



# Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

www.ggrwhc.org

143 Bostwick NE Grand Rapids, MI 49503-3295 616-234-3603

## Upcoming GGRWHC Events – Spring 2009

Saturday, March 21 – **LEGACY 2010 Research and Planning Workshop**  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Bring to life the story of a special woman from your family or community. Learn how to research her life and present her story in a written form or a photo essay in collaboration with the Grand Rapids Public Library. Email [marjo.jordan@gmail.com](mailto:marjo.jordan@gmail.com) to register.

Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m. – **Joint meeting and member reception** between GGRWHC and the Grand Rapids Historical Society. For more information, see "Other Events and Links" and visit our web site, [www.ggrwhc.org](http://www.ggrwhc.org)

Tuesday, May 12, 4 p.m. – **Annual GGRWHC Meeting and Tea** – for members

Tuesday, June 30 – **LEGACY 2010 Sign-Up Deadline**

## President's Greeting

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2009! Thank you for renewing your membership in the GGRWHC. We appreciate your financial support as well as your participation as we prepare for LEGACY 2010, our community-wide celebration of Women's History Month.

Thank you, as well, to our members and friends who made contributions to honor the memory of board member Nelle Frisch, who died in November at the age of 84. Former owner of Downtown Books, Nelle donated her time and energy to the GGRWHC, Girl Scouts, the Ladies Literary Club, the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Temple Emanuel, and the Literacy Center of West Michigan. Nelle also authored *Celebrating the Harvest*, featuring Michigan farm markets.

We were fortunate to benefit from Nelle's incredible energy and wide-ranging interests over many years. We miss her very much.

## Other Events and Links

GRAND RAPIDS HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
[www.grhistory.org](http://www.grhistory.org) | [info@grhistory.org](mailto:info@grhistory.org)

Thursday, March 12, 7 p.m. – *A Tour of the Grand River Valley by Dugout Canoe: A New Approach to Environmental and Historical Education*, Gerald R. Ford Museum

Thursday, April 9, 7 p.m. – **Joint Meeting & Member Reception with GGRWHC, African American Women and the Second Great Migration to Grand Rapids, Detroit, and Chicago**, Dr. Lisa Krissoff-Boehm. Gerald R. Ford Museum. Free admission. Free parking.

Thursday, May 14 – Banquet at University Club for members and guests. *From Ragged Dick to George Welsh: The Rise of Grand Rapids Passionate Politician*, Diana E. Barrett

### THE TORCH CLUB

[grandrapidstorclub@yahoo.com](mailto:grandrapidstorclub@yahoo.com) | 454-7457  
Tuesday, March 10, 5:30 p.m. – *The Dahomey Kingdom Slave Trade and Its Amazon Warriors*, Steeve Buckridge  
Tuesday, April 14, 5:30 p.m. – *How Historic Preservation Saved Grand Rapids' Central City*, Rebecca Smith-Hoffman

### WOMEN'S STUDIES AT GRCC

[www.grcc.edu/womensstudies](http://www.grcc.edu/womensstudies) | 616-234-4359  
[dcope@grcc.edu](mailto:dcope@grcc.edu)  
*Women in the STEM Fields Celebration*  
(Science, Technology, Engineering, Math)  
March 18 - 19 - Elinor Gates, astronomer  
March 20 - Maryann Lesert, *Base Ten* book  
March 25 - Sue Rosser, author of *Female-Friendly Science, Teaching the Majority and Women, Science, and Society*

### GVSU WOMEN'S CENTER, Kirkhof Center, Allendale

[www.gvsu.edu/women\\_cen](http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen)  
March 11 - *Peace Matters, What does it mean to celebrate our differences across religious and cultural boundaries?* Christian Nadyne Parr and Muslim Soraya Deen  
March 17 - *Celebration of Women's Awards*  
March 18 - *Her Story*, Sandra Jennings  
March 23 - *Full Frontal Feminism: Why Feminism Still Matters*, Jessica Valenti  
March 30 – EqualITEA, combining tea parties with discussions. RSVP - 331-2748.

Update:

## GGRWHC: Who We Are

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council (GGRWHC) is open to anyone interested in promoting the historical study of women and women's organizations. One of the council's goals is to have the membership be reflective of all the diverse ethnic, cultural, political, and professional populations of the greater Grand Rapids area.

The GGRWHC's income derives principally from membership dues. Your dues help fund the council's efforts to **research and record the history of the women** who have contributed to the growth and development of the greater Grand Rapids area.

In addition to gathering and transcribing **oral histories** from area women, GGRWHC members research and document the lives of women of earlier generations. The council is also engaged in compiling a **bibliography** of all the materials pertaining to accomplishments of local women.

Check out the **PROJECTS link** on our web site, [www.ggrwhc.org](http://www.ggrwhc.org), and discover *Seven Women Who Made a Difference* or learn more about *Twelve Outstanding Women*, including Norma Brink, Sister Agnes Thiel, JoAnn Thome, and Peggy Lawrence Burns.

GGRWHC presents **educational programs** in the area schools and to other interested groups and is the parent sponsor of the **LEGACY** series.

**LEGACY 2010:** The run up to the month-long event has begun. In September we had the opening reception at the Grand Rapids Public Library. In October we had our first research workshop. On **Saturday, March 21, we'll have our second workshop at no cost** for those individuals or organizations wondering about or ready to do historical research for their LEGACY 2010 projects. For more information, check *Upcoming Events* on page 1.

The **deadline for LEGACY 2010 registration is Tuesday, June 30.** Look for a form and cover letter in the mail by mid-May or check our web site, [www.ggrwhc.org](http://www.ggrwhc.org).

## Conferences

**THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MICHIGAN**  
[www.hsmichigan.org](http://www.hsmichigan.org)

April 17-18 - *Michigan in Perspective: the Local History Conference*, Wayne State University

October 2-4 - *State History Conference*, Mackinac Is.

## New GGRWHC Member

Welcome to **Johanna Sizick**, from **The Circle of Crones**. This grass-roots group supports a positive view of aging, especially for women. Join the **workshop**, "Growing Older, Becoming Wiser," Saturday, March 14, at the Grand Rapids Public Library. Explore the possibilities for the third phase of life. Contact Chris Belding at 616-887-7854 or [belmor97@msn.com](mailto:belmor97@msn.com).

You're also invited to the **Community Croning Ceremony** on Sunday, April 26, at the YWCA, 25 Sheldon SE, Grand Rapids.

## Local Resource

A wealth of information is provided by the Grand Rapids Historical Commission! Check out [www.historygrandrapids.org](http://www.historygrandrapids.org) and follow these links: How to Use > Explore Photo Essays > Our People/Neighbors.

For example, learn about Mary Hefferan of Grand Rapids and Eastmanville (pictured below), compiled by Cindy Laug, a GGRWHC member and research workshop graduate.



## \*Asterisk\*

Look on the mailing label. Is there an asterisk behind your name? Your 2008 - 2009 membership dues have not yet been received. We're missing you!

The easiest way to remain a member (for as little as \$25) is to mail your check to GGRWHC, 143 Bostwick NE, Grand Rapids, MI, 49503.

Note the convenient form on our web site or at this link: <http://www.ggrwhc.org/pdfs/memberform.pdf>

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