



Newsletter

October 2016

Issue #6

Annual Spaghetti Dinner!

Here we are once again approaching that time of year! Stalwart Society volunteers prepare to whip on aprons, don sensible shoes, quickly commit to memory a list of three items, and demonstrate their amazing wait staff skills honed over the past eighteen seasons at Patron Terry Left's Villager Pub for our annual fund raising All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti Dinner.

As before, Terry is donating **ALL** the proceeds from the **\$8.50** spaghetti and garlic bread portion of the menu entirely to the Society! On top of that, **ALL TIPS** from everything come to the Society! These funds go toward general support of numerous Society activities including restoration of the Depot, the historic photo digitization project, exhibits, programs, publications, Harsha House upkeep, and so much more. For the past almost two decades, Terry has generously provided us the means to substantially meet our goals, having helped raise close to \$37,000.

When: Wednesday, November 2 from 5 to 9 p.m.

**Where: The Villager Pub
427 Bridge Street**

**Additional menu items:
2-piece Whitefish Basket with
Cole Slaw and Fries: \$12.50
Burrito: \$10.00**

A huge thank-you as always to Terry and his ever-patient crew.

FALL MUSEUM HOURS

The Historical Society Museum will be open Tuesday through Saturday 12-4 p.m. through December 31. As always, the side door facing the bank is open at 11 a.m. for those who need to conduct Society business or talk to a curator before regular hours.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

This year's Christmas dinner will take place at Stafford's Weathervane Restaurant on Tuesday, December 6. Details in the November newsletter.

BETSY REYNOLDS RECOGNIZED AS VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Former museum director Betsy Reynolds was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year at the annual Venetian potluck at the Depot. Since her retirement in 2003, Betsy has willingly kept a hand in many functions for the Society, including participation in the research, writing, and editing of six of our publications, doing massive research in many categories on the town's microfilmed newspapers, much of which made its way into the new "Working World" exhibit at the museum, and also doing extensive field work and documentary research on the Charlevoix area Civil War veterans in company with the late museum director Karen Lewis. An enormous thank-you to Betsy for all her years of contribution.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY AWARDED MCACA GRANT

The Historical Society has been awarded \$8,899 in grant funding from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA) for repairs and renovations needed at our museum. This grant requires matching funds of an equal amount from the Society. The funds will be used for a major project, planned to be completed in two phases starting later this year, to make repairs to the 125-year-old Harsha House, which serves as museum and headquarters offices for the Historical Society.

There are a number of areas on the exterior of the house that are in need of work. These include the roof, gable fascias, dormer wood shakes, sheathing, and masonry. The project also includes renovating the interior office area to create more office space to accommodate staff added in recent years.

Taking into consideration the MCACA grant funds awarded, the Society will need to raise an additional \$15,000 above and beyond reserves we have on hand for this purpose to complete Phase One of the project.

MAJOR HARSHA HOUSE ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR

2017 will mark the 125th anniversary of the completion of the Queen Anne-style house that insurance agent and real estate broker Horace S. Harsha built for his family beginning in 1891. They were living on Clinton Street, and moved into their new home upon completion several months later. The Harshas were a major pillar of Charlevoix society, active in many organizations and events. Horace passed away in 1929, and Maggie followed in 1936. Their eldest son John, who lived near Detroit, inherited the house. He rented it to a girls school, which lasted only one year because of the Great Depression. Then John gave it over to his brother-in-law, realtor Earl Young, who divided the house into four apartments, and thus began years of managed rental income for John. His only child Anne Harsha, who never married, inherited the structure and continued the rentals.

The Historical Society reconstituted itself in 1972, but had no permanent, or even temporary home. Board and Society members were meeting in the basement of the bank next door. The photo and artifact collections were scattered all over town. So upon word that Anne was seriously ill in 1978, Board members Dale Boss and Bill Price got the idea of gently approaching her with the idea that she might consider deeding the house over to the Society for its home since she didn't want any dissension within the family as to how the property, which still meant so much to all of them, might be disposed of. She polled all her cousins of her desire that the house might become a museum, and was told to go ahead, with their blessings, as long as it would always be known as the Harsha House to perpetuate the family name as an acknowledgement of the gift. And so she did—for \$1. Upon Anne's passing in 1979, the Society moved in, with three first floor rooms from one apartment for itself for a short time plus three rented apartments, one down and two upstairs.

In 1980, with almost \$40,000 in proceeds from the sale of the book *Bob Miles' Charlevoix*, which had been published in 1976, Dale Boss constructed the museum annex onto the rear of the house. Since that time, major renovations gradually transformed the house's lower level into three restored Victorian parlors. After the lower level apartment was vacated, that was renovated into office, library, and conference space. Within the past few years, the upper apartments were emptied; all that room is now rapidly filling storage space. And so it continues as a treasure to this day—the beautiful Harsha House and Museum in downtown Charlevoix.

MASON & LYNNE ROSENTHAL RECEIVE BOB MILES AWARD

For many years, starting in 1979, the Charlevoix Historical Society recognized individuals for their contributions to historical research and preservation in the Charlevoix area with the Bob Miles Award. This tradition continued for about twenty years. It is named for one of Charlevoix's most significant archivists, photographer Bob Miles (father of your editor David Miles), who left a legacy of thousands of photographs he had taken or acquired, making a remarkable contribution to preserving the history of Charlevoix. He was also, in fact, largely responsible for providing the means to fund the current Historical Society

Museum at 103 State Street with proceeds from the publication and sale of his limited edition book "Bob Miles' Charlevoix" after it was introduced in 1976.

This year, on August 9, the Charlevoix Historical Society revived this prestigious award by presenting it to Lynne and Mason Rosenthal, who have been generous benefactors to the Society as well as many other local and area organizations for a number of years, in support of historic preservation. The award presentation was made at the Charlevoix Public Library prior to the program "Streamline Fashions of the Early Twentieth Century."

The Rosentals were instrumental in supporting the South Pier Lighthouse Restoration, which started ten years ago. They donated the Red Cross sailboat a while back, now displayed at the Depot, and a great example of outdoor art. They had it beautifully redone by local artist Linda Boss and expert furniture restorer Don Kelly last spring. They also donated the doe and two fawns statue at the library's Grant/Mason Streets intersection. The library itself has also received much support from the Rosentals.

Lynne was also an early believer in the Historical Society's involvement in the production of "The Wizard of Boulder Park," the 2015 documentary film that chronicled Earl Young and his works. Without her, it is doubtful that the film would have even gotten off the ground to become the resounding success it has been.

2016-2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ELECTED JULY, 2016

President: Denise Fate

Vice President: Chuck Cleland

Secretary/Membership Chair: Kay Heise

Treasurer: Steve Paterka

Finance Chair: Craig Mann

Directors, term ending 2017: Virginia Cash, Lore Silberman

Directors, term ending 2018: Edward O'Neill, Amanda Wilkin

Directors, term ending 2019: Phyllis Elzinga, Robert Molter

Message from the President

I hope you have had a chance to look at our newly painted "Fire Red" South Pier Lighthouse up close, and are pleased with it. We certainly think our architect Michelle Smay and Mihm Enterprises did a splendid job on this project, and are very glad to see it completed. Our next step is to install a permanent sign on the structure, as required by the National Park Service. For consistency in look and feel, we will be tying into the branding and design work currently being done by the City and Main Street Program committees.

A season full of exhibits and programs, many in collaboration with the Charlevoix Public Library, has come to an end, but we do look forward to enjoying spaghetti at the Villager Pub and celebrating the season at Stafford's Weathervane in December. Your Board is already at work planning for next year, which promises to be a very special one. In the meantime, we will be focusing on preparing for renovations to the Harsha House at the museum.

Denise

The Society welcomes new Patron: *Terry Merchant*

The Society welcomes new members: *John & Anna Young, Susan Barnett, Tina Heugh (Ralph Hamilton Circle), Katie Burns, Gerald & Alicia Doan, Tom Kirkpatrick, Larry White,*

Roger & Sheila Christensen (Ralph Hamilton Circle), Dottie Holmes, Annie Wagner
Donations (unrestricted) received from: *Kate Left, Tina Heugh, Ted & Marilyn Dumbauld,*

Dan & Juli Fialkowski, Steve & Marsha Braun, Roger & Sheila Christensen
Donation in honor of Anne Bandfield's birthday received from: *Kristen Jones*

Donations in honor of Joyce Duke's birthday received from: *Franz & Joan Neubrecht,*

Grace Hater, James & Christel Gibbons