



Museum Matters

the newsletter of the

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Exploring the past... Understanding the present... Envisioning the future

Spring 2023



FEBRUARY 2023 APPEAL NEWS

Thank you for your Generous Support!

As a result of many donations to our February Appeal to replenish our Emergency Maintenance fund, we now have received 50% of what we had before we purchased a desperately needed generator and sump pump last summer and fall.

We feel extremely fortunate being part of a community that values the work we are doing and shows it through their financial contributions. We will continue accepting your offerings through the end of this month. Use the form on page 7 if you would like to contribute but have not yet done so.

Bon Voyage to a Dynamic Duo!

Ten years ago, Karen Szymanski visited a Christmas toy exhibit at the Elk Rapids Historical Museum. When one of the Board members found out that she had been a Visual Merchandiser who designed displays for department stores, she was immediately recruited to help with the Museum's displays. Karen has been creating displays ever since. Along the way, she joined the Museum Committee and eventually took over the role of Chairperson. The Museum Committee is responsible for acquiring, preserving, and displaying the thousands of artifacts, pictures, and documents that have been received over the years.

Her husband, Michael, has been Township Treasurer and will retire this year. In the spring of 2016, Mike volunteered to tabulate our yearly receipt collection for the Village Market Community Cash program.



Karen and Michael Szymanski Getting ready to distribute pulled pork sandwiches at Founder's Day – Aug 2016

After 17 years in Elk Rapids, Karen and Michael will be moving downstate to be with family. Both Szymanski's will leave a huge vacuum in our Museum's operation and the Elk Rapids community. We wish them both well.

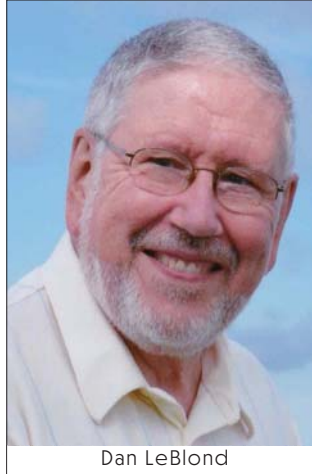
Elk Rapids Area Historical Society
Mailing address: P. O. Box 2
Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002
www.elkrapidshistory.org

ERAHS Board of Trustees:

Dan LeBlondPresident
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Rowland JohnstonTrustee
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Dan SwansonTrustee
Daniel WettlauferTrustee

History Museum
301 Traverse St. (corner of Pine)
OPEN SATURDAYS, JULY & AUGUST
1:00 – 4:00 pm
Self-guided building tour
with map provided
Admission donation welcome
Guided tours by appointment
Call: (231) 264-5692

President's Corner:



Dan LeBlond

For several years, I have helped Elk Rapids Area Historical Society with free donations whenever I shop online with **iGive.com**. Right now, iGive is giving out bonus donations! New members who join today can get an extra \$5 donation for Elk Rapids Area

Historical Society if they make their first purchase within 30 days. The stores make this possible because they want you to like them and shop at them over and over again. There's 2002 socially-responsible stores helping to make donations happen. I hope you'll give it a try.

To learn more or sign-up now, use this link:
<https://www.iGive.com/RahWL>

Community Cash

ERAHS is participating in the Village Market Community Cash program again this year. The program will END Memorial Day 2023. By saving your receipts for purchases made through the fall, winter and spring and donating them to ERAHS, we receive 2% of the total amount on all receipts collected.

Thank you to everyone who helped us with this fundraising project. Receipts can be given to ERAHS Board or Committee members OR PUT IN THE BLACK MAILBOX THAT HANGS ON THE BACK DOOR OF THE MUSEUM. Receipts are collected every Wednesday from the mailbox.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR HELPING US IN THIS WAY



“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”

George Santayana

“History doesn’t repeat itself, but it does rhyme.”

Mark Twain

The quotations above are two of **Dan Swanson’s** favorites because they summarize why he believes that studying and understanding our history is so critically important. Dan has always had an interest in studying history and he recently joined our Board to pursue his interest.

Since COVID pandemic struck in 2020, Dan and his wife, Leslie, have lived fulltime at their home in Torch Lake Township on Grand Traverse Bay. Dan grew up in metropolitan Detroit and graduated from the University of Michigan with degrees in history/political science and law. For 45 years, Dan has practiced law in Michigan focused on employment related litigation, primarily representing individuals. Dan is also a passionate UM football fan, having been a season ticket holder for over 50 years.



For decades, Dan has volunteered his time to many professional and community organizations. Currently, he is president of his neighborhood association, the Bay Harbor Club Association, and on the boards of two condominium associations. We are pleased to welcome him as a significant addition to our Board.

Jerry Jackson – Perennial Museum Visitor

Every summer in late June or early July, one of our most entertaining visitors comes to Elk Rapids and spends time amusing everyone at the History Museum with his jokes and stories. Jerry Jackson, from Foster City, California, is a unique supporter of the History Museum. Years ago, when we were installing the Michigan History marker, he engineered the project, even buying drills bits that weren’t supplied for the installation. Last summer, he paid for the 20 x 40 tent that was used for our 50th Anniversary Celebration in June.

He also bought about 20 t-shirts commemorating the anniversary for a family gathering. One item that we receive from Jerry each year, in addition to a voluminous quantity of postcards, is Forever stamps. In an envelope with his membership renewal or along with a donation to our Annual Appeal or February Special project, he will include a supply of Forever stamps. So, if you receive your Newsletter with a Prehistoric Animal stamp or a Star Wars stamp, you will know that it was specially selected by Jerry and donated for our use.



Jerry & wife Jeannine ready to buy 50th Anniversary t-shirts



Howard Richter, Dan Wettlaufer and Jerry Jackson working on the History Marker

JOIN OUR RECENT VOLUNTEERS



L-R: Pat Jackson, Karen Szymanski (former Museum Chairperson), Rowland Johnston and Tom McWorther

In response to an ad placed in the ER News last summer, the History Museum gained three new volunteers: Pat, Rowland, and Tom. They barely got their feet wet and the summer was over. BUT, they will be back this summer! Each started out as greeters on our Open Days. During the winter, they helped with our February Appeal mailing and this Newsletter. Rowland will now be in charge of preparing the building for visitors on Open Days, Tom will be helping with self-guided tours, and Pat has expressed an interest in arranging for in-person programs.

The Historical Society would like to invite new volunteers to join us. After getting to know about the Museum, we'll help you find your niche. We are especially in need of someone who is comfortable enough with computers and electronics to help us with our in-person program screen projections.

Detailed directions are available for training and reference. However, whatever your interest is, we welcome you to join us in our quest to "Explore the Past, Understand the Present, and Envision the Future." Call 231-264-5692.



Researcher Extraordinaire

When Nadine Jones came to the History Museum last summer to volunteer her time, we were delighted to hear that she was interested in research. Since that eventful day, she has been working on a myriad of projects.

Born in Flint, her family moved to Elk Rapids when she was 3 months old. She graduated from Elk Rapids High School and became a geriatric nurse after college. Since retiring from health services administration in 2014, Nadine has been doing research and writing a historical fiction novel about the Noble family.

Her neighbor while growing up, and now colleague in writing the book, is the great-grandson of Edwin and Cora Noble. Nadine is contributing her skills and knowledge to the Museum while discovering information that is helping her with her personal long-term project. It's a win-win situation for everyone involved. We look forward to many years of mutual sharing.

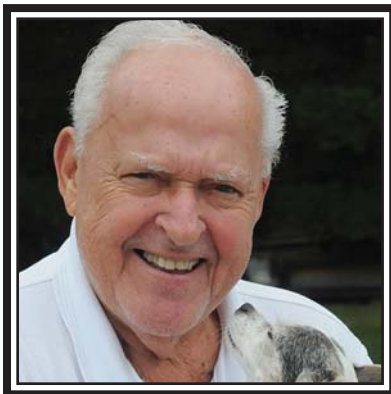
In Memoriam

Joe Yuchasz

December 12, 1940 – January 18, 2023
1st Board of Trustee member of the
Elk Rapids Historical Society



In 1972, when the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society was first established, Joe was one of the first Trustees appointed to the Board. Through the years, Joe kept up his relationship with the Society by sharing his knowledge of Elk Rapids history and the evolution of his beloved Cinema with our many audiences. He was truly a giant among our noted citizens and will remain so in our memories of him.



Gordon L. Converse
Aug 1, 1933 – Dec 20, 2022
A Long-Time Historical Society Supporter

Gordon Converse will be remembered by the Historical Society as a community minded and involved individual. He was a strong supporter of the Museum. We were honored to partner with him in promoting and selling his book, "Elk Rapids – My Story: The Evolution of a Lakeside Village." The book is still available through our website or in our Museum gift shop. If you didn't know Gordon, we encourage you to read his book.



The History of Doorknobs



During the Middle Ages, interior doors were rare, and exterior doors were secured using simple heavy beams. In the late 1500s, interior doors started popping up in the homes of the wealthy. When doors became more common in modest homes, they often had a metal lock-and-key system, but no handles.


Doorknobs finally became commonplace after the American Revolution, when the United States began producing their own goods. Between 1830 and 1873, over 100 U.S. patents were granted for doorknobs. Cast-metal knobs were introduced around 1846, and decorative hardware came out after the Centennial Exposition of 1876.

Today, doorknobs are available in a variety of decorative styles.

***** Museum Partners *****

Alden State Bank and the Village Market have annually made generous donations to our operating budget. We are grateful for their support!

LOBBY HOURS: M. - Th. 9:00 to 4:00 / Fri. 9:00 to 5:00 / Sat. Closed
DRIVE THRU: M. - Th. 8:30 to 5:00 / Fri. 8:30 to 6:00 / Sat. 9:00 to 12:00



Alden State Bank
www.aldenbank.com

MAIN OFFICE: P.O. BOX 39 • ALDEN, MI 49612 • (231) 331-4481
P.O. BOX 717 • ELK RAPIDS, MI 49629 • (231) 264-6900
P.O. BOX 1169 • BELLAIRE, MI 49615 • (231) 533-9400
P.O. BOX 515 • CENTRAL LAKE, MI 49622 • (231) 544-8237

VILLAGE MARKET
FOOD CENTERS

P.O. Box 455 250 Ames Street Elk Rapids, MI 49629 (231) 264-5629	P.O. Box 280 9556 Rapid City Road Rapid City, MI 49676 (231) 331-6111
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***** Business Sponsors *****

We thank the following businesses who are supporting our 2023 programs!

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| All Smiles Dentistry | Fischer Insurance Agency | Pine Hill Nursery |
| Bayfront Beach and Bike | Fitzpatrick Insurance Agency | The Place |
| Burnette Foods, Inc. | Gill-Roy's Hardware | Rockne L. Paige, CFP
(Raymond James) |
| Camille Campbell,
Realtor | Great Lakes Power Generation | Re/Max of Elk Rapids |
| Cherry Suite Assisted Living | Guntzviller's | River Pharmacy |
| Edward Jones
(Tom Shelder) | Kellie Sergent
Realtor | Short's Brewing Company |
| Elk Rapids Animal Hospital | Ken's Body Shop | Wittbrodt Waterside Properties |
| Farmer White's | Kolu's \$5 Meal Deal | |

***** Upcoming History Hounds Online Programs *****

To Register go to:
<https://hsmichigan.org>

Click on "Learn", then "Programs", "History Hounds," "Learn More"

Tuesday 12 noon – 1 pm

- April 11 – Ford Airport: "The Nation's First Modern Airport."
- April 25 – Safe Passage for Michigan Metals: The Marquette Harbor Lighthouse
- May 9 – Diabolical Arts and Daily Life in Seventh Century New France

Wednesdays 7-8 pm

- April 5 – The Wolves of Isle Royale: A Broken Balance
- April 19 –The Railroad King: James F. Joy
- May 3 – Let's Go Fishing! Fish Tales from the North Woods

Bicycles for Sale



Schwinn 28-inch, 7-speed



Huffy 26-inch, 6-speed

Two, like-new, bicycles for sale. \$30 each- minimum bid, check or cash – no credit cards.
 All proceeds go to Elk Rapids Area Historical Society.
 Available for pickup at History Museum, 301 Traverse Street, after April 18th. Call 231-264-5692.

Membership Renewals for July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024
 Will be mailed in mid-May

Yes! I want to support The Elk Rapids Historical Museum!

Gift amount: ___ \$50 ___ \$100 ___ \$200 ___ \$500 ___ \$1000 ___ Other

- I would like to donate to the “Replace our Reserves” Appeal
 I would like to support the Elk Rapids History Museum in any way that is needed.

Please print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to give my gift ___ in honor of ___ in memory of:

Name _____

Yes No I would like a letter sent to decedent’s family acknowledging gift. Please include name/address of family.

Make checks payable to
ERAHS

and mail to:
**ERAHS, P.O. Box 2
 Elk Rapids MI 49629-0002

**Credit Card Payments
 Now Accepted!**

_____ **Card Number**

Expiration Date: _____

Three digit code: _____

ZIP code: _____

_____ **Signature**

Thank you for your support!



Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Post Office Box 2, Elk Rapids, Michigan 49629-0002

Contact: Dan LeBlond, President (231) 264-5692 Email: president@elkrapidshistory.org Web site: www.elkrapidshistory.org

Deliver to:

History Museum Open Summer 2023



SATURDAYS

JULY & AUGUST

1:00 – 4:00 pm

Self-guided building tour
with map provided

Admission donation welcome

Guided tours by appointment

Call: (231) 264-5692