

Mount Healthy Historical Society



May 2015

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Mt. Healthy Historical Society

1546 McMakin Avenue

Cincinnati, OH 45231

Phone: 513-522-3939

Hours: 9-11 a.m. Tuesdays
and Saturdays, 1-3 p.m. the
first Sunday of the month or
by appointment.

Have questions? Email:

mt.healthyhistory@yahoo.com

Visit us online at:

www.mthealthyhistory.org.

*Newsletter created by
Monica Lubiani*

Around the Society...

Spring has arrived and the flowers are beautiful!

We certainly have a lot of things happening this Spring and Summer.

We've recently welcomed a new business member: Fibonacci Brewing Company on Compton Road.

The Museum will be open following the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 25 and again prior to the fireworks on Friday, July 3. Everyone is welcome to stop by and view our new exhibit of Fire Department uniforms and equipment.

Also, the Mt. Healthy Historical Society, as well as many other historical societies, will have a display at the 50th Annual Hueston Woods Arts and Crafts Fair. The fair is from 10 a.m.—5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14, at the Hueston Woods Pioneer Farm, 6924 Brown Road. Come and visit us in the big white tent.

Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,
Penny Huber

P. S. Don't forget that dues are due in July: \$10 for an individual and \$25 for a business.

Historical Society Happenings

Shaker Presentation at June Historical Society Meeting

Make sure you attend the June 3 Historical Society meeting for a special presentation from the Butler County Historical Society. Ed Creighton from the Shaker Village Board will be talking about the Whitewater Shaker Village and the Shakers of Butler and Hamilton counties.

The Shaker religion is a sect that began as an off-shoot of Protestantism in England in the mid-1700s. They fled from England to the American colonies to escape religious persecution in 1774 to establish a utopian society. They lived together in large self-sufficient communities but numbers dwindled as one tenant of the faith was celibacy. According to the Shaker Experience in America, by 1920 there were only 12 communities left. Today, one community is left with a few members at Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in New Gloucester, Maine.

The program will begin at 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the Mt. Healthy United Methodist Church, 7612 Perry Street, in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served.

Save the Date—FREE SUMMER CONCERTS

Thursday, June 25: “Ohio Military Band” presents a Patriotic Performance

7-9 pm at the City Park Gazebo

Friday, July 3: “BlueStone Ivory” (Rock/Oldies) performs before fireworks

7 pm at the City Park Stage

Friday, July 24: “Moment 44” (Indie/Alternative) **“Seven Hills Stomp”** (Cigar Box Guitar & Rock Band)

7-11 pm at the City Park Stage

Friday, August 7: “My Sweet Patootie” (Vaudeville/Ragtime) Canadian band performs internationally

7-9 pm at the City Park Stage

Friday, August 21: “King Bee and the Stingers” (Blues/Mt. Healthy roots)

7-10 pm at the City Park Stage

Friday, August 28: “The Mistics” (Motown/R&B/Pop/Soul)

7-9 pm at the City Park Stage

Wednesday, Sept. 5: “Coal Train Robbery” (Rock/Mt. Healthy roots)

7-10 pm at the City Park Stage

Saturday, Sept. 12: “BlueStone Ivory” (Rock/Oldies)

7 pm at the City Park Stage



All concerts are free. The City Park Stage and Gazebo are located at 1541 Hill Avenue, Mt. Healthy, OH 45231. Please bring your own chairs or blankets as there is no seating available. Some events will have food/drinks for sale but all are welcome to bring their own refreshments. No alcohol is permitted. If you have any questions, call the city at 513-931-8840.

Summer Scrapbook



When it was hot in Mt. Healthy, it was cool to be at the city pool. The pool as pictured is no longer there but has been replaced and repositioned with the current pool complete with slide and water features. Above, an undated photo of the pool. Below left, the pool as seen in the 1940s. Below middle, a lifeguard comes up for air after vacuuming the bottom of the pool. (June 1966) Below right, Betty (Michel) Ludwig and her friend Jean seem small beneath the high dive. Picture undated. (Photos courtesy of Growing Up Mt. Healthy Facebook page.)



Notable History

Mt. Healthy Landmark Turns 100

Main Theater Gets Facelift, Future

By: Monica Lubiani

A century has passed and the Main Theater still stands. Perhaps not as majestic as she once was but with hope for a promising future.

The Port of Greater Cincinnati Development Authority recently stabilized the building with nearly \$41,000.00 in repairs. The biggest project was repairing and tuck pointing areas where the brick or mortar had deteriorated. Other improvements included: minor roof repairs, chimney repairs, boarding windows and resealing entryways, clearing debris from gutters, cleaning and gutting the interior, stabilizing handrails, replacing flooring, painting the exterior, repairing the building where an awning once was and clearing and overgrowth along the premises among other things.



The floor at the entrance of the Main Theater. (Photo provided.)

The dollars for the repairs have been assessed to the property taxes of the Main. The Port has acquired the property through a landbank program and it could eventually wind up in the hands of the city.

Fond Memories of a Hometown Treasure

“I remember watching cartoons there on Saturday mornings,” resident Gregg Cutter said. “If it got too loud or kids were getting too rowdy, Mr. (Joe) Blum would walk down the aisle, wave his arms (at the projection room) and stop the show.”

Cutter explained with a smile on his face that after the theater got quiet again, Blum would raise his hand and wave it in a circle to let the projection room know it was ok to “roll it.”

The Main Theater, built by Peter Blum in 1915, made a lasting impression on movie-goers of all ages. It originally featured silent films. According to Marion and Vierling Blum, Peter’s sister Bertha would play the piano to accompany the silent films. Later, Peter’s son, Joe, took over the theater. It was said that Joe would often play his banjo during a movie intermission.

“I grew up in Mt. Healthy and spent many Saturday afternoons at the Main in the mid and late 1950s,” Gerry S. shared on a cinema forum. “Double feature and a cartoon. Admission was a quarter and popcorn a dime. Sometimes there was a coupon for free admission at the bottom of the bag.”



There were other ways to see free movies, too. Patrons of the Main Theater often received postcards in the mail for a free movie for their birthday.

For decades, the Main was the hub for entertainment. Offering wholesome movies, the theater was a place for families.

“As long as there was a Main Theater, there was always something to do on a Saturday,” Carl Bracher wrote on the Growing Up Mt. Healthy Facebook page.

According to a Facebook post from Pat Pomfrey Denton, the Main was a safe haven for kids to spend a few hours.

“The Main Theater was our parents Friday night and Sunday afternoon salvation,” she wrote. “They could send us up to poor Joe Blum to watch us so they could have a couple hours off and know we were as safe as at home.”

For decades, the Main served its place on the social calendars of many. But as movies became less wholesome and featured more sex and violence, it is said that Joe Blum chose to close the theater rather than show unsavory films.

After its run as the theater, the Main was an auction house, screen printing shop, and sat vacant for years. With the Port recognizing the historical significance of the building, there’s hope that the Main will find some glory again.



Above, July 4, 1963 Parade in front of the Main Theater. Bottom left, undated photo of Main Ticket Booth. Bottom right, the Main Theater as it appeared in 1916. (Provided.)



Marj Sunderhaus is all set for a good movie as she buys a ticket from Janet Bach at the

MAIN THEATRE!



Making History

Historical Society Receives Research Grant

By: Karen Arnett






The historical society is partnering with University of Cincinnati Public History professor Dr. Fritz Leininger to research the African American history of Mt. Healthy. The project will span the two hundred year arc of the history of Mt. Healthy, from earliest records to present day. This project will have two phases: a summer 2015 internship for compiling a bibliography of historical sources, and the actual research, in Spring 2016, using those sources. We've received a \$3000 grant from the Wilder Foundation to pay the summer intern, Leah Wickett, who will complete 156 hours of research before beginning graduate studies at UC this fall. The second phase will be undertaken in Spring 2016 by Dr. Leininger's public history "field study" course, as the focus of their practicum. We are excited to bring this aspect of Mt. Healthy's history to light.

Helping History

A new member of the historical society, Maria Abugosh, has distinguished herself by her volunteerism with the society. She initiated the project of creating explanatory signs for many of the items in our museum. Maria did the research to find out the uses for and backgrounds of a number of tools, such as the shnitzelbank. Wanting to get more connected in the community, she and her daughter Nicole helped at the ice cream social last year.

The Abugosh family is a tri-lingual family, speaking Arabic, Spanish and English. They fled violence in their home of Guatemala City and settled here in Mt. Healthy almost four years ago. Maria's husband and father to their three children, Khaled, is originally from Palestine. He owned a store in Guatemala, Maria's native country and birthplace of her two oldest children, Nicole and George. George has just received a full tuition scholarship to St. Xavier High School, and Nicole is involved with Girls On The Run. The youngest, two year old Isabela, is a Mt. Healthy native. The family are members of Mt. Healthy Assumption parish.

They are seeking asylum in the US, a process that can take years. To help them manage the legal expenses associated with this process, one of our members set up a crowdfunding page on GoFundMe. If you wish to contribute to help this exemplary family meet the challenges of their anticipated lawyer fees, you may visit the page, which will be active by mid-May. The link to the crowdfunding page is www.gofundme.com/tz6xnr6x.

Dine to Donate Please present this on May 20th 20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports The Mt. Healthy Historical Society  Coupon Expires: May 20th only at the Hamilton Ave Perkins <small>One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant & Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon valid if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. No cash, no exchange, no transfer or photocopy coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please may only in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. © 2010 Perkins & More Catering Inc.</small>	Dine to Donate Please present this on May 20th 20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports The Mt. Healthy Historical Society  Coupon Expires: May 20th only at the Hamilton Ave Perkins <small>One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant & Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon valid if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. No cash, no exchange, no transfer or photocopy coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please may only in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. © 2010 Perkins & More Catering Inc.</small>	Dine to Donate Please present this on May 20th 20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports The Mt. Healthy Historical Society  Coupon Expires: May 20th only at the Hamilton Ave Perkins <small>One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant & Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon valid if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. No cash, no exchange, no transfer or photocopy coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please may only in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. © 2010 Perkins & More Catering Inc.</small>	Dine to Donate Please present this on May 20th 20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports The Mt. Healthy Historical Society  Coupon Expires: May 20th only at the Hamilton Ave Perkins <small>One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant & Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon valid if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. No cash, no exchange, no transfer or photocopy coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please may only in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. © 2010 Perkins & More Catering Inc.</small>	Dine to Donate Please present this on May 20th 20% of the bill (pre-tax) supports The Mt. Healthy Historical Society  Coupon Expires: May 20th only at the Hamilton Ave Perkins <small>One coupon per person per visit at participating Perkins Restaurant & Bakery locations. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Coupon valid if purchased, sold or bartered for cash. Only original coupons accepted. No cash, no exchange, no transfer or photocopy coupons are not accepted. Sales tax, if applicable, must be paid by customer. Please may only in Canada. Printed in the U.S.A. © 2010 Perkins & More Catering Inc.</small>
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Want to submit an article or have an idea of what you want to read about?

Email Monica at monica.boylson@gmail.com.

Be A Part of History: Join Us!

The Mt. Healthy Historical Society cordially invites you to become a member as a Business/Professional Member. Being such a member has its advantages...

- It gets your business name before the public as it will be printed in each newsletter.
- It will show that you support the organizations of your city.
- It will help the Society to teach about and preserve the past for current and future generations.
- It will enable you to partially or entirely sponsor a Society activity.
- It will enable you to participate socially in worthwhile community activities.

Business Member Form

Business/Professional Name _____

Owner/Manager Name _____

Address _____

Business Phone _____ Home/Cell Phone _____

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Cost is \$25 annually. Checks should be made payable to the Mt. Healthy Historical Society.

Mount Healthy
Historical Society



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