



RELIVING

The Rochester Era

Nov./Dec.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2015

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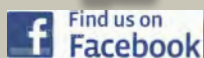
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(L to R) RAHS President Brian Dunphy and First Vice President Carol Tough, Rochester Community School District representatives Jennifer Berwick, Board President, and Debi Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent

'Extra! Extra!'

RAHS Donates Local History Books to Rochester Schools

As part of our mission of history education, the Rochester-Avon Historical Society has donated 30 copies of our local history book, "[Home Town Rochester](#)," to the Rochester Community School District. A copy will go to each school library within the district and to each Board of Education member.

The books were presented at the Board of Education meeting Oct. 12 by RAHS President

Brian Dunphy and First Vice President Carol Tough. Jennifer Berwick, Board President, and Debi Fragomeni, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, accepted the donation.

At the time of presentation, Carol noted that 2017 will mark the Rochester Bicentennial. "The Rochester-Avon Historical Society is very proud of this book, and we have donated these books to the school district so that every school in your district has one of these books for reference, especially with the Bicentennial coming up," she said.

Each book has a bookplate affixed indicating that it is a gift of the Rochester-Avon Historical Society and highlighting our presence online through our websites, [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#) and [Twitter](#).

"We greatly appreciate the donation of the books to our students in each of the schools, as well as I'm sure the Board will enjoy them," said Jennifer. "Thank you for the work that you do."

'Read All About It'

RAHS' Own Newsletter Honored with State History Award



We are pleased and proud to share the news that our newsletter, *Reliving The Rochester Era*, was selected to receive the prestigious [State History Award](#) in the category of "[Communications: Printed Periodicals](#)" from the [Historical Society of Michigan](#).



RAHS President Brian Dunphy and Rochester Era Editor Leslie Mack display 2015 State History Award. (Photo credit: Ginger Ketelsen)

News of the award was conveyed to RAHS President Brian Dunphy in August, and he and newsletter Editor Leslie Mack attended the HSM's President's Banquet in Saginaw, Michigan on Friday, Sept. 26 to accept the award.

President's Message ...

Plenty of Great Things Happening



Brian Dunphy, President
Rochester-Avon
Historical Society

What an eventful few months we've had – with much more to come. You'll find the details in this issue, but several activities, and the hard-working people who have made them possible, deserve special recognition.

First, the Board has elected Holly Bledsoe as Corresponding Secretary. She joins her husband, Tom, on the Board, as he was elected Director of Special Projects earlier this year. Best wishes to Holly in her new responsibilities.



Holly Bledsoe

I'm also delighted to recognize our [Rochester Era newsletter](#) editor and RAHS Board member Leslie Mack, for her efforts that led to RAHS winning a State History Award on Sept. 25 at the Historical Society of Michigan's State History Conference. [RAHS won the award for the Rochester Era newsletter in the category of Communications: Printed Periodicals.](#) Kudos to Leslie for her talent, commitment and hard work on the newsletter!



The following day, blessed with great weather, we had an outstanding [cemetery walk](#), our fourth annual, with more than 150 tickets sold. Debbie Larsen did an exceptional job scripting, directing and organizing this fourth annual event. Thanks to Debbie and her team of [actors – especially the students from Rochester College](#) – and many volunteers for making "[Women in the Stones](#)" a success!



Debbie Larsen

More exciting things are headed our way. Our restored surry will once again be part of the [Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade](#) on Dec. 6. The parade will be led by Grand Marshals Rod and Susan Wilson, both long-time RAHS members. Rod also is a Past President of the historical society.



Carol Tough with our restored surry at the 2014 Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade

We also plan to have a RAHS booth at the Downtown Rochester [Kris Kringle Market](#) on Dec. 4 and 5. We'll



RAHS booth at the 2014 Downtown Kris Kringle Market

have more information about the event later but will certainly need volunteers to staff the outdoor booth. Watch your email for updates.

And finally, a reminder – we still have two open seats on the RAHS Board:

- Second Vice President - Finance
and
Director of Fund Raising Events

These are tremendous opportunities for members who want to get more involved with the historical society, and I urge you to consider taking on one of these positions. There's not enough space here to provide details on each, but if you contact RAHS at **248-266-5440** or rahupdates@gmail.com, I can provide you with information.

As always, the efforts of dedicated volunteers make possible all of our many projects, programs and events. To volunteer, please call or email as indicated above.

Upcoming Programs ... Brown Bag and Monthly Library Lecture

No Brown Bag Meeting in November
Due to Elections

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

RAHS Library Lecture

Thursday, Nov. 5, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Town Road

“The Lone Ranger and Radio Station WXYZ”

Radio historian Larry Zdeb will discuss “The Lone Ranger” and other national programs with origins at Detroit’s radio station WXYZ, including “The Green Hornet” and “Sergeant Preston of the Yukon.”

He will talk about the actors involved in the productions, what has happened to them and the abandoned radio studio in the Maccabees Building in downtown Detroit.

A 12-minute Jam Handy movie about radio sound effects in 1938 will offer an amusing glimpse of radio history.

Two WXYZ Radio “Lone Ranger” cast members, child actress Shirley Ann Russell and actor/announcer Chuck Daugherty, are scheduled to appear and will answer questions from the audience.

Mr. Zdeb is an award-winning artist with an art degree from Oakland Community College. He became interested in old radio shows through collecting the “premiums” offered on the shows, such as decoders and badges.

With a huge collection of “Lone Ranger” and “Captain Midnight” memorabilia, he is the chief writer for www.radiopremiumexchange.com and is a contributor to the Hake’s Price Guides on radio collectibles.

He is currently writing a book about the radio character Captain Midnight.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Brown Bag Meeting

Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2015, at Noon

Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow Street

“One Hundred Five Years of the Dillman and Upton Lumber Company”

Terry Upton, the third generation of four in the 105-year life of the Dillman and Upton Lumber Company, will discuss the history of his family’s business.

Started in 1910 by Charles W. Upton to supply coal and ice, the business expanded to provide lumber for Rochester and nearby townships. Upton hired his nephew Roy G. Upton and son-in-law Arthur R. Dillman in 1915.

Today, in addition to lumber, the home center and showroom located at 607 Woodward Street serves homeowners and builders with hardware, paint, cabinetry, doors and windows. Two of Terry Upton’s three sons, Brad and Todd, now own and operate the business.

Mr. Upton is a native Rochester resident who has built, remodeled and lived in at least a half dozen homes in the Rochester area. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1957 with a degree in lumber and building materials merchandising.

He has been involved in many community programs over the years, including the fire department, Crittenton Hospital and the YMCA.

With the perspective of living in Rochester for 80 years, he will talk about the changes in the community, as well as those in the lumber business.

Bring your lunch and enjoy the free coffee, tea and cookies for this casual program. Bring a friend!

No Evening Program in December
Due to Library Schedule

Check Out our Growing Video Offering on YouTube



Rochester-Avon Historical Society

Subscribe 10



RAHS Projects
Updated 4 days ago



RAHS Special Events
Updated 4 days ago



RAHS Brown Bag Lunch Programs (Rochester...)
Updated 4 days ago



RAHS Evening Programs (Library Multipurpose Room)

Click here to visit our YouTube Channel, or copy the following link and paste into your browser window:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCR5hvF6MsidqRn1e5e95A>

RAHS Expands Merchandise Offering

Featuring an existing work by local artist Gerry Post, this classic white ceramic mug features a sepia image of the historic Rochester Opera House building (home of Lytle Pharmacy today).

This is a limited-edition item, so you'll want to act quickly before it sells out. Consider purchasing extras as unique holiday gifts for family and friends, too.



This introductory mug is available for purchase through Lytle Pharmacy and will be offered for sale at the RAHS booth at Kris Kringle Market, Dec. 4 and 5.

(Sorry, this item is not available for purchase online.)

Member Discounts on Merchandise

As announced previously, a 15 percent discount off the regular price of any of our merchandise items will be extended to members during RAHS booth sales events.

The next and last RAHS booth event of 2015 will offer merchandise for sale during the Kris Kringle Market on Dec. 4 and 5.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) was founded in 1969 to help preserve, collect and interpret the history of the greater Rochester area for present and future generations.

For more information, including a list of upcoming events, visit online at:

www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org

Care to Mingle with the Marshals?

If so, then register to attend the Grand Marshal's Celebration

This annual Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce event will kick off the holiday season by honoring RAHS' own Rod and Susan Wilson, Grand Marshals of the 2015 [Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade](#).

Join the celebration at [Great Oaks Country Club](#) on Thursday, Dec. 3 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. You'll enjoy live entertainment, hors d'oeuvres, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus as the achievements of the Grand Marshals are celebrated in preparation for the parade.

To register for tickets (\$35 per person), or for more information, contact The [Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce](#) office at 248-651-6700.

[For more information or to register, click here.](#)

Surrey Horsepower

RAHS Director of Special Projects Tom Bledsoe is putting the finishing touches on plans to return our gleaming surrey to Main Street for only its second post-restoration appearance in the 2015 [Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade](#).



Bailey Boy at the Flying D Farm in Oakland Township
(Photo credit: Tom Bledsoe)

Greeting the smiling crowds from within will be RAHS Board members President Brian Dunphy, Director of Historical Preservation Gail Kemler and First Vice President and former surrey restoration chair Carol Tough.

This year, the surrey will be single-horsepower driven by Bailey Boy, "a big black Tennessee Walker who has lots of carriage-pulling experience." Bailey Boy resides at the Flying D Farm in Oakland Township.

Special thanks to Tom for his efforts in arranging our parade participation!

Don't Miss these Upcoming Events

Please mark your calendar now!

Daylight Savings Time Ends
Sunday, Nov. 1
Reminder to register for, or renew,
[Kroger Community Rewards](#) account

NOVEMBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Please note:
No Brown Bag Lunch
this month
(Election Day)

Evening Program @ Library
Thursday, Nov. 5
7:00 p.m.

[Lagniappe](#) 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
[Big, Bright Light Show](#) Debut - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 23

Brown Bag Lunch
Tuesday, Dec. 1
12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.

Please note:
No Evening Program
this month
(Due to library schedule)

[Kris Kringle Market](#) Booth
Friday, Dec. 4
4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 5
12:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

RAHS Surrey in the
[Rochester Hometown
Christmas Parade](#)
Sunday, Dec. 6
2:00 p.m.

[Grand Marshal's Celebration](#)
*(An event of the
[Rochester Regional
Chamber of Commerce](#))*
Thursday, Dec. 3
Great Oaks Country Club
6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$35 per person
[For more information or to
register, click here.](#)

DECEMBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	5
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JANUARY						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
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10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Please note:
No Brown Bag Lunch
this month

Please note:
No Evening Program
this month

RAHS Member Wins State History Award

By Leslie Mack



Photo: Leslie Mack
Kay Smith (left) interviewed Ginger Ketelsen for the RAHS oral history project in November 2012

As you likely have heard already, RAHS member and former oral history committee chair Ginger Ketelsen was honored in September with a [State History Award from the Historical Society of Michigan](#)

[in the category of "Education: Educator."](#)

Not only was I privileged to be in attendance as Ginger received the award at the HSM annual State History Conference in Saginaw, but I was transported back in time to November of 2012 when I had the opportunity to video record an oral history interview summarizing her very full and productive life to that point.

Late in the conversation that November day, interviewer Kay Smith addressed the legacy that Ginger felt she was leaving to her grandchildren. I was impressed by Ginger's response not only to that question, but also to that of Kay's closing request for any general thoughts that Ginger might like to add. Ginger's responses to these questions were, and are, both touching and timely and are worthy of inclusion here.

Following is a short excerpt from the interview transcript:

Q: ... What's the best legacy of all of this that you feel that you are leaving to your grandchildren?

A: Okay. Very deep question. I would hope to leave to them the knowledge that they've been really well loved, and that we have the highest of hopes for them as human beings to both be loving and giving human beings and also successful in whatever careers they choose, and to be able to live in a community as they raise their own children. I think that's something that I'm very pleased we've had in this community that we've been able to do, and it's brought us a lot of happiness.

Q: ... Is there anything else you'd like to add?

A: Well, I guess I'd just like to close with my "druthers" for Rochester. I see things moving at a very rapid pace, and I understand that happens when you get older. Lots of things are being modernized, but there's so many good basic things here that I hope people in the community will continue to value and support, and I do see that happening. We have a strong historical society and a strong museum, and I see even our local governmental unit saying, "This is a historic community and we want to value those things." So that's one of the things I would hope that the community would continue to do, as well as to understand that they have a very, very strong and wonderful educational community here in their public schools, in their colleges and universities, and that those things seem to be under attack, and I hope the community people will come together to make sure that they remain strong and a big part of the community.

Without good schools, and without a good community identity, you don't have good property values—good people don't want to live here anymore. So, I just hope and pray that there are enough younger people willing to pick up that torch and make sure that our parks and our schools and our history are valued and continue on.

Q: Very good. Well, thank you, Ginger, for sharing all of these things about your life.

A: Thank you for listening."

It appears that Ginger's message has traveled well beyond our little corner of the world.



Photo: Eric Ketelsen

Ginger Ketelsen with her 2015 State History Award for Education

Contact Information for RAHS Board of Directors and Committees

RAHS Board of Directors

Brian Dunphy, President	248-266-5624
Carol Tough, Vice President, Operations	248-375-0084
Janet Potton, Vice President, Development	248-652-7296
Holly Bledsoe, Corresponding Secretary	248-923-2602
June Hopaluk, Recording Secretary	248-652-9242
Cary Downer, Treasurer	586-201-2285
Tiffany Stozicki, Director, Communications	248-650-0415
Leslie Mack, Director, Editor, Era Newsletter	586-924-4961
Bree Boettner, Director, Membership	248-515-0881
Mary Howarth, Director, Merchandising	248-375-0206
Margaret Bartos, Director, Programs	248-759-4768
Tom Bledsoe, Director, Special Projects	248-923-2602
Gail Kemler, Director, Historical Preservation	248-651-0907

Committee Chairpersons

Deborah Larsen, Research	248-375-2974
David Gifford, Media	248-941-7587
Samantha Lawrence, Oral History	586-255-1883

Volunteer Areas of Interest

How would you like to participate?

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Historic Research
- Historic Walking Tour Guide/Assistant
- Fundraising
- Genealogy Research
- Heritage Days
- Oral History
- Photography/Videography
- Publications
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Sidewalk Sales
- Special Project Volunteer
- Other _____
(Feel free to suggest. If we don't offer it, we may consider adding it!)

New Renewal

- \$15 Student
- \$20 Individual
- \$35 Family
- \$50 Contributing
- \$100 Business
- \$250 Patron

Join the Rochester-Avon Historical Society Today! Membership Application

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Volunteer Areas of Interest

How would you like to participate?

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Historic Research
- Historic Walking Tour Guide/Assistant
- Fundraising
- Genealogy Research
- Heritage Days
- Oral History
- Photography/Videography
- Publications
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Sidewalk Sales
- Special Project Volunteer
- Other _____

(Feel free to suggest. If we don't offer it, we may consider adding it!)



Mail completed form with check payable to:

Rochester-Avon Historical Society

P O Box 80783

Rochester, MI 48308-0783

Opening Night: Another Step!

Theatre in Downtown Rochester ... a Dream in Progress



FILM SOCIETY OF ROCHESTER



Photo: Leslie Mack

By Katharine J. Burns

The [First Annual Film Festival of Rochester](#) was quite a success. Everyone who attended said that it was great to have movies back in town and that they look forward to having pop-up movies become a regular event for the community. The major event, having Jerry White, Jr., a graduate of Rochester High School and Oakland University Cinema Studies Program, present his documentary about his high school classmates, "20 Years of Madness." The performance, which included an active Q&A discussion of the documentary and their high school experiences together here in town, was sold out on both Saturday and Sunday evenings. Bravo to Jerry White and his classmates who were able to attend.

The committee has taken the warm and positive responses of the participants and are discussing the possibility of having future pop-up movies. We're looking at different venues and a reasonable schedule to move forward.

There needs to be a special and huge "thank you" to all of the committee people who worked extremely hard to make sure this was a success. They are to be congratulated on their creativity, their dedication and just their "old-time hard work and long hours." Thank you to you all!

The fundraising efforts continue, and we'll keep you posted on our progress. So stay tuned to our efforts at:

[Film Society of Rochester \(Facebook\)](#)

and

[Theatre Group of Rochester Company](#)

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



P O Box 80783
Rochester, MI 48308-0783



"Pride in Preserving the Past"