

SPRING 2021



TIME & PLACE

Vol. 5 No. 2

On our cover

Birds perch on one of the multiple purple martin houses found on the Ralph Balog Memorial Martin Island located on the west side of Armstrong Park. Visitors may access the area by way of walking trails around the reservoir near Lake George. Quick access may be made from Adobe and the curve at Arrowhead and Inca.

April is Purple Martin time! The birds generally arrive in April to nest and rear their fledglings.



The Purple Martin Island is visible behind the sign. Look closely to see several poles with bird house a top them. The island is named for the early Carol Stream resident who initiated the concept and made it a reality. Read the full story on page

CSHS REGULAR MEETINGS**

2021

JANUARY 28	JUNE 22
FEBRUARY 23	JULY 27
MARCH 23	AUGUST 24
APRIL 27	SEPTEMBER 28
MAY 25	OCTOBER 26 (ANNUAL MEETING)

****MEETINGS ARE NOW ON ZOOM.**

We will not meet in person until Illinois Covid-19 sanctions permit. See our Facebook page for meeting and event updates.

We meet the fourth
Tuesday of the month
at 7:00 p.m.

January - October

OFFICERS 2021

MARGARET LEABRU, *PRESIDENT*

SUSAN BENJAMIN, *TREASURER*

KAREN SHREVE, *SECRETARY*

OPEN POSITION, *COMMUNITY RELATIONS*

LAURA SCHMIDT, *HISTORIAN*

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Time & Place Newsletter

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VOLUME 5, Number 2

Springtime Musings



I love the promise of spring! The budding leaves on the trees, the greening grass, and hardy spring blooms brighten the days. This year, after a full year of living in the pandemic, spring is even more welcome.

This issue's story about the annual return of the purple martins to our town is especially hopeful. It celebrates 60 years of the Carol Stream connection to the Purple Martins' migration. Why not visit Purple Marin island throughout the summer and watch the flock grow.

We are so pleased to congratulate Society treasurer, Susan Benjamin, on her appointment to the DuPage County Historical Museum Foundation board.

Join us for a special Zoom event on May 11 with Jeanne Schultz Angel. Learn about the continuing evolution of universal suffrage-the right to vote in our country. You will find the details on page 6.

If you enjoy gardening, we invite you to join us on Thursday, May 6 at 9:30 a.m. to dig in the dirt at the Farmhouse. Please bring your gardening tools and your face mask. Stay for how ever long works for you. We'd love to see you.

We look forward to the time when we can meet in person again. In the meantime, find us on Facebook and stay in touch.

We continue to work to update our archives and preserve the history of the area. If you would like to share photos, memoirs, or artifacts relating to Carol Stream, please contact us:

carolstreamhistoricalsociety@gmail.com We would love to hear from you.

Margaret Leabru
President, CSHS



WWW.CAROLSTREAMHISTORICALSOCIETY.COM

TIME & PLACE

Carol Stream History Spotlight

Purple Martin B&B—Carol Stream Island Home

By Jeanne Balog

Purple Martins are beautiful birds of the swallow family whose soaring, swooping, sliding, chortling characteristics and lovely iridescent purple/black feathers draw spectators. In Carol Stream's Armstrong Park, one of the largest colonies of purple martins in DuPage County is located on the Ralph Balog Purple Martin Island.

This colony of Purple Martins began in 1961 in the back yard of Ralph and Jeanne Balog's new home on Thunderbird trail before their backyard grass was even established. Open skies allowed the initial inhabitants to swoop and soar at will.



Purple Martins have a summer home on Ralph F. Balog Memorial Martin Island in Armstrong Park.



Purple Martin "condo" bird houses stand tall on Martin Island on the Lake George side of Armstrong Park

As the neighborhood built up, the Balogs obtained permission from Carol Stream School to relocate their martin house to the school grounds. They continued to care for it over the years. When the school district expanded the school building, the martin house needed a new home.

An island in the Carol Stream Park District's Lake George seemed the ideal spot for the Purple Martins' new home. Several houses were erected there to attract the colorful birds. Jan Smith, who lived close by, donated a martin house from her yard. The birds quickly adjusted

to their new home and their numbers increased. During this time, the president of the

Continued on the next page

TIME & PLACE

Carol Stream History Spotlight

North American Purple Martin Society, Terry Suchma, held the group's meetings at the Aldrin Community Center.

The Balogs took care of Martin Island. They frequently crossed to the island in hip waders, carrying concrete for post holes, poles, bird houses, tools, and a twelve-foot ladders. Periodic trips were required during the birds' nesting season of occupancy to maintain the houses and monitor the birds. Detailed records were kept of the spring scouts' arrival, the number of eggs and hatchlings, as well as, the number of fledglings.

Volunteer enthusiasts became caretakers when Ralph passed away in 1998. Terry and Donna Rieck continued the upkeep for a number of years. In July of 2001, Ray Feld, an ardent Purple Martin advocate, discovered the island and has since serviced it along with Sue King. Ray also monitors colonies at Cantigny Golf Course and Morton Arboretum.

If you are interested in volunteering to help care for the Purple Martins, please contact the Carol Stream Park District.

The story began 60 years ago



Jeanne poses next to the Balog's brand new martin house in 1961.

Ralph and Jeanne Balog purchased a home in Carol Stream not long after their 1960 wedding. Like most of the new homes in the village then, the backyard was a bit barren; a blank slate.

On a visit to Hawthorn Hardware, Ralph was mesmerized by the beautiful deep purple birds that clustered around the unique birdhouse in front of the store. Jeanne recalls how he shared his desire to erect a Purple Martin birdhouse in their yard. That decision was the beginning of the a 60 year story of providing a temporary home for the beautiful birds in Carol Stream.



Purple Martin scouts arrive between April 1 and April 22. By May they pair off and set up housekeeping. In June and July there is a lot of activity as eggs are laid, babies hatch and fledging begins. In a recent year there were 34 pairs, 146 eggs, 109 hatchlings, and 106 birds fledged. By mid-August, it is time to leave the area and return to their winter home in South America.

More photos on pages 8 & 9

The Vote

Join Us

Hindsight 2020:

The Long Road to Universal Suffrage

A Zoom Event with **Jeanne Schultz Angel**

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

7:00 p.m.

Register at www.facebook.com/carolstreamhistoricalsociety/

or [Click Here](#)

In cooperation with Illinois Humanities Road Scholars

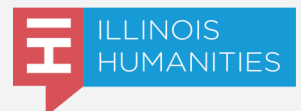
The road to enfranchisement and equal rights has had many roadblocks including Jim Crow, racism, and prejudice. It is still under construction. Explore where we are and where we are going as we learn about universal suffrage in American history.

Jeanne Schultz Angel is the Director of Learning Experiences & Historical Resources for Naper Settlement and President of the Illinois Association of Museums. She signs her emails, "Your s for universal liberty."



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Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed by speakers, program participants, or audiences do not necessarily reflect those of the NEH, Illinois Humanities, IACA, our partnering organizations, or our funders.





SYMBOL OF A PANDEMIC

I always loved the quote from Fred Rogers:

"Look for the helpers.

You will always find people who are helping."

As we went into lockdown on March 16, 2020, I had no idea what those words would mean. Soon after the world went into this standstill, I happened to view a TV segment on volunteers at the hospital from my hometown of Evansville, IN. They were busy making masks for hospital personnel due to the shortage of N-95s.

The next day I attempted to sew the first two masks for my family (I am no seamstress). Two days later I saw a Facebook posting in a Carol Stream community group with an emotional plea. They needed masks to be used in a Covid-19 maternity ward at a Chicago hospital. Without hesitation, I answered that plea and made 30 masks. That was the beginning...

Over the next eight months I made over 2,000 masks that went to Central DuPage Hospital nurses, hospice centers, long-term care facilities, veteran groups, doctor and dentist offices. I put my late Mother's 1958 Singer Slant-Needle sewing machine to the test – and it never failed!

While I did the sewing, I was so fortunate to have a group of incredible supporters who donated fabric, elastic, needles and thread. A dear friend took on the role of fabric cutter and my husband did all the deliveries and pickups. We became a community of "the helpers."



The 1958 Singer sewing machine that turned out 2000 face masks.



As we entered the election season, I was asked to make "vote" masks for the League of Women Voters of Wheaton. And upon the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, I made masks in her honor and memory. Face masks became a part of our culture and history.

The pandemic has been a strange and difficult time for all of us. We've each had to find ways to cope. I started out making masks to help others, but in the end, the mask project helped me!

by *Susan Benjamin*

- ♦ Helper
- ♦ Master Mask Maker
- ♦ CSHS Treasurer



A whole bouquet of masks.

Memorial Day— A Day of Remembrance



Memorial Day weekend has come to mean the beginning of summer to many. However, the last Monday of May commemorates so much more. This day of remembrance, originated by General John A. Logan in May 1868, was a nationwide day of remembrance honoring the 620,000 soldiers who died in the Civil War. Then the day, known as Decoration Day, was a time to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice by placing flowers on their graves.

Originally the day was intended to honor only soldiers who died in the Civil War. During World War I, however, the day evolved to remember all American military personnel who died in war.

The celebration of Memorial Day moved from May 30 to the last Monday of May with the enactment of the “Uniform Monday Holiday Act of 1968.” The change took effect in 1971 when Memorial Day became a federal holiday.

Following World War II, red poppies were worn as a sign of remembrance. That tradition grew out of the poem, “In Flanders Fields” penned by Lieutenant Colonel, John McCrae. The Canadian officer was inspired by the poppies that bloomed in Flanders Field in France where so many members of the military found their final resting places.

Many communities, including Carol Stream, hold Memorial Day Events to honor those who fought and died.

To learn more about Memorial Day—[Click here](#)



Taken at Memorial Park

Memorial Day Commemoration

2018



Continued from page 5

Holidays Celebrating Moms and Dads

A Brief History

Mother's Day The annual celebration we know as Mother's Day grew out of the efforts of Anna Jarvis of West Virginia. After her mother's death in 1905, Miss Jarvis wanted to honor the sacrifices mothers make for their children. She found support from Philadelphia department store owner, John Wanamaker. In May 1908, she organized the first Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist Church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day, Wanamaker's store held a Mother's Day event in its auditorium that drew thousands.

Encouraged by the success of her efforts, Jarvis lobbied to have Mother's Day added to the national calendar. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, officially established the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day.

The day was originally meant to be a day of personal celebration between mothers and their families. Jarvis promoted the wearing of white carnations, visiting Mom, and attending church in observance of the day. Florists, card makers and confectioners quickly recognized the commercial value of the sentimental holiday.

By 1920, Jarvis had become completely disillusioned with the commercialism associated with Mother's Day. She denounced the holiday and openly campaigned against the profiteers. By the time of her death in 1948, she had disowned the holiday. Anna Jarvis herself never married or had children.

Father's Day In 1909, a Spokane, Washington resident, Sonora Smart Dodd, one of six children raised by a widower, wanted to establish an official day of celebration for fathers. She talked to local churches, the YMCA, shopkeepers and government officials about her idea. Due to her efforts, Washington State celebrated the nation's first statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910.

In the 1920s and 1930s, there was a movement to combine Mother's Day and Father's Day as Parents' Day. The Great Depression halted that effort. During World War II advertisers promoted celebrating Father's Day as a way to honor American troops and support the war effort. By the end of the war, though it was not an official national holiday, Father's Day was a national institution.

It was not until 1972, that Richard Nixon signed a proclamation making Father's Day a federal holiday. Today, the day honoring fathers is celebrated in the United States on the third Sunday of June: Father's Day 2021 occurs on June 20.

Today, economists estimate that Americans spend more than \$1 billion each year on Father's Day gifts.



Learn More about Mother's Day ([Click Here](#)) or Father's Day ([Click Here](#))





Like to Dig in the Dirt?

Join us for *Spring Cleaning in the Garden*

Thursday, May 6, 9:30 a.m.

Historic Farmhouse , 301 Lies Rd., Carol Stream

Bring your gardening tools & gloves!



contact CSHS at
630.473.8308



Carol Stream Historical Society

2021 Membership Form—JOIN US!

Please join us in our quest to preserve
the history and heritage of Carol Stream.
Membership is open all who are interested
in supporting this mission.

Date: _____
Name: _____
Address: _____
Phone: _____
Email Address: _____

I am enclosing my \$10 dues for 2021: _____
I am enclosing a donation of \$ _____

• CSHS is a Public Charity – tax deductible donation as allowed by law

Please make check payable to: CAROL STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAIL TO: Carol Stream Historical Society

P. O. Box 88791

Carol Stream, IL 60188

QUESTIONS—CALL: 630-665-0308 (Barb)

Thank you for your support! Connect with us today!



Carolstreamhistorical.com