



A Collection of Memories

Minneapolis Club members pass traditions down from generation to generation.

BY PAUL GREGERSEN

From original paintings and photographs to books, maps and furniture dating back to the 19th century, the intimate dining rooms, hallways and galleries of the downtown Minneapolis Club offer quite the experience.

But if you ask members of this storied social institution, the most valuable collection is reserved exclusively for them. Few outside the walls of the clubhouse have access to the catalogues of fond memories and authentic relationships members do.

"Growing up, I always remember my parents speaking of events and meetings at the Minneapolis Club," says Mall of America Tourism Account Executive Lauren Himle. "I wasn't quite sure about meetings, but I did know they had delicious brunch with ice cream and fun hula-hoop contests at the annual Father-Daughter Dance. As I grew older, I began to observe my parent's club involvement with admiration and started to recognize its significance beyond an excellent ice-cream sundae — as a place of connection and community. I am fortunate to have made great memories within the club. Now, as an independent member, I'm thrilled to carry on the tradition and continue to make memories for years to come."

Lauren's mother, Karen, is a member of the Board of Directors at HMN Financial and was the first woman elected president of the Minneapolis Club. She knows a thing or two about the value of membership and shares a fond collection of family memories. Karen is thrilled Lauren made the

decision to continue adding to her own catalogue of club memories.

"Lauren is a true Minneapolis Club lifer," says Karen. "From Halloween and Santa parties to pre-theater dinners and years of Father-Daughter Dances, John and I are thrilled she is now a member in her own right. The next generation of members is sure to carry on club traditions while creating their own."

"I can't think of a more eclectic, talented and friendly group of people than those who make up our membership body," says Margaret Leto, club membership director. "The heart and soul of our organization are the families who make up our membership — families like the Himles. Together, we are one unified club. It's all about relationships, and we always welcome new faces to share our experiences."

The Himles are just one example of shared family involvement. Countless Minneapolis Club families have passed the tradition of membership down from generation to generation. Dating back to 1883, that's a priceless collection to be proud of. **■**

family flashback Minneapolis Club members often pass memories and traditions down from generation to generation, including the annual Father-Daughter Dance.