

CALUMET HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2010

*To identify, preserve and reclaim the natural, historical and recreational heritage
of the Calumet region of Illinois and Indiana*

13300 S. Baltimore, Chicago, Illinois 60633

(773) 646-0436

www.calumetheritage.org

“YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A CALUMET HERITAGE PARTNERSHIP

NEWSLETTER”: Like Santa Claus, this newsletter seems to come but once a year. Your editor’s face flushes as crimson as Kris Kringle’s coat when he thinks of how quickly a “monthly” can be turned into an “annual” publication. But we’re still here, and there’s much to say, so let’s get to it.

“THE HERITAGE OF INDUSTRY, COMMUNITY, AND DIVERSITY IN THE

CALUMET REGION”: The human heritage of the Calumet region is front and center at this year’s eleventh annual Calumet Heritage Conference, to be held Saturday, October 23 at the Harre Union at Valparaiso University. Past conferences have made the case that the region contains heritage of national significance, and that its contributions to the national understanding of regionalism, transportation, steel, and planning prove the point. What could better put the case for the national significance of the nature of the diverse human community at the southern end of Lake Michigan than the title of keynote speaker Stephen Paul O’Hara’s forthcoming book, *Gary: The Most American of All American Cities* (Indiana University Press, 2011)? O’Hara, Associate Professor of History at Xavier University in Ohio, will speak at the conference on “The Intersections of Industrial Heritage, Folklore, and History”.

The 1998 National Park Service National Heritage Area feasibility study inventoried cultural resources and asked, are they of national significance? Two housing developments on the far South Side of Chicago warranted a big “YES”: Altgeld Gardens and Trumbull Park. These places tell a story of the vexed interactions between industrialization, public policy, and community response that characterized American industrial regions. In Chicago State University historian Lionel Trimble’s hands, they also tell a sometimes neglected story of human courage and initiative in the face of ugly realities. Rev. Gregory Jones, adjunct professor of theology at Valparaiso University, has been deeply involved in community relations in the region of today, and is very well-positioned to speak on “The Social Impact of Migrations of Cultural Communities in the Calumet Region.” And all migrants to the area since the late eighteenth century are following in the path of Native American communities. Geographer Ronald Janke of Valparaiso, an expert in Native American history and geography, will speak at the conference and lead an afternoon field trip to significant prehistoric sites in the Calumet region.

CHP is thrilled to return to the campus of Valparaiso University. The University’s Brauer Museum of Art contains a number of works of direct relevance to regional history. Gregg Hertzlieb, Director and Curator (and editor of *The Calumet Region: An American Place*) will display selections from the collection at the conference. The Harre Union, home to this year’s conference, opened in January, 2009 and has quickly become a central point not only for the University but also for the region. Many, many thanks to Mike Longan for taking care of local arrangements for this conference, as

well as to Michael Siola and Steve McShane. Registration materials and a poster are included with this distribution of the newsletter. Now would also be an *excellent* time to renew your membership.

GREENING OF THE ARTS: The conference is timed to coincide with the Fifth Annual Wolf Lake Greening of the Arts Reception and Show, sponsored by the Association for the Wolf Lake Initiative. The Art Show features artists who use recycled products or who focus on nature and the environment in their work. It takes place from noon until 8 on Saturday, October 23 and 11-4 on Sunday, October 23 at the Education Center, 2405 Calumet Avenue, Hammond.

A TAPESTRY OF STEEL: Valparaiso University's Brauer Museum of Art is displaying a tapestry by Helena Hernmarck entitled, "Steel". The artist will lecture about the tapestry on Saturday, October 17, at 2 p.m. in Duesenberg Recital Hall in the Valparaiso University Center for the Arts. The tapestry was commissioned by Bethlehem Steel in 1973 and was donated by Arcelor Mittal to the Northwest Indiana Steel Heritage Project, Inc. Congratulations to Bob Meyer and the group of NISHP on achieving 501c3 status, and for getting a pretty spiffy website up and running. For more, see: <http://www.nishp.org/>

BLAST FURNACE BLUEPRINTS: A final housecleaning of the office of the former Acme Steel Furnace Plant led to further donations of photographs, records, site plans, and blueprints to CHP this past summer. The growing trove is stored at the Administration/Clock Tower Building at the Pullman State Historic Site.

SELLERS ON THE SOUTHEAST SIDE: The Southeast Chicago Historical Society is sponsoring a series of programs on Southeast Chicago history. The programs will be presented by CHP Board Member Rod Sellers, co-author of *Chicago's Southeast Side* and author of *Chicago's Southeast Side Revisited*. They will include images from the Southeast Historical Museum's collections as well as photographs taken by Mr. Sellers. The presentations will be followed by a question and answer session. Programs are held from 5-6 pm at the Vodak East Side Library, 3710 E. 106th Street in Chicago. On Thursday, October 7, the topic is "City as Studio"; on Thursday, November 4, the topic is "Calumet Region: A Virtual Aerial tour – Changing Landscape of Chicago's Southeast Side." For further information call the library at 312-747-5500.

SUMMIT SNIPPETS: Presentations from the 2010 Calumet Summit: A Call to Connect, held in April of this year, may now be found online at <http://www.csu.edu/cerc/calumetsummit2010.htm>

RIP MARIAN BYRNES: Marian Byrnes died on May 20, 2010. She was a founding member of CHP in 1999 and stayed with it through thick and thin. She coupled broad vision with sharp attention to detail, high ethical standards with a community organizer's tactical skill, steely resolve with kindly concern for all she met. I've reflected a bit on what Marian meant to the Calumet region at

[http://www.calumetstewardshipinitiative.org/Calumet Stewardship Initiative/Newsletter Articles %26 Photo Video Gallery.html](http://www.calumetstewardshipinitiative.org/Calumet%20Stewardship%20Initiative/Newsletter%20Articles%20Photo%20Video%20Gallery.html).

NEWS?: If you or your organization have items that you'd like to post in this newsletter, email the editor, Mark Bouman, at mbouman@csu.edu. The plan is for a short newsletter to be sent in the first week of each month.