



Newsletter

March-April 2018

Issue #2

Bragging Rights Program

What is it that makes Charlevoix, population just over 2500, so unique? Why have people been returning here generation after generation, drawn by what some have claimed to be its “mystique,” others its “magic,” still others its one-of-a-kind “vibe”? What has this town contributed to the growth of the Midwest, and the success of the Apollo space program? What product made here played a vital role in bringing World War II to a close? Why is Charlevoix's name known around the world? Who are the scores of notable people who have walked our streets? What national and international records have been set here? When and why was Charlevoix singled out as *the* place to take your vacation in Michigan? And when and how was it named “Charlevoix the Beautiful?” In other words, what makes Charlevoix Charlevoix?

These questions and many more that people have been asking for decades will be answered by your editor—

When: Tuesday, April 3

@ 7:00 p.m.

Where: the Depot

Almost every resident of Charlevoix has a story to tell of being taken by surprise when, being anywhere in the United States, even overseas, they discover that knowledge about their point of origin has preceded them. Join us to find out why our little town possesses this amazing, at times flabbergasting, quality.

Spring Museum Hours

The Museum at Harsha House will be closed to the public through April 30, possibly longer. Construction has already started on the installation of our next major exhibit, the early photographers of Charlevoix, and our previous business and industry exhibit has been dismantled. However, those wishing to speak with a curator, make a museum store purchase, or do research, please call to make an appointment Monday-Saturday, 11-4.

2018 Historical Society Programs & Events

Tuesday, May 1 / 7 p.m./Depot

Beautiful Charlevoix: The Art and Influence of Irene Harsha Young

Presenters: Trevor Dotson & Jennifer Harsha Carroll

Exhibit Opening mid-May: Museum at Harsha House

Tuesday, June 5 / 7 p.m./Depot

Then & Now: Images of Charlevoix / Presenter: Trevor Dotson

Monday, June 25 / 5-7 p.m. / Cultural Corridor

Block Party

Charlevoix Circle of Arts and Museum at Harsha House

Folk Concert at Charlevoix Public Library @ 7 p.m.

Sunday, July 1 / Museum at Harsha House

Private Event for Society Patrons & Ralph Hamilton Circle

Exhibit Opening: 150 Years of Photography at the Charlevoix Historical Society

Tuesday, July 3 / 7 p.m./Depot

Charlevoix Photographers of the Late 19th Century/Presenter: Ole Lyngklip,

Guest Curator of Photography Exhibit

Tuesday, July 17/ 7 p.m./Depot

Charlevoix Photographers of the Early 20th Century/Presenter:
David L. Miles

Friday, July 27 / 7 p.m. / Depot

Venetian Potluck

Tuesday, August 7 / 7 p.m./Depot

Civil War Photography/Presenter: Dr. Stephen McBride

Tuesday, August 14 / 6:30 p.m. / Charlevoix Public Library

Repeat Presentation of *Bragging Rights* Program/Presenter: David L. Miles

Saturday & Sunday, August 25-26 / Depot

Charlevoix Photography Club 10th Annual Fine Art Photography Exhibition

Saturday & Sunday, September 1-2 / Depot

Photo Roadshow & Michigan Historical Photographic Society

visit: chxhistory.com/calendar-event

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED THIS SUMMER!

We expect to be busy this summer, what with the new photographic history and Irene Harsha Young exhibits going in, and our increased exposure due to the initiation of the Charlevoix Cultural Corridor, plus the normal traffic we attract. So we will need help at the Museum at Harsha House to show guests around. We are also thinking of opening the Train Depot to visitors on Sundays this summer, and need docents to greet them and give tours. If you like to plan events, we could use your help there too! Contact us if you are interested, at either (231) 547-0373 or denise@chxhistory.com.

IRENE HARSHA YOUNG PROGRAM AND EXHIBIT IN MAY

Irene Harsha House, wife of Charlevoix's legendary builder in stone Earl A. Young, was a talented artist and Charlevoix native who worked closely with her husband through nearly sixty years of marriage that included four children. A new exhibit showcasing many of her original paintings, plus a complementary exhibit of the Harsha and Young families, will be opening in mid May at the Museum at Harsha House. "*Beautiful Charlevoix: The Art and Influence of Irene Harsha Young*" shares Irene's work as a landscape artist, her hand-painted historic area maps that grace hundreds of homes nationwide, and her only now fully acknowledged and celebrated collaboration with Earl. Irene's talent allowed her to provide fleshed out drawings for his boulder homes and buildings. These were based on the pencil sketches and verbal descriptions that Earl produced before any phase of construction since he produced no blueprints or elevation drawings himself, but worked out of his head on the inspiration of the moment. Irene brought his visions into workable form.

The exhibit will showcase life in turn-of-the-century Charlevoix in the home where Irene was raised with her four siblings, the Harsha House, now the Historical Society's headquarters and museum. It will also give visitors a glimpse of life in a downtown neighborhood in the late 1800s and early 1900s, including enjoyment of the area's natural beauty and focus on the arts, writing, and music. The exhibit includes never before seen art and personal family histories possessed by three of Earl and Irene's granddaughters and a grandniece: Connie Gardner of Interlochen, Kitty Gill Warner of Boyne City, Gretchen Young Olsen of Petoskey, and Jennifer Harsha Carroll of Ellsworth. This will be the first exhibit ever to take place in the three front formal parlors of the Harsha House, as backdrop for where Irene Harsha Young was raised.

An illustrated program on Irene Young and her art will take place **at the Depot on Tuesday, May 1 @ 7 p.m.** It will be presented by museum curator Trevor Dotson and Jennifer Harsha Carroll, who is serving as guest curator for the exhibit.

TRAIN DEPOT RESTORATION TO BEGIN IN SPRING

Thanks to the generous gifts made to our **Embrace.Preserve.Cherish.** capital campaign, work will begin at the Train Depot this spring renovating the exterior and restoring it to its 1892 appearance to the extent we can! The Board of Directors recently approved the \$100,000 project which will be under the direction of Robert Jess of Freshwater Charch. Bob and his team are also completing the exterior renovations at the Museum at Harsha House. The work at the Depot will include extensive carpentry repairs, mainly replacing shakes

and painting. The Society is exploring research methods of how to identify original paint colors used during historically significant periods with the hope of reusing them again. When it opened 126 years ago, the Charlevoix Train Depot displayed five definite and contrasting tonalities of paint on the exterior.

To make a gift to the campaign to support preservation of the Train Depot, Museum at Harsha House and the South Pier Lighthouse, send a check to Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) for the Charlevoix Historical Society Preservation Fund, P.O. Box 718, East Jordan, MI 49727. You can also visit www.c3f.org to Make a Gift, and select the Charlevoix Historical Society Preservation Fund.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Society's calendar for the season has quickly filled up with a number of unique programs and events, mostly centered around new exhibits being mounted at the Museum at Harsha House, which will showcase the Society's collections and Charlevoix's history. The exhibits will be enhanced by significant pieces from other private and public collections as well. Watch for more details in our next newsletter. We do have to ask for your patience for a couple of months while we are 'under construction' transforming the Museum. Trust me, it will be worth the wait. In the meantime, I hope you will be able to enjoy the programs at the Depot.

Denise

Donations (unrestricted) received in February and early March from:

Richard & Connie Dexter, Roger & Sheila Christensen

Donation in memory of Gordon van Wieren received from: *Mick Smith*

Donation in memory of David Silberman received from: *Alvin & Patsy Ranger*