

TRACKER

Art in the Park

By Sumitra Gopal

"We Live in a special place called Terrace Park". I am sure there would be a resounding "yes" to that remark from anyone who lives or has lived here! It's a place that is blessed with immense natural beauty, where children can play freely and where neighbors are like families who stand with each other through thick and thin. Another thing that makes TP special is that it is home to many acclaimed artists.

As part of our endeavor to showcase their contributions and record their history, the Historical Society will be featuring artists every issue. It's a great way for tenured and newer TP residents to learn about our local artists.

So watch out, the next time you go for your walk you might be in sync with a sculptor, writer or painter!



Featured Artist- Will Hillenbrand

By Sumitra Gopal



As our first featured artist, we are pleased to introduce renowned children's book author and illustrator, and long-time Terrace Park resident, Will Hillenbrand.

Will was born in May 1960 to Alice and Earl Hillenbrand and is the youngest of 4 siblings. His mother said he was born with a pencil in his hand! And once you read about him and see his artwork you will know why.

Will and Jane moved to their home on Lexington Avenue in 1990. They were drawn by the natural beauty of the place, especially the Little Miami River. The colors, light and shape of the river and the life around it have inspired Will over the years.

As a boy, Will was always interested in the arts. He was interested in sports but kept coming back to drawing. He realized his passion for art in high school and pursued it more seriously from there on. He received a BFA from The Art Academy of Cincinnati in 1982 and continued his education at The Ohio State University.

He has a studio at home where he works to bring characters to life and create magical stories for his little friends. The walls of his studio are used as pasteboards where he can see his concepts, think about them, make adjustments. This is where all the magic happens, where riveting stories and artwork are born.



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Website: tphistoricalsociety.org

Location:

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

Lower level from the Terrace Place entrance

Visiting Hours:

Currently open by appointment only - please call (513) 418-1480

Officers: President: Laurie Baird
Treasurer: Marcia Moyer

Trustees:

Susan Rodgers
Sylvia Stirsman
Suzi Ricketts
Ogle Annett
Diana Wallace

Trustees Emeritus:

Susan Abernethy Frank
Betsy and Bill Holloway

Legal Advisor:

Steve Holmes

Tracker Editor:

Susan Rodgers

President's Letter

Happy Fall

The Terrace Park Historical Society has weathered the Covid lockdown with flying colors. During this down time we have been anything but “down”. We have been working on renovating our space to make it more “user” friendly and we have freshened our look. Board member Suzi Ricketts has created new designs for our Museum area as well as our Gallery. We are in the process of implementing these creative ideas and cannot wait to share our new look with the community and restart our programs.

We have a couple of ideas in the works right now and we look forward to sharing details with you as soon as the plans are finalized:

- Meeting and History Presentation at The Promont House in Milford
- Meeting and History Presentation at The Old School House in Camp Denison
- Children's Puzzles in time for Christmas – bigger sizing for the little ones!

The TPHS is also working on new ways to preserve and share our history. Under the direction of Sylvia Stirsman and Susan Rodgers, we have moved our archival records to a new cloud-based software, 'Catalogit', and have begun the lengthy process of updating our collections with pictures and scans of our archived records. With our new software, our archives are easily searchable and shareable. In the future, we will be revealing a few of our collections to the public on Terrace Park Historical Society's website!

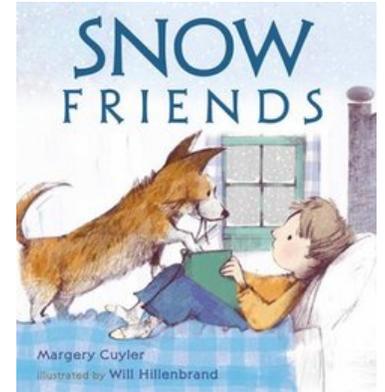
We thank the community for supporting us. Our board members are dedicated to keeping Terrace Park History alive and interesting! Have a wonderful fall and early winter!

Best Regards,

Laurie Baird - President

Featured Artist- Will Hillenbrand (Continued)

Will chose to write for children because he loves their ability to see things in a new light with unique, unbiased and unfiltered perspective. He says his writing for his young audience are “Love letters to the next generation” and when he listens to what they say it's “an artist talking to artists”.



The characters in Will's books are inspired by the people he knows or experiences he has had in Terrace Park. He loves to convert his characters into animals. He has an almost photographic memory to capture and recreate faces from memory. His skill lies in making these characters universal (while concealing their identity). That's why his readers relate to his stories and characters when they read his books.



So if you have known Will for some time, you might also have the good fortune of being the inspiration behind one of his characters!

When we asked for a message to his readers, Will said “Always keep a story in your heart”! He signed off with hope, aspiration and excitement for all that he has to tell and show his young friends!

Video



Will has created a delightful video for the Terrace Park Historical Society where he talks about his work and inspirations. To know more about Will's childhood ambition, to see his studio where he works, his idea journal where he draws and stores his concepts and to get a preview of his new book visit our website:

tphistoricalsociety.org

or visit us on Facebook at Terrace Park Historical Society.

Introducing Our Newest Volunteer

You may have noticed that most of the articles in this edition of the Tracker were written by our newest volunteer, Sumitra Gopal. Although she is presently a full time mom, Sumitra has extensive experience in writing and marketing and we are most fortunate that she has offered to work with us. She brings a fresh perspective and new ideas to our organization and we look forward to having her on the team.

Sumitra and her family moved from Singapore last year and into their new home in Terrace Park in early March 2020. She started volunteering at the Historical Society to know more about TP. She plans to spend her free time writing for the society magazine, recording oral histories and coordinating programs.

Scholarship Winners

We are pleased to announce the winners of the Historical Society's 2020 college scholarships. For composing the winning essays, two Mariemont High School students were granted \$500 scholarships. Kameryn Spang will be continuing her education at The Ohio State University and Sarah Werdmann at Wellesley College. Congratulations to these two graduates!

Mystery Chairs



A set of two curious hand-carved chairs has been donated to our Society by St. Thomas Church. They appear to have been the property of circus owner John G. Robinson and his wife, Leonora, as the name "Mrs. John G. Robinson" appears on the underside of both seats.

None of our volunteers can find any information about them, and we are reaching out to our members and the community for any clues as to their origin and story. You can contact us at tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com or leave a message at (513) 428-1777.

Fairy Door Puzzles

As COVID 19 kept families at home in the spring of 2020, Bramble Merriweather asked the fairies to open their doors to the children of Terrace Park. Special clue-filled poems magically led readers to over 40 fairy doors located throughout Terrace Park.

The Terrace Park Historical Society has created two child-friendly jigsaw puzzles featuring images of many of the Fairy Doors. Both a 99 piece and a 198 piece puzzle, each featuring different collages of photos of the doors will be available for sale soon.



Puzzles of St. Thomas Church, the Log Cabin and the Gazebo are still available and may be purchased by contacting us at tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com, or online through our website. Delivery is free within Terrace Park.

Lifetime Members

The Ader Family, In Memory of Thomas F. Ader

Ed and Ogle Annett

*Mary and *Ted Annett

Nate and Lynda Bachman

The Baird Family

*Helen Christopher Barnett

*Ken and Polly Bassett

Patricia Beglen

Adam, Holly, Connor, Janie, Braden, Caitlin Bortz

*Eliza E. and *Bruce D. Brown, Eliza, Patricia, Stephanie

Jack and Rosemarie Brown

In Memory of Shirley & Stan Brown

Rick and Faith Bryan

Trish and Rick Bryan

The Buchholz Family

Anne Cherry

Dave and Sally Coffman

*Leland M. and Carol C. Cole

Mary G. and *H. Samuel Cone

In Honor of *"Bro" and *Edie Critchell

Judy Nunn Dettloff

Mary and William Drackett

In Honor of *"Zip" and *Kay Ferriel, by Kathleen, Dennis, and Roger Ferriel

Jack and Mickey Forbes

Susan Abernethy Frank and John J. Frank, Jr.

The Freshley Family

Mike and Lori Frey

*Eleanor S. Gallagher, in Memory of W. Graydon Gallagher

Jim and *Ann Gilchrist

Jerry and Diane Govert

*Alan and Bette Griffith

Kathy Gundlach

*Dorothy B. and *Robert A. Haines, Sr.

*Edna Heil Hay in Memory of *Phil "Bud" Heil

The Hayes Family

*Bob and *Pat Henley

Scott and Lorrie Hill and Family

*John and Margaret Hodges

William L. and Elizabeth A. Holloway

Steve and Christy Holmes

Donald E. Hughes and Sharon K. Collins

John and Stephanie Jones

Leslie C. Jones

Noel Julnes-Dehner

Joanne and Paul Kennedy

Robert and Lois Knox

Amy Laderer

*Rita O. Leming, In Memory of Robert O. Leming

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Long

*Coleen M. Lowe and G. Franklin Lowe, MD

Sallie K. Lyons

*Elizabeth A. Martin

Jane Harrier Master

Dick and Lynne Mileham

Robin Murphy in memory of Adrienne J. Bente

*Al and *Lynn Nelson

Burke and Kelli Neville

Ray and Patti Normile

Julie B. Northrop, in Memory of Ted Northrop

*Bill and *Gwen Nunn

*William and *Deborah Gammons Pendl

Mary Helen and *Tom Petry

Michael and Kay Pope

Mark F. and Beth Porst

James H. and Susan J. Porter

Bunny Proctor in memory of her husband, Stewart

*Jeannette MacMillan Pruiss and *Carl Pruiss

John and Linda Rockaway

*Childress Rogers

Susan Rolih

Scott and Erin Rosson

Libby Dunning Rost

Stoddard and Rebecca Rowe

*Barbara G. Self

Teri and Mike Shaughnessy

Keven Shell and Sandra Wittman-Shell

*Nick and *Rosie Shundich

Steve Smith

Jack and Barbara Smith

Frances and Roger Stafford

*Edna I. Stites in Memory of Peter W. Stites

David E. and Sue Ferrell Troller

In Memory of Ralph RJ Vilaro

Jan Watkins in Memory of Dan Watkins

*William R. and Susan Weakley

*Deceased

Thanks to our Supporters

We are pleased to acknowledge our newest lifetime memberships: Burke and Kelli Neville, Mike and Lori Frey, and Robin Murphy in memory of Adrienne J. Bente. Adrienne was a volunteer with the Historical Society for many years. Our sincere thanks go out to our Lifetime Members for their generous support of our mission to preserve Terrace Park history and traditions.

A Stained Piece of History

by Sumitra Gopal



If you've ever visited St. Thomas Church in Terrace Park, you might have noticed the geometric stained glass windows high above the altar. There are other, more spectacular windows in the sanctuary, but you may be surprised to learn that the little geometric windows have a story, too.

The story starts with John Robinson, owner of the famous Robinson circus, who donated the land and the funds to build St. Thomas Church. He also donated a large stained glass window as a memorial to his daughter, Kate, who died soon after her wedding.

The window was created by a local artist named Riordan, who used the painting on the right by Carl Von Blass, titled 'The Miraculous Translation of the Body of Saint Catherine of Alexandria to Mount Sinai' as his model. In Riordan's version, Saint Catherine was replaced by Kate and the angels resembled her bridesmaids. There were lots of fancy hairdos and to top it all off, an elephant in each corner.



The window was placed in a prominent position above the altar where the sun would shine through. According to The St. Thomas Tidings, parishioners either loved this window or 'found it not at all spiritually edifying'. Unfortunately, the window was never photographed.

During renovations of the church in 1952, the window apparently disappeared. It was not until 1996 that information surfaced about the fate of the window. It had been stored in a house near the church and eventually given to the son of the stained glass artist, Riordan.

A note from Robinson Circus historian, Lynn Nelson, describes a conversation about the window with former St. Thomas minister, Father Don Waring: "As is well known, it was not highly regarded artistically. In fact, it was sometimes the subject of out-and-out ridicule. Don told me that art professors would sometimes bring their art students out to St. T to see the window and explained it as how not to do church windows!"

Riordan had passed away by the time church renovations started. The artist's son wished to save his father from further ridicule, so when the church gave him the window, he took a hammer and broke the glass into pieces. The story continues that some of the pieces of glass were used to create the two geometric windows in the renovated sanctuary.



Look out for the plaque with this information when you visit the church next time. The source documents for this article can be found in our online archives - visit our website, tphistoricalsociety.org under 'History' on the menu.

If you or your family members have any further information about the window and its fate, please let us know.

Memories from the 2020 Quarantine

The appearance of COVID-19 has impacted all our lives in 2020. The TPHS would like to create a permanent record of how Terrace Park and its residents have dealt with the virus and quarantine.

Anyone willing to share their personal experiences is encouraged to email them to tphistoricalsociety@gmail.com. Your recollections may be shared in a few sentences, a brief story, a poem, a photo or even a short video. There are certainly poignant stories to be told but maybe even some humor.

Please consider making this contribution to our archives. We may at some time create an exhibit of these items so if you would like your "story" to be anonymous, please note that with your submission.

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 non-Lifetime members - We hope that you will continue to find our work worthwhile. You can use the following form or renew online at tphistoricalsociety.org/membership.

Membership Renewal Form

Yes! We want to continue to support the Terrace Park Historical Society by extending our membership through 2021. Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation for the following membership:

Corporate(\$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