

## LEGACY 2006 *A Huge Success!*



# GGRWHC Annual Meeting, Tuesday, May 9

### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

March is now behind us, and a very successful LEGACY, Women's History Month, it was. Elsewhere in this issue of the newsletter you'll find information about specific events, but here are a few thoughts of my own in overview.

In addition to numerous events sponsored by individual organizations, LEGACY 2006 included many examples of two or more organizations working together.....truly gratifying to see the cross-fertilization of ideas and attendees. The kickoff breakfast, sponsored by the GGRWHC, included representatives of many other organizations, those represented by the Legacy Lights most noteworthy. We also had an excellent turnout of exhibitors, including those from AfterWord, AWE, Carol Johnson, Clark Retirement Community, Delta Centre for Arts and Cultural Affairs Inc., Kent County UAW CAP Council, Kohler Expos, Inc, West Michigan Academy for Women and Girls, Women's City Club.

The American Association of University Women and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club joined to recognize local women at a well-attended luncheon held in the Women's City Club. The AAUW also contributed to the GVSU Women's Tea Party. Local labor historian Michael Johnston's talk on activist Viva Flaherty was cosponsored by the GGRWHC and the Grand Rapids Historical Society, and the audience was a very diverse one from across the community.

Occasionally I am asked why we "still" need a women's history council. Evidently some believe that our interest is a single-issue cause. As I see the question, women can and must contribute to all civic issues, and I view LEGACY and its many events as evidence of how broad our interests are and how wide the net is. Join us as we begin a new membership year.

*Mary A. Seeger*

### LEGACY 2006 Mary Seeger

LEGACY 2006, the sixth of our triennial community-wide celebrations of March, Women's History Month, got us started a bit early with a buffet breakfast held at GVSU's L.V. Eberhard Center on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. An audience of 150 women and men viewed our own posters on Grand Rapids area women and the displays of several vendors. Once again we were honored by the presence of our mistress of ceremonies Eva Aguirre Cooper from WOOD-TV. The breakfast speaker was Dr. Elaine Didier, the director of the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library and Museum.....a history maker in her own right, and a welcome addition to the community as she brings a woman's perspective to the museum and contributes her expertise to the GGRWHC as well.

Women's History Month stretched from February to the end of April. Seventy-eight programs were presented. Previous LEGACY sponsors Aquinas College, Calvin College, Grand Valley State University, Grand Rapids Community College, St. Cecilia Music Society, Grand Rapids Business Journal, and the Women's Resource Center, to name a few, offered excellent programs. Black Women's Roundtable, MSU Extension, and Clark Retirement Community were among the newcomers to the calendar. Shelley Irwin once again hosted *LEGACY on Air* with four programs. Jo Ellyn Clarey put together a series of programs that aired on GRTV.

Because so many people put forward a lot of effort, Legacy 2006 was once again success. Thanks to all who contributed and attended.

#### In this issue you will find:

- Legacy Lights achievements
- Two articles about Clark Retirement Community
- The Call for Papers for the Great Lakes History Conference, October 20 and 21
- Membership campaign information
- Calendar of upcoming events

## LEGACY LIGHTS

### Debra Muller and Fran Pepper

Seven Women were chosen to be the 2006 Legacy Lights. Each of these women was chosen because she met the following criteria:

- A commitment to educating the community about the legacy of local women
- Preserves knowledge of our past
- Inspires and empowers women as a mentor/model by encouraging their future impact on the community we serve

**Nancy Douglas**, a public relations and fundraising consultant, has served and held leadership positions on such community boards as the Arts Council of Greater Grand Rapids, Opera Grand Rapids, Public Museum of Grand Rapids, and the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. Currently she is President of the Grand Rapids Public Library Commission, a docent at the Meyer May House, and a member of the Ryerson Library Foundation Board. She is known as a hard-working volunteer who can be counted on to "get the job done."

**June Mamagona Fletcher** is a citizen of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. She serves as the Secretary of the Michigan Indian Education Council and is the previous Chairperson of the Native American Higher Education Council. She has also been affiliated with the Coalition of Indian Programs and Services of Grand Rapids and Kent County (Chairperson), Michigan Indian Employment and Training (Board) and is the former Director of Grand Valley State University Educational Connections. June currently teaches and continues with her mentorship. Her work has been of significant influence on many aspiring students and June has set a wonderful example to the Native American and at-large communities in her professional and volunteer work.

**Ellen James**, retired after 30 years from the City of Grand Rapids, Equal Opportunity Department. She served on several area boards including YMCA, the NAACP Executive Board, Porter Hills Foundation, President of the Coalition for Representative Government, Mount Mercy Housing Corporation Board of Directors, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Grand Rapids Police Chief Advisory Committee, and honorary co-chair of the Girl Scouts capital campaign drive. Ellen is the founding member and was the first female Chairperson of the GRCC Board of Trustees.

**Fairouz Kamal** is an active member of the Arab-American community and the Mosque. Professionally, Fairouz is an elderly home health care provider through Worth Home Care/Spectrum Health. She also volunteers for educational and cultural presentations regarding Muslim women. She focuses her work on the understanding and education of her community and is an excellent community resource and activist. She is an interpreter for companies and agencies as well as a teacher of the Arabic language to children and community members. She is affiliated with the Institute for Global Education and the Interfaith Dialogue Group.

**Shirley Lewis**, Ed.D. Emerita—Professor-in-the-College and former Dean of Arts and Sciences at Aquinas College. Wife of Rabbi Al Lewis and mother of two daughters she calls her mentors. Shirley is currently presenting a course at Aquinas Emeritus College on Hebrew Women as role models from the Bible to the present.

**Virginia Vargas Moralez**, Regional Operations Manager of Browning Claytor, Health Center, Clinica Santa Maria Saint Mary's Health Care. Virginia has held true to her values of family, education, and giving back to the community throughout her life. Her community involvement includes speaking on issues of diversity, medicine, and the Hispanic culture. "Ms. Virginia Moralez is a woman to be celebrated," said Eugenia Marve, one of Virginia's six nominators. "Our community is better because of her."

**Minnie Morey**, retired federal worker from the Social Security Administration, provides many community volunteer services. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Asian Center of West Michigan for many years. She frequently lends her experience and resources to many community initiatives. Minnie is the Director of the Pacific Island Dancers, a

*Continued on page 4*

## NEW FINDINGS ON GRAND RAPIDS WOMEN'S HISTORY Jennifer Morrison

While researching and writing the history of Clark Retirement Community for the organization's one hundredth anniversary in 2006, we had a basic, initial question to answer: who was Clark? With Clark Retirement Community and a six-story commercial building in downtown Grand Rapids still bearing his name, it is ironic that the once prominent lumberman and retail grocer, to list just two of his business interests, had largely disappeared into history. The Clark Retirement Community centennial history, to be published later this year, will correct that. The book will also rescue the at least equally fascinating and important life story of Mrs. Clark.

The Women's History Month lecture series at Clark Retirement Community detailed the findings on the connection between Emily Jewell Clark and other prominent Grand Rapids women in history, including Anna Bissell, Jane Blodgett, Emily Burton Ketcham and others. Also covered was the enduring contribution Emily Clark made to such Michigan institutions as the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Starr Commonwealth, the D.A. Blodgett Home for Children, and the local women's suffrage movement.

Publicity for the lecture series resulted in the special appearance on March 15th of Clark's own great granddaughter and namesake, Emily Clark Bowen. The centennial history authors had not previously known of or met Bowen, who currently lives in Ann Arbor. She arrived at the presentation with a scrapbook filled with original family photos and documents, including a letter Melvin Clark had written to Emily just prior to their 1861 marriage. Since then, Bowen's sister in Arizona has copied and sent items from her collection of family material to Grand Rapids. Other family descendants, including Grand Rapids former mayor John Logie, have been rediscovered.

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council events highlighted the research being done on Clark Retirement Community for the centennial, and in particular Emily Clark, with the result that new information and material was brought forth.

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## LEGACY AT CLARK Nelle Frisch

Clark Retirement Community celebrated its Centennial and Women's History Month in March with a series of lectures in collaboration with Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. The series titled *A Century of Contribution: Grand Rapids Women and Clark Retirement Community* began with Mary Jane Doerr's talk and film presentation *The Roots of Bay View in Methodist Camp Meetings*.

Jo Ellyn Clarey followed with *The Progressive Legacy of Grand Rapids Women: Clark in the context of 1906*. Emily Clark and the women of the Progressive Era left a broad social legacy.

Jennifer Morrison, who is co-writing the history of Clark, presented *Behind the Clark Name is a Great Woman*. She spoke of Emily Clark, her activities and the mark she left on Grand Rapids. She was a philanthropist, a patron of the arts, helped found the D.A. Blodgett Home for children and was an active suffragette. Emily and her husband Melvin J. Clark, donated their Italianate home, surrounded by 20 acres on Sherman Street to the Methodist Episcopal Church to be used by retired ministers. This became the site of the present Clark Retirement Community, as Emily wanted a good place for the elderly to live.

Diana Barrett followed with *Follow the Money: A Comic Parallel to the Founding of the Clark Community*. The Brown Home for Aged Women was founded soon after Clark, but is rooted in a notorious family feud and trial.

Dick Harms presented the last lecture *Grand Rapids Women and World War II*. He also showed slides of women's doings from his book *Grand Rapids Goes to War: The 1940's Home Front*.

Free and open to the public, these lectures were dedicated to the memory of the late Judy Lloyd (GGRWHC treasurer), who was also on the Clark Board and their Centennial Committee. Each lecture was followed by a reception with food ranging from tiny cheesecakes to a chocolate fountain to a USO setting with coffee, doughnuts and candy cigarettes. Participants met Emily Clark's great granddaughter Emily Clark Bowen. They also enjoyed the famous William Merritt Chase painting *Opera Cloak*, donated by Emily Clark to the Art Museum and on loan to Clark for the month of March.

## MINNIE MOREY *continued from page 2*

performing group that shares the cultural dances of Hawaii, Tahiti and the Philippines. She is also taking the lead to organize and present the Asian cultures in the coming Asian Heritage Month in May, 2006. Minnie has served as past president of the West Michigan Filipino American Association and currently serves as Board member for the Philippine Cultural Group of Michigan, Grand Rapids Area Center for Ecumenism (GRACE) and Grand Rapids Opportunities for Women (GROW).



### Important Dates

May 9, 4 p.m.	GGRWHC Board Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum
May 15	Deadline for submitting paper abstracts for the Great Lakes History Conference
June 23-25	Upper Peninsula History Conference
September 12, 4 p.m.	GGRWHC Board Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum
September 7 p.m.	Historical Society Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum Topic: <i>Strike! How the Furniture Workers Strike of 1911 Changed Grand Rapids</i> by Jeffrey Kleiman
September 22-24	State History Conference Bay City
October 10, 4 p.m.	GGRWHC Board Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum
October 12 7 p.m.	Historical Society Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum
October 20-21	Great Lakes History Conference
October	Michigan Women's Hall of Fame Awards Dinner
November 14, 4 p.m.	GGRWHC Board Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum
November 9 7 p.m.	Historical Society Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum
December 12, 4 p.m.	GGRWHC Board Meeting Gerald R. Ford Museum

## NEW FINDINGS ON GRAND RAPIDS WOMEN'S HISTORY *continued from page 3*

Information and material once scattered, buried, and some existing only in private collections will now be brought together and made public in Grand Rapids.

The centennial history available this fall, will expand on the lives of Melvin and Emily Clark, the Clark Methodist Episcopal church (once located in Grand Rapids), the plight of Methodist circuit riders struggling to make their way on the Michigan frontier, the lifestyle of the original M. J. Clark Memorial Home's residents, the unique way the organization survived the Depression and much more. More information about the book's release will be forthcoming as it is available.

The Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council has nominated Emily Clark to the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame.



### Membership

**It's time to renew your membership  
or to become a member of the GGRWHC**

**GGRWHC's Membership year  
July 1-June 30**

**Membership letters will be mailed in June.  
To save the History Council time and the  
expense of mailing you a renewal letter,  
please renew before June 1.**

### Membership Rates:

<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>100.00</b>
<b>Contributor</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>

**Now is the time to support the  
Greater Grand Rapids  
Women's History Council.**

**“New Perspectives on War and Society”  
Call for Papers: Great Lakes History Conference  
October 20-21, 2006**

The 31<sup>st</sup> annual Great Lakes History Conference, sponsored by Grand Valley State University, will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan on October 20-21, 2006. All fields of history as well as other disciplines are invited to submit proposals related to this year's theme: “New Perspectives on War and Society.” In the last two decades, scholarship on war and its impact on social, political, economic and cultural life has broken new theoretical ground and re-shaped the ways in which historians conceptualize the larger significance of mass violence, trauma, and society. We invite scholars from a wide range of fields and disciplines to exchange ideas and research on this topic. Please consult the Grand Valley State University history website ([www.gvsu.edu/history](http://www.gvsu.edu/history)) and its link to the conference for updated information.

We are pleased to announce two distinguished keynote speakers for this year's conference. **Professor Omer Bartov** will provide an address on racial war and extermination on Saturday, October 21. Prof. Bartov is a Distinguished Professor at Brown University who has published extensively on the history of the Holocaust and genocide studies, including *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*. In addition, on Friday, October 20 **Dr. Jonathan Shay** will provide a keynote address on medical and social responses to combat trauma. Dr. Shay is a distinguished psychiatrist who has worked with the Veterans Administration, US Naval War College, and the Office of Army Deputy Chief of Staff. Dr. Shay's research on psychological trauma in Vietnam veterans has been documented in his acclaimed books, *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).

We welcome papers and arranged panels addressing this year's topic. We encourage comparative work across regions and chronological boundaries. The conference will be organized around themes that have dominated recent scholarship. Papers are encouraged to touch on, but are not limited to, the following:

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|---|---|
| - Psychological trauma                            | - Brutalization and its effects on social and political systems   |
| - Race, violence, and war                         | - Militarization and its role in society                          |
| - Genocide  | - Propaganda, media, and perceptions of war                       |
| - Gender and sexuality                            | - Terrorism and warfare in the 21 <sup>st</sup> century           |
| - Social and political consequences of war        | - Children in war   |
| - War and revolution                              | - Refugees  |
| - Economic consequences of war                    | - War in film and popular culture                                 |
| - Memory and memorialization                      | - Literature and war (including narratives, memoirs, and fiction) |
| - History of the 'home front'                     | - Oral History  |
| - Health and medicine                             |   |
| - Theories on violence (origins and consequences) |   |

If you are interested in presenting a paper, please send an abstract of approximately 200 words and a curriculum vitae by **May 15, 2006**. Please include your address, email, and phone number. Those interested in commenting on a session should send a CV and indicate areas of expertise. Papers must take no longer than 30 minutes in a 2-paper session or 20 minutes in a 3-paper session. Sessions will last 90 minutes.

Conference headquarters will be at the L.V. Eberhard Center of Grand Valley State University in downtown Grand Rapids. Hotel accommodations will be available at the Days Inn of Grand Rapids, which is across the street from the Eberhard Center. The conference is within easy walking distance of museums and restaurants. Grand Rapids is served by most major and regional airlines.

**Please address all inquiries and abstracts to:**

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*Registration and program information will be sent summer 2006.*

Check out our changing web site [www.ggrwhc.org](http://www.ggrwhc.org)

## GGRWHC MEMBERSHIP AND LEGACY CONTRIBUTORS

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