



# Transcending Time

CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

38/1: Winter, 2017

## Introducing the new CCHS Board Members

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"To me, history ought to be a source of pleasure. It isn't just part of our civic responsibility. To me, it's an enlargement of the experience of being alive, just the way literature or art or music is."

~David McCullough



**Geraldine Johnson** has dedicated the past 24 years to her career as an Educator within the Minnetonka School District. Throughout her career path, Gerry has developed a passion in working with children, encouraging their artistic abilities, and building an art curriculum for elementary aged students. By partnering with the Carver County Historical Society this past year, Gerry has developed an interactive Folk School that promotes and preserves contemporary and traditional hand arts through youth and adult classes. In addition to the Folk School, Gerry looks forward to working with the Carver County Historical Society and further supporting historical education within the community.



Matthew D. McDougall is an attorney with Melchert, Huber, Sjodin. While attending William Mitchell College of Law, Matt focused on a variety of legal areas of study including real estate law, contracts and UCC sales, and general litigation practices. He also had the opportunity to work as an extern for former Ramsey County Chief District Court Judge Gregg Johnson and work with the Hennepin County Examiner of Titles office. He and his wife **???** Live in Waconia.



**Mark Willems** has owned his own his own business for over 25 years. He is a member of the Cologne Lion's Club for 12 years during which time he held most board positions within the organization. He chaired many committees including fundraisers and community events, which included the Chairmanship of the Cologne 125th Celebration. Since March of 2008, he has been a supervisor for the Dahlgren Township Board including 6 years as Chairman. For the last 3 years, he has served on the Carve County Planning commission and on the Carver County Extension Committee. Mark and his wife Theresa live near Cologne.

In addition to the three new board members, **Peter Gustafson** has decided to continue on the board. This will be his second, three year term. He is the current Board Chair.



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# A Year in Review



**Peter Gustafson**  
**CCHS Chair**

By any standard, 2016 has been a banner year for the CCHS. Building on the significant successes of the past and under the wonderful leadership of our Executive Director, Wendy Petersen Biorn, we have seen the successful conclusions to a number of initiatives and made significant progress on others. The following is identification of our greatest achievements:

## **Historic Andrew Peterson Farmstead**

- The historically correct restoration of the north barn is largely accomplished. Final painting and shingling will see the job completed in the spring and summer of 2017.
- An archaeological study was conducted by University of Minnesota student Joe Pnewski at the Peterson farmstead.
- The septic system was completed, allowing for occupation of the house and premises.
- We have contracted with MacDonald & Mack to write a Historic Structure Report. While this is an expensive project, it is indispensable for our future planning and activities at the farm.

## **Society Resources**

- The Society received a grant from the Jeffris Family Foundation in the amount of \$49,700 toward the Historic Structure Report (HSR). They also pledged to match one dollar for every two dollars raised with a maximum donation of \$1M, during a three year capitol fundraising campaign, following the completion of the HSR. All funds to be applied to the building restoration.
- The Society received support and funds from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the amount of \$10,000 and \$20,000 from the Sando Foundation. All funds will be applied to the Historic Structure Report.
- Ms. Petersen Biorn received a scholarship from the American Swedish Institute to study 19th Century Farms in Sweden for a month, in the summer of 2017.
- Grant and large fund donations totaled \$281,310 in 2016.

## **Society Management**

- Four years of area newspapers have been recorded on microfilm for storage and access.
- A digital inventory of our collections has begun under the capable assistance of Diane Ittel who was contracted for that purpose.
- The Resource Management Software, Salesforce, has been acquired and will be used to more efficiently manage our member and financial resources.

We are hugely indebted to the competent and inspiring leadership of our Executive Director, Wendy Petersen Biorn, who continues to amaze in her abilities and energy. The future of our Society holds great promise as we honor the past of Carver County, Minnesota.

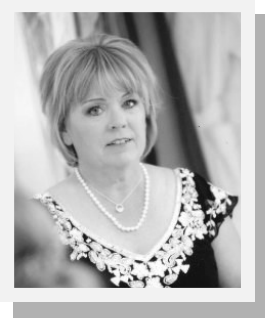
Respectfully Submitted:

Peter Gustafson, Board Chair



## **In Loving Memory**

Paul Steiner died November 4, 2016.  
Paul was instrumental with the CCHS  
museum addition.. He was 93 years old.



**Wendy Petersen Biorn**

**"And te tide and te time þat tu iboren were, schal beon iblescet."**

**St. Marher, 1225**

The English version of this quote is "the tide abides for, tarrieth for no man, stays no man, tide nor time tarrieth no man". This quote has evolved into the version heard most often today, "time and the tide waits for no man." The tide will come no matter what we do. Just as time will march on; it cannot be stopped.

There are times I wish we could stop time, and then there are times I wish it would move faster, so we can proceed to projects that are more fun, or move time faster to finish projects that are overly taxing and stressful. This last year was one of transition that moved from the taxing and stressful to the more positive and optimistic. As usual, the staff of the CCHS needs to be commended for overcoming the bumpy spots with a positive and optimistic attitude. The CCHS Board of Directors need to be commended for their direction and support of the staff, without which we could not operate effectively.

Each staff member and the Board of Directors President has contributed a page to the Newsletter with their thoughts about what they have accomplished this year. I consider my job successful if each of them has succeeded. It is my job to provide the resources to make their job easier and make projects happen.

As of this writing, we have received \$281,310 in grant, large donor, or scholarship funding. In the past, I have written all the grants, but this year, Heidi wrote and received one for \$7612 to microfilm four years of Carver County newspapers, and Erika and I wrote one jointly, to hire Diane Ittel to do collections data entry as the first step of three, to organize the collections. This grant was for \$9729. The other grants or donations can be broken down as follows: the north barn grant (\$182,223) was awarded in 2015, but the funds were received in 2016-17, Minnesota Council for Nonprofits (\$99), MAM conference attendance for Wendy and Erika (\$1947), Jeffris Family Foundation (\$49,700), The National Trust for Historic Preservation (\$10,000), and Sando Foundation (\$20,000).

The highlight for me this year was the Peterson Farm being vetted and accepted by the Jeffris Family Foundation. The Jeffris Foundation agreed to pay for half the cost of the Historic Structures Report which is needed to restore the buildings and long range planning, at the farm. Once the document is complete we agreed to conduct a three year capitol fundraising campaign for building restoration work. During the campaign, they will donate \$1 for each \$2 we raise, up to a total maximum match of \$1 million. One project would not happen without the other. I applied for the other half of the funds for the HSR from the Legacy fund, but the grant request was turned down. After discussion with the Board we decided the Jeffris gift was too important to let drop, so we took a deep breath and committed to raising the other half of the funds needed on our own. This was a big commitment, but one which we knew if not completed would mean more work to raise funds for restoration, as Jeffris would be not in the equation. A number of requests and a fundraiser letter was sent out. In about a month, we had received a positive answer from the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the amount of \$10,000. Funds from members came in and as of this date we are within \$2,900 of our goal, with a number of requests still out there.

Tide and time will move on, with or without us. In an artist's concept, I'd like to think of us as surfing or riding that wave, instead of trying put up a dike, trying to stop it. It is our job to preserve and protect our history. Thank you to everyone from the bottom of our hearts, for all you do, have done and will do in the future to support the Carver County Historical Society. Your faith in us is heart-warming and greatly appreciated. On a personal note, this year marks my 10 year anniversary...and the tide and the time continue.



**In Loving Memory**

Valeria (Val) Barlau was a long term board member of the Carver County Historical Society. She was a teacher and an avid supporter of the CCHS. Val passed away on December 21, 2016. She is survived by her sister Marlaine Gnan.

# News from Around the County

Chanhasen Historical Society Chaska Historical Society

Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society of Norwood Young America

Watertown Area Historical Society



## Seventh Annual Meeting of the Willkommen Heritage and Preservation Society.. February 9, 2017

The public is welcome to attend, members are strongly encouraged to be there to fulfill the one obligation of being a member – vote for members to become part of the Board. The meeting will be held at the Heritage Center, located at 102 E Main St., NYA at 7:00 p.m. The purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect Board members, and approve the financial report from 2016. We do have three open Board positions as of the 2017 Annual Meeting in February. Past Board members Dorothy Bohnen, Rosie Gutknecht and Sharilyn Feltmann have agreed to have their name on the Ballot for another three (3) year term. Refreshments will be served. If you are interested in joining our growing organization, or have any questions, please plan to attend or call us at 952-467-4227.

Projects for this year include a Baseball Display in spring. Our plan for the Spring Display is highlighting the local Baseball Teams, going back into the good old days when most people in town spent their Sunday afternoons at the ball park. This is a project where you can get involved, maybe you have some pictures/memorabilia that you are willing to share.

We are still in the process of gathering information on the Veterans in this area. We have 3-ring binders of the Civil War through the current Gulf Wars. Looking forward to another wedding display in June, but we need the community's help. We are looking for families willing to share their treasured heirlooms and family history. From there we will be going into the Stiftungsfest, fall and winter/Christmas displays.

The History Center contains a collection of pictures of past scenes of Norwood Young America, the Fire Department, the Masonic Hall, the Norwood Young America Merger, School District #108, both the military history of the VFW and the American Legion, the Railroad, and some family history books.

The Heritage Center is open Thursday – Saturday, 10:00 – 2:00. We are located at 102 East Main St., NYA. Our phone number is 952-467-4227.

## Special Thanks to CCHS Donors, New and Renewing Members

### *New CCHS Members*

Mary T. Carlson  
Karen Drill  
Jennie Elliott  
Danelle Erickson  
Theresa Schlosser Green  
John R. Hanson  
Mark Hanson  
Beverly Hawkins  
Lynn Ellen Heise  
Kimberly Hennen  
Paula Johnson  
Gary Kiecker  
David K. & Doris M. Nelson  
Jeremy L. Nienow  
Andrea Pizza  
Carl & Ann Soderstrom

### *Donations October – December 2016 Historic Structures Report*

Leanne & Kelsey Brown  
Carol Buesgens  
Mike & Kathy Coleman  
Gary & Ann Delaney  
Susan & Otto Dreydoppel  
Sharon Eklund  
Mary Erhard  
Darlene Fasching  
Donna Frantz  
Arleen Hoese  
Ron & Harriet Holtmeier  
Clarence & Dorothy Kelzer  
Don Leistikow

JP & Lynn Mattson  
Little  
Mary Luedtke  
Dan & Ann Lund  
Dan Lund (Chaska Machine)  
Paul Maravelas  
Vivian McGonagle  
Maureen Meier  
Margaret Perry  
Sando Foundation  
John J. & Mary Schmitz  
Richard Scott

### *Memorial Fund – in memory of Valeria Barlau*

Joann Gorman

### *Endowment Fund*

Ralph Peterson

# CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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### Museum & Library Hours

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### Board Members

Peter Gustafson (President),  
Waconia  
Darlene Fasching (VP), Minnetrista  
Lin Deardorff, (Treasurer) Waconia  
Mark Willems Cologne  
(Secretary)  
Dan Lund, Chanhassen  
Gerry Johnson, Waconia  
Michael Fahey, Carver  
Mike Coleman, Cologne  
Burton Johnson, Chaska  
Matthew McDougall, Waconia  
Maureen Farrell, Chanhassen  
Randy Maluchnik (County Liaison),  
Chaska

### Staff

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Linda Nelson (Office Mgr.)  
lnelson@co.carver.mn.us

## CARVER COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEW MEMBER FORM

- Senior Citizen \$15.00
- Individual \$20.00
- Family \$30.00
- Sustaining \$55.00
- Please mail me my newsletter.
- Please accept my donation of \_\_\_\_\_ toward your annual fund drive.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Gift Membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The Carver County Historical Society is a nonprofit organization supported by memberships and contributions from county residents, business, and government. All members receive *Transcending Time*, this newsletter.