

The Kutsche Chronicle

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

www.gvsu.edu/kutsche
Spring 2018



Upcoming Events....

Tuesday, May 8, 2018, 10:00-11:30am

Connecting with the Diverse Voices in Your Community

2266 Kirkhof Center, GVSU's Allendale campus

Wednesday, October 10, 2018, 11:00am-1:30pm

Lunch with the Kutsche Office

2215 Kirkhof Center, GVSU's Allendale campus

November 5, 2018, 12:00-1:30pm

So You Want to do a History Harvest

2270 Kirkhof Center, GVSU's Allendale campus

March 14, 2019

10th Annual Local History Roundtable

L. William Seidman Center, Grand Rapids

2018 Gordon Olson Award Winner



Congratulations to Jo Ellyn Clarey, the 2018 Gordon Olson Award winner. Clarey is a long-time local women's historian working with the Greater Grand Rapids Women's History Council. Currently, she oversees the completion of an

elective history of the city's women beginning in 1887 and its contribution to a national crowd-sourcing project, *Her Hat Was in the Ring*. Previously, she served on the boards of the Grand Rapids Historical Society, the Grand Rapids Historical Commission, the Progressive Women's Alliance, Torch Club, and acted as liaison to the Michigan Women's Studies Association, whose statewide conference she has chaired. In 1999 Clarey received the Grand Rapids Albert E. Baxter Award for her contributions to local women's suffrage history, including the production of a centennial re-enactment of the 1899 national suffrage convention in Grand Rapids and organization of a month-long women's history series for community schools and various other organizations. This award recognizes Clarey's decades long efforts to recognize Grand Rapids women's contributions to community building.

SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS

HISTORY CENTER



Stories of Summer

Stories of Summer documents a time when Saugatuck-Douglas gained a reputation as a "home for all." The twin lakeshore towns were seen as welcoming to diverse communities ranging from those involved with the art schools and lakeshore camps to college students, concert goers, and members of notorious motorcycle gangs as well as individuals part of the LGBT community. Additionally, year round residents and those who summered in the area cultivated an atmosphere that a small community could cope with new and different ideas and new and different people, even as American culture underwent its own transformation. We're looking to hear from folks who spent time locally during the transformational decades of the 1950s-1970s. This project will gather stories through the digitization of objects, photographs, and ephemera while the people who experienced these times are still able to share them.

Collections will take place at the Old School House, 130 Center St., Douglas, MI.

History Harvest Collection Dates

Saturday, June 2	9am-4pm
Saturday, July 21	9am-4pm

Bring your stories, old letters, photographs, diaries, maps, images, and ephemera to share on our History Harvest Days.

Oral History Collection Dates

Monday, June 4	9am-12pm
Tuesday, June 5	9am-12pm
Wednesday, June 6	9am-12pm

Come spend an hour or more and share with us your stories of Saugatuck-Douglas.

Questions? Contact Saugatuck-Douglas History Center at 269-857-5751.

This project is supported by a National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage grant.



"Connecting with the Diverse Voices in Your Community"

Tuesday, May 8, 2018

10:00 — 11:30am

2266 Kirkhof Center, GVSU's Allendale Campus



The demographics of West Michigan have changed a lot since the region found itself being settled by Dutch families and other European immigrants. More recent migration and immigration during the mid-twentieth century onwards resulted in increasing racial and ethnic diversity as Latino, Asian, and African American families made the area their home. And, these established and newer residents co-exist with the Indigenous communities who inhabited the region long before Europeans arrived.

As organizations recognize the changing shift of their communities and seek to enhance their collections to capture these multicultural experiences, there's a desire to ensure diverse voices are centered. So how do we do that? This workshop will provide tools to improve our collective cultural competencies to engage a wide ranging audience. We will consider what it means to work with communities who may not reflect our family backgrounds and how to intentionally and ethically preserve the histories of once previously marginalized groups.

Call 616-331-8099 or email us at kutsche@gvsu.edu to register.

Community Collaboration Grant Winner



Marilyn Preston received the 2018-2019 Community Collaboration Grant to support her project, "**L'dor v'dor: Oral Histories of the B'nai Israel Congregation.**" This project involves the collection of oral histories from members of the B'nai Israel Synagogue in Muskegon, Michigan. B'nai Israel has been in operation for nearly 130 years, and the congregation has been shrinking in the last three decades. The goal is to capture a record of the temple, the congregation, and Jewish life in Muskegon. Many of the current temple members have been a part of the B'nai Israel congregation for their entire lives, thus they have rich memories of growing up Jewish in Muskegon, the rise of Jewish community, and the ongoing disappearance of Jewish life on the lakeshore.

Preston is an assistant professor of Liberal Studies at Grand Valley State University. Her work explores narrative identity, queer and critical pedagogy, sexuality education, autoethnography, and the interplay between institutional and personal identity development.

Youth Leadership Initiative

The Kutsche Office had a busy year working with K-12 students in West Michigan. One of our central commitments is empowering youth through local history. In the fall, Kim visited two different middle school classes in Zeeland to discuss Holland's Big Read, *When the Emperor was Divine* and contextualize Japanese American internment within West Michigan history. She also supported Zeeland middle school students as they learned about oral histories and how to conduct them. In February 2018, Kim visited AP Sociology students at Black River Public School in Holland, MI. They discussed the importance of recognizing the diverse communities that live in the area as often times these communities may be overlooked and misrepresented in popular culture. It was an opportunity to highlight how local history and oral history, in particular, is one avenue to capture the diversity of one's community. In May 2018, Kim and Nathan Nietering (the executive director of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center) will meet with high school students at Saugatuck High School to discuss oral history. They will give a workshop on how to conduct oral histories and shared information about the Stories of Summer project, which is funded by a National Endowment for the Humanities Common Heritage grant.

HISTORIES OF STUDENT ACTIVISM

Histories of Student Activism documents the various social justice activities of past and present Grand Valley State University students, faculty, and staff. From considering the anti-war protests of the Vietnam War era to students' work towards establishing what would become the Office of Multicultural Affairs, GVSU students have been a vibrant force in shaping and reshaping the campus community. This project traces the genealogy of contemporary examples of activism on campus to their predecessors. We are continually collecting oral histories from past and present Grand Valley students, faculty, and staff as well as community members who are interested in sharing their memories of student activism and advocacy. Please contact kutsche@gvsu.edu or 616-331-8020 for more information.

Become a friend of the Kutsche Office of Local History....

\$45 Annual Membership (Individual) provides free admission to the annual Roundtable plus special events throughout the year and a one-year subscription to the *Kutsche Chronicle*

\$100 Annual Family/Institutional Membership Provides free admissions (for up to 4) to one Annual Roundtable plus special events throughout the year and a one-year subscription to the *Kutsche Chronicle*

To make your gift online, please go to www.gvsu.edu/giving/givenow. Or you may mail a check to:

Grand Valley State University, Kutsche Office of Local History

PO Box 2005, Grand Rapids MI 49501-2005

Standing Rock: Photographs of an Indigenous Movement



Jason Quigno, Levi Rickert, and Steve Perry

During the recent Standing Rock resistance to stop the Dakota Access oil pipeline, American Indian journalist, Levi Rickert, knew the largest American Indian movement since the 1973 Wounded Knee was unfolding. Rickert, the publisher and editor of Native News Online, covered the emergence of the movement from Standing Rock, Washington, D.C., to the steps of Michigan's capitol. The results of his photo-journalist work yielded over 1,500 photographs that capture the intensity of the movement. *Standing Rock: Photographs of an Indigenous Movement* provides a glimpse of the struggle for indigenous water rights and tribal sovereignty.

On Monday, February 5, 2018, the Kutsche Office of Local History hosted a reception in honor of Levi Rickert and the exhibit. The exhibit was on display through the month of February on GVSU's Allendale campus and doubled typical exhibition visitors with close to 1,500 visitors.

Due in part to the success of the exhibit and given the its relevance to contemporary American Indian concerns about the environment, we now offering the opportunity for organizations to host the exhibit.

For more information and costs associated with hosting the exhibition, or speaking engagements connected to the exhibit, please contact Courtney Sherwood (sherwoco@gvsu.edu) or Levi Rickert (levi@nativenewsonline.net).



Local History Roundtable

Roundtable Wrap up

Thank you for making the ninth annual roundtable a success. It was so lovely hearing about Idlewild, MI from Ronald Stephens. We gained a greater awareness of the linguistic histories of Holland, MI from Kathryn Remlinger and Alice Pozzobon. From learning more about the African American, Asian American, and Hispanic American residents of West Michigan, Andrea Riley-Mukavetz centered the Native American experience in her thoughtfully crafted discussion of indigenous methodologies. The keynote and featured speakers captured the essence of the Kutsche Office of Local History from what it was at its founding to what it does today.

Remarks by Moana Kutsche and Anne Hiskes in the morning were complemented by the thoughtful discussion about Paul and his impact on local history in the afternoon. A special thanks to Veta Tucker, Lynelle Brown, Melanie Shell-Weiss, Wendy Wenner, and Gayle Davis for coming back to the roundtable as we recognized the Office's growth from one man's idea to its current form. And thank you to those who shared their memories of Paul.

As we look ahead to our tenth annual roundtable in 2019, I want to highlight our theme, "Connections Along the Grand River." We are particularly invested in showcasing the various histories of communities whose growth and community members have been touched by the river from the founding of townships to the impact of the river in today's world. To our local history friends with deep investments concerning the Grand River's history, please contact us at kutsche@gvsu.edu or 616-331-8030 as we would love for you to be part of our 2019 roundtable program. And, don't be surprised if we contact you.

This year's roundtable was co-sponsored by Grand Valley State University's African/African American Studies Program.



Above: Moana Kutsche (left) and Ronald J. Stephens and Tom Logan.

On reverse (clockwise from top left): Andrea Riley-Mukavetz and Robert McArdle; Wendy Wenner; Ronald J. Stephens; Alice Pozzobon and Kathryn Remlinger; Veta Tucker and George Bayard; Lori Shusta and Alicia Haggerty; Gayle Davis and Judy Whipps.

