



# Newsletter

## December 2013

### Issue #12

# Seasons Greetings to All!

## **NO JANUARY EVENT**

There is no event scheduled for January as we take our annual breather and prepare for the events on our 2014 calendar. The first one is happening almost immediately with our co-operative participation in the Smithsonian "Journey Stories" exhibit at the Charlevoix Public Library in February and March (see article inside). After that is over, we will resume scheduling more historic programs, special lectures and exhibits, finishing work on a planned publication on the historic vessels of Charlevoix, continuing digitization of the photo archives, holding our always popular potlucks, dinners, and other good things.

## **MUSEUM HOURS THROUGH JANUARY 4**

The Harsha House will be open Tuesday through Saturday (excluding Christmas Day) from 1-4 p.m. through January 4. The side office door facing the bank is open 11-4 for those who need to conduct Society business, do research or purchase a store item before opening hours. The museum store will be open until 4 on Christmas Eve for that last minute perfect gift! And bring your holiday guests down for a visit! (The museum will be closed the rest of January and all of February, but the office door will remain open as usual.)

## **PATRONS AND RALPH HAMILTON CIRCLE MEMBERS: SAVE THE DATE**

The Historical Society's "Journeying to Charlevoix" exhibit starts at the Depot on Monday, February 3. A reception for our Patrons and Ralph Hamilton Circle members is planned for Friday, February 7 at 5:00 p.m. to view the exhibit and learn about our addition to the Smithsonian's "Journey Stories" exhibit at the Charlevoix Public Library.

## **NO NEWSLETTER IN JANUARY**

Because there will be no event in February other than the ongoing “Journeys” exhibit at the depot, there will be no newsletter in January. Behind the scenes time this coming month will be spent almost exclusively on getting the exhibit up and ready for the February 3 opening.

## **LAST CHANCE FOR MUSEUM EXHIBITS**

Those who have not seen our Treasures of the Museum and Vintage Toy exhibits have only until January 4 to see them before they are removed to make way for future exhibits and the renovation of the museum store area that will take place this spring. Only one more chance to give the hand-powered Monta Mower a spin across the carpet.

### **THE SMITHSONIAN IS COMING TO CHARLEVOIX! (adapted from the Charlevoix Public Library news release)**

The Charlevoix Public Library is pleased to announce it has been awarded a special Michigan Humanities Council grant to host the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street “Journey Stories” exhibit, February 3 – March 21, 2014. “Journey Stories” tells the the tale of how our ancestors came to America and the variety of different types of transportation utilized. Our history is filled with stories of people leaving behind everything to reach a new life in another state, or across the ocean. The 700-square foot exhibit includes six stand-alone kiosks all with audio, video, and interactive pieces. There will also be an oral history piece where 90-second personal stories will be recorded and then uploaded to the Smithsonian's Stories on Main Street website to be listened to for generations to come!

The Charlevoix Public Library strives to meet its mission by providing educational resources for the community through unique opportunities such as this traveling Smithsonian exhibit. “We are excited to provide this high quality exhibit to northern Michigan,” states head librarian Val Meyerson. “It's certainly something we don't see very often.”

In partnership with the library, the Charlevoix Historical Society will be creating its own local journey story exhibit entitled “Journeying to Charlevoix: Why They Came and How They Traveled.” “Journeying to Charlevoix” will be on display at the Charlevoix railroad depot and open for visitors each Saturday during the exhibit time frame and will include the themes “We Were Here First” about our earliest settlers (1850s), “Pushing the Boundaries” about the fishermen and lumbermen who followed, and opening the harbor to eventual world commerce (1860s), the beginnings of “The Resort Era” (1870s), and “Riding the Rails & Cruising the Waters,” the arrival of the great passenger liners (1880s) topped by the 1892 coming of the railroad, which changed everything.

The Charlevoix Historical Society, established in 1879, today has as its main mission the protection and preservation of three iconic structures—the south pier lighthouse, the Harsha House Museum and its contents, and the railroad depot.

The Society also provides community enrichment with programs, publications, and exhibits that celebrate Charlevoix's history.

Charlevoix Historical Society President Denise Fate states, "We are very much looking forward to this event in partnership with the Library, which will allow us to showcase the railroad depot and many local historic photos and artifacts to hundreds of students from the area."

Exhibit guides will be available from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at both locations every Saturday of the exhibit. Guides will be available for special group bookings. To book a tour, call Val Meyerson at 231-237-7360. For more specific details about the "Journey Stories" exhibit, visit the website at [www.museumonmainstreet.org/journeystories/](http://www.museumonmainstreet.org/journeystories/).

"Journey Stories" has been made possible by the Michigan Humanities Council. The exhibit is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the State Humanities Council nationwide. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress.

### **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

As we are winding down the year, while it has been another busy and productive one for the Society, we seem to be looking more forward than reflecting backward. We have several significant and high-profile projects underway, which I have alluded to over recent months and are soon to become a reality.

- "Journeying to Charlevoix – Why They Came and How They Traveled" exhibit at the depot. We are thrilled to be working in conjunction with the Charlevoix Public Library simultaneous to their "Journey Stories" exhibit, and to be able to welcome hundreds of students and visitors to the depot to learn more about Charlevoix's storied past. We hope those of you in the area will pay us a visit, or even be a part of it as a guide with our team.
- "Wizard of Boulder Park" – a full length, high definition documentary on the life and art of our renowned builder in stone Earl Young. On this project we have partnered as "fiscal-sponsor" with three-time Emmy award winning documentary film makers Brian and Anne Belanger of Bon Ami Filmworks, LLC, who have been in production for much of the year. It is scheduled for completion by early summer, 2014. We have received several grants and a private donation to help fund production, the most recent from the Charlevoix County Community Foundation, for which we are very appreciative. Additional funding to complete the project is now being sought. Stay tuned for much more on this, including plans for the Charlevoix premiere.

We are also still pursuing the acquisition of a caboose for the depot. We are awaiting clearance of a final hurdle for this to happen. However, we are making good progress raising pledges towards our goal of \$32,000 which will be needed for the caboose, transport & set-up, and preservation, thanks to the generosity of our Board members and another anonymous donor.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those involved in making 2013 a success—our volunteers, tour guides, Board members, and museum co-directors Sally and Dave. We are also extremely grateful for the support of all members and patrons, without whom we could not exist.

Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and Happy New Year! Denise Fate

### **“JOURNEYS” EXHIBIT GUIDES NEEDED FOR DEPOT**

The Society is seeking a dedicated group of exhibit guides for the depot exhibit, both for the weekday student groups and Saturday general admission. No previous experience needed. The basic information required will be provided. A training session for both the library and the depot, plus tours of both exhibits before they open, will be held on February 1 between 10 and 2, with lunch provided, at the library. Anyone who wants become part of this rare opportunity please call the Harsha House (547-0373) by January 10.

### **PHASE III OF LIGHTHOUSE RESTORATION COMPLETED**

Six years after the Society took on the responsibility of restoring and maintaining the South Pier Light Tower, the third and final phase of the basic restoration process was completed this past summer with the removal of rust from and repainting all the interior surfaces (steel plate walls, steel framing, steel plate floors and ceilings, ladders, plus miscellaneous metal components of the light tower). Proper lead paint abatement procedures were used. Funds for research into specifications for and casting three new brass ventilator covers for existing vents in the topmost lantern walls were included in this phase's costs. This restoration was funded with the assistance of a matching grant-in-aid from the Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program, awarded by and administered through the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, State Historic Preservation Office. Total cost of grants and matching funds for Phase III: \$52,833.

The Society would like to take the opportunity to thank our Lighthouse Preservation Committee for its tireless efforts in seeing this project through to completion, otherwise Charlevoix would probably have lost one of its most famous icons. Special thanks and appreciation is due to past Society president Mike Bergeon who, with a handful of others, spearheaded every facet of the restoration of a structure found to be in quite bad condition through to completion.

The Society welcomes new Patrons: *Tom & Diane Hess; Paul & Linda Weston*

The Society welcomes new members: *Gary & Garlyn Parmenter;*

*Katherine Ackerman; Sally Weaver; John & Anne Teesdale*

Donation (unrestricted) received in November from:

*Petoskey Area Antiques Club*

Donation for new Harsha House water heater received in November from:

*Paul & Sally Hoelderle*

Donations in memory of Marilyn Boss received in November from:

*George Haggard, Kohler Family Membership*

Donation in memory of Rita Orłowski received in November from:

*George Haggard*