

RELIVING

# The Rochester Era

Nov./Dec.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2016

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"Cheers" to the Surrey!



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Mark your Calendar  
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Find us on  
Facebook



2016

## "Settlers in the Stones"

These characters of local historical significance paid a special visit recently to Mount Avon Cemetery.

*Did you?*

*If not,  
you missed a perfect day!*

Surrounded by the lush landscape of our very own historic treasure, entertaining reenactors breathed new life into some of the early settlers of our community.

We thoroughly enjoyed meeting (clockwise from top):

- Lysander Woodward (Mark Stephens)
- Charles Kelley Griggs (Gary Muenchausen)
- Ardelia Millard Drace (Tiffany Stano)
- William Henry Yates (Robert Lytle)
- Jemima Parmelee Barnes (Ginger Ketelsen)
- Julia Pixley Vandeventer (Mary Howarth)



**Brian Dunphy, President  
Rochester-Avon  
Historical Society**

## President’s Message

### Rochester Elevator, Board vacancies focus our attention

It looks like some busy weeks ahead for the historical society.

The proposed development on the Rochester Elevator site appears to be proceeding, and the historical society is working to ensure the elevator’s appropriate relocation and adaptive reuse.

As you may recall, the development proposal calls for moving the elevator building from its current location at University and Water to construct 42 condominium units. According to local news media, the developer has offered to donate the elevator building and provide funding to move or disassemble and reconstruct it.

The historical society has formed a committee of members to develop a plan for future use of the Rochester Elevator and raise funds for its renovation. The group held its first meeting Oct. 25.

Among the committee’s areas of focus, three stand out:

- Developing a plan for the elevator’s future use and renovation
- Working with the city, the developer and the elevator owner on moving the elevator and the site preparation needed
- Organizing fundraising throughout the greater Rochester area

These areas all will need support from RAHS members. If you’re interested in being part of these efforts, please let me know by contacting RAHS at **248-266-5440** or [rahsupdates@gmail.com](mailto:rahsupdates@gmail.com).

In 2005, the historical society launched the “Hold the Elevator” campaign to raise funds for moving the elevator. The campaign included a website, a fundraising brochure and other promotional materials and raised more than \$10,000. Those funds were used in June 2009 for part of the cost of painting the elevator to preserve the building.



**Professionals were hired as needed using funds donated to preserve the Rochester Elevator pending final decision on permanent location.**

We have reactivated the “Hold the Elevator” website—for reference only—at [rochesterlevator.neocities.org](http://rochesterlevator.neocities.org).

### We still have openings for two Board members

This summer, we unexpectedly found ourselves with a vacancy in our second vice president position. The person who holds this position coordinates and supports the Director of Merchandising and the Director of Fund Raising Events and serves as a member of the Board’s Executive Committee.

We also continue to have an opening for the Director of Fund Raising Events. This member of the RAHS Board oversees (and if needed, recruits) committees responsible for Antique Appraisal Day, the Cemetery Walk and grant writing, as well as sales at Heritage Days and Kris Kringle Market.

These positions offer great opportunities for you to get more involved with the historical society. In either position, you’ll work with some great people and have a lot of fun doing it – and you’ll contribute in a big way to the success of the historical society.

Contact RAHS at **248-266-5440** or [rahsupdates@gmail.com](mailto:rahsupdates@gmail.com), for more information.

## RAHS' Award-Winning Surrey to Grace 2016 "Holiday Masquerade" Christmas Parade

For the third consecutive year since its 2014 restoration by a skilled Amish carriage maker, our sparkling antique serry will delight parade onlookers during the 65th Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade on Sunday, Dec. 4.

Many will recall that restoration funding was made possible thanks to the contributions of our dues-paying members and non-member donors alike who share an appreciation of the charm and gentility of days gone by.



We're counting on you, our members and friends, to share your enthusiastic support of the RAHS' antique serry as, under single horsepower, it gracefully rolls along Main Street.

Let your community know that you appreciate this gift of local history, the character it conveys and the generosity of those who contributed monetary and sweat equity to return it to its former glory!



Before Restoration

**We hope that this gem will serve as a much-needed reminder of a simpler, more peaceful era.**



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## November Brown Bag and Library Programs

**Brown Bag Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Nov. 1, Noon**  
 Rochester Community House  
 816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND OPEN  
 TO THE PUBLIC**

Bring your lunch! Free coffee,  
 tea and cookies provided.

### “The History of the Rochester Christmas Parade”



Sheri L. Heiney

The first Rochester Christmas Parade took place on Dec. 13, 1952, under the sponsorship of the Rochester Lions Club. It included three high school bands, a few floats and a young lady playing the calliope. Santa arrived in a light sleigh drawn by a pair of horses. It was reported that hundreds of people attended and were delighted by the new family event. Although it started out small, the parade has grown to become the biggest Christmas parade in Michigan.

Sheri Heiney, president of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce, will discuss the history and growth of this popular holiday event. In the 1960s, the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce assumed the planning and financial responsibility of the parade. This transition led to a larger parade with more participants and larger crowds. Changes in parade routes, floats, musical entertainment, costumes, themes, sponsorships and grand marshals have characterized these changes. This year’s parade, on Sunday Dec. 4, bears the theme, “Holiday Masquerade.”



Ms. Heiney attended Muskegon Business College and Davenport University. She is responsible for providing leadership, training and action to help businesses prosper, to increase employment opportunities, and to encourage economic development for the benefit of the greater Rochester area. She is licensed in real estate and insurance.

**Library Lecture**  
**Thursday, Nov. 3 at 7:00 p.m.**  
 Rochester Hills Public Library  
 500 Olde Town Road

**FREE AND  
 OPEN TO  
 THE PUBLIC**

### “How Detroit Saved the World: The Willow Run Story”

Randy Hotton, professional pilot and board member of the Yankee Air Museum, will discuss the Willow Run story, which tells how Detroit helped save the world. It began with President Roosevelt’s call in May of 1940 for a mobilization to build 50,000 airplanes per year in response to the increasing possibility of war.



Randy Hotton

Hotton will cover the world and national events leading up to the decision to involve the auto industry in the construction of airplanes for WWII and the building of the Willow Run Bomber Plant.

Forty thousand workers, including many women, came to Michigan from across America to build more than 8,800 B-24 Liberator bombers that helped to win the war. The iconic Rosie the Riveter (Rose Will Monroe from Pulaski, Kentucky) did her riveting here. Today, the Yankee Air Museum has aimed to save a portion of the Willow Run Bomber Plant, which played such a key role in Detroit being known as the “Arsenal of Democracy.”

Hotton is a retired U.S. Navy Captain who flew P-3 Orion aircraft in Vietnam and conducted anti-submarine patrols during the cold war. He now flies for USA Jet Airlines based at Willow Run Airport. He has been a Yankee Air Museum member since 1985 and flies as a pilot in C-47 and B-17 bombers for the museum. An avid history buff, he has done extensive research on the plant and has written the book “Willow Run,” which is being released by Arcadia Publishing this month.

Hotton graduated from Troy High School and holds a B.S. from Michigan State University in secondary education and an M.A. from Central Michigan University in management. His father worked as a tool and die maker at Willow Run during WWII.

## December Offers Brown Bag but No Library Program

**Brown Bag Meeting**  
**Tuesday, Dec. 6, Noon**  
 Rochester Community House  
 816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND OPEN  
TO THE PUBLIC**

Bring your lunch! Free coffee,  
tea and cookies provided.

### Rewold Family

Connie (Rewold) Nadjarian and Judy (Rewold) Poli will discuss their family's early history in Rochester, including the founding of Frank Rewold & Son construction company in 1918 by their grandfather, Frank Rewold.



"The Rochester Shell service station at 205 S. Main St. was opened in February of 1942 by Orville E. Quick... Frank Rewold was the general contractor for the new facility, and the station was described as 'one of the finest in Michigan' in its grand opening advertisement." — *Vanished Rochester*, Aug. 7, 2010

## Door Prize Drawings at Remaining 2016 Programs



As if our monthly programs weren't intriguing enough to draw you in, we're "sweetening the pot" by entering a ticket into a drawing for each and every person who attends each of the remaining 2016 Brown Bag and Library programs.

Drawings for three RAHS merchandise items will be held at the end of each program, and the lucky winners will receive their prizes on the spot!

These items can be enjoyed by the winners themselves, or they can serve as thoughtful gifts. It is, after all, that time of year!

## RAHS Research Committee Chair Earns State History Award for Professional Accomplishment

The Historical Society of Michigan recently presented the 2016 State History Award, and RAHS' own research chairperson Debbie Larsen was one of the honorees. Debbie is the assistant library director and local history librarian at Mount Clemens Public



Debbie Larsen holds  
2016 State History Award

Library. She teamed up with the local community cable station in Mount Clemens, the Macomb Cable Network, to produce a series of one-minute local history videos called "A Minute of Your Time."

This video series was created in anticipation of the 200th anniversary of the founding of Mount Clemens and Macomb County, which will occur in 2018. Each video covers a different topic in Mount Clemens history. Debbie wrote the scripts and gathered still images from the library's local history collections, from which the producers and high school student interns at Macomb Cable Network created the videos. The completed videos are broadcast on community access cable channels across Macomb County and are also available on YouTube. To view the videos, go to the Mount Clemens Public Library web site at [www.mtclib.org](http://www.mtclib.org) and click on the "A Minute of Your Time" logo on the left side of the page.

"We wanted to create something that would entice local residents to become interested in their local history," Debbie said. "We also wanted to have youth involved, and having the high school interns who work at the cable television station work on the productions was a natural fit."

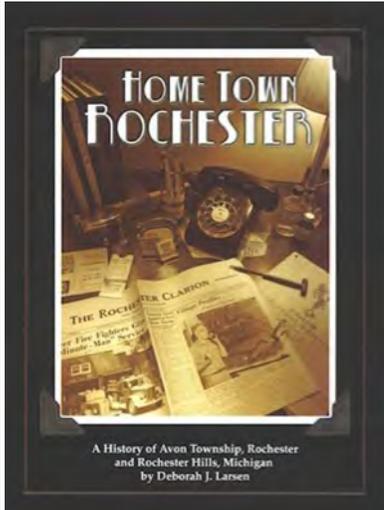
The video series is loosely based on the format of the "Bicentennial Minute" episodes that were broadcast by the national TV networks during 1975-76, in celebration of the U.S. Bicentennial. The one-minute format was favored for this project to allow for the episodes to be shared and viewed easily on social media platforms.

"A Minute of Your Time" was awarded the 2016 State History Award in the media category. Congratulations to Debbie and her counterparts at the Macomb Cable Network for a job well done!

## How About a Christmas Bonus?

For a limited time, **FREE** gifts will accompany all **NEW** memberships!

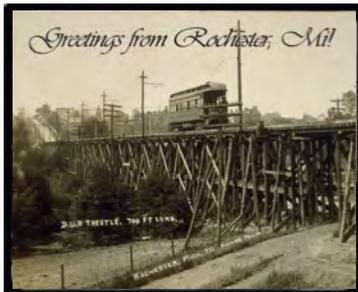
From now until mid-December, we're offering free gifts with every **new** RAHS membership:



- the beautiful 104-page hard cover edition of "Hometown Rochester," written by Deborah Larsen (\$20 value)

**and**

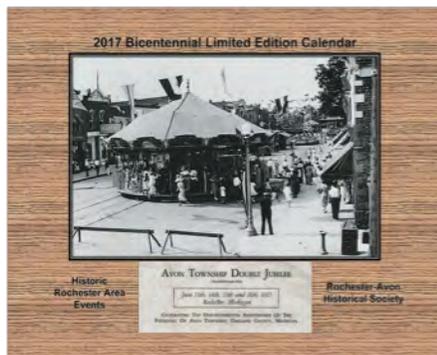
- one of the unique (and useful) mousepads shown below featuring a historic photo image from the Rochester area (\$5 value)



These free merchandise items can be enjoyed by the new member or may serve as special gifts for friends or family.

## Newest RAHS Calendar Available (Ahead of Schedule!)

Finish your holiday shopping early this year with our newest merchandise offering. It's chock full of local historical photos ranging from "entertaining" to "thought provoking."



Available through [our online store](#), at Kris Kringle Market and at Lytle Pharmacy.

## Don't Miss these Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark your calendar now!

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			

[Brown Bag Lunch](#)  
Tuesday, Nov. 1  
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

[Evening Program @ Library](#)  
Thursday, Nov. 3  
7:00 p.m.

[Kris Kringle Market](#)  
Friday, Dec. 2  
4:00 - 10:00 p.m.  
Saturday, Dec. 3  
Noon - 10:00 p.m.

No Evening Program @ Library

[Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade](#)  
Sunday, Dec. 4  
2:00 p.m.

DECEMBER						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				<del>1</del>	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	31

Brown Bag Lunch  
Tuesday, Dec. 6  
Noon to 1:00 p.m.

JANUARY						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
1	2	<del>3</del>	4	<del>5</del>	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	31				

No Brown Bag Lunch

No Evening Program @ Library

Monthly programs return in February, 2017

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](http://www.rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org)

## Contact Information for RAHS Board of Directors and Committees

### Board of Directors

Brian Dunphy, President . . . . .	248-376-3460
Carol Tough, 1st Vice President, Operations . . . . .	248-375-0084
Position Open, 2nd Vice President, Finance . . . . .	
Tom Bledsoe, 3rd Vice President, Development . . . . .	586-822-2148
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
Janet Potton, Director, Membership . . . . .	248-652-7296
Mary Howarth, Director, Merchandising . . . . .	248-375-0206
Margaret Bartos, Director, Programs . . . . .	248-759-4768
Barb Bates, Director, Special Projects . . . . .	248-495-6258
Bree Boettner, Director, Historical Preservation . . . . .	248-515-0881

### Committee Chairpersons

Gail Kemler, Honorary Historian . . . . .	248-651-0907
Deborah Larsen, Research . . . . .	248-375-2974
Samantha Lawrence, Oral History . . . . .	586-255-1883
Rod Wilson, Walking Tours . . . . .	248-651-6178
Gary Jaracz, Media . . . . .	313-407-9326

## 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
- Special Project Volunteer
- Website/Social Media

- |                                  |       |                                       |
|----------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New     | \$15  | <input type="checkbox"/> Student      |
|                                  | \$20  | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | \$35  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family       |
|                                  | \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing |
|                                  | \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business     |
|                                  | \$250 | <input type="checkbox"/> 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
- Special Project Volunteer
- Website/Social Media



Mail completed form with check payable to:

**Rochester-Avon Historical Society**

P O Box 80783

Rochester, MI 48308-0783

*Questions? Call us at 248-266-5440*

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## The Spirit of Kris Kringle Market

Stop by and say, "Hi!"  
Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3

### Merchandise Price List

Home Mug with cocoa and candy stick	\$11.00
Home Mug	\$9.00
Historical Society 488	\$15.00
Historical Society 488 (2014)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2015)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2016)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2017)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2018)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2019)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2020)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2021)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2022)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2023)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2024)	\$3.50
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Historical Society 488 (2033)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2034)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2035)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2036)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2037)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2038)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2039)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2040)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2041)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2042)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2043)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2044)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2045)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2046)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2047)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2048)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2049)	\$3.50
Historical Society 488 (2050)	\$3.50

ROCHESTER-  
AVON  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
"Preserving the Past"



RAHS booth at 2015 Kris Kringle Market. (L to R: Mary Howarth, Bill Williams, Carol Tough and Brian Dunphy)

A 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization

ROCHESTER  
AVON  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY

P O Box 80783  
Rochester, MI 48308-0783



**"Pride in Preserving the Past"**