



# Dodge County Historical Society

1643 N. Nye Ave. / P.O. Box 766 / Fremont, NE / 68025 / 402.721.4515  
www.maymuseum.com

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## Life Memberships, Estate Planning Benefit May Museum Sustainability



People who purchase Life Memberships have their names engraved on plaques hanging in the May Museum.

Paying \$10 for an Individual Membership or \$20 for a Family Membership are just two ways people show support for the Dodge County Historical Society and May Museum. Jeff Kappeler, Museum director, said people can also become Life Members and specify the Museum in their wills.

The Museum has about 225 Life Memberships. Richard Rader said he and Betty, his wife, have been Life Members for about 10 years. "The Museum is one of those parts of Fremont that shows total dedication to members of the community. To be part of that we consider it a privilege."

Cheryl Paden has been a Life Member for just a couple of years. "I became a Life Member because I could use the Museum and nurture my love not just for history but for Nebraska history."

Melissa Diers, Fremont Area Community Foundation executive

Memberships, continued on p. 2

## Director's Column

Jeff Kappeler



The May Museum is pleased to announce that it will once again be participating in the Fremont Area Big Give on May 8. We will host a free Open House at the Museum from 1-5 p.m. if you wish to make your donation in person, rather than online.

Remember the Fremont Area Big Give is a 24-hour online giving challenge led by the Fremont Area Community Foundation to raise unrestricted dollars for the nonprofits in the Fremont area. It is a day to celebrate the power of philanthropy and support the good work of nonprofits that help make the Fremont area a special place to live, work and thrive.

## Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m.  
Quarterly Meeting

Monday, March 19 &  
Wednesday, March 21  
Day in the Past  
for Dodge County 4th graders

Wednesday, April 25  
Museum Opens  
for Season

Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m.-noon  
Plant Sale

Tuesday, May 8  
1-5 p.m.  
Big Give Open House

Friday, June 1, 7-9 p.m.  
Ethnic Festival Fundraiser

# Memorials & Gifts

In Memory of Joan Marie Frystak  
Kay Klevemann

In Memory of Michal Martin  
Lloyd & Nancy Morris

In Memory of Barbara Groh  
Cathy Jensen

In Memory of Mindy McIntire  
Deb McCord  
Randy & Linda Wagner

In Memory of Cora Hansen  
Galen & Joann Johnson  
Jim & Patty Manhart

In Memory of Matt Peterson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Diers  
Nick & Cheryl Lamme  
Janice Lutz  
Jim & Patty Manhart  
Alice A. Nott  
Dr. David & Anne Sabott & family  
Bill & Cathy Saeger  
Tom & Carol Waring  
Tom & Deanna Wolf

In Memory of Dale Harvat  
Lloyd & Nancy Morris

In Memory of Loell Jorgensen  
Katherine Rhea

In Memory of Patsy Klevemann  
Ellen Anderson  
Kay Klevemann  
Mark Klevemann  
Jill Lackey  
Stan & Twila Sass

In Memory of Omer Troester  
Jeff Kappeler  
WI-EN Miata Club

In Memory of Elaine Knoell  
Chuck & Linda Cochrane  
Jim & Patty Manhart  
Gary & Pam Pettitt

In Memory of Don Watchorn  
Stan & Twila Sasse  
David & Sally Thomsen

In Memory of Jacque Whitthun  
Beta Sigma Phi

## Memberships, continued from p. 1

director, said, "Becoming a Life Member is an excellent way to ensure the long-term sustainability of this vital nonprofit organization."

The \$250 for all Life Memberships is placed in an endowment fund and is not used for routine monthly expenses, Jeff explained.

Answering why she designated the Museum in her will, one supporter said, "Should be obvious. If you love something, you want it to continue."

Melissa encouraged people to include their favorite charities in estate planning. "There are many tax-favored ways to do it and it can be as simple as including a one-sentence directive in your will. Talk to a professional advisor to learn more."

# 4th Graders Experience Day in the Past

Dodge County 4th graders will participate in a Day in the Past at the May Museum on Monday, March 19 and Wednesday, March 21. Volunteers include: Mary Buller (music), Judy Ekeler (building history), Laura England-Biggs (librarian), Jeff Kappeler (farmer), Deb McCord (storekeeper), Nancy Morris (storyteller), Kerstin O'Connor (Swedish maid), and Jane Petersen (teacher).

Laura has portrayed a librarian for six years and said she enjoys telling the story of how Fremont got its first library. As a theater major, she added that it gives her a chance to dress up.

Jeff has kept a thank you note from a mother of a 4th grader who attended Day in the Past in 2011. She wrote that her son was not overly excited about what he thought was just going to be a tour of the Museum. However, when he got home, he couldn't stop talking about "how cool it was." She wrote, "You really brought history to life and got him excited about learning."



Dale Brickell, Alice Nott and Deb Spicka prepare for the 2017 Plant Sale.

## Event Features Perennials

The 22 women who faithfully tend the Victorian Flower Garden on the May Museum grounds will be hosting the 19th annual Plant Sale at the Museum on Saturday, May 5.

Jan Lutz said only perennials will be available for purchase. Last year, 63 different varieties were sold. Many of the plants can be divided, so Jan figured there could be 600 individual plants for sale.

Proceeds from this major fundraiser are used for maintaining the Victorian Flower Garden, including buying additional plants, fertilizer and mulch.

The public is encouraged to stop by the Museum on May 5 and purchase a variety of perennials that are just waiting to be planted in a variety of flower gardens.

## Grandmother's Nut Cake Has 'Tricky' Frosting

Steve Bunck submitted this recipe that comes from his Norwegian grandmother, Christina Salveson Bunck. Baked in a small tube pan, he particularly remembers the cake's frosting as being "very tricky."

Milk and sugar were heated until a drop suspended from a spoon fell off. This required a certain length of time. When this frosting was added to the top of the cake, it was still hot and would dribble down the sides of the cake.

A knife was used to pull the topping back up the sides and onto the top until it solidified.

Steve said usually the process was fairly quick, but sometimes his grandmother or mother didn't cook the topping quite long enough. So, a considerable amount of time was spent pulling the topping back up the sides of the cake.

"Mom said you just had to wear it out until it finally gave up."

1 cup nut meats (walnut)  
½ cup butter  
5 eggs  
1½ cups sugar

1 cup milk  
3 cups flour  
1 heaping tsp. baking powder

Cream butter and sugar, add milk, then yolks of eggs well beaten, flour well sifted with baking powder. Nuts and whites of eggs well beaten folded in last.

Bake 350 degrees, 1 hour or until toothpick comes out clean and comes from pan.

# Battiato Shoe & Boot Repair Celebrates 99 years



Five generations of the Battiato family have worked in the shoe business. Current owner, John, in background, is the fifth generation. Pictures of John's relatives include, left to right: Great-Great-Grandfather Salvatorie; Great-Grandfather Rosario; Grandfather John; and Father Charlie.

In 1919, Italian immigrant John Battiato opened Battiato Shoe Repair on Main Street in Fremont. Prior to his move to Fremont, John spent two years working at a shoe factory in Chicago. His grandson, John, said his grandfather sewed the welt (strip of leather that runs along the perimeter of a shoe) and earned 3 cents a shoe. "He got very efficient and was making more money than the foreman because he got so good." So, Grandfather John got a new wage for each shoe: a penny and a half. Grandson John said that was when his grandfather left for Omaha where he had relatives.

After the elder John died in 1964, his son Charlie became owner of the Fremont business. In 1976, while in elementary school, younger John began working in the store. He became the 5th generation of Battiatos to work in the shoe business. "I swept the floors," John said. "I was paying attention to conversations, sounds of machines, and I learned from that." John has owned the business since 1989.

The sewing machine pictured above right was the first attempt of Singer Manufacturing Co. to produce a machine for industrial use, according to John. He dates the machine between 1880 and 1900 and said it uses a treadle, is made of cast iron, and probably weighs about 180 pounds. Currently on loan to the May Museum, it usually is displayed in a Battiato Shoe & Boot Repair window.



To repair shoes and boots, John uses the 1937 Singer sewing machine (below front) and two other Singer machines. He provides maintenance on the machines when necessary, saying one of the most common problems is that bobbin gears wear out.

