

# Michigan Humanities

Michigan People, Michigan Places  
Our stories, our lives.

A Publication of the Michigan Humanities Council - Winter 2007

## Council Announces *The Great Michigan Read*

*State's First One-Book, One-State Reading Program for Young Adults to Seniors  
Title and Programs to be Announced in July 2007*

In July 2007, the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) will launch *The Great Michigan Read*, a statewide literature and literacy initiative featuring a classic Michigan story by a classic Michigan author.

*The Great Michigan Read* will promote literary reading by engaging all Michiganders with literature unique to the Great Lakes State.

Why literature? Why reading?

Less than half of United States adults read literature. From 1982 to 2002, the percentage of American adults reading literature declined from 56.9% to 46.7%. The rate is decreasing even faster among young adults. This follows a general decline in all book reading.<sup>1</sup>

The MHC appointed a distinctive committee to review books for *The Great Michigan Read*. After reviewing dozens of Michigan titles and authors, the committee selected what they believe to be the perfect title, one that presents an accessible entry point for first-time literature readers, yet will challenge the most advanced bibliophiles.

*The Great Michigan Read* debuts in July 2007 with a statewide media event announcing the title. The Council will foster public access with reader guides, a dedicated website, retail partners, and library editions. The MHC will offer scores of grants for nonprofits who coordinate local or regional programs (book clubs, speakers, exhibits, and other programs) to encourage reading.



throughout the state. It will partner with other organizations to reach broader audiences, collaborating on projects like plays, outdoor activities, short-story competitions, and first-year college reading programs.

As hundreds of thousands of Michiganders open

The Council will heighten public interest and awareness with a series of keystone events scattered

their copies of *The Great Michigan Read's* first selection, readers will be introduced or reacquainted

with a literary superstar who was literally made in Michigan.

If you or your organization would like to participate or partner in *The Great Michigan Read*, please contact the Council via email ([contact@mihumanities.org](mailto:contact@mihumanities.org)) or phone (517-372-7770) so staff can keep you updated on the latest program developments. The MHC welcomes corporate sponsorship and partnership proposals for this unique literacy and literature initiative.

<sup>1</sup> National Endowment for the Arts. (2004). *Reading At Risk: A Survey of Literary Reading in America* (Research Division Report #46). Washington, DC: Author.

### Picking the Best in Mitt Lit

by Bill Castanier, Contributor, Lansing City Pulse; Member, Michigan Notable Books Committee; Board Member, Kerrytown BookFest

If anyone on *The Great Michigan Read* Selection Committee thought it was going to be easy to choose one book for the entire state to read, that misconception fell by the wayside at the first meeting.

There were no mixed agendas according to Sue Ann Martin, committee chair and Dean of the College of Communication and Fine Arts at Central Michigan University.

"The members of the committee agreed on the binding principle that literature is a joy and reading is one of the most gratifying and necessary activities in which an individual can be engaged."

It soon became obvious how difficult the process would be, not to mention rigorous. As each committee member suggested their personal choice, the list quickly grew to nearly 100 books with some authors writing more than one.

The list was initially pared down to approximately 55 books following the first meeting, but as committee members started digging, other titles would be added for review.

Chair Martin asked each committee member to volunteer

to read a number of books and bring back a report and recommendation to the next meeting.

"I marveled at how eager the members were to be assigned a half-dozen books to read every few weeks, and I was amazed at the vigor of our discussions of those books."

Clearly, two of the most important aspects included in the review were: Was the book a great read? Did it represent the state of Michigan?

There was a strong desire by committee members to select a book

whose voice was "pure Michigan."

To a person, each committee member will tell you the final choice was difficult, but the process was enjoyable.

Although most committee members had read a wide variety of the proposed books, it still meant rereading a book that was read long ago or reading it to assess its connection to Michigan.

A number of committee members read between 20 and 30 books during the 16-week



Hot off the skillet...

Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways

Turn to page 7 to learn more

### Selection Committee for *The Great Michigan Read*

**Sue Ann Martin** (chair)  
Dean, College of Communication & Fine Arts  
Central Michigan University  
Mt. Pleasant

**Bill Castanier**  
Contributor, *Lansing City Pulse*  
Member, Michigan Notable Books Committee  
Board Member, Kerrytown BookFest  
Lansing

**Eric Hammerstrom**  
Teacher  
Marquette High School  
Marquette

**Lisel Litzenberger**  
Author  
*Now You Love Me, The Widower*  
Grand Rapids

**Nancy Robertson**  
State Librarian  
Lansing

**Marta Salij**  
Book Critic  
*Detroit Free Press*  
Detroit

**Sandra Seaton**  
English Professor  
Central Michigan University  
Mt. Pleasant

## Five Join MHC Board of Directors

The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) recently welcomed five new members to its board of directors. Two were appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm: Russ Collins of Ann Arbor and Susanne Janis of Traverse City. Three were elected by the board of directors at its most recent meeting: Paula Gangopadhyay of Northville, James Karshner of DeWitt, and Patricia Anne Shaheen of Saginaw. The two gubernatorial appointments will complete their terms on December 31, 2009. The two elected members will serve a three-year term which began on January 1, 2007, and ending December 31, 2009.

**Russ Collins of Ann Arbor** is the executive director of the Michigan Theater, a restored historic theater in Ann Arbor. For the beauty of its restoration and its exemplary live-on-stage and cinema arts programming, the Michigan Theater was recently named the Outstanding Historic Theatre in North America by the League of Historic American Theatres. Collins is an Arts Administration Fellow of the National Endowment for the Arts, a graduate and Professional Theatre Program Fellow of the University of Michigan, and was knighted by the Republic of Italy for his promotion of Italian film culture in the United States. He also serves on the board of Ann Arbor's Downtown Development Authority and teaches arts administration and film studies at Eastern Michigan University.

**Susanne Janis of Traverse City** joins the Michigan Humanities Council's board of directors as her third gubernatorial appointment. Janis was previously appointed to the Michigan Historical Society by Governor John Engler and was also appointed to the Community Economic Excellence Board by Governor James Blanchard. Janis has served on the board of directors of many cultural community organizations, including the Denos Museum Center's advisory board, Northwestern Michigan College Foundation board, and as the past president of the Grand Traverse Pavilion Foundation board. She was also a radio announcer for WCCW in Traverse City and a 1997 recipient of the National Society of Fundraising Executives' *Outstanding Volunteer Award*.

**Paula Gangopadhyay of Northville** is the executive director of the Plymouth Community Arts Council. From 2002 through 2006, she served as the curator of education for public programs at the Public Museum of Grand Rapids. She also served as the executive director of the Great Lakes Center for Education, Research and Practice, the Commission for Lansing Schools Success, and the Meridian Historical Museum. Gangopadhyay is active in community arts and cultural programs. She earned a post-graduate certificate in archival, museum, and editing studies from Duquesne University (Pittsburgh, Penn.) in 1994, and has a masters of arts and bachelor of arts from Indore University (Indore, India).

**James Karshner of DeWitt** has more than 30 years of experience in marketing and public relations. Currently, he is president of Above the Fold, a public relations and international business development company. Previously, he directed four different state public relations or marketing staffs during a 13-year period spanning both the Engler and Blanchard gubernatorial administrations. This included the Michigan Department of Career Development, the Michigan Jobs Commission, and the Michigan Department of Commerce. Karshner earned a bachelor of arts from Alma College in 1974.

**Patricia Anne Shaheen of Saginaw** has a history of community service to arts and cultural organizations. She is the past president for the board of directors of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra and currently serves on the board of the Catholic Community Foundation of Mid-Michigan and St. Mary's of Michigan Advisory Board. She was a founding member of Saginaw Township Art in Public Places. In 2001, Shaheen was recognized as a *Woman of Distinction* by the Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay and as a Distinguished Alumni by Saginaw Valley State University. With her husband and family, Shaheen was responsible for the restoration of the historical Temple Theatre in downtown Saginaw. She has a bachelor of arts from Saginaw Valley State University.

## Michigan Humanities

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### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Judy Rapanos (Chair)	Midland
Timothy Chester (Vice Chair)	Grand Rapids
Elizabeth Brooks (Secretary)	Detroit
Shaun Nethercott (Treasurer)	Detroit
Christine Albertini	Grand Rapids
Anan Ameri	Detroit
Marlee Brown	Mackinac Island
Russell B. Collins	Ann Arbor
Marguerite Cotto	Traverse City
Paula Gangopadhyay	Northville
Susanne M. Janis	Traverse City
James Karshner	DeWitt
Patrick LeBeau	Lansing
Michael Margolin	Detroit
Sue Ann Martin	Mount Pleasant
Craig McDonald	Midland
John X. Miller	W. Bloomfield
Erik Nordberg	Houghton
Dominic Pangborn	Detroit
Patricia Shaheen	Saginaw
Kelvin Smyth	Escanaba

### VISION

The Michigan Humanities Council will be known as a unifying force throughout Michigan, whose programs help people connect with one another and the places where they live, by fostering a greater understanding and engagement in the cultures, histories, and values which tell us who we were, are, and hope to be.

### MISSION

The Michigan Humanities Council connects people and communities by fostering and creating quality cultural programs.

*Michigan Humanities Council newsletter is designed, edited, and produced by Scott Hirko, Public Relations Officer, Michigan Humanities Council. Articles written by Council staff and guests. Printed by Aldinger, Inc. of Lansing, MI.*



**Michigan Humanities Council**  
*Michigan People, Michigan Places*  
*Our stories, our lives.*

## Call for Nominations



The Michigan Humanities Council invites nominations for its board of directors. The board of directors consists of 25 volunteer academic and public members. Board members help to make the humanities accessible statewide and take active roles in Council fundraising initiatives.

Members attend three meetings per year, evaluate grant proposals, serve on committees, determine policy and Council initiatives, and oversee financial strategies. Nominees should be: supportive of MHC's mission and goals, interested in the humanities, dedicated to public service, and committed to providing cultural enrichment opportunities for Michigan citizens.

Letters of nomination should include the name and address of the nominee, a brief description of why the person should serve, including experience and interest in public humanities programming. A vita or resume should be included along with a letter of interest from the nominee. Self-nominations are accepted.

A member of the MHC Board Development Committee will notify successful candidates. Please send nominations to: Michigan Humanities Council, 119 Pere Marquette, Suite 3B, Lansing, MI 48912.

### Next Grant Deadlines

- ▶ Arts & Humanities Touring Grants: February 25 - March 10
- ▶ Strengthening Michigan's Communities: September 17
- ▶ Quick Grants: eight weeks in advance of program

## An Uncertain Future

by Jan Fedewa, Executive Director, Michigan Humanities Council

During the year, I believe all of us implement a program that has a profound impact upon us as individuals and as an Humanities Council.

For me, it was the implementation of *Project Roots*, a project that was funded in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the Michigan Humanities Council, and the Northfield Township Public Library.

The eight-week program coached incarcerated youth to explore the history of roots music, write lyrics to songs, and conclude with a concert spearheaded by performers from Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Program.

When we arrived at the Maxey Boys Training School on the day of the concert, it didn't seem like a facility that housed young felons. It was a structure with windows and gave the appearance of a "normal" high school. However, once you were inside, you sensed it was different. We were greeted by young, polite boys who were wearing either blue or yellow shirts with tan pants. The colors of the shirts reflected the type of crime they committed, and some of them were serious. We were given a locker for all our personal property and were escorted down several halls to the auditorium. We were ushered to an area designated for guests. We were special guests invited to observe the outcome of the eight-week project.

About 170 students were in the audience, all waiting to hear the lyrics of the songs composed by their peers along with the music created from the young men's work by Josh White and Robert Jones, both well-known folk musicians.

The lights dimmed, the auditorium was silent, and Josh White, Robert Jones, and project director Mike Ball entered the stage along with nine incarcerated youth who were about to share their stories through folk music.

While many performed or presented their work, the one that collectively told about their fears and challenges was "Eddie's Choice."

Eddie is a young man with an uncertain future. He's served his sentence and is about to be released. He wants to make something of his life, but fears he will return to his old ways and his old crowd of friends. Eddie's

internal conflict is real, but Eddie is a fictional character, who fears the responsibility that comes with being released. From the song, one hears these words:



Jan Fedewa

*Eddie's gone tonight at midnight, they're about to push him out the door. He's got a sweat shirt, shoes, and blue jeans, a plan and nothing more.*

*This time has to be different. Ain't gonna be another chance.*

*As he walks to the bus stop, he meets a gnarled and dusty man.*

*"Listen here now, old man, my ride will be here soon. But since I got some time to kill now just try to tell me something new."*

*The old man stares at Eddie. With a gleam in his eye, "Your road ain't gonna take you nowhere, and I'm gonna tell you why, you know, that ride that's comin' for you, you've been in that car before, and you might have won some battles, but you're bound to lose the war."*

Like Eddie, these young men look at their future with hope and with despair. And, it's an arts and humanities program like this one that serves as a powerful motivator for these youth as they create, write, and think about their future. I believe the quote from the project director sums up the positive impact it had upon these individuals:

During the final concert for the Maxey population, we witnessed an astonishing empowering effect on all the Maxey students, not just the workshop participants. The students who were not in the program, but who saw the opening and closing concerts, received the same message played out on their peers. I can't think of a better investment of time and effort than in helping these kids find a sense of self-pride and accomplishment. Being part of a creative process like this, or even witnessing it, has planted seeds in these young men that should someday bear much fruit.

I personally can tell you, it was powerful and I was moved by the impact it had upon these young boys. My experience was not unique. All of us who attended this concert were touched by their stories . . . stories of fear, stories of challenges, and stories of what it means to be human.

## Communities Rave About Touring Program

"His two performances at the elementary school were very successful. The 800 children who attended these programs were very inspired. For many of these children it was their first experience with live music. His performance at the nursing home went extremely well also." This comment from a grantee's written assessment of Rich Ridenour's performance virtually summarizes the impact of Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Program.

Jenifer Ivinskas Strauss, a storyteller, presented at an elementary school. The

project director stated: "Jenifer did a wonderful job presenting her storytelling assembly. This assembly provided an engaging, entertaining performance that helped students learn more about storytelling as a form of communication and develop an appreciation for words and the picture they can help paint in their minds."

For more about Ridenour, Strauss, and the Touring Program, go online to [www.michiganhumanities.org/touring](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/touring)

## Voices of Black America, Custer Week/Sitting Bull Highlight Quick Grants

Quick Grants continue to be a popular source of funding to bring scholars, authors, and other presenters to the local community. The Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) was able to fund 28 grants in 2006. The grants were distributed to projects in 18 counties, five of which are underserved by art and cultural programming. Here are highlights of two projects in underserved counties that were funded in 2006:

**Voices from Black America at the Niles District Library, Niles.** In celebration of Black History Month, the library presented *Stars of the Harlem Renaissance*, an exhibit of



Fran and Von Washington performed a dramatic portrayal of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King at the Niles District Library on February 21, 2006.

posters featuring stories and photos of Eubie Blake, Aaron Douglas, Langston Hughes, Duke Ellington, and other prominent African Americans. The exhibit was viewed by 8,000 visitors during its tenure last February. In addition, the library hosted Washington Productions on February 21. The performing group presented a mixture of poetry, drama, and commentary about African American life. One feature of the performance was the portrayal of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King as a young couple, falling in love. The audience experienced an important positive and emotional portrayal of prominent African Americans in history.

**Custer Week/ Sitting Bull, Community Foundation of Monroe, Monroe.** The eighth annual Custer Week celebration included an exhibit of Sitting



General George Custer

Bull pictographs, General George Custer's stetson and spurs, and Lakota and Cavalry items from the Little Big Horn National Monument Collection. A highlight of the celebration was the presentation to a crowd of 550 by Ernie LaPointe, Sitting Bull's great-grandson. LaPointe discussed Indian religious beliefs from the time of Sitting Bull, and how that history affects Native Americans today. LaPointe educated the public about socioeconomics in 1876, and how it impacted the Sioux and General Custer. He provided a question-and-answer period following his presentation to discuss some misunderstandings in literature about Native Americans. A scholar evaluating the presentation said: "It was well received and brought understanding of a past time and culture, as well as some insight, into today's Native Americans."

For a list of recent MHC quick grant awards, and to apply for a quick grant, visit [www.michiganhumanities.org/grants](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/grants)

## Meet LaRon Williams

Interviewed by Scott Hirko, Public Relations Officer, Michigan Humanities Council

LaRon Williams has worked the storytelling circuit for 10 years. His story is inspired by a combination of his educational background in children's theater, as a preschool teacher, and his determination to share stories about the role of multiculturalism in American society. He is on a mission, and storytelling is his vehicle.



LaRon Williams

society has been built on economy through the industrial revolution to today, but Africans struggled economically and through slavery. So the African cultures are different and are built humanistically, through compassion and support. The African experience directly impacts how our democracy expanded to a more

participatory government and society.

**Q:** Why storytelling?

**A:** I love it. I love how storytelling brings people together in face-to-face interaction. Storytelling is an answer to the extensive distraction and intermediary communication in today's world. People appreciate the traditions of preserving lore, peace-building, and togetherness.

**Q:** From your perspective, how important is sharing African experiences in our culture?

**A:** There are indispensable lessons that need to be shared about the African experiences in the Western hemisphere. Storytelling preserves the culture and wisdom by grounding it in the history and experiences of how they had to live. Wherever the Africans were, they created a new kind of culture based on caring, sharing, and helping. American

**Q:** What are the themes of your presentations?

**A:** I emphasize self-esteem, conflict resolution, and perseverance. I try to emphasize the African experiences because they are such strong stories of opening up our country and expanding our notion of democracy for greater inclusion.

Williams is a presenter in Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Program. His next gig with the program is February 6, 2007, at Silver Springs Elementary School in Northville. He would like to perform more in high schools and to older adults. To learn more about Williams and the Touring Program, visit [www.michiganhumanities.org/touring](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/touring)

## Remembering Greek Summers ... in Michigan

Did you know that Southwestern Michigan was a haven for Greek immigrants?

The History Center at Courthouse Square is touring an exhibit on the history of Greek immigrants who settled or vacationed in Berrien County beginning more than a century ago. The exhibit features photographs, oral histories, other artifacts, and samples of needlework and other domestic skills as created by local Greek women.

The exhibit will be hosted at the 1839 Courthouse Museum in Berrien Springs through February 9. It will move to the Box Factory for the Arts in St. Joseph and be displayed in the lower gallery from February 10 through February 25. At 1:30 p.m. on February 18, project scholar Elaine Thomopoulos will present a lecture at the Box Factory entitled, *Summer Memories: The Greeks Who Vacationed in Southwestern Michigan*. The public is invited to view the exhibit and attend the lecture, both free of charge.

The exhibit and tour received a \$15,000 grant last year from the Michigan Humanities Council.

## We Made Michigan ... We the People

In its September 15, 2006, *We the People* grant deadline, the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC) asked applicants to explore avenues of work and labor that define the Great Lakes state and its citizens. The MHC sought unique programming opportunities that would enlighten audiences on the value and contributions of its varied work cultures.

*We the People* is a special funding initiative through the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to promote learning and study in the area of history and culture. The MHC applied and was awarded these funds from the NEH, naming the grant program, *We Made Michigan ... We the People*. Grants awarded in this cycle included:

The **Plymouth Community Arts Council** was awarded \$15,000 to recruit local youth to create the exhibit, *The Changing Face of Michigan's Workforce: The Plymouth, Michigan Story*. This project will involve 30 middle and high school students from Plymouth-Canton School Districts in an after-school program. They will document the changing meaning of work in people's lives, using Plymouth as a case study. Participants will engage in historical research and will conduct intergenerational oral history interviews of past and present workers from Plymouth's manufacturing companies. The exhibit will be on display at the Joann Winkelman Hulce Center for the Arts in Plymouth in September 2007.

The **Center for Automotive Heritage at the University of Michigan-Dearborn** was awarded \$14,998 to create the exhibit, *Motor City Voices: Race, Labor, and De-Industrialization*, to depict the history, ideas, and ideals in the labor and community movements of the 1960s and 1970s. The exhibit will focus on: the African American, grassroots labor movement; technological changes; and, economic changes to Detroit neighborhoods.

The exhibit will be online and on display on the University of Michigan-Dearborn campus in October 2007, at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit in November 2007, and at The Henry Ford in Dearborn from November 2007 to January 2008.

The **Holy Hill Trust in Leland** was awarded \$15,000 to create the book, *The Work of Keewaydinoquay*. The project includes researching the journals, work, letters, audio tapes, and oral teaching of Keewaydinoquay. The goal is to create a volume that shares the stories of her working life as a teacher, including her photos, drawings, and poetry. Public and school presentations are planned. The book is the second in a series about Keewaydinoquay. The first, *Keewaydinoquay: Stories from My Youth*, was also funded by the MHC and was recently recognized as a *2007 Michigan Notable Book* by the state Library of Michigan.

The **University of Detroit Mercy Theatre Company** was awarded \$14,742 to tour a condensed version of the play, *Malice Aforethought: The Sweet Trials*, to several underserved locations statewide during May 2007. The touring version will use equity actors to ensure high artistic standards, and will be accompanied by an historical exhibit and a humanities scholar as a moderator.



Ossian Sweet



Pictured here is an African American auto worker at the Wixom car assembly plant, circa 1958.

The issues presented in these programs affect us all as we move through a rapidly changing economy in Michigan. The topics and projects are Michigan stories that should be told to a wider audience. Often we are unaware of significant bits of Michigan history and the noteworthy roles the state's citizenry had in shaping the larger American story.

The MHC fosters opportunities for seniors to interact and share their stories with school-age students and for actors/actresses to portray poignant events so we all can observe the diverse cultures that define our history. The result is that we become stronger, more empathic humans with a passion to explore all the richness and diversity our world has to offer.

Watch for opportunities to attend these local events. Visit our website, [www.michiganhumanities.org](http://www.michiganhumanities.org), for further information and for additional grant opportunities for your community or organization.

# Videos and Radio Boost MCACA-MHC Partnership

by Judith Ann Rapanos, Chair

When I became the Chair of the Michigan Humanities Council, I was aware of its work and embraced its mission to connect people and communities by fostering and creating quality cultural programs.

After a year, I can tell you that it is a privilege to work with such dedicated staff and board members and to be involved with an organization that has a track record of success and is willing to explore new ideas, programs, and partnerships.



The Howells Opera House, which opened in 1881, is featured in a television interstitial to be broadcast this winter on Michigan Public Television stations.

While we have accomplished much, I am going to focus on one of several programs the Council supports through its partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs (MCACA).

The Council's partnership with the MCACA began in 1975 and expanded in the 1990s when a discussion group was formed that included representatives from both Councils and others with strong overlapping interests in the arts and humanities. The outcome of these gatherings was that both Councils would best be served by building a public-private partnership and to begin to develop partnership programs and activities.

The Michigan Radio Project was one of the first initiatives that resulted from this collaboration along with the Arts & Humanities Touring Program. In 2006, the Council expanded its partnership with MCACA and Michigan Media and is producing two- to three- minute segments which air multiple times throughout the year in between public television's programming schedule.

These segments often highlight the emotional impact of the arts and humanities through history, story, revitalization, preservation, community engagement, literature, and creativity. Through this collaboration, we are reaching a broader audience with succinct messages depicting the outstanding cultural and historical treasures in our state.

If you have not seen these interstitials on public television, I encourage you to go to our web site, [michiganhumanities.org/media](http://michiganhumanities.org/media), and experience these pieces that will connect you to our programs, our stories, and our people.



Judy Rapanos

This is just one of many Council programs. Stay tuned! There is more on the horizon as we continue to foster and create quality cultural programs for Michigan citizens.

As we enter 2007, I wish you good fortune, much happiness, and look forward to your continued participation with the Michigan Humanities Council.

## Native American Dances to a Different Drum

Reg Pettibone's masterful ability to engage audiences through Native American dance was once again displayed at a December 6, 2006 performance at the Sanilac Intermediate School District in Peck. Pettibone, a Native American champion dancer from the Ho-Chunk Nation, joined his family with an onstage performance that captivated 350 children and adults. The presentation represented Native American history, song, dance, and customs coupled with strong environmental themes. This is especially important in rural Michigan, where many children may not experience an arts and cultural program.



Reg Pettibone's Authentic Native American Dance & Cultural Program

Reg Pettibone's Authentic Native American Dance and Cultural Program is one of 252 different art and cultural presentations available from Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Program. Presenters in the program include dance, music, storytelling, theater, tradition bearer, and visual artists. This program offers grants to nonprofit organizations to help defray the cost of bringing in a performer, presenter, or artist. In the last grant cycle, 71 grants were awarded for a total of \$27,934 to sponsor 142 programs between October 1, 2006 and March 31, 2007. The next grant application deadline is February 25 through March 10 for programs beginning April 1 through September 30.

For more information, grant applications and guidelines, and for a directory listing all of the performers and the grant application, visit [www.michiganhumanities.org/touring](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/touring). Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Program is a partnership of the Michigan Humanities Council and the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs.

## High Schools Selected for *Poetry Out Loud*

Students from 11 Michigan high schools will participate in the 2007 *Poetry Out Loud* program: Alba Public Schools; Beacon Day Treatment Program, Inkster; Beaverton High School; Bullock Creek High School, Midland; Canton High School; Dansville High School; Holt Senior High School; Houghton High School; Ionia High School; Owosso Christian School; and, Sexton High School, Lansing.

The *Poetry Out Loud* program, a Michigan Humanities Council partnership program with the National Endowment for the Arts, The Poetry Foundation, Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, and the Library of Michigan, encourages high school students to learn about great poetry through memorization, performance, and competition. During the next three months, Language Arts/English teachers from the schools selected to participate will earmark two to three weeks of class time to prepare students for the school competition, advancing to a state competition on March 10. Michigan's champion will compete at the National Finals, to take place April 30-May 1, 2007, in Washington, D.C.

Travis Walter from Holt High School was Michigan's 2006 champion. Margaret Charette, Holt's language arts teacher, said, "I would like to thank you for your efforts in providing my students and Holt Public Schools with the extraordinary opportunity to participate in *Poetry Out Loud*. The lessons and competitions connected with *Poetry Out Loud*

have fostered an interest in poetry that I have not witnessed before in my 16 years of teaching."

*Poetry Out Loud* builds on the resurgence of poetry as an oral art form as seen in the slam poetry movement and the immense popularity of rap music among youth. Through this program, students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, and learn about their literary heritage.

"The public recitation of great poetry," said John Barr, President of the Poetry Foundation, "is a way to honor the speaker, the poem, and the audience all at once. *Poetry Out Loud* brings new energy to an ancient art by returning it to the classrooms of America."

The Michigan Humanities Council is pleased and honored to partner with these outstanding organizations to bring *Poetry Out Loud* to Michigan high school students.



The 2006 *Poetry Out Loud* competition, held at the Wharton Center in East Lansing, featured poetry recitation from 17 high school students.

# Why I Give to the MHC: A Parable

by Yvonne Healy. Yvonne is a storyteller listed in *Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Directory*.



Yvonne Healy

The front door banged, startling the woman. Each day her husband, Liam, foraged for food. Sometimes dinner was rabbit; other days it was only porridge.

"All I found. May be useless. No key for the lock." He dragged a wooden box into the bare room.

Nora offered a knife and an iron pot. "Break it." The lid swung open revealing emptiness. The disheartened man turned away, dropping the pot into the box.

"My only pot!" Nora reached into the box. "H-h-h-ere's one. And two?" She held up one pot her left hand and a second pot in her right.

"H-h-ow?" Liam sputtered.

"You turned." Nora retraced her husband's actions. "Dropped the pot, and..." Two heads leaned over the box. Inside were two pots. Again and again, they tossed in one pot and pulled out two until pots towered beside the box.

"Tomorrow I'll sell those pots."

The next day, the door banged, startling the woman. "All I found." Liam poured silver coins into Nora's lap.

The couple waltzed around the box. Abruptly Nora stopped. She slapped her forehead. She tossed one silver coin into the box. Liam froze. He watched his wife reach into the box. She pulled out one silver coin, reached again, and flashed a second coin. Till daybreak, coins thudded on wood, were retrieved, thrown again or clinked against others in a leather bag. This lucky couple had discovered that giving back doubles our treasure.

Until 2005, I gave tithes to various non-profits, but never to the Michigan Humanities Council (MHC). I figured that my responsibility to Michigan's culture lay in paying taxes, and giving my best as a performer, residency artist, and writer.

When I discovered this folktale, I realized that the Council is our wonderful box. As the tax pie shrinks, more responsibility falls on the people who enjoy Council programs. A thriving culture requires that the arts nourish more than the elite. Outside of large population centers, Michigan offers a wealth of natural beauty; but limited professional arts programs exist without MHC support.

So I began returning a silver coin here, a gold coin there. My donations doubled my treasure. I continue to enjoy Touring Arts Programs in the audience and on stage. Additionally, I help cultivate audiences who will enjoy, value, and support the arts in the future.

Trouble arrives when nothing is put back. Or when what goes back into the box is undesirable. At least that's what Nora discovered when her box was visited by a skunk.

## I Wish to Invest in MHC

You can help bring public humanities programs and more to Michigan and to your community by making a tax-deductible donation as a Friend of the Humanities in Michigan. Contributions will be recognized on the Council website and in a following newsletter.

Friend name  Please list my name as "anonymous."

Address

City / State / Zip

Organization

E-mail address

\$  Check\*  MasterCard  Visa  
Gift Amount

Card number Expiration Date

Your Signature

\*Please make your check payable to *Michigan Humanities Council Friends*.

### I'd like my gift to support:

- Please use my gift where needed, or designate a program:
- The Great Michigan Read  Arts & Humanities Touring Program  
 Michigan Foodways  Endowment
- I would consider making a gift to MHC through my estate plan or will. Please contact me.

### Giving Levels:

- ◆ Sage (\$1,000+)
- ◆ Master (\$250-\$499)
- ◆ Scholar (\$50-\$99)
- ◆ Philosopher (\$500-\$999)
- ◆ Mentor (\$100-\$249)
- ◆ Other: (\$1-\$49)

### Mail this form to:

Michigan Humanities Council  
119 Pere Marquette Dr., Suite 3B  
Lansing, MI 48912-1270

### Or, contribute on-line:

[www.michiganhumanities.org/getinvolved/friends.htm](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/getinvolved/friends.htm)

## NEH Idea of America Essay Contest Finalist from Michigan ... Again

Michigan stands out among the 50 states in one particular instance: it is the only state to send a student to the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) *We the People* essay contest finals in each of the last three years.

This year, **Sang "Bill" Jung**, 17, of Rochester Hills, joined three other high school seniors as finalists in the nationwide *Idea of America* Essay Contest. The contest is part of the NEH's *We the People* program to improve the understanding of American history. Each winner received a prize of \$1,000 and attended a national awards ceremony and dinner held November 6 at the Supreme Court, hosted by the NEH. Jung's essay was selected out of more than 1,600 received.

Jung wrote about the historical debate the founders had over the benefits and disadvantages of adopting the First Amendment to the Constitution. He, and his peers, explained whether the freedoms named in the First Amendment are fundamental to the

functioning of our American democracy. Jung wrote:

We rely on the civil liberties enshrined in the First Amendment everywhere today, whether it is seeing the free American press expose corruption, being able to choose which religion we want to believe in, participating in a rally for human rights, or making a speech with a free conscience. One can only imagine how different America would have been

without these civil liberties; we would have been a nation where Martin Luther King, Jr. could not have delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, a nation with a state-controlled media and an everlasting corrupt bureaucracy, or a nation that forces all its citizens to follow a predestined religion under its theocracy. We have used the First Amendment to fight against racism, totalitarianism, and social injustice

while protecting our democratic values, free conscience, and inalienable rights. When people ask me, "What is America," I know what to answer: "our liberties, our democracy, our freedom."

Other previous Michigan finalists include: **Ian Gilbert**, 17, of Beverly Hills, in 2005, and **Leah Nolan**, 17, of Twin Lake, in 2004. Gilbert's essay confronted the questions: "How were the tenets of . . . totalitarian movements different from the ideals that unite Americans? How did the ideals embodied in the American founding prevail?" Nolan responded to the query, "How does the Gettysburg Address reflect America's founding ideas, and what is the relevance of the speech today?"

The Michigan Humanities Council congratulates Jung and each of the previous finalists on their accomplishments. For more information on the NEH, the *We the People* program, grants, and other awards, visit [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).



# Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways

## Aperitif

**February 15, 2007**

Michigan Foodways Website Launch  
Voting Begins: Michigan Recipe Story Contest  
[www.michiganfoodways.org](http://www.michiganfoodways.org)

Check out the official *Michigan Foodways* website, with profiles of host venues, foodways trivia, an interactive Michigan food map, a calendar of *Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* events – and more!

Also, make sure to vote in the Michigan Recipe Story Contest! Each *Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* community has submitted a nomination to vie for the distinction of “Official State Recipe for *Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways*.” Peruse the recipes, read the story behind the recipe, and vote for your favorite at [www.michiganfoodways.org](http://www.michiganfoodways.org).



## Hors d'Oeuvres

**March 19, 2007, 7:00-9:30 PM**

Michigan Foodways Dinner at the Common Grill, Chelsea

Feast on Chef Craig Common's interpretation of the ultimate Michigan meal at his renown restaurant, The Common Grill. Proceeds benefit the *Michigan Foodways* exhibit. Tickets: \$100 including wine pairings for four courses and entertainment by special guest, Arts & Humanities Touring Program performer, Mr. B., Mark Lincoln Braun. For tickets, visit [www.michiganfoodways.org](http://www.michiganfoodways.org) or purchase at The Common Grill. Limited seating.

### First Course

Peppered smoked salmon potato leek cake with morel basil butter. Served with a Michigan sparkling wine.

### Salad Course

Roasted duck confit salad with mixed baby greens, roasted pears, sugared black walnuts dressed with a Michigan Port wine vinaigrette. Served with a Michigan red wine.

### Entrée Course

Parmesan encrusted Lake Superior whitefish with Michigan bean compote, sweet corn risotto and steamed asparagus. Served with a Michigan white wine.

### Dessert Course

Sweet and tart Traverse City cherry cobbler with streusel topping and vanilla bean ice cream. Served with a Michigan Riesling.

**April 21, 2007, 7:00-9:30 PM**

Michigan Foodways Chef Challenge at Schoolcraft College  
VisTaTech Center, Schoolcraft College, Livonia

What if three alumni and one student from one of America's finest culinary arts schools competed in a bid to make the perfect Michigan meal? Find out at this culinary competition and dining experience.

The audience will be treated to a roving, Michigan-themed dinner with wine and dessert while viewing the competition live on the VisTaTech Center's state-of-the-art audio-visual equipment. After dinner, celebrity judges - including *Detroit Free Press* food writer Sylvia Rector - will rate the chefs and determine the winner. Proceeds benefit the *Michigan Foodways* exhibit and Schoolcraft College.

Tickets \$100, including roving, Michigan-themed dinner and two drinks; corporate packages and sponsorships available. For tickets, visit [www.michiganfoodways.org](http://www.michiganfoodways.org). Limited seating.

## Entrées

**May 26, 2007, 8:00 AM-2:00 PM**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* State Kickoff and Chelsea Market Faire  
Downtown Chelsea and Chelsea District Library, Chelsea

Join the celebration as Michigan comes together to kickoff *Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways*! Tour the exhibits, visit the Chelsea Farmers Market, sample Michigan foods, check out the petting zoo, watch chef demonstrations – and more! All in the picture-perfect atmosphere of downtown Chelsea.

**May 26-July 8, 2007**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* in Chelsea  
Chelsea District Library, Chelsea

Visit the exhibits – along with their local counterpart, Chelsea Foodways – in the Chelsea District Library's fabulous new downtown location. Maybe even plan a tour of the Jiffy Mix plant, just a few blocks away, or stop for a bite at The Common Grill, across the street!

**July 13-August 26, 2007**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* in Calumet  
Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's, Calumet

There's more to U.P. foodways than pasty. Find out when the exhibits arrive in Calumet, located in the heart of Copper Country. The Keweenaw Heritage Center at St. Anne's – a former church – is perhaps the most unique venue on the tour. Sample cudighi, thimbleberry jam, pasty, and other regional delicacies.

**August 31-October 14, 2007**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* in Cheboygan  
Cheboygan Area Public Library, Cheboygan

What's cooking in Cheboygan? For starters, visit the exhibits – and their local component – in the newly renovated and expanded library. After hitting the road with the Cheboygan-area foodways driving tour, maybe settle in for the Local Flavors dinner. Join the tour as the autumn harvest kicks into high gear.

## Desserts

**October 19-December 2, 2007**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* in Whitehall  
White Lake Community Library, Whitehall

It's all about flaming fish cauldrons and locally grown asparagus in Whitehall. The White Lake Community Library, with architecture inspired by the Prairie School, will host the exhibits as they pass through one of Michigan's most important agricultural regions.

**December 7, 2007-January 27, 2008**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* in Frankenmuth  
Frankenmuth Historical Museum, Frankenmuth

The weather may turn frightful, but the Frankenmuth Historical Museum is a delightful venue for the exhibits. Situated in a former hotel dating to 1905, the museum offers a fascinating look at local history. Food is ubiquitous in Frankenmuth and the exhibits are a perfect compliment.

**February 1-March 16, 2008**

*Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways* in Dundee  
Old Mill Museum, Dundee

First of all, muskrat is a fish. Second of all, the preferred method of preparation is parboiling. Intrigued? Head southeast to the wonderful Old Mill Museum – a destination in its own right – and learn more. It may pay to visit Dundee a few weeks early (usually early January) to sample the famed muskrat.



*Key Ingredients* is part of the Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for the Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and the Hearst Foundation. Michigan Foodways is presented by the Michigan Humanities Council and MSU Museum, with support from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, Select Michigan, Schoolcraft College, The Common Grill, Michigan Sugar Company, MSU Agricultural Experiment Station, MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and MSU Extension.



# Michigan Humanities Council

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# FEEDBACK

Rating scale: 1=not interesting. 2=mildly interesting. 3=interesting. 4=very interesting. 5=fascinating

Overall, what do you think of the <i>Michigan Humanities Newsletter</i> ?	1	2	3	4	5
What do you think of the following stories:					
Council Announces <i>The Great Michigan Read</i> (p. 1)	1	2	3	4	5
Picking the Best in Mitt Lit (p. 1)	1	2	3	4	5
Five Join MHC Board of Directors (p. 2)	1	2	3	4	5
Call for Nominations (p. 2)	1	2	3	4	5
An Uncertain Future (p. 3)	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Voices of Black America, Custer Week/Sitting Bull</i> Highlight Quick Grants (p. 3)	1	2	3	4	5
Communities Rave About Touring Program (p. 3)	1	2	3	4	5
Meet LaRon Williams (p. 4)	1	2	3	4	5
Remembering Greek Summers ... In Michigan (p. 4)	1	2	3	4	5
<i>We Made Michigan ... We the People</i> (p. 4)	1	2	3	4	5
Videos and Radio Boost MCACA-MHC Partnership (p. 5)	1	2	3	4	5
High Schools Selected for Poetry Out Loud (p. 5)	1	2	3	4	5
Native American Dances to a Different Drum (p. 5)	1	2	3	4	5
Why I Give to MHC: A Parable (p. 6)	1	2	3	4	5
NEH <i>Idea of America</i> Essay Contest Finalist From Michigan ... Again (p. 6)	1	2	3	4	5
I Wish to Invest in MHC (p. 6)	1	2	3	4	5
<i>Key Ingredients Michigan Foodways</i> (p. 7)	1	2	3	4	5

What would you like to see, and what would you not like to see in the newsletter? Please provide any other comments:

The Michigan Humanities Council is interested in your comments. You can provide feedback by responding online, or completing the form at right and returning it.

**Mail:**  
Michigan Humanities Council  
119 Pere Marquette, Suite 3B  
Lansing, MI 48912

**Fax:** 517-372-0027

**Online:** [www.michiganhumanities.org/feedback](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/feedback)

Thank you for your time and support.

Your name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Your address (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Your phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_