The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center preserves local history and inspires learning to inform and improve our community.

JUNE 2018
THE PUBLICATION OF THE
SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER
PO BOX 617 | DOUGLAS, MICHIGAN | 49406-0617
269.857.5751 | www.MySDHistory.org

Dine Around
A Delicious Series of Dinners and Parties
All proceeds support the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

Tickets are Selling Fast for Pearls on Park
SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018
4-7 P.M.
Click Here to Reserve Your Tickets Today

2018's first Dine Around fundraiser features a trio of spectacular residences running the gamut from "old school" cottages to a mid-century modern home to a coastal farmhouse, all along scenic Park Street in Saugatuck.

Greg Plowe and Steve Debbink purchased their first cabin in 1995, at 336 Park Street, affectionately naming it "Acorn Landing" because of the sounds the acorns make on the metal roof when they fall from the surrounding oak trees in the fall. It started as a one-room sleeping cottage; a kitchen and bath were added later on. In 2006 they did a complete remodel/Expansion, all the while maintaining its old-fashioned cabin feel. They then built a smaller cabin behind the "Landing" to accommodate guests. They labelled this one the "Artist's Cottage" should a visitor(s) feel the desire to paint while staying there. They incorporated reclaimed, salvaged materials into this building. In 2001 they bought an adjacent cabin "Treetops" which is hidden up in the trees behind the other two. 2009 saw the completion of a 2018's first Dine Around fundraiser features a trio of spectacular residences running the gamut from "old school" cottages to a mid-century modern home to a coastal farmhouse, all along scenic Park Street in Saugatuck.

B&C Directory
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History Harvest and Oral History Collection

Stories of Summer launched in early June with a community History Harvest day and the recording of new oral histories focused around the decades of the 1950s-60s-70s in Saugatuck-Douglas. Twelve

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the entire project through the creation of a back
garden/deck area that connects all three.

Built in 2006 by Lakehome Builders, Guy Ballard
and Richard Heriford's mid-century- inspired glass
house at 30 Park Street has a pond in front that
makes you feel as if you are floating on water. Glass
walls are accented by high ceilings and warm woods
creating inviting spaces in every room. A chef's
kitchen is the central gathering area and makes it the
perfect spot to enjoy the owners' art collection and
their love of music. The ambiance of the pool and
terrace create a resort-like atmosphere. The
residence and grounds are simple, clean and
timeless.

Renee Zita's home features multiple decks overlooking the
Kalamazoo River.

Nestled at the very end of Park Street at number 985
is a newly constructed, modern coastal farmhouse
built for Renee Renaldi Zita by Mike Schapp
Builders. Renee's family has summered in
Saugatuck since 1930, therefore it was an easy
decision when she saw this last remaining lot go up
for sale just six doors down from the original family
cottage which is still occupied by her aunt and
uncle. The home features thoughtful design and
meticulous attention to detail in every room,
including a chef's kitchen, sunroom and master
bedroom suite on the first floor with expansive
views of the Kalamazoo River.

Interviews have now been recorded and another 10
are in the works. Our goal is to capture a total of 40
new oral histories as part of this project - so we have
a ways to go. If you or someone you know spent
time in Saugatuck from the 1950s-1980s and might
want to share their stories, let us know. Interviews
can be scheduled at most any time with an advance
appointment.

**Digital scanning** of your pieces of history, such as a
scrapbooks, photo albums, slides, posters,
ephemera, and more can be done in two ways. You
can bring your clearly marked items to the Old
School House before July 10 for digitization,
whereupon the original items will be returned to you
along with a digital copy for you to keep. Or, you
can bring them to the Old School House to be
scanned or digitally photographed "while you wait"
between 9am and 4pm on Saturday, July 21.

**July 21 - Community History Harvest** at the Old
School House from 9AM to 4PM. Members of the
community are invited to bring their original
materials for digitization and/or to sit down for an
interview about their memories. This isn't just an
invite to History Center members -- we hope to see
people who we've never connected with before who
have pieces of local history to share. Tell your
As always, these homes can be toured in any order you wish and your hosts provide delicious libations and appetizers at each stop. **New for this year**, tickets can be purchased directly online via the History Center's website at this link: [http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/current/dinearound/reservations.php](http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/current/dinearound/reservations.php) with a major credit card - it couldn't be easier! Reserve your space today!

**$100 per person**

All proceeds support Saugatuck-Douglas History Center programs and activities

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**Welcome New Members!**

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

- Steven Manns and Dennis Tambaro, Saugatuck, MI
- Auston and Olivia Marineau, Houston, TX

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**New Lifetime Members!**

With gratitude, we welcome these members to our Lifetime membership circle, acknowledging their lasting commitment to the support of SDHC.

- Laurie Goshorn, Saugatuck

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**A Love-ly Invitation**

On Friday, June 1, SDHC Executive Director Nathan Nietering was invited to Saugatuck Brewing Company to tap the traditional new-beer "Friday Firkin" (small cask) on the first Friday of the month. This month's newly-debuted brew is known as Lager of Love and is SBC's first Pride Beer. Just before the tapping, Nathan was able to share with the audience a little bit of the known history of the LGBTQ community in Saugatuck-Douglas, and that there is much that we do not yet know...and are looking for more community stories via this summer's History Harvest events!

The beer is an easy drinking light lager with a pleasant malt and hop balance, leading to an enjoyable drinking experience for any level of craft drinker. 10% of all Lager of Love distribution sales nationwide will be donated to a local LGBTQ Support Organization serving the area in which the neighbors and friends, and stop by to see what we've collected!

An advance appointment is needed to schedule an oral history interview. To make your appointment, contact Nathan at info@sdhistoricalsociety.org or call 269-857-5751.

To learn more about the project and print out a flier about the History Harvest events, [click here](http://sdhistoricalsociety.org/current/dinearound/reservations.php).

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**Mark Your Calendar!**

Our *Monthly Meeting* presentations are open for free to members and the public and begin at 7:00pm at the Old School House at 130 Center Street in Douglas, unless otherwise indicated below.

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**Saugatuck Woman's Club & Saugatuck-Douglas History Center Joint Meeting**

*At the Saugatuck Woman's Club on the Corner of Hoffman and Butler with Kari Miller Fenwood & Peter Fenwood*  
"*Restoration of Artwork by Local Artists of the Past*"

__June 13, 7 PM__

**Open to the Public**

*Refreshments Served*

Sponsored by Michael & Elinor White, Marianne & Michael Giersch, and Dawn Stafford's Peachbelt Studio

**July 11, Field trip to Fenn Valley Winery** to learn more about the history of wine-making in our region.

**Tuesday, August 14, Annual History Center Picnic**. Note the Tuesday date, evening time TBA for our annual membership gathering at the Old School House. Mark your calendar!

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*Columns continue, next page*
beer is served. On top of this donation, SBC is donating $1.00 from every pint sold in the SBC Pub or Barrel Room to our local organization, West Shore Aware. Learn more about Lager of Love here. Be sure to grab a pint this summer!

Thank You to those folks listed above who have sponsored one of our programs! Multiple sponsors are welcome and encouraged and all will receive billing in future announcements. 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!

The remainder of the Monthly Meeting and Tuesday Talk programming calendar will be announced very soon!

Read all about it!

They're here! The 2018 edition of the free Historical Chronicle newspaper has hit the streets of Saugatuck-Douglas-Fennville. Recently back in the news, the story of Singapore graces the front cover to help visitors understand the history of this legendary ghost town. Thanks to Gayle Taub for the design, Flashes Publishers for the printing, and title sponsor Jim Sellman at Shoreline, Realtors and all of the other advertisers for underwriting the cost of this year's edition. Find it at the Old School House, History Museum, or another tourist destination near you!

What you missed

The 2018 History Center year kicked off with the annual Season Opening Party over Memorial Day weekend, this year held on the expansive grounds of the Old School House in Douglas. Well over 100 members snacked and socialized among gorgeous azaleas and other springtime blooms. If you missed out, we missed you! Thanks to shutterbug John Peters for this photo.

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Welcome Eric Gollannek, Collections Specialist

[In the last issue, we featured an update on the new Archives & Research Center (ARC) being constructed on the second floor of the Old School House. A critical piece to this expansion project is the professional expertise to complete a full inventory, re-house objects and documents, and consider and manage our growing trove of digital archival records. We found this expertise in Eric Gollannek, who will be employed as our Collections Specialist for approximately the next 12 months. He will ably assist our experienced collections volunteers as we bring our entire collection operation to a new level. Eric introduces himself below. The archive move is about 90% complete. By the next newsletter issue, we hope to have new hours for the facility and be able to better answer public inquiries in a timely fashion. Until then, advance research appointments are strongly recommended by emailing archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org.]

By Eric Gollannek

As a historian with a deep love of all things Michigan, I am excited to join the community of Saugatuck-Douglas in further exploring its history and helping care for its records and artifacts.

What is it that makes a place distinctive? Given my passion for history, I am drawn to context as a way to feel grounded in life. Born and raised in Detroit, the state of Michigan is a place I've always called home, even during long periods when I lived away from it while in school and living abroad. Circling back to West Michigan almost ten years ago, I immediately felt reconnected to 'the land shaped like a hand,' where I bonded with my new friends through stories of trips 'up north' and to the lakeshore.

I came to appreciate the Great Lakes region through a love for travel and experiences living abroad. After graduating from high school in Walled Lake (Oakland County) I accepted a scholarship to attend Marshall University in West Virginia that nurtured my love of history and art and design. A chance to work with the National Park Service at the Civil War battlefield at Manassas during my first summer in college opened my eyes to the power of place and historic artifacts to transport us to the past. I was hooked on preservation and history by the time I made it back to campus and I've followed that passion ever since.

My appetite for history and new cultural experiences led me on two study abroad trips where I learned about historic architecture firsthand in East Anglia in the UK and then across the English Channel to Caen, France with its treasures of Medieval Norman architecture.

By that time, I was ready to pursue graduate study in Art History and I was thrilled to enter the PhD program at the University of Delaware, a powerhouse for study of American art and architecture, historic preservation, and especially material culture. While at Delaware I took every opportunity I could to work with the wonderful collections in American decorative arts at the Winterthur Museum and Library where I was a research fellow. I wrote my dissertation on the art and artifacts of the British Empire in the 18th
century, looking at the prints of William Hogarth, architecture of John Wood in Bath and Bristol, and artifacts like teapots, punchbowls, and natural history collections.

After completing my PhD, my family and I made the move back to Michigan. Since settling in East Grand Rapids, I have taught at Kendall College of Art and Design as well as with Grand Valley State University as a visiting professor and instructor in the Honors College and Liberal Studies program.

In addition to teaching, I love getting out in the field to do hands-on work. My favorite projects led me to spend three months on Mackinac Island documenting the "downtown" National Register district and subsequently I worked with the National Park Service on a survey of the cultural landscapes of mining, farming, and lumbering along Michigan's Keweenaw Peninsula in the western Upper Peninsula. I also worked to rehouse and catalog agriculture and rural life collections with the Michigan State University Museum prior to coming to Saugatuck.

Experiencing the land in all its layered complexity requires movement and contemplation. I enjoy running and am most proud of my accomplishment this year training for and running the beautiful Bayshore Marathon in Traverse City! I am excited to explore even more of the beaches, dunes, and trails along the Lakeshore this year.

"Keeping an Eye on History"
opens June 23 at the Old School House

Late last year, longtime SDHC volunteers and former board members Ken Carls and Jim Schmiechen donated a sizable collection of artwork from their private collection to the History Center, 27 pieces in all. The collection represents a broad cross-section of the Saugatuck-Douglas artistic community, including works by well-known professionals and lesser known "Sunday-afternoon" amateurs alike, which each capture a local scene or setting. The goal of the gift was to preserve these works in the community where they can be studied and shared. The goal of the exhibit is to share them immediately with the public at large and challenge others to make a gift of significant artwork(s) or funds of their own to properly care for the growing SDHC art collection such that it can be maintained long into the future.

The exhibit will open to the public at 11:00am on Saturday, June 23 and will be open during regularly-scheduled Old School House hours through November 11, 2018. Among the pieces, which will include many recognizable scenes of local landmarks and viewsheds, will be a few works which are on loan from Ken and Jim for this exhibit, including a very recently-restored large Carl Hoerman autumn dune scene. If our goal for newly-gifted art and restricted art collection funds is met, these larger works will also be gifted to SDHC. We invite you to come and bring your friends to the Old School House to explore an artist's perception of our special communities this summer!
SDHC Artwork on Loan....to UofM

A painting donated to the S-D History Center collection in 2012 has been invited into a special exhibit at University of Michigan's Stamps Gallery celebrating the work of Ellen Wilt, a major figure in the Ann Arbor / U of M art community who maintained a second home and studio on Spear Street in Saugatuck from 1984 to 1994.

The exhibit, which opened Memorial Day weekend and will remain through September 9, is titled "Materials On Hand: The Art of Ellen Wilt", and brings together more than 40 selected pieces from personal and private collections, including "Flotsam", a large watercolor-and-gouache on paper done in Saugatuck which Wilt reportedly considered one of her personal favorites and specifically requested its loan from SDHC for this event.

According to Gallery exhibit information, Wilt grew up in Pittsburgh and came to Ann Arbor in 1949, earned two art degrees at U of M, was an art professor at Eastern Michigan University (1969-85) and organized numerous community projects that empowered first-time and emerging artists to show their work. Now in her mid-90s, it was not until she retired in her 70s that she turned her focus to her own art practice, gaining recognition and awards from the Michigan Water Color Society, Washtenaw Council for the Arts, and Holland Friends of Art.

Says SDHC Executive Director Nathan Nietering,"Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's art collection has grown exponentially over the past ten years. The nearly 250 paintings, prints and sketches represent many amateurs and professionals who lived or studied art in our area. Thanks to contributions of artwork by many generous donors, the collection continues to grow."

"This is the first time that an artwork in the SDHC collection has been invited to exhibit at such a prestigious institution," he points out. "Flotsam" on exhibit all summer, will raise awareness among the larger Midwest art community of the History Center collection and Saugatuck as a place of continued artistic education and expression. We appreciate this opportunity to work with the Stamps Gallery and their staff."

To learn more about the exhibit, visit www.stamps.umich.edu/exhibitions. Thanks to Hungry Village Tours and Boers Transfer and Storage of Holland with assistance in transport.

A Lakeshore Diary - Part 2 of 2

By Rev. Laurie TenHave-Chapman
Our family has been spending summers on the lakefront since 1893, when my great grandparents purchased acreage on Lakeshore Drive. The white farmhouse they built for their family of eight children sits just north of where M-89 dead ends into this scenic drive. In an oversized account book, whose broken binding was held together with brittle strips of cellophane tape, Edgar Tharp wrote about his agricultural life. Most of the writing records what produce he sold from their labors on "the farm." Starting as early as 1904 he lists Chicago businesses who purchased his organic, farm-fresh, sustainable fruits and vegetables long before it was trendy: Wayne and Low, M. Baker and Co., C H Weaver and Co., and Wm. Ellis and Co. The order was shipped out of Pier Cove to arrive in the bustling city of Chicago on the other side of the great Lake Michigan.

A haberdasher in Marshall Fields by trade in his hometown of Chicago, Edgar recognized the fertility of the farmland he purchased in Michigan. Through his entries in this aged log book it's clear that the lakefront was where he loved to be! Arriving in March each year, he began the process of taming the land and preparing for another growing season. In 1904 he purchased 34 posts and hardwood for bracing grapes. He discovered that the area hosted the perfect climate for a vineyard, sure success for the Fennville Winery generations later! That same year he purchased and planted 250 blackberry roots. He and his young wife, Stella, worked together with their children to prosper the farm. They planted fruit trees, raised chickens in their barn, and packed fruit for transport. In 1905 he records the sale of peaches, plums and pears to M. Baker and Co. He also harvested Niagara and Delaware grapes and shipped them across the lake. By 1921 he had added Concord varietals to his vineyard. On August 30 of that year, in beautiful penmanship, he records the sale of 5 bushels of Clarigeau Pears (fancy), 3 bushels of Crab Apples and 3 bushels of Large Pipa Apples. In the margin of the ledger he offers his commentary: "this return shows a real steal."

The fickle temperament of Mother Nature, particularly on the lakefront, is evident in several of Edgar Tharp's journal entries. In 1923 he indicated that he had arrived at the farm on March 13. He writes: "The weather was fair when I left home-it turned colder and when I got to Michigan City it was snowing quite hard. The morning of the 14th it was zero weather and kept storming every day and snowed continually. Monday morning Mar. 18 it was 7 degrees below zero. Kept cold all that week and again on Monday morning. Mar. 25 it was 3 degrees below zero. 26-27 continued very cold and snowed every day. The 28th a raging blizzard all day. During the two weeks I put in the most of the time feeding the stove wood and kept fairly warm. Mar. 31 was a very bad day and April 1st (Easter) was very cold. It has frozen and snowed every day or night in April up to the 10th. The morning of the 10th the ground was covered with snow and the trees covered with sleet." In 1926 he battled the elements, producing a later harvest than normal: "June 23 made first shipment of 4 cs Strawberries to Wayne and Low Chicago today-It has been a very cold spring everything about three weeks later than usual and all kinds of fruit badly hurt by frosts. E. H."

But it wasn't all labor and no fun at Kenwood (the name the Tharps gave to their farm honoring their Chicago neighborhood).
The family gathers at Kenwood

Legend holds that they built a bowling alley in their barn for their active children! There's still a spigot among the trees north of the farmhouse, long since detached from any underground source, that marks the place where animals and crops were once watered. The woods were cleared of thick underbrush and sassafras trees so that clay tennis courts could be smoothed out for play. My grandfather told us that they typically bathed in the lake where they cooled off in the heat of the summer. Like us, they never knew what their beach would be like from one year to the next. In 1926 Edgar wrote of his discovery when looking over the bluff: "It was a beautiful warm day. Found everything alright except the Lake beach its all gone. Nothing left but stones and the lower part of all three of the steps to the beach are gone."

After church services, they took Sunday drives to visit neighbors and friends. Edgar's entry from Sunday, March 12 of 1922 showcases this sense of community with which early Fennville residents lived: "Took drive with Mrs. Sarah E. Miller in Saugatuck and at her request wrote to Abe MacHattan at Robinson, Ills for information regarding the 100 acres of land near Duncunville, Ills." Sarah was Edgar's sister-in-law and a beloved resident of Saugatuck. She hosted people in her fabled "House of Seven Gables" which was moved to downtown Douglas in recent years. Mixed in with the hard work of producing a harvest were social gatherings where people talked about family, business prospects and the latest freak of nature!

Like many of his generation, my great grandfather never really retired. He worked the farm right up until the year he died, 1929. That makes his final journal entries all the more meaningful. In his writing I hear a deep contentment from the man who counted down the months until he could leave the Chicago winter behind for the wild and wonderful weather that blew in off Lake Michigan. On April 22, 1929 he penned his awe for nature in what would be his final entry. Hunkered down in the family home in the good company of his dog, Shep, the farmer reflected on his last Spring: "Friday the 19th it began to rain and kept on raining hard for 30 hours. Sunday morning the garden and orchard in front of the house was covered with water and the pond and woods clear over to Bucks was like a good sized Lake and the road from our south line to Dr. Irwins corner was like a large ditch. At Dr. Irwins road the water ran past his barn to the gulley west of the barn and today the 22nd the road is still full of water and the road near Bucks is impassable being covered 18 in with water. Nothing like it has ever occurred before in the 29 years we have been on the farm. I have had plenty of wood and have kept warm. I drive through the farm to Westvelds for supplies and Shep and I have plenty to Eat. E. H. Tharp"
Greetings from myself and Chris Yoder, leaders of the History Center Family History Group. Please come to a Family History meeting to see what we are all about and join the group discussion. We share "lessons learned" and a whole lot more about the many tools available for family history research.

Got questions? Questions/comments/advice/needs: Mayflower ancestor, Revolutionary War vet, famous cousins, great grand parents, ... Where did you come from? Thinking about a DNA test? Answering questions is what we are best at ...

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

Thursday, June 7
Thursday, June 28
Thursdays in July....TBA!

These 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. Join the group and get some answers!

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

Garden Happenings
"I must have FLOWERS, always, always." ~Monet

It is such a pleasure to see our gardens being used just what we designed them for.....people. Whether it's plant sales, visiting tourists, local families, Root Camp, or opening parties, our gardens always look the best when they are full. Many thanks to the Saugatuck/Douglas Garden Club for their exceptional work along the fence at the Old School House. It really looks so beautiful. Thanks to John and Lee for having the "Back in Time" garden ready for our opening party. It is going to be a great summer.

Our Root Camp committee couldn't be more excited, our fifth year of Root Camp is FULL! What a wonderful way to celebrate our 5th year of camp. Many thanks go out to Joy Muehlenbeck and Gary Medler for sponsoring Root Camp in their own special way. If you would like to sponsor a camp program, please contact Nathan in the office. Also, if you would like to see what happens during our week, stop on by from June 25-28!

Until next month,

The Landscape and Root Camp Committees
By Jack Sheridan
This month's question comes from John Upton of Holland [also Saugatuck-Douglas]. John is researching and writing the history of an area of the Douglas Lakeshore known as the "The Knolls" which is located just south of Shorewood and the Lakeshore Chapel, near the intersection of Campbell Road and Lakeshore Drive. John asked me, "Tell me what you know about the history of this area?"

Just so happened that I did a REMEMBERING WHEN piece on the subject about twelve years ago. For those who didn't see it or have forgotten it, here it is again:

DOUGLAS LAKESHORE - THE BEGINNING
Ever notice-history often has a beginning that starts with an interesting quote. This one is:

"Three damn fools want to pay $500 for a pile of sand in my cow pasture, and I want to close it up (the deal) before they back out" -- the Irish farmer and sailor Thomas McVea said to the Allegan County surveyor.

Who got the better end of the deal has clearly emerged from the haze of history!

So begins the story of the sale of a piece of the McVea property in the summer of 1899 to three "city slickers" named Sayre, Canfield, and Sperry. After short visits these gentlemen had fallen in love with the Douglas lakeshore and hatched a plan to build summer cottages in the area north of the present Douglas Beach near Campbell Road.

The coveted property was on the edge of what was then McVea's farm. These gentlemen, determined to proceed with their plan, negotiated for a piece of the McVea cow pasture which included 500 feet of Lake Michigan beach. At that time the area included just two summer resident families, the Barto and the Douglass families, from the Chicago area. Nearby, to the east, were the Trumbulls and McVeas - who were serious farmers, sailors and pioneers of the area.

Sayre started to build and completed his place straight away. The others made plans and built in 1900 on what became known as The Knolls. In fact in that year a building boomlet commenced when some six cottages were completed. In the next ten years land prices went up.

Shorewood was created and the pioneer settlers with fattened wallets went into the summer resort business and built Beachmont (McVea), Five Acre Farm (Trumbull), and Rosemont (Bryan).

Those summer roots grew deep and so our history began.... Click below to see historical photos.
ABOUT THE SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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

- Individual $50
- Household $70
- Premium $300
- Corporate $500
- Lifetime $1,000
- Senior (65+) $30
- Senior Household $45

It's membership renewal season! 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
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 open 7 days a week through Sept. 3 from 12noon-4pm daily, featuring signature exhibit Cold War | Hot Towns. Admission is free but donations are gratefully accepted. If you can't travel to Saugatuck or want to revisit this landmark exhibit, 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 will reopen to the public starting June 23 and will be open this summer Wednesdays-Saturdays from 11am-3pm. The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open as daily. Admission is free but donations gratefully accepted.

The History Center Archives office is moving! In our period of transition, we ask everyone to make a research appointment in advance while we relocate our collections to new storage. To reach the archives, call 269-857-7901 or 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
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.