



# The Little White Paper

The Monthly Newsletter of the Golden Valley Historical Society  
Mailing Address: 7800 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, Minnesota 55427  
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**Thursday, January 9, meeting...**

## Irving Berlin's music to be offered by Nuance: Vegners and Wascoe

Irving Berlin will make his first visit to the Golden Valley Historical Society on Thursday, January 9, 2014. "A Trip to Berlin (Irving)" is the newest program by Nuance/a duo---vocalist Baibi Vegners and pianist Dan Wascoe. They return in this premiere performance following last fall's presentation on the history of ragtime.

Despite his Russian roots, Mr. Berlin wrote some of America's best-loved and best selling songs and during his 101 years rubbed elbows with the likes of the Gershwins and Cole Porter. Nuance will offer a generous sampling of Berlin's tunes and glimpses into his remarkable life.

Nuance was formed in 2007 and has performed in dozens of venues around the Twin Cities and

elsewhere. Baibi and Dan have performed for Golden Valley seniors and at the summer concert series in Brookview Park.

The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. at the Golden Valley His-



torical Society's historic church located at 6731 Golden Valley Road, Golden Valley, MN 55427. Refreshments will be served following the program.

**Note:** Construction of the addition to the Historic Church will temporarily occupy some parking spaces in the parking lot. Parking is allowed on the north side of Golden Valley Road but not on the south side. There is also street parking on Hampshire Avenue, the side street that borders Seeman Park, north of Golden Valley Road.

## Upcoming programs

**February 13, 2014** – Howard Amundson will present "Old Home Remedies". He will have a table full of various tonics and "cure all's" and antidotes about what was used in "the olden days" to make a person "well". Guaranteed to bring back memories of your childhood and what your parents had available to cure your ailments. Smiles during the presentation are guaranteed!

**March 13, 2014** – Sacred Harp singing. Sacred Harp is a uniquely American tradition that brings communities together to sing four-part hymns and anthems. It is a proudly inclusive and democratic part of our shared cultural heritage. The tradition is a living, breathing, ongoing practice passed directly to current devotees by generations of singers, many gone and many still living. Beginners and newcomers are welcome -- no musical experience or religious affiliation required. In fact, the tradition was born from colonial "singing schools" whose purpose was to teach beginners to sing and Sacred Harp methods continue to reflect this goal. Sacred Harp "sings" are not performances. There are no rehearsals and no separate seats for an audience. Every singing is a unique and self-sufficient event with a different group of participants. Be sure to arrive early for this meeting!

All general membership meetings are held at the Society's historic church at 7:00 p.m.

## Golden Valley founded in 1886

On December 16, 1886, the (men) residents of Golden Valley village voted for incorporation – 78 votes for incorporation – one vote against. Then on Monday, January 3, 1887, the village of Golden Valley was organized under the provisions of Chapter 145 of the General Laws of 1885.

Officers were elected for the balance of the council year which ended in March. The officers were: Uriah Wilson, president; John Scheid, Michael Rey, James Sweeney, William H. Varner, Jr., and William H. Varner, Sr.

At the annual election in March, the same officers were elected for the year beginning April 1, 1887. The question of the sale of liquor was also voted on for the first time in this election and approved by a vote of 45 to 4. The liquor question was not an issue at an annual election until 1910 when a vote for licensing the sale of liquor was approved 101 to 17.

During the first year the council passed by-laws and ordinances on such subjects as disorderly conduct, houses of ill fame, prohibition of gambling, punishing of vagrants,

and public nuisances. They also made provisions for village contracts, prevention of the spread of contagious diseases, and the licensing of slaughterhouses and stockyards, bowling alleys, and pool halls.

The village council met in a schoolhouse but as the village grew, a more suitable meeting place was needed. The question of building a village hall was submitted to the voters at the annual election of 1890. Since only nine votes were cast in favor of the project and 131 votes against it, the council continued to meet at the school.

When the village hall question came up again in the 1908 election, the proposal was approved by a vote of 53 to 17. The council was authorized to expend not more than \$2,500 in the erection of a building.

(Editor's Note: This portion of the newsletter came from the Golden Valley History Book, "Golden Valley, Minnesota 1886-1986" copyright 1986, by the Golden Valley Historical Society, published by the Golden Valley Centennial Committee.)

## Excavation begins on museum addition to Historic Church

In mid-December the building contractor for the Society's museum addition, Heritage Construction, completed the pre-construction tasks of staking erosion prevention plastic around the site, having the site checked for underground utilities, and bringing in a load of heavy protective blankets for later use.

Excavation began on Tuesday, December 17. Due to poor quality, subsoils had to be removed and replaced with compacted sand for a building base. The addition should be completed next spring.

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## New members

**Robert Drysdale**, 6150 St. Croix Avenue, Golden Valley, MN 55422 (763-234-7115);

**James Nielsen**, 6024 38th Avenue North, Crystal, MN 55427 (763-536-7924; email: Nielsen Jim@comcast.net)

Welcome Robert and Jim at the next general membership meeting.

## Fire department grew out of jurisdictional dispute

The 1940 census showed that Golden Valley had a population of 2,048 people, and there were about 700 homes. Much of the area was farmland. As the country began to emerge from depression, many new homes were built in Golden Valley. These new residents were acutely aware they lacked the fire protection they had enjoyed in the larger cities.

About that time there was a roof fire in the Lynde home, situ-

ated on the northwest corner of Glenwood and Xerxes Avenue, now a part of Wirth Park. When Mrs. Lynde discovered her roof was on fire, she called the Minneapolis fire department. The firemen arrived promptly and put a ladder against the house. Before anyone could scramble up the ladder, the Minneapolis fire chief arrived and ordered the ladder removed. The house was not located in Minneapolis, and Mrs. Lynde was ad-

vised to call the St. Louis Park fire department. When they refused to come she called Robbinsdale. Robbinsdale required a \$35 deposit before they would furnish a truck and three men. In the meantime the neighbors formed a bucket brigade and extinguished the blaze. That incident heightened the concerns of all the residents of Golden Valley. Fletcher Olson, owner of the local lumber yard, spearheaded the initial fire department organization.