



## Cornerstones July 2017

### Winners! Winners!

#### ARCHITECTURAL TREASURE HUNT

**David Buroker** and **Sandy Keller** of La Crosse, who submitted all eight correct answers the fastest. Other winners include **Merle, Lynette,** and **Ann Storlie** of La Crosse; **Ed** and **Nancy Gansen** of La Crosse; **Connie Erickson** of La Crosse; **Diane Boyer** of Stoddard; **Linda Pake** of La Crosse; and **Barb Hanson** and **Ann Pederson** of Black River Falls.

Winners will choose from prizes donated by Wilson School House Inn, Freight House, Downtown Mainstreet Inc., and Preservation Alliance of La Crosse.

Thanks to the La Crosse Tribune for their help with the contest.

#### JOAN RAUSCH HISTORY DAY AWARD

Junior Individual Documentary – **Winnie Hilker**  
*Taking a Stand Against Bigotry: Eradicating Native American Boarding Schools in Wisconsin*

#### PAL Board of Directors

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## 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Awards Winners

Myrna (Dee) Peacock: This posthumous recognition went to longtime PAL board member and volunteer, Dee Peacock. Look back at our September 2016 newsletter for memorials to Dee. Back issues of the newsletter are on our website [www.preservation-alliance.org](http://www.preservation-alliance.org).

Earl's Grocery, 401 3<sup>rd</sup> St. S \* Paul & Terri Erickson, 210 14th St. S \* 2219 Lofts, 2219 South Ave.

See page 2 for photos and more info



## **EARL'S GROCERY AND SALOON**

**401 3<sup>RD</sup> ST. S**

Owned by Flottmeyer brothers Bill, Jim, Greg, and Bob, this 1870 building was originally a grocery store but combined with a saloon in 1895. Earl's has been renovated to feature the original brick walls and wooden floors.

## **2219 LOFTS 2219 SOUTH AVE.**

The original 1903 Gund Brewery Stables, this building has also served as the National Guard Armory and the Bakalar Sausage Factory. Purchased and renovated into a 24 unit apartment building by MetroPlains LLC.



## **PAUL & TERRI ERICKSON**

**210 14TH ST. S**

Built by James B. Taylor in 1902, this house is an American Foursquare/Colonial Revival design. The Erickson's opened their house for the PAL 2009 Heritage Home tour.

## PAL welcomes Vicki Elwood to the board.

Vicki Elwood is the founder and Artistic Director of The Muse Theatre at 1353 Avon St. in La Crosse. In 2001, Vicki and her husband Don started renovating the condemned and abandoned North Presbyterian Church. "There was a hole in the roof that was large enough to see sky and was an easy access for pigeons and squirrels. Water damage had burrowed a hole through the sanctuary floor." It took them six years to complete the project filling 21 thirty yard dumpsters with wet and moldy carpet and rotten building debris. "We poured all of our life savings and ourselves into this project. When the Preservation Alliance awarded us with Best Adaptive Reuse of an Historic Building, we felt we had met our people."

Vicki and Don also renovated their former business location, Salon Medusa at 203 4th St. S. "This project took us one year to complete while we resided in Minneapolis and we were both working full time. We would come down on the week-ends and work on our days off removing the drop ceiling, tearing up filthy carpet, restoring the tin ceiling, sanding, priming, and painting. We did all of the work ourselves other than the exterior paint and plumbing."

While previously living in Manhattan, Vicki and Don built into a raw loft in East Harlem which had formerly been a four story schoolhouse built in 1896. Their unit was on the top floor with spectacular views of the Hudson River. The ceilings were 22 feet and had contained the school gymnasium. Upon returning to the Midwest, they renovated another loft in Downtown Minneapolis located on 4th St. between First and Hennepin Avenues. This property had once been a hat manufacturer and was directly above Nate's Clothing Store. They installed a full kitchen and bath to both of the loft units and acquired vintage cabinetry from Habitat for Humanity Restore. "We also installed repurposed chandeliers and utilized vintage

plumbing fixtures, stoves and refrigerators. We prefer the design and style of the vintage past."

Presently, the Elwood's reside at 120 13th St. S, which was featured on a PAL tour in 2010. This home was built in 1929 and needed to be cosmetically restored to its original grandeur. "We lovingly stripped the woodwork for three painstaking months. Crown moldings, floor moldings, windows and doors went through a four step process of paint removal, wire brushing, steel wool and finally staining and polyurethane. We also sanded, stained and polyurethaned the floors. We stripped years of wallpaper starting with the 1980's to the 1920's. Once that was completed, we re-plastered the walls of the entire home to prepare it for fresh paint on the interior and exterior. This street is one of La Crosse's most beautiful. It is like living in a Dicken's postcard at Christmas. We face some of the most beautifully restored and well maintained homes. It is like a dream to relax on our porch and observe the architecture."

Vicki Elwood has lived her life onstage. She is currently the Artistic Director of The Muse Theatre. For eight years they have been producing mainly musical theatre productions which are off-beat and have heartfelt humanity. Vicki attended University of Minnesota in Minneapolis where she appeared onstage in numerous Mainstage productions and was also awarded Best Actress in Midwest Region for her role as Frosine in *The Miser* at ACTF in 1987. Upon graduation she moved to Manhattan and continued to study acting with two Broadway legends Betty Buckley and Elaine Stritch. She appeared onstage at the Sanford Meisner, John Housman, and West Side Theatres. Vicki also presented her one-woman show *Pretty Damn Blonde* at Don't Tell Mamma's. She returned to the Midwest to live the good life with her husband Don, be near her family, and to be more prolific onstage. .

Check the PAL Facebook page for the latest updates on local preservation concerns and activities.

Thank you to PAL board members **Barbara Kooiman** for doing another historic walking tour of downtown La Crosse. Watch for her next tour in October; and to **Dan Moen** for his lecture on repair and prevention of water problems in basements.



Preservation Alliance of La Crosse  
119 King St.  
La Crosse , WI 54601

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