

— The Hourglass —



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Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival

The 40th Anniversary



Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24



40 Years of Scandinavian Heritage, 10 Years of Viking History, and the Debut of Viking Connection

By Davin Wait

The annual Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival and Midwest Viking Festival return to the Hjemkomst Center and Viking Ship Park on **Friday, June 23**, and **Saturday, June 24**, and this year's celebration offers quite a few milestones.

When we assemble at the end of June in celebration and commemoration of our community's prominent Nordic heritage, we'll also be observing the 40th anniversary of the Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival, the 10th anniversary of the Midwest Viking Festival, and the 5th anniversary of the summer the two combined. In addition, our 2017 festival will feature Norway (exactly 35 years after the *Hjemkomst* sailed

to Norway) and introduce Viking Connection, our new program cultivating and preserving Viking Age Nordic art in the Upper Midwest. That's a lot of reasons to get out and enjoy our historical society's oldest festival.

In Viking Ship Park, we'll be hosting a reinvigorated Viking Village demonstrating the arts, crafts, and trades of Viking Age Europe and we'll be offering the first returns of a major new program, Viking Connection, that brought us two new staff members (Director Tim Jorgensen and Project Manager / HCSCC Administrative Assistant Lynelle Martin) who will serve as the primary points of contact for a new effort in

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(Saint John's, 10)

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Our thanks to the Moorhead City Council and the Clay County Commission for their continued support of local history and culture.

HCSCC News

President's Message From John Dobmeier



Greetings to you all,

The weather is getting nicer, students are getting anxious for the school year to be done and our annual meeting is a recent memory. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Tree Top Revisited experience at HCSCC such a success. No one in the country celebrates good friends and good food like we do here in the Midwest.

We are coming into our busy season with a lot of great events and opportunities just over the horizon and I do look forward to seeing many of you this summer. Please take time to look through this edition of *The Hourglass* and make plans to join us in the coming weeks and months.

This year I had the distinct pleasure of having a number of foreign exchange students. They have added a new dimension to my life and have enriched my teaching experience many times over.

In the spirit of those students I leave you with an Irish Blessing:

May you always have...
Walls for the winds
A roof for the rain
Tea beside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
Those you love near you
And all your heart might desire.

As always, I thank you for your support,

~ John Dobmeier
HCSCC Board President

Please Send Us Your Addresses!

Are you going away for the winter or coming back for the summer? Please send your alternate address to Lynelle.Martin@hcsmuseum.org to make sure you receive all the up-to-date information from us!



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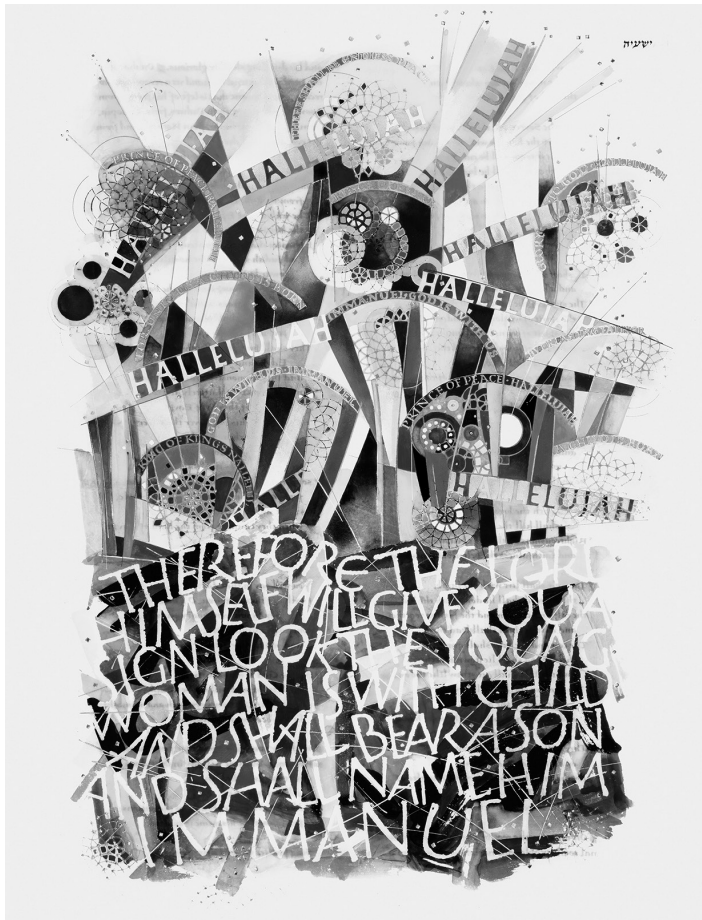
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HCSCC News



A Bible Brunch: An Illuminating the Word Fundraiser Sunday, July 23 | 11:00AM - 1:00PM

The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County will be hosting a fundraising brunch for *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* on **Sunday, July 23**, from 11:00AM to 1:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center.

The theme of the brunch is "Foods of the Bible" and Rex Cafe chef Kelly Wambach has hit his stride exploring those very possibilities in two fundraising dinners earlier this year. Visitors can expect some of the usual breakfast fare, namely eggs and breads, but with a Mediterranean and Middle Eastern focus: pita, olives, dates, apricots, lamb, fish, goat, cheeses, etc.

Tickets are available for \$25 and can be reserved on our website (via the 'Event Registration' tab) or by contacting Lynelle at (218) 299-5511, ext. 6739.

Detail: Messianic Predictions, Thomas Ingmire, 2005, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, USA.

Parlor Talks: Expanding HCSCC's Evening Hjemkomst Programming

In collaboration with Drekker Brewing Company, we will be offering a monthly lecture series scheduled throughout the summer. Titled "Parlor Talks," the series will combine local food, history, and beer into one night at the Hjemkomst Center, and our hope is to build a regular group of members and visitors with whom we can share in interesting and informed conversations about local history and culture.

Admission is \$15 (\$10 for members) and includes a 60 to 90-minute presentation, museum tours, food, and a beer (with more available at a cash bar). At least some tickets will be available at the door, but we encourage you to reserve seats through our website.

June 13 - Joe Zeleznik and Dendrochronology

July 5 - Daniel Serra and Viking Age Cooking

August 8 - Mark Peihl and WWI-era Clay County

FMVA Constraint Show at the Comstock House Starting July 11

In our continued partnership with Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists, we're changing things up for this summer's "Constraint Show." As many will remember, this annual art exhibition challenges FMVA members to create works within very specific limits -- last year's constraint was "Touchable." Though the constraint changes each year, this year we're also moving the show to the Historic Comstock House. The theme for this year's show is "Time Warp" and it runs from July 11 to September 8.

An opening reception, free and open to the public, is scheduled for **Thursday, July 13**, at 6:00PM.

Event Registration Now Online

To purchase tickets or reserve seats for any of our events, go to our website, www.hcscconline.org, and click on the 'Event Registration' tab on the top menu. The link will lead you to our Eventbrite page/calendar.



Message from Executive Director

Maureen Kelly Jonason

A month after our fabulous annual meeting, we are still receiving accolades and savoring wonderful memories. "The Tree Top Revisited" was one of the most successful themes for a special event we've ever enjoyed. Every one of the 136 seats was filled and we had to turn people away. Many thanks to those of you who called or wrote in early to make your reservation! We learned that you enjoy the extra effort and being pampered a bit and recalling good times from the past – and who doesn't? We'll have to think of something particularly innovative for next year! Thanks to all who made it a memorable evening.

As the weather warms and the flowers return, so do the visitors. May has been a busy month with many many school tours. The museum serves as a valuable resource for teachers in our region who incorporate a visit to their local historical society as a part of their social studies or history curriculum. We are familiar with the state-mandated benchmarks for each grade on both sides of the river, and a team of six can handle a maximum of 150 students in one visit. Many days in May it sounds like a beehive under the Hjemkomst Center roof. This year, all of the children from the YMCA summer program will also be treated to a museum visit in June. Since educating and entertaining at the same time is our passion, we are delighted with the task.

We are also gearing up for the Midwest Viking Festival (June 23-24), held in collaboration with the Nordic Culture Club's Scandinavian Hjemkomst Festival. Ticket prices are \$15 for adults, \$10 for seniors and students (13 & up), and FREE for children 12 and under. HCSCC MEMBERS GET IN FREE BY SHOWING THEIR MEMBERSHIP CARDS! So don't wait until the last minute to dig those out.

In addition, July will bring the fabulous Quilt National 2015 exhibition of 30 of the finest art quilts in the world to Heritage Hall through October 10, and, of course, the finest art exhibition we've ever had – *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible* – will open to the public October 1. Save September 16 for the German Kultur Fest and come even if there is a Bison game that day! We have hired two great Minnesota oompa bands to play all day long, and Kelly will pull out all the stops for the best German-American food in town. Again, that day of festivities is FREE TO HCSCC MEMBERS WITH MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

Though late May showers are currently chilling the air, it won't be long before we are all bemoaning the 95-degree heat. And so the cycle continues . . .

-Maureen Kelly Jonason

On April 27 at the Minnesota History Awards in Walker, Minnesota, HCSCC Senior Archivist Mark Peihl won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Minnesota Alliance of Local History Museums.

His career here started when he volunteered in 1985 with CCHS. A year later he became the archivist and he's shared his tremendous talents and ethic with our community and his profession in the 32 years since.

Congratulations, Mark. You deserve the accolades.



Mark Peihl, receiving the MALHM Lifetime Achievement Award.

Consider the Gift of Membership

Are you a member of the Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County? Do you have family or friends who might be interested? Sign up or renew your membership today! We have several membership levels to choose from:

- Basic – \$40
- Basic+ – \$60
- Booster – \$85
- Patron – \$125
- Heritage – \$250
- Benefactor – \$500

To sign up or to learn more about what each membership level offers, visit our website (www.hcscconline.org) and click on the "Join, Support, Shop" tab at the top menu or give us a call: (218) 299-5511.

Exhibits & Events at HCSCC

Quilt National '15

Heritage Hall (July 1 - October 10)

The Dairy Barn Art Center's 19th biennial juried exhibition of innovative art quilts in Athens, Ohio, makes its debut in Fargo-Moorhead, as we showcase an eclectic collection of work from fiber artists representing 33 states and 8 foreign countries. As one of the jurors, Judy Schwender, notes, the exhibition shows "the larger world out there that quilting is an art form on a level with traditional fine art mediums."

The public reception for the exhibition will be held **Tuesday, July 18**, from 5:00PM to 7:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center. An additional meet-the-artist reception will be held for visitors interested in meeting Quilt National '15 textile artist Velda Newman (from Nevada City, CA) on **Thursday, September 21**, from 3:00PM to 5:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center. Velda will also be offering an evening lecture and workshops. Both receptions are free and open to the public.

This activity is funded in part by a grant from the Lake Region Arts Council through a Minnesota State Legislative appropriation, as well as funding from the Quilters' Guild of North Dakota and the Minnesota Quilters.

Wet & Dry: Alcohol in Clay County, 1871-1937

Heritage Hall (through January 8, 2018)

On April 25, 1872, Dan "Slim Jim" Shumway shot and killed Shang Stanton inside a saloon in Moorhead, MN, a small tent town on the edge of the Northern Pacific Railroad. In response to the angry mob demanding justice, local merchant Jim Blanchard was tasked with arresting Shumway; and a local railroad laborer with a law degree, Solomon Comstock, was tasked with prosecuting him. The two became Clay County's first sheriff and attorney and their story marked only the beginning of the wild and sordid history of alcohol in our community.

From Moorhead's early days as that tent town on the edge of dry Dakota Territory to the moments after the 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition, *Wet & Dry, Alcohol in Clay County* features the real rum runners, bootleggers, blind pigs, moonshiners, Temperance debates, gangs, and bank robberies of Clay County.

The 24th National Watermedia Exhibition

4th Floor Gallery (June 19 - August 5)

In a partnership with the Red River Watercolor Society, we will be hosting the 24th Annual National Watermedia Exhibition, a gorgeous survey of the full scope and possibility of watercolors by some of the most prolific and talented watercolor artists of today. The featured artists come from both our local community and the U.S. at large and, as current RRWS Chair Debra Griffey notes, they were certain to adhere to the original vision of this exhibition, first articulated almost 25 years ago: providing a diverse selection of watercolor to its members and building a world-class community through education and exhibitions.

An opening reception, including awards and a presentation from exhibition juror Andy Evansen, is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 20**, from 5:30PM to 8:00PM at the Hjemkomst Center. The reception is free and open to the public.

History and Heritage:

Celebrating 125 Years of Concordia College

Heritage Hall (until June 10)

Chronicling the long, storied past of one of Moorhead's oldest institutions, this exhibition celebrates the history of Concordia College, honoring the people, traditions, and stories that have shaped it since its 1891 founding on the site of Bishop Whipple School.

Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists BIG Show

4th Floor Gallery (until June 9)

One of our community's major arts organizations, FMVA, fills the 4th Floor Gallery with locally-produced art every spring, offering a unique and current glimpse into the artistic minds of Fargo-Moorhead. The BIG Show features arts educators, emerging artists, and established masters. The accompanying artist statements describe their inspirations and techniques.

Comstock House Open Saturdays & Sundays

(Weekend Tours, 1:00PM - 4:00PM)

Memorial Day has brought regular summer hours to the the Comstock House. Stop in from 1:00-4:00PM on the weekends or during the week by appointment.

(continued, from page 1)

cultivating, preserving, and sharing Viking Age Scandinavian arts -- all of which will be on full display in Viking Ship Park.

This year in Viking Village, you can expect the same variety of arts and crafts, but noticeably larger numbers. In particular, this year's collection of talented blacksmiths and metalworkers is impressive and includes the first Viking Connection apprentice Douglas Swenson, Daniel Kretchmar of Irontree Works, Evelyn Stier of Fay's Forge, Josh Davis of Davis Productions, Scott Roush of Big Rock Forge, Askjel and Birte from Urweg Nordic Tribal Jewelry, and more.

They'll be joined by a talented group of other artists and material historians working in this fascinating field: Terrie Helleloid and the folks from Jameson Leatherworks will be sharing their leather and textile work, Ashlyn Noble from Winnipeg will be demonstrating her glass and bead work, and Jordain Cheng-Kinnander from Minneapolis will be showing off his bone and antler carving.



A young visitor at last year's festival conquers a Viking battle demonstrator (HCSCC, 2016).

Kari Tauring the Minneapolis Viking vocalist will be performing old Nordic songs, Tolthaven Ranch will have their Icelandic ponies once again, the local River Ravens and the Vinland Vikings of Texas will be performing Viking game and live-steel battle demonstrations, and visitors will have the chance to both test their archery skills on a new range and enjoy saunas from Folkways' Log the Mobile Sauna, right next to the beer garden where we'll be serving a Minnesota favorite, HammerHeart Brewing Company, both days of the festival.

We'll also be hosting several newcomers, and we're especially excited about Roger Abrahamson and his spring pole lathe -- which he'll be using to create treenware -- and Daniel Serra, a culinary archaeologist from Sweden and our first visiting Master Artist from Viking Connection. The author of *An Early Meal: A Viking Age Cookbook and Culinary Odyssey*, Serra studies Viking Age diet and nutrition, and he'll have a full schedule once he lands stateside, leading demonstrations and workshops at the American Swedish Institute in Minneapolis, Concordia Language Villages in Bemidji, and our own Hjemkomst Center.



Daniel Serra (Signe Karmhus, 2015).

Inside, Nordic Culture Clubs and the Kringen Lodge have put together a top-notch community of chefs, educators, musicians, entertainers, artists, and craftspeople offering a Scandinavian village that will fully immerse you in the culture of the Nordic countries. The Hjemkomst Center will be filled with the sights, sounds, tastes, textures, and aromas that you've come to expect from this festival, so come hungry and happy and prepare yourself to celebrate one of our many milestones at our biggest festival and one of our community's major celebrations.

Festival admission is free for HCSCC members -- so remember to bring your card. For visitors, admission is \$15 per day for adults, \$10 per day for students and seniors, and FREE for children 12 & under.

For more festival details, contact HCSCC Communications Coordinator Davin Wait. For questions about accessibility or accommodations, including human guides, ASL interpretation, and audio description, please contact HCSCC Programming Director Markus Krueger.

Skål!



The brick cage built in 1930 for the bears Jacqueline and Bruno still stands just northwest of Usher's House in Moorhead's Memorial Park (HCSCC, May 2017).

A Moorhead Zoo

By Mark Peihl

Recently my wife and I visited Fargo's Red River Zoo. Like museums, zoos are educational institutions but dedicated to wildlife conservation. Opened in 1999, the Red River Zoo manages an award-winning captive breeding program and is accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums. But it wasn't the first area zoo. In fact, from 1929 to the mid-1930s, Moorhead was home to a zoo, albeit a very different one.

A little background: Andrew and Conie Holes were among Moorhead's earliest residents. They arrived in 1871 before the railroad and grew wealthy buying and selling real estate. In 1878 they built a gorgeous two-story, brick veneered, Italianate style home right where Usher's restaurant stands today (the Nov/Dec 2001 issue of *The Hourglass* discusses the history of the Holes' property). The Holes carefully landscaped their yard and encouraged others to do so. Andrew and Conie named their home Arbor Vitae Place. It was a showcase for many decades.

Andrew died in 1903. Conie remained in the house until 1921. The following year she offered to sell the property to Moorhead for a city park. Moorhead had

no real parks at the time so the City Council took her up on the deal. However, the park needed a name. In a 4th of July address, Moorhead attorney Christian Dosland proposed "Memorial Park" to commemorate the local men who had died in World War 1. The name stuck. It's still Memorial Park today, though for years many called it "Holes' Park."

Through the twenties, the park was the scene of many picnics, concerts and other gatherings -- and at the end of the decade, it became home to a small zoo.

In June 1929, a fellow in Leonard, Minnesota (northwest of Bemidji), caught a newly-born Whitetail fawn. He contacted the Minnesota Department of Conservation for permission to keep it, but a recently passed state law forbade private citizens from owning wild animals. Local Deputy Game Warden Harry Broad offered the Moorhead City Council the little deer for the cost of transporting it. They approved. On July 1, Broad delivered the fawn to the city dog pound -- Jack Lamb's coal shed on 5th Street -- and it remained there until City Engineer C. H. Luckey finished building its cage.

Whitetail Deer were pretty exotic critters in Moorhead then. Though common today, there were few deer in the farming areas of Minnesota in the 1920s. Shortly before, just the sighting of some deer near Hawley had elicited front-page headlines in local papers.

The new Moorhead zoo in Memorial Park grew quickly. On July 6, a buck and a doe from Warroad joined the fawn in Lamb's coal shed. The buck died shortly after, but two more deer and a young Black Bear arrived by the end of July. Locals suggested naming the bruin Gar or Oscar, for attorney Gar Rustad or businessman Oscar Martinson. Upon closer inspection, they dubbed the little bear Jacqueline, the feminine version of Jack Lamb's name. The bear spent time in a cell in Moorhead's jail until Engineer Luckey built a small cave-like "den" for her in the base of the bluff northwest of the Holes home. By year's end, the zoo was home to at least four deer, three raccoons, two bears, two foxes, and a "pheasant which flew into the Northern Pacific office in Fargo and was dazed."

Earlier in the year, the city had built a loop road through the park. The *Moorhead Country Press* reported that "lovers of animals... may drive north on 8th St, enter the park by the new winding road which skirts the lower reaches of the grounds, circle completely around the fenced enclosure to observe the creatures and drive out on the same road."

Apparently, the zoo never had an official name and it's not entirely clear who was responsible for its day-to-day management. The park fund paid for the animal feed and materials and labor for cages and the City Engineer reported to the City Council in November that "he could secure the present caretaker of the Holes' Park [Emil Rehn] at the rate of \$15.00 per month for the care of the animals during the winter." The Council agreed "to the proposition... for the care of the animals until spring, or such time as Street Commissioner [Axel] Nelson is able to take care of the work." Eventually, park employee Rehn kept the job for two years and a 1930 newspaper article referred to Engineer Luckey as "zoo manager."

The next summer it became obvious that the 5 1/2 foot square concrete-lined "cave" was far too small for the zoo's two bears (the second was named Bruno). Volunteers built a new 20 x 24 foot brick "bear pit." Some of the 16,500 bricks were salvaged from the ruins of Old Main, the Minnesota State University - Moorhead administration building which had been destroyed by fire the previous winter. By some accounts, the iron bars for the door came from the Clay County jail, left over from a 1913 renovation. The pit featured a three-foot deep, four-foot by six-foot "bath tub." Over a dozen volunteers, under the direction of Moorhead Police Officer Roscoe Brown, built the cage over ten days. Brown spent his summer



Moorhead photographer Ole Bergstrom shot a few seconds of motion picture film of the deer in Moorhead's zoo in the early 1930s. It is the only imagery we have of the zoo (HCSCC, Ole Bergstrom Film Collection).

**If you have photos or memories of the zoo, please contact Mark at the HCSCC Archives!*



Memorial Park was the site of the Moorhead zoo from 1929 through the mid-1930s. A fenced area for the animals sat in the middle of the park surrounded by a drive way paved with coal cinders. The bear cage is visible at right (HCSCC Photo, May 2017).

vacation overseeing the project. Veteran Moorhead bricklayer Charles Johnson constructed the foot-thick walls. (The eleven-foot deep cage still stands at the base of the bluff, northwest of Usher's House.)

Through the early '30s the menagerie continued to grow, partly the result of "the natural increase of the deer herd" and partly by well-meaning but misguided individuals who caught wild animals and kept them as pets until they became too much trouble. In June, a Fargo man caught a large snapping turtle and kept it in a wire dog cage in his yard. Three times the turtle broke out and terrorized the man's neighbors before it wound up in the zoo. Others contributed an Arctic Owl, a badger, and a monkey. A bite from the latter cost caretaker Emil Rehn two fingers. Rehn quit to become a Moorhead police officer and Pat Rorick took over as caretaker.

The zoo was very popular with locals. In 1933, Park Commissioner J. W. Briggs reported that "hundreds of visitors gather about the pens in the zoo daily." But given the small cages, it couldn't have been much of a life for the poor animals. Fortunately, most of today's zoos have moved away from cramped, drafty concrete and chicken wire cells for animal exhibitions.

The zoo's growing population made problems for the city. By fall 1932, the deer became so numerous that several had to be moved to area farms. Still, "fourteen blessed events" were expected the following spring.

It's unclear what happened to the animals and the zoo. In December 1933, the City Council "moved that Game Warden [Robert] Streich be seen and requested to get rid of the animals in Holes Park." The critters survived, however, for some time. Early in 1935 the *Moorhead Daily News* reported that "'Jacquiline,' the chunky, fat bear that occupied the Moorhead zoo pen for more than five years went to her happy hunting ground this afternoon. The bear was shot on order of the state game and fish department by R. E. Streich, local game warden... it was put on display in front of the Zervas meat market... Friday and Saturday bear steaks, chops and other choice cuts will go on sale to the public." In January 1936, the elderly caretaker Pat Rorick died with "only his animal charges at the Moorhead zoo left to mourn him." The animals were apparently dispersed later.

After acquiring the Holes' property, the city rented out the house. Through the 1930s, it fell into disrepair. By 1935 it was a mere shadow of the show place it had been. That fall, WPA workmen tore down Arbor Vitae Place to make way for a stone-block community auditorium and American Legion club building. In the mid-1990s, the American Legion moved to a new facility on the east edge of town and a new restaurant opened in the old building in late 2001. Owners named it the Red Bear to commemorate the Red River and the two bruins that lived at the site. It then existed briefly as the Broken Axe before its most recent life as Usher's House, a fine local restaurant.



Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible at The Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA Photo).

Why *The Saint John's Bible*?

By Maureen Kelly Jonason

Starting this fall, from October 1 to December 31, HCSCC will host a remarkable exhibition of 68 ORIGINAL pages of *Illuminating the Word: The Saint John's Bible*. How does such an exhibit come to be selected for a local history and cultural heritage museum such as ours? What makes this exhibit relevant to our members and local community? Why do we think it has the potential to make an economic impact on our region by drawing in people from out of town for overnight stays? What makes this exhibition so special to HCSCC?

Some of you may recall way back in 2011 when you were first introduced to *The Saint John's Bible* through an exhibition of 25 prints of the illuminations. Framed reproductions of the illuminations, this traveling exhibit came from Saint John's University and cost only \$1000. We hosted in Oct. through Dec. of that year, and we were stunned by the overwhelmingly positive response. Twice as many people came to the museum in that time period as normally come.

That told us that our community was interested in this unusual project and appreciated the unique opportunity to experience high-quality art.

That exhibit was our introduction to the fifteen-year project of Saint John's University in partnership with Donald Jackson, Senior Scribe to Her Majesty's Crown Office, to create and produce the ENTIRE Bible handwritten with inks from the 1870s and illuminated in real gold, silver, and platinum. Almost as soon as that exhibit closed, plans were made to bring in all seven bound volumes of the Heritage Edition, a limited-number, high-quality off-set lithograph reproductions that illustrated what the bound volumes of the originals would someday look like.

We proudly displayed seven volumes open in display cases in Heritage Hall and were delighted to develop a big following of fans who came in just to see the pages turned weekly! That exhibition was a bit more expensive, but it was still within our budget and we

brought it in during our busy tourist season. We also hosted many excellent programs and workshops, most of them led by local *The Saint John's Bible* aficionado Anne Kaese. Again, we were thrilled with the response from our community. So many people were delighted to see even finer reproductions of the pages. The quality of the illuminations was particularly high, and every page was a new feast for the eyes.

Shortly after that exhibition closed, Anne Kaese said, "Now we're going to go for the ORIGINAL folios." While we like to dream big here at the Hjemkomst Center, we never imagined we would actually be selected as a site worthy to host these incredible masterpieces. Keep in mind that most of the venues that have hosted exhibitions of the original pages were huge museums in big cities: The Minneapolis Institute of Art in 2011, The New Mexico History Museum 2011-'12 The Chazen in Madison, WI in 2015, Oklahoma City Museum of Art 2016-'17. The Historical and Cultural Society of Clay County at the Hjemkomst Center was selected for 2017 as one of the final sites for original pages to tour before a new permanent gallery for the Bible opens at Saint John's University in the fall.

To say we were thrilled and honored is an understatement. Way back in 2013, a committee of community member-groupies began meeting every two weeks to start planning every step of the very long process of raising \$75,000, planning community-wide programming, retrofitting the art gallery with proper lighting, training docents, and promoting far and wide. The main goal is to have as many people as possible have the opportunity to view this many ORIGINAL pages in one place at one time before the pages are bound, most likely never to tour again.

What makes this exhibition so important?

For us, as a local history and culture society, *The Saint John's Bible* represents a monumental feat sponsored by Minnesotans for Minnesotans and gifted to the world – the first handwritten Bible commissioned by a Benedictine order in 500 years. The images on the pages of calligraphy reflect the flora and fauna of Minnesota, making it a Minnesota-centered work. The illuminations, many of which focus on modern events, discoveries, and concerns, tell the story of our world as it is right now with all its faults and potential. In addition, the illuminations reflect a diverse colorful world of many different peoples and faiths including



Detail: *Milkweed and Butterfly*, Chris Tomlin, 2002, *The Saint John's Bible*, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN, USA.

Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Judaism, Native American spirituality, and Intelligent Design. They also illustrate the expansion of scientific knowledge from the atom to the asteroid. We anticipate thousands of people coming to the Hjemkomst Center just to see this magnificent art exhibition.

How can you help?

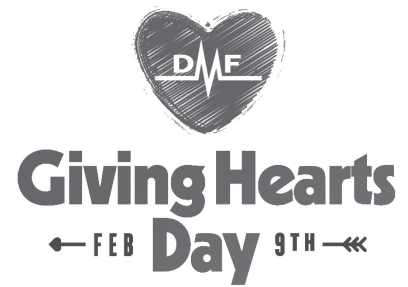
We are still fundraising. While HCSCC members in good standing (paid through Dec. 2017) will be able to see the exhibition for free as often as they wish, we want to keep the extra admission fee for everyone else an affordable \$5 per person. In larger cities, it is not uncommon to pay \$30 or more to see an exhibition of this caliber. To make that possible, we continue to take donations of all sizes. Our most common level of support is \$1000 – the Angel level – often given in someone else's memory or honor – which will include the donor's name and acknowledgement to be listed in calligraphy on the exhibition sponsorship text panel.

Please consider giving a donation of \$1000 – or of any size – to help us meet our goal. You can call in with a credit card or send in a check, but either way, please specify *The Saint John's Bible*.

Giving Hearts Day

A Good First Time

By Maureen Kelly Jonason



On February 9, 2017, HCSCC joined over 350 charities in asking for support on the largest single-day nonprofit fundraiser in our region.

We were thrilled with the response: 95 separate donations! 80 online gifts! 15 checks! More than a third of those donors were members, but about half of them were NEW contributors to HCSCC and when we sent out an invitation to join, nine of those new contributors did!

As with all our opportunities to give, we appreciate so much those of you who can heed our call for general operating support at least once a year and for some of you, two times and even three times a year. What was most fun was sitting and visiting with those folks who

chose to drop off their checks in person. The second-best part of the fun was receiving an email message every time an online donation was made -- the first being made at 2AM and the last at 11:30PM!

Your generosity makes it possible for us to not merely exist, but to thrive. These donations alone added up to \$3845 but THEN Bell Bank generously matched every donation, making our GHD total \$7690! Those funds were put into *The Saint John's Bible* project.

Overall, we are delighted with our first year of participating in Giving Hearts Day and we hope you'll mark your calendars for next year – February 8.

Thanks, everyone!

Giving Hearts Day Donors

+HCSCC Member/Donor *New Donor who became an HCSCC Member #New Donor

#Karen Anderson
#Elizabeth Anderson Kirch,
Northwestern Bank
Anonymous
#Darci Asche
*Rachel Asleson & Melissa Tomlinson
+Joy Becker
+Tania Blanich
+Julie Blehm
#Lisa and Brad Borgen
*Janet and Tim Brandau
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#Richard Cossette
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+Corey and Brenda Elmer
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+Mina and Tom Hall

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#Robin Williams
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+Leann Wolff
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*Janet and James Zinke



By Davin Wait

Parlor Talks: Evening Programming at the Hjemkomst

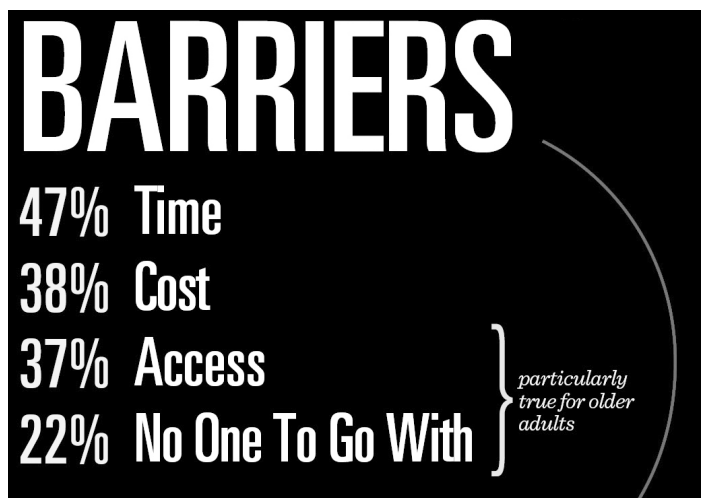
While museums are rightly identified as community anchors, engines for art, innovation, and economic success, and one of the few popular expressions of academic research, the fact remains that museums face a litany of new challenges in the present day.

In addition to the usual barriers of time, money, messaging, and general interest, this is the brave new world of Netflix and Hulu, YouTube and Wikipedia, Google and Facebook. Many of us now live in a place and time where knowledge and entertainment, even our food and clothing, are brought directly to our homes via broadband and mail -- Amazon received a patent this very week (May 29) for a parachute shipping label to expedite home delivery by drone.

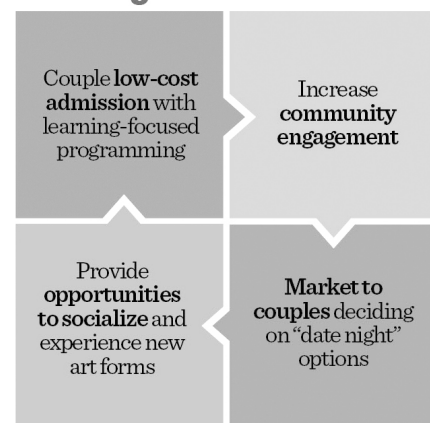
So what are cultural hubs to do when more and more people believe their homes can offer just as much? And when people increasingly believe that the methods, work, and sources of trained research professionals can easily be copied and found online?

Well, as many in the industry have seen and as several recent National Endowment for the Arts studies show, museums can thrive by eliminating barriers, offering memorable experiences, and working to build and maintain relationships with repeat audiences (members) instead of solely catering to the casual, often one-time, visitor. In short, be better.

With this in mind, we're excited about developing



Ideas to reach the missing audience



Detail: *When Going Gets Tough* (NEA 2015)

a regular schedule of evening programming. We're calling it Parlor Talks to reinforce our hope that this could be a fun, smart dialogue between speakers and members/visitors (it comes from philosopher Kenneth Burke's metaphor highlighting the social, historical, and dialectic nature of knowledge) and the format isn't far off from some of our most popular programming in the recent past: food, drinks, history, and culture -- or a night out at the museum.

Our members have enjoyed it at Junkyard Brewing Company during Markus's tremendously popular series of *History On Tap!* lectures and they've enjoyed it at the Hjemkomst Center during HCSCC member and volunteer Sam Wai's fantastic wine classes.



Markus discussing blind pigs in front of a packed house during round two of *History On Tap!* (HCSCC, April 2017)

With examples of proven success elsewhere, we're hoping that this model can work at the Hjemkomst Center for those who can't make the casual visit during our normal museum hours, as well as those who look for something beyond our normal museum offerings of exhibitions, receptions, and festivals.

What makes the possibility even more promising is that we've already seen it in action during the first of these talks: in February, when Mark introduced a packed theatre to Saloon-era Moorhead and our visitors enjoyed beer from Drekker Brewing Company and Welsh Rarebit from the Rex Cafe, and just this May, when Tim introduced a new crowd to Viking Age art while they enjoyed another Drekker brew and breads, cheeses, and skyr from the Rex Cafe.

Between the two events, we gathered a dozen new

HCSCC members and introduced a new local crowd to the Hjemkomst Center. We're hoping to build on that success and we're hoping that you'll play a part by attending, spreading the word, and giving us the feedback to turn the series into a regular attraction for both our members and our future members.

Admission for Parlor Talks is \$15 (\$10 for members) and includes a presentation on local history and culture, museum access, a beer from Drekker, and themed food from Rex Cafe (21+ only). We'll also be selling 1/2 price new memberships -- so bring those future members -- and remember that you can reserve seats ahead of time, either online ('Event Registration' at www.hcscconline.org or via Facebook) or by phone. In fact, we'd prefer those early reservations -- they make our food preparation and marketing easier!

Tree Rings, Log Cabins, and Dendrochronology
Tuesday, June 13 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Dr. Joe Zeleznik, NDSU Extension Forester

Just over two years ago, we were awarded a grant by the Minnesota Historical Society to partner with Dr Joseph Zeleznik and other local organizations to explore and inventory Settlement-era cabins in Clay, Norman, and Becker Counties.

The study continues to help us construct our local histories and Dr. Zeleznik's work in dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) documenting the stories in our trees and cabins is a fascinating mix of history and biology.

Culinary Archaeology and Viking Age Cooking
Wednesday, July 5 | 5:00PM - 7:00PM
Daniel Serra, Swedish Culinary Archaeologist

A Swedish chef, Viking Age food historian, author of *An Early Meal: A Viking Age Cookbook and Culinary Odyssey*, and the first Viking Connection Master Artist joins us after demonstrations at the American Swedish Institute, Concordia Language Villages, and Midwest Viking Festival to share and explain his work (including samples of his own historic cooking methods).

Clay County and World War I
Tuesday, August 8 | 6:00PM - 8:00PM
Mark Peihl, HCSCC Senior Archivist

Busy working on our new 2-year local exhibition, *War, Fear, and Flu: World War I and Clay County*, our Senior Archivist Mark Peihl is back for a second Parlor Talk, this time about the home front during the Great War.

NEWS FROM THE



COMSTOCK HOUSE

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL SOCIETY OF CLAY COUNTY
MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Summer Comstock Hours

Saturday & Sunday | 1:00PM - 4:00PM

Starting Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day, the Historic Solomon G. Comstock House will once again be open both Saturday and Sunday. Join us for a guided tour of one of Moorhead's most historic homes while learning about early Moorhead and the lives of Solomon, Sarah, Ada, Jessie, and George Comstock, one of the region's most influential families.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, \$4 for kids, and free for HCSCC/MNHS members.

Lawn Games and Local Beer

Every Other Thursday | 6:30PM - 8:00PM

Starting June 15 and continuing every other Thursday throughout the summer, we'll be teaching and playing fun yard games on the Comstock House lawn, touring the house, and drinking cold, local beer (5\$ per beer).

The beers will change along with the games, so watch the HCSCC and Comstock House Facebook pages for details on what we'll be playing and serving.

June 15:	Kubb
June 29:	Norwegian (ladder golf)
July 13:	Croquet
July 27:	Molky
August 10:	Bocce ball
August 24:	Skittles

Yoga Classes

Tuesday Nights | 6:30PM - 7:30PM

Throughout the summer we'll be enjoying the gorgeous Comstock lawn and the summer weather by offering outdoor yoga classes. Classes are taught by certified instructor Amanda Nordick and designed for all levels of ability. A limited number of mats will be available, so please bring your own mat and water bottle.

Class will be canceled in cases of rain or temperatures below 60 degrees and updates will be posted on both the Comstock House and HCSCC's Facebook pages.

Classes are free of charge, but there is a suggested donation of \$5 that will go toward the preservation of one of Moorhead's most important and historic homes.

Classes will be held June 13, 20, and 27; July 18 and 25; August 8, 15, 22, and 29.

FMVA Constraint Show

July 11 - September 8

This summer HCSCC will be partnering with the Fargo-Moorhead Visual Artists to hold their annual Constraint Show at the Historic Comstock House. The theme for this year's show is "Time Warp," as entrants are asked to consider what art might be hanging in the historic home if the Comstocks still lived there today.

We will be holding the opening reception, free and open to the public, concurrently with our Lawn Games and Local Beer night on July 13 at 6:30PM (croquet).

Visitors are invited to come see the show on weekends through the summer and whenever events are being held at the house throughout the summer.

Drache Lecture Series Set for Fall

In honor of Hiram and Ada Drache and their support of local historic preservation, a lecture series will be held at the Comstock House starting this September. NDSU doctoral candidate Carole Butcher will present on Fargo's Company B and the Philippine-American War; NDSU Master's candidate Kaci Johnson will speak on Florence Klingensmith; and NDSU Master's candidate John Hest will speak on the Hudson Bay Company trading post in Georgetown, MN.

For more details or to buy tickets, visit our website or call Matt Eidem at (218) 291-4211.

Historical & Cultural Society of Clay County

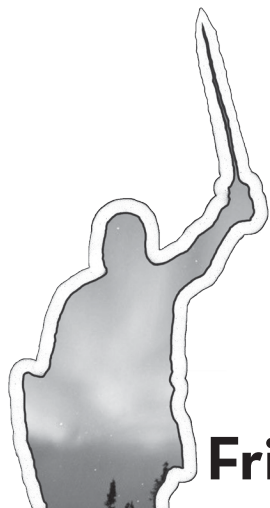
PO Box 157 • 202 First Avenue North

Moorhead, MN 56561-0157



To collect, preserve, interpret, and share the history and culture of Clay County, Minnesota.

Scandinavian Hjemkomst & Midwest Viking Festival



Friday, June 23, and Saturday, June 24