New Brighton Area Historical Society Newsletter

New Brighton Area Historical Society Fall Program
"Interested in Finding Your Roots? Here's How to Get Started! "

The public is invited to join the New Brighton Area Historical Society on **Sunday, October 13 at 1:00 PM,** at the New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, for its Fall Meeting.

The Society will present a slide show by Jan Klein titled, "Interested in Finding Your Roots? Here's How to Get Started! "



Jan has been an active member the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) and has prepared over fifty applications for prospective members over the years. Her expertise in doing genealogy is exemplary, and we are proud to present her program on how to start your own family trees. She will have handouts for you to get started.

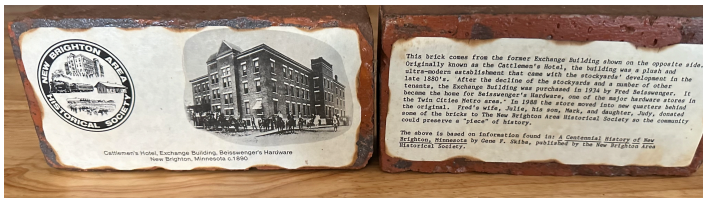
Jan was an original member of the NBAHS Board of Directors starting in 1980, and is a Life Member of the NBAHS. We welcome her.

New Brighton Mayor, City Council, and City Staff have been invited to attend.

Refreshments will be served. Questions can be addressed to (651) 633-4070 or nbahs@me.com.



NBAHS 2024-2025 Board members having a bit of fun at our last board meeting in September. Photographer Mary Burg, Director; left to right around the table: Jim (Bunny Ears) Nebel, Vice-President; Lori Nebel, Director; Joyce Kloncz, Secretary; Fred Behrens, President; Peg Joyce, Ron Cota, Art Oglesby, David Peterson, Directors; Wayne Searles, Treasurer.



Buy A Brick! We thank Beisswenger's Hardware for allowing us to sell original Exchange Hotel bricks at their store. These bricks are decoupaged with information about the Exchange Hotel, which eventually became Beisswenger's Hardware. Bricks are $10 and can be used as doorstops or book ends. Bricks are also available at the New Brighton History Center, open until September 29.

A Message From the President



With the passing of Labor Day, one thing is certain: Our beloved Depot Museum will soon be shutting down for the season. And this summer was, indeed, one to remember.

It all began on June 1, when our gang of volunteers harvested some 800 lbs. of rhubarb from Nathe's Elk River farm, from root stock originally sourced from the Hipp farm, on the very ground where our Depot is located. The following day our annual "Rhubarb Festival" was held, hosting over 300 guests enjoying our freshly baked rhubarb desserts; we also sold rhubarb stocks and plants and, of course, our very popular rhubarb jam, made by Board member Mary Burg. The result: the event was a sell-out, and a major "kick-off" fund raiser for our Society!

As the season progressed, our Depot welcomed the usual inflow of curious visitors—literally from all over the world. For example, just recently on a Saturday in late August we received a large extended family from Ukraine (Odessa) numbering over one dozen. The group included young children speaking excellent English, who served as translation intermediaries for their older relatives. It was most gratifying to observe the genuine curiosity exhibited by those witnessing artifacts from a culture totally foreign to them. The group stayed for over one hour.

Shortly after their departure, a smaller family from India (Punjab) came in. Again, the group was attentive and inquisitive, and sincerely fascinated with our exhibits. As with any family visit, one thing is certain: the kids love our caboose. This 1950's era Great Northern car, which is open to the public, is a major attraction to our many young visitors (and adults as well.)

And finally, near the end of that same day, a young woman from Germany (Munich) walked in to cap off our foreign "invasion", culminating a very interesting afternoon. It is somewhat unfortunate that we must shutter our Depot facility at the end of September, but mother nature and declining visitor numbers dictate this decision.

It is these many varied encounters that draws me to the Depot virtually every week-end. Thanks to the efforts of our talented 10-member Board, our history center is more popular than ever. This is largely made possible by the tremendous support from our members, volunteers, the community and donors, such as the Lion's Club and others. As a result, our Society is on a strong financial footing, and has the capacity to maintain and improve our Depot (now approaching its 140th year) for many years to come.

On behalf of our entire Board, we are truly grateful for your support. See you at the Depot!

Fred H. Behrens, President

Recently the New Brighton Area Historical Society received these two photos from Sandra Schutta. She had framed these photos for us to hang at the New Brighton History Center in Long Lake Park. Interestingly enough, we have copies of the New Brighton Bulletin articles about these two photos: 1907 Red School Students, previously located in the arsenal area, where her dad Raymond Schutta attended, and 1918 brickyard employees, where her dad worked. The brickyards were located on Long Lake Road, across from the first Irondale School. Original photos loaned by her brother Raymond (Boots) Schutta, NBAHS #37.03 and 37.02.



Little Free Library Update



Our Little Free Library is a success! Again we thank Finn White from Boy Scout Troop #106 for the planning and the building of the library as a part of his Eagle Scout project.

The library is stunning and all who have seen it have remarked on the authenticity to our depot museum.. It has two shelves for books - all types, children's as well as adults. Two drawers on back will hold our NBAHS literature and a geocache.

And we would be remiss if we didn't continue to thank Vice-President Jim Nebel, pictured with his final result. Jim worked continuously with Finn throughout the planning and building, hauled it to the destination outside the museum, poured concrete for the foundations, painted the posts, weather-stripped the doors for protection against weather, provided all the books in the library, and continues to check on it to make sure there are enough books in the library. Jim also worked with the National Little Free Library to provide signage and also GPS info so others can find it on the internet. Thanks so much, Jim; this would not have happened without your diligence.

We love to see our little guests stopping by to pick up books. One mother said that stopping at the library is the first thing her sons want to do on their bike rides through the park.



Rhubarb Fest 2024



The New Brighton Area Historical Society again held a very successful Rhubarb Fest back in June. We served over 300 plates of rhubarb sampler plates to our guests. Keys Restaurant in Roseville prepared eleven large pans of desserts: rhubarb pie squares, rhubarb crisp, and their signature cake with sour cream frosting inside.

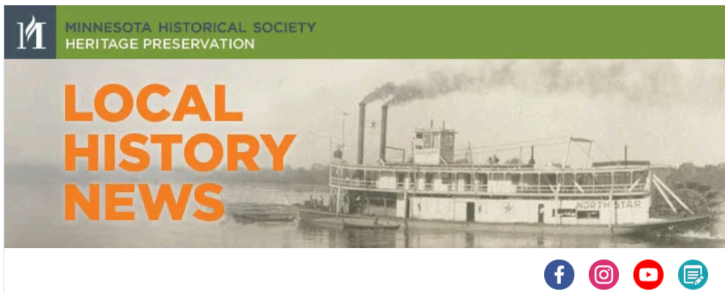
We sold 43 rhubarb plants, 150 packages of rhubarb stalks, 17 rhubarb recipe books, and about 50 jars of homemade rhubarb jam (Thanks, Mary Burg, for being our jam-maker!).



We thank the City of New Brighton for publicizing our event on their electronic bulletin board. And we thank the New Brighton Ambassadors and their Moms for their help! They stayed and scooped and served the entire three hours. We thank Culver's Restaurant in St Anthony for donating a huge tub of Culver's frozen custard.

And we must thank our dedicated board of directors (pictured on page 1) and their families for all their work in running this event. Pictured below is our Treasurer Wayne Searles who every year plants over 40 rhubarb plants for our sale.





Local History News: July 3, 2024



Field Note

On June 18, over 20 staff, board members, and volunteers gathered at the Bulwer Junction Depot for a Ramsey County History Network meeting. Hosted by the New Brighton Area Historical Society, the meeting featured updates from the various organizations and a conversation on how the group can better coordinate communication. Participant organizations included the Hill Farm Historical Society, the Little Canada Historical Society, the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums, the Minnesota Historical Society (Local History Services), the North St. Paul Historical Society, the Ramsey County Historical Society, the Roseville Historical Society, and the Shoreview Historical Society.

THRIVExpo

This will be the third year that the New Brighton Area Historical Society has participated in THRIVExpo, an event put on for the last 10 years by New Brighton Parks and Recreation. It's an event for 55+ which focuses on helping seniors age well as they live and thrive in their community.

The NBAHS has a table at this event featuring their brochures, flyers, books, and, of course, our homemade rhubarb jam and rhubarb cook book.

This year's event was held at the New Brighton Community Center on September 17.



Board members at last year's THRIVExpo include, back row, Jim Nebel, Lori Nebel, Mary Burg, Ron Cota, Wayne Searles; front row, Peg Joyce, Art Oglesby.

Caboose Signs in Freight Room Are Now Lit!

The NBAHS thanks NBAHS member Ron Burg, who along with Board Member Mary Burg, has updated our caboose signs located in our New Brighton History Center freight room. Ron has replaced the lighting with LED bulbs and has connected five of the signs with one switch. One remains to be completed.



A little historical background on those signs: Back in 1994, we were bequeathed the railroad memorabilia collection of Kermit Hedman, former Ramsey County Sheriff, who loved to collect railroad stuff. These signs were part of that collection, and our dream over the years was to get them lit again. And now it has happened! Thanks, Ron!