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President's Message
Mary A. Seeger

Although we did not formally celebrate Women's Equality Day this year on August 26, we need to pause to remind ourselves of the long campaign that resulted in women's right to vote, eighty-seven years ago, on August 26, 1920. The struggle began in 1848 at the Seneca Falls, New York, Woman's Rights Convention and flowered in Grand Rapids when the national suffrage movement met here in 1899. Some evidence suggests that fraud overturned a positive vote by the male electorate for women's suffrage in 1912 in Michigan. After both houses of the United States Congress passed the 19th Amendment in 1919, Michigan was one of the earliest states to ratify it. As you vote and encourage others to do so as well, remember those who enabled us to do so.

And do check out the new look of our website. We now list our members and supporters, a thank you to all who have paid their dues, and a gentle reminder to those who have yet to do so...and do enjoy the remainder of the summer.

Two Area Women Inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame

On Wednesday, October 17th, at the Kellogg Conference Center in East Lansing, West Michigan rhetorician Gertrude Buck (1871-1922) and Grand Rapids botanist Emma Cole (1845-1910) will be inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame. Find more information on each woman on pages 2 and 3. Both successful nominations were sponsored by GGRWHC writers, and we hope for significant representation from Grand Rapids at this event and in its handsome program.

Others selected in the historical division were the Sparrow Women's Hospital Association, Carolyn Geisel, Abigail Rogers and for the contemporary division were Kathleen Wilbur, Haifa Fahkouri, Jane Briggs-Hart and Mary Brown.

For information on women already inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, see: www.michiganwomenshalloffame.org.

See page 7 for information about attending the dinner on October 17.

Mark Your Calendar

The annual conference of the Historical Society of Michigan will be held in Grand Rapids in 2008. It will be held at the Eberhard Center September 26-28, 2008. Watch our website (www.ggrwhc.org) for more information. We would like to see a good turnout of Grand Rapidians at the conference.

The 2007 conference will be held in Macomb County, September 28-30. Go to www.hsmichigan.org for more information.

Dr. Gertrude Buck (1871-1922)

Jo Ellyn Clarey

“While Buck successfully taught rhetoric as a democratic, equalizing activity, as a means to social advancement for women and men of every class, her primary goal was to lay claim to a new tradition for others of her sex. She saw writing not simply as a scientific activity but as part of a public social activity that would help prepare women for democratic citizenship.”

Rhetorician and education reformer Gertrude Buck was inspired by Progressive Era scientific and social theories at the turn of the twentieth century. From the time she left her native Kalamazoo for an education at The University of Michigan and a professional life at Vassar College, Buck lived on the cusp of a changing academic world. She pioneered a student-centered pedagogy emphasizing continuity and sequence in educational planning—matters taken for granted today—and was instrumental in forming what was then a radical approach to composition education. Gertrude Buck developed what she called a social theory of discourse and experimented with what today we call “inter-disciplinarity.” She was alert to the ways in which new fields of study—psychology, anthropology, sociology—would open up her own much older field, and she moved rhetorical study into the new century.

In 1898 Gertrude Buck became the first woman to achieve a Ph.D. in rhetoric at The University of Michigan. Nearly one hundred years later in 1984 the *Rhetoric Society Quarterly* officially recognized Buck’s work as having paved the way for modern rhetoric studies and the beginnings of a female-centered rhetoric. In a time when more and more women were entering college classrooms, Buck was unique in her discussion of women’s emerging roles in a patriarchal society. Her female students at Vassar received strong signals from her writings and from her personal model that the “new” intellectual woman could write creatively, think critically, and argue persuasively regardless of her role in life. It is not

surprising that turn-of-the-century Vassar graduates began showing “social compunction” and an “intense sense of social obligation” after exposure to Buck’s social theories of discourse.

While Buck successfully taught rhetoric as a democratic, equalizing activity, as a means to social advancement for women and men of every class, her primary goal was to lay claim to a new tradition for others of her sex. She saw writing not simply as a scientific activity but as part of a public social activity that would help prepare women for democratic citizenship. (She did the bulk of her work prior to the universal enfranchisement of women.) Buck’s attention to the complexity of language paralleled the complexity of social relationships that she always saw at the center of language. It was especially important, then, that Buck’s educational and communication theories underscored ways that could enable her female students, making them clearer thinkers, better organizers, and better communicators. Examples in her books illustrated that women had a history of importance in art, literature, history, and politics; and her theories directly touched the lives of such students as anthropologist Ruth Benedict and cultural historian Constance Rourke. At Vassar, Rourke found herself among a large company of privileged daughters from Grand Rapids sent to be shaped by Gertrude Buck’s ideas.

Central to Buck’s educational efforts were her several textbooks for composition classes; but even before the publication of her best known work, *The Social Criticism of Literature*, in 1916, she had also published three books reflecting her interests in psychology,

Continued on page 7

Emma Cole (1845-1910)

Julie Stivers

Emma Jane Cole lived nearly her entire life in Grand Rapids, Michigan, but she pursued her scientific work in botany in travels to Europe, Cuba, Mexico and all over the U.S. She maintained an active correspondence and material exchange with the leading botanists of the era. In 1901, she published *Grand Rapids Flora: A Catalogue of the Flowering Plants and Ferns Growing Without Cultivation in the Vicinity of Grand Rapids, Michigan*. The book was the first, and remains the only, scientific botanical census of the area, covering more than 600 square miles and documenting more than 1,200 plants. She also served as an inspiration to a large number of young scientists during her 26-year teaching career at Central High School, and on her death left a number of significant bequests to further the study of botany in the city and at The University of Michigan, as well as a large and scientifically important herbarium.

Emma Cole was born in Milan, Ohio and came to Michigan with her family to settle near Lowell. She attended and taught at schools near there, and in 1876 enrolled at Cornell University to study botany. She returned to Grand Rapids to join the faculty at Central High School and taught there until her retirement in 1907.

When Cole came to Central High School in 1881, it was also home to the Kent Scientific Institute, precursor to today's Public Museum of Grand Rapids. Records of the Museum show that the staff of the Institute served without salary, but in 1892, the Board of Directors voted to pay her to complete mounting and arranging of botanical materials. She was among the first female members of the Kent

Scientific Institute, chair of the Botany Committee, and in 1900 was elected a vice president of the organization.

The commission from the Institute allowed Cole to continue her lifelong devotion to the creation of a substantial herbarium, a collection of pressed and dried plant examples scientifically labeled and organized. When she died in 1910, she left her herbarium to the Kent Scientific Institute's Museum. According to the KSI Annual Report of 1912, the collection numbered 3,581 completed pages, plus 1,278 unmounted specimens.

The herbarium was the core of the Museum's natural history collection until the 1930s. It was moved to Aquinas College and used for study there until 1974, when it was put on permanent loan to The University of Michigan Herbarium, one of the finest facilities in the country.

Cole shared her research and corresponded with eminent botanists from around the world. In 1901, her work on the genus *Crataegus*, or Hawthorn, prompted a visit to Grand Rapids by Charles Sprague Sargent. Director of the Arnold Arboretum at Harvard University for 54 years, beginning with its inception in 1873, Sargent was the recognized authority of his time on North American trees, and produced many important books. As a result of that visit and others, and her research in collecting flowering and fruiting specimens, Sargent credited her help in describing 20 new species, and named one *Crataegus coleae*, a recognition that has persisted, and it is included in

“Cole's herbarium is a record of her travels to Europe, the British Isles, Cuba, Mexico, and throughout the U.S. at a time when travel for a single woman could not have been anything but challenging, and of her collaboration with plant experts, almost exclusively male, around the world.”

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"I encourage you to consider attending the next one in November. If you already have research experience but no 'victim,' please contact the GGRWHC committee for the name of a local woman and start your search. It can be so rewarding piecing together the histories of women who helped to shape our community."

Cindy Laug



Research and Recognition Workshop Offered Again

GGRWHC and the Grand Rapids Public Library are again offering a workshop to train volunteer researchers to help us build an archive of biographies of women who have been important in various capacities to the history of Grand Rapids.

This two-part workshop, conducted by library staff and GGRWHC members, will not only teach participants the basics of archive research, but also provide them with support for hands-on experience in using the various resources. Skills to be learned are: developing sources, following up on leads, and producing reliable material from which to build biographies or other shorter types of publications, such as picture profiles of the various historical women.

Participants may attend one or both sessions. Researchers who have taken previous workshops are invited back to review and refresh their skills and to continue their previous research or to find new historical personalities to explore.

This initial training will be followed up throughout the ensuing months by specialized workshops and the support of library staff and GGRWHC volunteers.

Date: Saturday, November 10, 2007 – two coordinated workshops, one morning, one afternoon.

Morning Workshop: 9: 30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Getting Acquainted with the Archive's Resources (information and tour of the archive).

Afternoon Workshop: 1:45 – 4:30 p.m. Putting Your Newfound Skills to Work (hands-on practice with research sources with support from library staff and GGRWHC volunteers).

Lunch: 12:30 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Working lunch. Gathering to review, answer questions, prepare for the afternoon session. Participants may brownbag or pre-order lunch from the library's café. (Sandwiches and salads are \$6 to \$8. Menu choices will be presented at registration and GGRWHC will order for the group.)

Place: Grand Rapids Public Library, 111 Library Place NE. 4th Floor Grand Rapids History and Special Collections.

Registration: Reservations are required for one or both sessions. Please call MargEd Kwapil, 616/949-8649, by Monday, November 5. Registration is limited to the first 20 applicants.

Workshop Committee: MargEd Kwapil, Chair, Diana Barrett, Jo Ellyn Clarey, Nelle Frisch, Falinda Geerling, Jennifer Morrison

Plan to attend this workshop!

Call MargEd Kwapil today to get on the list.
Registration is limited to 20 people.

2007 Great Lakes History Conference Friday and Saturday, October 26-27, 2007

The Thirty-second Annual Great Lakes History Conference, sponsored by Grand Valley State University, will be held Friday and Saturday, October 26-27, 2007, 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 27th, but conferees are welcome to attend all conference events on both days.

2007 Conference Theme: The History of Racism, Slavery, and Its Aftermath: Recognizing the 200th Anniversary of the Abolition of the Atlantic Slave Trade

This year's conference features two renowned keynote speakers: Dr. Wilma King from the University of Missouri, and Dr. David Brion Davis from Yale University. Professor King is an award-winning historian specializing in the history of African-American women, youth and childhood. Her books include *Stolen Childhood: Slave Youth in Nineteenth Century* and *African-American Childhoods in Historical Perspective*. Professor Davis is one of the leading scholars on the history of the slave trade. His extensive publications include *In the Image of God: Religion, Moral Values and Our Heritage in Slavery and Inhuman Bondage: The Rise and Fall of Slavery in the New World*, published in 2006. He is also a frequent contributor to the *New York Review of Books*.

Grand Rapids History Panels: Saturday, October 27, 2007

8:30-10:00 — The Public Role of Grand Rapids Women During the Progressive Era and the Jazz Age

"Education and Community Reform: The Life and Work of Mary Hefferan in Grand Rapids"

Cindy Laug, Grand Valley State University

"Jazz Age Skeptics: The KKK, Gender, and the Encounter with Modernity in Grand Rapids, 1915-1930"

Matthew Daley, Grand Valley State University

10:15-11:45 — The Presence of the Past: New Concepts for Presenting West Michigan's Local History

"How to Plan for Success on the Internet: Building a Virtual Archive, www.historygrandrapids.org"

Diana Barrett, Grand Rapids Historical Commission

"Micro-histories: New Techniques for Publishing Local History, the Case of the *History of Alpine Township*"

Mary Alt, Alpine Township Historical Society

"More Than Playing Soldier: Using Re-enactment and Demonstration to Engage the Public"

Chris Kleinjans, Educational Director, Holland Museum

1:45-3:15 — Public and Private Community in Grand Rapids

"Ladies Literary Club: A Legacy Worth Preserving"

Research and Text by Mary Seeger and Christopher Meehan, Independent Scholar, Read by Mary Seeger, Grand Valley State University

"Private Narratives/Public History: Oral History as a Means to Encounter African-American Community in Grand Rapids"

Daniel Garcia, Calvin College

3:30-5:00 — Women's Work – Who Knew?! A Fresh Look at the Work of Women and Their Contributions to the Economy of Grand Rapids, 1890-1940

"Working in Public: Women in the Industrial City"

Marcella Beck, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, Grand Rapids Public Library

"Breaking New Paths: Women in the Professions"

Ruth Van Stee, Grand Rapids History and Special Collections, Grand Rapids Public Library

2007 Great Lakes History Conference Registration Form

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

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

Please register me for the 2007 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: Michelle Duram, Department of History, Grand Valley State University, One Campus Drive, Allendale, MI, 49401

Dr. Gertrude Buck (continued from page 2)

education, and literary criticism, as well as books of poetry and plays and numerous reviews in national publications. Flouting stereotypes about academics, Buck led part of her larger social life beyond the Ivory Tower by founding a drama-writing workshop that in 1919 became the Poughkeepsie Community Theatre.

Living and working in an era when women were questioning their social subordination, Buck was a pioneer and model among women educators attempting to bend a rigid system. In the classroom and in her textbooks, Buck encouraged a clearer understanding of how language and society are interdependent and challenged educators to recognize that social factors are inextricably bound to

individual expression, that writing is a social action and communication is a community experience. In our own time scholars in the fields of rhetoric and composition have rediscovered Buck, appropriating her theories for enlightened current communication and textual criticism. Moreover, this developing body of scholarship has acknowledged her theories of rhetoric as keys to her ideas of equality and freedom, essential concepts motivating women at the turn of the century as well as today.

This essay is based in large part on the work of Grand Rapids scholar Vickie E. Ricks, author of *Revisoning Traditions through Rhetoric: Studies in Gertrude Buck's Social Theory Discourse*.

Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Dinner

The Michigan Women's Hall of Fame dinner will be held on Wednesday, October 17. The reception begins at 5 p.m., dinner at 6 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m.

Sponsored by the Michigan Women's Studies Association as its major fundraiser, seats at the celebratory dinner are \$125. Corporate table and program advertising prices and deadlines are available. The MWSA can be reached at 517/484-1880, but locally Jo Ellyn Clarey will coordinate tables, transportation, and, in some cases, advertise-

ments for Grand Rapadians. To receive information or report your plans, please call her at 616/454-7457 or send e-mail to joellyclarey@yahoo.com. She will coordinate funding from persons who can't attend with people available but unable to afford a seat. Please feel free to donate any amount. Reservations are requested in Lansing by October 12th. But for program credit, tables must be reserved by September 17th. ***Please check your calendars and report in soon.***

Plan to attend the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame dinner on October 17.

Contact Jo Ellyn Clarey at 616/454-7457 for more information.

If you can't attend, but would like to support the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame, how about sending \$10 to have your name included on the "Friends of the Dinner" page?

Your Membership Dollars at Work

Thanks to the continued support of our membership, you are receiving this newsletter. Your contributions also support the upkeep of our web page. You are able to participate in the Research and Recognition Workshop free of charge and you can attend the Women's History Month Presentation, or hear oral histories prepared by Women's History Council Members. **Thank you for your continued support.**

Emma Cole (continued from page 3)

the standard text *Gray's Manual of Botany* as "named in 1902 for its discoverer, Emma J. Cole."

Emma Cole and Charles Sargent corresponded for the rest of her life, and in 1904 she spent the summer at Harvard working at the Arnold Arboretum. She also corresponded extensively with staff at the Gray Herbarium at Harvard, and spent other summers working at Cornell and at the University of California at Berkeley.

Cole's herbarium is a record of her travels to Europe, the British Isles, Cuba, Mexico, and throughout the U.S. at a time when travel for a single woman could not have been anything but challenging, and of her

collaboration with plant experts, almost exclusively male, around the world. She died in 1910, on a plant-collecting trip to Mexico. She left bequests that included money for laboratory equipment at Central High School, flower services at area churches that continued until 1967, and an endowment for a botany fellowship at The University of Michigan which is still awarded annually. She is buried in Vergennes Township cemetery near the church she attended in her youth.

Meet new Board members Mursalata Muhammad and Veta Tucker.

The GGRWHC Board meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Museum. The public is welcome to attend the meetings.

Two Women Join the History Council Board of Directors

The Women's History Council is pleased to introduce Mursalata Muhammad and Veta Tucker, the newest GGRWHC Board members. They will serve three year terms.

Mursalata Muhammad is an assistant professor at Grand Rapids Community College. She teaches in the English Department, is the faculty liaison for Academic Service-Learning, and advises student organizations. Although she is a Detroit native, she relocated to Grand Rapids from Pennsylvania six years ago with her family. Professor Muhammad has spent her time getting to know Grand Rapids by participating in community activities. In addition to her position on the Women's History Council, she works with West Michigan United Way's Investment Council and Women's Leadership Council, Girl Scouts, and the Specialized Language Development Center. Professor Muhammad is also a published poet and engages in creative writing endeavors whenever her time permits.

Veta Tucker is an associate professor of English at Grand Valley State University. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees at Michigan State University and her A.D. degree at The University of Michigan. Veta indicated that her main research focus is historical and literary representations of 19th-century African American women, enslaved and 'free,' and African American involvement in the abolitionist and Underground Railroad movements. She has published two articles in the *Journal of Black Literature and Ideas* and one article in the *Journal of Black Studies*. When she has free time, Veta enjoys reading poetry and listening to jazz, sleuthing for antiques and rare African American art and artifacts, going to museums and to the theater to experience African American drama on stage.

Grand Rapids Historical Society Program Schedule

All Grand Rapids Historical Society programs are held at the Gerald R. Ford Museum at 7 p.m. Programs are free and open to the public.

September 13, 2007

Promoting the 'West Coast': The Early History of the West Michigan Tourist Association

Christine Byron

Author Christine Byron will present the early years of the West Michigan Tourist Association, celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. Beginning in 1917, under the direction of promotion genius Hugh Gray, tourism soon became the state's second largest industry. Collecting Michigan travel brochures, advertisements, and other ephemera for 15 years, she will use these to illustrate the association's history. Byron, along with her husband, Tom Wilson, is author of *Vintage Views of Leelanau County* (2002), *Vintage Views of the Charlevoix-Petoskey Region* (2005) and *Vintage Views of the Mackinac Straits Region*, released in August, 2007.

October 11, 2007

On the Golden Years of the Grand Rapids Times

Patricia Pulliam, Publisher/Editor-in-Chief

The *Grand Rapids Times* presents "the other side" of the news. For 50 years the *Grand Rapids Times* has targeted the African American community. Read by "everyone," it has reached people from a variety of racial, ethnic, cultural and economic backgrounds, both locally and across the state. Started by John Bankston in 1957, it showcased achievers, sportsmen (especially golfers) and fun lovers. He chastised adults and youth when they chose not to do the "right" thing, all the while carrying the voices that spoke against poverty, crime, injustice and racism. Yergan and Patricia Pulliam bought the paper in 1986 and continue the tradition.

November 8, 2007

The Best Photos of the Civil War in 3-D: A Stereoscopic Slide Presentation

Bob Zeller, Center for Civil War Photography and author of *The Blue and Gray in Black and White* Stereo views were the videos of the Civil War era. Wearing 3-D glasses, you'll feel as if you are stepping into the tableaux of many of the most famous photographs of the Civil War as the images are projected on a large screen. Many images are projected in sepia tones of original albumen stereograph prints that are more than 140 years old. Many of the 79 images in the show are well-recognized photos from the war, but some are rare and recent discoveries that were published for the first time in Zeller's books.

The Historical Society's February, March and April programs will be listed in the Winter, 2008 Newsletter or can be found on the GGRWHC web page.

Mark Your Calendars! More on Progressive Era Women in Grand Rapids

Tuesdays, October 22-November 15, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the Browne Center at Aquinas College,

Jo Ellyn Clarey will be teaching a four-week class on the history of Grand Rapids women during the turn-of-the-twentieth-century Progressive Era. On September 15th check Emeritus College listings (www.aquinas.edu/emeritus) for a complete description and reservation information.

Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m. at the Gerald R. Ford Museum, "Well-Behaved Women Seldom Make History: The Case of Elizabeth Eaglesfield," by Jo Ellyn Clarey. **The program is sponsored Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council and Grand Rapids Historical Society.** Grand Rapids' Elizabeth Eaglesfield, practicing attorney from 1878 and Great Lakes fruit boat captain, was born in the era of Manifest Destiny and came of age during the socially reckless Gilded Age. Most women law graduates of her period did not actually practice and few women were on the lakes, but Elizabeth Eaglesfield engaged her tainted world for decades, a rousing model of determination, persistence, and daring.

In Memoriam

Jeanette St. Clair passed away on Friday, July 20, 2007. Jeanette is honored in the GGRWHC's Twelve Outstanding Women photo exhibit. As a teacher for the Grand Rapids Public Schools, she was able to bring federally funded dollars to support Education for Native Americans. To read more about Jeanette, go to <http://www.ggrwhc.org> and click on Projects.

Women's History Council Current Members

Basic

Allen County Public Library (Indiana)
Barbara Amberg
Melissa Anderson
Leann Arkema
June Atsma
Mary Louise Avery
Marcie Beck
Molly Blakely
M. Christine Byron
Margaret Childs
Candace Cowling
Geri DeWitt
Gail DeYoung
Elaine Didier
Mary Jane Dockeray
Rose Doering
Coleen Downey
Kriss Ferluga
Denise Garn
Jeanne Hoin
Amber Holst
Ora Jones
Mary Jane Keeler
Helen Kingsworthy
Sylvia Krissoff
MargEd Kwapil
Terri Lynn Land
Marlene Leistico

Anne Magoun
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Susan McCarthy
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Kathleen Muir
Debra Muller
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Julie Stivers
Connie Taber
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Barbara Fisk
Twink Frey
Robert Goodrich
June Hammersma
Katherine McAllenan
Bonnie Miller
Carroll Cook and Pam Olsen
Barbara Robinson
Mary Seeger
Marilyn Sherwood
Varnum, Riddering, Schmidt and Howlett

LEGACY 2009 Contributors

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