

## FROM THE DIRECTOR

Take a moment to consider a friend or family member who would enjoy the opportunity to explore the Museum.



During this time when being “out and about” has its limits, it’s good to know of exceptional places like the Historical Museum: light on traffic and long on amusement, reflection and discovery. Please share the experience by giving out a Museum Pass with your encouragement to visit; later, encourage them to join us through membership.

If you haven’t been by lately, you will find new exhibits and our always changing Museum Gift Shop. Visitors agree that the Museum is a safe destination and especially pleasant to visit these days. Remember just out of our lobby, the Museum’s Heritage Square provides a breath of fresh air and a place in the sun (most days!).

It’s astonishing that so many life-long residents are not acquainted with the Museum. Once they are, they become supporters who discover they are not only visitors but also part of the story.

Eric Cale  
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

Fall 2020  
Wayland Tracy, editor



# Heritage

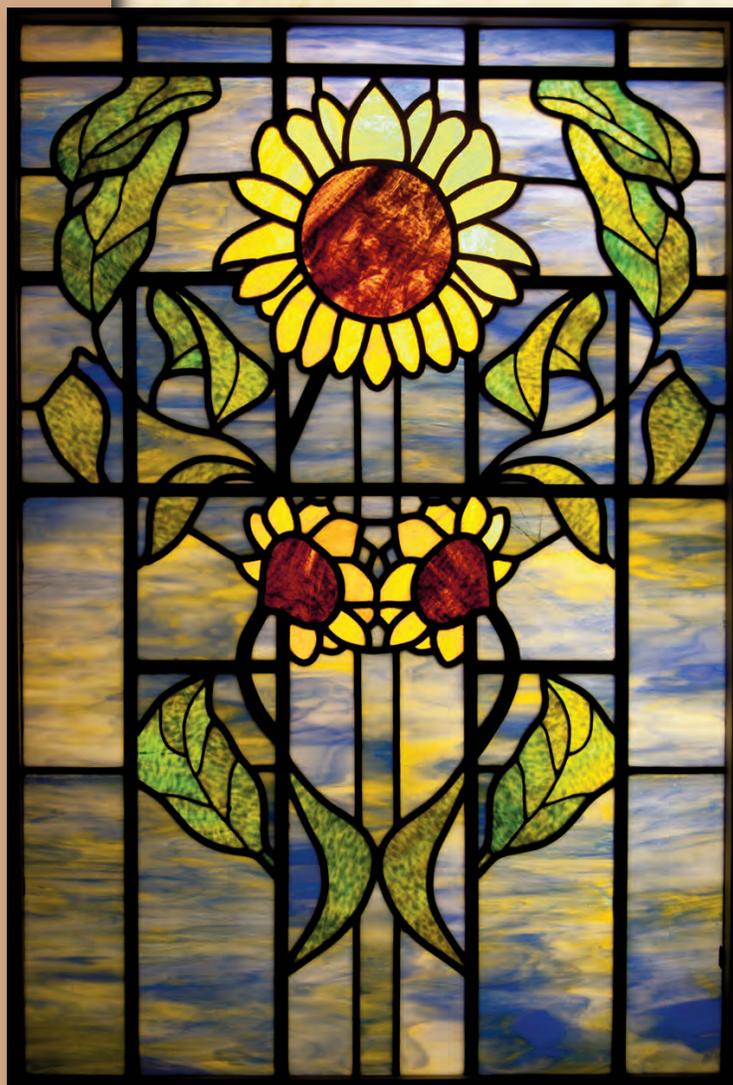
The Wichita-Sedgwick County  
Historical Museum Association

## *A Tale of Two Women: Louise Caldwell Murdock and Elizabeth Navas*

Wichita’s two most established Museums saw their origins over 80 years ago. Both were born of an enthusiasm for bringing culture to the community. Each museum’s focus was and is distinct—the Wichita Art Museum presents American art and the Historical Museum presents local history. Today both museums are accredited by the American Alliance of

Museums and recognized nationally. This fall we’ve had the opportunity to collaborate once again. At the invitation of the Art Museum, we’ve contributed in telling their origin story. WAM’s curator, Dr. Tera Hedrick and Jami Frazier Tracy—long time curator at the Historical Museum—have successfully

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**Carnegie Library  
Stained Glass Window,  
1915. Murdock designed  
and furnished the  
Wichita’s Carnegie  
Library. Gift of Sean and  
Melissa Conley in  
memory of Carolyn  
Conley.**

## A Tale of Two Women

continued from page 1



Louise Caldwell Murdock, 1876.

worked together in the creation of past exhibitions. Dr. Hedrick is especially appreciative of the Museum's loan of unique artifacts and Curator Tracy's encyclopedic knowledge of their provenance. Artifacts include Murdock's sample trunk holding

design panels, photographs, and a sunflower stained glass window from Wichita's Carnegie Library.

*A Tale of Two Women: Louise Caldwell Murdock and Elizabeth Navas* at the Wichita Art Museum illuminates the story of two women who incomparably elevated Wichita's cultural life. In 1915, Louise Caldwell Murdock, who had a passion for visual arts, donated her family fortune to purchase a world-class collection of American art to benefit the citizens of Wichita. Murdock enlisted her friend and colleague Elizabeth Navas to assemble a collection of paintings, prints, and sculptures that would both captivate and complement Wichita.

*A Tale of Two Women: Louise Caldwell Murdock and Elizabeth Navas* draws from the collections of the Wichita Art Museum and the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. The Historical Museum is delighted to have had a hand in telling this important story of our history. It is a must-see for lovers of art and history alike! This exhibition is on view at the Wichita Art Museum through February 28, 2021.

## Plan a tax-free gift from your IRA or a 401(k) in 2020

### By making a gift to the Museum counting towards your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

What you need to know about a Charitable Rollover:

If you own an IRA or a 401(k), the federal Required Minimum Distribution Rules (RMD) take effect at age 70 ½. When you receive a distribution, it will be taxed as ordinary income. This tax can be avoided by using your IRA or 401(k) to make a gift that supports the Historical Museum. This is known as a **Charitable Rollover** and works like this:

- Instead of taking your required distribution (RMD), you can make a qualified distribution (up to \$100,000 per person) from your retirement account directly to the Museum.
- The distribution can count towards your Required Minimum Distribution.
- There is no tax deduction, however, the amount you send directly to the Museum from your IRA or 401(k) is excluded from your income for federal tax purposes, which means you pay no income tax on this amount.

A **Charitable Rollover** enables a tax savings to you while leaving a legacy to the Museum.

For more information, call Sally Buch, WSCHM Development Director at 316-265-9314 or email [sbuch@wichitahistory.org](mailto:sbuch@wichitahistory.org)

# Senior Wednesdays

AT THE WICHITA-SEDGWICK  
COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM

Visit the Museum the 4th Wednesday of each month from January to October and enjoy special Historical Museum programs developed with active senior audiences in mind. A special \$2 admission for seniors and their guests is offered; admission is free for members. The Senior Wednesday programs at the Historical Museum begin at 10 am, and the doors open at 9:30. Senior Wednesdays in 2020 at the Historical Museum were sponsored by Mickey Armstrong, The Trust Company of Kansas, and the Wichita Historical Museum Society (WHiMS). The 2021 Senior Wednesday program schedule will be announced in January. For more information about the Museum's Senior Wednesday programs, visit [www.wichitahistory.org](http://www.wichitahistory.org) or [www.seniorwednesday.org](http://www.seniorwednesday.org).



## WHiMS News

### The WHiMS officers:

President: Alice Smith  
Vice President: Gail Williams  
Recording Secretary: Nancy Mendell  
Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Delaney  
Treasurer: Jeanne Urban  
Advisor: Deborah Oller

The WHiMS Committee works to provide support to the Museum in ways that reflect its mission and vision while enhancing visitor experience, attracting the public, and providing a dynamic connection to volunteers. We thank WHiMS for their efforts in hosting Kansas Day, Blue Moon Party, Wreath Festival, the Museum's Senior Wednesday Programs, and operation of the Museum's Gift Shop.

### Committee Chairs include:

Gift Shop – Nancy Shawver  
Shop Scheduling – Gail Williams and Diana Palenz  
Wreath Festival – Gail Williams  
Publicity – Janice Van Sickle  
Blue Moon Event – Barbie Parsons  
Social Media – Susan Osborne  
Membership Directory – Susan Osborne  
Volunteer Communications – Sandy Binn

The WHiMS meets monthly and welcomes Museum Members' participation. Visit WHiMS on Facebook – listed as "Wichita Historical Museum Society" or contact WHiMS President Alice Smith at [wschm@wichitahistory.org](mailto:wschm@wichitahistory.org) for more information about this dynamic group.

## One for the Books

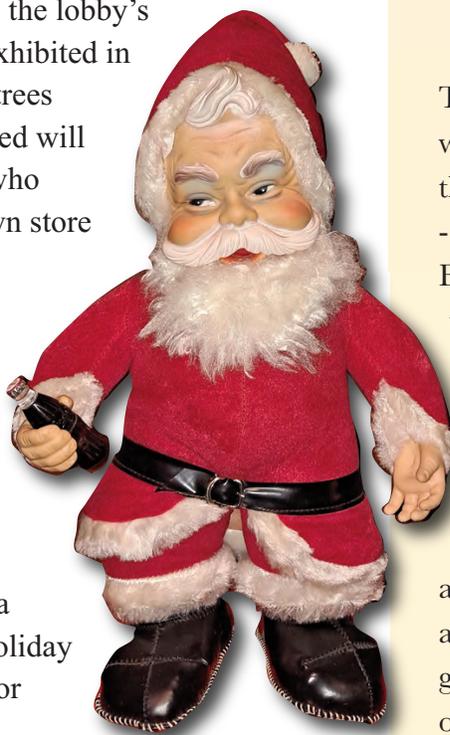
2020 is the year of our sesquicentennial. Both Wichita and Sedgwick County were incorporated 150 years ago in 1870. But as we reflect on this landmark anniversary, we realize the celebration does not have to end in 2020. Because Wichita was incorporated on July 21st, we can continue our sesquicentennial festivities into 2021. In the new year, look for the new illustrated history book the Museum will publish through the generous support of the Hal Ross Foundation, the McIlwaine Foundation and the Museum's Memorial Fund.

# Something Cheery This Way Comes

The Historical Museum changes with the seasons. Visitors see this in the Victorian Cottage, through the halls, and in the lobby with changing exhibits and decor befitting the old City Hall building. It is an especially jolly place to be during the holiday season. Take shelter from the ghastly gusts of winter and delight in an environment like no other.

Select pieces from the extensive Moore Family collection of vintage plush Santa Clauses returns to the lobby's Main Street case where they will be exhibited in an environment of jewel like holiday trees created by Felicia Serrioz. Also featured will be the automatronic "Macy's Santa" who waved to passersby from the downtown store window during the 1960s. Guests will appreciate the Museum's enduring exhibition of Sylvia Jackson's miniature Christmas trees on

display in the 2nd floor West Gallery—a beloved holiday tradition for many.



## Wreath Festival

*Wednesday through  
Saturday!*

The 37th Annual Wreath Festival will be held four days, Wednesday through Saturday, November 18th - 21st during regular public hours. Enjoy good cheer, music, and a unique destination for holiday gifts. The Museum Gift Shop is transported to the DeVore Auditorium on the Museum's 2nd floor, where holiday shoppers are sure to be dazzled by a greatly expanded offering of artful wreaths, décor items, baked goods, cards, books, and an array of gift items. Sponsored as always by WHiMS, friends, and supporters of the Museum.

Admission for the Wreath Festival and Museum exhibits is free to members and their guests. Public admission is \$5 for adults and \$2 for children. Call 316-265-9314 or email [wschm@wichitahistory.org](mailto:wschm@wichitahistory.org) to reserve a time. Capacity limitations will be in effect.

The Historical Museum presents our  
Twelfth Annual  
**Essay Contest!**

Sponsored by the DeVore Family Fund.

Based on the 2021 National History Day theme

“Communication in History –  
The Key to Understanding”

One winner from each of the following grade levels (6-8 & 9-12) will receive a \$200 prize and a collection of books for their class!

**CONTEST RULES:**

- All Sedgwick County students in grades 6-12 are eligible.
- The topic must be based on Wichita and/or Sedgwick County history.
- The entire essay must be the student’s original work
- Entries must be 300-600 words in length.
- Any essay with information copied directly from sources without use of quotation marks and cited resource will be disqualified.

**FORM:**

- The essay is to be handwritten in ink, typed, or prepared on a computer word processor, using black type in a non-script font no smaller than 12 point or larger than 14 point.
- Please include a Title Page with the following information: Title of the essay, contestant’s full name and age, contestant’s complete mailing address, telephone number, and email address (if available), name of contestant’s school with grade level indicated.
- Essays must have a Bibliography listing all references utilized. Internet resources, if used, should be cited in similar format, along with the web address used to access the document online.

**CONTEST PARAMETERS:**

- Entries may be turned in at the Historical Museum front desk or mailed to the Historical Museum at the following address: 204 S. Main Wichita, Kansas, 67202.
- Entries must be received by April 15th, 2021.
- Essays will be judged on historical accuracy, originality, content, adherence to theme, organization of material, spelling, and grammar.

**YOUNG  
HISTORIANS  
CLUB!**

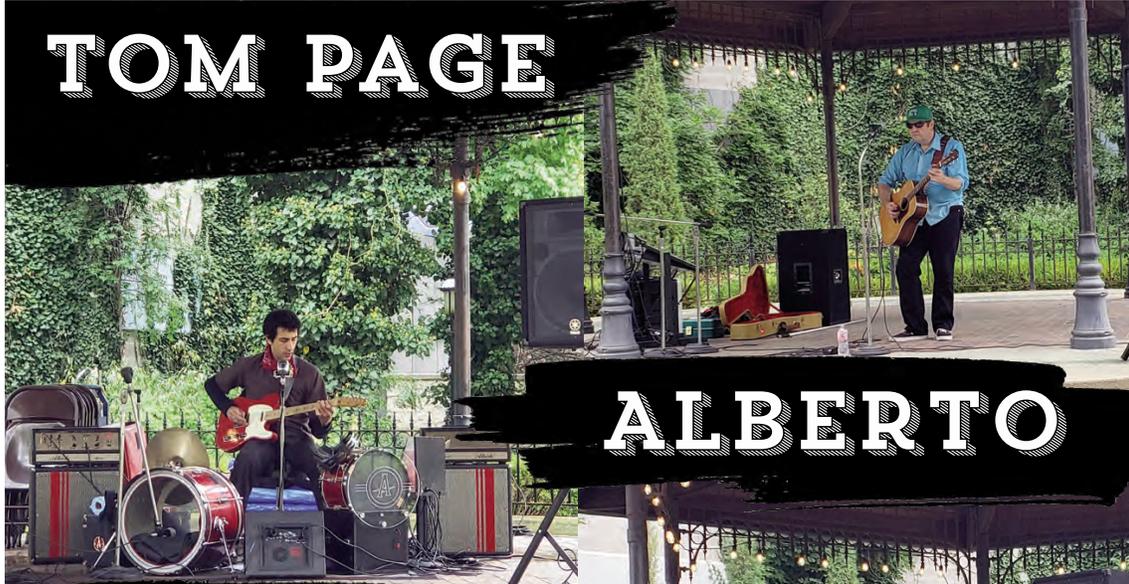
Each year, hundreds of area students take part in National History Day. The subject of history attracts young people who often grow into teachers, writers, archivists, attorneys, historians, and museum professionals. Through the Young Historians Club, the Museum’s Education Team stands ready to assist students and teachers with NHD completion projects and foster student interest in museum work. Club members meet regularly, virtually and otherwise, providing young history enthusiasts with a learning laboratory featuring special behind-the-scenes access to the Museum. Students can utilize our study collection of artifacts as well as resources for special projects of their own design and creation. A student’s exhibit may be spotlighted on the first floor in the Museum’s Davis Gallery. To participate or for more information, email [wschm@wichitahistory.org](mailto:wschm@wichitahistory.org) or call 316-265-9314.



The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum

# Heritage Square 2020 CONCERT SERIES

**TOM PAGE**



**ALBERTO**



**UCHE**



**PHIL UHLIK**



Wichita Sedgwick-County  
The Historical  
Museum



The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum hosted a noontime concert in Heritage Square each Wednesday in September. This year's concerts celebrated the solo performer.

Visitors attended these free, socially-distanced concerts and enjoyed music performed by singer-songwriter Tom Page, Alberto the One Man Band, Phil Uhlik and his accordion, singer-songwriter Uche, and David Perez who played the Carillon in the clock tower. Attendees were given the option to reserve a delicious box lunch from Siena Tuscan Steakhouse.

Thank you to our concert sponsors: Every, Fidelity Bank, Freddy's Frozen Custard & Steakhouses, High Touch Technologies, IMA Financial Group, Intrust Bank, Lusco Brick & Stone, McClelland Sound, The Spice Merchant, The Trust Company of Kansas, and Wells Fargo Advisors.

## The Importance of Year-End Giving

The Museum's annual gift appeal is an essential source of funding for the Museum in the coming year. Your gift to the Museum, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization is tax deductible, and will be used to support the Museum's unique mission to educate the community and its visitors about Wichita & Sedgwick County through collecting, preserving, and interpreting materials reflecting our history. Please be a part of next year's success with your annual gift. Look for the annual appeal letter in the mail soon.

## NEW EXHIBIT

# The Parking Meter

History museum exhibits often encourage exploring the familiar by viewing it through the lens of the past. The parking meter struck us as an obvious artifact to examine. It is typically the last thing encountered by visitors before they walk through our doors.

As more and more cars packed city streets around the country in the 1920s, drivers experienced a shortage of available street parking. Businesses along busy streets would lose customers due to the lack of parking. Increased traffic also took its toll on the roads themselves. Periodic repair was necessary.

As a way to address these issues, parking meters were created. The parking meter made its world debut in Oklahoma City in 1935. Wichita installed its first parking meters in 1946, using both the Duncan-Miller and Park-O-Meter models. Not everyone accepted or appreciated parking meters and throughout the country, people vandalized these mechanical money collectors. More often than not, however, people dropped a nickel or penny in the slot and went about their business.

Early Park-O-Meters, like the one on exhibit, took pennies and nickels. A penny bought 12 minutes and a nickel an hour. From June to December of 1946, the City of Wichita collected over \$83,000 from parking meters (over 1.1 million dollars adjusted for inflation). Additional revenue came through fines given for parking violations. Money generated through parking meters was used to pay for street maintenance and to maintain the new street parking system.

Today, the City collects only about \$65,000 from parking meters. A driver parked at an expired meter may find a \$25 ticket on their windshield. When visiting the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum, "feed the meter" and set a timer on your phone. As one travels back in time through the exhibits, it's common to lose track of the present.



**Parking meters in front of the Broadview Hotel, 1950s. Gift of Mowry C. Gilbert.**





The Wichita-Sedgwick County  
**Historical Museum Association**  
 204 South Main · Wichita, Kansas 67202 · 316-265-9314 · [www.WichitaHistory.org](http://www.WichitaHistory.org)

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 Wichita, KS



Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum activities are made possible in part by the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County Board of Commissioners

## MUSEUM MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

### Give A Guest-Pass To A Friend!

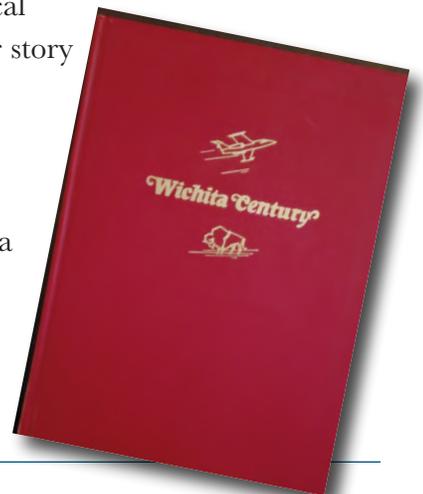
The Sesquicentennial Membership Drive is in full swing. When the Museum was chartered over 80 years ago with endorsements from over 350 enthusiastic supporters, Wichita and Sedgwick County were a

mere 70 years old with a population equal to a quarter of what it is today. We use this historic fact to set our goal for new membership support. We need your help to reach this goal: to double our current membership to 1,400.



Who makes a good member? Those who recognize the value of our unique local history as a unifying force that brings identity to the community and shares our story with the world.

We ask members to acquaint friends with the Museum by giving them an admissions pass with the suggestion they join in support through membership. Membership in the association is an essential way to support the Museum and a great way to stay apprised of all that it has to offer.



“Wichita Century” published by the Museum in 1970