



McFarland Historical Society

5814 MAIN STREET, MCFARLAND, WISCONSIN 53558

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For a color version, go online: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>

Join Us For the Annual Meeting

March 5, 1 - 3 P.M. at the E.D. Locke Library



Row, Row, Row Your Boat No More!

Our Float the Boat campaign and the acquisition of the double-pointed rowboat has added awareness to the historic connection of Lake Waubesa and the development of early McFarland. For many of us who love to cruise around the lake, we have to thank Ole Evinrude for adding to our pleasure with his development of the outboard motor.

Local historian Lorraine Hawkinson will be our featured speaker at our annual meeting to be held at the E.D.



Ole Evinrude

Locke Library Community Room on Sunday, March 5, beginning at 1 pm. She will share the intriguing story of just how a Norwegian immigrant came to Dane County and created an invention that would significantly contribute to the special flavor of life on Lake Waubesa for residents and tourists alike. Ole Evinrude's ideas would make his name and Wisconsin famous for outboard motors.

All area residents are invited to attend the Society's annual meeting which promises to be fun and entertaining with some surprises, project updates, recognition of contributors to our Float the Boat campaign and awards to special volunteers. Beverages and other treats will be served.

For more information, visit the society's website: www.mcfarlandhistorical.org.

Volunteer of the Year

Our volunteer of the year will be recognized again at the annual meeting on March 5th. But unlike in past years, this person's identity will remain a secret until a special presentation is given at the annual meeting. It is safe to say that this person has contributed a great deal to the mission of the McFarland Historical Society and is well-respected by our members and the community. Come to our annual meeting and see the video about the work of our volunteer of the year so that you may learn his/her identity and help us honor this person.

Updates to the Bylaws

Explanation: We are eliminating the "student" classification as we have not used it since the "family" category also includes students. We are dividing annual dues into part B and lifetime dues into part C for greater clarification.

These changes will be ratified by the membership at the annual meeting.

Article 1: Membership

Section 2: Classification

A. Membership shall be classified as follows: individual, family, business and professional, or lifetime.

B. The yearly dues shall be \$15 for individuals, \$25 for family, \$250 for business and professional.

C. The lifetime dues for individual/family is \$150.



Museum Expansion

By Don Peterson

With only a few finishing touches remaining, the 550 square foot addition to the rear of the McFarland Historical Museum is essentially completed. In conjunction with the new addition, coordinated upgrades were also made to the roofing, electrical, and heating systems of the existing museum, with replacement of siding tentatively planned for later this year.

The museum addition provides more floor and wall space to display items from our ever growing collection, adds a new multi-purpose room for records preservation, working on displays, and meetings, and allows for optimizing and improving current display spaces.

The lobby area of the museum will be reorganized in the near future to provide a small reception area and more displays. The expanded display space in the new addition, however, likely won't be open to the public until spring 2018. In the meantime this space will be used for extensive restoration of a very old rowboat, uniquely pointed on both ends like those utilized by the resorts on Lake Waubesa more than a century ago. The restored rowboat will eventually become the centerpiece of a series of related displays that will highlight the vital role that the lake and the river have played in the history of the McFarland area.

Don Peterson, Bob Kolek, Dale Marsden, Wes Licht and Dick Kohl fixed the storage area in the back of the museum after the addition was completed.



The Tours Must Go On

By Wes Licht

In mid-October eight classes of third-graders were scheduled to visit the McFarland Historical Museum despite the on-going construction of the addition to our main building. Some extra planning and preparation was needed to ensure that the students would be able to safely visit the log cabin and the early farm exhibit in the annex.

Electrical power to both buildings had been cut off as the concrete foundation and floor had been poured and the roof to the skeletal structure of the addition was being added. With some extension cords and lamps from Dale Marsden and Wes Licht, the very dark annex and the log cabin became bright enough for touring. Dick Kohl's powerful battery lamp lit up the cabin loft, a favorite exhibit always intriguing to the many third-graders.



Katie Gletty-Syoen explaining the use of the ice box in the 1920's Kitchen to a group of third graders.

So our tours went on uninterrupted. Beginning in the lobby, each class was given an intro to our museum and a brief overview of the "Wisconsin in the Great War" exhibit. Then with smaller groups of students, our guides shared highlights of the various displays throughout the entire museum, log cabin and annex. Lots of interesting comments and questions from the curious minds were addressed as the third-graders moved from exhibit to exhibit. All students handled navigating around the construction without any problems and kept on task despite the alternative lighting. Although being close to Halloween, the annex lighting had a hint of spookiness when students first entered.

Thanks to Gini Nichols, Don Peterson, Katie Gletty-Syoen, Jane Licht, Ginny Dodson, Dale and Wes for their efforts to share a bit of history with our third-graders. Once again, enthusiasm and good behavior was exhibited by our young visitors.

Society Obituaries



David Houghton

David Drew Houghton passed away peacefully in Woodbury, Minn., on June 22, 2016. David was born on April 26, 1938 in Philadelphia, Penn. He earned a BS in Meteorology in 1959 and an MS and PHD from the University of Washington, Seattle graduating in 1963. While in Seattle, he met Barbara Coan, a fellow Quaker and folk dancer. They were married on June 22, 1963. Their first two children, Eric and Karen, were born in Boulder, Colorado in 1964 and 1966 and Steven was born in Madison in 1969.

David's life was rich and full. He worked for 38 years at the University of Wisconsin-Madison while raising his children on a 3.5 acre homestead outside McFarland. He worked with the McFarland Historical Society, serving on its board of directors.

He spent the years from 2008 to 2016 in Woodbury, Minn., where he and Barbara lived in the Stonecrest retirement community where he was a community builder.

He is survived by his brother Bob and sister Eleanor; children Eric, Karen and Steven; and beloved grand-children Collin, Bridgette, Nicolas, Annika, Tyler, and Hannah.



Arthur J. Anderson

Arthur Jerome Anderson, age 94, passed away peacefully on Aug. 1, 2016 at Oak Park Place in Madison.

Arthur served in the 382 Anti-Aircraft Battalion in Texas, California, New Guinea, and the Philippines.

After the war, Arthur returned home to Madison and helped his mother and family run the Dutch Mill restaurant. Arthur married Nilde Nobile on Jan. 27, 1948.

He worked as a carpenter for 40 years building many houses in Madison and Fitchburg. For 41 years they made their home in Madison, and later they retired to a home off of Lake Kegonsa in the Town of Dunn. Arthur is survived by six children, Cynthia (Lin) Anderson of St. Paul, Minn., Julie (Rod) Feld of Aurora, Ill., Nina Wilson (Dan Olson) of Janesville, Wis., Lori (Jim) Wersal of Stoughton, Wis., Ron (Lisa) Anderson of Fitchburg, Wis., and Amy (Tim II) Kiefer of Appleton, Wis.; 12 grandchildren, Eric, Nick, Andrew and Joel Feld, Natalie (Wilson) Nelson, Anthony and Jonathan Wilson, Angela (Wersal) Robinson and Austin Wersal, Garrison, Gabrielle and Grace Kiefer; also six great-grandchildren.



Corrine Elnora Niedenthal

Corrine Elnora (Helmke) Niedenthal, age 87, died of ALS on Sunday, Oct 2, 2016, at Agrace HospiceCare in Fitchburg.

Corrine was born on Aug. 24, 1929, in Madison, just minutes after her identical twin, Carol, to Dorothy Nelson Helmke and Chester Carl Helmke. She grew up with her three beloved sisters in McFarland, and graduated from Madison East High School in 1947. Corrine attended the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and earned a Bachelor of Science in Art Education degree with honors in June 1951.

On Aug. 13, 1955, Corrine married Morris Jerome Niedenthal at Bethel Lutheran Church, Madison, and joined him at the Chicago Lutheran Theological Seminary in Maywood, Ill., where he was completing a Masters in Divinity. Corrine's son, Simon, was born in 1958, and her daughter, Paula in 1960.

Morris died in 2008. Corrine moved into Skaalen Village in her hometown of McFarland in 2013. She became deeply involved with the McFarland Historical Society and the McFarland Lutheran Church, and delighted in her friends and many nearby family members.

Corrine is survived by a son, Simon (Tina-Marie Whitman); daughter, Paula (Markus) Brauer; six grandchildren, Camilla and Adrian Niedenthal, and Alex, Theo, Sebastian, and Benjamin Brauer; sister, Audrey Helmke Endres; and a number of very dear nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents; and two sisters, her twin, Crystal Carol Lokken, and Delores Fisher.

Board Members and Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to help with the many responsibilities at the museum and the Larson House. Board members are needed to keep organizational business running smoothly. The museum and Larson House are open Sundays 1 to 4 P.M. from Memorial Day thru September and by appointment. Contact Dale Marsden at: 838-3992 or email at: marsdenhoney@yahoo.com for more information. For anything related to the Larson House Museum, contact Jane Licht at: 838-8178 or email at: licht.jane@gmail.com. Also visit our website at: <http://www.mcfarlandhistorical.org>.

A Very Victorian Christmas at the Larson House Museum

By Jane Licht

A swirl of activities enveloped the Larson House Museum during the month of December, 2016. Even before December, volunteers moved Christmas trees from the attic and basement to various rooms, decorated those trees and hung garlands and wreaths. There was a reception for volunteers on December 1st, and over 150 guests visited on December 3rd for Christmas in the Village at the Larson House. A team of piano players took turns tickling the keys on the living room piano and a choir from the United Church of Christ sang Christmas carols. Homemade cookies and hot cider were available in the kitchen and the dining room table was set with ruby red glassware and a typically Victorian wreath hung down from the chandelier. Visitors purchased gift baskets, mugs, teas, herbs and artfully decorated gourds. Children listened to a reading of the *Night Before Christmas* and visitors perused the house, read the histories and listened to tour guides.

Two book clubs and a Red Hat ladies' group rented the Larson House for their special events in December. A tea was given for a group of friends and a tour for a Cub Scout group. Some of the volunteers dropped in at various times to give tours to their friends and family members. So the beautiful Larson House Museum was alive with activity during the month of December. It has truly become a community resource that is beloved by many.

The decorations have been carefully taken down, placed in tubs and on storage shelves. The empty trees will spend their time under wraps in the attic and the basement, waiting for next year.



Norb Krusiec reads the "*Night Before Christmas*."

A huge thanks to all the volunteers who helped with our Christmas activities: Dale Marsden, Bob Kolek, Don Peterson, Wes Licht, Norb Krusiec, Kathy Krusiec, Jane Licht, Vicki Holten, Judy St. Clair, Sherry Blanchar, Peggy Anderson, Cheryl Heilman, Lois Heilman, Cathie Richards, Annette Kolek, Marlene Richard, Vicki Holten, Jane Licht, Carole Pingel, Thelma Allen, Carol Torgeson, Margit Schiefelbein, Rosali Richardson, Russ St. Clair, Cheryl Ackley, Lee Ackley, Cathie Richards, Ginny Dodson, Issac Boyd, Terry Peterson, DeAnn Larson, Sue Vick Finley Jo Thomley, and John Wendling.

If you wish to schedule a tour of the Larson House Museum this spring, contact Jane Licht at 608-838-8178.



Isaac Boyd playing the piano.

The house will not be decorated for Christmas but it will continue to be lovely and interesting. As the year progresses, the flower and herb gardens will add to its attractiveness. Beginning Memorial Day weekend, it will be open on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 PM.

Plaques on Display at the Annual Meeting

Some of the plaques to be hung in the museum will be on display at the annual meeting on March 5. These are plaques where donors have given at the platinum (\$2000), gold (\$1000), silver (\$500) and bronze (\$200) levels for the new addition to the museum as part of the Float the Boat campaign. In addition, donors will be listed on the Pewter plaque (\$100) and in the Float the Boat book (\$25).

There is a requirement that those being honored at the platinum, gold and silver levels must have been active in the McFarland area. All of the donors at these levels have contributed a great deal to this community and most of them are still living. Their stories are quite interesting and contribute to preserving local history. Donations at the various levels are still being gratefully accepted and are needed to complete the new displays that are planned for the addition.

Special recognition will be given to Corrine Niedenthal who named the records and meeting room, and to John Wendling who purchased naming rights to the hundred-year-old rowboat that will be restored and on display in the new addition. The name of the boat will be "*Ruthie's Boat*" after his beloved wife Ruth Larson Wendling, the youngest daughter of Obed and Mabel Larson. Ruth and her sisters helped their parents operate Larson's Beach Resort. Obed and his father John began the resort with a few cottages, the store and six rowboats pointed on both ends – just like the one now owned by the society.

Corrine grew up in her grandparent's home on Main Street with her sisters and mother Dorothy Helmke. After graduating from the UW-Madison, she married and left the state. In her 80's she moved back to McFarland and served as a board member of the McFarland Historical Society. She named the Children's Room at the Larson House Museum as well as the records and meeting room in the new addition. She also researched the Larson family genealogy, wrote a history of the little barbershop on Main Street and provided the artifacts for the Gold Star Mother's exhibit in the museum. (See Corrine's obituary in this newsletter.)

Chocolate Fest is a Yummy Success

By Jane Licht

The Chocolate Fest held last October at the Curling Club was a huge success. So successful that the organizers ran out of champagne and nearly ran out of chocolate.

Imagine an array of dreamy, dark, decadent chocolate desserts, soft candlelight, glistening champagne and lovely music – this is the ambiance of the famous McFarland



The main chocolate table was a real treat.

Chocolate Fest. In addition to McFarland's best bakers providing delicious desserts, Leanne Cordisco of the Chocolaterian Café brought some of her legendary chocolate treats for all to sample. Wine tasting was offered by a new Wisconsin winery – Sinnipee Valley Vineyard. They served three wines that pair nicely with cheese, fruit and chocolate - all available at the event. Coffee from Capitol Coffee and Door Creek Orchard apple cider was also served. Live music was by McFarland musicians Donna Van Bogaert and Rosalie Richardson. An upscale silent auction offered a wide variety of interesting items. The proceeds of \$9,065.82 will benefit the McFarland Historical Society's Larson House Museum.

Thanks to the Chocolate Fest Committee of Vicki Holten, Sherry Blanchar, Kathy Krusiec, Judy St. Clair, Annette



The McFarland Ambassadors in the kitchen. They also bused the tables.

Kolek, Carole Pingel, Carol Torgeson, Jackie Utter and Jane Licht. Thanks to Glenn Nielsen who provided the sound system and keyboard and to the gentlemen who poured wine, champagne, moved furniture, and helped set up. Thanks to the celebrity hosts, musicians, and to the McFarland Ambassadors who worked very hard in the kitchen and busing tables. And thanks to those who donated items for the silent auction, to those who purchased items from the silent auction, and to all who attended.

This event is critical in keeping the Larson House open and available for all to enjoy. Be sure to mark your calendar for October 7th from 7 to 9:30 PM for this year's Chocolate Fest.

New Board Members

Cindy and Rod Clark moved to McFarland in 1981 and their two daughters attended McFarland Schools. Cindy was a gifted and talented resource teacher in McFarland Schools for eight years. Rod was a manager for the Wisconsin State Department of Transportation. Both are retired and love to travel. They have been members of the McFarland Historical Society for over twenty years.



Paula Niedenthal lives in Madison with her husband Markus and the two younger of her four sons, but her connections to McFarland are strong. Her Grandmother Dorothy Helmke lived on Main Street and her mother Corrine Niedenthal and aunt Crystal

Lokken were board members of the Society. Paula is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the psychology department. She has a lifetime membership in the McFarland Historical Society.

Cindy, Rod and Paula will be nominated for membership on the board of directors at the annual meeting on March 5th. If you would like to serve on the board, please contact Dale Marsden at 608-838-3992.

Have you renewed your membership this year?

Your membership and donations help to support the McFarland Historical Society and keeps the museum operating. The "Float the Boat" campaign is still underway to generate funding for the museum addition, the restoration of the rowboat, and the creation of new displays. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution at one of the designated recognition levels shown below. A gift of \$100 or more will also satisfy your membership dues for 2017.

I want to support local history as a member of the McFarland Historical Society. Please enroll me as a new or renewal member for 2017.

(Select one membership option)

Individual	\$ 15
Family	\$ 25
Individual/Family life	\$ 150
Supporting	\$ 250
Business	\$ 250

Amount Enclosed: _____

Name(s): _____

Street or P.O. Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Ph: _____ Email _____

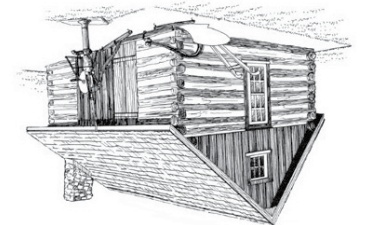
Check here if you would like to receive the newsletter by email in the future.

Go to www.mcfarlandhistorical.org for information and color photos on all McFarland Historical Society activities.

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