



RELIVING The Rochester Era

Jan./Feb.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2017

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Brian Dunphy displays First Place Award "Novelty" Category



Diane Kangas

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Merchandise Gallery of 'Functional Art'

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Antique Appraisal Day Approaches!



65th Rochester Hometown Christmas Parade



Tina Kangas

Photo: Holly Bledsoe

Parade registration and logistics were handled by Barb Bates, RAHS Director, Special Projects, Tom Bledsoe, 3rd V.P., Development and Holly Bledsoe, Corresponding Secretary. Tom and Holly also handled the colorful and festive surrey decorations.

Flying D Farm, once again, exhibited their flair for fun! Most importantly, they provided their beautiful Tennessee Walker, Bailey Boy, to power the surrey. Bailey Boy was guided by farm owners Diane Kangas (pictured in sidebar) and Don Reinholm (driving), and Diane's sister, Tina Kangas (shown leading above).

Surrey passengers (L to R): Don Reinholm, Brian Dunphy, Leslie Mack, Mary Howarth. We thank our new member banner carriers, Kasey Powell and Susan Smith, and "scooper," Bill Williams.

President's Message

City makes decisions on Rochester Elevator's future



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

Plans are moving forward for a condominium development on the Rochester Elevator site, and decisions are being made on the future of the elevator.

The development proposal calls for moving the elevator building from its current location to construct 42 condominium units. The developer has offered to donate the elevator building and provide funding to move or disassemble and reconstruct it.

The Rochester Planning Commission held a meeting Nov. 7 that included a public hearing on the site plan for developing the elevator property. I attended and spoke about issues involved with relocating the elevator. After the hearing portion of the meeting, the Planning Commission voted to table the site plan approval for a month

so that the developer could address several issues and plan options for moving the elevator could be explored.

Mayor Daldin, a member of the Planning Commission, put together a working group to make recommendations on the future of the elevator. The group includes herself, Planning & Economic Development Director Nik Banda, the developer, a member of the Planning Commission, a member of the Historical Commission and a member of the Parking Advisory Committee. The mayor has indicated that she wanted the elevator working group to be made up of representatives of City government, plus the developer. The historical society is not included.

The group met, voted and shared its recommendations through a report by Nik Banda Dec. 2. Nik presented the report to the Planning Commission at its meeting Dec. 5, when the commission again discussed site plan and special project approval for the condo development on the elevator property. I attended with several other RAHS members. After hearing Nik's presentation, the Planning Commission voted in favor of site plan approval for the condo project, acceptance of the developer's offer of \$50,000 and assistance in moving the elevator and selection of the Farmers Market parking lot as the site for relocating the elevator.

Following up on its inaugural meeting Oct. 25, the RAHS Elevator Steering Committee met on Nov. 17 for a brief update. The historical society and its elevator committee will provide feedback on this plan and other issues around the elevator's future. We'll address such issues as:

- Potential uses for the elevator building
- Possible fundraising approaches and sources
- Ways to engage the community and other community groups
- Any other issues affecting the elevator's future

RAHS will continue working to ensure the elevator's appropriate adaptive reuse at its new location.

Help us continue our success – join the RAHS Board

We currently have two vacancies on the Board:

- The second vice president 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.
- The Director of Fund Raising Events 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 – and you'll contribute in a big way to the success of the organization. Contact RAHS at **248-266-5440** or rahsupdates@gmail.com, for more information.

Gerry Post's artistic creations add local flavor to your favorite hot beverage in this collection



Limited Edition Home Bakery Coffee Mug

\$9

Limited edition coffee mug of the historic Home Bakery. This is the second mug in our series depicting historical buildings in Rochester.

Available at Lytle Pharmacy or at historical society meetings.

Email RAHS for local delivery options.

RAHS Merchandise Gallery of 'Functional Art'



Special Bicentennial-Themed Limited Edition Calendars

\$15

This bicentennial calendar is a limited edition. Each month depicts a historic Rochester area event. Celebrate the 200th anniversary of Rochester. Makes a great gift.

Also available at RAHS meetings and Lytle Pharmacy.



Rochester Bicentennial Coffee Mug

\$10

This mug is covered with "Rochester" in an array of colors and fonts. It also is imprinted with: Rochester, Michigan 1817 - 2017. Limited edition.

Available at Lytle Pharmacy or at historical society meetings.

Email RAHS for local delivery options.

February Library and Brown Bag Programs

Library Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Town Road

**FREE AND
OPEN TO
THE PUBLIC**

“Rochester in the 1960s”



Patrick McKay

As Rochester celebrates its Bicentennial in 2017, each decade sheds light on our community’s history. The 1960s brought the Vietnam War to our city, as well as a massive growth in population. What happened that brought so many people here? Streets were paved, traffic signals installed, schools were built and a hospital was born. Using the Rochester Hills Museum archives and newspapers, a decade-long story will be told.

Patrick McKay has been the manager at the Rochester Hills Museum for 30 years and loves sharing our community’s fascinating past.

He earned a B.S. in park and recreation administration from Michigan State University and an M.S. in education from Oakland University.

Patrick McKay has been part of a wide range of publications on local history, PowerPoint presentations, a PBS production and placing various archival productions in a digital format to be placed on the museum’s website.



Crittenton Hospital came to Rochester in the 1960s, combining a community-wide effort to build a hospital with a hospital in Detroit looking to relocate to the new suburbs. Pat McKay will tell the story of how this event was part of the 1960s in the Rochester Community.

(Photo provided by Patrick McKay)

Brown Bag Meeting

Tuesday, Feb. 7, Noon

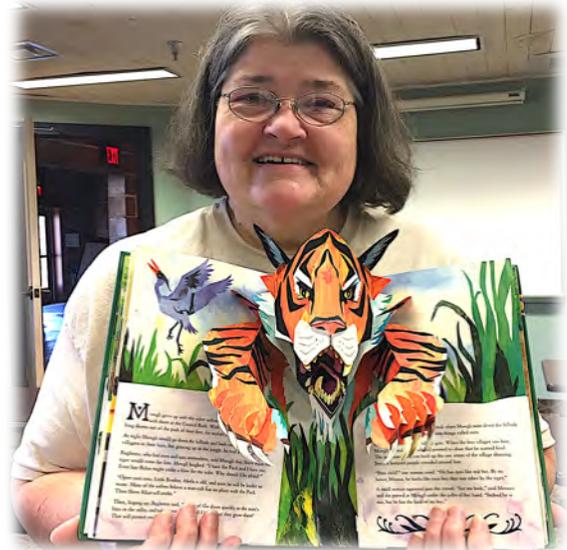
Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

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

“Pop-Up Books: Not Really for Children”

We think of pop-up-books as a simple way to entertain little ones, but they can be much more than that. Deborah Remer, a local historian and long-time member of RAHS, will discuss the history of pop-up books and the intricacies of the books today. They can be engaging, imaginative and even works of artistic brilliance by paper artists, graphic artists and other creative individuals. They can have a number of interactive features, such as a working musical instrument. Remer will display part of her unique collection of 200 pop-up books.



Deborah Remer

As the head of the archaeology program at the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, Remer was the editor of their final report on archaeology. She lectures quarterly at the museum and acts as a tally keeper with the Rochester Grangers Vintage Base Ball Club.

A retired science teacher at Walled Lake Middle School, Remer earned a B.S. in environmental science and an M.S. in earth science from Michigan State University.

March Library and Brown Bag Programs

Library Lecture

Thursday, Mar. 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Town Road

**FREE AND
OPEN TO THE
PUBLIC**

“Hemingway’s Homecoming, 1919”



John F. Cohassey

John Cohassey, a Michigan Hemingway Society board member, will discuss the year 1919 when Hemingway decided to become a writer. That year, he returned from WWI and spent the fall and most of the winter in Michigan.

Cohassey trained in the visual arts, and he played music professionally for many years before becoming a writer himself. He earned a master’s degree in history from Wayne State University in 1995.

His first book, “Toast of the Town: The Life and Times of Sunnie Wilson” (Wayne State Press, 1998), won an award of merit from the Historical Society of Michigan. In 2007, Cohassey served as a consultant for the History Channel documentary, “Hippies.”

His most recent book is “Hemingway and Pound: A Most Unlikely Friendship.”

After excelling as a French horn virtuoso at the Eastman School of Music, Bob taught himself to play piano totally by ear. When he took up saloon piano-playing on the side, he discovered what fun entertaining his listeners could be, and how naturally it came to him.

Early in his new career, Bob became fascinated by the ragtime music found on nearby player pianos, and how listeners enjoyed it. His “internship” lasted 25 years; he has even written a book on these experiences, “The Journeyman Piano Player.”

Known as a “ragtimitist” (a term he coined), Bob quickly made himself a dedicated student and presenter of this true American music form. He has acquired both a vast repertoire of tunes and an extensive knowledge of their origins. During his presentations, Bob incorporates these histories and the stories of the piano players.

Bob has played for functions attended by numerous statesmen, senators and congressmen, with command performances for the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C. After 9/11, he developed a new program with a string of familiar Americana songs from the Revolutionary period, through the Civil War, WWI, WWII and right up to that tragic week. Then he added a musical representation of the Twin Towers crashing down with a climax of beautiful selections suggesting the strength, future hope and pride in our great nation.

President Bush, Sr., has invited Bob to play this program several times for his family and circle of friends.

It comes as no surprise that the Library of Congress designated him a “National Treasure” when they documented his expertise for future generations, and that the U.S. State Department has utilized him as a “musical ambassador” overseas.

Bob Milne is not only an outstanding musician and historian, but a true patriot and a credit to his hometown of Rochester.

Brown Bag Meeting

Tuesday, Mar. 7, Noon

Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow Street

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**

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

“Growing Up in Rochester”

**Bob Milne,
Ragtime Pianist**



Bob Milne

Bob Milne, considered by many to be the best ragtime/boogie-woogie pianist in the world, will discuss growing up in Rochester. He graduated from Rochester High School, where he played in the school band.

A Milestone Birthday for RAHS' Honorary Historian

Happy 99th Birthday, Gail Kemler!



Photo: Leslie Mack

Gail generously shares her seemingly boundless energy, a lifetime of accumulated wisdom and a treasure trove of memories to benefit RAHS and many other local organizations.

We extend our best wishes and sincere thanks for all she does for this community!

Blowing out the candles marking her 99th birthday during the October, 2016 RAHS board meeting.

Photo: Holly Bledsoe



Don't Miss these Upcoming Events

Be sure to mark your calendar now!

JANUARY						
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	31				

No Brown Bag Lunch

No Evening Program @ Library

Evening Program @ Library
Thursday, Feb. 2
7:00 p.m.

Brown Bag Lunch
Tuesday, Feb. 7
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Community House

FEBRUARY						
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				

MARCH						
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	31	

Evening Program @ Library
Thursday, Mar. 2
7:00 p.m.

Antique Appraisal Day
Sunday, Mar. 5
Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Community House

Brown Bag Lunch
Tuesday, Mar. 7
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Community House

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
Position Open, Director, Fundraising Events	

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

Antique Appraisal Day Approaches (It's Never Too Early to Prepare!)

Dust off your treasures and join us for the mystery, intrigue and insight of our 24th Antique Appraisal Day event.

Save the Date

Sunday, Mar. 5

Noon - 4 pm

Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow, Rochester

We'll be joined by 11 appraisers this year

Two new experts will examine

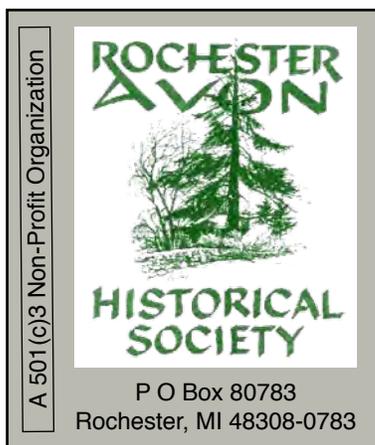
- Sports and game cards, clothing, apparel and gear, even stadium seats.
- 18th to 20th century antiques, home furnishings, glass, porcelain, silver, vintage clothing, African American art and collectibles.

Admission is Free

\$5 (cash only) per item appraised (regardless of appraised value)
Maximum 5 items per person, please!

For more information, call 248-375-0084

Photo: Leslie Mack (From "Unmentionables" Brown Bag presentation by Colleen Barkham and Gail Kemler.)



“Pride in Preserving the Past”