



Sister Bay Historical Society Spring/Summer 2020

“ T H E Y E A R O F C O V I D - 1 9 ”

A T W E N T Y - F I F T H A N N I V E R S A R Y T O R E M E M B E R

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Corner of the Past closed during COVID-19 pandemic
- History Center Report
- Eloise Lindem retires
- “Pioneer Women” a SBHS Publication
- Gladys Austgen passes away
- Two events planned for 2020

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Fred Johnson
Vice President John Fletcher

Secretary Pat Wisner
Treasurer Cathy Mangan

Past President Jill Lhost
Curator Roberta Kutlik

Director Linda Johnson
Director Roberta Champeau

Director Karen Sunstrom
Director Robert Jischke

Director John Nelson
Village Liason Scott Baker

Twenty-twenty was to be a celebration of the Sister Bay Historical Society's 25th Anniversary with special events and a dinner, however, the Covid-19 has altered those plans. We have decided that to protect our volunteers and visitors it was best to not open the Corner of the Past Museum this year. We will use the time to improve and remodel displays, and work on the general upkeep and restoration of our buildings.

Like most other groups we have canceled all our events for the summer, except for the Farmers Market beginning Saturday June 27 and the annual Garden Walk. The Garden Walk will still take place on July 9, and since it is an outside event and people

will be spread out, it should be a safe event. However, those attending these events should wear masks. The Saturday Farmers Markets will have a time change also. Customers



will be able to purchase food items from 9 am to 1 pm. All attending are required to wear masks and observe safe distancing. Pets are not allowed and it is recommended that children not attend the market.

Follow us on our Facebook page and watch our

website for special virtual features during this time, and we will see you all back at the Museum in 2021.

Since our fundraising events are very limited this season, we are hoping our supporters will consider donating to the SBHS more than they may have in other years. We will still have expenses as always but will be missing our usual income. If you are able, we would appreciate any and all contributions this year.

Donations may be made through our website or by mail at Box 34, Sister Bay. Please keep us in mind in your estate planning with legacy donations.

Fred Johnson, President

O B S E R V I N G S O C I A L D I S T A N C I N G



June, 2020 SBHS Board of Directors Meeting in the Koessl Barn.

BOARD MEMBER REPORTS :

The Volunteer Committee met 1/31/20. Discussions centered around a revised volunteer form on the SBHS website, requesting volunteer hours/tracking sheets to be sent in by 2019 seasonal volunteers (send to Box 34); abandoned plans for a Kick-off for members and friends for 2020; the need for volunteers with different talents. Contact Linda Johnson, Roberta Champeau, Jill Lhost or Fred Johnson.

Board Secretary, Pat Wisner: A first was achieved in early May when the SBHS met online, courtesy of the Door County Community Foundation's Zoom video conferencing system. Some participants were able to join in better than others; some only verbally and some came and went throughout the meeting. Nevertheless, we shouldered onward with great anticipation toward opening the museum for the season with

new restrictions, new docents, masks, and a sense of humor to carry us through this our twenty-fifth year. So many folks have had to adapt their plans for events and we will too with great anticipation for a wonderful year of enjoying our charming and cherished buildings and wonderful open grounds.

Remember that we are pet friendly (no, Fido doesn't need to wear a mask) and we are especially children friend-

ly. The Corner of the Past is an enchanting place to bring your children or grandchildren during this interesting time. We hope and plan to be open to welcome you and your family and friends.

EDITOR NOTE: This report was written before the Board voted to close for the 2020 season.

**A D H O C S B H S H I S T O R Y C E N T E R
P L A N N I N G C O M M I T T E E J I L L L H O S T**

“There is a silver lining to the enforced break in our planning “

Beginning in January, a working group began meeting monthly for the sole purpose of continuing discussions and planning for a SBHS History Center. We are fortunate to have engaged the services of Susan Gould.

Susan has extensive expertise in organizational planning and fundraising. Under her leadership we examined SBHS as it is today and a vision for the

future regarding membership, finances and operations.

The goal of all the analyzing was, and is, to assess our readiness to mount the capital campaign to build a facility that will meet the current and long-range needs of the SBHS. Then came COVID-19 and worldwide financial uncertainty. There are strengths and weaknesses in all organizations. If there is a silver

lining to the enforced break in our planning, it might be that we have time to work on improving some of our weak areas. With the hope that some of our 'normal' activities can be resumed in 2020, much focus is being given to complying safely in welcoming visitors and participants. Meanwhile, watch for updates on Facebook, email, and the new monthly e-newsletter!

I n M e m o r i a m

Remembering our members and friends:

Former Board Member **Phyl Mielke**, passed away in November, 2019

Deaths of **Raymond** and **Roberta Larson** were reported in November 2019.

Jean Lindem Matthews, sister to Curt Lindem, passed Dec. 6, 2019.

John Lindem, brother to Curt Lindem, passed May 19, 2019.

June Nelson, mother of our Board Member, John Nelson, March 10, 2020.

Word has come from Toledo, Ohio that the last child born in the Alex Anderson house in Sister Bay has passed away.

Charles E. Cameron, was the son of Sceone, daughter of Alex & Emma Anderson. "Chuck" was a

very devoted nephew of Ivan, son of Alex & Emma, who brought Ivan back to his old home many times. Chuck and Ivan were delighted when they saw how the old home was restored.

Chuck was 86 years old.

Eloise Lindem Retires after 25 Years!

On August 23, 1995, the first meeting to gather members for a Sister Bay Historical Society was held at the Village Hall in Sister Bay. It was a gala affair. Gladys Austgen played old favorites on the piano and 78 couples, individuals and businesses joined in song as they became the charter members of the new Society.

The first names on the list of charter members were Curt & Eloise Lindem. They felt it was important to honor all the early settlers and Curt & Eloise were especially interested in remembering Curt's grandfather Ole Thoresen Lindem who came from Norway in

1858 and settled on the banks of the Green Bay waters known as Little Sister.

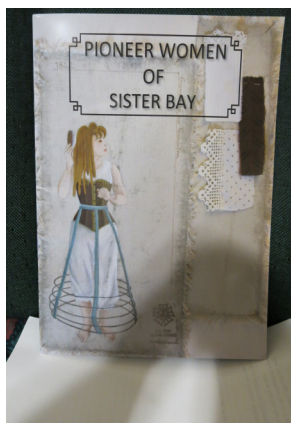
The Lindems had joined hands with Jim & Joan Champeau, Barbara McGivern, and Dorothea Johnson to take the first steps in organizing the SBHS. From that day in 1995 to the present Eloise has been a major factor in the development of the Society.

From early Board Member to tireless activity organizer, decorator, fund raiser, baker, and window washer, Eloise has never stopped trying to get new members. One of her secrets has been to pencil in personal notes



to our members whenever a mailing went out. She said, "I always wanted them to feel like they were one of a family."

Pioneer Women of Sister Bay



The beautiful renderings of Pioneer Women done by Karin Kopschke and the stories of these women written by Patti Podgers, have been published by the Sister Bay Historical Society in a lovely soft cover book for you to become familiar with ten women who come to life by telling their own

stories, "literally the unsung heroines of the frontier."

During this season, the actual renderings may be seen at the Sister Bay-Liberty Grove Library while the Corner of the Past is closed.

The book may be purchased on line at the SBHS website or by calling Linda Johnson at 854-4798. The price is only \$10, and you will be helping the SBHS at a time when your support is needed.

Read "highlights of these extraordinary women who helped settle the peninsula, pointing out both the surprisingly similar challenges they faced and the unique differences in their lives compared to contemporary women."

Gladys Austgen April 13, 2020

Our faithful organist, Gladys Austgen passed away on Easter Sunday in her home at the Meadows in Sister Bay.

Gladys and her late husband, George, came to Door County in 1990 from LaGrange, IL after years of devoted church work where they were involved with directing and accompanying choirs and singing on weekly radio shows in Chicago. Gladys accepted a job

as Music Director at Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church in 1992, and was also an Assistant Director of the Peninsula Chamber Singers. She was a beloved piano and voice teacher to countless children in Door County.

Gladys leaves six children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held in the future.



CALENDAR EVENTS

JUNE 27 First Farmers Market in 2020
Note the time change: **9 am to 1 pm** at
The Corner of the Past, Hwy 57 at Country
Lane & Fieldcrest Roads.

Parking: North Parking Lot only

**Following Wisc. Regulations for Farmers
Markets during the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Please wear a mask/face covering, use
hand sanitizer at entrance, follow walking
directions and observe the 6 foot social
distancing. Pets will not be allowed and
we ask not to bring children to the market.**

JULY 9 Annual Garden Walk

**We are happy to announce that we will
present four lovely gardens on Thursday
July 9 from 10 am to 4 pm.**

Tickets can be purchased at

**Jerry's Flowers, the Sister Bay Information
Office, and Sunnypoint Gardens just south
of Egg Harbor.**

**You will also be invited to visit the gar-
dens at the Old Anderson House Museum
and our 1885 Farm House at the Corner of
the Past. Tickets, \$20.**

Thank you for your support of the

Sister Bay Historical Society

HEALTHY BENEFITS OF BEING A VOLUNTEER!

Last October, I received an email from a friend in Nashville who collects and forwards the most interesting and common sense articles. I saved it because I thought maybe the ideas expressed in this "Healthy for Life" piece for Americans over the age of 60 might just be of interest to our members.

It comes from 'EatingWell' & the Meredith family of sites. I am not familiar with them, but their report on a study of the over 60s found that those who volunteered reported lower disability and higher levels of well-being than those who did not volunteer.

Are you still reading? I want to share 5 ways they believe you can boost your

health. V is for Volunteering

1. V. improves your social well-being: *Socializing & building strong bonds with others can do wonders for your health.*
2. V. helps you stay active: *Planting flowers, painting window-sills, & dusting help you work different muscles and build strength & they can be fun activities done with others.*
3. V. gives you purpose: *non-profits, and charities, depend on volunteers to support their causes. This purpose can have a big impact on your health. Still reading? On*

to number

4. V. boosts your mood: *It can be uplifting, meeting new people, learning new skills and just feeling happier.*
5. V. keeps your mind sharp: *Last one, challenge your brain to keep it strong. Help to plan events, drawing on your own experiences, learn to do some work on a computer, teach a skill to other volunteers.*

At this point, I don't have to say much more than WE NEED YOU YOUNG 60s to get on board with us at the SBHS. Come with your best friend or come & meet one!