

Preservation
Partners of the
Fox Valley

2022

VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

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Volunteers are special. We appreciate you and everything you do!

IT FEELS GOOD TO VOLUNTEER!

Whether you volunteer as a docent, a coach, or a helper, at a museum, in a church or in the community, when you use your time, skills and energy to be of service, you not only help other people, but you receive personal mental health benefits as well. A few hours of volunteering make us feel good! That's why we do it!

But *why* does it make us feel good? While there are many ways volunteering provides health benefits, here are a few:

- Gives a sense of purpose - Regardless of age, volunteering can give meaning, purpose, and fulfillment in ways different than what we do or have done for work. The willingness to do what's needed in the moment, no matter how humble the task, can put things in perspective and help grow compassion for others while expanding our minds and worldview.
- Reduces stress - Whether we are working with adults, children, animals, or in nature, a meaningful connection can take our mind off our worries when we put our attention on someone or something else. The richer the experience, the more we feel satisfied with giving of our time and talents, and that results in improved mood and less stress.
- Makes you happy - According to online mental health therapy and counseling firm, AbleTo.com, research shows that feel-good hormones and brain activity spike during volunteer activities. Humans are designed to be in community, serving one another. It's impossible not to impact a community when you volunteer. Just being there and doing whatever is needed is contributing to the greater whole. Volunteering makes the world a better place by aiding a community in need, and helping others provides immense pleasure.

It is important to stay mentally and physically healthy. It is great to know that being a volunteer can help you stay that way!



MESSAGE FROM STAFF

“Woohoo! It’s a new year! Everything is fresh and new! Everything is different! Everything... is actually the same.”

That’s usually how I feel about the start of a new year. The days preceding January 1st are filled with hope and excitement. Then January 2nd rolls around and I realize that the only thing that’s changed is the year on the calendar. It usually makes me feel rather glum, but *I realized this year that things being the same isn’t quite so bad.* And in reality, things are GREAT.

What’s great, you ask? To name a few: PPFV is financially stable, we had our sump pump replaced (exciting!), our board and staff are energetically planning for a busy year, and we might get out from under the heavy thumb of the pandemic sometime in 2022.

But really, one thing (or person) stands out: **YOU**. YOU have supported us through thick and thin, been there when we needed you, and given your time and energy. YOU are the very life of PPFV; without you we wouldn’t be able to share the stories that shaped our world.

Read on in our volunteer newsletter to learn about upcoming ways YOU can help us keep PPFV alive! Plus, read about staff book picks, available First Aid/CPR training, updates on events, and more.

YOU are Preservation Partners. Thank you!

Kelsey Shipton
Executive Director

**Thank you,
Volunteers, for your
amazing generosity
and dedication!**



THE IMPORTANCE OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

While everyone does their best to avoid emergencies, accidents and problems do occur. The important thing is to be prepared. There are two emergency preparedness binders at each museum:

1. Forest Preserve District of Kane County - Site Safety Manual
2. Preservation Partners – Emergency Preparedness Manual

While volunteering, please look at these manuals and familiarize yourself with the material – including the location of first aid kits, fire extinguishers, all exit locations, and the emergency contact list with names and phone numbers of personnel to call.

In addition, the PPFV staff attended a CPR, AED, and First Aid class on 12/14/2021. The class consisted of online pre-training videos and exams, followed by an in-person skills class with hands-on practice. **This class is available for our volunteers as well.** If you are interested in taking the CPR, AED, and First Aid class through the Forest Preserve, please let us know. We can put you in contact with them.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Farm-to-Table Event Committee

We are excited to bring back the very popular Farm-to-Table Fundraiser in 2022! Big events take many hands, though, so we are looking for individuals to assist in the planning and implementation of this year's event. **Scheduled for Saturday, August 27**, this will be our most fun fundraiser of the year!

With a first meeting planned for March, everyone is invited to join us at our first meeting to learn about the event and the volunteer activities in the Marketing, Decorating, and Food & Drink subcommittees.

Contact Debra Corwin at durantandsholes@ppfv.org or call 630-377-6424 for an invite to the first meeting.

Be a guide to visitors at Fabyan!

Do you love history, local culture, and telling stories? What about architecture; Frank Lloyd Wright and the prairie style? Or perhaps your interest is in Japanese culture? Or code breaking?

Consider being an indoor tour guide at the Fabyan Villa or an outdoor guide in the Japanese Garden. The Fabyan Forest Preserve is one of the most visited sites along the Fox River so there are always people anxious to learn more about these celebrated treasures. We provide training so you can feel confident in sharing the history. And, we invite you to bring a friend to volunteer with!

Contact Vivien Lasken at fabyanvilla@ppfv.org or visit ppfv.org/volunteer to sign up!

Hands-On Gardening at Durant

Do you like to dig in the dirt and watch things grow?

We have a small (yet challenging) garden behind the Durant House Museum at LeRoy Oakes Forest Preserve in St Charles. Over the years, volunteers have made sure the garden space was filled with herbs, vegetables, and flowers that would have been in a pioneer's garden in the 1800's. We've had great success with heirloom beans, walking onions, and broom corn.

We meet at the garden on Monday and Thursday at 9:00am. Come dressed for the weather, wear your garden gloves, and bring a rake or a trowel. Please join us for this relaxing outdoor volunteer opportunity on whatever days work for you. **First garden date is Monday, April 18.** See you then!!



RECOMMENDED READING

The PPFV Library has over 500 books, covering topics like local history, building restoration, Frank Lloyd Wright, pioneer life, cooking, and more. Members and volunteers may borrow books for two weeks at a time.

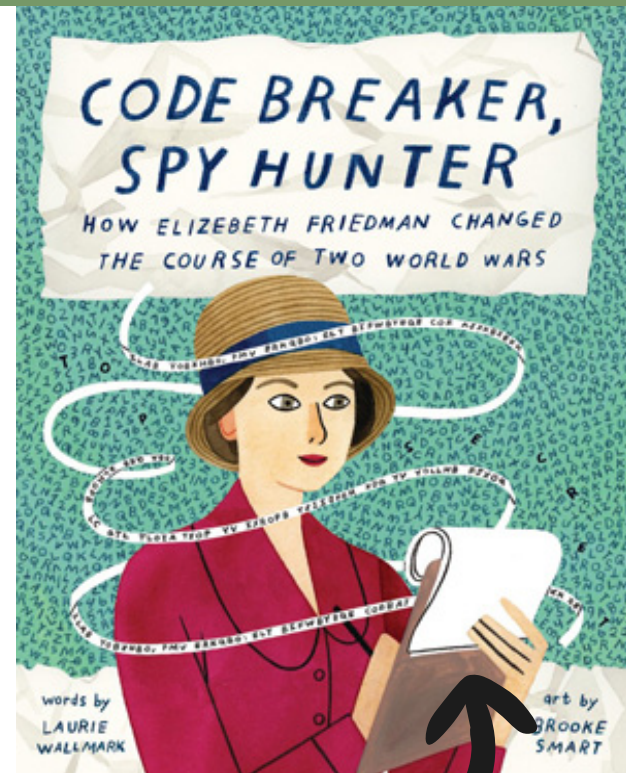
Staff Picks from the Beith Resource Library

Kelsey Shipton: *Great Moments in Architecture* by David Macaulay. A fantastic picture book of architectural “plates”, *Great Moments in Architecture* looks at architecture through a hilariously sarcastic lens. From “A Tribute to the American Shopping Center” to cathedrals covered in vinyl siding, this book is a whimsical look at the history of buildings.

Debra Corwin: *The Home Tree - Jerusha's Journal* by Catherine Durant Voorhees. We have first-hand accounts of Durant life from Abba and Emma's diaries. Did you know their mother also kept a diary? Written as a novel by Jerusha's great-great granddaughter, these diary entries tell us of Jerusha's adventures from 1834 to 1841.

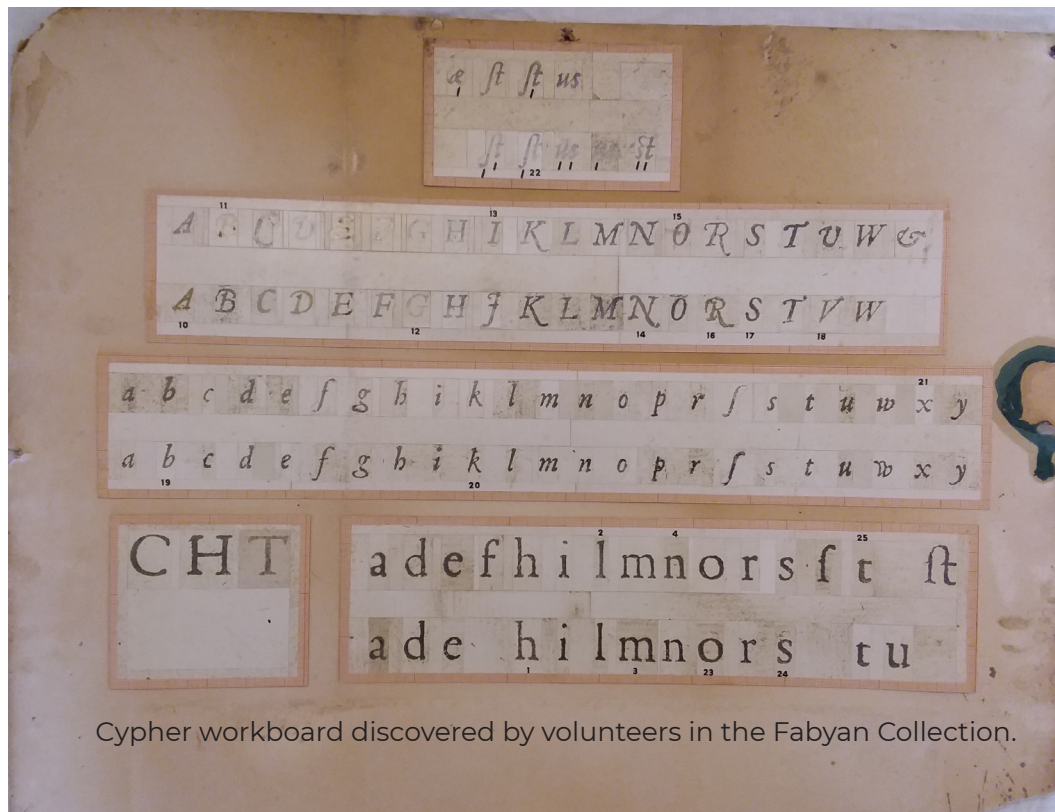
Vivien Lasken: *Code Breaker, Spy Hunter – How Elizebeth Friedman Changed the Course of Two World Wars* by Laurie Wallmark. This picture book biography for young readers shares the story of how this woman, who was hired by Colonel George Fabyan, cracked codes and deciphered secret messages.

Al Watts: *The Founders and Early History of Geneva, Kane County, Illinois Volume I: Beginnings to 1837* by Adam D. Gibbons. This book contains an exceptional amount of information about the first white settlers of Geneva and is a great resource for researching the early history of the county seat of Kane County.



MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!

The **Inventory Project at the Fabyan Villa** has been back with force! With a dedicated crew of Inventory volunteers, we've catalogued well over 200 artifacts in 2021 alone. This impressive feat is creating a workable inventory for all of Fabyan's previously undocumented artifacts, and brings us up to nationwide museum standards. A thorough inventory is the backbone of any collection and allows for future grant-writing, proper accountability, comprehensive artifact care, conservation projects, and more. With one room remaining, we're hoping to have this project finished in 2022. **Thank you to everyone who made this possible!**



Cypher workbook discovered by volunteers in the Fabyan Collection.

WE NEED YOU!

Join our board to help your favorite sites in the Fox Valley *thrive*.

As a non-profit, PPFV depends on its Board of Directors to provide oversight to activities while enabling the organization to achieve its stated mission. Currently, PPFV is looking to fill two vacancies on its Board. If you are a resident of St. Charles or Batavia and have an interest in learning more about the responsibilities associated with being a PPFV Board Member, please contact Executive Director, Kelsey Shipton at shipton@ppfv.org.

ARE YOU A MEMBER OF PPFV?

Membership is one critical element of every non-profit organization's financial stability. At PPFV, we offer Individual memberships starting at just \$50 a year.

Another critical element are our Volunteers. **Adult volunteers that commit 15 hours or more in a calendar year are provided a "Patron Level" (\$150 value) membership for that year.** We invite active volunteers to consider stepping-up their membership to a higher level: Advocate, Leader, or Star. We love every one of our PPFV Members!

Visit ppfv.org/membership for more information!

WORDS CANNOT EXPRESS HOW GRATEFUL WE ARE FOR YOU!

2022 VOLUNTEER TRAINING Fabyan Dates

Whether you are a new volunteer or have been involved in the past, we invite you to join us when Museum Directors host educational sessions. We encourage you to attend to ensure you are able to provide our visiting guests with accurate and timely information.

And, if there is a specific topic that you, as a volunteer, would like to learn more about, please let us know! We would be delighted to create training sessions to support your personal interests and passions.

Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden	
Held at the Fabyan Villa	
Sunday, March 6 1-4 PM	New Volunteer Training - Session 1 (existing volunteers welcome)
Sunday, March 27 1-4 PM	New Volunteer Training - Session 2 (existing volunteers welcome)
Sunday, April 24 1-4 PM	Docent Refresher

Visit ppfv.org/volunteer or contact Vivien Lasken at fabyanvilla@ppfv.org for more information.

LeRoy Oakes Dates

Sholes School	Durant House	Durant House
Adult Docents	Adult Docents	Junior Docents
<i>Held at Sholes School</i>	<i>Held at the Durant House</i>	<i>Held at the Durant House</i>
Details of the 2022 Sholes School Events SESSION 1: Saturday, May 21 10:00 - 11:30 AM	Details of the 2022 Durant Events Session 1: Saturday, March 12 10:00 - 11:30 AM Session 2: Saturday, April 2 10:00 - 11:30 AM	How to be a great tour guide! Session 1: Saturday, February 26 10:00 - 11:30 AM Session 2: Saturday, May 7 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Visit ppfv.org/volunteer or contact Debra Corwin at durantandsholes@ppfv.org for more information.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! PPFV EVENTS IN 2022

Don't miss out on special events, volunteer opportunities, and educational opportunities! More details on each event will be shared as we get closer to the date. Also, it's likely that more events will be added throughout the year, so it never hurts to double check our website!

Preservation Partners	
Feb. 24	Annual Meeting (members only)
Apr. 24-30	National Preservation Week
June 17	Summer Solstice at the Japanese Garden
Aug. 27	Farm-to-Table Fundraiser
Sept. TBD	Treasures of the Tri-Cities
Dec. 16	Winter Solstice at the Japanese Garden
Fabyan Villa and Japanese Garden	
TBD	Estate Walks
May - Sept.	Open Days: Wed., Sat., and Sun.
Nov. & Dec.	Winterlights

Durant House and Sholes School	
Mar. 5-6	Maple Sugaring Weekend
June 5	First Open Day
June 19	Tool and Textile Day
July 3	Open Day
July 17	Pickle Palooza Party
July 18-21	Durant Day Camp
Aug. 7	Open Day
Aug. 21	Bread and Butter Day
Sept. 4	Open Day
Sept. 18	Heirloom Apple Fest
Dec. 3-4	Candlelight Weekend



PRESERVATION
PARTNERS of the
FOX VALLEY

P.O. Box 903 • St. Charles, IL 60174

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