



# Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

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"IN THE TRADITION OF JANE JACOBS"

APRIL/MAY EDITION

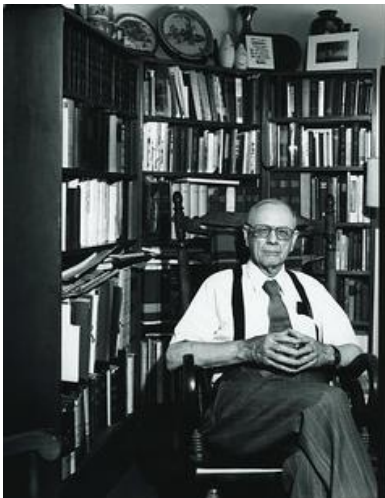
*Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* is a bimonthly newsletter that highlights assets, history, events, and resources for and about Milwaukee neighborhoods. Residents and neighborhood organizations are encouraged to submit press releases on their events and successful programs. See back page for details.

## Scrutinizing our city's Socialist leaders

*Book to be reproduced chapter-by-chapter in Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum*

In May 2025, the book, *Milwaukee's Socialist Leaders: Principled, Productive Governance—But Not for All*, will be published at Milwaukee Ethnic Collection of Arts and Humanities (MECAH). The book will be available for sale, but will also be accessible chapter-by-chapter in this newsletter and in PDF format online on the website of Urban Anthropology, Inc.—both without cost to readers.

### Book summary



*Milwaukee's Socialist Leaders: Principled, Productive Governance—But not for All* offers a rare balanced account of Milwaukee's lengthy liaison with Socialism. During those years, leaders Victor Berger, Emil Seidel, Daniel Hoan, and Frank Zeidler brought policy-based, infrastructural supports to the city's mainstream working population. During the same decades, they closed their eyes to the wellbeing of others.

*Continued on Page 13*

Frank Zeidler, photo courtesy of Flickr

## April/May activities in Milwaukee neighborhoods (most under \$10)



*Total of 40 events under the categories of museums, arts, family, kids, holiday events, get-moving events, walks/tours, food/farmers markets, and several more*

### SPECTATOR SPORTS

*What?* KIDS AND SENIORS BREWERS DISCOUNT DAYS *When?* Afternoon home games, excluding 3/31 and 7/30 and some seating areas. *Where?* American Family Field, 1 Brewers Way. *Description* Milwaukee Brewers games. Website: Kids and Senior Citizens Discount Days, courtesy of WPS Health Insurance Milwaukee Brewers (mlb.com) *Admission* 50 percent off tickets.

### GET-MOVING ACTIVITIES

*What?* WORLD TAIJI & QIGONG DAY *When?* Sat. Apr. 26, 10am to noon. *Where?* 2647 N. Stowell, Lake Park Lutheran Church. *Description* Opportunity to learn about and participate in mind/body practices. *Admission* Free.

*See more on the above event later in this newsletter*

*Continued on Page 2*

## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 1*

*What?* HANK AARON STATE TRAIL *When?* Daily. *Where?* Multiple access points; see map on website *Description* Opportunity to enjoy natural and urban views and walk or bike trail across Milwaukee, from the lakefront to 94<sup>th</sup> Pl. <http://hank-aaronstatetrail.org/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* INDOOR SKATING *When?* Weekdays, check website for times: <https://county.milwaukee.gov/EN/Parks/Explore/Community-Centers/Wilson-Ice-Arena> *Where?* Wilson Park Arena, 4001 S. 20<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Indoor skating. *Admission* \$3.75 to \$6.75, skate rentals extra.

*What?* RUN/WALK TRACK AT THE PETTIT *When?* Hours vary, see website. *Where?* Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Walk or run on 430-meter track with lockers and showers for \$1 extra at limited times. <http://thepettit.com/sports/run-walk-track/> *Admission* \$4.

*What?* PUBLIC ICE SKATING AT THE PETTIT *When?* Hours vary, see website. *Where?* Pettit National Ice Center, 500 S. 84<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Indoor ice skating and skate rentals. <http://thepettit.com/public-skate/> *Admission* \$7.50, \$6.50 kids 13-15; \$5.50 kids 4-12 and seniors; free <4.

### MUSEUMS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

*What?* MILWAUKEE FIRE MUSEUM *When?* 1<sup>st</sup> Sun. of each month, 12 to 3pm, (except holidays). *Where?* 1516 W. Oklahoma Av. *Description* Opportunity to see exhibits and artifacts of the Milwaukee Fire Department back to the 1800s; stories of history of the department and fires. <http://city.milwaukee.gov/MUSEUMHISTORICALSOCIETY.htm#.VkoAEMArLIU> *Admission* Free. (See photos to right)

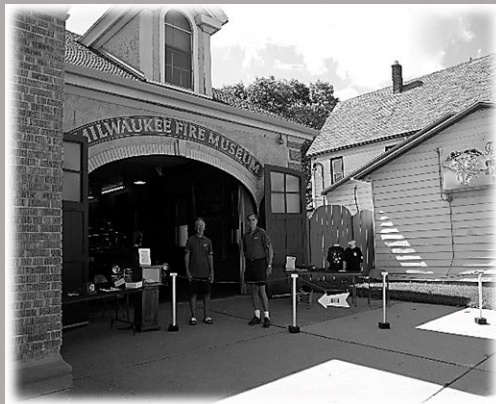
*What?* CHARLES ALLIS ART MUSEUM *When?* Nov. through Apr.: Thu.s through Sun.s 10am to 5pm, reservations helpful as hours may vary. *Where?* 1801 N. Prospect Av. *Description* Self-guided tour of Tudor-style mansion of entrepreneur Charles Allis designed by Milwaukee architect Alexander Eschweiler in early 20<sup>th</sup> century. <http://www.charlesallis.org/> *Admission* free to \$20; Free first Thu.

*What?* VILLA TERRACE DECORATIVE ARTS MUSEUM *When?* Nov. through Apr. Thu.s through Sun.s 10am to 5pm, reservations helpful as hours may vary. *Where?* 2220 N. Terrace Av. *Description* Self-guided tour of mansion informed by the design of a villa in Lombardy, Italy, complete with antique furnishings and artifacts. <https://www.villaterrace.org/> *Admission* free to \$20; Free first Thu.

*What?* MILWAUKEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY *When?* Mon., Wed.s thru Sat.s, 9:30am to 5pm *Where?* 910 N. Martin Luther King Dr. *Description* Permanent and rotating exhibits of Milwaukee County's history plus a research library. Current exhibit, "Brew City: The Story of Milwaukee Beer." Permanent exhibit: "Meet MKE" sponsored by Visit Milwaukee. <http://www.milwaukeehistory.net/> *Admission* \$8, \$6 seniors, military, students; children < 12, and members free.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Happening in the Polonia neighborhood



Enjoy a bit of Milwaukee  
fire history at  
the Fire Museum

1516 W. Oklahoma Avenue  
Open first Sunday of every month  
at 1 to 3pm



## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 2*

*What?* HAGGERTY MUSEUM OF ART *When?* Most days 10am to 4:30pm *Where?* Marquette campus at corner of 13<sup>th</sup> & Clybourn Sts. *Description* Permanent collections include Old Masters' prints, Ralph Steiner photos, Marc Chagall Bible series, Barbara Morgan photos, and Finnegan, Fishman, Tatalovich, and Rojzman collections. <http://www.marquette.edu/haggerty/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* GROHMANN MUSEUM *When?* Mon.s through Fri.s 9am to 5pm, Sat.s 12 to 6pm, Sun.s 1 to 4pm *Where?* 1000 N. Broadway *Description* More than 1,000 paintings and sculptures representing the long evolution of human work. <http://www.msoe.edu/about-msoe/grohmann-museum/> *Admission* \$5, \$3 students, seniors; free <12.

*What?* NORTHPOINT LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM *When?* Sat.s and Sun.s 1 to 4pm *Where?* Northpoint Lighthouse, 2650 N. Wahl Av. *Description* A historic, maritime experience, with artifacts related to the history of the Great Lakes. <http://northpointlighthouse.org/> *Admission* Free to \$8. (see photos to right)

*What?* MILWAUKEE PUBLIC MUSEUM FREE DAY *When?* Free 1<sup>ST</sup> Thu. each month *Where?* 800 W. Wells St. *Description* Chance to visit one of the premier natural history and science facilities, world- renowned for its exhibits, collections, ongoing scientific research and educational exhibits. [www.mpm.edu/](http://www.mpm.edu/) *Admission* Free (on dates designated).

*What?* MITCHELL PARK DOMES *When?* Wed.s to Fri.s, 9am to 5pm; Sat.s, Sun.s 9am-4pm. *Where?* 524 S. Layton Blvd. *Description* A place to experience a desert oasis, a tropical jungle, and special floral gardens all in one visit. <http://county.milwaukee.gov/MitchellParkConserva10116.htm> *Admission* Free to \$8.

*What?* MILWAUKEE DISCOVERY WORLD *When?* Wed.s through Sun.s 9am to 4pm. *Where?* 500 N. Harbor Dr. *Description* A science and technology center and museum. <https://www.discoveryworld.org/> *Admission* \$14 to \$20.

*What?* HARLEY-DAVIDSON MUSEUM *When?* Daily 10am to 5pm. *Where?* 400 W. Canal St. *Description* Exhibits on the history of the Harley-Davidson motorcycle. <https://www.harley-davidson.com/us/en/museum.html> *Admission* Free to \$22.

### ARTS, THEATRE, AND CRAFTS

*What?* WALKER'S POINT CENTER FOR THE ARTS *When?* 1 to 5pm during exhibitions, see website. *Where?* 839 S 5th St. *Description* Ongoing exhibitions in a community setting. <http://wpca-milwaukee.org/> *Admission* Free to look.

*What?* ART BAR *When?* Daily 3pm to 12am. *Where?* 722 E. Burleigh St. *Description* Permanent and temporary art exhibits. <https://www.facebook.com/artbarmke/> *Admission* Adults, free to look.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Happening in the Northpoint neighborhood



Enjoy the seasons at  
the Northpoint  
Lighthouse  
Museum

2650 N. Wahl Avenue  
Open Saturdays and Sundays 1-4pm

## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 3*

*What?* GALLERY AT MILWAUKEE INSTITUTE OF ART & DESIGN *When?* Mon.s through Sat.s, 10am to 5pm. *Where?* 273 E. Erie St. *Description* Rotating exhibitions of renowned artists, MIAD students, and MIAD faculty. <http://www.miad.edu/> *Admission* Free.

*What?* GALLERY 218 *When?* Sat.s, 12 to 5pm. *Where?* 207 East Buffalo St. Suite 218. *Description* The cooperative gallery of the Walker's Point Artists Assoc., Inc. <https://gallery218.com/> *Admission* Free, donations welcome.

*What?* VAR WEST GALLERY *When?* Thu.s through Sat.s, 11am to 4pm. *Where?* 423 W Pierce St. *Description* Focusing on exhibiting solo shows for emerging and established artists, including full bar for purchases during events. <https://www.varwestgallery.com/about> *Admission* Free to look.

*What?* TERRY MCCORMICK CONTEMPORARY FINE AND FOLK ART GALLERY *When?* Call (414) 264-6766 to visit. *Where?* 2522 N. 18th St. *Description* Contemporary art by the founder, Evelyn Patricia Terry, along with several friends whose work she exhibits. <https://www.facebook.com/terrymccormick-gallery/> *Admission* Free to look. (see photos to right)

### ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

*What?* ROOFTOP STARGAZING *When?* Apr. 4, 8 to 9pm. *Where?* Manfred Olson Planetarium, UW-M Physics building, 1900 E. Kenwood Blvd. *Description* Gaze at stars and planets through telescopes. *Admission* Free.

### FOOD AND FARMERS MARKETS

*What?* WINTER FARMERS MARKET *When?* Jan. 27 to Apr. 13, 9am to 2pm. *Where?* 5305 W. Capitol Dr. *Description* Produce, bakery, canned goods, meat. *Admission* Free.

### FOR THE FAMILY

*What?* STORYTIME AT THE DOMES *When?* Most Wed.s (see website: Storytime at The Domes - Friends of the Domes ([milwaukeehomes.org](http://milwaukeehomes.org)) 10:00 to 10:30am. *Where?* Mitchell Park, 524 S. Layton Blvd. *Description* Stories in Spanish and English. *Admission* Unk.

*What?* SPANISH STORYTIME *When?* Apr. 2, 10 to 11am. *Where?* Bay View Community Center, 1320 E. Oklahoma Av. *Description* Participants will enjoy stories, songs and activities in Spanish *Admission* Assumed free.

### ECO/NATURE ACTIVITIES

*What?* EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—WASHINGTON *When?* Most Wed.s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Washington Park, 1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* A walk for bird watch-

*Continued on Page 5*

## Happening in the North Division Neighborhood



### Virtual tour of the Terry McCormick contemporary fine- and folk-art gallery

The work of Evelyn Patricia Terry and a tour of her neighborhood museum can be accessed at the following websites:

[evelynpatriciaterry.com](http://evelynpatriciaterry.com)  
and

[Virtual Tour: Terry McCormick Contemporary Fine and Folk Art Gallery.](#)

Above are examples from the series, Pastel Drawings, and Artists Books on the general website



## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 4*

ers of all ability levels to walk through different habitats for birds. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission Free.* (see photo to right)

*What?* EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—MENOMONEE VALLEY *When?* Most Tue.s 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Menomonee Valley, 3700 W. Pierce St. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of every and all levels to explore the Three Bridges Park for birds. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission Free.*

*What?* EARLY MORNING BIRDWALK—RIVERSIDE *When?* Most Thu.s. 8 to 10am. Check website. *Where?* Riverside Park, 1500 E. Park Pl. *Description* A walk for bird watchers of all ability levels to explore different habitats for birds and other animals. <http://urbanecologycenter.org/programs-events-main.html> *Admission Free.*

### WALKING/STREETCAR TOURS

*What?* SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF VA GROUNDS *When?* Daily, daylight *Where?* Just north of Zablocki VA Medical Center, 5000 W. National Av. *Description* A walk through the historic district which includes the Soldiers' Home, barracks building, old fire station, old hospital, Ward Memorial Theater, and more. <http://www.milwaukee.va.gov/visitors/campus.asp> *Admission Free.*

*What?* GUIDED TOUR OF BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT *When?* Reserve tour on website. *Where?* Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Opportunity to see and learn about one of the most beautiful churches in America. <http://the-basilica.org/visit> *Admission Free.*

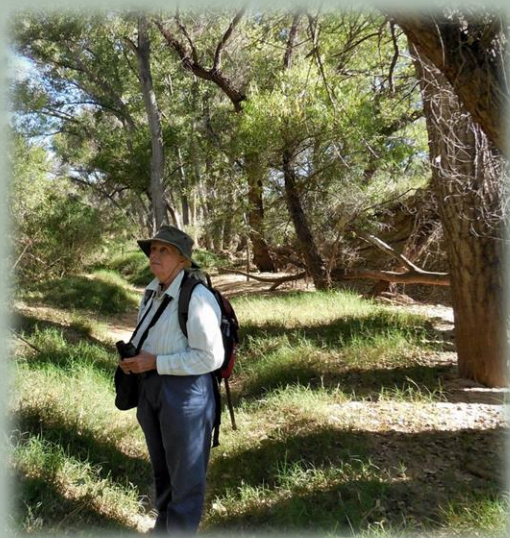
*What?* UNGUIDED TOUR OF BASILICA OF ST. JOSAPHAT *When?* Mon.s through Fri.s, 9am to 3pm *Where?* Visitor's Center, Basilica of St. Josaphat, 2333 S. 6<sup>th</sup> St *Description* Opportunity to see and learn about one of the most beautiful churches in America with informational exhibits on lower level. <http://the-basilica.org/> *Admission Free.*

*What?* THE HOP STREETCAR TOUR *When?* Apr. 4, May 22 and 29, see website. *Where?* 235 E Michigan St. *Description* Explore urban renewal from the edge of the Menomonee Valley to Downtown's Yankee Hill neighborhood. <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/> *Admission* \$8 to \$16, preregistration required.

*What?* SKYWAUKEE TOUR *When?* Most Sat.s in Apr., 1pm. *Where?* 161 W. Wisconsin Ave., Plankinton Arcade. *Description* Stroll through the skywalk system and learn about significant Milwaukee landmarks from a new angle—one story up! <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/> *Admission* \$8 to \$16, preregistration required.

*Continued on Page 6*

Happening in the  
Washington Park  
neighborhood



Early morning  
birdwalk

Washington  
Park  
1859 N. 40<sup>th</sup> Street

## ACTIVITIES IN MILWAUKEE NEIGHBORHOODS

*Continued from Page 5*

*What?* BAY VIEW TOUR *When?* Sat.s May 24 and 31, 1pm. *Where?* Corner of S. Superior and E. Russell. *Description* Learn history of Bay View via Kinnickinnic Avenue. <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/> *Admission* \$8 to \$16, preregistration required.

*What?* MILWAUKEE WOMEN'S TOUR *When?* Sat., May 10, 1pm. *Where?* 235 E. Michigan St. *Description* Stories of the city's women and their connections to downtown <http://historicmilwaukee.org/walking-tours/> *Admission* \$8 to \$20, preregistration required.

*What?* SELF-GUIDED TOUR OF FOREST HOME CEMETERY *When?* Daily 8am-4:30pm *Where?* 2405 W. Forest Home *Description* Tour the beautiful Chapel Gardens, Landmark Chapel, and the Hall of History that tells the story of Milwaukee dignitaries, including European founders of Milwaukee, several mayors, major African American activists, and brewery tycoons. *Admission* Free. (see photo to right)

*What?* WALK THROUGH MILWAUKEE'S LATINO HISTORY *When?* Daily *Where?* United Community Center, 1028 S. 9<sup>th</sup> St. *Description* Opportunity to learn about Latino history by visiting tannery and foundry exhibits, photos, and art inside the UCC building, and historical murals on two sides of Bruce Guadalupe School next door. <http://www.unitedcc.org/index.htm> *Admission* Free.

\* \* \*

### Jane Jacobs on cities

Cities, like anything else, succeed by making the most of their assets. Dull, inert cities, it is true, do contain the seeds of their own destruction and little else. But lively, diverse, and intense cities contain the seeds of their own regeneration, with energy enough to carry for problems and needs outside themselves.

From *The Death and Life of Great American Cities*.

Happening in the  
Forest Home Hills  
neighborhood



Self-guided tour of  
Forest Home  
Cemetery

2405 W. Forest Home  
Avenue



# History of Northridge neighborhood

## *A melting pot of settlers from Pennsylvania Dutch to Luxembourgers to African Americans*

Over 50 neighborhoods on Milwaukee's northwest side once comprised the Granville Township in Milwaukee County, which extended from Hampton Avenue on the south to County Line Road on the north, and 27<sup>th</sup> Street on the east to 124<sup>th</sup> Street on the west. The Milwaukee neighborhood of Northridge was once comprised by the Town of Granville. The neighborhood got its name from the Northridge Shopping Center that opened in 1972.



*Former Northridge Shopping Mall*

### Early populations

According to the *Milwaukee Sentinel* (March 22, 1877) there were originally three small settlements in Granville. The first, in 1835, was the family of Jacob Brazelton which included 11 sons. The second was duo Daniel R. Small and W.P. Woodward from Indiana who pitched their tents in the center of the Granville area shortly after the Brazelton family arrived and later built homes. The third group of settlers, the Joseph R. Thomas family and S.C. Enos, arrived shortly after Small and Woodward.

Within a few years a new group arrived from the town of Granville in Washington County, New York. The assemblage included the Evert, Brown, Crippen, Lake, and Norton families. They gave their new home the name of their former home in New York.

But it was not these earliest settlers that established much of the culture of Granville Township. That role belonged to a wave of Pennsylvania "Dutch" (i.e., Germans) who arrived just a few years later from Telford, Pennsylvania, including the Wambold, Leister, Scholl, Barndt, Price, Bergstresser, Borse, Klein, Martin, Huber, Groll, Horning, and Lewis families. The Pennsylvania Dutch, under the leadership of Samuel Wambold, quickly established the German Evangelical Lutheran and Reformed Church (now known as Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church) in 1847. The following year, the church's pastor, Wilhelm Wrede, called a meeting of local Lutheran ministers at the church. This group would later become the Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Synod. A museum of these early synod activities now stands on 107<sup>th</sup> Street.

In the 1840s there were over 200 people living in Granville Township, and the numbers continued to grow. A small Irish community settled on Granville's eastern border to the center of the township. Initially they set up tents, built brush shanties, and log cabins. But during these early years, Granville Township remained strongly German, and more Germans arrived every year.

However, one area of Granville—which would later become Milwaukee's Northridge Neighborhood—attracted immigrants of another ethnic group. These were Luxembourgers.

### Luxembourg immigration to America

Beginning in the mid-19th century and through the early 20th century, approximately 76,000 Luxembourgers, nearly one-fourth of the country's population at the time, immigrated to America.

Nicholas Gonner, author of the 1889 landmark study of Luxembourg immigration (*Die Luxemburger in der Neuen Welt* [*Luxembourgers in the New World*]), stated that the primary factor for Luxembourg emigration to America was the general progressive and permanent impoverishment of the population. The "push factors" motivating Luxembourgers to leave their homeland included: • an increase in population because of improved hygienic conditions, • decrease in infant mortality, • excessive partitioning of available farmland, • poor harvests for farmers and vintners, • high taxes, • avoidance of compulsory military service on behalf of neighboring countries, • uncertain political climate, and • the Industrial Revolution (Wester, 2024)

The "pull factors" drawing Luxembourg immigrants to America included: • availability of large tracts of cheap land, • possibility of higher income, • chance for social advancement, • perception of America as a "paradise" fostered by letters and reports from fellow emigrants, • evident success of relatives who had emigrated previously.

Those who emigrated, especially in the second half of the 19th century, tended to be the lower middle class. To emigrate to America made sense for many. They could sell their land, homes and basically all of their

*Continued on Page 8*

# NORTHBRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Continued from Page 7*

personal possessions and with those resources purchase as much as ten times the amount of acreage in America as they possessed in their homeland. This was no small consideration for the struggling, 19th century farm family from Luxembourg (Wester, Kevin. *They Came from Altwies, Luxembourg*, 2024).

## *Arrival in Granville*

Luxembourgers started arriving in 1846 in the area that would become the Northridge Neighborhood. They founded St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish in 1855. Along with some Bavarians and a few Irish families, Luxembourgers were the largest ethnic group to founded that parish. The current St. Catherine's Church was built in 1920.

How did Luxembourgers select the Granville location? See below.

### **Adam Gengler and family**

Adam Gengler (1799-1850), his wife Anna Catherine Kaber (1807-1869), and their nine children were among the first Granville Luxembourgers to arrive. They immigrated from Everlange, Luxembourg via Antwerp, Belgium on the ship "Giovanna" which arrived in New York City on August 11, 1846. They made their way on the Great Lakes to the "new" city of Milwaukee where they reportedly met with Bishop John Martin Henni, the first bishop of Milwaukee.

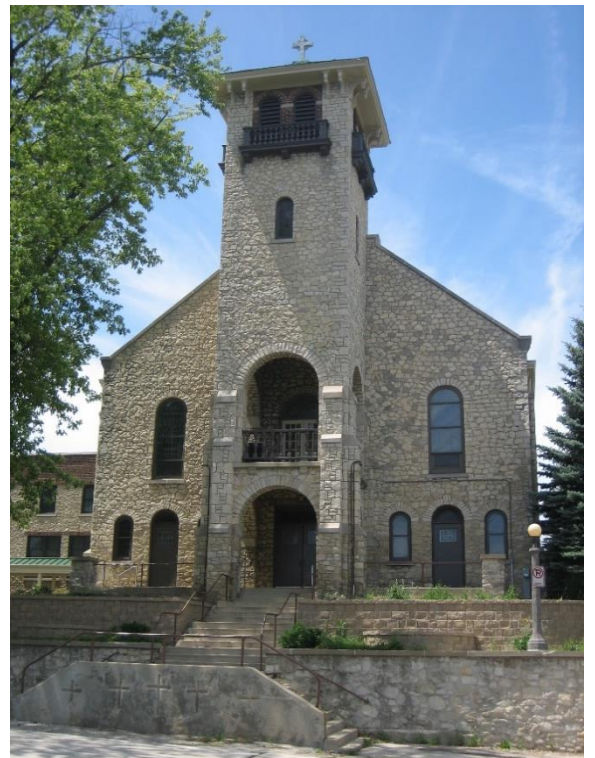


Luxembourgers where devout Catholics, hence they consulted with the bishop about locations to establish a farming community. For reasons not known, the bishop advised them to consider the Town of Granville.

Before they founded St. Catherine's in 1855, they trekked to St. Anthony the Hermit Parish in Fussville (now Menomonee Falls) which was six miles away. Many of their early baptisms, marriage and deaths are recorded at St. Anthony's even after St. Catherine Parish was founded, because they were served by a visiting priest out of Fussville.

One of the daughters of Adam Gengler was Anna Gendler (1836-1924). She married Jacob Batzler (1835-1915) who was born in Bavaria. The photo is of their farm in Granville near the spot where the Northridge Mall was built. The stone house was

built in the typical 19th century Luxembourgian style. They both were buried in St. Catherine's Cemetery in Granville.



Many Luxembourg families are represented on stained-glass windows in the 1920 St. Catherine's Church. See below.

### **Anton Gleissner and family**

Anton Gleissner (1866-1951) immigrated to the United States in 1890. He married Antonia Budnick Gleissner (1871-1936) and the couple had at least eight children.

The family farmed in Granville and attended St. Catherine's Church, where most were also buried. Gleissner name appears

*Continued on Page 9*



# NORTHRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Continued from Page 8*

on one of the stained-glass windows in the parish. See photo below



## General economic prosperity in Granville

During these years of German and Luxembourger immigration, economic prosperity reigned in Granville. This was due partially to the work ethic of these early residents. The township remained predominantly rural through the early half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Gradually industries began to open in Granville and, save for the Great Depression era, the area became the most concentrated base of industrial employment in Wisconsin.

## Movement toward annexation

In 1956 the residents and property owners of Granville were given a choice to consolidate with the City of Milwaukee. Needing services that Milwaukee could offer—especially water—the majority of voters said yes to the referendum. By the 1960s, the western portion of Granville (16.5 square miles) was annexed by Milwaukee and the eastern section consolidated as the Village of Brown Deer. Milwaukee became one of the few large cities in the United States that still had working farms within its boundaries.

## Changes to former Granville area

The large area that had been Granville Township was beginning to attract more settlers in the 1960s. Among them were African Americans.

In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, African Americans began to migrate to the neighborhood. This happened for two reasons: (1) the need for housing following the razing of over 8,000 homes in the African American Bronzeville community in the late 1950s through the mid-1960s and (2) the availability of family-supporting jobs in industry in the former Granville community. As in most German-dominated areas in Milwaukee, the integration of the new population proceeded relatively smoothly.

Many African American families were able to purchase homes and move into the middle class.

While most neighborhoods that had once been part of Granville Township were attracting more settlers, this was not true of today's Northridge and Northridge Lakes' areas. By the end of the 1960s the two neighborhoods had only a handful of residences—mostly farms—and no businesses. Almost none of the roads that exist in these neighborhoods today had been built then. But major change was about to happen.

## Changes to the Northridge area

Between 1972 and 1974 the Northridge Shopping Center and the Northridge Lakes housing development both opened. Both were due to efforts of one family.

See the family profile below.

### The Kohl family

Sometime in the 1930s, Max and Mary (nee Hiken) Kohl moved from Clement Avenue in Bay View to the Sherman Park area. But it was not in Sherman Park that the Kohls invested their greatest efforts. This happened elsewhere, including the Northridge area.

Max was a Jewish immigrant from Poland and Mary a Jewish immigrant from Russia. Although Max had only completed the 7<sup>th</sup> grade, he proved to be an aggressive entrepreneur. He'd already opened a grocery store in Bay View and was on his way to opening several more.

The couple's children all eventually played roles in the Kohl business, which over the years expanded to 50 grocery stores, as well as several department stores. In terms of service to Milwaukee and Wisconsin, a prominent Kohl son was Herbert, called "Herb." (See photo.) Having earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin in 1956 (where he roomed with future baseball commissioner Bud Selig—and an MBA from Harvard Business School in 1958, Herb Kohl rose to the office of president of Kohl's.



*Continued on Page 10*

# NORTHRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Continued from Page 9*

Some years after selling the Kohl's empire in 1979, Herb sought a new career in politics. He ran for and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1989, where he served until 2013 when he did not seek reelection.

But Herb Kohl had already been heeding another calling. Following the example of his former roommate, Bud Selig, who had purchased the bankrupt Seattle Pilots in 1970 and brought the team to Milwaukee, Herb Kohl purchased the Milwaukee Bucks of the NBA in 1985. One of the goals of the purchase was to ensure that the team remained in Milwaukee. In 2014, Kohl sold the bucks to Wesley Edens and Marc Lasry, negotiating a deal that included a new arena and would again ensure the team's tenure in Milwaukee.

About the time that the Kohl's stores were sold to Brown & Williamson Tobacco Co., London, Herb invested in two malls, Southridge, its sister mall, Northridge, and hundreds of acres surrounding the malls. Southridge opened in 1970 and Northridge in 1972.

But Herb was not the only successful Kohl child. His brothers Sidney (born 1931) and Allen (born 1937) also rose to prominence in the Kohl business empire. They were the ones who developed Northridge Lakes, a residential development consisting of a mix of inventive multi-family residences. They also created the artificial lake that gives today's neighborhood its name.

The pioneering Northridge was planned and designed as a regional center with a two-level mall and four anchors: Boston Store, Gimbels, J.C. Penney, and Sears. The mall soared in popularity during its first decade in business (see quotes from the Granville oral history below). But problems began to plague the area. The deindustrialization movement and attendant decline in household incomes that began in the 1980s arrested the economic prosperity of the area. Manufacturing employment in Milwaukee fell 77 percent, from a peak in 1963 to the present. Neighborhoods that once thrived were in decline. Northridge Lakes, while designed as moderate-income housing, never had the chance to rise to its expectations.

The success of the shopping center and the housing development were both dealt a critical blow in 1992 when Jesse Anderson stabbed his wife to death in the parking lot of the mall. He falsely claimed that two black men attacked them and stabbed his wife. Urban legends followed. Many people attribute this crime to the eventual downfall and closure of Northridge mall and the unpopularity of the nearby housing units. Northridge Shopping Center closed in 2003.

## Current populations

Today, there are just under 2,000 residents in Northridge. Of these, just under 6 in 10 are African Americans and slightly over one-third are European Americans (most of multiple European ancestries). Approximately 1 in 20 are Latinos (mostly of Mexican descent). There is also a scattering of Asians (all of Indian or Filipino extraction), indigenous Africans, American Indians, and people of mixed or "other" racial backgrounds in the area.

The median household income in Northridge is just under \$29,000, placing it in the lower middle-income stratum. The main occupations among adult residents are in the fields of administration, transportation, and production. There are over three times more adults in the field of transportation than their proportions in other Milwaukee areas.

The site of the former Northridge Shopping Center fell into disrepair. After a few failed business start-ups, the City of Milwaukee took over the mall and renamed it Granville Station. The mall currently comprises thirteen properties with four owners. The city is working to abate asbestos, raze the buildings, and clear the site to ensure that Granville Station becomes an asset to regional businesses and residents.

## Interesting neighborhood features

- **Alexian Village**, at 9301 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Street, an independent living and long-term care community for the elderly.
- **Temple Menorah**, at 9663 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Street, a conservative synagogue that promotes life-long learning, cultural enrichment, and spiritual fulfillment.



*Temple Menorah on N. 76<sup>th</sup> St.*

## QUOTES FROM RESIDENTS

*In The Golden Years of Yesteryear by Emily Treichel Boehlke (reprinted in A History of Granville by Miriam Y. Bird, 1996), Treichel Boehlke writes about her family's history in Granville from the mid-1800s through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The following are passages from this work.*

"When my Grandparents Treichel were first married and lived in their one room cabin, the Indians would

*Continued on Page 11*



# NORTHRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Continued from Page 10*

stop in and admire their baby. . . At Grandfather Hackbarth's the Indians set up camps in the woods every spring and fall when they came to do their trading in Milwaukee."

"Weddings in the 1860s and later were quite different from today. The invitations were hand written by the bride and groom and they were the hosts, not the parents of the bride. . . the silk material for the brides' dresses was only 18 inches wide, so for a fancy dress, it took 18 to 20 yards of material. It was not unusual for a man to wear his wedding suit 20 to 25 years, or as long as it fitted."

". . . the settlers were having church services at the home of Ernest Zautcke, who had brought a reed organ from Germany to help him with his singing. One of the men could read a text from the Bible and the other religious books which they had brought from across. Mr. Zautcke then donated land for a church and school on the corner of [today's] Hopkins and Silver Spring Roads. They were served by visiting pastors from Milwaukee and vicinity."

"School [of her parents] was then held at the house of one of the member's house one month and at another one the next month, whoever had a room big enough to seat the children."

"The housewife had to plan well ahead for her household. There was the Arab that would come about once a month with two heavy suitcases full of notions and yard goods for house dresses. When he begged for a night's lodging the housewife would get a spool of thread for payment. Also, a man with a big basket of oranges and bananas would come. Bananas were 25 cents a dozen for nice large ones. Later a baker would come once a week with bread and sweets."

"Every mother had to be well-schooled in-home remedies. . . Plants and herbs were gathered in the summer to be dried and stored for the winter, to be used for any and all ailments."

"Grandfather would sit and knit many mittens and stockings for all the grandchildren while Grandma read to him and tended her many plants of which she had quite a variety."

"Even the first street cars were propelled by horse power. There were only 2 lines, one on 3<sup>rd</sup> Street to Williamsburg, a section of the city at North Avenue and Center and [one] further north (an all-German settlement)."

"In the beginning of the 1900s, there was no Silver Spring Drive, not even a wagon trail west of Hopkins Street. But the plans were made to have a road there, so one of the farmers would ride through the woods with horse and wagon or on horseback as best he could, so it would be legally kept as a driveway to the next mile west."

"During the first World War, all gathering of people was forbidden, due to the spreading of the flu. So at Freistadt Church only every other pew could be sat in, so all the people east of the church came for early services and all those west of the church came for later service. Also all talking and preaching was to be done in English, but Pastor Wehrs insisted on preaching in German as many of his older members could not understand English."

"There were about 12 to 14 neighbors that exchanged labor. This was a hard job for the ladies also, with breakfast at 6, lunch at 9, dinner at 12, another lunch at 3, and supper at sundown. No 8-hour days."

"When the first threshing machine came out the farmers started to raise barley for the Breweries in Milwaukee. My father raised quite a lot of it and we girls had to man the farming mill in the evening when milking was done and our lessons were finished. This was a cold and tiresome job until enough was cleared for a load to be hauled to town the next day."

*Quotes from an oral history of the Granville neighborhoods currently being conducted by Urban Anthropology Inc.—About THEN.*

"We were one for the first houses that were built on North 86<sup>th</sup> Street. We are directly west of the old Northridge Shopping Center. At the time we moved here it was a relatively new shopping center but as far as our street, it was pretty much the first houses here. It was a gravel road and behind our house, the land was owned by Michael Cudahy and he had a house there and it was his land. Behind us there was this big line of trees, some fields, and some woods back there."

"I think that all the businesses that were there fed off of Northridge . . . Just the diversity of businesses from the clothing stores to a place to buy appliances. You had Toys R Us, Best Buy. You had a good amount of restaurants there. You didn't have to leave. There were large department stores. A lot of outcrop from the strip malls came from that, so if you didn't want to go to Northridge you could go to the strip malls and get some of the things that you needed from some of the stores. Like Joanne Fabric and Stein Mart, you know some of your middle-sized stores."

"When we moved there, there was a Pick n Save, a Menards, a Half Price Bookstore. There were some nice fun stores there. There was a Joanne Fabrics store there. Some of the bigger chains had stores there but unfortunately some of those have since left the area."

"They had every kind of businesses you want. And then there used to be a Kohl's food store across the street. Whatever fast food restaurant you would want was over here. Anything you needed in a general neighborhood was here 15 years ago. And in those 15 years a large portion of that has gone away minus the fast-food restaurants for whatever reason."

"[Neighbors] were the cops' wives. They worked at Northridge as clerks. And they were waitresses. Of

*Continued on Page 12*

# NORTHRIDGE NEIGHBORHOOD

*Continued from Page 11*

course, you didn't see the industrial parks because they were kind of hidden. So even though I had a job in an industrial company, I really did not know there were all those companies up there. Which is kind of interesting because they are off the beaten path."

"I remember when the Brewers were in the World Series in 1982 and everyone was out in their yard watching TV. I think people have gone to the YMCA. Now I don't think people have money like they used to. I think a lot of people used to go over to Northridge mall and that has changed. There wasn't a lot of stuff on the northwest side. There's not a lot of skating rinks or anything. The kids would play on the playground in the summer but they cut all that out so I don't know what they do nowadays."

"I would have to say the single turning point that really drove things south in this neighborhood was the Jesse Anderson case. It was that and the decision not to build the Park West freeway."

## *Quotes from the oral history of the Granville neighborhoods—About NOW*

"I just watched the deterioration of it. Politically it's been frustrating. Nothing has happened with Northridge. Then we watched the beginning of Pick n Save and now that's gone as well. We watched the number of grocery stores that used to be there. There is not good shopping now. It's all dollar stores; there is so much vacant space. There's a plasma center, and a couple of liquor stores. There was an adult video store that we were trying to replace."

"It's just not the coolest place you want to live. So, the area became poverty stricken. So basically, we dropped a bunch of people who didn't have jobs into an area that was doing very well. And guess what—it didn't help anything. . . If you look at the history of until the '70s people kept on moving because of the white flight. This just killed the Northridge area. The area maintained itself from an economic perspective because back when the city workers still had to live in the city you still had very good middle class housing. It was a safe place and nice area—a lot of teachers and cops. But you still had over by Northridge a huge amount of the homes that became slum landlords."

"It's a matter of perception; it's a matter of who do you believe? If you believe the news media they would say it's from the murder that took place by the TJL Friday. I don't necessarily agree with that. And I think one thing happening in the area doesn't necessarily constitute the whole area. There was a study that the City of Milwaukee had done in regards to the Northridge mall. So when Northridge was established in the '70s there was nothing out here but a lot of farm fields. Especially when you got out to the suburbs, they didn't have a lot of shopping. There was a lot of farm. As all these suburbs got built up and all these businesses got built up, people didn't need to come to Northridge anymore and they could stay in their own hometown. I think that was more of a decline of Northridge than I think anything else. There were some issues but nothing that would be detrimental. Look at Southridge, Southridge has a lot of security issues but it's still thriving over there."

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## World Taiji & Qigong Day

Saturday, April 26, 10AM to Noon  
2647 North Stowell Avenue  
Lake Park Lutheran Church, North Entrance/Lower Level  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin



**10:00AM**—Doors open, all entrants must register at the door. Sign-in sheets will act as proof of attendance, as well as being the method of drawing for the door prizes. In addition, the tables will be the sign-in site for the 5 Animal Sports participants i.e., Team Tiger, Team Ape, Team Bear, Team Bird, or Team Deer.

**10:00AM**—Opening announcements and a brief history of World Tai Chi & Qigong Day and YMAA Tai Chi Ch'uan of Wisconsin happened.

**10:15AM**—Stationary warm ups, primary Taiji Qigong set, Coiling set, 8 pieces of Brocade, Taiji Ball (depending on time factor).

**10:30AM**—Tai Chi demonstrations, Angela, Eric, and everyone who wants to participate.

**11:00AM**—Five Animal Sports, all participants and team leaders should assemble along the north wall

**12:00PM**—Event ends and drawings for door prizes begins.



# MILWAUKEE'S SOCIALIST LEADERS

*Continued from Page 1*

## **Principled Governance . . .**

Milwaukee's Socialists rose to power in the early twentieth century on the heels of the administration of Mayor David Rose (1898-1906 and 1908-1910), whose policies tolerated prostitution, gambling dens, and other vices. Under the leadership of Victor Berger, Socialist candidates gained ascendancy by focusing on city corruption. They equated corruption with capitalism that concentrated wealth and power within a small segment of society that controlled the means of production and fostered the practice of bribery. Elected mayor in 1910, Socialist Emil Seidel immediately ushered in reforms that ensured accountability in city government.

Throughout his administration, Mayor Daniel Hoan continued purging graft from government and increasing accountability mechanisms. His reforms included reorganizing the Milwaukee Police Department and changing hiring and promotion practices from political appointments to the merit system.

Like his predecessors, Mayor Frank Zeidler maintained a strict code of ethics in his administration to avoid any appearance of corruption. He refused to appoint anyone to boards or commissions who might have conflicts of interest. When the Common Council tried to raise his salary, he declined it.

## **. . . Productive Governance . . .**

Milwaukee's Socialist leaders advocated for needed infrastructure and supports for most working residents. Party head Victor Berger led a local platform that included free medical care for the poor, upgraded hospitals, better schools and recreational centers, improved housing, a municipal garbage collection system, slum removal, clean streets, and better road maintenance. The platform also advocated for an eight-hour day for city workers and employment of union labor.

Seidel's administration (1910 to 1912), like the Socialist administrations that would follow, was characterized by productivity. Among his accomplishments were increased health department inspections of school, factory, and milk plants; a city park system; free concert series; and the establishment of the Fire and Police Commission and Public Works Department. Wages of city laborers increased from \$1.25- to a \$2-per-day minimum.

Mayor Daniel Hoan (1916 to 1940) improved city health policies. He introduced public vaccination campaigns; developed sanitary housing and home improvement programs; and in order to prevent raw sewage from entering the public's drinking water supply, he secured the municipal takeover of both the waste disposal and water filtration systems, constructing the first treatment plant in 1934. He also developed public housing, stepped up zoning enforcements and building inspections, increased removal of rubbish and combustible materials, passed stricter housing and fire codes, expanded parks and playgrounds, and developed Milwaukee's harbor.

Mayor Frank Zeidler (1948 to 1960) kept pace with Socialist productivity. Under his annexation program, Milwaukee nearly doubled in size, expanding from 46 square miles to 92. His

administration initiated freeway construction and slum removal and increased public housing. Other Zeidler accomplishments included city beautification, the premier of educational television, addition of new harbor lands, building of Milwaukee County Stadium, expanded industrial base, new library branches, and the beginning of the Milwaukee Public Museum.

Milwaukee's Socialist leaders were ambitious. They were productive. They were honest. But not all communities benefited equally from their governance. Some communities were ignored, disregarded, and some were pointedly torn asunder. Many of these collateral effects were brought to light through the oral history projects conducted by Urban Anthropology, Inc.

## **. . . But not for All**

### **Setting a Tone for Exclusion**

Victor Berger was the head of the Milwaukee branch of the Socialist Party of America and was a major leader in the national party. He was exclusionist in posture and policies. Identified by scholars of American Socialism as the leader of both the overtly racist and the anti-immigrant factions of the party. Victor Berger, on the one hand, supported legislation and policies that promoted equality of all people, and, on the other hand, voiced disparaging statements about groups often targeted for discrimination. Beginning in 1902 he outlined his beliefs on racial hierarchy, proclaiming that "negroes and mulattos constitute a lower race" with a propensity to rape, and who inherited the "savage instincts" of their forefathers.

Blacks were not the only group that Victor Berger denigrated. In the national party he condemned non-Caucasians, arguing that white civilization had to be protected against the encroachment by others. As late as the 1920s he referred to the Chinese as "backward folks" who "lie and cheat." While he praised Germans, Jews, and at times English, Italians and Poles, he frowned upon inviting new immigrants from nations east of Poland into the party, calling them "modern white coolies."

A question emerged: As long-time head of the local party, did Victor Berger pass on his overt racial and ethnic bigotry to the other Socialist leaders? While the record suggests that the other leaders did not express the

*Continued on Page 14*

# MILWAUKEE'S SOCIALIST LEADERS

*Continued from Page 13*

overt version, Berger's influence, at minimum, introduced a model for them to assess populations and negotiate communities' value. Berger's influence set a precedent for the mayors to assume that they had the inherent power to include or to exclude populations, embrace them or move them on.

## The Lost Neighborhoods

This book's authors, Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie, had long been familiar with lay and scholarly accounts of Milwaukee's Socialist leaders—accounts that consistently put them in a distinguished light. However, and purely by chance, other perspectives on the city's Socialist quartet caught the authors' attention. For over 25 years (to date), the authors have led a Milwaukee nonprofit organization, Urban Anthropology, Inc. A major function of the organization has been conducting oral histories on City of Milwaukee neighborhoods and Milwaukee County ethnic and cultural groups. Over a stretch of more than two decades and with a cadre of advance-degreed cultural anthropologists and over 120 interns from local universities, the organization conducted in excess of 1,200 in-depth interviews of key informants within these categories. One topic of inquiry in both the neighborhood and ethnic/cultural studies was business or political policies that had an effect on the groups under study. Beginning in 2001, a pattern began to emerge. More than any policies mentioned in these interviews were the redevelopment efforts conducted by Milwaukee political leaders that removed parts of or all of tightly knit neighborhoods—most of which had been occupied by ethnic or racial minorities. Not one informant viewed these initiatives in a positive light.

At the direction of Milwaukee Socialist mayors, a group of city neighborhoods were razed and redeveloped. These included the fishing village on Jones Island, Little Italy in the Third Ward, and Bronzeville in the Sixth Ward. Between 2001 and 2012, the anthropologists at Urban Anthropology Inc. conducted scores of interviews of the surviving members and their descendants of each of these communities. The interviews, and other contemporaneous sources, provided an inside look at the lost neighborhoods.

## Foundation Set for Redevelopment

Legal groundwork enabling redevelopment was put into place by Berger and the local Socialists during Mayor Seidel's brief tenure in office. Seidel appointed a Land Commission which established planning as a normal function of government. The issue of land utilization became more encompassing when the party declared for the right of excess condemnation, thereby permitting the municipality to condemn more property than it needed. Plans for population dispersal and redevelopment would follow.

## Hoan and the Jones Island Fishing Village

Jones "Island," a peninsula off the Lake Michigan coast of Milwaukee is today a "neighborhood" within the city—albeit without residents. It had once encompassed a village of fisher folks of mainly Kaszubs from Poland. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the population of the fishing village numbered somewhere between 1,200 and 1,600. In its time, the village formed the most important commercial fishing settlement in Southeastern Wisconsin. Work and subsistence strategies on the island were demanding. Although lacking support from the city and amenities such as electricity and indoor plumbing, the villagers ran their own shops; engaged in cooperative work teams; and entertained mainlanders at their taverns, dance hall, and fish fry eateries. Oral history interviews of surviving villagers and their descendants revealed a lively, intimate, self-sufficient, and contributing community.

Under City Attorney Daniel Hoan and later Mayor Daniel Hoan, action was planned and implemented through the practice of eminent domain to condemn and subsequently redevelop the island into a world-class harbor, which ultimately led to the eviction of its inhabitants. The move was not (at least initially) supported by his Socialist contemporaries. "One of Dan Hoan's proudest accomplishments as city attorney," Hoan's biographer, Edward Kerstein, maintained, "was his battle to condemn land on Jones Island."

The development of Milwaukee's lakefront and its harbor facilities remained Hoan's pet project through the years. He convinced the new Harbor Commission in 1912 that Jones Island should be acquired without delay, inasmuch as it offered the only remaining opportunity for the municipality to secure an area of water frontage available for extensive development.

Under Mayor Hoan, the fishing docks were evacuated one at a time. Villagers could remain until their land was actually needed, and then were forced to leave, with compensation. While media accounts expressed

*Continued on Page 15*



# MILWAUKEE'S SOCIALIST LEADERS

*Continued from Page 14*

sympathy for (or at minimum deep interest in) the villagers' plight, it is not clear how (or if) Daniel Hoan ever communicated with the island's inhabitants. No sources were found by the authors where he mentioned the fishing village, including in his own book, *City government: The record of the Milwaukee experiment* (1936).

## Frank Zeidler and Little Italy

A wave of Italians from Sicily had arrived in Milwaukee's Third Ward at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. While many took jobs in the fishing industry, railroad, tanneries, and nearby factories, the Italians also proved to be very entrepreneurial and engaged in a variety of economic activities from peddling to shopkeeping. Particularly prolific in the food industry, they developed the largest open-air market in Milwaukee along Broadway, which became the hub of the city's fruit and vegetable trade. By 1920 the Third Ward had 45 grocers and 2 spaghetti factories. They founded Milwaukee's first pizza restaurant just after World War II.

In 1904 the Third Ward Italians built their only parish, the Blessed Virgin of Pompeii. From the church came a host of fraternals and other organizations, making Milwaukee number one in Italian societies among U.S. cities, including New York. The sense of community was so strong that during the Great Depression, grocery stores kept their customers on the books for years at a time, and when one resident on a block secured work, all residents on the block benefitted. Oral history interviews of Little Italy residents and their descendants stressed community bonds, the ways that one's home was open to every other resident, mutual aid practices, and the exciting feasts the societies organized.

Most of Little Italy was razed by the Zeidler administration through urban renewal. Two pieces of federal legislation made urban renewal feasible. The Housing Act of 1949 provided financing for slum clearance and extension of federal funds for public housing. The Housing Act of 1954 financed conservation and rehabilitation as an alternative to redevelopment. The Lower Third Ward Redevelopment Project was the first urban renewal program implemented by the Zeidler administration, and Zeidler chose total slum clearance over rehabilitation. The redevelopment effort aimed to replace the old community with commercial and industrial developments, which ultimately could enlarge the city's tax base.

## Bronzeville and Frank Zeidler

In the middle decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the African American area known locally as Bronzeville easily comprised four times the size of Little Italy. As black migrants from the South arrived during the Great Migration, they were steered onto the stretch of blocks on either side of Walnut Street, just north of Milwaukee's downtown—an area deemed a slum before they arrived. Banned from most labor unions and having limited access to jobs, the migrants often began their new lives in Milwaukee as

handymen, maids, janitors, filling station attendants, and, if fortunate, tannery workers. But a relatively large proportion created new businesses to meet the diverse needs of residents, particularly along Walnut Street. On the leisure time side, local nightclubs booked nationally acclaimed entertainers which attracted people inside and outside the neighborhood, raising revenue for Bronzeville. Prior to the first Bronzeville leveling in 1957, Milwaukee's black residents owned and operated more commercial enterprises than blacks in any other large metropolitan area.

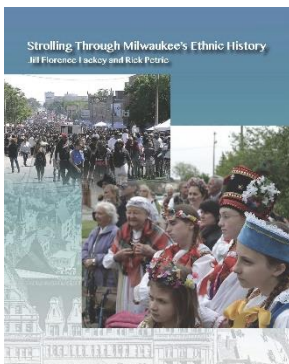
Bronzeville also bred role models, including doctors, attorneys, publishers, teachers, nationally acclaimed musicians, and even the academy award winning actress, Hattie McDaniel. Residents formed grassroots organizations, including a plethora of social clubs, lodges, fraternities, and sororities. The organizations connected residents with common interests and also provided financial help to any neighbors with deaths in the family or losses due to disasters such as fire. Those interviewed in the oral history project stressed the ways the neighborhood engendered a sense of security, how parents watched out for everyone else's children, the excitement of social clubs and nightspots, and the general sense of belonging residents experienced in the Bronzeville community.

Commenced in 1957, the Hillside Neighborhood Redevelopment Project was the second urban renewal program implemented by the Zeidler administration. Again, Zeidler chose total slum removal over rehabilitation. In addition to dwelling units, the project ultimately cleared most of the Bronzeville business district on Walnut Street. The previous year, the federal government had passed the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, which administered money through a highway trust fund with a focus on efficiently moving traffic in and out of central cities. Zeidler, a strong proponent of freeways, had served on the committee that implemented the freeway network nationally and launched the freeway system in Milwaukee. Approximately 8,000 dwelling units of African Americans were bulldozed during urban renewal and the construction of Interstate-43. Zeidler created just over 3,000 public housing units by the time he left office—most in developments far from the Sixth Ward. Bronzeville had become a community of the past and its residents struggled to find housing elsewhere.

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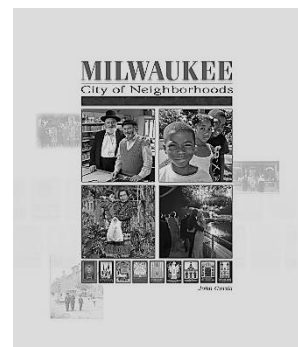


## Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods



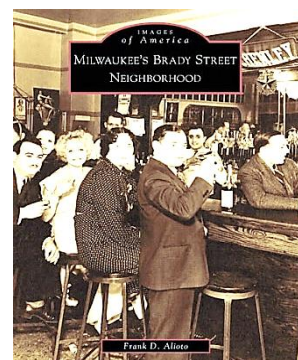
### **Strolling through Milwaukee's Ethnic History** By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

This latest work provides an "up close and personal" look at local ethnic life by directing readers to the neighborhoods and venues where the groups left their marks. It brings readers directly into their experiences, whether it involves strolling through the neighborhoods they built or participating in contemporary ethnic activities. "Strolling . . . is an intriguing guide to the ethnic history in our midst and a colorful reminder that Milwaukee has always been a city of newcomers." - JohnGurda. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



### **Milwaukee, City of Neighborhoods** By John Gurda

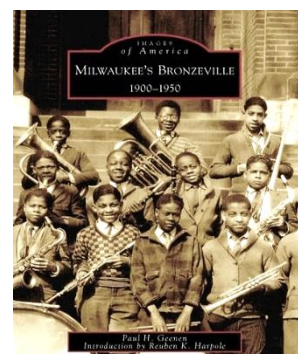
*Milwaukee: City of Neighborhoods* is the most comprehensive account of grassroots Milwaukee ever published. Richly illustrated, engagingly written, and organized for maximum ease of use, the book is a fine-grained introduction to the Milwaukee community, and its communities, that will endure as a standard work for years to come. <https://historicismilwaukee.org/milwaukee-city-of-neighborhoods/>.



### **Milwaukee's Brady Street Neighborhood** By Frank D. Alioto

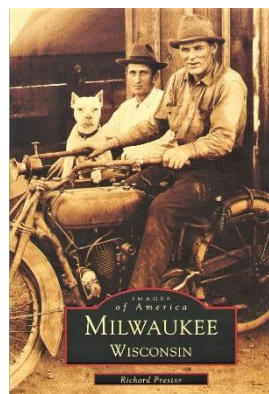
Milwaukee's Brady Street neighborhood began in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as a crossroads between middle-class Yankees from the east and early German settlers. Polish and Italian immigrants soon followed, working the mills, tanneries, and brewers that lined the riverbank. The hippies arrived in the 1960s. By the 1980s the area fell into blight, neglect and decay. Now, a true model for new urbanism, the Brady Street neighborhood is the midst of a renaissance. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Prod->

ucts/9780738551746



### **Milwaukee's Bronzeville: 1900-1950** By Paul H. Geenen, Introduction by Rueben Harpole

With the migration of African American sharecroppers to northern cities in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the African American population of Milwaukee grew from fewer than 1,000 in 1900 to nearly 22,000 by 1950. Most settled along Walnut Street, an area that came to be known as Milwaukee's Bronzeville, a thriving residential, business, and entertainment community. Bronzeville is remembered by African American elders as a good place to grow up. /9780738540610



### **Milwaukee Wisconsin** By Richard Prestor

Over the years, Prestor has amassed a fascinating collection of historic photographs of Milwaukee. On many personal levels, the reader will see how people lived, worked, and entertained themselves. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/>

## The dramatic gift of one author

Mystery writer and Milwaukee native, Sienna Jacks, is creating a series of novels that take place in Milwaukee neighborhoods called "The Milwaukee Series."

Mystery novels that are currently available or will eventually be included in this series will take place in these Milwaukee neighborhoods:

- Brady Street
- Bronzeville/Brewer's Hill
- Lincoln Village
- Walker's Point
- Riverwest

**Currently, all of Sienna Jacks' novels have perfect five-star ratings from readers at Amazon.com**

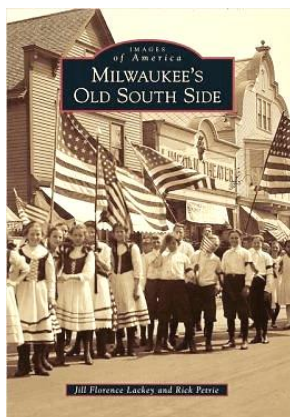
To enjoy wonderful reading and to contribute to neighborhood museums and exhibits, purchase the Jacks' books from the publisher at

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com/Fiction.html>





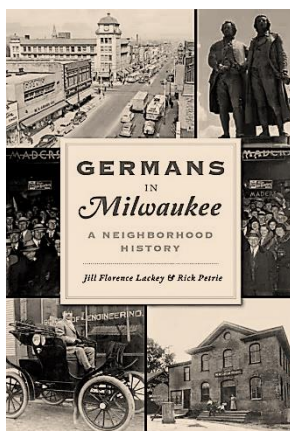
## Books on Milwaukee Neighborhoods (Cont.)



### Milwaukee's Old South Side

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

In the late 1800s, the Old South Side was developed by immigrant Poles, who became the dominant population for over 100 years. While other Milwaukee ethnic neighborhoods gradually dissipated in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century because of assimilation pressures, freeway building, or urban renewal programs, the Old South Side remained solidly Polish. A survey nearly a half century later revealed that people of 110 national backgrounds now lived in the Old South Side, with the three largest groups being Mexicans, Poles, and American Indians. <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9780738590691>



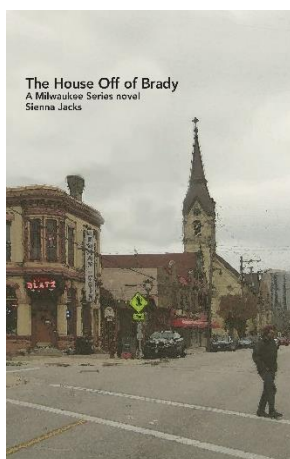
### Germans in Milwaukee: A neighborhood history

By Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie

Germans dominated Milwaukee like no other large American city. Their presence inhabits the city's neighborhoods, from its buildings and place names to its parklands and statuary. Their influence also lives in the memories shared by local residents. A small Milwaukee neighborhood south of Miller Valley was christened after a farmer's pigs, and a busboy turned beer baron built the famous Pabst Brewery in West Town. A ghost is said to haunt the old Blatz Brewing compound. And the remains of the early tanning industry can still be seen in Walker's Point. Compiling more than 1,200 interviews, authors Jill Florence Lackey and Rick Petrie share these ground-

level perspectives of the lasting German influence on the Cream City. [www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286](http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467147286).

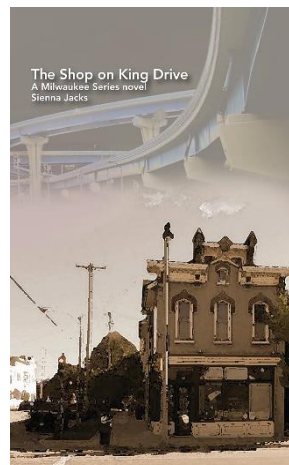
## Fiction



### The House Off of Brady A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

Two young anthropologists, trying to convince a local nonprofit to sponsor a neighborhood house museum, must show that the historical occupants of the house were representative of Milwaukee's Brady Street, and that they project positive images for the neighborhood. Their efforts are boosted by a personal journal left behind by one of the home's occupants—Giuseppe Russo. But as the young anthropologists translate and transcribe the journal, they learn that Giuseppe had been banished from his former community in the Third Ward. Are they about to stumble on information that could kill the project—or something perhaps even worse? <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



### The Shop on King Drive A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

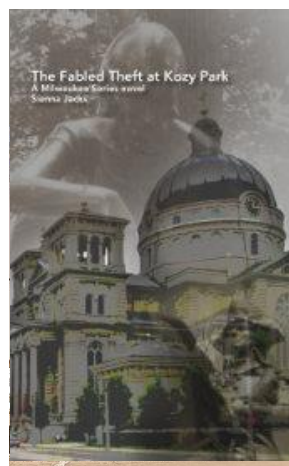
A mystery arises out of the ruins of urban renewal. Two young anthropologists, conducting research that would illuminate one dark period in Milwaukee's central city history, confront painful but sometimes puzzling accounts. During the 1950s and 1960s, over 8,000 homes and an entire business district of the African American Bronzeville community were razed. While

interviewing survivors, the anthropologists note that the name of a particular attorney kept entering the conversation. The lawyer claimed to be helping the black community fight the removal, but his efforts had the opposite effect. Suspicions remained for over 50 years over who was behind the deception and why. <http://mecahmilwaukee.com>

### The Fabled Theft at Kozy Park A Milwaukee Series novel

By Sienna Jacks

The anthropologists at City Anthropology were asked to use their research skills to look into a man's confession that might crack the longest unsolved mystery on Milwaukee's old South Side—the theft of the squirrel lady statue at Kozy Park. According to reports, the man Raf (now deceased) also implicated members of a local Polish club with an



agenda of removing non-Polish influences from the neighborhood. Assigned to the project, Enid and Meyer are baffled by the information they are getting from those who witnessed the confession, little of which supports Raf's story. Further inquiry points to events surrounding Raf's stepson. Who really was he and why did he inexplicably appear on the scene all those years ago? Their quest for answers leads them to the club in question, but with unexpected results. The ultimate

mystery they must solve is the true reason why Raf made this confession and steered them to a list of alleged conspirators.

<http://mecahmilwaukee.com>



# Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum

*Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* is published bimonthly by Urban Anthropology Inc. and is managed by volunteer anthropologists. The purpose of the newsletter is to offer neighborhood groups and individuals opportunities to share news and information about their neighborhoods. The newsletter does not receive funds from any external source. The editor is Dr. Jill Florence Lackey.

## Subscriptions

The newsletter is emailed to anyone wishing to receive it. If you wish your email or that of a friend to be added to the subscriber list, send the email addresses to [JFLanthropologist@currently.com](mailto:JFLanthropologist@currently.com) and indicate the name of this publication.

## Submitting events

*Milwaukee Neighborhood Forum* is interested in events from individuals, businesses, and organizations that have a neighborhood appeal. These can include block parties, church picnics, local music festivals, sports on the block, get-moving activities that take place outdoors, and art and theatre events involving neighborhoods. All event submissions should include a one-sentence description, date and time, location, and website or phone number for additional information. Photos may also be submitted.

## Submitting stories/press releases on neighborhoods

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, stories should always focus on assets of neighborhoods. They must be between 100 and 400 words. Some editing will be done to match our style guidelines and spatial constraints. We will write the stories for you if you simply send us a list of the information that you want included. A photo is always required.

## Submission deadlines

Submit events or stories by the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month preceding publication. Publication dates are on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of June, August, October, December, February, and April. Please send your stories to Dr. Jill at [JFLanthropologist@currently.com](mailto:JFLanthropologist@currently.com).

Now live . . .

## Website on 191 Milwaukee neighborhoods

**Links on each neighborhood include:**

- *6 to 35 pages of information*
- *Brief neighborhood description*
- *Population-focused history (including ethnic roots)*
- *Snapshots of commercial districts of the past*
- *Quotes from residents*
- *Quotes from oral histories (where available)*
- *Low cost nearby outings for families*
- *Demographics of current neighborhood*
- *Photos of neighborhood*

*The website currently includes ALL 191 of the neighborhoods, courtesy of Urban Anthropology Inc.*

<http://neighborhoodsinmilwaukee.org/>

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<sup>1</sup> Urban Anthropology Inc. complies with human subjects requirements of formal research and asks informants to sign informed consent forms that stipulate anonymity, hence names are not provided with the quotes.