



# History Explorer

Historical Society of Greater Lansing

[www.LansingHistory.org](http://www.LansingHistory.org)

October 2017

## Upcoming Events

### **The Life of Malcolm X**

*Thursday, October 12, 7:00 p.m.*

*Erickson Kiva, Erickson Hall, MSU - 620 Farm Lane*

Michigan State University's Center for Inclusion and Intercultural Initiatives, the Michigan Humanities Council, and the Historical Society of Greater Lansing are sponsoring an appearance by Ilyasah Shabazz the daughter of Malcolm X.

Shabazz will participate in a facilitated discussion with audience members led by MSU's John Aerni-Flessner, Assistant Professor in the Residential College in the Arts and Humanities (RCAH), on the life of Malcolm X at 7 p.m., Thursday, October 12, in Erickson Hall Kiva on the campus of MSU. The Kiva was the site of an important speech delivered by Malcolm X on January 23, 1963. The event is free.

Shabazz is touring the state as part of the Michigan Humanities Council's Great Michigan Read, which selected Shabazz's book *X: A Novel* for its 2017-2018 program. The novel, co-authored by young adult writer Kekla Magoon, is a fictionalized version of the life of a young Malcolm X, then Malcolm Little, who lived in Lansing and Mason from 1928-1940. The book, which has been called a "tale of reinvention and redemption" about one of the most important Civil Rights leaders of the 20th century, also was a 2016 Michigan Notable Book.

On the morning of Friday, October 13, Shabazz will place a simple roadside marker in memory of her grandfather, Earl Little, who was killed in 1931 under suspicious circumstances (some say killed by a streetcar, others say by the Black Legion) at the corner of Michigan Avenue and Detroit Street on Lansing's east side.

Bill Castanier, president of the Historical Society, said, "It is important to recognize the life of Malcolm X and his formative years in Lansing. He is one of the most outspoken and important figures in the Civil Rights Movement."

The homes in Lansing where Malcolm lived with his mother, father, and siblings have all been destroyed

or torn down. The family's first home on Lansing's northwest side was set on fire by the Black Legion and burned to the ground in 1929.

Malcolm X often returned to the Lansing area as an adult visiting family and friends. In 1958 Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz married in Lansing.

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### **From the Wilderness to the Heights: The Transformation of the University of Michigan 1852-1900**

*Wednesday, October 25, 2017 - 7:00 pm*

*Library of Michigan - 702 W. Kalamazoo St.*

This year marks the University of Michigan's bicentennial--an auspicious time to reconsider the history of this important institution. Join HSGL and the Library of Michigan for a talk by Prof. Fran Blouin, who will discuss how this once remote school, founded when Michigan was still a territory, blossomed into one of the most important universities in the nation by the turn of the twentieth century.

Blouin's carefully researched and eloquently told story reveals how presidents Henry Tappan and James Angell, along with some remarkable faculty members and deep-thinking students, fostered exciting discussions about the very essence of humanity, challenging both the academic and religious status quo. These extraordinary ideas, which were discussed, debated, and challenged in ordinary classrooms in Ann Arbor, would transform all of higher education, laying the foundation for our modern research institutions.

Fran Blouin is Professor of History and Professor in the School of Information at the University of Michigan. He has been on the faculty of the University since 1978, serving as the director of the University's Bentley Historical Library from 1981 to 2013.

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*Continued on page 3*

# Frank Lloyd Wright Lecture & Okemos Home Tour

*Sunday, October 8, 2017*  
*Lecture 12:00 noon in Rm 188,*  
*Psychology Bldg.- 316 Physics Rd.*  
*Home Tour 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.*

Mid-Michigan has an opportunity to learn more about Frank Lloyd Wright, the man dubbed “the greatest American architect of all time” by the American Institute of Architects. On Sunday, October 8, from 1-4 p.m., the four Wright homes in Okemos, Michigan, will be on a home tour sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing and DOCOMOMO-MI. Some 33 Wright homes were built in Michigan between 1894 and 1959, including the four in Okemos. The homes are in the “Usonian” style, single-story dwellings without a garage or much storage. The homes are often L-shaped and are incorporated into the natural surroundings.

This is the first time all four homes, built between 1940 and 1948, will be open to the public at one time. The homes on the tour are the Erling-Brauner House and the Edward-Martin House, both on Arrowhead Road, the Goetsch-Winckler House on Hulett Road, and the Don Schaberg House on Wrightwind Drive. The tour is self-directed. No children under 12.

Prior to the tour, Susan J. Bandes, author, director of the Museum Studies Program, and MSU Art History professor, will give a free lecture on the homes that Wright designed in Okemos, including several that were not built, and the continued importance of Frank Lloyd Wright. The lecture will begin at noon in Room 118, Psychology Building on the MSU campus. The lecture is free.

The Okemos tour and lecture is part of a statewide and national recognition on the occasion of what would have been Wright’s 150th birthday.

Tickets for the home tour, costing \$20, will be available prior to the lecture and at the Goetsch-Winckler home the day of the event, October 8, in addition to being sold on-line at [www.lansinghistory.org](http://www.lansinghistory.org)

Bandes, the former director of the Kresge Art Museum, is an expert on Modernism and recently authored *Mid-Michigan Modern: From Frank Lloyd Wright to Googie*, published by MSU Press in October 2016. Bandes’s book also will be available for purchase at the lecture and at the Goetsch-Winkler home.



**GOETSCH-WINCKLER HOUSE:  
2410 HULETT RD., OKEMOS MI**

Wright considered the Goetsch-Winckler house the “perfect Usonian.” The 1,350 square-foot, two-bedroom home was built in 1939 for Alma Goetsch and Kathrine Winckler, artists and art educators at Michigan State College. The home’s short side with the carport is turned toward the road. This is a fine example of Wright’s Usonian principles of modest cost, use of prefabricated materials, gravity heating, flat roof and carport. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.



**ERLING AND KATHERINE BRAUNER HOUSE:  
2527 ARROWHEAD RD., OKEMOS MI**

The Brauner home was built in 1949 on a cul-de-sac in natural surroundings with woods as a backdrop and near the Herron Creek. The house is distinctive

## Historical Society of Greater Lansing

P.O. Box 12095 ~ Lansing, MI 48901  
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in the use of concrete blocks with small glass panes inserted to allow light into the hallway behind and to add decoration. A long sloping roof shelters the entrance and the carport.



**JAMES AND DOLORES EDWARDS HOUSE:  
2504 ARROWHEAD RD., OKEMOS MI**

The seven-room L-shaped home completed in 1951 with red brick and cedar trim appears to rise up from the sloping terrain as seen from the road. A spacious sunken living room, triangular in shape, is highlighted with windows on three sides. Clerestory windows add light into the kitchen, dining room and a hallway that leads to the bedroom wing, a 16-by-42-foot addition designed by Taliesin Associates in 1968.



**DONALD AND MARYLOU SCHABERG HOUSE:  
1155 WRIGHTWIND DR., OKEMOS MI**

After nearly a decade communicating with Wright, the Schabergs were finally able to finish, in March 1958, construction on their single-story home with attached two-car carport. Brick was used on the exterior and interior, as well as mahogany plywood and cypress for the trim and hand-split cedar shakes on the roof. The original house has three bedrooms, a small kitchen and an open-gabled living room ceiling. A 1,200-square-foot addition designed by Taliesin Associates was added in 1966, complementing Wright's design.

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## Moore's River Drive Home Tour

HSGL's board would like to say a hearty thank you to everyone who came out to support the Moore's River Drive and Cambridge Road Home Tour on Sunday, September 17! In the course of four hours approximately 600 people visited five beautiful historic homes. The event raised \$15,000.

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## Upcoming Events - Con'd

### Arthur Vandenberg: The Man in the Middle of the American Century

*Wednesday, November 8, 2017 - 6:30 p.m.  
Library of Michigan - 702 E. Kalamazoo*

Hendrik Meijer, executive chairman of Meijer Inc., will talk about his new book, *Arthur Vandenberg: The Man in the Middle of the American Century*, at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, at the Library of Michigan. The event is free and sponsored by the Historical Society of Greater Lansing.

Vandenberg was originally the editor and publisher of the Grand Rapids Herald when he was appointed to a seat in the United States Senate. He was later elected in 1928. He became an outspoken opponent of Roosevelt's New Deal and a leader among the isolationists who were against the President's effort to aid European allies at the onset of World War II.

Later, the Republican Congressman from Grand Rapids, Michigan, became a model of consensus building in Congress and worked closely with Democrats to build bipartisan consensus that established the Marshall Plan, the United Nations, and NATO.

Undeterred by his major role with Meijer Inc., Hendrik Meijer has been working on the book, on and off, for 27 years. The Meijer executive began his career working as a reporter for a Michigan newspaper.

Very little has been written about Senator Vandenberg. In writing the book Meijer was able to work closely with the Senator's surviving daughter, drawing on previously undisclosed sources. Interviews for the book reach back more than 20 years and include President Gerald Ford, Gore Vidal, and Clark Clifford, an advisor to four presidents.



Historical Society of Greater Lansing  
P.O. Box 12095  
Lansing, MI 48901

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