

Dear Bourbonnais Grove Historical Society members and friends,

Counsel General of France in Chicago Visits Our Historic Landmark



At left, the 1928 heirloom zinnia “cactus mix” offers welcoming colors in the garden on east side of the Letourneau Home-Museum. From left to right, Dr. Charles Balesi, Honorable Guillaume Lacroix (Consul General of France in Chicago), Laurel Soper, and Vic Johnson pose on the Greek Revival porch of the Letourneau Home/Museum during the Consul General’s visit to Bourbonnais and Kankakee on August 30.

Francais-Canadien Fun at the 2018 *Fleur-de-Lis* Dinner Celebration



From left to right, Honorable Jean-Francois Hould (Delegate of the Quebec Government to the Midwest), Jorie Walters (who introduced the award winner), Norma Meier, and Honorable Frederic Chole (French Deputy Consul General) present the 2018 *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence to Norma at the Second Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on September 28. At right, Mayor Paul Schore, after the celebration dinner, illustrates the proposed pedestrian bridge and new village logo which will both prominently display the *fleur-de-lis*.

The Second Annual *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner on September 28 at the Kankakee Country Club was an evening of merriment, socialization, and inspiration. This pivotal event not only provided an opportunity to present an individual with the annual BGHS *Fleur-de-Lis* Award of Excellence for Outstanding Contribution in the Preservation of French colonial, French-Canadian, and Belgian Heritage in the Kankakee and Iroquois River Valleys Corridor, but also to raise funds toward restoration of the log school house. Norma Meier deservedly received the award, and \$2800 has so far been raised in the 2018 campaign to restore the log school house. That amount combined with donations and pledges from 2017 brings the total amount raised to date to over \$10,650. During his remarks after the dinner, the Honorable Jean-Francois Hould (Delegate of the Government of Quebec to the Midwest)—who along with the Honorable Chole, toured the area museums and landmarks—said that he felt like he was at home. Then the Honorable Frederic Chole (French Deputy Consul General) spoke and apologized for being late in his response to attending this year's dinner, but said that he could not miss this event since he had such a good time last year.



Brad Benoit again mesmerized us with his French songs and musical talents. The appetizers, *coq e vin*, and chocolate mousse created by the country club chef were delicious. The celebration dinner 86 attendees came from as far away as Richardson, Texas (Jed and Kim Nagele) and Peoria (Jan Hodel and Dennis Richard). This celebration dinner has become an occasion in which our community expresses: 1) an appreciation for its past treasured heritage; 2) an awareness of combining that heritage with present developments; and 3) a vision for a future that integrates that unique and rich heritage. *I have attached a revised program of the celebration dinner with list of donors on the second page.* **To those of you who donated to the fund raiser this year, please know that the BGHS and Steering Committee for the Restoration of the Log School House express heartfelt gratitude to you!**

A Few Future Dates to Save

Please save the date for these future events:

- 2019 *Fleur-de-Lis* Celebration Dinner—Friday September 27, 2019;
- *Les Artisans* Arts and Crafts Fair—Saturday December 1, 2018;

- Fall Clean Up Garden Work Session—Saturday November 17, 2018, 9-11 am; and
- Christmas Open House—Sunday December 16, 2018 from 1-4 pm.

Next Membership Meeting on October 4

For our meeting on October 4, please come early to enjoy beverage and cookies, The agenda for the meeting is:

- Presentation by Frank Koehler about future French Heritage Celebrations;
- Approval of minutes (*see attached*);
- Treasurer position;
- Pay Pal options regarding identification of guests at dinner;
- Ideas for entertainment at 2019 celebration dinner;
- Thank you notes to donors without e-mail addresses;
- Review *The Herald* and *Daily Journal* news articles related to BGHS;
- October article for *The Herald*;
- Membership renewal date;
- Chaperone for October 7 open house;
- Opening house procedure for chaperone of Sunday open house; and
- Enhancing George Letourneau's face on front sign.

Kudos for Our Volunteers

I would like to thank Gary Seiner for presiding over our meetings in August and September during my absence. Also, I thank Daron Kinzinger for the celebration dinner bookkeeping during my absence. Deep expressions of gratitude also go to Marcia Rabideau, Laurel Soper, and Mary Ann Lambert for their organizing of items at the museum in August and September, my right and left hand organizers of the celebration dinner—Charles Balesi and Wal Schuller; and our impromptu museum tour guides for the French ministers on August 30 and September 28—Laurel Soper, Vic Johnson, and Charles Balesi. Thanks to you—and others that I may have missed—for all your volunteer time for the society. Have a great October!

Jim