62nd Annual

Michigan in Perspective

The Local History Conference

March 27 & 28, 2020
Sterling Banquet & Conference Center
Sterling Heights, Michigan

Sponsored by

THE MEIJER FOUNDATION

J. Ferrantino Charitable Foundation

DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Algonquin Club of Detroit & Windsor • Bentley Historical Library • Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society • Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan • Michigan State University Press • Spaces to Experiences • University of Michigan Press
• Walter P. Reuther Library • Wayne State University Press • William L. Clements Library

For details and registration, visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828
Michigan History Day® (MHD) is a yearlong educational program that encourages students to explore local, state, national, and world history.

After selecting historical topics that relate to the annual theme, students conduct research; analyze and interpret their findings; draw conclusions about their topics’ significance in history; and create final projects in one of five categories: paper, exhibit, documentary, website, or performance.

Winners of the state-level MHD competition in the Junior and Senior categories move on to compete in National History Day in College Park, Maryland.

Volunteer to Be a Judge at Michigan History Day

Judges are needed for the 2020 Michigan History Day State Finals at Central Michigan University on Saturday, April 25. A judge can be anyone who enjoys sharing his or her interest in history with a younger generation. If you would like to volunteer as a judge, please register online at hsmichigan.org/mhd/judges or call (517) 324-1828.

Visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828 for more details.

9-10 a.m. Opening Keynote

Motor City Rising: The Revitalization of Detroit

Cindy Pasky, Strategic Staffing Solutions

Throughout its long history, the city of Detroit has seen its ups and downs. Just a decade ago, the Motor City was knocked to its knees by a bankruptcy and the crash of the U.S. auto industry. But Detroit is rising again. New parks, businesses, hotels, and restaurants are springing up everywhere. Join us as our speaker reveals how she and others have effected real change and helped the city get back on its feet.
Living With the Enemy: World War II POWs in MI  
Gregory Sumner, University of Detroit Mercy

During WWII, Michigan hosted approximately 6,000 German and Italian prisoners of war in camps throughout both peninsulas and put them to work in the state. Escape attempts were rare, and many prisoners enjoyed their forced stay in America. Join us to explore this little-known chapter of Michigan history.

Drawing Back the Curtain: Black Theaters in Detroit  
Gary Anderson, Plowshares Theatre Company

Throughout the twentieth century and into the twenty-first, black theaters in Detroit have brought stories of the African-American experience to life. Join us at this session as we explore both the rich history and present-day existence of those Detroit establishments, such as the Plowshares Theatre Company, Michigan’s only professional African-American theater company.

No News Today: The Detroit Newspaper Strike  
Dan Golodner, Walter P. Reuther Library, Wayne State University, and Shawn Ellis, Teamsters

This session looks back on the Detroit newspaper strike, in which six labor unions and 2,500 workers went on strike against The Detroit News and the Detroit Free Press from 1995 to 1997. Today, the collections of the Walter P. Reuther Library preserve the memory of that important moment in labor history.

Exiled to Motown: Detroit’s Japanese Americans  
Mika Kennedy, University of Michigan

After World War II’s Japanese-American incarceration, Detroit served as one of the resettlement program’s major destinations. Come hear how those Japanese Americans were able to preserve their culture in various forms throughout the area. This session will also cover the history of Japanese Americans within the broader industrial and racial history of Detroit.

Vive Détroit: French Presence in the Detroit River Region  
Guillaume Teasdale, University of Windsor

For several years of its long history, Detroit experienced a strong French presence that began with the city’s founding by Antoine Laumet de La Mothe Cadillac in 1701. This session will explore subjects dealing with the scope and nature of French influence, including seigneurial land tenure, public and private property, and the War of 1812.

John E. Fetzer and the Quest for the New Age  
Brian C. Wilson, Western Michigan University

Michigan entrepreneur, John E. Fetzer was a radio and TV pioneer, owner of the World Series Detroit Tigers, and one of the 400 wealthiest individuals in America. Very few people knew Fetzer attributed his personal and professional success to his spiritual practice. Join author Brian C. Wilson as he delves into Fetzer’s inspirational journey.
11:30-11:45 a.m. Exhibits Break

11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote (ticket required)

The Roar of ’84:
Interview With Dave Rozema

Dave Rozema, former Tigers pitcher, and William Anderson, Historical Society of Michigan and Michigan State University Extension Advisory Council

Join us in conversation with former Detroit Tigers player Dave “Rosey” Rozema and Tigers authority Dr. William Anderson. A Grand Rapids native, Rozema was drafted by the Tigers in 1975 as a pitcher and was a part of the Tigers’ World Series team in 1984. Recently selected as one of the “10 Greatest Characters in Detroit Tigers History” by Sports Illustrated, Rozema will be answering questions about his experiences playing for the Detroit baseball team.
From the Roots Up: Urban Farming and the Eastern Market

Billy Wall-Winkel, Detroit Historical Society, and Malik Yakini, Detroit Black Community Food Security Network

Detroit. The name does not evoke images of vegetables and flowers—but it should. Since the 1890s, Eastern Market has brought people and garden-fresh food together. Urban farming dates back to that era, when the then-mayor urged residents to plant on unoccupied lots. This session examines these two fresh yet historic subjects.

The Detroit River Runs Through It

Dave Dempsey, For Love of Water, and John H. Hartig, University of Windsor

Detroit was the epicenter of the Fur Trade Era, an unparalleled leader of shipbuilding for 100 years, the “Silicon Valley” of the industrial age, and the unquestioned leader of the Arsenal of Democracy. Learn how the Detroit River has influenced and been influenced by the city’s industries and how it is changing for tomorrow.

The Not So Open Road: Detroit’s Green Book

Jamon Jordan, Association for the Study of African American Life and History

After being turned away from hotels, restaurants, and gas stations, African-American postman Victor Hugo Green, along with other mail carriers, created the “Green Book,” which listed businesses that welcomed African-American travelers. Come hear how Detroit’s Green Book opened the road for African Americans in Michigan.

We Can Do It! The Rosies of Willow Run

Claire Kitchin Dahl, Yankee Air Museum

As men were called to military duty during World War II, women began to populate defense plants across the United States. Join us at this session to receive a history of the Willow Run B-24 Bomber Plant in Ypsilanti and the women, collectively known as “Rosie the Riveter,” who worked there.

Building the Modern World: Albert Kahn in Detroit

Michael H. Hodges, The Detroit News

German-Jewish immigrant Albert Kahn was an innovative architect who helped shape Detroit’s architectural and cultural history. He was also the savior of Detroit’s Diego Rivera murals and had an important architectural role during World War II. Join author Michael Hodges to learn about Kahn’s rise from poverty to prominence.

Shockwaves From Stonewall: LGBT+ Liberation in Michigan

Tim Retzloff, Michigan State University

In 1969, the Stonewall uprising in New York City catapulted gay rights into the nation’s center stage. In Michigan, the LGBT+ community responded with its own movement, which led to some significant milestones and social change. Learn more about the struggles of Michigan’s gay community from the 1970s to present.

Great Lakes & Waterways Heritage

Sponsored by:

From the Roots Up: Urban Farming and the Eastern Market

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Notes in the Air:
Jazz From Detroit
Mark Stryker, Arts Journalist and Author

In the 1940s and 1950s, a thriving black community in Detroit supported a vibrant nightlife and exceptional public school music programs that transformed Detroit into a jazz authority. This golden age nurtured many legendary musicians. Learn more about the city's pivotal role in shaping the course of modern and contemporary jazz.

The Anishinaabe
Women of Mackinac
Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

The history of the Straits of Mackinac cannot be told without including the lives of the female Anishinaabe leaders in the area. Come to learn about those strong women, such as Agatha Biddle, who helped preserve Native customs and traditions during a period of cultural amalgamation in the Great Lakes region.

Freedom and Resistance:
The Underground Railroad in Southeastern Michigan
Rochelle E. Danquah, Michigan Freedom Trail Commission and Wayne State University

This session explores the antislavery, abolition, and Underground Railroad movements in western Wayne and Oakland Counties and how area residents contributed to those efforts. Learn about the freedom-seekers’ courage and determination for freedom as they traveled through Michigan.

Back on Track: The Michigan Central Station
Christina Twelftree, Ford Motor Company

It is an iconic landmark and a vestige of a former era. It has had its fair share of press—both good and bad. Explore the history, the turmoil, the abandonment, and the recent revitalization of the one-of-a-kind Detroit structure—the Michigan Central Station—in this exciting breakout session.

The North End of Paradise
Ken Coleman, Michigan Advance

The North End in Detroit, so named because it was the “north end” of Paradise Valley, was booming during the 1920s and 1930s, but like Paradise Valley and Black Bottom, it was devastated by the construction of I-75. Come to hear the North End’s history and how it is making a comeback.

Tuning In: Detroit TV Movie Hosts
Tim Kiska, University of Michigan—Dearborn

Rita Bell. Sir Graves Ghastly. Bill Kennedy. The Ghoul. Southeastern Michiganders were entertained by these and other TV movie hosts, who introduced various films and flicks and amused viewers during commercial breaks. Join us to reminisce and learn more about the larger-than-life hosts who we welcomed into our homes like old friends.
Join us for our Friday Reception, where you can network and mingle with old friends, new acquaintances, and other conference attendees.

There will be light refreshments and a cash bar.

This year, we are offering an optional game of Michigan history trivia for your enjoyment. Test your knowledge of little-known facts about our Great Lakes State against the other players, and possibly win a prize in the process! You can join in the fun or just sit back and watch the game.

**Sign up for your free ticket when you register.**

The Reception is free for all registered conference attendees, but tickets are required.

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**Conference Hotel**

**STERLING Banquet & Conference Center**

34911 Van Dyke Ave.
Sterling Heights, MI 48312

$95/night

For reservations, call (800) 953-1400, then choose option 1

*Request the Local History Conference or Historical Society of Michigan rate.*
Saturday, March 28
7:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Check-In, Registration, and Exhibits

7:45-8 a.m. Exhibits Break

8-9:45 a.m. Breakfast and Keynote (ticket required)

Crusader for Justice:
Judge Damon J. Keith
Peter Hammer, Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, Wayne State University Law School

The Honorable Damon J. Keith, a Detroit native, was a staunch defender of both civil and constitutional rights. Keith’s dedication to racial and social justice formed through his early days in Detroit’s public schools, his time in the segregated U.S. Army, and his years in law school during the onset of the civil rights era. Join us as we look back at Judge Keith’s life and commitments, his major cases, and those who influenced him.

For those not attending the breakfast and keynote, light refreshments will be available beginning at 9 a.m.

A proud sponsor of the Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference.

J. Ferrantino Charitable Foundation
Guardians of Detroit: Architectural Sculpture in the Motor City
Jeff Morrison, Author and Photographer

As Detroit grew between 1850 and 1930, its wealthier citizens wanted to leave a mark on the city. To do so, they constructed fine buildings adorned with gargoyles. Photographer and author Jeff Morrison will present an intimate and closeup look at some of Detroit’s finest architectural sculptures.

John Conyers: A Political Institution
JoAnn Watson, Detroit City Council (Ret.)

The longest-serving African-American congressional official in history, Representative John Conyers was an institution. A tireless advocate for civil rights, Conyers was the only elected official ever endorsed by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Join the speaker as she addresses Conyers’ achievements, his politics, and his enduring legacy.

Beyond the Stereotype: Native People Then and Now
Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians

Stereotypes of Natives are rampant in American society and have been perpetuated by movies, media, consumer products, and sports. These stereotypes have helped create false images of Native people. Join us for this comparison of what has been portrayed and what is currently going on in “Indian Country.”

Sharing the Wealth: The Legacy of C.S. Mott
Malcolm Cottle, Applewood: The Charles Stewart Mott Estate

While Charles Stewart Mott made his fortune as the co-founder of General Motors, his true legacy is what he did with his wealth. The speaker will address Mott’s relationship with Flint, his instilled civic duty, and the formation of his foundation in an effort to better understand Mott’s mark on Southeast Michigan.

What Happened to the Cannons?
James Conway, Historic Fort Wayne, City of Detroit

In the 1840s, a new fort was built in Detroit. It was the city’s third—but the first constructed by American hands. Fort Wayne never fired a shot at an enemy. Instead, it became an induction center from the Civil War to Vietnam. Join us as we look inside Detroit’s Fort Wayne.
11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote (ticket required)

A Revolutionary and “Solutionary”:
The Life of Ahmad Rahman
Melvin Peters, Eastern Michigan University

Ahmad Rahman was a community and civil rights icon in Southeastern Michigan. A member of the Black Panther Party, Rahman spent his young adulthood improving the lives of African Americans in Detroit before being imprisoned for 22 years for a crime he did not commit. Join us at this exciting keynote as the speaker discusses Rahman’s life and legacy as a scholar, educator, activist, and “solutionary”—someone who was committed to setting and achieving real goals for Detroit.
L. Brooks Patterson: A Polarizing Politician
Ron Dzwonkowski, Detroit Free Press (Ret.)

When L. Brooks Patterson passed away in August 2019, he left a complicated legacy in the minds of Michiganders. Join us at this session to learn about the iconic—and polarizing—political figure from Southeastern Michigan, known for his controversial remarks about the city of Detroit and for never losing an election in Oakland County.

Yalla Eat! Arab-American Foodways in Michigan
Matthew Jaber Stiffler, Arab American National Museum

Join us for a mouthwatering look at the history of Arab-American restaurants and food establishments in Southeastern Michigan. Public foodways reveal not only the culinary customs and practices of a people but also their history and traditions. Yalla Eat! means more than “Let’s go eat!” It also means to discover a culture.

Grand River Avenue: Michigan’s “Route 66”
Jon Milan, Author, and Gail Offen, Lawrence Technological University

Stretching from Detroit to Muskegon, Grand River Avenue can be thought of as the “Route 66” of Michigan. Join us as we map the fun and fascinating history of the road—from footpath to stagecoach route, plank road to two-lane highway—through rare photos and lively anecdotes.

Keep 'Em Fighting: Chris-Craft's Contribution to WWII
Geoffrey Reynolds, Joint Archives of Holland—Hope College

On December 7, 1941, a military strike at Pearl Harbor led the United States into World War II. In Michigan, the Chris-Craft Corporation quickly transitioned from building pleasure boats to constructing military craft for the war effort. Join the speaker to learn more about Chris-Craft’s role in America’s “Arsenal of Democracy.”

Fighting for Freedom: The 102nd U.S. Colored Troops
Geoff Blair, 102nd USCT Co. B

Of the 90,000 Michigan men who served with the Union forces during the American Civil War, 1,600 were African-American soldiers. Join us to learn about those courageous men who fought in decorated units, including the First Michigan Colored Troops Infantry Regiment, which became the 102nd United States Colored Troops Regiment.

Washtenaw County’s African-Canadian and African-American Families
Omer Jean Winborn and Cheryl Garnett, Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society

Since before the Civil War, African-Canadian and African-American families have migrated to and settled in Washtenaw County. Hear from their descendants how those families built thriving, self-sufficient communities during the Underground Railroad and Reconstruction periods, the Civil Rights Movement, school desegregation, and past and present political upheavals.
Saturday, March 28

7:45 a.m.–3:30 p.m. Check-In, Registration, and Exhibits

3:15-3:30 p.m. Exhibits Break

3:30-5:30 p.m. Annual Saturday Gala

Michigan History Day® Presents...

Sit back and watch some of our Michigan History Day® National Finalists as they present their projects.

Michigan History Day is a yearlong educational program that encourages students to explore local, state, national, and world history. These students went all the way to the national competition with their performances and documentary. Join us to view these 10-minute projects that prove that history is alive and well with our youth.

Light refreshments will be served, and there will be plenty of opportunities to chat with the students about their projects.

Sign up for your free ticket when you register.

The Gala is free for all registered conference attendees, but tickets are required.

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2020 PLANNING COMMITTEE

Larry J. Wagenaar, Chair, Historical Society of Michigan
Mark Bowden, Burton Historical Collection—Detroit Public Library
James Cameron, Michigan Department of Education & Historical Society of Michigan
Jacob Campbell, Historical Society of Michigan
Ken Coleman, Michigan Advance
Charles Ferrell, Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History
Nancy Feldbush, Historical Society of Michigan
Scott Ham, University of Michigan Press
Jamon Jordan, Association for the Study of African American Life and History

Louis Jones, Walter P. Reuther Library—Wayne State University
Paul Keep, Historical Society of Michigan
Julie Loehr, Michigan State University Press
Annie Martin, Wayne State University Press
James McConnell, Michigan Council for History Education
Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan
Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society
Amy Wagenaar, Historical Society of Michigan
Rick Wiener, Historical Society of Michigan
Leslie C. Williams, Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society
Arthur M. Woodford, Algonquin Club of Detroit & Windsor

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History Skills Workshops™

CHANGES ARE COMING TO HSM’S HISTORY SKILLS WORKSHOPS™

In addition to a full slate of workshops presented throughout the year, HSM will host same-day, back-to-back workshops. The new format will allow for more time spent on related interests. The double-header workshops will be offered on at least four Fridays and two Saturdays throughout the year. Workshop days will cover possible topics such as genealogy, archives, and grant writing.

To stay updated on future workshops and HSM’s other educational programming, please visit hsmichigan.org/programs.

Visit hsmichigan.org or call (800) 692-1828 for details!
Attention Educators! SCECHs Registration: $20. See form below.

Thanks to a partnership with Lansing Community College, we can now provide State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECHs) for attendees. For an additional $20, you can earn 3 to 9 SCECHs.

Registration/Hours Options: 1) Full conference basic entry fee NO meals = up to 6 hours; 2) Full conference basic entry fee PLUS all meals = up to 9 hours; and 3) Saturday-Only basic entry fee PLUS all Saturday meals = up to 4 hours. Each of the keynote meals comes with an additional cost.

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STERLING
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$95/night

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Conference Registration
Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference
March 27 & 28, 2020

Register online at hsmichigan.org

Registration Deadlines:
Early-Bird Registration Ends: January 31, 2020
Standard Registration: February 1 – March 15, 2020
Late Registration: March 16 – 22, 2020

Fill out one form for each attendee. Please make additional copies of this form as needed.

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Choose your conference meal option for all meals • choose only one
- REGULAR
- REGULAR/FRIDAY LENTEN FISH**
- VEGETARIAN
- GLUTEN-FREE

**For those who choose the Regular/Friday Lenten Fish option, you will have a fish lunch on Friday. You will then return to the Regular meat meals on Saturday.

Visit hsmichigan.org to register online. It’s fast, easy, and secure!

OR
Register by phone by calling toll-free: (800) 692-1828

OR
Fill out this form, then fax to: (517) 324-4370

OR
Fill out this form, then mail it in with your payment made payable to: Historical Society of Michigan
Mail to: Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference • HSM • 7435 Westshire Dr. • Lansing, MI 48917
Please use the form below to pay by credit card

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The Burton Historical Collection is proud to support the 2020 Michigan in Perspective: The Local History Conference and the Historical Society of Michigan.

Being not-for-profit allows us to give back to our members through better rates, fewer fees, free financial education, grants and scholarships, and other community support. And it fuels us to work hard every day to personalize plans to help members meet their financial goals.

msgcu.org

MICHIGAN SCHOOLS & GOVERNMENT CREDIT UNION

Membership is open to residents of the Lower Peninsula.

BECOME A MEMBER!

Free admission is just the beginning! A Detroit Historical Society membership is your ticket to Detroit’s past, present and future. Experience special VIP access to top exhibitions, curator-led discussions, exclusive member events, museum shop discounts, and other exciting members-only opportunities. Learn more at detroithistorical.org.

Visit us at detroithistorical.org and follow us on social!
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