



Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council

Spring 2017

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Dedicated to educating the community and celebrating the legacies of local women, preserving knowledge of their past, and inspiring visions for their future.

ROOTS & BRANCHES

Sharing through Conferences and Crowdsourcing

The spring edition of GGRWHC's hard copy newsletter notes the culmination of our work last year and reports, in two features introduced below, our ambitious launch into the next. Leaf through and read about a range of local history events, keeping in mind that respecting our historical roots aids flowering in the present. Read on!

Continuing GGRWHC Conference History

An insert sheet, pages 5 and 6, offers full detail about GGRWHC presentations at the June meetings in Grand Rapids of the Midwestern History Association and the national Agricultural History Society. Thanks to GVSU's Hauenstein Center, you can register and attend the MHA for free on June 7th—and get a free lunch!



Our MHA panel will begin a three-year report on the little-known history of the **Woman's Committee of the Council of National Defense**. One hundred years ago in April 1917 the U.S. entered the Great War and charged American women to organize for war work.

The suffrage movement—on national, state, and local levels—offered its leadership and its organizational structure to enable WWI Woman's Committee efforts.

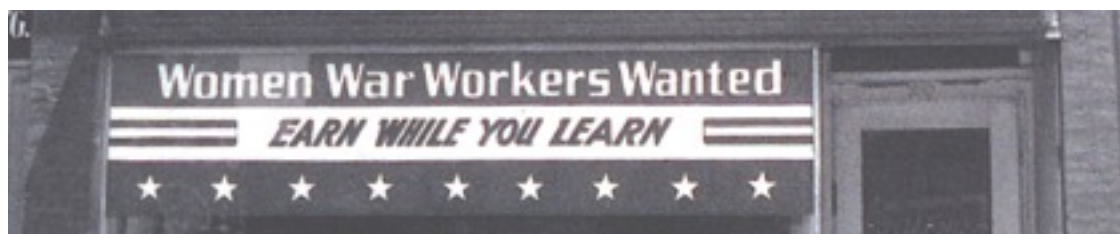
Our June presentations will highlight the role of food programs in wartime and the exceptionally important roles played by midwestern women, with illustrations from Grand Rapids and Jasper County, Indiana. We are fortunate to be able to share this history with local audience at the same time we spread the word nationally about Grand Rapids, midwestern women, and the Woman's Committee of the CND. You heard of it here—and you're ahead of most American historians!

GGRWHC Sharing Online



1920 advertisement to elect Alde Blake to the Michigan legislature.

Turn the page to read about “crowdsourcing” and its relationship to GGRWHC’s elective history project. With the recent help of Calvin College intern **Angela Chen**, we are a huge step closer to completing our history of all Grand Rapids women who have ever run for public office. Our entire spreadsheet will be updated, double-checked, and shared sometime before the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment in August 2020. Read more here about Chen’s work on the earliest races and how we will share it nationally on crowdsourcing website **Her Hat Was in the Ring!**





Her Hat Was In the Ring!

U.S. WOMEN WHO RAN FOR POLITICAL OFFICE BEFORE 1920

Lots of Grand Rapids Hats in the Ring!

Last winter GGRWHC met Angela Chen, a history major at Calvin College who has worked for fourteen weeks on our elective history project.



Angela Chen begins work!

Not only has Angela become an expert locator of early Grand Rapids women candidates in school board minutes and historical newspapers, she has become a source of surprises. We did not know that before August 1920 over 60 discrete Grand Rapids women ran for public office in more than 100 races. Angela's important work has not only supplemented what we knew before--the winners--but shaken

many working assumptions and surprised us by the identities of the losers, their numbers, and their stories.

We've known that Harriet Cook was in 1888 the first woman to win election to the GRPS school board. We had assumed she was the first to run. Not only did one Hannah Wallin run

and Deirdre Toeller-Novak has helped reorganize data and expand on five "firsts" in celebratory programming.

Now Angela Chen has double-sourced and supplemented the earliest section, which is virtually completed and headed into the world. Because all the races Angela documented were set in motion before August 1920, this data qualifies for inclusion in the national *Her Hat Was in the Ring* project. *Her Hat* is a web crowdsourcing project founded in 2008 to document as many American women as possible who ran for elective office before universal suffrage was guaranteed by the Nineteenth Amendment. To date, it lists over 4700 campaigns run by nearly 3,500 women candidates.

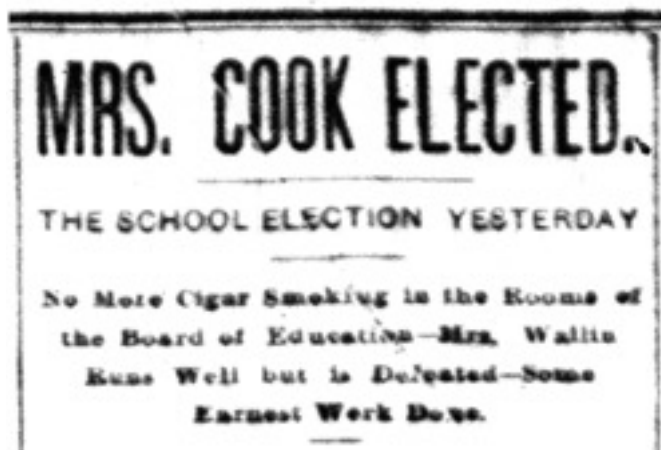
The *Her Hat* project proves on the national level that American women have been running for office for more than 160 years. The GGRWHC's elective history proves on the local level that Grand Rapids women have been breaking down barriers by running for elective office since 1887, decades before second-wave feminists in the 1970s thought they were running for the first time.

The GGRWHC contribution will provide the *Her Hat* project valuable data to supplement, even correct, the national story, and we hope that our model will inspire cities across the Midwest and the nation to question undocumented assumptions and actually to chart their local women's elective histories.

So far as we know, no other city in the United State has a comprehensive elective history. The 800+ campaigns we can document, though, have been run only in Grand Rapids. We have not had the resources to extend the project throughout Kent County and can only imagine what other local surprises remain out there.

Finally, we want to tip our hats to the losers—how very many there were who also ran!

<http://www.herhatwasinthering.org>



In 1888 Harriet Cook was the first woman to win, but not the first to run.

and lose in that same year, three women had campaigned the year before in 1887--but they were definitely the first. Angela checked.

The GGRWHC elective history project began in 1999 when former city clerk Sandra Wright and the GGRWHC's Jo Ellyn Clarey began hefting tomes of city and county records onto copy machines in their search for women's names. Since then, Yvonne Sims has consulted on a draft list of African American women candidates,

09/05/1887	GR School Board	Frances S. Hillyer	Lost
09/05/1887	GR School Board	Margaret A. Edison	Lost
09/05/1887	GR School Board	Melissa E. Holden	Lost
09/03/1888	GR School Board	Mrs. Harriet A. Cook	WON
09/03/1888	GR School Board	Hannah Wallin (Mrs. F. B. Wallin)	Lost
09/02/1889	GR School Board	Mrs. Lydia De Camp Goodrich	WON

Excerpt of spreadsheet from Angela's work shows GR women began running for school board in 1887

GGRWHC's Spring Reception!

The annual reception and meeting on March 29 was held in the assembly room of the former D. A. Blodgett Home for Children on Cherry Street, now occupied by the ICCF.

Members and friends of the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council enjoyed wine and food and connected with friends, old and new. That was followed by a business meeting, where outgoing board members were thanked and two new board members were introduced and approved.

Two women presented the history of organizations that had at one time occupied the building.

Cindy Laug related the story of the women who recognized the needs of children beginning in 1887, describing their various activities advocating for children, culminating in the construction of the 1908 D. A. Blodgett Home for Children.



Diana Barrett recounted the history of Mary Free Bed during its time in the building. It rehabilitated "crippled children" and filled the building during the polio epidemic starting in the 1940s. Soon Mary Free Bed owned the building and remained there until 1976.



Through historical photographs of the assembly room, audience witnessed young girls holding the dolls they received for Christmas, children in wheelchairs, rolling beds, in leg braces celebrating a holiday. The final photograph was of a room, almost unrecognizable, when the building had fallen into disrepair. ICCF restored the D. A. Blodgett Home to its original grandeur in 2006 in order to meet the needs of current local families.

Celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Mary Free Bed Guild and the induction of its founding and current members into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame last fall, Julie Ridenour, former chair of the Guild, gave an update about their current work and presence in Grand Rapids.

New Board Members

Melissa Fox is a freelance writer and researcher who has published articles in *Michigan History Magazine* and *West Michigan Modern* on topics related to Grand Rapids history, including the furniture industry, architecture and design, and some notable Grand Rapidsians. She also writes a history column for the Alger Heights Neighborhood Association



newsletter. Melissa has a BA in English and a masters degree in Library Science, both from Indiana University. She worked in libraries for ten years, most recently in the History and Special Collections Department at the Grand Rapids Public Library.

Michelle DeRose is the director of the Insignis Honors Program and professor of English at Aquinas College, where she teaches world and African-American literature and serves as a member of the Women's Studies faculty. She has enjoyed a long academic career connected to women's issues, with research, participation, and presentations connected to the West Michigan Women's Studies Council, the National Women's Studies Association, and the Association for Research on Mothering. She is excited about participating now in a local women's history organization.



Collection and Cocktails GR Public Museum Fundraiser

On Wednesday, May 17, the GRPM will launch a new annual fundraiser. This year's Collections & Cocktails will highlight its clothing collection, its stories, and preservation issues. For tickets: <http://www.grpm.org/collections-cocktails/> or 616.929.1700

Recently, the Institute of Museum and Library Services awarded GRPM a \$99,000 matching grant to photograph the fashion collection, making it accessible online. This year's event will raise matching funds. In successive years the event will focus on different collections (furniture, automobiles, natural history, medical history), showing off the diversity and breadth of museum holdings.



History Detectives, January, 2018 Call for Proposals

Have you wanted to be part of this event? The History Detectives Committee at the Grand Rapids Public Library is seeking out new ideas. If you have a good example of some historical sleuthing you've done, you can send in a proposal to the committee.

Visit for details <http://www.ggrwhc.org>
Deadline is May 15.

Mary Jane Dockeray Visitors Center Blandford Nature Center



Earth Day was celebrated at Blandford Nature Center on April 22 with the dedication and grand opening of the Mary Jane Dockeray Visitors Center.

Supported by the Public Museum of Grand Rapids, Dockeray began developing the Blandford Nature Center on land donated by the Blandfords in the mid-1960s. For many years prior she had worked for the museum as the curator of natural history. She visited area schools bringing nature to the children, often visiting four schools a day.

Dockeray was very familiar with the Blandford land since she grew up nearby and often wandered around what was called Collins Woods as a child. Years later, beginning in 1973, she invited school children to walk the land with her through a program called Blandford Environmental Education Program.

After the erection of the 1968 nature center, the program expanded opportunities for children by adding a sugar bush, a small farm, and a school-year program for sixth graders.



Dockeray graduated from Michigan State University in 1949 with a degree in geology and in 1973 earned her PhD. She spent summers with the Audubon Society. In retirement, she acts as a consultant, lecturer and tour guide for both the National and the Michigan Audubon Societies. In 1985, she was named Michigan Audubon Society Outstanding Member.

She is also an outstanding member of GGRWHC and was acknowledged by the organization as one of Twelve Outstanding Women in Grand Rapids in the 1990s. In 2012 she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in Lansing.



History Award to Temple Emanuel Archives

Every spring GVSU's Kutsche Office of Local History recognizes individuals and institutions using history to highlight diverse communities. One winner of this year's Gordon Olson Award was **Margaret (Peg) Finkelstein** and Temple Emanuel's **Peg and Mort Finkelstein Archives**. The establishment of the archive in 2002 was aided by generous funding from the Finkelsteins and hard work from Associate Director **Barbara Robinson**, a former board member of GGRWHC.

A table of supporters and co-workers were in attendance, including **June Horowitz**, former archivist of Temple Emanuel (103 years old); **Barbara Robinson**, associate director of the Finkelstein Archives; **Toby Dolinka**, associate director of the Gen & Jack Finkelstein Archives at Ahavas Israel Congregation; Finkelstein's daughters, **Pam Willemstein** and **Megan Yost**, associate director of the Temple Emanuel Archives.



*Peg
Finkelstein*

In 1954, June Horowitz and her mother, Lena Warsaw, wrote a centennial history of the temple and later organized boxes of minutes, photos, clippings, and other ephemera that the congregation had accumulated over the years. The Peg and Mort Finkelstein Archives grew out of these early efforts. The Finkelsteins shared their vision and provided generous financial support to collect and preserve materials. Nearly 5,000 documents have been scanned and digitized.

Collected archival materials now help us distinguish more clearly the experience of early Jewish women in Grand Rapids. They illuminate how Temple Emanuel's women congregants moved beyond auxiliary roles, became dues-paying members in their own right, and contributed to the general welfare of the surrounding community through the Ladies Hebrew Benevolent Society. They were among Grand Rapids's nineteenth-century female "social entrepreneurs," bringing the same drive and strategic intent as their male counterparts to community building.

In 2012 the Historical Society of Michigan recognized the archive with a State History Award.

Finkelstein also has been working with the Jewish Historical Society of Michigan on its "Jewish Voices Project, Michigan Women Who Have Made a Difference."

Temple Emanuel is celebrating this year the 160th anniversary of its founding in 1857.





Midwestern History Conference: Finding the Lost Region

GVSU Hauenstein Center, Grand Valley State University
Charles W. Loosemore Auditorium, 401 Fulton Street West

Admission to this day-long conference is free, including a complimentary lunch, and is open to the public.

Plan to attend! Even drop in—but you must RESERVE at this link:

www.hauensteincenter.org/rsvp (or call 616-331-2770)

The Midwestern History Association is dedicated to rebuilding a field neglected in recent decades and for the third time will gather specialists here in June, when the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council will introduce a little-known adjunct to the Council of National Defense. The CND's Woman's Committee was organized in 1917 when the U.S. entered the Great War and was charged with organizing the nation's women for the war effort.

The GGRWHC has pioneered work on Woman's Committee activities on the national, state, and local levels and is pleased to provide an overview of the role of midwestern women in national-level wartime food programs and to feature fascinating on-the-ground reports about urban Grand Rapids and rural Jasper County, Indiana. Finally, this women's war story has begun making its way into accounts of American history. See our panel description and background story below.



The Woman's Committee of the WWI Council of National Defense in the Midwest
Wednesday, June 7th, 2:00 – 3:30 pm

Creating 'An Army of Housewives': Woman's Committee Food Programs of World War I by Anita Anthony-VanOrsdal will address how demand for midwestern farm products provided women reformers opportunities to shape federal

wartime policies and state laws. Powerful coalitions of women in the Midwest directed initial food programs, guiding grassroots efforts throughout the nation by nearly fourteen million American women. Midwestern women remained a vital component of wartime food program successes.

Hooverizing and Managing the Nation's Women: The Example of Jasper County, Indiana, by Sue Caldwell will provide rich illustration of top-down management problems in one CND local committee (out of 17,000 nationwide). Her study of Jasper County, Indiana, analyzes aspects of women's experiences with food conservation programs when set in a rural county and the role of food in newspaper propaganda campaigns aiming negative rhetoric specifically at women. The participation of



women as wartime enforcers of regulations they did not initiate nevertheless increased their representation on county-level defense councils, opening an eventual wedge into government.

continued on p.6

Schoolyard Patriots: Municipal Housekeepers and Government in Grand Rapids, Michigan by Jayson Otto will illustrate how well-organized women's reform movements and clubs were already primed for engagement in official governmental roles. Their early connections to civic agriculture provided models for WWI projects, and their pre-war public gardening programs for school children transformed into full-blown wartime gardening and preservation projects. The civic work of women reformers in Grand Rapids can complicate our understanding of wartime "municipal housework" and build a fuller picture of the political economy their work supported.



With the devastation of food production throughout Europe during WWI, Herbert Hoover, head of the Food Administration, encouraged American women to save food. Becoming "Hoover Helpers" and taking the "Hoover pledge" was the American woman's patriotic duty.



The ***Agricultural History Society***, a long-time national organization, will meet in Grand Rapids from June 8-10, immediately following the MHA conference. ***On Friday, June 9th, at 10:30am,***

Jayson Otto will present "Saving the 'Defective' Child and the Poor Housewife: Public Gardening Programs of Women's Clubs During the Progressive Era in Grand Rapids, Michigan" on a panel about women's responses to the challenges of industrialization in the early twentieth century. Complete program and registration information can be found at <http://www.aghistorysociety.org/meetings/>.



BACKGROUND: Our education in Grand Rapids began in 2006 when a treasure trove of 23,000 war registration cards for women was rediscovered in the public library. They include genealogical, sociological, and historical data on half the city's female adult population in 1918, an astonishing census using well over 100 fields. The cards were identified as one wartime effort by the virtually unknown Woman's Committee of the CND. Michigan enrolled 900,000 women overall, more than any other state, and the Grand Rapids collection is the largest of the very few so far discovered throughout the United States. Its discovery has prompted research beyond the card collection itself, including the 2017 MHA panel.

Prompted by the 2006 discovery in Grand Rapids and early work by Diana Barrett, Anita Anthony-VanOrsdal began research resulting in her 2015 MSU dissertation on the formation and functioning of the federally mandated Woman's Committee of the CND, and on the social and political ramifications of its existence. Before her work, virtually no attention had been paid this group arising out of decades-long women's reform movements. Anthony-VanOrsdal illuminates the link between women's past in social reform and their new formal position as citizens with a federal mandate.

In 2011 Indiana genealogist Sue Caldwell uncovered a complete card collection in rural Jasper County--3,200 of the 626,292 completed statewide. In contrast to the urban data from Grand Rapids, the Indiana collection provides a detailed portrait of an entire county's rural women; and the Indiana material is more extensive. They have an original storage cabinet custom designed by the CND, filled with masses of data.



Sue Caldwell with Jasper County, Indiana's storage cabinet custom designed by the Woman's Committee for the CND.

GGRWHC is pledged to highlight our area's women's history for the benefit of professional historians, both to learn even more from them and to model how local history experts can promote important exchanges in the field.

Stay tuned at <http://www.ggrwhc.org>

Oral History: Harriet Woods Hill

In this issue we once again highlight one of our oral histories, recorded over the years by members of the GGRWHC. These recordings and transcripts are stored in Collection 167 of the Grand Rapids Public Library archives. Transcripts and audio are both accessible to the public upon request. You can view a list of the subjects on our website at <http://www.ggrwhc.org>. Summaries like this one (edited for space) are added to the website as they become available.

Harriet Woods Hill

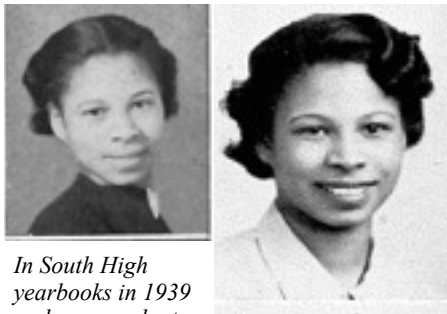
April 5, 1922 - September 22, 2006

Date of Interview: November 16, 1998

In her oral history, Harriet Woods Hill tells of her 26 years as an officer of the Grand Rapids Police Department, the first African American policewoman and its first female detective.

Hill was born in Boyne City, Michigan, in 1922 and lived in Grand Haven as a child. During the Depression, her father became disabled and her mother supported the family by taking on day work and renting out rooms to chauffeurs and maids who served Grand Haven's summer tourists.

As she was entering the tenth grade, Hill's family moved to Grand Rapids where she attended South High School and joined St. Philip's Episcopal Church.



In South High yearbooks in 1939 and as a graduate

After graduating from high school, Hill worked for a year and then went to Grand Rapids Junior College with the intention of becoming a nurse. She got married soon after, however, and did not complete her schooling.

Hill's career with the Grand Rapids Police Department began in 1951 when she was hired as a clerk typist in its Records and Identification Bureau. In this position she faced blatant racism from her fellow employees, one in particular: *This individual was just very mean and nasty to me. In fact, she was prevented from obtaining her step raise*

because of the treatment she was giving me. I used to go down to the rest-room, lock the door and sit there and cry. And then I'd go back upstairs because I came there to do a job and I wasn't going to allow her to force me to quit working because she was prejudiced.

Hill goes on, though, to tell about the day this person was absent from work. *One of the other women and one of the sergeants asked me if I wouldn't like to come and have coffee. Once the door was opened I never allowed it to become closed. There were several who stopped having coffee in the coffee klatch because of it, but you know you just hold your head high, demand respect and people recognize others who are prejudiced.*

Then in 1955 Hill joined the ranks of the Grand Rapids Police Department as its first African American female police officer, working in the juvenile division. She had requested that she not be assigned cases involving only black children. Cases involved everything from delinquency to sexual abuse to murder. To avoid drawing attention to themselves during investigations, women officers typically wore plain clothes and drove unmarked cars, but they still toted their guns in their purses. Eventually Hill was training other women coming into the department.



Hill, back right, with three co-workers in 1958

In 1977, Hill was offered a position in the detective bureau, making her the police department's first woman detective in its 106-year history. *That was interesting because there were 38 men and they never had a woman working in that bureau. When I had been asked, I was somewhat hesitant and thought*



they were joking. I was working forgery. And it was most interesting and I liked it a lot, completely different from juvenile work. She did not experience any gender or racial discrimination while working in the detective bureau. Hill was nominated for Officer of the Year in 1978 and retired in 1981.

Looking back on her career in 1998, she did not recommend a career in criminal justice or police work for young women because of the stress. Instead, she said, she would steer them more toward probation or social work. Nevertheless, she professed great satisfaction in sometimes running into people whom she had helped when they were children and knowing she had made a difference in their lives.

Hill died of cancer on September 22, 2006. Her survivors included her husband of 63 years, Clarence ("Cokie"), her son James and his wife Shelley, her daughter Carolyn, five grandchildren, and eight great grandchildren.

Grand Rapids and the Lost History of Kindergarten

by Kate van Liere

Scott Bultman launches documentary on lost history of kindergarten

Grand Rapids toymaker, filmmaker, and educational activist Scott Bultman believes that an early nineteenth-century German educational reformer offers hope for improving America's troubled elementary schools. His documentary film on the forgotten history of kindergarten celebrates the educational vision of Friedrich Wilhelm August

Froebel (1782-1852), and suggests how it might enrich today's American classrooms. On

April 10 Bultman and his collaborators welcomed an enthusiastic audience to Kendall College of Art and Design to view a twenty-minute pilot and to solicit audience advice for shaping the film further. The well-crafted pilot promises a compelling film that will embrace modern art and design, architecture, music, educational history, and sociology. Its central story is how Friedrich Froebel's creative vision for "kindergarten" first flourished and then withered in the United States, and how a diverse assortment of Froebel enthusiasts today seek to harness Froebel's vision to make American public education more engaging and more effective.



impulses or begin to socialize them into the disciplines of adult life. In the 1830s Froebel created a progressive model of education for three-to-seven-year-olds that he named *kindergarten* (a "garden for children"). Its hands-on educational pedagogy centered on play and self-discovery, encouraging young children to explore nature and themselves by learning to think with shapes, patterns, sound, and movement.

Froebel's method, with its distinctive wooden blocks and other props ("Gifts" in Froebel's lexicon), is still popular in Europe today and has distinct echoes in such later pedagogical movements as Montessori, Reggio Emilia, and Waldorf-Steiner. But to the conservative rulers of mid-nineteenth-century German states, Froebel's progressive pedagogy smacked of socialism, and they outlawed it. After his death, however, his disciples exported his pedagogy to the U.S., where it flourished anew for a few decades in various cities, including Grand Rapids.

In 2016 Bultman brought this story to a local "History Detectives" program sponsored by the GGRWHC.

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs136/1102964307953/archive/1123419324289.html>) He paid

tribute to the Ladies Literary Club, which founded the Kindergarten Training School in 1894 and lured Lucretia Willard Treat, one of the country's best teacher trainers, here from Chicago. Clara Marian Wheeler, daughter of Grand Rapids' first architect, also devoted her life to this movement, which became both a "calling" and a career opportunity for local women from varied socio-economic levels and racial backgrounds. There is evidence that at least one African-American, Ethel

Beverly Burgess, trained in the school. When the D.A. Blodgett Home for Children opened in 1908, it included "all the paraphernalia of Froebel's wondrous gift to Children" in its second-floor kindergarten room.

In the twentieth century, however, progressive American educators like John Dewey rejected Froebel's creative vision as unsuitable for the needs of an industrializing United States. While American public schools adopted the name "kindergarten" from Froebel, American kindergarten diverged sharply from its Froebelian roots. Self-discovery and play gave way to disci-



Room in the Grand Rapids Kindergarten Training

pline, memorization, and the introduction of the academic "skills" of writing and arithmetic. In the U.S. today, design students and architects are more likely to know and appreciate Froebel than are elementary educators.

Indeed, it was Froebel's influence on American art and design that drew Scott Bultman's attention to him. Bultman first heard of Froebel in 1996 when his Grand Rapids toy business, Uncle Goose, was asked to manufacture "Froebel blocks" for the museum shop at Oak Park's Frank Lloyd Wright House. A set of these blocks given to the nine-year-old Wright in the 1870s had stimulated his lifelong interest in geometric design.

Bultman's discovery of Froebel as an influence on American architecture



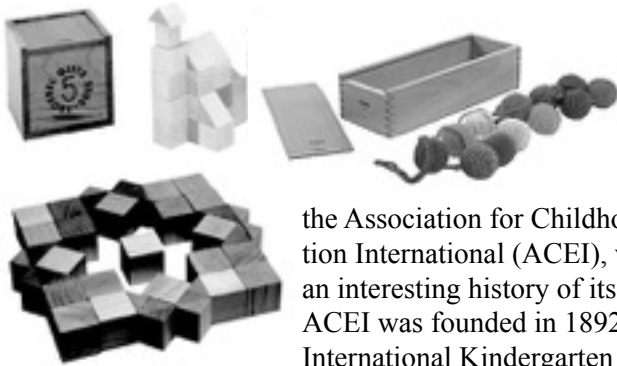
Froebel came of age in the German Enlightenment, inspired by Jean-Jacques Rousseau's conviction that children were innately good, rational, and creative beings. He agreed with Rousseau that

childhood education should be designed to stimulate children's curiosity and invite them to discover and interpret the world through the five senses—not, as more traditional Christian educators believed, to curb their sinful

eventually blossomed into a passion for Froebel and his broader educational vision. In 2001 Bultman founded “Froebel USA,” (<http://froebelusa.org/>) which promotes Froebelian education and teacher training through conferences and online publicity.

Over the years, Bultman has amassed a large collection of artifacts and literature from the American Froebel movement. He began work on the “history of kindergarten” documentary in 2015. The film aims not only to champion the value of Froebel’s pedagogy as an antidote to the current skills-based, assessment-driven American elementary education system, but also to celebrate Froebel’s under-appreciated influence in the fields of architecture and design—highlighting his importance for Frank Lloyd Wright and Buckminster Fuller, among others.

Bultman’s film is being produced entirely in West Michigan. As he explained to the pilot’s audience, its final length and shape will depend on the



funding he and his team can secure. He has amassed over twenty hours of footage, which could be used to produce either a two-hour documentary or a five-part series, as funds allow. Tax-

deductible donations are being collected through the Association for Childhood Education International (ACEI), which has an interesting history of its own. The ACEI was founded in 1892 as the International Kindergarten Union, the first organization of Froebel educators in the U.S. Until 2016 the organization received the royalties from the copyrighted song “Happy Birthday,” because the song’s predecessor, “Good Morning to All” (sung to the same tune and first published in 1893) was allegedly composed by sisters Mildred Hill and Patty Smith Hill for use in their Froebel Kindergarten classroom in Kentucky.

More information on the film project (including some of the raw footage), and on Froebel’s life and legacy, can be found on the project website: historyofkindergarten.com.

Historical Society Banquet features St. John’s Home

The Grand Rapids Historical Society will hold its annual banquet on May 11 at the Women’s City Club. The Society will be presented with the story of St. John’s Home at 7:30, after the dinner. You can reserve a spot for dinner on the website <http://www.grhistory.org> or come later just for the talk.

As he looked about the city in the late 1880s, Bishop Henry Richter saw hundreds of children left homeless by the epidemics of his time—diphtheria, typhus and cholera. He knew that something

needed to be done for these poor children. John Clancy, a wealthy lumber baron and bachelor, made a donation of \$60,000, leading to the founding of one of the earliest children’s services programs in West Michigan. The orphanage would bring a group of nuns to the area who developed this orphanage, influenced change in the community, and profoundly affected the area’s Catholic educational system.



Join and become a member! Membership / Sponsorship Form

Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Email _____

Individual (\$25) _____ Student (\$10) _____ Type of Membership: New _____ Renewal _____

Sponsorship (Membership included)

Platinum (\$500) _____ Gold (\$250) _____ Silver (\$100) _____ Bronze (\$50) _____

I want to become a volunteer: Yes _____ No _____

My Interest is in: Research _____ Writing _____ Other _____

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Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council



Greater Grand Rapids
Women's History Council



Greater Grand Rapids
Women's History Council

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council was started in 1987 when founder Twink Frey was doing research for a paper on the role of women in the history of Grand Rapids. She found little or nothing either at the local or state levels about the many women who had helped found and shape the city and its surrounding area. Knowing that women had played an enormous role in the development of the region, Frey began to contact others who had a similar interest in systematic research, documentation, and preservation of the lives and contributions of former Grand Rapids and West Michigan women.

In the ensuing 28 years many others joined Frey in this work. A great deal has been accomplished and many women who played important roles in Grand Rapids history continue to be discovered.

Visit our website at ggrwhc.org

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council is dedicated to educating the community and celebrating the legacies of local women, preserving knowledge of their past and inspiring visions for their future.