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Volunteers**President**Ron Arnouts**

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VicePresident/Program**Cheryl Lohman**

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Treasurer**James Haley**

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Historian**Roger Scharmer**

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Hospitality**Carol Olsen**

(231) 894-6111

Past President**Norm Ullman**

(231) 894-9385

Chairperson*Celebrate White Lake***Tom Thompson**

(231) 894-4313

Audio Technician**Bob Olsen**

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Heritage Commemora-  
tive Plaque Program**Cal & Jane Lane**

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Historic Preservation  
Awards**Roger Scharmer****Ellie Dennis****Lois Ekstrand****Cassie Ellis****Cal & Jane Lane****Ruth Pitkin**

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A Newsletter of the White Lake Area Historical Society

April 2014

**President's message**

THANK YOU to all participants of the 2013 WLAHS activities. I would like to invite everyone to the 2014 Season. Also, you are encouraged to become members and/or volunteers if you do not currently participate.

As your President, I have enjoyed my position a great deal, met a lot of people and learned a great deal. We had very good attendance at all of our 2013 events. I feel strongly inspired by the community's support of the WLAHS. A lot of effort has been put forth by past participants and particularly by organizers of your programs.

Now it's our turn to carry the program forward to the next generations. Appreciating history deepens our experience of each day, as we become part of history ourselves. Please consider volunteering to help this organization.. And mark the dates of our 2014 events on your calendars, invite a friend or two, come out and enjoy!

Again, I say "Thank You!" to everyone for a Great 2013 Season.

Ron Arnouts, President of White Lake Area Historical Society

**Programs for 2014— 7:00 pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month May through Oct.**

For starred \*\*\* outdoor meetings, please bring a folding chair to sit on!

- **May 15 (7 p.m.) STUDENT HISTORY PRESENTATIONS**  
at Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 South Mears Ave. in Whitehall
- **June 19 (7 p.m.) THE OLD LOG HOUSE** at 6024 Hancock Rd., Montague.  
\*\*\* Built in 1854, currently owned by Gene Rollenhagen. The owner is hopeful that someone will move the house off of the property.

**Saturday July 12 (10-4 pm) CELEBRATE WHITE LAKE**, Goodrich Park, Whitehall  
Old wooden boat show, historic and environmental displays, historic 1-hour trolley tours of Montague and Whitehall, music and fun, bring family and friends!

- **July 17 (7 pm) AMANDA'S BEQUEST AND BYGONE BASICS**  
\*\*\* 200 Anderson Rd., Montague. Originally the parsonage of the Ferry Memorial Church on Old Channel Trail, this was built with Funds from Amanda White Ferry, Noah Ferry's mother.
- **August 21 (7 pm) SADONY'S VALLEY OF THE PINES** Tour the unique home property of author, inventor, scientist Joesph Sadony. Arrive at the upper level of the property from Indian Bay Rd. (Mouth School) by turning right off of Old Channel Trail, then left (west) on Sunset Lane to parking area. (cont.)

Newsletter Editor **Margot Haynes** 231-894-0651 mehaynes@chartermi.net

- **Labor Day weekend THE JOHN C. LEWIS OPEN HOUSE**--just south of the Howmet Theater. Greg and Debi Hillebrand are tentatively scheduling a community open house. Check newspaper for date and time.
- **September 18 (7 pm) GROVER FISHERIES AND FISHERMAN'S VILLAGE**  
\*\*\* North Channel Wall, Medbery Park, Montague (bring a chair to sit on!)
- **October 16 (7 pm) LOOKING AT WHITE LAKE AREA HISTORICAL PHOTOS**  
Lebanon Lutheran church 1101 S. Mears Ave, Whitehall  
Presentations by Jack Lipka and Harold Kassner.

Contact Cheryl Lohman <a href="mailto:jubileelohman@yahoo.com">jubileelohman@yahoo.com</a> (231) 893-5545 with questions/suggestions
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Note: Annual meeting of **Friends of Montague Museum** will meet **May 22, 7 pm** at the Montague Masonic Lodge, Dowling St Montague. The annual Museum summer potluck picnic is Aug. 6th at noon. It's the Montague Museum's 50th year so there will be a special cake.

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**Accomplishments of WLAHS in 2013:** Unexpectedly large attendance at every program, with a great variety of presenters, many newcomers, and lots of familiar faces, too:

- Great kick-off with Jan Klco's History Day competitors showing off their projects on "Turning Points in History;"
  - Lovely sunset with tours outside Lyon's Den and along White Lake, learning about shoreline restoration project;
  - Fascinating show about Noah Ferry's family history concluded by a tour of Ferry Memorial Church on a toasty July evening;
  - Perfect "Celebrate White Lake" sunshiny day with tours on the Jackson and displays by owners of historic resorts along White Lake;
  - Wind and chill spiced up the August gathering at Maple Grove park, learning about the marina and Barteau history;
  - Well-researched presentation to an overflow crowd in the carriage building by the new owners of the Lewis House;
  - A foreboding (who knew?) of this rugged winter with films of ice boating on White Lake.
- Thanks to all presenters for their hard work and commitment to deepen our sense of history!*
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**FINANCIAL UPDATE** We are hoping you will support the Society not only with financial donation but with time. Both are needed to maintain our programs. Our total monetary value is \$14,045 including \$1,478 in our memorial fund. A detailed report is available to any Society member upon request. Thanks for your support! Jim Haley, Treasurer

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**Membership note:** We are now asking for your email addresses so that eventually our communications can become more efficient and timely! If you have no email, of course we will continue our snail mail communications with you. Fill in and send back the form on final page.

**Historical videorecordings:** If you are interested in historical audiorecordings, including interviews by Joe Pitkin, contact Oscar Osbo at "Oscar Osbo" [doubleaudiovideo@live.com](mailto:doubleaudiovideo@live.com)

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## **National History Day Competition**

At the time of this printing, advisor Jan Klco reports a large number of students advancing to the state contest on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Many of them will present at the WLAHS meeting on May 15. The theme of the 2014 National History Day Competition is ***Rights and Responsibilities***:

### Youth Division, Group Exhibit:

Allison TenBrink and Alyssa Brouwer (5th, Mr. Knowles) - "Keep Calm and Stop Oil Spills"

### Junior Division:

Group Performance: Avery Christensen and Isabelle Uganski (6th) - "On the Field and in the Classroom: Title IX Provides Women with the Opportunity of a Lifetime"

Group Exhibit: Lauren Geiger and Vanessa Heylmun (8th) - "The Antarctic Treaty: Scientific Rights & International Responsibility"

### Senior Division:

Papers: Matt Gilbert (11th) - "Apartheid: White Dominance in Black South Africa"

Ind. Website: Lucas Champoux (9th) - "Roman Society: Establishing the Rights of the Common Citizen"

Group Performance: Randi Mikkelson (11th) and Taylor Mikkelson (9th): "Afghan Women's Rights: One Step Forward and Two Steps Back"

Ind. Exhibits: Mackenzie Brandel (10th) - "Liberating Nazi Camps: Taking Responsibility for Restoring Lost Rights"

Kaylee Picard (10th) - "Broken Treaty, Trampled Rights: Signaling the Collapse of the Sioux Nations"

Mariah Olsson (12th - Montague) - "Exploiting a Culture, Exploding the Land: Nuclear Testing in the Marshall Islands"

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## **MEINHARDI BUILDING UPDATE** by Helen Fink

Montague-Whitehall Rotary has given us a generous matching grant of up to \$3500 to build cabinets and counters in the Meinhardi building! Ken Giddus, a local craftsman, skilled in restoration work, will build them with period woods and fixtures. We need at least \$2500 more for the this project's completion. (Mr. Giddus has given us an estimate of \$5-7,000 depending on our final design.)

### **Since moving the building, we have accomplished a lot:**

new cedar shake roof and front façade	installed front and back stairs	
brought electricity to the property	scraped and stained exterior	(cont.)

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interior carpentry and repair  
 a beautiful ceiling repair and staining  
 installed an all season heating and cooling unit  
 created a lovely brick patio (it's not too late to buy a brick!)  
 created a charming medicinal herb garden

interior painting  
 interior lighting and electrical outlets  
 installed security system  
 erected handicap access

What's left to do? Cabinetry and counters ( we need \$2500 more to do this), floor refinishing, artifact placement (we have a commitment of \$5000 to procure artifacts!), signage, and minor landscaping. So with the help of this community, we are nearing completion!

**Can you help? We're coming to the home stretch! No contribution too small!  
 Please call Helen Fink 231-893-5323**

## Historic Preservation Awards

The 2013 personal residence winners of this award were Jeff and Dawn Auch, both enthusiastic gardeners for their home at 8605 Old Channel Trail, located across Knudsen St. from the old Ferry Memorial Church. In the past six years of residency, they have improved the house, added a chicken house, and developed their double lot with many gardening and permaculture features, reducing the need for lawn and lawn mowing.

The 2013 commercial winner of the Historic Preservation Award was Pekatill's. Their original structure was built in 1873 by two brothers from Norway. Its adaptive reuse began with its progression from granary to meat market before being shuttered in 1983. It was then restored and reopened as the current ice cream parlor and sandwich shop in 1989, celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

Many thanks to committee members Cassie Ellis, Ellie Dennis, Cal and Jane Lane, Ruth Pitkin, Lois Ekstrand, and Roger Scharmer for their work in observing and selecting the winners of this yearly award.

Some extra treats this summer include "Taste of White Lake" on June 5 and the Friends of the Montague Library Summer Book Talks Wednesday mornings in July. All Book Talk presenters this year are authors themselves, including local writer Susan Newhof about her new edition of *Michigan's Town & Country Inns* (July 2) and Doug Paprocki's tale of illustrating, editing and publishing his wife Gretchen's naturalist memoir, *Beside the Inland Sea* (July 23).

Members of the White Lake Area Historical Society are encouraged to invite family and friends to our various events. Everyone is welcome. But please remember that it is your yearly dues (or lifetime membership) that help sustain our programs, so don't forget to send in your form across from this page. Tom Lohman, our new Membership and Corresponding Secretary, has worked hard to make sure your information is individualized so that you know about your dues status.