

St. Louis Park, Minnesota

RE-ECHO

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PARK'S ANTIQUE PARADE!

By Jeanne Andersen, Trustee

Have you ever bought something at a yard sale, or inherited a trinket, and wondered if it was a gem or junk? Bring it to our first ever antique appraisal fundraiser event and find out!

From pitchers to pretty tchotchkes, Bonnie Lindberg and James Marrinan, from Appraisal Specialists Midwest, will give on-the-spot appraisals and tell entertaining stories about your items. Bonnie is a St. Louis Park resident, and former owner of Elayne Galleries with her mother Elayne Lindberg.

- **Date:** Saturday, May 16th, 10AM – 1PM. Item check in: 9:30 AM. Appraisals: 10 AM.
- **Place:** St. Louis Park High School Cafeteria, 6425 W. 33rd St., St. Louis Park, MN. Enter through the district office door.
- **Cost/Donation:** \$10 per item with a maximum of three items per person. All donations are tax deductible. There is no cost to come and watch, but donations are welcome! Refreshments will be served.
- **To Register:** Send your name, address, phone number, email address, brief description of your item(s), and a check made out to the St. Louis Park Historical Society, 3700 Monterey Drive, SLP 55416.

Registration is by mail only. Registrations will be taken in order of envelope postmark.

The show is limited to 70-80 items. Due to time limitations, appraisers can not appraise dolls, wrist watches, jewelry, weapons, or sports memorabilia. Please bring items you can carry safely yourself from the parking lot into the cafeteria.

This will be a fun event and we're looking forward to hearing the stories behind your prized possessions!

Spread the word about this event to your fellow St. Louis Park antiques lovers!



Official publication of the St. Louis Park Historical Society

Join us for
UPCOMING EVENTS

*The St. Louis Park Historical Society
Events & Activities*

April 7: SLPHS Board Meeting, 7:00 pm at our office: 3546 Dakota Ave. So., Suite C. SLP, MN. Office is on the second floor with stairway access only - no elevator. Public is welcome to attend.

April 11: Ancestry Research Seminar & Historical Society Open House, SLPHS Office, 2-4 PM

May 5: SLPHS Board Meeting, 7:00 pm at our office: 3546 Dakota Ave. So., Suite C. SLP, MN. Office is on the second floor with stairway access only - no elevator. Public is welcome to attend.

May 16: Park's Antiques Parade, St. Louis Park High School Cafeteria, 10 AM-1 PM

June 2: SLPHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at our office: 3546 Dakota Ave. So., Suite C. SLP, MN. Office is on the second floor with stairway access only - no elevator. Public is welcome to attend.

June 11: Minnesota Legends Concert, Wolfe Park

June 20: Parktacular! Come see us at the Promote Yourself Fair in Wolfe Park, 2-5 PM.

July 7: SLPHS Board Meeting, 7:00 PM at our office: 3546 Dakota Ave. So., Suite C. SLP, MN. Office is on the second floor with stairway access only - no elevator. Public is welcome to attend.

July 17: Folk concert featuring Park musician Dan Israel at Wolfe Park, 6-9 PM.

August 1: Salute to the Music of Bob Dylan, Wolfe Park. This concert features many St. Louis Park musicians and is a highlight of the summer!

August 2: Pins for Parkinson's fundraiser, organized by SLPHS volunteer Mark Toretzky. See pinsforparkinsons.org

August 28-29: Class of 1965 50th Reunion! See parkhigh65.myevent.com

September 19: Class of 1975 40th Reunion! See facebook: St. Louis Park Class of 1975-40th Reunion

Meet The SLP Historical Society Board Members

OFFICERS

- President Ted Ekkers is a Marketing executive at Target; he and his family live in the Minikahda Vista neighborhood.
- Vice President Bonnie Burton's family has deep roots in the Park: her great-grandfather, Robert Johnson, built houses here and owned a family Rock Garden on Excelsior Blvd. in the 1930s. Her background is municipal finance and real estate. She is a competition ballroom dancer.
- Treasurer Henry Solmer is in his third year and provides an important function for the society.

TRUSTEES

- Sue Ainsworth has been a Trustee for several years. She coordinated the move of our office from Lenox School to Dakota Avenue. Sue is also a local artist.
- Jeanne Andersen has been a Trustee for 12 years. She concentrates on writing and research for the website and *Re-Echo*. She grew up in Brookside and graduated from St. Louis Park in 1975.
- Bob Jorvig, at 94, is our go-to guy for information on the early history of the Park!

His career was in urban redevelopment. Jorvig Park is named after his father, Torval Jorvig, a long-time member of the Village Council.

- Dale Lapakko graduated from St. Louis Park High in 1964 and recently retired after 40 years as an international sales manager for three different companies.
- Paul Linnee was born and raised in Park. He has a long list of relatives from here, including a Justice of the Peace and Bob Jorvig. He has a police background, is an expert on 911 systems, and is a 1964 graduate.
- Jeff Liss went to St. Louis Park schools K-12, graduating in 1968. He has been a copywriter/producer in the advertising industry and a teacher. Jeff is also an award-winning photographer.
- John Olson has been a member of the Historical Society since he was a teenager! He is a past President of the Historical Society and his particular interest is railroads.
- Jim Robbins recently retired from the insurance industry. He is particularly interested in Park schools, which he attended K-12. ▲

RESEARCH YOUR FAMILY TREE!

Ancestry Research Seminar & Open House

If you are interested in researching your family history, please join us as professional genealogist Mary Wickersham shares the basics of using Ancestry.com and other tips to effectively conduct research on your family.

Learn how to gather, record and research your family information. View demonstrations of online searches of Ancestry.com and a few other popular websites. Mary will show examples of when you need to go 'off-line' in order to get records of your family from other sources.

- **Date:** April 11th, 2-4 PM. FREE.
- **Location:** 3546 Dakota Ave., Suite C, SLP, MN. (Our office is on the second floor with staircase access only.)

WE NEED SPONSORS!

Would you like to make a donation that makes a difference?

- Our Antique Parade event is a fundraiser, but there are facility costs and the appraisers' fee. We need sponsors to help with these expenses, in order to have a successful event. Sponsors' names will be prominently listed in the advertising.
- We're applying for a grant for a digital microfilm reader and film for some of our historic Park newspapers. The reader requires a computer with rigorous specifications, and we're short of the grant limit. A donation would enable the public to view these incredible newspapers.

All donations are tax deductible. Thank you for your support!

THE AMBASSADOR: THE TROPICS IN MINNESOTA

By Jeanne Andersen, Trustee, St. Louis Park Historical Society



The Kashmiri Lounge – the Shalimar Thirstbar – the Camino Coffee Shop – the Mandalay Piano Bar; these exotic sounding places were all in one extraordinary location, right here in St. Louis Park! Between 1961 and 1991, the Ambassador Motor Hotel was a place where you could escape your day-to-day life and be pampered in an International setting.

Oscar Husby built the first 55 rooms of the motel at the intersection of Highway 100 and Highway 12. The Mexican-themed Camino Room notwithstanding, the motel had a mostly Indian motif, so what better way to announce its grand opening than to fly in Miss India, direct from Bombay? The helicopter from the airport to the site was a nice touch. Iona Pinto was her name, and she went to all the TV and radio shows in town to promote the new facility.



The first part of the building was in an L shape surrounding a cloverleaf-shaped pool. Soon the rest of the square was completed, and in an attempt to control the weather, a huge dome was built over the pool. Now Minnesotans could shed their winter coats, don their bathing suits, and spend their days under the sun lamp, playing shuffleboard or ping pong, or just hanging out by the pool. (Just watch out for the buckets that caught the water from the leaks in the roof!) More and more plants were brought into the pool area, which made it very humid.

So how do we know all this? It's all thanks to Tim Bailey, who was a waiter and busboy at the Ambassador. His mother worked there as well, and when the motel closed she was allowed to take two huge scrapbooks of clippings and photos, as well as many photographs. Tim generously brought them to us, and we learned more than we ever thought possible about this very special Park icon. Tim even brought in his waiter's jacket to show us, and Emory Anderson was on hand to snap a photo.

But all good things must come to an end, and the end came for the Ambassador in 1991. Construction of I-394 disrupted traffic, and new owners let the place deteriorate. The site was replaced by a Chili's and Olive

Garden, but the tastes of Mexico and Italy were no match for the former Indian pleasure palace. ▲



Photos:

Top: Bathing beauties at the Ambassador Motor Hotel pool.

Above: Tim Bailey shows off his waiter's jacket.

Left: Mayor and Mrs. Kenneth Wolfe greeting Miss India, at the grand opening in 1961.

St. Louis Park Historical Society RE-ECHO

3700 Monterey Drive, St. Louis Park, MN 55416



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ABOUT US

The St. Louis Park Historical Society was founded in 1971 to collect, preserve, and share the history of the City of St. Louis Park, Minnesota. Our office is located at 3546 Dakota Ave. So., Suite C, St. Louis Park, MN. Office hours: Saturdays, 1 PM to 4 PM and by appointment.

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RECENT DONATIONS

Here's a summary of the donations we've received recently:

- Red and white tiles from the original McDonald's from Dave Weist.
- Eight banks of flat file cabinets, stacks of plat maps, and aerial photos from the city's Engineering Department.
- Photos of Town Taxi from Rick Peterson, son of company owner.
- Lead box made by National Lead from Suzanne Herrington
- Engraving of Park pioneer William Laycock from Nancy Laycock Hurtienne.
- Two glass showcases and many other items from Manny Camilon.
- 1942 Park High handbook from John Yngve.
- Materials about policeman Art Hager and Brookside from John Hager.
- Photos of the Parkettes from Myron Biros.
- Steve Brown continues to send photos from the '60s.
- Emory Anderson took photos of a historic display at Westwood Church and photos of the Battlefield Militaria store, which will be going out of business soon.
- And last but certainly not least, Rick Beane's crew at the city has gone beyond the call of duty, hauling very heavy steel furniture up our 22 stairs at our office!