

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS HISTORY CENTER

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PAST LIVES OF DOUGLAS' KIRBY HOUSE END 2018 "TUESDAY TALK" SERIES AUG. 28

AUG. 17, 2018 -- Tales about the past lives of today's Kirby House Hotel in Douglas will reverberate at Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's final 2018 "Tuesday Talk" on August 28 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.

Telling "Stories of the Inns and Outs of the Kirby House", presenter Marsha Kontio brings historical images and recollections about the original builder, past owners and functions of the grand Victorian home just west of the Douglas stoplight at Center Street and Blue Star Highway.

Originally known as The Sarah M. Kirby House, built in the 1890s and once nicknamed "The Old Grand Dame", the building has historical significance peppered with a long and romantic history, and has earned recognition as a registered Michigan Historic Site. Fast-forward to today, it's known simply as "The Kirby", a confluence of boutique hotel, restaurant and wine lounge.

Kontio's talk looks at what happened between then and now. As a former owner of the property, launching its operation as a bed & breakfast in the 1980-90s, she knows the whole story and is sticking to it.

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 member John Thomas.

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 the months ahead, visit www.MySDHistory.org.

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Caption (“Kirby”): Sarah Kirby, seen at far left next to her good friend Minnie Belle Spencer Gerber, appears in this 1896 SDHC-archive photo showing a group of Douglas residents. She wears black in mourning for the recent death of her husband Frank, while others wear then-fashionable “summer clothes”.