

Elkhart Historical Society  
P.O. Box 255, Elkhart IL 62634  
elkharthistoricalsociety.org

Greetings to all Members and Friends,

As we once again prepare for the Holidays, it is important to note how commitment can center our lives. Each family, clan, tribe or even neighborhoods exhibit some form of this in their annual traditions, be it caroling, decorating the house or some holiday fare. Ours is in the creation of our annual Christmas Candlelight Services, which have continued faithfully for not quite a quarter of a century, and has become a tradition for many of you. Our musicians and vocalists skills have become an integral part of the services, not to mention the narrators and behind the scenes writers all of whom devote hours to the program that for so many, “begins the Christmas Season”. Four services will again be offered, at 2p, 4p, 5:30p and 8p.

As for the past year, new programs have been the driving force. The dinner lectures series which began in 2010, continued to be very well received, with the final lecture of 2011 being so popular (The Scully Family & Draining the Prairie) that 2 additional nights were required for all the bookings. Also new this year was our first “Enchanted Evening”, an open air musical interlude graciously hosted by Bob and Lynne Neal at their new historic home, Cro’ Hurst, on Elkhart Hill. To say it was the perfect evening, beautiful music, fabulous setting, and delicious food would not do it justice.

The decision to salute our senior citizens, gave us the opportunity to recognize the many contributions they have given us throughout the years. Margaret Lanterman was honored at a separate dinner for her tireless years of Illinois Birding.

Other praiseworthy items to mention would be you, our friends and member, without which our efforts would be pointless. Thank you for your encouragement, participation and support throughout the year. The coming of the New Year brings with it the 2012 Calendar, which celebrates Edwards Trace. This diminutive but exceedingly important pathway from Cahokia to Peoria (Ft Clark) brought thousands of years of history to central Illinois. This year’s calendar hopes to connect the various villages and people who share this common link, forgotten or never heard of by many, most of it plowed beyond recognition or under many tons of asphalt or concrete, only a few areas in central Illinois still show a ‘trace’ of the Trace.

The following forms are for your convenience in becoming a new member or renewing which entitle you to the 2012 Calendar. Also included are the order forms for the much anticipated Christmas Candlelight Services and dining options. **Starting November 7- call 217 947 2238 between 8a-8p** to insure your choice of chapel and/or dinner time. Please leave detailed information if on the recorder, as this will insure your reservation status. You will be called back with confirmation, and then you may fill out and mail your form with your check. The Candlelight tickets will once again be \$10, due to the great number of you who have email addresses, as this saves an incredible amount time and money. Horsefeather’s will also have form for those who are not on our mailing list, or have access to a computer.

Wishing you all a Blessed Christmas Holiday

Peter Niehaus

Lisa Pasquesi

Gillette Ransom

Bill McClain

Steve and Kathy Thornton

Bob Neal and Lynne Neal