

Activities 2017 – Friends of Lorine Niedecker

Mission – Dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker.

Highlights at a Glance

It was an exceptionally busy year for Lorine Niedecker.

- Wisconsin Assembly Joint Resolution #43 proclaimed Lorine's birthday, May 12, 2017, to be Lorine Niedecker Day in Wisconsin. This resolution was introduced by Representative Cody Horlacher (R) and supported by Senator Steve Nass (R)
- Two art installations in Fort Atkinson Schools
- Lorine's cabin is now on the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places.
- The FOLN partnered with Beloit College.
- The FOLN board held a strategic planning retreat to determine initiatives and priorities.
- Wisconsin Public Television taped segments for their series "Wisconsin Life" on Blackhawk Island, the library, the museum and other Lorine destinations. The segments aired on December 12 and can be streamed on line at WPT.org

"Solitary Plover" Newsletter Published

- Winter issue #25
- Summer issue #26

Circulation – email: 480 subscribers (14% increase) snail mail: 233 (4% decrease)

All issues can be found on the Web site. www.lorineniedecker.org

Web Initiatives

- The Web continues to be Lorine's link to the world. There were approx. 23,742 unique visitors to the FOLN web site this year (23% increase) with 92,698 total visits (21% decrease)
- Lorine currently has 1,366 Facebook Friends, an increase of 8% over last year. We started making more regular posts to our LN Facebook page in May including audio, video and photographs from Blackhawk Island and Lorine's archive. Our reach and engagement have increased.

Educational Initiatives

- An Education Committee was created.
- A new Middle School study unit was created. It is also applicable for other groups.
- A study unit was created for Dane Arts Mural Arts by poet and educator Angie Trudell Vazquez and will accompany other Mural Arts projects in Madison.
- Participated in the 33rd annual UW Whitewater High School Creative Writing Festival, leading a session devoted to teaching Lorine Niedecker targeted to teachers. Each year approximately 750 students and teachers participate.
- Beloit English Professor Chris Fink is teaching a full semester of Lorine Niedecker. His class attended the Poetry Festival and conducted several oral histories related to Lorine.

In partnership with Beloit College and the office of Career Development, Liberal Arts in Practice Center FOLN hosted intern Zoe Koenig. Her activities included:

- Compiling a list of PhD and Master's thesis related to Lorine Niedecker.

- Compiling a list of poetry and writing festivals and conferences in the Midwest where there is potential for a Lorine Niedecker presence.
- Transcribing oral history interviews.

“What Region?” Monograph Series

No monograph was published this year. There are plans for 2018.

Public Art Projects

- Fort Atkinson Middle School (hallway mural and six panel library installation)
- Barrie Elementary School, Fort Atkinson
- Olsen Elementary School, Madison
- Our Lady Poet, a mosaic created by local artist Sally Koehler was placed on Fort Atkinson’s bike trail. An “unveiling” will be held in spring of 2018.
-

Left, Fort Atkinson Middle School, right – Barrie Elementary



Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival (September 29 and 30)

- The Keynote - David Pavelich, the Director of Special Collections at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, spoke about Lorine’s personal library and how the newly returned materials (45 years later) help us understand more about her.
- “Lorine For a New Generation” – A panel of those in schools and communities speaking to their initiatives to introduce Lorine Niedecker.
- The local Farmers Market included poetry components.
- Two open mic opportunities.
- Two writers workshops.

The Festival received significant local press including an editorial. We purchased radio ads on Wisconsin Public radio and WORT in Madison, a community station, for the first time.

Board Meetings

* January 21, Strategic Planning Retreat * July 15 * November 18

Additional Activities and Notations

- We donated set of Lorine's High School yearbooks and a copy of her book "Harpisichord and Salt Fish" to the Beloit College Archive
- Presentation to Women Who Care "Inspirational Women From Our Local History" at Hoard Historical Museum. 9/21
- The Poetry Foundation in Chicago hosted a book club to discuss "The Granite Pail."
- Book "Warriors, Saints and Scoundrels" by Michael Edmonds and Samantha Snyder, Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2017, included Lorine.
- FOLN helped sponsor a Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets event, poet Mark Doty presented a reading. 4/29
- The National Endowment for the Arts on-line newsletter used Lorine's poem, "Grandfather advised me" (8/31)
- Assisted Wisconsin Public Television's series "Wisconsin Life" when the tapes segments on Blackhawk Island and other Lorne locations.

Acquisitions

- Hoard Historical Museum received a box of 118 items from Lorine's personal library which were borrowed 45 years ago by a researcher but never returned. The items were catalogued and the list can be found on the Web site under Research/Resource Database.

