



# The Kutsche Chronicle

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

[www.gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche)  
Winter 2019

Photo credit: Grand Rapids History & Special Collections,  
Archives, Grand Rapids Public Library, Grand Rapids, MI



# STORIES OF SUMMER



## Stories of Summer

**Tuesday, February 5, 2019, 1-2:15pm**

**Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room**

The Kutsche Office partners with local communities to collect, preserve, and make accessible their unique histories. These harvests include collecting oral histories, archiving photos and historic documents, organizing exhibitions, developing curriculum, and partnering with libraries, schools, and community groups.

Our partnership with Saugatuck-Douglas History Center on our National Endowment for the Humanities funded project, Stories of Summer, launched in Fall 2017. Stories of Summer captures the experiences of year-long and seasonal residents of Saugatuck-Douglas as well as other visitors who came to the twin lakeshore communities in the mid-twentieth century. Join us to learn more about history harvests and see an up close look at the results of a successful history harvest project at the opening of our exhibit Stories of Summer.

Spurred by the Stories of Summer project, the Kutsche Office partnered with Saugatuck High School journalism students and the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to capture the memories of the Class of 2019. The Kutsche Office trained journalism students in oral history best practices and those students developed oral history questions to ask the senior class. At the conclusion of the project, the Contemporary Stories of Saugatuck will be on display at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's Old School House.

## Standing Rock: Photographs of an Indigenous Movement

*Levi Rickert, publisher/editor of Native News Online*

What started out as a Grand Valley State University student's intern project in the Kutsche Office of Local History during the summer of 2017 has turned into a traveling exhibition.

Levi Rickert, publisher/editor of the Native News Online, collaborated with the Kutsche Office to catalog over 1,500 photographs taken during the publication's coverage of the Standing Rock resistance to the Dakota Access pipeline that could be files for historic purposes. As the summer intern's work progressed, it became clear to McKee that the photographs should be turned into an exhibition.

The result of the collaboration between Rickert and the Kutsche Office turned into the "Standing Rock: Photographs of an Indigenous Movement" that have 53 photographs on 23 panels. Rickert provided narrative for the panels that describes the activities contained in the photographs.

"The exhibition took on the story of resistance to the pipeline at Standing Rock. Each panel has a distinctive part of the story of the Standing Rock movement," says Rickert. "The idea that the largest gathering of American Indians in over a century story can be kept alive through this exhibition is significant because the various aspects of Standing Rock continue today for American Indians."

After a successful exhibition at GVSU's Pew Library, the exhibit traveled to the Chicago American Indian Center, Evanston Public Library and now is on display at the Grand Rapids Public Library. It is being scheduled for exhibition in Detroit this spring. Stanford University is also considering hosting the exhibition.





# Local History Roundtable

The Connections Along the Grand River symposium coincides with our tenth annual local history roundtable. We hope you will join us for a day examining the histories of the communities along the Grand River from Grand Haven to Portland (see below for a complete list).

We are partnering with over 20 organizations and individuals to explore their histories connected to the Grand River. Janet Brashler, retired GVSU professor of Anthropology will deliver our keynote, "This River Was Theirs: The Archaeological Record of 12,000 Years of Life on the Grand River." This presentation looks at how archaeology provides a voice to understand the rich and diverse experiences of people whose contributions to our past are otherwise muted.

Connections Along the Grand River is made possible by a Third Coast Conversation grant from the Michigan Humanities Council. Thank you to our co-sponsors: GVSU's Annis Water Resource Institute, Environmental Studies and the History Department. A special thank you to Grand Rapids Public Library for support and use of images in the exhibit.



**Thursday, March 14, 2019**

**8:30am — 3:45pm**

**50 Front Ave SW**

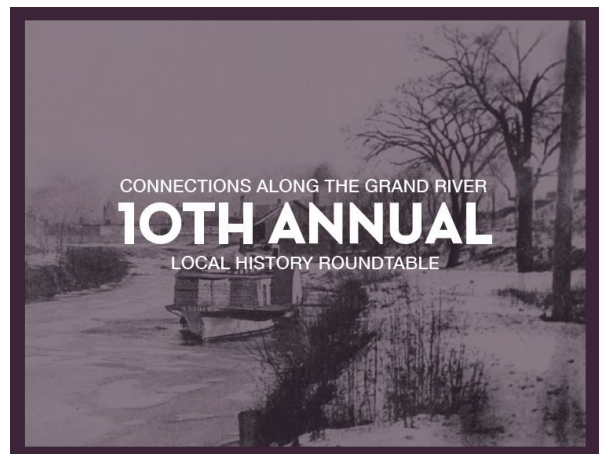
**GVSU's downtown campus**

**TO REGISTER:**

[www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche/)

**Call us at: 616-331-8099**

**Email: [kutsche@gvsu.edu](mailto:kutsche@gvsu.edu)**



## PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

- Ada Historical Society
- Allendale Historical Society
- Boston/Saranac Historical Society
- Cascade Historical Society
- Grand Rapids City Archives
- Eastmanville History
- Grand Rapids Historical Society
- Grand Rapids Public Library
- Grand Rapids Public Museum
- Grandville Historical Commission
- Ionia County Historical Society
- Jenison Historical Society
- Lamont History

- LGROW
- Lowell Area Historical Museum
- Ottawa County Parks and Recreation
- Plainfield Historical
- Portland Area Historical Society
- Tri-Cities Historical Museum

## PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS

- Jan Brashler
- Matthew Daley
- Wallace and Jane Ewing
- Jefferson Seaver
- Paul Trap

## Upcoming Events....

January 21, 2019, 7pm (reception at 6:15pm)

### **The Making of Standing Rock**

Grand Rapids Public Library

February 5, 2019, 1-2:15pm

### **Stories of Summer Exhibit Opening**

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

*Exhibit runs February 5-March 15, 2019*

March 14, 2019

### **10th Annual Local History Roundtable**

L. William Seidman Center, Grand Rapids

April 3, 2019, 10am-12pm

### **L'dor v'dor: Oral Histories of the B'nai Israel Congregation**

Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room

For more information, or to register for these events please visit us at: [gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://gvsu.edu/kutsche), email [kutsche@gvsu.edu](mailto:kutsche@gvsu.edu) or call: 616-331-8099.



### **Gordon Olson Award Nominations Being Accepted**

Do you know someone who has made outstanding contributions to local history? Someone who has used history to give voice to diverse communities? Please consider nominating them for the 2019 Gordon Olson Award. Nominations will be accepted through February 15, 2019. Visit [www.gvsu.edu/kutsche](http://www.gvsu.edu/kutsche) to nominate.

Established in 2014, the Gordon Olson Award recipient is announced at the Annual Local History Roundtable. This year's Roundtable will take place March 14, 2019 on GVSU's Grand Rapids campus. Recipients are given a commemorative plaque and are recognized through Kutsche Office publicity and local news media.

Contact: 616-331-8099 or [kutsche@gvsu.edu](mailto:kutsche@gvsu.edu).

## **"L'dor v'dor: Oral Histories of the B'nai Israel Congregation"**

*Marilyn Preston, Assistant Professor, Liberal Studies*

**April 3, 2019, 10am-12pm**

**Mary Idema Pew Library Multipurpose Room  
GVSU's Allendale Campus**

"L'dor v'dor: Oral Histories of the B'nai Israel Congregation" documents the histories of congregants at 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. As the membership ages, the temple itself is at risk of closing completely in a few years.

This fall, with support from the Kutsche Office of Local History's Community Collaboration Grant, Preston and a group of undergraduate students collected the oral histories of 18 members of the congregation. The stories will be stored in the GVSU Special Collections and Archives and presented in exhibit form both digitally and in-person. The project examines the unique experience of living as a Jew in Muskegon, the rise and decline of the congregation, and the relationships between congregants and their religious and cultural identities.

Against the backdrop of rising anti-Semitism and a declining Jewish population, this project aims to tell the story of congregational practice and relations. The stories collected explore the relationship of religion to personal identity, the affective ties between congregants and the space, place, and people, and the role of an institution in cultural and familial life. At its heart, L'dor v'dor tells the story of family, religion, and resilience through political and cultural changes.