62nd Annual

Michigan in Perspective
Local History Conference

VIRTUAL EVENT
Friday-Saturday, March 19-20, 2021

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THE MEIJER FOUNDATION

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Historical Society of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
2021 Michigan History Day®

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. For the health and safety of judges and students, both the state and national contests will be virtual this year.

Volunteer to Be a Judge at Michigan History Day

Judges are needed for the 2021 Michigan History Day State Finals, which will be a virtual contest this year. A judge can be anyone who enjoys sharing his or her interest in history with a younger generation. Judging will occur from April 5 to April 13 and volunteers will need access to the Internet and a computer to judge. If you would like to volunteer as a judge, please register online at hsmichigan.org/mhd/judges or call (517) 324-1828. Sign up today!
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 Michigan*
Gregory Sumner, University of Detroit Mercy

During WWII, Michigan hosted approximately 6,000 German and Italian prisoners of war in camps throughout both peninsulas. The POWs cut pulpwood, harvested and canned fruit, and filled other jobs. Escape attempts were rare, and many prisoners enjoyed their forced stay in America. Join us to explore this little-known chapter of Michigan 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.

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

This presentation 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.

**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 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.
Visit Safely!

Our museums are open with enhanced safety measures to fight the spread of COVID-19.

Featuring new exhibitions and virtual options

Museum Tours / Group workshops / Virtual programs for students and adults

Find details at detroithistorical.org

Friday March 19

Lunch Keynote

The Heart of the Matter: A Conversation With Senator Carl Levin

With Historical Society of Michigan Trustee Richard Wiener

For nearly four decades, Carl Levin served as a U.S. senator, and upon his retirement in 2015, he became the longest-serving senator in Michigan's history. Senator Levin witnessed wins, losses, and compromises for Michigan throughout his career, but he never stopped fighting for what he believed in. Join us as Senator Levin shares stories of his time in the Senate with Richard Wiener, who serves on HSM’s Board of Trustees. Do not miss this conversation between friends!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session Title</th>
<th>Speaker/Institution</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 to 2 p.m.</td>
<td>From the Roots Up: Urban Farming in the Motor City</td>
<td>Billy Wall-Winkel, Detroit Historical Society</td>
<td>Detroit. The name does not evoke images of vegetables and flowers—but it should. Urban farming dates back to the 1890s, when the city’s then-mayor urged residents to plant on unoccupied lots, and today, the practice continues to bring people and garden-fresh food together. Tune in to discover this fresh yet historic subject.</td>
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<td>1 to 2 p.m.</td>
<td>We Can Do It! The Rosies of Willow Run</td>
<td>Alison Beatty, Yankee Air Museum</td>
<td>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.</td>
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<td>2:15 to 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Shock Waves From Stonewall: LGBT+ Liberation in Michigan</td>
<td>Tim Retzloff, Michigan State University</td>
<td>In 1969, the Stonewall Uprising in New York City catapulted the issues of gay rights to America’s center stage. In Michigan, the LGBT+ community responded with its own movement, which led to some significant milestones and change. Learn more about the struggles of the gay community in the 1970s and beyond.</td>
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<td>2:15 to 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>The Anishinaabe Women of Mackinac</td>
<td>Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians</td>
<td>The history of the Straits of Mackinac cannot be told without including the lives of the female Anishinaabe leaders in the area. Join us to hear 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.</td>
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<td>2:15 to 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Notes in the Air: Jazz From Detroit</td>
<td>Mark Stryker, Arts Journalist and Author</td>
<td>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. Discover more about the city’s pivotal role in shaping the course of modern and contemporary jazz.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:15 to 3:15 p.m.</td>
<td>Back on Track: The Michigan Central Station</td>
<td>Rich Bardelli, Ford Motor Company</td>
<td>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 a one-of-a-kind Detroit structure—the Michigan Central Station—in this breakout session.</td>
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Tuning In: Detroit TV Movie Hosts
Tim Kiska, University of Michigan—Dearborn & Ed Golick, detroitkidshow.com
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. Tune in to reminisce and learn more about the larger-than-life hosts who we welcomed into our homes like old friends.

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. Hear about the North End’s history and how it is making a comeback during this session.

Freedom and Resistance: The Underground Railroad in SE Michigan
Rochelle E. Danquah, Michigan Freedom Trail Commission and Wayne State University
This presentation explores the antislavery, abolition, and Underground Railroad movements in western Wayne and Oakland Counties and how area residents contributed to those efforts with their assistance. Come to this session to learn about the freedom-seekers’ courage and determination as they traveled through Michigan.

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 role during World War II due to his designs. Join us to learn about Kahn’s legacy in both Detroit and Ann Arbor.

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The Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference is sponsored in part by the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs
Friday
March 19

Evening Keynote

The Roar of '84:
An Interview With Dave Rozema

Dave Rozema, former Tigers pitcher & 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 talk with Dr. Anderson and share stories about his
experiences playing for the Detroit baseball team.

Sponsored by
Saturday
March 20

Morning Keynote

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.

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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 and grotesques. Photographer and author Jeff Morrison will present an intimate and closeup look at some of Detroit’s finest architectural sculptures.

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**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 cofounder 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.

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**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.

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**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.
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, an educator, an activist, and a “solutionary”—someone who was committed to setting and achieving real goals for Detroit.

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Museum of African American History

The Museum of African American History is a proud sponsor of the Historical Society of Michigan’s Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference.

AARP Michigan

AARP Michigan is a proud sponsor of the Historical Society of Michigan’s Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference.
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. This session tells of those courageous men who fought in decorated units, including the 1st Michigan Colored Troops Infantry Regiment, which became the 102nd United States Colored Troops Regiment.

What Happened to the Cannons? Historic Fort Wayne
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.

Justice and Faith: The Frank Murphy Story
Greg Zipes, Lawyer and Author
Frank Murphy rose to fame as the judge of the Ossian Sweet case. Later, he took on the mantles of mayor of Detroit during the Depression, governor of Michigan during General Motor's Flint sit-down strike, and several federal positions under the leadership of Franklin Roosevelt. Tune in to discover more about this remarkable Michigan man.

Grand River Avenue: Michigan’s “Route 66”
Jon Milan, Author & Gail Offen, Lawrence Technological University
Stretching from Detroit to Muskegon, Grand River Avenue can be thought of as the “Route 66” of Michigan. Tune in 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.

Washtenaw County’s African-Canadian and African-American Families
Omer Jean Winborn and Cheryl Garnett, Fred Hart Williams Genealogical Society
Since before the American Civil War, African-Canadian and African-American families have migrated to and settled in Washtenaw County. Descendants share 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.

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 us as the speaker delves into Fetzer’s inspirational journey.

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Creating Beyond Pontiac’s Shadow
Catherine Cocks, Michigan State University Press & Keith R. Widder, Mackinac State Historic Parks (Ret.)
The book Beyond Pontiac’s Shadow: Michilimackinac and the Anglo-Indian War of 1763 explores the people and events of the attack at Michilimackinac on June 2, 1763. The speakers will discuss, in interview form, the research that went into the book and the publishing partnership between Mackinac State Historic Parks and Michigan State University Press.
Conquering Heroines: U-M Women Fighting Sex Bias and Paving the Way to Title IX
Sara Fitzgerald, Author
Fifty years ago, sex discrimination was rampant on the University of Michigan (U-M) campus. Women made up only 7 percent of the faculty, and undergraduate admissions officers enforced gender quotas. Learn about the small group of women who successfully challenged U-M and led the way for resolving similar complaints at other U.S. universities.

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. Those 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.”

Of Icebergs and Inquiries: Michiganders on the Titanic
Robert Myers, Historical Society of Michigan
When the luxury ocean liner RMS Titanic went down in 1912, many Michiganders tragically lost their lives. Within a week, U.S. Senator William Alden Smith, a native of Dowagiac, convened the U.S. inquiry into the disaster. Join this session to learn about the Michigan survivors and victims, as well as Senator Smith's far-reaching quest for answers.

Michigan History Day Presents...
Michigan History Day® National Finalists
Michigan History Day® is a yearlong educational program that encourages students to explore local, state, national, and world history. Sit back and watch some of our Michigan History Day National Finalists as they present their projects. These students represented Michigan at the national competition with their documentaries.

Register Now!

Click here to go to online registration. It’s fast, easy, and secure!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION
Michigan in Perspective: Local History Conference
Friday-Saturday, March 19-20, 2021
Registration Deadlines:
Early-Bird Registration Ends: February 15, 2021
Standard Registration Ends: March 18, 2021
“Walk-In” Registration: March 19-20, 2021
Fill out one form for each attendee.