



# Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

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*Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights assets, history, events, and resources for and about Milwaukee neighborhoods. Residents and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit press releases on their events and successful programs. See back page for details.

## February and March activities in Milwaukee neighborhoods (most under \$10)

*Total of 49 events under the categories of museums, arts, family, kids, holiday events, neighborhood celebrations, get-moving events, walks/tours, food/farmers markets, and several more*

### WALKING/STREETCAR TOURS

**What?** SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF VA GROUNDS **When?** Daily, daylight **Where?** Just north of Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Av. **Description** A walk through the historic district which includes the Soldiers' Home, barracks building, old fire station, old hospital, Ward Memorial Theater, and more. <http://www.milwaukee.va.gov/visitors/campus.asp> **Admission** Free.



**What?** A GUIDED TOUR OF BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT **When?** Reserve tour on website. **Where?** Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. **Description** Opportunity to see and learn about one of the most beautiful and visited churches in America. **Admission** Free.

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## Changes in ethnic populations in Milwaukee neighborhoods

*Oral history projects shed light on the transitions*



In the twenty-first century, very few Milwaukee neighborhoods are dominated by the same ethnic populations they were in the early twentieth century. Interviews from the scores of oral history projects conducted by Urban Anthropology, Inc. shed light on how and why a number of these transitions have taken place.

### Milwaukee's Old South Side and the transition from Polish to Latino

Early in the twentieth century the city's Old South Side--and most particularly the neighborhoods of Baran Park and Lincoln Village -- were dominated by Poles. Most of these were immigrants from the German Sector of Poland. For the better part of the century, they built a very cohesive neighborhood. See quotes from the Old South Side



oral history project.

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## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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**What?** UNGUIDED TOUR OF BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT  
**When?** Mon.'s through Fri.'s., 9am to 3pm  
**Where?** Visitor's Center, Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St  
**Description** Opportunity to see and learn about one of the most beautiful churches in America with informational exhibits on lower level. <http://the-basilica.org/>  
**Admission** Free.

**What?** SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF FOREST HOME CEMETERY  
**When?** Daily 8am-4:30pm  
**Where?** 2405 W. Forest Home  
**Description** Tour the beautiful Chapel Gardens, Landmark Chapel, and the Hall of History that tells the story of Milwaukee dignitaries, including European founders of Milwaukee, several mayors, major African American activists, and brewery tycoons. **Admission** Free.

**What?** WALK THROUGH MILWAUKEE'S LATINO HISTORY  
**When?** Daily  
**Where?** United Community Center, 1028 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St.  
**Description** Opportunity to learn about Latino history by visiting tannery and foundry exhibits, photos, and art inside the UCC building, and historical murals on two sides of Bruce Guadalupe School next door. <http://www.unitedcc.org/index.htm>  
**Admission** Free.

**What?** THE HOP STREETCAR TOUR  
**When?** Most Fri.s and Sat.s at 11am.  
**Where?** 235 E Michigan St.  
**Description** Explore urban renewal from the edge of the Menomonee Valley to Downtown's Yankee Hill neighborhood. <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/>  
**Admission** Free to \$15, preregistration required.

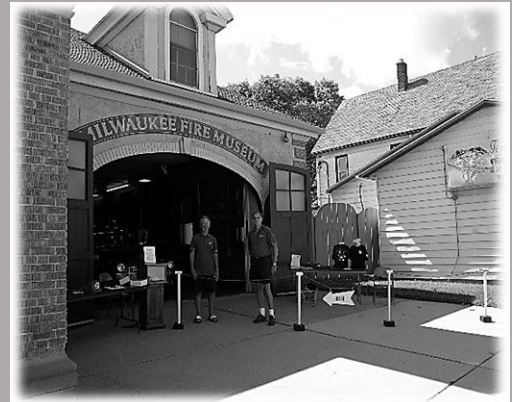
**What?** SKYWAUKEE TOUR  
**When?** Most Sat.s at 11am.  
**Where?** 161 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
**Description** Stroll through the skywalk system and learn about significant Milwaukee landmarks from a new angle—one story up! <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/>  
**Admission** Free to \$15, preregistration required.

### MUSEUMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

**What?** CHARLES ALLIS ART MUSEUM  
**When?** Wed.'s through Sun.'s 10am to 4pm, reservations helpful as hours may vary.  
**Where?** 1801 N. Prospect Av.  
**Description** Self-guided tour of Tudor-style mansion of entrepreneur Charles Allis designed by Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. <http://www.charlesallis.org/>  
**Admission** \$10, \$5 seniors & students; Free first Wednesdays.

**What?** MILWAUKEE FIRE MUSEUM  
**When?** 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of each month, 1 to 3pm, (except holidays).  
**Where?** 1516 W. Oklahoma Av.  
**Description** Opportunity to see exhibits and artifacts of the Milwaukee Fire Department back to the 1800s; stories of history of the department and fires. <http://city.milwaukee.gov/MUSEUMHISTORICALSOCIETY.htm#VkOAEAMrLIU>  
**Admission** Free.

## Happening in the Polonia neighborhood



Enjoy a bit of Milwaukee fire history at the Fire Museum

1516 W. Oklahoma Avenue  
Open first Sunday of every month  
at 1 to 3pm

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## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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*What?* VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM  
*When?* Wed.'s thru Sun.'s 10am to 4pm, reservations helpful as hours may vary. *Where?* 2220 N. Terrace Av. *Description* Self-guided tour of mansion informed by the design of a villa in Lombardy, Italy, complete with Renaissance Garden, and antique furnishings and artifacts. <https://www.villaterrace.org/>  
*Admission* \$10, \$7 seniors, military & students.

*What?* MILWAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *When?* Mon., Wed. thru Sat., 9:30am to 5pm *Where?* 910 N. Martin Luther King Dr. *Description* Permanent and rotating exhibits of Milwaukee County's history plus a research library. Current exhibit, "Brew City: The Story of Milwaukee Beer." New permanent exhibit: "Meet MKE" sponsored by Visit Milwaukee. <http://www.milwaukeehistory.net/> *Admission* \$8, \$6 seniors, military, students; children  $\leq 12$ , and members free.

*What?* HAGGERTY MUSEUM OF ART *When?* Daily 10am to 4:30pm, Thu. 10am-8pm; Sun., 12 to 5pm *Where?* Marquette campus at corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Clybourn Sts. *Description* Permanent collections include Old Masters' prints, Ralph Steiner photos, Marc Chagall Bible series, Barbara Morgan photos, and Finnegan, Fishman, Tatalovich, and Rojzman collections. <http://www.marquette.edu/haggerty/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* GROHMANN MUSEUM *When?* Mon. through Fri. 9am to 5pm, Sat.'s 12 to 6pm, Sun.'s 1 to 4pm *Where?* 1000 N. Broadway *Description* More than 1,000 paintings and sculptures representing the long evolution of human work. <http://www.msoe.edu/about-msoe/grohmann-museum/> *Admission* \$5, \$3 students, seniors; free  $< 12$ .

*What?* NORTHPOINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM *When?* Sat. and Sun. 1 to 4pm *Where?* Northpoint Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Av. *Description* A historic, maritime experience, with artifacts related to the history of the Great Lakes. <http://northpointlighthouse.org/> *Admission* \$8, \$5 seniors & kids 5-11, free kids  $< 4$ .

*What?* MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM FREE DAY *When?* Free 1<sup>st</sup> Thu. each month *Where?* 800 W. Wells St. *Description* Chance to visit one of the premier natural history and science facilities, world-renowned for its exhibits, collections, ongoing scientific research and educational exhibits. [www.mpm.edu/](http://www.mpm.edu/) *Admission* Free (on date designated).

*What?* MITCHELL PARK DOMES *When?* Wed. to Fri., 9am to 5pm; Sat., Sun. 9am-4pm. *Where?* 524 S. Layton Blvd. *Description* A place to experience a desert oasis, a tropical jungle, and special floral gardens all in one visit. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/MitchellParkConserva10116.htm> *Admission* Free to \$8.

*What?* MILWAUKEE DISCOVERY WORLD *When?* Wed. through Sun. 9am to 4pm. *Where?* 500 N. Harbor Dr. *Description* A science and technology center and museum. <https://www.discoveryworld.org/> *Admission* \$14 to \$20.

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## Happening in the Northpoint neighborhood



## Enjoy the seasons at the Northpoint Lighthouse Museum

2650 N. Wahl Avenue  
Open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4pm

## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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*What?* HARLEY-DAVIDSON MUSEUM *When?* Daily 10am to 5pm. *Where?* 400 W. Canal St. *Description* Exhibits on the history of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle. <https://www.harley-davidson.com/us/en/museum.html> *Admission* \$8-\$22 (4 or under are free).

### ARTS, THEATRE, AND CRAFTS

*What?* WALKER'S POINT CENTER FOR THE ARTS *When?* Tue.'s through Sat.'s 12 to 5pm. *Where?* 839 S 5th St. *Description* Ongoing exhibitions in a community setting. <http://wpca-milwaukee.org/> *Admission* Free to look.

*What?* ART BAR *When?* Daily 3pm to 12am. *Where?* 722 E. Burleigh St. *Description* Permanent and temporary art exhibits. <https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke/> *Admission* Adults, free to look.

*What?* GALLERY AT MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN *When?* Mon. through Sat., 10am to 5pm. *Where?* 273 E. Erie St. *Description* Rotating exhibitions of renowned artists, MIAD students, and MIAD faculty. <http://www.miad.edu/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* GALLERY 218 *When?* Sat. 12 to 5pm. *Where?* 207 East Buffalo St. Suite 218. *Description* The cooperative gallery of the Walker's Point Artists Assoc., Inc. <https://gallery218.com/> *Admission* Free, donations welcome.

*What?* JAZZ GALLERY FOR THE ARTS *When?* Sat.'s 12 to 5pm. *Where?* 926 E Center St. *Description* New exhibits every other month. <https://riverwestart.org/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* VAR WEST GALLERY *When?* Thu. through Sat., 11am to 4pm. *Where?* 423 W Pierce St. *Description* Focusing on exhibiting solo shows for emerging and established artists, including full bar for purchases during events. <https://www.varwestgallery.com/about> *Admission* Free to look.

*What?* TERRY MCCORMICK CONTEMPORARY FINE AND FOLK ART GALLERY *When?* Call (414) 264-6766 to visit. *Where?* 2522 N. 18th St. *Description* Contemporary art by the founder, Evelyn Patricia Terry, along with several friends whose work she exhibits. <https://www.facebook.com/terrymccormick-gallery/> *Admission* Free to look.

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

*What?* MARQUETTE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL *When?* (regular season) *Where?* Al McGuire Center, 770 N. 12<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Marquette University women's basketball games. <http://www.gomarquette.com/sports/w-baskbl/sched/marq-w-baskbl-sched.html> *Admission* Some tickets \$5 to \$10.

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## Happening in the North Division Neighborhood



### Virtual tour of the Terry McCormick contemporary fine- and folk-art gallery

The work of Evelyn Patricia Terry and a tour of her neighborhood museum can be accessed at the following websites:

[evelynpatriciaterry.com](http://evelynpatriciaterry.com)

and

[Virtual Tour: Terry McCormick Contemporary Fine and Folk Art Gallery.](#)

Above are examples from the series, Pastel Drawings, and Artists Books on the general website



# ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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## ECO/NATURE ACTIVITIES

*What?* EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—MENOMONEE VALLEY *When?* Most Tue.'s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of all levels to explore Three Bridges Park for birds. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission* Free.

*What?* EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—WASHINGTON *When?* Most Wed.'s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Washington Park, 1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to walk through different habitats for birds. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission* Free.

*What?* EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—RIVERSIDE *When?* Most Thu.'s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Pl. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to explore different habitats for birds and other animals. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission* Free.

## FOOD AND FARMERS MARKETS

*What?* WINTER FARMERS MARKET *When?* Jan. 27 to Apr. 13, 9am to 2pm. *Where?* 5305 W. Capitol Dr. *Description* Produce, bakery, canned goods, meat. *Admission* Free.

## FOR THE FAMILY

*What?* FAMILY FREE DAY AT THE ZOO *When?* Sat., Feb. 3 and Mar. 2. *Where?* 10001 W. Bluemound Rd. *Description* Sponsored by North Shore Bank. *Admission* Free.

*What?* STORYTIME AT THE DOMES *When?* Every Wed. 10:00 to 10:30am. *Where?* Mitchell Park, 524 S. Layton Blvd. *Description* Stories in Spanish and English. *Admission* Unk.

*What?* WINTERFEST AT WASHINGTON PARK *When?* Sat., Feb. 3 11am to 2pm. *Where?* Urban Ecology Center, Washington Park, 1859 N 40th St. *Description* Participants will be able to ski through the park, go on a snowshoeing adventure, snow paint and more *Admission* Assumed free.

## GAMES

*What?* BINGO *When?* Third Tue. of every month, 1:30 to 3:30 pm. *Where?* Bay View Community Center, 1320 E Oklahoma Ave. *Description* Game of bingo. *Admission* Unk.

## ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

*What?* ROOFTOP STARGAZING *When?* Fri. Feb. 16, Mar. 22 9 to 10pm. *Where?* Manfred Olson Planetarium, UW-M Physics

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Happening in the  
Washington Park  
neighborhood



Early morning  
birdwalk

Washington  
Park  
1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street

# ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

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building, 1900 E. Kenwood Blvd. *Description* Gaze at stars and planets through telescopes. *Admission* Free.

## GET-MOVING ACTIVITIES

*What?* HANK AARON STATE TRAIL *When?* Daily. *Where?* Multiple access points; see map on website *Description* Opportunity to enjoy natural and urban views and walk or bike trail across Milwaukee, from the lakefront to 94<sup>th</sup> Pl. <http://hankaaronstatetrail.org/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* INDOOR SKATING *When?* Weekdays, check website for times. *Where?* Wilson Park Arena, 4001 S. 20<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Indoor skating. Wilson Ice Arena ([milwaukee.gov](http://milwaukee.gov)) *Admission* \$6.50, \$4.75 juniors and seniors, skate rentals extra.

*What?* RUN/WALK TRACK AT THE PETTIT *When?* Hours vary, see website. *Where?* Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Walk or run on 430-meter track with lockers and showers for \$1 extra at limited times. <http://thepettit.com/sports/run-walk-track/> *Admission* \$4.

*What?* PUBLIC ICE SKATING AT THE PETTIT *When?* Hours vary, see website. *Where?* Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Indoor ice skating and skate rentals. <http://thepettit.com/public-skate/> *Admission* \$7.50, \$6.50 kids 13-15; \$5.50 kids 4-12 and seniors; free <4.

*What?* CROSS COUNTRY SKI RENTALS *When?* When snow conditions permit *Where?* Hawthorn Glen Outdoor Education Center, 1130 N 60th St. *Description* Boots, skis, and poles are provided; first come/first serve. *Admission* Unk.

*What?* SLEDDING--WILSON PARK *When?* Winter, daytime. *Where?* Wilson Recreation, 4001 S. 20<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Sledding hills for family and friends. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sledding> *Admission* Free.

*What?* SLEDDING--PULASKI *When?* Winter months, daytime, lighted evenings 4:30 to 8:30pm. *Where?* Pulaski Park, 2701 S. 16<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Sledding day or night on lighted hill. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sledding> *Admission* Free.

*What?* SLEDDING—INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S PARK *When?* Winter, daytime. *Where?* 7301 W. Courtland Av. *Description* Accessible sledding hills for family, groups, and friends. *Admission* Free.

*What?* SLEDDING--MCCARTY *When?* Winter, daytime. *Where?* McCarty Park, 8214 W. Cleveland Av. *Description* Sledding hills for family and friends. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sledding> *Admission* Free.

*What?* SLEDDING--MCGOVERN *When?* Winter, daytime, snow permitting. *Where?* McGovern Park, 5400 N. 51<sup>st</sup> St. *Description* Sledding hills for family and friends. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/Sledding> *Admission* Free.

*What?* SLEDDING—RIVERSIDE PARK *When?* Winter, daytime. *Where?* 1500 E. Riverside Pl. *Description* Sledding hills for family and friends. *Admission* Free.

*What?* WATERSTONE BANK ICE RINK *When?* Opens mid Jan., sunrise to 9pm. *Where?* Center St. Park 6420 W. Clarke St. *Description* Ice skating with warming house and free skate lending available at limited hours. See <https://www.society19.com/milwaukeees-best-places-to-go-for-ice-skating/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* OUTDOOR ICE SKATING—DOWNTOWN *When?* Winter. *Where?* Red Arrow Park, 920 N Water St. *Description* Ice skating for adults and children. *Admission* Free, but may charge for skate rentals.

### Jane Jacobs on neighborhood parks

Neighborhood parks fail to substitute in any way for plentiful city diversity. Those that are successful *never* serve as barriers or as interruptions to the intricate functioning of the city around them. Rather, they help to knit together diverse surrounding functions by giving them a pleasant joint facility.

From *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

### Jane Jacobs on neighborhood safety

There must be eyes upon the street, eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street. The buildings on a street equipped to handle strangers and to insure the safety of both residents and strangers, must be oriented to the street.

From *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.



# Bay View: Perennially the village



*Downtown Montessori Academy and St Augustine of Hippo Catholic Church*

According to John Gurda in *Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods*, Bay View is one of the most complete neighborhoods in the city (p. 429).

Tucked into a quiet corner of the city, it has a full range of businesses, industries, housing types, parks, places of worship, and even sub-neighborhoods—all set on the shores of one of the largest freshwater lakes in the world. Once legally autonomous, Bay View has preserved much of its original sense of independence. Once a village, it has kept the leisurely pace and strong sense of community more commonly found miles away from a major city.

## Appearance

Bay View is a large and densely populated neighborhood. There are a variety of housing styles. The larger and more elaborate homes are found in the eastern section of the neighborhood near the lake and around South Shore Park. In other areas of Bay View, there are a number of one-story houses that were built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Bay View has a plethora of parks. One is South Shore, which features a pavilion that was built in 1934 and a large ballroom for rent for receptions.



*South Shore Park Pavilion*

The park is also home to the South Shore Yacht Club, one of the largest yacht clubs in Wisconsin. Another park is Humboldt, one of the city's first parks. The park covers 70 acres and has many concerts during the year as part of the "Chill on the Hill" series. A third park is the 20-acre Kinnickinnic, just east of Humboldt Park. A fourth park is Beulah Brinton, a large field adjacent to the

Beulah Brinton Community Center. A fifth park is Zilman, a small open area on the corner of Kinnickinnic Avenue and Ward Street. A sixth park is Bay View Park at 3120 S. Lake Drive that includes the Oak Leaf Trail.

Bay View has even more green space at Seminary Woods at the neighborhood's southeastern border. This is the remnant of the forest that once covered Milwaukee County. Bay View has many churches. It has over 10 times more religious organizations than the average for similar areas in Wisconsin.

## History

Years before 1879 when Bay View was incorporated as a village it was--well--a company.

Bay View was founded by Detroit capitalist, Eber Brock Ward. He created the Milwaukee Iron Company in 1868 on 30 acres of land that would later be part of Bay View. While Ward never lived in the area, he built modest houses and barracks for his workers that were within walking distance of the mill. Many of the first employees were imported by Ward from Great Britain because they possessed skills in iron production. These English, Scots, and Welsh immigrants brought an early British flavor to an area that was dominated by Germans, and later by Poles. As Poles began to settle in the neighborhoods just west of the mill, they also joined the mill workforce.

If the Milwaukee Iron Company was the source of income for most residents living nearby, it also became the source of conflict. In 1886, workers began demanding workforce changes—in particular, an eight-hour day without reduction in pay, compared to the 10-to-12-hour days they were working. On May 5, nearly 1,500 workers—mostly Poles—went on strike and marched on the rolling mill. They were met by state militia who opened fire, killing an estimated seven strikers. This day became the bloodiest labor disturbance in Wisconsin's history, and was a catalyst for Milwaukee's emergent Socialist movement.

The year after the tragic strike, a majority of the residents of the growing village of Bay View voted to join the City of Milwaukee, and hence access the city's services such as running water, and street lights. Within a few years other ethnic groups joined the Bay View population—many attracted to employment opportunities at the mill. Most notably were the Italians in the early 1900s. Unlike the Sicilians who were arriving around the same time and settled mainly in the Third Ward, these Italians were from the mainland of Italy. A "little Italy" grew around the mill, mostly north of Russell Avenue. One of the Italian grocery stores was Groppi's Market, run by a family that would later beget Father James Groppi, a major civil rights leader in Milwaukee. See his resident profile on the following pages.

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# THE PERENNIAL VILLAGE OF BAY VIEW

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## *Business in Bay View*

Kinnickinnic Avenue (“KK”) was once an Indian path and was named after the river to which it leads. Kinnickinnic quickly became a major commercial corridor for Bay View. Below is a list of businesses that operated on KK in 1933, at the height of the Great Depression. Like many Milwaukee neighborhoods, the merchants on this corridor were much more diverse than the residents they served. What is surprising is that not one of the shopkeepers whose records could be found was Polish, despite the dominance of Polish business on nearby Lincoln Avenue during these years. Also see the summary and notes.

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, or organizations from Milwaukee City Directory</i>
2301	Bay View Tog Shop
2305	Vacant
2306	Prentice Drug Store
2307	Vacant
2309	Vacant
2311	Alma E. Balfanz Florist
2312	Independent Food Market
2313	Arthur G. Gates Dentist
2315	English Woolen Mills Tailors
2318	Vacant
2320	Grange Building
2321	Matzen Fuel Company Peacock Cleaners Inc.
2322	Radio Service Inc.
2325	Vacant
2327	Lindberg Inc. The Restaurant
2329	Samuel G. Keller Dentist
2331	Vacant
2335	Vacant
2343	Jewell P. Massaro Barber
2348	Vacant
2352-2354	Bay View Central Market Meats
2355	Max B. Margoles Restaurant
2358	Herman W. Wedemeyer Meats
2363	Martin DuMex Insurance
2365	Kay Beauty Shop
2366	Kaiser’s Drug Store
2369	Milton Klopf Jeweler John A. Klopf Optometrist
2371	Vacant
2373	Bay View Key Shop
2375	Bay View Tire and Supply Company
2376	Gibbs Violin Studio
2383	Himmelfarb’s Inc. Dry Goods Store Wisconsin College of Music
2391	Samuel Massruha Grocery
2394	Leslie Coulson Grocery
2398	Fred W. Kern Tavern

Summary and notes from U.S. Census and other public records: The large number of times that businesses have “Bay View” in the title reflects the neighborhood’s history as a village.

- KK had far more store front vacancies than other Milwaukee business corridors in the early 1930s.
- As in most Milwaukee neighborhoods prior to 1970, few shopkeepers had attended high school. Most were also immigrants or children of immigrants. Most lived at the same addresses as their shops, or just blocks away.
- Also, as in most Milwaukee neighborhoods, few of the professionals on the street (e.g., physicians, dentists) were immigrants or children of immigrants.
- Compared to today, KK had about the same number of churches and restaurants, far more grocery stores, and far fewer bars in 1933. The street also had far fewer bars than other Milwaukee commercial corridors in the early 1930s.
- Alma Balfanz, the florist, was an anomaly on the street. Not only was she a woman in business, but neither she nor her parents were immigrants. Before he retired, her father Adolph had also run a flower store.
- Jewell P. Sassaro, the barber, was the son of Italian immigrants.
- Max B. Margoles, with the restaurant, was a Russian immigrant (some records have him born in Persia)—no doubt Jewish. In the 1920s he had operated a saloon. Prohibition may have altered the course of his business.
- Herman Wedemeyer, the butcher, was an immigrant from Germany.
- Martin DuMez, the insurance man, was the third of his generation in the insurance business. His grandfather, a Dutch immigrant, and his father had been also.
- Periodically, the Wisconsin College of Music consolidated with the Wisconsin Conservatory of Music. In 1985 the college division was discontinued.
- Leslie Coulson, the grocer, was the son of an English immigrant.
- Andrew Glavas, the barber, was an immigrant from Yugoslavia. His precise ethnicity could not be found. The surname’s origin is Croatian and sometimes Serbian.
- John T. Scheverell, the undertaker, was the son of a French immigrant.
- David J. Sutton, the auto dealer, was the grandson of immigrants from England.

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# THE PERENNIAL VILLAGE OF BAY VIEW

*Continued from Page 8*

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, or organizations from Milwaukee City Directory</i>
2401	Gerling Brothers Coal
2408	Charles Siegel Shoe Repair
2410	Vacant
2411	Peter's Tailor Shop
2412	George C. Gerhardt Dentist
2414-2416	Bay View Recreation Company Restaurant
2415	Thomas N. Schnetz Physician Percy E. Schnetz Dentist
2418	Wadham's Oil Company Filling Station
2421	South Shore Coal and Ice Inc.
2425	Andrew Glavas Barber
2432	William J. Hertz Filling Station
2433	John T. Scheuerell Undertaker
2445	Earl X. Thompson Physician
2459	David J. Sutton Inc. Autos
2469	Joseph Zenker Florist
2473	Avalon Theater
2476	Rosalie Beauty Shoppe
2479	Morey P. Horwitz Furriers
2483	Avalon Pharmacy Goldwin Laboratories Medicines
2486	J.S. Neiman and Sons Undertakers
2510	Otjen E. Otjen Lawyers Theodor Otjen Company Real Estate Pioneer Building and Loan Association
2514	William Meredith Meats
2519	Marian Lewis Physician John P. Zentner Dentist
2526	Milwaukee Fire Department Company No. 11
2535	Masonic Hall
2549	Cook's Super Service Station
2557	Clifford Schneider Physician
2560	Charles J. Baumann Dentist
2570	Paul G. Hankwitz Physician
2571	Bay View Apartments
2605	St. Jucas Evan Lutheran Church
2626	John N. Weber Hat Clearner Joseph F. Eisch Tailor
2627	Alvin C. Schroeder Drugs
2628	Bay View Cleaners Tailors and Furriers
2631	Fred H. Mierendorf Men's Furnishings
2631A	Melvin L. Meredith Real Estate Harold W. Hein Dentist
2632	Triangle Lunch
2633	Charles J. Petri and Sons Grocery
2635	Corner Sweet Shop Confectioners Gervais Evans Dentist

- The Avalon Theater has recently re-opened on Kinnickinnic Avenue, after a long dormant period.
- Morey P. Horwitz, the furrier, was a Jewish immigrant from Russia.
- William Meredith, the butcher, was the son of immigrants from England.
- Fred H. Mierendorf, with the men's wear shop, was the son of German immigrants. He had a long tenure on the street.
- Charles J. Petri, the grocer, was the son of a German immigrant. He grew up in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.
- Peter Wolfsen, with the furniture store, was a German immigrant. He'd been an upholsterer before expanding into furniture sales.
- Harold L. Stolzel, the baker, was born in Indiana. He was the son of a German immigrant.
- Michael Stanich, the butcher, was a Slovakian immigrant from Austria.
- George H. Mussmann, the confectioner, was raised by a widowed mother who earned her living doing ironing. She was the daughter of German immigrants.
- Frank H. Lucas, with the barber and real estate company, was a German immigrant. He was one of the few merchants on the street that had not only completed high school, but had a year of college as well.
- David Taxey, with the department store, began with a dry goods store and expanded. He was the son of Russian immigrants—probably Jewish.
- Fred A. Scheinert, the baker, was the son of German immigrants. He had his bakery on KK since at least 1924.
- Joseph Schandelmeier, the barber, was from Iowa and was the grandson of a German immigrant.
- Paul J. Grunau, the plumber, was the son of German immigrants.
- Joseph P. Daalman, the grocer, was also the son of German immigrants.
- Peter Lesch, the painter, was born in Germany.
- Milton Disch, the grocer, shared his building with Alvin Disch, his younger brother. The siblings' mother Ida had been the product of German and French immigrant parents.
- Theodore A. Kern, with the filling station, was the son of German immigrants. He had owned a tire store in 1920.
- Edward B. Schley, the butcher, had owned a soft drink parlor before opening his butcher shop. He was the son of German immigrants.

*Continued on Page 10*

# THE PERENNIAL VILLAGE OF BAY VIEW

*Continued from Page 8*

<i>Addresses on KK in the Bay View area in 1933</i>	<i>Names of businesses, apartments, offices, or organizations from Milwaukee City Directory</i>
2637	Peter Wolfsen Furniture
2640	Louis Schneider Drugs
2641	Harold L. Stolzel Bakery
2642	James H. Biller Physician
2643	Michael Stanich Meats
2644	Mrs. Dell R. Biller Women's Furnishings
2645	Elliott E. Reichmann Tavern
2646	George H. Mussmann Confectioner
2647	Apartments
2648	A & P Tea Company
2649	Hass Food Market
2652	Mirth Food Shop
2654	Abraham Keller Shoes
2657	Peter Pan Soda Grill
2658	National Tea Company Grocery
2659	Michael Herro Tavern
2660	Bay View Hat and Beauty Shoppe
2662	Lorenz Hautz Barber
2663	Frank H. Lucas Barber and Real Estate
2664	Carl Von Hof Restaurant
2671	Bay View Building & Loan Association
2671A	Clarence J. Bullock Lawyer
2674	Radio Sales Company
2675	Arthur J. Strehlow Hardware
2676	Myrtle's Food Shop Confectioners
2677	Otto Anderson Popcorn
2677A	Arthur J. Strehlow Tinner
2678	The Wedge Restaurant
2680	David Taxey Department Store
2681	Plaza Lunch
2685-2687	Bay View National Bank Building
2686	Dr. Sidney M. Smith
2687	Edward J. Pinter Dentist
2689	John J. O'Hara Physician
2960	Sidney M. Smith Physician
2691	Parker Cleaners and Dyers
2693	Fred A. Scheinert Baker
2695	Joseph Schandelmeier Barber
2697	Paul L. Grunau Plumber
2698	A. Gibson Real Estate
2699	Standard Oil Company Filling Station
2717	Joseph P. Daalman Grocery and Meats
2720	Peter Lesch Painter
2723	Milton Disch Grocery
2723A	Alvin F. Disch Auto Repair
2729	Theodore A. Kern Service Station
2737	Alvo Drug Company
2739	A & P Tea Company
2741	Edward B. Schley Meats
2745	Edward F. Zunk Furs

## Current populations

Some of the ethnic groups that were key to the early development of Bay View are still present in the neighborhood. According to the latest census, there are over 1,300 residents of English, Scottish, and Welsh descent, in a neighborhood over 14,000. The Italians number over 1,000. Germans are the largest European ethnic group in Bay View, followed by the Poles. The Latino population is growing with over 1 in 7 residents with ancestry from Mexico and other Latin American and Caribbean areas.

Social class is also diverse in Bay View. Approximately one-quarter of residents fall into the lower middle-income stratum (with annual household incomes between \$25,000 and \$50,000) and one-quarter fall into the upper middle stratum (with annual household incomes between \$75,001 and \$150,000), with the remaining residents in the middle-, upper-, and low-income strata. Nearly 4 in 10 residents over 25 have a bachelor's degree, which is significantly higher than Milwaukee and Milwaukee Metro averages. Homeownership is also high in Bay View compared to Milwaukee overall, with approximately 4 in 10 property units being owned.

There are ample employment opportunities available in Bay View with industries such as Milwaukee Forge, Wrought Washer, and in larger businesses such as Target and Pick 'n Save, as well as in the scores of smaller businesses along Howell, Chase, and Kinnickinnic Avenues. The leading occupations reported by Bay View residents are in the fields of administration, management, and sales.



*Businesses on Kinnickinnic Ave.*

Bay View residents have abundant opportunities to socialize. The neighborhood has nearly 3 times more bars, nearly 4 times more gyms, over 5 times more cafes, and nearly 14 times more yoga studios than the average for similar areas in Wisconsin.

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# THE PERENNIAL VILLAGE OF BAY VIEW

Continued from Page 10

## Bayview resident profile

Photos and additional information were found in public records in Ancestry.com.

### James Groppi

James Groppi grew up at 2507 S. Wentworth in Bay View. He was the son of Italian immigrants, Georondo and Georgina (nee Magri) Groppi, and the eleventh of their twelve children. His father owned a grocery store that stands today as Groppi's Market. Georondo and Georgina had arrived in the United States in 1917 and 1913 respectively.

Upon graduating from Bay View High School, James enrolled at Mount Calvary Seminary (1950–1952) in Mount Calvary, Wisconsin. During his seminary years he began developing empathy for poor African Americans. Ordained to the Roman Catholic priesthood in 1959, the now Father Groppi was assigned to St. Veronica's Church and later moved to St. Boniface, which had a predominantly black congregation. It was then that he began taking up civil rights causes, including participating in the 1963 March on Washington and the 1965 Selma to Montgomery march.

It was his later role as advisor to the NAACP Youth Council that got him active in the movement for fair housing in Milwaukee. At the time, the former African American community of Bronzeville in Milwaukee's central city had just lost over 8,000 homes to freeway building and urban renewal. And outside of the Near North Side, few blacks were successful in purchasing homes or renting flats. African Americans were urgently in need of housing. While black Common Council member Vel Phillips had repeatedly proposed a fair housing bill before the body, the bill had consistently failed to attract votes.

During the spring and summer of 1967, Groppi and the NAACP Youth Council marched for 100 days, demanding fair housing. The ultimate march involved crossing the 16<sup>th</sup> Street Viaduct to the mainly Polish South Side—an area that had been particularly problematic for African Americans who were seeking housing. Ultimately the climate began to change locally and an open housing law was enacted in Milwaukee, following the passage of the federal Fair Housing Act of 1968.

Father Groppi remained active in many other efforts including the Welfare Mothers March to Madison in 1969. Often unable to coordinate his mission with that of the Roman Catholic Church, Groppi left the priesthood in 1976. Later he married longtime civil rights activist Margaret Rozga, who became an English professor at the University of Wisconsin-Waukesha, often writing about her civil rights experiences.

Groppi took other work after leaving the priesthood, including becoming a bus driver for the Milwaukee County Transit System—a job he held until his death of brain cancer in 1985. Groppi is buried at Mount Olive Cemetery. The 16<sup>th</sup>



Street Viaduct is named in his honor (see photo).

## Interesting neighborhood features

- **Avalon Theater**, at 2473 S. Kinnickinnic Ave., a newly restored theater (see photo).
- **South Shore Yacht Club**, at 2300 E. Nock St. on the lakefront.
- **Beulah Brinton House** (and the **Bay View Historical Society**), at 2590 S. Superior St., the home of a woman most responsible for acclimating new immigrants to the town of Bay View in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- **Pryor Ave iron well**, at S. Kinnickinnic and Pryor, an early artesian water well built in 1882 and named for its high iron content (see photo).
- **Groppi's Market**, at 1441 E. Russell Ave., today run by the Balistreri/Mehring family that also operates many Sendik's stores.
- **Bay View Community Center**, at 1320 E. Oklahoma Ave.
- **Puddlers Hall**, at 2461 S. St. Clair St., built in 1873 by the Sons of Vulcan (later became the United Steel Workers) and named after the skilled workers of the Milwaukee Iron Company.



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# THE PERENNIAL VILLAGE OF BAY VIEW

*Continued from Page 10*

## Quotes from the 2013 Bay View Reflection Study conducted by Urban Anthropology Inc.

*How has Bay View changed since you or your ancestors first moved to Bay View?*

“There’s more noise from people out at night at the bars. There’s more hipsters around. Before it was mostly a working-class community.”

“There’s lots of young people are around now—a lot of singles and childless couples, with fewer families. It’s not better or worse because of them. It’s just different.”

“It was not so diverse when I moved here. It was mostly working-class white families. It has become more diverse racially and with more members of the gay community.”

“It is actually less diverse. With the Bay View Rolling Mill, signs had to be posted in at least seven languages. . . I remember the presence of many European groups.”

“When I was growing up, we were not allowed to be on this corner (Lincoln & KK) because it was considered a dangerous neighborhood. Looking back on it now, even back then it was ridiculous to think that and it just shows how perception can become a reality for decades. What’s nice about the new families and the new blood that has come in is they see it through a different lens and they saw it worthy of investment.”

“[There’s] more choices locally to buy locally grown, quality groceries, a diversity of locally owned dining establishments and a wealth of social gathering spaces/activities like the South Shore Farmer’s Market.”

“We’ve had more events recently and more things that bring the community together.”

“Today, you’ve got Chill on the Hill, Bay View Bash, and Bike Races. There’s been improvements in the lakefront bike/ running paths. There’s the South Shore Farmers market.”

*What do you miss the most about Bay View’s past?*

“So many families whose kids have grown up here have purchased properties in the neighborhood. They continue to believe that this is the right place to raise their families now. Social media, has been a great way to connect with neighbors, but also has stirred up in many of us this feeling of insecurity. While it is great to stay informed, so often lately there are more and more reports of crime – and I miss that sense of safety that I had when we moved into Bay View.”

“The Avalon had the Mighty Wurlitzer, the last of its kind of organ. It was made up of numerous other theatre organs dating back to the early 1900’s. It is now located at Pipe Organ Pizza.”

“One [film] was like the headliner, they called them the A and B movies—that was the terminology. Because the A was like the headliner and the B was one they just threw in there. And between movies there’d be some cartoons.”

“There used to be a lot of little stores and mom/pop restaurants. I remember a little grocery place on, I think, Burrell. Two old men would wait on you and carve up ham and turkey for you. They had a candy store counter. It was cute.”

“The Triangle Store on Delaware and Oklahoma. Little grocers that were really grocers—not beer depots.”

*Are there historical events that seem to define Bay View?*

“It would be impossible not to answer the Rolling Mill because we commemorate this every year. John Gurda comes out. Mayor Zeidler used to come out. And this is the way it should be.”



“You’d never find anyone that has lived more than a year in Bay View that is not familiar with at least most of the main facts of the Rolling Mill massacre.”

“Well, this was earlier, but when they evicted all the Kashubes from Jones Island in the 20s and onward and they came to Bay View to live. I think many of them still live there.”

*Continued on Page 13*



# THE PERENNIAL VILLAGE OF BAY VIEW

*Continued from Page 12*

“Definitely the frolics, the Fourth of July festivities, the old-fashioned cheesy talent shows at the parks that were very family oriented, the big band music we were forced to listen to as kids. Things like that.”

“Not so much events, but people, like James Groppi and his work with the civil rights in Milwaukee.”

*Are there places that define Bay View?*

“When people say ‘I’m going to the park’ in Bay View, no one asks which one. ‘The park’ has always been Humboldt. That’s where so many of the defining activities take place.”

“Defines Bay View? I think like Groppi’s for instance. It’s still a corner grocery—and very trendy now of course”

“Events and parties at South Shore Pavilion . . . The South Shore Yacht Club is a gem and creates a sense of community.



“Go the South Shore Farmers Market in summer. You will see what the true Bay View is like.”

“Bay View has always been known as a place to go bar-hopping. We have some historic places like the Newport Lounge, White House, Puddler’s, but also some really trendy new places.”

“As goes KK, goes Bay View. When it was a place for slum bars, the whole neighborhood was crap. Today it’s hip, popular, and so is Bay View.”

“Beulah Brinton House that today houses the Bay View Historical Society. That’s a landmark.”

*What activities or services would you like to see added (or increased) in Bay View?*

“More emphasis on the history of Bay View, I think. Maybe more programs on its history or maybe a museum like they have in other neighborhoods.”

“A grocery store—more than what we have.”

Do you enjoy reading articles like this?

Would you like a format where you can add information or comment on articles?

Well, this format is about to happen. Urban Anthropology, Inc. is about to create Facebook pages on *Milwaukee Ethnic News* and *Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum*.

Keep posted.

# ETHNIC CHANGES IN CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 1*

“Back then we all lived within a mile or two of one another. There was a lot of exchange. Weddings were huge. Life pretty much focused around the church, food, and grandparents.”

“The neighborhood was very cozy and comfortable. We had a lot of churches. The churches with schools were really filled—had 35 to 40 kids in class. Lots of nuns around. It was a very comfortable and simple kind of life. We didn’t have TV—had radio. We had softball and ice skating after school. We used to ice skate at Kosciuszko Park on the lagoon.”

The neighborhood was also insular. The Poles were not particularly welcoming of people from other ethnic or racial backgrounds. To restrict outsiders, housing units for rent or sale were usually only posted in church bulletins and almost never advertised citywide. In the late 1960s when Father James Groppi and African American activists were battling racial housing discrimination, they organized fair housing marches with the destination point of Kosciuszko Park, in the very heart of the Lincoln Village and Baran Park neighborhoods.

But even after fair housing laws were passed, few blacks ended up settling on the Old South Side. Another minority did—the Latinos (particularly Mexicans). And Polish resistance was almost nonexistent. Why? According to oral history informants, the Mexicans and the Poles had noteworthy traits in common. And the similarities went beyond the Catholic faith and the reverence for the Madonna figure.

“What I see today with the Hispanics is that they are like the Poles. They have the stores and the businesses. But if they do well, they have no desire to flaunt their wealth. They stay low key like the Poles did in this neighborhood.”

“Poles always took their kids to the dances. We [Latinos] take our kids to the dances also. But with the white kids, they reach a certain age and would not want to be seen with their parents. With us, we still are okay being around our parents.”

“Just like us [Poles], they keep grandma in the home.”

## **Milwaukee’s Northwest Side and the transition from German to African American**

In the early and mid-twentieth century the city’s Northwest Side—and most particularly the neighborhoods that had once comprised Granville Township—were dominated by Germans. Over 50 of today’s Northwest Side neighborhoods had once been part of Granville. Unlike the Poles, the Germans were somewhat more tolerant of diversity. This may have been due in part to early leadership. The German Forty-eighters—many of whom settled in Milwaukee—were liberals who fought injustice in Europe and immigrated to the United States in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In their writings, they depicted slavery as an evil. One of their activists, Mathilde Franziska Anneke, campaigned ardently to end slavery. While many Milwaukee Germans may have harbored prejudice against blacks, the ubiquitous voices of their leadership may have kept their leanings under wraps. See quotes of informants from the German oral history.

“When I first left home in the ‘60s, I lived for a few years on the South Side. People there were quite vocal about race—and not in a good way. When I moved to the North Side in the Silver Spring area, it was mostly German. But in my apartment complex there was an African American family. I don’t remember anyone ever mentioning it. I don’t mean that the residents went out of their way to be welcoming. It’s just that they didn’t say much of anything about it.”

“They [Germans] were always against slavery. The Annekes fought against it during the Civil War. The Turners too.”

As early as 1940 an activist black couple, Ardie and Wilber Halyard, moved to the Old North Milwaukee neighborhood, that had once been part of Granville. Together the couple founded the first African American-owned savings and loan association in the State of Wisconsin, Columbia Savings & Loan.



*Ardie Halyard*

One of the area’s largest businesses, Moss-American, a wood-preserving facility that treated railroad ties, hired a large workforce of African Americans who lived on or near the company acres. While the company closed in the 1970s, other blacks had already begun to trickle into the area. Today they are the dominant population. Interviews from the NW Side/Granville oral history described how most of the whites who lived there today praised the diversity of the area. See example below.

“One of the things that we liked about this place was that we liked the idea that our children would be grow-

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# ETHNIC CHANGES IN CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 14*

ing up in a more integrated neighborhood. As our kids were growing up, it was great. They had friends of both races, lots of friends in the neighborhood. [There were] a lot of kids in the neighborhood because people were building the houses. There were a lot of families like us that were building their houses and just starting up. To the north of us it was all park, but it used to be all these woods and open field and our kids would go play in the woods and catch frogs and go ride their bikes in the open field. Our kids had a great childhood here.”

## **Milwaukee’s Sherman Park Jews and the transition from secular and Reform to Orthodox**

There are six neighborhoods that comprise a larger area known as Sherman Park: Roosevelt Grove, Grasslyn Manor, Sherman Park, St. Joseph’s, Sunset Heights, and Uptown. Beginning in the teens and 1920s, European Americans and Jews began to move from the central city west into the area that would become collectively known as Sherman Park. They built wide streets with boulevards and large bungalows, duplexes, and Period Revival homes finely crafted from brick, wood, and stone. The mostly German Jews organized seven synagogues—most Reform. An older informant from the Sherman Park oral history project discussed the early Jewish occupation.

“[There was] a lot more German in this area, and a large portion of them were German Jews actually. When my mom went to Washington High there was a Jewish holiday that place was cleared out. As much as that was a neighborhood high school, which was like a premier high school, other people from different areas and out of town went to school there.”

But beginning in the 1960s changes began to take place, not just in Sherman Park, but all over Milwaukee. One was the decline of Milwaukee Public School. This led to many of the early Jews leaving the city to access better suburban schools for their children. See informant quotes.

“There was a flight from the community by middle class Jewish people that the Milwaukee Public Schools were starting to slip. Up until that time, Washington High School had been one of the premier schools in the city. Marshall was a very good school.”

“All of a sudden there was a perceptible change in the public schools. Instead of doing things to deal with the influx of children they were seeing, they began to dumb down the curriculum. They started doing things which threatened the ability of middle-class education minded parents to make sure that their children had educational options. So, they began to leave the community, but it was because of the post WWII culture; they had the money. They moved to Whitefish Bay, Shorewood, Nicolet, places where they wanted their children to be. It was still for public education, but public education with standards.”

And the synagogues followed the people.

“When I came here there were five major synagogues, now there is one. Three of them moved to Mequon, one of them is in Brown Deer.”

However, by the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, other Jews began to find the Sherman Park area with its beauty and affordable mansions an intriguing place to call home. These were the Orthodox or Hasidic Jews, led by an internationally recognized Hasidic

family—the Twerskis. A program was developed to bring in Orthodox families from all over the country. See informant quote.

“I ran a program for seven years called the Sherman Park Jewish Initiative which I did outreach to bring young Orthodox Jewish families into the neighborhood. We were in a unique position of reaching out to people to try to increase the size of the neighborhood. In the seven years that we ran the program we reached about 70 families basically from around the United States who wanted to become part of a nurturing community.”



*Beth Jehudah Synagogue—today’s place of worship of the Hasidic community*

They built their own school. Informants discussed the other changes that the new Jewish community brought to the area.

“There’s been an influx of Orthodox; you see more in the way of Kosher meat markets. There used to be seven synagogues, now down to one. The dominant Jewish influence is the orthodox or Hasidic. The international leader of the Hasidic lives across the street from us, in at the house that Herb Kohl grew up in. They are recruiting people here from everywhere, even Israel and New York. It is more than a movement—is like a branch.”

“I think that what comes into my mind foremost now is the Jewish community. You know, this is basically a Hasidic Jewish community and they follow the Torah—they follow it to the tee. Everything about them and their lifestyle is based on the Torah. So, there are a lot of cultural differences that many people in their community are trying to become very familiar with. So, just on a day-to day-kind of exchange, men don’t shake hands with women. Those kinds of things. They stay very much to themselves in their community. That is very much part of their culture. Like, I could pass an Orthodox Jewish man, and as being a woman, he will not look at me. He will just continue to walk. Well, I understand that. And most people understand that because that’s a part of their cultural practices.”

*Continued on Page 16*

# ETHNIC CHANGES IN CITY NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 15*

“There were two specific movements that happened in Judaism which happened since the late ‘60’s. What you had in the ‘60’s was a very strong periphery and a very weak core. You had a lot of Jews with an erosion of religiosity. One of the things that happened is that Jews gained greater freedom in American which turned out to be the curse of intermarriage and assimilation which occurred at that time. We were insulated from the factors of anti-Semitism. Today you have a weak periphery and that core is very strong. The core is a dramatic growth of orthodoxy. So, this community is an orthodox community.”

## The movement of the Hmong into the Washington Park neighborhood

During the Vietnam War, the Hmong supported American military and humanitarian efforts in Southeast Asia. When the conflict ended more than 130,000 Hmong came to the United States as political refugees. Many Hmong settled in the Milwaukee area.

The American adjustment did not always come easy for the Hmong. Informants from the Milwaukee Hmong oral history project described some of the practices they brought with them.

“Hmong are very family-oriented. Have large extended families. They keep their family tree down through many generations. My extended family consists of about 100 families.”

“We got well with shamans. Have to pay the other side. [We had] animal sacrifices. The shamans] have to return to their world to find out why they are making you sick . . . We worship our ancestors.”

“[We] have an altar at house. We sacrifice live pigs. One pig got loose in a neighborhood.”

They also described the shock of the transition.

“It was culture shock. Seeing the snow. Never saw it in life and [I] was 12 at time . . . We were shocked. We walked out without shoes and it was so cold. We had not heard about the snow.”

“[We were] surprised by the bathroom in the house. Toilets. Banks. Peanut butter. No people on the streets.”

Because of the quality and price of homes on the city’s South Side, many Hmong originally settled there. But this population, with some of their animist practices, were not always welcomed by Poles who still dominated the area in the 1970s. An informant from the Hmong oral history project described the situation.

“We weren’t liked by the Polish people on the South Side. We first settled there because the houses were affordable. But it didn’t usually work out. People always accuse us if there is a cat missing or anything.”

The Hmong sought other areas of the city to settle. One choice was the Washington Park neighborhood on Milwaukee’s West Side. While the area had been dominated by Germans and later by African Americans, its main street, Vliet, had long been home to businesses run by diverse groups. A look at the City Directory in the mid-1930s shows a commercial corridor with proprietors of German, Irish, Austrian, Jewish, Hungarian,

Croatian, Polish, Czech, Russian, Chinese, Scottish, and Italian backgrounds.

Hmong informants in the oral history project gave reasons why this neighborhood worked for them.

“One of the main things is the Hmong bought houses that were closed by city, fixed the houses, stabilize the neighborhood. [We] took boarded up houses and purchased these and fixed these up.”

“There were areas for gardening. And the Hmong garden and have gardens all over the neighborhood.”



*Community garden at 35<sup>th</sup> St. in the Washington Park neighborhood.*

Today, Washington Park has the greatest concentration of Southeast Asians in the city. These include some Burmese as well as Hmong.

Want to know more about Milwaukee’s Hmong?

Want to know more about their adaptation of American ways?

Want to know how, despite all this, they managed to retain most of their cultural practices?

At no cost you can view the documentary created by Urban Anthropology, Inc.

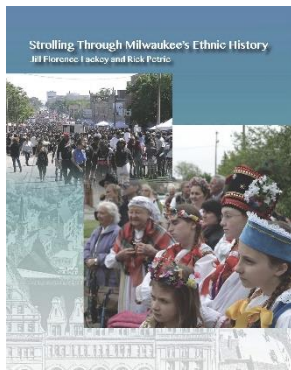
### **The Amazing Adaptation of the Urban Hmong**

Go to [www.urban-anthropology.com](http://www.urban-anthropology.com) and click on Films.





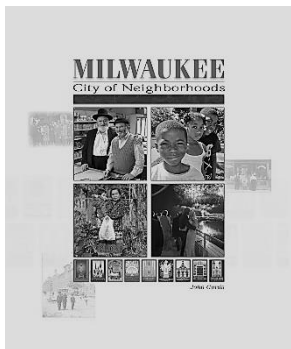
## Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods



### Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

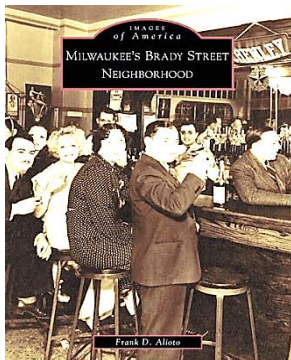
This latest work provides an “up close and personal” look at local ethnic life by directing readers to the neighborhoods and venues where the groups left their marks. It brings readers directly into their experiences, whether it involves strolling through the neighborhoods they built or participating in contemporary ethnic activities. “Strolling . . . is an intriguing guide to the ethnic history in our midst and a colorful reminder that Milwaukee has always been a city of newcomers.” - John Gurda. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



### Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods

By John Gurda

*Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods* is the most comprehensive account of grassroots Milwaukee ever published. Richly illustrated, engagingly written, and organized for maximum ease of use, the book is a fine-grained introduction to the Milwaukee community, and its communities, that will endure as a standard work for years to come. <https://historicmilwaukee.org/milwaukee-city-of-neighborhoods/>.

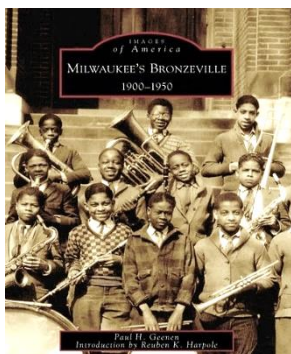


### Milwaukee's Brady Street Neighborhood

By Frank D. Alioto

Milwaukee's Brady Street neighborhood began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a crossroads between middle-class Yankees from the east and early German settlers. Polish and Italian immigrants soon followed, working the mills, tanneries, and brewers that lined the riverbank. The hippies arrived in the 1960s. By the 1980s the area fell into blight, neglect and decay. Now, a true model for new urbanism, the Brady Street neighborhood is the midst of a renaissance. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738551746>

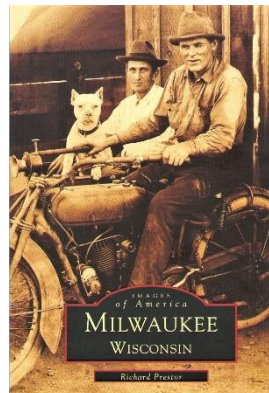
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### Milwaukee's Bronzeville: 1900-1950

By Paul H. Geenen, Introduction by Rueben Harpole

With the migration of African American sharecroppers to northern cities in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the African American population of Milwaukee grew from fewer than 1,000 in 1900 to nearly 22,000 by 1950. Most settled along Walnut Street, an area that came to be known as Milwaukee's Bronzeville, a thriving residential, business, and entertainment community. Bronzeville is remembered by African American elders as a good place to grow up. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738540610>



### Milwaukee Wisconsin

By Richard Prestor

Over the years, Prestor has amassed a fascinating collection of historic photographs of Milwaukee. On many personal levels, the reader will see how people lived, worked, and entertained themselves. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>

## The dramatic gift of one author

Mystery writer and Milwaukee native, Sienna Jacks, is creating a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods called “The Milwaukee Series.”

Mystery novels that are currently available or will eventually be included in this series will take place in these Milwaukee neighborhoods:

- Brady Street
- Bronzeville/Brewer's Hill
- Lincoln Village
- Walker's Point
- Riverwest

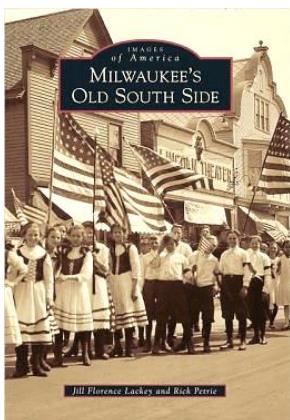
Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums and exhibits, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>



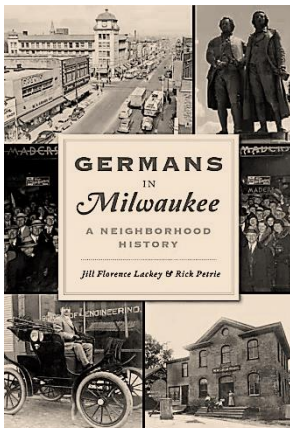
## Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods (Cont.)



### Milwaukee's Old South Side

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

In the late 1800s, the Old South Side was developed by immigrant Poles, who became the dominant population for over 100 years. While other Milwaukee ethnic neighborhoods gradually dissipated in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century because of assimilation pressures, freeway building, or urban renewal programs, the Old South Side remained solidly Polish. A survey nearly a half century later revealed that people of 110 national backgrounds now lived in the Old South Side, with the three largest groups being Mexicans, Poles, and American Indians. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738590691>



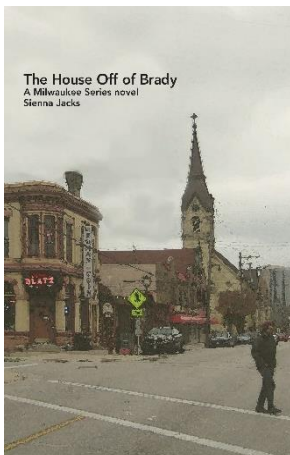
### Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

Germans dominated Milwaukee like no other large American city. Their presence inhabits the city's neighborhoods, from its buildings and place names to its parklands and statuary. Their influence also lives in the memories shared by local residents. A small Milwaukee neighborhood south of Miller Valley was christened after a farmer's pigs, and a busboy turned beer baron built the famous Pabst Brewery in West Town. A ghost is said to haunt the old Blatz Brewing compound. And the remains of the early tanning industry can still be seen in Walker's Point. Compiling more than 1,200 interviews, authors Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie share these ground-level perspectives of the lasting German influence on the Cream City. [www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286)

spectives of the lasting German influence on the Cream City. [www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286)

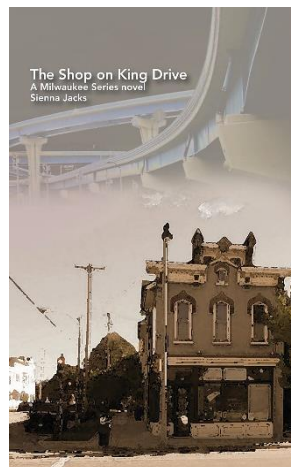
## Fiction



### The House Off of Brady A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants--Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



### The Shop on King Drive A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

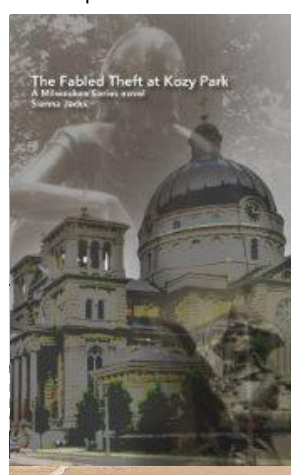
A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history, confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While

interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

### The Fabled Theft at Kozy Park A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

The anthropologists at City Anthropology were asked to use their research skills to look into a man's confession that might crack the longest unsolved mystery on Milwaukee's old South Side—the theft of the squirrel lady statue at Kozy Park. According to reports, the man Raf (now deceased) also implicated members of a local Polish club with an



agenda of removing non-Polish influences from the neighborhood. Assigned to the project, Enid and Meyer are baffled by the information they are getting from those who witnessed the confession, little of which supports Raf's story. Further inquiry points to events surrounding Raf's stepson. Who really was he and why did he inexplicably appear on the scene all those years ago? Their quest for answers leads them to the club in question, but with unexpected results. The ultimate mystery they must solve is the true reason why Raf made this confession and steered them to a list of alleged conspirators.

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



# Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

*Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer neighborhood groups and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their neighborhoods. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Jill Florence Lackey.

## Subscriptions

The newsletter is emailed to anyone wishing to receive it. If you wish your email or that of a friend to be added to the subscriber list, send the email addresses to [JFLanthropologist@currently.com](mailto:JFLanthropologist@currently.com) and indicate the name of this publication.

## Submitting events

*Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* is interested in events from individuals, businesses, and organizations that have a neighborhood appeal. These can include block parties, church picnics, local music festivals, sports on the block, get-moving activities that take place outdoors, and art and theatre events involving neighborhoods. All event submissions should include a one-sentence description, date and time, location, and website or phone number for additional information. Photos may also be submitted.

## Submitting stories/press releases on neighborhoods

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, stories should always focus on assets of neighborhoods. They must be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints. We will write the stories for you if you simply send us a list of the information that you want included. A photo is always required.

## Submission deadlines

Submit events or stories by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Publication dates are on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please send your stories to Dr. Jill at [JFLanthropologist@currently.com](mailto:JFLanthropologist@currently.com).

Now live . . .

# Website on 191 Milwaukee neighborhoods

## Links on each neighborhood include:

- *6 to 35 pages of information*
- *Brief neighborhood description*
- *Population-focused history (including ethnic roots)*
- *Snapshots of commercial districts of the past*
- *Quotes from residents*
- *Quotes from oral histories (where available)*
- *Low cost nearby outings for families*
- *Demographics of current neighborhood*
- *Photos of neighborhood*

*The website currently includes ALL 191 of the neighborhoods, courtesy of Urban Anthropology Inc.*

<http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>