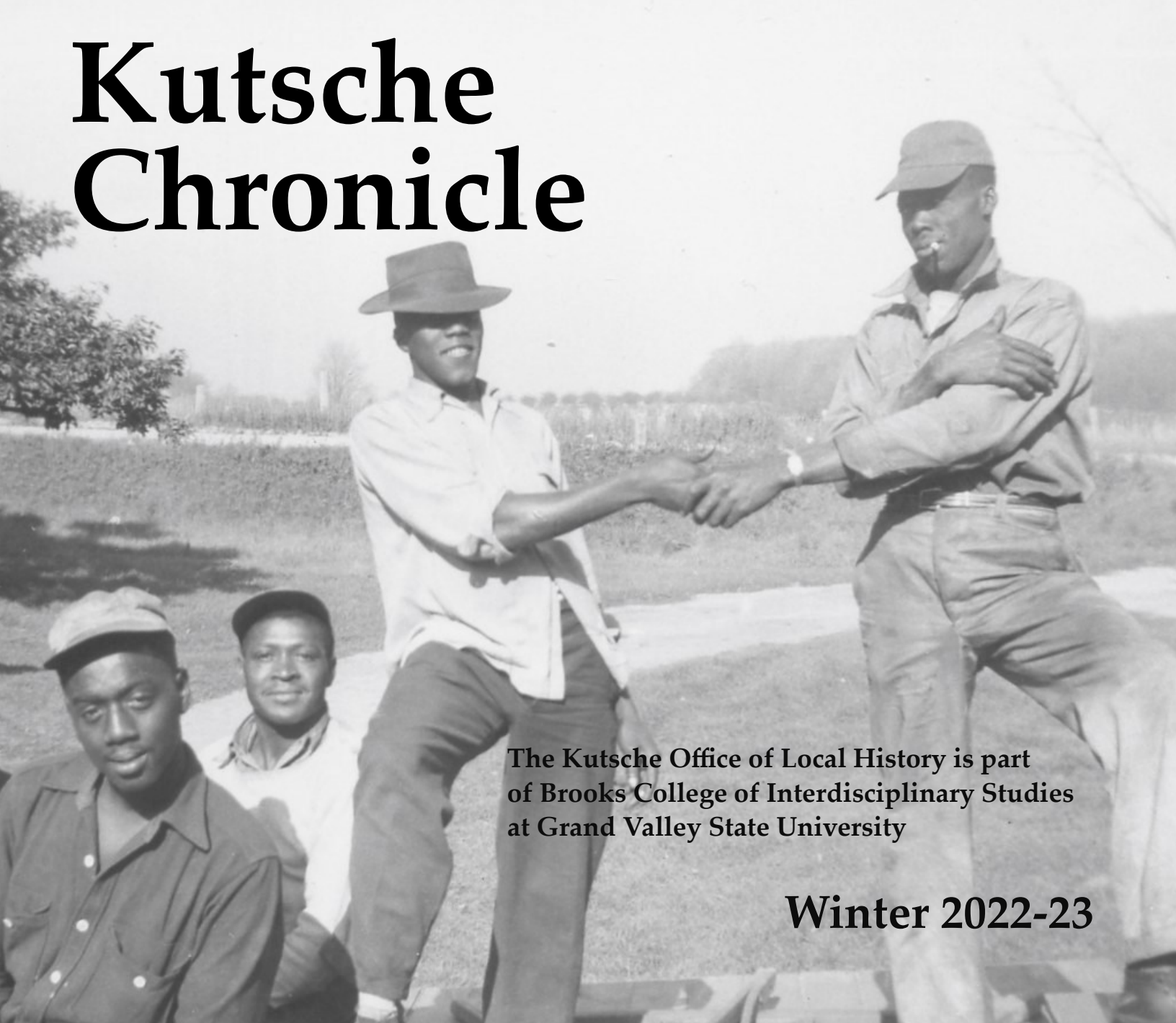


Kutsche Chronicle



The Kutsche Office of Local History is part
of Brooks College of Interdisciplinary Studies
at Grand Valley State University

Winter 2022-23

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Upcoming Events

January 21, 2023

History Detectives Grand Rapids

March 22, 2023

14th Annual Local History Roundtable
with Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche | 616-331-8099 | kutsche@gvsu.edu

Cover image of Jamaican farm workers in Oceana County, MI, circa 1950
Part of the Oceana County Migrant Labor History Collection in the GVSU Special Collections



From the 13th Annual Local History Roundtable
bird + bird studio

From the Director

The Teaching West Michigan Histories Project (TWMH) has a pilot lesson-in-progress ready for use in classrooms and community settings. This first pilot lesson focuses on Chinese immigrants and Chinese Americans in Grand Rapids during the early 20th century. The lesson is entitled “Roots of Chinese & Asian American Communities in West Michigan.”

TWMHP Graduate Assistant, Will Barnwell, has taken the lead on developing this material for the classroom. Will shared with our team that “working with TWMH has been an incredible experience in learning not only how to write lesson plans, but also in sharpening historical thinking.” He is looking forward to the next phase of this project, where we integrate feedback from community members and other stakeholders into a more cohesive whole.

Our undergraduate research assistant, Rebekkah Bowen, has been hard at work combing through Census records, ship logs, city directories, and draft registration cards to help locate individual stories of Chinese-Americans in Grand Rapids during this period.

One interesting document our team located (right) is the World War I registration card for Bow Jeung. Born in Canton, China in 1893, he was living on Pearl Street in Grand Rapids by 1917. The 23-year-old Bow Jeung could have claimed exemption based on his immigration status, but did not. It was not uncommon for recent immigrants and new United States citizens to join the armed forces when they were eligible.

Form 1		REGISTRATION CARD		No. 261	
1	Name in full	Jeung Bow	1501	Age, in yrs.	23
2	Home address	141 Pearl	GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN		
3	Date of birth	August 14	1893		
4	Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)?	Alien			
5	Where were you born?	Canton	China		
6	If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?	China			
7	What is your present trade, occupation, or office?	Harbor	29		
8	By whom employed?	Chau Hing			
9	Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)?	No - mother partially dependent			
10	Married or single (which)?	Single	Race (specify which)?	Mongolian	
11	What military service have you had? Rank	None	branch		
12	Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?	No			

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Jeung Bow
(signature or mark)

If person is of African descent, tear off this corner

Jeung Bow's World War I registration card
Accessed on Ancestry.com

Connections in the Classroom

By Ramya Swayamprakash

GVSU Assistant Professor of Integrative, Digital, & Environmental Studies



Aerial view of the Grand River
bird + bird studio

I have been using *Connections Along the Grand River* in my **ENS 300: Principles of Sustainability** class this fall.

Through weekly reflections, course readings, and observing the Grand River directly, ENS 300 students are developing and investigating their own semester-long projects. These projects involve picking a sustainability issue or problem related to the Grand River and coming up with possible solutions.

Despite the river flowing through campus, most students acknowledged that they knew nothing about the river's history. Reading *Connections Along the Grand River* really has helped students get a better understanding of the Grand River and informed their reflections greatly. The magazine and its accompanying resources has also influenced their topic choice for their semester-long projects.



A ferry in Allendale Township
Allendale Historical Society

Students have found the magazine thought provoking, accessible, and relevant. I am planning on using the magazine in future classes as well. Thank you!

Thank you again to all of our local history partners who created *Connections Along the Grand River*. Please contact us if your organization is interested in receiving additional print copies.

You can also find the digital tour, a digital copy of the magazine, and short videos from a few of our partners at gvsu.edu/kutsche/connections.



This project was funded by a Third Coast Conversations: Dialogues About Water in Michigan grant from Michigan Humanities, with support from the VanderVeen Center for the Book Fund of the Grand Rapids Public Library Foundation, and the Grand Rapids Historical Society.

History Detectives

The Kutsche Office is pleased to continue participating in History Detectives, a day packed with presentations about different corners of local history in Grand Rapids.

**All presentations are in the Grand Rapids Public Library at 111 Library St NE.
Visit HistoryDetectivesGR.org for more details.**

- 9:30 am** ***A Look Back at the Fight Over the Equal Rights Amendment in Grand Rapids***
Follow the tangled, ongoing journey of the Equal Rights Amendment in Grand Rapids.
Presented by Nora Salas and Ruth Stevens
- 10:30 am** ***Vanished Market Avenue NW: From Fulton to Monroe***
Learn about and view archival images of the city's "vanished avenue."
Presented by the Grand Rapids Historical Society & Grand Rapids Public Museum
- 11:30 am** ***Emmett Bolden v Grand Rapids Operating Company***
How a Black physician and a Grand Rapids movie theater led Michigan's Supreme Court to reject "separate but equal" policies 27 years before *Brown v Board*.
Presented by Jon VanderPloeg
- 1:00 pm** ***1913: Automobiles and Their Owners in Grand Rapids***
Curious finds from a 1913 booklet listing all registered vehicles in West Michigan.
Presented by Thomas R. Wilson
- 2:00 pm** ***The Beginnings of Sewage Treatment in Grand Rapids***
Learn what happened to the city's sewage before municipal sewage treatment.
Presented by Kayne Ferrier
- 3:00 pm** ***What Sanborn Maps Reveal about Grand Rapids***
How 150 years of detailed fire insurance maps can support your research.
Presented by Adam Oster

"Laying New Tracks" Now Available Online

Folks joined us in October to hear Professor Ashley Johnson Bavery discuss her research on early Syrian immigrants to Grand Rapids.



We were thrilled to have so many guests whose own ancestors were part of this migration, including many members of St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church. The Grand Rapids church, founded by migrants from Greater Syria, is celebrating its centennial this year.



Midwestern Syrian-American group in 1923
Faris & Yamna Naff Arab American Collection
Smithsonian National Museum of American History

The full recording is available
at gvsu.edu/kutsche/youtube



From Flickr user cmh2315fl - licensed under Creative Commons

New Project Brings Fuller Story to State Historical Markers

Did you know that only 2 of Michigan's >1,800 historical markers even mention Latinos?

The Latino Community Coalition, GVSU '10 alumni Dr. Delia Fernández-Jones, and the Kutsche Office of Local History are working together to change that.



An October 1969 scene from Grand Rapids
Courtesy of Delia Fernández-Jones

The Latinx Historical Marker Project is now underway, with the goal of commemorating the state's Latino history through Michigan's existing marker program. This will help bring a more detailed and representative history to the state's historical markers.

Learn more and provide input
at bit.ly/LatinxHMP

Nominations Open Now!

2023 Gordon Olson Award

Do you know someone who has helped write, record, or share West Michigan history? Would you like to help **recognize an individual making especially creative, valuable, or thought-provoking contributions** to our understanding of local history? Consider nominating them for the Kutsche Office of Local History's 2023 Gordon Olson Award.



The Gordon Olson Award recognizes individuals whose work embodies the Kutsche Office's mission of "using history to give voice to diverse communities." We celebrate those who help **facilitate our understanding of the past and those who are documenting history as it happens in the present.** Nominations are open to anyone, from historians, librarians, and genealogists, to journalists, artists, and community organizers.

Submit your nomination by February 27, 2023 at gvsu.edu/kutsche/go



Local History Roundtable

March 22, 2023 • 1:00 pm - 8:00 pm
Richard M. DeVos Center • GVSU Pew Campus

This year's keynote presentation by Delia Fernández-Jones is co-sponsored by the Latina Network of West Michigan, with simultaneous Spanish interpretation provided by the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan. Book sales provided by Books & Mortar of Grand Rapids.



Hispanic Center
of Western Michigan



**THE LATINA NETWORK
OF WEST MICHIGAN**

Books & Mortar
BOOKSTORE
GRAND RAPIDS, MI