



Lexington Ave. and County Rd. 1

# Historical Shore *VIEWS*

[www.shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.shoreviewhistoricalsociety.org)

Shoreview's 62st Year 'preserving today's history for tomorrow' January 2019

## From the President

### Sharing Successes and Concerns

It takes a village !!  
In October, members from local historical societies, including the SHS, met in White Bear to discuss current and future projects for our societies. Shared knowledge is powerful as we found out !

We shared successes but also expressed concerns for our future. Some societies have historical buildings that are open to the public: New Brighton, White Bear, Maplewood, and North Oaks for example. Roseville, North St Paul and Little Canada also have museums open to the public. Shoreview will be soon be joining that list when the Lepak/ Larson house opens to the public later this year.



Representatives from the Ramsey County Historical Society were there. With their encouragement, the SHS took the first step and joined the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums. This resource, whose motto is "Peers helping Peers", will be helpful as we develop our interpretive plan. In April, we plan on sending representatives to the conference in Red Wing

Another local society meeting is planned for February and will be hosted by the Maplewood Historical Society. The historic Bruentrup Heritage Farm on County Road D is the "face" of its society. The members host many events at that location and it's worth a visit.

Support local history --- plan to visit some of our local museums right here in Ramsey County.

Membership is always a concern of an organization -- and is most vital for its growth. Please consider encouraging family and friends to become members of the SHS. You do not have to reside in Shoreview to be a member and you don't have to attend monthly meetings.

If you join by Jan. 14, you can be our guest at the Membership Appreciation breakfast Jan. 16 (see accompanying story on this page).

I hope to see you there !

**---Jacci Krebsbach**

## Membership Appreciation Breakfast

### Jan. 16 at The Community Center

**-- Food Catered by Winkin' Rooster--**

It's not too late to signup for the free SHS membership breakfast set for 9 a.m. Jan 16



Wednesday in the Dick Wedell Room in the Shoreview Community Center. (This is a change from the site originally announced, as the Perkins Restaurant at I-

694-Lexington Ave. has closed.)

That's right, it's free; it's the SHS's way of saying "thank you" to its membership support over the years. It's the second year of the free breakfast program, this year catered by Winkin' Rooster, providing an excellent breakfast choice. Members will be able to renew their membership at the event.

You can sign up for the breakfast by contacting Bob Minton, SHS board member, no later than Jan. 14 by email : [bmint99@gmail.com](mailto:bmint99@gmail.com) or Tel: 651-295-1404 to let him know how many plan to attend.

### A New Year's Resolution: Pay Dues Sooner

Not a novel concept—but a helpful one for your SHS treasurer--is paying your annual dues sooner, rather than later.

This item is to alert those members who need a reminder to send in their dues to Bob Minton, membership chair. Many members signup for multiple years, which is both more economical and paper-saving.

Cost of SHS has remained the same for a decade or more. As a reminder, members earn a discount at several Shoreview businesses. See page four for more information and a membership form.





SHS President Jacqui Krebsbach (standing) tells a group of local historical societies' directors in Ramsey County about recent events at SHS. The ad hoc group is reexamining its future, looking possibly toward a mission of more formal networking and exchanges of best practices. The group had been dormant for an extended period and then met again last quarter at the Boat Works Commons in White Bear Lake. The next meeting is scheduled to be in February at the Maplewood Historical Society.

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### Seeking More Networking, SHS Joins Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums

Shoreview Historical Society is now a member of the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums (MALHM), joining the organization last quarter.



MALHM is a 27-year-old organization formed to "raise the level of professionalism in the field and advocate for local history issues in Minnesota."

The alliance has some 500 members across the state. MALHM board members serve on statewide committees affecting history policy, monitor legislation, updating members and advocating for the local history community with letters and phone calls to elected officials.

SHS recently became a tenant in the former LePak/Larson home and is expected to assemble a museum there in the future. "This is a good organization for us to be a member, as its objectives align with the SHS," said Jacqui Krebsbach, SHS president, "and it has many attributes, information sharing among them, as well as current planning for successful museums, no matter the size."

MALHM is holding its regular statewide conference in Red Wing, Mn. in April.

### Looking Back at Some SHS History

Sometimes it's nice to look back at our own SHS history. Now in our 27<sup>th</sup> year, here's a look at some SHS events, mostly looking a five-year jumps:

--1991 An ad in the newspaper alerts interested folks and the SHS was born, with Jeanene Munsterman its first president. The next year a newsletter was born.

--1996 As membership grows, SHS presents educational programs including a panel discussion on the upcoming election and past elections.

--2001 "Images of Shoreview", a new book published this year, features historical photos and descriptions of earlier days by Verna Rusler, assisted by SHS board members Doris Claeys and Jacqui Krebsbach.

--2001 Former Shoreview resident Ancel Keys, best known for his creation of the K-ration in WW II, returns to visit Shoreview and is also honored by the University of Minnesota where he once taught. Also featured in the SHS newsletter.



--2001 A special celebration of SHS's 10<sup>th</sup> year included a Harriet Bishop (St. Paul's first teacher) reenactor speaking about the area's early school days. Bishop was once a landowner in what became Shoreview.

--2006 SHS utilizes space at the Snail Lake School for storage and some board meetings.

--2006 SHS sponsors a special program featuring Macalester College Professor David Lanegran, a geographer who reviews the past and forecasts the future for the area's land use.

--2011 Guerin's old gas service station once on Rice St. and Owasso Blvd., where an attendant held forth over the years, is restored and placed near the LePak/Larson home, Lexington Ave. and County Rd. 1.

--2011 SHS expands its communication efforts with a new web site telling of upcoming events, while providing access to old records.

--2011 Local girl scouts' project helps with individual oral history interviews of Shoreview seniors.

--2016 SHS marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a special presentation by author Paul Maccabee all about the gangster era and John Dillinger.

--2018 All of its 27 years without a home, until this year when the city-owned LePak/Larson historic farm house became available for the SHS to occupy. The city purchased the home in 2000.

## Local Historical Societies in State Have Long History—and Still Growing

Elsewhere in this issue is mention of the many local historical societies in Ramsey County, surrounding counties, and the state.

SHS, with a 1991 birth date, has been a proponent of networking with local societies in order for it to learn best practices and find ways of cooperating, and in the process better serve our members. SHS has partnered on speaker programs, summer picnics and other one-time events. Most of these societies are related to a community base.



The Minnesota History Center (MHC) also provides services for local societies. There is a county historical society for every one of the state's 87 counties. The number of local historical societies is upwards of 200, not all with a mission of devoting energies to a governmental community, but to more specific causes and with a historical platform such as the Cass Gilbert Society in St. Paul, a society devoted to the works of a historical figure in local and national architecture. It is a society SHS members learned more about at a program last year. Societies like the Eighth U.S. Air Force Historical Society of Minnesota, are devoted to the heritage of

that celebrated WW II unit. The Minnesota Chapter is comprised of about 270 members

The MHC has published articles about the beginnings of local histories. In *Studies in Midwestern History*, Vol 2 No. 5, May, 2016, an article entitled "*Materially Strengthened: The Minnesota Historical Society and Providing Field Services*" (by David M. Grabitske and David J. Nichols) explains the beginnings and growth of local societies. "The 1979 Minnesota Historical Society Self-Study was part of professionalization. Reviewers for local history services came from local history organizations," the article states.

"While the number of Minnesota history organizations are not as numerous as the state's lakes, the quality of both history and water depends on stewardship. As time marches on making more history, the documentary evidence could easily overwhelm even very large organizations.

"By supporting and caring for its network of affiliated organizations, the MHC is stronger because its network of partners is stronger. This duality then serves the people of the state well as more history can be saved and shared, helping to transform people's lives," the article concludes.

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## A Good Friend of the SHS

### Former Mayor Bill Farrell: An Important Person in Shoreview's History

Former Shoreview Mayor William "Bill" Farrell, will always be remembered as a great supporter of Shoreview and also as a good friend of the SHS as he was frequently called upon to help



verify information about the city's past events---and in the process would wind-up telling several related stories.

He was a longtime SHS member as well.

Bill died in November at the age of 94. He was Shoreview mayor from 1970-75, when the city's population was about 8,000.

He had lived in Shoreview since 1963 and was an important person in the city's growth and history.

During his tenure as mayor a narrow referendum vote resulted in the building of a new \$500,000 city hall.

"On the night of the (referendum) vote, myself and some council members went to a restaurant to await the results," he said. "I was called to the phone and learned about the 261-260 vote that said 'go ahead and do it.' It proves that a single vote counts." Bill made that same point speaking to the SHS years later, just prior to a fall election.

Another major event was the 1971 crash of a new steel broadcast tower in the city which killed seven persons. Farrell later climbed a similar nearby 1,450 foot tower, which reportedly had some problems, to help prove it was a stable structure.

Farrell was proud of the new City Hall. He told the SHS newslet-

ter a few years ago that "initially, City Hall was referred to as 'Farrell's Folly', but it wasn't that---it served our needs," Bill said. "It was a significant installation for the dollars and a maintenance center, too, to protect valuable (construction) equipment that had been sitting outside."

Bill was interested in people and their lives. "I remember him more than once being a great motivator for me," says Jacci Krebsbach, SHS president.

"He always encouraged me and instilled confidence in me that I was capable of performing any task."

A Redwood Falls, MN., native, Bill once served as Commissioner of the State's Economic Development Department, and also various posts in the private sector.

## At The Board Meetings

During recent SHS Board meetings, directors--:

+ moved to join the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.  
+ worked with the City of Shoreview in a historical assessment of the LePak/ Larson farm home, now the site of the SHS. A strategic interpretive time-phased plan was drawn-up by City Intern Bridget Jensen.

+ thanked the Lexington Floral for its gift of \$126, part of its "Salute to Non-profits" program.

+ made plans for the Jan 16 "free appreciation breakfast" for members.

+ reviewed preliminary plans for this year's Heritage Family of the Year and also scheduling of quarterly membership programs.

### SHS Honored by City

Shoreview Historical Society again was among the Shoreview volunteer organizations honored at a special Nov. 15 dinner sponsored by the city at the Community Center

Shoreview Mayor Sandy Martin congratulated all the groups on their continued service, noting their existence contributed to the good quality of life in the community. Started in 1991, the SHS marked its 27<sup>th</sup> year in 2018.

**Historical ShoreViews** is published quarterly by the Shoreview Historical Society, 4600



N. Victoria St. MN 55126, for its members and friends. SHS board members

are: Don Follett, Carol Gross, Jacci Krebsbach, Bob Minton, Michelle Reichow, Lu Slaten, John Vadnais and Pam Videen.

To join the society, contact Bob Minton, 4818 Prairie View Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126 or email: [bmint99@gmail.com](mailto:bmint99@gmail.com) To contribute items to the newsletter, contact editor Don Follett at Tel: 651-490-7510 or email: [DHFCVF29@comcast.net](mailto:DHFCVF29@comcast.net)

## Upcoming Event at the MHC

### The Story of Fake News

The history of partisan media in America stretches back to the partisan newspapers of the early republic through the sensa-



tionalized yellow journalism of the Gilded Age. Americans did not start de-

manding accuracy from news until the 20th century, when influential citizens grew tired of their privacy being violated by muckrakers and tabloid writers, and journalists established their first code of ethics. ---*Minnesota History Center*

**Speaker: Michelle Nickerson, professor of history, Loyola University-Chicago.**

10 and 11:30 a.m. Jan 12 at the MHC.  
\$16/ 20% less for MHC members.

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### This Could Be Interesting

#### ' Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores' Talk At Roseville Library

"The Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores" is the topic and will be presented by Kristal Leebrick, long-time community journalist, author, and editor of the Park Bugle, at 1- 2:30 p.m.. Jan.15 at the Roseville Public Library. There is no charge, though seating is limited.

Leebrick is the author of the recent book "Thank You for Shopping: The Golden Age of Minnesota Department Stores." There was a time when department store shopping was a destination to include lunch and enjoyment of special clothing and product displays.

The talk is one of a series on a variety of topics given on Tuesdays at the library.

## SHOREVIEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### MEMBERSHIP DUES AND DUES RENEWAL FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

(Please include your email address to receive your newsletter. This is a private list, SHS does not sell nor distribute.)

#### Dues are:

Adult	\$15	- 3 yrs	--- \$38
Seniors	\$10	- 3 yrs	--- \$25
Student	\$10	- 3 yrs	--- \$25
Family	\$18	- 3 yrs	--- \$45

Add \$2 to cover postage for mailing the newsletter, if you don't include an email address

Total amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**A Historical ShoreViews subscription is included in dues**

Please make your check out to: Shoreview Historical Society, and mail to Bob Minton, 5818 Prairie Ridge Drive, Shoreview, MN 55126

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**Additional tax deductible donations are welcome.**

**You may also register for membership through our website:**

[www.ShoreviewHistoricalsociety.org](http://www.ShoreviewHistoricalsociety.org)

*The Shoreview Historical Society was born in 1991 when a group of residents took an interest in preserving and recording both the important and informal events in the city, and those that told of our city's growth and the deeds of our people. Since its inception, the society has worked to fulfill that mission. If you are interested in participating, please give any director a call.*