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
President
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.

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!

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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.

“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!”

“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.
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.
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

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. Armare 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
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.
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.