



Sainte Marie Foundation News

To celebrate our very special hometown's summer season 2011

Volume 4, Issue 3

DOROTHY HELREGEL MATHIOUS IN CONCERT

A Benefit for the Sainte Marie Foundation's South Garden Project

Saturday, September 3, 2011 --- 1 p.m.

St. Mary's Church, Sainte Marie, IL.

Reception following concert at the Foundation House.

Tickets: \$10 adults; \$5 Students/children: Available at Sainte Marie State Bank, Peoples State Bank of Newton, First National Bank of Dieterich (Newton branch) and First Financial Bank (Newton) or Sainte Marie Foundation (%Annette Kirts), PO Box 186, Ste. Marie, IL 62459



Dorothy attended the Ste. Marie Elementary School, Newton Community High School and Eastern Illinois University. From there she traveled far -- singing opera in Chicago, New York, Los Angeles. She eventually settled in the Los Angeles area where she has continued to sing and teach.

Dorothy will be singing a varied selection of music, from opera to a medley of songs from *The Sound of Music*. She will be accompanied by Newton pianist, **Karen Sainer**, and a trio of strings from nearby towns. Dorothy had the selected music specially arranged by an LA composer, **George N. Gianopoulos**. She also booked a grand piano from **Samuel Music, Effingham**, who gave her a generous discount since the concert is a benefit for the Foundation.

Joining her for this concert will be her daughter, **Jenna**, who has a story to tell – of being named the “Best Little Singer in Burbank (CA)“, of graduating from the University of Southern California with a degree in vocal performance, of moving to New York to sing opera there, and then the tragedy of a brain tumor that threatened her life. Come see a miracle who sings.



The proceeds from this concert will be used to design and begin construction on a special garden on the south side of the Foundation House. A planning committee met with a landscape designer in late June. We hope to have a design to show everyone during the Labor Day weekend. The design will center on a fountain donated to the Foundation by St. Mary's. It was donated to the church by the Norton Reis Family after his death and was used as a baptismal font until the diocese asked all churches to have full-immersion fonts.

You are always welcome to make a donation to the Foundation, even if you cannot attend the concert. Our fiscal year ends September 30, so send your contribution now. We want to include you in the Annual Report list!

Also, that weekend.....St. Mary's Picnic, Sunday, September 4

Serving dinner from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Want to volunteer for an hour or so at the Picnic? Call Bill Hartrich 618-455-1315. The Foundation House will be open for viewing from 1 – 5 p.m. Stop by and see how far we have progressed since last year.

FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT

The Sainte Marie Foundation recently received a \$2,515 grant from the **Mary Heath Foundation**, Robinson, to purchase a 20-panel display unit for the planned museum in the Foundation House.

This unit will enable us to display letters, pictures, old newspapers and other paper memorabilia in a limited amount of space. We are most grateful to the Heath Foundation for their support, especially since we are preparing for a large historical exhibit for Sainte Marie's 175th anniversary in 2012.

The Mary Heath Foundation, established in 1991, makes grants to qualifying tax-exempt organizations that are physically located in the State of Illinois. The organization's project or activity must be for the direct benefit and enjoyment of the general public.



(L-R) **Stewart J Schutte**, Trust Officer at First National Bank Trust Services in Robinson, presents the Heath Foundation's check to **Mike Hartrich**, secretary and director of historical acquisitions for the Sainte Marie Foundation.

House Update

The Foundation House continues to improve, thanks to the efforts of wonderful volunteers.

The May 13/14 and June 25th Workdays drew many volunteers, including **Vinnie and June (Keller) Zuber** from Assumption, IL. (they surprised us!!); **Gloria (Zuber) Schwartz**, Belleville; **Glenda (Reis) Schwartz**, Effingham; **Anita (Reis) Steber**, Olney; **Patti (Swisher) Bunton**, Robinson; **Don Perille**, Skokie; **Larry Hahn and Kevin Parker**, Newton; **Pat Reis**, Chicago; **Ron and Carolyn (Litzelman) Kirts**; **Bob Helregel, Kelly Borgic**; **Maurice and Maxine Calvert**; **Anna Lou Stone**, from Sainte Marie.

There were lots of odd jobs – putting away the Christmas tree, replacing all the batteries in the smoke alarms (we have 9 in that big house!), attaching the quarter round on the sun porch (thanks, Larry), cleaning up after the long winter, painting the file room and doors, replacing chair seat covers, etc.

The garage received a final coat of paint, thanks to **Ronnie, Vinnie and Bob**. They also installed a

countertop in the back of the garage, donated by **Scott and Joyce Reis** when they redid their kitchen recently.



Pat stained the sun porch floor and **Maxine and Anna Lou** put on two coats of varnish. Special thanks to **Gloria (Zuber) Schwartz** (*pix at left*) who brought in her sister, **Patty Gassman**, and sister-in-law, **Birdie Zuber**, to clean the sun porch floor and windows early in

the week before the May workdays. They really gave us a head start on the varnishing. That floor was soooo clean. Gloria said she refilled the bucket of water multiple times before she felt the floor was really clean.

Thanks once again to **Hartrich's Meats** who donated the lunches. What a treat that always is for us. Lunch is always fun – when we come together, catch up on the news and laugh a lot!

We got a chuckle out of several e-mails that were replies to our request for volunteers to help at the May workdays ----

Dave Heneberry, MD, wrote:

*Your email really takes me back. One of the memories I have from spending summers with my grandparents (**Harley and Lena Kirts**) was painting that garage. I must have been 11 or 12, and at the time it was a big deal for me to have been trusted with what I felt was such a big task. I wish I could be there to help. I do hope to make it out to pitch in sometime soon. I look at the Foundation House and that garage every day because I have the painting that my mother did of the property hanging in my home.*

Roger Picquet, CA, wrote:

Love to join you but it is about a 2300 mile trip, and I don't think my wife will let me take the car that far. I am considering a trip to MO in March 2012 and would try to find time to run over to Ste Marie for a day or two. My best to you.

Organizing Committee for the 175th Anniversary

There will be another meeting on Tuesday, July 12, at the Municipal Building (fire house) at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Mowing and Landscaping

Six volunteer mowers keep the lawn looking so nice at the Foundation House. Thanks to **George Kirts** for organizing a great group of guys: **Bob Helregel, John Michl, Robert Rump/Louis Valbert and Jack Thompson**. Also thanks to **Patty (Swisher) Bunton** and **Maxine Calvert** for the beautiful flowers and shrubs that they keep in great shape.

Remember, the Foundation House is available for your family events. This summer we have had visitors stay at the house for various reasons, including a wedding, an unexpected funeral, and a family reunion. We welcome all former and present Sainte Marie-ites and their families. Contact Maxine Calvert, 618-455-3227, for information and reservations.

Transitions

Harold Geltz, 78, Willow Hill. Survivors include wife Ruth and brothers, **Frank** of Ste Marie, **Norbert** of Aurora and **Bob** of Oswego; sisters, **Betty Knell** of Warrentville, **Evelyn Kocher** of Ste. Marie and **Mary K. Berry** of Olney. All grew up on a farm near Ste. Marie.

Tony Zwilling, 80, Olney. Survived by wife **Mary Jane (Elie) Zwilling** and 3 children. His funeral was at St. Mary's with full military honors (including a wonderful bagpiper). The mass was celebrated by his nephew, **Rev. Matthew Elie**, Belleville.

As we go to press:

Evelyn Keller Shoffstall, 94, Ste. Marie
Richard Louis "Rick" Spannagel, 64, Ste. Marie
Lorraine Dallimier, 86, Willow Hill

News from SM

-**Arianna Goss**, ten year old daughter of **Christina (Michl) and Larry Goss**, competes in tumbling and on the trampoline. After placing well in trampoline at the state contest, she moved on to a June national competition in West Virginia where she placed 3rd in trampoline and 18th in tumbling. **Congratulations, Arianna**. She is **John and Rose Michl's** granddaughter.

-Welcome to **Joshua Thomas Huber**, son of **Steve and Mandy (Zuber) Huber**, born in late January. Mandy and her sons **Zeke (7)** and **Levi (4)** have been living with her parents, **Sam and Linda Zuber**, while Army husband, Captain Steve, serves overseas. She reports that as of the fall, Steve will return and they will all be together in Clarksville, TN, for a two year stint – “only about 2½ hours from Sainte Marie,” says Mandy.

-Another new baby: **Layla Jo Kuhl**, born June 14 and welcomed by **Mandy (Geltz) and Josh Kuhl** and big sister **Brooklyn**. Grandparents are **David and Jane (Strutner) Geltz**, who also had daughter **Jenny (Geltz) McIver** and children **Elliott (4)** and **Sidney (2)** visiting from the state of Washington.

-Welcome to **Gloria Litzelman** and children who have purchased the **Marge (Barthelme) Hartrich** house on Embarrass Street.

-**Jeffrey and Kristie Finley** bought **Marie Ochs'** home. Jeff is a band director at the Jasper County junior high and an assistant for the NCHS band. Kristie is also a teacher. **WELCOME!**

Visiting Around



Pat Reis recently visited with **Katie Keller Wait**, (at left) sister of **Art Keller**, in her Southern CA home. She interviewed Katie about her early childhood years, growing up in the big old Huber house along the Embarrass River east of Sainte Marie (no longer standing).

What a great lady!! Watch for her story in the book we are doing for the 175th Anniversary. We're still looking for more family stories. **If you don't want to write one yourself, let us know, and we will do an interview (by phone, if necessary)**

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Sisters (L-R) Glenda Schwartz and Anita Steber at the Workday in June. Wish we could pay them what they are really worth!!

THOSE BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS!!

Sainte Marie's 14 flower baskets are receiving accolades this summer from all the folks who travel on the Ste. Marie Road (Main Street). Thanks to those stalwarts who take turns watering every day (yes!) -**Ron/Carolyn Kirts; Bob/Tammy Frye; Maurice/Maxine Calvert** - with a specially designed rig.

Sainte Marie Foundation
P.O. Box 186
Sainte Marie, IL 62459

Workdays:

Friday, Aug. 26, 9 - 3

Saturday, Aug. 27, 9 - 3

The Sainte Marie Foundation newsletter is published quarterly. Send comments to writer/editor Pat Reis, 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.

People You Should Know



Tony and Janet Hartrich pose in front of the many awards Hartrich's has received for their meat products.

Tony and Janet Hartrich are the kind of entrepreneurs any community would welcome. As partners in **Hartrich Meats, Inc.** with brother **Mark**, they run a meat processing plant that has been around for three generations, with Mark's son, **Craig**, and Tony and Janet's son, **Daniel**, now part of the business.

Started by Tony and Mark's deceased father, **Harold Hartrich** (whose wife **Lucy** still lives near the plant and was active in the business until recent years) in 1952, the business has expanded over the years to include a small grocery and catering service, all located in Ste. Marie.

Most well-known item: PORK BURGERS! Where else can you get those delicious delicacies? (See side story.) Today, Jasper County organizations have Pork Burger Days to raise \$\$ -- and those burgers generally come from Hartrich's, along with their pork burger cooker.

Their major business is still custom beef and pork, as well as deer processing during the hunting season, but their three-year-old catering business is doing very well. "We've done wedding rehearsal dinners,

class reunions, Christmas parties, business meetings, weddings and funerals," says Janet.

In the small grocery, they have the usual staples but also sell custom-made (their own label) salsa (*Peach is a best seller!*), unforgettable beets (*this writer's favorite*), chow, pickles (*to die for!*), other veggies as well as their award-winning beef summer sausage and other smoked meats. If you have never tried their marinated chicken breasts, you have missed a great food opportunity. Wow, are they good!

A fact you might not know: they can ship across the country! Yes, those pork burgers you cannot get in your local store can be shipped to you. Just give them a call at 618-455-3172. Of course, most of us just bring a big cooler and cart the goodies home.

If you're in town on a Saturday morning, stop by the store and try some samples off the new Traeger grills they are now selling. Those must be the Cadillac of grills!! Just another innovation from one of our creative Ste. Marie family businesses!

Did you know that the pork burger was probably first created at Hartrich's Meat Processing Plant in Ste. Marie? This little-known fact emerged in my interview with Tony Hartrich and was confirmed by Larry Casey, retired Jasper County Farm Advisor with the U of I Cooperative Extension Service. Casey wanted to do a fundraiser for the Teen Center in the late 60's, so he worked with Harold Hartrich to develop a pork patty that teenagers would love to eat. They did not tell the kids what kind of meat it was until the end of the fundraiser – and after that everyone wanted pork burgers! "If you go two counties out from Jasper County, you won't find pork burgers," says Casey, "although one other county claims they created the delicacy. But I am sure that Hartrich's was first!"