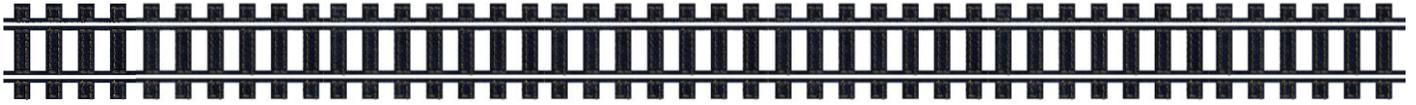




# The Whistle Stop

A Publication of the Irving Heritage Society

March 2018



## THE 40<sup>TH</sup> VALENTINE'S TEA

With the drop in temperatures, we wondered if anyone would come to our Vintage Valentine Tea of 1914.....but they did! Charter members were honored, new friends were made, memories were shared, and the treats on the tea table proved to be as good as they looked! Scott Lohr provided the music. Kathy Howard, Judy Pierson, and Nancie Rissing were co-chairs who worked to bring it all together. Diane Mannon coordinated the busy hive of workers in the kitchen. Carol Susat offered her special touch with the beautiful flowers all around.



Valentine's Tea Committee Members Judy Pierson, Lea Bailey, Kathy Howard, Diane Mannon & Carol Susat

President Lea Bailey made it official with introductions of the charter members as this 40th Anniversary Year's Sweethearts.



Charter Members Betsi Wadsworth, Mary Higbie, Bob & Sunny Bettis, Marvin Randle, Mary Oberlin, Velma White, (seated) Anne Pfaff, Carol Susat and Sally Hendricks

Charter member and the 2<sup>nd</sup> President of the Heritage Society (1979-1981) Mary Oberlin reflected that the year she became President, the Board was trying to decide our Mission. The purpose of the new organization was to "promote, encourage, direct and sponsor the preservation and accumulation of local history." These goals remain valid today for this vibrant organization.

## **A BUSY TIME FOR THE SOCIETY**

We had two terrific meetings and programs recently. In November Rose-Mary Rumbley kept us laughing as she told us about the Red River Bridge Controversy and then the January meeting brought out another big crowd for the soup supper and information about our cemeteries. Our thanks to this year's program chair Jearlene Miller. Our next get-together will be the election and installation of officers along with an ice cream social on Sunday, May 6, at 2 p.m.

The monthly tours of Heritage House on the first Sundays of March-December included special exhibits. Andy Lucas' fire truck collection along with the fire department's big tiller truck were fantastic. Then we got to admire the detailed work of the Victorian house and store fronts miniatures from our Klem Collection in December. If you have a collection you might want us to display during a monthly tour, please let us know.

Hope that you had a chance to check out the Grant Wood Christmas tree at the Arts Center over the holidays. Pamela Slaughter, Lea Bailey, Linda Shotwell, Jan Bodnar and Mary Higbie got creative and put together an assortment of clever ornaments depicting artist Grant Wood and his paintings.

A word of special thanks to member John Huffman who repaired some antique toys now found in Mary's Playhouse. We said good-bye to past President and dedicated depot volunteer Eleanor Corry Bell as she moved to Oklahoma. Various board members are taking turns serving as docents for first Sunday tours along with Barbara Terrill and Dr. Clay Gilbert. Stop by to say hello but note in April the tours will be on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, April 8, at 3 p.m. and 4 p.m.

I Fratelli DoughNation Day will be

Monday, June 11, all day. Just order a pizza (delivery or pick up) and mention the Irving Heritage Society and a percentage of your order will be donated to us.

There are many ways for you to be involved. You help to make our organization great. Let us hear from you: call Mary at 972-252-3838 or email [irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com](mailto:irvingheritagesociety@yahoo.com).

## **11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATING IRVING**

Takes place, as always, in April. This year we are highlighting the life and works of American artist Grant Wood. Co-founder of Irving, J.O. Schulze, was from Iowa and returned to Iowa shortly after the founding of our city. Grant Wood painted scenes of his home state of Iowa and nothing quite says "Iowa" like his famous American Gothic painting and other rural scenes.

Among the many events will be the Tableaux Vivants on Saturday, April 7 at 7 p.m. These are "living pictures" of some of the works of Grant Wood presented at the Singley Academy by theater and art students. Admission is free so plan to join us for this unique presentation. Some special door prizes are planned.

There is a full calendar of activities so be sure to check out all the events. Little is known about Grant Wood's Memorial Window in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but this 25 foot tall stained glass window is magnificent. Original drawings for the window by Grant Wood will be on display at the Irving Arts Center Dupree Lobby April 7 – July 1 along with works by Wood and other regional artists. All events are free to attend.

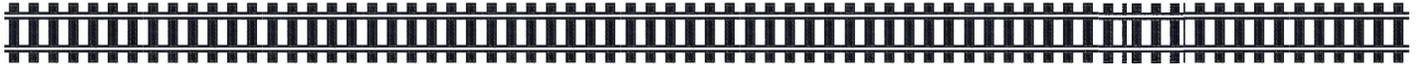
Finally, don't pass up the opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge of Irving and its history by participating in the annual Irving Trivia Contest on April 28<sup>th</sup>! For details, call 972-252-3838.

**NEWEST MEMBERS**

Mary Archer  
Michael, Andriana and Alexander Chappell family  
Tina Russell Rauschuber  
Brad Woods

**DEATHS OF MEMBERS**

Billie Root Coburn  
Dale Duvall  
Arnold Martin  
Bobbie Thomas



**MEMORIALS/DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM**

Rodney and Heather Anderson  
John and Kitty Boyle  
Tom and Patty Caperton  
Fast Designs  
Mary Higbie  
Jo Ann and Charlie Johnson  
Bill and Gene Olafsen  
Nancie and Bob Rissing  
Joe and Susie Smith

**MEMORIALS RECEIVED FOR**

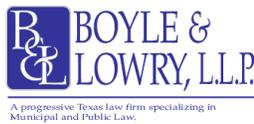
Elizabeth Brown  
Jean Brown  
Rick Brown  
Billie Root Coburn  
Dale Duvall  
Milton Hall  
Arnold Martin  
Patsy Mergo  
Bobbie Thomas

**HONORARIA RECEIVED FOR**

Eleanor Bell  
Bobbie Thomas' 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



**A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS**

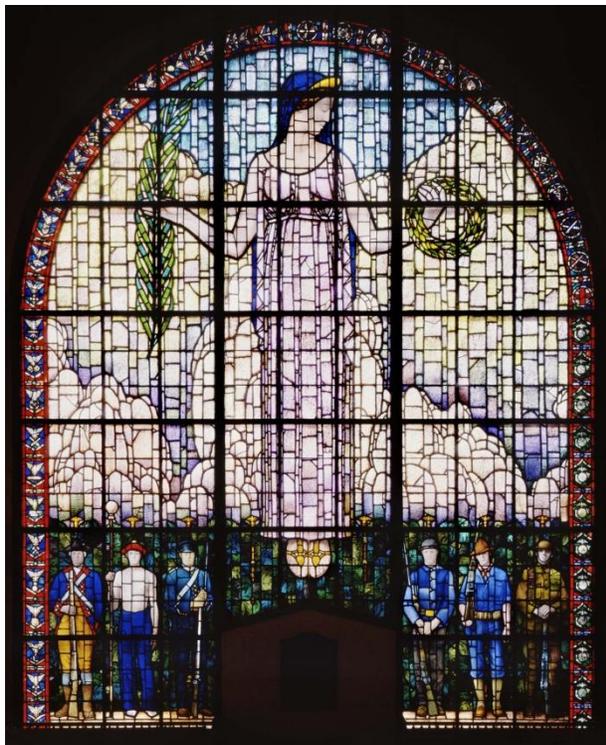


**Hamilton Masonry**

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## CELEBRATING IRVING



Grant Wood (designer), *Memorial Window*, 1927-1929, Emil Frei Art Glass Company, Munich, Germany (fabricator). Stained glass, 23'6" high. Veterans Memorial Commission, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. View original drawings by Grant Wood on display at the Irving Arts Center, April 7 – July 1.

## FISH FRY ON FRIDAY, APRIL 20 – COME HUNGRY

This will be the 14<sup>th</sup> year that Marvin Randle and his crew of helpers have provided an enormous amount of support for the Irving Heritage Society with the annual fish fry. This year's event will be on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 5pm-7pm. Get your tickets now from Big State Fountain and Grill, Mustang Museum, any board member or call 972-252-3838. See the details on the insert.

Cakes are also needed for the popular cake auction. Some folks like to purchase a cake and share it with others at their table. It's a great way to make some new friends in a hurry! Others appreciate getting a special cake to take home for a family event.

Many volunteers are needed to help with an event like this from setting up the tables and chairs, baking for the cake auction, collecting tickets, serving as a shuttle driver and, of course, clean up. If you can help for a period of time or in any way, call 972-252-3838 and your information will be given to the fish fry chair Gary Westerman. Corporate sponsorships are available.

Mark your calendar today.

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