

SPRING/SUMMER 2019

Our Mission

To preserve, document and classify the physical history of the Lake Minnetonka area. To provide a means by which everyone can share in the history of the lake area. To stimulate interest in the cultural heritage of the area.

Founded in 1972, the Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society preserves the history of Lake Minnetonka and the communities of Deephaven, Excelsior, Greenwood, Shorewood, and Tonka Bay.

The Society's Museum and Archives are free and open to the public, and hold a large collection of historical artifacts and documents. It regularly presents programs and publishes books on topics of local historical interest.

ELMHS
PO Box 305
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952-221-4766
info@elmhs.org
www.elmhs.org

ELMHS
Executive Director:
Rachel Houck

ELMHS
Board of Directors

President: Deanna Bunkelman
Vice President: Tom Williams
Treasurer: Cheryl Ahlcrona
Secretary: Scott Dake

Directors: Peter Kizilos-Clift,
Francesca Landon, Mark Read,
Tad Shaw, Lisa Stevens, Jacob
Westman.

Emeritus Board Members:
Jerry Holl, Betty Peck

The Harborage

Annual Fundraiser - May 8



The Society invites you to our annual fundraiser "On the Waters of Lake Minnetonka," a history of sailing on the lake through word and image, on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, at the Old Log Theatre, 5185 Meadville Street, Greenwood, MN.

The presentation will feature a panel of sailing experts including Harold Pond Allen, Gordy Bowers, Tom Burton, Willie Crear and historian Scott D. McGinnis. A unique Silent Auction will offer beautifully framed historic prints, local nautical artwork, and gift certificates from generous local businesses. Meet the panelists, mingle with neighbors and friends, enjoy light appetizers and a cash bar at the reception following the presentation.

All proceeds will benefit the Society. For more information contact the Society at info@elmhs.org, 952-221-4766, or visit www.elmhs.org.

Schedule:

5:30- 6:45 pm: Silent Auction,
Cash Bar

6:45 pm: Theater doors open for
presentation

7:00-8:00 pm: Panel Presentation

8:00-9:00 pm: Reception, Light
Appetizers, Cash Bar

Tickets: \$25

Order online at
elmhsfundraiser.eventbrite.com



The Onawa on Lake Minnetonka, 1893.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 6:00 pm

Shorewood Community and Event Center
5735 Country Club Road, Shorewood

Members of the Society are requested to attend this year's Annual Meeting to learn about the Society's recent accomplishments and plans for the next year. Food and beverages will be provided and members are invited to bring a dessert to share.

The Society's Nominating Committee will present the following slate of nominees for the FY2020 Board of Directors: Vice President, Tom Williams; Secretary, Scott Dake; Directors, Andy Punch and Tad Shaw.

Directors who will continue their terms on the board are: President, Deanna Bunkelman; Treasurer, Cheryl Ahlcrona; Directors, Peter Kizilos-Clift, Francesca Landon, Mark Read, Lisa Stevens and Emeritus Board Members Jerry Holl and Betty Peck.

Andy Punch is being nominated for a first term on the board. Punch, a business analyst for Cargill, moved to Excelsior in 2013 with his wife and daughters and fell in love with the community. He is a member of the 144 year old Excelsior Masonic Lodge, the morning Rotary Club and enjoys giving back to the community.

Member Jacob Westman has completed his board term. Board President Deanna Bunkelman said, "Jacob was instrumental in the success of our Tapping History program at the Excelsior Brewing Company and we look forward to continuing to work with him. We wish him the best as he spends more time with his growing family."

Please contact the Society at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766 for more information.

Still It Stands: The Old Log

By Bella Hueffmeier, Ellen McRae, and Faith Quist

In the spring of 1940, Grace and Harry Kuechle decided to turn their log stable into what is known today as the Old Log Theatre in Greenwood. Throughout its almost 80 year run, the theatre has seen thousands of actors and staff, almost a thousand plays and well over a million audience members.

For the first 20 years, the Old Log operated as a summer stock theater. Acting company members of the day included Jean LeBouvier, Nancy Hadden, Rupert LaBelle, Edgar Meyer, and Maxine Stetson. Stetson notably performed at the Old Log for 20 years, from its opening in 1940 until 1960.

Don Stolz, who began his career at the theater as an actor in 1941, became an integral part of its history. During WWII, Stolz left the theater to serve in the Navy. After the war, Stolz returned to the Old Log and eventually bought the theater in 1946 for just \$1. Stolz took on the positions of owner, producer, and director.



Postcard image of the Old Log Theatre, 1963. The caption reads, "The Most Beautiful Theater in the Country."

(Continued on page 3)

Call for Museum Hosts

Our museum at 305 Water Street (in the old Excelsior Depot next to the Lake Minnetonka LRT Regional Trail, and the Excelsior Library) opens for the season on Saturday, May 4! Our volunteers have been hard at work getting it in ship shape.

This year we are creating a new display that will allow members to showcase their own area history. Kay Derner, long-time ELMHS member and volunteer is up first with her display featuring Latham family and Excelsior Fruit Growers Association artifacts. Stop in and learn more about Kay's family history!

We also hope you'll help us keep the Museum open by signing up to volunteer as a Museum Host—for one shift or several. Duties include opening and/or closing the Museum, greeting visitors, selling books, and answering simple questions. No experience is necessary and training is provided. Sign up online at elmhs.org/museum. Contact us at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766 for more information.

Museum Hours:

Saturdays

May 4 – 18 • 1-4 pm

May 25 – August 31 • 10 am-4 pm

September 7 – 28 • 1-4 pm

Tuesdays

May 21 – September 24 • 2-5 pm



Museum volunteers Carl Floren (left) and Mike Kimitch (right) repairing the Excelsior Amusement Park Kiddieland Miniature Train signal light at the ELMHS museum, 2018. Photo courtesy Cheryl Ahlcrona.

From the Director

Registration for our summer history camps is now open! This is the first time ELMHS has created programs specifically for our younger audience and we are thrilled to start getting the next generation excited about local history (see page 5 for more info).

Speaking of the next generation, I am proud to introduce four Minnetonka High School students who are volunteering with us this year! Bella Hueffmeier, Ellen McRae, and Faith Quist are writing articles for the ELMHS newsletter and Lake Minnetonka Magazine. They currently serve as writing coaches at the high school Writing Center. See their article about the Old Log Theatre on the facing page. Also, Linden Rude, who is interested in working as an event planner, has been instrumental in helping us prepare for our Annual Fundraiser. THANK YOU to all four young ladies for their hard work.

If you would like to get involved with all the new amazing things happening this year at ELMHS, I would love to talk to you.

Rachel Houck
Executive Director
Director@elmhs.org

(Continued from page 2)

The whole Stolz family— wife Joan and all five sons— were actively involved in the business: starring in shows, painting sets, working the ticket booth, etc.

In 1960, the current theatre, which seats over 600 people, was built near the original. As year round operation began the Old Log Theatre continued to produce contemporary plays but also started producing children's shows.

Then, in 2013, the Old Log was purchased by Marissa and Greg Frankenfield, admirers of the rich tradition and impact of the theater. The Frankenfield family updated the space with state of the art lighting and sound systems, and the fine dining restaurant Cast & Cru. Today, visitors can still enjoy dinner and a show - all while basking in the beauty and history of the Old Log Theatre.

Summer Programs & Events

Monday, May 27, 2019

following the 11:30 am Memorial Day Ceremony at Oak Hill Cemetery, just east of 810 Excelsior Boulevard, Excelsior.

Oak Hill Cemetery Tour

with historian Scott D. McGinnis



*Oak Hill Cemetery, 2017.
Courtesy Scott D. McGinnis.*

Join historian Scott D. McGinnis at the top of Oak Hill as he leads a tour of historic Oak Hill Cemetery—Excelsior’s burial ground since the 1850’s. Scott will highlight the lives and deaths of the area’s settlers and veterans and will answer questions about those buried here. [Tour includes steep and uneven terrain.]

Cruise with Us Aboard the Historic Steamboat *Minnehaha*

*Board at the Minnehaha Dock, 687
Excelsior Boulevard, Excelsior
Tickets: \$20 ELMHS Members,
\$35 non-ELMHS Members.*

Purchase tickets at

elmhs1.eventbrite.com

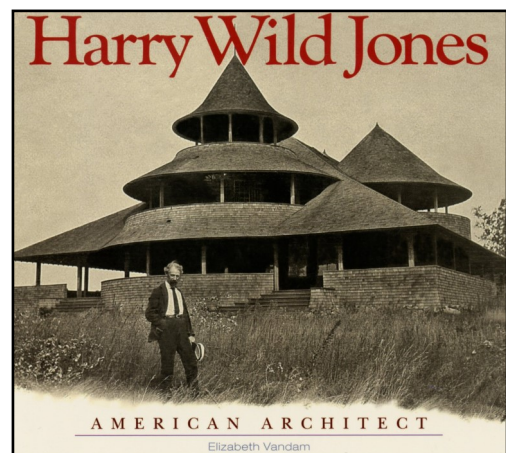
*For more information: info@elmhs.org,
952-221-4766, www.elmhs.org.*

Monday, June 10, 7:00 pm

(boarding begins at 6:45 pm.)

Cruise: Harry Wild Jones with Liz Vandam

Architect Harry Wild Jones is perhaps best known for his design of the original Minnetonka Yacht Clubhouse in 1890 (below). Following this commission, several yacht club members hired Jones to design their own Deephaven lakeside residences. Liz Vandam, author of *Harry Wild Jones, American Architect*, will discuss Jones’ career and designs as we cruise past the sites of these structures. ***ELMHS Members will receive a copy of Vandam’s book with cruise ticket purchase.***



Monday, July 8, 7:00 pm
(boarding begins at 6:45 pm.)

Cruise: TBA

Visit www.elmhs.org or follow us on Facebook for updates.

Monday, August 12, 6:00 pm
(boarding begins at 5:45 pm)

4th Annual Classic Boat Cruise
with F. Todd Warner

Join vintage boat authority F. Todd Warner aboard the “Minnehaha” and discover the beauty and significance of classic boats as they cruise by. If you have a classic boat on Lake Minnetonka you would like to showcase, please contact the Society at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766.

TAPPING HISTORY BACK AT THE BREWERY

At Excelsior Brewing Company
421 Third Street, Excelsior
Free & Open to the Public.
Doors Open at 6:00pm
Seating is First Come, First Served.

Monday, September 9, 7:00 pm

End of the Road
with Steve Kobs

While researching his family history, Steve Kobs uncovered fascinating stories of the people who lived and died at the end of Excelsior's Third Street around 1900. Hear stories of sailing the high seas, opioids, Dan Patch and women stunt bicyclists. Colorful family feuds, an insane asylum, and bird sanctuary come into play as fortunes are made and lost. Steve will also share tips about the ELMHS archives and other useful resources he employed to learn more about the Milnors, Bells and Savages.

***NEW* Youth Summer Camps**



ELMHS is now offering youth Summer Camps through Minnetonka Community Education. Full day and half day options available. All camps will meet at the Excelsior Elementary School. For registration information please visit Minnetonka Community Education at minnetonka.ce.eleyo.com/.

Homestead 101 Camp:

Campers will spend the week experiencing what life was like in Minnesota in the late 1800s and learning the skills children used on homesteads, including laundry, gardening and cooking. State and local history will be shared through stories, active play and field trips to local historic landmarks. This camp is recommended for rising 1st-5th grade. Junior Homesteaders (camp assistants) age requirements: rising 6th-8th grade

Dates & Times:

June 10-13: 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Cost \$245
June 17 -20: 9:30 am-1:30 pm. Cost \$175

Teatime Camp:

Campers will learn to sew napkins, churn butter and do laundry the old-fashioned way while learning local history in the process. Children will also learn and practice manners and social graces. All these accomplishments will be celebrated on the last day of camp at a “historic” tea party. This camp is recommended for rising 1st-5th grade. Junior Teatime Guides (camp assistants) age requirements: rising 6th-8th grade.

Date & Time:

August 19-22, 9:30 am-3:30 pm. Cost \$245

MEMBERSHIP

Members shape the Society's policies and programs, and support our work in preserving the area's history.

Annual member benefits include:

- ◆ The Society's newsletter and mailings
- ◆ Invitations to special events
- ◆ Discounts and special member privileges on select opportunities
- ◆ Voting privileges

Membership Levels

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 | Platinum | <input type="checkbox"/> \$45 | Household |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Gold | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Individual |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Silver | <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 | Senior |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 | Bronze | | |

Or, make an individual contribution of any amount!

\$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Mail form and check made out to ELMHS to PO Box 305, Excelsior, MN 55331. You can also join or contribute online at www.elmhs.org. The Society is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

VOLUNTEERING

- Please contact me about volunteering for the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

DONATION OF ARTIFACTS

- Please contact me regarding the donation of historical items to the Society. (See panel to right for more information.)

Volunteer with Us!

The Society is staffed entirely by volunteers and welcomes people of all ages and abilities to pursue their passions and assist in areas including:

- **Archives:** Assisting visitors, scanning, filing, researching, data entry.
- **Museum:** Serving as a host, cleaning and upkeep, data entry.
- **Publications:** Marketing merchandise to vendors, conducting inventories, selling merchandise at events, creating new books.
- **Programs and Events:** Set up and take down for Tapping History, welcoming people, creating new programs.
- **Membership and Fundraising:** Recruiting new members, contributors and volunteers, helping with direct mail appeals and special fundraising events, data entry.
- **Communications:** Writing press releases, creating marketing materials, contributing to social media, maintaining our website.
- **Technology:** Maintaining the Society's computer network and hardware, troubleshooting IT issues.

Training in all areas is provided. Contact us at info@elmhs.org or 952-221-4766 to learn more or visit our website at www.elmhs.org/volunteer.

Donate Artifacts

Donations of historic artifacts, photographs and documents pertinent to the history of the south Lake Minnetonka area are welcome for preservation in our Archives and display in our Museum. Help us share our community's history with future generations by sharing your history with us! (Due to space limitations, the Society is unable to accept all donations.)



Major George Halstead at his "Hermitage" in Minnetrista, discovered and donated by Excelsior's Lori Anderson while remodeling her historic home.

Thanks for your support!
NEW AND RENEWED MEMBERS, AND CONTRIBUTORS
December 1, 2018—March 31, 2019

MEMBERSHIPS

Platinum Level

Joseph Schwartz

Gold Level

Dean Akins
Michael Bussey

Silver Level

Carol Downie & Gregory Thomas
F.G. "Woody" Jewett
Woody Love
Larry Opfer
Nick Ruehl

Bronze Level

Jeff Kamrath
Darel & LaVerna Leipold
Debra McNamee
Craig Shaver
Jane Stein
Jacob & Shay Westman

Household Level

Bruce Hedblom
Peggy Naas

Individual Level

Susan Berdahl
Marybeth Darusmont
Jolie Hockert
Joanie Holst
Joyce Hummell
Greg Lerud
Michelle Mullenbach
Charty Oliver
Nancy Smith

Senior/Student Level

Mary Ashley
Elaine Clyborne Barber
Linda Bean
Betty Bright
Francis Colby
Roger Cuthbertson
Kay Derner
Mary Grahek
Sharon Hamlin
Karen Kertzman
William Kimber
Peter Kizilos-Clift
Beverly Lane
Nancy Olmsted
David Pfeffer
Rita Sandstrom
Kathleen Sullivan

Life Members

(No longer offered.)

Bart Baker
Alec & Marianne Beck
Bob & Diane Bolles
Suellen Douglas
Don & Frannie Douglass
Kristin & Ken Dowell
Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Fayfield
John Gorecki
John P. & Jan Gray
Phil & Eileen Hallin
Paul Huber
Ron Hughes
Dr. & Mrs. Randy Julian
Terrance Kellogg
Mr. & Mrs. Nick Johnson
Mark Knowlton
Tom & Carol Knowlton
Michael Kramer
Ann Lundsten
Scott D. McGinnis
Minnesota Streetcar Museum
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Bill & Steph Naegele
Aaron Person
Sharon Provost
Kellie & Gary Ringate
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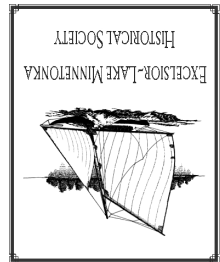
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