



A Quarterly Newsletter of the  
Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association [SONA]  
P.O. Box 12042  
Des Moines, Iowa 50312

[www.sonadsm.com](http://www.sonadsm.com)

Edited by Barb Schmidt

*Neighbors joining to build a better community*

Vol. XXVI

Summer 2025

Join your neighbors for...

## National Night Out & SONA's Annual Picnic

**Tuesday, August 5**

**5:30 Social, 6:00 Potluck  
Greenwood Park,**

**Jay Spence Shelter**

**Splash Pad will be open till 8:00 pm**



Your SONA dues provides:  
Pulled Pork, Burgers, Hotdogs,  
Beverages, Dinnerware  
Bring a salad, side dish, or dessert



# SONA's Houses Have History; A Usonian - Inspired House 300 Tonawanda Drive

One of the more unique houses in the neighborhood is the home of Karen and Warner Jackson located at 300 Tonawanda Drive (the NW corner of Tonawanda and Greenwood).

The house was built in 1958 by Dr. Homer and Maida Wichern on two lots that were subdivided from the home at 4137 Greenwood Drive. Homer passed away in 1988 but Maida stayed in the home until her death in 2010. The Jacksons purchased the home from Maida's estate in 2011.

The house was designed by a local architect, George Russell who was originally from Oskaloosa, worked for a time in California and also worked in Des Moines on various projects such as the Ruan I & II buildings. [Architectural firm was Kendall Griffith Russell Artiaga]. The home was built by Neumann Brothers Construction.

The home's design is based on Frank Lloyd Wright's concept of "Usonian" houses which was Wright's vision in his later life for landscape and simplicity in architecture. Typical features of a Usonian house are: dominant horizontal lines; roofs with large overhangs; natural materials that look like what they are such as brick, wood, concrete and glass; rows of casement windows; an organic setting; floor plans and overall design based on a grid; open living spaces with adjacent cooking/dining areas; concrete slab floors; and built in or modular furniture.

Russell incorporated many of these features into the Wichern house. The horizontal lines are apparent from the exterior. The house has large roof overhangs. The primary material of the house is brick, with many of the interior walls also being brick. There are rows of casement windows. The living areas have red concrete floors.

One of the most interesting Usonian features of the house is that it is all laid out on a grid of equilateral triangles. The triangles are etched in the concrete floors. There are NO right angles in the house, including the fact that the bathtubs are triangular. The bricks that line both interior and exterior walls were custom cast with the appropriate angles!

When the Jacksons purchased the house in 2011, the house was as it was built in 1958, including all the 1958 appliances. Needless to say, it needed some updating. The Jacksons hired Silent Rivers Design/Build to help them restore the house while updating necessary systems such as HVAC and grounded outlets. The only modification they made was the addition of a screened porch off the back side of the house..which of course is a triangle.

It is a wonderful house to live in... all the living spaces are on one level. The views from all the rooms look out into trees. The site is home to lots of wildlife, birds, raccoons, rabbits, foxes, and for the last two years a pair of red tailed hawks have nested on one of the pine trees!

Article submitted by Karen & Warner Jackson



## *Upcoming EVENTS* at the Salisbury House & Gardens

**CELEBRATE SALISBURY HOUSE'S CENTENNIAL IN STYLE!**

# **GATSBY GALA**

**AUGUST 23 2025**

**SALISBURY**  
HOUSE & GARDENS

Celebrate 100 years of Salisbury House the same way the Weeks family would have. Join us for an evening of prohibition-era cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a three-course dinner from Tangerine Food Company, modern tunes and roaring classics performed by Diamond Empire Band, and an after party in a speakeasy featuring DJ Big Lare.

Tickets \$350

Salisbury House & Gardens 515-274-1777



## **Ghoulish Gala...an eerie elegance!**

**Saturday, October 18**

**6:00—11:00 PM Tickets \$150 per person**

Welcome to Ghoulish Gala, an annual signature fundraiser which plunges the elegant manor into a macabre mansion.

Drift through our historic halls and discover exciting surprises and entertainment around each twist and turn. As the witching hour approaches, we'll gather for a supernatural dance party sure to move even the most stoic of vampires out of their coffins. If you find yourself in need of sustenance, feast on heavy hors d'oeuvres and indulge in a variety of tasty libations as you mingle with the other ghouls gathered. Uncover unique and engaging entertainment located throughout the first and second floors of the house. Past activities include caricature artists, pop-up tattoo + piercing parlor, crystal keychain making, fortune telling, tea leaf reading, tarot, axe throwing, and more. At 8 o'clock, the souls of the house drift into the Historic Garage and tented Cobblestone Courtyard to enjoy delectable desserts and a legendary dance party! Dress to impress: wear your most glamorous and ghastly take on black tie. It is sure to be a deathly good.



Tickets at <https://salisburyhouse.org/events/>

# Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 5, Tues.      Annual picnic/Quarterly mtg. Greenwood Park 5:30 social, 6:00 eat

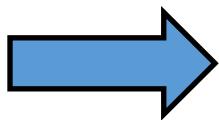
Oct. 1              Board Meeting at Caribou Coffee on Ingersoll, 6:30 pm

Nov. 13              Quarterly meeting, Salisbury House, 6:00 social, 6:30 program

                            Lauren Kollauf, Executive Director, The Avenues

**Additional Board Meetings TBA**

---



*Renew or become a member of*  
**Salisbury Oaks Neighborhood Association**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Dues: \$10 per household per calendar year**      **Join now for 2026**

Mail this form with your check to:

**SONA, PO Box 12042, DM, IA 50312**

OR use Venmo...



**venmo**

**Support the association that supports you!!!**

## 2024-25 SONA Board of Directors

President...Angel Erickson

Angel.m.Erickson@gmail.com

Vice-president...Martha Crist

Mc2crist@gmail.com

Treasurer...Mark Slocum

m.slocum@outlook..com

Secretary...J. Mark Schmidt

jmarkschmidt42@gmail.com

At-Large Directors:

Kyle Lovseth

Kyle.lovseth@gmail.com

Mariah Klemp

Mariah@sweethomedsm.com

Yolanda Cintron

ycblazek@gmail.com

**www.sonadsm.com**