

Chalk on the Blackboard

By Liane Rakow Stout

Here is the latest news from the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School located at 303 Pearl Street in Buffalo, North Dakota. The school has come a long way since 2001 when it became the property of the Buffalo Historical Society, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Properties.

You are cordially invited to the Annual Membership Meeting of the Buffalo Historical Society at 3:00 pm, Sunday, October 22, at the old school. The Board of Directors will review the past year and discuss their accomplishments. Immediately following the meeting at 4:00 pm, they will host an Open House and Reception across the street at the former Calvary Episcopal Chapel known as the Old Stone Church.

Our picturesque church was constructed in 1885 with native prairie stone. Services at the church were often irregular and attendance steadily declined. Eventually the church discontinued services and the building was unused. In 1936 it was purchased by the Buffalo Masonic Lodge No. 77 who needed a new meeting place after the Buffalo Opera House was destroyed in a fire. They improved the interior and installed new lighting before dedicating the building on October 22, 1936, exactly 87 years ago this Sunday. The Old Stone Church was donated to the Buffalo Historical Society in 1985 and was listed on the National Register in 1996.

For several years this 138 year old stone church was closed but during the last few weeks it has been transformed. After major cleaning, painting, repairing, and updating electrical and lighting, the church is now decorated and furnished with many original items from the Episcopal Church and Masonic Lodge. The Old Stone Church was the perfect setting for a beautiful fall wedding last Friday evening and next Sunday it will be showcased at our Open House. The Historical Society invited you to take a big step back in time and enjoy a reception of champagne and appetizers.

On Tuesday, October 24, at 6:00 pm, the Historic 1916 Buffalo High School is again honored to host the initiation ceremony for the Zeta Sigma chapter of Kappa Delta Pi (KDP) at Valley City State University. KDP is an international honor society in education founded in 1911 to foster excellence in education and promote fellowship among those dedicated to teaching. Our historic school continues to provide educational events and experiences, and we always appreciate the opportunity to work with the University. The public is invited to attend and learn more about this group of future teachers.

The Buffalo Historical Society is looking forward to seeing our members and supporters at our Annual Meeting and Open House, and welcomes anyone interested in learning more about their mission to preserve our heritage and history. For more information please contact me at 701-412-4485, connect on Facebook, or visit our website at www.buffalond.com.

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