



ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BLOCK HOUSE 1816

January 2018 Newsletter

Hello Members:

It's time to renew your membership. See attached form.

Our February 1 program will be presented by Ms. Deb Kuntzi, Executive Director, Friends of Hauberg Civic Center. The title of her presentation is "The History of Hauberg Estate."

The program will follow dinner served at 6:00 p.m. at the Arsenal Island Golf Course Clubhouse. The menu will be a Soup, Salad & Sandwich Buffet featuring fresh baked breads, cookies, coffee, tea, and water all prepared by the Golf Club kitchen, all for \$11.00, including tax and tip. Please have your check or cash ready to give to **Dick Hochstetler** or **Linda Miller** when you arrive.

Reservations are due by noon on January 29th. You may call **Monica Holeman** (563) 650-4349, or **Linda Miller** (563) 355-6165 or you may email Linda at: chiicaliinda@aol.com. Dinner cancellations must be made by the reservation deadline or you will be liable for costs incurred and billed accordingly.

Our meetings are open to both members and non-members. Those who wish to skip dinner and attend just the program portion of the meeting, starting at 7:00 p.m., may do so free of charge.

Attention: New requirements for accessing the Rock Island Arsenal as of December 1, 2015. Please use the following link to learn more about the new process.
<http://www.usagria.army.mil/AccessRequests/>

The Rock Island Historical Society/Rock Island Arsenal Museum website is up and running. Please take some time and visit - <http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org>. Feel free to forward the link.

RIA Historical Society Dinner
By
Nancy Neuhaus

Hot soup never tasted so good on the cold night of the RIA Historical Society dinner on December 7. Our guest speaker was Dr. Jill Bjerke of the Home Transition SolutionsGroup. Dr. Bjerke, trained as a chiropractor, founded the organization in 2005. She is a Certified Aging in Place Specialist. Her mission is to create a safe and secure home, wherever that may be. Dr. Bjerke calls herself a "connector", connecting

people with the resources they need. Her main company is now “Cut the Clutter” for people of all ages. If you are relocating, downsizing, have an elder to care for, or are a member of the “sandwich generation” caught between the responsibilities of your children and your parents, Dr. Bjerke can help you. Her contact information is: Phone: 563-449-2855. Her E-mail is info@hometransitionsolutions.org, and her website is www.hometransitionsolutions.org.

A brief commemoration of Pearl Harbor Day was also observed for our service members in the Navy.

Book Club Corner

By

Nancy Neuhaus

The Col Davenport Historical Foundation History Book Club met at Bucktown Center for the Arts on Tuesday, October 24, to discuss A Brief History of Bucktown by Jonathan Turner. Twelve people were in attendance, including the author, who led a rousing discussion about the “bawdy heyday” of Bucktown. This part of Davenport was most likely named for the young bucks who gathered there in the late 1800’s to early 1900’s and filled the saloons, dance halls, theatres, gambling dens, and brothels. Davenport was once called the “worst town in America”, but, oh, was it fun. The book quoted Kyle Carter, executive director of the Downtown Davenport Project as saying, “Nobody knows how cool the history is.” A Brief History of Bucktown leaves no doubt.

The book traces the evolution of Bucktown from its storied beginnings to the flourishing arts center that it is today. Bucktown’s historic buildings, including the Center for Arts, the Blackhawk Hotel, RME, and the Adler Theatre, roughly cover the area around 2nd St. in Davenport from the Gallery Center on 225th E. 2nd St. to the Figge Art Museum on 225 W. 2nd St, and up to 5th St. In 1919, the residents of Rock Island St. petitioned the city to rename it Pershing Ave in honor of General Pershing, as many Bucktown men had served under him in WWI. In 1920 during a tour of the Rock Island Arsenal he was driven with great fanfare to see the avenue that still bears his name today. In the Rock Island Arsenal Museum there is a plaque commemorating the first victory of the First US Army in WWI under his command.

The Bucktown Arts Center, as it stands today, supports local artists by providing them space to work and display their craft. A 2018 wall calendar featuring original artwork was available beginning October 27th at the center and at HyVee locations. Part of the proceeds will go to RiverAction.

Member News

It's time to renew your membership.

2018 Membership Dues

ROCK ISLAND ARSENAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Paste Mailing label or write name and address:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

Membership dues are: _____ \$10.00 Individual _____ \$15.00 Couple _____ \$8.00 Student

Please make checks payable to the *Rock Island Arsenal Historical Society* and mail to Richard D. Hochstetler, 1209 21st Ave. Apt. C103, Rock Island, IL 61201

You may also renew your membership electronically at our website at this link:

<http://www.arsenalhistoricalsociety.org/benefits.html>
