



# HISTORICO

*Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter*

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744, Phone: 217-525-1961, e-mail: schsoffice@gmail.com web: [www.sangamonhistory.org](http://www.sangamonhistory.org), [SangamonLink.org](http://SangamonLink.org)

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## Dinner, Elections, Awards June 18 at Historic Clayville Plus How Chicago Shaped the Fate of Illinois History

If you haven't done it yet, make sure to purchase a ticket to the Society's annual dinner no later than Monday, June 10.

That's the cut-off date to guarantee you a seat at a Tuesday, June 18 gathering that you won't want to miss, one in a historic setting with a program rich in local and state history.

Tickets are \$29 for members, \$31 for guests. You can use the reservation form on page 7 or pay on-line by going to the Society's website, [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org).

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a pre-dinner gathering (with a cash bar) in the new covered outdoor pavilion adjoining the Cunningham Barn at the

Clayville Historic Site in Pleasant Plains. A buffet dinner provided by Poe Catering, will follow at 6 p.m. in the air-conditioned dining area.



**ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER:** Broadwell Tavern at Clayville.

The Clayville Historic site is located at 12828 State Route 125, 15 miles west of Springfield. Arrive a bit earlier and you can walk around

the site that includes the restored Broadwell Tavern, a former inn and stagecoach stop built in 1824 that's listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Be aware of potential driving delays in conjunction with road work on Route 125 from just past the traffic light turn-off to Route 97.

The highway improvement project has been underway for several weeks, including tree removal from that point west for eight miles. The entrance to Clayville is on the south side of Route 125.

Following dinner, you'll get a quick lesson in state history when former Society president David Scott shares some new findings on the forces that shaped Illinois, proffering an intriguing question and the answer to "Could Illinois Have Become a State Without Chicago?" Dr. Scott is a past president of the Illinois State Historical Society.

Winners of the Society's Special Projects Grants will (Continued on page 5)

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### Catching the Spirit of Susan Dana

Society members visit her famous home to hear about her role as a suffragette. Page 4





## Wrapping Up the Year With a Great Team

As we wrap up another year, it's time to give thanks to the many people who make this organization work, not the least of whom are the board and committee chairs and members as well as fellow officers who work so hard behind the scenes and in so many ways.

There's **Marion Leach**, who bakes those wonderful cookies and cakes and oversees the refreshments at every program meeting and special event.

And **Larry Stone** and **Kathy Dehen** who snap away so we have photos for *Historico* and our own historical records.

It's **Ruth Slottag** who does the magic, drumming up publicity for our public events and her husband **Ernie** who posts those announcements on our website.

**Mary Alice Davis**, of course is a Jack (Jill) of all trades, working on programs, the celebrated annual Cemetery Walk, Trivia Night, the annual dinner, nominations and just about everything else.

**Mary Mucciante** is our face to many ceremonial events, **Elaine Hoff** our interface with the many community groups and individuals seeking the Society's annual Special Project Grants.

**Jennie Battles** works closely with Mary Alice on the Cemetery Walk, **Kathy Hoffmann** is first to volunteer when it comes to assisting **Stephanie Martin** with membership as does **Sue Massie** for any job that needs to be done, no matter how tough it seems. She also makes great desserts for Trivia Night!

**Doug Polite** and **Larry Stone** make up the team guiding our investments, keeping ahead of the market and tracking trends. **Bruce Beeman** provides our legal compass, Facebook guru **Mary Schaefer** our Social Media face, **Eugene Walker**, **Sue Helm**, **Peter Harbison**, ready hands not shy to roll up their sleeves to do a task at hand.

**Angie Weiss** has been a wonderful vice-president,

herding our efforts to train and build a team to work on the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's oral history program. We're delighted she wishes to stay on the board.

Talented **Mike Kienzler** has put us on the map with his writing and research skills that has turned our concept for an on-line and searchable encyclopedia of Sangamon County History, *SangamonLink.org*, into reality, My husband **Roger**, like Mary Alice and Ruth, a past-president of this organization, keeps a watchful eye on our web operations, helping us build more flexibility into our on-line presence.

Last, but definitely not least, our thanks to the superb job our treasurer, **Jerry Smith** has been doing. Between developing a budget, posting financial transactions, and preparing monthly detailed reports, it's not an easy task, but he does it well and our strong financial state reflects this.

Everyone of us started with this organization just by signing up and then volunteering to be part of its activities and events. At the board and officer level, it means devoting time attending monthly meetings and serving on committees, despite personal or professional commitments.

We keep a keen eye out for a new generation to follow that path so that we will continue to grow in the future, assuring that the Society will be around a long time to preserve and promote Sangamon County history. We hope you will want to serve in that role.

\* \* \*

Just a reminder: Our fiscal year runs from June 1 to May 31. If you haven't dropped a check in the mail or paid on line, do so today. You won't want to miss what we have in store for 2019-2020!

*Vicky Whitaker*



*Historico*, published 10 times a year (except July & December), is the official bulletin for members of the Sangamon County Historical Society. *Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society.*

You can download back issues of *Historico* in PDF format by going to our website, [www.sangamohistory.org](http://www.sangamohistory.org) or [sancohis.org](http://sancohis.org). Send event announcements to [historicoeditor@gmail.com](mailto:historicoeditor@gmail.com).

Vicky Whitaker, *Historico* Editor, Photos by Kathy Dehen, Larry Stone



**DEDICATORS:** Several member of the Sangamon County Historical Society were among those on hand for the May 10 dedication of a Rose Garden at the Governor's Mansion in Springfield, a gift from the Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution. (signage, left). Society board member Sue Massie (left), president of Massie and Massie Associates of Springfield, landscape architects for the mansion's renovated grounds, was among those who addressed the group. Attending in their role as DAR members representing local DAR chapters were, from left, Kathy Dehen, Mary Mucciante, Debra Coe, Susan Spada, Ruth Slottag, and Mary Barringer.



*Kathy Dehen photos*



**OFFICERS**

President.....Vicky Whitaker  
 Vice-President.....Angela Weiss  
 Secretary.....Kathy Dehen  
 Treasurer.....Jerry Smith  
 Past-President.....Ruth Slottag

**DIRECTORS**

**Term Ending 2019**

Jennie Battles  
 Elaine Hoff  
 Mary Mucciante  
 Mary Schaefer  
 Larry Stone

**Term Ending 2020**

Peter Harbison  
 Sue Helm  
 Stephanie Martin  
 Eugene Walker  
 Roger Whitaker

**Term Ending 2021**

Mary Alice Davis  
 Kathy Hoffmann  
 Sue Massie  
 Doug Polite

**Committee Chairs**

Governmental/Community Affairs: *Ruth Slottag*  
 Legal: *Bruce Beeman*  
 Finance: *Doug Polite, Larry Stone*  
 Membership: *Stephanie Martin*  
 Nominating: *Mary Alice Davis*  
 Hospitality: *Marion Leach*  
 Publicity/Marketing: *Ruth Slottag, Susan Helm*  
 Oral History Project: *Angela Weiss*  
 Publications: *Roger Whitaker*  
 Programs/Special Events: *Mary Alice Davis, Vicky Whitaker*  
 Social Media Chair: *Mary Schaefer*  
 Special Projects: *Elaine Hoff*

**Staff**

Mike Kienzler, [SangamonLink.org](http://SangamonLink.org) Editor

Please make note of our official mailing address:

**SCHS**  
**Box 9744**  
**Springfield, Illinois,**  
**62791-9744**



**JUNE 2019 MEMBERSHIP & DONOR REPORT**

*The Society is pleased to welcome new members Judy Hunt, Lianne Toler, Jennifer Caldwell, Valerie Cates, Margo Carlen and Mikito Muroya.*

*And extends its thanks to the following for donations: Blake & Sara Ross, Daniel M. Barringer, J. Patrick & Janice M. Joyce, Andrew & Elaine Wasliewski, Sherri Boner, Mary Townsend, John & Ida Noll, Paul Schanbacher, Polly S. & Lou Myers, David & Mona Martin Joens, Francie & Jan Staggs, Roberta Volkmann, Don & Mary Schaefer, Debra Coe, Wyane & Marilyn Montney, Charles & Patricia Boyce, Mary Paxton, Theresa Powers, Elvin & Sharon Zook, William & Patricia Rudolph, Pamm & Mark Collebrusco, Joan Hiler Lewis & Terry Baylis (in memory of Dan Buck), Joseph & Rebecca Dombrowski (in memory of Donna Catlin), and Jackie & Mark & Jackie Hansen (in memory of Dr. Floyd Barringer).*

# SCNS Tour Captures Spirit of Suffragette Susan Dana



**TELLING DANA'S STORY:** Docent Jennifer Caldwell invites tour takers to take a seat at the Wright-designed dining room table and take a close look at the place cards whose names included prominent women's rights advocates. Caldwell and co-workers Valerie Cates and Margo Carlen (photo, upper right), and site interpreter Mikito Muroya (front page) did extensive research on this aspect of Dana's life in preparation for the Society's members-only tour.

The threat of bad weather didn't stop Society members from learning more about suffrage leader Susan Lawrence Dana in a private May 21 tour of her historic 35-room, 12,000 square foot Springfield mansion designed by famed architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

The focused visit included a rare chance to sit down on one of the tall Wright-designed chairs surrounding the lengthy dining room table, decorated for this event with flowers and place cards akin to those used by Dana for a luncheon to which she invited some of the nation's leading advocates for women's rights including Jane Addams, founder of Chicago's Hull House, who went on to become the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

Tour takers learned in detail of Dana's activities—be it mingling with guests in her dining room or chatting with them in the living room or gallery—thanks to docents who had researched in depth Dana's role in the suffrage movement. Appointed legislative chair of the Illinois National Women's Party in 1923, her home was an early hub for political activism.

*Composite photos by Kathy Dehen,  
Larry Stone & Roger Whitaker.*

# Annual Meeting at Clayville Historic Site June 18

(Continued from page 1)

be announced following Dr. Scott's talk and presented with checks to underwrite several local history projects culled from a list of applicants for the annual award.

Special Project Grants chair Elaine Hoff will introduce the winners who will provide a brief description of their projects.

Members of the Society will also vote on officers to lead the Society in 2019-2020 and to serve terms of one to three years as directors,

Nominees for officers are incumbent Vicky Whitaker, president; Stephanie Martin, vice-president; Mary Mucciante, secretary; and incumbent Jerry Smith, treasurer, all one-year terms.

Nominated for Director for a three year term ending in 2022 are: Jennie Battles, Kathy Dehen, Mary Schaefer, Larry Stone, Angela Weiss. Nominated to fill a one-year vacancy on the board ending in 2020 is Elaine Hoff. Ruth Slottag automatically remains on the board as immediate past-president, a non-elected position.

*Candidate profiles start below.*

## Meet The Candidates



### **FOR PRESIDENT, Vicky Whitaker**

A New York City native, prior to retirement in 1999 when she moved to Springfield, Whitaker headed State University of New York at Stony Brook News Service for 14 years. Previously, she was a reporter and editor for a business daily and managing editor of a prize-winning newspaper chain. Whitaker served 10 years on the national board of the Society of Professional Journalists. A past president of the Press Club of Long Island, in 2016 she was inducted into its Journalism Hall of Fame. She is also a past vice-president of the Deadline Club in New York City. Whitaker has written for the *State Journal-Register*, Copley News Service and Creators Syndicate. President of the Society for the past year and its vice president for the prior two years, she has co-chaired the program committee for several years and has served as editor of *Historico* since 2009. Whitaker has also co-chaired Memorial's Festival of Trees entertainment committee for the past 15 years and is a past vice-chair of the Springfield Area Arts Council, past chair of the Sangamon Auditorium Advisory Board and has served on the boards several other local organizations. A licensed amateur radio operator, she is public information coordinator for the Illinois Section, ARRL, the national association for amateur radio, and is public information officer for the local ARRL Chapter, the Sangamon Valley Radio Club. She holds a bachelors degree in journalism from Hofstra College.



### **FOR VICE PRESIDENT, Stephanie Martin.**

Martin, a librarian in the Sangamon Valley Collection at City of Springfield's Lincoln Library, pursued undergraduate work in American Studies at Knox College, Galesburg, Illinois, and earned a Masters degree in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University. She also holds a Masters in Library and Information Science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. She is the Management vice president of the Springfield Jaycees. She was elected to the Society board in 2017 and has served as chair of the membership committee.



### **FOR SECRETARY: Mary Mucciante.**

Mucciante retired from the Illinois Department of Human Services after 43 years in state government. She holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Legal Studies from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She is a 1996 graduate of the Leadership Springfield Institute. Mucciante was appointed by Mayor Jim Langfelder to serve on the City of Springfield's Lincoln Library Board of Trustees. She is a member, immediate past corresponding secretary, and chaplain of the Springfield Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution and holds associate memberships in the Sgt. Caleb Hopkins and Captain William Penny Chapters. Mucciante is a graduate of the New Horizons Leadership Course of the Illinois State Organization Daughters of the American Revolution. A Mayflower descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins, Mucciante is a member of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants in Illinois. She is also a member of Illinois Women in Leadership and the Lincoln Land Community College's Academy of Life Long Learning.



### **FOR TREASURER, Jerry Smith**

A Springfield native, Smith earned an Associates degree from Springfield College in Illinois after graduation from Springfield High School, later pursuing studies in business administration at Southern Illinois University. His first paid employment was as a houseman, helping to open the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge South-East in 1966 and for almost 35 years traveled the United States opening and managing various hotels in Florida, Colorado, Ohio, Indiana, North Carolina, Montana, Maryland, Alabama, and finally back to Springfield to retire. After returning "home" in 2006 he managed the conversion of the Springfield Renaissance Hotel to the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel for three years. Since that time he has been a volunteer at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library, Westminster Presbyterian Church and the Pleasant Plains Historical Society, Clayville, where he served as vice president. He has served as the Society's treasurer since 2014.

*(Continued on page 6)*

# Meet The Candidates/Board of Directors Nominees

## FOR A THREE YEAR TERM ENDING IN 2022



### JENNIE BATTLES

Battles began her working career as an English teacher at Dixon High School. When the family moved to Petersburg, Illinois in 1977, she worked for several years at Famous Barr in Springfield. In 1986 she joined the staff of the newly organized Illinois Historic Preservation Agency, starting as an interpreter at the Old State Capitol. In 2001, she became site manager for the Vachel Lindsay home in Springfield's until her retirement in 2014.



### KATHY DEHEN

A Springfield native, after graduating from Springfield High School and Springfield Junior College, Dehen completed her undergraduate education at the University of Illinois and has an M.A. from Sangamon State plus 60 hours. She taught elementary school for 20 years and then worked at Sangamon State University/University of Illinois for 16 years, first in the Payroll Office and then in charge of Student Employment in the Financial Aid Office. She has been active in the community as a volunteer for 30 years. She is a founding member of the Good as Gold event committee, a collaboration of the UIS Volunteer and Civic Engagement Center, the Junior League of Springfield, and the United Way of Central Illinois to honor volunteers. She is president-elect of the Academy of Life Long Learning at Lincoln Land Community College. She was a Sangamon Auditorium Advisory Board vice-chair and is a member of the Springfield Chapter, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants as well as the Springfield Ceramics and Crafts Club. She has traveled extensively.



### MARY SCHAEFER

Schaefer is President and owner of MSchaefer Communications, a Springfield-based consulting firm specializing in public relations planning, editorial development, brand awareness, social and business market-ing and media management. Her past professional experience includes serving as Communications Department Director for the Illinois Association of Realtors and as Communications Director for the Illinois State Dental Society. Schaefer is a past president of the Illinois Society of Association Executives and holds a Certified Association Executive designation from the American Society of Association Executives. She is also a member of Association of Women in Communications, Illinois Society of Association of Executives, American Society of Association Executives, Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois, and American Association of University Women. Schaefer is a Master Naturalist in training with the University of Illinois extension of Sangamon, Menard and Logan Counties. She also serves on the Dominican Sisters of Springfield, Illinois Mission Advancement Advisory Board. She has also been a tour guide for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Schaefer holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communication from the University of Illinois at Springfield and Associate in Science degree from Lincoln Land Community College.



### LARRY STONE

Born in Springfield, Stone graduated from St. Louis University in 1973 with a degree in finance, management and accounting. He attended graduate school at St. Louis University and University of Illinois studying Finance and Accounting. He was an Internal Auditor for 36 years most recently as Chief Auditor with State Retirement Systems for nearly 10 years and Information Systems Audit Manager at Central Management Services. Stone served as an Adjunct Professor in Accounting at the University of Illinois, Springfield and Millikin University for 16 years. He is a member of the Springfield Bicycle Club and a volunteer at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. He has served as co-chairman of the Society's Finance Committee for the past two years.



### ANGIE WEISS

Born in Du Quoin, Illinois and raised in Du Quoin and Winchester, Illinois, Weiss has been a fan of history since childhood, favoring reading historical books and novels even as a pre-teen. She is a graduate of Winchester High School and attended Lindenwood University in Missouri and later Lincoln Land Community College, garnering enough credits for an associates degree. Her love of history took a more interesting turn, she says, when her husband became involved in the national Surveyors Historical Society, a decision that has taken them across the United States for studies of various surveys and surveyors in different parts of the U.S. and in different eras. Elected to the board two years ago, Weiss has served on several Society committees. She is also a member of the Menard County Historical Society, served as an interpreter at the Old State Capitol, and on the Old State Capitol Foundation board. She was a costumed interpreter at Fort Du Bois in celebration of the Lewis and Clark Expedition and in other costumed events throughout the years. A resident of Sherman, Weiss is a member of the Cool Cruisers Car Club and the Petersburg-based 97 Crusaders Car Club.

## FOR A ONE-YEAR TERM ENDING IN 2020



### ELAINE HOFF

Born, raised and receiving her education in Michigan, Elaine Hoff taught special education in Michigan and northern Illinois before moving to Springfield in 1967. For most of her professional life she worked in the field of disability rights, most recently as a Policy Advisor for the Illinois Attorney General, retiring in 2003. Hoff has been affiliated with a number of disability rights and community organizations, founding a local group addressing needs of "kids at risk" and an organization that advocated gifted children programs. She supports efforts to preserve and promote the rich history of Sangamon County. First elected to the board for a three-year term in 2011, she gave up her seat in 2013 to run for board secretary. She has chaired the Society's Special Projects Committee since 2014.

# SCHS Annual Dinner Registration Form



The annual meeting/dinner will be held at the Clayville Historic Site, Pleasant Plains, on Tuesday, June 18 starting at 5:30 p.m. Members: \$29 per person, Non-member guests \$31.

Name of Member(s) attending:

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\* Full Name(s) of Non-Member Guests: (Please Print)

\*for name tags.

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744 or sign up online at [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org). **Payment must be received by June 10.**

## CALENDAR OF AREA HISTORY EVENTS

◆ **Monday, June 10: *Living With Pride: Ruth Ellis @ 100.*** City of Springfield's Lincoln Library 6 p.m. Yvonne Welbon's award-winning documentary on the life and times of Springfield, Illinois native Ruth Ellis (July 23, 1899–October 5, 2000) will be on screen in this special presentation



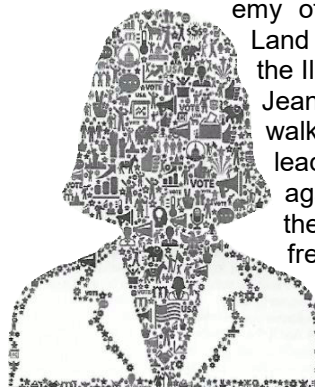
on the oldest and one of the most prominent African American lesbian and LGBT rights activists in the nation. A 1919 graduate of Springfield High School, Ellis eventually moved to Detroit where she and her partner operated a printing business. Less than a month before her death, she helped dedicate the Ruth Ellis Center in Highland Park, Michigan, one of only four agencies in the United States dedicated to homeless

LGBTQ youth and young adults. The city of Detroit recognizes her contributions by celebrating Ruth Ellis Day each February during Black History Month. Free. Carnegie Room North. The Library is located at 326 South Seventh Street. For information call 753-4900.

◆ **Tuesday, June 18: *SCHS Annual Dinner***, Clayville, 5:30 p.m. See story, page 1, Register on line or use the form, above.

◆ **Thursday, July 4: *Clara Irwin's Annual Strawberry and Lawn Party***, 5 p.m.- 8 p.m., Elijah Iles House, 628 S. Seventh Street, Springfield. Summer picnic food and drink plus shortcake and sundaes are on the menu for this annual Independence Day celebration at the historic Greek revival cottage built by one of Springfield's founders in 1837 that's listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For more information about the event, call 481-4397.

◆ **Sunday, July 21: *Standing on Her Shoulders: Casting a Historic Vote: Suffrage in Illinois.*** 2 p.m. The Academy of Life Long Learning at Lincoln



Land Community College teams with the Illinois State Museum with a talk by Jeanne Schultz Angel on the path walked by a diverse group of female leaders in Illinois as they fought against sexism and racism and for the right to vote. This the second in free special speaker series and will be held in the Thorne Deuel Auditorium at the Illinois State Museum. 502 Spring Street. Springfield.

**Sangamon County Historical Society**

P.O. Box 9744,  
Springfield, IL 62791-9744  
Return Service Requested

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**Sangamon County Historical Society MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form**

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. You may also join or renew on line by going to [sangamonhistory.org](http://sangamonhistory.org). Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. All memberships — except Business/Corporate and college/university students — cover adults and children 16 and over at the same address. Be sure to include their names.

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_



**Status**

\_\_\_ New Member

\_\_\_ Renewal

\_\_\_ 2019-2020 GIFT of Membership from:  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**2019-2020 Membership Levels**

Except for business and college/university student membership, all levels listed below cover adults and children 16 and over *living at the same address*. **Please list their names in the space below.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- Regular Membership - \$30
- Pioneer Level - \$100
- Trailblazer Level - \$500
- College/University Student (individual) -\$20.
- Settlers Level - \$250
- Lifetime Membership - \$700 (one time fee)

I am adding a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_

Business /Corporate Membership - \$200