



## Cornerstones

# Preservation Alliance of La Crosse

April 2009

### Board of Directors

Barbara Kooiman *President*  
David Henke *Vice President*  
Sharon Ryan *Secretary*  
Judith Cobb *Treasurer*

Mariel Carlisle  
Roger Grant  
King Holley  
Dee Peacock  
Robert Poehling  
Dan Moen

### Welcome to our new members:

Don and Vicki Elwood  
Stephen and Becki Bamber  
Nordeen Design Gallery  
Christ Episcopal Church

It's time for this year's Heritage Award nominations.  
See the back page for the nomination form.

### Presidents Message:

Spring is (almost!!) upon us again. In this season of rebirth, we tend to think of green..... the grass slowly turning from brown to green, early spring bulbs emerging to show their first blooms, trees budding with new leaves. As we think of green the way Nature intended it, we also, in these hard economic times, may be trying to find ways to make our homes and businesses more "green" from an energy and material conservation point-of-view.

The idea is increasingly emerging that historic preservation IS green!! Every time we rehab and remodel an existing building, we are being "green." This is the ultimate form of recycling.... NOT tearing down the old to build new.... Rather, save the parts of the old that we can and build upon its existing structure. Often when we do that, not only are we saving money, but we're saving energy. Think about it: new construction requires that the site be prepared using large equipment, new materials need to be shipped in, often from long distances, using fuel not only to make those materials, but also the fuel to ship them. Sometimes when constructing a new site, an old building must be demolished. That debris goes into our landfills.

Now, I'm not saying every single old building can nor should be saved. However, I do think it is our responsibility as inhabitants of this planet to seriously look at new projects, and before building new, look at what is existing and use creative, green practices in rehabbing and retrofitting these buildings to continue to work with our built environment!

Barbara Kooiman, president of PAL

## Heritage Awards Banquet

Please join us to recognize community members who have made an impact in local historical preservation.

*Tuesday, May 5  
Freighthouse – Hiawatha Room*

5:30 –cash bar  
6:00 – dinner  
7:00 – awards presentation

Cost - \$27.50 PAL members  
\$30.00 non-members

Includes meal and gratuity, please pay at the door check or cash (sorry, unable to take credit cards).

RSVP to PAL by Friday, May 1.  
Voicemail: 608-784-1976  
Email: [preservationalliance@gmail.com](mailto:preservationalliance@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.preservation-alliance.org](http://www.preservation-alliance.org)

---

Thank you to all the retailers that sold our ornaments this winter.

*Stamp 'N' Hand  
Satori Arts  
Gundersen Lutheran Gift Shop  
Franciscan Skemp Gift Shoppe  
Tree House Gift & Home  
Nordeen Design Gallery  
Finnotte's  
V.C. Salon  
La Crosse County Historical Society  
The Pump House*

---

## May is National Historic Preservation Month

Every year, the month of May is set aside to honor preservation activities. Here in the La Crosse area we have a number of activities in honor of Historic Preservation Month:

--Heritage Awards Banquet May 5, 6:00  
--Downtown Tour: May 16, 11:00  
--McGilvray Road Tour: May 17, 2:30

## Downtown Historic Walking Tour

**As part of 2009 Historic Preservation Month activities, Barbara Kooiman will once again be giving her historic walking tour of downtown La Crosse. The tour highlights La Crosse's founding, rise as a river town, regional commercial hub and historic tourism destination location.**

**Please join Barbara at the northeast corner of 2<sup>nd</sup> and Main Streets (in front of the U.S. Bank Building) in downtown La Crosse on Saturday, May 16 at 11 a.m. Wear appropriate outdoor clothing and comfortable walking shoes. The tour will last a little over an hour, and you're sure to learn something new as you enjoy the wonderful spring weather!**

## McGilvray Road Tour

Join the Preservation Alliance of La Crosse and the Friends of McGilvray Rd. for the 5th Annual Bridges Walk on Sunday, May 17th. Meet in the Van Loon Wildlife Refuge parking lot at 2:30 for a casual stroll along the 2 mile trail and a history of the bridges by members of the "Friends" group. A social gathering will be held after the walk, at 5:00, Drugan's Supper Club, Holmen.

Anyone wishing to join the group for dinner, please RSVP to Mariel at [mariel@acegroup.cc](mailto:mariel@acegroup.cc) or Nancy at [nfhill@centurytel.net](mailto:nfhill@centurytel.net). Go to [www.7bridgesrd.org](http://www.7bridgesrd.org) for directions.



## **Wearin' Green at the Pink House**

Begosh, March 15th was a lovely day for an open house. The Pink House on Losey was full of appreciative guests and there was a bit of Irish-green floating around, too as Janet Papenfuss generously opened her home for PAL's annual winter party. Members of the PAL board served their favorite appetizers and JavaVino presented a variety of fine wines.

Janet purchased the home, after admiring it for years, in 2005. Her grandfather was the electrical contractor when the house was built in 1927. The tidy, intriguing La Crosse landmark is beautifully appointed with family heirlooms, treasures from Janet's travels and a gentle touch of old-world charm. The entire home was open for casual touring. We learned that it was built in the Moroccan style of architecture by Otto Merman for the William and Christine Kroner family. As far as anyone can remember, it has always been pink.

There is a rumor that the home was a "Speakeasy" during Prohibition with a bar in the basement and a secret place under the stairway. No

one can guess as to why the latch on that hiding place can only be locked from the inside. Would someone have believed he could hide in there and that locking himself in would keep his location secret? Sounds like the workings of the Irish little people to me.

Janet has maintained the home's architectural integrity while restoring the windows throughout, replacing sagging beams in the sun porch, updating the kitchen and numerous other projects. The hardwood floors are original, the wrought-iron gates and curved arches remain as built.

Ceao Mile beannachta, Janet. (one hundred thousand thank yous)

*Do you have an idea for next year's PAL ornament? See our website for a list of all previous designs. Email your ideas to: [preservationalliance@gmail.com](mailto:preservationalliance@gmail.com)*

**LOOK FOR**  
**Architectural Treasure Hunt in the**  
**La Crosse Tribune on Sunday,**  
**May 3rd!!! This year, PAL will**  
**also be posting the Architectural**  
**Treasure Hunt on the La Crosse**  
**Tribune's website (and linked**  
**through our website at**  
**[www.preservation-alliance.org](http://www.preservation-alliance.org)).**  
**See the Home and Garden Section**  
**on May 3rd for more details. The**  
**Hunt results will be announced on**  
**Sunday, May 17th in the La Crosse**  
**Tribune.**

### ***Farewell to a friend....***

On March 31st PAL lost a friend with the passing of **Grant L. Wood**. He and his wife Jane came to our community in 2006 when they purchased the Holway House at 1419 Cass Street from long-time resident Mariel Carlisle. Grant and Jane made many renovations to the house, returning it to a single-family residence, remodeling several rooms as well the basement, the gardens and the seasonal retreat in the backyard. They opened their home for PAL when we featured the Holway House in our Heritage Home Tour in 2007. The Woods also underwrote the production of the 2008 PAL ornament of the Holway House. The home tour and ornament have been wonderful fund-raisers for PAL. Counting ourselves amongst the many new friends and neighbors the Woods' have made in our community, we sadly say farewell to Grant, remembering his generosity toward PAL and his love for the "Castle on Cass Street."

*The best thing about the house is its ability to contain you, to reflect you, to give you a sense of your place in the experience you call your life. ---*  
-----  
contributed by Carla Graham

Please save grocery receipts from Festival Foods and Quillin's. They may be dropped off at the Pump House as part of their fundraising.

---

### **PAL Ornaments are still available**

We offer ornaments for sale throughout the year and still have most styles in stock. Orders can be made by  
phone:608-784-1976,  
email: preservationalliance@gmail.com or  
website: www.preservation-alliance.org

---

Contact Mariel Carlisle at 507-643-7090 if you would be interested in hosting a high school student from World Heritage foreign exchange program. Open your heart, gain a lasting friendship.



Guests of PAL and Janet Papenfuss at the Winter Party.

### **PAL Committee Chairs**

Barbara Koiman, *Education*  
Barbara Kooiman and  
Roger Grant, *Media*  
Mariel Carlisle, *Ornaments*  
David Henke, *Membership*  
David Henke, *Budget*  
David Henke, *Calendar*  
Judy Cobb, *Rotary Lights*  
Dee Peacock and  
Sharon Ryan, *Social*  
King Holley and  
Bob Poehling, *Fall Tour*

Do any of the above committees match well with your interests or talents? If so, why not consider joining one of them. Be part of the action, part of the preservation.

*On the domestic stage of the house, we rehearse every part we will ever play. --*  
-----  
- contributed by Carla Graham