



Summer House

Roselle History Museum Newsletter

Official Publication of the Roselle Historical Foundation
39 East Elm Street, Roselle, Illinois 60172-2026 (630-351-5300)
Email: rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.rosellehistory.com

Spring 2019

D-DAY: The Invasion of Normandy – 75 Years Ago



“Life is no mystery when you know your history”

D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy, France, on June 6, 1944, was the beginning of Operation Overlord. The Western Allies would launch the largest amphibious invasion in history. This was an effort to liberate mainland Europe from Hitler’s Nazi occupation during World War II. Hitler had already taken the Rhineland, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland, the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. He had his eye set to conquer Britain as well as Russia, and was gaining strength by the day. Nazi Hitlerism had to be stopped at all cost. The fate of the world would lie in the balance.

HISTORICAL EVENING co-chairmen, Hank Kvintus and Tom Piorkowski, announced that this informative program will be presented by historian Jim Gibbons.

Saturday, April 13
Trinity Lutheran Family Life Center
405 S. Rush St., Roselle
7:00: Wine and Cheese Reception
7:30: Program

After the Program: Coffee, Homemade Cookies

Tickets may be purchased beginning in mid-March at the Museum Office or the Village Hall at \$15 for adults. Students ages 6-12 will be admitted free. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$18 for adults. An order form is enclosed in this newsletter for your convenience.



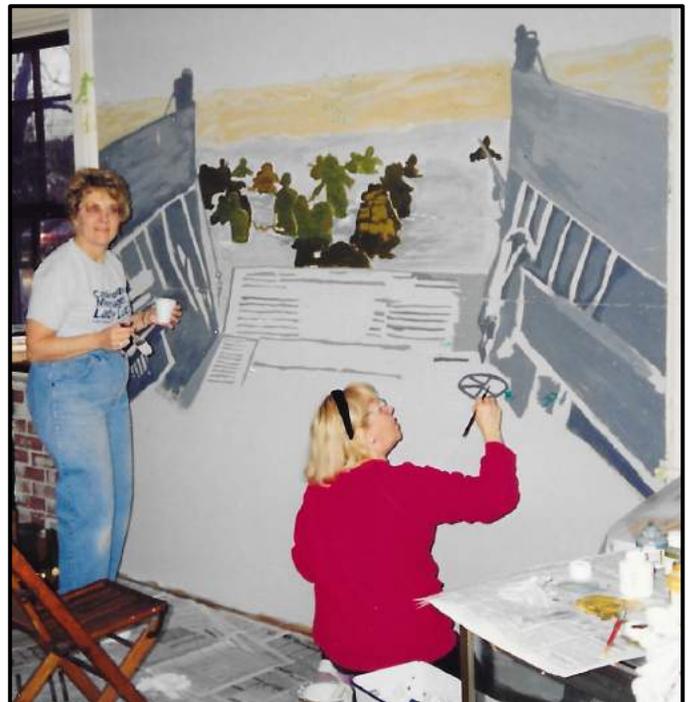
Historical Evening

April 13, 2019

Jim Gibbons Presenter

To learn about Jim Gibbons, visit www.jimgibbonshistorian.com

(Below) Artists Joyce Kuhlmann and Joan Beauprez created a two-panel 8 x 8-foot painting of the Normandy Invasion for the museum’s WWII 50th Anniversary exhibit c. 1994. It remained on exhibit for almost a year. Afterward, the painting was stored away, and, sadly, was destroyed in a flood.



Remembering Ruth Bagel...

RUTH BAGEL

passed away on December 26 after a brief illness. She served as Recording and Correspondence Secretary of the museum's Board of Directors for more than 10 years. Not only was she an efficient Secretary, she was a devoted member who was willing to do anything needed to enhance the museum. Her pièce de résistance was the elegant table setting in the dining room of the Richter House. A collector of antique fine china, Ruth changed the place settings on a regular basis to make it interesting for returning visitors and appropriate for the holidays.



Ruth Arlene Bagel
Feb 14, 1937 – Dec 26, 2018

Moving along into the Richter House kitchen. Ruth made sure the single place setting at the small enamel-top table was laid informally for one person, representing Mrs. Richter herself having an informal meal, possibly reading the newspaper or a magazine. Ruth's tasteful, artistic touch can be seen throughout the museum and the Richter House.

Ruth played a major role in the success of the annual Christmas Open House, organizing the cookie baking, laying out an elegant display of the home-baked sweets, and providing beautifully wrapped door prizes. She has a meticulous record of the bakers and the cookie names going back more than 10 years. She felt this was important to avoid duplication year after year. That's why it's interesting each year simply to see "what's new" on the sweets table some call nothing short of a work of art.

Ruth took the leadership role in the celebration of the museum's 30th anniversary in September. Behind the scenes, she assisted in all public events: Historical Evening, Rose Parade, and Taste of Roselle. Ruth Bagel will be remembered for her many gifts.



Sister Cities

Presents Etching to Museum

During the November Roselle Village Board meeting, Sister Cities representatives presented this 1253 AD etching of Bochnia, Poland, Roselle's Sister City, to RHM President Ray Hitzemann and historian Joan Beauprez, to be exhibited at the museum.



Earlier in the day, Village officials renamed one block of Prospect Street "Bochnia Sister Cities Street." For more information about the Sister Cities program, go to www.roselle.il.us/259/sister-city-commission.



Trinity Lutheran Painters Make a Difference



L-R: Angie Rozelle, Pastor Randy Rozelle, Adam Rozelle, and Liz and Johnny Halim

As part of Trinity Lutheran Church's "Community Care Day," these TLC members scraped and painted the benches in front of the Sumner House Museum. We love and need volunteers. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, call 630-351-5300, or click here: rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.

"Doing nothing for others is the undoing of ourselves."



Flags for Roselle gives nearly \$11,000 back to community

Net proceeds from the 2018 FFR program amounted to \$10,867.55. Each of these five local organizations received \$2,173.51: Roselle American Legion Charitable Foundation, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Roselle, Lake Park High School Educational Foundation, and Roselle Historical Foundation.

Sign Up for the 2019 Program Now!

The 2019 program is off and running. For a \$50 subscription, volunteers will install a 3 x 5-foot U.S. Flag in your front lawn, at your business, or at another location in Roselle on 5 holidays: Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Patriot Day, and Veterans Day. Volunteers return at the end of the day to remove the flags, which are then stored at the Fire Department.

All you need to do is send your \$50 check, made out to Flags for Roselle, to the Roselle Historical Foundation, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172. To pay online, click on <http://flagsforroselle.weebly.com>, and go to Subscribe Now. While you're there, enjoy the video created by two Lake Park HS students explaining how the installation is done. For more information, call the History Museum at 630-351-5300, or email rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net.

FFR is Now an NFP

In November, the Flags for Roselle program became a not-for-profit corporation with its own Board of Directors. The Board adopted bylaws, elected officers, and named committee chairpersons as follows:

President: Scott Williams VP: Tom Piorkowski
Treasurer: Bob Benko Sec'y: Joyce Benko

Committees

Flags: Eric Shutes
Installation/Removal: Bob Marino
Finance: Bob Benko
Public Relations: Bonnie Rimer

Kay Cahill, who introduced the program and served as its chairman from June 2016 to January 2019, will no longer play an active role in the program. She expresses deep appreciation to those selfless citizens who made the program work—those who demonstrated patriotism, enthusiasm, teamwork, and the willingness to look forward. She thanks the Lake Park administration (incl. Dominic Manola), the Village of Roselle administration (incl. Jeff O'Dell, and Mayor Maglio), the Fire Department, the incredible Lake Park students, the American Legion volunteers, and all the volunteers who continue to give. Thanks, also, to Printing Plus of Roselle and to Thrivent Financial for their generous support. ~~~~~

Someone You Should Know

Bob Benko, past commander of the American Legion Post 1084, has a military history that makes his family proud enough to nominate him for the Chicago Bears Tribute to Veterans held at Soldier Field last year.



In his son Thomas' own words, "One of my favorite moments of each home Bears game is when a soldier/veteran is honored. Coming from a military family, this means a lot to me. My dad is a veteran with a storied military career

as civil engineer for 30+ years, now retired. He was drafted for Vietnam in 1971 (spending that time with the Army in Korea). After coming home from his service there, he joined the Air Force/Air (National) Guard and has had tours of duty for Desert Storm, the 1993 Illinois floods, Iraqi War, and countless other services. What really makes me most proud is that his service was never violent, but humanitarian. As a civil engineer—and a great one—his jobs were to rebuild irrigation systems, build bridges, design roads, etc., for in-need locals."



Benko at Soldier Field

Chief Master Sergeant (retired) Robert A. Benko served over 30 years in the U.S. Air Force and the U.S. Army. He was stationed at Camp Humphreys, Korea, with the 802 Engineering Battalion (combat heavy) and worked as

continued on page 6)

Illinois Linen Company/Brick & Tile Company

Before there was a Roselle, there was the Illinois Linen Company, established around 1868 by Rosell Hough at the northwest corner of Roselle and Irving Park Roads. It was an impressive brick structure—the largest building for miles around.

A million-dollar enterprise, Hough's company manufactured rope, linen cloth, and other similar items from flax farmed in the area. He used machinery from Scotland costing \$100,000.

Since harvesting the flax required labor-intensive pulling by hand, and hiring workers was an issue at that time, Hough employed a number of ruffians from Chicago. He housed these men in various boarding houses that he had built near the factory, one of which was called the "Beehive," because it accommodated so many men. (The "Beehive" was located immediately to the south of the Lynfred Winery on Roselle Road.)

With a large group of single men in need of spending a paycheck in a rough-hewn town consisting of several taverns and a bordello, a few other shops selling liquor and guns sprang up almost overnight. The town had a reputation comparable to the Wild West and was nicknamed "Raise Hell."

There were plenty of bar fights, stabbings, and shootings. Murders were not common, but not rare. Things didn't simmer down until after the flax mill closed.

As respectable, law-abiding people moved in, pleas were made to bring order to the town, including a sheriff or at least a constable. Hough hired the latter.

In 1868, the road network was less than perfect—barely wide enough for two horse-drawn freight wagons to pass each other—and consisting mostly of dirt, which turned to mud when it rained. Hough needed a railroad to move his product. That happened in 1872.

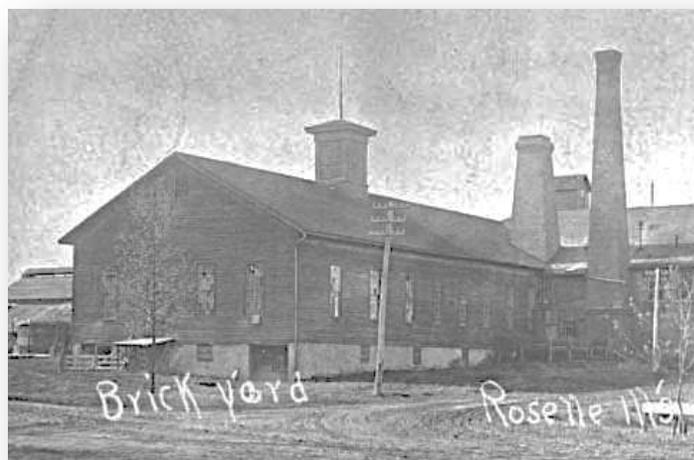
The so-called "good times" ended around 1880, as cotton came back onto the market and the farm fields played out to monoculture farming. The soil, by that



time, was exhausted. The ruffians and the working girls moved on, and the respectable town of Roselle emerged—with churches, et al.

The old linen factory sat unused until a couple of businessmen discovered some decent clay in the area, and converted the flax mill to a tile and brick factory. (It is said that residents who live in this area today still dig up an occasional brick left over from the business.) The brick factory thrived for about a decade, until the easily-mined clay ran out. Now it was the brick factory's turn to sit idle, deteriorating and being vandalized for the next few decades, before its demolition in the 1920s.

And so concludes the story of the earliest businesses in town, where Hough gave the village the impetus to grow and the foresight to use the railroad as the key to the development of business in Roselle.



The derelict brick factory in about 1908

(This article was compiled from information made available by the Roselle Historical Society, Roselle Public Library, Illinois Digital Archives, Forgotten Roselle, and Etched in Time)

“When an old man dies, a library burns”

(old African proverb)

If you don't tell your story, who will?

Memoir Writing can seem like a daunting task, one that's easy to put off. However, Toni Louise Diol has come to save the day. During a presentation at a conference of the North Eastern Illinois Historical Council (N.E.I.L.), Diol offered a number of valuable tips on how to go about it.

N.E.I.L. has granted us permission to share excerpts from Toni's presentation. To those, we've added suggestions that came out of your editor's own memoir-writing experience. Our hope is that you will begin today to build your own library.

Toni Diol says it's important to keep a notebook handy at all times—in your purse, your pocket, your car—and put your thoughts in writing as they come to you. A memory might be sparked by a song on the radio or an old photograph. Your notes may be single words, phrases, even post-it notes to yourself to “see 1940 photo album,” or “check 1950 8 mm family movie.” Don't be concerned about organizing your notes—yet. You can do that later.

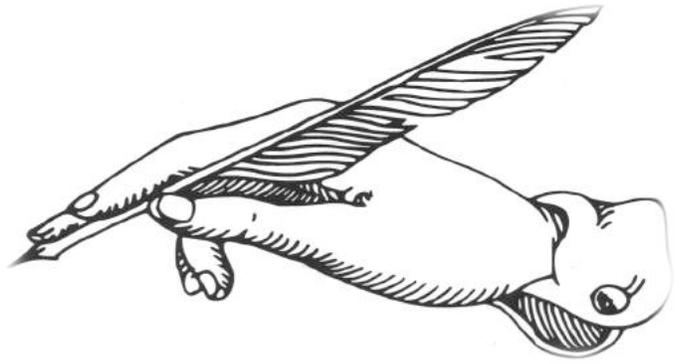
Getting started. Pretend you're talking to a friend or a grandchild or a great grandchild. Start out with, “I was born (full name) on (date).” That'll probably take you to where you lived, went to school, etc.

Someone's birthday party may spark memories of your tenth birthday that was special because Aunt Maggie made that enormous cake, fully decorated. Then go on to describe your friends who were at your party.

A death, an accident, or a divorce might occur that will stir sad thoughts of tragedies you experienced growing up. Describe those in your memoir, but always bring a positive ending to them. Let your grandchildren know you survived and became stronger for those setbacks. It confirms for them that everyone experiences some sadness in their lives, and you're setting an example by how you overcame them. Wakes, funerals, and other traditions were different in your day, and your great grandchildren have no idea how it was. Tell them.

Write about the types of things you learned in school, the games you played in the schoolyard, the high school dances. The fashions of the day. The mode of travel. Perhaps you went on a date via bus or streetcar, or maybe you walked.

Vacations were different in your day, too. Share with your family how it was when you were a child. Start with your woolen one-piece swim suit that sagged to



your knees when it got wet. Don't forget to tell them about your bathing slippers.

As you text a message today on your high-tech phone, you're reminded of the clatter of the typing class full of machines that had no letters on the keys. You're reminded of the monotonous drill, “t-h-e, the; t-h-e the; t-h-e the.”

Whenever possible, use dialogue, Diol says. Quote people. It makes them come alive on your page. Share a whole conversation you had with your mom, dad, siblings, girlfriend, boyfriend.

“You won't have time to write every day,” Diol says, “but you will have the notes to jog your memory and expand upon them” when you do have the time.

When you gather all your scribbled notes, you may want to start sorting them into some kind of order; i.e., your school years, your work years, your retired years. Special chapters might feature descriptions of family weddings, picnics, new cars. You may close your memoirs by sharing the many lessons you have learned through the years—lessons that should be passed on from generation to generation.

Now, it's time to sit down and write. According to Diol, it's helpful to put yourself in the mood to write by playing soothing music in the background, light a candle, etc.

Toni Diol gives us a few more encouraging tips: “This is not a test ♦ No one will grade your journal ♦ There is no right or wrong ♦ Just be yourself ♦ Take your time ♦ Have fun ♦ Don't rush.”

How to end your memoir. You may find it's impossible to bring all your stories to a close. Consider Volume Two. Your family will be grateful for all you can possibly share with them. Your library will live on.

(Toni Diol is a member of the Barrington Area Writers' Group and the Off Campus Writers' Workshop in Winnetka. Go to www.rosesandlollipops.com for more about Toni.)

“The business of life is the acquisition of memories.
In the end, that's all there is.”
(Mr. Carson, *Downton Abbey*)

Memoirs are the backstairs of history. (George Meredith)

What Does it Mean to be a Docent?

DOCENT: (doh'-sunt) From the Latin verb *docere*, which means "to teach."



Roselle History Museum docents are friendly guides who are available to accompany visitors through the Sumner House Museum and the Richter House. They make the guests' visits more meaningful. The docent can point out subtleties that may not be obvious at first glance—maybe to explain what went into the creation of a particular exhibit, or a back story about an old Roselle family, house, or business.

Take it from one who has served as a docent many times (your editor), it is a lot of fun.

Docents are needed on Sundays when the museum is open from 2-4 p.m. They are also needed for school groups who tour on school days, and for scout groups who usually tour on Saturday or during the week after school. A docent may be on called for special appointments when a family or club schedules a tour.

If you'd like to learn more about being a docent, contact the Museum Office at (630-351-5300) or email rosellehistory@sbcglobal.net. An experienced docent will be happy to show you how it's done.

(BENKO-Continued from page 3)

a civil engineer building and securing that camp. After a break in the service, he joined the Illinois Air National Guard, 126 Air Refueling Wing, where he again worked as a civil engineer and rose to the rank of Chief Master Sergeant. He was selected as the Wing's Command Chief from 2000 to 2004. In 2005, he deployed to Ali Base, Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom supporting America's Global War on Terrorism.



Bob has been deeply involved in community service, particularly with the Boy Scouts, including activities with his sons. Back in June 2016, when the Flags for Roselle program was introduced, Bob assumed a leadership role, representing the American Legion, and recently, when the program became incorporated, he was elected Treasurer of the newly-formed Board of Directors. Bob and his wife, Joyce, who live in Roselle, have three sons, Keith, Andrew, and Thomas. ~~~~~

May I Quote You...



The newsletter staff is always pleased and grateful to receive feedback from readers. Here are a few notes that came in the regular mail and email recently. Permission to print has been granted by the authors.

"Thanks so much for sharing! This (newsletter) looks amazing! I will forward to our membership. We will be in touch and plan to stop by one of your meetings. We will be making a donation to the History Museum as a thank you for your support of our event. Thanks so much."
(Valerie Della Penna, Roselle Garden Club)

Ed. Note: Many thanks to the Roselle Garden Club for its generous donation to the museum of \$500! This welcome gift will enhance the Garden Fund and help with an outdoor program that is being considered.

October 2018

"Dear Good People: My cousin, Nancy Knohl Maurer, recently sent me your fall newsletter. I loved the "Back to School—1955" article on page 6. Remember so many of the people named in that old article. Mrs. Evelyn Johnson who taught 4th grade was my mom. I was in 5th grade at the time. Later, I taught 3rd grade at Parkside School. I have many wonderful memories growing up in Roselle and later teaching there. ~~~~~

"I'm glad to become a member, and I look forward to receiving the book, *Remembering Roselle*.

"Thank you for your good service to my home town. Sincerely, Joanne E. Johnson" (Iowa)

Some more feedback:

"I just finished rereading the newsletter. You really nailed it."

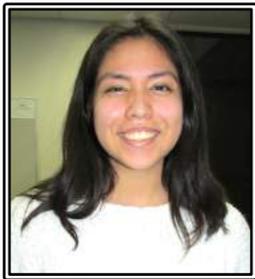
"There sure is a lot going on in Roselle." ~~~~~

Growing Up in Roselle

by Yazmine Armas

Junior, Lake Park High School

New: Student Column



Growing up in Roselle has come with many unforgettable experiences. From playing with neighborhood friends in the park to frequent visits to Pik Kwik. Summers in Roselle as a child were something that I'd always look forward to.

The beginning of June was always exciting, making sandwiches and packing drinks in preparation to watch the annual Rose Parade. The thrill of collecting candy was like no other. Sitting in the sun, hearing the beautiful sounds of the marching band, inspiring me to take on my interest in music.

Not to mention the yearly Fourth of July fireworks. Feeling connected with family as we would walk together to watch them. The warm cozy feeling I'd get watching as each one exploded into the night sky, in awe at the sight of every wonderful color each one surprised us with. Ending the night with a homemade cake decorated with strawberries and blueberries. The first-time experience of making a "limeade" stand, due to the lack of lemons.

The excitement of being able to participate in the programs that Roselle Library had to offer. I never knew how fun it'd be to make candy sushi, learn about wildlife, and how to knit and crochet. For these reasons and more, the Roselle Public Library became a staple in my childhood. Growing up, the Library continued to be a place I enjoyed to be for numerous reasons—one of which was being able to utilize it as a great place to study and do homework, all while being able to utilize the number of possibilities the Library had to offer, alongside friends.

There's more: Experiencing my first block party this summer. Getting to know the friendly neighbors and seeing their young kids enjoying each and every one of Roselle's many aspects. And the best part of all—being able to spend time with my extended family I was fortunate enough to have had, and who lived in the same town. This was a bonus. Being able to form a great relationship with my cousins, who eventually felt like brothers and sisters to me. Between frequent moves, my longest time has been here in Roselle. Something I'll forever be grateful for. In contrast to previous misfortunes, I was fortunate enough to finally have a chance to grow up here, in a community that is safe, friendly, and filled with opportunities, giving me the chance to experience everything that a classic suburban lifestyle has to offer.



What Else is New? the Lynfred Winery Gift Card

winners are

Jill & Don Gross!

You're right: the same Jill & Don Gross who last summer won the Daily Herald's "Get Your Summer On" backyard makeover contest. The Winery gift card lucky ticket was drawn during the Christmas Open House Dec. 2. The drawing was made possible by an anonymous donor.

Museum Establishes Office Hours:

Tuesdays and Thursdays: 1-3 p.m.

Wednesdays: 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

Christmas Open House

boasted about 50 cookie varieties, including "Melting Snowmen," by LPHS student Jillian McAuliffe. For more photos of the Open House, go to Roselle History Museum on Facebook.



Local Museums Shareshop

The latest thinking in the world of history museums is discussed at the quarterly Shareshops held at various local historical societies. On Jan 15, 23 representatives from 9 societies met at the Glen Ellyn HS to share ideas and lend encouragement. RHM was represented by Bonnie Rimer, Joan Beauprez, Joyce Kuhlmann, and Kay Cahill. Bonnie took copious notes and will be sharing some of the ideas at future RHM general meetings. Next Shareshop is set for April at the Scottish Rite Museum in Bloomingdale. These shareshops are outstanding professional growth opportunities for history museum enthusiasts.

There was a time . . .

a secretary moistened stamps with this *indispensable* moisturizer. A little bit of water in the porcelain "bowl" would be picked up by the roller with a gentle nudge. Touch the stamp to the top of the roller and Voila!—ready for sealing. Those were the days when the alternative was licking stamps and envelopes flaps. Not good.



Roselle History Museum's Annual Historical Evening

D-Day: The Invasion of Normandy Beach

Saturday, April 13, 2019

Reception: 7:00 p.m. – Presentation: 7:30 p.m.

Trinity Lutheran Family Life Center - 405 S. Rush St., Roselle

_____ of adults @ \$15

_____ of students age 6-12 (free)

\$ _____

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Phone # _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Make check payable to the Roselle History Museum, and mail it to 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172

ROSELLE HISTORY MUSEUM
 39 E ELM STREET
 ROSELLE IL 60172



First Sign of Spring 2019

Second Sign of Spring: Membership Time!

Join now—see the form below—send it in!

Mission Statement

To maintain and enhance a historically accurate museum with primary focus on Roselle and surrounding areas

To collect local facts and artifacts of today that will be our village history and pride tomorrow

To provide a dynamic historical and educational resource for our residents and visitors

Board of Directors

President: Ray Hitzemann

VP/Treas: Glenn Spachman

Secretary pro tem: Tom Piorkowski

Milan Bagel * Hank Kvintus

Walter Lotz * Tom Piorkowski

Frank Zielinski

Museum Manager: Bonnie Rimer

General Meetings

Second Saturday of the Month
 10-11:30 a.m. – 39 E. Elm

Museum Hours

Sundays 2-4 p.m.
 Other times by appointment

Newsletter Deadlines

Feb 1 – May 1 – Aug 1 – Nov 1
 Editor: kaycahill@comcast.net

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Mail to: Roselle History Museum, 39 E. Elm St., Roselle, IL 60172

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

Email Address _____ Send RHM Newsletter via email (Y/N) _____

_____ New Member Circle one: \$30 \$50* \$100 \$250 Other \$ _____

_____ Renewal

_____ *My contribution is at least \$50. Please send me a free copy of the *Remembering Roselle* history book.

I am interested in helping in one of the areas of the Foundation's work. Circle one:

Computer/Clerical * Exhibits * Parade float * Research * Single Event * Buildings/Grounds

The Roselle Historical Foundation is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your contribution may be fully tax deductible.

Spring 2019