Historical Society of Michigan
Update
Our State
Our Stories
Your Impact

Annual Report of the Historical Society of Michigan
2019
September 2019

Dear Supporter of the Historical Society of Michigan,

Thanks to your help, the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) is making a positive difference in our state. This annual report highlights our activities during the most recent fiscal year, which ended on June 30.

In short, it was a great year!

We engaged more people than ever with our state’s rich history. This is important work. It is our belief that our state’s people can only shape a brighter future if they fully understand how things came to be the way they are today.

In the pages that follow, you will see that our membership and financial contributions are not the only things that are growing.

• The yearlong Michigan History Day® academic competition involving fourth through twelfth graders across the state continues to grow. About 6,000 students researched and created history projects this past year. After competing at the regional level, more than 500 of them advanced to the State Finals in Bay City. More than 60 of those traveled to compete in National History Day, representing our state. One student earned a first-place award at the national level this year.

• Attendance at our three history conferences has increased. Our metro Detroit conference in March hit a new record with 719 people attending (656 the prior year). The Upper Peninsula History Conference and the Michigan History Conference have also been growing.

• Michigan History magazine and Chronicle, our membership magazine, have such high pass-along rates that more than 100,000 people read each issue of Michigan History six times a year and about 20,000 people read each issue of the quarterly Chronicle. Michigan History has one of the largest readerships of all of the state history magazines in the nation.

• More people are participating in our History Hounds™ Lecture Series, the Michigan History Alliance™, and History Skills Workshops™. In different ways, these are all programs that give support to our members that are local historical organizations across Michigan, helping them expand and advance their missions.

• Our extensive awards programs are bringing more recognition to the positive impact of history, whether that be Centennial Farms, Milestone achievements, or history awards that honor people and organizations that have made a dramatic difference in their communities.

On top of all that, in our 191st year, we have a new home (see opposite page)! The Historical Society of Michigan moved its offices this summer to a larger building in the Lansing area in order to increase the reach of our educational programs and services focused on Michigan history. We could not have made this move without your strong support. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Chuck Stokes
President
HSM Board of Trustees

Larry J. Wagenaar
Executive Director and CEO
Historical Society of Michigan
HSM Has Moved to a New Building! Why? To Serve You Better!

The Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) has moved to a larger headquarters in the greater Lansing area at 7435 Westshire Drive, located near the intersection of I-96 and M-43. The new building has nearly 12,000 square feet of space and, with some minor modifications, will offer three education spaces—all with remote learning capabilities—tripling the amount of education opportunities from HSM’s old building, which will allow the Society to enhance and expand its many programs.

“Our staff and Board of Trustees are excited about how this move will help us advance our mission of history education. This gives us significantly more public meeting space in order to deliver expanded programs and services, as well as provides for the next steps of the Society’s continued growth and impact.”

—Larry J. Wagenaar
HSM Executive Director and CEO

Meijer Center for Michigan History

The acquisition of the new building was made possible by a major gift from The Meijer Foundation and contributions from HSM members and friends to the Society’s previous building’s mortgage-reduction campaign.

A longtime sponsor of HSM, The Meijer Foundation has been a committed ally in the Society’s educational efforts. Because of the foundation’s generosity and continued support, HSM’s new building will be named the Meijer Center for Michigan History.

To learn more about what HSM does to keep Michigan’s history alive and thriving, visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828.
Michigan History Day® (MHD) is a yearlong educational program that encourages students in grades 4 to 12 to explore local, state, national, and world history. Students enter their work in a series of competitive events, advancing from school to district to state contests. The program culminates with the National History Day competition in June.

MHD Student Wins First Place at Nationals!

Allison Tate of Whitehall Middle School earned a first-place award at National History Day 2019 in June.

“Once it had settled in, I almost started crying. I was very happy,” said the eighth-grader, who lives in Montague in Muskegon County.

“All those nights at 2 a.m., where I was still adding on to my exhibit, were definitely worth it,” Allison said. “I also could not wait to tell all of the U.S. Thalidomide survivors about my success.”

That is because Allison’s project—“A Bitter Pill to Swallow: Dr. Kelsey’s Triumph Hides an American Tragedy”—focused on a tragic episode in pharmaceutical research history, when a drug company marketed a mild sleeping pill as safe for pregnant women. It was revealed in 1962 that the pill contained Thalidomide and caused thousands of babies worldwide to be born with malformed limbs.

Allison’s mother, Susan, said her daughter’s success came from personalizing this historical event.

“Allison was able to make connections to numerous survivors, including her cousin Andrew, and she chose to spotlight their stories,” she said. “Her personal connection, her interviews, as well as her analysis, all made her project stand out.”

Jan Klco, Allison’s school mentor, said the student’s continuing updates to her exhibit made the difference.

“When she refocused her work before the Michigan History Day State Finals in April from the legal and legislative triumph brought about by Dr. Frances Kelsey to the ongoing tragedy endured by the survivors, using their powerful statements to give life to the story, I knew that this was a truly exceptional entry,” Klco said.

Like other participants, Allison has benefited in many ways by being part of the program.

“Allison has become more poised with her public speaking as a result of preparing for her judging interviews,” said her mother. “This year especially, it has been really amazing to see her maturity and empathy really blossom as she planned and conducted her interviews with the survivors.”

To learn more about Michigan History Day, watch a short video on our website at hsmichigan.org/mhd or call (800) 692-1828.
Students’ answers to the question, What was the single best thing about participating in Michigan History Day?

“How proud I was of all the hard work I did. The feeling of accomplishment. This has been an incredibly rewarding experience.”

“A different way of learning history.”

“Being able to learn more about topics I’m passionate about and creating something with that knowledge.”

“The progress and work I’ve shown makes me very proud of myself.”

“That I was able to show the story from two sides of a coin, not just one side of a story.”

“Learning how to get up in front of people and how to help history live on.”

From a parent of a Michigan History Day participant…

“I want to express my heartfelt thank you in finding this girl’s passion…She met with college professors at History Day to pursue a major in history. She buys history books at our local used bookstore. For someone diagnosed with dyslexia and delayed learning acquisition in elementary school, learning has been a struggle. History has sparked that fire in her. She now has a 3.73 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society, a member of the debate team, and now a national participant in National History Day. I attribute so much of her success to Michigan History Day and your efforts.”

**Michigan Educator Is Teacher of the Year!**

One of the 150 teachers who helped Michigan students participate in the yearlong Michigan History Day program received a national Teacher of the Year award, a highly competitive recognition, during the National History Day competition in June 2019.

Danielle Ozanich, who teaches in the Berkley schools, said she was shocked “to hear my name called” when the award recipient was announced at the national finals. Her focus on students shines through and led her to re-evaluate her approach to mentoring them.

“If I truly wanted to help students think for themselves, I needed to see myself more as a coach, rather than the ‘Keeper of Historical Information,’” she said.

**Michigan educator Danielle Ozanich (right) winner of National History Day’s Hannah E. (Liz) MacGregor Teacher of the Year award, middle school division, with the award’s sponsor, Dr. James F. Harris.**
Michigan History

Since 1917, *Michigan History* magazine has shared the Great Lakes State’s diverse history through feature articles and special sections. A popular history magazine geared toward professionals and enthusiasts alike, *Michigan History* offers a wide variety of subject matter, time frames, and perspectives while inspiring, educating, and entertaining its readers. Every issue explores the state’s most fascinating historical facets and celebrates the history and heritage of all Michigan’s peoples.

**Inside You Will Find...**

- Feature stories about Michigan’s fascinating past
- Histories of communities, institutions, and businesses
- Individuals and groups who have left impressions upon our state
- Sites to explore and Michigan’s history-related news
- And so much more

**Chronicle**

Issued quarterly, *Chronicle* magazine contains articles that celebrate Michigan’s history and the preservation of the state’s diverse cultures and heritages. In addition, *Chronicle*’s special sections provide promotion and awareness for the Society’s organizational members and offer ideas and inspiration for individual history advocates.

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*bOTH magazines are included in an HSM household membership. Visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828 for more details.*
“We would love to share with you some memorable moments taken on our latest excursion with the Historical Society of Michigan. What a fantastic trip, shared with 32 other history buffs. We visited many historic sites, and as a bonus, many of our lunches and all of our dinners every day were at local historic sites or sites with fantastic views of the Hudson River. We highly recommend traveling with this organization.”
—Rick Sawicki

“You may find other tours out there, but none are going to give you the history-filled adventure that Michiganders on the Road provides!”

“Just wanted you to know that Steve and I thoroughly enjoyed the Charleston trip. We especially appreciated that it was organized and that we knew where to be when. The group of travelers was friendly and fun to meet. We were impressed with the knowledge of the docents at various sites, the variety of places we visited, the different dinner restaurants, and with all the planning you did to make the trip go smoothly.... Hopefully, we'll have the opportunity to travel with Michiganders on the Road in the future.... Thanks for putting together such a great trip!”
—Sally Stegink

Our excursions are not “cookie cutter” tours. Each and every Michiganders on the Road™ trip is planned and executed by Robert Myers, HSM's own director of education. Bob has had decades of experience in the history field and has led scores of motor coach tours, so he knows what history enthusiasts look for in their road trips. Bob also gives his personal attention to every aspect of the outings, and as the tour leader, he makes sure your history experience is top-notch.

Here Is a Sampling of Our Tours...

✓ Southern Hospitality Tour: Charleston & The Old South
✓ Painters and Patriots: Hudson River Valley Tour
✓ America’s Architect: Frank Lloyd Wright Tour
✓ Gateway to the West Tour

Thank you for a very enjoyable Frank Lloyd Wright Tour. We have both long admired his work and were delighted when we discovered you were doing this tour. The entire trip was well planned and perfectly executed. We appreciate the ‘no chain restaurant’ policy.”
—Bonnie and Bruce David

“Thanks for leading us on a fantastic, very educational trip.”

(800) 692-1828
hsmichigan.org
Upper Peninsula History Conference

This conference pays particular attention to U.P. history topics and themes and moves to a different location in the Upper Peninsula each year to explore that area’s heritage.

- 3 keynotes and 12-plus breakout sessions
- U.P. History Awards Banquet
- Tours galore!
- Educational workshops and special programs
- Exhibitors/vendors
- Lots of great local food
- Three days of “meet and greets”

HSM members receive special pricing for all three conferences. Visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828 for more details.
Annual Meeting and Michigan History Conference

The Michigan History Conference moves to a different location each year. This conference celebrates all aspects of Michigan's history and offers a closeup look at the heritage of the host area.

- 4 keynotes that cover a wide range of popular topics
- Breakout sessions, workshops, and tours
- President's Reception, State History Awards Banquet, and Closing Banquet
- Exhibitors/vendors and networking opportunities

From a January 2019 article in the Sturgis Journal about Rebecca Shank's interest in local history...

"Having attended the Michigan History Conference held last September in Sturgis, Shank was inspired by the breakout sessions. ‘It primed my pump to come back here and open the books rather than just preparing them for display,’ she said. ‘There is so much good stuff about history to learn if you’ve got the time and interest to learn about it...Every time I open a box or drawer, I find a whole new story to work on,’ she said.”

If you enjoy “sniffing out” and exploring Michigan’s most fascinating historical facets, join us for our evening series of in-depth lectures. The Historical Society of Michigan's History Hounds™ Lecture Series allows attendees to delve into Michigan’s history and dig up a bone or two of new appreciation to take home.

In addition, an HSM member organization has the option to live-stream the lecture for free for its members.

Upcoming History Hounds...

- Oct. 9—Written in Stone: The Sanilac Petroglyphs
- Nov. 13—From Isolationist to Internationalist: Senator Arthur Vandenberg
- Dec. 11—Of Art & Architecture: Pewabic Pottery

"We really enjoy the History Hounds lectures. The concept of the remote access is a real benefit due to our not being able to get to Lansing."

—Barbara and Wally Prince

History Hounds is FREE for HSM members and only $7 for nonmembers.

You can also “attend” History Hounds remotely. If you can see/hear a video on YouTube, you have all the technology you need to join us.
Celebrating heritage, longevity, and endurance.

To find out more about the Milestone Awards and Centennial Farm programs, visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828.

Milestone Awards

The Historical Society of Michigan’s Milestone Awards program celebrates businesses, organizations, and municipalities that have reached their 50th, 100th, 150th, or 200th anniversaries with a custom-made Milestone Awards plaque.

An official Milestone plaque is an excellent way to commemorate your local history, and it will remind both new and longtime patrons and/or members of the rich heritage of their community.

Here are a few recent Milestone recipients…

- Camp Grayling Officers Club
- Hayhoe Asphalt Semicentennial
- City of Muskegon Sesquicentennial
- Marquette County Historical Society Centennial
- All Saints Episcopal Church Sesquicentennial
- Village of Saranac Sesquicentennial
- Gerlach’s Bowling Center Centennial

Centennial Farms

The Centennial Farm program celebrates Michigan’s oldest family farms and highlights the accomplishments of family-owned Michigan farms. A Centennial Farm is a working farm of 10 or more acres that has been continuously owned by the same family for 100 years or longer. Consumers Energy and the DTE Energy Foundation are the program’s Lead Sponsors.
State History Awards

Each year in late September, HSM presents State History Awards to individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the appreciation and understanding of Michigan’s history. The awards recognize the excellence of achievement by an individual or organization in the collection, preservation, and/or promotion of state and local history in 17 categories.

Don’t forget to make your nominations for 2020’s State and U.P. Awards.

History Awards

Upper Peninsula History Awards

HSM presents two awards annually in June that celebrate achievements in advancing U.P. history. The Charles Follo Award is presented to an individual, and the Superior Award recognizes historical societies, museums, and other historical organizations. Both awards recognize outstanding contributions to the preservation and promotion of U.P. history.

2019 Winners...

✓ Charles Follo Award: Frederick Stonehouse
✓ Superior Award: Finnish American Heritage Center

History Hero Awards

The History Hero Award is bestowed by the executive leadership team of HSM to a person who, while usually not working directly in the history field, has given a lifetime of dedication to the preservation and promotion of Michigan’s rich and storied history.

Past Heroes...

✓ Avern Cohn
✓ Janet Mendler
✓ James Paquette
✓ Ellis “Ned” Brandt
✓ Richard A. Santer

“I accept on behalf of all of the other History Heroes out there—most of whom we will never know—who, through the years, dedicated their lives to the unselfish task of ‘digging up,’ preserving, and honoring our long history as one great People here in the state of Michigan.”

—James Paquette

“I am incredibly honored to even be considered for such an award, let alone be selected as a recipient.”

(800) 692-1828
hsmichigan.org
The Michigan History Alliance™ is a regionalized program of the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM) that helps our member organizations preserve and promote history by providing training for their staff and volunteers, fostering collaboration, and sharing information and best practices.

Each regional alliance meets at least twice a year to bring together representatives from HSM member historical organizations in several counties. The Alliance meetings take place in the morning and consist of a networking session and a featured speaker. The speaker offers insights on a topic of concern or opportunity, and the networking and collaboration portion allows for conversations among a region’s historical organizations.

Attendance at a Michigan History Alliance meeting is FREE of charge for current member organizations of HSM. Since the Alliance is a benefit for HSM member organizations, membership is required for participation.

HSM’s History Skills Workshops™ help historical organizations and interested history advocates gain skills that can be applied in museums, organizations, and personal collections. If you are a personal member of HSM or represent an organization that is a member of the Society, registration is $39. Registration for nonmembers is $79 and includes a one-year HSM Household Membership.

**Upcoming Lansing-Based Workshops...**

- ✓ Friday, October 11—Selling History: Operating a Museum Store
- ✓ Friday, October 25—Putting It in Print: Publishing Your History Book
- ✓ Friday, November 8—Byte-Size Collections II: Digitizing AV Documents
- ✓ Friday, November 22—Renovation SOS: Respectful Rehabilitation of Your Old House

Participants can “attend” remotely, if they prefer, any History Skills Workshop that takes place in our Lansing office.
The Historical Society of Michigan extends a hearty thank-you to those members and friends who have played a key role in the growth and success of the Society this past fiscal year. Thanks to their support, we can continue to preserve and promote our state’s history in our five mission areas: publications, educational programs, conferences, awards and recognition, and assistance for local organizations. It is only with the support of our donors that HSM is able to keep Michigan’s history at everyone’s fingertips.

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Michael Stewart
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Lorna P. Straus
Richard Suhreinharch
Jan Terrian
Leslie E. Tolonen
Ray Waldron
Shannon D. White & Randy Dykhuys
Jeff Whitstitt
Frank & Judy Wilhelme
Joellen Wonsen

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Caledonia Farmers Elevator Company
Cengage Learning
Fox Run Village, Inc.
Les Cheneaux Historical Association
Michigan Genealogical Council
Michigan Oral History Association
Michigan Roundtable for Diversity & Inclusion
Michigan Women’s Historical Center & Hall of Fame
Rockford Area Historical Society
Intisar Abdulghani
N.L. Abramson
Kim C. Ahn
Greg Allen
Gordon Andrews
Elizabeth Andrus
David Anthony
F.L. Ascencio
Lyndon Babcock
John Baesler
Roger & Eugenia Bajorek
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