

Where
the past
is present

DETROIT
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

FALL 2012

MAKING HISTORY

A QUARTERLY GUIDE TO EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS, TOURS, PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES



Ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate Detroit Legends Plaza

After more than a year of securing the cement handprints and signatures of some of Metro Detroit's most iconic sports, media and music personalities, *Detroit Legends Plaza* will be officially dedicated on Wednesday, September 19 at a special invitation-only ceremony hosted by News/Talk 760 WJR's own broadcast legend, Paul W. Smith.

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DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MAKING HISTORY is the official quarterly newsletter of the Detroit Historical Society, published each winter, spring, summer, and fall. Questions and comments may be submitted to Bob Sadler at bobsadler@detroithistorical.org.

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Letter from the Executive Director Bob Bury

Something new!

I hope you like the “new look” of our newsletter. It’s another one of the many changes and improvements that we have been working on as part of the *Past>Forward* Campaign.

It’s an exciting time as our plans become reality, and the Detroit Historical Museum has begun to transform right before our eyes. Every day, something changes, and one of the first big changes you can’t help but notice is our new *Detroit Legends Plaza*, right out front on Woodward Avenue.

Over the last 14 months, an amazing array of Detroit luminaries from the worlds of sports, entertainment and media have cast their handprints and signatures in cement for our new *Legends Plaza*. We are excited to officially dedicate this new outdoor attraction on September 19 with News/Talk 760 WJR’s Paul W. Smith, who will host the dedication and, along with a few other local legends, cast his hands in cement. You can read more details about *Legends Plaza* in our cover story and see the complete list of all the people featured on page 6.

As we continue to make solid progress inside the museum — with the installation of our new exhibits — and outside with *Legends Plaza*, we are also moving forward with our fundraising efforts. The support we continue to receive from a broad base of donors is most encouraging. I am especially pleased to share the news of two major gifts just received from individuals who care a great deal about our community and our mission and have stepped up in a big way.

First, my thanks for the generosity and leadership of longtime Dossin Maritime Group board member, Earl Stilson, who, at the Dossin Gala in June, announced a gift to support a number of improvements at our Belle Isle gem. Read more about Earl and his commitment to our future on page 7.

We also recently announced the \$250,000 gift of Detroit’s own Kid Rock in support of the interactive *Kid Rock Music Lab* that will open this fall adjacent to the new *Allesee Gallery of Culture*. This attraction will educate, entertain and inspire visitors of all ages as it presents the musical legacy of Detroit across all genres in a totally new way. More specifics on the *Kid Rock Music Lab* can be found on pages 6 and 7 as well.

Stay tuned for a special issue of *Making History* devoted exclusively to the Grand Re-Opening of the Detroit Historical Museum coming in early November. We are counting down the days with great anticipation!

As always, I thank you for supporting our work in so many ways and look forward to seeing you back at the museum this fall!

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bury

Executive Director & CEO
Detroit Historical Society

ON THE COVER:

NFL Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is among the most recent cultural icons to become a part of the Detroit Legends Plaza, which will be dedicated on September 19 outside the Detroit Historical Museum. The *Pine Lake* will be remembered November 10 at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum (see page 9), and Hudson’s salutes the 1934 Tigers (see page 12).

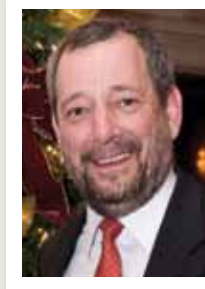
DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

Join us for our 90th Annual Meeting

The Detroit Historical Society's 90th Annual Meeting will be held at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle on Wednesday, October 17, 2012 at 9 a.m.

The Society's Senior Curator, Joel Stone, and Director of Education & Interpretation, Tobi Voigt, will give an update on the progress made to date with the renovations at the Detroit Historical Museum, as well as what exciting new features we can expect as the museum reopens in November! This free event is open to donors, members, and other supporters of the Society and will include a continental breakfast.

To RSVP, please contact Kristin Rossi at (313) 833-1980 by October 8.



Joel Stone



Tobi Voigt



Building Detroit online game scores second national award

As mentioned in the previous issue of *Making History*, the Detroit Historical Society's *Building Detroit* online game was recognized on a national level with a Silver Award in the Games and Augmented Reality category at the American

Association of Museums' 2012 MUSE Awards in April in Minneapolis.

Now, in addition, *Building Detroit* has received an Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), which will be presented at the organization's annual conference in October in Salt Lake City. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards, now in their 67th year, are the most prestigious achievement in the preservation and interpretation of state and local history.

The AASLH awards program was initiated in 1945 to establish and encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation and interpretation of state and local history throughout the United States. The AASLH Leadership in History Awards not only honor significant achievements in the field of state and local history, but also bring public recognition for small and large organizations, institutions and programs that make contributions in this arena.

"We're doubly thrilled to be chosen to receive these awards," stated Tobi Voigt, the Society's Director of Education & Interpretation. "It's been amazing how teachers and students have responded to the game since it launched, and these awards continue to demonstrate the educational value of *Building Detroit*."

This project was made possible through a grant from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan.



Celebrate the 40th Annual Noel Night December 1

Come explore the newly renovated Detroit Historical Museum as you enjoy the 40th annual celebration of Noel Night on Saturday, December 1 from 5 to 9 p.m. in Midtown!

Visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, listen to holiday music by the YMCA Deep River Choir and St. Paul's handbell

choir, and bring the little ones for a special make-and-take craft area courtesy of the Alpha Kappa Alpha, Inc. sorority.

Finally, step outside onto Woodward Avenue from 9 to 9:30 p.m. to join the singalong with thousands of metro Detroiters and the Salvation Army Band. For more information on Noel Night, visit www.detroitmidtown.com.

Save the Date!

Detroit Historical Museum Re-Opening Gala

**Saturday, November 17, 2012
6 to 11 p.m.**

Be the first to see the new Detroit Historical Museum through an evening of remarkable history, Detroit-centric cuisine and fabulous live entertainment!

Explore the *Streets of Old Detroit* and new exhibits including:

Detroit: The Arsenal of Democracy
Allesee Gallery of Culture
Doorway to Freedom
Gallery of Innovation
Kid Rock Music Lab

Strolling Dinner

Sophisticated Cocktail Attire

Valet Parking

Honorary Chairs:

Maggie and Bob Allesee
Marcia and Eugene Applebaum
Marlene and John A. Boll
Ann and James B. Nicholson

For more information, please visit detroithistorical.org or contact Illana Greenberg at (313) 833-3274 or email illanag@detroithistorical.org

FALL 2012

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

\$20 Detroit Historical Society members • \$30 Guests (unless otherwise noted)

Sponsored by



Advance reservations required. Tour registrants receive directions to the tour location, a map and additional information 1–2 weeks after payment is received. Tours typically last 90 minutes to two hours. No refunds or tour credits will be given. You may choose from three options to sign-up:

1 Fill out and send the form on page 14 2 Register online at www.detroithistorical.org 3 Call (313) 833-1801 to register by phone



Detroit Golf Club OCTOBER 6 – 10 A.M.

\$35 members/\$45 guests
Includes lunch!

Founded by William R. Farrand and several friends in 1899, the club started small but grew quickly and was formally opened in 1906. When additional property was bought in 1913, world-renowned golf architect Donald Ross determined that two 18-hole courses could be built on the land. Work began in 1914. The current clubhouse, which was designed by Albert Kahn, was begun in 1916. Wartime problems hampered construction, but the clubhouse was finally completed in May 1918. Come explore this exclusive club and enjoy a wonderful luncheon!



Detroit Yacht Club OCTOBER 13 – 10 A.M.

\$30 members/\$40 guests
Includes lunch!

The historic Detroit Yacht Club was founded shortly after the Civil War in 1868 and has served as host to over 100 years of U.S. presidents, local statesmen, royalty and the Hollywood elite. It has remained viable through the Great Depression, while serving five generations of members and families. The health and vitality of the DYC is evident in the beautifully maintained 1920s Mediterranean-style villa that continues to be the largest yacht club in the United States.

The Charles Lang Freer House OCTOBER 20 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The Freer House is considered to be one of the most significant historic buildings in

Michigan, both for its unique shingle-style design and for its association with Detroit industrialist and art collector Charles Lang Freer. Built in 1892 and designed by the Philadelphia architect Wilson Eyre, the Freer House is referred to by historian Thomas Brunk as “the original Freer Gallery of Art.” Acquired by the Merrill Palmer School in 1920, the house today serves as the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute of Wayne State University.

William Colburn, Freer House director, will describe the building’s rich history and plans for future public interpretation and restoration. A brief video on the history of Freer and the Freer House will be shown.



**If you are interested in learning more about Charles Lang Freer before the tour, take a look at page 10 for information about the October 7 Charles Lang Freer Lecture and Symposium.*

G.A.R. Building (under construction) OCTOBER 27 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The GAR Building was designed by architect Julian Hess and constructed as an appropriate structure for meetings and other GAR-related activities. The original construction cost was split between the Grand Army of the Republic (who paid \$6,000 of the cost) and the city of Detroit (that paid the remainder of the \$44,000 total cost). Construction commenced in 1897 on the five-story building.

After sitting vacant for many years, the GAR building was purchased from the city of Detroit by a company called Mindfield in November 2011. Mindfield, a media production firm, has started renovating the GAR, with opening slated for 2013. The firm plans to occupy the top two floors itself, lease the ground floor for retail and a restaurant, and dedicate a memorial to Civil War Veterans.

This tour will take you behind the scenes of the extensive renovation.



The Players Playhouse Evening NOVEMBER 2 – 6 P.M.

\$75 members/\$85 guests
Special Friday evening tour and performance includes dinner! 6:00 p.m. tour, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. performance

If you have been looking for a reason to “dress to the nines,” this evening is for you! You will enjoy a tour of the historic Players Playhouse and dinner before the Players’ performance. Following the Shakespearean tradition, all the roles will be played by men.



The Parade Company Studio NOVEMBER 10 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/
\$30 guests

On the Behind the

Scenes Studio Tour, you are invited to discover Detroit’s hidden treasures at The Parade Company Studio. Step into a story land of color and fun as we get ready for one of Detroit’s most anticipated holiday events, America’s Thanksgiving Parade®.

Wander through a wonderland of fantasy and floats. Marvel at the world’s largest collection of antique papier-mâché heads. See the costume department where our characters come to life. Meet award-winning artisans who bring the magic to you! With many more characters turning up every day, this is a tour that Detroiters of all ages enjoy.



Guardian Building NOVEMBER 17 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The Guardian Building is one of the most significant and striking Art Deco skyscrapers in the world. The building’s taller north tower and smaller octagonal south tower are connected with a nave-like block similar to

FALL 2012

BEHIND THE SCENES TOURS

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Advance reservations required. Tour registrants receive directions to the tour location, a map and additional information 1–2 weeks after payment is received. Tours typically last 90 minutes to two hours. No refunds or tour credits will be given. You may choose from three options to sign-up:

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the plan of a cathedral. In fact, the Guardian Building was once promoted as “the Cathedral of Finance.” Its grandeur was, and still is, unconventional. Visitors are awestruck by the explosion of color, craftsmanship and blending of Native American, Aztec, and Arts & Crafts influences. Acclaimed guide Ellen Howell will share her vast knowledge of the building and personal anecdotes in this highly anticipated tour.

**NOVEMBER 24 • NO TOUR—
THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY OBSERVED**

**WWJ Newsradio 950
DECEMBER 1 – 10 A.M.**

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Tour Michigan’s only all-news radio station, WWJ Newsradio 950. Currently owned and operated by CBS Radio, WWJ first went on the air August 20, 1920 with the call sign 8MK. It was the first station to broadcast news reports regularly, as well as the first regularly scheduled religious broadcast and play-by-play sports broadcast. WWJ is committed to keeping listeners informed with “Traffic and Weather Together on

the 8s” and the latest local and national headlines 24 hours a day!



**William L. Clements Library,
Ann Arbor
DECEMBER 7 – 10 A.M.**

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Special Friday Tour!

The Clements, opened in 1923 on the campus of the University of Michigan, is a unique resource for students, faculty and researchers. The library houses rare books, pamphlets, maps, prints, photographs and manuscripts that shed light on North American history from Columbus through the 19th century. On almost any aspect of the early American experience — military history, politics and government, religion, gender

and ethnicity, culinary history, the creative arts, travel and exploration — the holdings at Clements are among the best in the world.

**Detroit Media Partnership
Operations Facility
DECEMBER 15 – 10 A.M.**

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The *Detroit Free Press* was first published as the *Democratic Free Press* and *Michigan Intelligencer* in 1831. The *Detroit News* began publication in 1873 and rented space in the *Detroit Free Press* building. In 1987, the two newspapers entered into a 100-year joint operating agreement that combined their business operations and resulted in the Detroit Media Partnership. During this special tour, guests will go behind the scenes at the Sterling Heights Operations Facility and see how the papers are created, printed and distributed to your doorstep.

**DECEMBER 22 • NO TOUR—
CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OBSERVED**

**DECEMBER 29 • NO TOUR—
NEW YEAR HOLIDAY OBSERVED**

Historic Houses of Worship Tours

Since 1972, the Historic Houses of Worship tours have acquainted metro Detroiters with the contributions religious institutions have made in the development of our community. These tours are sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society.

The cost is \$40 for Detroit Historical Society members and \$50 for guests.

Your tour fee includes transportation with docent commentary, historical presentations at each tour stop, lunch and donations back to each location. Tours now feature comfortable motor coaches, providing you with a relaxing view of our architecturally unique city!

All tours run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and depart from and return to the Detroit Historical Museum (unless otherwise noted).

NOTE: Due to the popularity of these tours, it is recommended that you make reservations well in advance. No group or individual reservations will be held without payment in full.

Special Offer!

In September, Wayne State University Press is releasing a long-awaited book that you can purchase at a discount when you order a ticket for one of our upcoming Historic Houses of Worship tours.

In Detroit’s Historic Places of Worship, authors Marla O. Collum, Barbara E. Krueger and Dorothy Kostuch profile 37 architecturally and historically significant houses of worship that represent 8 denominations and nearly 150 years of history. The authors focus on Detroit’s most prolific era of church building, the 1850s to the 1930s, in chapters that are arranged chronologically. Entries begin with each building’s founding congregation and trace developments and changes to the present day. Full-color photos by Dirk Bakker bring the interiors and exteriors of these amazing buildings to life, as the authors provide thorough architectural descriptions, pointing out notable carvings, sculptures, stained glass, and other decorative and structural features. Anyone interested in

NOVEMBER 5

St. Patrick’s Chapel of the Little Flower
Messiah Church
St. Bonaventure Monastery
Spirit of Hope
Ecumenical Theological Seminary

DECEMBER 3

Church of the Messiah
Holy Family
St. John-St. Luke United Church of Christ
Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit
Mariners’ Church of Detroit

Detroit’s architecture or religious history will be delighted by Detroit’s Historic Places of Worship.

For a limited time, when you purchase a ticket for one of our Historic Houses of Worship tours, you can purchase a copy of Detroit’s Historic Places of Worship for only \$30 (retail value \$39.95). This option will be available by phone and on our website.

continued from cover...

Ribbon-cutting ceremony to dedicate Detroit Legends Plaza

“Currently, the outdoor space — the Detroit Historical Museum’s front door so to speak — contains a static, concrete map of the original Woodward Plan and, while an important historical topic, doesn’t necessarily stimulate visitors or community residents to explore the area,” explained Detroit Historical Society CEO Bob Bury.

“As a result of the *Past>Forward* Campaign, however, the Society will transform this space into a vibrant exterior exhibit — *Detroit Legends Plaza* — that we hope will encourage new interest in the area by children, adults, residents and visitors alike.”

Nationally and even internationally, Detroit has been known as the home of a wide range of sports, entertainment and media icons that have made our region great. *Detroit Legends Plaza* will feature concrete handprints of many of these well-known Detroit cultural icons as a means of exploring the idea that tomorrow’s history is being made every day by the men and women of today’s Detroit.

Combined with increased signage to highlight both the museum and the new *Detroit Legends Plaza*, the Society believes that this attraction has the potential to become one of the region’s key tourist and cultural sites, akin to the position that the Hollywood Walk of Fame occupies in southern California. By creating a new exterior destination at the corner of Woodward and Kirby, this new museum feature should have a tremendous impact on the region’s efforts to make Midtown a key focal point for the rebirth of Detroit, attracting new younger audiences to the area and aligning well with the potential M-1 light rail plan that will transform Woodward Avenue and Midtown.

“This type of transformative initiative will broaden the museum’s demographics, as the opportunity to connect with living cultural icons will help engage visitors who might view historical museums as not relevant to today’s generation,” stated Bury.

Following the ceremony, the plaza will be officially open to the public in advance of the Detroit Historical Museum’s public grand re-opening scheduled for Friday, November 23.

To date, the metro Detroit celebrities that have cast their handprints and signatures are as follows:

1. **Juan Atkins**, one of the founders of the genre of music known as Detroit Techno
2. **Dave Bing**, former Detroit Piston, Basketball Hall of Famer and mayor of Detroit
3. **Alice Cooper**, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer
4. **Carl Craig**, Detroit composer and Techno performer
5. **Joe Dumars**, Detroit Pistons president and Basketball Hall of Famer
6. **Eddie Fowlkes**, early Techno innovator
7. **Carmen Harlan**, longtime Local 4 anchor
8. **Thomas Hearns**, boxing champion
9. **Gordie Howe**, Hockey Hall of Famer and Red Wing legend
10. **Mike and Marian Ilitch**, founders of Little Caesars Pizza
11. **Al Kaline**, Detroit Tiger and Baseball Hall of Famer
12. **Elmore Leonard**, best-selling author and screenwriter
13. **Ted Lindsay**, Hockey Hall of Famer and former Red Wing
14. **Derrick May**, one of the founders of Detroit Techno
15. **Jeff Mills**, a Techno DJ known as “The Wizard”
16. **Dick Purtan**, legendary Detroit radio morning drive personality
17. **Sam Raimi**, film producer, director, screenwriter and actor
18. **Martha Reeves**, Motown recording artist and Rock and Roll Hall of Famer
19. **Barry Sanders**, former Detroit Lion and Pro Football Hall of Famer
20. **Kevin Saunderson**, one of the founders of Detroit techno
21. **Devin Scillian**, Local 4 anchor, children’s book author and musician
22. **Lily Tomlin**, actress/comedienne

In addition, Paul W. Smith and longtime award-winning anchor Diana Lewis from WXYZ Channel 7 will complete their hand-castings as part of the dedication event.

Past>Forward Campaign commitments approach 75 percent of goal

With gifts from both businessman Earl Stilson and the Kid Rock Foundation leading the way, the Detroit Historical Society announced recently that its *Past>Forward* Campaign has raised \$14.7 million toward its fundraising goal of \$20.1 million.

Stilson’s contribution will be directed toward the planned enhancements at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum, a fitting symbol of his passion for the Great Lakes and their rich history. Among his many volunteer commitments, the Vietnam veteran and self-made

entrepreneur currently serves on the board of the Society’s Dossin Maritime Group, which works to preserve our region’s maritime history and heritage through the presentation of programs and events related to the Great Lakes and their heritage.

The Kid Rock Foundation is donating \$250,000 to the Society to establish what will be known as the Kid Rock Music Lab, an interactive gallery that covers more than 100 years of Detroit’s musical history. It will span a myriad of genres from jazz and blues to gospel, funk, rock, pop, techno and hip hop — all of which have defined Detroit in song. The donation, the foundation’s largest to date, was derived from Bob “Kid Rock” Ritchie’s own love for the City of Detroit. As a result, everyone from Motown legends like

Campaign gift looks to make the Dossin more kid-friendly

Earl Stilson has beaten the odds throughout his life.

From undergoing a series of operations to correct being born with his eyes fused shut to overcoming learning disabilities, Stilson admits to a difficult childhood. Born into a working class family in Garden City and growing up in Wayne, he developed an interest in all things mechanical and found his niche in shop classes at Wayne Memorial High School.

After graduation, Stilson joined the Army where he applied his skills initially repairing heavy equipment before serving as a helicopter crew chief in Vietnam. He was wounded and spent three months in the hospital before getting reassigned to Detroit after the death of his father.

Once discharged, Stilson took a job with the Macomb County Road Commission and also started doing mechanical work on boats. Eventually, he launched his own boat repair business, which still operates more than 40 years later — Marine Sales and Repair, Inc. in Harrison Township. The success of this venture led to Stilson acquiring additional businesses over the years, including gas stations, bowling alleys, medical facilities and other real estate holdings.

His friend Kathy Shuler got him involved in the Dossin Great Lakes Museum more than a decade ago, and he and Kathy both serve on the board of the Detroit Historical Society's Dossin Maritime Group.

In support of the Society's *Past>Forward* Campaign, Stilson has made a substantial donation designated for the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. His generosity will enable the Society to enhance the pavilion housing the Miss Pepsi championship hydroplane and name it the "Earl W. Stilson Pavilion."

"I like innovative things, and the *Miss Pepsi* was a unique boat," Stilson said with a laugh. "It was one-of-a-kind, and I'm one-of-a-kind."

Stevie Wonder and Smokey Robinson to rock icons like Iggy Pop, Alice Cooper and the MC5 will be represented in the gallery, as will Kid Rock himself.

"Naturally, the dollar value of their commitments is critical as we look to reach our goal," stated Society CEO Bob Bury. "But more importantly, their contributions are an endorsement of what the Society represents and the promise that it brings."

For those that have not yet made a personal gift, why not consider joining those who have? Please contact our Campaign Director, Michelle Wooddell, at (313) 833-1627 to learn more.



Earl Stilson

In addition, Earl and Kathy are also donating a Jersey Skiff speed boat, which will be used as the key component of a new boat simulator attraction at the Dossin.

"I wanted to do something for kids, and kids want something active," Stilson said.

"My hope for the simulator is to create the feel of actually being in a boat on the water and make kids interested in boating."

Society CEO Bob Bury shares Stilson's excitement for creating a new unique attraction at the Dossin. "Earl encouraged us to bring the Museum to life, and thanks to his generosity — and his Jersey Skiff — we are able to make it happen."

Stilson thinks supporting the *Past>Forward* Campaign and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum is necessary to keep the region's maritime history alive. "It's important for future generations to see how Detroit was built," he concluded.



Kid Rock

For more information call (313) 833-5538 or visit www.detroithistorical.org



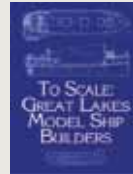
Bells and Whistles, Flags and Flashes: Lost Languages of the Lakes

Closes Sunday, December 2, 2012
DeRoy Hall

Come learn a language unlike any other at this latest exhibit that explores the various methods used by mariners to communicate with other sailors, vessels and people on the shores.

Over the centuries, sailors have used various tools and codes to communicate. These have included flags, flares, bells, whistles, drums and speaking trumpets. The advent of electronic communication brought telegraphy, lights, radios and cell phones. Special "languages" were encoded to allow these various tools to be employed and understood by other ships and shore-based observers.

Adults and kids of all ages will enjoy learning about communication on the Great Lakes through this interactive display of ship horns, whistles and other unique — often clever — devices.



To Scale: Great Lakes Model Ship Builders

Closes Sunday, December 2, 2012
Great Lakes Gallery

Model shipbuilding is an endangered folk art and is an important part of our Great Lakes maritime culture. As such, we invite you to explore the art of model shipbuilding in a highly interactive way in the newest exhibition at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum!

Experience the largest collection of model Great Lakes vessels anywhere. Learn about the history of model-making in the region, and hear stories about specific vessels themselves. Model-making tools are showcased, and the "workshop" is surrounded with models, showcasing the wide array of sizes, quality and possibilities — including the ever-popular ship-in-a-bottle.

Make your plans now to visit this fun and unique testament to our maritime heritage.

Community Sponsors



This activity is supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts.

War of 1812: A Nation Forged by War

Closes Sunday, December 2, 2012

The National Museum of the United States Navy presents its latest traveling mini-exhibit, commemorating the 200-year anniversary of the War of 1812 and highlighting the prominent role of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, and the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service in bringing Great Britain to the negotiating table and forcing European recognition of a truly independent United States. The exhibit tells the stories of heroic U.S. Navy crews in battles on the oceans and Great Lakes, as well as the contributions of sailors in celebrated land battles from Canada to Louisiana.

The War of 1812 was fought between the United States and Great Britain from June 18, 1812 to February 18, 1815 and was sparked by conflicting maritime policies and competing western expansion along the United States-Canadian frontier. After two and a half years the young American republic and the world's leading superpower found themselves in a stalemate and concluded a fair and equitable peace.

Marine Mart coming on November 17

Get a head start on your holiday shopping, and find everything and anything maritime-themed at the 32nd annual Marine Mart, sponsored by the Dossin Maritime Group, on Saturday, November 17 at the historic Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

This event features vendors offering such unique items as ship models, photos, artifacts, books and artwork — just in time for the holidays!

Early birds looking for that special gift can gain admission at 9:30 a.m. for \$10. Regular admission for \$7 begins at 10 a.m. The event runs until 2:30 p.m. All tickets will be sold at the door.

Space is available to rent at \$40 per table, with a maximum of two tables per vendor. Register your table by September 28, 2012 to receive a \$5 discount per table. Contact Alanna Shahly, Development Associate, at (313) 833-7938 for more information or to purchase a table.



Fall Specials at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum Store

October: Explore the dark and paranormal mysteries of the Great Lakes and take 20% off "Haunted Tales of the Great Lakes" and "Haunted Lighthouses of the Great Lakes" DVDs.

November: In honor of Veterans' Day, our "Vietnam Generation" and "Detroit's Greatest Generation" DVDs will be 30% off all month. (This sale applies to our Online Store as well.)

December 1st and 2nd: Blowout sale at the Dossin! 30% off all merchandise at the Dossin! Society and Dossin Maritime Group members can take 40% all merchandise.

For more information call (313) 833-5538 or visit www.detroithistorical.org

Join us for the Dossin Maritime Group's Fair Winds Fall Gathering October 21



Keith Steffke

Who was the first industrialist to achieve “vertical integration”? What man was the first to purposefully misplace the propeller on a ship? Who became the first millionaire making cars, and then invested the proceeds in passenger boats? Why did a wealthy retired man wait until he was nearly 80 to look for “gold” under the Detroit River? Who used ships to make

automobiles, and then automobiles to make ships? And why did it take until 1927 to start building the Ambassador Bridge?

The answers to these and many other interesting (and often humorous) questions will be presented by noted maritime historian Keith M. Steffke as part of his presentation “Legacy on the Lakes: Six Men Who Made a Lasting Difference on the Great Lakes.” Steffke’s presentation highlights the Dossin Maritime Group’s annual Fair Winds Fall Gathering on Sunday, October 21 from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. Tickets are \$25 for Detroit Historical Society/Dossin Maritime Group members and \$30 for guests. For more information, call (313) 833-1801 or visit www.detroithistorical.org.

Steffke will reveal how the lives of six distinct and unrelated men provided lasting achievements on the Great Lakes while they pursued their individual dreams

and goals. Using rare photographic and archival materials from his Steffke Memorial Maritime Collection, he will discuss the character and skills of men who were giants in their day, but are now forgotten, to others that are still “household” names. Many of the photos, manuscripts and other ephemera present in Steffke’s narration have never been published and are new to the historical public.

Steffke has been a maritime historian, writer, lecturer and master model-maker for over 30 years. A lifelong Downriver resident, Steffke claims a heritage in the area that goes back to before Michigan was even a territory, and has had ancestors that worked in nearly every maritime field of the Detroit River region. Lighthouse keepers, shipbuilders, captains, sailors, market fishermen and duck hunters are all found in his background.

Annual Lost Mariners Remembrance on November 10 observes Detroit River shipwreck

During this annual program on the anniversary of the sinking of the *Edmund Fitzgerald*, we remember sailors lost on our inland seas. This year’s Lost Mariners Remembrance takes place Saturday, November 10 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

The event focuses on the *Pine Lake*, a local vessel that was rammed and sunk just east of Belle Isle, with loss of life. The presentation, “Danger at Every Turn,” will be shared by Detroit Historical Society senior curator Joel Stone.

Shipwrecks, and their attendant loss of life, can happen anywhere. In our mind’s eye, ships vanish in mid-lake, are broken on a distant rocky shore, or are beaten by icy waves just beyond the reach of rescuers. Seldom do we imagine shipwrecks in our own backyard.

The Detroit River, once the busiest waterway in the world, has been the site of hundreds of wrecks that claimed the lives of many mariners. Congested traffic resulted in collisions that sent innumerable vessels to the bottom. Uncharted waters and shifting currents put many boats aground. Mechanical failures and human error claimed ships through explosion and fire.

Highlights of the evening include a performance by Lee Murdock, Great Lakes balladeer; a commemoration of Captain Donald Erickson’s (1927–2012) contributions to shipping on the lakes; the Honor Guard escort of the memorial wreath to the Detroit River for receipt by the Honor Flotilla of Great Lakes vessels; and a lantern vigil at the *Edmund Fitzgerald* anchor.

Special thanks to the Canadian Shipowners Association and the Lake Carriers Association for co-sponsoring this event.

Tickets are \$5 for Detroit Historical Society/Dossin Maritime Group members and marine professionals in uniform, \$10 guests and \$25 for families of up to 6 people. For reservations or more information, please visit www.detroithistorical.org or call (313) 833-1801. Seating is limited, and advance reservations are requested.



The Pine Lake

The Detroit Historical Society has extended its partnership programs to include day and evening events offered by other non-profit and community-based organizations. Please use the contact information given for more details.

30TH Annual Historic Fort Wayne Flea Market Returns October 6–7

Detroit Historical
Society Guild

Antique and bargain hunters will find collectibles, contemporary treasures and a variety of arts and crafts at the 30th annual Historic Fort Wayne Flea Market, taking place Saturday and Sunday, October 6–7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 6325 W. Jefferson (at the foot of Livernois). The event is co-presented by the Detroit Historical Society Guild and the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition.

Returning by popular demand, tours of the Historic Fort Wayne complex will be offered each day. The guided tours will include the Star Fort built in the 1840s and the Spanish-American War Guard House.

Secured parking is \$5 per vehicle, admission is free for the flea market, and the tours are priced at \$3 per person. Refreshments and baked goods will also be for sale. Vendors can purchase tables for only \$30 or three tables for \$75.

For more information on the flea market or to purchase a table, call Shirley Hartert at (313) 882-6107.



9th Annual Celebration of Books

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2012
RECEPTION, 5:30 – 8 P.M.
(PROGRAM AT 6:30)

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul
4800 Woodward Ave, Detroit
To Benefit Wayne State University Press

Celebrate WSU Press's new books and browse over 100 favorite titles! Featuring tours of the historic Cathedral Church of St. Paul, a strolling themed supper catered by AVI Fresh, and book sales and signings. Marla O. Collum and Barbara E. Krueger will present highlights from their new book, *Detroit's Historic Places of Worship*.

Tickets are \$30 or \$10 with student ID. Visit wsupress.wayne.edu/fallevent to reserve your tickets! For more information, please contact Emily Nowak at (313) 577-6128 or enowak@wayne.edu.

Charles Lang Freer Lecture and Symposium

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2012

Detroit Institute of Arts

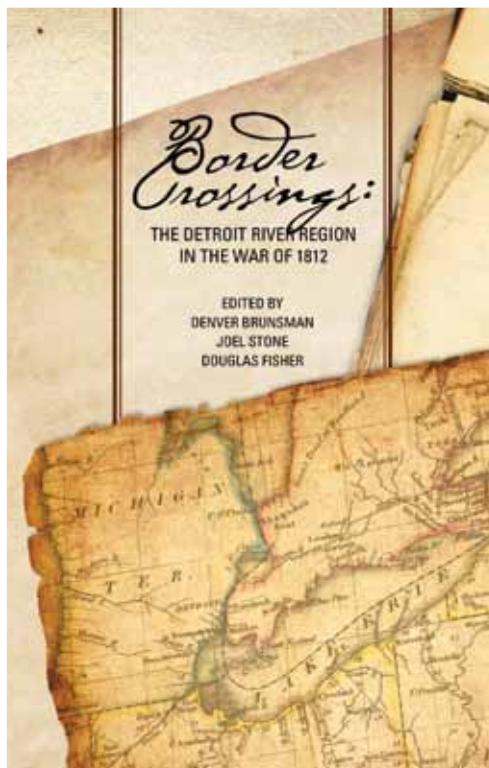
**Want to learn more about Charles Lang Freer before the October 20 Behind the Scenes tour? Start with this program!*

A symposium, *The Living Legacy of Charles Lang Freer: Detroit and Washington, D.C.* will be held at the DIA's Danto Lecture Hall, with tours and a reception following at the historic Freer House. This free public event will feature a key note lecture at 2 p.m. by Dr. Julian Raby, Director, Freer and Sackler Galleries of Art, Smithsonian Institution, entitled "Points of Contact: Freer's Vision for American and Asian Art — Past, Present and Future." Symposium speakers from 3:30–5:30 p.m. include Dr. Thomas Brunk, Dr. Geoffrey Drutchas and William Colburn on topics related to

Freer's contributions to Detroit industry and culture, his Ferry Avenue home, and the gift of his art collection to the nation. The lecture and symposium are co-sponsored by: the Freer House, Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute, Wayne State University; the Detroit Institute of Arts; the Detroit Historical Society; and the Japan American Society of Greater Detroit and Windsor. The event is free with DIA admission.



The Detroit Historical Society has extended its partnership programs to include day and evening events offered by other non-profit and community-based organizations. Please use the contact information given for more details.



War of 1812 Symposium

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2012 • 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Detroit Historical Museum

In conjunction with Wayne State University, the Detroit Historical Society invites you to delve into the history of the War of 1812 and its impact on Detroit. This day-long symposium will include two break-out sessions, a keynote presentation by Alan Taylor and lunch.

Alan Taylor is Professor of History at the University of California Davis and a contributing editor to the *New Republic*. His most recent publication, *The Civil War of 1812* has drawn widespread praise, described in one critique as “the most illuminating and original history of the conflict ever written.” Previous books include *William Cooper’s Town*, which won the Bancroft and Pulitzer prizes for American history.

Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812, edited by Denver Brunzman, Joel Stone and Douglas Fisher, will be available for sale during the event. This book, available from Wayne State University Press in November 2012, is a compilation of the essays written and presented during the symposium.

Our most recent partnership symposium sold out, so be sure to order tickets in advance! Tickets are \$10 for students, \$20 for Society members and \$25 for guests. Please visit www.detroithistorical.org or call (313) 833-1801 for more information or to purchase tickets.

Special thanks to CommunityEngagement@Wayne and the Daughters of the American Revolution Louis St. Clair Chapter for sponsoring this special program!

Attention: Members! Save the Date!

Saturday, December 8 from
Noon to 4 p.m.

Watch your mail for your invitation to say goodbye to the Dossin Great Lakes Museum before it closes for renovations.

The 2 x 4 signed by members attending the Detroit Historical Museum’s closure party on May 24 is now a permanent part of the new *Gallery of Innovation* exhibit on the second floor. These photos are your only chance to see it, since it is now covered with exhibit cases!





Fall Days of Detroit

SEPTEMBER 27, 1999 — The final game was played at Tiger Stadium.

SEPTEMBER 29, 1813 — British troops vacated Detroit, having occupied the city since August 16, 1812.

OCTOBER 1, 1908 — The first Ford Model T went on sale.

OCTOBER 18, 1730 — Antoine de la mothe Cadillac, the founder of Detroit, died in France.

NOVEMBER 6, 1973 — Coleman Young was elected Detroit's first African American mayor.

NOVEMBER 19, 1928 — The first Detroit Historical Museum opened on the 23rd floor of the Barlum (now Cadillac) Tower.

DECEMBER 6, 1865 — The 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that abolished slavery, authored by Michigan Senator Jacob Howard of Detroit, was ratified.

A large flag adorns the Hudson's downtown store in honor of the Detroit Tigers capturing the 1934 American League pennant on September 24. Unfortunately, the Tigers lost the World Series to the Cardinals that year, but won their first World Championship just one year later over the Chicago Cubs. (photo courtesy of the Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University)

FALL 2012

COLLECTIONS CORNER

Editor's note: Please look for this space in each future issue of Making History to learn more about a specific item from the Society's collection of more than 250,000 artifacts.

Wampum Treaty Belt

One of the oldest Detroit artifacts in the collection is a 250 year-old wampum treaty belt. This wampum belt, made of traditional purple and white shell beads, was the Native American method for recording important events; in this case, it was the transfer of a large piece of land.

The belt was attached to a handwritten deed for 2,000 acres at the west end of Lake Superior to British Army Major Robert Rogers from the Chippewa tribe. The deed was signed at Detroit on December 23, 1760 by Chiefs Ogemavas, Nawkusick, Moyeltice, and Kechi-cushonce. While the treaty gave ownership of the land to the British, the Chippewa retained hunting and fishing rights. According to the deed, "a desire to convince the World that we will grant him our Country with Troop as well as for the Consideration of 100 white blankets, Fifty ... blankets, Twenty barrels of Rum, forty Pounds Vermillion, Twenty thousand wampum and three hundred pounds of Gunpowder, Two hundred of Shot and Ball." The deed was signed less than a month after Rogers had taken over Detroit's Fort Pontchartrain from the French. The signed deed was transferred to the Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library, in 1949.



Please visit our collections blog at <http://detroithistorical.wordpress.com> to learn more about the wonderful artifacts that help the Detroit Historical Society tell metro Detroit's story.

TOURS & SERIES REGISTRATION

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

NOTE: If paying by check, please call (313) 833-1801 to confirm availability before mailing.

Make checks payable to: Detroit Historical Society

If paying by: VISA MasterCard Discover American Express

Account # _____ Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____ Date _____

MAIL TO: Attn: Tours, Detroit Historical Society, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI, 48202

Behind the Scenes Tours

\$20 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • \$30 GUESTS (UNLESS NOTED)

					# OF TICKETS	SUBTOTAL
Sat., Oct. 6	10 a.m.	Detroit Golf Club	\$35 Members	\$45 Guests		
Sat., Oct. 13	10 a.m.	Detroit Yacht Club	\$30 Members	\$40 Guests		
Sat., Oct. 20	10 a.m.	The Charles Lang Freer House	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Oct. 27	10 a.m.	G.A.R. Building	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Fri., Nov. 2	6 p.m.	The Players Playhouse Evening	\$75 Members	\$85 Guests		
Sat., Nov. 10	10 a.m.	The Parade Company Studio	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Nov. 17	10 a.m.	Guardian Building	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Dec. 1	10 a.m.	WWJ Newsradio 950	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Fri., Dec. 7	10 a.m.	William L. Clements Library, Ann Arbor	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Dec. 15	10 a.m.	Detroit Media Partnership Op. Facility	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		

Historic Houses of Worship

\$40 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • \$50 GUESTS

Mon., Nov. 5	10 a.m.		\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		
Mon., Dec. 3	10 a.m.		\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		

Fair Winds Fall Gathering

\$25 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY/DOSSIN MARITIME GROUP MEMBERS • \$30 GUESTS

Sun., Oct. 21	1:30 p.m.		\$25 Members	\$30 Guests		
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Lost Mariners Remembrance

**\$5 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY/DOSSIN MARITIME GROUP MEMBERS
& MARINE PROFESSIONALS IN UNIFORM • \$10 GUESTS • \$25 FOR FAMILIES OF UP TO 6 PEOPLE**

Sat., Nov. 10	6 p.m.		\$5 Members	\$10 Guests	\$25 Families	
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War of 1812 Symposium

\$10 STUDENTS • \$25 DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERS • \$30 GUESTS

Sat., Dec. 8	9 a.m.		\$10 Students	\$20 Members	\$25 Guests	
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GRAND TOTAL \$ _____

**BECOME A FAN OF THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY
ON FACEBOOK, FOLLOW US ON TWITTER OR SEE US ON YOUTUBE!**

See our homepage at www.detroithistorical.org for all the details!

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twitter

You
Tube

The Detroit Historical Society is excited to announce its new membership levels and benefits!

Researcher \$25
 • Access to the Society’s online database of high-resolution digital images

Collector \$45
Researcher Benefits and
 • Subscription to Making History quarterly newsletter
 • Free parking when visiting the Detroit Historical Museum
 • 10% Discount at both Museum stores
 • Reciprocal membership at over 200 historical museums across the US
 • Discounted ticket for cardholding member to all Society programs and tours

Ambassador \$65
Collector Benefits and
 • Ability to purchase up to three (3) additional discounted tickets to all Society programs and tours

Patron \$150
Ambassador Benefits and
 • Free ticket for two (2) persons to one Behind the Scenes tour per membership year*
 • One annual subscription to Michigan History Magazine

Benefactor \$300
Patron Benefits and
 • Complimentary one-year gift membership at the Ambassador Level for one of your family, friend or business contacts

Historian \$500
Benefactor Benefits and
 • Reduced Rates for museum facility rentals and group tours
 • Private VIP guided-tour of the Detroit Historical Museum or the Dossin Great Lakes Museum for you and up to 5 guests

*tour registration subject to availability

Dossin Maritime Group \$20

In order to be a member of the Dossin Maritime Group, you must be a member of the Detroit Historical Society at the *Collector* Level or above.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Make checks payable to: Detroit Historical Society
 If paying by: [] VISA [] MasterCard [] Discover [] AMEX

Account # _____

Exp Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

SELECT MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

- Researcher \$25
- Collector \$45
- Ambassador \$65
- Patron \$150
- Benefactor \$300
- Historian \$500
- Join the Dossin Maritime Group (\$20 fee in addition to regular membership dues)
- Additional Donation \$ _____

MAIL TO: Attn: Membership, Detroit Historical Society, 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202
FOR MORE INFORMATION: call Sheila Bawks at (313) 833-0158, email sheilab@detroithistorical.org or visit www.detroithistorical.org.



SAVE THE DATE!

Remember that on Sunday, November 18th, Society members are invited to preview the new Detroit Historical Museum before its official public re-opening. Please plan to join us that day to catch your first glimpse of the Museum’s new exhibits and new look!

Where
the past
is present

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5401 Woodward Avenue
Detroit, MI 48202

www.detroithistorical.org

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MISSION

To educate and inspire our community and visitors by preserving and portraying our region's shared history through dynamic exhibits and experiences.

VISION

To create a shared sense of community and pride by celebrating the history and the unique culture of our region.



5401 Woodward Ave.
Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 833-1805

CLOSED:
The Museum is closed to the public for renovations and will reopen on Friday, November 23, 2012.

Effective Friday, November 23, 2012, admission will be FREE to all, and the Museum's new hours will be:

Tuesday – Friday: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.



GROUP TOURS/HOST AN EVENT

Call (313) 833-1733 to schedule a group tour or to host an event at the Detroit Historical Museum.

VOLUNTEER

Call (313) 833-1419 to volunteer at the Detroit Historical Museum.



100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle
Detroit, MI 48207
(313) 833-5538

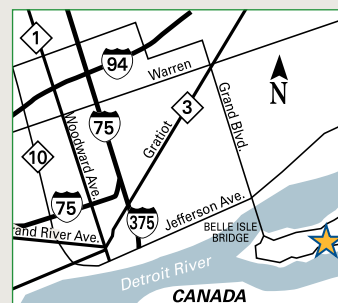
HOURS

Saturday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

The Museum will close to the public for renovations at the end of business on Sunday, December 2, 2012 and will reopen in the Spring of 2013.

ADMISSION

Admission is FREE.



GROUP TOURS/HOST AN EVENT

Call (313) 833-1733 to schedule a group tour or to host an event at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

VOLUNTEER

Call (313) 833-1419 to volunteer at the Dossin Great Lakes Museum.