

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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ART AND LIFE OF ARTIST CORA BLISS TAYLOR
RECALLED AT SDHC's AUG. 27 "TUESDAY TALK"

AUG. 16, 2019 -- A fond look back at the legacy of Saugatuck artist Cora Bliss Taylor (1889-1986) highlights Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's next "Tuesday Talk" on August 27 in the Old School House, 130 Center Street, Douglas. The one-hour program begins when the school bell rings at 11 a.m. Public attendance is invited and audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Presenter Ken Kutzel, SDHC's volunteer Art Collection Manager, will talk about on Taylor's local appeal as an artist and her work as a teacher, as well as what little is known of her as a person, with hopes of drawing out more information from those in the audience who knew her as a friend or studied under her tutelage.

"We've already interviewed a few of her former students," Kutzel says, "and we'll discuss planning for a formal "History Harvest" event to gather more information and stories in recorded oral-history format."

Kutzel's presentation augments a special art exhibit that opened August 10 in the Old School House upstairs gallery, comprising a selection of Taylor's paintings in various media and styles, from landscapes to abstract work, chosen to show and contrast her talents as both artist and art teacher. The exhibit dedicates a section to her students' art, highlighting two rare large murals done by them in the 1950s, and recalling her art school from their perspective,

Cora Bliss, becoming Mrs. Taylor in 1914 and honeymooning in Saugatuck, returned as a resident in 1931 to open her Taylor Art Gallery and Taylor School of Art. Typically dressing in bold colors and wearing big, floppy hats, she always encouraged kids to paint what they liked and never criticized their efforts. In 1946, she downsized her school to focus on teaching children, and taught her last class in 1980, at age 91.

Her 1925 art exhibits in Chicago garnered the Chicago Women's Aid Prize, the Edward B. Butler Purchase Prize and Fine Arts Building Prize. In 1939 she became a member of Metropolitan Art Association of Detroit, and in 1945 her work gained Honorable Mention from the Minneapolis Institute of Arts. In 1957 she won the American Association of University Women's Prize and was recognized in *Who's Who of American Women*.

A summer tradition since 1996, weekly Tuesday Talks present entertaining and informative insights into local community life throughout July and August. This week's Talk is sponsored by SDHC members Denny and Buzzy Maurer.

Tuesday Talks' increasing popularity puts limited seating on "first-come, first-served" basis. While admission is free for current SDHC members, non-member guests are encouraged to attend with a donation of five dollars, or to become new members at the Talk.

For more information about the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old School House in Douglas, or its activities planned for upcoming months, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see jpeg image "Hollyhocks")

Caption:

“Hollyhocks”, an oil painting on canvas ca 1930s, exemplifies the work of Saugatuck’s Cora Bliss Taylor, whose life as an artist and art teacher in Saugatuck is recalled at SDHC’s “Tuesday Talk” on August 27.