JUNIOR PIONEERS
OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY

Vol. 34 / No. 1 **JUNIOR PIONEER NEWSLETTER** Winter 2020

Junior Pioneers Winter Social
FRIDAY, February 21
Green Mill, New Ulm
5:30 Social Hour
6:00 Dinner
Program to Follow

Author, New Ulm Native, Jill Kalz

Jill Kalz lives and writes in New Ulm, Minnesota. ... A 2008 Minnesota Book Award finalist and winner of the Readers' Choice Award for her picture book Farmer Cap, **Kalz** is also the author of more than 70 children's books. She holds an MFA from Minnesota State University, Mankato, and works as a children's book editor.

Jill's latest book is a compilation of short stories titled *The Winter Bees*. This debut collection of short stories captures the lives of German-Americans in New Ulm. Anthony Bukoski, Special to the Minneapolis S*tar Tribune*, references her work. "In its give and take between earth and sky, reality and dreams, the piece is heartbreaking and is what I mean about the beauty to be found in Kalz's stories."

Come and listen to Jill!

Looking back……

Lori Otis steps down after eight years of service for the New Ulm Junior Pioneers. Drive by the park on the way to Schell's Brewery, and one will find the view has much changed during her tenure as a member and as president. Otis was asked to reflect on some of changes and accomplishments. She first wrote about the park, "I have been asked to 'brag about' the last eight years serving the Junior Pioneers. Much of my service has been spent outdoors at the park. Volunteers, consisting of both members and non-members, have removed an astounding 4.5 acres of buckthorn. This is an ongoing battle that will continue for years with so much left out in the neighboring landscape and without continued removal and care, it will return. The groups rebuilt and moved the picnic shelter to a more solid position in the park. The building was reconstructed, and the red tin roof was repainted and refurbished. The shelter now resides in a safer spot without the risk of sliding into the river. The volunteers rediscovered old oak trees and planted new trees, to honor and celebrate. Fencing was constructed in and around the park. Many scars were added to the mower blades and to helpers themselves." On a more personal note she states, "We have made new friends and built lasting relationships, discovered the fellowship of Wednesday nights in the park as we enjoyed cold beer and walking tacos after a couple hours of labor."

The park was purchased by the Pioneers in 1923 and has a charming, colorful history. The following is from the Vicinity Marker. "In the early 1870's, fourteen settlers purchased this beautiful spot located on the north bank of the Big Cottonwood River and named it Jägers Ruhe (Hunters' Rest). The objectives of this group of hunters was to preserve this property for their children and their children's children, to preserved the natural beauty for posterity, and to accommodate people who wanted to enjoy a day or an afternoon in the open away from the humdrum of everyday life. The owners of Hunters' Rest had maintained the four and one-half acres of property until the sale to the "Junior Pioneers of New Ulm and Vicinity" in 1923. The Junior Pioneer Park has lost none of its natural beauty in the intervening years and with the exception of the weekly target practice by the hunters, the Junior Pioneers of New Ulm and Vicinity have continued the objectives as set forth by the hunters club."

It wasn't all Park work for Otis for the intervening years. The organization with her leadership updated the Junior Pioneers' membership with the help of Microsoft office, excel, email and social media. They saved postage costs with electronic newsletters and social media.

As the best leaders often do, she sends a big thank you to all who have helped.

Photo: *Lori Otis and Mary Ellen Schanus and a huge pile of buckthorn. I remember that day. I said " We just doubled the size of the park today!"*

Sigel Township Named After Civil War General

By George L. Glotzbach

Brown County's Sigel Township is named after Franz Sigel, a famous German-American who served the Union during the American Civil War. Sigel was a German military officer, a leader in the German revolution in 1848, and an immigrant to the United States who became a teacher, newspaperman, politician, and served as a General in the Union army.

Franz Sigel was born November 18, 1824 in Sinsheim, Baden, Germany, about 80 miles northwest of Ulm. He graduated from Karlsruhe Military Academy in 1843. In 1848 he became a Colonel of the Baden revolutionary forces, and led the "Sigel-Zug" (Sigel-Platoon) recruiting 4,000 volunteers in a siege against the city of Freiburg. His army was annihilated by Prussian and Württemberg troops. Sigel led the retreat of his remaining revolutionarys to Switzerland. Along with many other '48ers he emigrated to the United States in 1852.

In America Sigel became a professor at the German-American Institute in St. Louis, Missouri. He was influential in the German-American community and attracted Germans to the Union side. He was commissioned Colonel of the 3rd Missouri Infantry May 4, 1861. Because Sigel was popular with German immigrants he was promoted to Brigadier General, one of President Lincoln's "political" generals. In 1862-63 Sigel commanded the XI Corps consisting primarily of German immigrant soldiers. A humerous song was written in his honor "I GOES TO FIGHT MIT SIGEL", which pokes fun at the German accent as well as their eating and drinking habits. It begins:

"Ven I comes from der Deutsche Countree, I vorks somedimes at baking,
Und den I runs a beer-saloon, und den I tries shoe-making;
But now I march mit musket out to safe dot Yankee Eagle,
Dey dress me up in soldier's clothes to go and fight mit Sigel.
CHORUS: Yah, das is true, I shpeaks mit you. Ve goes to fight mit Sigel."

Sigel was not successful militarily, but his ability to recruit and motivate German immigrants kept him alive in a politically sensitive position. He was relegated to light duty and resigned his position in May of 1865.

Sigel Township, Brown County, Minnesota was settled in 1856 and organized March 17, 1862 when General Sigel was at the peak of his popularity. Many of the organizers family names still appear in the township today: Brandt, Forstner, Guggisberg, Hillesheim, and Kuehn. In 1954 the New Ulm Review published an article reporting "The Visit of General Sigel" by an anonymous author. Some excerpts: ...it must have been in the fall of 1879, that General Franz Sigel...came to New Ulm to renew some wartime friendships... During the General's stay at New Ulm it was suggested that he call on his name sake, and a group of men brought him out to the school at Clear Lake. It was a great day for the school. Some of the older girls went down to the trees near the lake and made a wreath of oak leaves. Callie Brandt presented it to him and he put it around his hat. Our teacher, Mr. Velikanje was happy to greet such notable guests. Of course the General spoke to us...There were other short speeches, some in German. Even some of the children were called upon. We watched the two carriages drive away and then we all returned to 'readin, 'writin, and 'rithmetic."

Thereafter Sigel worked as a newspaper editor and in a variety of political positions. He published the New York Monthly, a German-American periodical. Franz Sigel died in Morrisania, New York August 21, 1902.

********Die Ende*********

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Or, Junior Pioneer Parks Blog: http://juniorpioneerpark.wordpress.com

*Deceased Members

*New Members

Name	*Ancestor*
Leon Treml	Hillesheim
Jerry Burmeister	Pederson/Evavold/Eide
Allie Smith	Henle/Furth
Jackie Furth	Henle/Furth

* Memorials & Donations

Bob and Norma Dempsey

3M Gives to their Employees/Retirees: Larry Mack and David Weldy

If we have forgotten or miss-credited anyone concerning; Memorials, Donations, Deceased Members or New Members, please notify the President Larry Mack at 507. 441.1613 or any Board Member and we will correct it.

Great Gift Idea!!!!!

Looking for a gift idea? How about a Junior Pioneer Membership!!

Junior Pioneers 2020 Winter Social and Dues Payment Form

Name(s): _____

Banquet Tickets(s): Number Attending: _____ $30.00 each: _____

Reservations are Due by Tuesday, February 21

Payments can be made at the door, but reservations are required prior to February 21
You can also send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073
Questions?Reservations: Lisa Besemer at 766-1991

Have you paid your dues? 2020 Annual Membership fees were due October, 2019

Single Membership	$20 ____
Joint Dues (*Husband & Wife both qualify for membership*)	$30 ____
Surviving Spouse	$20 ____

Send checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073
Questions? Lisa Besemer at 766-1991

Park Report

Remember the park is available for use! Contact the Junior Pioneers via facebook to gain access to the gate code!

Junior Pioneers
P.O. Box 22
New Ulm, MN 56073
(Address Service Requested)

Junior Pioneer Board of Directors - 2020

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