

## **The Society for the Restoration of the Gary Bathing Beach Aquatorium and Octave Chanute's Place in History Fall 2007 Newsletter**

### **OH, SAY CAN YOU SEE**

The next time you go past the Aquatorium, note the large new flag flying proudly over the building. It was a gift from our Secretary, Quentin Smith. Quentin, an original Tuskegee Airman, received a Congressional gold medal for his service in the Army Air Corp during World War II. United States Senator Richard Lugar presented Quentin with the honor. Thank you, Quentin, for the beautiful flag. We will fly it with pride.

### **WE'RE GOING TO FINISH, WE'RE GOING TO FINISH**

We are constantly asked the question, "When are you going to finish?" The largest unfinished portion of the building is the west wing, which we call the Chanute wing. Back in 1999 we were able to secure a million dollars from the City of Gary's gambling fund to completely redo the Tuskegee Wing (the east wing). That funding source has completely dried up. We turned to our old friend, Lee Construction Management, to come up with a plan for the completion of the Chanute Wing without spending another million bucks.

Rather than tearing down the northern entrance into the Chanute Wing and rebuilding (as we did with the Tuskegee Wing), we are going to simply repair and block off the front of the wing using original stone. We will remove the concrete on the inside of the Chanute Wing and establish a grass courtyard, rendering it a beautiful space for outside functions. In stages we will add bathrooms and perhaps a roofed portion and/or a tented area for inclement weather. The *piece de resistance* will be a replica of the Chanute glider suspended on a 10-foot pedestal in the center of the courtyard. We can achieve this vision for under \$200,000.

### **2007 EVENT A SMASH HIT**

Nearly 175 people wanted to be a part of the 2007 Celebration/Annual Meeting/Event. Over \$11,000 was raised and, with the generous support of the restaurants in the Miller area, our costs were minimal. We want to thank The Beach Café, Flamingo's, The Miller Bakery Café, The Baker's House, Miller Pizza Company, La Dolce Vita, Ming Ling's and Pepe's Tacos for their generous support for this wonderful occasion.

### **THANKS CARL**

Carl Hunter, a member of the Aquatorium Board of Directors and an architect, chose the new lights on the front of the building and donated them to the Society. They are a wonderful match for the building and cover two holes where lights once existed. Thanks, Carl!

### **PLAN YOUR PARTY AT THE AQUATORIUM NOW**

As we get to the party season don't forget that the Tuskegee Room is available for rent for your private party. Angie at The Baker's House is now handling all rentals at the building and will be more than happy to provide you with catering service. The Miller Bakery Café is also a qualified caterer. The Tuskegee Room holds up to 100 people for a stand-up reception, 60 people for a sit-down dinner, and 110 people for a sit-down presentation theatre style. Call Angie at 938-9931 to set up your party now. All proceeds from the rental of the Tuskegee Room and the entire building are put into a special fund that pays for the maintenance, insurance and taxes the Society pays on the building. Yes, we do pay personal property tax to Lake County.

**GOT BORED**

The Board of Directors of the Society consists of 21 volunteers who meet monthly on the third Wednesday of each month except in December. Board meetings are at 7:30 pm at the Aquatorium and any member of the Society, or anyone else, is welcome to come and observe the Board meeting. If you would like to make a presentation to the Board, please call Greg Reising in advance at 938-8080. You are welcome to come!

**WE'LL NEVER FINISH, WE'LL NEVER FINISH**

Once we complete the Chanute Wing, we will still have the grand staircase and museum space to look forward to, and when we finish that we'll do the Tuskegee Wing the way we want. It's a good thing Greg is bringing on his grandson Ethan. We're going to need him in another 25 years.