



Sacred Heart Area Historical Society

2023 Annual Report

Dear Members and Partners,

The start of a new year is a time for reflection on our accomplishments in the previous year. The Sacred Heart Area Historical Society had a very busy 2023. I would like to give you some highlights of SHAHS's growth.

We offered 3 tours this year. The House Tour focused on 4th Avenue and included a luncheon during the Summerfest. The September tour of Skalbekken Park (Renville County Park 1). provided new information on the abandoned sawmill and the memorial at Deep Eddy. The Vicksburg tour has been so popular that we presented yet another tour in October.

Our county fair exhibit in Bird Island focused on farming in the Sacred Heart area. Visitors had the opportunity to register for a free one-year membership in SHAHS. Congratulations to the two winners, Jackie Epema and Harold Haug. Thank you to all fairgoers who visited our exhibit. The fair material was incorporated into a special farming exhibit at the Sacred Heart Area Museum. "Farming in Sacred Heart" will open in February.

The museum was closed during construction for new lighting in the collections and storage spaces. This project was made possible in part by the people of Minnesota through a grant funded in part by an appropriation to the Minnesota Historical Society from the Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund. The museum lighting project sparked other unexpected improvements, mainly due to moisture infiltration.

- installation of 2 new walls with insulation in the research room
- wider doorway into research room
- expansion of library shelving and new carpeting in the research room
- kitchen remodeling which included painting, cabinet removal, and new ceiling & north wall
- painting the lower level storage room, bathrooms and back stairway
- new roof shingles; new gutters

Thank you for your patience during this time of change.

SHAHS Board

President **Howard Dahlager** 320-979-0689
Vice President **Margie Flaata** 320-765-2337
Secretary **Cheryl Skalbeck** 320-333-2837
Treasurer **Gretchen Eliason** 320-765-2695
Social Director **Tami Hebrink** 320-765-2739
Publicity Director **Sonja Thune** 320-765-2274
Properties Director **LaMont Jacobson** 320-765-2578



Sacred Heart Area Museum - 14 December 2023





Progress on the Hotel building was on hold this year for lack of funding. With the storage shed gone, we landscaped the area behind the hotel. A big thank you to the volunteers! The next step is to seek public support and grant funding for windows and doors.



In 2019 the SHAHS leased its 6.7 acres of land near the railroad track, on the northwest end of town, for a solar garden. This partnership supports the mission of the SHAHS by providing an opportunity for educational tours on green technology as well as to provide funds for the historical society's projects.

I'd like to thank all members, volunteers, and partners. Your support has made all this possible! We're looking forward to another great year with your support. We hope to see you at the Grand Reopening. Watch for more details.

Sincerely,
Sonja Thune, SHAHS Executive Director

SHAHS
300 5th Ave
PO Box 462
Sacred Heart, MN 56285
1-320-765-8868
shahs@hcinet.net

Life Members

January 1 – December 31, 2023 ~ SHAHS Volunteers are starred (*)

Agre, Alice
Anderson, Keith & Beverly
Barnaal, Dennis
Bjordal, Keith
Chelin, Curtiss
Eliason, Harlan * & Gretchen *
Elliot, Evelyn
Enestvedt, Verla (passed 6 Aug 2023)
Enestvedt, Iverne
Haaland, Carlyle & Mary
Hoff, Nancy *
Jambeck, Pamela

Johnson, John Arlen & Phyllis
(passed 15 November 2023)
Johnson, Jane
Jordet, Pete (passed 7 December 2023) & Vi
Keegan, Thomas
Knutson, Douglas & Lavina (passed April 26, 2023)
Kull, Larry
Langehough-Boris, Eyvonne
Lanning, Bradley
Lanning, David
Lanning, Paul & Liz

Lanning, Peter
Laverty, Gloria
Lerohl, Robert & Helen
Loe, Anitra (passed 22 August 2023)
Mahlum, Mike
Malecek, Desmond (passed 26 April 2023) & Judy
Neutgens, Lisa
Skalbeck, Bruce * & Cheryl *
Skalbeck, John
Sunvold, Darrell (passed 9 May 2023) & Mary

Sunvold, Marjorie
Swanson, DeVona
Throngard, Eleanor
Thune, Sonja *
Weeldreyer, Suzanne
Wharton, Bob & Pat

Applications for life memberships in SHAHS are not currently being accepted.

Yearly Members

January 1 – December 31, 2023 ~ SHAHS Volunteers are starred (*)

Agre, Dan & Deb
Agre, Jerry O & Donna
Agre, Marilyn *

Agre, Scott & Tara, Eliza, Erick,
Lydia
Agre, Steve

Allen, Dallas (passed 27 February 2023)
Allen Co. Public Library
Anderson, Kevin

Anderson, Trygve
Ashburn, Molly
Anhorn, Glen & Lela
Beckendorf, Jennifer

Benson, Steve & Pam
 Berge, Bruce
 Bergseng, John
 Blagsvedt, Sid
 Braun, Lyle & Jackie
 Brecke, Sandy
 Broderick, Margaret (passed
 November 27, 2022
 Brooks, Virginia
 Brown, Larry & Mary
 Brown, Marie
 Brudevold, Kathy
 Bruns, Dorene
 Carswell, Kim
 Carter, Darrell
 Caspers, Dalen
 Chelin, James & Carol
 Chindvall, Marilyn
 Cogelow, Doris
 Christen, Gerri
 Conkey, Marjorie (passed 16
 August 2023)
 Daerda, Marlys *
 Dahlager, Gale (passed 25
 November 2023)
 Dahlager, Howard * & Linda
 Davidson, Jack
 Deason, Margret
 DePoe, Diane
 Diehl, Sue (passed 23 November
 2023)
 Dikken, Laurel
 Dimberger, Bill & Donna
 Drankoff, Jack & Karen
 Dutt, Marilyn
 Ellefson, David
 Emary, Steve & Liz
 Epema, Jackie
 Enestvedt-Sportel, Steve & Karyn
 Engen, David
 Engen, Gary
 Erichsen, Jean
 Erickson, Geraldyn (passed May
 2023)
 Evangelho, Sondra
 Evenson, Mike & Sylvia *
 Evenson Mohr, Butch * & Nikki *
 Falk, Norm & Vickie
 Flaata, Ardie & Margie *
 Flak, Nathan & JoEllen
 Flaten, Gene
 Frank, Odell
 Galvin, Carol J
 Gerde, Butch *
 Giese, Gary & Pat
 Goldman, Rich & Sylvia
 Gottfried, Karla
 Graves, Carole
 Grove, Dave & Shirley
 Gunter, John & Sue
 Hagen, Anita
 Hagen, Diane
 Hammre, Tom

Hanson, Ardis M.
 Hanson, Mark
 Hardy, Earl
 Harried, Tina
 Haug, Harold
 Hebrink, Craig * & Tami *
 Hebrink, Ross * & Brooke, Vivian *,
 Lilly *
 Hebrink, Ryan * & Brittany,
 Hudson*, Hampton *, Adeline *
 Hegge, Joan
 Hegna, Orlynn & Carol
 Heggerston, Jerry
 Helgeson, Dale & Dianna
 Hendrickson, James & Kathy *
 Hendrickson, Jean
 Herron, Linda
 Hettig, Chris & Steve
 Hoff, Erik & Marie
 Hofstad, Alice
 Holien, Margaret
 Holien, Michael & Jan
 Holmberg, Bruce & Sandra
 Holt, Peter & Karen
 Holum-Brytowski, Becky*
 Homme, John
 Homme, Virginia
 Howell, Robert
 Huisman, Harlen & Pam
 Isch, John
 Jacobson, LaMont & Diane
 Johnson, Amber
 Johnson, Michael* & Elaine*
 Johnson, LaVonne
 Johnson, Randy* & Kelly
 Johnson, Steven
 Johnson, Vernon
 Junkermeier, George
 Kahn, Ruth
 Kingstrom, Valerie*
 Kirk, Eric & Samantha
 Klinghagen, Marlys
 Kleene, Gerald
 Knapper, Mike & Angela
 Knapper, Paul* & Wanda
 Knapper, Pam*
 Knutson, Arlene
 Knutson, Sandra
 Knutson, Jim *
 Knutson, Mike & Kathy
 Koenig, Brad
 Kortgaard, Gary
 Kronlokken, Peter
 Kurtz, Brad
 Larsen, Linda
 Larson, Owen
 Laurila, Lori
 Lecy, Harlan & Linda
 Lee, Steve
 Lennon, Terry
 Lentz, David
 Lentz, Gary
 Leppke, Ruth

Lileng, Pauline
 Link, Harriet
 Loe, Anitra
 Loe, Gerald V.
 Lubeck, Pat
 Malecek, Des (passed 26 April
 2023) & Judy
 Martin, Jerry D. Jr.
 Martinez, Laura
 Mullenburg, Ruth
 Nateman, Kathy
 Nellerhoe, Earl & Cheryl
 Nelson, Robert & Judy
 Nesse, Ted* & Mona
 Norberg, Sharon
 Nord, Paul & Marilyn
 O'Brian, David & Kelly
 O'Brian, Deanna
 O'Brien, Pat & Yvonne
 Olander, Julie
 Olson, Bill & Harriet
 Oslund, Charles & Mary
 Parnell, Dorothy
 Peck, Ruby
 Peterson, Carol
 Peterson, Jim & Pam
 Peterson, Karen
 Potter, Mary
 Pray, Mike & Janice
 Raske, Norma
 Ree, Barbara
 Refsland, Jake
 Rode, Judy
 Romness, Jerry & Karen
 Rosso, Bill
 Rosso, Crystal
 Roste, Jim & Lorene
 Rowley, Nancy
 Rustad, Paul & Lora
 Rudd, Alice
 Sagnes, Cinda
 Sagnes, Everett
 Samuelson, Jamie & Kim *
 Santjer, Lloyd
 Schjenken, Beverly
 Schneewind, Russ* & Lori
 Schneider, Jerry
 Schoepke, Timothy
 Schulte, Butch & Diane
 Schulte, Doug
 Schroeder, Liz
 Schuerer, Thomas Jr.
 Schulte, Doug
 Schwinghammer, Tom
 Seeman, Bonita
 Sheggeby, Carroll
 Sietsema, John & Sharon
 Sietsema, Val
 Sietsema, Steven
 Skalbeck, Brian & Dee
 Skalbeck, Gloria
 Skalbeck, Jerry
 Skalbeck, Joan

Skogberg, Dave
 Skogberg, John & Genevieve
 Stady, Pat
 Stahnke, Judy
 Steinbach, Geneva
 Stolt, Karen
 Swanson, Kristina
 Thompson, Kay
 Thun, LeAnn Bjorndal
 Thunhorst, Dianne
 Tiedeman, Richard
 Torgelson, David
 Torgelson, Delores
 Toloskiewich, Bob & Cheryl
 Tufto, Stacy
 VanDerPol, Jim & LeeAnn
 Voelz, Jean
 Vruwink, Joanne
 Waller, Ardell & Rhoda
 Walters, Charlie & Carolyn
 Weflen, Arvid W
 Wolff, Joyce
 Wordes, Brian & Gayle
 Yeager, David & Darlene
 Young, Cyndie & John
 Young, Michael
 Zaske, Allen & Wanda
 Zimmer, Ann
 Zimmer, Larry

Non-member Volunteers

Agre, Mike *
 Balfany, John *
 Balfany, Todd *
 Balfany, Will *
 Balfany, Chris *
 Cross, Irma *
 Hendrickson, Stephanie *
 Holt, Mike *
 Holt, Andy *
 Holt, Ryan *
 Fischer, Dave *
 Hagford, Wayne *
 Hamre, Paul *
 Jakel, Nicole*
 Lerohl, Pat *
 Lerohl-Morgan, Triscia *
 Loe, Dan *
 Luna, Lisa *
 Refsland, Darrell *
 Schwindt, Mitch *
 Schwindt, Rick *
 Schwindt, Sheri *
 Stone, Barbara *
 Thoma, Jon *

**It is not our intention to omit
 any member or volunteer.**

Several Life Members have passed away in the past 2 years, and we have been unable to find space to print all their obituaries in past newsletters. In order to keep our next newsletter issue at 10 pages, this Annual Report includes an extra sheet with obituaries.

Loren Dennis Kronlokken

April 6, 1929 - June 3, 2022

Loren Dennis Kronlokken, age 93, of Chaska and Chanhassen, MN, died peacefully on Friday, June 3, 2022 at Carver Ridge Senior Living in Carver, MN.

Memorial Services are pending at this time.

Loren was born April 6, 1929 in Sacred Heart, MN, to Oscar and Mary (Collin) Kronlokken, one of 5 children. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Sacred Heart, MN, and then attended St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN, 1947-1949.

He then went to the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and graduated in 1951. He proudly served his country in the United States Army stationed in Japan from 1953-1955 during the Korean Conflict. He worked as an engineer at a variety of locations and states including: Allis Chalmers near Milwaukee, WI in the 1950's, in Ashland, WI in the 1960's, for MN Engineering in Minneapolis and Rogers Freels in Edina in the 1970's, in San Francisco, CA and Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, TX in the 1980's, he returned to Milwaukee and then retired to Yankton, South Dakota in August of 1994. He moved to Chaska from Wakonda, SD in 2016, then to Chanhassen until 2018 when he moved back to Chaska. He married Dorothy Ring in 1964 and they were divorced in 1982. They had one daughter, Kristen.

He was preceded in death by his parents, former wife Dorothy (2015), brothers Charles and Morris, and sister Hildi Norman.

Survivors include his daughter Kristen Kronlokken of Chanhassen; grandsons Gregory and Lucas Cernatinskij; sister June Rude of Indiana; other relatives and friends.



Lavina "Vinie" Marie Knutson

April 17, 1938 – April 26, 2023



Lavina "Vinie" Knutson, age 85, of New London and formerly of Sacred Heart, passed away peacefully Wednesday, April 26, at Bethesda North Pointe in New London, MN.

A funeral service is planned for Saturday, June 3, at 1:00 PM at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sacred Heart, MN. Arrangements are entrusted to the Peterson Brothers Funeral Home. www.petersonbrothers.com

Lavina Marie Knutson (Freiborg) was born on April 17, 1938, in Roseland Township, Kandiyohi County, Minnesota, the daughter of Boyo and Ralphine (Woltjer) Freiborg. She grew up in Roseland and graduated from Danube High School in 1956. Following high school, Lavina moved to Sacred Heart where she met Douglas Knutson to whom she was married on October 26, 1958. Following their marriage, they lived in Sacred Heart and were blessed with three sons.

Douglas and Lavina were members of Our Savior's Lutheran Church where Lavina was an active member of the Ladies Aid and taught Sunday school and confirmation classes.

Lavina took great pride in being a homemaker and enjoyed time with her family at their home in Sacred Heart and at their cabin on Green Lake. She enjoyed nature, tracking weather, geocaching and tending to her garden.

Among her other interests, Lavina was a quilter and crafter which resulted in cherished gifts for family and friends.

She is survived by her husband Douglas; children Jon (Ann) Knutson of Champlin, Mike (Kathy) Knutson of New London, Dave (Laurie Porter) Knutson of Otsego; grandchildren Heather (Edward) Auerbach, Justin (Regan) Cooper, Tyler (Megan) Cooper, Tom (Kristi) Knutson, Ben Knutson, Victoria (Brandon Matus) Knutson, Veronica Knutson, Vincent Knutson, Joseph Porter, and 6 great grandchildren. Also surviving are her sister Carolyn (Delbert) Winkelmann, sisters-in-law Barb Benson and Lois Freiborg as well as nieces, nephews and other family.

She was preceded in death by her parents and two brothers, LaRoy Freiborg and Leslie Freiborg.

<https://www.petersonbrothers.com/obituaries/lavina-knutson>

Desmond Malecek

April 17, 1938 – April 26, 2023

Desmond Dawood Malecek, 91, of Sacred Heart, died Thursday, October 26, 2023, at the RenVilla Health Center in Renville. Funeral services will be held on Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Sacred Heart. The Rev. Michelle Kleene will officiate. Burial will be in the church cemetery. Visitation will be one hour prior to the services at the church in Sacred Heart. Arrangements by Dirks-Blem Funeral Service, Renville, MN.



Desmond Dawood Malecek was born on May 30, 1932, in Flora Township, Renville County to Thomas and Marie (Schmidt) Malecek. He grew up on the family farm south of Renville and attended country school and then farmed his grandmother's farm from 1949 until 1954. After moving to Redwood Falls, he managed a Standard Oil Service Station until 1955. Desmond then moved to Sacred Heart and purchased a service station there. He was united in marriage to Judith Gerde on June 10th, 1956, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Sacred Heart. They made their home in Sacred Heart and Desmond operated the station until 1980. Following the sale of the station, he was employed by Amoco Fertilizer. In 1984 Desmond changed to assisting the operations of Perry Farms until his retirement. He was a member of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and served as treasurer. He also served on the Sacred Heart Fire Department and Sacred Heart Lions Club. Desmond loved working on cars, taking Sunday afternoon drives with his family, fishing, playing cards and having coffee with his friends.

He is survived by his wife Judy, his sons and daughter: Dale (and Kathy) Malecek of Inver Grove Heights, Diane (and Merle) Rabenberg of Wilmont, MN, Mark (and Julie) Malecek of Starbuck, MN, and Gary (and Paulette) Malecek of Bloomington, MN; 10 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren, his brothers-in-law Percy "Butch" Gerde and Vern Kleinsasser, and one niece, Lynnette Hutson. He was preceded in death by his parents, his mother and father-in-law Mable and Bert Gerde, and his sister-in-law Linda Kleinsasser.

Dirks-Blem Funeral Service, Inc., <https://www.dirksblem.com/obituaries/Desmond-Malecek?obId=29735475>

Memorials and Tributes



December 1-31, 2023

Compiled by Gretchen Eliason, Treasurer

Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!

Donations to the *General Fund*

GOLD (\$1,000-\$4999)

Sonja Thune
Iverne Enestvedt

Silver (\$500-\$999)

Kathy & David Brudevold

Bronze (\$100-\$499)

Jerry Skalbeck

In Honor of Bud & Gloria Peterson and their family
by Lynn Lanners

Saint Paul & Minnesota Foundation via C. Carlyle
and Mary Haaland

In Memory of Dallas Frank Allen by Diane Depoe

In Memory of Pete Jordet by Diane Depoe

In Memory of Hanson & Frank relatives by Jim
and LeeAnn VanDerPol

In Memory of Phyllis Johnson by John Arlen Johnson
Marilyn Chindvall

Other Cash Donations

In Memory of Gale Dahlager by Linda Larsen, Lavonne &
Mark Erickson, Gloria Skalbeck & Rudy Hoff, Patrick &
Yvonne O'Brien, Dave & Shirley Grove, Nancy Hoff,
Howard & Linda Dahlager, James & Kathy Hendrickson,
Peter & Karen Holt

In Memory of Susan Dybsand Diehl by Pamela Jambeck

In Memory of Pete Jordet by Marilyn Agre, Margaret
Holien, Beverly Schjenken

In Memory of Dick Hoff by Nancy Hoff

In Memory of Phyllis Johnson by Nancy Hoff

In Memory of Desmond Malecek by Nancy Hoff

In Honor of "all the faithful volunteers at SHAHS
by Nancy Hoff

Wish List

- Monetary donations to repair stucco walls in entry
- Monetary donations for some quick bell tower repairs at a cost of \$6,200 to further reduce moisture infiltration
- Monetary donations to help pay for the recent \$40,000 roof
- Self-emptying Roomba with charging station such as the iRobot j8+
- Volunteers to file, vacuum, inventory artifacts, and identify photos. Pick your favorite and donate one hour or whatever.

Century Farms and Sesquicentennial Farms

The annual application for the 2024 Minnesota Sesquicentennial Farm recognition program must be received by the Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation by March 4, 2024. Forms for both programs are available at the Sacred Heart Area Museum and online at Minnesota State Fair site.

2023 Thrivent Action Team Projects

This past year we have received funding from the following people to help with the cost of projects.

Marilyn Agre - updating family binders

Marilyn Agre – farming exhibit

Sonja Thune – installing carpet

Sonja Thune – kitchen repairs

Jon Thoma – Dad's Belgian Waffle Feed

Jon Thoma - December newsletter

Margie Flaata – painting research library

Margie Flaata – painting lower level storage room

Cheryl Skalbeck – Skalbekken tour

Make a gift in Honor or Memory of a loved one

Your donation in any amount is Appreciated and Tax Deductible!

A wall plaque in the museum recognizes businesses, individuals & organizations for cash donations \$1000 or more.