

Warren S. Johnson Society Newsletter
WSJSociety.com
Vol. 31, No. 1 / First Quarter 2024

1st Quarter Luncheon
Thursday, April 18, 2024

Alioto's-3041 N. Mayfair Road

PRICE: \$25 per person

11am-Gathering / 12pm-Lunch / 1:00 program

The luncheon selections are:

- Ground Round w/mushroom gravy and mixed vegetables
- Baked stuffed pork chop w/brown gravy, applesauce
- Grilled chicken Caesar salad

Lunches include a salad with choice of dressing, whipped or buttered new potatoes, Italian bread, and coffee.

Salads are served with soup or fruit cup (in season), Italian bread, coffee. The dessert selection is vanilla ice cream with chocolate syrup

Lunch is \$25 per person.

Please make checks payable to:
WSJ Society.

Checks need to arrive by April 11, 2024

Mail checks to:

WSJ Society
P.O. Box 1425
Grafton, WI 53024

Please let us know of any dietary restrictions you may have when making your reservations. Or, contact Jim Pasterczyk, VP Program at 414-764-8609.

PROGRAM

Our speaker will be Jocelyn Szczepaniak-Gillece, Associate Professor of English and Film Studies and Director of the Film Studies program at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

Film Studies is an independent undergraduate program at UWM housed within the College of Letters & Science and with close connections to the Department of English. Students in the program study the history and theory of film, television, and the digital by researching and analyzing media's historical, aesthetic, technological, sociocultural, and critical dimensions.

Professor Szczepaniak-Gillece holds a PhD in Screen Cultures from Northwestern University. Among her interests are:

- Exhibition and theatrical architecture
- American film history
- History of technology
- Special effects

She is the author of *Movies under the Influence* (University of Minnesota Press, 2024) and *The Optical Vacuum: Spectatorship and Modernized American Theater Architecture* (Oxford University Press, 2018) and many journal and anthology articles, and the co-editor of *Ends of Cinema* (University of Minnesota Press, 2020).

Her presentation will be on the history of color film and special effects, focusing on the classic film "The Wizard of Oz" (1939)

President's Message



What's your JCI story?

What do retirees talk about when we get together?

There are several things, but interesting personal memories of past JCI stories are one of the things that many of us have in common. They often trigger old memories in others and probably get a bit embellished along the way, to sound a little bit more exciting or humorous. That is what we would like to encourage you to do. Dust off some of the rust in the old memory banks, sit back with your favorite refreshment at hand, and envision a table with 3 of your fellow old timers at JCI around it, what memory would you share when it is your turn?



Here's one to start the juices flowing.

Here is a neck tie that hung in my office coat hook for decades. It was back in the days when we were “Always wearing ties in Milwaukee”. It was known by many Field Office visitors that this tie was available for that surprise meeting they got invited to when they didn't have a neck tie with them. They had to be desperate enough to wear it. It would disappear from my coat hook for a few hours, but always come back. I don't even know the source of this tie, but I'm pretty sure it came from someone who had jumped ship and joined JCI sometime in the past. To the best of my knowledge, I never heard of anyone taking heat for wearing it. Who reads ties anyway? Maybe it was old enough that nobody knew there was a piece of contraband in the room. Or they were too unsure to call it out as such. (They didn't know Delta wasn't us). I recall a few folks who used this tie more than once. John E. from Denver, and Russ R. from Jersey are both now gone. I'll not mention other possible users to protect the guilty that are still on the green side of the grass, but may not want to admit participation in shenanigans such as this.

There's a story that may trigger one of you own. It could be historical, informative, humorous, respectful, or any other publishable form. Your fellow retirees have asked to hear more.

Cheers!

Gene

ps; It's a Honeywell tie 😊

About the WSJ Society

The WSJ Society is a social group of people who share career experiences at Johnson Controls, Inc. The Society brings its members together to enjoy and help each other; and contribute to community. Activities of the society are described at the website:

www.WSJociety.com.

This Newsletter is published quarterly to contribute to those goals. Member stories and ideas are welcomed and encouraged.

OFFICERS:

Gene Strehlow	President
Jim Pasterczyk	VP Program
Mary Kehoss	VP Membership
Brian Bould	Treasurer
Dave Anderson	Secretary
Otto Mageland	Website
John Meyer	
Carol Lomonaco	
Richard Schreiner	
Jude Anders	
Greg Pascucci	
Erica Wolfe, Ex-Officio	

For membership information, contact the Membership VP using this email:

help@wsjsociety.com

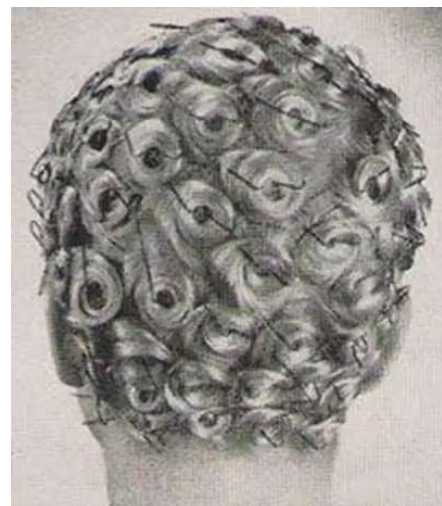
For any payments, include a note describing the intent of the payment, make checks payable to **WSJ Society**, and mail to:

WSJ Society
P. O. Box 1425
Grafton, WI 53024

For street or email address changes, and items submitted for publication in the Newsletter, please contact our Newsletter Editor:

Mail: **Erica Wolfe**
Newsletter Editor
5207 Robinwood Lane
Hales Corners, WI 53130

Some more pictures from the past to spark memories!!!



Memories of Bill Chapman

By Tom Parris

Bill Chapman, Director of R & D in 1957, hired me as a student. That was the single most memorable event in my working career. Bill was a leader and remained the same guy as the Bill in 'Battle Hardened'. Bill inspired loyalty because he was loyal to you. Once you worked for Bill you received a birthday card forever. Bill worked long hours and on Saturday mornings. When the cleaning lady came after hours, she received the same treatment and warm conversation as did the managers. Bill wore metal cleats on his shoes and made significant noise on our tiled floors. We accused him of using the cleats as a warning device so that we were not caught off-guard as he made his 'rounds'. Bill kept a little book with name of everyone he met with notes of their likes and dislikes, job functions, and hobbies; he reviewed those notes before significant meetings and parties. Bill's top two managers were raised in Germany and emigrated to the USA before WWII. Bill's lead engineers were all WWII veterans and most young hires were in the National Guard. Bill spoke with everyone when the first minority engineer was hired in order to ensure that he was well received. The 'chain of command' was a principle close to Bill's heart. Because of expediency and efficiency, I twice violated that principle on projects from Bill and he cringed but did not reprimand me when I informed him. Bill had career expectations for everyone. I got the 'fatherly' talk several times. Under Bill's direction project management skill systems and economic evaluation systems were implemented. Bill often said; "It does not help to put two painters in a closet."



Lion Heads???? A nod to the past

Written by Anne Kumor in 2016
Employee since 1978 [retired August 2017]

The headquarters for the Stroh Die Cast Company, founded in 1903 in Rochester NY and soon moved to Milwaukee, was constructed on the location of the Brengel Technology Building in which you are standing. At one time it was the only part of this square city block that was not part of Johnson Service Company, later Johnson Controls, now Johnson Controls International plc. Stroh Precision Die Casting of Wisconsin LLC is now located in Mauston, WI.

The American Appraisal company, founded in 1896, occupied the building starting sometime in the mid-20th century. During the late 1960's Johnson Controls' growth exceeded available office space in their campus. Part of a floor of the Stroh Die Cast building was leased from American Appraisal and occupied by the Controls Research team. A 6th floor walkway was built over the alley that separated them, connecting the two buildings.

Johnson Controls Inc. purchased the property and building after American Appraisal moved its headquarters around 1996. Acquired in 2015 and now part of Duff & Phelps, American Appraisal's Milwaukee employees today occupy offices in the 411 E Wisconsin building, across from the northwest corner of this block, west of the Federal Building.

In 1998 Johnson Controls started deconstruction of the American Appraisal building to build this Brengel Technology Center, named after the 6th president of Johnson Controls, Fred Brengel. Mr. Brengel brought Johnson Controls into the computer age, introducing the world's first computerized building management system for non-residential buildings. And it was during Mr. Brengel's tenure that the company expanded beyond thermostats, gas ignitions, temperature control and pneumatics when it acquired Globe-Union, a local battery manufacturer, in 1978. The global operating headquarters for Johnson Controls Building Efficiency business remains in this campus.

On fair days some employees would walk outdoors at lunch time, looking for tributes to the artisans who constructed buildings downtown and in the Third Ward in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, taking delight in the various ornamentation and "gargoyles" on many buildings. Lion heads atop the Stroh Die Cast / American Appraisal building were admired! The lion heads were carefully removed before the building's deconstruction. One of the lions was presented to the Stroh family, and the remaining four are now located in our courtyard. They are decorated for the winter holidays with hats, scarves, skis, candy canes or other costumes, to the amusement of the employees.

Since the Brengel Building was opened in 2000, rather than peering down on the city, the lions proudly gaze in the direction of the building from whence they came, a nod to the history of architecture in Milwaukee. As you walk through downtown, look for other "gargoyles" forever watching from their skyward perches.

TIME?



..... YES, and time to renew your membership!

Keep in touch with your life-long work associates via the Newsletter! **Annual Association membership dues are \$5....** You may choose to pay several years in advance or pay a **lifetime membership of \$50** as over 500 members have chosen to do. New members (only) paying after September 1st will be credited for both the current and next year. Not sure you've paid your dues? Please refer to the "WSJ Society - Members List", which is included as an attachment to this newsletter, and can also be found on our WSJSociety.com website in the "Members Only" section.

MEMBERSHIP ENTITLEMENT COMES WITH 10 YEARS

If you are retired from Johnson Controls or still working there with 10 years of employment, you are eligible for membership in the Johnson Controls Retirement Society.

The address for sending your membership to is listed inside this newsletter.