



Field Notes

THE EUGENE FIELD HOUSE & ST. LOUIS TOY MUSEUM

National Historic Landmark • City of St. Louis Landmark • National Register of Historic Places



Volume 20 - Number 1

Spring 2013



From the President...

As I write, there seems to have been as much snow as rain in the past week. The whipsawing of the weather, plus an article I've been reading on the tornado of 1896, sometimes makes me wonder that 634 S. Broadway manages to stand after 168

years. That it does depends on people and their actions, just as its siblings were demolished purely due to a decision that seemed to their then-owner to make sense.

One of the people who's been of great help in recent years is, I'm pleased to say, once again a member of the Board of Trustees. Julie O'Gorman has rejoined us after a time off and is providing good counsel and willing labor, supported by her good spouse, Jerry.

It's also amazing how quickly time passes. I realized as I thought of Julie's return that an important anniversary is upon us. It was just five years ago that Kim Larson was enduring interviews with the Board, which resulted in her joining us as the Executive Director. Kim has been both a stable and an imaginative influence, making sure that we improve existing operations as well as helping us focus on our needs for the future. Her main skills on arrival lay in marketing and promotion but she has picked up the importance of historic preservation to our mission as well as anyone I've worked with. I hope you'll all congratulate her – it's a tough job to juggle everything that goes on and to keep in mind more things for which to prepare and to dream of. I'm certainly grateful for her assistance.

As you know, we're well-focused on the future. Still, we have to carry out the existing focus of the museum, whether it's making sure the gift shop is properly stocked or whether we need to rebuild some section of wall which it seems masons from the Board of Education were reworking not very long ago. It's a lot like weeding sometimes – it seems a challenge just to keep up with the section already cleared. But I will promise that we'll do our best not to be so preoccupied with (important) everyday things that we lose track of (vital) planning items. As a board and as supporters of the museum, we all owe that to our city and to our posterity. We aren't coming up on our 140th anniversary, like Eugene and Julia, but 35 years as a foundation will be upon us in two. I look forward to much progress by then.

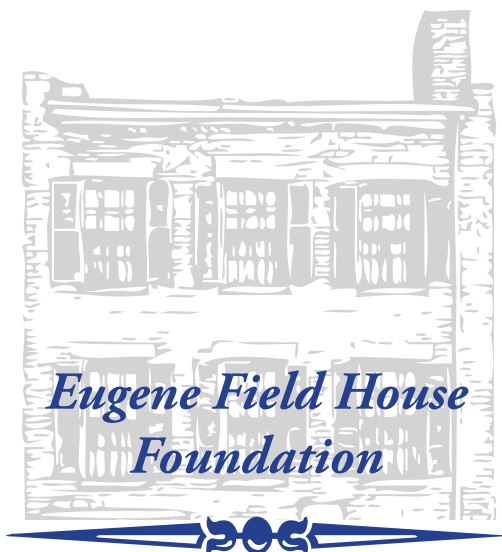
William R. Piper

William R. Piper
President

Updated Web Site Now Online

The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum has launched an updated website. Our new site will allow better access to our upcoming exhibits, special events and gift shoppe items. In addition, you can make online donations to the Foundation.





~ **President** ~
William R. Piper

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Charles Brennan

~ **Executive Director** ~
Kimberly Ann Larson



The Circus comes to The Eugene Field House!

Ladies and Gentlemen! Boys and girls of all ages! It's guaranteed to be a circus when The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum presents the greatest toy exhibition on earth, "Circus Circus!" Our Spring 2013 exhibit brings together a multitude of toys to illustrate the spectacle that is the circus. "Circus Circus" offers a hands-on experience that allows the visitor to become a part of the act by stepping under our big top room. Become a clown with various costumes and props! Face Painting, balloon animals, coloring pages, and assorted games will assure that everyone has the chance to participate in the circus! Come one, come all and experience the magnificent "Circus Circus" toy exhibit!



Welcome Michael Docksteiner

The Eugene Field House would like to welcome Michael Docksteiner to our staff. Michael earned his degree in History from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. While studying at the university, Michael became interested in volunteering at The Eugene Field House and has been a docent with us since last April.

We Need Your Help!

The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum is looking to blast off into the Space Age with Robots, Rockets and Spaceships. However, our future exhibit needs your help. We are looking for any Space Age toys that are available for loan or donation to expand our display for this fall exhibit.



Field House Exhibit Showcase

“Portrait of the Fields: Eugene and Julia’s 140th Wedding Anniversary”

On October 16, 1873 after a three-year courtship, Eugene Field and Julia Comstock were married, beginning a twenty-two year marriage that sadly ended with the death of Eugene.

In honor of their marriage, we are excited to present “Portrait of the Fields: Eugene and Julia’s 140th Wedding Anniversary,” illustrating their love

and life together.

The master
bedroom will

have objects exemplifying their undying love.



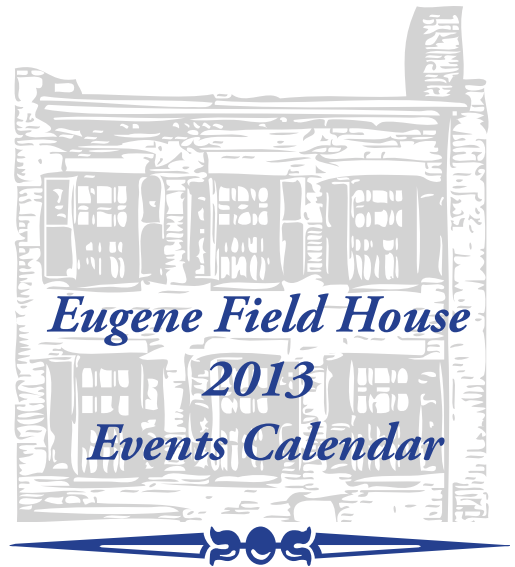
“Emancipation Proclamation 1863 -2013: Celebrating 150 Years of Freedom”

On the second floor, we commemorate the Emancipation Proclamation’s 150th anniversary with a look at how Roswell Field worked to free Dred and Harriet Scott. Visitors will learn how this document was received in St. Louis and how it affected the early civil rights movement. This exhibit will run the full year allowing more people to learn the impact of the Field family on St. Louis, and the nation’s history.



All are invited to “High Tea”

In 1850s entertaining, while Roswell Field and his friends discussed the impact of the Dred Scott case in the gentleman’s parlor, Frances Field and her female friends would have high tea in the ladies parlor. This year we invite visitors to imagine some of the intimate discussions of the ladies parlor as they take “High Tea.” This first floor exhibit showcases tea sets throughout the ages, centering on Frances Field’s own dessert set. Come and hear the latest news at “High Tea!”



~ March ~

**“Portrait of the Fields:
Eugene and Julia’s
140th Wedding Anniversary”**

“High Tea”

“Circus Circus!”

~ March 23 ~

**Museum Garage Sale
At the St. Louis Zoo**



**Visit Us Online
www.eugenefieldhouse.org**



Marianne Gleich, Tony & Susan Favazza,
Jane Gleason, Peter Gleich



Peter Wollenberg, Barbara Wallace, Don & Shirley Zork

Annual Members' Party

The Eugene Field House would like to thank all of our members for attending our annual Members' Party held on December 3, 2012. Members enjoyed an evening of entertainment and a chance to experience the exhibit "Toys Take Over the Museum." The night was the perfect opportunity to celebrate our members' endless support for The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum throughout 2012.



Brian A. Ragen and
Julia O'Gorman



(Photo Left) Dennis Tacchi,
Marianne Gleich, Karen
Klohr, Elma Armistead



Bill Piper, Sedg Mead, Paul & Wendy Dyer



Sally Menke, Werner Born, Kina Shapleigh

HONORARIA, MEMORIALS & DONATIONS

October 2012 – February 2013

~ Honorariums ~

**St. Louis American Lifetime Achiever
Grant DBA Salute to Excellence
in honor of Dr. Gerald Early**

**Mr. & Mrs. Tony Favazza
in honor of Brian A. Ragen**

~ Memorials ~

**Mr. & Mrs. William R. Piper
in memory of Annette Riney**

**Mr. & Mrs. William R. Piper
in memory of Polly Cummings**

~ Individual donations ~

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Compton

Mrs. Betty Donahoe

Marianne & Peter Gleich

Margaret Blanke Grigg Foundation

Mr. & Mrs. Henry O. Johnston

Mrs. Gladys Myles

Mr. & Mrs. Gerald O'Gorman

Mr. & Mrs. William R. Piper

Mrs. Margaret C. Uhlemeyer



Calling all Schnucks Shoppers!

You can help The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum just by shopping at your local Schnucks store. It's free and easy! All you have to do is pick up a Schnucks eScrip Community Card and register your card under The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum. Schnucks will contribute up to 3% of your purchases to our organization every time you shop and swipe your card!

WELCOME MEMBERS

The Eugene Field House Board of Trustees and the Staff would like to thank the following members who have continued to support the mission, preservation, and programming of the foundation with their generous membership donations.

~ Renewing Members ~

October 2012 - February 2013

Mr. Werner Born

Mrs. Marjorie Eddy

Ms. Laura C. Hartung

Ms. Barbara Hemphill

Mr. & Mrs. William G. Hemple

Ms. Sally Menke

Mrs. Armarie Murphy

Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Officer

Mr. & Mrs. Curt Richards

Dr. Ellen Tsagaris

Mr. Peter Wollenberg

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Zork



The St. Louis Holiday Historic House Tour

On November 29, 2012, The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum participated with the Campbell House Museum, the Chatillon-DeMenil House, the Old Courthouse and the Tower Grove House and Museum Building at the Missouri Botanical Garden in a Holiday celebration that showcased historic St. Louis. The evening was success with over three hundred visitors attending. At The Eugene Field House & St. Louis Toy Museum visitors were presented with a scene from "A Christmas Carol" acted out by the ETC. Senior Theatre group in the library. We greatly appreciate all those in attendance and the volunteers who helped make the evening memorable for all.



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St. Louis Toy Museum
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Spring has sprung in The Sugar Plum Tree Gift Shop! Come visit our third floor gift shop to get everything from fabulous Spring finds to games and Eugene Field items. Girls will love our line of the newest historical American Girl Doll, Caroline! Visit us during museum hours, Wednesday through Sunday, and let us help you find that something special.

