

# SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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## CHARLES LORENZ' LEGACY TO AREA HISTORY OPENS 2019 SDHC PUBLIC PROGRAMS MAR. 13

MAR. 1, 2019 -- A look back at the legacy of Charles Lorenz, local historian and founding member of Saugatuck-Douglas History Society (now Center), highlights this year's first SDHC free public monthly program on Wednesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. in the Old School House, 150 Center St. in Douglas.

Eric Gollanek, SDHC Executive Director, will host a hands-on presentation sampling Lorenz's personal collection of papers and research materials, which were donated to SDHC in 2016. He also will touch upon the importance of preserving personal papers, and the value of the new Archives Research Center at the Old School House, completed this past year. As always, audience participation is welcomed to enrich the discussion.

Charles "Chuck" Lorenz, until his death in 1994, devoted himself to research on the early history of Saugatuck and Singapore, the Black Lake region, Native American history, the history of area shipbuilding, and documentation of the Old Wing Mission in Holland. He gave generously of his time, talent, money and energy in the formation and development of the Historical Society in 1986, and his dedication to preserving local history is memorialized by SDHC's annual Lorenz Award. Established in 1997 as the Center's highest honor, this award cites leadership in fulfilling the group's mission to "help the community understand its past and use history to shape its future and preserve its quality of life".

Lorenz came to Saugatuck for the first time from his home in Chicago to attend Camp Gray in 1954 and 1955. He and his wife Chris and their daughter Day (Lorenz) Pena moved to Saugatuck in 1972 and dove into collecting stories, photographs, and post cards of the area. This research led to the publication of *The Early History of Saugatuck and Singapore, Michigan 1830-1840* for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of the town (1834), and he planned to finish the next volume covering the area's history from 1840-1850. Sadly, his death left this work unfinished.

"Fortunately, the History Center now has nineteen file boxes of Chuck's research and writings processed into our Archives," Gollanek says, "and our staff and volunteers are just beginning to grasp the richness of this incredible resource for Saugatuck-area research."

Gollanek was named SDHC Director in October of 2018 after serving as Collections Specialist. He holds a PhD in American art history and materials culture studies from University of Delaware, where he also worked at the Winterthur Museum and Library. Originally from Detroit and southeast Michigan, he returned after graduate school and taught at Kendall College of Art and Design, as well as Grand Valley State University in the Honors College and Liberal Studies program.

Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's free monthly program series presents entertaining and informative insights into local history and community life. This month's program is sponsored by SDHC President Steve Hutchins. For more information about the History Center, its Museum in Saugatuck and Old

School House in Douglas, and its activities planned for the months ahead, visit [www.MySDHistory.org](http://www.MySDHistory.org).

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PHOTO ATTACHED SEPARATELY (see png image "Lorenz")

Caption: Charles Lorenz remembered in March 13 S-D History Center public program.