

Johnston (Station) Historical Society

Volume 27, Issue 4

Newsletter

Winter 2019

From the Desk of the President

The end of the year draws near and we start all over again. The Members of the Board would like to wish each and every one of you Happy Holidays and hope you all have a great New Year.

Even though the Museum will be closed for the winter the members of your board will meet each month and continue to address upcoming events and the many constant challenges that are thrown at us in order to maintain the upkeep of the museum.

We would like you to know that we still need volunteers and welcome any and all advise in order to make this symbol of history maintain its place in the Johnston Community.

President, Michael B. Knight



2020 Annual Dues

It's dues time. All members' annual dues are to be paid by January 13, 2020, for the 2020 calendar year. The cost for a yearly membership remains at \$20 and we have **enclosed an envelope** to mail your dues back to us for your convenience.

If the number after your name on the mailing label is **20** or higher, your dues for **2020** are already paid. Good financial planning!

We welcome any donation over and above your membership amount. The work of preservation is not cheap and costs for the upkeep of a 100-year old house continue to rise. Your generosity has allowed us to continue the work of saving and sharing our local history. Your support and donations are appreciated!

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Election 2020

The ballot to elect four Board Members will be sent out in early January to all members who have paid their 2020 dues. Please watch for it in your mail and return by mid-January.

Board Members Needed

Please consider running for the board. If you or someone you know might be interested in serving on the board in any capacity, please submit a name and contact info to us.

Volunteering time to continue the work of preserving Johnston archives at the museum is needed. If you have any questions, please contact us on 515 331-0687 and leave a message.

THANK YOU

We have been blessed with great donors and volunteers who have donated their time, money and memories. Thanks to our most recent donors:

John and Michelle Brown
Carla Johns
Mike Knight
Deb Krambeck
Lois Waggoner
Elaine & Larry Egan
Weatherspoon Charitable Foundation
Johnston Hy-Vee
JSHS Volunteers
Farmers Mutual Hail Ins.

The Board of Directors would like to thank each of you for your generous donation of cash and items. With these gifts, we are able to preserve and share the rich history of Johnston.

Welcome new member:

Louise Whitlow

Goodsearch.org helps non-profits raise funds by donating a penny for each Yahoo search done through their website.

Sign up and designate the Johnston Station Historical Society as your charity

Member Benefit Simpson House Rental

Need a space to gather your small group? The Johnston Historical Society would like to offer the use of the 1902 Simpson House as a membership benefit.

Reserve our facility for private events for free. Call us for details!
515-331-0687



THANK YOU, ALAN LATHRUM

Al Lathrum who has served on the board the last six years is leaving. He has served two consecutive three-year terms and in accordance with society by-laws must step down for one year. Al was our Mr. Handyman he could fix or install anything that needed to be done.

Al we will miss you and hope you can continue to volunteer here at the museum.

THANK YOU, JAN JENSEN

Jan Jensen our archivist is stepping down after serving on the board for the last three years. She had served 6 years previously before rejoining the board again as the archivist. We want to thank you Jan for all the hard work that you done in preserving the artifacts here at the Museum and hope you continue to volunteer whenever you can.

Thank You, Liz Van Zomeren

Liz Van Zomeren our secretary is stepping down after serving on the board for the last three years. We want to thank you for all your hard work that you have done for us and hope you will continue to volunteer whenever you can.

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE DECEMBER 7th



The Christmas event was a wonderful success. Board members treated the visitors to cookies, hot cocoa and coffee.

More than 30 people toured the museum and received a gift bag of candy.

Special thanks to our volunteers who provided goodies and manpower: **Matthew Ding, Jan Jensen, Mike Knight, Liz Van Zomeren, John Brown, Lois Waggoner.** We would also like to thank **Jay Waggoner** who took pictures for our event.



OBITUARIES

Obituaries are compiled by Nancy Budrevich. If anyone knows of others, please let Nancy know. Nancy can be contacted

- by mail: 6161 Northglenn Dr., Johnston, IA, 50131
- by email: jshs@q.com
- by phone: 515-331-0687

Over 1,000 Johnston related obituaries are now on file at the museum.

H. Jeanne Swanson Landgren	Class of 1941	4/23/2019
Robert Leonard, Sr.	Class of 1951	12/2/2019
Mildred A Peitzman	JSHS Member/Resident	6/19/2019
Dennis R. Myer	Classmate of 1962	11/21/2019
Edward H. Slauson	Class of 1964	11/30/2019
Rebecca "Becky" Ward Bruce	Class of 1980	10/31/2019
Michael Howieson	Class of 1980	12/4/2019
Josh Parry	Class of 1999	9/16/2019
Adam M. Meyer	Class of 2003	12/2/2019
Angelo John "A.J." Cresta	Class of 2010	10/30/2019



ANNUAL MEETING AND APPRECIATION DINNER

The Johnston Historical Society held the fall membership meeting on October 24, 2019 at the Simpson Barn. The meal of sandwiches was catered by our local Johnston Hy-Vee and members has several salads from the year of 1969 thanks to **Liz Van Zomeren**. The room was decorated in a fall motif thanks to our board member **Lois Waggoner**.



President **Mike Knight** gave an overview of the year's events and thanked all those who helped make them successful. We also heard from **John Brown** on the status of our strategic planning efforts and from **Liz Van Zomeren** what it was like in the year of 1969



Jake Wicks gave an undate of the status of his Eagle Scout project, historical markers along the new sidewalk to the Simpson Barn. He now has completed the border and installation of the poles. The signs will be installed at a later date.



Thank You certificate was given to **Mary Jane Paez** for creating the Johnston Trivia book and research and writing of several of the banners. **Shelly Brown** also received a certificate for her leadership in designing and coordination all of the research and photographs to create the banners for Johnston's 50th Anniversary celebration.



Carla Johns and **Matthew Ding** for their commitment of volunteering.



Entertainment by **The Dance Vision** a studio here in Johnston performed for our members and guests.

October 24, 2019

Dear Members of the Johnston Historical Society,

Greetings and congratulations on a successful year-long celebration of Johnston's 50th Anniversary. Your efforts in planning and preparing for the many events that took place throughout our community were appreciated by all. It couldn't have been done without you.

As we reflect on Johnston's first 50 years, we have much to be proud of. Since 1969, our population has grown from 222 to over 22,000 today. We are a welcoming community and becoming increasingly more diverse. We have great schools and great businesses providing high quality jobs and services to our residents. We have safe streets and strong neighborhoods. We've grown a lot but we've been able to maintain that small town feel – where neighbors know their neighbors and look out for each others' kids.

And while much has been accomplished over the past several decades, there is still much to do. We are well positioned to make the next 50 years more historical than the last 50 years. Some exciting things you have to look forward to in the next couple of years include:

The Johnston Town Center. The downtown that Johnston has never had. We broke ground on the Johnston Town Center just yesterday and construction of a new City Hall has already started. Included within the Town Center will be restaurants with roof top seating, retail shopping, a splash pad and an ice rink. In the center, will be The Yard – a large green space that will host the farmer's market, concerts and movies in the park. Along the east side will be a trail head connecting the Town Center and all that it has to offer to Johnston's vast trail system.

Beaver Creek Water Trail. We very recently celebrated the opening of our first kayak/canoe launch at the intersection of 86th Street and 70th Avenue. Two more launches are planned in the next couple of years – one at Lew Clarkson Park and another at the south end of Merle Hay Road. Beaver Creek has been identified as the most paddler friendly water way in central Iowa – so it's no wonder that we were the first community to build infrastructure as part of the regional water trails system.

Trestle to Trestle Bridge. As you all know, this popular connecting trail bridge between Des Moines and Johnston came down earlier this year due to an ice jam. Rather than quickly replacing it with a similar structure, we decided to seize the opportunity to build something truly amazing, a signature bridge that will be an attraction and something truly special for users of our trail system. We are working with Polk County on the design that will include an overlook in the middle of the creek, aesthetically interesting entry features and lighting that can change with the seasons. Construction on the bridge will begin next spring.

We may soon have some "face-changing" news to share about development at the south end of Merle Hay Road, our city's Gateway. Stay tuned as we continue to make Johnston's history together.

Thanks again for all you do to make Johnston the best place to live, work, and play. A place where we Thrive. Everyday.

Mayor Paula Dierenfeld

KUDOS to DANCE VISION

At the Annual Meeting and Appreciation dinner held at the Simpson Barn on October 24, 2019, the attendees were entertained by five very talented young dancers who study at Dance Vision a studio located in Johnston, Iowa. The dancers performed to ***Build Me Up Buttercup***, by the Foundations. The song was number 20 on the Billboard magazine's Top 100 songs of 1969. Dance Vision was contacted in early September and asked if they would like to select a song from 1969, the year that the City of Johnston, Iowa was incorporated. They enthusiastically accepted our invitation to perform.



The performers were: Hannah Clark of Johnston, Iowa, Eliza Ewalt of Dallas Center, Iowa, Kendra McDaniel of Bondurant, Iowa, Jaidyn Lenz of Gilbert, Iowa, Drew Mumm of Ankeny, Iowa

All of the performers are high school seniors who intend to pursue further studies or careers in dance following graduation.



The dancers were accompanied by **Sabetha Mumm**,

Owner/Choreographer. According to Dance Vision's website, www.dance-vision.com, Ms. Mumm opened Dance Vision in 2003. She has a background in competition studio and concert dance, she is certified by Dance Masters of America. Her son, Drew Mumm, appeared on the TV show, *So You Think You Can Dance* in Season 13.

It was a pleasure to have these young performers showcase their talent and skills at the Annual Meeting; we appreciate the time and energy they gave to perform for us.

Looking Back at 1969

By Liz Van Zomeren

These comments were shared at the Johnston (Station) Historical Society's Annual Meeting held at the Simpson Barn on October 24, 2019. They have been edited for publication.

In 1969, I was a 4th grader in Mrs. Anderson's class at Hawley Elementary in Fort Dodge, Iowa. My dad worked 6 days a week as a store manager for Goodyear and my mom was a stay-at-home mom. In 1969 she was pregnant with her last and fourth child.

The price of gas in 1969 was 35 cents per gallon, a first-class stamp was only 6 cents. Mail was delivered by a postal worker in the morning and afternoon. A dozen eggs purchased from a grocery store was 62 cents and a gallon of milk was \$1.10 and could be home delivered to a metal box on the front step or porch.

The Fort Dodge newspaper, the *Messenger*, had a morning and an evening edition. The paper was delivered by children and they were responsible for going door to door to collect their customer's payment.

The life expectancy for an adult in 1969 was 70 ½ years old, the unemployment rate was at 3.6% and the media household income was \$8,389. A new home cost \$27,900. The population of the United States was around 202 million.

In January 1969 the 37th President of the United States was inaugurated. His name was Richard Milhouse Nixon, he was from California. The Vice-President was Spiro Agnew. Robert D. Ray became the 38th Governor of Iowa in 1969. Our country was at war in Vietnam. The CBS news with Walter Cronkite would show gruesome film footage of the war and would give nightly body count updates.

Children played outside for hours at a time. Games included hide and seek, freeze tag, "Simon Says" and school.

Children didn't typically watch a lot of TV. There were 3 networks, American Broadcasting Company (ABC), Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), and National Broadcasting Company, NBC. We didn't have remote controls to change the channels. If you wanted to change the channel you had to walk over to the TV and turn the channel knob. Television broadcasting would go off the air around midnight with a picture of the American flag on the screen and the Star-Spangled banner playing in background. The screen would then go black.

The year 1969 was also the year that Iowa Public Television began. Dick York who played Elizabeth Montgomery's husband, Darrin left the Bewitched TV show and was replaced with Dick Sargent. In April of 1969, CBS censored the Smothers Brothers and

replaced the show with Hee Haw. In June 1969, the final episode of Star Trek aired. On July 20th 1969, 720 million people worldwide watched Apollo 11 land on the moon. The Brady Bunch launched in September which was the same month that ABC and CBS broadcast all of their daytime shows in color. The Jackson Five debuted in October and Sesame Street debuted in November. The Rolling Stones made their final appearance on the Ed Sullivan show. At the end of the year, the genie on I Dream of Jeannie, finally became the astronaut's wife, Mrs. Anthony Nelson.

Some of the other popular shows we watched were Captain Kangaroo, Get Smart, Green Acres, Gunsmoke, Bonanza, and Hawaii 5-0.

In film and movies, the top-ranking movies were Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kids, Midnight Cowboy (rated X), Easy Rider, Hello, Dolly! Bob & Carol & Ted & Alice, and True Grit. On Broadway Butterflies are Free, Oh Calcutta! Our Town and Oklahoma opened. Judy Garland died at age 47 that year.

In music, Woodstock drew 400,000 people to a farm in New York. The top 10 songs were:

1. Sugar, Sugar by the Archies
2. Aquarius, Let the Sunshine In by the 5th Dimension
3. I Can't Get Next to You by the Temptations
4. Honky Tonk Women-The Rolling Stones
5. Everyday People by Sly and the Family Stone
6. Dizzy by Tommy Roe
7. Hot Fun in the Summertime by Sly and the Family Stone
8. It Looks Like I'll Never Fall in Love Again by Tom Jones
9. Build Me Up Buttercup by the Foundations
10. Crimson and Clover by Tommy James and The Shondells

The Beatles released their 11th album in September of 1969. The album's cover featured the four band members walking across a zebra crossing outside of Abbey Road Studios.

The most popular books published in 1969 were:

Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut

I Know why the Caged Bird sings by Maya Angelou

The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle

The Godfather by Mario Puzo

The Andromeda Strain by Michael Crichton

Portnoy's Complaint by Philip Roth

Papillon (which means butterfly) by Henrie' Charriere

The French Lieutenant's Women by John Fowles

The decade of the 1960's ushered in instant food. Instant oatmeal was introduced, Pillsbury rolled out refrigerated dough. Pringles were invented in 1969. Cocktail parties were popular with fancy party food. Fondue, empanadas, pigs in a blanket. Canned cream sauces were in vogue. Julia Child made French food popular with her TV cooking show. Cool whip, a non-dairy whipped topping became wildly popular and the 24-hour salad became a potluck staple. Another dish that was introduced was called the 7-layer sandwich cake. It was four slices of buttered white bread that was stacked with three layers of salad- tuna, chicken, and deviled ham. It was frosted with a mix of cream cheese and sour cream and decorated with parsley

The winner of the Bake-Off ® 20 was Edna Walker from Minnesota. She made a dessert called Magic Marshmallow Crescent Puffs. It was refrigerated crescent roll dough wrapped around a marshmallow, dipped in butter, baked in a muffin tin and then topped with chopped nuts and a confectioner's sugar glaze.

In the sports world, the third Super Bowl was played in 1969. The New York Jets beat the Baltimore Colts, with a final score was 16 to 7. The quarterback for the Jets was Broadway Joe, Joe Namath. The Colts had been favored; their coach was Don Shula.

In baseball, the Mets had pitching stars Tom Seaver, Jerry Koosman and Nolan Ryan. They would go on to beat the Baltimore Orioles.

On August 31, 1969, Rocky Marciano, a World Heavyweight Champion, was a passenger on a small private plane heading to Des Moines, Iowa. The pilot tried to land near Newton due to bad weather. He hit a tree two miles short of the runway. He was on the way to give a speech to support his friend's son, it was the day before his 46th birthday and a surprise birthday was planned.

In the corporate world, there were several companies that were formed that are still in business today. Walmart was incorporated in 1969 by Sam Walton. Wendy's, Taco John's, Long John Silver's, and Cracker Barrel restaurants were also incorporated. Sysco, Gap, Econolodge, and DHL Express also launched in 1969.

1969 was a tumultuous year. Bad things happened like Chappaquiddick, the Zodiac Killer, and the Manson family.

In 1969, my only brother was born prematurely in May. He was named Joel. He works in Information Technology, IT, a career that didn't exist when he was born.

I would encourage all of you who were around in 1969 to spend some time reflecting on what you remember and write it down in a journal to share with your family and friends.

References: 1969 The Year Everything Changed by Rob Kirkpatrick, Skyhorse Publishing, 2011. Special Time Edition, 1969, 50 Years Later.

**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF HISTORY
CLASS OF 1969**



While celebrating their 50 years from graduating from Johnston High School on the weekend of September 20,21 and 22nd, some of the classmates visited the Johnston Historical Museum to learn more about the history of Johnston and look over the many artifacts that the museum has to offer.

Mike Merritt, Steve Madole, Mark Miller, Sherrie Wicker Schwaller

Gloria Phipps Coser, Rich Reams

Beverly Ashley Brown, Linda Busby Zeiger, Rod Erickson, Ward Bell

Joy Chapman Jordon, Jane Trier Paulsen, Linda Reeck Goodman,

Claudia Snyder Kaul, Lois Irving Waggoner

GO DRAGONS!!!!!!

NEW SIDE WALKS AND DRIVEWAY INSTALLED



This fall the city of Johnston replaced the sidewalks and drive around the Simpson House due deteriorating condition of the bricks to ensure the safety of the public.

Museum Open by Appointment

The museum is **closed for the winter** and will open in April, 2020.

Tours of the museum will be available by appointment only. Call the museum at **515-331-0687** and leave a message. Your Board of Directors will continue to meet during the winter months to carry out the work of the museum.



Our Casey's Pizza fundraiser is winding down. We have only 4 punch cards remaining.

Each card has 10 punches valid for one **FREE medium pizza** with the purchase of any large specialty pizza.

PIZZA

PIZZA

PIZZA

PIZZA

PIZZA

PIZZA

PIZZA

That's 10 FREE medium pizzas for only \$15.00. Punch cards are redeemable for in-store. Leave a message at the museum (515-331-0687) and we'll get back to you.



Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and Happy Holidays
from the Johnston Historical Society
Board of Directors

Johnston (Station) Historical Society
6161 Northglenn Dr.
Johnston, IA 50131

Mission Statement

The purpose of the Johnston (Station) Historical Society is to bring people together who are interested in the history and preservation of the Johnston area, which includes the early settlements of Johnston Station, Beaver Creek Settlement, Ridgedale, Huntsville, Herrold and Dodge City.

To this goal, we work to get the community engaged and involved in Johnston's rich history by providing a museum and events to the public.

Johnston Historical Board Members

Michael Knight, President
Liz Van Zomeren, Secretary
Jan Jensen, Archivist
Marilyn Coonley, Membership

John Brown, Vice President
Lois Waggoner, Treasurer
A.J. Simpson
Alan Lathrum, Membership

The museum is open by appointment. Leave a message at 515-331-0687 if you are interested in a tour.

Website: www.johnstoniowahistorical.org