



# Heritage Happenings

Newsletter of the Woodbury Heritage Society



8301 Valley Creek Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125  
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[www.woodburyheritage.org](http://www.woodburyheritage.org)

*Board Members:*  
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**Vice-President:** Bill Schrankler  
**Secretary:** Dick Bielenberg  
**Treasurer:** Dick Fields  
  
**Directors:**  
  
Joyce Flynn  
Sheila Raths Hause  
Patty Paulus  
Julien Renaud  
Margaret Wachholz

## Le Diner en Blanc

**SPECIAL discount for Woodbury Heritage Society members!**

The **2nd** Annual Elegant French Picnic  
**Le Dîner en Blanc**  
Fundraising event to save the Miller Barn

**Sunday July 21, 2019**  
**4:30 pm - 7 pm**

Held at the Miller Barn location in Valley Creek Park  
(corner of Settler's Ridge and Valley Creek)

This is a truly magical event! This fun and exciting fundraising event to save the Miller Barn will be held in a stunning tent, with decorations, lights, tables and chairs, all in white. This creates a picturesque ambience in which to dine on a delectable French picnic basket meal, including wine, prepared by the famous **Lake Elmo Inn**. There will also be a captivating auction and great entertainment!

This event is hosted by the "Save the Miller Barn" committee. All attendees are encouraged to dress all in white (including hats) but wearing white is optional.

Ticket prices are \$65 per person, \$120 for a couple, or \$800 for a table of 8. You must be 21 or older to attend this event.

To purchase tickets please contact: [joyce\\_flynn@msn.com](mailto:joyce_flynn@msn.com).

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## Leaving a Legacy – Inez Oehlke

(Article originally from Woodbury Magazine, photo by Tate Carlson.)

Inez Oehlke made an incredible life by being a generous, thoughtful and focused philanthropist. She left a lasting impression on Woodbury in her 96 years of life and she continues to make a difference after her passing through a legacy gift to the Woodbury Community Foundation designated to preserve our community's heritage through the Miller Barn project. The funds are held in a special restricted fund for purposes outlined in a letter by Inez and will be released by the Woodbury Community Foundation Board as the plans for the

Miller Barn educational displays and activities become more well defined.

Several members of the Foundation Board had the privilege of getting to know her well over the final years of her life. WCF Board Member and Woodbury Heritage Society Board Member Margaret Wachholz was particularly close to Inez and describes her as the most humble and kindest of folk from Woodbury. "She was soft-spoken, passionate about her faith, dedicated to her family and her community. She was a down-to-earth lady who was pretty unassuming if you were to meet her on the street," said Margaret. "Inez also happened to be the Matriarch of Woodbury, a civic leader and one of the founders of the Woodbury Heritage Society with Woodbury's first Mayor Orville Bielenberg."

In 2013, Inez was among those who helped with the Foundation's History Book by contributing stories about Woodbury's rich history. In May of 2014, Inez was the keynote speaker at the Foundation's 10th Anniversary. She received a standing ovation after she finished her passionate speech with a quote from a Robert Browning poem: "Come, come, come, grow old with me, the best is yet to be."

Inez saw a golden opportunity to use the Miller Barn as a place to preserve and celebrate the city's history, honoring the Native Americans and settlers who gave birth to our community. Inez realized that bringing to life her dream of a heritage park at the Miller Barn site was going to extend beyond her lifetime. During conversations with Jack Lanners, who was then the Chair of the Foundation Board, Inez said she'd like to leave a portion of her estate to fund the fulfillment of her dream. She was inspired by the work Donna Smith-Stafford had done with the Woodbury K-9 Program supported through a fund at the Foundation. The Dick and Diane Hanson Fund for Innovation at the Foundation was another example she admired. She hoped to model her Miller Barn Legacy Fund in a similar manner, relying on the friends she trusted on the Foundation Board to assure they were administered consistent with her wishes. "Inez felt strongly about engaging our community in thoughtful and effective philanthropy during one's lifetime," said Margaret. "I never heard her complain. She always just felt blessed to be in the moment, listen, and love."

We lost Inez in September 2016. Her gift to the Foundation will preserve our community's heritage for future generations to enjoy.

## **Update on the Miller Barn and the Valley Creek Park**

The City of Woodbury staff received a total of four quality proposals and interviewed all four consulting firms with a three-person staff committee. The interview process was competitive and the staff is recommending the selection of Hagen, Christensen & McILwain Architects (HCM Architects) to provide the architectural and site plan services for this project. The proposal HCM Architects submitted will form the basis for the final contract detailing the services for the project.

At the May 22 City Council meeting, the Council approved staff to move forward and enter into a contract with HCM Architects. The results of this study and the master plan will be used to determine the budget for the development of this community park in 2021.

Preservation Design Works (PVN) is part of this consulting team, which brings experience in historic architecture, evaluation, and project management. PVN will provide a historic preservation assessment of the Miller Barn, guide the potential use of the MN Historical and Cultural Heritage Grant, and has past experience working with the Rehabilitation Standards of the Secretary of the Interiors as part of the Needs Study for the project. PVN will present at the July 24, 2019, Council Workshop and explain potential opportunities and future restrictions of using legacy funds for this park project.



### **Heritage House Open Dates:**

- June 23
- July 14,28
- August 11, 25
- September 8,22

The house is open from 1 to 4 PM.

**Come and visit!**



**Joyce Flynn promoted the Le Diner en Blanc at the Woodbury Expo. We had a successful exposition telling people about the Woodbury Heritage Society!**



8301 Valley Creek Road  
Woodbury, MN 55125

*Woodbury Heritage Society*

**APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP**

(Please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Please check appropriate line)

\_\_\_ \$15 per individual (Annual Dues for the Calendar Year)

\_\_\_ Additional Gift

Donations are tax deductible

Send application & check or money order to:

Woodbury Heritage Society  
Dick Fields, Membership Chair  
City Hall  
8301 Valley Creek Road