



LOCATION:

St. Thomas Church
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

VISITING HOURS:

Thursdays from 1-4pm

CONTACT AND COMMENTS:

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tphistoricalsociety.org

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WHAT'S COOKING IN TERRACE PARK HISTORY

By Ann Swenson

If you're looking for dinner ideas today, you only have to type a few words into your phone to find dozens of recipes, complete with ratings and reviews.

But before smartphones—and remember, the first iPhone wasn't introduced until 2007—you flipped through cookbooks, recipe boxes and recipe files. That got us wondering: what were Terrace Park residents cooking over the years, and did the Terrace Park Historical Society archives preserve any of those recipes?

The archives contain several community recipe collections spanning more than 50 years. For example:

- Kindervelt #76 compiled community cookbooks in 2007 and 2010. Near to our hearts at TPHS, the 2007 version features a brief historical summary of various Terrace Park landmarks at the beginning of each chapter, including the Terrace Park high school, St. Thomas church, the gazebo and the Robinson circus. Kindervelt #76 in Terrace Park is part of a larger all-volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center.
- Mary Ann Proctor gifted the TPHS a small, hand-assembled book of recipes titled "Good Things to Eat", collected from St. Thomas parishioners for a 1952 Christmas bazaar.
- The Terrace Park Garden Club donated an undated booklet of recipes titled "Terrace Park Cooks for the Holidays". Although it was donated to TPHS in 2008, it includes a couple of recipes from my grandmother, suggesting it was actually compiled sometime in the 1980s or 1990s. Some dishes still sound delicious; others are delightful reminders that mid-century tastes were...different.

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SAVE THE DATE!

The Terrace Park Historical Society has scheduled the **2026 House Tour** for Saturday, October 3, 2026. Visit our website, TPHistoricalSociety.org, for updates.

BEFORE AND AFTER - 701 WOOSTER PIKE



Vilardo's Tavern - 1957



Currently UDF and Proctor Insurance

(Source: *The Terrace Park Building Survey*)

This two-story tavern of hand fired bricks was built by Virginia Iuen Marquett's great grandfather, Joseph Iuen. His son, James Iuen, farmed a large area of what is now Terrace Park. Farmers would spend the night at the inn and lodge their animals in the big barn. The next morning they would transport their livestock to downtown markets and slaughter houses.

Nearly every day, an elephant trainer from the Robinson Circus would walk his four elephants up to the grocery from the Robinson farm and buy each of them a loaf of bread. And seeing an elephant pulling a plow on the Robinson place in spring was so commonplace that apparently nobody thought of taking a picture of it.

Later, Albert and Mary Vilardo established the building as 'Vilardo's Tavern', which was known for wonderful Italian food. The tavern was a popular destination for the Cincinnati Reds, and people came all the way from Indiana for their famous spaghetti and meatballs.

After the building was sold to the Terrace Park Building and Loan in 1955, several other businesses occupied the location, including King Kwik, Stop-N-Go, Dairy Mart, and currently, United Dairy Farmers.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES



Family in a wagon in front of the Iuen Tavern at the corner of Wooster Pike and Elm Avenue. The date and the people in the picture are not identified.

REMEMBERING SUSAN HEIL ABERNETHY FRANK



Tireless TPHS Volunteer Leaves Invaluable Legacy

By Sue Porter

In the mid-1920s, a teenager from Cincinnati's bustling Mt. Auburn, discovered the joy of paddle boating on the Little Miami River and eventually found his way to Terrace Park. The country village delighted him and he frequently returned to fish along its peaceful river banks. Philip "Bud" Heil went on to become a basketball and football standout at the University of Cincinnati and a highly successful life insurance and estate planning executive. But he always remembered the tranquility and charm of Terrace Park, and in 1940 he and his wife Edna made it their permanent address.

Bud lived in the community he loved at first sight for the rest of his life, serving on village council and the school board, joining St. Thomas Episcopal Church and the Terrace Park Country Club, and coaching all sports at Terrace Park High School. Meanwhile, his daughter Susan, who was born in 1942, watched her father's devotion to Terrace Park and learned the value of community service. She spent decades following in her father's footsteps and when her life's journey ended May 21, 2026, Terrace Park was left with her indelible imprint.

After leaving the village just long enough to earn a bachelor's degree from her father's alma mater, Susan returned as a new bride, who eventually introduced her son Scott and daughter Molly to the simple joys of growing-up in a tight-knit community. Like her father, Susan coached local sports teams and led local initiatives, and like her mother, she was drawn to a career in fashion. Susan's Terrace Park Historical Society file is filled with newspaper clippings about her work in fashion and public relations at Shillito's, Gidding Jenny and Kenwood Towne Centre, where she was known for creating stylish, unforgettable events that influenced Cincinnati's retail industry. For her career achievements, the Mariemont School Foundation honored her in 2023 as a Distinguished Alumna.

(Continued on Page 5)

SCHOOL NEWS

Our thanks go to Suzi Ricketts for organizing our school outreach programs - the Third Grade Walk, the Senior Breakfast, and the Scholarship Essay contest. We would like to congratulate the winners of the 2026 Scholarship Essay contest, Max Duckwall, who will be attending Furman University and Saura Patel who will be attending Boston College.



Steve Early, local historian and Village Views editor, introducing third graders to Terrace Park history.

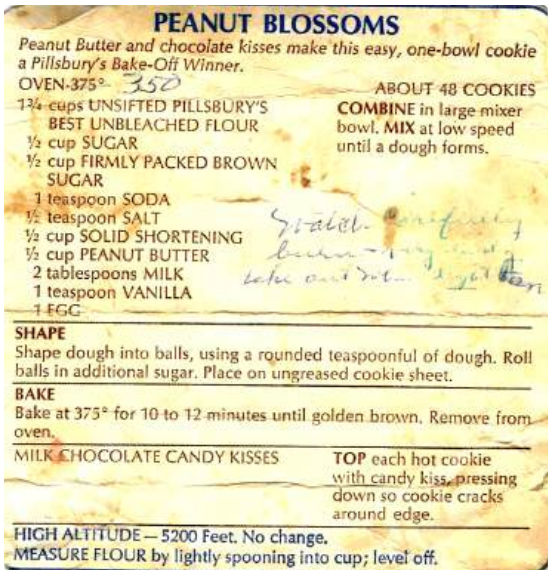


2026 HS Graduates from Terrace Park

WHAT'S COOKING CONTINUED

In Terrace Park Cooks for the Holidays, Janette Sprau contributed a recipe for "Hominy & Almond Casserole" made with cream of mushroom soup, coffee cream, spices and two cans of hominy. Mary Malotke shared her recipe for "Kugel" combining broad noodles with sugar, egg, and any combination of peach preserves, cottage cheese, raisins, applesauce and cinnamon.

If you were lucky, you could also consult your own collection of recipe cards or those of your mother or grandmother. And those old recipe cards often tell a story of a particular time and place. Some of those family recipe boxes have found their way into the Historical Society archives as well.



I was surprised and delighted to find my grandmother's, Effie Miller's, recipe box in the Terrace Park Historical Society archives. The box is packed tightly with recipes written in my grandmother's cursive on index cards, along with recipes clipped from magazines and newspapers, all neatly organized by category. I spotted a recipe she labeled "Maxine's Citrus Chiffon Pie". My guess is that "Maxine" was likely Maxine McCalla, another long time Terrace Park resident and Garden Club member through the 1950s like my grandmother. My grandmother was not one to heap elaborate praise, so an underlined "good" written on the recipe card is high praise indeed. Once I've deciphered her beautiful cursive, I plan to try making the pie myself.

Recipes like these offer a glimpse into everyday life. In the post-World War II years, dinner parties and gatherings hosted by organizations such as the Terrace Park Garden Club became an important part of community life.

Beyond the menus themselves, these occasions gave women opportunities to showcase their homemaking and entertaining skills.

That emphasis on entertaining shows up in the surprisingly full "Punch" section of her recipe file, where she copied recipes such as one labeled "Garden Club at Bev's" made with Tom Collins mix, orange sherbet and lemon-lime soda. Salads were also a popular section, and perhaps more than any other category, reveal how tastes have changed from generation to generation. I won't be trying the "Lime Jello Salad" attributed to Ada Bickle, which features lime Jello, crushed pineapple, cream cheese and mayonnaise – nor will I attempt the "Pineapple Party Salad" that features lemon and lime Jello with cottage cheese and mayonnaise.

Recipe boxes often include newspaper and magazine clippings, either tucked loosely inside or pasted onto index cards. Beginning in the 1950s, newspapers and magazines devoted more space to food coverage, publishing regular recipe columns and food news. Terrace Park cooks likely turned to both the Cincinnati Enquirer and the Cincinnati Post for inspiration.

One clipping in another recipe collection led me to the Cincinnati Times-Star, a newspaper published by the Taft family from 1880 until its 1958 merger with the Cincinnati Post. The collection itself is undated—a bundle of deeply yellowed pages stuffed with handwritten recipes and newspaper clippings, still held together with a rubber band. A clipping dated 1940 is headlined "Summer Suppers Can be Enhanced by Use of Gelatin Mixtures", and includes directions for individual-sized molded tomato aspic.

I'll end with my own childhood favorite from my grandmother's collection: Peanut Blossoms, winner of the 1957 Pillsbury Bake-Off and clipped from what appears to have been the back of a flour bag. There was almost always a tin of them waiting on top of the refrigerator in Grandma's pink-and-black tiled kitchen. Some memories are best preserved with butter, sugar and chocolate. Enjoy!

REMEMBERING SUSAN HEIL ABERNETHY FRANK CONTINUED

That recognition was just one of several prestigious honors Susan received professionally and as a volunteer. Most notably, in 2010 the historical society gave her its coveted "Thanks for the Memories" award and in 2011 The Cincinnati Enquirer named her Woman of the Year. Beneficiaries of her positive attitude, passion for diversity and inclusion, and desire to give back spanned Greater Cincinnati and Northern Kentucky, where she served on numerous boards and supported the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, the Cincinnati Youth Collaborative and many other non-profits.

Locally, Susan served TPHS as president and board member and is listed among the organization's trustees emeriti. She is credited with:

- Writing and producing "Terrace Park, With Love," a 40-minute historical documentary;
- Creation of an oral history collection that features local residents' memories of life in Terrace Park;
- Vigorously campaigning to expand the TPHS memorabilia collection;
- Establishing a TPHS gallery devoted to residents' artistic creations;
- Introducing a Terrace Park history program to elementary school students;
- Recruiting dozens of TPHS's Lifetime Members; and
- Leading the effort to refurbish TPHS headquarters at St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Though each of these contributions is notable, Susan was especially pleased with the commemorative plaque she made possible at Terrace Park's Miami Grove Nature Preserve. Bill Holloway, a founding member of the historical society, shared his recollection of how it came to be in an article about Susan's dedication. Here are excerpts from the archive:

"Most folks in Terrace Park knew about the cottages. They were broken down but did provide homes for low-income families. This area, known as Miami Grove, sent their children to Terrace Park School. Some of the Miami Grove kids felt hassled and humiliated and Terrace Park kids knew about it, too. Susan noticed this at a very early age and it troubled her. She had school friends who lived in Miami Grove.

"Now, Susan felt obligated to these folks in Miami Grove. They were, after all, members of the village and had a history. She wanted that history for the archives. She began making cold calls, trying to find those who still lived in the area. Some former residents agreed to talk about their life in Miami Grove at a meeting of the society... One person even told Susan that she would not have favorable things to say. Susan told her that was part of the history and she should say what she felt... Because of Susan, we now have an archival record of how these families endured their hard life. There is also a commemorative plaque at the site, which she arranged... Susan took the time to recognize this special group of families and now the village of Terrace Park does, too."

Like that plaque, Susan's legacy will have a profound impact on Terrace Park history for many years to come. And it all began 100 years ago with a young man who left his paddle boat at the river's edge and took a walk in Terrace Park.

To learn more about Susan's remarkable life go tphistoricalsociety.org/susanfrank. You can watch the video of 'Terrace Park with Love' on our website at tphistoricalsociety.org/videos.



The TPHS Gallery

Terrace Park Historical Society
100 Miami Avenue
Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

MEMBERSHIP

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our members for their support. To our Lifetime members - Thank you for your very generous contributions - you have already donated substantially to our organization. To our other members - We hope that you will continue to find our work worthwhile. You can use the following form to join or renew your membership through December 2026.

For online membership, visit tphistoricalociety.org/membership

Membership Form - Mail to: The Terrace Park Historical Society, P.O. Box 3, Terrace Park, Ohio 45174

Yes! I want to support the Terrace Park Historical Society with a 2026 membership. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for the following membership level:

☐ Corporate/Patron(\$100) ☐ Heritage(\$50) ☐ Family(\$25) ☐ Individual (\$15)

☐ Lifetime (\$1000 Payable over 4 years) ☐ Donation

Your Name: _____ (As you would like it to appear in our records)

Address: _____ Phone: _____

Email address: _____ (We send very few, and only important email notices)

Thank you - we appreciate your help!

The Terrace Park Historical Society is recognized as a nonprofit organization by the IRS, IRS Code: Section 501(c)(3)

Tax Identification Number: 51093908