



Anthony

GREAT LAKES HISTORY CONFERENCE OCTOBER 20 AND 21



Emerson

President's Corner

Welcome back to the 2006-2007 season of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. So far 120 individuals have paid their membership fees for the year; if yours are DUE or even OVERDUE, please remedy that situation! The asterisk on your label indicates dues need to be paid.

The Fall season is off to a busy start, and this issue of the newsletter contains information on several of the annual events (see the calendar on page 5). GGRWHC will once again host one of the events at the Great Lakes History Conference. The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame dinner, in October this year, will induct Marge Peirce an author with local ties. We call to your attention to the program for March 2007, Women's History Month, for which the Grand Rapids Historical Society and GGRWHC have provided the speakers.

Please check out our website for news of other events of interest. If you know of an event at which we might promote and sell our "woman" pins, please let us know.

We hope to see you at these events, and welcome your suggestions for others that might be of interest to friends and supporters of women's history.

Mary A. Seeger

You Are Cordially Invited To A Reception At The Home Of M.J. And Emily Clark 1033 Lake Drive, Grand Rapids Sunday Afternoon, October 29, 2006

Emily Jewell Clark was listed in Society Blue Books just after the turn of the twentieth century with the notation "Receives Wednesday". After the death of her husband, Melvin, she added an addition to their Lake Drive home that served as an art gallery and there she hosted women's groups and art enthusiasts for teas and art lectures. You can get a feel for her hospitality yourself this October 29th from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm in the home she occupied for approximately thirty years, now Mangiamo's Restaurant.

Clark Retirement Community, formerly the M.J. Clark Memorial Home, is sponsoring the event to celebrate their centennial. Clark Home, which originated with a significant gift from M.J. and Emily Clark, opened on Sherman Street in 1906. The book, *Caring Community: A History of Clark Retirement Community* by Jennifer Morrison and Gordon Olson, will be released at the October 29th event. Morrison, of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council, the Grand Rapids Public Library's local history department, and MI-Stories.com; and City Historian Emeritus, Olson, will present a brief program and refreshments will be served.

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Included in this issue

- Great Lakes History Conference
- New Board Members
- Important dates
- Jane Idema Women's Studies Center Anniversary
- More LEGACY 2006 Events

GGRWHC Welcomes Two New Board Members

Mary Louise Avery and **Kathy Rent** have joined the GGRWHC Board for three year terms. Welcome to Mary Louise and Kathy.

Mary Louise Avery is a graduate of Western Michigan University. She taught English and drama for a few years before starting a family. She has three grown children and six grandchildren. Her family lived in Kalamazoo until 2001 when they moved to Grand Rapids. In 2004 her husband, Jim, retired from GM and the family moved to a centennial farm in West Olive.

Mary Louise is the director of the Clark Retirement Community Foundation and in the past year has been responsible for assisting Jennifer Morrison and Gordon Olson research and prepare the Clark History. She also has the privilege of working on a year of centennial lectures, concerts and events for Clark. "We have learned that the history of Clark, the greater Grand Rapids community, and the State of Michigan are interwoven in the colorful tapestry of the past. The philanthropy of Emily and M.J. Clark reached out to many cultural and civic organizations."

Mary Louise is a Certified Fund Raising and has worked in the field for 33 years. It has been her privilege to lead the fund raising efforts of the Kalamazoo Nature Center, Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Red Cross, Senior Services Inc. (Kalamazoo), and Lakeside Treatment and Learning Center (Kalamazoo). She is currently a volunteer for Love INC. in Grand Haven and the Women's Resource Center in Grand Rapids.



Board Member's Terms End

Thank you very much to **Enid Gaddis** and **Sandra Hansen** for serving on the GGRWHC Board. Their contributions are much appreciated.

Barbara Robinson has asked to take a year's sabbatical so she can work on Temple Emanuel archives. Barbara has been responsible for the Oral Histories that the GGRWHC has accumulated. The Council looks forward to having her back in 2007.

Kathy Rent was born in Chicago, lived in Milwaukee for several years, and moved to Grand Rapids during her junior year where she graduated from East Grand Rapids High School. Afterward, she attended Grand Rapids Junior College where she received an Associate of Arts Degree, and is now finishing up a Bachelors of Arts Degree in Liberal Studies at Grand Valley State University.

Currently, Kathy is Administrative Assistant for the Hauenstein Center for Presidential Studies at Grand Valley State University's Hauenstein Center, where she works to encourage study, reflection, and discussion of the U.S. presidency.

She has had a long career as a mother of six girls and one boy, is now blessed with seven grandchildren, and has been dubbed "Gaga" by one of her young grandsons.

Volunteering has been very important throughout her life, and some of the organizations she has helped are the Humane Society of Kent County, the Ronald Yaw Guild of Blodgett Hospital, the Babies Welfare Guild, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, Grand Rapids Public Schools, Forest Hills Public Schools, Kent Community Coordinated Childcare (board member), the YMCA (mentoring program) and now, happily, is on the board of the GGRWHC!



Two Board Members Remain on the GGRWHC Board

Fran Pepper and **Debra Muller** have renewed their three year term on the board. Fran is retired from Grand Rapids Community College and Debra works at the Public Museum of Grand Rapids.

Membership Rates	
Sponsor \$100	Contributor \$50
Basic \$25	Student \$10

Grand Rapids Historical Society Meeting Dates

All meetings are at the Gerald R. Ford Museum at 7 p.m. They are free and open to the public. There is free parking at the museum. For more information contact Ruth VanStee at 616/988-5402, Ext 5497

October 12, *Icebound: Found!*, Craig Rich, Great Lakes diver and Valerie Olson van Heest, founder of the Underwater Archaeological Society of Chicago

Video presentation and discussion: The story of the S.S. Michigan is MSRA's most exciting video documentary. This tale includes a re-enactment of the final days of West Michigan's most famous passenger steamer. Icebound on Lake Michigan for over 40 days in 1885, the SS Michigan's crew braved the elements and struggled for survival during one of the worst winters in history. This 2006 documentary includes underwater video of the newly discovered shipwreck.

November 9, *No Day to Surrender: the 25th Michigan's Stand Against Morgan in the Battle of Tebbs Bend*, Betty J. Gorin, author from Taylor County Kentucky of "*Morgan is Coming!*" *Confederate Raiders in the Heartland of Kentucky*

Confederate Raiders in the Heartland of Kentucky Morgan is Coming! was the cry that spread fear and panic in Kentucky during the Civil War. Gorin's book is a narrative of the exploits of John Hunt Morgan and his cavalymen, but her talk will focus on a little-known Michigan colonel, Orlando H. Moore and Michigan's 25th and the battle at Tebbs Bend, Green River Bridge, July 4, 1863.

February 8, *Backlash to Reform: The Ku Klux Klan and the Rise of New Deal Michigan*, Matthew L. Daley, Professor of History, Grand Valley State University Using the KKK's involvement in local politics in Detroit and Grand Rapids, Matthew Daley will discuss the true nature of the North's encounter with the United States' most notorious secret society. Close examination of these communities will show how their citizens' responses to the KKK affected their cities' political landscapes and resulted in the first stirrings of the "New Deal Coalition" of the 1930s.

March 8, *The Variety of Women's Contributions to Grand Rapids Architecture, and the Specific Case of 1920s Home Designer Fannie Boylon*,

Rebecca Smith-Hoffman, Principal, Past Perfect, Marcella Beck, Grand Rapids Public Library, GR History and Special Collections. Offered with the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council.

From raising money for the institutional homes of clubs and churches to drawing up inspirational housing plans themselves, Grand Rapids women historically have helped shape their built environment. Rebecca Smith-Hoffman will survey the wide array of women involved as architects of community pride, and Marcella Beck will report on prolific designer Fannie Boylon. Self-taught, Boylon was the brains behind some 1200 technologically progressive and aesthetically distinctive homes built in Grand Rapids between 1910 and 1930.

April 12, *Touring Opera Companies in Grand Rapids: From the Ridiculous to the Sublime*, Professor Gilbert R. Davis, Grand Valley State University, Emeritus, Department of English

Beginning in the middle of the 19th century, Italian and American opera companies criss-crossed the nation bringing opera, grand and not-so-grand to the provinces. Grand Rapids audiences were graced with Emma Abbot's celebrated English Grand Opera Company and Anna Pavlova's Boston National Opera Company. But there were also many fly-by-night operators and local audiences got their share of turkeys.

May 10, *Trains, Boats, Buggies & Mules: Grand Rapids Botanist Emma J. Cole's Nineteenth-Century Quest for Plants*, Julie Christianson Stivers, Public Museum of Grand Rapids

For twenty-six school years from 1881 to 1907, the devoted and demure Emma J. Cole taught botany at Grand Rapids' Central High School. Come summer, she turned into

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May 10, (continued)

Indiana Jane, a pioneer naturalist known far and wide for, reputedly, the largest private herbarium in Michigan (3581 specimens), her comprehensive book on Grand Rapids plants (still the only one; it actually covers 600 square miles), her worldwide collecting trips and subsequent work with famous universities and scholars. A Progressive Era member of the Kent Scientific Institute, Cole remains the most notable female governor of this precursor to the Public Museum of Grand Rapids.

This is the Grand Rapids Historical Society's Annual Meeting and Banquet. Location and time to be announced.



Important Dates

September 22-24, 2006 State History Conference, Bay City
<http://www.hsmichigan.org/meetings.php>

October 20-21, Great Lakes History Conference, Eberhard Center
<http://www.gvsu.edu/history>

October 24, Twentieth Year Anniversary Celebration of the Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Center at Aquinas College
email womenscenter@aquinas.edu

October 25, Women's Hall of Fame Induction and dinner, Detroit Novi Sheraton Hotel
<http://www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org/pages/october.htm>

Woman Pins®

A new assortment of pins just arrived, including Woman Christmas pins. No two pins are alike. The pins cost \$15.00 and make great gifts. To see the pins, contact Sandra Springer at 616/458-6805.

Women's History Council Meeting Dates

Meetings are held in the Michigan Room at the Gerald R. Ford Museum at 4 p.m.

October 10	February 13
November 14	March 13
December 12	April 10
January 9	May 8



2006 "Women of E-Quality" Awards

On August 23, the Women's Resource Center held their 16th Annual Women's Equality Day celebration. The Women's Resource Center's Summer 2006 newsletter reports "Two awards are given annually, with one being awarded to a woman whose accomplishments are demonstrated primarily at the systems level and one give to a woman whose accomplishments are demonstrated primarily at the grass-roots level."

Both awardees are members of GGRWHC.

DeDe Esque is a "grass-roots organizer and exemplary social leader." according to the newsletter. She is the Manager of Operations and Grantmaking at Nokomis Foundation. Nokomis has supported GGRWHC during LEGACY and other events for which DeDe has played an instrumental part.

June Hammersma is the "creator and director of the January Series of Calvin College, the most successful and admired lecture/cultural arts series in the country," the article indicated.

Both Dede and June have made an impact on the city and touched many lives

Congratulations DeDe and June!

(Information taken from the Women's Resource Center's Summer 2006 Newsletter)



2006 Great Lakes History Conference Friday and Saturday, October 20-21, 2006

The Thirty-first Annual Great Lakes History Conference, sponsored by Grand Valley State University, will be held Friday and Saturday, October 20-21, 2006, at GVSU's Eberhard Center in downtown Grand Rapids. The conference features panels on a variety of historical topics. Co-sponsored by the **Ryerson Foundation of the Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids Historical Commission, Grand Rapids Historical Society, and Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council**, the GLHC provides unique opportunity for exchange between public and academic historians. Area citizens can attend the conference for a modest fee (the general public for \$20 and sponsoring group members for \$15) which includes lunch on Saturday, continental breakfast on Saturday morning, a reception at the conference's end, and snacks in-between. The four Grand Rapids-sponsored history panels are scheduled only on Saturday, the 21st, but conferees are welcome to attend all conference events on both days.

2006 Conference Theme: New Perspectives on War and Society

This year's conference features two renowned keynote speakers. Following lunch on Saturday, the 21st, **Professor Omer Bartov** from Brown University will speak about racial war and extermination. His books include *The Crimes of War: Guilt and Denial in the Twentieth Century, Hitler's Army*, and most recently *The 'Jew' in Cinema: From The Golem to Don't Touch My Holocaust*. On Friday evening, the 20th, **Dr. Jonathan Shay** will address the medical and social responses to combat trauma, documented in his *Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character* and *Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming* (with a forward by Senators John McCain and Max Cleland). For the full program, see www.gvsu.edu/history.

Grand Rapids History Panels: Saturday, October 21

8:30-10:00 – Researching War in the Grand Rapids Public Library

"The Array of Research Opportunities in the GRPL's Special Collections"

Ruth Van Stee, Grand Rapids Public Library

"Report from 1863: A Unique Civil War Newspaper Collection"

John Gelderloos, Grand Rapids Historical Society

"The Art of War: Recently Resurrected European Visual Art from the Great War"

Rebecca Mayne, Grand Rapids Public Library

Chair: Carl Bajema, Grand Valley State University & Grand Rapids Historical Commission

10:15-11:45 – Conflict at Home: Fighting about the Meaning of 'Freedom'

"Radicals, Terrorists, and Deportations: The Impact of the Red Scare on Detroit, November 1919 to January 1920"

Matthew L. Daley, Grand Valley State University

"The Battle for Grand Rapids: Reform vs. Expediency in the 1940's Citizens Action Movement"

Michael Cheyne, Western Michigan University

"Willard Wichers and Dutch Immigration during the Refugee Relief Act, 1953-1956"

Anita VanTil, Grand Valley State University

Chair: John Morrison, MI-Stories.com

1:45-3:15 – Three Centennarian Michigan Institutions and Evolving Theories of Care

"From Super-annuates to Senior Citizens: A Century of Eldercare at Grand Rapids' Clark Retirement Community"
Jennifer Morrison, Grand Rapids Public Library & MI-Stories.com

"The Death of a Home: Why Lapeer's State Mental Institution was Eventually Put to Rest"
Jacob P. Powers, Grand Valley State University

"A History of Grand Rapids' Old Soldiers Home and the Declining Impact of the Woman's Relief Corps"
Marcia Butgereit, Woman's Relief Corps, Champlin Corps No. 41, Grand Rapids

Chair: Mary Louise Avery, Clark Retirement Community

3:30-5:00 – Rosie's Mom & Susan B's Daughters: Grand Rapids Women Mobilize for War

"A Remarkable Resource: Twenty Thousand Grand Rapids Woman's Committee Registration Cards from 1918"
Diana Barrett, Grand Rapids Historical Commission

"The Girl a Success in the Factory': Women on Twentieth-Century Grand Rapids Homefronts"
Christian G. Carron, Public Museum, Grand Rapids

Chair: Julie Stivers, Public Museum, Grand Rapids

For the full program, see <http://www.gvsu.edu/history>

Check out our changing web site www.ggrwhc.org

Registration fees
(includes breakfast, lunch and reception on Saturday)

GVSU Students, Faculty and Staff	no charge
Members of the Grand Rapids Historical Society, Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission, and employees of the Grand Rapids Public Library	\$15.00
General Public	\$20.00

For more information contact Michelle Duram, Department of History, Grand Valley State University, One Campus Drive, Allendale, MI 49401, 616/331-3298. The website for the conference is <http://www.gvsu.edu/history>

Please register me for the 2006 Great Lakes History Conference.

Please Print

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (work) _____ (home) _____

Email address _____

- | | | |
|---|-------|-------------|
| I am a GVSU faculty or staff member or student | _____ | No charge |
| I am a member of the Grand Rapids Historical Society | _____ | Fee \$15.00 |
| I am a member of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council | _____ | Fee \$15.00 |
| I am a member of the Grand Rapids Historical Commission | _____ | Fee \$15.00 |
| I am an employee of the Grand Rapids Public Library | _____ | Fee \$15.00 |
| I am a member of the community | _____ | Fee \$20.00 |

Total Enclosed _____

I will _____ will not _____ attend lunch during the conference

Please send me information on the Grand Rapids Historical Society _____

Please send me information on the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council _____

Please send me information on the Grand Rapids Historical Commission _____

Please send me information about the Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, GRPL _____

Return the registration form to: Ms. Michelle Duram, Department of History, Grand Valley State University, One Campus Drive, Allendale, MI 49401

Another Session Sneak Preview

Once again the GGRWHC has teamed up with the Grand Rapids Historical Society, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission, and the Grand Rapids Public Library to sponsor four panels highlighting area history at GVSU's Great Lakes History Conference on Saturday, October 21. Check out the complete women's history programming on the full conference schedule <http://www.gvsu.edu/history>, but note especially the panel titled *Rosie's Mom & Susan B's Daughters: Grand Rapids Women Mobilize for War*, scheduled at 3:30 p.m. just before the closing reception.

Diana Barrett's paper for that panel will feature a virtually unknown and untouched treasure trove of genealogical, social, and historical data that for 90 years has been sitting in the Grand Rapids Public Library's History & Special Collections (aka "Local History"). Approximately 20,000 cards enrolling Grand Rapids women for the war effort were filled out and organized in 1918 by the Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense.

Headed by Dr. Anna Howard Shaw, the national suffrage leader from Big Rapids, the Committee sought ways for women to contribute on the homefront. Locally trained registrars interviewed individual women and recorded their responses on uniquely designed cards. Women could select areas from 118 skill categories in which they were already trained or desired training, in which they were willing to contribute as volunteers or paid workers. For example, your great-aunt might have checked "police patrol." She could also indicate whether she was willing to work anywhere in the world, anywhere in the U.S., or only locally. Every state participated in the enrollment; Michigan, under the leadership of Rev. Caroline Bartlett Crane of Kalamazoo, enrolled 900,000 women, more than any other state.

Are there other registration cards hidden away in libraries and archives around the nation? A rigorous online examination has discovered only one other existing collection of enrollment cards—12,000 from Flint, Michigan, which are now housed in the state archive in Lansing. What an incredible source of data we would have about the nation's women during the World War I period if more could be found. We are fortunate that the GRPL saved this possibly rare resource all these years. At least we can begin mining information about women from two Michigan communities. On October 21, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission's Diana Barrett will provide a preliminary report on the Grand Rapids cards and their context in the national drive.

PLAN TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE

Clark Reception (continued)

Women's history enthusiasts will be particularly interested in what the book research uncovered about Emily Jewell Clark, whose career of philanthropy and social activism spanned the Clark Retirement Community, the Starr Commonwealth, the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the D.A. Blodgett Home for Children, the Women's City Club, the Ladies Literary Society, local suffrage activities, and more. Despite her broad contributions, many towards organizations that continue to thrive today, Jewell Clark had to a large extent disappeared from the historical record until Clark Retirement Community decided to mark their 100th anniversary with a history of their organization.

Help us to pay tribute to Emily and Melvin Clark in surroundings that would have been very familiar to them, as well as to Clark Retirement Community for one hundred years of service.

Another opportunity to glean the centennial history of Clark Retirement Community will come at this year's Great Lakes History Conference, held at Grand Valley State University. Morrison will present *From Superannuates To Senior Citizens: A Century of Eldercare at Grand Rapids' Clark Retirement Community* on Saturday, October 21 at the conference. This program will focus on the way society has viewed and treated the elderly over the course of Clark's one hundred years in existence.



Clark Wedding

Jane Hibbard Idema Center Celebrates 20 Years

The Jane Hibbard Idema Women's Studies Center at Aquinas College is having a 20 year anniversary celebration on Tuesday, October 24. There are two events that day, both offering National Public Radio's Diane Rehm as the featured speaker. The first event is free and open to the public from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Aquinas Performing Arts Center. The second event is a fundraiser in the evening at Cascade Hills Country Club for \$150 per person starting at 6 p.m. The dollars raised at the evening event will help increase the Center's modest endowment. It also helps them to continue the popular *Women Make a Difference* lecture series as well as offer scholarships to help women fulfill their goal of completing a college education. For more information, you can email womenscenter@aquinas.edu or call 616/632-2979.

More LEGACY Events

The Zonta Club of Grand Rapids *The Breakdown Lane* by Jacquelyn Mitchard. Saturday, October 7, 1-4 p.m., Peninsular Club. Proceeds to go to D. A. Blodgett For Children to purchase a van for the purpose of transporting disadvantaged children and their parents to needed trainings, visits, and activities. The van will help over 320 foster children visit with their parents, assist 50 new parents with transportation to parenting training, and provide rides for 50 plus families so they can engage in recreational activities. Cost \$50. Contact: Denise Spaulding 616/774-4306 or deeandlare@sbcglobal.net. The next discussion will be April 22, 2007 – *Blue Water* by A. Manette Ansay.

Circle of Crones *Community Croning Ceremony*, Sunday, October 29, 2:30-4:30 p.m., Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. A festive ritual honoring and celebrating the wisdom and experience of older women. An invitation to attend this celebration is extended to any female over the age of 10 years who would like to acquire a new appreciation of the wisdom of womanhood in later years. After the ceremony there will be a reception with light refreshments. Festive attire is appropriate. This is a free event. Free will donations will be gratefully accepted at the door. To register or for more information, contact Chris Belding at 616/887-7854 or belmor97@msn.com.