RELIVING

The Rochester Era

July/August The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter 2008

A Fine Time Was Had by All

Approximately fifty Society members gathered on Thursday, June 19, at the Rochester Community House for the Annual Meeting and picnic.

As always, the food was good and the entertainment pleasurable. Magician Ray Rubenstein, also known as Alexander the Great, mystified all present .. Particularly Sean Doyle!

Election of the 2008 Board of Directors was done by acclamation (see page 3 for biographies of the Board) and by-laws changes ac-

Our new publication, ***Home Town Rochester,*** *by Deborah Larsen with much help by Rod and Sue Wilson is ready to be offered for bid to publishers.*

Look for it in time for Christmas. No coffee table will be complete without it.

Harris Fountain Dedication

All the members of the RAHS are invited to attend the rededication of the Harris Fountain in its new location on Sunday, August 17 at 2:00 PM. The Rochester Historical Commission gives special thanks to Rod Wilson and Greg Doyle who provided leadership and support during the entire project. All are invited. RAHS President Rod Wilson will be speaking.

The City of Rochester

and the

Rochester Historical Commission

cordially invite you to attend

the Rededication

of the Harris Fountain

Sunday, August 17, 2008

2:00 pm

East of the Rochester Municipal Building
Downtown Rochester, 400 Sixth Street

For more information, please call:
(248) 651 - 0907
(248) 652 - 3199

From the President …

Thank you for electing me president again. I guess my last stint as president wasn't enough, and I am back for more. We have an outstanding board of directors, and we are all looking for a very enjoyable two years. At our special board meeting on August 14, we will be discussing a planned year and a budget for 2008-2009. Anyone is welcome to attend; please call me for meeting location. Once the planned year is approved, we will send it out to all our members. I think you will find the planned year exciting, energetic and there should be something for you if you want to become involved.

Our appreciation to Kay Johnson, Tammy Byers, Marylin Brooks and Maria-Teresa Cozzolino for serving this past term on the board of directors.

Thank you to Greg Doyle for serving the past four years as president. Greg has been busy growing his own company and raising his family while serving as president. He did a lot of behind the scenes work calling and talking to many people in the community. His expertise will still be available as he will be serving on the Board of Directors as Past President.

OFFICERS

President……Rod Wilson 248.651.6178
Vice-President……Brian Dunphy 248.656.5968
Treasurer……Mary Howarth 248.375.0206
Recording Secretary……June Hopaluk 248-652-9242
Corresponding Secretary….Janet Potton 248.652.7296
Member-at-Large……Susan Hohf 248.852.9015
Member-at-Large……James Hopkins 248.342.6782
Past President……Greg Doyle 248.651.6076

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Historian……Gail Kemler 248.651.0907
Membership……Carole Fischer 248.853.0118
ERA……Mary Howarth 248.375.0206
Program……JoAnn Bourez 248.651.7526
Publicity……Liz Golding 248.656.1125

Join the Rochester Avon Historical Society today!

Help to keep what is significant...
Refurbish what is historic ...
Maintain what is well-known.

- **By-monthly newsletters**
- **Monthly meetings with guest speakers**
- **Downtown Rochester historical walking tours**
- **Monthly lunchtime talks by long-time area residents**
- **Twelfth Night gathering**

Dues: Individual $18, Family $25, Contributor $35. Mail your check made payable to the Society with your name, address, telephone and email address to:

Rochester Avon Historical Society, P O Box 80783, Rochester, MI 48308-0783.

RAHS 2008-2009 Board Members

In their own words

PRESIDENT : Rod Wilson

248.651.6178 rodandsue@comcast.net

Married to Susan Siewert for 47 years. Two daughters and four granddaughters. Retired from General Motors Planning Department. President of the RAHS from 1998 – 2004. Susan and I enjoy preserving and sharing the history of the Rochester Area. Susan's grandfather Jacob Miller purchased 360 acres of property at the northeast corner of Adams and Avon Roads in 1837. Rod and Susan own a 1956 Buick Century and are members of the Buick Club of America. Rod is also president of the Oaks Chapter, Michigan Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

VICE-PRESIDENT : Brian Dunphy

248.656.5968 bdunphy@mailshack.com

Brian has been a RAHS member for four years and recently served on the Board as member at large. He and his wife, Jill, live in Rochester Hills, where he has been a member of the Historic Districts Commission since 2002. He currently serves as HDC vice chairperson. Brian is a 2004 graduate of Leadership Oakland, a nine-month community leadership development program. He is responsible for corporate communication at Beaumont Hospitals, Royal Oak.

TREASURER and **ERA Editor**: **Mary Howarth**

248.375.0206 tenormary@gmail.com

Mary is the cataloguer for the OCC libraries. She has been active in the League of Women Voters since moving to the Rochester area in 1972, serving on the state board (currently for the third time) and twice as president of the Rochester unit. She sings, not well but joyously, in two church choirs and rings bells in another, and with the Rochester Musicale chorus—for whom she also produces the newsletter. Mary is a regular volunteer at the Rochester Hills Museum and is past chair of and current board member of the Rochester Area Heritage Festival. Mary and her GM retiree husband, David, are active with the Rochester Grangers base ball team—Mary as tally keeper and David as umpire. Their adult children live in Massachusetts, from where Mary originally hails : a bred-in love of history being the result. Both Mary and David love to travel, both in the US and abroad.

RECORDING SECRETARY : June Hopaluk

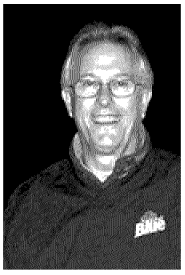
248.652.9242 jhopaluk37@wowway.com

June Hopaluk came to the Rochester area 1965 and fell in love with the community's rich history. She raised her family in Oakland Township where all four children attended Baldwin school. She has lived Rochester Hills since 1984. June earned an Associate Degree at Oakland Community College, a BSW from Marygrove College and a Masters in Library Science from Wayne State University. While she retired from Rochester Hills Public Library in 2005, she still works part time in the Outreach Department . She is a member of the Rochester Historical Commission and serves as secretary. Her interests are reading, history, cooking and gardening.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY : Janet Potton

248.652.7296 sundown@provide.net

Janet Potton has been a member of the board ever since she joined the RAHS over nine years ago first serving as Recording Secretary for 2 and ½ terms, then Member-at-Large and now Corresponding Secretary. A naturalized American, Janet was born in England coming to Rochester when just a youngster with her parents. After graduation from high school, Janet returned to her native England for several years. Subsequently, she returned to Michigan and worked in medical office administration, first for a Family Practice and then an Allergist. She is still working at the Allergy & Asthma Center of Rochester today. She has many interests and has enjoyed travel to all 48 of the continental United States as well as other adventures which have included the Queen Elizabeth II, Queen Mary II, Concorde, and Orient Express. She enjoys her membership in RAHS, Oakland Township Historical Society, and Rochester Hills Museum because she is interested in preserving the history of today for future generations. Although Rochester is her adopted home, she has a strong concern for the community and its people. "All the members of RAHS are wonderful people to know and it's very enjoyable to be a member of the team" she says.



MEMBER-AT-Large : James Hopkins

248.342.9015 nark1non@gmail.com

My name is James Hopkins and I was born in Rochester in 1943. My family first came to the Rochester area in 1821, so I have deep roots here. I am a Financial Adviser working for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. I have worked in the financial industry for 15 years. I have two children, a daughter 24 and a son 22. I am currently unmarried. I enjoy studying and learning about Michigan history.

MEMBER-AT-LARGE : Susan Hohf

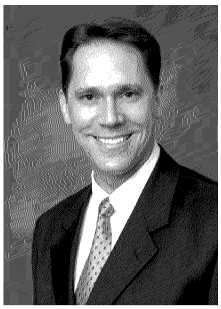
248.852.9015 suehohf@aol.com

My name is Susan (Bridge) Hohf, and I am a new Member At Large for the RAHS. I have lived most of my life in Rochester or Rochester Hills. I have a great husband of 49 years, Denny, three terrific kids and seven wonderful grandchildren. I worked for the United States Postal Service for 31 years, retiring in 2001. I delivered mail for 17 years, worked as a facilitator in a cooperative labor/management program for 10 years, and in Safety for 4 years. My favorite part of those 31 years was the opportunity to teach "Steven Covey's Seven Habits of Highly Effective People" to letter carriers, supervisors and management personnel. It was a very rewarding experience.

My family, beginning with the Newberrys and the Howells, have lived in this area for a very long time, beginning as farmers and continuing in many capacities over the years. I never tire of hearing about the early days of this locale, and have learned a lot from the last year of being a member of this organization.

PAST PRESIDENT : Greg Doyle

248.651.6076 Esource_doyle@ameritech.net



Wife Cindy is a nurse at Troy Beaumont Hospital. Two children Katie and Sean. Katie bakes delicious cookies and Sean enjoys Alexander the Magnificent! Greg left EDS where he was a small business consultant. He is now self employed with the Entrepreneur's Source because of his desire to help people achieve their career dreams. Greg coaches others in franchising and self employment options.

Greg has over 15 years experience in management and over 13 years experience in small business consulting.

HISTORIAN : Gail Kemler

248.651.0907 No email address

Gail Kemler is the RAHS Historian. She came to Rochester in 1931 and graduated from RHS in 1935. Gail was married to the late Don Kemler and she has 4 children, 9 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren. Gail is a past Board member of the Rochester Community Schools Board and a past Grand Marshall of the Rochester Christmas Parade. Today she is still very involved in many organizations including

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RAHS 2007-2008 Award Winners

(Winners were selected by the RAHS Board of Directors)

GAIL KEMLER AWARD presented to the OUTSTANDING FIRST YEAR MEMBER: This years recipient is **Susan Hohf**. Since joining RAHS, Susan has attended most of the Brown Bag Luncheon Meetings and the Thursday evening programs. She helped several days at the Great Everything Sale, our Appraisal Day, and is always asking in what ways can she help. Susan will be serving as one of the Society Members-at-Large for 2008-2010.

LOIS COLLETT AWARD presented to the OUTSTANDING BOARD MEMBER:
Janet Potton stood out this year as one of the strengths of our Board of Directors. She attended all of our monthly Board meetings while serving as Member-at-Large and made countless contributions. Janet helped out on numerous projects throughout the year and attended most of our evening programs.

MARY EBERLINE AWARD presented to the OUTSTANDING MEMBER:
This year we had dual winners – **Wilma Ralph** and **LaVere Webster**.

Wilma Ralph was a tremendous help with our monthly programs: contacting each presenter, checking on the equipment they needed, getting their press release information and making sure they had proper directions. She also coordinated with the Library to make sure the proper equipment would be available for each presenter. Wilma helped at the Great Everything Sale, Appraisal Day, Heritage Festival, and Sidewalk Sales. She attended the Brown Bag Luncheon Meeting and our evening programs. When help was needed, Wilma was there.

LaVere Webster is heading up the restoration of the Marvin Beerbohm mural that was painted in the 1930's and has hung over the old Rochester High School entrance. LaVere removed the mural from its location per a request from the school administration. This turned out to be a very difficult and challenging task. LaVere will continue his restoration on the mural and hopefully sometime in 2009 it will hang in the Harrison Room at the Rochester Community Schools Administration Building.

Ode to a Volunteer

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgment nears
That there's a special place in
Heaven set aside for volunteers.
Furnished with big recliners,
Satin couches and footstools
Where there's no committee chair,
No group leaders or carpools.
Telephone lists will be outlawed
But a finger snap will bring
Cool drinks and gourmet dinner,
And rare treats fit for a king.
You ask,
Who'll serve the privileged few
And work for all they're worth?
Why, those who reaped the benefits
And not once volunteered on earth.

Reprinted from the Rochester Hills Museum Volunteer Connection

Planning Information

A meeting schedule will be included in the next ERA, but for now please note these dates in your calendar.

September 2 Brown Bag Meeting
Rochester Community House
noon—1:00 PM

September 4 General meeting with speaker to be announce.
Rochester Hills Public Library
7:30 PM

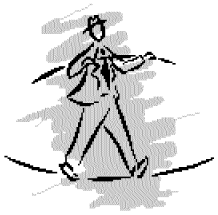
Do you know an Eagle Scout looking for a project? Contact Rod—he and Mary came up with some ideas ;-)

Downtown Walking Tours

All tours begin at the northeast corner of the Western Knitting Mills building on Water Street. Each tour will last about 2 hours. There is no cost to RAHS members, with a $5 fee for non-members or $3 for seniors and students.

August 21—Thursday @ 7:00 PM
September 13—Saturday @ 1:00 PM
October 5—Sunday @ 1:00 PM

Members interested in helping Rod and Sue Wilson with the tours should contact Rod. It is always nice to have extra members help on the tours.



Membership Update

Each newsletter or meeting notice you will receive this year will have an address label reading "Dues Paid Until ___". This your very own "tickler system" which lets you know when your membership will expire. Checking this each month will tell you when it is time to pay your dues. If you missed your "tickler", we will send you ONE reminder. Monitoring your own membership dues renewal deadline will benefit the society's budget.

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Vice-Chairman of the Rochester Historical Commission, Yates Mill Questers, Stoney Creek Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, and works many hours helping with the Neighborhood House Pantry Shelf.

MEMBERSHIP : **Carole Fischer**

248.853.0118 momfischer@comcast.net

Retired from U.S. Army Tank-Automotive Command, Research & Development Directorate, where my projects requiring a mathematical background and knowledge of computers. I currently teach computer classes at OPC, write articles for the OPC *Vintage Views*, am Secretary of the OPC Computer Club, produce yearbooks for Meadowbrook Women's Club and Stoney Creek Questers, perform audits for the Stoney Creek DAR, am part of the Internet Genealogy Group at the Rochester Hills Public Library, and am Membership Chair for RAHS.

PROGRAMS : JoAnn Bourez

248.651.7526

JoAnn Bourez is the new program chairperson. She is a past president of the Oakland Township Historical Society were she is still a very active member. JoAnn and her husband Dick are very active with the Rochester Community House. She is also a long time and active member of the Avon Players.

2008 Sidewalk Sales

Total gross sales from this years Sidewalk Sales is $561.45. Last year we did $640, so I think this year is very good considering we had no new products to sell.

Thank you to the following individuals for working a shift: Harold and Liz Golding, Mary Howarth, Susan Hohf, Liz Littleson, Deborah Larsen, Dolores Kuczajda, Rich Stamps, Gail Kemler, June Hopaluk, James Hopkins, Ginger Ketelsen, and my wife Susan who worked more than one shift and helped get things together, set up and take down.

SIDEWALK continued on page 8

KATHLEEN CROWE McAFEE : A tribute

by Liz Golding

It can be said that the measure of a person is the respect he/she gets from friends. In the case of Kathy McAfee, respect comes not only from friends, but from the community and above all else her family.

Kathy passed away June 6, 2008. She left us with an incredible legacy. Her life was a giant mosaic of such diverse proportions. Kathy's accomplishments ranged from a Ph. D. in educational sociology to white-water rafting in Alaska with her grandson.

Kathy moved to a small farm in Rochester as a sixth grader and graduated from Rochester High School. After marrying Neil Crowe, Jr. in Chicago, the couple moved back to Rochester where five children were born and raised. These were her proudest accomplishments. Her beloved Neil died in 1968 and in 1975 she remarried James McAfee and a step-son and step–daughter were added to her lively family.

The volunteer work she did was admirable. She worked with the Avon Players and helped establish the Junior Women's Club in Rochester. Kathy was a founding member of the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester. Her work with RAHS came at a time when the Society was in need of a boost. Kathy gave it the energy needed when she produced the video documentary *Our Legacy, Your Heritage: The Early Rochester Area.* The Rochester-Avon Historical Society owes her a great deal of thanks for spearing the organization on to the position it holds in the community today.

Kathy had a deep sense of community and love for her Rochester. She overcame breast cancer, and at the age of 61 had a heart transplant. This lady had a smile for everyone and never complained about her own problems. Her mission was her family, her friends and her community.

At her Memorial Service on June 17, those who attended were touched by the beautiful remarks from her children and grandchildren. Her mosaic is complete, but each of us whose lives she touched we will benefit inside from all the colors she left. She will be missed.

History chitchat -

Historical tidbit from JoAnn Bourez - - - - My first time in the old "park pavilion" (now RCH) was in l960 when I came back to Rochester to live after college. The occasion was the auditions I'd heard about for Avon Players' "Kiss Me Kate". I got one of the two female lead parts, and it was the first of 26 Broadway musicals I sang in for Avon Players! We used the old gym and now-demolished stage (that's now called the Harrison Room where the Board of Education meets) for the first 4 musicals until we built our A-frame playhouse out Tienken Road's dusty dirt road. "Kiss Me Kate" was the first Broadway musical that Avon Players attempted. The whole front page of the Rochester Clarion was full of pictures and raving reviews of our opening night! (We paid Sarah Van Hoosen Jones $1.00 for the property to build our Playhouse on!) I've now been an active member of Avon Players for 47 years! Only Dick McGowan has more years as a member than I do!

SIDEWALK continued from Page 6

Jim Hopkins came by Friday evening and picked up the items, tables and chairs. He returned Saturday morning, set up the tent and after his shift loaded everything in his car and dropped it off at our house. Kathryn Jo Dixon and Pat Bracewell both had signed up to work but were unable to do so due to health reasons.

Rod Wilson

Rochester Avon Historical Society
P O Box 80783
Rochester, MI 48309-0783

Pride in Preserving the Past