

# HHH NEWS



**HORMEL HISTORIC HOME...where the past inspires the present**

Hospitality ~ Education ~ Music ~ History

January, February, March 2016

Happy New Year!

I am happy 2016 has arrived and wish you all the best in the coming year. I hope that an event or program at the HHH will fit in your 2016 calendar. Several events that fulfill our mission are scheduled in the coming months so look further for details. Below is a fresh and insightful writing from one of our volunteers. Volunteers help the HHH succeed, and we are grateful for them all. ~Holly

## ***Volunteer Perspective....by Paul Couvrette***

I have been asked why I like spending time and volunteering at the HHH.

A quick answer doesn't come to mind, but an old quote has become stuck in my head. "You can't go home again"- one of those sayings we've heard so often that it fades into the background of our minds.

Maybe that quote has come to mind because the Hormel Historic Home gives me the unusual but comfortable feeling of being "home" even though I first saw the HHH only a couple years ago. Yes that's odd, but how I feel about Austin itself is just a bit odd. I wasn't born here. I have lived in Austin a relatively small part of my life. But Austin - in my mind - is my hometown. To put this in dramatic terms, my coming of age story was set in Austin. It was here I met my childhood sweetheart. It was here I survived adolescence. I attended high school in Austin. My family moved away when I was in my late teens' bringing to an end my early life and beginning a second life as an adult. Early in that next life I visited Austin, and my childhood sweetheart became my first love. I left again to follow my path in life, but Austin, my "home", and that first love, continued to be in the back of my mind.

When the much anticipated, but slightly scary day of retirement arrived, my third life began and I was no longer tied to the second life I had built. To the bemusement of friends and family, I decided life in the sunshine of the southwest was no longer for me. I boarded an airplane in San Diego for the uniquely modern experience of being transported between worlds within a few short hours. Life in Minnesota has not been a disappointment but it hasn't been exactly what I expected either. Maybe it's true you can't go home again, but that doesn't mean there isn't a home waiting for us. It's also possible I'm getting a little wiser with time because I no longer hope to resurrect my rather distant youth. Instead I now have the challenge and excitement of building a third life in a place I really never expected to be. Life truly is what happens while you're making other plans.

While I was experiencing these things, people with a vision preserved the Hormel House for me to come home to. It's there for you too. Stop by. The warm and friendly staff will make you feel right at home. Spend some time, and while you're there, maybe you will discover how the Hormel Home is a part your life story too. ~Paul

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## **Holiday Recap**



**We must have been very good in 2015 because Santa visited and all our events were successful!**

**The Holiday Open House events welcomed over 500 people to see the decorated home and participate in activities such as cards, tea, tours, music, and lights.**

**We are already planning for the 2016 events, but who wants to think about Christmas now...**

## MUSIC.....

### Midwinter Musicale

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

4 p.m. FREE

Two Hormel family descendants will once again share their musical talent with the Austin community in a free concert in the Hormel Historic Home Living Room.



Known by many in Austin, MarySue Hormel Harris, the granddaughter of Ben F. Hormel, will play piano selections. She will share the spotlight with her Great-Nephew, Sam Stacy. Sam attended Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa and is a gifted self-taught guitarist.

MarySue is a great friend to the HHH and makes it possible for us to offer musical opportunities throughout the year and to maintain the Historic Home.

Join us for music and refreshments and help us welcome these two family members back to Austin.

### 4th Annual Harris Piano Contest

Saturday, February 20, 2016



Young pianists between 6 & 18 years old are invited to register for this fun and educational competition. Supported by MarySue Hormel Harris, the contest is meant to encourage students to continue their pursuit of music education and to enjoy themselves. Registration is

\$20 and is open to those living or taking instruction in the counties of Mower, Freeborn, Steele, Worth and Mitchell. A prize pool of \$2000 will be awarded. MarySue will be a judge and Special Guest during the event.

Registration is due February 1 at the Hormel Historic Home. More details can be found at [www.hormelhistorichom.org](http://www.hormelhistorichom.org)

### Annual Membership

Thank you to all who have joined or renewed a membership since our last newsletter in November

#### Carriage Club ~ \$25

2 Anonymous ~ Ryan Brandt ~ Gene & Michelle Caleb ~ Judah & Elyse Chezick ~ Jan Chuick ~ John & Nancy Donahue ~ Lana Epley ~ Gareth & Alaina Hataye ~ Lois Hesla ~ Jack & Whitney Hesse ~ Elaine Kvam ~ David & Angie Ruhter ~ Ray & Gail Schmidt ~ Deloris Witt

#### Atrium Club ~ \$100

1 Anonymous ~ Steve & Carole Almos ~ Sally Baker ~ Tim & Mary Barinka ~ Robert & Elizabeth Fisher ~ Kent & Bonnie Harrington ~ Norman & Helen Hecimovich ~ Mike & Sue Jordan ~ Derrick Kilby & Brittany Myers ~ Greg & Lynee Larson ~ Brad & Jeni Lindberg ~ Adam & Jennifer May ~ Judy Rasmussen ~ Mark & Rhonda Roberts ~ Josh & Michelle Sheely ~ Jack & Kim Underwood ~ Jerry & Mary Anne Wolesky

#### Peace Garden Club ~ \$250

Jeff & Diane Beker  
Kurt & Annette Mueller

#### Stained Glass Society ~ \$500

Donald & Mardi Temperley

#### Preservation Society ~ \$1,000+

Jeff & LeeAnn Ettinger  
Mayo Clinic Health System-Austin

### Historic kitchen restoration project update:

Thanks to a generous financial gift from Mr. and Mrs. Gary Ray, the Hormel Historic Home is now able to restore the historic kitchen to its early 1900's décor. It has taken a lot of research and effort, but we are moving forward and hope to have the restoration complete by late Spring.

We recently purchased a vintage 1900's ice box that was beautifully restored. I can't wait for you to see the finished project!

Stay tuned...

*The Hearth and Home Series*

The Hormel Historic Home presents conversations and discussions meant to inspire, educate, and encourage guests on topics related to their homes, their health, and their intellect.

Coffee, tea, and treats will be served. Programs start at 10 a.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

Please share ideas for future programming by contacting Holly at [holly@hormelhistorichome.org](mailto:holly@hormelhistorichome.org)



Free programming for all ages.  
Reservations requested, walk-ins welcome.

**Tuesday, February 2, 2016**

**Gluten Free -Facts & Myths**

Presented by Hy-Vee Dietician

Courtney Kremer

Gluten Free snack will be available

**Tuesday, March 1**

**City Ordinances-they may affect you**

Presented by Holly Wallace, Fred Husemoller, and Ron Ripley from the City Planning & Zoning Department

**HISTORY  
HAPPY HOUR**

**Social time will begin at 5:30 p.m.**

**Presentation 6 p.m.-7ish**

Programs are free for members of the HHH, the MCHS, and the Austin Public Library. \$5 for non-members. Light hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available.

**Monday, February 8**

**Jesse James' Legacy in MN**

Presented by Hays Scriven, Executive Director of the Northfield Historical Society



**Monday, March 14**

**Austin's Musical History, a look at the growth of choral opportunities within the public school system**

Presented by Brian Johnson, AHS Choir Director and the vocal Jazz Ensemble

**HHH Autism Programming Schedule:**

**Family Respite Nights**-For youth on the Autism Spectrum in grades K-12. 6 to 8:30 p.m. @ YMCA Kids will swim, play games, and have a snack providing families with often hard to find respite care. Upcoming events are Friday, **February 12, March 11, April 8 and May 13.**

Youth must be registered at the HHH prior to any of the events. For more information, contact Holly at 507-433-4243 or [holly@hormelhistorichome.org](mailto:holly@hormelhistorichome.org)

**Autism Seminar— Tuesday, April 12, 2016 6 p.m.**

**Stepping Out for Autism Walk - Saturday, April 23, 2016 10 a.m.—1 p.m.**



**A winter reflection written by George A. Hormel in *Three Men and a Business*:**

In a letter to his family in 1879 George recognized the blessings in his life regardless of hardship. “You haven’t heard from me, because for the past week it has been so cold that I couldn’t write very well. But now three of us have clubbed together and rented a splendid parlor for \$12.00 a month. The room is furnished with a good carpet and good beds and has a fine marble fireplace. You have no idea what it meant to come home tonight and sit down in a nice warm room, something I never really appreciated until now.”

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The Hormel family valued education and music and exuded a spirit of hospitality. Those values carried on through the work of the Y.W.C.A. and continue today as the mission of the Hormel Historic Home.

**Contact Us:**

208 4th Ave. NW ~ Austin, MN 55912 ~ 507-433-4243

Office & Tour Hours: Monday—Friday 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Self-guided tours are free for members; \$3 per person for non-members

Holly Johnson, Executive Director      holly@hormelhistorichome.org  
Amanda Barber, Operations Manager      amanda@hormelhistorichome.org  
Luke Harrington, Bar/Banquet Manager      luke@hormelhistorichome.org

[www.hormelhistorichome.org](http://www.hormelhistorichome.org)

HHH....where the past inspires the present....

HHH Calendar of Events:	
January 23	Wedding Event
January 24	Austin Wedding Show
January 26	Midwinter Musicale Concert by MarySue Harris and Sam Stacy
February 2	Hearth & Home
February 8	Floral Club
February 8	History Happy Hour
February 11	Y’s Women
February 12	ASD Respite
February 27	Foodie Throwdown
March 1	Hearth & Home
March 11	ASD Respite
March 12	SPAM®Kids Fest
March 14	History Happy Hour
April 5	Hearth & Home

**Hormel Historic Home**

208 4th Ave. NW  
Austin, MN 55912

PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE