



Council Announces

# Picturing America in Michigan

## Supporting Programs for Picturing America Schools



**Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities, interacts with students at a Picturing America classroom.**

The Michigan Humanities Council announces *Picturing America in Michigan*, a series of supporting programs for Michigan's 900-plus *Picturing America* schools and libraries.

Funding for *Picturing America in Michigan* is provided in part by a \$149,450 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

*Picturing America* is a National Endowment for the Humanities initiative that utilizes art as a tool for exploring American history. Participating schools and libraries receive a set of 40 large-format reproductions of American art masterpieces ranging from Native American baskets to photographs from the Civil Rights era. A resource guide augments the prints.

The Council's supporting programs include a museum partnership, a high school documentary program, and a teacher seminar series.

Twelve of Michigan's leading art museums are partnering with the Council to offer museum visits and in-class programs designed to complement the *Picturing America* prints. Programs range from docent-led tours of American art at the Detroit Institute of Arts to in-class programs featuring Native American art from the DeVos Art Museum at Northern Michigan University.

The Council offers funding to offset program fees and transportation (including busing) for eligible classrooms and libraries. The museum partnership begins November 1, 2008 and concludes at the end of the 2008-09 school year.

Students at 14 *Picturing America* high schools will develop their own visions of America in the *Picturing Your Community in America* documentary program. Producers from Michigan Television (WFUM) will teach the basics of documentary filmmaking to teachers and students, who

will shoot still photographs and record audio interviews to create a short film exploring their community's role in American history.

In-class producer visits begin in January 2009. In May 2009, the documentaries will be exhibited online, creating a mosaic of videos from high school students in all corners of the state.

Teachers from *Picturing America* classrooms are eligible to attend a seminar series presented by museum professionals and college professors. Held at museums and universities

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*14 Picturing America high schools will develop their own visions of America...*

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statewide, topics include themes in American art history and suggestions for incorporating art into social studies curricula. The Council will cover seminar fees and travel expenses. Seminars are scheduled for January-May 2009. Program descriptions and application instructions for the Michigan Humanities Council's *Picturing America in Michigan* program can be found online at [www.michiganhumanities.org/picturingamerica](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/picturingamerica).

### Applying for Picturing America

Teachers may apply to the National Endowment for the Humanities to receive the *Picturing America* prints and resource guide (next deadline: October 31, 2008) at: [picturingamerica.neh.gov](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov)

For a listing of participating **Museums and Schools Offering the Picturing America in Michigan** program, see page 2.

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[michiganhumanities.org](http://michiganhumanities.org)

## Quick Grants

## Help Boost Public Humanities Programming

*How Kellogg Community College used quick grants to support a dialogue on Jewish identity*

Engaging the public through programs that enhance cultural understanding is an important goal of the Michigan Humanities Council. One way the Council accomplishes this is by providing resources to nonprofit organizations in the form of quick grants of up to \$500 each. Organizations can apply year-round to help bring humanities opportunities to communities throughout the state.

A recent program funded by a quick grant was "Let's Talk About It," hosted at Kellogg Community College (KCC) in September and October. The program was a reading and discussion series focusing on Jewish identity and culture. Each meeting in the bi-weekly series used a different piece of Jewish literature to frame discussion on the theme of "Between Two Worlds: Stories of Estrangement and Homecoming." Literature selected for the program series included: *Exodus*; *Lost in Translation*

by Eva Hoffman; *The Centaur in the Garden* by Moacyr Scliar; *Kaaterskill Falls* by Allegra Goodman; and, *Out of Egypt* by André Aciman.

"The series has far exceeded our expectations," said Martha Stilwell, director of library services at KCC and the project's director. "We are seeing people who have not come together before become engaged in meaningful cultural conversation." Up to 40 individuals participated in each of the sessions, including members from the community, Lakeview High School, and Temple Beth El. Stilwell noted the success of the program was demonstrated with a majority of the participants coming from outside the KCC campus. Furthermore, two college courses incorporated sessions from the series into their fall curriculum: "Narratives of the Immigration Experience in America" at KCC and "Significant Literary Works" at Miller College.

*continued on page 7*



# Council Concludes 2007-08 Great Michigan Read

On July 10, 2008, the Michigan Humanities Council concluded the 2007-08 *Great Michigan Read* with a Michigan Author Homecoming featuring Richard Ford, Jim Harrison, and Thomas McGuane. The literary superstars, each with Michigan roots, packed Wharton Center at Michigan State University with an over-capacity crowd estimated at 800.

The event wrapped up a year of programs encouraging Michigani-ans to read literature by focusing on a single Michigan literary masterpiece: Ernest Hemingway's *The Nick Adams Stories*.

More than 500 related programs and events occurred in libraries, schools, and other cultural organizations in 75 of the state's 83 counties. A related traveling exhibit toured 30 locations from Norway to Colon. More than 300,000 *Detroit Free Press* readers experienced a special section featuring "Big Two-Hearted River," an iconic Nick Adams tale. Thousands of copies of the book were sold at Meijer, Borders,

Barnes & Noble, Schuler Books & Music, and other partners at more than 150 retail outlets statewide.

"The 2007-08 *Great Michigan Read* surpassed all of our expectations," said Janice Fedewa, executive director of the Michigan Humanities Council. "We have big shoes to fill for 2009-10."

The Council has started planning the 2009-10 *Great Michigan Read*, which features a regional selection process. Five libraries have agreed to host their region's selection committees: Peter White Public Library (Marquette), Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library, Grand Rapids Public Library, Public Libraries of Saginaw, and the Plymouth District Library.

Each regional committee is charged with nominating three Michigan-related titles for consideration. In December 2008, regional representatives will meet with the Council to determine the 2009-10 title. The selection and related programs will be announced in July 2009.



On July 10, an over-capacity crowd of 800 witnessed the Michign Author Homecoming at the Wharton Center at Michigan State University.

Courtesy of Lynne Brown

# Picturing America

continued from page 1.

[picturingamerica.neh.gov](http://picturingamerica.neh.gov)

## Museum Partners:

Saginaw Art Museum  
Dennos Museum Center (Traverse City)  
University of Michigan Museum of Art (Ann Arbor)  
Cranbrook Art Museum (Bloomfield Hills)  
Detroit Institute of Arts  
Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History (Jackson)  
Kresge Art Museum (East Lansing)  
Flint Institute of Arts  
DeVos Art Museum (Marquette)  
Kalamazoo Institute of Arts  
Muskegon Museum of Art  
Urban Institute for Contemporary Art (Grand Rapids)

## Picturing Your Community in America Documentary Program Schools:

Frankfort High School  
Bear Lake High School  
Bay City Central High School  
Oasis High School (Mount Pleasant)  
Nah Tah Wahsh (Soaring Eagle) School (Wilson)  
Burt Township School (Grand Marais)  
Allegan Senior High School  
Hartland High School  
Everett High School (Lansing)  
Detroit International Academy  
Warren Mott High School  
Harper Woods High School  
Bloomfield Hills International Academy  
Waterford Mott High School



# Three Civic Leaders Join Council's Board of Directors

In 2008, the Michigan Humanities Council welcomed three individuals to its Board of Directors: two appointed by Governor Jennifer Granholm and the other elected by the board. The two gubernatorial appointments are Marcia Warner of Grand Rapids and Eva Evans of Lansing. They will serve until December 31, 2009. Ed Bagale will serve until December 31, 2010. The Michigan Humanities Council's Board of Directors currently consists of 22 members whose responsibilities include program and proposal review, planning, fundraising, advocacy for the humanities, liaison to projects, and other representation of the Council at activities around the state. Six members of the Council are gubernatorial appointees while the Council Board elected 16.

**Ed Bagale** of Bloomfield Hills is the Vice Chancellor for Government Relations at the University of Michigan-Dearborn. Bagale is the University's chief government relations officer, serving in this role since 1985. He serves as a consultant and special assistant to the president of The Henry Ford and is on the boards of directors of The Dearborn Community Fund, the Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services, the Arab American Chamber of Commerce, and MotorCities/Automotive National Heritage Area Partnership. He is vice chair of the Henry Ford Hospital and Health Network Board of Trustees and is also the co-chair of the Rouge River Gateway Partnership.



Ed Bagale

University of Michigan-Dearborn

**Eva Evans** of Lansing is a retired Interim Associate Superintendent for Human Resources and Deputy Superintendent for Instruction of the Lansing School District. She has more than 30 years of experience with the Lansing schools, including service in educational planning, as an assistant principal, English teacher, and elementary school teacher. Evans is a founder of the Lansing Association of Black Organizations and the "Be A Star" Children's Performing Arts Program. She previously served as the chairperson of Michigan State University's annual alumni program, "Kaleidoscope," and is a former commissioner to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights and the Lansing Board of Water and Light.



Eva Evans

Eva Evans

**Marcia Warner** of Grand Rapids is the Director of the Grand Rapids Public Library, a position she has held since 2004. Her prior experience includes the Director of the Public Libraries of Saginaw from 2001-2004 and as its Associate Director from 1998-2001. Other prior experiences include serving as the head of the Hoyt Library in Saginaw, as Library Development Coordinator of the White Pine Library Cooperative, and as the Director of the Bullard Sanford Memorial Library in Vassar. She served as the president of the Michigan Library Association and currently serves on the boards of directors of the Public Library Association, the West Michigan Women's Study Council, and the North American Choral Company Board.



Marcia Warner

Brian Kelly



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## 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.

Designed by:  
Media Graphics, Inc.  
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# History Uncovered at Fort St. Joseph

By Jan Fedewa, Executive Director,  
Michigan Humanities Council



Jan Fedewa

Courtesy of Lynne Brown



Michigan Humanities Council

Artifacts uncovered at Fort St. Joseph in Niles were displayed for the media to help publicize its Archaeological Open House on July 26-27.

As the end of the year approaches, I often reflect upon the programs we've supported through our grant program, "Michigan People, Michigan Places . . . Our Stories, Our Lives." Throughout the year, Scott and I travel to various communities to award grants and present projects to the media and the public.

Recently, we participated in Media Day sponsored by Western Michigan University. The University was awarded a \$6,000 grant to help host the 2008 Fort St. Joseph Archaeological Project Open House.

It was a fascinating experience. The activities, the story, the setting, and the project genuinely intrigued the invited guests.

Since 1998, the faculty and students at Western Michigan University have been researching and identifying the physical remains of Fort St. Joseph, one of the most important Colonial outposts in the western Great Lakes. This is the third year the Open House attracted more than 2,000 Michigan citizens who toured the area along the river, observed the ongoing excavation by the students, and studied the artifacts collected from the site.

According to the researchers, building foundations, fireplaces and hearths, religious and other artifacts of everyday life have been uncovered. An early discovery that has researchers somewhat perplexed was what is believed to be a "religious artifact tentatively identified as a cilice, a penitential tool that was referenced in *The DaVinci Code*." Dr. Michael Nassaney, the project director, believes it offers an important clue about religious life at the Fort on the edge of the French Empire.

To date, the project has uncovered more than 100,000 artifacts and animal bones that are believed to be connected to French and English occupations of the Fort located along the St. Joseph River. When Dr. Nassaney was asked to identify his favorite find of those uncovered, he said, "Artifacts are like my children. How can you say which is your favorite?"

This is only one example of the many humanities programs and projects the Council funds. In fiscal year 2007-08, we invested about \$335,000 that generated more than \$1 million in economic activity.

Not all our projects focus on an archeological dig, but most of our funded programs present a story about Michigan people and places that needs to be fostered and shared. As Dr. Nassaney said, "You learn something about the 18th century that in a very real way teaches us something about ourselves." I could not have said it better. This is the humanities at its best.

Jan Fedewa



# Council Awarded \$225,000 for Arts and Humanities Programs



The Michigan Humanities Council received a \$225,000 grant from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural

Affairs (MCACA) to implement a variety of statewide arts and cultural programs over the next year. The grant will help fund *Michigan's Arts & Humanities Media Program*, which includes arts and humanities features broadcast on Michigan Public Radio as well as three-minute cultural segments broadcast on Michigan Public Television stations. The grant also will help support the *Poetry Out Loud* program in participating schools and the state championship final; transportation grants of up to \$500 each for arts and humanities-related K-12 school field trips; and, the *Arts & Humanities Touring Program*.

## Transportation Grants Available to Help Schools Attend Cultural Programs

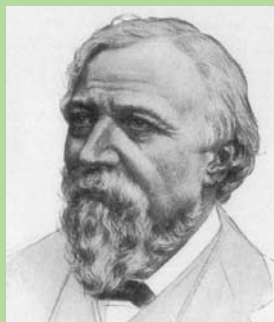


To help meet the costs for educational trips to arts and cultural programs and venues, the Michigan Humanities Council and the MCACA are offering grants of up to \$500 to any accredited Michigan K-12 public school. Priority will be given to schools and communities that are underserved by arts and cultural programs. Awards will be made available until funding is exhausted. Applications must be completed four weeks prior to each trip.

Application is on-line only: visit [www.michiganhumanities.org/transportation](http://www.michiganhumanities.org/transportation) for application and guidelines.

## Changing School Culture with Poetry

### Out Loud



Robert Browning

*That's my last Duchess painted on the wall,  
Looking as if she were alive. I call  
That piece a wonder, now; Frà Pandolf's hands  
Worked busily a day, and there she stands.*

— from "My Last Duchess,"  
by Robert Browning.

Does Robert Browning's poem intrigue you to read and learn more? It did for Charles White, the senior from Forest Hills Central (Grand Rapids) High School. Last spring, White recited Browning's work with his own style en route to being selected Michigan's *Poetry Out Loud* champion. He advanced to the championship round of 12 finalists at the national competition in Washington, D.C.

White is one of 1,787 students who have participated in the annual contest since *Poetry Out Loud* debuted in Michigan in the 2005-2006 school year. Margie Charette, an English teacher at Holt High School and instructor for the first two *Poetry Out Loud* state champions, has seen the positive impact of the program at her school. "Teachers should participate because of the positive impact of *Poetry Out Loud* on school culture," said Charette. "It accelerated student participation once they learned of their potential to advance to the state championships, and with prizes and awards relating to the arts. Suddenly, students who might not have shown an interest in the arts or English were pulled in by the energy that was created."

Judy Zimpfer, English teacher at Alba Public School, agreed: "I could sense a real difference in the acceptance of students required to memorize a poem. Little coercion was necessary to have them analyze and interpret their poems."

Charette noted that there were surprising benefits to special education students, many of whom were

given the opportunity to come out of their shell with their participation in *Poetry Out Loud*. "Last year, a deaf student participated; she both spoke and signed the poem. She knows when she speaks it sounds different. But, her interpretation was beautiful and she moved students to tears. Watching the special education student receive praise was amazing. It was an important cultural shift in the school."

Zimpfer also noted improvement among academically challenged students: "One of my most moving experiences was when a very shy and low-achieving eighth grade girl memorized a poem and entered the school-wide competition. She presented with no errors!"

The program, now in its fourth year, has provided an opportunity for the school to move beyond the athletics-competitive culture at Holt with a new program that draws student interest from all walks of life. "*Poetry Out Loud* helps raise the level of personal expectations the students have on themselves," said Charette. "Now, the school sees it is a cool thing to do, to know a poem inside and out. Students want to watch their peers aspire to do something at such a high level and meet or exceed it."

Students participating in *Poetry Out Loud* will experience a workshop and guidance from a poet as teachers prepare students for school

and state competitions. The Michigan Humanities Council will provide curricular materials and an audio CD of poetry recitation to teachers. By late February 2009, teachers must select one student to represent their school in the state competition. The state competition is scheduled for March 7, 2009, at the Library of Michigan in Lansing. The winner will be named Michigan's *Poetry Out Loud* representative for the national competition. The national competition will be held in Washington, D.C., from April 26-28, 2009.

English and Language Arts teachers in all of the state's high schools are invited to contact the Council by November 1, 2008, if interested in participating. Teachers can contact the Council by phone or email. *Poetry Out Loud* is a Michigan Humanities Council partnership with the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Poetry Foundation, and the Library of Michigan.

michigan ARTS & HUMANITIES  
2009-2012 • TOURING DIRECTORY

## Be a Part of Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Directory

The Michigan Humanities Council is now accepting applications for the 2009-12 Arts & Humanities Touring Directory.

The Touring Directory is Michigan's most comprehensive listing of formally adjudicated performing and visual artists and humanities presenters. Performing artists, storytellers, theater performers, tradition bearers, traveling exhibitions, and visual artists are encouraged to apply. Thousands of nonprofit organizations in the state, including K-12 schools, municipalities, and cultural centers, use the directory as a resource to contract some of Michigan's highest-quality cultural performances and presentations. In addition, the Arts &

Humanities Touring Program awards grants of up to 40 percent (effective with the new edition) to nonprofit organizations to help fund the cost to host presenters and performers listed in the directory.

Statistics from 2006-2009 Touring Directory help to demonstrate its diversity. The 2006-2009 directory has 248 listings, including: 136 music performers and groups; 33 theater performers; 26 storytellers; 24 exhibits and visual artists; 16 dance acts; and, 13 tradition bearers. Notably, 106 of the listings were new to the directory when

first published in 2006. The 248 listings in the directory were approved among a total of 330 applications received.

Applications and guidelines are available on the Council's website. Applications must include proof of Michigan residency, photos, video or audio of performances (if applicable), publicity materials, work samples, and three references. The one-time fee to apply is \$75. Adjudication will occur in January 2009 and announcement of selection is in May 2009. Applications are due November 14, 2008.

## Cultural Tourism, Arts Education, and the Arts & Humanities Touring Program in Lapeer

Arts and humanities programming in Michigan's school system has an important role in the ability of youth to learn from multicultural experiences and expose them to creativity through artistic expression. And, since 1998, *Michigan's Arts & Humanities Touring Program* has succeeded in reaching youth with quality cultural programming. An example of the impact of the program to communities and students will occur through the month of October, when the exhibit *Ancient Legends as Art* is installed at Gallery 194 by the City of Lapeer.

*Ancient Legends as Art* is a unique cultural presentation that melds art and literature. It enables the public to enjoy life-sized figures from myths and legends around the world. The exhibit provides an opportunity to experience cultural diversity through the arts and humanities. The exhibit is free to the public. In addition, the exhibit creator, artist Barbara Weisenburg, will present a workshop to third and fourth graders on October 15 and another workshop for high school students and adults that evening. The workshops provide an opportunity to learn directly from the artist and for students to create their own artistic works. She will be present for a reception featuring her and the students' work on October 17, with music and storytelling from the indigenous

cultures that inspire the student creations. The student artwork will remain on display through November 8. The Council spoke with Carolyn McCarter, director of Gallery 194 and the City of Lapeer's Downtown Development Authority executive director, about her experience coordinating her ideas with the *Arts & Humanities Touring Program* and the potential impact of the program on the community.

**Q:** How did you learn about the Arts & Humanities Touring Program?

**A:** I found out about the Touring Program from my predecessors who had scheduled a touring exhibit, *Quilting Sisters: African-American Quilting in Michigan*. We used the exhibit as an opportunity to reach beyond Lapeer by inviting artists and Ghanaian musicians to an event at the gallery. In addition, we invited some of our local 4-H students who helped an African American quilter from the west side of the state research her history through Underground Railroad quilting codes. We exhibited the students' quilting blocks as complementary art to the exhibit. After success with the *Quilting Sisters* I knew I could find something culturally interesting for this season with the possibility of some funding. I love the *Arts & Humanities Touring Directory*. It sparks all kinds of ideas and is inspiring – it is an amazing resource! I appreciated the application process. It was very straightforward. We are in the trenches here with things flying at us every minute, so making it simple is helpful!

**Q:** Why did you choose the *Ancient Legends as Art* exhibit?

**A:** On October 18, the Pix Theater [housed next door in downtown Lapeer] will host a

performance by the Great Plains Indians, and they wanted a reception featuring their Native food and art in Gallery 194. Student artwork from the workshops will dress the Pix stage for the October 18 performance. I looked in the Touring Directory to search for artwork to complement their presentation and found *Ancient Legends as Art*. Visual art inspired by indigenous legends from cultures around the globe seemed to accompany the Native American tradition.

**Q:** How will this exhibit affect local residents?

**A:** Part of what the Lapeer Center for the Arts Council wants to do is bring regional and national art to the community without traveling distances. The focus of Gallery 194 is to bring the outside in. This touring exhibit provides an opportunity to bring artistic and cultural programming to the community that might not otherwise be available.

**Q:** How did you involve schools and why is that important?

**A:** I had the idea to bring in 60 children for a workshop relating to Native American traditions. It blossomed into an event that encompasses native cultures around the globe with two unique performances and secondary exhibits inspired by *Ancient Legends as Art* at Gallery 194. By the end of the exhibit we will reach at least 1,000 students.

It is important for our children to be exposed to arts and culture – they are our future; they need access to art, it is a life force. For the students to have their work exhibited gives them a whole different perspective and it inspires them. And, the students have a great opportunity to learn from an artist whose experience goes beyond Lapeer County. The students' artwork is amazing and awe-inspiring to the greater community. We want to give voice to that as well. The area has a strong art program but not a lot of money, so it is built on the back of the art educators. The Touring Program support helps the gallery to meet the community's need to grow art education with featured and local artists.

*Ancient Legends as Art* has served as a catalyst for a variety of cultural programs in Lapeer this fall. The exhibit display received support from the Arts & Humanities Touring Program.



# On Supporting the Public Humanities

by Doug Haneline

Haneline is Co-President of Artworks: Arts and Humanities in Big Rapids. From 1996-2000 he served on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Humanities Council. He continues to serve the Council as a grant reader and project evaluator.



I have been involved in public programming in the arts and humanities in Michigan now for over 20 years, and I find myself reflecting from time to time on this question: “What is needed for the arts and humanities to prosper?” What, in other words, needs to be present for our communities and state to be enriched by the insights that the humanities bring to our lives?

A good place to start is with members of the public. The level of public interest in the humanities is widespread and overwhelming. One of the things I learned this year when I participated in *The Great Michigan Read* was how many book clubs there are in everywhere in Michigan. These clubs meet regularly and enthusiastically discuss sophisticated literary

works—without a teacher, without the spur of a test or a grade, without publicity. They read and discuss for pleasure.

But, in addition, a network of humanities-related organizations needs to be present: universities, historical and author societies, and foundations. These organizations have humanities scholars on staff or are organized around the study of a humanities-related subject. They are easier to find in larger cities and metropolitan areas, but they are present even in

helps enrich the public arena in the humanities by providing the stimulus of support for planning grants, as well as expertise that is vital for local groups not necessarily experienced in putting on a successful public humanities program. It also provides links to resources, not merely from its own staff, but also from scholars and consultants. The Council has been doing this successfully since 1974 on a very modest budget.

And, this brings us to the occasion of this letter. I contribute annually to the Michigan Humanities

*The Michigan Humanities Council provides the essential link that enables local organizations to work together more effectively to create a humanities-rich environment for all of us.*

smaller communities throughout the state. Finally, networking organizations need to be present. These organizations, frequently with relatively little in the way of resources, do their job by connecting one another and by providing seed money. The Michigan Humanities Council is an organization that meets these criteria. The Council

Council. If you believe it’s important to have the humanities as part of the public discourse in our state, you should, too. The Michigan Humanities Council provides the essential link that enables local organizations to work together more effectively to create a humanities-rich environment for all of us.

## Thank You to our Supporters

Contributions during the Fiscal Year 2007: November 1, 2006 to October 31, 2007.

Annual fundraising success requires broad-based support. Annual gifts help support public humanities programs and events throughout the entire state. Michigan Humanities Council depends on the generosity of many donors.

## We are grateful to each of you.

### More than \$25,000

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs  
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Susan & Oliver Cameron, Ann Arbor

Marsha Chamberlin, Ann Arbor  
Deborah Chang, Lansing

Mr. & Mrs. Robert S. Collier, Grand Rapids  
Dorothy & Russell Collins, Ann Arbor

Ruth & Jerry Collins, Rochester Hills  
Cindy & Phil Dimitrijevic, Holt

Joseph Drutin, Novi  
Fernon P. Feenstra, Livonia

Caryl & Robert Ferguson, Ludington  
GRAYMATTERS, Shelby Township

David Grossman, Franklin  
Mr. & Mrs. E. Hale Hamilton, Commerce  
Township

Ellen & Douglas Haneline, Big Rapids  
Sonia & Bobby Harris, Plymouth

Yvonne Healy & Robin Mancuso, Howell  
Barbara Heller, Birmingham

Lora Helou & Tim Hoefner, Grand Ledge  
Martin M. Herman, Detroit

Julie & David Hermann, Chelsea  
Scott Hirko & Mary Jo Songstad, East Lansing

Susan & Al Holben, Lansing  
Horizon Health Center, Southfield

Lawrence Technological University  
Julie Leizerman, Swanton

Rosane & Thomas Maccheke, Chelsea  
Maner, Costerian & Ellis, PC, Lansing

Michael Margolin, Detroit  
Terri Marra & Monique Deichane, Ann Arbor

J. A. McDonough, Ann Arbor  
Jennifer Melas, Livonia

Debbie Merion, Ann Arbor  
Milton E. Muelder, East Lansing

Carol & Robert Mull, Ann Arbor  
Ursula & Vincent Murray, Farmington Hills

Shawn Nethercott, Detroit  
Erik Nordberg, Calumet

Northfield Human Services, Whitmore Lake  
Phyllis Rathbun, Lansing

Amy & Brooke Reed, Ypsilanti  
Nancy Reppeke, Livonia

Paula Ross, Toledo, Ohio  
Cathy Raus, Chelsea

Jennie & Mike Sanders, Lansing  
Joanne Schaefer, East Lansing

Conrad Schaffer, Ann Arbor  
Nancy & David Siegel, Farmington Hills

Judy Sima, Howell  
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Caroline B. & Dean S. Smith, Ann Arbor  
Lorna Straus, Mackinac Island

Sharon Sundling, Chelsea  
Lynne Swanson, East Lansing

A. Ann & Anthony Tai, Plymouth  
Larry Teal, Highland

Mr. & Mrs. C. Timmons, Mackinac Island  
Marge & James Tottis, Canton

Wayne State University  
Nancy Wireman, Lansing

Jennifer & John Wise, Morrice  
Yahoo! Incorporated, Sunnyvale,

California  
Richard Jellum, Midland

Lisa Kenney, Lansing  
Jenny Kronk, Petoskey

Judith K. Moore, Okemos  
Shawn Personke, Chelsea

Glenda D. Price, Detroit  
Margaret Weiner, Huntington Woods

### Financial Statement

Fiscal year ending October 31, 2007

#### Revenue and Expenses

<b>Revenue:</b>	
NEH	\$941,052
MCACA	\$181,126
Gift income	\$67,377
Interest income	\$8,664
Program and misc. income	\$3,786
Endowment	\$2,100
Total revenue	\$1,204,105
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Program services and grants	\$903,124
Management and general	\$228,747
Fundraising	\$25,331
Total expenses	\$1,157,202
Increase in net assets	\$46,903

Richard Jellum, Midland  
Lisa Kenney, Lansing

Jenny Kronk, Petoskey  
Judith K. Moore, Okemos

Shawn Personke, Chelsea  
Glenda D. Price, Detroit

Margaret Weiner, Huntington Woods  
Catherine Anderson, Beverly Hills

Jan Andre, Grand Rapids  
Nancy Angelo, Jackson

Anne & Rob Burns, Rochester  
Connie & Michael Crym, Stanswood

Julie Cullman, Madison, WI  
John C. W. Curry, Lansing

Patricia & Harold Evans, Saginaw  
Guy T. Meiss, Mount Pleasant

Pete Semmens, Escanaba  
Patricia T. Shek, Saginaw

Judith Webb, Bloomfield Hills  
Mary Wolfman, Hilldale

Susan Bando, Okemos  
Ellnor & Sam Benedict, Rapid River

Catherine Bilow, Horton  
Joe & Suzanne Compton, Big Rapids

Constance Crump & Jay L. Simrod,  
Ann Arbor

Milt Ford, Six Lakes

# The Power of Memory and Tradition

by Timothy J. Chester

Chester is Vice Chair of the Michigan Humanities Council and has worked in the field of cultural preservation since 1974. He is Director Emeritus of the Public Museum in Grand Rapids.



Dianne Carroll Burdick

Three years before her death, my mother entered a nursing facility after her increasing dementia mandated constant care for her safety and well being. Without a thought, she left behind a

For my mother, the artifacts of her recent past ceased to have much relevance after she moved into the nursing home. Upon urging, she would look at a few yellowed photos with vague recognition, but little enthusiasm. Instead, she preferred to become untethered from world of daily cares and reality much as *New York Times* columnist Russell Baker has described his own mother’s dementia in his autobiography *Growing Up*:

At the age of 80, my mother had her last bad fall, and after that her mind wandered freely through time. Some days she went to weddings and funerals that had taken place a half century earlier. On others, she presided over family dinners cooked on Sunday afternoons for children now grey with age. Through all of this, she lay in bed but moved across time, traveling among the dead decades with a speed and ease beyond the gift of physical science.

My mother, too, had soared away from trials and tribulations and with a continual gentle smile and generally sunny disposition, and was now focused on reliving a distant, happy past.

A minister of my acquaintance recently shared with his congregation some thoughts about the dangerous quality of the past, speaking about the power of memory and tradition to unsettle as well as to reassure, to restructure as well as comfort. He quoted the Catholic theologian Johann Baptist Metz, who said, “There are dangerous memories, memories that make demands on

us. There are memories in which earlier experiences break through to the center point of our lives and reveal new and dangerous insights for the present.”

I hope that at some deep level, my mother really reveled in being cut loose from the sometimes-harsh realities of her past that she had so carefully documented. I realize that this saving of things was done not so much for her as for me, so that I could profit from finding them and studying them. I know this because of all of the personal notes that she left me written in bold magic marker on boxes, pamphlets, files, and inside books. When she wrote, “Someday you’ll love reading this and I hope you’ll cherish it, as it embraces all the love any mother could bestow upon a child and all her hopes and dreams for you,” she was all too conscious of the awesome capacity of the past to make dangerous and challenging demands on us. This collection of things past was her way of ensuring that I would continue to experience revelations and lessons long after her ability to impart them had passed.

As I slowly catalog and process these artifacts of her life, I am bringing the skills of my profession home and am making the lessons of my mother’s past my own with as much love and minimized resentment as possible. And in the process, I’m grateful that through the good and necessary work funded by the Michigan Humanities Council, our society isn’t preserving and studying only the pleasant and convenient lessons of our collective past, but the dangerous and demanding ones as well.

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Lansing, MI 48912-1270

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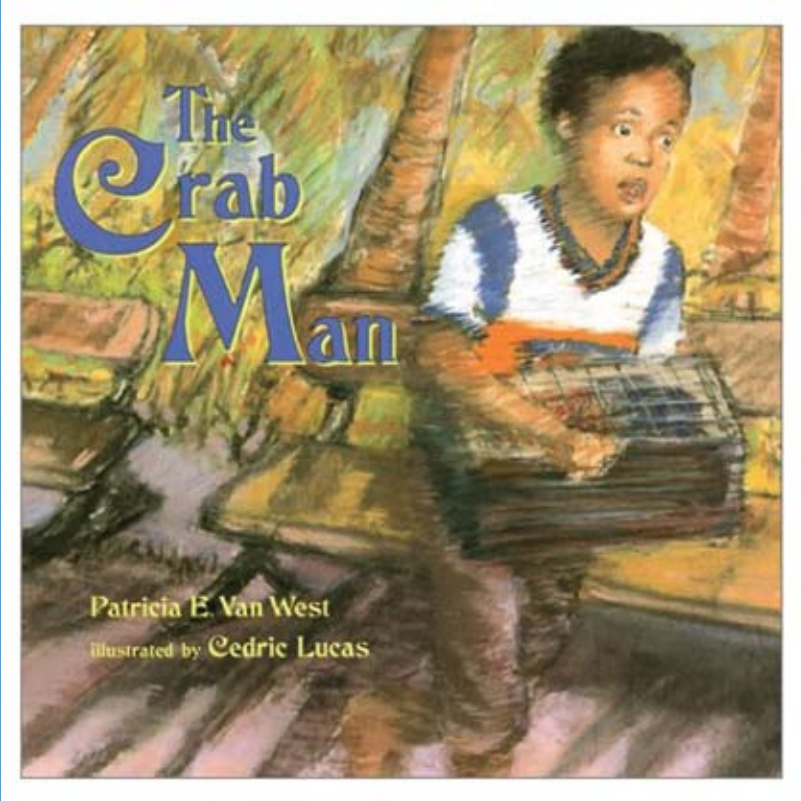


# PRIME TIME® Success in South Haven

In September, South Haven Memorial Library concluded its session of PRIME TIME Family Reading Time® using a bilingual Hispanic book syllabus. Approximately 20-25 families attended, many of whom were seasonal workers. To their credit, the workers brought their children (preschoolers and 6-10 year-olds) into the library after working in the fields until sundown.

Several families did not speak English or spoke very little English. Scholar and storyteller, Ruth Heinig, used an expressive and engaging reading

As part of PRIME TIME®, South Haven’s local businesses donated food each week for families to partake in a meal prior to reading and discussion. The public school system purchased \$10 gas cards each week to enable families to drive in from outlying areas. Without the meals and the transportation support, many families would have been unable to participate in this unique literacy program. Maybe



Turtle Books

“PRIME TIME® has succeeded in getting people to read and into libraries”

– Jan Fedewa, Michigan Humanities Council Executive Director

style to tell the week’s designated story in English while showing the pictures to everyone in the room. The children sat in rapt attention. Translator and storyteller Leonor Murphy would repeat the reading in Spanish. Oftentimes there was chuckling and shaking of heads by the parents as Leonor interpreted and dramatized the story. Hands shot up in the air when the children were asked to express their feelings about the story’s theme. While bouncing in their seats, their unsolicited answers tumbled out. The children gave their parents’ insight into what they were thinking and how they interpreted the reading. Parents were able to respond in a positive way that reflected nurturing and direction without seeming parental.

the most telling statement was from South Haven librarian Deborah Root Jones, who noted that the favorite door prize for all participating families was their new library card.

“The Michigan Humanities Council clearly supports and is looking forward to continuing PRIME TIME®,” said Jan Fedewa, the Council’s executive director. “The Saginaw and South Haven programs have had tremendous impact on families’ lives.

PRIME TIME® has succeeded in getting people to read and into libraries.”

*PRIME TIME® continues through October 29 at the Butman-Fish Branch of the Public Libraries of Saginaw, and through November 5 at the Detroit Public Library’s Campbell Branch Library at Lawndale Station.*



Any views, findings, conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for Humanities.



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