NBAHS 21st Annual Harvest Dinner to be Held October 8, 2017

The public is invited to the New Brighton Area Historical Society’s (NBAHS) 21st Annual Harvest Dinner which will be held Sunday, October 8, at 1:00 PM at the Eagles Club, 563 Old Highway 8 in New Brighton.

The Society will honor residents aged eighty years and over in the 55112 zip code area with a complimentary turkey dinner catered by the New Brighton Eagles Auxiliary. The price of the dinner for the public and other residents under the age of 80 will be $8. City officials and the New Brighton Ambassadors Royal Family have been invited. Entertainment will be provided by Jack Canfield and his “4 Plus” Band.

Reservations are necessary. Please call 651-633-4070 before October 1 for reservations.
NBAHS Annual Meetings Update

Over the last several years, the New Brighton Area Historical Society has worked with the Ramsey County Library and Minnesota Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund (ACHF), in coordinating programs for our annual meetings. We thank these groups for these opportunities. We also thank NBAHS Board members Wayne Searles and Fred Behrens for coordinating and presenting these programs.

2013: *The Dakota Uprising: A Pictorial History*, given by local historian, Curt Dahlin, who offered another look at Minnesota’s most tragic events during the U.S. - Dakota War in 1862.

2014: *The Longest Night - Tornado Terror in Minnesota*, with a talk by author Allen Taylor about the May 6, 1965, tornado that hit our area.

2015: *History of New Brighton: 1940-2015*, a historical presentation given by Wayne Searles & Fred Behrens, a program which showed significant events in our area history.

2016: *Good Times in New Brighton: A Century Worth of Celebrations*, a program on past New Brighton civic events, such as Old Timers Night, Squash Shows, Stockyard Days, 4th of July, Ice Fishing Contests, and more, given by Wayne Searles & Fred Behrens.

2017: *Civic Pride*, given by Wayne Searles & Fred Behrens, which featured three New Brighton area clubs: New Brighton Lions, New Brighton - Mounds View Rotary, and New Brighton Sportsmen’s Club. We saw how New Brighton benefits from these all-volunteer organizations.

Wayne Searles presenting at an NBAHS annual meeting
Bensing Honored by Stockyard Days and Minneapolis Aquatennial

New Brighton Area Historical Society Charter Board Member Jerry Bensing was honored during Stockyard Days Ambassador Coronation on Monday, August 14, at Mounds View High School, for his work for the society and for giving the New Brighton Ambassadors and candidates yearly tours of the New Brighton History Center. Bensing each year provides informative stories about the history of New Brighton to our pending and current royalty. Bensing was given the Honorary Commodore’s Award from the Minneapolis Aquatennial, medal, shown below.

Jan and Jerry Bensing, center, shown with Aquatennial officials.

Bensing, far right, shown with newly crowned New Brighton Ambassadors.
**NEW BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**NEW BRIGHTON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112**

www.newbrightonhistory.com

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**Photo Collection Update**

Did you know that the New Brighton Area Historical Society now has 4659 photos in its collections, and that 4274 have been digitally scanned, and that we now have 183 donors who either donated or loaned us photos for copying? A listing of our photos is found at our website, www.newbrightonhistory.com > Downloadable Files > Photo Database. If you find a photo there of which you’d like a digital or black and white copy, email us at nbahs@me.com. Copies are $10 per photo.

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**Welcome New Members**

The NBAHS welcomes new members:
- Connie Bernardy
- James Licke
- Julia Yurista Stephens
- Janice Chock
- Dale Searles

We appreciate your support!!

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**NBAHS 20TH ANNUAL RHUBARB FEST RECAP**

New Brighton Area Historical Society celebrated its 20th Annual Rhubarb Fest on Sunday, June 4, at which about 250 guests were served rhubarb desserts with ice cream. The Society also sold rhubarb jam, plants, cookbooks, and stalks. The Society thanks Dave Nathe of Riverside Farms for again allowing us to pull rhubarb, and Jeanne Hunn of Keys Restaurant, for providing delicious rhubarb desserts. See photos on right from 2017 Rhubarb Fest.
A Message From the President

2017 is my second year as president of the New Brighton Area Historical Society, and the rewards of being involved continue to grow. I’d like to share a little of my experience and let you know how you can get involved.

Since joining the New Brighton Area Historical Society, I’ve worked with our Board members to find support and to develop new initiatives to preserve and promote the history and archaeology of the area for our community. This has been a great adventure, from planning and helping with Rhubarb Fest and our presence at Stockyard Days, to restoring our 1950 Great Northern Caboose exhibit. I’ve learned about the numerous remains of the stockyards and ice houses in and around Long Lake Regional Park where the New Brighton History Center—our headquarters—is situated. As an archaeologist and anthropologist, I’m thrilled by the evidence for the Mdewakanton Dakota community that lived where Rice Creek meets Long Lake. In my career, I’ve conducted research in Europe and Asia, including Russia, Armenia, and Kazakhstan. If I’d known more about New Brighton history sooner, I may have never gone so far away to do research!

The New Brighton Area Historical Society’s greatest resource is our people. Recently you may have seen our Board members at Stockyard Days or Rhubarb Fest, or chatted with Board member Peg Joyce at the New Brighton Farmer’s Market. The newest member of our Board, Mark Haidet, has been involved in history for many years and gave an exciting presentation at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul on August 19, on the World War I period at the Minnesota State Fair.

We are fortunate to have such a dedicated Board and they are ready to share their love of New Brighton area history with you on weekends at the depot museum in Long Lake Regional Park, at our events, or when you see us out and about town. (This newsletter itself is the product of the diligent effort of our Secretary Joyce Klocz.)

Our people not only include Board members, but all the members of the society including you. Learn how you can get involved below!

All the best,

Dave Peterson

Are You a History Lover? Get Involved!

How can you get involved with area history and share in the fun? The first way is to join the New Brighton Area Historical Society or renew your membership, if you haven’t done so already. Information on membership is in this newsletter. The second is to visit the depot museum and see what we have, both inside and outside of the museum. We are one of many stops on a walking tour of New Brighton history in Long Lake Regional Park. When you visit the museum you can get a free guide to take with you on the walking tour.

We also need Board new members. Do you have a passion for history and want to attend our Board meetings once a month to help guide the direction of the society? Board meetings are held at 6 to 7:30 PM the first Thursday each month. Do you want to be involved in special projects and host the depot museum for a few weekends in late spring, summer, and early fall? Visit the museum and learn about how you can attend a Board meeting to learn if this is something you’d like to do. We vote on our roster of Board members at our annual meeting each April.
Electronic Records and the Museum Environment

Did you know that unprotected, most paper records like newspapers and photos will completely deteriorate in 100 years or less? That’s a long time in the life of individuals but an eyelash in history. If all the records from World War I and earlier were left unprotected, what would we know about that history? Much less than we do now.

In 2016, we conducted an assessment and long-term planning project for the New Brighton History Center and our collections, with a Legacy Grant from the State of Minnesota ($5000). This is an enormous undertaking requiring money, effort, and time. The assessment was only the first step to learn what we’re dealing with. With an additional investment of about $200, we purchased electronic data collectors that are currently measuring the temperature and humidity of the depot museum, which is the only space we have to store our collections. Along with archival quality storage supplies, stable and optimal temperature and humidity are needed to preserve our paper records, photos, and physical collections.

Preservation is expensive and worth it, but that means it’s competitive. After we have collected this data for about one year, we will have the information needed to prepare a new grant request to the State.

Shown below is one of the data collectors we’re using upstairs and in the basement of the depot. These collect temperature and humidity every hour, and data is downloaded to create reports.

The data collectors were a modest investment but the changes we’ll have to make to the museum environment will cost several thousand dollars when the time comes, including a new HVAC system. Matching funds always help in successfully winning larger grants. We are a certified non-profit organization and your donations are tax deductible. Please contact us if you would like to donate to help us succeed. Even $50 or $100 will be a great help, but no contribution is too small (or too large). You will find information on where to send donations on page one, and sponsoring donations will be acknowledged in our newsletters, the museum, and our web page.

Digital records are another way to win the fight to preserve New Brighton area history. There are aspects of collections that make it important to keep the original records and objects too, but digital records make it easier to share our collections, especially in the computer age. We are working on a grant application for modest but essential funds to buy a new laptop computer, archiving software, and photography equipment to create a digital record of all our collections.

While not as big as making improvements to the museum, it is also crucial to our mission and a time-consuming process that will take more than a year for an all-volunteer organization like ours. When finished we may be able to present our collections online with web hosting, not completely, but in enough detail to let students preparing assignments or researchers investigating our area’s history to know if they should visit us to look closer at specific records or objects. Again, we need any donations you can make to help with this. Keep watching this newsletter for continuing updates!

Your membership supports our all-volunteer organization and allows us to showcase our history and honor our heritage for years to come. Help us preserve and share the fascinating history of the New Brighton area by becoming a member today! If you are already a member, please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date. If expired, or about to expire, please renew in a timely manner and return the form below to: NBAHS, PO Box 120624, New Brighton, MN 55112.

Name ___________________________ Senior $10/per person over 65 ______ Date __________
Address ____________________________________ Individual $15 ______ Invite a friend to join the NBAHS
City ____________________________ State_______ Family $25 ______
Zip ________________ Phone __________________ Life $150 ______ Club, Business $100 ______
Email address ____________________________ I would like information on volunteer opportunities ______