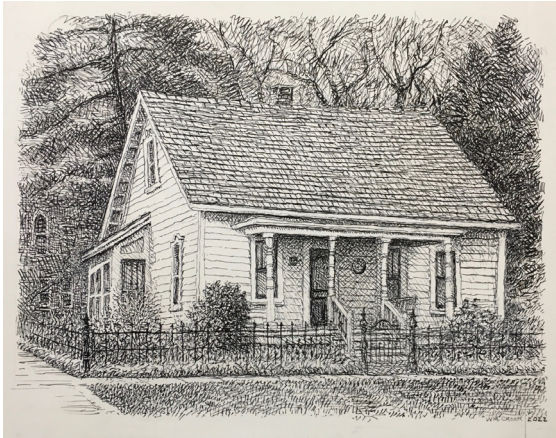

FRIENDS OF EDGAR LEE MASTERS
MEMORIAL HOME AND MUSEUM
SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

Party with the Poet!



Dinner & Auction

Saturday, April 6, 2024 ~ 6:00 PM

Indian Creek Farmstead

19468 Curtis Blacktop, Petersburg

Tickets ~ \$50

Special Guest Speaker

Silent and Live Auction Items

For tickets, call, text or email Kathy:

217-341-0757, kathyole62@sbcglobal.net

Party with the Poet will be an unforgettable evening of philanthropy and excitement. In addition to our very special guest speaker and scrumptious dinner, you will have the opportunity to bid on exclusive items and experiences in our live auction, or peruse our silent auction offerings for unique treasures. With every bid you'll be supporting our cause and making a tangible difference towards the sustainable maintenance of the historic Masters' home while supporting local arts, both of which make a tangible difference in our community. Don't miss your chance to be a part of this impactful event.

Reserve your ticket today and get ready to bid for a brighter future for Petersburg

~~ Our Hearts' Home ~~

Presenting "Passages: a reflection on the Masters' family legacy" will be special guest speaker, Catherine Masters. Catherine lives in Deer Isle, Maine where she maintains a private artist studio and works as an AEMT on her local ambulance Corp and helps run their Community Paramedicine program.



**Guest
Speaker**

**Catherine
Masters**

**Granddaughter of
Edgar Lee Masters**

Party with the Poet

Dinner Catered by Hamilton's Catering,
featuring chicken piccata, pork loin, twice baked potato, roasted green beans, salad and rolls.

Dessert catered Red Barn Desserts,
featuring mini pies, mini cakes, mini cheesecake and mini tarts!

All proceeds from Party with the Poet will go towards home improvement needs and supporting Illinois arts and history.

**Please Support
Friends of Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum**

To ensure the sustainable care of the home and continued support of Illinois arts and artisans, we sincerely hope we can count on your continued friendship and support.

Your donations, both in-kind and cash, to the Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum have contributed to the routine expenses, such as covering utilities and insurance, as well as maintenance projects of the home. Past projects have included new siding, windows, exterior painting, a custom tool shed, antique bench repair, and most recently a new front porch.

This spring/summer we'll be continuing the landscape renovation started last year, with installation of some new native shrubbery and perennials. We're in the process of designing an outdoor interpretive sign that will be installed this spring. Indoors, we plan to install lighting in the display cabinets and give the exhibit labels a facelift.

The next **big ticket** item is a new roof! Our goal is to raise enough funds to have it done this year.

We know we can count on you, ELM's Friends, to help with these much needed projects. Please join or renew your Friends' Membership, plus attend our upcoming fundraiser, **Party with the Poet!**

For your convenience--you can now [join or renew online](#) from our secure website!!

Membership Levels
\$15 Writer
\$30 Editor
\$100 Nobel
\$ Other donation

Remit offline: make checks payable to:
Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum
Mail to:
Friends of Edgar Lee Masters
PO Box 12
Petersburg, IL 62675

The Friends of Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum is a subcommittee of Edgar Lee Masters Museum, Inc. a 501c3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the childhood home of Edgar Lee Masters while promoting Illinois history, poetry and the arts for present and future generations. All donations are tax deductible.

Museum is supported 100% by donations.

A MESSAGE FROM THE ELM BOARD PRESIDENT

On behalf of the ELM board, we welcome you to the Edgar Lee Masters Spring 2024 Newsletter. Over the past 10 years we have been busy saving the "little House" and making new friends who care about the future of the Edgar Lee Masters' legacy. We have tackled many obstacles and in return have learned so much.

As we enter 2024, we are announcing our 4th "Party with the Poet" Dinner and Auction on April 6th. Starting in May we launch the new Masters' Back Porch Chautauqua summer series. Over the summer and fall we will continue with our more casual Music on the Back Porch and other fun events.

We will continue with landscape renovation started last year, paint the new porch, and add new benches in memory of Shelly Knuppel, a past board member.

We also welcome our new board member, Becca Newton.

We hope you will come see us at 8th & Jackson in Historic Petersburg and tours are welcome.

Edgar Lee said it best.....Petersburg is my Heart's Home.

~~Kathy Olesen

Check out our new website: <https://elmhome.org>, for upcoming events, past newsletters since 2020, and much more.

Masters' Back Porch Chautauqua

“Music on the Back Porch” is being elevated to the next level. Dr. Ethan Stephenson, Petersburg native and professor of English at Richland Community College in Decatur, has volunteered to organize a new summer series for ELM ~ Masters' Back Porch Chautauqua.

In its nearly 200-year history, Petersburg, Illinois has brushed shoulders with some of America's greatest personalities. Abraham Lincoln surveyed the town between 1835-1836, before moving to Springfield in 1837. At the turn of the 20th century, the town was the winter home to touring circus troops, who practiced their craft in the off seasons to the joy of locals. Buried on its outskirts are Ann Rutledge (Lincoln's love while residing in New Salem), B.F. Stephenson, founder of the Grand Army of the Republic, and Edgar Lee Masters, major 20th-century poet, who described Petersburg as his “heart's home.”

Perhaps, most unique, was the Old Salem Chautauqua, which every year brought nationally and internationally renowned scientists, preachers, musicians, artists, historians, poets, statesmen and politicians to Petersburg. As local historian Raymond Montgomery details in *A Chautauqua to Remember: The Story of Old Salem*, thousands of Midwesterners flocked to Petersburg between 1898 and 1915 in the spirit of education, entertainment, and fellowship.

It is in that same spirit that the Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum is hosting its first annual Masters' Back Porch



Chautauqua series to be held on the 3rd Sunday of each month from May through September of 2024. The series will be held indoors from 2-4 p.m. at the 1st & 3rd Boutique & Wine Bar at 105 S 7th St. Petersburg, Illinois. For an hour immediately before each event, the ELM home will be open for tours, and is within walking distance of 1st & 3rd. Details for each event can be found on our website and Facebook page (see below).

Each month, the series will host an expert to discuss topics of local interest in literature, art, and history. A different local artist, writer, or musician will be featured each month as well for the general entertainment of the audience.



Look at What's New for Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum!!



In addition to our exciting new summer series, Masters' Back Porch Chautauqua, there's much more to share with you!

Website: We now have a website (<https://elmhome.org>). We encourage you to check it out and save it in your “favorites” because we'll be posting news and information, including upcoming events.

And, you can now join or renew your *Friends* membership and make donations online directly from the website. It's quick, easy and safe!!



Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum

New Facebook Page: Please visit our new Page on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ELMMemorialMuseum>). The Facebook Group still exists, but we wanted to have a social media presence that reached the general public. Please visit the new Page and be sure to **Like** it so you receive notifications when we post something new.

Instagram: If you're an Instagram user, our posts will also go to our Instagram feed (<https://www.instagram.com/elmmuseum/>).

Front Porch Renovation



The front porch, having suffered from the weather and traffic, was in desperate need of replacement. The lowest bid, at more than \$5,500, was going to put a big hole in our budget. What to do?

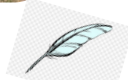
To our delight and deep appreciation, Menard County resident, Brett Gaule, offered to donate his expertise and labor for free! All we had to do was procure the lumber and a few odds and ends. Last fall, Brett, with Dan Robertson's help, ripped out the old rotted wood, replaced the porch deck with tongue and groove pressure-treated pine, installed



new pressure treated porch posts, and rebuilt the stairs with treated pine. The City of Petersburg graciously hauled away the old wood. All that is left is some caulking and painting, which we'll do this spring.



With Brett's knowledge, talent, and skills, what would have been a financial strain was lessened nearly five fold. Instead of thousands of dollars, we spent \$1200 on materials. Many thanks to Brett and Dan!



Shelly Knuppel ~ A Life Well Lived 1960 - 2024



The board of Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum is profoundly saddened at the sudden loss of our fellow board member and dear friend, Shelly Knuppel.

Shelly was deeply committed to the Edgar Lee Masters Memorial Museum and was invested in improving and preserving our "little house". She was on the board for many years where she served as the board Treasurer. She was very active in the gardens and could on any given day be seen working in the yard and gardens or tending to the Little Library on the porch. Whenever there was a task, she was there to help and usually had a way of making the task fun and easy to manage.

The amazing essence and spirit of Shelly Knuppel was evident in her selfless generosity and her unwavering commitment to family, friends, and community. Words, even the very best of words, cannot pay tribute or truly capture the sense of loss that we feel. She exemplified life, love, laughter, and an impressive belief and faith in seeing the best in everything and everyone.

We will not forget Shelly and will be honoring and remembering her as an amazing person who has played a unique and special roll in all our lives. It was a privilege for us to have been a part of Shelly's life. Although much too short, she was a life well lived!

We'll miss you ~ Kathy Olesen, Dan Robertson, Jane Stephenson, Terri Treacy, Brandon Lavelly, Becca Newton