Frank Lloyd Wright’s Albert and Edith Adelman House (1948) makes its Wright and Like tour debut this year. Its recent award-winning restoration now includes a large skylight (omitted from the original construction) as well as the addition of a pool and pool house, designed and built true to Mr. Wright’s original plans. The home is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Adelman House is included in the 2017 Wright and Like tour.

Saturday, June 3 with special event Friday, June 2

Members $60 / Nonmembers $70

Order tickets on our website: www.wrightinwisconsin.org
Dome that ‘crows’ the church, and the floor plan mimics the Greek Orthodox Cross, inscribed within a circle.

© Mark Hertzberg

President’s Message

by GEORGE HALL

Wright and Like

With the spring come our home and museum tours, as evidenced by the calendar of events found in this newsletter. Please contact our office manager, Sherri Shokler, if you would like to volunteer to be a docent at this year’s Wright and Like, as we do have twelve houses to staff. Preparations for this year’s event are well in hand thanks to our stellar event co-chairs, former board president Denise Hice and current board member Traci Schnell, ably assisted by our office manager, Sherri Shokler, and her assistant, Janine Bessenecker.

New York Trip

Our late-July tour to Manhattan for the special MoMA “Frank Lloyd Wright at 150: Unpacking the Archive” exhibition, is a reality and fully subscribed. Besides spending an afternoon at MoMA, we will be visiting Usonia in Pleasantville, New York, where we will meet Roland Reisley, one of the original Wright home owners, who will take us around the Broadacre City-inspired community. The tour includes visits to the Wright archives at the Columbia University Avery Library, a tour of the Guggenheim Museum, Edgar Tafel’s Mellin Mennach Church House that is part of the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwich Village, the Cooper Hewitt Smithsonian Design Museum, and the Francis Little House living room at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. A surprise visit is being planned but not yet confirmed. Thanks go to former board member Karen Bergenthal, now living on the east coast, who is generously helping us with arrangements for this three-and-a-half-day event. Karen first began assisting us with special tours back in the late 1990s. If there is sufficient interest, we will endeavor to plan more of these unique opportunities.

Update on our reorganization

And, just a quick update on our prospective division into two organizations: At the board’s direction following our January, 2017 board meeting, I formed a working group involving board members Mike Lilek, Ron Scherubel, Kim Kasten and Andy Gussett to work with me through a checklist developed by our pro bono attorneys Dan O’Callaghan and Dan Gawronski from the Madison law firm Michael Best and Friedrich, LLP. These gentlemen deserve our deepest thanks for patiently assisting us in this endeavor. Besides developing a budget and preparing a contribution agreement, we’re taking this opportunity to allocate space.

Published three times annually in February, May, and September.

WRIGHT IN WISCONSIN is published by Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin, a nonprofit organization designed to protect, promote, and preserve the heritage of Frank Lloyd Wright, his vision and his architecture, in his native state of Wisconsin. Membership benefits include discounts at the Monona Terrace Gift Shop and on Wright and Like™ tour tickets, a free tour of the Model B1 home in Milwaukee, this newsletter, volunteer opportunities, and more. Donors of $100 or more receive reciprocal membership benefits at Wright sites nationwide (benefits vary by location). To join, visit us at www.wrightinwisconsin.org or contact us at the number or address below.

Editor Mark Hertzberg

Designer and copyeditor Scott K. Templeton

Special thanks to Patrick Mahoney for contributing the vintage postcard.

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Frank Lloyd Wright’s Joseph Fallica House (1916/1918) is based on the Marshall Erdman No.1 prefabricated house. This single-story gable-roofed house built with Wisconsin limestone is the largest in the series of nine Kodeman prefabric homes. The living room, dining room, and kitchen are set three steps below the bedroom wing. The basement features French doors opening to the yard, allowing nature to be integral to the living space.

The Mollica House is included in the 2017 Wright and Like tour.

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to clean up bylaws and board policies for the new organization initially to be known as “Wright in Wisconsin” until current names can be sorted out with the Wisconsin Dept. of Financial Institutions following the filing of required documents. No date for the division has been set—given the immediacy of Wright and Like, the increasing scale of activities at Burnham, continuing collaboration with the Wisconsin Dept. of Tourism on the public face of the Frank Lloyd Wright Trail, and the task of compiling material for our new website—but we may be able to accomplish this sometime later in June or July.

Celebrating Wright
Among the many Wright-related activities mentioned in this newsletter is one that I want to especially highlight for you, and that is the unique Madison Children’s Museum’s hands-on (literally) exhibit designed to actively engage children of all ages with Wright’s childhood and how he came to appreciate and later apply the designs and materials he found in nature. This exhibit represents a collaboration between the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, staff from Taliesin in Spring Green, as well as board member Terri Boyd, who consulted on the activity settings featuring different aspects of Wright’s childhood. Stated to remain in place for at least two years, this exhibit provides Frank Lloyd Wright WI, Inc. an opportunity to partner with the Madison Children’s Museum in ways that are just now being explored (including adult tours, developing potential K–12 curriculum materials, sharing invited speakers, etc.). The museum is still seeking corporate and individual sponsors. A public opening will occur early in June and we will notify our members of the event.

Celebrating our volunteers
At our March board meeting, FLLW WI, Inc. formally initiated an awards certificate, approving a very special Wright summer, and please do contact me if you have a candidate or ideas for Wright volunteers. A presentation of awards will be assigned to one of the houses to begin the evening, then guests will switch to the other house at the event’s midpoint. The homes are located just a few blocks apart—an easy 5-minute walk. This event has very limited availability: 6–9 p.m., reservations are required.

The Saturday Wright and Like Tour
We are thrilled to be able to offer six Wright sites on this celebratory tour. Three of these—the recently restored Albert B. and Edith Adelman House; the Elizabeth Murphy House, which was only confirmed as a Wright design in 2015; and Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church—are making their first appearance as a Wright design in 2017; and the Gardner and Dr. Mary Banning Friedlander House—and another MCM gem: the Dr. Walter and Judith Shapiro House, designed by architect Abe Tannenbaum. 9 a.m.–5 p.m., reservations are required.

Sunday, June 4
In lieu of a special event, we encourage attendance at one of the four Wright sites in Wisconsin that are hosting special events for the day: the A.D. German House (Richland Center), Wisconsin Valley School (Spring Green), Seth Peterson Cottage (Lake Delton) and Still Bend (Two Rivers). Please see their individual websites for additional information.

Wright and Like 2017: Milwaukee
Commemorating Frank Lloyd Wright’s 150th birthday
by SHERRI SHOKLER, office manager, Frank Lloyd Wright Wisconsin

This special year deserves a very special celebration—and we’ve arranged one for you! We start with a truly unique event the evening of Friday, June 2, followed by the Saturday, June 3 house tour featuring six Wright sites and six “Like” sites in a lineup that takes guests from Bayside to Cudahy. All the “Like” sites are new to the tour.

The Friday Special Event
An Evening with Mr. Wright and Mr. Niedecken—Prairie School Collaborators
Interior architect and Milwaukee native George Mann Niedecken designed progressive and daring living spaces for some of Milwaukee’s more adventurous families, such as Adam J. Mayer and Frederick C. Bogk. His regular visits to Frank Lloyd Wright’s Oak Park Studio led to the beginning of a fourteen-year relationship between the architect and the interior architect.

Join us as we visit both the Mayer House and the Bogk House during an evening filled with sumptuous hors d’oeuvres, libations, coffee, and dessert. Each attendee will be assigned to one of the houses to begin the evening; then guests will switch to the other house at the event’s midpoint. The homes are located just a few blocks apart—an easy 5-minute walk. This event has very limited availability: 6–9 p.m., reservations are required.

Celebrating our volunteers
At our March board meeting, FLLW WI, Inc. formally initiated an awards certificate, approving a very elegant design created for us by former board member and president Robert Hartmann. With that, have a “Wright” summer, and please do contact me if you would like to become more engaged in the organization as we go forward.

Signs have been placed in communities to guide motorists to Frank Lloyd Wright public sites in Wisconsin since they leave the interstate highways that were marked with “Frank Lloyd Wright Trail” signs last fall. One of the signs guiding motorists to Wingspread (above) is just east of City Hall on 7th Street in Racine. The sign on the long arm (below) was installed at N. Main and Hamilton streets, north of downtown Racine.

This colorful seating area in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Frederick C. Bogk house (right) surrounds the home’s central fireplace. The original built-in desk is complemented by furniture from the Heritage-Hannecorn line designed by Wright, who recommended its use in a letter to the current homeowners.

The Bogk House is included in the 2017 Wright and Like special Friday event. An Evening with Mr. Wright and Mr. Niedecken.

The six “Like” designs we are featuring are new to our individual websites for additional information.

© Mark Hertzberg

This colorful seating area in Frank Lloyd Wright’s Frederick C. Bogk house (right) surrounds the home’s central fireplace. The original built-in desk is complemented by furniture from the Heritage-Hannecorn line designed by Wright, who recommended its use in a letter to the current homeowners.

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Please see their individual websites for additional information.

When Was Wright Possibly Wrong?

Hunting for the site of the unbuilt Stamm Cottage

by MARK HERTZBERG

When was Wright possibly wrong? For one, when he possibly made the handwritten notation “Lake Delavan” on one of the drawings for a proposed summer cottage and boathouse for J.D. Stamm in 1945 (Project #4513). And so the project has been listed as being meant for Delavan Lake in both Bruce Brooks Pfeiffer’s Monograph of Wright’s work and Volume 3 of The Complete Works.

Sue and John Major, stewards of Wright’s Fred B. Jones estate (“Penwern”) on Delavan Lake commissioned me to write a book about Jones and Penwern in 2013. (The book will be published by the Wisconsin Historical Society Press in the fall of 2018.) I was intrigued by the Stamm project, and excited about it, when I saw it in The Complete Works, because I was not aware of such a late project for the lake. The latest documented Wright commission on Delavan Lake was from 1907.

A check of the known Wright correspondence in Anthony Alofsin’s An Index to the Taliesin Correspondence and with Sally McKay at the Getty Research Center showed only one Stamm letter, an unrelated 1953 note from Stamm to Wright about a movie. Nor was there any record of the Stamms or the project in the Delavan area. Local historians wondered if the project was for Lake Nagawicka, near Delafield—45 miles and two counties away from Delavan—because there had been a Stamm family there.

The hunt was on to find the family. Inquiries to local historical societies and libraries in Delafield were not fruitful. As I often have while working on the book, I turned to Mary Stauffacher, a friend, who is a whiz at navigating ancestry.com. She found John Davies (not David) Stamm’s daughter. Lisa Stamm told me that her father was working on the project for his father, Victor Stamm, not for himself. While she was too young to remember much about the project, she remembered meeting Wright when she was about 3 years old in the late 1940s. And she thought that Lake Nagawicka was, indeed, the likely site of the project because her grandparents, who lived in Milwaukee, would summer on Lake Nagawicka, but she was not certain.

But I could not go on supposition. Lisa passed my questions on to her family, and a few days ago her daughter, Vanessa Parsons, came up with the definitive proof that the project was indeed meant for Lake Nagawicka, rather than Delavan Lake. I was bleary-eyed, nearing the end of an overnight bus trip from Milwaukee to Minneapolis, when I opened her welcome email with close-up photos of the block lettering on her copy of the Stamm project. It clearly reads Lake Nagawicka. It took five months of on-and-off digging, but the mystery is solved and the record is set straight, with the help of others.

Brian Spencer, AIA, who has extensively researched the Delavan Lake work, who did restoration work on Wright’s Wallis-GoodSmith House on Delavan Lake in 1992–93, and in 2005 rebuilt the Penwern boathouse (working from a single sheet of Wright’s drawings) which had been destroyed by a 1978 arson fire, suggests that the mistake by Wright (or whoever made the notation) was understandable: Delavan? Delafield? Unless one is from the area, it would be easy to mix them up knowing that Wright had about a dozen commissions on Delavan Lake.

It is disappointing to not know more about the commission and why it was not executed, but it is satisfying to know for certain which lake it would have been built on. Some Wright aficionados have asked for the exact location so they can hunt satellite photos, given that the project evidently would have been connected to an existing house. The hunt for that information continues.

The Stamp commission (1945) was one of forty-nine summer cottage or boathouse commissions ascribed to Wright between 1906 and 1951.

Definitive proof that the project was on Lake Nagawicka, not Delavan Lake, is on a drawing provided this spring by the Stamm family.

Brian A. Spencer, A.I.A., who has extensively studied Wright’s work in Wisconsin, speculates that the architect mixed up “Delafield” and “Delavan” leading to the lake house for J.D. Stamm being incorrectly listed in books as a commission on Delavan Lake.
Reflections on the SC Johnson Administration Building

As both an architect and a resident of Racine, I have long savored the moments when my commutes take me past the Johnson Administration Building, especially at dusk when the Pyrex tubing glows from within. I feel it is not only Wright’s best building in Racine (and he does have several outstanding examples here in this relatively small city), but one of the top-five buildings of his career. There are a lot of ways to approach the historical significance of this building, such as discussing its place in modern office design of the 1930s, or the drama of the testing of the dendriform columns, but I do not wish to repeat this in this short reflection the well-worn narratives that have accompanied it. Instead, I wish to briefly look at where its greatness lies, and perhaps by doing so, bring some further insights to its relationship with its newest addition, Fortaleza Hall.

While there seems to be little disagreement that Wright’s Johnson Administration Building is a great building, what actually makes it so? One way to approach this is to show how a work of architecture was ahead of its time and broke new ground within its historical context, changing the course of subsequent history in the process. In the moving timeline of history, however, this achievement can be very short-lived, and the work can become dated very quickly. However, Wright’s building here endures the test of time, somehow being as fresh now as it was eighty years ago. Also, contrary to many famous buildings, this building did not have a very visible impact on office design in the same way that the Bauhaus of Europe had a decade earlier. Often, historical narratives of the work (and many of Wright’s other works) dismiss it by characterizing it as a singular work of an individual genius and place it in an insulated category by itself apart from the flow of modern historical progress.

The Administration Building is a different kind of building, and certainly more so when it was built in the 1930s. But being different is not the same as being good, much less great. This seems to be an inversion of the story, of course, that Wright didn’t want the building built in this nonscript older European modern architecture of that time as well, where glass curtain wall construction was coming into its own (and continues today). Instead we have large expanses of red brick wall with these ribbons of Pyrex tubing in odd locations. These both bring diffuse light into the building as well as emanate a glow of light seen from the exterior at night, but one cannot see through them. The story, of course, is that Wright’s building here endures the test of time, somehow being as fresh now as it was eighty years ago. Also, contrary to many famous buildings, this building did not have a very visible impact on office design in the same way that the Bauhaus of Europe had a decade earlier. Often, historical narratives of the work (and many of Wright’s other works) dismiss it by characterizing it as a singular work of an individual genius and place it in an insulated category by itself apart from the flow of modern historical progress.

The Administration Building has an absence of windows, which was not only contrary to typical traditional office building of that time, but also much different from European modern architecture of that time as well, where glass curtain wall construction was coming into its own (and continues today). Instead we have large expanses of red brick wall with these ribbons of Pyrex tubing in odd locations. These both bring diffuse light into the building as well as emanate a glow of light seen from the exterior at night, but one cannot see through them. The story, of course, is that Wright’s building here endures the test of time, somehow being as fresh now as it was eighty years ago. Also, contrary to many famous buildings, this building did not have a very visible impact on office design in the same way that the Bauhaus of Europe had a decade earlier. Often, historical narratives of the work (and many of Wright’s other works) dismiss it by characterizing it as a singular work of an individual genius and place it in an insulated category by itself apart from the flow of modern historical progress.

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Beloved member of the Taliesin Fellowship

Romeo “Joe” Joseph Fabris passed away peacefully on March 24, 2017, at age 99, at Taliesin in Spring Green. He was born in Winnipeg, Canada on October 24, 1917, to John Fabris and Maria Binda Fabris.

Joe was educated in Canada at St. Paul’s College of the University of Manitoba. He worked as a research chemist in a laboratory in Montreal. After reading Frank Lloyd Wright’s An Autobiography in 1948, he joined the Taliesin Fellowship to work and learn with Mr. Wright. Over the years, Mr. Wright counted on Joe as a construction manager. Mrs. Wright called him and Arnold Ray “our artist-craftsmen.”

He supervised at least two of Mr. Wright’s buildings: Anderton Court in Los Angeles, and the Lindholm Gas Station in Minnesota. He also worked on several of Mr. Wright’s buildings: the John E. Christian Residence in West Lafayette, Indiana; the ASU Music Building expansion; the Arizona Biltmore Hotel Restoration in 1973; and the Russell Kraus Residence in Kirkwood, Missouri. He designed homes in Colorado, Michigan, Connecticut, and Arizona. In Spring Green, he designed the office for the Spring Valley Inn. Joe designed various buildings at the Taliesin and Taliesin West properties.

Joe was a mentor to many of the apprentices, and was very involved in all aspects of life in the Taliesin community. He was a great cook, sang tenor in the chorus, and participated in the dance dramas. Joe will be remembered as a dog lover; he had an innate understanding of dogs and almost always had a dog by his side.

He is survived by one sister, Mary Butler; her three children and their children and grandchildren; his niece Judith and her extended family; and his niece Mary T. Fabris, all in Canada.

There will be a small memorial for him in Wisconsin, and the Fellowship will further honor him at the Taliesin Fellowship November Reunion in Arizona.
Wisconsin events through the beginning of September

- **Tuesday, April 25**
  Monona Terrace
  Madison
  Free
  Wright Design Series: Fred B. Jones and Danven: Frank Lloyd Wright on Delavan Lake! presentation by author and photographer Mark Hertzberg. Lecture Hall, 7 p.m.

- **May 1–October 31**
  Hillside Home School at Taliesin
  Spring Green
  Free
  An exhibition of iconic photos by Pedro E. Guerrero in the Dana Gallery of the Hillside Home School celebrates the twenty-year friendship between two American masters: Wright and Guerrero. In addition to Wright’s 150th anniversary, 2017 is also the 100th anniversary of Guerrero’s birth. To view the exhibit, book a Hillside Tour, Highlights Tour, or Estate Tour. www.taliesinpreservation.org/engage/fllw150

- **Saturday, June 3–Sunday, June 4**
  Seth Peterson Cottage
  Madison
  Fee, registration required
  The 100th Wright Design Series Lecture “Commit to Include Everyone!” by Mark Rios, FAIA, FASLA. The architect's work will showcase every phase of Wright's career in the Wisconsin city after 1900. 7 p.m. (Time and date subject to change). Visit www.mononaterrace.com

- **Tuesday, June 6–Thursday, June 8**
  Taliesin
  Spring Green
  Various prices
  All public tours will be offered at half price in honor of Wright’s 150th. This includes everything from the one-hour tour of the Hillside Home School to the two-hour tour of the Taliesin residence to the four-hour tour of the entire Taliesin estate. www.taliesinpreservation.org/engage/fllw150

- **Wednesday, June 7**
  Free Family Night
  Madison Children’s Museum
  Madison
  Free
  Opening Week: The following are drop-in programs—free with admission. No registration required. More detailed descriptions, age recommendations, and exhibit-related programs beyond opening week can be found on the MCM web calendar: madisonchildrensmuseum.org/events/

- **Friday, June 9**
  Madison Children’s Museum
  Madison
  Free
  Madison Children’s Museum will open a major new exhibit to help celebrate Frank Lloyd Wright’s 150th birthday. From Coops to Cathedrals: Nature, Childhood and the Architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, opening June 7, aims to unleash the creative potential of young visitors. In fun, whimsical, and hands-on ways, the exhibit will challenge children to immerse themselves with nature, experiment with materials, design their own contraptions—from iceboats to chicken coops to bridges—and build their own models. All these activities helped Frank Lloyd Wright along the path to becoming one of the most creative forces of his time. Though most of this children’s visiting Coops to Cathedrals won’t become world-famous architects, they will come away with increased confidence in their creativity and a better understanding of how nature inspires so much of what human design.

Opening Week: The following are drop-in programs—free with admission. No registration required. More detailed descriptions, age recommendations, and exhibit-related programs beyond opening week can be found on the MCM web calendar: madisonchildrensmuseum.org/events/

- **Saturday, June 10**
  Frank Lloyd Wright Visitor Center
  Spring Green
  Free
  From Coops to Cathedrals: Architectural 3D Structures, 11 a.m.–noon; Log Cabin: Decoding Shapes in Nature, 2–4 p.m.

- **Sunday, June 4**
  Enjoy special events at the following Wright sites.
  Wyoming Valley School
  Spring Green
  Donation
  A celebration to honor Mr. Wright’s 150th birthday and the 60th anniversary of the Wyoming Valley School’s construction. Enjoy free tours of the school along with food, drink, and music to commemorate these important dates. 10 a.m.–2 p.m. wyomingvalleyschool@gmail.com

- **Wednesday, May 17**
  Monona Terrace
  Madison
  Free, registration required
  The 100th Wright Design Series Lecture “Commit to Include Everyone!” by Mark Rios, FAIA, FASLA. The architect's work will showcase every phase of Wright's career in the Wisconsin city after 1900. 7 p.m. (Time and date subject to change). Visit www.mononaterrace.com

- **Saturday, June 3**
  Milwaukee
  Wright and Luke Milwaukee: A Celebration of Wright’s 150th Anniversary
  9 a.m.–5 p.m. SEE PAGE 5

- **Saturday, June 3–Sunday, June 4**
  Wyoming Valley School
  Spring Green
  Various prices
  “From Coops to Cathedrals: The Childhood & Organic Architecture of Wisconsin’s Frank Lloyd Wright” special 150th anniversary exhibition. SEE BOX (RIGHT) FOR MORE DETAILS

- **Wednesday, June 7–Saturday, June 10**
  Madison Children’s Museum
  Madison
  Free
  “From Coops to Cathedrals: The Childhood & Organic Architecture of Wisconsin’s Frank Lloyd Wright” special 150th anniversary exhibition. SEE BOX (RIGHT) FOR MORE DETAILS

Events continues on next page
Wednesday, July 13

Wade House Historic Site

Greenbush \ Free

"Regretting Mr. Wright: Mamah Tells Her Own Story"

A presentation by Elizabeth Carlson, performer and living historian. During this theatrical performance, Martha "Mamah" Borthwick, as portrayed by Ellie Carlson, will recount her life for guests as it is passing before her eyes during the moments of her tragic and dramatic death.

Thursday, August 10

Wade House Historical Site

Greenbush \ Free

"The Frank Lloyd Wright Carriages"

In this lecture, Vicki Nelson Bohn, past president of the Carriage Association of America, will share the results of her two-year study of Frank Lloyd Wright’s horse-drawn carriages at Taliesin and the connection she discovered between the famed architect and Sheboygan carriage collector Wesley W. Jung.

Thursday, August 10

Monona Terrace

Madison \ Free

Design Night Out: For adults seeking a creative outlet in a relaxed, fun environment, this is the event. A design topic will be presented followed by innovation, making, and cocktails.

Tuesday, September 5

Hillside Theater, Taliesin

Spring Green \ $25

"Pedro E. Guerrero: A Photographer’s Journey"

Screening of the PBS American Masters documentary celebrating the twenty-year friendship between Wright and Guerrero in this milestone year for both (it is Guerrero’s 100th as well as Wright’s 150th). A reception with local wine and cheese is followed by the film screening. Reservations required. Book online at www.taliesinpreservation.org/engag/fflw150

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT WISCONSIN

MEMBER NEWSLETTER

WRIGHT IN WISCONSIN

VOLUME 22

ISSUE 2

MAY 2017
This postcard shows the first Hillside Home School (1887), various farm buildings, and the Romeo and Juliet Windmill (1896) from across the cow pasture. The card was produced by the Rotograph Company of New York City between December 24, 1901 and March 1907. It was printed in Germany but never mailed. The school was demolished in 1950 and was in the Queen Anne style of Wright’s first employer, Joseph Lyman Silsbee.