



# Newsletter

**March - April 2016**  
**Issue #2**

## ***How to Paint a Mural Program***

### **“A Mural Artist’s Adventures In Charlevoix”**

Charlevoix received a striking new addition to the cityscape recently with the installation of the “Welcome to Charlevoix the Beautiful” mural on the Central Drug Store’s wall. Digital images of it have gone all over the world.

Now we can find out how it was done. Artist Katherine Larson will be coming to town to share stories of her adventures while doing the research for the mural. Her presentation will include a detailed slideshow of the research materials, the original sketches, and a progressive film showing the actual creation. Katherine will also share some of her twenty-year history as a mural artist and opera singer who has painted over 150 murals across the United States and sung with many well-known orchestras and opera companies. Her enthusiasm for the work she loves comes through in her dynamic presentations. She has been engaged to speak at universities, high schools, and social and art organizations.

**When: Tuesday, May 3 at  
7:00 p.m.**

**Where: *the Depot,*  
*Depot Beach***

You can read about Katherine at [www.KatherineLarson.com](http://www.KatherineLarson.com).

### **SPRING MUSEUM HOURS**

The Historical Society museum at the Harsha House will be open in April Wednesday through Saturday 12-4 p.m. 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. The museum will be open in May five days a week beginning Tuesday, May 3.

## 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Historical Society's Annual Report for the calendar year 2015 is now available on our website. Those who wish to review an extremely productive and eventful year plus look over our financial status will find it very informative. Those who would like a printed copy, please notify the Society office and we'll send one out.

### DOCENTS NEEDED FOR SUMMER AND BEYOND

The need for docents to greet and guide visitors to the museum will be especially apparent this year with the mounting of our new exhibit and the upcoming broadcast of "The Wizard of Boulder Park" on PBS (see inside pages). Only a short training period required. If you can spare a few hours a week, please contact the Society a.s.a.p. Thanks.

## \*\*\*\*\* YOU ARE INVITED! \*\*\*\*\*

The curators at the museum are approaching the final preparatory stages for the biggest exhibit ever mounted at the Harsha House. The title is "The Working World—Business & Industry in Charlevoix." Although Charlevoix is best known for its natural beauty and salubrious climate that have attracted hundreds of thousands of visitors over the years, it is the bedrock economic base below the beauty that has sustained the town through the decades. From industrial powerhouses like the cement plant on South Point to the Big Rock Point Nuclear Plant just north of town (the first in Michigan and fifth in the United States) down to mom and pop grocery stores and sidewalk popcorn machines, it is the hard work and dedication of hundreds of men and women over the years that have kept the town humming. First fishing, then lumbering, then the tourist industry and every job in between and on the periphery—that was and still is Charlevoix's Working World.

On display will be a fuel bundle and control rod used to regulate the nuclear reaction (neither ever placed within a reactor and thus totally non-radioactive) that once were in the Big Rock Point Visitors Center and seen by over a million people. Also on display, a sample of the wire thread made at Hoskins Manufacturing south of town that went into the Apollo program space suit fabrics, the only company in the world that made and spun metal thread components so fine and strong. When Neil Armstrong stepped out of the Eagle onto the moon, that one giant leap for mankind, a piece of Charlevoix made the leap with him in his boots and gloves. Smaller than a spaceship will be a 14-foot rowboat constructed at the Foster Boat Works on Ferry Avenue, beautifully restored by former museum director Geoffrey Reynolds. Foster Boat helped bring World War II to a close by providing the small plywood craft that ferried tens of thousands of Allied troops across the rivers of Central Europe during the final push toward Berlin. Plus over 150 classic photos, many never seen before, and full texts that describe almost thirty categories of businesses and industries.

Mark your calendars! To celebrate this new exhibit, the Society will be hosting a **Grand Opening Wine & Cheese Reception** on **Wednesday, May 11 from 5 to 7. p.m.** at the museum. And the entire Society membership is invited! Because it is your loyal support that grants us the time and resources to mount a historically significant exhibit such as this. It will prove an eye-opener to many in Charlevoix as to just how important this town was, and still is, to the economic health not only of the immediate area, Northern Michigan, the state, but also the entire Midwest.

### **DOWNTOWN WALKING TOURS PLANNED**

After a five-tour trial run culminating on Apple Fest weekend last year that proved beyond a doubt the demand was there, an average of 22 people per tour, the Society is embarking on a regular program that will begin Memorial Day weekend and continue through October 15. We are working in conjunction with the Round Lake Gallery at 325 Bridge Street, where all the tours will begin and end. Tickets are \$12 per person. Officially titled "Earl Young Mushroom Houses Guided Walking Tours," the route will take in not only the Earl Young Park Avenue block houses, but also the library, point out the Society museum for future visits, the channel and bridge, and East Park plus other points in between. Each tour will last about an hour. The planned schedule is for two tours each Saturday in June and four Thursday-Saturday tours weekly through the rest of the year. Think about a tour for your summer company, or even one for yourselves!

### **THE LEGACY OF ART AND ARTISTS IN THE CHARLEVOIX AREA**

As can be seen on the front page, a theme is emerging for much of our year with the Society's first scheduled program focusing on the process that goes into an artistic creation. We started with a vintage movie in February based upon a novel by famous early 20th century author Rex Beach, born near Atwood. Then comes the mid-June opening of the Historical Society's own art collection exhibit at the Depot, which will be up for four weeks (docents needed!). Later in June, new museum curator Jacob Thomas will present a program on the design and aesthetics of historic artifacts. Society Board member and program chair Chuck Cleland will be presenting a program titled "Fact or Fiction?—Writing History" later this summer. Details in upcoming newsletters.

### **BROADCAST OF "THE WIZARD OF BOULDER PARK"**

At long last, we have received word that our co-sponsored documentary on Earl Young that premiered last year at Cinema III will finally be receiving its anticipated airing on public television. Detroit DPTV has it scheduled for Monday, May 2 at 10 p.m. for the southeast lower Michigan area. WCMU Central Michigan University's broadcast date is still pending.

## **A REMINDER TO SUBSCRIBE**

Again we would like to remind the membership to subscribe to our new eNewsletter that will keep you abreast of all of our events as we reduce mailings of the paper newsletter to a planned quarterly cycle. This way we can keep you posted on what's happening and any up to date changes. The quarterly newsletter will provide more extensive coverage of events and Society news; the electronic version will keep you abreast of what's happening such as event reminders, late breaking news, and changes of times and venues or cancellations. Just go to our website ([chxhistory.com](http://chxhistory.com)) and find the subscribe button on the home page. Almost half the membership is now taking advantage of this new offering. We'd like to get as many as possible on board.

## **USING THE IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER TO SAVE TAXES**

In 2015, Congress passed legislation that permanently allows individuals age 70 1/2 or older to make tax free gifts from a traditional IRA account directly to a charity of their choice. This is a great way to make a contribution to the Charlevoix Historical Society.

A gift counts as part of your required minimum distribution. But here's the benefit: the gift does not count as ordinary income. So, although there is no tax deduction for the actual gift, having lower income to report can help you avoid taxes on Social Security benefits, higher Medicare premiums, higher tax brackets and surtaxes. This type of gift may also reduce your income for state taxes.

To qualify for this tax advantage, the gift must be paid directly to the charity by your IRA custodian. For further information or help in making a gift, please contact Finance Chair Craig Mann through the Historical Society, 231-547-0373, or [info@chxhistory.com](mailto:info@chxhistory.com)

## **ANYBODY GOT A HOT SEAT?**

Yes, that is a legitimate question. The Paul-Reed Company, once located where Buday Sound Advice next to the Marathon station is now on U. S. 31 North, manufactured "Hot Seats" in the 1950s. They were a plastic-encased material able to be warmed by body heat, which was then retained for comfortable sitting both at home and outdoors. We'd like to put one on display in the new exhibit. If you have a Hot Seat squirreled away that you could loan, please let us know.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

While we may seem to be in a lull during this transition to spring, rest assured the Society is planning for what is going to be a very busy May and June. Our curators, Dave and Jacob, are working in overdrive to mount their new exhibit on business and industry, which we hope will bring local business people into the museum, many perhaps for the first time.

We are also excited about our June 14 fundraiser event at the Depot, a grand opening reception for an exhibit of artwork from our very own eclectic collection. You will be receiving invitations soon with the details. I will be reaching out for docents for this exhibit at the Depot, which will run between June 15 and July 6th. If you are interested, call the Society at 547-0373.

It is poignant that we chose to mount an exhibit of our artwork, since the person largely responsible for amassing and restoring the collection, Karen Lewis, passed away unexpectedly in January as we were formulating our plans. We miss her and her many talents. Karen contributed enormously to the Society and the museum over the years. A memorial service will be held at the Depot on Sunday, June 19.

Lastly as snowstorms come to an end for the season—hopefully—I want to thank Vince Currier for taking care of our snow removal these past two winters. He has been very kind to clean up ours while he is out doing the Charlevoix State Bank parking lot. Thank you, Vince!

Denise

The Society welcomes new members: *Christine Brey, Sam Haberman,  
Ervin and Janie Hire, Richard and Mary Throop, Janice Culp*

The Society welcomes new Patrons: *Rob & Annie Cohen, HopkinsBurns Design Studio,  
Luther & Mary Kurtz, Weston Silver, Freshwater Charch, Kristin Jones*

The Society deeply regrets the recent passing of members: *Dale Glass,  
George Haggard (Life), Karen Lewis (Life), James "Bill" Ochs (Life), Gary Schmidtke,  
John Danly (Life)*

An acknowledgement of all donations received since January will be printed in the next newsletter.