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Sutter-Meyer Society Newsletter

Spring 2011 — Volume 1, Issue 1

Enriching the present by sharing the stories of our past

Save the Date! Preview Party

May 1, 2011 — 3 to 5 pm
at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse
See our first exhibit:
“On the Farm: A Glimpse of
St Louis’ Rural Past”

Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse: Our Area’s Newest Museum **Greg Paulus, Vice President**

On Sunday, May 1st, University City's oldest house will become the Saint Louis area's newest museum! At our preview party, we'll have live music, refreshments, attendance prizes, and raffles.

Tickets are only \$25 per person, with all the proceeds going toward our ongoing efforts to enrich the present by sharing stories of our past.

Accomplishments to Celebrate **Stefany Brot, President**

Welcome to our first newsletter! The Sutter-Meyer Society, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization founded in 2006, is working to transform the oldest standing house in University City into a community museum and educational center. We want to make the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse into an exceptional place where visitors of all ages can learn about our rich history. Visitors will see how people lived in U City's earliest days, and learn about important stories and events that have shaped our lives today.

For three years, our volunteers have been working to repair the house. In addition, one Eagle Scout group built a new wood porch with an accessible ramp; another will soon start an herb garden.

And now we can finally invite you inside to tour the farmhouse! Following the preview party, the farmhouse will open to the public one weekend day and by appointment. Watch our website (www.suttermeyer.org) for visiting hours and events.

Sutter-Meyer Society Annual Meeting **Jen Jensen**

The Sutter-Meyer Society held its annual meeting on January 18, 2011 at the Julia Goldstein Early Childhood Education Center. The theme of the meeting was a “Salute to and Remembering Pershing Elementary School.” Society board member Esley Hamilton discussed William B. Ittner, the architect who designed Pershing Elementary, and described a visit by General John J. Pershing, in whose honor the school was named. General Pershing laid the cornerstone at the school, which was built in 1919. There was a video presentation depicting early memories of Pershing Elementary, given by board member Jen Jensen and U City Historical Society archivist Sue Rehkopf. On display at the meeting were the original silver trowel used by General Pershing to lay the cornerstone and the original architectural drawing of the school by William B. Ittner. A very successful silent auction of donated items was held during the evening.

Interactive Educational Outreach **Mary Pat Gallagher**

We are excited to be designing curriculum and outreach activities in partnership with Jackson Park Elementary School in University City. Working with Dr. Christine Powers, principal of Jackson Park, and the school's 4th grade students and faculty, we will create hands-on, interactive experiences that complement the new “On the Farm” exhibit opening soon at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse.

The students and their teachers will visit the farmhouse, where they will learn about the house, early Missouri farm life, and the Sutter and Meyer families. Then comes the work and the FUN: Students will collaboratively brainstorm to create authentic, family-friendly activities based on Missouri farming history. It will be a learning experience for all ages!

Help us keep the past alive! To donate, volunteer, or share ideas, contact us at:
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New Life for Old Flooring **James Adams**

We're replacing the floor in the former kitchen of the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse with rock maple flooring recovered from the Parkway Central High School gym. The Parkway School District has a full-time, three-member recycling department. When the school's gym floor was replaced several years ago because of some damaged areas, the team was able to salvage much of the old flooring, which is constructed of 3- to 4-foot long tongue-and-groove sections.

Parkway stored the flooring and began looking for someone who could use it. They contacted an organization where I volunteer part time, More Than Carpentry, which conducts a carpentry job skills training program in Wellston. We agreed to take the flooring, hoping to put it to good use. When we learned about the repairs going on at the Sutter-Meyer Farmhouse, we donated the flooring for use there. The farmhouse now has new flooring, and the Parkway recycling department is thrilled to know that their efforts didn't go to waste.

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