



WHAT A YEAR 2016 WILL BE!

I. ESCAPE FROM ENDLESS FOOTBALL!

Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, January, February, and March – Escape from endless football at 3 pm at the Aquatorium:

A. January 17th – Diana of the Dunes

In the early 20th century a woman mathematician left Chicago behind her and moved to a cabin in the dunes. There she was alleged to have swum in the nude in Lake Michigan! To have lived with a man she wasn't actually married to! And, without a care of what other people thought! That's what it took to make someone famous in the early 20th century. Come hear Ken Martin and Richard Meister, the outgoing and incoming Presidents of the Historical Society of Ogden Dunes tell the story of Alice Gray, aka, Diana of the Dunes. In many ways, the truth is better and more fun than the myth. So put it on you calendar, it's only \$10, to reserve your space by sending us a check now, and enjoy it together with pretty good cookies and pretty bad punch. We guarantee it will be more entertaining, shorter and fun than watching 22 men beat their heads against each other.

B. February 21st – Father Marquette

Did you know that in the 17th century Father Marquette really did paddle his canoe through northwest Indiana; in fact he entered Lake Michigan just about where you will be sitting in the Aquatorium on February 21, when author Ruth Nelson explains it all to you. Plus, how did that big statue get in our park, who made it, and what did the guy really do? All this and much more will be explained Sunday, February 21st at 3 pm (snow date February 28th at 3 pm). We guarantee that it will be more interesting and entertaining than the commercials during official timeouts of the NFL. So what the heck, you all come. It will cost you only \$10 to reserve your seat at this informative event.

C. March 20th - Happy Birthday Nelson Algren

On March 20, 2016, at the Aquatorium, at 3 pm, a special birthday party will be held celebrating the 107th birthday of author Nelson Algren. Sue Rutsen, Society Board member and President of the Nelson Algren Society, will have a program to tell you all about the "man with the golden arm", his lover Simone de Beauvoir, and their cabin on the lagoon. Plus, instead of pretty good cookies and bad punch, the Algren Society will be offering pretty good beer and wine at a cash bar. The cash bar proceeds will go to the Algren Society. The ticket proceeds, again just \$10, will go to the restoration of the Aquatorium.

So why not make it a trifecta for \$25 you can receive tickets (or course we won't actually have tickets – your name will be on a list) to all three events and our special "here's three characters of the dunes instead of football" program. So send your check for \$25 to The Society at 607 So. Lake Street, Gary, IN 46403 and plan on being there. Space is limited so act now. (Return Envelope Enclosed)

II. Pizza Party, May 20, 2016, Pizza Party, May 20, 2016, Pizza Party, May 20, 2016

In May, 2016, we will have our third annual pizza party. In 2015, our theme was "people, plaques and pizza". For 2016, we are planning to perpetuate this proactive approach to fundraising. Once again it will be on a Friday at 5:30, you all come after work, it's only \$25 a person and we will have pizza, salad, beer, wine, etc. and we will see if we can't get Robert Martin, our favorite Tuskegee airman who, at age 96, was our special guest at our Gary Airport event, to appear and entertain us all with stories of the Tuskegee airmen. So, plan to be there and, if you feel like it, send us a list of perplexing pronouns, and other parts of speech, that we may put forward to encourage the use of the letter "P". See you there and please don't be pusillanimous.

III. August 20, 2016

A 2/3 size replica of the fighter flown in WWII by the Tuskegee airmen goes atop a 35 foot pole in the Tuskegee garden!

WHAT A YEAR 2015 WAS

In 2015, The Society received nearly \$50,000 in small donations. This is allowing us to move up our plans for the World War II Mustang fighter, an exact 60% replica of the plane flown by the Tuskegee airmen, to be erected in the southeast corner of the Tuskegee courtyard on August 20, 2016.

BUT WAIT, THERE'S MORE!

In addition, at our board meeting this past August 19th, the Board of Directors reviewed the progress that The Society has made since 2012. The following is the list of the goals that we established at the time.

	Est. Cost	
1. Sink in food prep room	\$25,000	Completed
2. Better lighting at the Chanute garden	\$4,000	Completed
3. Better wiring in food prep room	\$3,500	Completed
4. Light in basement opened up to glass block tiling	\$1,000	Completed
5. Sprinkler system	\$2,683	Completed
6. Painting or carpeting in the museum	\$6,000	Completed
7. Chanute glider on 30 ft. pole in Chanute Garden; Red tail replica on 35 ft. pole in Tuskegee Garden	\$50,000	Complete 2017
8. Furnish museum	\$25,000	In-progress
9. Parapet wall on the NW corner of building	\$30,000	Completed
10. Office space where basement entrance is	\$40,000	
11. De-water basement & make usable for storage	\$10,000	
12. Recap upstairs floor	\$20,000	
13. Steps & sidewalk for north entrance	\$7,500	
14. New interior entrance for better access	\$15,000	Completed
15. Redo grand staircase	\$150,000	

The Board decided that it would be a good idea to update this list. So far, we have come up with the following list:

	Est. Cost	
1. Red tail replica on 35 ft. pole in Tuskegee Garden	\$75,000	Complete 8/20/16
2. Plaques for Red tail	\$5,000	Complete May 2017
3. De-water basement & make usable for storage	\$25,000	Complete in 2019
4. Office space and museum store where basement entrance is	\$40,000	Complete in 2020
5. Recap upstairs floor	\$20,000	
6. Performance space on north end (this would require an amendment to our lease)??		
7. Create the "Paris room" in our new lobby	\$5,000	Come hear about it 3/30/16
8. Create "Diana of the Dunes" niche - south side of Chanute garden	\$5,000	Come hear about it 1/17/16
9. Hire a part time curator to build up the museum??		
10. Create a Foundation for long term stability of The Society	\$-0- to \$500,000	
11. Self storing black out window shades for Tuskegee room so movies can be shown during day	\$10,000	
12. Redo grand staircase	\$150,000	

We ask you, the membership, to review this list and give us your input. If there is something else that you think needs to be done, another idea you have to enhance the building, or perhaps you would like to help on one of these projects, please contact us via e-mail to g.reising@sbcglobal.net or through the snail mail at 607 So. Lake St., Gary, IN 46403. We are going to review all the comments and suggestions and come up with a finalized list at our January, 2016 board meeting. All board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month in the Chanute room at the Aquatorium and are open to the general public and to the membership. Meetings are held every month except for December.

It is you, the membership, through your continued support these last 25 years that has gotten us as far as we have gotten. 25 years ago, when the Aquatorium was just an abandoned hunk of stone on the beachfront, nobody thought this was possible. Together we have made it possible. We are going to continue to do so with your support.

Thankyou,

The Society Board