

EDITOR'S NOTE

Late fall sends in colder weather, signaling midwesterners to bring in the docks, cut down the gardens, and prepare for the holidays. With these rituals in mind, the Curator's Choice in this issue features a shofar created sometime before 1856 and used during autumn's High Holidays at Mount Zion Temple in St. Paul. In this presidential election year, I find myself reflecting not only on all the potential that democracy has to offer Americans, but also on what makes Minnesota a special place to so many people. To name a few: A land of 10,000 lakes, or so the saying goes. Home to 17 Fortune 500 companies and fertile ground for growing business. A flourishing arts scene that is richly supported by arts funders and philanthropists.

In this issue, we feature three Minnesota stories from these areas of the environment, business, and the arts:

- An examination of the Rabbit Lake environmental law cases, which epitomize Minnesota's struggle to reconcile public and private rights, so deftly explained by author Paul Kilgore;
- A historical narrative of Carrie Lippincott, the businesswoman behind the Lippincott Seed empire, portrayed by Jennifer Huebscher;
- A remembrance of four influential Minnesota artists who have recently died, written by former MNHS fine-art curator Brian Szott.

Historians often say: Everything is connected. History shows that not only are the public and private sectors connected, but also the struggles and successes of people within each one are, too. And the picture isn't always rosy. In the environment, we may be loving our lakes to death, according to a book highlighted in our Take Three section, *Ripple Effects: How We're Loving Our Lakes to Death*. In the history of business, there are many stories of discrimination and bias that we continue to unravel. And while we have a long history of artists finding a home in Minnesota, that vibrant arts scene is impacted as rents rise, arts education dwindles, and demand for more social services challenge philanthropic support.

This issue also has articles on the Washburn Park Water Tower, women in sports, longtime MNHS member and supporter Lorraine Hart, and a review written by scholar Karen Sieber on the new MNHS Press book *Red Stained: The Life of Hilda Simms*, by Jokeda "JoJo" Bell.

In closing, we'd like to welcome two new MNHS Press staff members: John Rahm, the new director and publisher of the Press; and Ryan Hemmer, who steps in as acquisitions editor for our adult non-fiction titles. We're thrilled to have them on the team!

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