maxine Calvert 618-455-3227**.

## We Get Letters

*We get notes from children who tell us their parents would prefer a donation to the Sainte Marie Foundation instead of birthday or Christmas gifts. Here are some examples of such gifts:*

-**Kathy Null McFarland & family** (Morris) sent a donation honoring the birthday of her mother **Evelyn Radke Null** of (Joliet) to be used on "Foundation House improvements." Thank you, Kathy – and Evelyn (pix at left).



-**Bernie Huff's** (IN) daughter, **Lisa Huff Reed**, - (O'Fallon) made a Christmas donation in memory of her grandfather, **Bernard L. Huff, Sr.** and her father, who had requested this donation rather than a gift.

-Board member **Annette Hahn Kirts** received a unique Christmas gift. Her two daughters **Bridget Randolph** (Chatham) and **Kimberly Collins** (Indianapolis) sponsored a Flower Basket in her honor.

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-**Katie Keller Wait** (Huntington Beach, CA) wrote how much she is enjoying the newsletter. A sister of **Art Keller**, she attended the two year high school in Sainte Marie run by **Chris Ablinger**, ("a wonderful teacher," says Katie) then Newton High School for the final two years, and on to St. John's (Springfield) where she became a nurse. After many years in Decatur, she and her husband Bill moved to Huntington Beach to be near one of her four children. "We are no longer able to travel, so we will not be there to see all your work, but I do appreciate your efforts," she wrote. Thanks for your good wishes, Katie, and for sponsoring a basket.

A welcome note from **Donna Keller**: *I like to think of Sainte Marie as a "Community"...it's more than just the people who live in the town proper. The people who go to St. Mary's and/or live around Sainte Marie (and as you know the people who grew up in the area but now live away) consider Sainte Marie their home. Our address may be West Liberty...but we say we are from Sainte Marie!! And whenever there is a big celebration...it takes all the people in Sainte Marie and the Sainte Marie "Community" to pull together to get it done! Right you are, Donna. Thanks from this editor who did not grow up "in town" either.*

## News Notes

### **-Jim Litzelman Concert DVDs A Big Hit!**

We sold many DVD's of the **Jim Litzelman** Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> concert. Made by **Annette Lynch**, the video includes not only the concert, but interviews with Jim, his teachers, and his parents. **PLEASE NOTE: If your DVD does not work properly, please call 618-455-3227 and we will replace it. Seems there were technical problems with some of them. Sorry.**

-Congrats to **Dan Hartrich**, son of **Tony and Janet Hartrich**, and **Beth Bushur** of Effingham who wed on 1-1-11. Now that's an anniversary date Dan should find easy to remember!

-**Allison Tharp**, daughter of **Gina Mullinax Fox**, recently graduated from the EIU Business School and is working in Paris, IL, until she starts her master's in business administration, also at EIU. Allison is a third generation EIU graduate. Congratulations!

-**Annette Reis Lynch** was featured in *Circle*, a Lake Land College publication that is mailed to all college district residents. The full-page story told how Annette is a *continuing* community college student, since she retired from her 38 years of teaching science at Charleston (IL) Junior High School. It noted that she was a third place winner in the recent Tick Tock Film Short Competition, a national competition, and that she wants to help film the personal stories of people in her hometown of Ste. Marie. And that is why she takes digital media courses. Go, Annette!

-Thanks to **Ruthann Gowin**, River Grove, and **Mary Huff Rushin**, Joliet, who met at Pat Reis' condo in downtown Chicago shortly before Thanksgiving to help Pat with the Annual Report mailing. The talk was non-stop!

**Justin Stock**, Effingham, **Richard and Joyce Ochs'** grandson (**Mel and Elaine's** son) is now a freshman at Lake Land College in Mattoon, but he started a business **Stocksfreshlook** as part of a CEO Young Entrepreneur's class he took during his senior year in high school. If you are interested in reading some online, well-researched stock info, contact Justin at [j.stock.07@gmail.com](mailto:j.stock.07@gmail.com).

## Moving into Ste. Marie Homes

- **Josh and Mandy (Geltz) Kuhl** and daughter **Brooklyn** bought **Paul Mullinax's** home and have renovated and redecorated it. Mandy is the daughter of **David and Jane Geltz**.

-Welcome to **Dwayne and Diana Warner** from rural Oblong who bought **Freda Swisher's** home, which they are renovating. They met at the Saint Mary's Monday night dance some years ago. Nice to have you in town!

## Foundation House Update

Last fall, the little garage at the Foundation House received a rehab (it had a severe tilt to the south and a huge hole in the roof). Now it stands straight and proud, with a new roof, replacement siding, and broken windows repaired. It just looks terrific, and we are so glad we decided to use the \$\$ from the concert to save it! Thanks to **Ron and Carolyn Kirts and Maurice Calvert** who gave it a coat of primer before cold weather arrived. We will finish painting and landscaping around it in the spring.



The roof on the back building (the barn) was repaired just enough to keep it from flying away in a bad windstorm. A Foundation friend thinks we need a *fake cow* leaning out of the half door (yes, there was a cow in it at one point!), so if you have one hanging around, we might be interested.

**Thanks...**-To **Larry Hahn** for replacing the outdoor light fixture with a lovely, nearly-new fixture.

-To **Bob Helregel** for spreading soil for the south garden at the Foundation House.

**The Museum** – We are accepting items of interest for the museum, which will be housed inside the first floor.

Thanks for recent items given to us that include:

**Mary Hartrich** - Centennial /Barthelme store items

**Freda Swisher** – Centennial dress and items; cut glass vase and dish

**Leila Rennie** – cut glass stemmed glasses, bedroom table lamp (Loretta Zuber's), other dish items

**Don Hartrich** – Antique small platters

**The Chair** - Our most intriguing museum acquisition: A chair donated by **Kathryn Weintraub** of Chicago. The



antique chair is most unique, made in Cincinnati in the mid-1800's and given to family in Chicago who were "burned out" by the 1871 Chicago fire. We think the chair is one that the wealthy Picquet family would have chosen for their beautiful brick home when they came from France and founded Sainte Marie. The chair will be "for display only" at the Foundation House Museum.

### Pictures Wanted

We still have some grant funds left to copy your old pictures for our museum. We especially want wedding pictures, SM school class pictures, pictures from the 125<sup>th</sup> and 150<sup>th</sup> centennial celebrations. **Donna Keller** sent us a very old James Keller family picture recently, and we welcome such treasures.

### Stories Wanted

**Chris Alblinger** taught many of us, and I am sure there are stories about her that many might share. She once ran the two year high school in Ste. Marie, teaching six subjects: Latin I and II, math, science, history and English (*as a former teacher, it makes me tired just to think about teaching more than one or maybe two subjects*). Then she taught English at NCHS for many years. How did she help you? We would like to know for a possible article about her.

### Transitions

**-Helen Keller Graham**, 89, Oblong. Helen was a well known local artist who was a loyal supporter of the Foundation. Last May 30<sup>th</sup>, we honored Helen at a reception and exhibition of the 17 drawings of "Sainte Marie Ladies in Hats" that she gave to the Foundation. We had hoped she would be around for another exhibit of her work (see below). She will be sadly missed by her children, grandchildren and sisters **Dorothy Hahn, Freda Swisher and Evelyn Shoffstall**. Helen asked that memorials go to several arts organization or to the Sainte Marie Foundation.



*The Foundation may do a "retrospective" of Helen Graham's work at the Sainte Marie State Bank this summer. If you have one of her paintings, may we borrow it for a month or so for this exhibit? Contact Maxine 618-455-3227 if this is a possibility. We are especially interested in her SM and rural scenes.*

**-Sanford Wilson Wheat**, 86, father of **Roger Wheat**; father-in-law of **Sue Hunzinger Wheat**.

**-Viola Barthelme Creighton**, 89, Urbana. Viola, daughter of **Lester and Mae Grace Barthelme**, loved getting this newsletter. She is survived by 5 children, 16 grandchildren and 22 great-grandchildren. Cousin to Helen Graham (above).

**-Nancy Hartrich Deeters**, 73, Oblong. Survived by a son and two daughters; 7 grandchildren, two sisters and six brothers (including SM mayor **Bill Hartrich**).

### Vietnam Letters from Ken Stone



We received two copies of **Ken and Janis Stone's** book, *My Darling Wife: Letters from Vietnam 1962-63 and 1966-67* (2007). One is now being distributed (must be checked out) by the Rumpfs (see below) at the "library" in Village Hall. The other will be part of the

Museum collection at the Foundation House. I found the book fascinating; Ken did not mince words when he described the war. Here is an example from p. 93:

#### March 26, 1967

"This war is so ridiculous. We are really being made to look like a bunch of asses over here. When you think of a primitive country this size, with primitive weapons being able to stymie the greatest military force in the world, you wonder what would happen if we got into a real war. Let's face it, we've used every legal weapon we have (except for nuclear weapons) and we have scarcely dented their military structure. Even if we used nuclear weapons here, I don't think it would turn the trick. The VC and N. Vietnamese are better prepared than anyone else in the world. With all the tunnels they have dug all over this country, they could survive a pretty severe nuclear attack. I feel like ranting and raving tonight about the futility of this war. But if I get started, I could go on for several pages, so I better quit now."  
*From letters by **Captain Kenneth Stone**, an Army pilot who flew Mohawks on reconnaissance missions and helicopters with the First Infantry Division near Saigon and the Iron Triangle. After his Army career, he became an agricultural economics professor at Iowa State. Contact: [kstone@iastate.edu](mailto:kstone@iastate.edu)*

### Book Exchange Winter Hours

*From Robert Rumpff*

Due to the fact that the Lobby of the Sainte Marie Village Hall and the Hall itself is kept at such a low temperature during non-business hours, the library will only be open on request during sub-freezing weather. Requests can be made by contacting **Dottie or Robert Rumpff** at (618) 455-3248 on our normal Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thanks for everyone's cooperation.



**Ruthann Gowin**, River Grove, recently visited **Father Kurt Hartrich**, pastor of St. Peter's Church in downtown Chicago. "He said he wanted to see Ste. Marie folks," Gowin said, "so I dropped in to see him."

Yes, I want to help the Sainte Marie Foundation. Enclosed is my check for:

\_\_\_ \$25 \_\_\_ \$50 \_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_ \$1000 Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is *in memory of*: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Or *in honor of*: (print) \_\_\_\_\_

(Names will be included in the quarterly Foundation newsletter and/or annual report.)



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[www.saintemariefoundation.org](http://www.saintemariefoundation.org)

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). The Foundation is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization, duly recognized as an Illinois charitable corporation. Donations are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Do you have a Sainte Marie story you would like to share? Write your own and/or contact Pat Reis [patreisprpr@yahoo.com](mailto:patreisprpr@yahoo.com). We reserve the right to edit.

### **Dorothy Helregel Mathios Concert:**

**A Benefit for the Sainte Marie Foundation**

**Saturday, September 3, 2011 ..... St. Mary's Church – 2 p.m.**



#### **A note from Dorothy:**

*Dorothy is thrilled to be returning to her hometown for this benefit concert. Sainte Marie holds a very special place in her heart. All through grade school (in SM), at Newton Community High School and at Eastern Illinois University, there were angels along the way to support and encourage her dreams in music.*

*Dorothy went on to Chicago where she won the WGN Illinois Opera Guild Award, the Chicago Tribune Musicland Festival Award, the North Shore Women's Club Award and a Scholarship to the Boris Goldovsky Opera Workshop. She appeared on WGN and NBC television with the Chicago Symphony, as well as in concert with the Rockford Symphony, West Side Symphony, the Grant Park Festivals and McCormick Place. Her dreams came true when she appeared with the Chicago Lyric Opera, the Metropolitan Opera in New York City and the Los Angeles Center Opera.*

*After moving to southern California, Dorothy began teaching music and has continued performing at concerts, in church chorales and as a soloist. During the last nine years, Dorothy has been caregiver for her daughter Jenny, helping her overcome brain cancer. During Jenna's debilitating treatment while in New York, one of her wise doctors told Jenna, "You will heal yourself through your music." And she did.*

Jenna will also be performing – as are other surprise performers. This will be a special concert! More details in the next newsletter. We just want you to put this on your calendar now. A reception will follow the concert.

**Bonus Pages**  
**FOR SALE**



**This '50's desk and chair at the Foundation House does not fit our decorating scheme, so we are offering it for sale.(It was not originally from Ste. Marie.) If you know anyone who collects 50's furniture, this is a real find. We are asking \$150 or best offer for it. You must pick it up. We do not provide shipping. Call Maxine Calvert 618-455-3227 if you are interested.**

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**FALL WORK**



Bob Helregel moves dirt on the south side of the house.



The barn roof is repaired.



Repairing the south side of the garage. Rotten siding had to be replaced.