



Echoes

September/October 2009

Volume 17, Issue 4

Hinsdale, Illinois

A Publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society

From the President

This summer has proven to be very busy as I begin my first term as president of the Hinsdale Historical Society Board of Trustees. Before I get to all that we have been up to this summer, I want to briefly introduce myself.

My husband and I moved to Hinsdale shortly after we were married. We are both from the area (I from La Grange and my husband from Burr Ridge). We began a search for our first home and found the perfect house here in Hinsdale. After ten years and a growing family, we moved into our present home, another beautiful vintage house.

Old houses are what brought me to the Society. I love old houses and the stories they tell. My first interaction with the Society was as I researched our first home. Now, sixteen years later, I find myself as the president of this amazing group of dedicated people that share the same passions as I, collecting, preserving and promoting the history of our Village.

What a busy summer we have had! The History Museum held its 2nd annual croquet tournament on the lawn of the Museum. It was a day filled with family fun and of course ended up with a trophy winner! The Society also participated in the Fourth of July parade this year; driving a blue 1957 Ford pick-up truck filled with local children waving American flags. The Immanuel Hall doors were opened to parade-goers, sharing the Anderson Center's phenomenal vintage photo exhibit of downtown Hinsdale. The Society also had a table at the final Uniquely Thursdays event of the summer in Burlington Park. Children received Society frisbees and had the opportunity to color architectural bookmarks from the Anderson Center.

I am looking forward to the upcoming year, as there is much going on within the Society. Immanuel Hall is up and running, the Zook studio is projected to be complete, and the History Museum continues to provide vital programming to our community. We have a vibrant Women's Board that promises to hold some wonderful events this year. To keep up with all our happenings, please visit our calendar on our website at www.hinsdalehistory.org!

Shannon Weinberger

President, Hinsdale Historical Society

4th of July Success!

The Society's participation in the 4th of July Parade this past summer was a great success! We had a vintage pick-up truck in the parade and served lemonade outside of Immanuel Hall. Inside Immanuel Hall, the Anderson Architecture Center displayed their wonderful *Downtown Hinsdale Vintage Photos* exhibit for all parade-goers to see. Attendance at the exhibit was excellent! We thank all who volunteered with the event: Nickie Byrnes, Jim Davidson, Jimmy and Joey Pat Gordon, Hinsbrook Landscaping, Sandy and Riley Johnson, Karen and Will Lopez, Bob Saigh, Sharon Taylor, Karen and Sandy Walton, Sam Lombardo, Joel, Aidan, Kellan and Shannon Weinberger, Elise Whitten, Sandy and David Williams, and Matthew Yeh.

Board Notes

Comings and Goings

The Society Board of Trustees would like to announce and welcome the following new trustees:

Karen Dunn-Lopez
Cindy Klima
Laura Running
Ann Halbrook Schmid

The Society Board would also like to say good-bye and thank you to Trustee Salle Huber. Salle's energy, enthusiasm and creative work will be greatly missed.

Hinsdale Historical Society

P.O. Box 336
Hinsdale, IL 60522-0336
630.789.2600
www.hinsdalehistory.org

The mission of the Hinsdale Historical Society is to collect, preserve and promote the history of Hinsdale, Illinois, and to foster an awareness and appreciation of its history and architecture through education, programs, exhibits and the maintenance of historical resources and properties in the Village.

Hinsdale Historical Society Board of Trustees

Officers

Shannon Weinberger, President
Karen Dunn-Lopez, Vice President
Cindy Klima, Vice President
Sharon Taylor, Treasurer
Jane Hardies, Recording Secretary

Trustees

Penny Bohnen
Jim Davidson
Laurel Haarlow
Sandy Johnson
Phil Moriarty
Laura Running
Bob Saigh
Ann Halbrook Schmid
Loretta Summers
Stanley Walton
Sandy Williams

Hinsdale History Museum Manager

Anne Swenson

Immanuel Hall

Stanley Walton

Roger and Ruth Anderson

Architecture Center
Sandy Williams

R. Harold Zook Home & Studio

Ann Halbrook Schmid

Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board

Laurel Haarlow

Society Services

Research Library, Janet Miller

Echoes is a publication of the Hinsdale Historical Society and is published 5 times annually.

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From the Museum Manager's Desk

The leaves are changing color and the kids are back at school. Autumn is here and has brought a flurry of activity to the Hinsdale History Museum! This fall is going to be one of the busiest ones we've had. With group and school tours, the Smithsonian Magazine Museum Day, preparing for a new exhibit and the upcoming Bronswood Cemetery Walk, we are defiantly keeping busy!



This year the Bronswood Cemetery Walk will feature some special skills from the Hinsdale Central High School Drama Club and is sure to be historically informative as well as just the right mix of fun and spooky! Please see the back cover for more details.

Our Collections Committee is working hard on a new exhibit to be opening this November featuring many of the Victorian dolls in our permanent collection. Stay tuned for information on a special members opening reception.

We have plenty of opportunities for everyone to stop in for something fun this Fall, be it a tour or a special program. For a full schedule of events, please visit the Society's calendar on our new and improved website, www.hinsdalehistory.org.

Anne Swenson

Museum Manager, Hinsdale Historical Society

Architectural Walking Tour Of Downtown Hinsdale!

Sunday, October 11, 1:00 PM.

Join us for a new tour of downtown Hinsdale! Docents from the Society's Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center will guide you through the area and highlight some amazing facts and features of our beautiful downtown area. While strolling through the beautiful downtown, discover the inspiration behind the design of the Memorial Building...and the local architect who designed our most significant buildings.

The walking tour will last about 90 minutes and takes place rain or shine. We will meet at the Train Station to begin our walk. There is no charge for members; non-members are \$5.

Volunteer Spotlight

Rob and Linda Paulsen – Collections Committee

The Hinsdale Historical Society would like to feature Rob and Linda Paulsen, a dynamic husband and wife team who give their time to help with the enormous task of keeping up with the Museum's collection. Rob was first introduced as a volunteer of the Society in early 2006 and Linda joined him this past spring. They are currently working with Collection pieces located in the Front Parlor of the Museum.

Rob and Linda were first interested in the Society because of Rob's childhood experience. He had grown up in a house very similar in style and age to the house which is now the Museum. His parents put a great deal of time and energy into restoring their home and those historic preservation values were instilled in Rob. Linda has always been interested in antiques and history, so the Society was a natural fit for both of them! The Paulsen's wanted to get involved with HHS "to help preserve appreciation of antiques...and the interesting history of this area."

The Paulsen's have lived in Hinsdale for 14 years and one of their favorite things about the Village is that they can walk into town, shop at their favorite shops such as the Fruit Store, Kramers' and Fullers' and feel like old friends.

Women's Board

The Hinsdale Historical Society Women's Board is embarking upon its second year, with continued enthusiasm from members and the community for its mission. The Board is planning to build from the successes of its first year, in which it raised over \$30,000 in support of Hinsdale Historical Society programs and facilities. Activities planned for 2009-2010 will include educational outreach to both youth and adults, through a new lecture series and through established school programs such as trunk shows and Hinsdale History Museum tours. Additionally, the Women's Board will again offer its signature event, the Kitchen Walk, on Friday, May 7, 2010. Proceeds from this great, day-long event will benefit the Society's three properties, the Hinsdale History Museum, the Zook Home and Studio, and Historic Immanuel Hall.

HHSWB Mission:

The Hinsdale Historical Society's Women's Board is a volunteer service organization. Its members are dedicated to support the Society and its mission to collect, preserve and promote the history of Hinsdale, Illinois, and to foster an awareness and appreciation of its history and architecture through education, programs, exhibits and the maintenance of historical resources and properties in the Village.

Hinsdale Historical Society Members' Corner

Welcome New Members!

Melissa Daniel
Winifred Koukol
Sharon Starkston
Bradley and Loretta Summers
Lenice Wichert
Carolyn Winterfield

Help Wanted

The Society is always in need of volunteers. If you are interested in helping out in any way, please contact the Society at 630-789-2600 or email us at newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org.

Newsletter Editor-The Society is looking for someone interested in taking over the Society's newsletter *Echoes*. Computer skills are a must.

Collections Committee - The Hinsdale History Museum is looking to expand its Collections Committee. If you like history and working with antique objects, this is the opportunity for you!

Immanuel Hall Rental

For a limited time, a special weekday rate is available for Society members and Hinsdale residents. For more information, give the Society a call or visit www.hinsdalehistory.org, click on Immanuel Hall.

The Hall has hosted birthday parties, receptions, meetings, lectures, yoga classes, musical recitals and exhibits (to name a few). It can seat approximately 120 people or approximately 80 at tables. It has a fully equipped kitchen, a lift for persons with disabilities, washrooms, year-round climate control and other amenities.

Immanuel Hall is the perfect venue for your next special event. Call 630-789-2600 for more information.

Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center

Gothic or Italianate?

Built in 1870, the unique Victorian house at 223 South Quincy with its soaring staircase tower incorporates features of two different architectural styles. Its steeply pitched, front facing gable and unusual square tower reflect a Gothic Revival influence. The narrow front windows with their heavily rounded crowns are Italianate in design, as are the brackets at the tower's cornice. The open eave overhang on the gables is common to both of these styles. At the time of this home's construction, the Gothic Revival style was becoming unfashionable and the Italianate style was in vogue, explaining the marriage of the two styles.

The home retains some of its most interesting original features...the tower, high ceilings, wide floor boards and a dramatic spiral staircase rising from the entrance foyer. Originally built for Hinsdale resident and developer Oliver J. Stough as rental property, it remained as such for much of its history. Since the early 1950's it has been owner occupied and appropriately renovated and enlarged while still maintaining its historic charm.



R. Harold Zook Home and Studio

Summer Update!

The summer months have been very productive for the R. Harold Zook Home and Studio. Most of the windows have been restored and are back on site to be painted and reinstalled. The site at KLM around the home and studio has been significantly cleared and the exteriors of both buildings are almost complete.

At this time, the Zook Advisory Committee has chosen to focus its efforts on completing the studio. We hope to have an opening celebration by the end of the year to show membership and donors all that has been accomplished! The finished studio will provide a wonderful location for meetings and gatherings and will showcase what has been achieved in just the beginning of this spectacular project.

This fall the Fund Development Subcommittee will kick off a fundraising effort to obtain the resources needed to complete the home. We are looking forward to an exciting year of fundraising! Thank you to those that have already reached out to support this most important local preservation effort. Support is still needed to ensure a timely completion and an ongoing legacy for the R. Harold Zook Home and Studio.

Immanuel Hall

Missed Award's Silver Lining



The Society's two-year rehabilitation of Immanuel Hall, Third and Grant Streets, was completed in fall 2008 at a cost of slightly more than \$1 million. The Hall's first floor has been rented for various uses since January 2009. For more information, see <http://hinsdalehistory.org/ImmanuelHall/>.

Landmarks Illinois (www.landmarks.org), the Chicago historic preservation organization and administrator of the prestigious annual Richard H. Driehaus Foundation Preservation Awards, has invited the Society to submit for a 2010 Driehaus award in the leadership category.

This past summer, the Society nominated the 2006-08 rehabilitation of Immanuel Hall for a 2009 Driehaus award in the category of adaptive reuse/rehabilitation, but its nomination, one of 38 "outstanding" nominations received by Landmarks Illinois, was not selected. However, the Society's nomination obviously attracted attention, which resulted in Landmarks Illinois' encouragement to submit for an award next year.

Driehaus awards in nine categories are presented annually to exemplary preservation projects, programs, organizations and individuals.

The multi-page Immanuel Hall nomination consisted of a 500-word nominating statement, several letters of recommendation, photographs of various stages of the rehab, architectural and construction drawings, news clippings and other documentation of the project. Six sets of the nomination were prepared and delivered to Landmarks Illinois, which handed over all Driehaus award nominations to a distinguished panel of judges.

This year's Driehaus awards presentation will be on Saturday, October 3, at the Chicago Club, 81 E. Van Buren St., Chicago. In addition to a unique scale model of the Chicago Stock Exchange, each 2009 winner will receive a \$500 cash prize, which is new this year. For more information on the Driehaus awards, this year's winners and past winners, see <http://landmarks.org/awards.htm>.

In 2005, the Society's Zook house preservation project received a Driehaus award in the category of advocacy.



Workers from Marion Restoration prepare to apply a new finish coat to the stucco on the Hall's raised foundation this past August. The new finish is a medium brown that covers patching and other repairs to the foundation and provides contrast to the Hall's light yellow siding and darker yellow trim.

Did you know...

HISTORIC IMMANUEL HALL

is available for rent?

Typical Events Include

Scout Meetings
Club Meetings
Performances
Music Sessions
Poetry Slams
Open Mike
Recitals (grand piano available)
Birthday Celebrations
Speaker Events
Yoga/Exercise Classes
Fundraisers
Bridal/Baby Showers
Intimate Holiday Celebrations

*“Special rates for Hinsdale residents
and Hinsdale Historical Society members”*

Weekdays and Weekday Evenings

Only \$25 per 2 hour event

IMMANUEL HALL

charming...beautifully restored...community treasure

302 South Grant Street
(Corner of Grant & Third)
Hinsdale, Illinois
630-789-2600

www.hinsdalehistory.org

Immanuel Hall is a historic property owned and operated by the Hinsdale Historical Society

Make No Little Plans

An Afternoon with Daniel Burnham

Sunday, November 15, 1:00 pm - Immanuel Hall



Join us for a unique look into history as historical dramatist R. J. Lindsey portrays Danielle Burnham as he narrates a slide program detailing the famous Chicago fire, the 1893 Columbian Expo, and his 1909 Chicago Plan.

Experience the sights and sounds of the City of Chicago as it rose from the ashes of the Fire of 1871 to the remarkable White City of the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. The narration follows a unique slide program detailing the Chicago Fire of 1871, the building of the 1893 World's Columbian Exhibition, and finally the Chicago Plan of 1909 outlining the development plan for the City of Chicago. Danielle Burnham, the famed architect discusses his innovative buildings: Montauk, Monandnock, Reliance, and the Rookery, and presents the historic Burnham Plan of 1909 advocating sensible city growth asking, "How are we living?"

American history comes to life in the capable hands of historical dramatist R.J. Lindsey. Through extensive research, meticulous attention to detail and the use of only documented speeches, letters and anecdotes, a vivid living portrait emerges.

Don't miss this unique look into our history! The cost for Members is \$10 and \$15 for Non-members. Registration is required so please contact us at info@hinsdalearchitecture.org for ticket information.

Anderson Architecture Center Seeks Part-Time Administrator

The Society's Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center is looking for an enthusiastic part-time Administrator to ensure effective administration of the Center's mission to increase awareness of and education in architecture. This paid position involves leadership of the Center's operations with special emphasis on creative local programming and outreach.

This position requires an individual who is well organized, has excellent communication skills and computer abilities in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access and photo work. In addition, tasks include:

- Office functions including email correspondence
- Data entry
- Researching potential programs
- Scheduling and conducting programs; soliciting and organizing docents and additional hosts
- Guiding and monitoring researchers with home history searches

Hours of operation are Saturdays only, 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Applicant must enjoy working with the public and have strong initiative to work independently in a quiet environment. Please contact us via our website, www.hinsdalearchitecture.org. We look forward to speaking with you!

Help Us Go GREEN!

Dear Society Members,

Last June, the Society launched the process to become paperless with regard to many Society Member communications such as the Newsletter. Not only is this change to paperless a more efficient way of getting the Society information out in a timely manner, it also plays an important role in 'going green' by saving trees and energy as well as saving much needed money. We thank those who have already responded to our request for confirmation of either an email address or mailing address and ask those who haven't yet responded to do so.

During this transition to paperless communication, the Society will offer a paper issue of *Echoes* to those interested members who submit their address on the form below. Those who submit emails will receive an electronic version of *Echoes*. This transition to paperless might take some time, but we want to be certain that we continue to share with our membership the rich history of Hinsdale as well as the latest news on our local efforts to preserve Hinsdale's unique past.

Please fill out the below information or drop us an email at newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org.

Thank you,

Anne Swenson

Hinsdale Historical Society Newsletter Editor

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email Address _____
(please know that your email will only be used for Society communications and will not be shared)

Yes, please continue to send me a paper form of *Echoes* at the address above.*

Yes, I am happy to go paperless and look forward to receiving *Echoes* and the latest Society news via email at the email address above.*

*Please note that you must be a member of the Hinsdale Historical Society to receive *Echoes*. For information on becoming a member, renewing your membership or increasing your membership level, please visit our website at www.hinsdalehistory.org

Please return this form to:

The Hinsdale Historical Society

P.O. Box 336

Hinsdale, IL 60522

Or email your response to newsletter@hinsdalehistory.org

VOICES OF HINSDALE'S PAST SPEAK ON HALLOWEEN

This Halloween join the Hinsdale Historical Society's History Museum staff to hear voices from the past...graveside. On October 31st from 12-2pm you are invited to Bronswood Cemetery to hear fascinating biographies of Hinsdale's founders.

The Hinsdale Central High School Drama Club will portray the past of many prominent founding community members. Stroll through the cemetery and visit the resting places of many important Hinsdaleans. At designated locations histories will be revealed with a voice from the long ago.



Bronswood Cemetery, 3805 Madison Ave., Oak Brook

October 31st, 12-2 PM

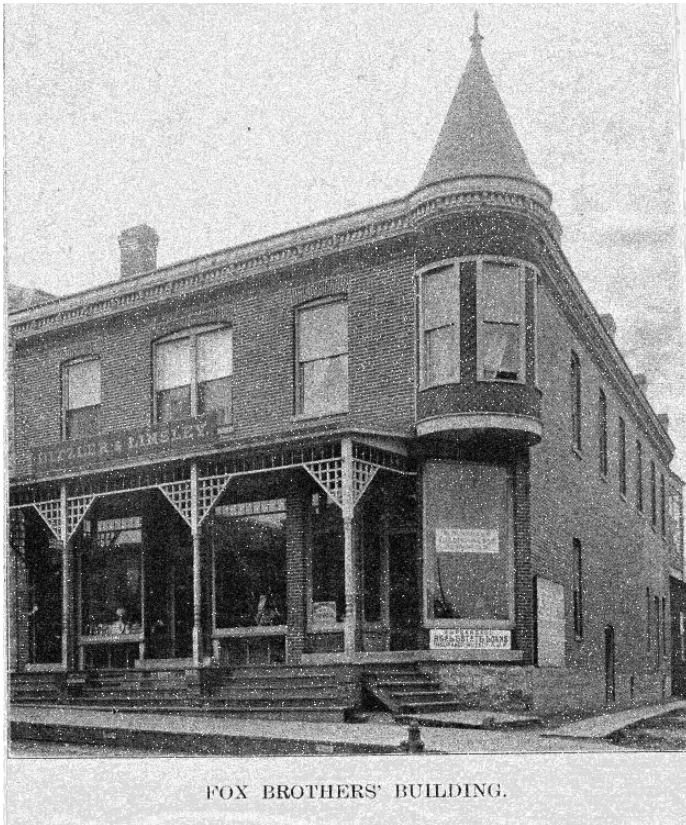
All ages welcome!

\$5 per person/ \$10 per family

Register: info@hinsdalehistory.org or 630-789-2600

Hinsdale Historical Society • www.hinsdalehistory.org

From the Archives: Ditzler & Linsley and the Fire of 1909



FOX BROTHERS' BUILDING.

The Ditzler and Linsley building as it appeared in 1898. You can see the large glass windows under the eaves of the porch.

Eli Ditzler and Theron Linsley were early merchants in Hinsdale. Their general store in 1909 was housed in the building at 36 S. Washington. Next door to them at the corner was Hinsdale Building and Loan Company.

At 9 o'clock on the evening of January 29, 1909 a fire was spotted at the rear of the building and the alarm raised. *The Doings* recounted the events of that night:

“Half an hour after the outbreak of the fire, it became apparent that unless outside help was called, a good part of the business district would be doomed. Superintendent of Water and Light, John B. Hess telephoned to La Grange and Downers Grove... The La Grange department was the first to arrive.

“At 9 o'clock the thermometer stood at 15 above, and dropped three degrees in an hour, but the intensity of the gale laden with sharp fine snow made the storm one to be remembered. The Grove department rolled up their hose and brought it down on the ten o'clock train. The arrival of help came at a critical moment... The plate glass windows of the front fell outward with a crash, opening up the smoldering furnace to the drafts of a thousand blast furnaces. Great tongues of flames lapped over the ceiling converting the interior of the store into a lurid and fantastic spectacle.... At this stage outside help arrived. Three more leads of hose were laid and fresh hope cheered the tired Hinsdale fire fighters.”

The fire destroyed Ditzler and Linsley's stock, but nevertheless they were open for business the following morning with temporary offices across the street. They took orders for goods in the morning and received supplies from other local merchants. The building itself was not razed, but repaired. While it has been extensively remodeled since then, the bones are still there.



Ad from Ditzler & Linsley's Store early 1900s.

Life in the Past Lane: Hinsdale 1934

☞ In early September the owner of the building at First and Washington Streets, called *The Doings* to spike the rumor circulating around town that a Walgreen drug store might locate in the quarters formerly leased to the Uptown Dry Goods. However a headline on the front page of the September 27th issue of *The Doings* announced that “Hinsdale is going to have a Walgreen drug store in about a month.” And the location? Corner of First and Washington in a store formerly occupied by the Uptown Dry Goods business.

☞ In fact, Hinsdale’s business district was going through quite a number of changes in the Fall of 1934: The Washington Tea Room was planning a move to 17 East First Street, into quarters formerly occupied by the Speed’s Sweet Shop; Uptown Dry Goods moved to the old “Stocker” building at First and Lincoln; Hinsdale Beauty Parlor moved to 102 South Washington; Art Karlson’s Men’s Shop moved to the spot vacated by Dierks’ Bootery at 49 South Washington; and the Hinsdale Thrift Shop planned to open at its new location in the Grace Church Guild Hall at the corner of Garfield and First. Sounds like musical wares.

☞ When the Men’s Garden Club of the Chicago region stages its Fall Flower Show at the Horticulture building of A Century of Progress, a number of Hinsdaleans plan to enter. Last year Martin Schuster of the Village won several first prizes in the event. The Century of Progress closes forever October 31st, so people are urged to take advantage of the cooler Fall weather and visit the fair one last time.

☞ The answer was a resounding “NO!” when over 11,000 voters turned up for a special election on the question of a bond issue for a new county courthouse. The proposition was snowed under by a seven to one margin. It was thought to be especially significant that in Hinsdale only 70 votes were counted among the 1,406 (county wide) who voted yes. Many believed the proposed plan was too elaborate, others that a wing could be built on the present courthouse. Or maybe it simply reflected a belt-tightening sign of the times?

☞ Quoting FDR, “For those who live in houses, those who repair and construct houses and those who invest in houses ...” weekly full page ads in *The Doings* seek to help revive the building industry by encouraging homeowners to improve their properties through the National Housing Act (NHA). A Village-wide “Better Housing” campaign was introduced to about sixty merchants, trades people and contractors at a recent meeting, and an extensive house-to-house campaign will begin in November to inform residents of the plan.

☞ A local PWA (Public Works Administration) project will get underway following the awarding of contracts on removal of the old fire station and construction of a new one. The old station will be moved to property behind the police station at a cost of \$325, fire equipment will be moved into it and then actual work on the new building will be started. Work on the Stough Park development will also begin directly.

☞ A band of smart, inexperienced and lawless teenagers from Chicago learned recently that Hinsdale is no place to carry on their petty larceny; four of them have been turned over to the DuPage grand jury on charges of bicycle theft. According to Police Chief Domianus the boys hitchhiked out to Hinsdale and Downers Grove, where they stole a number of bicycles by mingling with children at public schools, then striking when the school bells rang. As soon as the children returned to their classes, the thieves would grab bicycles which were not locked and head for Chicago where they either kept the vehicles themselves or sold them to a “fence.” The average cost of the bicycles was around \$30 so that the capturing of the gang brought back vehicles which are worth quite a sum of money.

☞ Meanwhile Chief Domianus has amassed a collection of 26 radiator caps, ranging from the showy type to the plain flat round ones, which he recovered from a group of four local youngsters. The boys, who have confessed to Chief Domianus, apparently felt a yearning for collecting the shiny objects without realizing they were practicing petty larceny. Ignorance of the law ...



HINSDALE
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

P.O. Box 336
Hinsdale, IL 60522-0336

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HINSDALE, IL

Permit No. 158

Upcoming Programs and Events

Architectural Walking Tour of Downtown Hinsdale!

Saturday, October 11th
1:00 pm - Rain or Shine
Hinsdale Train Station
Members: Free, Non-members: \$5

Join us for a new tour of downtown Hinsdale! Docents from the Society's Roger and Ruth Anderson Architecture Center will guide you through the area and highlight some amazing facts and features of our beautiful downtown area. While strolling through the beautiful downtown area, discover the inspiration behind the design of the Memorial Building...and the local architect who designed our most significant buildings.

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12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Bronswood Cemetery
3805 Madison Street, Oakbrook
\$5 per person, \$10 per family

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