

# History Notes

Volume 40, Issue 2, June 2018

[www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us) / LOOK FORWARD TO OUR PAST



The **Pink** Schoolhouse. School District 20; located in Waseca County, Wilton Township, Section 17. This photograph was taken by Alvena Kramer in the early 1960s when the Yess family was living in the schoolhouse.

## **CHAUTAUQUA 2018**

**FREE! Pack a picnic! BYOB! No glass please**

**Saturday June 30**

***A festival of music, arts, and more!***

**11 am-4 pm—TROWBRIDGE PARK, WASECA**

This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the **Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council**, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund and the **Waseca Area Foundation**

Waseca County  
Historical Society  
315 2nd Avenue NE  
507-835-7700



History Notes is a publication of the Waseca County Historical Society ©2018  
P.O. Box 314, Waseca, MN 56093  
315 Second Avenue N.E., 507-835-7700  
www.historical.waseca.mn.us

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Curator  
vanessaz@historical.waseca.mn.us  
director@historical.waseca.mn.us

Linda Taylor, Researcher, Genealogy.  
research@historical.waseca.mn.us

**Museum Hours**

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-5

**Bailey-Lewer Library**

Open Tuesdays-Fridays, 9-12, 1-5



The Timeline Project has been financed in part with funds provided by the State of Minnesota through the Minnesota Historical Society from the Arts & Cultural Heritage Fund. WCHS is also grateful to the Carl & Verna Schmidt



Foundation, the First National Bank-Waseca, Principal Financial Foundation-John Priebe, and Bill and Patti Hoversten for match support to the Implementation Phase.



## From the Executive Director by Joan Mooney

Dear WCHS Members,

No spring, just summer! Quite an unusual start to our busy summer season. Chautauqua is our first event on Saturday June 30, at Trowbridge Park followed by the Waseca County Fair, July 11-15. Make sure to stop by

Hodgson Hall where we will be selling popcorn, soda, ice cream and cold water. We will be celebrating the city of Waseca's 150th birthday with our new traveling exhibit **City of Waseca, 150 Years** created by Andrew Breck. This exhibit will be available for area residents, businesses and organizations to enjoy around the county.

This exhibit was paid for in part by a grant from the Waseca Area Foundation. Thank you WAF.

### Hofmann Apiaries Update

WCHS, Larry and Jan Hofmann, Thomas Zahn and Associates, Bluestem Heritage Group, SMSQ Architects, Minnesota Cultural Heritage Fund, the Waseca Area Foundation and individual donors have assisted over the past 8 years to bring us to where we are today...on the doorstep of the "big ask"! We have submitted the pre-application to the State Historic Preservation grants office for the funding of the exterior restoration of the Honey House and Wax Shed. The final application will be submitted in July.

The journey has been an enriching educational experience. This has never been done before anywhere. I wish I could say that other avenues for funding are available, but I have not been able to tap those resources. Our hopes are that the merits of the project, the incredible story of Hofmann Apiaries will carry us forward in our quest to save these structures.

We will know in September if we have been awarded the money. For those who have not visited [www.hofmannapiaries.org](http://www.hofmannapiaries.org) here is the link. It is a rich story told by son Larry laced together with his father Charlie's photographs and memoirs.

We hope to see you out and about this summer. The Museum will be open Sesquicentennial Saturday, September 1 from noon to 4 p.m. There will also be All School Reunion activities in Trowbridge Park the same day. Have a wonderful summer.

Joan



## From the WCHS Museum Director

Vanessa Zimprich

Things are looking different around the museum and in the digital world too! The history center recently launched our newly redesigned website, [www.historical.waseca.mn.us](http://www.historical.waseca.mn.us). The new design offers streamlined menus, clear navigation and a responsive layout for all platforms. We hope you enjoy the new look and as always we welcome all feedback and suggestions! Our membership fees also have a new scale. We now offer \$30.00 one-year or \$100 sustainer one-year memberships, and the \$1,000 Lifetime membership is still an option too!



## From the Museum Intern

Amanda Larkin

My name is Amanda Larkin, and I am currently working on my Art History Degree as well as my Museum Studies Certificate at Minnesota State University in Mankato. I have been interested in the things that go on behind the scenes in a museum since I was a child which makes helping out at the Waseca County Historical Society for the summer a dream come true. My favorite thing about WCHS is the knowledge I have gained about not only Waseca but the surrounding areas as well.

**Thank you to the Waseca Area Foundation for supporting the creation of the City of Waseca traveling exhibit “Waseca, the First 150 years”, and also Chautauqua 2018.**

### WCHS STAFF

**Pauline Fenelon**

Artifact &  
Library Curator



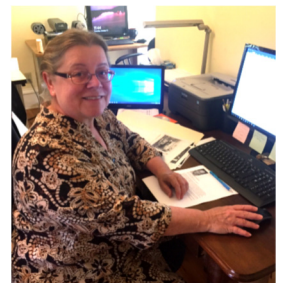
**Linda Taylor**

Research/  
Genealogy



**Jan Hunter**

Research



**Andrew Breck**

Exhibit Design



### At the Museum

June - October 2018, Waseca County Schools  
Revisited

On going- **Waseca County Timeline of  
Unique Stories**

### At the Bailey Lewer Research Library:

On going- **Interpreting your DNA Results**

### Events,

June 30- **Chautauqua, Trowbridge Park**

July 11-15 **Waseca County Fair**

**City of Waseca, 150 Years**

**\$.50 Popcorn, Pop and Ice Cream  
Treats at Hodgson Hall**

Sat.Sept.1, **Museum Open 12pm-4pm**

**Check out All School Reunion Activities at  
Trowbridge Park!**

# Saving The Pink Schoolhouse

## by Judy Joecks



*Photograph taken by  
Harold E. Suemnicht in 1928.*

Wilton Township rural school District #20 originally began in Section 8 when John and Mary Kinney sold property to District #20 on April 29, 1864 for the first school. It was filed April 14, 1866. The 1866 teacher was Lovina Philbrook. In 1899 this old original District #20 school building was sold to Silver Lake Creamery Association. It also served for many years as the Wilton Town Hall until Wilton School District #18 closed. Then the town hall moved to the District #18 location. The old original District #20 building has been located and is still standing, but you will have to read *A Bit of "The Pink Schoolhouse" History* book in order to learn more!

On August 23, 1881, School District #20 purchased the current property in Section 17. This was filed May 31, 1882. A new school building was built in Section 17, or a building was moved in. (It appears that this building was built new on this location). **So, only the district moved, not the building!** The 1896 *Waseca County Standard Atlas* shows both buildings (Section 8 and Section 17).

On November 16, 1950, District #20 voted to consolidate to Waldorf, officially moving in the fall of 1951. August 22, 1951 the District #20 school building and property in Section 17 were sold to Henry C. Bauman to be made into a home. Lois (Bauman) Yess, her husband Lawrence, and their son Larry lived in the school building while they moved a larger house onto the property and prepared it for their home. Lois had promised her dad that the schoolhouse would always be a landmark for everyone, so she painted it pink to make sure everyone saw it.

### Why save The Pink Schoolhouse?

*"I am working on restoring the Pink Schoolhouse because I made a promise, and I just think it's worth saving."*

-DeeAnn Britton

*"The Pink Schoolhouse has served as a landmark for our crew for many years."*

-Doug Hughes

Steele-Waseca Co-op Electric

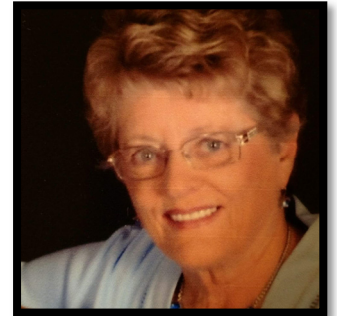




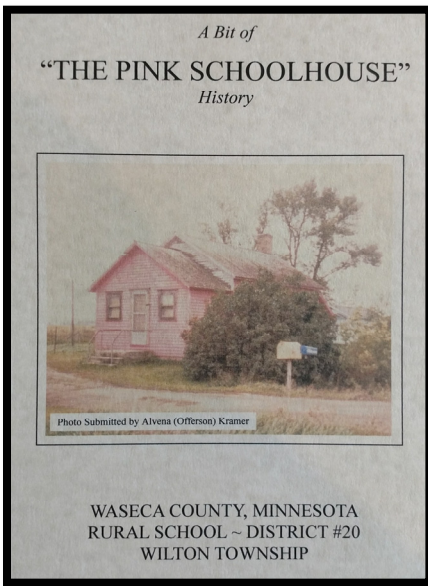
Lois (Bauman) Yess on her 90th Birthday with DeeAnn Britton.

DeeAnn Britton (Mrs. David), who lives nearby with her husband, took care of Lois for the last couple years of her life. She made a promise to Lois that she wouldn't let it be torn down, so after she passed away, DeeAnn bought the land, building and belongings. The belongings have been offered in a number of sales, with all of these proceeds going into a special account for refurbishing the school.

This is where Judy Joecks began putting together *A Bit of "The Pink Schoolhouse" History book* with the purpose of honoring and preserving the history and life of "The Pink Schoolhouse" and to also help her friend, DeeAnn, raise more funds for this project.



Judy Joecks



It started out with the idea of 20 pages or so but has grown to 112 pages. It includes District #20 history, photos and information for many of the teachers, comments from many of the students or their families, and much more! The last 17 pages include photos of most of the 94 Waseca County rural schools with their locations (compliments of Waseca County Historical Museum). More information has been added to most of these photos, such as when they closed, what happened to the building, and a number of those that have been found still standing today.

*"It has been a very fun and interesting project and I love preserving this history."*  
-Judy Joecks

A new roof has been put on the school, the foundation will be fixed, and the remainder of the

work will be done on a volunteer basis. Supplies for new windows and siding, etc. will be ordered soon, and once that arrives the project will

move forward. There is still much to be done and your support is greatly appreciated. To volunteer call DeeAnn at 507-461-3729 or Judy at 507-317-1345.



September 16, 2018, 1:00-5:00 pm has been **tentatively** set for a District #20 School Reunion-Ice Cream-Social Open House. Please consider ordering a book to support the restoration of Waseca County's Pink Landmark. All proceeds from this book will go to DeeAnn Britton's Pink Schoolhouse Fund. **Order form on Page 9.**



# CHAUTAUQUA AT TROWBRIDGE PARK

Attention to our history enriches our community. Ira Trowbridge was the founding father of Waseca. His daughters built the bandshell in 1915 as a memorial to him. The shelter was used by community bands from around the region. New Richland, Waldorf and Janesville traveled to Trowbridge Park to play. This was reciprocated by a visit to their communities by the Waseca Band. It's "what you did" in the summer time. By bringing music back to Trowbridge Park we will provide a place to gather with neighbors, family and friends.



Judith Church Trowbridge ca 1890



New Richland Enterprise Band ca 1920



Ira C. Trowbridge ca 1890



Gert Rohde and Marcella McDonough ca 1914, before the house was turned to face the park.

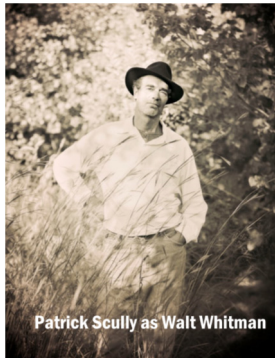
## **The Trowbridge House** *Waseca Herald, March 12, 1893.*

Hon. I.C. Trowbridge has commenced work on his new mansion, which, when completed, will undoubtedly be as fine as any in the city." Unfortunately, Mr. Trowbridge did not live to occupy the new home as he died of

sudden heart failure on October 3, 1893. His widow Judith lived in the house until her death in 1906. Son Edgar C. Trowbridge and wife Belle lived with Judith in the house. Fulfilling their father's wish, in 1915 the daughters Ella and Augusta designated the property now known as Trowbridge Park. The bandshell was erected in memory of their father. The first band concert was held in the street as the band shell was not quite finished. A gathering of over 3000 citizens came to witness the celebration. Some time between 1919 and 1930 the Trowbridge house was turned from facing the courthouse to facing the park. Anyone know the year?

# CHAUTAUQUA AT TROWBRIDGE PARK

**Luke LeBlanc** is a singer-songwriter from the Twin Cities. At 21, the Americana/Folk artist has recorded two albums and has opened for the Rembrandts, Joey Molland's Badfinger, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, and Ozark Mountain Daredevils, among others. Dwight Hobbes of the Twin Cities Daily Planet writes, "He executes rich, low-keyed vocals that always hit a note dead-on and manage to convey a world of emotion with a mere inflection. You don't come by this caliber of singer-songwriter all the time."



## Leaves of Grass Illuminated- Patrick Scully

Critics praised the Minneapolis premiere in July 2014: "Scully creates an onstage world that Whitman would have appreciated... Without this daring poet's soaring words and his willingness to take risks in a hostile era, we may never know what it means to 'sing the body electric.' **Scully is the perfect caretaker for Whitman's legacy.**" (StarTribune)

**This Just In!** *Leaves of Grass- Illuminated* will be presented July 12-14, 2019 in the Guthrie's Dowling Studio, just after Whitman's 200th birthday!

**See it here first!**

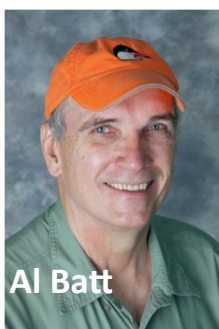
**Pete** was born in 1987 in southern Minnesota and has since spent little time and energy outside the realm of music. From his roots of rock'n'roll and rap, Pete has broadened his horizon of influences to include just about everything in Grandma Wallace's record collection. He thrives on the combination of thoughtful vocals and sweet, intricate melodies. With all that and more under his "grandkid" cap, Pete has wooed all kinds of crowds from Freeborn to Otsego, chiefly using the bustling, evolving bar scenes of the Mankato area to hone his showmanship. The summer of 2018 begins his much-anticipated arrival onto the music festival scene and Pete could not be more excited!



**Obobass**  
Vecchione & Erdahl

**Obobass!**, The Vecchione/Erdahl Duo, has effectively created a new repertoire for duo oboe/English horn and double bass through the music that has been written for them. They perform widely across the country on recital series, at colleges and universities, and at conferences of the International Double Reed Society and International Society of Bassists. Their performance for the book launch of Kate DiCamillo's *The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane* at the Fitzgerald Theater in St. Paul was broadcast on Minnesota Public Radio's Talking Volumes Program. They present a recital series of the Lakeville Area Arts Center featuring a variety of chamber ensembles. As *Pages of Music with Rolf and Carrie*, they present educational programs linking music and children's literature for schools, libraries, and bookstores. **This Just In! Carrie broke her leg! Oh No!** Get well wishes! Hope she can make it down-we'll keep you posted.

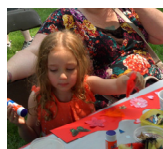
## And our Chautauqua favorites !



**Al Batt**



**Northern Drawl**



**Diane Forsythe**  
**And the Waseca Arts Council Arts and Crafts Tent!**

Catch St. Paul's ambassador of fun and happiness in his seersucker suit and cheerful smile. Kids and grown-ups alike get a free balloon animal with every frozen novelty as you all step back in time with Dreamsicles, Push-Ups, Fudgesicles or Bomb Pops. With 11 treats to choose from there's something for everybody with



**Leprechaun's Dreamcycle.**



Waseca County Fair Parking. 1936.



County Fairgrounds Aerial View. Waseca County Fairgrounds, taken from a ferris wheel ride at the Fair. Ca 1969



Waseca County Museum Log Cabin. Cabin moved to Fairgrounds. Hodgson Hall Built 1963-1964."

The cabin was erected on a cement slab and the current structure built over it.



Midway ride 1984



Go-Kart Race at Fairgrounds. Ca 1960  
The Waseca County Fairgrounds Grandstand and race track; go-karts race on the dusty track in front of grandstand spectators.



Demolition Derby 1960



Harriett Kofstad With Champion Sheep. 1951



Time well spent

## Volunteers Needed for the Waseca County Fair

2018 Waseca County Fair Schedule: Volunteer Sign-up			Visitor Count
<b>WEDNESDAY, JULY 11</b>			
	Joan Mooney	507-213-6369	
	Vanessa	837-2312	
12:00-5 p.m.	Joan-Vanessa		
5:00-7:00 p.m.	1.		
	2.		
7:00-9:00 p.m.	1.		
	2.		
9:00 Close	Joan		
<b>THURSDAY, JULY 12</b>			
12:00-5:00 p.m.	Joan and Vanessa		
5:00-7:00	1.		
	2.		
7:00-9:00	1.		
	2.		
9:00 Close	Joan		
<b>FRIDAY, JULY 13</b>			
12-5 p.m.	Joan and Vanessa		
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	1.		
	2.		
7:00 – 9:00 p.m.	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
9:00 Close	Joan		
<b>SATURDAY, JULY 14</b>			
open	Joan Mooney		
12:00-3:00	1.		
	2.		
3:00-6:00	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
6:00-9:00 p.m.	1.		
	2.		
	3.		
9:00 Close			
<b>SUNDAY, JULY 15</b>			
Open: Vanessa			
11:30-2:30	1.		
2:30-5:00	1.		
Close			

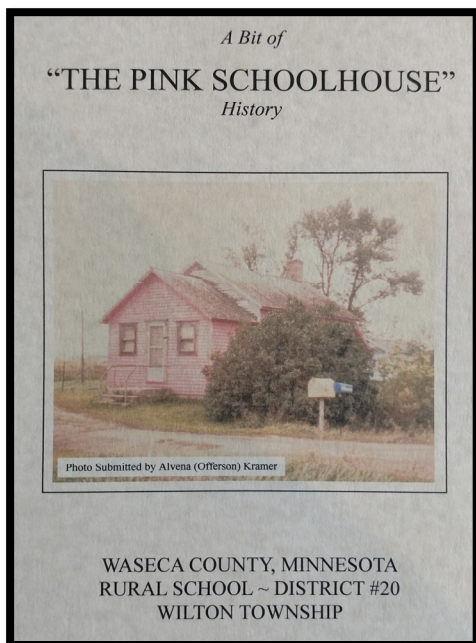
Meet and greet your neighbors, family and friends at the 2018 Waseca County Fair.

The fair is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our county history.

On exhibit at Hodgson Hall will be “City of Waseca, 150 Years.”

We are located in Hodgson Hall at the far west end of the fairgrounds. Call to schedule.

**507- 835 –7700**



A Bit of “The Pink Schoolhouse” History

PREORDER-PREPAY FORM - Orders must be received by August 10, 2018

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Price: \$28.00 per book (if picked up)

\$30.00 per book (if shipped)

Please reserve (\_\_\_\_\_) book(s) in my name.

(please check one)

I will pick up my order at the Pink Schoolhouse Event or at the Waseca County Historical Museum after that event \_\_\_\_\_

Please ship my order to the above address \_\_\_\_\_

Total payment amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to:

DeeAnn Britton’s Pink Schoolhouse Fund and send to:

Judy Joecks

6471 250th Avenue New Richland, MN 56072



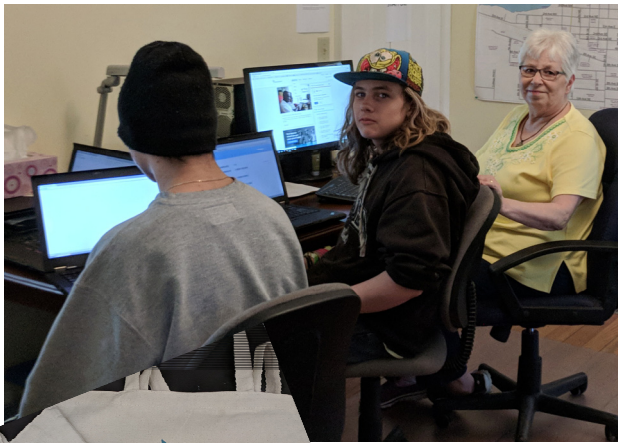
**Need help interpreting your DNA**

## Bailey– Lewer Research Library

401 NE 2nd St. Waseca, just across the street from the museum. Tues.—Friday, 9 a.m.—Noon

1 p.m. to 5 p.m. (507) 835-7700

We invite you to make an appointment with WCHS researcher Linda Taylor for a personalized 1 hour session. This is free to members, non members fee is \$10 per hour. Linda is here Wednesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to Noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. 507-835-7700.



Linda Taylor assisting high school students with their family research.



Waseca County Historical Society

Tote Bags, Dish Towels and

Coasters made and donated by Diane Beckmann!

Available at the Museum Gift shop! THANK YOU Diane!

### *Special Donation from a Special Person*

WCHS staff and Board would like to acknowledge a recent donation to WCHS from Caryn Wendt. Caryn has been a longtime supporter and member of WCHS. Caryn has volunteered many hours as a member of Waseca Area Genealogists (WAGS) . WAGS disbanded after the internet made sharing genealogical information much easier and faster. Although Caryn is leaving the decision up to us as to what we will use it for, we are seriously considering the need for another digital microfilm reader for the Bailey/Lewer Research Library. Caryn’s donation will help considerably in that purchase.

Thank you Caryn,

Joan, Vanessa, Linda, Pauline and the WCHS Board of Directors.

# Membership and Donations

From March 16, 2018 - June 12, 2018

## New Members

Cawley, Jerome  
Choate, Katherine  
Gerber, Thomas  
Gjelten, Ann  
Hammel, Gregory  
Rian, Sara  
Rost, Jeanette  
Sleen, Robert

## Renewing Members

Aamot, Chris  
Baker, Dale  
Bentley, Bethel  
Berger, Doris  
Born, Rodney  
Breen, Lillian  
Byron, Paul and Mayone  
Carlson, Gladys  
Cunningham, Sheila  
Dyngeland, Kari  
Fell, June  
Flood, Karen  
Forrest, Daniel and Cheryl  
Francis, Michael  
Frank, Roberta  
Harter, Lorraine  
Hovelsrud, Susan  
Hunter, Jan  
Ihrke, Mary  
Jackson, Carol E.  
Joecks, Becky  
Judd, Pat  
Larson, Janette  
Linnihan, Michael K.  
Lucas, Chuck  
Lundquist, Jean and Olof  
McCarthy, Virginia  
Metzdorff, Tom and Kris  
Meyer, Clark  
Nelson, John  
Purcell, Pat  
Rathmann, Duane and Cheryl  
Rogers, Clinton  
Schoonover, Lorna  
Velett, Laurie  
Walker, Roger and Roberta  
Williams, Jack & Mary  
Wuger, Pat  
Zwach, Donald and Fran

## Memorials

### In memory of David P. Berg

by Donna Fostveit  
by Nancy Tollefson

### In memory of Daniel R. Deef

by Donna Fostveit

### In memory of Francis Fitzsimmons

by Dave Dunn

### In memory of Sally Forrest

by Jane Dunn  
by Donna Fostveit  
by Linda Grant  
by Janette Larson  
by JoAnn Sutlief

### In memory of Elaine Fox

by Donna Fostveit

### In memory of James Fox

by Elaine Fox and Family  
by Henry and Phyllis Lewer

### In memory of Betty Lou Harvey

by Nancy Tollefson

### In memory of Pearl Hoversten

by Larry and Diane Collins  
by Mary and John Fury  
by Pearl Hoversten Family Trust  
by Reba Johnson  
by Ronald and Joan Larson  
by A.K. or W.T. Lee  
by Virginia McCarthy  
by Sheila Morris  
by Michael and Beatrice O'Brien  
by Gretchen Olson  
by Jeff and Marianne Podoll  
by Michael and Janice Prescher  
by Tom Tetzloff  
by Galen and Kim Vetter

### In memory of Erick and Elizabeth Joecks

by Becky Joecks

### In memory of Bud and Darlene Lorig

by Becky Joecks

### In memory of Ruthie Hodgkins Mathews

by Willie and Barb Eichhorst  
by Jay Eichhorst  
by Rick, Katie, Ryan and Brandon Eichhorst

### In memory of Dale T. McShane

by Donna Fostveit  
by Russ & Terri Ingram

## Appropriations

Alton Township \$400.00  
Byron Township \$250.00  
Freedom Township \$150.00  
Iosco Township \$250.00  
Otisco Township \$600.00  
St. Mary Township \$200.00  
Woodville Township \$150.00

## Donations

Gruetzmacher, Bonnie  
Hagen, Tom and Nyla  
Jones, Karl

## Thrivent Financial's

### Thrivent Choice Dollars Program

Beckmann, Andrew J.  
Beckmann, Diane L.  
Beckmann, Scott M.  
Haslip, Kari

## Volunteers

Buum, Marty  
Dunn, Dave  
Jones, Karl  
Larkin, Amanda  
Swenson, Dan  
Zika, Dave  
Zimprich, Jonathan

**WCHS is a recipient of**

**Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars Program**

With Thrivent Choice®, you can recommend where some of Thrivent Financial's charitable outreach funds go. Since 2010, more than \$370 million has been distributed to churches and nonprofits nationwide. [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)

**Waseca County Historical Society**  
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Waseca, MN 56093

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56093  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

Membership Renewal Date



# CHAUTAUQUA June 30

*Luke LeBlanc, Pete Klug, OboeBass  
Patrick Scully, Al Batt, Northern Drawl*



*Leprechaun Dreamcycle*

*A FREE festival of music and arts!*

*Throwbridge Park in Waseca, MN, 11 am-4 pm*



**Waseca  
County  
History  
Center**



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Prairie Lakes Regional Arts Council, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund; and the E.F. Johnson Foundation.



TIME	BAND STAND
11:00	Welcome
11:45	Northern Drawl: Dr. Galvin and Friends
11:45 12:15	Al Batt-Naturalist and Story teller
12:15 - 1:15	OboeBass
1:15-2:15	Patrick Scully Leaves of Grass
2:15-3:00	Pete Klug
3 -4 pm	Luke LeBlanc

