It's membership renewal month!

The U.S. Mail should have recently brought all members a renewal statement/contact info sheet. Now is the time to renew as a member to enjoy a full season of programs, events and fun. Return the renewal statement with your payment by mail today (or download and PRINT this membership form), or click HERE to renew online and pay by PayPal or credit card. Don't let your membership lapse!

Summer Program Schedule Announced

If you would like to sponsor one of the 2016 programs, please REPLY to this email and we'll be in touch. Sponsorships are $150 and help ensure we can continue our tradition of varied and interesting programming throughout the year! Multiple sponsors for each program are welcome and encouraged. Thanks to those listed for their generous support of our fantastic programming!

MONTHLY MEETINGS

All upcoming Monthly Meeting presentations begin at 7:00PM at the specific sites indicated below.

May 11, Field trip to the Saugatuck Woman's Club, with a presentation by Peg Sanford, Donna St. Andre, and Ken Kutzel (see following article)
June 8, Field Trip - The History of the Saugatuck Yacht Club and sailing school, with a presentation by Emily Watts. This program is a field trip to the Saugatuck Yacht Club facility and is a collaborative program of SYC and the SDHS.
July 13, Field Trip to the New Richmond Swing Bridge (Manlius Township), with a presentation by Al Weener Sponsored by Arthur Ashley
August 10: Time TBA, Annual Society Picnic at the Old School House, Douglas Sponsored by Lonnie and Jolene Hannaford

The party begins at The Old School House for cocktails prior to boarding the Hungry Village Tours Bus for a chauffeured trip to South Haven. Our host is renowned Lakeshore caterer and active SDHS member Susie Blair.

Surprises await on our magical carpet ride!
After two surprise stops with appetizers and further libations on the way, you'll arrive at Susie's twenty-acre gentlewoman's farm. A strolling dinner of the fabulous wooded property will include access to the 1906 farmhouse and its extensive art collection, a 1918 barn, a pond, and a refurbished chicken coop which is now "Blair's Lair Antique Guest House." The Lair is chock-full of curiosities for sale with 50% of the proceeds donated to the SDHS. Please join us for a magical trip filled with fabulous cuisine, culture and exploration. Party size strictly limited to 15 people.

Still a few tickets left. Just REPLY to this email and we will be in touch.

The full 2016 Dine Around Schedule can be found HERE.

Welcome New Members!

We would like to welcome the following new members who have joined the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society since the last newsletter!

- Brittany Boverhof, Caledonia, MI

Joyce Eddy Plummer, 89

Joyce Eddy Plummer, longtime Life member of the Society, passed away on March 4. Click HERE for more details.

Ann Renaldi, 81

TUESDAY TALKS

(subject to change)

July 5 - Local Native American History
July 12 - Trolley Times: The Trolley Car Era
    Sponsored by The Interurban
July 19 - SDHS Art Collection (back by popular demand!)
    Sponsored by Bart Webb
July 26 - History of the Venetian Festival
    Sponsored by Mike Mattern and Bill Hess, and Kathleen Markland
August 2 - Saugatuck Lighthouse and Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area acquisition history
    Sponsored by Fran and Bill Myers
August 9 - How artists relate to water
    Sponsored by Ken Carls
August 16 - The Old School House and its impact on the Community
August 23 - The Mt. Baldhead Radar Tower
    Sponsored by Steve Hutchins
August 30 - Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources
    Sponsored by Sunny Hill and Maury Decoster

May Monthly Meeting

By Peg Sanford

Field Trip! The May 11, 2016 meeting of the SDHS will be held at the Saugatuck Woman's Club, on the corner of Hoffman Street and Butler Street at 7pm. Members of the Historical Society and members of the SWC (many belong to both) are cordially invited to attend. The meeting is also opened to the public.

Appearing on stage will be SWC members Donna St. Andre and Peg Sanford who will begin the evening with a "brief" convoluted history of the Club, its government and school system. Come discover where the SWC first held their meetings and meet some of the shakers and movers in the Saugatuck community. Our ladies have been making history for 112 years. Did I say a brief history?

Ken Kutzel, an 'honorary' member of the SWC and valued art specialist at the SDHS, will speak about the SWC's art collection. The Club owns works by at least 25 artists. Many of these artists are on exhibit in the Club and their names will be familiar to you. The SWC received their first work of art - a Saugatuck photograph of the ferry taken in 1897
Ann Calvano Renaldi of Burr Ridge, IL and Saugatuck, MI passed peacefully in the arms of Her Savior March 21, 2016. Ann was born May 1, 1934 in Chicago, Illinois. Ann is survived by her five children; George, Renee, Victoria, John, and Richard, as well as ten grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Ann was the Daughter of the late John & Anna Calvano and raised by her Aunt and Uncle James & Irene Vacco who were summer residents in Saugatuck since the late 1930's.

Ann was a Graduate of Trinity High School in Oak Park and attended Michigan State University. She had a passion for music and was a long time patron of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. In the mid-1980's Ann completed her Series 7 investment advisory license and also worked for a number of years for Merrill Chase Galleries in Chicago. Ann also enjoyed continuing education courses in film, religious studies, and philosophy at the University of Chicago. She liked to travel and was happy to have visited her ancestral homeland Italy, as well as trips to Austria, France, Eastern Europe, Egypt, Mexico, New York, and the Southwestern United States.

Ann was a dedicated volunteer of the Infant & Welfare Society and the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society. She spent her summers in Saugatuck and loved to receive family and friends at her Park Street cottage. Ann loved walks to the Old Harbor and was a dedicated beachgoer. Both her children and extended family would often gather at the Oval Beach in the multitudes. Ann was more enthusiastic about Saugatuck than just about anything. She was very active in the community and passionate about local history. Currently many of Ann's relatives are summer residents and two of her children have settled in the Saugatuck/Douglas area.

Ann's obituary may be found HERE.

Judith Mauger, 77

Society Lifetime member Judith Mauger passed away on March 31. Click HERE for more details.

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Director's Corner

The Survey results are in! Thank you THANK YOU to the 162 respondents who shared their views and suggestions with the Society. This represents approximately a 26% response rate, a clear indication of how engaged our members are given that similar surveys typically get only an 8-10% response rate.

The strategic planning committee and I learned a great deal about our members' interests, backgrounds and ideas. Below are some selected response figures from the 17-question survey with some thoughts about how we may improve membership and the Society in the future.

Would you attend a talk or presentation if it was held elsewhere in town (e.g. SCA, high school, Woman's Club, a church) instead of at the Old School House, which is often standing room only?

<table>
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<th>Answer</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>49%</td>
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<tr>
<td>No</td>
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<td>No Response(s)</td>
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The most commonly voiced concern was the availability of parking at some of these other venues. The Board will now rank several alternative venues and may decide to move one or two programs to another site this summer, with sufficient advance-notice given to members and the public. Stay tuned!

Would you consider renting the Old School House or Pump House Museum as a venue for a private event (e.g. wedding, birthday, meeting)?
Memories from Jack Sheridan:

I first met Judy Mauger about sixteen years ago. Dick Haight was introducing the SDHS to the digital world and telling us how it would benefit the Society. The budget - tiny in those days - needed to be substantially enhanced so that electronics could be acquired. Judy came up with the idea of a St Pats Day party fundraiser. What a dynamo she was. Talk about determination. Visualize Judy the bulldog clamped on to your achilles tendon! Once she got on the case we were Maugerized!

In no time she had Mike Johnson at the Coral Gables to host the St Patrick Day party, local businesses [thanks to Judy] contributed merchandise for an auction and we all sold tickets to the corned beef and cabbage dinner. We had a great crowd and added 10k to the SDHS coffers. The event was a success for many years to come because Judy was the spark plug. Judy was just the greatest and I am so lucky, having her in my life!

For the next twelve years Judy was the unofficial head of the SDHS tech group. She called meetings, kept the minutes and encouraged us all to the great benefit of the Society.

Thank you, Judy, we will miss you. In our hearts you can never be replaced

Memories from Erin Wilkinson:

I am so deeply saddened to learn of Judy Mauger's passing. Many of the "no" responses noted that they don't live locally or have no particular plans for an event. Others mentioned they didn't know our sites were available to rent for non-Society functions. With this in mind, Society leadership will work to formalize existing policies and procedures for facility rental and consider advertising opportunities to increase awareness.

Would you support the creation of a permanent exhibit in the Old School House that would tell the story of the community?

I am pleased to see that the monthly newsletter is such an effective communication tool. A refresh of some aspects of the newsletter is on the horizon. Expect to see a future survey on the topic of Society communications specifically geared toward methods, layout and content soon. By the way, see the article in this issue about a walking tour/party in Douglas!

Please select the reason(s) why you are a member...
passing! Judy was one of my oldest and dearest friends. I remember as a little-little girl walking down to her house for tea parties and what fun we used to have. She always made me laugh!

Judy was a pillar of our community. She was someone I greatly admired and respected from a very young age. She was a great role model and did so much to positively influence my life. Judy was involved in every good cause known to man and had a heart of pure gold! She was not someone you said no to or at least I never learned how! She was incredibly confident and very persuasive and she never stopped moving for a second. I often told her she made the world move.

Judy led me to be the unofficial intern for the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and Museum for nearly 6 years. She made me aware of the importance of getting and staying involved with the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance and countless other important community groups and causes. A hole will forever be left in this community and my heart where she was. She will never be forgotten for her impact on our world and she will be missed by many.

My heart goes out to her family and friends. I hope my mother Ginger Wilkinson was there to greet her at the pearly gates... I'm sure she'll be happy to see her old friend!

Kenneth A Morris and Monet Morris Martin please accept my deepest sympathy! She was really one of a kind and the mold was broken after her!

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Artists at work

Who are these painters, and what are they painting?

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Be a Volunteer Host at the Saugatuck-Douglas Museum This Season

And now, the winner! Winning two tickets to the 2016 Dine Around of her choosing, congratulations to SDHS member Marcie Williams! Thank you again to all who responded to the survey.

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This is what motivates me every day in my role as your Executive Director. Local history is so important, tells so many stories, and helps explain how we got to where we are today. To all of our volunteers, members and supporters, thank you! I look forward to sharing and learning about more facets of our local history together with you this year.

The above represents only a few questions from the survey. We received over 500 thoughtful suggestions which have been reviewed and now have several new ideas to consider. Just because the survey is over doesn't mean the comment period is closed. Feel free to continue to make other suggestions to myself or an SDHS Board Member.
For that matter, WHO are these painters and WHAT are they painting??

Details coming in the May issue of e-News - you won't want to miss it! Click each to enlarge.

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**New volunteers dive in to the Archives**

We are so pleased to introduce you to two new volunteers in the Archives Department of the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society.

Cindy Fox has been a long-time volunteer at the Holland Museum and Cappon House. She has lived in Holland for 30 years and has always had an interest in the study of history. Cindy has collected vintage and antique clothing for 26 years and has done fashion shows and fashion history talks with the clothing. Right now she has a large collection of antique and vintage wedding dresses and did a wedding fashion show for the Felt Mansion in December of 2015 and will be doing another one in May. Cindy worked for Kenat and Associates as an office manager and is now retired and happy to be volunteering here in the archives.

Looking for a way to connect with our local history while having the opportunity to meet people from all over the world? Volunteer to be a host at the Saugatuck-Douglas Museum this year.

To be a Museum Host all you will need to do is:

- Volunteer for at least 1 (but hopefully more) 2-hour shift during this year's season. The Museum is open Noon to 4 p.m. - daily, Sunday, May 29 to Labor Day and Saturdays and Sundays in September and October.
- If you have not previously hosted at the Museum, you will be given one-on-one training or can "shadow" an experienced host. Additionally, we have developed simplified training materials for your use.
- Each week an email listing the hosting openings for the upcoming days is sent to volunteers. You choose which day and time you would like to host. Some hosts take a specific day and time each week for the entire season or you can choose to be "on call".

If you are interested or have question about being a volunteer host call Bill Hess at 269.857.5751 or email Bill at wwh71@comcast.net.

SDHS members who have hosted at the Museum in the past will tell you that in addition to learning the area's history, you'll talk with interesting visitors plus have a great time. Hope you can join us.

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Also joining our volunteers is Bart Webb. Bart and his husband Bill moved here from Chicago two years ago. He was the Dean of Students at Gordon Tech College Prep for eight years where he had previously taught English. Prior to being in education, he worked for a number of years in the Insurance and software industries. Originally from Virginia, he and his partner have enlarged a collection of antiques that began with pieces inherited from his family; he is also a voracious reader. As the owner of an older home here he became interested in the history of his house which then led him to Historical Society and an introduction to local history. He is working with the Archive volunteers to help fully utilize the PastPerfect Software that manages and makes available to the public the Society's Collections.

Save the Date(s)!

Saturday, May 28
30th Anniversary & Season Opening Party

The season opening reception will be held at the Old School House this year and will kickoff our celebration of the Society's 30th year. More information to follow!

Sunday, May 22
SDHS Phone App Walking Tour & Party!

You've heard about the Society's new smartphone app and maybe you've even downloaded it yourself. We're planning to debut a new Douglas walking tour and are having a party to celebrate!

Plan to join fellow Society members for a special tour kickoff party on Sunday, May 22nd starting at 3:30pm. Bring a friend and your smartphone or tablet and meet at the J. Petter Galleries, 161 N. Blue Star Highway in Douglas, for a quick orientation. No smartphone? No problem! Small groups are encouraged to do this tour together, and we'll have tech help available at the orientation to help you download and launch the app. A short walk will bring you to Center Street where the new

This is the seventh month of the History by Camera feature - the BILL SIMMONS SCRAPBOOK. Bill was a semi-professional photographer, originally from Chicago, who moved to Saugatuck about 1940. He had a couple of stints as the editor of the Commercial Record. Over the next twenty two years he took numerous black and white photos.

He died in 1962 and these photos went unnoticed until 1998 when some 3,000 negatives were given to the SDHS. What a record of our town in the middle of the twentieth century!

Many have appeared in SDHS books and exhibits. However, others ended up - so to speak - on the cutting room floor, because Bill often took numerous shots of a subject. We have used only the best of them and many subjects have not been published.

Please examine these high-resolution images [a history mystery of the mind] to see what you can identify before reading my brief captions. No hints! Many of subjects are still here, right in front of us. Have fun.
app tour will guide you to a few sites of interest before bringing you back to the Petter Gallery for a fun reception.

Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather! RSVP required, contact Nathan by email info@sdhistoricalsociety.org or call 269-857-5751 to reserve your spot for the fun!

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"The Earth laughs in flowers."
~ Ralph Waldo Emerson

Even though the calendar says April, we are not completely convinced it is spring! Mister Winter doesn't seem to want to let go and our daffodils are a little nervous to show their faces! But what can we do, we live in Michigan. So with just a bit more patience, we will soon start/continue on with our spring garden clean-up.

Our on-line registration for Root Camp is up and working again, thanks to Jim Cook. He has made it very easy to register your children for this year's camp. Our days will be filled with science, shipwrecks, fishing, animals and cooking...... a great way for any child to learn about local history and

The Family History Group can help you in your quest, whether you are new to family history research or just want to learn more about sources and records. Got questions on how to get going? That is what we are for! Call or email us or take note of these upcoming regular meetings of the
our environment. Please share a gift of camp with the little ones in your lives. Scholarships are available, so please contact Ruth Johnson at ruthannj@frontier.com for information.

Learning more and signing up for Root Camp is easy! Just click the logo below.

SDHS Family History Group:
Thursday April 21
Thursday May 5
Thursday May 19

These upcoming meetings are in the Old School House in the downstairs tech room, and begin at 3:30pm. Note that your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area!

The mailing address is SDHS Family History, PO Box 617 Douglas, MI 49406, or email to the addresses below. We will soon be back to you with readily found data and with suggestions on the next steps to take. Further help is always available from the Family History group by phone and email. The only requirement is a membership in the SDHS.

Questions/comments/advice/needs - contact
Jack Sheridan:
269 857-7144
jack.sheridan@gmail.com
Chris Yoder:
269 857-4327
cyoder@tds.net

Until next month,

The Garden and Root Camp Committees

SDHS Family History Group:
Thursday April 21
Thursday May 5
Thursday May 19

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cyoder@tds.net

Little more than one decade separates the image above from the image below, but what a change is represented! The April Monthly Meeting featured a presentation on the history of the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, given by SCA Executive Director Kristin Armstrong and SCA Chair Emeritus Bobbie Gaunt.

In its short existence, the SCA has helped to transform how the community lives and learns about the arts, and has certainly transformed the former Lloyd J. Harriss Pie Factory into an equally proud modern landmark. Several historic images were shared during the presentation, including this one shown above from 2003 when the SCA had just acquired the former pie factory building. Thirteen springs later and the transformed space is ready to begin a new season of education and entertainment! (click each to enlarge)
ABOUT THE SOCIETY

To become a member of the Society, select from the following categories:

- Individual: $50
- Household: $70
- Premium: $300
- Corporate: $500
- Lifetime: $1,000
- Senior (65+): $30
- Senior Household: $45
Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. You can also click HERE for a Society Membership Application.

It's membership renewal season! Send in your 2016 renewal with payment today or click HERE to renew online.

Send items for the newsletter to: Nathan Nietering, PO Box 617, Douglas, MI 49406 or email info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORICAL SOCIETY FACILITIES

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building. The History Museum is closed for the winter season. WATER, our feature exhibit, will reopen with some new elements on Memorial Day 2016. Always free to the public but donations gratefully accepted.

Click HERE to learn more about the Museum and recent past exhibits.

The Old School House History Center and Francis Surfboat Exhibit is located at 130 Center Street in Douglas. For group tours of the School House, please contact Nathan Nietering at 269-857-5751 or by email at director@sdhistoricalsociety.org. The Surfboat Exhibit and Back-in-Time Garden are open to the public as weather permits.

The Society's Technology Center is located in the lower level of the Old School House History Center at 130 Center Street in downtown Douglas. Open by appointment.

The Society's Archives office is located in the lower level of the Old School House and is open for research on Monday afternoons 1-4pm. Use the back stairway for easy access. E-mail: archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Society Main Phone: 269-857-5751
Museum Phone: 269-857-7900
Tech Center/Archives Phone: 269-857-7901
www.sdhistoricalsociety.org
Follow us on Facebook. Click the logo below.

Again this year, the Society's Newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.