



NORTH STAR MUSEUM OF BOY SCOUTING & GIRL SCOUTING

Museum News

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Let the Spirit Move you

Here we are at the end of another year. The holidays are a time of nostalgia, a time of giving, and time of reflection. The year 2016 was yet another momentous year for the Museum. Our “Call to History” event in the spring brought us many new friends and much needed funds. Our Super Merit Badge weeks this summer served over 200 Boy Scouts and we served over 150 Girl Scouts with summer Girl Scout Way programs. This fall we reached an all-time record of over \$15,000 for Give to the Max Day with our generous Board of Directors Match. And soon we will have our Holiday Hop

and Gift Bazaar celebration that brought in over 250 people to the Museum in just six hours last year.

Thanks to you, we are making a difference. With your continued financial support the Museum will be better than ever, making a difference in the lives of more Boy Scouts, more Girl Scouts, and more families in our community. We hope you will remember the North Star Museum in your year-end giving this month. We have big plans for 2017, and we need YOU so we can leap into action. **Help the Museum complete a strong 2016 with a gen-**

erous gift. You can make a gift on-line from our website (nssm.org), you can phone us with a credit card, you can mail us a check, or, even better, bring your check by the Museum and share some holiday cheer!

Clarence the Angel from “It’s a Wonderful Life” said, “Strange, isn’t it? Each man’s life touches so many other lives.” Help us to keep touching more lives, as you have touched ours. Many thanks for all you do for the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting and we wish you a wonderful holiday season!

A Special Welcome to a New Leader



Claudia Nicholson welcomes new Executive Director Brenna Barrett at her first Board of Directors meeting in November.

In the August *Museum News*, Claudia Nicholson announced plans to step down as Executive Director and take on a new role with the Museum. As a result, a search committee, expertly led by Board Member Tom Welna, conducted an extensive search for a new part-time Executive Di-

rector. The public announcement of our opening generated a considerable response as some amazing candidates applied for the position. In October, our efforts were rewarded when the Museum officially named Brenna Barrett our new Executive Director. She was publically introduced

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A Special Welcome to a New Leader (continued)

to our members and supporters at the Founders Hall recognition in November.

Brenna has a degree in speech communications from the University of Minnesota. Her master's degree coursework includes focus in the area of human resources and organizational development. She was a Fulbright Fellow for the Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange for Young Professionals in conjunction with the Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship. Her professional experience includes being a program director, managing events, managing resorts, and operating museums. In fact, Brenna created, and opened, and served as Executive Director of

The Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum. It operated in Long Beach under the auspices of the Robert Gumbiner Foundation. It is the only museum of its kind in the world. Before then, Brenna served as Executive Director from the inception of the Ethnic Art Institute of Micronesia on the island of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia.

The Museum is fortunate to benefit from Brenna's extensive experience. Brenna said it best in the cover letter accompanying her application: "My greatest strength is providing leadership for an organization, and then guiding it to new performance levels. . . . I am especially effective working in multi-cultural

environments [having] successfully led a non-profit, museum and scouting experience. . . . On a personal note, I have experience with The Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America programs. I am very passionate about scouting opportunities for youth and have volunteered for years with these organizations. It would be a personal honor to help preserve their tradition with your museum and feel I bring a unique personal touch from these experiences."

We are very excited to help Brenna lead the Museum to continued growth and success. Get to know Brenna Barrett. She certainly wants to get to know you. Welcome, Brenna.

Museum to Introduce Entrance Fees in 2017

One of the most frequently asked questions at the Museum is: "Why doesn't the Museum charge an entrance fee when everyone else does?" This is a really good question and we have been asking ourselves the same question at the Museum. Museums across the state, and nationwide, ask for an entrance fee so patrons recognize and appreciate the value of the exhibits and educational opportunities they receive. So, after much consideration and having received approval by the Board of Directors, we will introduce an admission charge to North Star Museum beginning January 1, 2017. Of course, as a

Museum member, you can continue to visit for free. If you are not a member, then, act QUICKLY, as we have our Holiday BOGO going on. Buy one membership, and get one to gift for FREE! For non-members, admission will be \$6 for adults and \$4 for youth, students, seniors, and military members with proper ID. Children under the age of 4 are free as well.

We would also like to take this opportunity to THANK all of our Museum stakeholders for contributing to the entrance fees starting in 2017. Revenue generated from the fees will go to our educational programs and events

so we may continually add value and help educate people about the history of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in our region. This is a win-win as we continue to add more exhibits and expand our program offerings.



Don't Miss Out on a Super Merit Badge Opportunity for the Holidays

This year, the Museum is starting a new Super Merit Badge Week tradition. Born of our successful summer program, we know that Boy Scouts are not in school during the holidays and that they are looking for advancement opportunities. The Museum has the answer! Instead of sitting around, boys can channel all of that energy generated by holiday goodies into merit badges.

Between Wednesday, December 28 and Saturday, December 31, the Museum is offering seven merit badges. There is a heavy emphasis on the ever popular and Eagle required Citizenship merit badges. Each of the Citizenship merit badges is being offered and the most challenging of the three, Citizenship in the Community, is being offered twice. Advance preparation is necessary, so you cannot expect to just show up and earn the badge. Get the word out about Super Merit Badge Week for the Holidays at the Museum. Encourage all you know to sign up early as space is limited. The base cost for each session remains \$15 per youth, or \$12 for Museum members. Here is the schedule with counselors, times and registration limits listed:

28 – Citizenship in the Community – John Capecchi (8:30 A.M. to Noon) (limit 12)

29 – Citizenship in the Nation – Mike Fratto (8:30 A.M. to Noon) (limit 15)

29 – Citizenship in the Community – Kurt Leichtle (1:00 to 4:30) (limit 12)

30 – American Heritage – Will Sulzbach and Claudia Nicholson (8:30 A.M. to Noon) (limit 12)

30 – Genealogy – Claudia Nicholson (1:00 to 4:30) (limit 12)

31 – Citizenship in the World – John Guthmann (8:30 A.M. to Noon) (limit 12)

31 – Emergency Preparedness – Steve Ryhn (1:00 to 4:30) (limit 12)

Sign up today!



Tribute Gifts & New Members

Tributes in honor of Pearl Mitchell-Jackson for Founders Hall

- *Joan Henry*
- *Mary Anderson*
- *Burton & Rusty Cohen*
- *Susan Shelton*
- *Doris Slmenstad*
- *Emily White*

Tributes in honor of Carol and Robert Oldowski for Founders Hall

- *James Thomas*

Tribute in honor of Howard Guthmann

- *Chad Roberts*

New Club Bruce Member

- *Ehren Ruthenberg*

2016 Founders Hall Ceremony

On Saturday, November 12, the Museum was filled to the brim for the seventh annual Davis & Randall Founders Hall recognition event. Six extraordinary honorees were inducted into the Museum's permanent exhibit that recognizes the unique contributions of those special persons who have played a transformative role in the on-going work of Boy Scouting, Girl Scouting, or the Museum. Our Founders Hall is broken into three categories, Founders, Builders and Trailblazers. The event featured the introduction of our six honorees followed by lunch and fellowship. This article includes a version of the incredible biographies the honorees, edited only due to the space limitations of this publication. Read on and be amazed!



Howard and Betsy Guthmann stand with Andy Anderson next to the Lee and Penny Anderson recognition after it was unveiled at the Founders Hall event.

Event Emcee John Guthmann got things started by presenting **Builders Lee and Penny Anderson**, who were represented at the event by son, Andy Anderson. Lee and Penny

are two incredible leaders in business, in civic matters, and philanthropy. They personify our definition of a builder—a transformative leader, persuasive and insightful in their leadership—a person or organization that made a meaningful impact on one of the Scouting organizations with the gift of their influence and the gift of their philanthropy. A Builder helps make the Founders' vision a reality.

Lee serves, or has served, as director and trustee for numerous companies, organizations, outdoor groups, and academic institutions, including Breck School, the University of St. Thomas, and the Naples Children and Education Foundation. He is current or past director of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce in Washington, D.C., the Horatio Alger Association, and Pan-O-Gold Baking Company. He is a member of the "Thomas Jefferson Society" which represents the highest level of giving at West Point.

Lee and Penny have received many community accolades. The John M. Morrison Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Saint Thomas honored Lee with the John F. Cade award in 2002 for entrepreneurial excellence. In 2008, Lee was inducted into the Minnesota Business Hall of Fame. In 2009, he received the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year National

Award. He was also presented with the University of Minnesota's Joel Labovitz Entrepreneurial School of Business Lifetime Achievement Award in 2013.

In 2013, Lee was awarded the West Point Distinguished Graduate Award by the United States Military Academy for distinguished service, excellence, integrity, spirit and character, and for keeping with its motto: "Duty, Honor, Country." Lee received the Horatio Alger Award, presented by the Horatio Alger Association, in 2014 to honor his tremendous contribution and commitment to the education of future generations.

While they have been recognized for countless business and civic accomplishments, it is Lee and Penny Anderson's incredible generosity that places them among the most influential philanthropists in Minnesota history. Their contributions have helped the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting build institutional capacity and provide levels of program delivery once considered unattainable. In 2005, they made the largest individual donation ever received by a Minnesota college or university, with a significant gift to the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. The Anderson Athletic and Recreation Complex opened on the St. Thomas campus in 2011. Lee and Penny are recognized as the largest

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donors in the United States Military Academy's history. They have also given substantially to Children's Hospital Boston for research on a rare form of muscular dystrophy, minicore myopathy, a disease that affects one of their grandchildren.



Presenter Tom Alt stands at the Founders Hall "wall of fame" with new inductees Carol and Bob Oldowski.

Our two other 2016 Builders are very special friends of Scouting, fittingly elected as a couple. They have made Scouting an integral part of the way they operate as a family. **Builders Carol and Bob Oldowski** were introduced by a 2015 Founders Hall honoree, Dr. Tom Alt

Together, Carol and Bob have over 100 years of registered membership in Scouting. While they have been active at the council level, their Scouting efforts have been primarily with the BSA national and international programs. Their concentration has been promoting the idea and coordinating Scouting as youth ministry in the Catholic Church. The question often arises for them, "are we doing Scouting work in the Church?"

or "are we doing Church work in Scouting?" More likely, it is both.

After attending the Philmont Training Center for the "Scouting in the Catholic Church" workshop in 1975, Carol and Bob got active with both the National Catholic Committee on Scouting (NCCS) and with the BSA Relationships Division. Carol became the first woman ever elected to the NCCS Executive Board, and Bob was elected a year later. Over the years, both served as Area and Regional Chairs, chaired the NCCS national meeting arrangements, and headed various committees. Carol served a total of seven years as the NCCS Advisory Board chair, and Bob was Executive Board chair and National President for three years. Both have been Executive Board members for 35 years and continue today.

Individually, both also worked with the Catholic Church's National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM). Carol had been a Girl Scout leader and Bob served on the Minneapolis Camp Fire Executive Board, including a term as its President in 1981-82.

Bob and Carol's national involvement also includes a half-dozen, or more, experiences at the Philmont Training Center, regional and national meetings of the BSA, international and

relationship staffs at half-a-dozen National Jamborees, and on the International Service Corps at World Jamborees. Bob served on several National BSA task forces and committees including Relationships, Religious Relationships, and International.

Their experiences led to leadership in the International Catholic Conference of Scouting (ICCS), working with the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) and the Catholic Church worldwide. Bob served for seven years as the North American Representative to the ICCS. Bob also headed up world-wide Scout involvement at the week-long 1993 World Youth Day in Denver, where almost a million youths gathered to celebrate with Pope John Paul II. They also represented the world's Catholic Scouting programs as guests of the Vatican at a week-long meeting of Catholic organization leaders in Rome.

Both Carol and Bob are recipients of the BSA's Silver Beaver, Silver Antelope, International Scouter, and WOSM's Order of the Condor. Both are Baden-Powell Fellows—an honor that was personally presented in 2006 by the King of Sweden. They remain active locally by serving on the Northern Star Council President's Cabinet.

Following our builders was the introduction of **Trailblazer Tom Turba** by Neil Larsen. *Continued on Page 6*

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We define a Trailblazer as a person who has provided direct volunteer leadership to Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting at the grassroots level. In Boy Scouting, these folks are referred to as “Red Jackets,” and in Girl Scouts as “Green Bloods.” These dedicated leaders combine their ideas and creativity with those brought forth by Founders and Builders in their work with youth.



Presenter Neil Larson (left) joins Founders Hall honoree Tom Turba and his family.

Tom is an International Representative and a member of the President’s Cabinet for the Northern Star Council. He has been involved in Scouting since the early 1980s when his boys first became Scouts. He began as just another helping adult with Boy Scout Troop 297 in Roseville, Minnesota, and the rest is history.

In 1990, Tom served as a leader on a Scouting trip to Costa Rica, where he got to use the Spanish he learned as a Navy linguist. After the trip, Tom was offered the position of International Representative for the Indian-

head Council, expanding his vision of where he could take Scouts. He has taken Scouts to twenty-some events in eighteen different countries, and has traveled to many other countries on his own or on business. He organized activities and host families for many Scout groups from other countries that have come to Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Tom worked at Unisys Corp. in Roseville after graduating with Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This work grew out of the cryptography skills he learned while serving as a linguist at the National Security Agency. His facility with languages led him to write phrase books for Scouts going to Costa Rica and Bulgaria.

Tom has also served as president of the Roseville Sister City Association, chair of the American National Standards committee for the programming language Pascal, president of the Friends of Lexington Area Parks in Roseville, Minnesota, president of the Unisys Retiree Club, and he is active in many other groups. The Rotary club in Cartago, Costa Rica, recognized Tom as a Paul Harris Fellow for the work he did with the Cartago - Roseville Sister City program.

Tom has been the contingent leader for at least ten international Scout trips, staff for 4 in-

ternational Scouting events, coordinated and hosted at least thirteen international Scout visits to the U.S., and *much, much more*. In addition, Tom coordinated a ten-year program of white water rafting trips that hundreds of Scouts participated in each year.

Tom’s Scouting life is a little unusual with its focus on international Scouting and facilitating the exchange of Scouts over the years. But it is far from atypical. With the right skill set, and an inexhaustible supply of energy, Tom has ensured that the fellowship of World Scouting will continue.



Pearl Mitchell-Bailey (second from right) enjoys the Founders Hall recognition event with her family.

Bonna Scherer introduced our last honoree, **Founder Pearl Mitchell-Jackson**. A Founder is someone who has played a substantial role in the advancement of the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, or the North Star Museum of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting. A Founder is a visionary leader who has played a meaningful role in the creation, innovation,

2016 Founders Hall Ceremony

or direction of these Boy Scout or Girl Scout institutions over a significant number of years.

Pearl began her commitment to inclusiveness and racial understanding when she became the first girl of color in the Girl Scout troop at her St. Paul elementary school. This, despite the objections of the school counselor, who felt she might be more “comfortable” in a troop with girls of her own race. Pearl decided that no one would put her in a box—an attitude that she has carried throughout her life. As an adult, Pearl became an adult volunteer and board member for the Legacy Girl Scout Council St. Croix Valley, where she worked to promote international exchange programs.

Her involvement with the Girl Scouts of St. Croix Valley included serving on the Board of Directors, in Friends Forever, and as a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society. She initiated the Brownie Nursing Home Project and a field placement of international youth workers through the Council of International Programs/Twin Cities Chapter (CIP). In 2012, Pearl was honored by the Girl Scouts of Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys as a Community Champion.

Her professional career began as a social worker with the Ramsey County Welfare Department (RCWD), providing casework services to families,

single adults, single mothers with children, elderly, disabled and financial help to Hungarian refugees.

To accommodate legislation in the 1960’s that returned individuals with mental illness and developmental disabilities from institutions to their counties of legal residence, the RCWD appointed Pearl as the Administrator of Volunteer Services to implement services to these individuals. She encouraged staff to accept community volunteers—a new idea, which proved successful. The Volunteer Services Department developed other projects and enhanced the public’s understanding of the RCWD and its clientele. Pearl gained the support of St. Paul *Pioneer Press* Columnist Oliver Towne, who publicized the work of volunteers, which began an important relationship between the newspaper and the RCWD.

Pearl became the first female president of the Council of International Programs, Youth Leaders and Special Teachers (CIP). In 1974, the CIP and the U.S. State Department Bureau of Cultural and Educational Affairs sent her on assignment to recruit professionals for this program. She traveled then to Central America. In 1979, she traveled to South America, and in 1988, traveled to eight countries on the African continent. Pearl visited health, education, and social work agencies,

attended alumni meetings, and met with executives of U.S. companies to secure funding.

Pearl has also served on the Boards of the Minnesota Museum of Art, Minnesota International Center, Macalester College World Press Institute and the Rainbow Club. The recognitions she has received for her work in the community are extensive. They include the League of American Red Cross Medal for Community Service, the Lamplighter Award—St. Paul Altrusa International, Inc., Minnesota International Center Citizen Diplomat, Volunteer Action Center, CIP Distinguished Service Award, and 1976 Bicentennial Minute-Quakers. Her professional positions and board memberships have been an important component in building bridges in this changing world.

The 2016 Founders Hall recognition was an inspiring experience. It will be hard to top the “Class of 2016” but we will try again next year. You will not want to miss next year’s event.



New Executive Director Brena Barrett introduces herself at the Founders Hall recognition.

“Membership BOGO” Returns to Santa’s List



Back by popular demand, the Museum is once again offering the perfect holiday gift for “the Scouter who has everything!” Just give that person a membership to the North Star Museum. **Through our Holiday BoGo, you get TWO memberships for the price of ONE.** The Holiday BoGo is a perfect Win-Win because you not only take care of someone on your list, you support the Museum by enlarging its membership base.

Here is how Membership BoGo works. **BUY** a new North Star Museum membership (any level) and **get a FREE** Bronze level membership to **GIFT** to someone special. What could be easier? However, you need to act now. **This special holiday offer is available only until December 31.**

A North Star Museum membership has value. Members receive discounts on events, programs, workshops, a discount in our gift shop, priority booking for events and programs, as well as special invites to “members only” events. You also receive our bi-monthly Museum News, and a smart looking NSSM membership pin. There are several levels of membership and with a matching premium for each level:

Bronze Level (\$50 - \$74) — Handsome NSSM Coffee Mug

Silver level (\$75 - \$99) — Rugged Flashlight

Gold Level (\$100 - \$149) — Sportsman’s Compass

Platinum (\$150 +) — Beautiful Leatherette Folio and Pen

This year, give the gift of history, adventure, and Scouting fellowship! “Buy ONE, Gift ONE” with a FREE Bronze level membership when you buy one membership at any level. The North Star Museum - *You belong and so will your family and friends!*

Stories Live Here by Barb Herrmann

Evan, my five-year-old grandson, and I stand in front of a case containing Girl Scout uniforms from the 1950s. We talk about how Grandma wore a similar uniform when she was a Girl Scout in Western New York. Memories and their stories flood back as we talk: Camping at Seven Hills, singing around a campfire, walking a bog, swimming in a spring fed swimming pool. As we move through the space that is the North Star Museum's home, he asks about a striped seersucker dress with bloomers. This is what we wore as Counselors in Training at camp. More memories flood in as I remember and talk about my childhood.

Evan wanders over to the Rosene Canoe and asks why it is sitting in the Museum. We talk about the story it tells—the Scoutmaster from Nebraska who taught his Scouts how to build their own canoe with a promise to take them to the BWCA in Northern Minnesota.

Xander, another grandson, who visited the Museum as a newly minted Boy Scout, asked about the Moose hanging on the wall and the Tiger Cub costume his grandmother had worn when his uncle and father were Cub Scouts. At the time, we were at the Museum to hunt down a reference to his great grandfather that we found on the internet. Our quest took us to a question sent into *Boy's Life* in 1926. As

Xander held the magazine, we talked about my father who was an Eagle Scout. Do I know the stories around his time in Scouting, unfortunately no. He died unexpectedly in an auto accident two weeks prior to awarding his grandson, Mike, his Eagle Award. We never asked the question: how did you happen to become a Boy Scout?

There will come a time when I won't be here to tell stories. However, the Museum is the place where my family and your family can visit their own stories through the artifacts that are on display now and in the future. People need to know where they come from. It is important to look back before moving forward. Everything we grow up with sets who we become. No matter their age, people love to listen to stories. Recently, this hit home very clearly during a family weekend at the cabin. I was reading a story to five-year-old Lily. Quickly, we were joined by the others, everyone from five to forty-eight. There we were, all sitting together and sharing a very simple story,

While concluding this article, I flash back to 2005 when I first set foot in what was an abandoned library. We have come a long way from the years when a museum and saving memories was a dream of the first men who became the Skunks. In the past eleven years, we have built a warm welcoming place that

buzzes with voices of girls who attend S'mores with Juliet and spend Nights at the Museum. Boys come from all over the region to attend Merit Badge workshops or have their Courts of Honor. The stories of these events and experiences will continue to live in our memories and the Museum is a place where those memories reignite. We have come a long way since 2005.



Xander, 12, and Evan, 5.

DATED MATERIAL



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DECEMBER 2016

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Welcome from Your New Executive Director by Brenna Barrett

When I first heard of this Museum and this job opportunity, I was very curious about the Museum itself. As a Girl Scout Leader, I feel horrible that I was not aware the Museum existed. It has been an absolute delight to get to know the Museum and all its patrons in this past month. In my mind, what makes this Museum so unique and amazing is the commitment, honor, tradition, heart, and the dedication that everyone here has for the Museum. In today's world, a small nonprofit only survives and thrives with a group of dedicated volunteers and donors. I see exactly why this Museum has grown

from an empty building to such a wonderful memory of Girl and Boy Scouting.

I see so many opportunities to grow the Museum and this is only possible because of the traditions and dedication alive here today. In the month I have been here, I have not had the chance to meet many of you. I look forward to speaking with you and learning your visions for how we continue to grow this museum. Please stop by my office for a cup of coffee or a chance to talk at one of the upcoming events!

Museum News Editorial Team: Terri Anderson, Shirley De la Torre, John Guthmann, Claudia Nicholson, and John Raymond.

North Star Scouting Memorabilia Inc. is a Minnesota non-profit corporation, a member of the American Association of Museums, Association of Midwest Museums, and the Association of Scout Museums International. We are a 501(c)(3) with the mission to collect, preserve, share and interpret the history and significance of Boy Scouting and Girl Scouting in the upper Midwest. We adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Association of Museums and the Donor Bill of Rights.

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