Hello Summer!

The last month saw the reopening of the History Museum and July brought the opening of Art of the People: Contemporary Anishinaabe Artists at the History Center School House. We even launched the Tuesday Talk series this past week.

Summer is here and many months of waiting have us ready to reconnect and socialize. Well, the SDHC is here for you!

In addition to Tuesday Talks and exhibits, we’re also announcing a brand new series: History Center On the Road. This three part series of Thursday evening events offers an exclusive opportunity to see historic places and things in new ways. Read more about it in this newsletter.

We have more going on than ever at the SDHC and that means it’s not too late to volunteer! These last several weeks have seen volunteer projects in our gardens, museum docents greeting visitors, exhibit preparations, and collections care, too. If you would like to help, please reach out by phone or email for more information.

Eric Gollannek
Executive Director

The first Tuesday Talk in the Back-in-Time Garden on July 6th. Over 50 people came out to see the Outdoor Discovery Center program on Great Lakes Voyageurs.

Announcing SDHC Summer 2021 Programs

A full range of Tuesday Talks and Meetings run through July and August. These include a blend of in-person programs as well as virtual presentations. Saugatuck-Douglas history presented by experts from across our community and the nation!

July 13, 11am Tuesday Talk
Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage with Brandon Schroeder of the Michigan Sea Grant College Program and Michigan State University Extension. The past, present and future of our Great Lakes will be examined through the history of its fish and the people who fish for them. Virtual program - click to register!

July 14, 7 PM Monthly Meeting
Michigan & the Gay Guides: Understanding LGBTQ Spaces in Pre- & Post-Stonewall America with Dr. Eric Gonzaba, Assistant Professor of American Studies at California State University,
Welcome 2021 Interns
We're pleased to have two interns joining the SDHC team this summer: Caleb Henning and Nat Carow.

Century of Progress
Read about the Labor Day exhibit opening and exclusive opening parties September 3rd.

Family History Group
Want to learn more about your family tree? We're here to help!

Garden History
Read this feature from Chris Yoder on Saugatuck landscape innovators Charles and Lorna Mann.

New Exhibit Now Open!
Art of the People: Anishinaabe Contemporary Artists

Sculptor and curator Jason Quigno places his Zen Boulder at the entrance to Art of the People at the History Center.

Fullerton. Dr. Gonzaba will discuss his digital project Mapping the Gay Guides a program revealing the often-ignored queer geographies through an interactive web application and digital public history. Virtual program - click to register!

July 20, 11am Tuesday Talk
Michigan State Parks along the West Michigan Lakeshore with M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson. This program uses historic photos and postcards to tell the story of these State Parks, most of which border on the shores of Lake Michigan. Although 1919 officially marked their founding, it was in 1920 that Michigan’s first State Parks were established and opened to the public. This program will be held in person in the Back in Time Garden at the History Center in Douglas. Bring a chair and a friend!

Click here to view the full list of programs and events!

Become a sponsor! Would you or your organization like to sponsor a Tuesday Talk? This directly supports the cost of SDHC programs and you get acknowledged in all program publicity for the event. We also encourage multiple sponsors! Please contact us at info@sdhistoricalsociety.org

Did you know you can revisit past programs on the SDHC's YouTube channel?

Visit our YouTube page for history on-demand!
The SDHC has partnered with the SDF Arts Initiative to connect past and present through the visual arts. Seven artists from the Anishinaabe culture who live in our region will fill the gallery at the Saugatuck Douglas History Center with sculpture, paintings, beadwork and mixed media.

The exhibit opened to members at a preview party on July 1st and will remain open into October.

**History Center School House Gallery**
July 1 - October 1
Thursday-Sunday noon - 4 pm

Visit the [SDHC Facebook](#) page for updates as well as the [SDF Arts Initiative website](#) for more information.

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**SDHC On the Road series launches July 22nd**

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center (SDHC) launches its latest “On the Road” series of programs highlighting exciting historic places across the area on Thursdays in July and August.

The History Center on the Road series invites attendees to gather in unique spaces and places for an exclusive view of the area’s historical richness. This new evening program includes wine and cheese, paired with an informal bite-sized history tour and talk. Places or things to discover (or rediscover) include the Cold War era radar station at Mt. Baldhead, the layered history and secrets of the Dorr Felt Mansion, and the creative buildings and landscapes of the Ox-Bow School of Art.

The first program in the series will be hosted at the SDHC History Museum, 735 Park Street, Saugatuck at the base of Mt Baldhead on Thursday, July 22. While anyone who passes through Saugatuck sees the white radar dome—or the Christmas star in winter—few know the story behind this landmark. The July 22nd event will showcase drone footage of the site with expert commentary on Cold War history, engineering technology, and plans to preserve this Saugatuck landmark. Get to see inside the radar site without climbing the stairs!

The second program in the series heads to the Felt Mansion on Thursday, August 5th. The Dorr E. Felt Mansion, adjacent to Saugatuck Dunes State Park, is best known today as a premier wedding venue, but the building
embodies many past lives. Attendees will learn about Chicagoan Dorr Felt’s rags to riches story, his invention of the Comptometer, a mechanical adding machine that made his fortune. The later history of the estate will come to life through behind the scenes tours of the mansion: its history as a Catholic seminary, a prison, a Michigan State Police post, and its rise from ruins after decades of neglect.

The third program in the series makes its final stop at the Ox-Bow School of Art and Artists’ Residency on Thursday, August 19th. Ox-Bow celebrated its 110th summer of operation during the recent pandemic and this program allows attendees a rare opportunity to explore the storied campus with an insider’s view.

In addition to the unique, private experiences at each historic site, the event includes presentations of experts, an array of wine and cheese, and the camaraderie missed over the last year.

Programs run from 6-8 p.m. the access to these sites are unique and exclusive to this event. Admission for the events are $25 per person per event or $60 for all three events and can be purchased through the SDHC website or by email or phone at info@sdhistoricalsociety.org or 269-857-5751.

Click here to order tickets for On the Road!

Would you like to become a sponsor for an On the Road event? Contact Development Chair Michael Mok at mcmok@comcast.net for opportunities!

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are a part of everything the History Center does from caring for our sites to planning and hosting member events.

To learn more about the History Center and what you can do to be a part of the action, note that we are resuming History Center tours and activity overviews. These individual or small group tours are a great way to engage or re-engage with the SDHC whether you’re a new member or a longtime supporter. Email or call Randy DiRosa to schedule a session: rdirosa428@gmail.com or 312-213-6064.

Welcome 2021 Interns!
This summer the SDHC is pleased to host two undergraduate interns. Both will be with us through the months of June, July, and August. In addition to assisting with gallery work and events, they both have valuable roles to play in caring for the SDHC’s art collection and archives.

Caleb Henning

Hello everyone, my name is Caleb Henning. I am the new Archives and Collections intern for the summer. I am from Whitmore Lake, Michigan which is about ten minutes north of Ann Arbor. I am a senior history major at Kalamazoo College with a special interest in women’s history and the history of sexuality at the turn of modernity (1500-1800).

My favorite films are Yentl, The Joy Luck Club, and I Am Love. My favorite novel is Giovanni’s Room by James Baldwin, an absolute classic. My favorite artist is surrealist photographer Claude Cahun. Their self-portrait I Extend My Arms has haunted me since I saw it.

Part of why I am thrilled to work at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is the phenomenal archive of queer life. I have looked over a sliver of the photos in the collection already, and it is safe to say that I am enthralled. There are so many precious memories caught in the archives, and I so look forward to watching them spring back to life.

Nat Carow

Hello everyone, my name is Nat Carow. I’m one of the new Archives and Collections interns for the summer season! I’m very excited to spend more time in Saugatuck-Douglas and immerse myself in the art collection and local history of the area.

I’m originally from St. Joseph, and currently live in Coloma. I’m going into my senior year at Western Michigan University and currently am majoring in Art History. Previously, I received my associates in Visual Art from Lake Michigan College. During the school year I am a Box Office clerk for the Mendel Center theater at Lake Michigan College.

In my studies I have found that my special interests in art history lie in folk and traditional arts, as well as Native American art. In my free time I enjoy going out into nature and sketching, continuing my study of languages such as Spanish and Chinese, and keeping up with current events.

I look forward to meeting everyone involved at the SDHC. When you see me around, I’d be glad to get to know you better and talk about art, regional factoids, or how you found yourself involved at the History Center!

Century of Progress Exhibit Updates

With 2021 Pride month celebrations in the rear view mirror, the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is finalizing its latest exhibit, A Century of Progress – 100 years of LBGTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas.
The exhibit will showcase LGBTQ history and identify factors that have contributed to the diverse and inclusive nature of these two small Lake Michigan coastal villages. Its focus will be local, with state and national LGBTQ developments noted for context. Interpretive materials, photos, and artifacts will be presented using a timeline approach that visitors may follow around the exhibit space. The exhibit will be open to the public beginning Saturday, September 4th during Labor Day weekend and will be housed in the History Center’s School House.

Coinciding with the Century of Progress exhibit will be a related art exhibition, History Book: LGBTQ Portraits. This exhibit will feature more than two dozen stylized portraits of LGBTQ pioneers—some local—by acclaimed Chicago artist and designer David Lee Csicsko. Biographical and historical information for the exhibit was developed by LGBTQ historian and author Owen Keehnen. Both Csicsko and Keehnen are inductees of Chicago’s LGBT Hall of Fame. The exhibit will be housed in the second floor gallery space directly above the Century of Progress exhibit.

You're invited to a party!

A ticketed preview party and viewing of the Century of Progress and History Book exhibits will be held Friday, September 3rd at the History Center’s School House and Garden from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. with beverages, appetizers and a D.J. History Center staff including the exhibit team will be on hand to introduce the exhibit and answer questions. In addition, a separate ticketed VIP champagne reception attended by Csicsko and Keehnen will be held at the Pride Celebration Garden (photo, right) across the street from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. Tickets for both events are available at www.MySDHistory.org or by email/calling the office at 269-857-5751.

Buy tickets to Century of Progress events here!

Historic Demerest Shanty Book

The book, Bounty & Bust: Commercial Fishing in Saugatuck-Douglas, 1860-1970, is available for purchase at the Retro Boat Rentals boathouse as well as at the History Center’s two locations at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck and 130 Center Street in Douglas. You may also order it direct from Amazon publishing here.

You can also follow along on Facebook for regular updates on the history of the waterfront and fishing on Lake Michigan at our page: https://www.facebook.com/SaugatuckShanty

Family History Group Updates
Welcome from John Mayer and Judi Thomas, co-leaders of the SDHC’s Family History Group.

Thank you to Jack Sheridan and Chris Yoder for their dedication to this group over many years. Judi and John will continue their vision for the Family History Group.

This is a reminder that our Family History Group meeting date has changed for the year of 2021. We will meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 3:30pm.

Stay tuned for updates on virtual and in-person meeting options coming soon. An email will be sent to the members of the group 5 days prior to the meeting with details.

Contact us for more information here:
SDHS Family History
Box 617
Douglas, 49406,

sdhsfamilyhistory@gmail.com
269.857.5751

Chris Yoder remembers Charles and Lorna Mann and “The Flower Basket”

Look around Saugatuck and Douglas and if you spot a good size rhododendron in someone’s yard it is likely that it was put there by the late Charles Mann, landscape architect and owner of “The Flower Basket” on South Maple.

Lorna and “Charlie” Mann- 1950 at “The Flower Basket”

Charles was a 1935 graduate of Ohio State University and was employed by the US Soil Conservation Service until his retirement in 1960. He had assignments in New York and Ohio before arrived in the Fennville district in 1941. As a sideline from his government job, he operated a nursery and landscaping service, and continued to run that until retiring from the business in 1971. He and wife Lorna, who he married in 1936, developed a display garden around their South Maple Street home beginning in the late 1940s which they named “The Flower Basket”.

In a winter 1958 address to the Kalamazoo Landscape and Nurseryman’s Association, Charles told how he had become lonesome for the azaleas and rhododendrons of his native Virginia mountains. Until that time these plants were not believed to be able to survive our cold and windy Michigan winters. He began to experiment with different varieties, and found many which actually thrived in our Saugatuck climate, and illustrated his talk with color slides showing shrubs in his garden covered with massive blooms, in many cases so thick as to almost hide the foliage. “If the rose is the queen of flowers, the rhododendron is the king of flowers,” he declared. He predicted they would soon become a major adornment of West Michigan gardens, and indeed they have.
Among the many gardens he installed in our area is one for Mr. Button at the old “Button Gallery” near the west end of Center Street in Douglas. Charles was active in the community, often giving lectures and classes to gardening and other groups and was a leader of the 1940 and 50 vintage Saugatuck Rotary Club, which raised the funds to build the initial high school football field. The Rotary was given permission from the village of Saugatuck to plant Christmas trees on the grounds of the old city airport. Under the leadership of Charles Mann, 15,000 seedlings were planted by high school student volunteers and the first harvest took place in 1955. The harvest went on for nearly a decade.

The Saugatuck years are just a part of the story for Charles and Lorna. Charles was born in Shipman, Virginia in 1911 to Guy Robert Mann, a railroad employee who by 1915 was working at the neighboring “Oak Ridge Estate” of millionaire Thomas Fortune Ryan under the tutelage of Canadian Mr. George Tull. After Mr. Tull left, Charles’ father took over the greenhouse and the outdoor gardens, both ornamental and vegetable. When Ryan died in 1928, his fortune of $155 million was the equivalent of 1/633rd of the US Gross National Product. As he got older, Charles also began to work in the gardens of the Oak Ridge estate. In 1925, the Mann family moved to Wooster OH, where his father became a florist at the Ohio Agriculture Station, doing experimental work with chrysanthemums, carnations and various pot plants.

Lorna, born 1909, was the daughter of Professor Waldo Hilary Dunn, who received his BA and Masters from Yale and his Doctorate from University of Glasgow in 1916. Dunn became head of the English Department at the College of Wooster, Ohio from 1916 to 1934 and a professor of English at Scripts College in California from 1934-1952. He published many books over his career including biographies of Washington, Froude, and R. D. Blackmore (author of “Lorna Doone” and the source of Lorna’s first name.) He researched a biography of New Zealand prime minister Sir Robert Stout which was later to be published with co-author by a young man who was to become a jurist on their supreme court, and Lorna accompanied her father serving as a research assistant during a prolonged 1930’s stay in New Zealand.

Charles passed away at the age of 89 in a Douglas nursing home, and Lorna in 2009, age 99, in Crescent City, California, where she had gone to live with a younger sister. The beauty they left throughout our community continues to be enjoyed today.

Root Camp Success for 2021

During the four days of Root Camp, June 21-24th, 24 young campers learned about the history of the forests at the Lakeshore with John Migas, saw historic tools from the
SDHC's collections, learned how artists create wooden sculpture with Marcia Perry, experienced animal power demonstrations at the Johnson Farm, and experienced the fizzy science behind natural root beer soft drinks with Mike Pcolinski. They also walked to the Root Beer Barrel for a celebratory treat and heard the story of the Barrel from Vic Bella.

Thank you to this year's Root Camp Sponsors: the Fitz, Fan & Zelda Foundation, Joy Muehlenbeck, Gary Medler, Holland Horticulture Club, and the Coral Gables.

This camp could not happen without the work of its volunteer staff including leaders Ruth Johnson and Kim Masterson along with their team of counselors: Natalie, Adam, and Alena Martinson; Thea and Jillian Johnson; Ainsley and Julia Lowery®; Cam Lewis; Eleanor Mason; and Lexi Tomaszewski.

## 2021 Membership News

The Board of Directors approved a simplified membership structure at its March 17th board meeting. The new structure took effect for the 2021 membership year beginning in April.

- **Individual** $40
- **Household** $60
- **Business Partner** $250
- **Lifetime Member** $1,000

**Business members** will be included in the SDHC newsletter and offered special advertising opportunities and gift memberships.

**Become a lifetime member!** No annual renewals and special invites to Lifetime member only events!

[Click here to renew or make a donation with PayPal today!](#)

## 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 non-profit 501(c)3 history organization with nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood of our volunteer organization.

To renew or join as a member, visit our website for more information.

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building.

The History Center -- Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit are located at 130 Center Street in Douglas.

The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily.

The History Center Archives are available for research by appointment. For more information, e-mail the archives directly at archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org

History Center main phone: 269-857-5751
Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901

The SDHC is supported with a grant from Michigan Humanities and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.

The SDHC also receives operational support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).
Your History Center 2021 Summer Calendar

All summer
*Then and Now* exhibit, a juxtaposition of historic and contemporary photographs at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum at Mount Baldhead opens for the season Memorial Day weekend. Open Friday through Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. 735 Park Street, Saugatuck.

*Art of the People: Contemporary Anishinaabe Artists* exhibit, open July 1st at the History Center’s Old School House galleries, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas. Open to the public Friday through Sunday, noon to 4:00 p.m. through October.

**June 15**
Special program on upcoming *Century of Progress* exhibit on area LBGTQ history. Hosted by the Tri-Cities History Museum in Grand Haven. Available [on demand on YouTube](#) for viewing.

**June 22, 2-6 pm!**
*Shanty open house* for SDHC members at Saugatuck’s Historic Demerest Shanty. 730 Water Street, Saugatuck. Open daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

**July 6, 11am Tuesday Talk**
*Voyageurs and the Fur Trade* with Tom Funk of the Outdoor Discovery Center. Outdoors at the History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

**July 13, 11am Tuesday Talk**
*Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage* with Brandon Schroeder of the MSU Sea Grant Program. Virtual.

**July 14, 7 pm** SDHC Monthly Member Meeting: *Michigan & the Gay Guides: Understanding LGBTQ Spaces in Pre- & Post-Stonewall America* with Eric Gonzaba, CMU Fullerton. Virtual.
July 20, 11am Tuesday Talk
*Michigan State Parks along the West Michigan Lakeshore* with M. Christine Byron and Thomas R. Wilson, independent historians. Outdoors at the History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

July 22, 6:00-8:00 pm History Center on the Road – Mt Baldhead RADAR
You won’t want to miss this first program in the SDHC On The Road series! This new evening program includes wine and cheese, paired with an informal bite-sized history talk shared with friends old and new. Hosted at the SDHC History Museum, 735 Park Street, Saugatuck at the base of Mt Baldhead. [Click here to register!](#)

July 27, 11am Tuesday Talk

August 3, 11am Tuesday Talk
Artist talk with Jason Wesaw on Native American History and Culture, History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

August 5, 6:00-8:00 pm History Center on the Road – Felt Mansion
The second stop in the SDHC On The Road series! This new evening program includes wine and cheese, paired with an informal bite-sized history talk shared with friends old and new. Hosted at the Dorr E. Felt Mansion, 6597138th Ave, Holland, MI. Adjacent to Saugatuck Dunes State Park. [Click here to register!](#)

August 10, 11am Tuesday Talk
The Architecture and Material Culture of Great Lakes Fishtowns, with Michael Chiarrappa, Quinnipiac University. Virtual.

August 11, 7 PM, Monthly member meeting: New Perspectives on Early History of Michigan and Saugatuck/Douglas, by Anna-Lisa Cox, independent historian. History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

August 14, 11 am to 4 pm
Creative Spark Native American program, outdoors at the History Center’s Old School House Back in Time Gardens, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

August 17, 11am Tuesday Talk
*Midwestern Givernys: The Saugatuck Colony in Context*, by Wendy Greenhouse,
independent art historian. History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

**August 19, 6:00-8:00 pm History Center on the Road – Ox-Bow**
The third stop in the SDHC On The Road series! This new evening program includes wine and cheese, paired with an informal bite-sized history talk shared with friends old and new. Hosted on the Ox-Bow campus, with short walking tours of historic buildings and sites. 3435 Rupprecht Way, Saugatuck, MI 49453. [Click here to register!](#)

**August 24, 11am Tuesday Talk**
*Why the Great Lakes are so Great, Great Lakes History* by Ashley Demming of the Michigan Maritime Museum. Virtual.

**August 31, 11am Tuesday Talk**
*John Polka. Art History* by Ken Kutzel, art curator for the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.

**September 3**
Opening of the *Century of Progress* exhibit, a Saugatuck-Douglas LGBTQ history timeline along with artist David Csicsko, *History Book: LGBTQ Portraits* exhibit in the upstairs gallery. History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas. [Click here for preview party tickets!](#)

**September 15**
Member Picnic and Awards Presentation. Back-in-Time Garden, History Center’s Old School House, 130 W. Center Street, Douglas.