

Halsey Hall SABR Minnesota Chapter June 2022-May 2023 **Annual Report**

We are pleased to report that our chapter conducted dozens of events this year. This report contains the month-by-month calendar of events, and our monthly newsletter the ***Holy Cow!*** provides many more details from the year, including books and SABR.org articles written by chapter members. All of our chapter activities are advertised on our **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages, and minutes of our Research Committee's, Board of Directors', and Chapter Business meetings and more are posted on our website ***halseyhall.org***. These records go back to 1985. Our website and newsletter also have a Baseball Research Primer and sources information. **Chapter Membership** is headed by Stew Thornley. This past year the number of members listing Halsey Hall as their primary chapter increased from 146 to 165.

June: -The April-June baseball exhibit Halsey Hall Chapter put together at the **Hennepin County Brookdale Library** entitled "**Baseball History in Minnesota**" wrapped up in early June. This chapter project was two-years-in-the-making. A large glass-window display case open to the public featured 1800s baseball memorabilia and equipment, Minnesota baseball history books, and chapter-produced illustrated baseball history posters. The library contributed shelves of baseball books for patron check-out and a table for our Halsey Hall and SABR handouts and forms. In conjunction with the display was a May 9 panel event focused on Bud Fowler, the first African-American in professional baseball, and his 1884 season playing in Stillwater, MN. Featured speakers were **Brent Peterson**, director of the **Washington County Historical Society** and chapter member **Bob Tholkes**, nineteenth century baseball historian. It was attended by 23 chapter members and three non-members.

-June-July: our chapter collaborated with the **Washington County Historical Society** to produce a two-page **illustrated historical 1884 street map/souvenir brochure** of the city of Stillwater MN showing locations where Bud Fowler worked, resided and played baseball in 1884. This was in further celebration of Fowler being inducted into Cooperstown in July.

-June 11: bi-monthly Book Club meeting, directed by Art Mugalian – *The Wax Pack: On the Open Road in Search of Baseball's Afterlife* by Brad Balukjian. Site-Barnes & Noble in Roseville.

-June 12: bi-monthly chapter Board of Directors meeting at Bakers Square in Roseville. The Board elected officers for July 2022-June 2023. Gene Gomes was re-elected president, David Karpinski vice-president, Sarah Johnson secretary, Jerry Janzen treasurer. Other Board members are John Swol, Daniel Dorff, Bob Tholkes. The vice-president appointed chairs of standing committees: Howard Luloff, Events; Dave Lande and Gene Gomes, Research Committee co-chairs; Stew Thornley, Membership. Howard set a date of Nov. 5 for the Fall Chapter Meeting at Faith Mennonite Church in Minneapolis.

-June 18: trip to see the Mankato Moondogs at St. Cloud Rox Faber Field. 6 p.m.

-June 20: monthly research committee meeting (Zoom).

-During June, chapter member Sarah Johnson continued as one of MLB's official scorers for the Minnesota Twins. She is the fourth woman to hold this MLB position in history, and her first game was the Twins' Home Opener in April 2022.

New members: Brian Larson, Neal Karlen and Jason Ernst.

July: -July 9: The bi-monthly Fred Souba Hot Stove League Breakfast was held at Bunny's Grill in St. Louis Park from 9-11 a.m.

-July 18: research committee meeting (Zoom). We discussed continuing the project of **"The Spread of Baseball in Minnesota"**. This **on-going chapter project** documents the first baseball games played in every one of the 73 Minnesota state counties.

-July 19: All-Star Game viewing gathering at Bunny's Grill in St. Louis Park.
At the SABR convention in Baltimore Dan Levitt, Sam Sundemeyer and Mike Hauptert made research presentations. About eight other chapter members attended the convention.
New members: Darryl Sannes and Joseph Weindel.

August: -August 4: chapter member Tom Flynn gave a presentation on his great-uncle Tom Sheehan to the New York Giants Preservation Society.

-August 6: Book Club meeting- *Game Time* by Roger Angell. Seven in attendance.

-August 13: trip to Beloit to see West Michigan Whitecaps at Beloit Sky Carp game. Nine members attended. Pre-game activities lined up by our Howard Luloff included talks from West Michigan announcer Dan Hasty and Beloit announcer Larry Larson, as well as a tour of the ballpark. Special guest was organist Nancy Faust, whom met with members after the game.

-August 14: chapter Board of Directors meeting, held at Perkins Restaurant in Golden Valley from 6:00-8:00 p.m. The Board decided to write amendments to the by-laws which deal with expenses and voting in virtual meetings. Planning begins for **SABR Day** in January.

-August 22: research committee meeting (Zoom). Two research presentations for Nov. 5 were approved. Every month in our newsletter, we solicit and invite members to submit a proposal to do a presentation at one of our two large chapter meetings.
New members: Ed Edmonds, Alexander Rothschild and Dennis Lange.

September: -Sept. 17 bimonthly chapter breakfast at Bunny's Grill in St. Louis Park. We enjoyed having two new faces join us, John Buckeye and Mike Anderson. Twelve in attendance.

-Sept 19: research group monthly Zoom meeting. Bob Tholkes' presentation will be added to the lineup for the Nov. 5. Everyone enjoyed the monthly Trivia Time baseball quiz which we added to the monthly festivities in 2021.

-New members: Glenn Renick, Daniel Spewak and Richard Bong.

October: -October 3: Dan Levitt was featured at Magers & Quinn bookstore for a book talk. Four chapter members were there and about 30-33 people attended.

-October 8: Book Club featuring Dan Levitt and his book.

-October 15: Three chapter-ites attended a special day-and-evening event put on by residents of Sleepy Eye, MN. Stew Thornley was one presenter on the topic of Babe Ruth's 1922 barnstorming visit to Sleepy Eye. The ball park still exists, is in great shape, and plays host to games.

-October 16: in-person Board of Directors meeting at Mannings Restaurant.

-October 17: research committee Zoom meeting. Ten attended.

New member: Ben Ernst of Aberdeen South Dakota

November: - Nov. 5: **Fall Chapter Meeting** at Faith Mennonite Church 8:30-3:45. Four research presentations were given as follows:

1. Sam Sundemeyer: "Dawn of the Long Night: The Origin of Baseball's Color Barrier" – Sam explained how cultural and business precedent from Reconstruction formed the policies and practices of exclusion.
2. Ed Edmonds: "Baseball's Misunderstood Antitrust Trilogy" First-time presenter Ed gave us lessons about the 1922 Supreme Court case *Federal Baseball Club v. National League* and Justice Holmes' opinion, *Toolson v. New York Yankees* in 1953 and the fiftieth anniversary of *Flood v. Kuhn* and Justice Harry Blackmun.
3. Bob Tholkes: "What's Wrong with Base Ball?" – Bob gave us a survey of print media criticisms of base ball in 1867 which described the physical harm experienced by ball players.
4. Stew Thornley: "Babe Ruth in Minnesota-Brown County and Beyond" – Stew cited The Babe's visits to MN from 1922 to 1948. He highlighted the recent centennial celebration of Babe's visit to Sleepy Eye MN in 1922.

Special Guest Speaker was **Derek Sharrer**, the general manager of the **AAA St. Paul Saints**, who spoke about his family and baseball background, moving to St. Paul, and of course stories about Mike Veeck and the Saints.

At the business meeting segment, hosted by Gene Gomes, chapter members voted yes to two amendments to our chapter by-laws dealing with expenses and voting virtually. Bank account report: \$820.47. Stew gave figures showing 236 chapter members, up from 220 in April 2022. Bob Kormoroski we have 248 followers on our chapter's Facebook page.

Howard Luloff presented his traditional Big Board *Jeopardy!*-like Trivia contest which ran 30 minutes late till 3:45. The meeting was streamed on Facebook Live. There were 31, plus guests, in attendance.

-November 19: Saturday Breakfast at Manning's with about ten in attendance.

-November 21: research committee Zoom meeting. We discussed strategy to improve the Chapter Meetings by tighter scheduling, informing presenters and guest speakers of their time slots, and creating a Power Point Trivia Game instead of the present cards-and-board system. New members: Steve Montbriand, Mark Schrep.

December: Dec. 10- Book Club: *Ty Cobb, A Terrible Beauty* by Charles Leerhsen. Nine attended.

-Dec. 11 Board of Directors meeting via Zoom:

We finalized plans for our **SABR Day** event at TwinsFest Jan. 28. We have volunteers for the all-day public event, and there is the evening event open to the public "Twins Daily Winter Meltdown" hosted by member Aaron Gleeman and John Bonnes.

-Dec. 19 research committee via Zoom.

New members Roger Groening, Cliff Miller, Dennis Lange, Dave Anderson, Aaron Strike and Michael Wallace.

-Thanks to recent-new member John Buckeye for his enjoyable newsletter write-up of the Nov. Fall Meeting, summarizing the presentations and Derek Farrer's talk. This is a fine addition to our records and hopefully will continue!

January 2023:

Halsey Hall Chapter was awarded a grant through the **SABR Local Grants program** to honor a high school student competing in History Day in Minnesota. This is in collaboration with the **Minnesota Historical Society**. Sarah Johnson arranged this and participates as a judge. The winner will be announced April 22, 2023, State History Day at the University of Minnesota and will receive a \$150 prize, an invitation to present at a chapter meeting, a complimentary SABR membership and a writeup in the newsletter.

-Jan 14: Saturday Morning breakfast at Manning's

-Jan 23: research committee meeting. Nine attended.

-Jan 28: **SABR Day** events: nine chapter members participated in our **annual event at TwinsFest**. Several dozen visitors engaged and received SABR info and enjoyed our large **poster exhibits**. Thanks to Doug Skipper who spent time over the last few months with TwinsFest organizers. The **evening event** was the annual Twins Daily "Winter Meltdown" attended by dozens of fans at a nearby venue. Hosted by chapter member Aaron Gleeman and John Bonnes of Twins Daily. New members Harry Williams, Eli Morris, Dave Greisen and Scott Warmka

February: Feb. 10: informal gathering at Grumpy's Northeast- pizza and baseball talk.

February 11: Book Club: "*The Church of Baseball: The Making of Bull Durham*" by Ron Shelton.

-Feb 19: Board group meeting via Zoom. Planning for Spring Chapter Meeting April 15.

-Feb 20: research committee Zoom. word is out to solicit presenters for April 15 meeting; Gene announced that author Justin Mckinney will be featured in a chapter Zoom event on March 6. Member David Karpinski's baseball blog *Baseball Roundtable* was named to the list of the Top 100 Baseball Blogs, and added to the Anytime Baseball list of "66 Top Baseball Sites You Should Be Following". Gene had a President's Day trivia quiz for the chapter to solve.

New member: Mark Glotter

March: -March 4: Howard organized an outing for several members to see the Minnesota Gophers play Ole Miss in the college baseball series at U.S. Bank Stadium.

-March 9: Justin Mckinney Zoom event open to all chapter members and non-members focused on his book, *Baseball's Union Association: The Short, Strange Life of a 19th-Century Major League*. He highlighted that strange season for the St. Paul Saints, who joined the league and played all of its games on the road. He described the figure Henry Lucas, the league magnate as an impulsive millionaire who created the league, but doomed it as well.

-March 11: Saturday Breakfast at Manning's.

-March 20: research committee meeting, has been drawing new participants this year, as we did last year. We have two presenters so far for the April 15 meeting: Mike Hauptert and Terry Bohn. We have two slots open. Gene announced the multi-SABR chapter April 2 Zoom event.

-March 30: everyone was invited to watch the Twins-Royals Opener at Grumpy's Northeast in Northeast Minneapolis.

Dan Levitt and co-author Mark Armour were awarded the SABR Seymour Medal for their book *Intentional Balk*. Congratulations!

Candidates for our Board of Directors election were listed in the newsletter, with an invitation to members to consider being on the Board. The Board has consistently been stocked with new faces throughout the Chapter's history. Four positions are open for 2023.

April: -April 1: the Book Club was cancelled due to terrible weather conditions. The meeting will be scheduled in June. *The Grandest Stage: A History of the World Series*, by Tyler Kepner.

-April 2: The **collaborative** Opening Day Weekend Zoom event featuring members from all five AL Central Division SABR chapter locations was held from 7-9 pm central time on a Sunday evening. After a promotional announcement about SABR 51 in Chicago, each chapter had a leadoff representative give a brief report on each team's outlook. That was followed by an open forum for everyone to weigh in about the teams. 56 enthusiasts participated.

-April 15: The **Halsey Hall Chapter Spring Meeting** was held at Faith Mennonite Church in Southeast Minneapolis. Four research presentations were given:

1. Sam Sundemeyer: "*Stare Decisis Caught Looking: An Examination of Flood v. Kuhn and African-American Labor in Monopolistic Environments*". Sam described teams having a quota on Black players, and Curt Flood's minor league and major league seasons were discussed.

2. Mike Hauptert: *The Inglorious Exit of Cap Anson*. Mike presented the baseball and business career of Cap Anson- the great player, and his partnership with Al Spalding. He eventually died penniless in 1922.

3. Terry Bohn: *Joe Cantillon and The Western All-Star Tour*. Terry came down from North Dakota to describe the teams Cantillon put together in 1901-02. They involved many future Hall of Fame players and featured AL vs. NL team matchups, perhaps a precursor to the World Series.

4. Ed Edmonds: *Baseball's Salary Arbitration System*. Ed has been compiling arbitration salary records and results for years. He described the three-member panel system replacing the single arbitration "judge". Ed has records of arbitration wins and losses by teams and player.

The **Featured Guest Speaker** was Minnesota Twins Assistant Director of Player Development Research **Josh Ruffin**. He has been with the Twins Analytics Department for several years. Josh was very entertaining and candid. The Twins use Motion Capture and the Hawkeye System to analyze players before they seek to acquire them. Josh described how some players should benefit now that defensive shifts are banned in 2023. An audience member asked Josh, "The person in the Twins Analytics Department who was responsible for Defensive Shifts- what job is that person now doing for the Twins?" Josh paused and shifted, hesitated, leaned forward and back, and then answered "Doing presentations?"! Hilarious.

Our Chapter Business Meeting was held during lunch April 15:

-Board of Directors elections were held. The expiring terms of John Swol, Gene Gomes, Sarah Johnson and Daniel Dorff were to be filled beginning July 1 by Howard Luloff, John Buckeye, Daniel Dorff (returning) and Rich Arpi. Rich was nominated from the floor and he accepted. They will serve two-year terms.

-Gene explained that SABR is now urging all chapters to do Annual Reports.

Gene encouraged members to sign up for SABR 51 in Chicago. Also, our Chapter has applied to host a future national SABR meeting in the near future. Jerry gave the treasury/bank account report, and said there is \$1,103.79.

-Bob Kormoroski reported that there are now about 258 followers on our Facebook page.

-Stew reported Halsey Hall Chapter has 163 members who claim HH as their primary chapter.

Howard's new Power Point presentation of his *Jeopardy!* style Big Board Trivia Contest debuted. It was a resounding success using the chapter's own projector and a member's Macbook Air laptop. The meeting was streamed on Facebook, but due to loss of battery power, failed to last the entire meeting.

-Announced: the winner of the **History Day Award** sponsored by our chapter at the State National History Day was **Hudson Warren** for his website *Jackie Robinson: A Legend of the Civil Rights Frontier Both On and Off the Baseball Field*. The History Day theme was "Frontiers in History: People, Places, and Ideas". Hudson will receive \$150, a complimentary SABR student membership, and information to get involved in SABR.

-Congrats to Daniel Dorff, a member of our research committee, for his SABR BioProject of Minnesota native Lee Quillin, which was posted on SABR.org this month. It's his first article.

-New members: John Bonnes, Jason Parker, Brent Hokeness

May: -May 13: Saturday Breakfast at Manning's in southeast Minneapolis.

-May 15: Research committee Zoom meeting. Eleven attended. Thanks to Brenda Himrich for securing the appearance of Josh Ruffin at the chapter meeting. Meeting recap: time slots went well and we stayed on schedule. Rich Arpi mentioned that he would soon visit the Minnesota Historical Society to research early baseball in Minnesota counties. Gene reported that SABR will send out official Chapter Surveys soon. SABR now has firm requirements of chapters, and as a bonus, there are financial rewards for achieving all the goals listed. The deadline is May 31.

-So far, sixteen Halsey Hall members have signed up for Chicago 51 in July.

-Member **Carl Rogan**, grandson of Hall of Famer Bullet Rogan, was featured in Kansas City media for his efforts getting a **grave marker** for his grandfather Charles Wilber "Bullet" Rogan.

We will strive to provide optimum service and enjoyment to Halsey Hall Chapter members in the year June 2023-May 2024.

-Gene Gomes and Stew Thornley