

URBANDALE HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

4010 70TH STREET

URBANDALE, IA 50322

(515) 270-2917

www.urbandalehistoricalsociety.org

WINTER 2014

Winter



2014 Promises to be an Outstanding Year

Look what is ahead for 2014 . . . Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these special events.

March 3rd - Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Program - History of Josephs Jewelers (Established in 1871)

April 6th - Informal Open House at 2:00 p.m.

April 7th - Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Program - Related to President Lincoln and the Civil War

May 3rd - Plant Sale

Mid May - Bus Trip
Date and destination to be announced

Early June - Little Girl's Tea Parties

June 29th - Ice Cream Social
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

2014 - Membership Renewal

Recently a reminder letter was sent out by Membership Chairpersons, Norm and Faith Huitt regarding membership dues for the year 2014. If you have not yet responded, please send a check so all memberships can be received as soon as possible. We need your support

Meeting Cancellation

Weather has had an influence on Historical Society activities this season. Snowfall cut down on attendance at the Holiday Open House on December 8th. The first event scheduled in 2014 was the soup supper and meeting on January 5th. The forecast for snow and wind caused the event to be cancelled.

A message was put on the Historical Society answering machine (270-2917), a sign was hung at the back door of the Olmsted-Urban House, and some phone calls were made to those individuals that had expressed a plan to attend. If you have questions about whether a scheduled meeting is cancelled, please contact a board member for the latest information.

New Treasurer

Since 2005 Joanne Robbins has served as treasurer for the Historical society. The very first treasurer was Marge Wittenbaugh. The board greatly appreciates the dedication, time and talent Joanne has given in this position.

Upon Joanne's resignation, Jo Henry has accepted the treasurer's position. Jo is an Urbandale resident and has served on various community outreaches including U-Can and the Caring Corps. We are grateful to have her accept this job and look forward to working together. Jo lives at 4116 77th Place Circle and her phone number is 360-5768.

February Meeting

The traditional soup supper, originally planned for January, was held on February 3rd. Joanne Hanson is to be thanked for her work in preparing several seasoned chuck roasts at home. People coming to the supper brought canned or cooked vegetables to add to the soup pot. Assorted salads, relish, breads, and desserts were brought to be enjoyed by all.

Madeline Kaloides, former Historical Society President, started the tradition of the soup supper years ago. Joanne had done it now for more than a decade. She was assisted by Wayne and Gloria Anderson at the February meeting.

The program topic was "The history of national banks in Iowa Towns". Donald Marks presented and showed a variety of bank notes he has collected and explained some of the differences in the currency. Donald and Bob Simon shared experiences as coin club members and the challenges of collecting.



Holiday Open House

The Holiday Open House was held on December 8th. Decorating the House appropriately is a major activity and began in late November.

A number of boxes and totes filled with all types of decorations are brought out to decorate the trees. Kay Readinger, Cynthia Dabrieo, Katherine Brush, Pat Nawrocki, Janice Winey, Sydney Coder, Beth Haigh, and Virginia Gee unpacked the boxes, hung the wreaths, decorated the trees, and placed decorations in rooms all over the house.

Carol Lee Rickenberg has a special interest in children's toys, so she and her husband, Warren, assume the responsibility for decorating the children's room. She brings

some toys from her collection at home to display and serves as a friendly hostess in the room the day of the Open House.

Ginny Campbell and Joanne Hanson are responsible for the refreshments and serving. A special thanks to Sandy Porter, Joyce Cretors, Beth Haigh, and Carol Lee Rickenberg for contributing decorated cookies.

Norm Huitt has personally collected a variety of items on Christmas themes. This year he brought books, figurines, and scenes related to Charles Dickens and the book, A Christmas Carol for a special display. We thank you for sharing your interesting collection.

Wayne Robbins and Norm Huitt, with the help of city workers, were responsible for the outside decorations on the large evergreens and the house.

Snowy conditions early in the day affected the attendance, but those families who did come enjoyed their visit and asked many questions about Urbandale history.

Other groups who planned December meetings at the house to enjoy the festive atmosphere were the Urbandale Garden Club, a women's group from St. Pius, Aldersgate Friendship Circle, and Urbandale Lioness Club.

Christmas Greetings

A holiday card was received from Mary Nell Urban, the wife of John Urban. They were the family who sold what is the Olmsted-Urban House to the Historical Society in 1987. John passed away in September 2005. Mary Nell still lives in Clovis, New Mexico.

She writes, "I have so many fond memories of 4010 70th Street. Thank you all for keeping the Olmsted-Urban House in such wonderful tradition. Merry Christmas to each and everyone".

Acquisitions and Requests for Information

2014

Remember when Pope John Paul II made his historic visit to Living History Farms on October 4, 1979? Sister Jeanie Hagedorn has donated a scrapbook she compiled filled with clippings and mementoes of this important event.

Stephen McKinney, son of Ruth Olmsted McKinney, has donated a box of newspaper clippings about Urbandale that his mother had saved.

Don Brush who served many terms on the Urbandale City Council between 1974 and 2004, and mayor in 2005, brought a collection of photos of the Council and newspaper clippings from those years.

We appreciate all these contributions. The purpose of the Urbandale Historical Society "shall be to collect, preserve and maintain historical memorabilia of Urbandale."

In the first floor office / den at the Olmsted-Urban House, we have a collection of books, scrapbooks, newspapers, photo albums and notebooks on various topics (mostly arranged chronologically) that have been donated. These materials will help people gain a better understanding of Urbandale History.

We occasionally get request from other sources for photographs of people, places and events of earlier days. When you are sorting through materials at home or items belonging to relatives, think of the Historical Society. Please let us make a copy of any old pictures you might have. We would like to have some of these materials from early days for our collections. This will be significant as we look forward to celebrating Urbandale's centennial in 2017.

Board of Directors

President - Wayne Robbins	276-1370
Vice President & Membership Norm & Faith Huitt	276-1443
Past President - Madeline Kaloides	276-2041
Secretary - Kay Readinger	276-2017
Treasurer - Jo Henry	360-5768
Programs - Bob Simon	276-2478
Local History - Virginia Gee Janice Winey	276-0222 276-2752
Buildings & Grounds - Wayne Robbins Norm Huitt	276-1370 276-1443
Publicity - Cynthia Dabreo	331-0494
Restoration & Acquisitions Beth Haigh	276-9654
Special Projects Ginny Campbell Joanne Hanson	276-4168 276-7147



The Olmsted-Urban House

See you March 3rd!

