



RELIVING The Rochester Era

Jan./Feb.

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society Newsletter

2018

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Silver Anniversary
Celebration**



Beautiful weather helps make Kris Kringle sale a success



Photo courtesy of Brian Dunphy

Kudos and sincere thanks to our setup team:
(L to R) Mary McVeigh, RAHS cookbook committee chair; Brian Dunphy, president;
Carol Tough, 1st vice president and member Bill Williams.

A festive and welcoming space was beautifully prepared for visitors to the RAHS booth at Rochester's annual Kris Kringle Market, Dec. 1 and 2. No doubt the warmer temps this year lured the large crowds, and we enjoyed merchandise sales exceeding \$1,100.

Among the items sold were our new Bicentennial cookbook, Rochester mugs and coasters, publications and postcards. We also sold a number of brass Christmas tree ornaments, generously donated by 1st V.P. Carol Tough.

Nearly 50 vendors took part in this year's Kris Kringle Market, which is held on Fourth St. in downtown Rochester, between Main St. and Walnut Blvd. The event is put on by the Rochester Downtown Development Authority.

This annual sale is one of the historical society's largest and most important fundraising events of the year. It also provides RAHS with visibility in the community, helping us to engage with local residents and other historical groups. Again this year, we enjoyed many opportunities to field questions from visitors about local historic properties and policies, as well as the features and benefits of our award-winning Oakland Regional Historic Sites website.

Special thanks, too, to those members who generously volunteered their time and energy to sell our wares! The funds raised will support our ongoing preservation and education efforts.

President's Message

Strategic plan will help us set and reach our goals



Brian Dunphy
President
Rochester-Avon
Historical Society

We always remember the past, but the historical society Board also is focusing on the future.

In early December, RAHS Board members and committee chairs met for a daylong special planning retreat. Our goal: to develop a strategic plan to guide us for the next two years. The plan will help us to set our future direction – what we want to do and who will help us to do it.

We were ably assisted in this effort by Alaina Campbell, President of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

She graciously agreed to be the facilitator for our session and did an outstanding job of leading us through the planning process. She also wrote the first draft of our strategic plan, based on the day's discussion.

Our discussion also was shaped by the special survey that RAHS members were invited by email to take in September. The feedback and suggestions that you shared provided valuable guidance.

The Board has already reviewed and revised the strategic plan, which includes an updated mission statement for the historical society:

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society is a non-profit organization that educates our community about local history to foster appreciation and preservation of our historical resources and pride of place.

Over the coming weeks and months, we'll work on action plans to achieve the goals we've set for the next year. Discussion of the strategic plan will be on each RAHS Board agenda, as we gauge our progress and plan next steps.

If you'd like to be part of this thoughtful discussion and learn more about the strategic plan, we encourage you to join us at one of the historical society Board meetings. We meet the third Tuesday of each month (except in the summer) at 7 p.m. in the Rochester Fire Station large meeting room.

And as always, if you'd like to get more involved with the historical society as a volunteer, we'd love to talk to you. To help support our programs, contact RAHS at **248-266-5440** or **rahupdates@gmail.com**.



L to R: Alaina Campbell, President of the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce receives a token of appreciation presented by RAHS president Brian Dunphy for serving as our strategic planning facilitator.

February Library Program

Please note: There will be no Thursday evening program in January

Library Lecture

Thursday, Feb. 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Town Road

“Kit Houses by Mail”

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**



Melodie Nichols

From 1906 through the 1980s, it was possible to purchase an entire house through the mail. Melodie Nichols, the Curator of the Clawson Historical Museum, will help us understand, identify and enjoy the “kit homes” that represent a unique architectural period in our history.

Among the first kit house companies in the country was the Aladdin Company, based in Bay City. It sold large orders of kit houses to companies in the extraction and manufacturing fields, who used them to create neighborhoods for employees of those companies. By 1918, 2.4 percent of all US housing starts could be credited to homes purchased from Aladdin.

Three Michigan-based companies manufactured kit houses for decades. Nichols will provide background information on these companies and some practical tools to aid in researching the houses themselves, which display a number of house styles. Rochester can boast of some samples of these kit homes.

Nichols earned a Bachelor of Arts in history from Oakland University and a graduate certificate in historic preservation from Eastern Michigan University. Besides writing two books on local history and one on Clawson kit houses, she won a Main Street Oakland County award in 2015 for a Downtown Clawson History Walk in partnership with the Clawson DDA. She enjoys writing mystery stories, playing with her granddaughters and cooking vegan style.



Image credit: searshomes.org



Image credit: searshomes.org

March Library Program

Library Lecture

Thursday, Mar. 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Rochester Hills Public Library
500 Olde Town Road

“Rochester in the Gilded Age 1870 - 1900”

**FREE AND OPEN
TO THE PUBLIC**



Pat McKay

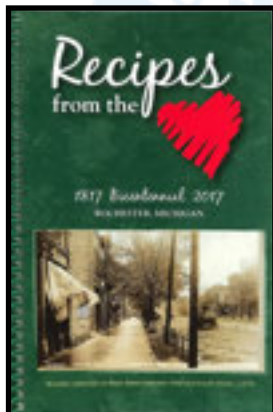
When it was first settled in 1817, the Rochester area was known as a land of hills, oaks and fast-flowing streams. For over 50 years after the first settlers arrived, it was an agricultural society, with the raising of livestock, the growing of grains and the operation of many mills.

During the “Gilded Age 1870-1900,” America experienced great economic growth with railroads crossing the country, westward expansion and scientific advancements by Levi Stauss, Burbank, Carver, Edison, Ford, Tesla and Westinghouse. Frank Lloyd Wright developed new architectural forms, and the wealthy spent fortunes on the arts. How did these factors affect Rochester?

Pat McKay, Manager of the Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoosen Farm, will discuss Rochester during this period when farming changed from the pioneer sustenance stage to big business, new industries emerged and railroads opened new markets and employment opportunities.

McKay has been the manager of the museum for 32 years. He is responsible for all administration, programs and events, fundraising and maintenance at the 16-acre, nationally registered historic park. He holds a B.S. in park administration from Michigan State University and a M.A. in elementary education from Oakland University.

In 2016, McKay was involved in creating an award-winning PBS documentary about the pioneer Van Hoosen family. He is responsible for numerous publications on mills, Stoney Creek Village, the Van Hoosen family and education in Rochester. In addition to many other awards, he received the 2012 Earl Borden Historic Preservation Award for the Stoney Creek Schoolhouse, the 2014 Michigan Barn of the Year award and the 2017 Arts and Culture Award from the Rochester Regional Chamber of Commerce.



A great gift idea for
almost any occasion!

“Recipes from the Heart” limited-edition cookbook (A collection of favorite and cherished recipes)

Our second (and final) order has now arrived and is available for purchase, but the inventory of this newest addition to the RAHS’ merchandise line is going fast!

In addition to the wealth of recipes submitted by RAHS members, community members, local businesses and restaurants, this compact spiral-bound book is peppered with local historic, captioned images and served with plenty of helpful tips.

At **only \$10**, these books are selling like hotcakes, so scoop up your copy now!

Check our online store using this link for availability status:

<http://rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/our-store>

Don't miss these upcoming events Be sure to mark your calendar now!

JANUARY						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

No RAHS
Brown Bag Lunch

No RAHS
Evening Program

“Hitsville USA” Motown Museum Tour and Lunch



Gary Jaracz
Event Chair

Winter has barely arrived, but RAHS is already springing ahead with plans for a group excursion to the Motown Museum in Detroit on **Saturday, Mar. 24.**

Also known as “Hitsville USA,” the Motown Museum was founded by Barry Gordy and served as the recording studio for musical artists such as Marvin Gaye, Stevie Wonder, Smokey Robinson, the Supremes and the Jackson Five.

RAHS is arranging bus transportation to the museum that will depart at 9:00 a.m. from the Kmart parking lot at the southwest corner of Rochester and Avon Roads. Following our exploration of the museum, we'll be transported to a local restaurant for lunch.

Afterward, we'll board our bus and arrive back in Rochester around 3:00 p.m.

The cost of this event is \$30 per person, which includes round trip bus transportation and admission to the Motown Museum. (Note: Lunch is at your own expense and is not included in the event price.) For additional information call Gary Jaracz at 313-407-9326, or email to unclehomer@comcast.net.

**This event is open to non members as well,
but space is limited!**

Act quickly to secure your spot for this excursion! Seating is first-come, first-served. Email rahupdates@gmail.com, or leave a voicemail message at 248-266-5440 advising your name, phone number and the number of attendees in your party. We'll follow up with you by phone to let you know if we still have seats available. Once you receive acknowledgement of space availability, we'll need your \$30 check, payable to “RAHS,” to finalize your reservation.

RAHS Evening Program
@ Library
Thursday, Feb. 1
7:00 p.m.

No RAHS
Brown Bag Lunch

FEBRUARY						
sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
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MARCH						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

RAHS Evening Program
@ Library
Thursday, Mar. 1
7:00 p.m.

No RAHS
Brown Bag Lunch

Silver Anniversary Celebration!
25th Annual Antique Appraisal Day
@ Rochester Community House

Sunday, Mar. 4
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(More details on page 6)

“Hitsville USA”
Motown Museum Tour and Lunch

Saturday, Mar. 24
Bus departure time 9:00 a.m.
Return to Rochester approx. 3:00 p.m.
(More details on this page)

**Silver Anniversary
Annual Antique Appraisal Day**

Join us in celebrating 25 years of this special event ...

Everyone attending will receive a free gift!

Save the Date!

Sunday, Mar. 4

1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Rochester Community House

816 Ludlow Street

Again this year ...

Admission is free, but be sure to bring cash:

\$5 donation will be charged for each item appraised

Limit of 5 items per person will be observed

Bring your family heirlooms, garage-sale finds, mystery items and more

Enjoy special displays ...

- ☆ Jim Cassell, collector of history (military and otherwise), will display his WWI "trench art" (artillery shells crafted by soldiers into items such as vases, ashtrays and toothpick holders while in the trenches).

Note: Jim can be seen on YouTube presenting many items from his collection in videos entitled, "Michigan Copper Mining - Black Powder Era" and "Antique Tools - The Unusual and Obsolete."

- ☆ Berta Cassell will share items from her collection of antique irons.

The Cassells also have shared their collections at the Heritage Days event.

Prizes will be awarded to attendees throughout the day!

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

Contact Information

Board of Directors

Brian Dunphy, President	248-376-3460
Carol Tough, 1st Vice President, Operations	248-375-0084
<i>*Position Open, 2nd Vice President, Finance</i>	
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
<i>*Position Open, Director, Fundraising Events</i>	

Committee Chairpersons

Gail Kemler, Honorary Historian	248-651-0907
Deborah Larsen, Research	248-375-2974
Samantha Lawrence, Oral History	586-255-1883
<i>*Position Open, Walking Tours</i>	
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: _____

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:

RAHS
P.O. Box 80783
Rochester, MI 48308-0783

Questions? Call us at 248-266-5440

To all the volunteers who helped set up, staff and tear down the RAHS booth at Kris Kringle this year ...

Photo: Leslie Mack



(L to R) Cary Downer, RAHS treasurer, working a Saturday evening shift with member volunteers Sandy and Carlos Montes.



“Pride in Preserving the Past”



Rochester, MI 48308-0783
P O Box 80783



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