

The Chelsea Standard

Fashions through the centuries

Event part of Chelsea's 175th Anniversary Celebration

When: Friday, June 5, 1 p.m.

Where: Silver Maples of Chelsea, 100 Silver Maples Dr .

Cost: Ticket donation of \$5. Tickets available at the door, as well as Thompson's Pizza and the Senior Center. The ticket donations will cover the costs of the fashion show, with proceeds going to the funding of the 175th Anniversary Celebration June 25-28.

Refreshments: Punch, coffee, tea and cookies.

For more information: Contact Shawn Personke at 734-475-111 or spersonke@silvermaples.org.

Clothing can tell the story of the way people lived, worked and frolicked.

Join historic costumer Helen Welford and a host of community models as Silver Maples presents "Fashion through the Centuries: A Look into the Frills, Foibles and Function of Clothing," as part of Chelsea 's 175th Anniversary Celebration.

Don't miss Regency ball gowns, turn of the century "Walking Whites," and a special outfit from the time of Chelsea's founding in 1834. Welford will narrate the historic background of each piece, which begins with a gown from the late 1700s and continues through the 1940s.

In an ongoing partnership and cooperation with activities and events, the residents, volunteers and staff from Silver Maples, Chelsea Retirement Community and the Chelsea Senior Center will host the show.

Welford has created many of these costumes for historical balls and dances.

"Helen Welford is a wonderful resource," said Shawn Personke, director of activities and public relations for Silver Maples. "She makes all of her reproductions according to historical documentations, so the pieces are very authentic. She knows the history of the apparel, what was happening at that time in history. She can tell you what made the bustle popular, why and when certain colors were all the rage, when zippers replaced buttons, and more. It's a fascinating and fun show."

The show was first presented for Silver Maples residents last year and since it went over so well, it seemed a great fit for Chelsea 's 175th celebration.

"I'm really looking forward to opening it to the public this year," Personke said. "We're having models from the Senior Center, UMRC and Silver Maples, both staff, residents and volunteers. Last year, during the dressing session, it was like being in a big theatrical production. Clothing racks, safety pins, hats, shoes, gloves everywhere. People zipping up and buttoning up each other. Folks looking in the mirror, checking out their time warp persona."

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