Ridge Historical Society
RECORD
BEVERLY HILLS, MORGAN PARK, WASHINGTON HEIGHTS & MT. GREENWOOD

A feature for March – Women's History Month

Ridge women led the way in voting

By Carol Flynn

Great women have ruled throughout history. Consider Cleopatra of Egypt. Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria of England. Catherine the Great of Russia. Women have always been subject to the same laws of a country as men. And yet, it's been less than 100 years since women won the right to vote in the United States.

The Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution was passed in 1920. It provides: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Illinois was the first state to ratify the amendment; Mississippi, in 1984, was the last. It is no surprise that Illinois would be first to take this action, as it was legislation passed in Illinois 100 years ago, in June 1913, that was the turning point in the women's suffrage movement.

The formal beginning of the women's suffrage movement is considered to be an 1848 women's rights convention in Seneca Falls, New York. The group came up with a list of resolutions, and the one concerning the right to vote was hotly debated. Many of the attendees wanted this removed. It was Frederick Douglass, the escaped slave who became a foremost statesman, orator and writer, who eloquently argued for its inclusion. It was retained.

The resistance to women voting was widespread and strong, not only from men but also from many women. The arguments mainly related to the 'proper' or 'natural' roles for women in society. A document from the Nebraska Association Opposed to Women Suffrage gives an idea of the anti-suffrage propaganda of the time (see page 2).

Vast industrial innovations and

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Gertrude Boughton Blackwelder was a leader in both civic and society affairs, and particularly in the battle for woman's suffrage. She was one of the co-founders of what is now the Morgan Park Woman's Club and the first woman to vote in Cook County under the new Illinois law in 1913. Photo from the Chicago Tribune reprinted in Town Talk, Vol. 1, No. 9, Morgan Park, Ill., August 2, 1913. From the RHS collection.

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RIDGE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
10621 S. Seeley Ave.
Chicago, IL 60643

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ridgehistoricalsociety.org
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Open to the public
Tuesday 2 - 5 p.m.
Thursday 2 - 5 p.m.
Sunday 2 - 5 p.m.
or by appointment

Look for the Ridge Historical Society on Facebook.

Ridge women, from page 1

increased urbanization from the mid-1700s on had brought about profound changes in family structure. Husbands, wives and children no longer worked side by side in family businesses or on family farms. Now various family members went out to work in businesses of all nature. Poorer women were primarily confined to work in service and factory occupations. A wealthy, conservative middle class developed, in which the sign of prestige and affluence was for the wife to not work outside of the home, but to assume the full-time role of wife, mother, housekeeper and hostess. What authors have referred to as this 'Victorian cult of domesticity' kept suffrage for women from being realized for generations.

But this fast growth of wealth also led to corruption, among other ills. These years became known as 'The Gilded Age,' a term coined by writers including Mark Twain to describe what they believed to be an era of serious social problems hidden by a thin veneer of gold. Reform-minded groups and individuals called for change. A political and social atmosphere conducive to support for women's suffrage was finally emerging.

Ten Reasons Why
The Great Majority of Women
Do Not Want the Ballot.

BECAUSE they have not lost faith in their fathers, husbands, sons and brothers, who afford full protection to the community, there being no call for women to relieve them of the task.

BECAUSE women realize that when they become voters they will in consequence have to serve as jurors, and be compelled to hear all the repugnant details incident to murder trials and trials for other crimes disclosing unspeakable wickedness. Jury service is abhorrent to every normal woman.

BECAUSE in political activities there is constant strife, turmoil, contention and bitterness, producing conditions from which every normal woman naturally shrinks.

BECAUSE the primary object of government is to protect persons and property. This duty is imposed by nature upon man, the women being by nature absolved from assuming a task to them impossible.

BECAUSE when women noisily contest and scramble for public office—woman pitted against woman—they write an indictment of womankind against which all right-minded women strenuously protest.

BECAUSE women can accomplish more through counselling than they ever can attain through commanding.

BECAUSE woman suffrage will not enhance peace and harmony in the home, but, on the contrary, in the heat of a campaign, it is sure to bring about dissension and discord.

BECAUSE Nebraska women are already enjoying a greater measure of protection and privilege under the law than do women of any state where women vote.

BECAUSE the woman worker wants rest and quietude—not political excitement.

BECAUSE every reason supporting the claim of women to vote supports also the right of women to be consulted as to whether they shall or shall not be given the ballot.

Issued by the Nebraska Association Opposed to Women Suffrage, Omaha, Nebraska.

Anti-suffrage propaganda from the mid-1800s often emphasized the 'natural' role of women. From the nebraskastudies.org website.

The years 1890 to 1920 are known as the 'Progressive Era.' During this time, many people led efforts to reform local government, public education, medicine, finance, insurance, industry, railroads, churches, and many other areas. National political leaders included Theodore Roosevelt, Herbert Hoover, and Woodrow Wilson. The temperance movement, which would lead to Prohibition and the Eighteenth Amendment, was in full swing. The new generation of activists argued that women deserved the vote not because they were *equal* to men but because they were *different* from men. They made their domesticity into a political virtue, citing it as a way to bring a purer, more moral, less corrupt accounting to the voting arena.

By 1913 in Illinois, the Progressive Party held the balance of power in the Legislature. Women lawyers of the state's suffrage association had figured out a way to get limited but significant voting rights for women. The Electoral College is a process that the founding fathers established in the Constitution as a compromise between election of the President by a vote in Congress and election of the President by a popular vote of qualified citizens. Individuals known as 'Electors' are chosen by each state and it is these Electors who actually choose the President. The Constitution gives the authority to each state's Legislature to set the manner in which Electors are chosen.

A bill allowing women to vote for the Illinois Electors was drawn up and introduced in the Legislature. Every conceivable parliamentary maneuver was used by the opposition to keep the bill from coming up for vote. Hundreds of men came to Springfield to entreat the Speaker to prevent entry of the bill. The Speaker asked the pro-suffrage lobby for a show of support, and he was immediately flooded with letters, telegrams and telephone messages. Satisfied that the support was there, he allowed the bill to go to vote. At the time of the vote, women 'captains' went as far as to fetch needed male voters from their

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A newsletter subscription is a benefit of membership.

Annual dues
Student (<18) $10
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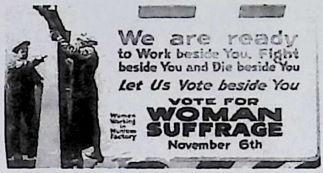
Family $40
Contributor $100
Patron $150
Guarantor $500

Ridge women, from page 2

homes, and stayed on guard duty to urge members in favor not to leave before the vote and to prevent the opposition lobbyists from being illegally allowed on the floor. The bill passed. Illinois women became the first in the country with the right to vote for the President of the United States.

The other part of the bill covered certain aspects of municipal suffrage. The entire bill, short and sweet, is printed here.

Immediately, the opposition began a series of challenges to declare the law unconstitutional. But around fifty cases brought forth were unsuccessful. Chicago was the second largest city in the country, and now its women could vote. Pro-suffrage sentiment across the nation swelled. The Illinois courts had established the right of women to vote under Illinois law as granted by the U. S. Constitution. This was the inroad the movement needed. At an annual suffrage convention in 1916 a plan was formulated to secure presidential suffrage state by state. Delegates went home and put that plan into effect with successful results. There were still many hurdles to overcome both nationally and locally, of course. In many areas the issue of women's suffrage was strongly tied to the temperance movement and the 'wet' lobby fought bitterly against enfranchisement. But the momentum continued.



WWI saw women move into the workforce in great numbers. The suffrage movement used this to its advantage in promotions such as this ad. From Illinois History, February 2001, p. 34, as found on the website http://www.lib.niu.edu/index.html.

Women of the Ridge first voters in Cook County

The women of the Ridge certainly were not idle observers of the suffrage issue. At the first opportunity, they exercised their hard won privileges to vote for a bond issue for a local high school.

The following article appeared verbatim in *Town Talk*, a local newspaper for Morgan Park, dated August 2, 1913. This newspaper is in the RHS collection.

Bond Issue Approved

"The special election called by the High School Board of Education for the purpose of voting "For" or "Against" the erection of a High School building on the High School site at Park Street and Fairfield Avenue, and "For" or "Against" the issuing of $45,000 of bonds of the school district for such building, was held at the Village Hall Saturday afternoon of last week between the hours of 1 and 6 o'clock.

The judges were Dr. Wm. H. German, President of the High School Board, and Mr. James D. Garrett, and the Clerk of Election was Henry P. Heizer, Esq., the two latter members of the High School Board. Two hundred and seventy votes were cast, 184 by men and 86 by women, and the result as announced was 263 "For" and 7 "Against" the issuing of bonds – of those against, 5 were men's votes and 2 women's votes.

As this was the first opportunity given women of Cook county by virtue of the recently enacted Women's Suffrage law (which was passed largely through the work of Hon. Edw. Shurtleff, Mr. Heizer's law partner and former Speaker of the Illinois House of Representatives) to vote upon questions other than candidates for school boards, nothing could have been more fitting than that Mrs. I. S. Blackwelder, former president of the

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WOMEN GRANTED RIGHT TO VOTE FOR CERTAIN OFFICERS, ETC.

§ 1. What officers and propositions in State, cities, villages and towns.
§ 2. What township officers, etc.
§ 2. Separate ballot boxes and ballots —canvass—registration.

(SENATE BILL NO. 63. APPROVED JUNE 26, 1913.)

AN ACT *granting women the right to vote for presidential electors and certain other officers, and to participate and vote in certain matters and elections.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly:* That all women, citizens of the United States, above the age of 21 years, having resided in the State one year, in the county ninety days, and in the election district thirty days next preceding any election therein, shall be allowed to vote at such election for presidential electors, member of the State Board of Equalization, clerk of the appellate court, county collector, county surveyor, members of board of assessors, members of board of review, sanitary district trustees, and for all officers of cities, villages and towns (except police magistrates), and upon all questions or propositions submitted to a vote of the electors of such municipalities or other political divisions of this State.

§ 2. All such women may also vote for the following township officers: supervisor, town clerk, assessor, collector and highway commissioner, and may also participate and vote in all annual and special town meetings in the township in which such election district shall be.

§ 3. Separate ballot boxes and ballots shall be provided for women which ballots shall contain the names of the candidates for such offices which are to be voted for and the special questions submitted as aforesaid, and the ballots cast by women shall be canvassed with the other ballots cast for such officers and on such questions. At any such election where registration is required, women shall register in the same manner as male voters.

APPROVED June 26, 1913.

The 'Illinois Law' passed in 1913 was the turning point in the women's suffrage movement. Laws of the State of Illinois enacted by the Forty-Eighth General Assembly at the Regular Biennial Session. Springfield: Illinois State Journal Co., 1913.

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Chicago's Woman's Club, and consistent worker for the betterment of women and children, as well as mankind as a whole, should cast the first woman's vote in Morgan Park and Cook county."

[The article goes on to list the names of the 86 women who voted that day, many of them prominent members of the community. Included are Janet R. Herriott, Ellen Iglehart, Sarah Belden, Emma Louise Barker, Marie Kiskaddon, Hazel Barker, Gertrude Belden, Louise Price, Mattie M. Lane, Ella A. Myrick, and Mary Eldridge.]

"The occasion aroused favorable comment from every quarter. Nearly every Chicago newspaper had some kind of a photograph of the event in that or the following day's edition.

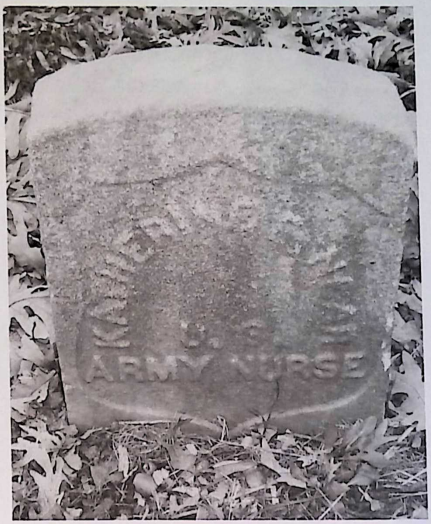
A number of reliable bond houses have sent in bids for the bonds, all to be opened at the Arlington school last night. While the financial situation is such that this is a poor time to issue bonds, as the supply is far greater than the demand, it is hoped that a price will be realized sufficiently high to justify our High School authorities to move forward with all speed consistent with good business principles in the construction of the authorized High School building."

Forever After

The coming of World War I in 1917 brought the final push for suffrage. Women took on many non-traditional roles. Not only did they keep their homes and families running, they took on voluntary and paid employment that showed that women were highly capable in many areas. Suffrage campaigns used this to advantage. After years of opposition, President Woodrow Wilson became an advocate.

The Nineteenth Amendment was approved by the Senate on June 4, 1919, and six days later was ratified by Illinois. Curiously, many Illinois papers took almost no notice of that ratification. It was almost anticlimactic given that Illinois women had been able to vote in many elections for six years.

Finally, the Amendment was ratified by a sufficient number of states in 1920 and became law. The battle was won.



Civil War Markers Dedication Ceremony

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013

Over 70 new markers on graves of Civil War veterans will be dedicated in a joint program by Mount Greenwood Cemetery and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War (SUVCW).

The featured speakers are Civil War historian and author Rob Girardi, National Chaplain Jerome Kowalski (SUVCW) and Linda Lamberty, RHS Historian.

The 10th Illinois Infantry, Rockford Zouaves, and Boy Scout Troupe #69 will present colors. There will be an artillery salute by Mulligan's Battery, SVR (Chicago) and a rifle salute by the American Legion.

The SUVCW will conduct a rededication of the refurbished memorial for the L.H.Duruy Post #467 of the Illinois Grand Army of the Republic (GAR), also located in the cemetery. Free admission.

The program will be held at Mt. Greenwood Cemetery, 2900 W. 111th St., on April 27 beginning at 10:00 a.m.

Women were in the army during the Civil War. Catherine Near served as a nurse and is buried at Mt. Greenwood Cemetery. (The proper spelling of her first name is Catherine but she also went by Kate.) Photos by C. Flynn

Archiving kicks into high gear

By Edris Hoover, President

Ridge Historical Society is about to embark on a very exciting project, perhaps one of the most important ever. In 2009 the society was fortunate to receive an archive from a descendant of Thomas Morgan, who had extensive land holdings along "The Ridge" beginning in the 1840s and is the namesake of Morgan Park.

Anne Morgan Moore Colgin (1944-2008) donated a substantial collection of Morgan family materials to RHS. She was a leader in the business, philanthropic, civic and social life of Atlanta, Ga. After beginning her career in banking, she co-founded Synergistics Research Corporation, headquartered in Atlanta, which became the leading provider of syndicated consumer and small business marketing research intelligence for the financial services industry. Anne was a member/officer of many professional, civic and charitable organizations. At the time of her death, "she requested that you do a good deed for another person to honor her memory." Photo by L. Lamberty.

His descendant, Anne Morgan Moore Colgin and RHS were brought together largely through the efforts of Emeritus Director and RHS Historian, Linda Lamberty, through continued contact over the course of five years. Mrs. Colgin directed that the collection of papers, maps, books and memorabilia should come to RHS.

The collection has been here several years now, stored in a fireproof cabinet, while we determined the best way to proceed to understand and preserve these materials.

Now, we are launching an archiving project under the direction of consulting archivist Jane Kenamore to process this material.

A small group of volunteers will be trained and guided by Kenamore with the goal of identifying, cataloging and properly preserving each and every piece. The ultimate goal is to make the collection available for research and study.

This archive reveals the unique entrepreneurial and energetic character of Thomas Morgan who came here from England after he had already conducted an expedition to West Africa, and includes his keen observations on the expanding economy of the 19th century Chicago region. You will be hearing more about this project.

Carol Flynn has been Newsletter Editor for about four years now, initially while she worked at RHS as the Office Manager, and now under a new consulting arrangement. Carol will also be working on public relations and event promotion for RHS. She is one our most enthusiastic promoters. She is also a diligent researcher and writer. Now she is able to use those talents in a more focused way by developing stories for the *RECORD* and working with writers, the Outreach Committee and the production process. She will also be producing news releases and stories for local newspapers.

With much appreciation I wish here to acknowledge those who contributed to the RHS Annual Fund this year. With the help of Emeritus Director Sue Delves, a letter was sent in December inviting friends and members to be part of our annual fund campaign. The response has been very gratifying. More than 70 individuals, families and businesses have provided contributions from $25 to over $200 each and some have enabled us to receive matching funds from employers. The annual fund contributions for 2012 totaled over $5,500. These monies help to maintain our home at 10621 Seeley, keep our office moving forward, provide more interesting programs and events and help us obtain the supplies needed for continuing archival activities.

It is important that we now move on to the 2013 membership drive. We have a membership goal of 300 member individuals or families. March is membership month. So please look for the envelope in your newsletter and return it at the highest level of participation you are able to provide. Your membership benefits include the RECORD four times a year, announcements and invitations to programs and events, discount reservations, discount on books and materials

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Let's make some dough together!

Home Run Inn has been a South Side tradition since 1923 when Mary and Vincent Grittani opened a small tavern, seating just 40 people, at 4254 W. 31st St. A baseball from a neighborhood game, a home run 'hit out of the park', broke one of the front windows, and the owners took the name Home Run Inn.

Mary and Vincent's daughter Loretta married her neighborhood sweetheart, a young Italian immigrant named Nick Perrino, in 1942. After serving in WWII as a mess sergeant, Nick joined the family business.

Mary and Nick began making pizzas together in the kitchen of the Home Run Inn tavern. Small squares of the pizzas were served free to patrons with every drink and were a big success with the patrons. Nick and Mary begin selling whole pizzas, and the little corner tavern turned into the first full-scale Home Run Inn pizzeria. In the 1950s, with customers asking for pizzas to take home, Nick started freezing the handmade pizzas and selling them at Home Run Inn and neighborhood grocers.

Vintage photo of operations in the original Home Run Inn Kitchen. From Home Run Inn website.

One year after joining the Taste of Chicago in 1991, Home Run Inn won #1 Pizza six years in a row in The Best of the Taste.

Throughout the years, the business has expanded to include other retail operations, an increased line of fresh and frozen products, and real estate ventures which include sports rehab facilities in several locations. The new Beverly/Morgan Park venue is the ninth pizzeria to open.

RHS is very grateful to Home Run Inn for the fundraising day. Come on over there on April 9th to patronize this new business in the community and to support RHS – and enjoy great food!

Fundraising Day for RHS at Home Run Inn

The community is really happy to welcome the new Home Run Inn to 10900 S. Western Ave.! This restaurant is partnering with RHS for their Charitable Donation Dinner Program! On Tuesday, April 9, from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m., patrons can have 20% of their payment go directly to RHS as a donation by presenting the flyer enclosed with this newsletter. Additional flyers are available at RHS.

The flyer is good for both dine in and carry out, but can be used only at the 109th & Western restaurant. Simply present the flyer when paying for your order – Home Run Inn takes care of the rest. A big thank you goes to RHS Board member Lisa Walsh for arranging this event.

Treat your family – Tuesday, April 9, from 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.

We are counting on your support!

It's dues time and we appreciate every contribution we receive. Please help us continue to preserve the history of our local communities by returning the enclosed envelope.

Archiving, from page 5

and assistance with preliminary research in our archive. I also want to plan a member appreciation event in the Fall.

Directors and Volunteers have been very busy at RHS during the holiday months. The list of thank yous is quite long.

RHS welcomes new Board members Jeanne Carr (pictured) and Anna-Marie Brodsky. Photo by C. Flynn.

- Lisa Walsh, Carol Macola, Cathy Majeski, Pat McGrail, and Marie Sandstrom for the Christmas Teas and Champagne events
- Mary Olsson, Paula Everett and Mary Ellen Cassidy for work with the Personnel Committee
- Jennifer Kenny for the St. Barnabas Historical Exhibit
- Cathi Hogan and Lois Schell for heading up the planning and all those who helped make the St. Barnabas mixer a roaring success.
- Pat McGrail and Cathy Majeske for the holiday costume display and Linda Lane for Christmas and Valentine exhibits
- Joe O'Connor and Herman Schell for outside decorations during the holidays
- Joe O'Connor for arranging our annual "House Doctor" program, and Linda Lamberty for the display on local inventor Edward J. Glackin.
- The Nominating Committee (Lois Schell, Chair; Mary Olsson, Fran Oehmen, Mary Ellen Cassidy, Carol Flynn) which is helping to shape our Board for the coming year.
- Collections volunteers Jeanne Hokens, Linda Lane, Patti Graber, Sue Hendricks, Marcia Thomas, Mary Brandt, Jennifer Kenny, Pat McGrail, Cathy Majeske, Peggy Gannon and Peg Kapustiak for continuing to inventory the collection, enter items into PastPerfect, and store items in archivally safe boxes.
- Marcia Thomas, Eamon Rago, and Peg Kapustiak for recently sending in donations of supplies or historical materials

Finally, thanks to the many more folks who have been hard at work supporting and participating in the life of RHS.

Congratulations and welcome to the 2013 RHS Board of Directors

Two new members will be joining the RHS Board as Directors this year, Jeanne Carr and Anna-Marie Brodsky. The new Board was elected at the annual meeting of the members on February 17. A new concept was also introduced by this year's Nominating Committee. Board members were formally elected to serve in auxillary roles for certain officer positions to better distribute the work load and allow for succession planning. The entire list of officers and Board members is included on page 2.

RHS thanks the out-going Board members, Cathi Hogan and Lisa Walsh. Their contributions were many and we look forward to their continued participation in RHS activities.

Thank you to our 2012 RHS Annual Fund donors

Barbara and Donald Akers
Helen Ayers
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M. M. Veghte and John Deering
Henry Vellinga
Judy Wagner
Lisa and Matthew Walsh
American Perforator Co.
County Fair Foods
Smith Village Senior Living

Mark your calendar for these exciting events

RHS EVENTS – held at Ridge Historical Society, 10621 S. Seeley Ave.

Don't forget Home Run Inn on April 9th – see article in this newsletter!

Spring Hat Tea

SUNDAY, APRIL 21, 2013

For adults and young folks alike. Wear your favorite hat and join us for a Victorian Tea, featuring a fine selection of savories, scones and pastries. Starts at 3:00 p.m., cost is $20 per adult, $10 per child ages 8 to 16; children must be accompanied by an adult. Reservations are necessary – contact RHS at 773/881-1675 or ridgehistory@hotmail.com.

The Annual Carl Spencer Memorial Bike Race Party

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2013

Held in conjunction with the Beverly Hills Cycling Classic, this has become a do-not-miss event! Starting at 5:00 p.m., RHS offers an open bar with wine, beer and soft drinks; an all-you-can-eat hot buffet dinner; desserts and coffee; and two excellent locations from which to watch the bike race – a panoramic view from the terrace on Longwood Drive, or up close and personal from the driveway on Seeley Ave. The cost is $40 per RHS member; $50 per non-member. Reservations are required. There will be more information coming out on this prior to the event but mark your calendars now!!

Blue Island Events – through the Blue Island Public Library

'Tis Grand It Is!'

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2013

A St. Patrick's Day Celebration featuring Celtic Harpist Aislinn and Three Men in Kilts. Starts at 1:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army Center, 2900 W. 127th St. Lunch is served for a nominal cost starting at 11:00 a.m., followed by the music at 1:00 p.m. Reservations are recommended – call Rita Pacyga at the City of Blue Island Senior Office at 708-388-5735. Note: This is not for seniors only!

'Witamy'

TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013

An Evening with Wesoly Lud Polish Folk Dance Company. Starts at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Memorial Church, 2440 York, Blue Island. Tickets are required and are free at the BI Library's main desk (2433 York St.). For information, contact Dan Carroll at the Library at 1-708-388-1078 X30 or dcarroll@blueislandlibrary.org.

Mt. Greenwood Cemetery Civil War Markers Dedication Ceremony

SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2013

Starts at 10:00 a.m. at Mount Greenwood Cemetery, 2900 W. 111th Street. Please see article on page four for complete details.

10621 S. Seeley Ave., Chicago, IL 60643

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