

Activities 2020 – Friends of Lorine Niedecker, Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin
Mission – Dedicated to preserving and expanding the legacy of Lorine Niedecker.

We shared the experience of limited activities in this year of the pandemic. The list of 2020 canceled events are at the bottom of this report. These will be rescheduled in 2021 and 2022 as safety is established.

“Solitary Plover” Newsletter Published

- Winter issue #31
- Summer issue #32

Circulation – email subscribers 604 (3% increase), snail mail 200 (18% decrease)

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

The Solitary Plover articles published this year included:

- Nancy Shea, FOLN board member, described the provenance of the Pipestone National Monument Pipe donated to the Hoard Museum by Jenny Penberthy. (Winter 2020)
- Max McKenna, Teaching Assistant at the Kelly Writers House, University of Pennsylvania, MOOC (Massive Open On-Line Courses) “Teaching Lorine Niedecker in a Massive Open Online Context” (Winter 2020)
- Tom Montag, poet, publisher, FOLN board member “Lorine Niedecker: Beautiful Pieces, Well-placed Fragments” (Winter 2020)
- David Pavelich, Director, Special Collections & Archives, UW-Madison, “Niedecker’s Library” (Summer 2020)

Web Initiatives

- The Web continues to be Lorine’s link to the world. Since transferring to a new platform in 2019 there is no comparison till next year. In 2020 there were 6,709 page views.
- Lorine currently has 1,499 Facebook Friends, 7% over last year.

Archive Initiatives

Documents were drawn up for Dwight Foster Public Library Board and the Hoard Historical Museum Board to formally establish the Niedecker collections as a priority with staff assigned to their care.

Presentations and Activities

- Woodland Pattern Book Center, Milwaukee, hosted a virtual screening of Cathy Cook’s film “Immortal Cupboard” followed by a discussion with Cathy and David Wilk, writer and book publisher.
- Celebration of Poetry Month in April was moved to a Zoom platform. The Friends in cooperation with the Dwight Foster Public Library hosted Wisconsin Poet Kathryn Gahl, winner of the 2019 Lorine Niedecker Poetry Award from the Council for Wisconsin Writers. The successful program included art pieces with poetry in a project Kathryn calls her “Pandemic Postcards.”
- The Solitary Plover Study Group met at Lorine’s near the river on Blackhawk Island on October 24. Everyone was masked, with social distancing, outside – it was chilly.

- Ironically, because of the pandemic the Friends were not able to help maintain the property this year but because of the pandemic, the owners spent more time at the cabin. The place has never looked better.
- Coursera, Contemporary American and Modern Poetry (ModPo) instructor Al Filreis, posted an interview from Vancouver, British Columbia with Karis Shearer and Jenny Penberthy regarding one of Lorine's calendar poems. A link to the interview is on the Web site.

Board Meetings

The board met via email on September 23, 2020.

Canceled FOLN 2020 Events due to pandemic (To be rescheduled.)

Dwight Foster Public Library, Fort Atkinson, WI

- Artist and printer Kathy Kuehn will exhibit her indigo dyed panels, each contains a hand sewn poem by Lorine Niedecker. A reception and artist talk and gallery tour will explore the inspiration for her work. Her previous exhibits included the Chazen Museum of Art in Madison.

Woodland Pattern Book Center, Milwaukee, WI

- Lorine Niedecker Potluck Lunch using Lorine's recipe book and other Niedecker-inspired dishes & drinks.

Hoard Historical Museum, Fort Atkinson, WI

- Lorine Birthday Party/Lorine Scavenger Hunt
Celebrate Lorine with Birthday Cake and a museum scavenger hunt for Lorine Factoids.
A presentation of new artifacts for the museum's Niedecker Collection will be made including Lorine's cedar chest where she kept letters and correspondence and a pipe Lorine purchased from Pipestone National Monument.

Blackhawk Island Observational Walk Workshop

Other Locations

- Milwaukee Audubon Society tour at Penokee Hills and adjacent Lake Superior Shoreline tour. Novelist and biographer, Martha Berglund and wildlife naturalist and cultural ecologist Jim Uhrinak will lead the tour.
- Karl Gartung will present and lead a discussion of Lorine Niedecker's poem Lake Superior with emphasis on the Sand Lake poem that closes the sequence.