Dear Friends,

The 50th Anniversary of the Naperville Heritage Society this year has been filled with community, laughter, reminiscing, smiles, and love. It has been a privilege to witness how Caroline Martin Mitchell’s bequest and Jane Sindt’s fight to preserve the Chapel have blossomed into a nationally accredited museum for informal education, as much as a place for our community to gather.

2019 has been marked by momentous celebrations and we had some exciting surprises throughout the year. We received a unique artifact on long-term loan as a part of our NHS|50: Treasures & Chronicles exhibit—Napervillian and Hootie and the Blowfish drummer Jim Sonefeld’s drum kit. A special guest, State Senator Laura Ellmann, joined us for our 50th Anniversary Wedding Celebration in July. As luck would have it, the longest married couple that renewed their vows that day, Peter and Nancy Yonker, are the son and daughter-in-law of Peg Yonker, one of the founding members of the Naperville Heritage Society! In August, a very special family, the descendants of Naperville’s founder Joseph Naper, visited for our Woodstock celebration at Naper Nights.

We are forever grateful to our staff, volunteers, community partners, board of directors, and most of all, you. Your continued support of our museum as a community space allows us to bring you the very best in education, events, and programming.

We’ve honored our legacy in 2019 and made lasting memories for years to come. It’s an exciting time for us as we look to the future and our growth in tandem with the community. We continue to Never Settle, working to expand our campus, story, and its educational offerings as well as be on the forefront of strategic collecting, technology, and inclusion in the museum field. In 2020, we are proud to announce that we will be honoring a year of women, sharing Naperville’s HERstory as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s passage.

Our horizon is vast and bright. The journey may be long and winding, but we are excited to see where this path leads. It’s truly been a heartwarming year and we thank you for sharing it with us. We are proud to serve you as a destination for lifelong discovery and learning. Here’s to another fifty years!

Macarena Tamayo-Calabrese
President & CEO
TELLING HERSTORY IN 2020

ABOUT HERSTORY
Naper Settlement is on a mission to tell her story as it happens, while sharing the often-overlooked contributions women and girls have made throughout history. In 2020, in conjunction with the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment which granted women’s suffrage, Naper Settlement will highlight 100 inspiring stories of women and girls in our community that have overcome obstacles, showcased leadership, and/or empowered others. These stories will span throughout Naperville’s early history all the way to today’s inspiring women and girls!

WE ARE LOOKING FOR WOMEN & GIRLS TO SHARE THEIR STORY
We bet you know some phenomenal women, or maybe you are one! Starting December 1, 2019, female-identifying residents of Naperville are encouraged to share their story for the chance to be recognized and featured by Naper Settlement and the community. Submissions require either a 250-word written story or one-minute video entry detailing how the nominee has made an impact in the community by overcoming obstacles, showcasing leadership, and/or empowering others.

HERSTORY 2020 EVENTS & PROGRAMS PREVIEW

• HERSTORY SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES
  The World of Juliette Kinzie
  SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 4-5PM

• HERSTORY SPEAKS LECTURE SERIES
  Rosie Wins the War: The Story of Women’s Workplace Roles in WWII
  SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 4–5PM

• WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH AT NAPER SETTLEMENT
  MARCH 2020

• PERSISTENT VOICES: WOMEN’S INFLUENCE IN COMMUNITY EXHIBIT
  JUNE 1 - OCTOBER 31, 2020

• 19TH AMENDMENT CELEBRATION
  AUGUST 28 - 29, 2020

AND MORE!
A full line-up of HERstory events and programs will be available January 2020 at NaperSettlement.org/HERstory

For more information or to share your story visit: NaperSettlement.org/HERstory
NAPERVILLE HERITAGE SOCIETY 50TH:
A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

ANNUAL COLLECTING INITIATIVE
To kick off the year, we launched a new annual collecting initiative. Capturing items of importance in the community each month to create a “year in review,” Naper Settlement is a proud collector of history happening every day.

“Dan the Man.” Naperville Central student, Richie Holmberg, designed this t-shirt featuring Dan Bridges, Naperville District 203 Superintendent.

CITY PROCLAMATION
The City of Naperville honored the Naperville Heritage Society with a special proclamation, declaring February 19 as Naperville Heritage Society Day in Naperville. Attendees enjoyed a reception immediately after with birthday cake!

Think Floyd USA, a Pink Floyd tribute, celebrates the 50th Anniversary of the Moon Landing at a July Naper Nights concert. Photo courtesy of Scott Itter Photography.

HOMETOWN PICNIC
An extra dose of nostalgia was in the air at this year’s Hometown Picnic. Families enjoyed vintage baseball, pie-eating, and a historic fire pumper demonstration as well as retro music and games from the last fifty years!

Drumset from Jim Sonefeld, drummer of Hootie and the Blowfish, now on long-term loan.

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10TH ANNUAL OKTOBERFEST

For this special double anniversary, Oktoberfest was bigger than ever before this year. Traditional German music and cuisine was supplemented by an expanded draft menu featuring local Oktoberfest brews, themed pinball, a pumpkin carver, and themed 50th Anniversary stein holding and pretzel eating competitions. Headliner Wedding Banned on Saturday night had the community rocking out all night long.

50TH ANNIVERSARY WEDDING CELEBRATION

On July 14, 158 couples gathered on the steps of Century Memorial Chapel, the building where it all began, and renewed their vows with us. Led by longtime partner Rent-a-Rev Jim Rehnberg, couples enjoyed revisiting where their journey started as well as a photo booth memory wall experience, refreshments, and more. Their submitted love stories and photos have been catalogued as artifacts in the museum’s collection.

The Milk House travels down Washington Street to its new home on campus.

50TH ANNIVERSARY WEED LADIES SALE

The original volunteer group of the Naperville Heritage Society, the Weed Ladies have been fundraising for the museum since 1969 by crafting and selling stunning arrangements of silk and dried florals. The group had an elaborate display for their 50th Anniversary Sale this September.

ALL HALLOWS EVE

The two spookiest nights of the year got even spookier this October with fifty eerily lit pumpkins in the Fort Pain Dark Art Gallery and local music students from School of Rock creating a haunting atmosphere with a special Halloween themed set list.

MILK HOUSE JOINS OUR CAMPUS

For the first time since 1983, Naper Settlement added a new building to its historic collection of thirty structures. The Milk House, dating back to the early 1900s, signifies Naperville’s strong agricultural history and early adoption of farming technology. Originally part of the Maple Knoll Dairy Farm, owned by the Bauer family and established in 1900, the Milk House was used to store milk prior to transportation to a creamery. Ownership of the farm changed hands in 1938 and the property became known as the Case Dairy Farm. The building was donated by ten grandchildren of former farm owners John and Esther Case.
Fifty years ago, the Naperville Heritage Society was founded to preserve Naperville’s 19th century history by relocating and restoring at-risk buildings to Naper Settlement. Partnering with the City of Naperville, the museum interpreted, researched, and documented local history through its collections and educational programming. 

Fast forward to 2006, when Naper Settlement updated its mission from a 19th century focus to sharing Naperville’s history through present day. The change was driven by a Strategic Interpretation and Program Plan, a year-long collaboration of staff, boards, community members, scholars, and interpretive planners working together to guide the future of the museum. At the time, Dr. Ann Durkin Keating, a participant in a Scholar’s Roundtable discussing the significance of Naperville stated, “While the 19th century history of Naperville is of great interest to its residents, the late 20th century history of Naperville is an iconic story for the whole of the United States. The explosive growth of Naperville in the closing decades of the 20th century make it ideal for the study of post-World War II suburbia.”

The ability to share all of Naperville’s history by connecting to the people who live and work here through historical interpretation, personal stories, and strategic collecting efforts has opened up an exciting chapter for the community and the museum. Naperville’s population has diversified expansively since the founding of the museum in 1969. Saily Joshi, co-chair of the Parent Diversity Advisory Council at Indian Prairie School District 204 said that “museums need to constantly evolve and validate the stories of the people who reside in their community. Naper Settlement has begun this journey by opening its doors to include current stories of migration and welcoming community dialogue.”

Donna Sack, Vice President and Chief Program Officer advised that “local history needs to be a whole history. It is through the sharing of our entire story—the hits and the misses, and everything in between, that we all gain understanding and empathy and can make informed decisions to guide the future. Naper Settlement is engaged in many initiatives that are the foundation for this work.”
KEY INITIATIVES:

• Teaching American History Grant: Partnering with IPSD 204 and awarded in 2007, this grant, written and administered by the Naperville Heritage Society on behalf of five local school districts, allowed museum staff to work with K-12 teachers and local scholars to begin researching Naperville’s 20th century history. Oral histories, maps and archives, and trips to places like Washington D.C. and the Alabama Civil Rights Trail helped to put the western suburbs in national context.

• A National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage Grant provided the initial funding to launch an Asian Collecting Initiative to capture today’s Naperville. Oral histories were collected, digitization events held, and artifacts donated to the collection or loaned for the 2018 Come As You Are exhibit. Led by a Steering Committee of community residents representing Naperville’s Asian community, stories included perspectives of 1st, 2nd, and 3rd generation Napervillians, today’s immigrants, and new Americans. Most critically, the project cemented relationships and helped identify future steps to effectively engage, collect, preserve, and share Naperville’s history.

• A National Endowment for the Arts grant funded a collaboration with award-winning photographer and author Wing Young Huie and resulted in the 2018 summer exhibit ME=WE: An Asian Community Portrait. Featuring portraiture subjects depicted in locations throughout the City and with objects of personal significance, Huie featured some of the portraits in his recent book, CHINESE-NESS: The Meanings of Identity and the Culture of Belonging.

• In 2019, Naper Settlement hosted the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service’s Beyond Bollywood: Indian Americans Shape the Nation exhibit, created by the Smithsonian’s Asian Pacific American Center. Exploring the contributions and impacts of Indian-Americans in shaping the fabric of our nation, the museum added Naperville history, inviting community members to share their stories and personal collections.

• Fourth Thursday Pop-Ups and Celebrate Naperville programs were launched, partnering to explore and celebrate art, music, food, dance, history, and more throughout our community.

• The Naperville Heritage Society is the recipient of a highly prestigious Institute of Museum and Library Services National Leadership Grant. Through Unvarnished, the museum is leading six history and cultural organizations across the northern and western United States toward more inclusive post-Reconstruction narratives of systemic de facto and de jure segregation, as practiced through Sundown Towns and the use of racial and religious restrictive real estate covenants. An online exhibit is scheduled for release in 2021.

• The Naperville Heritage Society Board of Directors was selected to participate in Facing Change: Advancing Museum Board Diversity & Inclusion, an American Alliance of Museum’s national initiative. The fifty-one participating museums will serve as models for the museum field as the initiative provides the framework, training, and resources for museum leaders to build inclusive cultures within their institutions that more accurately reflect the community that they serve.

• The National Endowment for the Humanities again supported the museum and has funded Wing Young Huie as he returns to Naperville, this time to work with high school students to explore the City through their own lens, culminating in an exhibit co-curated by the students, Huie, and museum staff.

Two Naperville families featured in the ME=WE exhibit. Left: The Chen family has its third generation growing up in Naperville. Nancy Chen was born in China. Her daughter, Jennifer, went to school in Naperville. Jennifer’s daughter, Hannah, now goes to the same District 203 elementary school as her mom once did. Right: As a baby, Sophia came to live in Naperville when her family adopted her from China. Wing Young Huie captured a moment that mom Nicole describes as “the daughter and the mother that we have become together.”

Local students dance a Bollywood routine during Celebrate Naperville 2019.

Beginning in 1990, Antonia C. Harlan, a Naperville resident and parent, collected hundreds of artifacts representing multiple cultures. For many years, the collection traveled to local schools and community organizations to teach cultural diversity. The Antonia C. Harlan Multicultural Collection was gifted to the Naperville Heritage Society in 2019.
Local history museums share the stories of their communities. As the keeper of Naperville’s history, Naper Settlement’s collecting and storytelling makes the past and present tangible, and has a focus on the future. Museums must think decades ahead to determine what stories and artifacts are critical to telling our history to future generations. We constantly ask ourselves: “Years from now, looking back on today, what will tell Naperville’s story?”

**MADHU UPPAL • Naperville, IL**

A 31-year resident of Naperville with her husband Jug, Madhu Uppal, Ed.D., was Naperville’s first teacher of Indian American heritage. She had a distinguished career in education, as a teacher and then as director of science programs at two large western suburban school districts. Now an education consultant, she further served the City as President of the Naperville Public Library Board of Trustees. A donor to the museum’s collections, Madhu’s oral history was video-taped in 2018 and is now housed in the archives for researchers to explore now and into the future.

Madhu Uppal released Rang Punjabi, a CD of nine Punjabi songs in 2012. Madhu’s lyrics and compositions were sung by Indian artists and represent “the diversity of styles within Punjabi music.”

**Share your Story**

Do you have a story to share? An artifact to contribute? We want to hear from you! Contact us at 630-420-6010.
A favorite of Yuan (Elsie) Yuan, this tea cup has a removable infuser and the lid can be used as cup holder, making tea drinking easier. Tea was listed as one of the seven daily necessities in ancient China. Elsie says, “When I use this beautifully designed tea cup, it connects me to our culture and heritage.”

Flower garlands are a staple in Indian traditions. Donated by Saily Joshi, this beautiful orange and yellow marigold garland hung at the entrance of the Beyond Bollywood exhibit, welcoming visitors.

Vasavi Chakka donated the first Indian artifact to the museum’s collection. Traveling with her from India, she wore this silk sari at her wedding.

Asian American businesses abound in Naperville. Helping to tell the story of 21st century entrepreneurs and business owners, pictured is a sampling of informational and promotional materials added to the collection over the past few years.

The Islamic Center of Naperville holds an annual Open Mosque Day for the community with tours, presentations, crafts, activities, and ethnic food. Through community outreach, the Center participated in Celebrate Naperville at Naper Settlement this fall, treating ladies to beautiful scarves and lessons in hijab wrapping.

When Bill Liu immigrated to the United States from Taiwan in 1982, his mom made him pack this rice cooker because she was afraid that he would not find one to purchase here. In 2013, Bill was appointed chair of Chinese Community Outreach by Mayor A. George Pradel.
BOARD SPOTLIGHT: RAJ PATEL

A resident of Naperville for over thirty years and one of the newest members of the Naperville Heritage Society Board of Directors, Raj Patel knows how to hit the ground running. Patel’s entrepreneurial spirit is woven into his DNA. Upon graduating from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2010 with a degree in Finance and Accountancy, he carried on the legacy of his father, Bud Patel, who has been a successful businessman in Naperville for a quarter of a century. Within three years, Patel created and expanded The Hari Group, an organization specializing in franchise development. The Hari Group, under Patel’s guidance, covers more than twenty businesses in the greater Naperville area including Dunkin Donuts, Baskin Robbins, Jersey Mike’s Subs, and Tilted Kilt, employing more than 400 people across all the franchises.

In his spare time, Patel enjoys hanging out with his daughters Asha and Anya, golfing, playing basketball, and visiting Naper Settlement. “My favorite part of the Settlement has always been how it keeps the history of Naperville alive. There are a lot of positive things going on all over Naperville and this adds a unique charm, reminding us of where Naperville started,” he said.

BOARD SPOTLIGHT: LEANNE MEYER-SMITH

As the vice president of architecture at Wight & Company, a wife and mother of three, and a board member for the Naperville Heritage Society, Leanne Meyer-Smith keeps busy, placing her community roots at the forefront of everything she does.

Naper Settlement has always been a community gem in Meyer-Smith’s eyes, actively sharing Naperville’s story with friends, family, and neighbors. “My husband and I talk about how lucky we are to have such a beautiful, open space that is accessible to the community for so many types of events,” she said. Her daughter, Lydia, has grown up volunteering at Naper Settlement, serving as a Junior Volunteer, History Connector, and Building Interpreter.

Meyer-Smith encourages the community to kickstart their connection with Naper Settlement through a wide array of volunteer opportunities and educational programs; she’s partial to the Awesome Architecture camp at Camp Naper each summer. More than that, she hopes patrons will gain some understanding about how our past shapes our future.

“The rich stories [that] the Naperville Heritage Society helps us tell today will become our legacy for future generations to learn from.”
VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DAMIEN

In his free time, volunteer “DAMIEN” enjoys bodybuilding, pizza, and horror movies. But most of all, All Hallows Eve is one of his favorite times of the year. “DAMIEN,” has been volunteering at All Hallows Eve for thirteen years and loves every minute of scaring people. Born into darkness and raised by demons, “DAMIEN” lurks around the grounds, feeding off the fear of innocent visitors throughout the two-night event. When you feel that chill down your spine and your heart begins to beat faster, “DAMIEN” may be near! He is always around, waiting patiently and watching for his next victim.

“I tell people all the time how great it is to work at All Hallows Eve; it’s like a family. I see people come back each year because we have so much fun. It just keeps getting bigger and the staff is fantastic to work with. If this was my regular job, I’d love it.” Volunteers like “DAMIEN” help make All Hallows Eve an engaging and thrilling event! As “DAMIEN” would say, “Happy Haunting!”

BECOME A VOLUNTEER:

BUILDING INTERPRETERS:
Adults 18+
Tell the stories of the past and how they relate to the present inside the historic buildings. Period clothing is optional.

HISTORY CONNECTORS:
Adults, Teens in grades 8-12
Work with our visitors at hands-on activity stations, summer camp, special programs, and more. Costumes not required.

JUNIOR VOLUNTEERS:
Youth, Grades 4–7
From April through October, Juniors dress in period clothing, play games, and demonstrate chores and activities of the past.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS:
Adults 18+, Teens in grades 8-12
Naper Nights Concert Series, All Hallows’ Eve, Oktoberfest, and more.

For more information on volunteer opportunities and winter orientation, visit NaperSettlement.org/Volunteer.

“DAMIEN” ready for a night of terror.

THANK YOU 2019 SPONSORS

[List of sponsor logos and names]
Wedding Showcase

Saturday, January 18, 2020
10AM-3PM

FREE ADMISSION
OVER 30 VENDORS

One-on-one personal consultations with:

FLORISTS • BAKERS
PHOTOGRAPHERS
VIDEOGRAPHERS • VENUES
JEWELERS • DJS AND MORE

For full vendor list and more information visit: NaperSettlement.org/Weddings