

MEMBERSHIP NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024



Blue Island Historical Society



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Brian "Beef" Fee at the plate as the Brewmasters host the Chicago Salmon

BIHistoricalSociety.org

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS



Spring is upon us, and we're gearing up for a busy summer season full of events that showcase our city's rich history and unique heritage and cultural assets. As you'll read in this newsletter, we'll also continue our ambitious plans to restore and improve the interior and exterior of our landmark home, the Albee House, and have already begun a new initiative to better organize and digitize our large collection of photos and artifacts, making it more accessible and easier to use.

As we remind you every year, all these efforts are predicated on the support of our members, donors, sponsors, and guests at our events. It may not seem like much, but each time you support BIHS in one of those forms, it helps to offset our costs to keep the organization moving forward, and to maintain the Albee House. In addition to these streams of revenue, we continue to seek grant funding to bolster our finances and are now lucky enough to have a dedicated team of professionals and volunteers that have made this effort a priority for 2024 and beyond.

Whatever you can afford, we greatly appreciate your continued support of the Historical Society, and don't take lightly our obligation to allocate those dollars responsibly. We've put together a balanced budget for this fiscal year, and even with our ambitious plans, are confident in the near and long-term stability of the organization. Thank you as always for your support, and we look forward to seeing you soon in Blue Island!

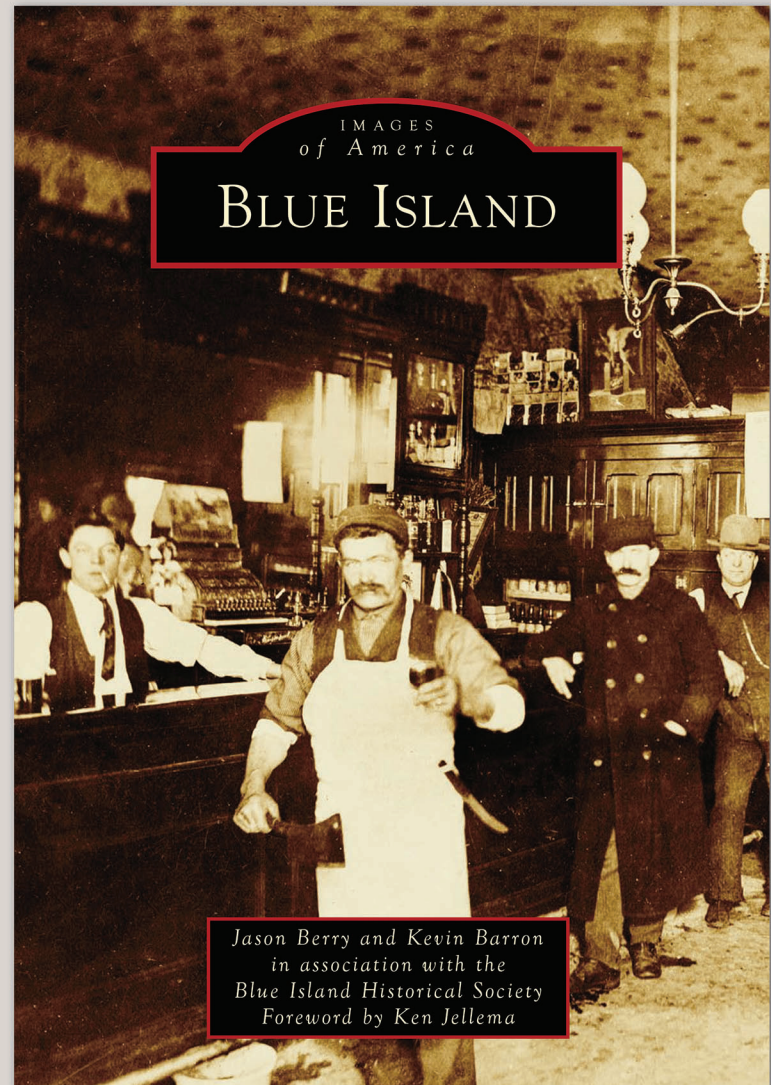
Leo Castillo,
President, Blue Island Historical Society

INTERIOR RENOVATIONS

Thanks to a lot of help from a group of volunteers - including a crew supplied by our friends at Guildhaus - we've made great strides in our effort to improve the interior of the Albee House.

Carpet dating back to the 1960s has been removed, exposing hardwood floors that, at least in part, we've been able to salvage and will leave partially exposed. Drop ceilings have been replaced by drywall, cracks and holes in plaster have been repaired, and new light fixtures have already arrived, ready to be installed once all other work is complete.

We've begun the task of preparing walls and ceilings for paint, so stay tuned as we set our sights on a grand opening event to take place in late June or early July.



Jason Berry and Kevin Barron
in association with the
Blue Island Historical Society
Foreword by Ken Jellema

We've partnered with local author, historian, BIHS Lifetime member, and Blue Island resident Jason Berry; Kevin Barron, creator and curator of South Cook Explore; and the Historical Society's Official Historian, Ken Jellema, to create an Images of America book through Arcadia Publishing. We'll be releasing it later this year, and are happy to give our members the first look at the cover art above! Stay tuned for more details on this book's release, which will include an event where you can meet the authors and be among the first to purchase it.

SPRING & SUMMER EVENTS

PLUS, NEW MONTHLY WALKING TOURS & OPEN HOURS!



We're ready to take advantage of another beautiful summer in Blue Island with a slate of events that highlight our historic architecture, parks, and neighborhoods.

New to the mix for 2024 are a series of docent-led walking tours highlighting the work of Blue Island-born and raised architect, Robert Seyfarth. Our team of expert volunteers will guide you through Blue Island's historic Silk Stocking District neighborhood to show you works from every era of Seyfarth's career, beginning with the Prairie style honeymoon cottage he designed and built for himself and his first wife, Nell. Check our website for dates and times and to purchase tickets.

In partnership with the Blue Island Area Chamber of Commerce, we're bringing back our popular Front Porch Concert Series, with one event featuring a new twist for 2024 - a pool party with food to go along with the live music at the historic Ward & Florence Seyfarth House! We'll also continue our new series of History on Location lectures in cooperation with the Chamber, with our next stop at the Blue Island Public Library on July 25 at 6 p.m. to showcase that institution's rich history.

Our very own vintage baseball team, the Blue Island Brewmasters, hits the field for their sixth season! In addition to our slate of home games at Memorial Park, the boys will be hitting the road for games in Oak Park, Hobart, Lemont, and Creston, with a special match in Pullman at the National Historic Park as a part of the National Parks Service and Illinois State Historic Site's Labor Day weekend celebration on August 31. Visit bihistoricalsociety.org for the full schedule.



BEVERLY COUNTRY CLUB
Live at the landmark
Ward & Florence Seyfarth House
JULY 27 AT 7 PM

2523 High St.
Blue Island, IL

Tickets at BIHistoricalSociety.org



Of course, our annual House Walk returns for its 36th edition at 1 p.m. on Saturday, September 21, with a rain date of Sunday September 22. We're so excited about this year's lineup - which we'll be releasing soon - and hope that our new strategy of hosting the House Walk on Saturday with a rain date on Sunday increases enjoyment of and attendance to our signature event.

In addition to all of the events and other excitement surround the organization, we'll also be returning to open hours at the Albee House, upon the completion of our interior renovations. We have a dedicated team of volunteers ready to greet people for guided tours of the home, to sell BIHS merchandise, and to give our members and researchers access to our robust archive. We'll announce our hours soon, but our plans are to be open several days weekly, including Saturdays.

We hope to see many of you at these events and programs, and be sure to check our website, register for email alerts, and follow us on Facebook or Instagram to keep up with everything we have going on.



Come out on Labor Day weekend to see the Blue Island Brewmasters take on the Lemont Quarrymen at the famous Pullman Administration Building.

THE HOME YOU LONGED FOR



We've entered the post-production phase of our documentary on architect Robert Seyfarth, and have posted the first trailer on our website and social media channels. Be on the lookout for more short teasers as we get closer to the film's release!

OUR NEW SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM



From our many events – including our annual House Walk, which welcomes hundreds of visitors to Blue Island – to our ambitious preservation and educational initiatives, there are so many ways to support the Blue Island Historical Society while marketing your business or organization to our audience numbering in the thousands.

Options start at only \$25, up to our most comprehensive package that would feature your name and/or logo prominently on everything we present annually. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, your contribution the Historical Society is tax-deductible. Learn more at bihistoricalsociety.org, email us at info@bihistoricalsociety.org, or call us at 708-371-8546.

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