

## Inga Witscher to attend Dairy Day At The MOOseum

By Linda Ager, Museum Staff

This year, the 4th annual Dairy Day at the MOOseum on Saturday, June 2 from 11- 2 p.m. will host regional celebrity, Inga Witscher.

As a fourth-generation dairy farmer, Inga Witscher, of PBS's "Around the Farm Table," knows cows.

She has raised four of the seven breeds of milking cows either as a child on her family's farm or as an adult with her own herds.

Witscher will have a chance to see her favorite breeds in a parade of cows and calves at the Hoard Historical Museum's Fourth Annual Dairy Day at the MOOseum on Saturday, June 2. The parade of all seven milking breeds will be at 1:30 p.m.

Witscher will be at the event to demonstrate "Dairy Good" dips at 11:30 a.m. She will also judge the Grilled Cheese Sandwich Contest at 12:30 p.m and will announce the winners of the sandwich contest.

Witscher visits small farms across the state to feature in her show, which airs on Wisconsin Public Television. She often picks up ingredients from those farms to use in the food preparation segment of the show.



Inga Witscher will be at the Museum's Dairy Day at the MOOseum on Saturday, June 2nd.

With her trademark straw hat and gingham clothing, Witscher is down to earth, with a quick smile and a clever wit. She will share stories and answer questions from museum visitors as she prepares the food.

Witscher grew up on a farm in Washington and helped with her parents' Holstein and Guernsey herds. In 2006, she got her own herd of Milking Shorthorns on her 30-acre farm in Osseo. She now has Jerseys.

The cow parade as part of Dairy Day will include the four breeds Witscher has raised, as well as Red and Whites, Ayrshires and Brown Swiss.

"It is nice to see {such} a diversity of cows ...," Witscher said, "You can see the pride of the farmer and the love for that breed."

Witscher's family sold its farm in Washington when sprawl closed in. Today, she milks a small herd of cows and her father, Rick Witscher, who produces the show, uses the milk to make cheese. Her brother helps her with breeding. She also grows garlic, and has at times opened up her home as a bed and breakfast.

She is concerned about the loss of mid-size farms and thinks that farmers will need to be entrepreneurs in order to re-invent the family farm.

"My neighbor sold his cows," she said. "I wonder if in a year I will be the only dairy farmer on my road."

"I feel terrible for people, especially those who have had generations on one farm," Witscher said. "This situation is not their fault. It just developed."

Witscher said now is the time for farmers to be creative and do something different with their products so they can take charge of their future.

"How can we make the product worth more? How else can we make money on the farm?" she asked, noting that agri-tourism is a possibility because people love farm experiences.

*(Continued on page 4)*

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www.hoardmuseum.org  
 www.facebook.com/hoardmuseum  
 Hours: Tuesday – Saturday  
 9:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
 Closed Sundays & Mondays

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## Merrilee's Musings

By Merrilee Lee, Museum Director



Happy spring!

Spring is always a time of rebirth and growth and I'm happy to announce that our museum family has recently grown. Our sincere congratulations to Assistant Director Dana and her husband, Zach, on the birth of their first child, a son named Ewan. All are doing very well.

For Ewan and for my three-year-old daughter Rachel, I wonder what their childhood memories of Fort Atkinson will contain. As I'm writing this, Part Two of the Mary Hoard Art Show just closed and contained a few pieces of art inspired from the artists' childhoods. One piece by Pat Ogren was an image of the former Haumerson's Pond warming house. Seeing her piece made me realize that current children will have a very different warming house to remember in the future. That makes me ponder: what other locations from people's childhood memories are now gone, only to be replaced with new locations to remember for today's children?

Luckily for Ewan, Rachel, and all of Fort Atkinson's residents, our museum is dedicated to preserving artifacts from our lives. Stores we shop at, restaurants we enjoy, streets we drive down, houses we visit, people we love, parks we adore, it is our mission to work to preserve it. As members of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society and Hoard Historical Museum, you are a major component of our ability to preserve, protect, and promote the history and culture of Fort Atkinson and the surrounding area. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Dana and Zach, congratulations! He's beautiful! And Ewan, buddy, you hit the jackpot with who you have as parents!

*Merrilee*

## Recent Events at the Museum

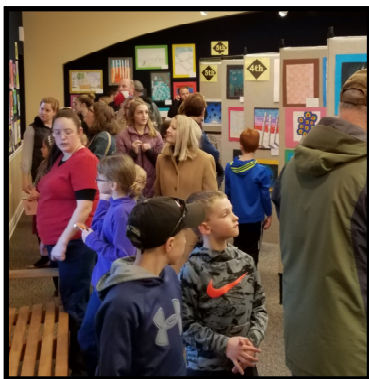
### Wisconsin Remembers Traveling Exhibit

In March, the Hoard Historical Museum hosted the traveling exhibit, *Wisconsin Remembers: A Face for Every Name*, from the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. This exhibit featured a photo for each of the 1,161 Wisconsinites officially listed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. Alongside the traveling exhibit was a display of artifacts from the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Blackhawk Chapter 409, Jefferson County. Members of VVA 409 generously loaned their military gear to display. In addition to artifacts, they also gave their time. Each Saturday, there were at least two VVA 409 members who were available for Museum visitors to talk with. They also shared their experiences with area school children who visited the exhibit. To VVA members, thank you very much!



VVA members discuss objects used during the Vietnam War.

**The Museum will host a traveling exhibit produced by the Wisconsin Historical Society, *Great Lakes, Small Streams: How Water Shapes Wisconsin* Tuesday, July 16 - Saturday, August 11.** This exhibit explores our state's long relationship with water and the impact we have had on our vast waterways.



Artists and families enjoying the reception for Part 1 for grades kindergarten-8th grade.

### Mary Hoard Art Show

This year marks the 58th annual Mary Hoard Art Show hosted by the Hoard Historical Museum and generously sponsored by Nasco. Nearly 1,000 pieces of art from artists aged kindergarten to 80+ years old were entered into the show.

Named in honor of Mary Hoard, who helped start the first show in 1961, the art show is the oldest community led art show outside of Madison.

Our thanks to the 50+ volunteers who helped organize, hang, label, work at opening receptions, and return art for the show. A special thanks to Bob Hase for helping with the art show from the very beginning.

### From the Archives

In the Friday, November 29, 1918 edition of the Jefferson County Union, ten lines in the column of page 3 caught the eye of our Archive Volunteers. The following lines were so spring-y that we had to share. A quick internet search turned up the following image. It is a postcard.

#### A Farmers Love Letter

Do you "carrot" all for me, for my heart "beets" for you, and my love is as soft as a "squash" but as strong an "onion." For you are a "peach" with your "radish" hair and "turnip" nose. You are the "apple" of my eye, so if we "cantaloupe" then "lettuce" marry anyhow, for I know we would make a happy "pear."





Merrilee Lee, director of the Hoard Historical Museum, said, "I think that Gov. W.D. Hoard would likely have agreed with Inga that farmers should find creative ways to thrive in a changing farm economy."

"Hoard encouraged Wisconsin farmers to focus more on dairy and cows versus field crops such as wheat and corn," said Lee. It is because of Hoard's involvement with the dairy industry that the National Dairy Shrine is connected to the Hoard Historical Museum.

"Like Inga, Hoard urged farmers to adapt to local conditions and changing times," Lee said.

Witscher said of herself and of the people she meets when she films for her show, "No one wants to get rich. We want to pay our bills and farm."

"The hardest part is I can't take all these ideas back to my own farm to try," she said about the farms she films. "People are doing the coolest things."

"What surprises me (about the show) is how diverse farming is in Wisconsin," Witscher said. "Every part of the state is so beautiful and full of unique farms."

Next season, the show will be broadcast nationally.

Dairy Day at the MOOseum also includes games for children, a diorama depicting the history of farming, grilled cheese sandwiches, ice cream floats, and more.

#### **Schedule of Events: Saturday, June 2nd**

10:30: Come early to meet the cows!

11:00 Event starts

11:30: Inga Witcher's program; Jones Family Gallery

12:30: Grilled Cheese Contest begins; Jones Family

Gallery *For rules, please see our website, [www.hoardmuseum.org](http://www.hoardmuseum.org)*

1:30: Cow Parade begins & Grilled Cheese Contest winners announced

#### **Ongoing:**

~grilled cheese sandwiches by the Jefferson County Agri-Business Club

~ ice cream floats

~ farm history diorama

~farm games & trivia

**Hope to see you there!**

## **☞ Rendezvous at Rock River Park ☜**

**Saturday, May 26, 9 - 5**

**Sunday, May 27, 9 - 4**



It's time again for the Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous at Rock River Park! The theme of the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Rendezvous is "Tools of the Trade."



Come see how frontier families experienced Wisconsin, from cooking to learning what tools were needed. Meet with interpreters who will discuss and demonstrate their techniques. *New this year: Camp Chats!* Join demonstrators as they discuss their unique skills and their collection.

Other activities include black powder shooting & competition, pioneer demonstrations, interactive old-time chores, and more! Come experience an authentic reenactment as demonstrators show what life was like in the 1800s.

**Thank you to Festival Foods and Jones Dairy Farm for their sponsorship!**

## Volunteer Spotlight

This year, National Volunteer Week (NVW) was celebrated the week of April 15-22. However, the Hoard Museum celebrates the “week” for weeks. The purpose of NVW is to recognize the work of volunteers in our community. Volunteers, stop in for an ice cream sundae! All volunteers received a hot pink discount coupon for the Museum’s gift shop. These expire next year in April, 2019. The Museum would not be able to accomplish all that it does without the help of our 249 volunteers from 16 communities.

One perk offered to Hoard Museum volunteers is an invitation to attend, along with a guest, our Volunteer Enrichment Programs. These are free programs for our volunteers that shine a spotlight on aspects of our area’s history. The first program occurred on Thursday, April 5, when Museum volunteers took a field trip to tour the Milton House. The next Volunteer Enrichment Program is on Thursday, June 7. See Tammy for more information!

Interested in Volunteering at the Hoard Museum? Contact our Tammy Doellstedt, Volunteer Coordinator, at (920) 563-7769 or [tammy@hoardmuseum.org](mailto:tammy@hoardmuseum.org).



## Collections Work

On Wednesday, February 14, Bob Hase spent the morning adding permanent labels to two paintings he donated to the Museum. The paintings are currently on display on the first floor of the Hoard Museum outside of the Jones Family Gallery. The pieces, titled “The Long Shadow” of the Eli May House, and “The Jones Farmhouse,” were painted by Hase in 1972 and 1977, respectively. Thank you, Bob, for sharing your beautiful artwork and your continued care of the Museum’s collection!

## Par-tea at One Tea Party

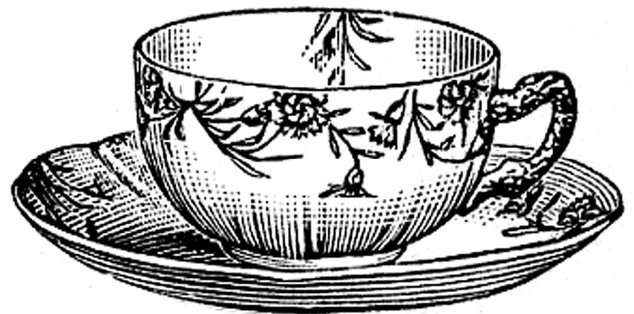
**Sunday, May 20, 1-3 p.m.**

Come enjoy a tea party at the Hoard Museum! This is a wonderful opportunity for families of all ages to spend a unique afternoon together. The party includes a program on wedding traditions and etiquette. The 3-course tea will include two types of tea, lemonade, scones, tea sandwiches, and a wedding cake. Please inform the Museum about dietary restrictions when making reservations.

The program, “Something Borrowed, Something Blue: Wedding Trends through the Years” will be presented by Museum Director Merrilee Lee. She will explore how wedding traditions and fashions have developed over time. For example, why do married people traditionally wear wedding rings on the third finger of their left hand? Have wedding dresses always been white? The program will also feature several dresses from the Museum’s collection.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their best hat and fanciest outfit to this family friendly event. All ages are welcome to attend and youth are welcome to bring their favorite doll or stuffed animal. Parlor games and other vintage activities will be played at the tables.

Tickets for the fundraiser are \$20 for adults, \$15 for youth (18 and under); Hoard Historical Museum members have a discounted rate of \$15 for adults, \$10 for youth, for up to three tickets. Tickets are available for purchase at the Museum; cash, checks, or credit cards are accepted. Call or stop by to purchase yours today! Please purchase your tickets prior to Friday, May 18, as there will be no tickets available at the door.





## Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

### ☞ Saturday Morning Scholars – *Outbreak! The 1918 Influenza Outbreak* ☛

**Saturday, May 12, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

100 years ago, the 1918 Influenza outbreak infected an estimated 500 million people worldwide, including many families in Jefferson County. Come hear from Bonnie Geyer about how the pandemic started, how and why it spread, and the local impact. Geyer, a Fort Atkinson Historical Society board member, has been researching the Spanish Flu outbreak for over a year. She will draw on information pulled from the *Jefferson County Union* {later the *Daily Jefferson County Union*} by Archives Volunteers at the Museum who have been reading the 1918-1920 *Union* newspapers for articles regarding the local impact of the flu including school closings; illnesses and deaths; and local communities' overall responses to the flu epidemic. Saturday Morning Scholars is a FREE program to attend.



### ☞ The Laziest Gardener – Garden Education Program ☛

**Saturday, May 12, 2 - 3:30 p.m.**

Throughout the year, the Jefferson County Master Gardener Volunteer Association hosts free educational programs at the Hoard Museum. On May 12, longtime Jefferson County Master Gardener volunteer Ron Langellier will present, "The Laziest Gardener: Care Tips for People with Better Things to Do." This program is for people with a keen interest in gardening, but with not enough time to devote to their gardens.

Next Garden Education Programs: "Fall - Time to Prep for Winter and Spring" on September 22, and "Interesting and Unique Trees" on November 17



### ☞ Dairy Day at the MOOseum ☛

**Saturday, June 2, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Come to the Museum to enjoy all things dairy! While here, meet the seven milking breeds and the Wisconsin dairy farmers who care for them. Special dairy exhibits will be on display, including John Klettke's, 20-foot diorama that shows the history of farming through the decades.

Dairy Day at the MOOseum is fun for all ages. Children can have their faces painted like a cow, and both adults and children can participate in dairy related games, including trivia and races. Inga Witscher from PBS's *Around the Farm Table* will host a cooking demonstration at 11:30 a.m. The event will conclude with the cow parade on the 400 block of Foster Street at 1:30 p.m. with an emcee sharing fun facts about each breed.

Are you known for making a fantastic grilled cheese sandwich? Participate in the first annual Grilled Cheese Sandwich Contest! Pick up rules and registration forms at the Museum office or download from our website, [www.hoardmuseum.org](http://www.hoardmuseum.org). While at this event you will be able to purchase a grilled cheese sandwich for lunch from the Jefferson County Agri-business and a try one of the seven Root-breed floats that are inspired by the seven milking breeds.

This year's event is sponsored by Vita Plus, Foremost Farms, Jefferson County Farm Bureau, and the Wisconsin Milk Marketing Board as well as by the following Business Patrons of the Museum: Beauty and the Bean; Fireside Theatre; Fort Community Credit Union; Fort HealthCare; Goyer Ace Hardware, Jones Dairy Farm; Premier Bank, Wisconsin Packaging, W&A Distribution; and W.D. Hoard & Sons.



## Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum

### ☞ Foster House Open ☞

**First Saturday of the Month, May – October, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

The Foster House will be open for tours this summer! Stop by on the first Saturday of the month from May through October to tour and talk with a trained museum volunteer about the 1841 Foster House, the family who built it, and the early days of Fort Atkinson. Away on weekends? You can also make an appointment to visit the Foster House by contacting the Museum office at (920) 563-7769.



### ☞ An Evening at the Foster House Members-Only Event ☞

**Saturday, June 16, 6 - 8 p.m.**

*Members-Only Days* are special events available for members of the Fort Atkinson Historical Society and Hoard Historical Museum. These interactive experiences offers member a fun and unique way to learn more about our regional history. On Saturday, June 16, join us from 6 - 8 p.m. at the Foster House (located on the Museum grounds) for a small reception and to explore the house at twilight. Enjoy period-appropriate treats on the porch of the Foster House.

### ☞ Historic Walking Tours ☞

**June 30, July 14, and August 11; Tours at 8, 9, and 10 a.m.**

For the past two summers, Museum Director Merrilee Lee has guided groups from the Fort Atkinson Farmers Market downtown and in the surrounding neighborhoods to explore the history of Fort Atkinson. Over the course of the summer, Merrilee shared local history of individuals and buildings.



The downtown tours will resume again this summer! The walks begin on the hour at 8, 9, and 10 a.m., and last approximately 30-40 minutes. Participants should be prepared to walk approximately one mile over paved surfaces. Tours begin and end at the Fort Farmer's Market information table. *No reservations are required; donations to the Museum are appreciated.*

### ☞ 40<sup>th</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ice Cream Social ☞

**Wednesday, July 4, 1 - 3 p.m.**

The Museum is celebrating Independence Day with our 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Fourth of July Ice Cream Social! Come for the ice cream, stay for the fun! This year's event will feature games, crafts, face painting, and, of course, ice cream! *The Radio Wranglers* will play throughout the Social. Want to spend the afternoon? Feel free to bring a lawn chair or blanket! The Fort Atkinson Piecemakers Quilting group will present handmade quilts to veterans and to select other members of the community at 2 p.m. Bring your family and enjoy an afternoon with us!

Thank you very much to our event sponsors: Abendroth Water Conditioning, Daily Jefferson County Union; First Baptist Church; Brianne Brandenburg & Tari Smith of Frostie Freeze; Mr. Martin Lemke & friends; and PremierBank.



Celebrate Independence Day with sundaes, cookies, and the rest of Fort Atkinson!

*Hoard* HISTORICAL MUSEUM  
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NATIONAL DAIRY SHRINE MUSEUM

401 Whitewater Avenue  
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**Upcoming Events at the Hoard Museum:**

- May 12: ♦ Saturday Morning Scholars, *Outbreak! The 1918 Influenza Outbreak*, 10:30 am  
♦ Garden Education Program, *The Laziest Gardner*, 2 pm
- May 20: ♦ *Par-tea at One Tea Party Benefit*, 1-3 pm, *Call to Reserve your Tickets!*
- May 26-27: ♦ Fort Koshkonong Rendezvous at Rock River Park
- June 2: ♦ Foster House Open for Tours, 10 am – noon  
♦ Dairy Day at the MOOseum, 11 am – 2 pm
- June 16: ♦ Members-Only Day Event, *An Evening at the Foster House*, 6-8 pm
- June 30: ♦ Walking Tours, 8, 9, & 10 a.m., *Starts and Ends at the Farmers Market*
- July 4: ♦ 40<sup>th</sup> Annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Ice Cream Social, 1-3 pm
- July 7: ♦ Foster House Open for Tours, 10 am – noon
- July 14: ♦ Walking Tours, 8, 9, & 10 a.m., *Starts and Ends at the Farmer' Market*
- July 17: ♦ *Great Lakes, Small Streams Temporary Exhibit Opens*

Questions about our events? Contact the Museum office by calling (920) 563-7769 or emailing [info@hoardmuseum.org](mailto:info@hoardmuseum.org).