

BOARD &

Vol. 1-22

A Newsletter of the White Lake Area Historical Society

OtherMay 2022**Volunteers:**President**Cheryl Lohman**

(231) 893-5545

jubileelohman@yahoo.comVicePresident/Program**Laura Connell**

(231) 894-9850

Recording Secretary**Barbara Bedau Brow**

(231) 894-5506

Membership/Corresponding Secretary**Tom Lohman**

(231) 893-5545

tomlohman@yahoo.comTreasurer**Ron Arnson**

(231) 894-8404

Historian**Roger Scharmer**

(231) 894-9603

Hospitality**Jan Grady**

(231) 893-2055

Historic Preservation Awards**Cassie Ellis****Jane Lane****Ellie Dennis****Roger Scharmer**President of the Montague Museum**Denise Marquardt**

(231) 894-6204

Newsletter Editor**Margot Haynes**

(231) 894-0651

margot.haynes@gmail.com**Letter from our WLAHS President: (April 2022)**

Spring is late in coming to Michigan this year, and as we are slowly inching our way into warmer temperatures and sunshine, the WLAHS is slowly inching into our meetings for 2022. We began this year's programs Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m. at Ferry Memorial Reformed Church by welcoming the 2022 National History Day Competitors. Poster displays, documentary mini-films, website presentations, and dramatizations have consistently been winners for the White Lake area at both the state and national level, and we were proud to welcome the 2022 competitors to our kick-off meeting, (updates p. 3)

Current news: SPECIAL THANKS to Catchmark of Whitehall for their donation of the historical marker on the bike trail at the Railroad Overpass in Whitehall (Lake St.). The project was spearheaded by Ferrell Cordel.

The "Remembering White Lake History" Facebook group coordinated by Laura Connell (VP), and weekly postings in the White Lake Beacon by Barb Bedau Brow continue to keep our history alive. We are thankful for their diligent research and time commitment!!

The Montague Museum opens May 26 through Sept. 5 www.montaguemuseum.org

May 6 will feature local artists Cheryl Whelan and Miriam Gibbs (both artists have since passed on) at the Nuveen Art Center. Many of Miriam's paintings will be available for purchase, with all proceeds to the Nuveen. Stop by and enjoy their talented work!

We encourage all those who enjoy learning our history to attend our meetings!

Cheryl Lohman

Programs for 2022: 7:00 pm on 3rd Thursday of the month

May 19: Features a history and tour of St. James Catholic Church (including the move from Whitehall across frozen White Lake), and the story of "The Bell: Its Recovery and Restoration after nearly 140 Years in the Area". 5149 Dowling St., Montague.

June 16: Visit "The Red Brick House" owned by Kim Burck at 5280 Stanton Blvd. in Montague, just east of Whitbeck Rd. We'll tour the property and hear some old house stories. Bring your own lawn chairs and mosquito repellent!

July 21: "Valley View" (8411 Old Channel Trail. corner of Wilcox) has an intriguing history and stories which will be shared by current owners Rod and Maggie Vandersteldt. Bring a lawn chair and mosquito repellent. Park on Wilcox and Meade St.

August 18: "Celebrate White Lake Posters" For 26 years, the WLAHS sponsored the Old Wooden Boat Show and other lakeshore events each July in Goodrich Park. Posters were created by local artists, each one featuring an interesting historical topic or place. Come hear about them from some of the creators. Old posters will be for sale. SPECIAL THANKS to the ACWL for space for the display and for our meeting. 106 E. Colby St.

September 15 and October 20: Several possibilities have been discussed and information will be available soon.

Treasurer's Report—from Treasurer Ron Arnson

Our current bank balance is \$16,550.63 including our two CD's and \$1,488.01 in memorial fund.

Membership Report

COVID 19 forced the cancellation of all of our 2020 programs, and dues which had been paid were credited to 2021; we now are, however, collecting dues for the 2022-2023 calendar year. Any questions may be forwarded to Tom Lohman, Membership Chairman.

We have 144 active members, which include 32 life members (as families) and 21 individual life members. Most have email addresses; a few do not, so we use snail mail for those newsletters.

We have 91 other members counted as active, including about ¼ who have already paid for the current year but most others will need to pay to remain counted as active.

Local History Resources online

This group on Facebook was started over four years ago. Join us and add your info and memories and pics for us all to enjoy!! In Facebook it is named “Remembering White Lake History”.

There is also a link available at White Lake Community Library for digitized papers. You can search online or go to the library in person to get computer access. It is easy to search with keyword and dates and all the past local newspapers we've had in our area (digitized searchable newspapers back to the 1800s) <https://www.wlclib.org/Reference/digitized-newspapers>

Jerry Grady and Barbara Brow (Secretary) have been working on a terrific, comprehensive website over the past year: localhistorygallery.com . It includes an organized collection of photos and film resources, and links to other online connections of local historical interest.

Tom Lohman, Membership Chair/Corresponding Secretary of the WLAHS maintains the website at <http://www.whitelakeareahistoricalociety.com/> This site posts many youtube videos from former meetings, filmed by Oscar Osbo. If you would like Oscar's help with a digital transfer of old videotapes or movies to DVD format, with photo touch-ups, or with online projects, he can be contacted at 231-288-3580 or at Oscar@whitelakemedia.com .

A note of special thanks: Jan Grady is not an official White Lake Area Historical Society Board Member, but what a great hospitality chair she has been! She faithfully attends Board Meetings to see how refreshments might complement the various programs that are planned—even during our reduced public meetings in 2020-2021! When you enjoy refreshments at meetings, remember that Jan Grady is the force behind whatever special treat you are enjoying.

Local History Day young people continue to excel in competition!

Jan Klco, the adult coach for the National History Team Coach in Whitehall, reports that after the second level competition (State Level), many students have been top competitors.

To prepare for the competition, students develop research projects related to a theme--this year, the given theme was "Debate and Diplomacy." Their research is all done outside of school, just like practice for a sports team would be handled. Students 5th grade through senior year can compete. They are required to submit to the judges a detailed annotated bibliography (sometimes over 10 pages long!) as well as a short paper about their research process.

But most important is how they transform the ideas and historical debates they studied into a final product to be presented—either a role-playing performance, a visual poster exhibit, a documentary film, or a website. During competition, they not only present their work but are required to answer questions asked by the judges. Students from schools from across the state have competed with Whitehall students, and ours earned high ranking from the judges!

These students are winners, advancing to National History day competition to be held in June:

Sr. Individual Performance:

Alison Chen (12th): "One Loved Power: The Diplomatic Legacy of Madame Chiang Kai-shek"
In her performance, Alison role-plays this influential woman as she imagined her in both U.S. & China.

Sr. Individual Documentary:

Laura Thielman (10th): "Playing for the People: Van Cliburn, Cultural Diplomacy, and the Cold War."
Laura's documentary combines musical performance & international struggles using historical film clips.

Sr. Individual Performance:

Meg LeaTrea (9th): "I'm a Soldier, Too. You Either Need Us or You Don't. The Debate Over Women in Combat." Megan's portrayal of various historical figures explores arguments both pro and con.

Placing third at the state contest and national alternate:

Sr. Individual Website:

Amelia Chen (10th): "Failed Diplomacy: The Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907." The pages of Amelia's website trace a little-known Japanese immigration conflict leading in the end to tragedy.

While no students advanced to nationals from the Junior Division, three entries brought home special awards, a terrific showing for a group with 7 first-year students out of 9, according to Coach Klco:

---Best Entry on Family History, sponsored by the Michigan Genealogical Society:

Kamina Furman (8th) - Individual Exhibit: "Van Gogh's Last Stroke"

---Best Entry on Economic History or Impact, sponsored by Huntington Bank:

Isabella Causie (6th) - Individual Website: "Providing a Passage: The U.S., Panama, and America's Rise to Power"

---Best Entry on Naval or Maritime History, sponsored by the Continental Commandery of the Naval

Order of the United States: **Colden Jones (8th) and Matthew Leatherman (8th)** - Group

Exhibit: "Tipping the Dominoes: The Tonkin Gulf Resolution"