Your Membership

As a friendly reminder, our annual membership year runs from April 1-March 31 to better coincide with the start of the spring season. All dues-current members remain current throughout the winter and can look for their membership renewal announcement as the snow begins to melt. No dues renewal payment is due at this time.

Membership questions? Contact Executive Director Nathan Nietering: director@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

Thank you for your effort voting for the Digital Mich. Newspaper Grant

2018: The Year of Collections

The History Center, in partnership with the S-D District Library, was one of five finalists for the
2018 Digital Michigan Newspaper Grant award, from the Central Mich. University Clarke Historical Library. Our application to digitize microfilmed copies of the Commercial Record newspaper spanning from 1959-1969 is a tie in to the Cold War Hot Towns exhibit running through the end of 2018. The voting phase has now ended by mailed postcard and tweeted message on Twitter, and now we wait while all votes are tabulated and the Clarke Library announces a winner.

In addition to hundreds of postcards provided by the History Center and local artists largely made available at the Library, we know that dozens of individuals created their own postcard art to support this project, including students at Saugatuck Middle/High School and at a DIY postcard-making station in the Library. The Douglas post office, which ordered an additional 1,500 postcard stamps in addition to whatever they already had on-hand, was down to just 37 such stamps remaining by the Friday afternoon of voting week. We also greatly appreciate the efforts of fifteen SDHC members currently out-of-state who requested that we send them local Michigan postcards so they could participate. Click each of these images of some of the submitted cards for #DigSaugatuck - thank you everyone for your help and support! We'll announce if we're the winner as soon as we're informed!

In 2017, the History Center participated in a collection assessment program, undertaken by the American Alliance of Museums and funded in part by the federal Institute for Museum and Library Services. A collections care professional visited our sites, talked with our volunteers, director and board, and subsequently presented to us a final report with recommendations for how to improve our collections. Accolades are in order for our collections volunteers - their work and many of our existing policies and procedures function well and are in excellent shape for an institution of our size. The most important recommendation included was our need for an expanded collections storage space - where items will be stored in a single, dedicated space, with room for researchers to come and use these wonderful historical materials.

We are therefore pleased to announce our project to create a new collections and archives research center, on the second floor of the Old School House building. This facility will house the storage for our objects, documents, photographs and books, with room to grow. It will include larger workspaces for our volunteers and interns to properly catalog and study these items. And, for the first time, a dedicated research space will be provided so our members and the public-at-large can utilize these records of the past. We anticipate that the furnishing of the new space and the move of the collections will take place in March, with a formal opening later in the spring.

DIY postcard station at the SD District Library!

Preliminary floorplan of the Old School House 2nd floor west room - the future Collections and Archives Research Center. The different colors indicate different types of shelving and cabinets.
Physically moving collections is a big project. Making sure everything is properly rehoused and accounted for in its new home is an equally formidable task, which requires expert knowledge. To accomplish this in a professional and expedient manner, we will soon be announcing an open position for a contracted collections specialist. Over a limited-term, this individual will complete an inventory of the entire collection once the move is complete, provide training to new interns and volunteers, and recommend and implement innovative approaches to using and increasing access to the collections for everyone. The collections specialist will augment the quality work of our collections volunteers and help ensure the new space starts out with its best foot forward.

This project, even for an organization of our modest size, is substantial. A generous group of forward-looking donors have underwritten nearly 75% of the project cost thus far, clearly recognizing that our future will be brighter with better access to our past. We cannot thank them enough for their support. This means we still have fundraising to do to enable full project completion. Donations, of any size, are now being accepted so we can meet the full project goal of $54,000. You can hit the blue donate now button below to securely pay online via Paypal (specify "Collections Move" by clicking "Add special instructions to the seller"), or mail us a check today. The expanded collections storage space will immediately be put to use as a repository for new items (both virtual and physical) collected in this year's "Summers in Saugatuck" joint project with GVSU, highlighted elsewhere in this issue.

Welcome New Members!

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

- Patti & Marco Cardenas, Fennville, MI and Naperville, IL
- Melissa Karaviotou, Saugatuck, MI
- Judi Thomas, Saugatuck, MI

Columns continue, next page
**Northwest Airlines Flight 2501**, presented by local historian and dive expert Valerie Van Heest.

Program sponsorships are now available! If you would like to sponsor one of our 2018 programs, please REPLY to this email and we will be in touch. Sponsorships are $150 and help support our high caliber of presentations and field trip activities! Multiple sponsors are welcome and encouraged and all will receive billing in future announcements.

The remainder of the Monthly Meeting and Tuesday Talk programming calendar is being finalized and will be announced when complete! It's going to be a great year.

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**Thank you, Pat Murphy Builders**

A recent mid-winter inspection of the Pump House Building has revealed that the museum roof and substrate work undertaken this fall has been very effective against the forces of Mother Nature. We'd like to say a special thanks to Pat Murphy Builders who donated their time to coordinate the museum roof repair project. Click the image for the high-resolution version including the full flight of steps up Mount Baldhead (about 4mb).

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**Saugatuck Woman's Club Music & Munchies**

By Bonnie Lowe

The Saugatuck Woman's Club is hosting a monthly "Music and Munchies" series as an ongoing fundraiser to raise much-needed dollars to help repair their aging 1934-built building at the corner of Hoffman and Butler Streets in downtown Saugatuck. Munchies at each event may include coffee, tea, cider, chips, crackers and cheese, fruit, cookies, breads, and other desserts. Tickets are $10 each and may be purchased at the door or in advance by calling 269-455-9192. All Munchies events are family-friendly.

Sunday, March 11 2:00-3:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Andy Baker.

Sunday, April 8 from 2:00-3:30 p.m. Music will be provided by Max and Ruth Bloomquist.

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**Thank You!**

A special **THANK YOU** is in order for everyone who contributed to our year-end campaign this year! Adequate year-end funds allow us to start each new season off on a strong note and will enable us to plan the wide variety of programming, exhibits, activities, and more in the new year. If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time to add your support! Just click the blue button below. All contributions receive a written acknowledgement statement. **Together, we can inspire!**

![Donate Button]

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**Together we can inspire**
SDHC Announces "Summers in Saugatuck" Project, Wins $12,000 NEH Grant with GVSU

The Kutsche Office of Local History at Grand Valley State University has announced receiving a $12,000 grant to support a joint program with SDHC aimed at capturing oral histories and visual materials documenting our area's transformative summers of the 1950-1970s.

Awarded by the National Endowment for the Humanities through its "Common Heritage" program, the grant shares $250,000 funding for 23 similar projects nationwide, all aimed at capturing America's cultural heritage "hidden" in personal life stories, family histories, photo albums, newspaper clippings and other home memorabilia.

The period shares the focus of SDHC's current two-year exhibition at the History Museum at Mt. Baldhead, Cold War | Hot Towns, in which first-hand accounts of wild music festivals, motorcycle gangs on the backstreets of Douglas, college parties in downtown Saugatuck and more are presented around a structure representing the Mt. Baldhead radar tower, dramatizing its mission to relentlessly search the skies for Soviet bombers at the height of the Cold War scare.

To kick off the project, SDHC will host a community meeting at its regular 7pm "Monthly Meeting" program on April 11 to more fully explain plans and enlist volunteer assistance. On two summer Saturdays -- June 2 and July 21 -- the History Center and Kutsche Office will team up to host "History Harvests" at the Old School House, conducting oral history interviews and receiving materials brought in by community participants. Special equipment will be set up to photograph or scan submitted materials for digitizing as additions to SDHC archives; originals will be either accepted if donated, or returned to their owners along with duplicate digital images.

Staff members from Grand Valley's University Libraries then will preserve the digitized interviews and images on-line for public access. Transcribed copies of oral histories and collected materials will be kept at SDHC's Old School House in Douglas and in an on-line database.

In September, date to be determined, a community-wide dialogue will be scheduled to share items uncovered and highlight interesting aspects of the interviews, and to invite feedback about other ways to make the information widely available.

Notes from the Gallery

By Ken Kutzel, Collections Committee Chair

Generosity is a word so often used in tandem with money and finance. It can also refer to the sharing of time. So often, we forget that it also can reflect the release of personal treasure so that enjoyment can transfer, exponentially, from self to the entire community.

2017 was a year of great generosity for art at the
Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. Our collection continues to grow because of members who wish to share with this community. These gifts have made it possible to produce exhibits for our visitors.

Recently, Tom and Judy Anthrop gifted the History Center several paintings to add to our permanent collection. On behalf of all the members of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, I want to thank the Anthrops for their generosity. If you have items you'd like to gift to the History Center, contact the archives at archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org.

The paintings depicted here are just a portion of the total Anthrop gift. Watch for additional articles about generosity in this column throughout the year.

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By Jack Sheridan

This question comes from GG of North Muskegon, who has definite opinions & a questioning mind: "In the old days, before the global warming hoax, was there a lot more snow?"

The answer is yes. Historic annual snow-fall for Saugatuck is about six or seven feet. The question prompted a look at snow photos from the SDHC archives. I found this bunch for the midwinter ASK JACK feature.

By way of personal history, snowfall is very relevant to me. Snow always recalls my growing up in Calumet, Michigan far up north on the Keweenaw Peninsula. Calumet, the snowiest city in Michigan, gets dumped on by lake effect snow coming from off Lake Superior, to the tune of almost twenty feet every winter. Makes our annual average puny by comparison. The record up there in 1974-75 is thirty-four feet!
But I digress. How about an ice boat shot from right here in front of the Butler? The era when ice boats were common, was before global warming, for sure.

Enjoy more pre-global warming local photos in the montage below. Click the large image for full size.

The only interesting old plow photo is of Harry Newnham, Saugatuck's jack of all trades. The Interurban had a rail plow but we do not have a photo of it.

ASK JACK is presented each issue by Jack Sheridan. Please send your questions/suggestions to jack.sheridan@gmail.com
On Nov. 12, 1912, Mary Josephine Greenhalgh Shriver (Mrs. George W.) wrote to noted social reformer Jane Addams at Hull House in Chicago offering to sell a part of what is now Ox-Bow for a boys’ camp. She wrote:

**Miss Jane Adams, Hull House Chicago**
**Nov. 12, 1912**

**Dear Madam**

I have been informed that you are looking for a location for a boys camp.

I have some property at Saugatuck, Mich. which will make an ideal camp, ten acres on the bank of the Kalamazoo River near the old harbor. The Riverside Hotel property belonging to Mrs. Clarence Lynds bounds the parcel on the North. On the South it joins land belonging to Mr. Harbert. His cottage Avalon, is just beyond the southern border. About one half of the land is cleared. The southern part includes a large hill and half the valley beyond. The soil is sandy loam suitable to the cultivation of nearly all vegetables that do not require a fertile soil.

Losing the harbor, by building the new harbor at Singapore, the river has formed an inland lake, abounding in all kinds of fish.

There is a good seven room house, with cellar and pump, on the place. Will sell with or without the house. Price including the house $2000, without the house $1500.

I can arrange for a personal interview with my son-in-law who lives in Chicago and knows all about the place.

Will you kindly reply whether you wish to consider the proposition as the house is to be moved this winter in case it is not sold.
Enclosed please find self addressed stamped envelope for reply.

Your very truly,

Mrs. G. W. Shriver
For Henry Winter

This letter was shared from the Swarthmore College Peace Collection, as well as other correspondence dealing with the Hull House consideration of a boys’ camp. Mrs. Shriver (nee Mary Josephine Greenhalgh) (1847-1926) married George Henry Shriver in Buffalo, NY Oct. 1, 1863. She and her husband followed his brother Charles Shriver to the Saugatuck area and settled in property at "Shrivers Bend" where the Ox-Bow now resides (see Nov 2012 newsletter article). The Mrs. Lynds mentioned is the daughter of Charles Shriver (who had died in a boating accident in 1905). The Henry Winter mentioned was the husband of Josephine and George's daughter Amelia, and was a junior cashier at the People's State Bank, whose stationary was used by Mrs. Shriver. George and Josephine had lived at the mouth of the river until 1902, at which time they moved into town.

Other correspondence shared by Dr. Cathy Moran Hajo, of at Ramapo College, Editor of the Jane Addams Papers, show that Mr. L. E. Johnson of Hull House had been looking at local property earlier in year and working with Pear's Real Estate Company (Dr. John H. Pear (1865-1926), veterinarian, 7 year Saugatuck village president, and later a justice of the peace). A letter from Dr. Pear to Hull House dated Sep. 5, 1912, mentions two additional local farms on the opposite side of the lake from that looked at previously and therefore "nearer town" (apparently Goshorn Lake) - one farm with buildings of 78 acres available for a "bargain" price of $3500, with an adjacent 30 wooded acres for $1000, and the other 20 acres on the same lake with an orchard (but no buildings) for $2000.

Correspondence by Mr. Johnson to Ms. Hull discusses their prior use of the Bronson Farm in Muskegon (now named Kruze Park), and a later addendum dismisses that property as it was found to be "poorly laid out". About Saugatuck, Johnson wrote:

*About Saugatuck. It is absolutely a summer resort town. The rates are comparatively cheap, and the class of vacation seekers who go there are not of a very high type. Boys and girls wander about with arms around one another. A girl who doesn’t flirt is the exception there.*

*So the conditions are against the larger boys getting the real benefit of camp life. Also the*
necessary privacy would be lacking. The swimming and boating is very ordinary.

And now you know! Our vacationers were not of a high type, our girls were flirty, and the swimming and boating was ordinary. Apparently all good enough for artists!

The Saugatuck Historic Coastal Survey Report, by Jim Schmiechen, reports "In 1914 the school (Ox-Bow) started renting the entire Riverside Hotel as its exclusive school location, and in 1920 purchased the Shriver and adjacent property".

The top photo of Mrs. Shriver is from the Ellen Greenhalgh/Barb Figley Digital Collection at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center.

By Jack Sheridan

Greetings from myself and Chris Yoder, leaders of the History Center Family History Group. Please visit a regular Family History meeting to see what we are all about and join the group. We share "lessons learned" and a whole lot more about the many tools available for family history research. The SDHC Family History Group can help you get started!

Note the Family History Group's upcoming meeting schedule below:

**Thursday, February 8** - NO MEETING
**Thursday, February 22**

These upcoming meetings are in the Old School House (use the back door) and begin at 3:30pm. Note that your family history does not have to have any connection to the Saugatuck-Douglas area! If you can't attend a meeting, we can still provide by email or phone assistance. The only requirement to participate in Family History is a current membership in the SDHC.

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

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**Garden Happenings**

"There is always in February one day, at least, when one smells the yet distant, but surely coming, summer." ~Gertrude Jekyll

It's nice to have these days of quiet coldness to dream about the upcoming warm weather. The Landscape Committee is taking these couple of months to collect their thoughts on upcoming spring work. Soon we will be working with the Exhibit Committee developing new learning areas in the Back-in-Time Garden. It's great brainstorming with such talented people.

The dates for **Root Camp 2018** will be June 25 - 28!!!!!! Again, we will run a morning and an afternoon session. We will also be doing an Early Bird special - sign the special kids in your life up early and save 10% through the end of February! Our campers will be learning about reptiles, textiles and basket weaving, new science experiments and lighthouses. They may even have to guide a boat to shore! We will
have our on-line registration open in the very near future, thanks to Jim Cook. Follow us on the Root Camp Facebook page to get the latest news!

Until next month,
The Landscape and Root Camp Committee

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**Cold Winter, Cold War Memories**

In the Museum's *Cold War | Hot Towns* exhibit this past summer, guests were able to share feedback and memories on a special bulletin board. As we dream of the coming summer's hot weather and hot towns, in the next few newsletters we'll share some of the interesting memories we received. Click for full-size.
The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society was founded in 1986 by a group of charter members interested in preserving and sharing the unique history of Saugatuck, Douglas and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Society was renamed the **Saugatuck-Douglas History Center** to celebrate its growth and to recognize the development of the History Museum and Old School House sites. We are a vibrant organization with nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities, around Lake Michigan, and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood our largely volunteer organization. To join as a member, select from the following categories:

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Send check payable to the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to: PO Box 617, Douglas, Michigan 49406. Click [HERE](#) for a printable Membership Application.

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

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**SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER 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 now closed for the winter but will reopen in May, 2018. View the virtual Cold War | Hot Towns exhibit on the SDHC mobile app!

Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Museum and recent past exhibits.

The **Old School House** 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 Old School House exhibits are open by appointment throughout the winter. The adjoining **Back-in-Time Garden** and Surfboat Exhibit are open as autumn weather allows. Admission is free but donations gratefully accepted.

The History Center'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 History Center **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 the archives directly: archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

- History Center main phone: 269-857-5751
- Museum phone: 269-857-7900
- Tech Center/Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901
- [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org)

Follow us and learn more history on Social Media! Click the logos below.
Again this year, the SDHC newsletter is being underwritten by a generous donation from the late Life Member, Frances Vorys.