JUNIOR PIONEERS
OF NEW ULM AND VICINITY

Vol. 38 / No. 3 JUNIOR PIONEERS NEWSLETTER Fall 2024

Junior Pioneers Annual Meeting
Friday, October 18, 2024

Turner Hall
5:30 pm Social Hour

6:00 pm Dinner

featuring Turner Hall's FAMOUS stuffed pork chops
seasoned baby red potatoes
green beans
salad with house made balsamic dressing
roll
cheesecake

7:00 pm Business Meeting

Guest Speakers to Follow
Sid and Jan DeLeo
Orphan Trains

Between 1854 and 1929, Orphan Trains ran from the east coast of the United States to the west coast making stops throughout the Midwest with the hopes that they could receive new opportunities outside of the major cities. Sid and Jan DeLeo will speak on their personal experience with Orphan Trains, and how difficult it can be to track down relatives of those who were dropped off.

PLEASE NOTE:
TURNER HALL HAS TIGHTENED UP THEIR RSVP REQUIREMENTS!
We are therefore forced to require an earlier RSVP.
Turner Hall cannot guarantee the same meal for any late RSVPs.

Be sure to allow ample time for mailing in your RSVP to meet the deadline.

Reservations are due by Friday, September 27, 2024.
Complete and mail in the form below,
along with your payment for the meal and your 2025 dues.

Annual Meeting RSVP and 2025 Annual Membership

Name/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Banquet $40/person	$40 x____	_____
Single Membership	$25	_____
Joint Dues (*Husband & Wife both qualify for membership*)	$35	_____
Surviving Spouse	$25	_____
Additional Donation for _____		$_____
TOTAL		**$**_____

Send this completed form and checks to: Junior Pioneers, PO Box 22, New Ulm, MN 56073
Questions? Rebecca Fliszar at 507-404-0427 or juniorpioneersnu@gmail.com

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The nominating committee of Jim Kretsch (Chair), Judy Zahn, Pam Kitzberger, Jerry Dannheim and Kathleen Backer has been meeting to select nominees for the two open Board positions. The names of the nominees will be announced at the annual meeting.

In Honor of 100 Years
Junior Pioneers celebrate construction of new park shelter at annual picnic.

From the June 14, 2024 edition of The Journal, by Daniel Olson

This year's Junior Pioneers annual picnic came with another reason to celebrate.

After four years of construction and preparation, the new park shelter and electricity at Junior Pioneers Park were ready in time for the group's 101st anniversary of owning the park.
Former Junior Pioneers president Larry Mack said the shelter was a significant reinvestment and came from the mind of Loren Kraetz.

"It was his idea we should start doing something in honor of 100 years," Mack said. "He was the major donor. I worked through his eyes to get his vision working with the architect and seeing if the board would agree to his concept. He [wanted] it to be rectangular, have a large overhang for protection and have little German architectural features."

photo copied from The Journal article

The idea was presented to Terry Sveine by Loren and Pat Kraetz in 2012, and by 2019 Sveine let Mack know the cleared park space could be used. Loren and Pat Kraetz paid for 75% of the project, but fundraising was still needed. When the proposal was sent out, Mack said the response had been massive.

"We sent it out to 538 members to see if they would contribute and the response was overwhelming," he said. "Hundreds of people told me to [go for it]."

Loren and Pat Kraetz were not able to attend the ceremony, as Pat Kraetz was sick. To ensure they didn't miss out, a video package was created and will be sent to them.

Mayor Kathleen Backer said the park was purchased by the Junior Pioneers in 1923. They had $3,000 left over after celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Dakota War and chose to spend it on land they could use to reminisce and celebrate on.

Over 100 years later, Backer said the park shelter project fit right in with the original pioneer spirit.

"It's tied in so well to the legacy of our founding fathers to make this improvement," she said. "To have this, I imagined they were looking down at us with smiles on their faces because we're continuing that rich legacy."

To end the ceremony, Backer had two city documents to present. The first was a commendation to Loren and Pat Kraetz, for their generous support of the shelter.

"This evidence of commendation and recognition is hereby presented to Loren and Pat Kraetz on the occasion of being interested in and supportive of the preservation of rich history in New Ulm and the surrounding area," she said. "The unchallengeable support and dedication to preservation of history you have demonstrated with your donation to the picnic shelter project have been duly noted."

The second was a proclamation making June 23, 2024, Junior Pioneers of New Ulm and Vicinity Day. Backer said the proclamation was in recognition of the group's 112 years of keeping the pioneers' legacy alive, contributing to history preservation, providing public programs and maintaining the park as a legacy to present members and their descendants.

The park and picnic shelter are available to anyone who wishes to use it. Reservations for the shelter are not being taken at this time, but the Junior Pioneers board is currently working on the details to do so.

Park Shelter Available for Rental

Our Junior Pioneer Park is open to the public, even though it is privately owned by the Junior Pioneers. Currently we are taxed as a public park so we do need to remain open, anyone can walk through or visit the park without permission or reserving it.

The shelter is now available for rental. Rental is for a full day. Junior Pioneer member rental fee is $100 with a $100 damage deposit. Non-member rental is $150, with a $150 damage deposit. Non-members must be "sponsored" by a member.

An online calendar, rental agreement and payment are in development and will soon be available as a link on the Junior Pioneer website.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Gulden

***New Members**

Name	*Ancestor*
Julie Duehring	Henle/Schilling
Bob Furth	Henle/Fink
Nicole Lohman	Sehr/Schort
Willis Robert Schaefer	Palmer

*** Memorials & Donations**

Terry & Ellie Sveine	in Memory of Don Balbach
Judy Zahn	in Memory of Dick Scheid

Catered Meal at Annual Picnic

Bobby Duehring
Honorable Craig W. and Mrs. Theresa Duehring
Ruth McCrea Simpson

Endowment Fund

Gerald & Maggie Ubl

Shelter Fund

Andy & Ann Biebl
Bob & Norma Dempsey
Marily B. Johnson
Pamela Ann Lynn
Craig & Dolly Opel
Maggie Schwab (proceeds from sale of Junior Pioneers Park prints)
Dave Weldy

***Deceased Members**

Gary L. Dallmann (4/2024)
Julie Heilig Febres (11/2017)
Herbert Furth (1/2023)
Charles Griebel (7/2019)
Dr. Charles Hintz (7/2024)
Gardell Kuelbs (7/2023)
LaVonne Kuelbs (7/2022)
Elaine Lieder (7/2013)
Richard Niemann (8/2024)
Richard Runck (5/2021)
Harriet Whittaker (4/2015)
Alan "Smiley" Wiltscheck (6/2024)

If you become aware of the passing of one of our members, please let Lynn Henle know by emailing l.henle@ comcast.net. This allows us to honor them in a more timely manner and keep our rolls up-to-date.

Corrections from the May 2024 Newsletter

Donations

Jason Schaefer of Master ***Electric Co.*** (*not Master* ***Graphics***)

Karen and Frank Brust — In Memory of Jacob Haeberle, Leonard Haeberle, Alice Haeberle, John Haeberle, Edla and ***Franklin*** (*not* ***Frank***) Brust

** New Members, Memorials & Donations or Deceased Members as of August 29, 2024.*
If we have forgotten or miscredited anyone, please notify
Jyneal McCrea (newsletter editor) at jynealmccrea@gmail.com or 507-202-6299.

Milford Monument Update
from Dan Juni

There are currently no concerns for the monument, other than the township board has no interest in requesting the land back from the state at this time. The township board is comfortable with the current arrangement and is happy to leave it in the hands of the Minnesota Historical Society.

We seem to have lost track of some of our members. If you know the current address and/or email of any of the following people, please contact Lynn Henle at l.henle@comcast.net.

Jane Lohman	Mimi McMillen
Lincoln Mueller, Sr.	Frances Powell
Carol Swensen	John Whittaker

Do you have a topic that may be of interest to Junior Pioneer members?
Consider writing an article for a future edition of the newsletter!
Please keep articles to 1-3 pages and photos are welcome.

Please send questions or submissions to Jyneal McCrea at jynealmccrea@gmail.com

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Check out our Facebook page for additional photos and continued updates.
www.facebook.com/JuniorPioneersofNewUlm

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Please consider receiving future newsletters via email.
This saves our organization considerable funds in printing and mailing costs.
BONUS – Photos are in color when you opt for email delivery!
Please forward your email address to Lynn Henle at l.henle@comcast.net

As you consider your end-of-year giving, please keep in mind your Junior Pioneers Park. We are always intent on maintaining the park and looking for ways to beautify it. Our mission is to keep alive the memory of our ancestors. Your board is always willing to gratefully accept donations from members. Possible future expenses that may be considered include:

- Honoring sites throughout the Junior Pioneers' geographical area
  - historical markers
  - historical programming
- Park upkeep and enhancements
  - planting of trees
  - planting of perennial flowers
- Shelter
  - sidewalks for ease of accessibility
  - enclosing the shelter
  - grill/s

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Social
February 2025

Summer Picnic
June 2025

Annual Meeting
October 2025

2024 Junior Pioneers Board Members	
Jeff Gulden, President	Daniel Juni, Vice President
Rebecca Fliszar, Secretary	Mary Ellen Schanus, Treasurer
Mark Furth	Lynn Henle
Pam Kitzberger	Alyce Konz
Jyneal McCrea	Gordon Palmer
Abigail Saffert	Judy Zahn

Junior Pioneers email is juniorpioneersnu@gmail.com

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