



History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

www.LansingHistory.org

June 2013

Summer Downtown Walking Tours

All tours meet in front of Lansing City Hall and will last approximately 90 minutes and cover 6-8 blocks. No charge, donations welcome.

Lost Lansing

Saturday, June 15, 2013 - 10:00am

A look at some of Lansing's most tragic lost historic buildings, including the old City Hall, Post Office, the Olds Home, the Barnes Castle, the old wooden capitol building, the Downey Hotel, and others.

Church and State

Saturday, July 20, 2013 - 10:00am

Learn the stories behind some of Lansing's most iconic churches and government buildings. Stops include St. Mary's Cathedral, St. Paul's Episcopal, Central United Methodist, the Capitol, the Romney Building (formerly the Hotel Olds) and the downtown post office.

Behind the Facades

Saturday, August 17, 2013 - 10:00am

Learn why Lansing's buildings look the way they do. We'll discuss a variety of architectural styles found in Lansing, ranging from Richardsonian Romanesque to Art Deco to Moderne. We'll also talk about some the legendary businesses that have occupied these buildings over the years. Buildings include Comerica Bank, the Liebermann's building, the Knapp's building, the Arbaugh building, the Hollister building, and others.

English Inn Event Raises \$4,500!

The HSGL board would like to say a big thank you to everyone who supported our spring museum fundraiser, the Secrets Behind the English Inn. Thanks to your generous support, we raised \$4,500! We'd also like to thank the English Inn for hosting us, and for generously donating all of the food and labor for the event. Thank you so much!

2013 Annual Meeting

The annual meeting will consist of a sandwich lunch at 12:00pm on Saturday, June 15 at Cooley Gardens next to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame following our morning *Lost Lansing* walking tour. Members will have lunch provided – non-members are asked to pay \$5 each for lunch. If you plan to attend, please rsvp to info@lansinghistory.org or call (517)282-0671 by June 13.

While at the gardens we will hold our annual business meeting, including the election of board members. Board members up for re-election this year are:

Valerie Marvin, President
Bill Castanier, Vice President
Adam Beckwith, Secretary
Tim Kaltenbach, Treasurer
Harry Emmons, Trustee 2013 - 2015
Anne Wilson, Trustee 2013 - 2015

Anne Wilson will be joining our board this summer, filling the trustee vacancy left by Lille Foster. She is a Lansing native and a self-proclaimed history lover (she especially loves the Civil War and WWII) who loves to go to museums and wander through historical sites and cemeteries, likes to do family research, and to find treasures at garage sales. A resident of Colonial Village Neighborhood Association, Anne can be found volunteering in her neighborhood and around town.

Lansing Eats! Exhibit Open

- Sunday, July 7, 2013, 1:00 – 4:00 pm
- Sunday, August 4, 2013 1:00 – 4:00 pm
- Sunday, September 1, 2013 1:00- 4:00pm
- By Appointment by calling 517-282-0671 or emailing info@lansinghistory.org

Creyts Building - 831 North Washington Avenue

Thank you so much to the 200 people who came out to enjoy a taste of Lansing history at our Lansing Eats exhibit our first weekend! For those of you who haven't made it yet, we invite you to stop by and check it out. The exhibit includes over 100 years of food history including items from from a number of local businesses and organizations, and a collection of locally produced cookbooks.

Why I Love HSGL

by Valerie Marvin, HSGL President

As our annual meeting rolls around again, it seems a natural to reflect on what HSGL has accomplished in the last year. As I sat down to write this article, I find myself absolutely overwhelmed by all of the things that our society is doing, and I could not be more proud to be a part of HSGL. One year ago, we were just opening our first exhibit, and many of our events were attended by a crowd of 30 to 40 people. Now, a year later, we've opened our third exhibit, visited by 200 people this past weekend, and our events are drawing crowds of 70 to 100 people regularly. Wow!

There's a lot to love about HSGL. Here are some of my favorite reasons.

1. We Have Incredibly Generous Members.

I have to begin with this one, coming off the success of the Secrets of the English Inn event. Thanks to a very generous donation of all of the food by the English Inn, we raised more than \$4,500 more to put towards our plans for a historical museum. And this example of generosity is only the tip of the iceberg. Our members are incredibly generous, both with their money and their time. You buy tickets to our fundraisers. You bid on and buy items at the auction. You donate unsolicited financial gifts. You give your time, your talents, and your enthusiasm to HSGL, and we are the richer for it.

You have also been incredibly generous in loaning and donating your own historical treasures to our collection. Your loans and donations are what make our exhibits possible!

2. We're Getting Out Into Lansing

I love that our society is going out into the community and visiting all sorts of important local historical landmarks. From the 100 plus people who attended our downtown walking tour last summer, to the 100 people who braved rain and thunderstorms to tour the Michigan School for the Blind campus in April, our walking tours are drawing huge crowds of people eager to learn about Lansing's past.

3. We Have Great Volunteers

HSGL is lucky to have a great group of volunteers that are ready to lend a hand whenever needed on our projects. For example, a group of five women have stepped forward to learn the art of cataloguing and properly boxing and storing HSGL's growing artifact and paper collection. They've volunteered many hours this spring to make sure that the historical treasures in the HSGL collection are well protected and preserved for the future. Thank you so much, ladies!

Also, HSGL is looking to expand our oral history program. If you're interested in volunteering with this important effort and learning how to tape oral histories yourself, please let us know.

4. We Are Building Our Collection

Over the last year our members and the Lansing community has really begun to donate items to HSGL's permanent collection. Among the treasures we've taken in are a beautiful 1950s wedding dress that was purchased at Knapp's Department store, milk bottles from several local dairies, a band uniform jacket from Resurrection High School, a basketball jersey from Everett High School's 2004 state championship team, a collection of local high school yearbooks dating back to the turn of the 20th century, and plates from Lansing's original Masonic Temple. I'm also happy to announce that just this month we signed the final paperwork to accept Mayor Laird Troyer's papers into our collection. Mayor Troyer was in office from 1927 - 1930. The papers were generously donated by his grandson, an HSGL member.

5. Our Membership Is Growing

While I suspect that you already know this, simply from attending our meetings and seeing all of the new faces at them, I am very happy to report that our membership is growing quickly. In just the last year, HSGL has welcomed over three dozen new members into our fold. At present, we have about 225 members, and we're continuing to grow.

6. We're Forming New Community Partnerships

We have been extremely fortunate to begin building relationships with a lot of wonderful community partners that are helping us get the word out about Lansing history. The Greater Lansing Convention and Visitors Bureau has generously allowed us to serve as a site for Be A Tourist in Your Own Town now for the second year running, and this year they made us a bus stop. LEAP, the Lansing Economic Area Partnership has generously supported our fundraising efforts. Several local leaders, including the Mayor and multiple city council members, the

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P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901
www.LansingHistory.org

Officers & Board Members

Valerie Marvin - President	Adina Langer- Trustee
Bill Castanier - Vice President	Jesse LaSorda - Trustee
Adam Beckwith - Secretary	Erik Nelson - Trustee
Tim Kaltenbach - Treasurer	Zig Olds - Trustee
Joan Bauer - Trustee	Nathalie Winans - Trustee
Harry Emmons - Trustee	

City Clerk, and others, have showed their support for the society and our dream of a historical museum. Lansing's Downtown Inc. has served as an important project partner and financial support of HSGL. The City Pule, the Lansing State Journal, WLMI 92.9, WKAR 90.5, WLNZ 89.7 all support us be giving HSGL's events great coverage. To these groups and organizations, as well as to all of the businesses and individuals in the community who support us by offering us free publicity, donations, and more, thanks!

7. We're Providing New Educational Opportunities In the Community

HSGL is stepping up to fill a big void in the community in terms of local history education. We are educating our members and community members about the importance of our past, and how that past can inform the world we live in today. We're also hoping to take on a bigger role with education in the local schools soon.

8. We're Digging Up Some Great Finds

If you're on facebook and you haven't friended the HSGL page, you're missing out. We have a great crew of people who are posting 'new' historic images from the Lansing area every day. People are sharing all sorts of things – old local menus, historic photos turned up in flea markets, antique stores, and estate sales, family photos featuring historical Lansing landmarks, links to stories about mid-Michigan area history, and more. There's something new to see and learn about every time you check in.

9. We Have Great Board Members

Like any strong and growing organization, HSGL needs a strong board to guide it. We have been blessed with an active, strong group of leaders who are making important decisions and dreaming big dreams for HSGL. Every single board member is playing an important role. Whether it's finagling publicity, loaning images and objects for exhibits, coordinating large object moves, designing exhibits, managing the website, designing fliers and logos, staffing tours and minding exhibits, organizing fundraisers...the list goes on and on. Thank you all so much!

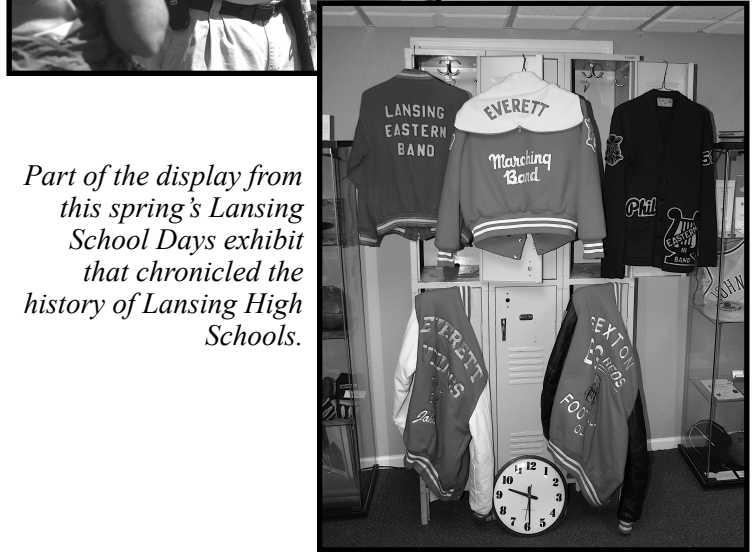
10. Our Future

As I look back on where we've been, I can't help but dream of where we are going. Where will we be in another year? Who knows! Wherever we are, though, and whatever we're doing, I'm sure we'll be making great history!

Some Photographs From Our Events Over The Past Year



Jesse Lasorda discussing the veterans' monument at the annual cemetery walk last fall at Evergreen Cemetery.



Part of the display from this spring's Lansing School Days exhibit that chronicled the history of Lansing High Schools.



Valerie Marvin & Erik Nelson lead a tour group at the English Inn Fundraiser.

Part of our current exhibit - Lansing Eats!





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Lansing, MI 48901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Historical Society of Greater Lansing - Membership Application

Please accept my application for:

- New Membership
- Renewal Membership
- Gift Membership

in the Historical Society of Greater Lansing

I have enclosed:

- \$20 Individual Membership
- \$30 Family Membership
- \$100 Business Membership
- \$_____ Additional Gift to HSGL

Member Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Email Address _____

- Please Send The Newsletter
Via Email

Make Checks Payable to
Historical Society of Greater Lansing

*The Historical Society of Greater Lansing is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation.
Thank you for your support of our programs and activities.*