



# Chagrin Falls Exponent

Chagrin Falls Historical Society 21 Walnut St. Shute Memorial Building  
Web Site: [www.chagrinhistorical.org](http://www.chagrinhistorical.org) (440) 247-4695

John Bourisseau, Editor

September, 2013

Ron Humphrey, Graphics Editor

## Slavery and the Underground Railroad



**A Presentation by Sylvia Wiggins**  
**Thursday Sept. 19, 2013**  
**7:30 p.m.**  
**Refreshments Served**

## STRATEGIC PLANNING ON TO THE FUTURE

We continue to work on our strategic plan. As mentioned in previous newsletters, our goal is to be completed, and have the plan approved by the Board, by the end of the year. We continue to be in communication with our consultant, Andy Verhof, from the Ohio Historical Society. Andy reviews our progress and provides input. We are presently working on developing SMART tasks for each objective. Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant and Time-based.

As we work through the process, we have begun to implement some small changes that were needed for immediate impact. Some of these include the creation of new membership categories and the clearing of space in the Shute Building so that we can have more working space. We have decided to clear the space we call the bedroom. This room probably has close to 1000 items in it from quilts, clothing, nicknacks, jewelry and a variety of other items donated over the years. All of these items will need to be itemized--hopefully photographed, and then packed away in conservation boxes for storage in a climate controlled storage area. Storage will be short term (1-2 years).

Our biggest two areas of focus in the strategic plan will be to identify what specific kinds of space and equipment needs we have and how to raise the funds necessary to support a new space. As mentioned by Pat in her column, we have had a busy Summer. Through Strategic Planning, visitors, volunteers working, we have become more and more aware of how inadequate our present space is. Much of our exhibit space doubles--or triples--as storage space and work space, all at the same time. Many Thursday afternoons we may have 6 or 7 volunteers working in the main room or 'kitchen', while visitors are trying to walk around, see and understand the exhibits. The fact that the building is not handicapped accessible, keeps some of our members and

guests from attending programs, or coming to the museum.

We have been blessed for many years with a free facility--but now it is time to move on. My best guess is that we will need to raise between 1 and 1 1/2 million dollars in order to purchase, renovate and then sustain a new space. It is inevitable that the Village will need the space occupied by the Shute Building sometime in the future. It would be best that we be able to make a move on our own timeline.

*John Bourisseau*

## 2013-2014 PROGRAMS

A special thank you to Anne Burr, Pat Zalba, Gretchen Hamann and Jo Roeder for their work in developing this year's programs. Enclosed with this mailing is a listing of the programs for the year. Please be sure to mark your calendars now.

## MEMBERSHIP FORMS

Enclosed is a new membership form. You will see some changes to categories and fee schedules. We no longer will have a Life Membership category *for new members*. If you are presently a life member, you will automatically retain that status.

Dues(for non life members) will be in effect from Sept 1, through August 31st of any given year, and are due upon receipt of the form. If dues are not received by Dec. 1st we assume you are no longer interested in the Society and your name will be removed from our list.

*JoAnn Roeder, Membership Chairperson*

## WHERE THERE IS A WILL THERE IS A WAY

Have you considered planned giving? While monies from bequests may not be available for our immediate needs, they can certainly help to sustain the Society in the future. Talk to your financial planner to discuss how you can help to sustain our future.

*John Bourisseau*

**Condolences  
to the family of  
Marge Baerman  
and to  
Bruce Adler  
on the passing  
of his mother.**

**Welcome to  
new members  
Robert Boone—  
Life**

**Bob and Ann  
Chaney**

**Pam Hultin**

**Philip Owen**

**Bob and  
Kathleen  
Skopec**

## CHAGRIN DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL

This year during the Chagrin Documentary Film Festival, October 2-6, the Historical Society will host two Historical Tours. The first tour will leave from Township Hall Saturday Oct. 5th at 10:30 a.m. Participants will get on Lolly the Trolley and tour the Homes of the West side Historic district, as well as a few homes in other areas of the Village. The tour will last about an hour. Tickets will cost \$10 and it is limited to 50 people. They will be available through the Film Festival website beginning September 1st, or at Township Hall beginning September 3rd. A tour of the Historic Downtown business district will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the bandstand. This tour will also last about an hour and will be limited to 30 people. Tickets for this tour will also be on sale at Township Hall or the Film Documentary website.

*John Bourisseau*



*B. Scott Isquick, passenger in 1908 Brush automobile driven by Sheldon Loewenthal.*

## CLASSIC CAR CLUB VISITS CHAGRIN FALLS

The Ohio Regional Classic Car Club of America visited Chagrin Falls on Sunday, August 4th. They parked their cars in the municipal parking lot and made a visit to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society. About 40 members toured the Society and asked questions following a brief history of the Village given by Curator, Pat Zalba. President John Bourisseau and his grandson

Aidan and Keith and Zo Sykora served as docents. Don Barriball prepared lists of early gas stations in the Village and of car dealerships in Chagrin in 1926. Photographs of gas stations and interesting cars and antique toy cars were on display as well as a photo of B. Scott Isquick and Sheldon Loewenthal in the 1908 Brush automobile which Mr. Loewenthal purchased in 1951 from Doc Stem. Mr. Loewenthal was told that the car was originally owned by Charles Gates who used it to deliver mail in the Chagrin Valley. Dr. Stem used it during the 1938 Cleveland Air Show as a utility vehicle. Mr. Isquick, a member of the ORCCA and an attendee at the gathering at the Society, was pleased to take home a copy of our photograph and told me that Mr. Loewenthal restored the car and that it is still owned by his family. We so enjoyed their visit.

*Zo Sykora*

## PLAQUE COMMITTEE

After a few years' hiatus, the 35 year old Century Home Plaque program has been revived. At the June board meeting the executive committee voted to approve the 5 month work of the plaque committee and the program is now open for applications.

The plaque will be replicated from the original design as seen on over 80 homes throughout the village.

Criteria for a plaque requires that homes are in Chagrin or the Township, at least 100 years old and have the original lines substantially visible. The homes may have additions less than 75% of the original square footage and the homes' integrity and scale should be preserved. There may not be cladded material such as aluminum or vinyl siding or brick veneer.

The cost for the program is \$325 if the applicant does their own research. This will cover the cost to have the Society verify research plus \$200 for the plaque. If the applicant hires an accredited researcher, the cost will be \$200.

Applications are available at the Society 247-4695 or online at [www.chagrinhistorical.org](http://www.chagrinhistorical.org)

Members of the Plaque Committee are available to offer guidance and to help with questions.

*Beth Skeel, Plaque Committee Chair*

### Curator's Corner

#### Overview Calendar

<b>September</b>	<b>10</b>	Chagrin Falls Historical Society Board Meeting, Shute Building, 9:30 a.m.
	<b>16</b>	John Bourisseau to speak at Chagrin Valley Woman's Club luncheon. Cucina Rustica, Bainbridge, noon
	<b>18</b>	Strategic Planning, Shute Building 10-2
	<b>19</b>	Evening Program, "Slavery and the Underground Railroad", Sylvia Wiggins, Shute Building, 7:30 p.m.
	<b>27</b>	Safe Walk to School--Treasure Hunt. All around town, 3:00-5:30. (Rain date Oct. 4th)

#### Looking Ahead

<b>October</b>	<b>2-6</b>	Chagrin Documentary Film Festival Lolly the Trolley Historical Home Tour 10:30 a.m., Downtown Business Tour 12:30 p.m. (see article elsewhere in this issue)
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#### Busy Summer at the Museum:

This summer we have had visitors from the states of Georgia, Nebraska, Florida, Michigan and Washington--as well as local residents requesting house information, genealogy, summer school projects, railway lines, etc. We have also helped with the research for the current "Cleveland Magazine" and the upcoming "Chagrin Valley Magazine", and we continued to meet to work on our Strategic Planning.

#### ORCCCA Club Visit

On Sunday August 4th we welcomed about 40 members of the Ohio Region Classic Car Club of America to the museum for a program and visit. We had special car related displays in place throughout the museum in their honor. They, in turn, had all their cars on display at the West Washington Street Parking lot. Thanks to our Police Department for providing an area for their cars and for displaying the 1957 Police car. Thanks to John Bourisseau and his grandson, Aidan, Zo and Keith Sykora who helped me host the event.

#### Volunteers Needed for Safe Walk-Treasure Hunt Sept. 27th

Do you enjoy working with 7th and 8th graders? This is a fun event and we could use your help for the treasure hunt for historic sites in the Village. The 7th and 8th graders will be given clues for the hunt and the Historical Society volunteers (provided with the answers) will be stationed all around town to work with the children. It lasts about 2 1/2 hours and is good fun! Please call me (247-5209) if you are interested in helping (rain date--Oct. 4th)

*Pat Zalba*  
*Volunteer Curator*