

Activities 2018 – Friends of Lorine Niedecker, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
Mission – Dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker.

Highlight of the Year

After six years of work by the FOLN, the owners of the Lorine Niedecker cabin, Jefferson County Preservation Commission, Legacy Architects and the Wisconsin Historical Society; the United States Parks Department placed the Lorine Niedecker cabin on the National Register of Historic Places. The cabin is already on the Wisconsin Registry of Historic Places. The designation further identifies Lorine Niedecker as a significant 20th century American poet.

“Solitary Plover” Newsletter Published

- Winter issue #27
- Summer issue #28

Circulation – email: 503 subscribers; snail mail: 211

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

Educational Initiatives

- The Solitary Plover Study Group met on January 27.
- April Poetry Month Poetry Reading at Café Carpe on April 4, in partnership with the Dwight Foster Public Library. Poets Nick Gulag, Marilyn Anunci, and Pat Moran, all UW-Whitewater faculty, read.
- “Inspired by Lorine” was a presentation kicking off the Fort Atkinson Club Fall Lecture Series on September 25. Ann Engelman and Jeremy Pinc spoke about the creation of the second Poetry Wall creating a Poetry Corner downtown Fort Atkinson.
- Classes held at The Mill in Appleton, Wisconsin taught by Tom Montag included Lorine’s poetry.
- A 4th Grade and High School curriculum about Lorine Niedecker is now included in the Fort Atkinson school system. An element of this study takes place at the Hoard Museum.

Web Initiatives

- The Web site is redesigned, updated and new elements added. The new platform DreamHost will make updates and changes more easily.
- The Web continues to be Lorine’s link to the world. There were 84,519 visits to the FOLN web site this year with 176,572 page views.
- Lorine currently has 1,379 Facebook Friends.

Public Art Projects (Pictures on the Web site.)

- Mural at Purdy Elementary School in Fort Atkinson included a stanza from “Wintergreen Ridge.”
- A second Poetry Wall, “I was a solitary plover” was commissioned and created a Poetry Corner in Fort Atkinson on Main Street and Sherman Avenue.
- “Our Lady Poet” a mosaic sculpture by artist Sally Koehler, sponsored by the Fort Atkinson Arts Council was placed on the Fort Atkinson Bike Trail and dedicated on October 16. This was privately funded and supported by the city.

Lorine Niedecker Wisconsin Poetry Festival

This year the Festival was held over three separate dates for three separate events. (Approx.140)

- Dedication of the second Poetry Wall creating a Poetry Corner, Main Street and Sherman Avenue, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin. July 28, 2018 included a full day of activities including, a workshop at the library. (Agenda on the Web site.)
- Writers Workshops at the Lorine Niedecker cabin on Blackhawk Island and an observational walk along Blackhawk Island Road was held September 29, 2018. This event happened to catch the one week BHI was open between flooding events.
- Poetry Open Mic at the Café Carpe, October 19, 2018. Amy Lutzke, moderator.

Board Meetings

- March 17 (Canceled due to weather, business was conducted via email.)
- July 28
- November 17
(Amy and Ann attended a Nonprofit Board Member Seminar conducted by the Fort Atkinson Community Foundation 10/8)

Additional Activities and Notations

- In honor of Lorine's birthday, May 12, a plaque was placed at the house where Lorine and Al lived at 2042 S. Sixth Street, Milwaukee. Margot Peters and the Milwaukee Urban Anthropologists cooked out for a neighborhood gathering open to the public.
- The Friends of Lorine Niedecker were recognized on May 12 at the Wisconsin Club in Milwaukee by the Council for Wisconsin Writers with the Christopher Latham Sholes Award honoring an individual or organization for outstanding encouragement of Wisconsin Writers. The biannual award included a \$500 prize.
- The Friends of Lorine Niedecker were given the "Tourism Counts" award by the Tourism Commission of the Fort Atkinson Chamber of Commerce. The award included a Legislative citation sponsored by Wisconsin Representative Cody Horlacher and Senator Steve Nass.
- Central Waters Brewing Company included a reference to Lorine on the back of their beer matts.
- FOLN activities were rewarded with front-page newspaper coverage ten times and received three editorials.
- Tallest Building in Town Podcast interviewed Amy Lutzke about Lorine Niedecker. <https://tallestbuildingintown.com/episode-11-poets-work/>
- Brad Vogel, a Wisconsin native, poet, fan of Lorine Niedecker and captain of a canoe club in New York City convinced the Brooklyn Book Festival to list an event where Lorine's poems were read from canoes while the audience listened from a bridge over the Gowanus canal.

Visitors of Note

- Beloit College Professor Chris Fink brought students for a Niedecker tour of exhibits and local locations.
- The Hoard Historical Museum hosted the University League from Madison.
- Author and scholar Jenny Penberthy visited to review returned materials (in Jan. 2017) to the Hoard Museum belonging to Lorine. She made a presentation at Beloit College to a standing room only crowd. She then followed the Circle Tour that Lorine and Al made around Lake Superior.
- Edward Ferrari, graduate student visited from UCLA.

Acquisitions 2018

- Book – “Y el Lugar Era Agua, Antologia Poetica” trans. Natalia Carbojosa.
- Book – “From The Other Side of The Century: A New American Poetry 1960-1990” edited by Douglas Messerli.
- Magazine – “Bramble,” quarterly publication of the Wisconsin Fellowship of Poets
- Book – “Poetics and Praxis ‘After’ Objectivism” edited by W. Scott Howard and Broc Rossell