

## Gathering by the Waters

Event honored the Native-, Polish-, and Mexican-Americans of Milwaukee's south side



Over 850 people came to Kosciuszko Park on May 5th to honor the three ethnic groups most responsible for settling Milwaukee's south side. The afternoon included free food, a mini-parade, and ethnic demonstrations.

### Activities

The event included free sample food of the three ethnic groups at 4pm; a procession of the groups at 4:30; an opening ceremony at 5; free hotdogs, chips, and soda between 5 and 7; music by disk jockey Michael Drake; ethnic demonstrations; and a closing ceremony at 7pm. An altar to Del Porter was revealed during the closing ceremony.

### Why May 5?

The first week of May was auspicious for all three groups. There was (of course) Cinco de Mayo for the Mexican population. May 5th is also the memorial date to honor the south side's Ojibwe hero, Del Porter, of the Ace Boxing Club. In addition, May 3rd is the day Polish Americans celebrate Poland's first constitution.

### Future of Gathering by the Waters?

The event was popular enough to justify making it a regular holiday on the south side. Urban Anthropology Inc., the sponsoring organization, has decided to hold this event biannually, beginning in October of 2014. October is also an auspicious time for the three groups. It is Indian Summer (following the first frost), Polish Heritage Month, and the time of the early Dia de los Muertos parade.

Yes, it's really FREE!

## Genealogy services offered



Urban Anthropology Inc. offers genealogy services at no cost to Milwaukee residents. The services are limited to gathering information on ancestors that lived within the borders of the United States.

Interested parties can simply stop at the Old South Side Settlement Museum at 707 W. Lincoln Avenue and pick up a form that asks for some information on parents and grandparents. The family tree (or what parts can be found) will be provided by UrbAn staff within two weeks. If it is inconvenient to stop at the office, email Rick at RickPetrie@gmail.com and he will email you a copy of the form.

### Testimonials of some who had their genealogy done by UrbAn

*Tom Thatcher:*

"The information provided in the genealogy report is a priceless resource to create a family history. My parents were orphaned at eight years old and did not know anyone in their family besides their siblings. I spent hours researching the National Archives and online databases, which I only found one-fifth of the information. Our family  
*(continued on back page)*

## Next big event in Park Neighborhoods *Indian Summer Sweep in Kosciuszko Park*



Residents can sweep their properties free of unneeded clothing and household items in September, when the Kosciuszko Park Community Center and Urban Anthropology Inc. will sponsor a neighborhood-wide rummage sale at the park.

### Free food and entertainment

The event, which will be held at the end of summer, will offer free hot dogs, chips, salads and soda to all buyers and sellers at the Indian Summer Sweep. The event will also feature music.

Watch for notices of exact date and place in upcoming flyers and newsletters.

## The Bird Man of Lincoln Village



Ken Spears talks to birds, and they answer. Yes, you read that right. Any sunny afternoon at Kosciuszko Park you will see Ken walking along the pond with birds perched on his shoulders, all a chatter.

Ken first became interested in birds when his former girlfriend had to find a new home for an aged cockatoo. Ken took the bird in and the relationship grew strong. After a period of time, Ken began letting the bird out of the cage, but he told the cockatoo that he needed to return to his cage if he had to defecate. Ken didn't know exactly how the bird understood him, but for the rest of his life the cockatoo honored that request. The bird even slept with Ken on his pillow each night, and never made a mess.

But the bird was old and near the end of its life. Then one day, while Ken slept, the bird crawled up on the bed and found a comfortable place under Ken's chin. There he died.

Since that day, Ken has been taking in birds from rescue shelters. It remains a mystery how Ken communicates with these birds. He simply does and everyone knows it.

## Genealogy services (continued)

will be forever grateful to the services provided by Urban Anthropology Inc. and I will recommend the service to everyone interested."

*Donna Englemann*

"We did not know anything about the Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island origins of the family, and that a grandmother on my father's side was married three times. This is new and fascinating stuff, which we will share with the whole family. Thanks for providing this professional service for free. It will definitely lead to further investigations of our family history!"

*Chris Allen*

"Thank you Urban Anthropology for your help in developing my family tree. Your thorough research helped fill in some cracks from what I already knew, while also developing new branches and leads to explore."

## Tragic loss of resident

*Gilbert Vasquez*

On May 31, 2012 the Park Neighborhoods lost a wonderful young man. He died as the result of injuries due to a hit and run traffic accident. Gilbert was only 25.

Gilbert Vasquez was the son of Laura Manriquez of S. 7th Street. His funeral was held at Hephatha Church on Locust Street, a church where he was raised. His mother describes him as follows: "My dear son Gilbert was a man of integrity who always worked towards achieving a better way of life for himself and others. With Gilbert's daily interaction with others, he would not allow any negativity to be spoken. He was always speaking positive and gave words of encouragement to others. Gilbert at this time was a college student with 39 credits, working towards his Business Administration Degree and was hired to be a tutor this upcoming semester."

## Lincoln Avenue tour



Do you have relatives coming to town and would like to show off the best of your neighborhood? Every other week, Saturday at 3 pm, Rick Petrie, the Executive Director of Urban Anthropology Inc. provides a tour called "The Art, Culture and Architecture of Lincoln Ave."

The tour includes a visit to the majestic basilica, the Old South Side Museum, and many other distinctive sites along Lincoln Ave. The price of the 35 minute tour is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children, seniors, and students.

Dates for upcoming tours are June 16, June 30, July 14, July 28, August 4, August 18, September 1, September 15, October 6 and October 20. The tour meets at 5th Place and Lincoln, next to the Old Town Restaurant.

**Our sponsors** *Lincoln Village has become a Healthy Neighborhood through these sponsors.*



NIDC, in partnership with the City of Milwaukee



Martin Luther King Memorial fund, and the Community Grant Fund



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