

JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Spring | May 2025



The Jonathan Clark House wants *YOU!*

Join our team of friendly volunteers for the annual JCH Spring Clean-Up

Do you have a few hours to spare in May or June? Whether you consider yourself young, old, or in-between, you are invited to join our crew of spring clean-up volunteers or, if you prefer, schedule a time to work on your own.

Tasks include...

- ~ Clearing and hauling brush
- ~ Cleaning flower beds
- ~ Preparing vegetable beds for summer planting
- ~ Interior house cleaning



Volunteers in action during previous Jonathan Clark House clean-ups include (L to R): Costumed docent Laverne sweeping the parlour, and JCH Young Historians Matthew and Emerson clearing brush outside. Come join us this year!



How to Volunteer

We have a clean-up day planned for **Saturday, May 17, from 12:00 until 3:00**, and other volunteer tasks can be done whenever you have time in your schedule.

Send an email to co-curators Nina Look and Fred Derr at info@jonathanclarkhouse.org (click the link, or use the QR code to your right) and let them know when you are available in May or early June.





2025 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tom Daub, President
 Brady Seiberlich, Vice President
 Shaw Bridges, Treasurer
 Nicole Buerosse, Secretary
 Bill Kroyer, Board Member
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2025 VOLUNTEER STAFF

Dr. Nina Look, Executive Director
 Anne Bridges, Special Projects
 Fred Derr, Preservation Manager
 & Museum Curator
 Nicole Buerosse, JCH Intern
 Reed Perkins, Historian &
 Media/Web Design
 Matthew Seiberlich, JCH Young
 Historian Ambassador

CONTACT INFORMATION

Friends of Jonathan Clark House
 P. O. Box 634
 Mequon, WI 53092

www.jonathanclarkhouse.org

[262-618-2051](tel:262-618-2051)

Note our new email address:
info@jonathanclarkhouse.org

Remembering Jean Hill (1943 – 2025)

by Margaret Bussone, JCH Education Director



The Jonathan Clark House family is grieving the loss of Jean Hill, our talented volunteer photographer and very dear friend.

Visitors to our events saw a very patient Jean placing her somewhat spatially challenged subjects for group pictures so that everyone looked good.

We all remember Jean showing up for all of our events and cruising through the crowds inside and out, snapping candid shots as she went. Wherever we needed pictures, Jean came, and whenever something needed doing, she'd help.



Jean and her camera at the 2024 JCH Holiday Lights celebration

Jean once said that, as a volunteer photographer, her goal was to express the JCH mission of sharing local history with the community, and especially with young people, and added that she expressed that mission and her love of history through her photography.

In the same way that she enhanced the mission of JCH, she supported other organizations whose history she recorded visually: the MTHS, MT Chamber, MT Community Foundation, Sunrise Rotary and so many other hard-working local groups. Because of her, newcomers and new generations will share our visual histories



Tina Schwantes, Nina Look and Jean gather around the 2022 JCH Christmas tree

But Jean shared so much more: her unpretentious nature; her solid work ethic; her droll sense of humor; her many Christmas sweaters; her clear-eyed sense of what is important in a photo and in life; her love of photography, of history, and of the many people with whom she worked. Those of us who had the chance to know her are better for her presence.

Jean Hill Memorial Fund

The Jonathan Clark House is accepting donations to be used for the future purchase of a museum artifact in memory of Jean. If you would care to donate to the JCH Jean Hill Memorial Fund you may write a check to Friends of the Jonathan Clark House and send it to P. O. Box 634, Mequon, WI 53092. Another option is to go to the "Donate" section of our website and pay by PayPal.

Join us for Summer Fun at the Museum

Pie on the Patio



JCH Young Historians are ready for the Pie event

Mark your calendar for our annual “**Pie on the Patio**” event on **Tuesday, June 10, from 5:00 until 7:00 PM**. This very special event is a way to say “Thank you” to our Friends and donors. Plan to bring your family as well as a few friends who would enjoy a relaxing evening and an interactive museum tour. Your invitation is at the end of this newsletter.

Please be kind and send an RSVP to:
info@jonathanclarkhouse.org

Heritage Days

We are pleased to present two “**Heritage Days**” events this summer. Plan to come for fun in the yard and tours in the historic house.

The dates and times are **Saturday, June 14 and Saturday, July 12, from 12:00 until 3:00**. Come at noon and stay for the afternoon. The event poster is at the end of this newsletter.

And as always, we are open for special appointments and tours this summer. Contact us at:
info@jonathanclarkhouse.org



4-H Club volunteers and their chickens

Congratulations to our Graduating JCH Young Historians!



From the very beginning of our organization we have recruited energetic young volunteers. With their experiences at the museum they have learned valuable first-time volunteer skills. Their contributions have included hauling bales of straw, searching for buried treasure, researching the life of Peter Turck, educating children on how to raise chickens, building bike racks and giving tours to scout troops. We are proud that all three of our graduating seniors are graduating with honors and we wish them the best as they continue their educational journeys.

- Julien Broughton, Homestead High School
- Spencer Holloway, Grafton High School
- Matthew Seiberlich, Homestead High School

—Tom Daub, Board President

Be a Local History Preservationist

Join us as we as we preserve the history of our community



The Jonathan Clark House, including this decorative stone above the south door, inscribed Jonathan M Clark / 1848, has seen a lot of weather since it was built almost two centuries ago. Now it's time to prepare the house for its third century as a local landmark.

The Friends of the Jonathan Clark House Board of Directors have embarked on a comprehensive preservation plan. The goal of the plan's **three current projects** is to preserve and maintain the house's 1848 historical integrity, ensuring its longevity as a cultural landmark and educational resource for the community. Each project is essential for the physical upkeep of the building and for safeguarding our community's identity and heritage for future generations. The projects will enable the organization to continue to provide educational programming for the community, fostering a deeper understanding of local history and thus provide quality outreach and educational opportunities for youth and adults.



Mid-April, 2025, and work has already begun on some of the Jonathan Clark House exterior preservation projects.

**You can be a Local History Preservationist
with a donation to the
Friends of the Jonathan Clark House**

Project One - HVAC system upgrade

Thank you to Kathleen Stocking and Cindy and David Bock for funding this project.

Project Two - Stone foundation preservation

Thank you to Pieper Power Foundation for contributing toward this project.

Remaining Project Two goal: \$5,500



Project Three - Exterior Preservation

a project in several parts:

- **Cornice & gutter repair:**

remaining goal = \$1,000

- **Exterior painting: goal = \$6,000**

- **Window repair and replacement:** Thank you to Mequon Thiensville Community Foundation for partial project funding.

remaining goal = \$10,500

- **North addition exterior work: goal = \$3,000**

Work has begun. Total remaining goal for the three projects = \$26,000

If you would like to support these essential preservation projects, or for more information, contact JCH Preservation Manager Fred Derr: via email at info@jonathanclarkhouse.org or phone 262-618-2051 or at www.jonathanclarkhouse.org

A New Home for the JCH Bible

Don't worry! The museum's oldest treasure is not going anywhere. But our historic Bonniwell Family Bible is getting a new, archival-quality display case and set of adjustable book supports. JCH Historian Reed Perkins, assisted by museum studies intern Nicole Buerosse, has been at work on this project since mid-2024, researching the best archival handling and display practices so that our 440-year-old family Bible will be preserved for generations to come.



Reed has also been studying the history of this unique volume, and has been discovering many interesting details about its history and provenance.

Left: Royal Arms of Queen Elizabeth I, decorating the last page of the Old Testament in our Bonniwell Bible.

Historic Local Maps at the JCH

The March, 2025, JCH Map Program and Open House event was an educational and fun opportunity for visitors and researchers to explore the Museum's collection of historic local plat maps. Of course, our recently acquired 1860 Town of Mequon Plat Map was the star of the event.



JCH preservation manager Fred Derr, second from right, and guests examine some of our historic local plat maps at the March, 2025, map event.

Did you miss the event? JCH Preservation Manager Fred Derr is proud of the collection and is available to give you a private session on the maps. You may bring your favorite magnifier or use one of ours. To schedule a private session contact Fred via email, with a date and time that works for your schedule: info@jonathanclarkhouse.org

This event—and our 1860 maps of the Towns of Mequon and Cedarburg—was sponsored by Tammie Strause at the Pink Llama Gallery in Cedarburg.

Other Donation News...

The Friends of JCH have been awarded two important grants:

- Pieper Power Foundation - partial funding of the building foundation masonry project
- Mequon Thiensville Optimist club - sponsorship of 2025 programming for children and adults

We thank them both for their generous support!

Thank you for your support!

As you can see, there's a lot going on at the Jonathan Clark House in 2025. And as always, we rely on your support for the work we do to "collect, preserve and share the history of the Jonathan Clark House and the early settlers of Mequon and Thiensville."

To volunteer, or for more details on how you can support the Jonathan

Clark House. Email:

info@jonathanclarkhouse.org

or call [262-618-2051](tel:262-618-2051)

And you can always make an online or by-mail donation to the JCH. See our [website](https://www.jonathanclarkhouse.org) for details:

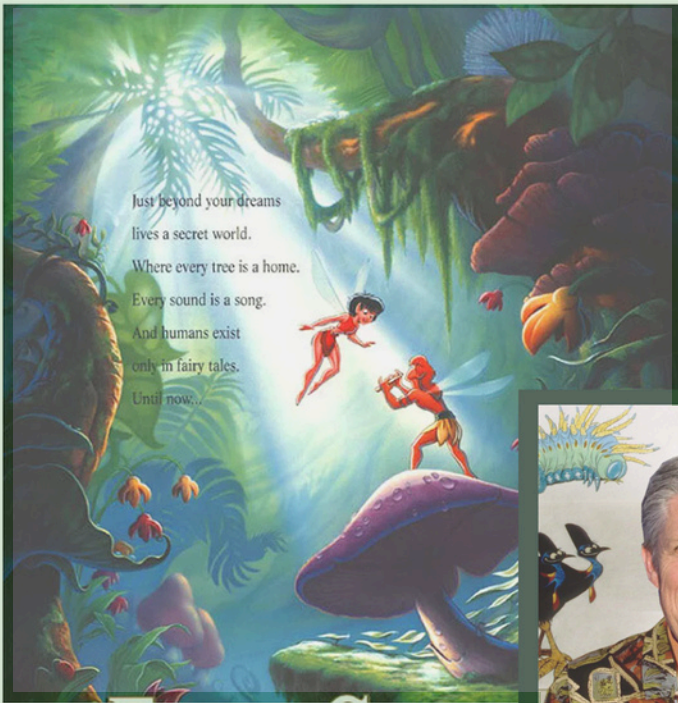


2025 Coming Events Save the Dates!

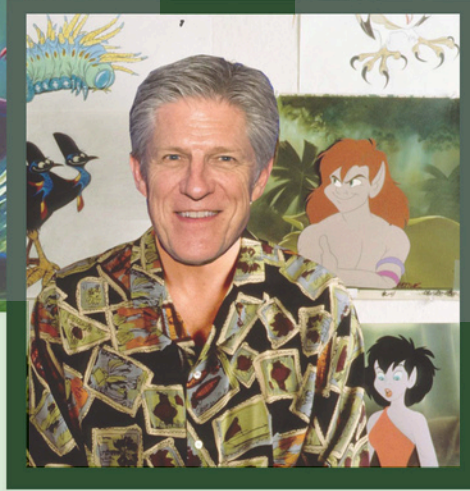
- May 3 – "FernGully" at the Rivoli
- June 10 – Pie on the Patio, donor event
- June 14 – Heritage Day, family fun
- July 12 – Heritage Day, family fun

SPECIAL SCREENING!

FernGully, The Last Rainforest



**Saturday, May 3
12 - 2 PM**



**RIVOLI Theater
W62N567 Washington
Cedarburg, WI**

With a pre-screening lecture by Oscar-nominated Director BILL KROYER featuring behind-the-scenes artwork and film clips. FERNGULLY was one of the last hand-drawn feature films, but contained 40,000 frames of computer-animated imagery!

**TICKETS \$10.00 at the
box office. Cash only.**

**ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE
JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM**

<https://jonathanclarkhouse.com>



Join us! for the Jonathan Clark House Museum
“Pie on the Patio” Celebration and Auction
Tuesday, June 10, 2025, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

☞ *Rain date: Wednesday, June 11* ☞

Plan to bring a family member, friend, or colleague



Send your RSVP by Wed. June 3 to
info@jonathanclarkhouse.org



This is a special event for JCH Friends and Donors. Not a JCH donor? It's easy to joining the Friends!

Click the link to visit our [Donate page](#)
at jonathanclarkhouse.com

or scan this
QR code:



Thank you! to our event sponsors for • *Interactive Museum Tours • Yard games*
Lively Auction • Refreshing Beverages • Musical Entertainment



HERITAGE DAYS

at the

JONATHAN CLARK HOUSE MUSEUM

corner of Bonniwell & Cedarburg Roads, Mequon, WI



Dairy Treats • House Tours



For more information, email Nina Look
at info@jonathanclarkhouse.org
or use the QR code or this link:
<https://jonathanclarkhouse.com>
to visit our website



Saturday, June 14, 2025

Saturday, July 12, 2025

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Family Fun • Farm Animals



We appreciate the support of our event sponsors!

Ozaukee County Dairy Promotion Committee
Mequon Thiensville Optimist Club Thiensville
Mequon Rotary Foundation

Thiensville Mequon Lions Club
Sunrise Rotary of Mequon Thiensville
Lindenwood 4-H Club

