

## **Newsletter**

# August 2015

### **Annual Historic Cruise**

For the past couple of years, at the end of each summer the Society has hosted a fundraising Sunset Cruise aboard the Keweenaw Star with historic narration regarding the sights and sites we passed. This year we are doing a similar thing, but with emphasis on one historic event that made the news worldwide.

On January 7, 1971 a Strategic Air Force B-52 bomber, on a simulated bombing run directly over the targeted Big Rock Point Nuclear Power Plant located four miles north of Charlevoix on the Lake Michigan shoreline, blew up in midair eleven flight seconds away from the plant. All nine crew members were lost. The cause of the tragedy has never been fully explained or understood.

Join us on the Keweenaw Star again as retired Petoskey professor, prolific writer, and history buff Rick Wiles narrates this year's cruise along the Lake Michigan shore to Big Rock Point and the site of the tragedy. Prof. Wiles has done extensive research on all aspects of the bombing run, and the history of the Defense Department program of which it was a part.

Tuesday, September 1
from 6:30 to 8:30 (sunset included).

Boarding at 6:15 at the Star's dock next to the Beaver Island boat dock.
\$25 per person including one non-alcoholic beverage.

Cash bar on board with wine, beer, and snacks.

With limited space aboard the boat, we advise those wishing to take the cruise to obtain their tickets as early as possible. They are available Monday through Saturday through September 1 at the Harsha House between noon and 4, then at the dock that evening before the cruise. Call (231) 547-0373 to reserve tickets and for more information.

#### **SUMMER MUSEUM HOURS**

The museum at the Harsha House will be open Mon. - Sat. 12-4 p.m. through September 5. Beginning Sept. 8 the hours will be Tues.-Sat 12-4. The rear double doors or the side office door facing the bank parking lot are open 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. for those who need to conduct Society business, do research, or purchase a store item.

## "Wizard of Boulder Park" SHOWING REMINDER

Members are reminded that there will be three more showings of the new documentary on Earl Young, "The Wizard of Boulder Park," that premiered at Cinema III on Antrim Street to rave reviews on June 8. They will be: Friday, August 14, Saturday August 15 at 11:30 a.m., and Monday, Sept. 21 at 4 p.m. again at Cinema 111. Tickets are \$15, available at the box office on day of showing. Or email marykurtz@live.com to reserve.

#### A Message from the President

Dear Members:

It was a special Venetian Festival for us this year since we took part in the parade for the first time in decades. Our entry was Craig Mann's beautifully restored 1954 Ford pick-up "Fanny" carrying a model of the South Pier lighthouse made by the son of our lighthouse restoration architect, Michelle Smay. Ryan made it for a school project and agreed to let us use it. He also rode along with it. This gave us a chance to remind the public that lighthouse preservation falls under our obligations. For me, personally, it was loads of fun. You will be hearing more soon about the project to repaint the lighthouse which has lost much of its red pigment since 2009. We were awarded a grant by the State Historic Preservation Office earlier this year for this purpose.

The turnout for the Venetian Potluck was wonderful, and again we used this occasion to recognize our volunteers. In addition to the docents who help us at the museum, I also want to express my appreciation to Ralph and Mary Lynn Heid. Mary Lynn not only docents and helps out with projects, but she also oversees the care of the heritage garden at the Harsha House. Ralph volunteered to mow the grass this year, which is a big help to us. The grounds look fantastic! Our volunteer of the year is Chuck Cleland. Chuck has brought much curatorial expertise to our operation and has been terrific as our program chair, as well as on other special projects, such as emceeing "The Wizard of Boulder Park" panel discussion and taking part in the selection of our new employee, Jacob. Thank you Chuck for being a valued part of our organization!

Denise