



MANOR NEWS

SUMMER

2017

Seeking Historic Photos

The RMIA's Research Committee is looking for historic photographs and documents of the neighborhood, such as the ones on this page. We are particularly interested in the early period of the Manor—from 1909 to 1960 (although all old photos and documents are welcome).

If you have lived in Ravenswood Manor a long time and you have some old photo albums you've been considering what to do with, please contact us. We'd be happy to take them.

On the other hand, if you'd like to hold onto your photos, but would be willing to let us look at them, we can arrange to visit you and scan the photographs into a digital format for archival purposes—so they never leave your sight.

If you're interested in sharing your collection, please contact Jackie Klein, chair of RMIA's Research Committee, at jacklein@rocketmail.com.



One of the new audio clips features residents talking about "Play" in the neighborhood, including Adrian Collins, on her bicycle in Manor Park. (Courtesy of Adrian Collins)

"Manor Stories" Now Available



New online recordings discuss such old businesses as Manor Foods; now First Slice Cafe, 4664 N. Manor Ave. (Credit: 1956 photo, CTA Archives). Another recording focuses on "Manor Memories," such as a "Neighborhood Clean Up Parade" down Manor Avenue (at Leland). (Credit: 1965 photo, Copelin Photography).

During its Centennial Year in 2014, the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association's Research Committee conducted a series of interviews with nine neighborhood residents, each of whom had lived in the neighborhood at least a half a century.

These 40-minute audio recordings were made on equipment loaned by StoryCorps, a nonprofit organization that documents the nation's oral histories. Consequently, the recordings are now available in the Library of Congress, as well as on the RMIA's web site.

In June they became available in yet another format. Snippets of the recordings have been edited together into a series of "Manor Stories," each of which tells the tale of a different aspect of our community's history.

The first three "stories" are titled Bygone Businesses, Play, and Manor Memories and will be launched one per month over the Summer. Each of the recordings is 1-3 minutes in length, making them easily accessible for res-

idents, students, and the general public. Additional stories will focus on: Transportation, Notable Neighbors, and the River.

The SoundCloud recordings of "Manor Stories" can be found on the History part of the RMIA web site at ravenswoodmanor.com/stories/.

Many thanks to local residents Jackie Klein and Linda Montalbano for their hard work in assembling these audio stories—from more than four hours of recordings and countless pages of transcripts.

Thanks, also, to Thomas Applegate, Matt Lachy, and Victoria Wiedel for helping to create the web site home for these stories. And, finally, our appreciation to the nine neighborhood residents who told their stories in the first place: John Byrne, Peg Byrne, Adrian Collins, Dick Lanyon, Beth Newell Murphy, Susan Newell O'Connell, Ruth Robbins, Don Valentin, and Eileen Valentin.

Event Calendar

Independence Bike Parade: Sun., June 25, 3:45 p.m., meet in Buffalo Park, California and Sunnyside.

Community Meeting (re: Richard's Body Shop): Mon., June 26, 11 a.m., City Hall Room 800, 121 N. LaSalle St.

Manor Garden Walk: Sun., July 23, 1–4 p.m.

Weekly and Monthly Events

RMIA Board: Mon., June 12, 7 p.m., Horner Park Field House

Horner Park Advisory Council: Mon., July 10, 7:30 p.m., Horner Park Field House

Summer Concert Series: See article on page 7

Walk the Manor: Wednesdays, 6:30–9 p.m.

Farmer's Market: Saturdays, 9 a.m.–1 p.m., Horner Park, California and Montrose

Independence Bike Parade

This neighborhood summer tradition continues, as Manor kids decorate their bicycles and travel five blocks—from Buffalo Park to Manor Park—escorted by the Chicago Fire Department, sirens screaming.

This year's event will be held on **Sunday, June 25th, from 3:45 to 4:15 p.m.** Children should gather with their decorated bikes, tricycles, etc. at Buffalo Park, Manor and Sunnyside. The parade starts promptly at 4 p.m.

Our thanks to Lisa Jamiolkowski and Cheryl McNally for volunteering to organize this year's parade.

Volunteers are needed to stop vehicular traffic at Manor and Wilson for the 10–15 minutes it takes for the parade to clear the intersection. Volunteers should arrive at Buffalo Park no later than 3:45 p.m. Please contact Cheryl to let her know that you can help out at: cherylmcnally@gmail.com.

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LaPointe Park is owned by the MWRD, leased by NeighborSpace, and maintained by the RMIA and nearby residents. This 1994 site plan (right) for the redesign of LaPointe Park helped transform the once-vacant lot with plantings and other landscape features.

Ideas Wanted for LaPointe Park

Arthur J. LaPointe Park is located at the northeast corner of Giddings and Manor avenues. Unlike Buffalo Park (Sunnyside/Manor) or Manor Park (Eastwood/Manor), which are the two other parks within Ravenswood Manor, LaPointe Park is not owned and maintained by the Chicago Park District.

Instead, this triangular park is owned by the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. It has remained undeveloped

because the MWRD has interceptor sewer lines beneath it, making the lot unbuildable. For much of its history, the lot was an eyesore cared for, occasionally, by surrounding neighbors. But, in 1977, the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association agreed to lease the lot from the MWRD as a park, naming it for Arthur J. LaPointe (1903-85), a Manor resident and a longtime RMIA president.

In 1994, the park was redesigned to include ornamental trees, benches, a sundial, and other landscape features. Soon after, raised community garden plots were installed at the north end. In 1997, LaPointe became one of the first open spaces adopted by the nonprofit NeighborSpace program, which leased the park from the MWRD and paid the insurance costs. In exchange, the RMIA agreed to maintain the park.

The leasing of the garden plots to residents helps provide funds for park maintenance, including lawn care and, last year, installation of a new fence along the north edge of the park.

One long-term problem for the park has been flooding, following heavy rains. This has limited its use for various activities, including the annual Easter Egg Hunt, which has been relocated to Manor Park. "It's time to take another look at LaPointe Park, including its landscape design and potential uses," says Lorin Liberson, who chairs the RMIA's Parkways Committee.

RMIA is looking for your ideas. Have you ever used LaPointe Park? Do you have any thoughts on how it should be used? Do you have an idea for its potential re-design?

Please send your comments to lapointepark@ravenswoodmanor.com.

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Volunteer Committees

Much of RMIA's work in the neighborhood takes place through its committees, which are described below. If you are interested in joining one of these committees, please contact the RMIA President, Athene Carras, at president@ravenswoodmanor.com.

Communications – Provides information through a quarterly newsletter, email updates, special notice emails, mailings, flyers, Facebook, and the RMIA website. (Co-chairs Matt Lachy and Victoria Wiedel)

Community Relations – Serves as liaison to the Horner Park Advisory Council, Chicago Police Department, Chicago Park District, local schools and businesses. (Chair Alan Mueller)

Membership – Mails annual RMIA member appeal letter, maintains member database, sends welcome postcards to new homeowners. (Chair Craig Pierson)

Parkways – Coordinates annual tree plantings in public parkways and the maintenance of LaPointe Park. (Chair Lorin Liberson)

Research – Maintains historic information, researches special projects, creates awareness through articles, web site content, etc. (Chair Jackie Klein)

Special Events – Organize and promotes annual events, including Annual Meeting, Easter Egg Hunt, Garage Sale, Garden Walk, Independence Bike Parade, and Semi-Annual Meeting.

Transportation – Serves as liaison to 33rd Ward Transportation Advisory Council and other organizations regarding parking, traffic, transit, and additional transportation matters. (Chair Bette Rosenstein)

Zoning – Reviews new development projects to ensure consistency with land use and zoning regulations, acting as liaison to alderman's office and other city departments on building code and zoning matters. (Chair Jim Peters)

Notable Neighbors

Abe Saperstein: Harlem Globetrotters

By Debra Desmond



Promotional photo of Abe Saperstein.

Who would have thought that someone who was 5'5" tall and born in England would be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame? That's the story of Abe Saperstein (1902-66), a longtime Manor resident who is best known as the founder of the famed Harlem Globetrotters exhibition basketball team.

Born in London's East End, Abe was the eldest of nine children whose parents had immigrated to England from Lomza, Poland. The Saperstein family moved to Chicago in 1907.

Abe's father, Louis, who had been an apprentice tailor in Poland, applied to an advertisement for a tailor that warned: "No Jews allowed." Undeterred, Louis changed his surname to the more German-sounding "Schneider," which means tailor. After several years, he bought the business and changed the name to Louis Saperstein's Tailors. (The shop is believed to have been at 4663 N. Manor Ave., where Manor Cleaners is now located. Louis is reported to have made the initial uniforms of the Globetrotters.)

The family lived at 3828 N. Hermitage Ave., where a Chicago Tribute Marker is now located. At age 10, Abe discovered a lifelong love of sports, playing basketball at the Wilson Avenue YMCA. He attended Ravenswood Elementary School and Lake View High School, where he played nine different sports, including baseball, basketball, football, boxing, and track.

He briefly attended the University of Illinois, but dropped out to support his family during the Depression. An early job was as





a playground supervisor at Welles Park. Yearning for a career in sports, Abe played point guard for the Chicago Reds, a semi-pro lightweight (135 lb limit) basketball team. He later evolved to the team's manager and coach.

In 1926, spurred by his deepening interest in basketball, Abe sought out “The Savoy Big Five,” a team that played games before dances at the Savoy Ballroom, 4733 S. Martin Luther King Dr. Although basketball was a relatively new sport, Saperstein seized the chance to promote the team as its agent.

Soon, he became their manager—and later—the team's owner. He also served as the team's driver, public relations director, coach, and occasional substitute player. Saperstein was relentless in booking games, as the team played more than 1,000 dates in its early years, with Abe driving the players to tiny towns throughout the Midwest in his unheated Ford Model T.

Characteristic to the era, these were mostly all-white audiences and, since Saperstein didn't want other teams or spectators to be surprised that his players were black, he soon changed the team's name. He chose “Harlem” to form a connection to the nation's epicenter of African-American culture, while “Globetrotters” came from his dream that the team would travel internationally.

Saperstein became a leading figure in black sports in the 1920s, '30s, and '40s—well before professional teams were racially integrated. In 1948, he challenged the world-champion Minneapolis Lakers, the best team in the all-white National Basketball Association (NBA), a league formed just two years earlier. It was a one-game, winner-take-all contest and the Globetrotters' victory was just shy of its 3,000th in 21 seasons—helping to prove that black players had the skill and ability to play in the pro leagues.

After the NBA was integrated in 1950, Abe began focusing the Globetrotters on entertainment, creating a popular act that ultimately played to audiences in 118 countries. He and the team appeared on television—the “Steve Allen Show”—on Oct. 19, 1958, the same year that Wilt Chamberlin played on the team before join-



Clockwise, from top left: The (New York) Savoy Big Five and manager Abe Saperstein, c.1927; Harlem Globetrotters and Saperstein, c.1950s; Abe and Sylvia Saperstein, at home with their granddaughter in the 1960s; a 1964 poster advertising “Abe Saperstein's Harlem Globetrotters.”

ing the NBA. The Globetrotters also appeared on the “Ed Sullivan Show” on Oct. 31, 1965.

Saperstein founded the American Basketball League (ABL) in 1961, serving as its commissioner, as well as owner of the league's Chicago Majors team. He introduced the three-point field goal to the ABL, prior to its adoption by the American Basketball Association in 1967 and by the NBA in 1979. In 1971, Saperstein was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame, where he is the shortest male member.

Saperstein married Sylvia Franklin in 1934 and had two children, Jerry and Eloise. The family lived at 2948 W. Eastwood Ave. during the 1950s and '60s. Abe died in 1966, from a heart attack, and is buried in Westlawn Cemetery in Norridge, Ill.

Following Abe's death, his brother Morry helped run the business, later selling it to a group of Chicago businessmen for \$3.7 million. His daughter Eloise, a retired sports agent, has three children, Lonni, Avi and Abra, who live in the Chicago area.



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PHOTO BY DAVID HAWK

About RMIA

Manor News is published quarterly by the Ravenswood Manor Improvement Association.

Established in 1914, the RMIA is a neighborhood association run entirely by volunteers. We hold monthly board of directors meetings, stage various social events and special projects, and maintain communication channels through our web site, e-mail alerts, and newsletter. Your annual RMIA membership helps to support all of this work.

The RMIA Mission Statement is: "To promote the welfare of the community in respect to the maintenance and improvement of the physical appearance of the private and public property; the compliance with the laws as applicable to private and public property; the maintenance of facilities with respect to the safety, health, and welfare of its residents."

The RMIA officers are:

- Athene Carras – President
- Jim Peters – Vice President
- Kathy Monk – Secretary
- Suzy Thomas - Treasurer



Web site: ravenswoodmanor.com
 Facebook.com/[ravenswoodmanor](https://www.facebook.com/ravenswoodmanor)
 E-mail: board@ravenswoodmanor.com
 Mail: P.O. Box 25486, Chicago IL 60625

Manor News is delivered to residents and businesses by volunteer block captains. Past issues are available on our web site (see "Communications"). Editor: Jim Peters; Design and Layout: Steve Shanabruch; Advertising: Thomas Applegate.

Manor News Ads

We are extremely grateful to the advertisers who help support the production of this newsletter. If you are interested in advertising, please contact Thomas Applegate at thomasapplegate@yahoo.com.



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SUZY THOMAS



Concerts in the Parks

The 23rd season of free summer concerts (and plays and movies) in our neighborhood parks was scheduled to kick off on Friday, June 9th with a performance by SunnySideUp.

The summer series is organized by the Horner Park Advisory Council, with the support of several sponsors, including the RMIA. Most of the concerts will take place in Ravenswood Manor Park, although there also will be events in Horner Park and one in Sunken Gardens at 4500 Virginia Ave.

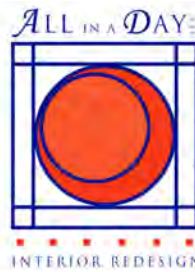
The events in quotes are plays or movies; all others are music concerts. Please mark your calendar with the following schedule:

- Fri., June 9, 7 p.m., Manor Park, SunnySideUp
- Sat., June 17, 7 p.m., Horner Park – “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”
- Fri., June 23, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Hokulea Academy
- Fri., July 7, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Temporal Brass Quintet/Ursa Ensemble
- Sun., July 9, 3 p.m., Manor Park – Narloch School Piano Recital
- Sat., July 15, 11 a.m., Horner Park – “Around the World in Eight Plays”
- Sat. July 15, 7 p.m., Horner Park – Salsa Chicago Mambo All Stars and “Toy Story”
- Fri., July 21, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Generation
- Fri., Aug. 4, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Windy City Rev Ups
- Fri., Aug. 18, 7 p.m., Manor Park – Strung Out
- Sat., Aug. 19, 11 a.m., Horner Park – “History of America”
- Sun., Aug. 19, 7 p.m., Sunken Gardens Park – Will Barnard Quartet

Manor Garage Sale



This year's sale was held on Sunday, May 21st.



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This 1964 Chicago Tribune photo shows one of the "Lawn and Garden Contest" judges with prize winner Mrs. Frank Meyerboffer at 4425 N. Francisco Ave.

Garden Walk's 60th Anniversary

This year's Manor Garden Walk will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, July 23rd, beginning in Ravenswood Manor Park. This year will mark the 60th anniversary of the garden walk. The initial event was held in 1957 as a way to view the prize winners of the Manor Lawn and Garden Club's "First Annual Lawn and Garden Contest."

There are no known documents from that first garden walk, but we recently located records from the 6th annual event, which was held on July 1, 1962. That year, more than 80 large, small, and "patio" gardens—as well as 17 lawns—were evaluated by a dozen judges from the Garden Clubs of Illinois. Based on the results of the judging, at least 32 gardens were featured on the walk, with many commendations for "roses and well-trimmed shrubs."

The 1st place winners in each category—from 1962 (and in 1964, according to a *Chicago Tribune* article)—were:

Large Gardens

Overall: 4530 N. Mozart Ave. (2821 W. Leland Ave.)

Best Horticulture: 4640 N. Francisco Ave.

Previous Winners: 4524 N. Francisco Ave.

Small Gardens

Overall: 4431 N. Francisco Ave. (4425 N. Francisco Ave.)

Outstanding Lawn: 2820 W. Eastwood Ave.

Multiple Dwelling Gardens

Overall: 4514 N. California Ave. (2716 W. Sunnyside Ave.)

Best Horticulture: 2707 W. Agatite Ave.

Patio Gardens

Overall: 2825 W. Leland Ave. (4511 N. Francisco Ave.)

Best Horticulture: 2864 W. Leland Ave.

Previous Winners: 4459 N. Richmond Ave.

If you are interested in participating in this year's Garden Walk—no categories required—please contact the event's coordinator, Jeff Sell, of the Manor Garden Club; email: jeffreysell@gmail.com.

Additional Garden Club Activities

The Manor Garden Club, a volunteer organization, includes residents from Ravenswood Manor, Ravenswood Gardens, and surrounding areas.

In April, the Garden Club sponsored Earth Day cleanups and plantings at Buffalo, Jacobs, Ravenswood Manor, and Sunken Gardens parks. It is working on plans to add and maintain plants lining the entrance ramp to the Francisco "L" station.

The club also is sponsoring a monthly lecture series, in association with the Montrose Metra Community Gardens and the Sulzer Library. The club uses proceeds from its annual plant sale to help fund the series. The talks—all from experts in the field—are held at 7 p.m. at the Sulzer Regional Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave. Upcoming dates and topics are:

- Mon., June 19 – Organic Gardening Basics
- Mon., July 10 – Right to Know GMO (genetically modified organisms)
- Mon., July 17 – Water Conservation in the Garden
- Mon., Aug. 21 – Common Pests and Problems

For more information on all club activities, check out the Manor Garden Club's Facebook page.

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