

Where  
the past  
is present

DETROIT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

WINTER 2013

# MAKING HISTORY

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



## Detroit Historical Museum Re-Opens in Grand Fashion

The people of metro Detroit have responded in a big way to the Grand Re-Opening of the Detroit Historical Museum, with more than 15,000 visiting during the Gala, Member Preview, Community Leaders Breakfast and the public opening weekend. Impressions were overwhelmingly positive as well, from strong media reviews to enthusiastic comments from visitors.

The Gala kicked matters off with a celebrity-studded ribbon cutting (above left) and music from the Contours (below left) in a tent on Legends Plaza, Marion Hayden in the *Streets of Old Detroit* and Ben Sharkey in the new *Allesee Gallery of Culture*. Nearly 400 guests attended.

The response to the Grand Re-Opening was more than a 60 percent increase compared to the Society's smaller-scale makeover of the Museum in 2006, which generated attendance of 9,000 people.

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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](mailto:bobsadler@detroithistorical.org).

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## Letter from the Executive Director Bob Bury

**“Detroit history as you have never experienced it”**

Those are the words *Free Press* Staff Writer Mark Stryker used to describe the new Detroit Historical Museum after a tour just before we opened to the public over Thanksgiving weekend.

And I'm pleased to report that we have received similar accolades and positive comments from the more than 25,000 people who have visited us since we reopened on November 23rd with great new exhibits, enhanced old favorites and so much more!

If you haven't been here yet, make plans to visit sometime soon. From the spectacular *Allesee Gallery of Culture* and *Kid Rock Music Lab* to the outstanding new *Gallery of Innovation*, *Doorway to Freedom* and *Arsenal of Democracy* exhibits, there is something for everyone. I think you will also like what we have done to enhance old favorites like the *Streets of Old Detroit* and *America's Motor City!* Please let me or a member of the Society team know what you think of your new museum!

Special thanks to everyone on our team and everyone who has contributed their time, talent and resources to this transformational project — our committed staff, volunteers and contractors — and to you who have encouraged and supported us every step of the way.

As you will read in this issue of *Making History*, our full schedule of programming and special events has returned. I hope you will join us for a “Behind the Scenes” tour or weekend program soon. We have also begun our work to enhance the Dossin Great Lakes Museum including the debut of a new signature exhibit, *Built By the River* this spring and of special note, we've released our latest book, *Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812*. The culmination of our latest partnership with Wayne State University, *Border Crossings* is a perfect addition to your collection and makes a great gift for the history buff on your holiday gift list.

With the holiday season upon us, please take the opportunity to come to see us. Bring your family, bring a friend and show them why being a member of the Detroit Historical Society is a great investment that helps ensure the preservation of Detroit's past and its future!

All the best for a great holiday season and wonderful new year.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Bury

Executive Director & CEO  
Detroit Historical Society

# DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWS

## Save the date! Our annual African American History Day returns February 2

Join in the celebration of African American history and culture as we kick off Black History Month with this annual free event Saturday, February 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Detroit Historical Museum.

Find a variety of gifts or pamper yourself with items from our Artists Market throughout the Museum. Learn from many of the historical organizations in the area, including the Tuskegee Airmen and neighborhood groups, as well as representatives from the Greening of Detroit as they share their vision for Alfonso B. Wells Park and its portion of the Birwood Wall. Kids will enjoy renowned storyteller Ivory D. Williams, a caricature artist and All in One Art (formerly the Kidz Art Zone).

In addition, refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the event.



*Storyteller Ivory D. Williams and his rain stick return for this year's African American History Day.*

## Broadcast luminary Bill Bonds becomes the latest addition to Legends Plaza

Bill Bonds anchored the news on Detroit television for all or part of four decades, drawing viewers in massive numbers with his dramatic and fearfully opinionated style.

A Detroit native, Bonds became the latest addition to the Detroit Historical Museum's Legends Plaza, casting his hands and signature in cement during the Museum's Grand Re-Opening Weekend.

After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, Bonds earned a degree at the University of Detroit before beginning his career for \$1/hour at an Albion radio station. His aggressive coverage of a tornado at Anchor Bay on May 8, 1964, which killed 11 people and injured more than 200, brought him to the attention of WXYZ-TV (Channel 7) General Manager John Pival.

Upon finding a home at Channel 7, Bonds further distinguished himself while anchoring the station's coverage of the 1967 Detroit riots. Mayor Coleman A. Young later remarked that Bonds bled for the city during that week. Once established, Bonds became the station's best-known newscaster.

Bonds became increasingly controversial and confrontational. His tough — some said “over-the-top” — grilling of U.S. Senator Orrin Hatch drove the Utah lawmaker to walk away from their interview. Bonds also challenged Mayor Coleman A. Young to a fistfight, an incident for which Bonds later apologized. He was released from the station in 1995, but returned four years later as a commentator. He last appeared on Channel 7's airwaves on October 21, 2008, anchoring the news for a one-time outing to celebrate the station's 60 years on the airwaves.



## THE RIDING RAILS

Now Open in Booth-Wilkinson Gallery

### Riding the Rails: How Rail Transportation Helped Build Detroit

Through the 19th and early 20th centuries, vehicles that operated on steel rails were instrumental in Detroit's development from frontier outpost to bustling metropolis. At the turn of the 20th century, Detroit had the largest regional mass transportation network in the United States with its railroad, trolley and interurban system. For over a century, rail transportation was part of the fabric of Detroiters' lives — how they got to work,

how they spent Sundays, how they got their food, and even how they were buried.

However, as transportation methods changed in the 20th century, the popularity of rail transportation decreased. The automobile became the vehicle of choice for the freedom it gave to individuals, and Henry Ford's Model T made it possible for Americans of all backgrounds and socio-economic statuses to own an automobile.

The Detroit Historical Society's exhibition, *Riding the Rails: How Rail Transportation Helped Build Detroit*, will present the history of rail transportation around the city, providing fascinating and enlightening context to a modern discussion on the best way to lessen our dependence on the automobile and provide safe and reliable mass transportation for citizens.



## NEW to the COLLECTION

### New To the Collection

As stewards of our city and region's rich history, the Detroit Historical Society cares for and preserves more than 250,000 objects, documents and images.

Long after memories fade and perspectives change, these artifacts will remain to document the past and contribute to a broader understanding of the individuals, places and events that helped shape metro Detroit.

The Detroit Historical Society relies on the generosity of donors to enhance its collection. The *New to the Collection* showcase features a small selection of the hundreds of donations the Society receives each year.



Now Open in the Allesee Gallery of Culture

### Center Stage: Days That Defined Detroit

History is often defined by pivotal moments, turning points that mark an instant in time when things were never the same again. As great moments or simmering conflicts gain momentum, it is often a single event that tips the balance and redefines an era. This exhibit explores six Detroit events that changed the course of 20th century history in the city. Their impacts often reverberated through the nation and world.

**AUGUST 12, 1908** — Ford Motor Company Debuts the Model T

**MARCH 26, 1937** — The UAW and Ford Motor Company's "Battle of the Overpass"

**MARCH 22, 1954** — Northland Center, the World's Largest Shopping Mall, Opens

**APRIL 14, 1960** — Berry Gordy, Jr. Launches Motown Records

**JULY 23, 1967** — The Worst Civil Disturbance in Detroit History Begins

**NOVEMBER 6, 1973** — Coleman A. Young Becomes Detroit's First African American Mayor

# SPECIAL EXHIBITS



*Open through February 24, 2013 in the Community Gallery*

## The Power of HOPE

**Focus: HOPE**  
*Celebrating Diversity Since 1968*

Focus: HOPE is a nationally recognized civil and human rights organization founded in 1968 after the Detroit riots. Throughout the years, Focus: HOPE has worked to overcome racism, poverty and injustice through a food program, education and workforce development programs and community development initiatives. Through Focus: HOPE, thousands of individuals — especially women and minorities — have achieved financial independence.

Focus: HOPE has a rich history and strong foundation thanks to visionary co-founders — Father William Cunningham and Eleanor Josaitis. The exhibition addresses the past, the present and future of Focus: HOPE.



*Opening March 16, 2013 in the Community Gallery*

## A Cultural Thread...The Enduring Ukrainian Spirit

This exhibition from the Ukrainian American Archives and Museum brings to life the history of Ukrainian immigration to the United States and its impact on American culture over the

years, in particular to the communities of metropolitan Detroit.

The earliest Ukrainian immigrants established ethnic neighborhoods that served as harbors for later waves of immigrants who preserved Ukrainian culture and traditions and who assimilated into contemporary American society. Locally, nationally and internationally, Ukrainian-Americans have thrived in politics, law, business, entertainment, sports, journalism and more, enabling them to make a positive impact on American culture.

The exhibition features traditional art that Ukrainian immigrants brought to America, including regional styles of costumes,

sculptures, paintings, over 1,000 Ukrainian Easter eggs (pysanky), ritual cloths which were used during life passages, pottery, woodcarvings as well as large scanned historical photographs of Ukrainian settlers and famous persons of Ukrainian descent.

The exhibition also provides background on the Ukraine's geography and history, which will be enhanced by live demonstrations by local artists who will be on hand to show how Ukrainian Easter eggs are painstakingly created and decorated. References explaining symbolism and motifs will be displayed throughout the gallery.

For special group guided tours with a speaker, please call the exhibit curator, Dzvinika Hayda, at (313) 366-9764 for reservations or further information.

### Visit our new permanent exhibits:



WINTER 2013

# 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](http://www.detroithistorical.org) 3 Call (313) 833-1801 to register by phone

## JANUARY 5 • NO TOUR



### Art House JANUARY 12 – 10 A.M.

\$35 members/  
\$45 guests

Art House, originally the Elisha Taylor home, is a

Gothic Revival home completed in 1872. It is located in the historic Brush Park neighborhood just north of downtown Detroit. Its original interiors have been preserved, and since 1981, it has served as a center for art and architectural study and a tour destination for those wanting to relive an era when the city of Detroit was known as the “Paris of the Midwest.”

The public rooms of Art House preserve original fireplaces, mirrors, woodwork, decorative plaster, stenciling, Minton floor tiles, parquet floors and etched glass. With period furnishings and artworks and artifacts spanning 2000 years, Art House is truly one of Detroit’s hidden gems.



### Detroit Opera House JANUARY 19 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

What is now known as the Detroit Opera House was originally opened as the Capitol Theater on January 12, 1922. At the time of its gala premiere, the 4,250-seat theater claimed to be the fifth largest in the world. Designed by renowned Detroit architect C. Howard Crane, whose genius for theater design took him to cities around the nation, the building was constructed with superb acoustics in the style of the grand European opera houses. The Capitol Theater was resplendently decorated in the Italian Renaissance style with lavish crystal chandeliers, frescoes, brass fixtures, marble stairways and drinking fountains. Rich rose-red Italian damask was used for the main stage curtain and

draperies throughout the house. Most of these features are still present today in the Detroit Opera House.

### Art in Detroit Receiving Hospital JANUARY 25 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests  
*Special Friday Tour!*

Led by the current art director at Children’s Hospital, this tour will showcase the extensive and beautiful art collection at Detroit Receiving Hospital, which was begun in 1968 through the generosity of Michigan artists and friends of the hospital. The collection now consists of major sculptures as well as 800 paintings, works on paper, textiles and crafts. Over the years, the collection has been broadened by the addition of African beadwork; tapestries from the United States, Africa, and Columbia; a site-specific Pewabic tile water fountain and large photo murals in the Emergency Department. The collection, which continues to grow in scope and quality, retains its original purpose of lightening the burden of illness carried by patients and their families.

## FEBRUARY 2 • NO TOUR – AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY DAY

### Conservation and Museum Services FEBRUARY 9 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Conservation and Museum Services conserves and restores paintings, frames, decorative objects, examinations and reports, and decorative architectural and painted surfaces for museums, historic houses, corporations and individuals. Come learn from conservator Kenneth Katz as he opens his studio to display and discuss his work for our group.



### Islamic Center of America FEBRUARY 16 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

The Islamic Center of America was established in 1963 and has been serving

the needs of Muslims in the greater Detroit area as well as throughout the United States. The Islamic Center of America has a long and rich past that embodies the American Muslim Community’s search, struggle and triumph to find a place to belong. The story begins in 1949, when Imam Jawad Chirri, a man who could not speak or understand English, came to America at the request of a small group of people who were yearning for Islamic guidance. It culminates as an Islamic Center that has become more than a place of worship; it is an institution and beacon for Islam in North America.

### WWJ-TV & WKBD-TV (CBS 62 & CW50) Studios FEBRUARY 22 – 2 P.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

*Special Friday Afternoon Tour!*

During this tour, you will see Master Control, Studio A (a large multi-purpose production studio), Studio N (which houses standing sets for community affairs shows), a production edit bay (used to edit promos, commercials and programs) and the weather center. You will also learn about the various departments at a TV station like Business, Sales, Programming, Promotion, Marketing, Design, Engineering, Production, Community Affairs and Web and jobs available. To highlight the tour, our group will also have the opportunity to meet Jim Madaus, who does weather for WWJ-TV.



### Fisher Building MARCH 2 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/  
\$30 guests

“Detroit’s largest art object” and “the Fisher Brother’s gift to the city of Detroit” are phrases that have been used to

describe the Fisher Building. Perhaps it is best described as a luxurious building that represents the multi-faceted influence of automobiles. Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1989, the Fisher Building features a 28-story set-back Art Deco tower. The interior is bisected by a 44-foot high barrel-vaulted arcade, and every inch is opulently decorated with bronze, gold leaf and over 40 types of exotic marbles mined

WINTER 2013

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in quarries in Africa, Italy and Carthage, Missouri. Sold to a real-estate firm in 1974 by the three remaining Fisher Brothers, the Fisher Building continues to be a meticulously maintained and fully occupied Art Deco jewel, a symbol of the change and prosperity the automobile brought to Detroit. Our guide's knowledge of the architectural details and stories make this an unforgettable tour!

## Prop Art Studio MARCH 9 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/\$30 guests

Over more than two decades, Prop Art Studio in Detroit has continually re-invented itself, designing, sculpting and rendering costumes, huge 3-D billboards and other advertisements, steel artwork, theatre props and many versions of a famous purple octopus named Al for the Detroit Red Wings. Co-owner Mike Stapleton and his crew also have restored historic churches and mansions, done scenic backdrops, murals, oversized sculpted vegetables, a 10-foot tall guitar-playing pig and a 38-foot-long iguana. The studio is housed in an electric car charging station

dating back to 1909. Come explore the fascinating process behind many of the easily recognizable little touches of art and advertising around the city.



## Detroit Boat Club MARCH 16 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/  
\$30 guests

The Detroit Boat Club, which traces

its roots back to 1839, may be the oldest continuously-run rowing club in the world. After several wooden structures had burned to the ground, the Club asked Alpheus W. Chittenden, an architect born in Detroit, to build a structure that could withstand fire. When the current boathouse was dedicated on August 4, 1902, it was the first concrete structure in the United States. In 1991, the city of Detroit announced that the rental fee for the property on which the clubhouse stood was to be raised from one dollar a year to \$100,000 a year. Unable to make up the difference, the Club filed for bankruptcy, and in 1996, Club members voted to move out of the city. In

2000, the Detroit Rowing Club began using the building, and since 2001, they have begun modestly refurbishing it in order to maintain the stability of a structure so entrenched in the history of Detroit.



## Charles T. Fisher Mansion MARCH 23 – 10 A.M.

\$20 members/  
\$30 guests

Architect George Mason built this 18,000-square-foot home in 1922 for Charles T. Fisher and his wife Sarah. The house has 12 bedrooms, 17 bathrooms, a pub, a private chapel and a marble ballroom. There was a gymnasium built on the third floor to keep the Fisher children safe from kidnapping. Michael Fisher, a cousin, bought and began restoring the home in 2008. Come explore the largest mansion in Detroit's historic Boston-Edison district!

MARCH 30 • NO TOUR –  
EASTER 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.

### MARCH 4, 2013

St. Aloysius  
Trinity-St. Mark's United Church of Christ  
Fort Street Presbyterian  
Most Holy Trinity  
St. Peter's Episcopal

### APRIL 8, 2013

Metropolitan United Methodist  
Holy Cross Polish National Catholic Church  
Blessed Sacrament Cathedral  
Our Lady Queen of Apostles

### Special Offer!

Wayne State University has released 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 eight 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 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.

Some events require registration. Unless otherwise noted, 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](http://www.detroithistorical.org) 3 Call (313) 833-1801 to register by phone

## Scholar Series

**Wednesday, January 16 at 6 p.m.**

Detroit Historical Museum

Dan Robbins, *Whatever Happened to Paint-By-Numbers?* (as featured in our new *Gallery of Innovation* exhibit)



It all started in Detroit in 1949 when Dan Robbins, an aspiring artist, met entrepreneur Max Klein. Together, they decided something called Craft Master Paint-By-Numbers might be a good

business. The rest is history. Millions of Americans painted by the numbers, one of the biggest fads of the 1950s. Dan Robbins, the original artist and creator of the Craft Master sets, will take you back to the beginning of the paint-by-number business.

**Wednesday, February 20 at 6 p.m.**

Detroit Historical Museum

Kimberly Simmons, *The Carolyn Quarlls (Watkins) Story* (as featured in our new *Doorway to Freedom* exhibit)

The freedom seeker Caroline Quarlls (Watkins) is historically noted as the first documented Underground Railroad escape through the state of Wisconsin in 1842. Caroline was 16 years old when she escaped from St. Louis, Missouri on July 4, 1842. Caroline escaped to Milwaukee by stagecoach after walking away from Sixth and Pine in St. Louis and buying a Mississippi River ferry ticket to Alton, Illinois. She was housed in Wisconsin for about a month and interacted with many of the founders of the city of Milwaukee. She then completed a 1,000 mile journey across the Upper Midwest with the help of Lyman Goodnow, a man from what is now Waukesha, Wisconsin. She found freedom by crossing the Detroit River at Midnight (Detroit) in October, 1842 to reside in Sandwich (Windsor), Ontario.

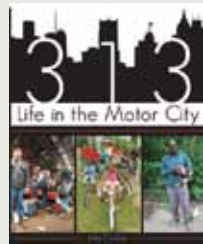
Kimberly Simmons, the third great granddaughter of Carolyn Quarlls, is immersed in Underground Railroad heritage projects as Chair of the Society's Black Historic Sites Committee and President of the Detroit River Project. She's also Vice President of the Essex County Black Historic Research Society (Ontario) and a member

of the Michigan Freedom Trail Commission. Her program, "Caroline Quarlls, A Family Legacy of Freedom," was awarded National Partner status with the U.S. National Park Service UGRN Network to Freedom in 2005.

**Wednesday, March 20 at 6 p.m.**

Detroit Historical Museum

John Carlisle, 313: *Life in the Motor City*



Since 2007, John Carlisle has fascinated readers with his untold stories of Detroit in his "Detroitblogger John" columns for the *Metro Times*. His words and photographs shed light on the overlooked and

forgotten while bringing life to neglected, far-flung neighborhoods. The Detroit chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists named Carlisle the 2011 Journalist of the Year for his work. This collection in book form features dozens of his previously unpublished photographs and 42 of his most unforgettable stories, including a man who has a strip club in his living room, a bar in a ghost town, a coffee shop for the city's homeless, an art gallery in a mattress store and an old-fashioned debutante ball in the unlikeliest of places.

## Film Series

The Detroit Historical Society Film Series screens documentaries that cover a range of Detroit history subjects. Films are screened at 1 p.m. each day and are FREE with museum admission.

**Grown in Detroit**

January 12 & 13

Running Time: 60 minutes

*Grown in Detroit* focuses on the urban gardening efforts managed by a public school of 300, mainly African-American, pregnant and parenting teenagers. In Detroit alone, there are annually more than 3,000 pregnant teenagers who drop out of high school. Catherine Ferguson Academy in Detroit is one of only three schools in the U.S. for pregnant and parenting teens. Under the inspiring leadership of the principal, the girls bring their babies to school every day and work hard to get their diplomas. One curriculum to get them back on track and teach them the basics of life is urban farming. The city, through its many vacant lots, allows the school and other residents

to have farms where houses, shops and factories once stood. Taking care of animals, growing produce and earning money to do so is helping shape these dejected girls into strong, independent and hopeful women.

**Borderline: The Story of 8 Mile Road**

February 9 & 10

Running Time: 30 minutes

1997 Emmy Winner

This program captures the spirit and eccentricity of metro Detroit's most provocative thoroughfare. No other road in Michigan evokes a response like the one you get when you mention 8 Mile. From topless dancers and the neighborhood groups that battle them, to storefront preachers and the homeless people to whom they minister, 8 Mile remains our area's most notorious boundary.

Thoughtful commentary from Jerry Herron, director of American Studies, and Ronald Stephens, associate professor of Communication (both of Wayne State University) provide context and analysis. The documentary also features an interview with Mr. Belvedere (his office is on 8 Mile) as well as clips from some of his classic commercials. Part history, part pop culture, this film — like a ride down 8 Mile — is both provocative and entertaining.

Written and Produced by Gary Glaser and Dave Toorongian; Directed by Gary Glaser; Narrated by Kim Hunter

**Regional Roots: The Birth and Evolution of Detroit and Its People**

March 9 & 10

Running Time: 26 minutes

Produced by the Detroit Orientation Institute (DOI) and One of Us Films, *Regional Roots* uses the immigrant experience as an introduction to the diverse landscape of Detroit. From the earliest French and German settlers to today's growing communities, immigrants continue to shape the region in pursuit of the American Dream.

*Regional Roots*, the first documentary to receive the Michigan film tax incentive, includes moving images from the National Archives and photos, images and artifacts from local museum and library collections. Film footage includes Diego Rivera painting his mural, *Detroit Industry*, and selections from Detroit News reels that haven't been seen since theater showings in the 1930s.



WINTER 2013

# PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMS

For more information call (313) 833-5538 or visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org)

## 150th Anniversary of the Reading of the Emancipation Proclamation

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2013 – 1 P.M.

*Detroit Historical Museum*



Join the Society's Black Historic Sites Committee for a special event that commemorates the first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation in Detroit on

January 6, 1863 at historic Second Baptist Church. The event will feature poetry readings by authors from Detroit-based Broadside Press, a reading of the Emancipation Proclamation by a local minister and tours of the new *Doorway to Freedom* exhibit. Due to anticipated demand and limited seating in the Booth Auditorium, this program will be offered twice.

## Michigan in Perspective: The 55th Annual Conference on Local History

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, MARCH 22-23, 2013

*Holiday Inn Conference Center, Livonia*



Presented by the Historical Society of Michigan and co-sponsored by the Detroit Historical Society, the conference includes premier offerings on topics in Michigan and regional history.

Complete conference information — including featured speakers and sessions — will be available and registration will get underway in January 2013. For more information, visit [www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org) or call (800) 692-1828.

## The 32nd Great Lakes Shipwreck Festival



SATURDAY,  
MARCH 2, 2013

*Washtenaw Community College's Morris Lawrence Building, Ann Arbor*

Sponsored by the Ford Seahorses Scuba Diving Club, this conference looks at the history of shipwrecks on the inland seas. The Dossin Great Lakes Museum is a partner in this event, so look for our special display. Tickets are \$20 in advance. For more information or tickets, visit [www.shipwreckfestival.org](http://www.shipwreckfestival.org).



## Check out the Dossin Great Lakes Museum's display at the Detroit Boat Show

Visit the Dossin Great Lakes Museum display and mingle with members of the Detroit Historical Society's Dossin Maritime Group at the 55th Annual Detroit Boat Show on Saturday, February 16 through Sunday, February 24 at Cobo Center. Michigan's largest boat show also features boating accessories and nautical gifts, including life jackets, skis, dockage, lifts, hoists, marina slip rentals, canvas and much more! Marine services will also be available.

Tickets are \$12 for adults. Children 12 and under are free with adult admission. The hours for the show are Saturdays & Friday: 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Monday through Thursday: 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.; and Sundays: 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For more information on the 2013 boat show, call (734) 261-0123 or visit [www.mbia.org](http://www.mbia.org).

## Save the Date! 31st Annual Historic Fort Wayne Flea Market

Saturday & Sunday,  
April 13-14, 2013

Presented by the Detroit Historical Society Guild & the Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

For table reservations or more information, call (313) 882-6107.

## Tour Michigan's First State Prison

Please call (313) 833-1801 if you would be interested in a day-long tour of Michigan's first state prison and 7-Block in Jackson this summer. The tour would cost \$70 for Society members and \$80 for guests and would include motor coach transportation from the Detroit Historical Museum, the four-hour tour, and lunch.

Begin the tour at Michigan's First State Prison (1838-1934), now Armory Arts Village. Hear tales of prison life, punishments, and colorful inmates; see the old solitary area; meet artists in former cellblocks turned into studios; and visit an apartment, once 36 cells. Then, board the bus to 7-Block (1934-2007), a fully intact, closed cellblock at the Jackson State Correctional Facilities. Experience the holding area. Step inside a cell. Walk the five tiers of galleries. Hear of convicts, officers, wardens, riots, reforms, and a one-and-only helicopter escape.

# DON'T JUST MAKE PLANS — MAKE HISTORY!

The Detroit Historical Museum, home to the *Streets of Old Detroit*, *America's Motor City* and many other exciting exhibits, is a location sure to entertain and inspire your party guests.

We've installed new galleries, enhanced our signature exhibits, and upgraded the museum's private-event spaces. Be among the first to host an event in our new galleries — including the *Allee Gallery of Culture!*

With several private spaces and the option to set-up throughout the entire museum, the Detroit Historical Museum is an outstanding location for parties of up to 2,000 guests.

Please call us at (313) 833-1733 to schedule a free consultation with our event planning experts or for more information.



## Winter Specials at the Detroit Historical Museum Store

Enjoy our monthly specials and browse all the new and exciting merchandise, along with past favorites reflecting Detroit history and classic products we all remember.

**December 2012:** Celebrate holiday giving with 20% off all toys

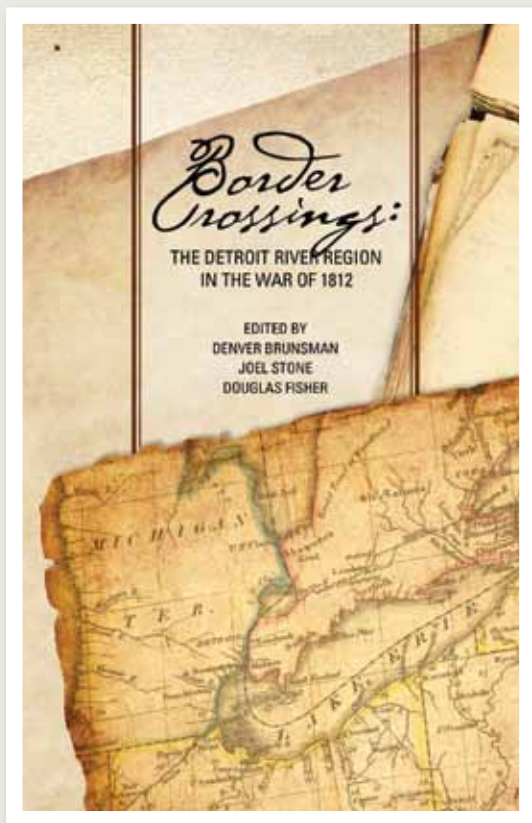
Holiday special, December 26–31, 2012: Membership is the gift that keeps on giving: Members take 20% off all merchandise between Christmas and New Year's!

**January 2013:** Prepare for the North American International Auto Show with 20% off all automotive history books.

**February 2013:** Celebrate Black History Month with 20% off all African American history books.

**March 2013:** Get ready for Tigers Opening Day with 20% off anything and everything baseball!

# NEW RELEASE! ORDER YOURS TODAY!



The Detroit Historical Society's newly published book, *Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812*, is now available for purchase!

Edited by Denver Brunzman, Assistant Professor of History at The George Washington University; Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society Senior Curator; and Douglas Fisher, Managing Editor with Crain Communications, Inc., this book explores interactions among the diverse inhabitants on the American and Canadian sides of the Detroit River who were bitterly divided by the War of 1812.

The result of a year-long community history partnership between the Detroit Historical Society and Wayne State University, *Border Crossings* uncovers the personal and group interactions often ignored in standard histories of the War of 1812. For more than a generation, American citizens, British subjects, French settlers, Native Americans, and African slaves and freed-men routinely crossed the border formed by the Detroit River while living and working together in one of the most diverse regions in North America. That tranquility ended suddenly with the War of 1812. Cross-river neighbors transformed into enemies as the previously ignored border became fraught with new political significance.

Buy your copy today! Simply use the order form on this page, or call us at (313) 833-1262 to order by phone. You can also order online at our website at [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

## ORDER YOUR *BORDER CROSSINGS* BOOK TODAY

Yes, I want to order \_\_\_\_\_  
*Border Crossings* book(s).

I've included payment based on the following:

### PRICE PER BOOK

Price per book \$12.95 each \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping, handling and sales tax \$4.00 each \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**MAIL TO:** Attn: Museum Store  
 Detroit Historical Society  
 5401 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48202

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

*Make checks payable to: Detroit Historical Society (enclosed)*  
*If paying by: [ ] VISA [ ] MasterCard [ ] American Express*

Account # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## Winter Days of Detroit

**DECEMBER 20, 1920** — The first automatic traffic signal was installed in Detroit.

**JANUARY 2, 1974** — Coleman A. Young was inaugurated as Detroit's first African American mayor.

**JANUARY 11, 1805** — The Territory of Michigan was established with Detroit as its capital.

**JANUARY 25, 1956** — Detroit Tiger great Hank Greenberg became first Jewish player inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY.

**FEBRUARY 5, 2006** — The Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Seattle Seahawks in Super Bowl XL at Detroit's Ford Field.

**FEBRUARY 11, 1937** — After a three-month strike, General Motors recognized the United Auto Workers union.

**MARCH 1, 1962** — The world's first K-mart store opened in Garden City.

**MARCH 3, 1836** — Second Baptist Church was established by Detroit's African-American citizens.

**MARCH 6, 1896** — Charles Brady King drove the first car in Detroit.

*The ribbon is cut as the Detroit Historical Museum on Woodward Avenue opened to the public for the first time on July 24, 1951, the city's 250th birthday.*

WINTER 2013

# 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.

## A Hero's Congressional Gold Medal

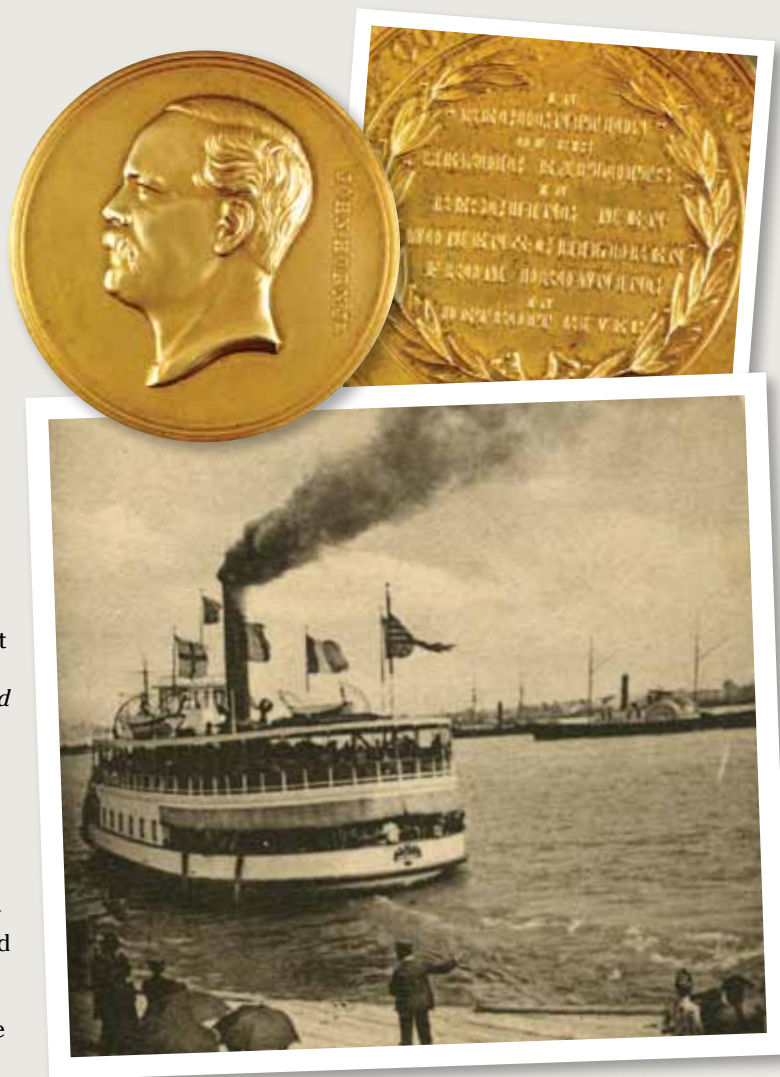
The Society's collection features quite an array of coins and medals. While this is not unusual for a historical society, this specific coin and medal collection is unique to our region and diverse past. Contained within this collection are items such as an S.S. Kresge charge tag, an 1891 Grand Army of the Republic encampment medal, 1943 steel pennies made during World War II, a 100-yard dash medal from the Detroit Athletic Club and commemorative medals from Detroit's bicentennial. But one item in this collection stands far above the others for its extreme rarity, historical significance and intriguing story — the 1874 Congressional Gold Medal of John Horn Jr.

Born in Devonshire, England in 1843, John Horn Jr. immigrated to the United States in the early 1860s. His father operated a tavern at the base of Woodward Avenue at the public wharf. John Jr. was described as a large man with broad shoulders and impressive physique. He worked for his father as a bartender for a short time and also was involved in the Detroit Baseball Club. However, young John Jr. was always drawn to a life on the water. After becoming a Great Lakes captain, he purchased the steamboat *Favorite* and operated a ferry from Detroit to Windsor in 1867. His ferry business flourished and in 1877 he joined his steamer *Garland* with three other competing ferries to form the Detroit Windsor Ferry Company.

John Horn's athletic ability and good nature positioned him for a more meaningful purpose on the Detroit River as a lifesaver. Multiple accounts exist of his heroic exploits to save people who had fallen from boats or from the wharf into the cold and swift-moving river. His first rescue was a Mr. Manning of Windsor in May of 1865. Horn rescued nine men from the disaster of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railroad Depot on April 11, 1866. After saving the nine men, Horn was too exhausted to swim and 16 men perished in the water after that disaster. In March of 1873, Horn struggled for more than 17 minutes in the water, swimming around floating ice and slush to reach Miss Louise McKenzie; as a result of that rescue, he spent several weeks recovering from frostbite, hypothermia and pneumonia. On July 4, 1873, a crowd of more than 500 stood by and watched as the daughter of Mr. F. Barlow fell from a boarding plank and began to sink into the river. Horn was summoned from his house near the wharf and ran to the scene and was the only person willing to jump in to save the young girl.

In 1871, the City of Detroit awarded Horn a medal for saving more than 110 people from the Detroit River. Unfortunately, the medal was lost in the river during the saving of Miss McKenzie. As word spread of Horn's lifesaving ability, the U.S. Congress decided to award him with a Congressional Gold Medal for heroism. Prior to that time, Congress had awarded medals for heroism in sea water rescues. Horn proved that the Great Lakes and inland rivers were equally as dangerous and also possessed brave rescuers. The solid gold medal featured the profile bust of Horn on the front and an inscription on the back that read "By Act of Congress June 20, 1874, in recognition of his heroic exploits in rescuing men, women, and children from drowning in the Detroit River."

Repeated injuries and sickness from the cold water rescues took their toll on Horn. His health began to deteriorate, and he suffered



*The front of John Horn Jr.'s 1904 recast Congressional Gold Medal; the text on the back of Horn's medal; a rendering of the steamer Garland, one of the river ferries owned by Horn's Detroit Windsor Ferry Company.*

from rheumatism. He claimed to have lost more than \$1,000 in clothing from the many rescue attempts. His ferry business failed to compete with bigger, more efficient boats. In 1904, Horn's gold medal was reported stolen from his Detroit home. Congress had never authorized a second minting of a gold medal, but they took into account Horn's condition and his unquestionable contributions, and for the first time a Congressional Gold Medal was recast. Bronze commemorative medals were also cast and are rare collectors' items for coin collectors.

John Horn died in Detroit in 1920 and is buried in Woodmere Cemetery. The Society is proud to have the 1904 recast John Horn Jr. gold medal and a bronze commemorative copy in the collection. It was donated in 1945 by Mr. R. H. Larson, a close personal friend. At Larson's request, the credit for the donation remains Mr. John Horn Jr.

# TOURS & SERIES REGISTRATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: 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., Jan. 12	10 a.m.	Art House	<b>\$35 Members</b>	<b>\$45 Guests</b>		
Sat., Jan. 19	10 a.m.	Detroit Opera House	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Fri., Jan. 25	10 a.m.	Art in Detroit Receiving Hospital	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Feb. 9	10 a.m.	Conservation and Museum Services	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., Feb. 16	10 a.m.	Islamic Center of America	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Fri., Feb. 22	2 p.m.	WWJ-TV & WKBD-TV (CBS 62 & CW50)	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., March 2	10 a.m.	Fisher Building	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., March 9	10 a.m.	Prop Art Studio	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., March 16	10 a.m.	Detroit Boat Club	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		
Sat., March 23	10 a.m.	Charles T. Fisher Mansion	\$20 Members	\$30 Guests		

## Historic Houses of Worship

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

Mon., March 4	10 a.m.		\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		
Mon., April 8	10 a.m.		\$40 Members	\$50 Guests		

## Scholar Series

Wed., Jan. 16	6 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		
Wed., Feb. 20	6 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		
Wed., March 20	6 p.m.	Scholar Series	FREE Members	\$10 Guests		

**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](http://www.detroithistorical.org) for all the details!

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# MEMBERSHIP

## The Detroit Historical Society's 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 country
- 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 five (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 Alanna Shahly at (313) 833-7938, email [alannas@detroithistorical.org](mailto:alannas@detroithistorical.org) or visit [www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org).

Where  
the past  
is present

# DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

5401 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

[www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org)

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(313) 833-7935  
[www.detroithistorical.org](http://www.detroithistorical.org)

## 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

## HOURS

Tues – Fri: 9:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

**Closed Tuesday, December 25, 2012  
and Tuesday, January 1, 2013**

**Special holiday extended hours:  
9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day from  
Wednesday, December 26 through  
Monday, December 31**

## 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 Detroit Historical Museum.

## VOLUNTEER

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

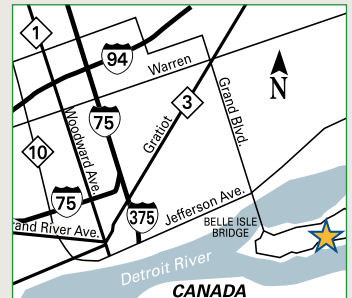


100 Strand Drive, Belle Isle  
Detroit, MI 48207  
(313) 833-5538

**CLOSED:**  
The Museum is closed to the public for renovations and will reopen on Saturday, May 18, 2013.

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## VOLUNTEER

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