NICOLLET COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EST. 1928

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a publication of the Nicollet County Historical Society

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It's the friends we meet along the way who help us appreciate the journey.

~ Author Unknown

Wishing you good days, good friends, and the time to enjoy them.

Happy Holidays & Happy New Year!

with thanks from everyone at

NCHS!

We remember…

…with honor the following individuals who we lost since our last newsletter.

Marilyn Rodning

Karen Annexstad Humphrey to speak at annual meeting

Deepening Our Roots, Widening Our Horizon

Please join us for the Nicollet County Historical Society's Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020, at the Treaty Site History Center. Come early to enjoy brunch beginning at 11:30 a.m. with our featured speaker at 12:30 p.m., and a brief business meeting to follow.

We are delighted to welcome our featured speaker, Karen Annexstad Humphrey, for an inspiring presentation titled "Deepening Our Roots, Widening Our Horizon." Karen Annexstad Humphrey grew up at Norseland where her love of history began when she was a little girl. A past president of the Norwegian American Historical Association and the Minnesota Historical Society, she now works with individuals and families in philanthropy for the Minnesota Historical Society.

Cost for brunch and the program is just $15 for members, $20 for non-members, and $5 for those wishing only to attend the program. For details and registration, call 507-934-2160. Reservations with payment are due by January 17, 2020. Form on reverse.

New Displays in April 2020!

NCHS to Commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the 19th Amendment

A Century of Civic Engagement: The League of Women Voters Minnesota

The Minnesota Legislature finally voted YES on September 8, 1919, to ratify the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, granting women the right to vote and ending the 72-year struggle for woman suffrage.

But as distinguished Minnesota suffragist Clara Ueland said that day, "Today is the commencement rather than the end of our work." The League of Women Voters Minnesota was born, with Ms. Ueland as its first President, to help carry out the new work of empowering voters and defending democracy, with women now at the table–and in the voting booth. One hundred years later, LWV Minnesota continues to thrive as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization promoting good government and civic engagement throughout Minnesota.

Beginning in April 2020, visit this vibrant exhibit that features Minnesota's suffrage story, highlighting the women who made it happen–and who continue to lead through the League of Women Voters to make democracy work for all.

Alongside the League of Women Voters Minnesota exhibit, NCHS will also host a new pop-up exhibition from the National Archives, ***Rightfully Hers***, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. ***Rightfully Hers*** contains simple

Rightfully Hers *continued on page 2*

From the Director

Jessica Becker

A very happy holiday season to all of you! It feels like just yesterday I sat down to write my first director's report to you as your new Executive Director. The winter newsletter was one of the first tasks I had when I took the reins in 2016. Just over three years later, I sit here, sipping my coffee and gathering my thoughts about what to say to you, my only thoughts are of gratitude. The Society has changed and grown so much these last few years with your support and generosity. We've solidified our position as a leader in local history with new and interesting programs and displays and working with our community partners. Also, by entering 2019 debt-free, the board, staff, and I have been able to better leverage the Society's dollars so we're in an excellent financial position heading into the new year. For this and so much more, we are grateful.

Next year should be another fun and exciting year as we continue celebrating milestones and promoting our history with fresh programming and new displays. I hope we continue to make you proud of your history and proud of your historical society with these new endeavors.

Please join us at the annual meeting on January 26. We have a wonderful speaker lined up and hope to get your feedback on a couple of items too. I encourage everyone to bring a non-member along to show off the Society. We rely so much on all of you and the positive word-of-mouth you bring to our communities.

I hope that you and your families are happy and have a wonderful holiday season.

Cheers!

Jessica Becker
Executive Director

Treaty Site Winter Hours

The Treaty Site History Center exhibits and NCHS offices are closed December 15, 2019 - January 6, 2020, for winter break. If you need to contact us, please call 507-934-2160 or e-mail info@nchsmn.org and we'll get back to you as soon as possible.

NCHS Board Announces

2020 Slate for Board of Directors

The Nominating Committee of your Nicollet County Historical Society presents the following slate of board members for the 2020 term. We encourage you to attend the annual meeting to show your support for the Society and these dedicated volunteers.

Marie Dranttel, St. Peter
Ray Jacobson, St. Peter
Donna Nelson, St. Peter
Bob Sandeen, St. Peter
Tami Skinner, St. Peter

President: Kate Martens
Vice President: Tami Skinner
Treasurer: Loren Sundboom
Secretary: Matthias Leyrer

A very special thank you and farewell to outgoing board members Tom Hagen, Eileen Holz, Maria Lokensgard, and Ruth Klossner Your guidance and leadership will be missed!

Panel from the *Rightfully Hers* pop-up exhibition from the National Archives.

Rightfully Hers *continued from page 1*

messages exploring the history of the ratification of the 19th amendment, women's voting rights before and after the 19th, and its impact today. Despite decades of marches, petitions, and public debate to enshrine a woman's right to vote in the constitution, the 19th Amendment–while an enormous milestone–did not grant voting rights for all. The challenges of its passage reverberate to the ongoing fight for gender equity today.

Rightfully Hers is organized by the National Archives and Records Administration. In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, the National Archives has launched a nationwide initiative and major exhibition that explores the generations-long fight for universal woman suffrage. The exhibition is presented in part by the National Archives Foundation through the generous support of Unilever, Pivotal Ventures, Carl M. Freeman Foundation in honor of Virginia Allen Freeman, AARP, and Denise Gwyn Ferguson.

Documentary Film Series Continues

The Nicollet County Historical Society and Saint Peter Community and Family Education present our eleventh season of documentary films! Films are shown monthly from September through May and are free to the public.

Well Fed

Thu., Jan. 9 | 7 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | *FREE*

This thought-provoking and well-made documentary examines the many criticisms well-fed Westerners have about genetically modified foods (aka GMO's). The movie also reveals some of the scientific ideas surrounding the alteration of foods people tend to think are natural. The film also takes to task the many untrue statements and grievances environmentalist groups, like Greenpeace, have with GMO's as well. ***This film is shown in partnership with the Nicollet County Farm Bureau.*** **Not Rated. Runtime is 52 minutes.**

Great Escape at Dunkirk

Thu., Feb. 6 | 7 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | *FREE*

As France fell to the German armies in May 1940, 300,000 Allied troops were trapped on the beaches of Dunkirk. Their annihilation seemed certain - a disaster that could have led to Britain's surrender. But then, in a last-minute rescue dramatized in Christopher Nolan's recent film, Royal Navy ships and a flotilla of tiny civilian boats evacuated hundreds of thousands of soldiers to safety across the Channel—the legendary "miracle of Dunkirk." Now, NOVA follows a team of archaeologists, historians, and divers as they recover the remains of ships, planes, and personal effects lost during the epic operation. With access to previously classified files recently released by the UK government, they also uncover the truth behind the myths of Dunkirk. **Not Rated. Runtime is 60 minutes.**

One Woman, One Vote

Thu., Mar. 5 | 7 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | *FREE*

How could America call itself the world's greatest democracy, but continue to deny the right to vote to more than half of its citizens? This program documents the struggle which culminated in the passing of the 19th Amendment in the U.S. Senate by one vote. Witness the 70-year struggle for women's suffrage. Discover why the crusaders faced entrenched opposition from men and women who feared the women's vote would ignite a social revolution. **Not Rated. Runtime is 126 minutes.**

Arrival–Finding Home

Thu., Apr. 2 | 7 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | *FREE*

Follow the challenges and sacrifices of five persistent and resilient women as they first arrive in their new country, and then as they overcome daunting odds through their strength, resolve, and belief that anything is possible to create a new home. ***This film is being shown in partnership with KSMQ Public Television. Following the film, Indivisible will be hosting a short panel discussion.*** **Not Rated. Runtime is 57 minutes.**

MN State Fair Stories

Thu., May 7 | 7 p.m. | Treaty Site History Center | *FREE*

Renowned storyteller Kevin Kling narrates this zippy, fun, slice of life documentary covering all 320 acres of the fairgrounds. Discover hidden gems. Find out what happened to Machinery Hill. Unearth diverse fair history. Meet the cast of characters who make the MN State Fair great. Get your curds, cows, and crop art right here! ***Following the film, you'll get a preview of the upcoming Nicollet County Fair from one of the fair board members!*** **Not Rated. Runtime is 58 minutes.**

Snowbird Address

Please remember to contact NCHS (507) 934-2160 with your winter address so your NCHS news reaches you in a timely manner.

An example from the Minnesota League of Women Voters exhibit.

Upcoming Events

2019

Dec. 14: Last day to visit the Treaty Site History Center in 2019

2020

Jan. 7: Treaty Site History Center reopens for 2020

Jan. 9: Film Series: sponsored by Nicollet County Farm Bureau, 7 p.m., TSHC, Free

Jan. 17: Registrations due by 4 p.m. for the NCHS Annual Meeting

Jan. 26: NCHS Annual Meeting, *see front page for details.*

Feb. 6: Film Series: *Great Escape at Dunkirk*, 7 p.m., TSHC, Free

Feb. 8: Family Day: *Kids visit free with paid adult admission,* 10 a.m.–4 p.m., TSHC

Feb. 8: Animal Tracks & Signs with Scott Kudelk, 11 a.m., TSHC, Free

Mar. 5: Film Series: *One Woman, One Vote*, 7 p.m., TSHC, Free

Apr. 2: Film Series: *Arrival-Finding Home*, 7 p.m., TSHC, Free

Apr. 23: Open the Doors to History, business membership open house, 5-6:30 p.m., TSHC

May 7: Film Series: *MN State Fair Stories*, 7 p.m., TSHC, Free

Annual Meeting Registration Form / Sunday, January 26, 2020

Enclosed is my/our check for the amount of:

$_____ for _____ reservation(s) at $15/person (members)

$_____ for _____ reservation(s) at $20/person (non-members)

$_____ for _____ reservation(s) at $5/person / program only

Name(s) _____

Address _____

_____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

- **Brunch at 11:30 a.m.**
- **Program at 12:30 p.m.**
- **Brief business meeting to follow.**

My check is enclosed ☐ Please debit my credit card ☐

Acct. Number _____

CVV Code _____ Expiration Date _____

3 #s on rev–VISA®, MC®, Disc®, 4 #s on rev–AE®

Authorized Signature _____

Checks should be made payable to: **Nicollet County Historical Society**

Return with payment by **Friday, January 17, 2020** to: **Nicollet County Historical Society, 1851 North Minnesota Avenue, St. Peter, MN 56082**
OR order online with credit/debit card at nchsmn.org/nchs-events