



# HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISLAND LAKE NEWSLETTER

*SPRING 2021*

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

### *HISTORIC BOAT TOURS WILL RETURN!*

The Historical Society of Island Lake is excited to inform all that Liz Nelson is going to revive our ever-popular boat tours this year. Although we have no indoor programs or meetings of our membership as of yet, Liz is confident that we can manage our summer boat tours, of course with precautions due to the pandemic. Advance reservations and masks are required.



The tours, which last about an hour, feature a long-time resident as historical guide and reveal interesting facts about the history of the lake, highlighting the properties and dwellings, and information about the wildlife and ecology of Island Lake, one of the most scenic lakes in the area. Tours will be scheduled on weekday evenings and weekends. Individual and group tours are offered; private group tours can be arranged to accommodate your schedule. Of course, the weather has to cooperate!

There is a modest suggested \$10 per person donation, which benefits the work of the Historical Society. Tour date information is available on the Village of Island Lake website and on the Historical Society of Island Lake Facebook page. Reservations are required since seating is limited and can be made by contacting Liz Nelson at 847-609-9050 or e-mail at [lizznelson@me.com](mailto:lizznelson@me.com).

## ISLAND LAKE HISTORY



We are very sad to report the passing of one of the Island Lake greats, former Mayor Alex Schmidt. Our Honorary Lifetime Member passed away on February 22, 2021, after spending over 35 years serving the community of Island Lake. As well as being Mayor from 1981 to 1985, Alex was the founder of several Island Lake activities and traditions, including the Girls' Softball League and the annual Al Schmidt Easter Egg Hunt. We honor the memory of Alex and all he did for Island Lake. Here's an article from our Summer 2012 issue, showing Alex doing another service for Island Lake, which looks like he certainly enjoyed.

## ISLAND LAKE MEMORIES

### *When Island Lake Was a Monarchy*



Island Lake had a Queen in the early 1980s, and here's the Mayor at the 1981 Coronation. However, this was not really the first queen. The first queen of Island Lake was Jerry Mulvaney, who was crowned at the first Island Lake Carnival, held in 1942. In the early days before incorporation, Island Lake was run by the Property Owners Association, which had to raise funds to maintain and plow the roads. They could not afford any rides for the carnival, but they did have a parade, crown the queen, and raised quite a bit of funds from the games, including the very popular target practice featuring wartime enemies!



Jerry Mulvaney...

TO THE QUEEN

"While only one of the 5 candidates could be crowned," says Mr. Alden, they were all very queenly and deserve special mention -- Jerry Mulvaney, Mary Ann Hokanson, Ruth Swanson, LaVergne Davidson and June Risser."



--and her queenly competition

*August 1942 Island Lake News*

**CONTACTS**

Have a picture or idea you'd like to share? Or an Island Lake memory you'd like to hear more about? Contact President Connie Mascillino at 224-656-2822 or @ [mccm46@att.net](mailto:mccm46@att.net), or Editor Dona Willard at 847-526-3408, or @ [donawillard@comcast.net](mailto:donawillard@comcast.net), or message us on our Facebook page "Historical Society of Island Lake."



**FACEBOOK FEED**

Original Post Jan 17

Thank you Tony Marsala for sharing this ad from the 1970s for the grand opening of Al Kaya Chinese Restaurant. The building was located at the end of what is now Doheny Drive off Roberts Road.

**AL KAYA RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE**

**AMERICAN FOOD ALWAYS** **CHINESE AUTHENTIC FOOD** **OPEN DAILY AT 4:30 P.M.**

**Grand Opening**  
**Friday, July 22**  
**Good Food! Fun! Entertainment!**  
**Authentic Menus From Hong Kong**  
**Beautiful Imported Chinese Pictures**  
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**DINNER FOR TWO \$10.00**  
 Includes Soup, Salad, 3 Entrees  
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**Phone (312) 526-9764**  
 . . . . . For a memorable Evening of Gourmet Dining

**We're Easy To Find . . .**  
 1 Block South of Route 176 on Roberts Road in Island Lake, Ill.

**COUPON**

**GRAND OPENING SPECIAL**  
**1 Free Drink**  
 per customer having dinner with us. Customer must have coupon.



**AL KAYA Restaurant & Cocktail Lounge**



## **COMMENTS:**

### **Eric Young**

Phillip Woo and family ran this after Frank Salada.. 77' sounds about right, my mother , sisters and I worked there part time with the both of them. this was run under various names, owners, operators and had numerous grand openings for years..

### **Vicki Wennlund Hayes**

I worked there for them, Tony and Frank. Frank was so nice when he paid me he would give me a few extra dollars.

### **RaeAnn Domke**

Great times and great food!

### **Heather Welsh-Smith**

Wow my family use to go there all the time . I grew up on Roberts Rd . I also remember hot air balloons landing in the field . My wedding reception was held there 1983

### **Lisa Ann Buffo**

Phil and I use to....Disco dance when he had bands. I taught alot of people how to do a li e dance that

**Merry Dingler Hinkson, Marie Dingler,** and I put together. I had a blast...and my wedding reception there. Best food around.

### **Elizabeth Willard Gorsline**

I loved this place! I thought it was so fancy and exotic

### **Tom Wilson**

Hmm. July 22 fell on Friday in 1966 and 1977.

### **Janice Howton Shambo**

I miss this place!

### **Kerry Compton**

Wasn't it called the vagabond house when it first opened?

### **Nancy Nelson-Wendt**

Miss their food it was so good!!

### **Karen Linneweh Stiller**

Great food!

### **Sara Nebgen Ribar**

Great place!

## **LONG AGO AND FAR AWAY**

As we all wait for a speedy recovery from this pandemic, I thought you might like to take a historic look at plagues from the past, and the advances that were made in coping with them. Of course, we all think first of the medieval so-called “black plague”, which killed approximately 1/3 of the human lives on the planet. Pretty scary. They did understand the necessity of quarantining but were just overwhelmed by the numbers. It was finally ended, at least in Europe, by the great fire in London in 1666.

Smallpox, a viral disease, was a real killer, and unfortunately came to the new world with the explorers, and killed many natives who had no immunity to this unknown disease in America. A cure was discovered by an Englishman, Dr. Edward Jenner, who noticed that when rural persons were exposed to cowpox, a mild disease in cattle, they became immune to smallpox. Jenner inoculated a young boy with cowpox virus, and soon vaccination became widely accepted and reduced smallpox to a rarity.

I imagine many of our members are familiar with polio, a killer andcrippler especially of children, as it was first known as “infantile paralysis.” In fact it crippled the future President, Franklin Roosevelt, when he was an adult. In 1954 Dr. Salk created the vaccine using three types of dead viruses. Extensive trials on American schoolchildren proved that the vaccine was successful, and many of us remember getting those awful shots in the school gym. The vaccine was later improved to an oral vaccine by Dr. Sabin. Polio does still exist in undeveloped countries, but here in America, it is just a memory of no swimming in August, posters showing crippled children and the March of Dimes, and the horrors of an iron lung.

We should be thankful every day that science has come a long way, and we can overcome deadly disease with a worldwide concerted effort.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Just a reminder that it’s time to renew your membership for 2021. We continue to keep our dues at a nominal rate to encourage membership; the cost is the same modest amount again this year, and only \$5.00 for seniors. We know you will want to keep receiving our newsletter of old-time memories, and support the Historical Society of Island Lake’s preservation of our history. Please mail in the attached form with your check, or if your information is the same, just mail your check to the address below. Thank you, and be safe and look forward for our news of upcoming Historical events and programs.

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**HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF ISLAND LAKE  
DUES FOR 2021**

YES, I would like to renew my membership and continue to support the  
Historical Society of Island Lake!!!

Regular Membership .....\$10.00/year  
Family Membership (husband, wife & minor children)....\$15.00/year  
Senior Membership (65 years or better) ..... \$5.00/year

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**TELEPHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **MOBILE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Historical Society of Island Lake, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation*  
***Return to Historical Society of Island Lake, 3706 Lakeview Drive, Island Lake, IL 60042***