



THE HOUSE HANDBILL

*The Newsletter of the Michigan Women's
Historical Center & Hall of Fame*

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From the Executive Director...

Dear Members and Friends,

Many of you may know that after nearly four decades, Dr. Gladys Beckwith has stepped down as President of the Michigan Women's Studies Association. Her vision, determination, and perseverance helped to

create all that encompasses what we are today. We appreciate that Gladys will continue to assist us with our ongoing work. We have a lot to accomplish in the coming year.

It is hard to believe that nearly two years have passed since I became executive director. I am proud to report that attendance at the Center increased by 97% this year! This increase demonstrates our progress, yet we still face many new challenges. Currently, our biggest project is raising the funds to modernize, redesign, and technically advance this museum into the 21st Century. The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Gallery definitely needs a facelift! The current display is overcrowded, damaged, and has no space for continued growth. To solve this problem we are planning to add technology to the gallery to create a multimedia interactive exhibit, in addition to updating honoree panels, and adding artifact displays. This will enable us to engage visitors of all ages and more effectively communicate the amazing stories of the honorees.

This is a very exciting time at the Michigan Women's Historical Center and Hall of Fame. We hope that you will consider becoming more involved and possibly volunteering for a committee. We need your support to realize our goals and fulfill our mission (see our updated mission and goals on page 4).

We hope that you will join us for the 27th annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner and Induction Ceremony on Tuesday, October 19th, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. It promises to be a remarkable evening. You will be receiving an invitation in the mail, but you can make your reservations online today at michiganwomenshalloffame.org. See you on October 19th!

Sandy Soifer

Executive Director, Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Now Through Sept 12: "Resourceful Women: 30 Who Preserved Michigan's Water, Woods & Wildlife," history exhibit

Aug 18-Oct 31: "Denali National Park: A Celebration of Color," by artist Pat Miller

Sept 26, 2-4 pm: Opening Reception for "Petticoat Patriots: How Michigan Women Won the Vote," a new history exhibit

Oct 19, 5 pm: The 27th annual Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner & Induction Ceremony, Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing

From the President...

Dear Members and Friends:

This is my first greeting to you as the new President of the Michigan Women's Studies Association (MWSA). I am humbled to step into the shoes of Dr. Gladys Beckwith who has been our "rock" in establishing this organization.



This fall there are many exciting events and updates to share with you:

We welcome two new board members to the MWSA board of directors: Katie Cavanaugh of Mason, who holds an MA in American Studies from the George Washington University and was a former Assistant Director of the Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame; and Mary Seeger of Caledonia, who is an educator, a retired academic dean for Grand Valley State University, and the past President of the Grand Rapids Women's History Council. Cavanaugh and Seeger join us after being elected to the MWSA board at the April 24th annual meeting.

I am pleased to announce that "We Can Do It! A Celebration of Michigan Women," the documentary honoring the 25th anniversary of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, won a 2009 Emmy! The award for outstanding production was given by the Michigan Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, the most recognized non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement and recognition of excellence in television. The documentary tells the history of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame and highlights many of the inductees. This DVD is available in the gift shop and I know you will enjoy it, if you haven't already seen it.

As August 2010 marks the 90th anniversary of women's suffrage, I feel that it is important to remember the work of women who have gone before us. The new history exhibit, "Petticoat Patriots: How Michigan Women Won the Vote," will share the story of the suffrage movement in Michigan and highlight the Michigan women suffragists that worked to gain the ballot for women. The new exhibit opens Sunday, September 26, 2-4 p.m. Please join us at the Center for the opening reception—attendees are encouraged to wear a favorite hat to help us celebrate.

I am looking forward to another great event honoring the 2010 inductees into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. Be sure to put it on your calendar and make your reservations, as you will not want to miss this amazing event honoring the accomplishments of 10 Michigan women. You can learn more about the 2010 inductees in this newsletter and how to make your reservations for this elegant celebration.

Best wishes to all and I hope to see many of you at our many exciting events this fall.

Shirley Zeller

President, Michigan Women's Studies Association

MWSA Board of Directors Officers

President: Shirley Zeller, Albion

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Marcia Van Ness, East Lansing

Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame Staff

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Ten Women To Be Inducted in to HOF

A *New York Times* bestselling author, an international human rights activist, and a Civil War nurse are among the notable women selected by independent juries for induction into the 2010 class of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. The women will be honored at a benefit dinner on Tuesday, October 19 at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center in East Lansing. The CONTEMPORARY HONOREES are:

- **Mary Aikey** (lives in East Lansing) Advocate for women's and seniors' rights, Aikey improved the lives of women and girls as the Executive Director of the Greater Lansing YWCA for over 20 years. She chaired the Michigan Coordinating Committee for the 1975 National Women's Conference.
- **Laura Carter Callow** (lives in Livonia) A dedicated activist for women's civil rights, Callow's concern for women's economic equality lead her to work for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment on the state and national levels for over 30 years.
- **Sandy Draggoo** (lives in Haslett) One of the first women to lead a public transportation system in the country, Draggoo has been the CEO/Executive Director of the Capitol Area Transportation Authority (CATA) since 1985. Under her leadership CATA received the American Public Transportation Association's *Outstanding Achievement Award* in 1991 and 2007.
- **Sherrill Freeborough** (lives in Howell) Rising through the ranks of the predominately male auto industry, Freeborough became one of only nine female Saturn dealers in the country. Freeborough's business acumen helped her emerge from auto industry turmoil as the new owner of a Hyundai dealership.
- **Dorean Marguerite Hurley Koenig** (lives in Haslett) A law professor and writer, Koenig has influenced domestic and international criminal law. Koenig worked for the formation of the International Criminal Court in The Hague. In the United States, she worked to end the death penalty and refine death penalty standards for the severely mentally ill. Koenig was the first female tenured professor at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School.
- **Terry McMillan** (raised in Port Huron) Bestselling author and pioneer of the African-American romance genre, McMillan writes strong, black, female protagonists and explores the dynamic role they play in relationships. Her novel *Waiting to Exhale*, which spent 38 weeks on *The New York Times* bestseller list, and *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* were made into major motion pictures.
- **Cynthia J. Pasky** (lives in Detroit) A business woman and Detroit community leader, Pasky grew her information technology services company, Strategic Staffing Solutions, from one office and three employees in 1990 to an international firm with more than 1,700 employees.

The HISTORICAL HONOREES include:

- **Augusta Jane Chapin** (associated with Lansing) The second woman to be ordained a Universalist minister, Chapin dedicated her life to education and women's rights. Chapin championed equality for women in society and the church, and was the first woman to receive an honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree.
- **Annie Etheridge** (born in Detroit) A nurse in the Union Army during the Civil War, Etheridge rose to prominence for her bravery under fire and care of soldiers on the battle field. She received the Kearny Cross, a medal awarded to soldiers that distinguish themselves in battle. Congress granted Etheridge a pension and she was buried in Arlington National Cemetery in 1913.
- **Edith Munger** (born in Hart) Affectionately called the "Bird Woman," Munger worked at the forefront of bird conservation. The first female president of the Michigan Audubon Society in 1911, she campaigned to make the American Robin the state bird, worked to protect Michigan's raptor and game bird populations, and lobbied for the preservation of Michigan's natural spaces.



Annie Etheridge, Civil War nurse & 2010 inductee, Archives of Michigan.

The 2010 recipients of the **Philip A. Hart Award** are:

Thomas J. Bissonnette, the Associate Executive Director for Nursing Practices at the Michigan Nurses Association, and **Daniel Granholm Mulhern**, the first First Gentleman of Michigan.

Join us Tuesday, October 19, 2010
Kellogg Hotel & Conference Center, East Lansing

*The 27th Annual
Michigan Women's Hall of Fame
Awards Dinner & Induction Ceremony*

Reception 5:00 p.m., Dinner 6:00 p.m., Ceremony 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$125 per person

Make your reservations online at
www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org or call 517-484-1880 x203

Event sponsorship and program advertising
opportunities are available and must be received by 9/15/10.
See our website for details.

UPDATED MISSION AND GOALS

Adopted by the MWSA Board of Directors on August 21, 2010:

Our mission is to inspire and engage adults and children by celebrating Michigan women's history, promoting educational opportunities, and honoring the accomplishments of Michigan women.

Goals:

1. Make Michigan women's history and issues relevant and valued.
2. Recognize and honor Michigan women through the Hall of Fame, exhibits, and programs.
3. Foster research by, for, and about Michigan women.
4. Increase statewide outreach through community partnerships.
5. Maintain and preserve the museum and its collections.
6. Cultivate the resources to ensure organizational and operational stability.

EXHIBITS AT THE HISTORICAL CENTER



1909 Postcard, from a Suffragette Series, Michigan Women's Historical Center & Hall of Fame Collection.

New Women's Suffrage Exhibit

Few events in American history are as significant and as overlooked as the women's suffrage movement. Spanning a period of more than 70 years, the movement altered the political and social fabric of the country. The enfranchisement of half of the American population was one of its most dramatic and enduring results.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of woman suffrage and the Michigan Women's Historical Center will celebrate this milestone by displaying an exhibit dedicated to the suffrage movement in Michigan—highlighting over 20 Michigan women that were instrumental in the enfranchisement of women, in Michigan and nationally.

While exploring the movement in Michigan, the exhibit will help visitors make contemporary connections to remaining barriers to women's full participation in the political arena, give younger visitors a chance to "vote" in a mock election, and provide an opportunity for visitors to share their knowledge of Michigan suffragists.

This exhibit will be on display in the Historical Center September 26 through February 2012. Please join us for the opening reception on Sunday, September 26, 2-4 p.m.

Below: Michigan members of the National Women's Party picketing the White House in 1917, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.



"Chulitna River" by Pat Miller.

New Art Exhibit

"Denali National Park: A Celebration of Color," a new art exhibit featuring the work of Pat Miller will be on display in the Belen Gallery Wednesday, August 18 through Sunday, October 31, 2010. The exhibit, consists of pastel and watercolor landscapes inspired by Denali National Park in Alaska.

Miller, a painter by training, lives in Holton, Michigan and has work held in corporate, university, and private collections. Miller has exhibited in local, state, and international invitational exhibits. In "Denali National Park: A Celebration of Color" Miller expresses concern for the disappearance of natural places through her use of vibrant color in a medium that represents the natural world to her. Miller employs the transparent qualities of watercolor along with pastels to preserve, savor, and share her exuberance for life and the natural world.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

If you would like to work on the **1st Annual MWHOF Golf Outing**, which will take place in June 2011, please contact Sandy Soifer at ssoifer@michiganwomen.org or 517-484-1880 ext. 200.



Hall of Fame Women Are in the News

• **Lucia Voorhees Grimes**, prominent Detroit suffragist and women's rights activist, was featured in an article written by Portia Vescio in the May/June 2010 issue of *Michigan History Magazine*.

• **Olivia (Libby) Maynard** was one of seven women inducted into the 2010 inaugural class of the new Genesee Regional Women's Hall of Fame for her contributions in the areas of education and politics.



Lana Pollack, a new U.S. Section Chair on the International Joint Commission

• **Lana Pollack**, a Ludington native now living in Ann Arbor, was appointed by President Obama to serve as a U.S. Section Chair on the International Joint Commission, which works to prevent and resolve disputes between the US and Canada under the 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty and pursues the common good of both countries as an independent and objective advisor to the two governments.

• **Justice Elizabeth Weaver** was the featured speaker at an American Association of University Women gathering honoring the 2010 women graduates from Gaylord High School, St. Mary Cathedral School, Johannesburg-Lewiston High School, and Vanderbilt Area School.

• **Kathleen Wilbur**, Central Michigan University's vice president for government relations and public affairs, receives the "Distinguished Women in Higher Education Leadership Award" from the Michigan affiliate of the American Council on Education Network.

Did you know that the deadline for Michigan Women's Hall of Fame nominations is March 21st every year? Nomination forms can be picked-up at the Historical Center or downloaded from our website.

Business Women to Show Suffrage Documentary

Harriet A. Myer Business & Professional Women (BPW) will be showing the documentary film *Iron Jawed Angels* at the historic Michigan Theater in Jackson, Thursday, September 30 at 7p.m. Ticket prices are: adults \$5 and students \$3. Admissions will support the BPW's scholarship fund.

The HBO film, *Iron Jawed Angels*, depicts the long and sometimes ugly struggle for women's suffrage in America, focusing on the National Women's Party. Hilary Swank, Anjelica Huston, Frances O'Connor and Julia Ormond are featured in this powerful docudrama.

Voter registration will also be conducted at the event and women candidates will be highlighted.

Former MWSA Board Member Receives Peacemaker Award

Professor emeritus in the Wayne State University College of Education and former MWSA Board of Directors member, Joella Gipson was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by the Wayne State University Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, which recognizes individual contributions to domestic and international peace.

Save the Date!

2010 Michigan Women's Studies Association and
Grand Valley State University Conference

**"Leading the Way: Feminism,
Education, and Social Change"**

Saturday, March 26, 2011

Eberhard Center, Grand Valley State University,
Grand Rapids

More details to follow!

PAST EVENTS AT THE HISTORICAL CENTER

26th Picnic On the Lawn



On June 9, the Friends of the Michigan Women's Historical Center celebrated the 26th anniversary of the dedication and public opening of the Center in the Cooley-Haze House. The "fiesta" themed event included Mexican cuisine, music by Jenny Alvarez, dance performances by El Ballet Maria Luz, a shopping emporium, and a fabulous raffle with over 50 prizes.

Former MWSA president, Dr. Gladys Beckwith, who retired from the Board of Directors on June 30, was presented with a special proclamation from the City of Lansing honoring her more than 38 years of service on behalf of the women of Michigan. A'Lynne Robinson, president of the Lansing City Council, presented the award to Dr. Beckwith and expressed not only her appreciation for Beckwith's service, but also her gratitude for having a Women's Hall of Fame's in which "firsts" and "founders" are recognized. Robinson herself is the first African-American woman to serve as president of the Lansing City Council.

Lansing Mayor, Virg Bernero, issued a proclamation declaring June 9 "Dr. Gladys Beckwith Day," in honor of her retirement.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, picnic sponsors, and raffle prize donors that helped make this event a success!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY:

If you would like to work on the **Used Book Sale committee**, please contact Pat Jennings, President, Friends of the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, at kslcj@aol.com or 517-750-1763.

Be A Tourist in Your Own Town Day

In one day the Michigan Women's Historical Center saw over 360 visitors walk through its door. "Be A Tourist in Your Own Town" day on June 5 brought first time visitors to the Center out in mass thanks to this Lansing area event organized by the Greater Lansing Convention Center & Visitors Bureau.



Visitors or "tourists" participating in the event purchase passports at various locations around the Lansing area to gain free admission to participating museums and venues. Capitol Area Transportation Authority provided special bus stops and routes for tourists to use that included all locations.

The Center saw an increase of 84 tourists this year over last year's 279 tourists and estimated that at about 98% were first time visitors, most of which were families.

Visitors of all ages enjoyed making paper flowers out of colored tissue paper and then attaching them to the Center's mood pencils. Volunteers and staff at the Center that day enjoyed talking with visitors, answering questions about the Hall of Fame and the organization, and helping younger visitors with the craft activity.



A family making tissue paper flowers in the Belen Gallery.

Michigan Women's Historical
Center & Hall of Fame
213 W. Main St.
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