



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Engage With Mineral Point History During June 18 Museum Night

MINERAL POINT, Wis.—Swing in to summer by engaging in Mineral Point history at several locations participating in the second annual Museum Night.

Just before the Summer Solstice, from 5 to 8 p.m. June 18 the Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce, Mineral Point Historical Society, the Mineral Point Railroad Society, Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts and the Wisconsin Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Museum will be open and offering free admission where applicable. In compliance with Iowa County guidelines surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, safety and sanitation precautions will be taken at each site, and visitors will be asked to maintain 6 feet of social distance and wear masks around other members of the public.

The **Mineral Point Chamber of Commerce** relocated last year to 145 High St., the former home of Hook & Ladder Company #1, the city's first fire department formed in 1898. Come meet Executive Director Gaile Schwickrath in this impeccably restored building in the heart of downtown, view the historic fire ladder wagon and clay miner figurines that are on display, and pick up information on local businesses and things to do in Mineral Point this summer. For more information, call (608) 987-3201 or see www.mineralpoint.com or Facebook.

The **Mineral Point Historical Society** manages the Gundry House and Orchard Lawn at 234 Madison St. While the Gundry House will not be open for tours, you're invited to bring a picnic to enjoy at a safe distance from others on the lawn while listening to live music performed by Scott Stieber and Don Myers on the porch. Scott and Don play a fun mix of rock, blues and Americana tunes, both covers and self-penned. Board members will be on hand to answer questions about the history of the Gundry House. For more information, see mineralpointhistory.org or Facebook.

The **Mineral Point Railroad Society** manages the restored 1856 Railroad Depot Museum at 11 Commerce St. Take advantage of this evening opportunity to walk through the oldest depot in Wisconsin (built in 1856), which was reopened to the public in 2004 after significant restoration. Inside the museum are many exhibits including a 1915-era scale model of the area around the



depot including a turntable and two enginehouses (upstairs) and a telegrapher's office (downstairs). For more information, call (608) 987-2695 or see www.mprs.org.

Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts, 18 Shake Rag St., invites visitors to tour its collection of nine historic and reproduction buildings and take home a make-your-own-fairy-house-kit to build a house to contribute to this summer's Aug. 1 Tour of Fairy Homes. Staff and volunteers will be on hand to answer questions about the buildings representing Mineral Point architecture from the 1830s through 1940s that today host arts and crafts workshops, events, site rentals, and guest lodging. Aspiring fairy house architects can pick up pre-drilled wooden foundations and a bag you can fill to your heart's content with bits and baubles from our fairy house stash. The number of people entering each building will be capped at 10, and the fairy house fixings -- including glue guns you can borrow if you don't have your own -- will be set up outside weather permitting or in the spacious Lind Pavilion. For more information, call (608) 987-3292 or see www.shakeragalley.org.

The **Wisconsin Odd Fellows and Rebekahs Museum**, 112 Front St., in May 2019 marked the 200th anniversary of the International Order of Odd Fellows in the United States, and the 184th anniversary of the IOOF in Mineral Point. The museum will be open for all to view items of the organization's storied past and learn about the Odd Fellows and Rebekahs' involvement in issues today.

While the Mineral Point Library Archives, **Mineral Point Opera House** and **Pendarvis** are not participating in this year's event, you can enjoy their virtual offerings on their Facebook pages and at mineralpointlibraryarchives.wordpress.com, mineralpointoperahouse.org and www.pendarvis.wisconsinhistory.org, respectively.

Upcoming Events at Shake Rag Alley

Driftless Poets Monthly Workshop June 13

The Driftless Poets will meet virtually at 2-4 p.m. June 13 for this month's free workshop. Local and aspiring poets are invited to provide support and encouragement for poets seeking honest feedback on their work. To RSVP and receive a Zoom invitation, email sflesch@shakeragalley.org or call (608) 987-3292 for more information.

A Summer of Fun Youth Programs Begins June 15

It's more important than ever to give kids a chance to participate in a variety of creative hands-on activities. While keeping the health and safety of our instructors, students and staff in mind, instead of classes held at Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts, we have created kits of our classes for use at home or at daycare. To make sure that the project steps are easily understood, most kits come with both written instructions and a video or Zoom component. Kits will be available for pick up at Shake Rag Alley the week the class would have been held on our campus



through Aug. 14. The Free Arts Camp will include a number of kit projects and videos. Kits will continue to be available until they are out of stock. Prices for most of the kits range from \$10-\$12 plus shipping if the kit will be mailed. To register, see <https://shakeragalley.org/youth-program>. For more information, contact Youth Program Director Elizabeth Johanna at ejohanna@shakeragalley.org. We're grateful to the Mineral Point Community Chest and United Fund of Iowa County for their support of our youth programs.

Women's Art Party June 17

Summer is around the corner! – and that's the theme for this month's Women's Art Party. We will be working with stencils in any and all available media, on prepared encyclopedia pages. All stencils will have a summer theme – flowers, grasses, birds, bugs, foliage – and each assortment will be unique! As always, you're welcome to bring other projects you are already working on and join the circle of artistic camaraderie. Due to coronavirus restrictions and concerns, there are two ways to participate in June:

- Option A: Up to nine guests may meet in person at the Lind Pavilion. Registration required! Masks will be worn by all participants and hand sanitizing will happen regularly. Tools and materials will not be shared unless gloves (provided upon entry) are worn. Doors will be open. A/C will be off. Cost is the usual \$5 workshop fee plus \$3 for materials.
- Option B: Any number of participants may meet via Zoom. Registration deadline is June 10 to accommodate the mailing of materials. Kits consisting of three prepared encyclopedia pages and at least three stencils, plus cardstock for mounting, will be available for on-campus pick up or mailed by USPS. Participants should let us know if they need drawing materials. Colored pencils (plus a pencil sharpener), ballpoint pen and Sharpie-type marker are recommended. Cost is the usual \$5 workshop fee plus \$3 for materials plus \$5 for mailing/handling if not picking up.

To register, see <https://shakeragalley.org/womens-art-party>. For more information or questions, call our office at (608) 987-3292.

About Shake Rag Alley Center for the Arts

A nonprofit school of arts and crafts founded in 2004 by local artists and community members, Shake Rag Alley's 2.5-acre campus at 18 Shake Rag St. in Mineral Point (population 2,500) is a national destination for participants of adult workshops, a robust summer youth program and a host of annual special events. In addition, Shake Rag offers on-site lodging and custom facility rentals for meetings, events and celebrations. For additional information about Shake Rag Alley's 2020 workshops and events, or to request a catalog and information about facility rentals and volunteer opportunities, see www.ShakeRagAlley.org, call (608) 987-3292 or email info@shakeragalley.org.