



Volunteer Spotlight: Kathleen and Marvin Oster

This issue of the MSM Bellringer will shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Kathleen and Marvin Oster and their work at the museum. Kathleen is the Museum Collections Registrar. Her husband, Marvin, is her technical assistant. Together they have volunteered at McCormick since December of 2015 when Kathleen became aware of the museum and its need for volunteers.

Kathleen is a former elementary teacher and librarian for USD 259 Wichita Public Schools. She substituted for thirteen years to keep a flexible schedule for her family, and she concluded her career as the Benton Elementary School librarian, a position she held for eleven years. During his seven years in the Air Force, Marvin's career included extensive training and work experience in the field of electronics. At the conclusion of his military service, Marvin continued to work with computers and telephone systems. His supervisors recognized that his thorough knowledge and patient temperament made him an excellent trainer in these evolving technologies. Marvin and Kathleen's children attended and graduated from Wichita Public Schools during their growing up years.

Kathleen's duties at the museum include accessioning items donated to the museum by assigning catalog numbers and entering this information into the collections management software. All items donated to the museum must pass through Kathleen's purview prior to being placed in the holdings. She has a comprehensive knowledge of the collections in the Crystal McNally Library and is of great assistance to any researcher who visits the museum for genealogical and historical information.

For his part, Marvin assists in creating spreadsheets to help Kathleen organize the accession data and resolves any computer problems that occur on her laptop. At times, he has been recruited to help Kathleen with large projects in the library such as moving and organizing the yearbook collection for better patron accessibility. The MSM staff is grateful for their collaborative efforts at the museum.

Every year at the Christmas Open House, Kathleen is stationed in the library to assist visitors who are curious about perusing school yearbooks for familiar faces. She says she enjoys listening to the students' vocal and instrumental performances echoing through the halls of the museum. She particularly remembers one year when a middle school student who had just performed came into the library to look at the yearbooks. She says, "He was so excited to find his grandma in one of the yearbooks. I heard him yelling to his friends to come see his grandma!"

Something that Kathleen would like to see in the future is for more volunteers helping out. The time is flexible, and she says it is amazing what can be done in three to four hours a week. The volunteer not only helps to preserve the educational history of the Wichita Public Schools, but fulfills the widely-shared legacy of "life-long learning" that was promised to every student.



Kathleen and Marvin Oster stand next to the USD 259 Yearbook collection in the MSM Library. Photo: Cynthia Rhodes

For more information about how you can volunteer, please contact the museum at 316-708-0676 (call and text) or at mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com. We would love to place your name on the museum's volunteer roster soon!

OUR MISSION

The mission of the McCormick School Museum is to showcase and protect its historical and architectural importance while telling the story of Wichita Public Schools through artifacts and archives.

The mission of the Advisory Council is to guide and assist in long-range planning, marketing, and development of the McCormick School Museum, seeking opportunities for growth and recognition through increased educational opportunities and significant fundraising efforts.

The Newsletter of the McCormick School Museum, Inc. is published six times per year to inform constituents of the Wichita Public Schools and other interested patrons of activities and events taking place at the museum. Contributions help us to produce this publication.

You may send your gift to
McCormick School Museum, Inc. at:

McCormick School Museum, Inc.
P.O. Box 12881
Wichita, Kansas 67277
savemccormick.com

How You Can Help

McCormick School Museum has several fundraising opportunities coming up, and here is how you can help. All you need to do is select the opportunity that fits your needs, and your help can be immediately put to work for the museum.

The 2024 MSM Holiday commemorative ornament is available for purchase. This year's ornament is a beautiful red and green wreath on a background of sparkling gold metal to pair with last year's holiday tree ornament. The golden banner on the front of the wreath is inscribed with "McCormick School 2024." Both the wreath and last year's tree ornaments can even be accentuated by the 2022 McCormick Holiday tinkle bell, and all three ornaments will be available for sale all through the holiday season. The wreath and tree ornaments are available for \$20.00 each, and the red tinkle bell is \$10.00. All three may be purchased at the museum; place your ornament orders now.

The 2024-2025 Light the Way for History campaign will begin on October 1, 2024 with a goal of raising \$25,000. The monies of this fundraiser will be applied towards the operational expenses of the museum such as electricity costs and heating and cooling expenses.



MSM Holiday ornaments: Wreath 2024 and Tree 2023.
Photos: Cynthia Rhodes

Donations for this campaign may be made at the museum during regular hours, mailed to the address on the front of the newsletter, or you can go online at mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com. They will be accepted from October 1, 2024 through January 12, 2025. Remember, McCormick School Museum is a 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

MSM's Buy a Brick Campaign is a terrific way to honor or

remember a former USD 259 student, teacher, or activity of the past. Each paving stone can be engraved with your specific wording and will be included in the commemorative walk outside the front doors of the school as another way to preserve the history of the Wichita Public School district. Pick-up a brick order form when you visit the museum, or find the same form online at savemccormick.com. Each brick is \$50.00, with \$25.00 of each brick going towards the operating expenses of the museum.

Remember the upcoming holiday giving season through participation in one or more of MSM's fundraising campaigns. We appreciate your

contributions of all sizes. Please come by and visit us soon, so we can wish you a happy and prosperous holiday season.

EVENTS & MUSEUM HOURS

The McCormick School Museum is open Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm and Sundays from 2:00 to 5:00 pm. Park to the north of the building; enter through door #4 (closest entrance to the parking lot). Ring the doorbell if needed. You may call 316-708-0676 to confirm museum hours before your visit or to schedule tours outside regular hours.

The Museum complex is located at 855 S. Martinson in Wichita. Currently, the stairway to the multipurpose room is handicap-accessible. Admission is by donation; your support is always appreciated.

SAVE THE DATES

OCTOBER 19

Walking Tour: McCormick School Neighborhood. 9am to 1pm. Cost \$55.00. For more information, see the Wichita State University Fall 2024 Community Education Catalog or call the MSM office.

DECEMBER 6

Annual Holiday Open House. 9am to 5pm

DECEMBER 7 & 8

Holiday Open House Weekend. 2 to 5pm both days

DECEMBER 12

Carol Sing Around the Tree. 6:30 to 8pm

To reserve a room for your event, contact the museum office for reservation information and availability of dates.

For more information and to contact the museum:

Website: www.mccormickschoolmuseuminc.com

Facebook: McCormick School Museum

Gmail: mccormickschoolmuseum@gmail.com

Telephone: 316-708-0676 (call or text)

MSM Office: 316-558-5804 (leave a message)