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Coming up this week!!! Montague Museum Annual Meeting Th May 4, 7:00pm at the White Lake Community Senior Center (8741 Ferry St., Montague) learn about changes, how you can become a docent, help out in other ways, and get acquainted with some great historical volunteers. Everyone welcome, can join as a member that night.

Letter from our WLAHS President: (April 2023)

With the arrival of spring the WLAHS embarks on another season of historical presentations. As a board we try to schedule meetings that will be informative as well as those that encompass a variety of interests. Last year we learned from the youth of our community, toured some unique residences, and learned about the evolution of police work in the White Lake area.

Our membership and finances have remained stable, and we are looking to expand our visibility in the White Lake area. To this end we will be posting information in the Lakeshore Connection Community Showroom located in Montague Foods. We will also post pictures following our meetings (courtesy of Laura and Margot) and will be more active on our various Facebook sites. *White Lake Beacon* representatives will be invited to attend our meetings as well as announcements in the "What's Up" in the paper.

This year I am especially happy to celebrate two events which pertain to our historical community:

1. Dr. Dan Yakes (one of our own) was the recipient of the El Award presented last October to "an individual influential in the community, and who has been affiliated with various organizations, involved in local efforts, and connected with the business community". The El Award is given in memory of Eleanor "El" Polley, former director of the White Lake Area Chamber of Commerce. Dr. Yakes is a local historian with many books to his name; he has also been a recipient of the Muskegon Community College Distinguished Faculty Award. Dr. Yakes was the recipient of the 2021 WLAHS Noted Historian Award. CONGRATULATIONS to him from all of us!

2. In June of 2022 15 Michigan National History Day (NHD) students received special honors for their research and presentations on the year's theme: "Debate and Diplomacy in History". Alison Chen placed 8th in the nation with her Senior Individual Performance; Laura Thielman placed 4th in the nation with her Senior Individual Documentary. Alison Chen also won the "Chronicling America Award" for Best Use of Historical Newspapers through Library of Congress database. CONGRATULATIONS!

More news for NHD students: Megan LeaTrea and her coach Jan Klco have been selected, along with 15 other teacher-student teams from across the United States, to travel, all-expenses-paid, to Hawaii in June of 2023 where they will participate in the National History Days Summer Institute. Their theme is "Sacrifice for Freedom: WWII in the Pacific". Jan and Megan, along with the 15 other teams, will be working together learning and researching about WWII history on Oahu, Hawaii. CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES! We look forward to your stories when you return!

Cheryl Lohman

*****Programs for 2023: 7:00 pm 3rd Thursday of the month*****

May 18—National History Day students present their research on “Frontiers in History: People, Places, Ideas” including exhibits, websites, and individual performance. Come at 6:30 for time to view the exhibits, stay for the 7:00 pm meeting to view websites and performance.(see p. 3 for more)Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Mears.Ave., Whitehall.

June 15--"Then and Now" Walking tour of lumbering era in downtown Montague with Jack Lipka. Meet at the Gazebo behind Montague Foods.

July 20--“Roesler/Vohs House Tour” Home of former Mayor Henry Roesler (8636 Old Channel Trail, Montague). Rebecca Vohs hostess and current owner. Bring a lawn chair and bug spray. Parking across street at Ferry Memorial Church.

August 17--“ Ripley/Lipka Drug Store History” Lipka Drugstore was one of the first of its kind in Michigan. Patty Lipka will be our hostess, meeting inside Lipka’s Old Fashion Soda Fountain and Restaurant, 8718 Ferry St., Montague (you can purchase a treat at the meeting!).

Sept. 21--Community Shapers" - Glover-Pitkin-Dahlstrom
The presenter, John Glover, is now from Durango, Colorado. Lebanon Lutheran Church, 1101 S. Mears Ave., Whitehall.

Oct. 19—“Community Heroes” – Fire, Ambulance, and Police: the Roeslers -
Montague Fire Station at 5085 Wilcox St., Montague.

The public is always welcome. Memberships can be purchased at the start of any of the meetings.

Membership report from Tom Lohman:

97 Active Members

8 Dues Paid for current year 2023 or transferred from previous year, 89 did not pay current year

42 Did not pay for 2022

21 Life Members, 32 Life Families TOTAL of 150 Members (Active)

Treasurer’s Report from Treasurer Ron Arnson

Current Checkbook Balance:	\$ 4,082.09
Certificate of Deposit current value:	\$10,482.04
Money we are holding in the Memorial Fund:	\$ 1,488.01
Total of all accounts:	<u>\$16,052.14</u>

Local History Resources online

The “**Remembering White Lake History**” Facebook group was started about 5 years ago. Join us and add your info and memories and pics for us all to enjoy

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. Search with keyword and dates with 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: 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 .

Hot off-the-press about our National History Day students this year

All of the students breezed through the District Competition and went on to the State Competition with over 300 other competitors. Coach Jan Klco reports: “ Our students did a fantastic job with their entries and their interviews. They also enjoyed learning from and sharing with their fellow competitors. **Three students will represent Whitehall at the NHD National Contest** on the campus of the University of Maryland June 11-15:

- **Amelia Chen** - Sr. Individ. Website: *To the Moon and Beyond: Project Luna and the Hidden Side of the Space Race*
- **Megan LeaTrea** - Sr. Individ. Performance: *Crusader for Air Power: Billy Mitchell Advocates for an Independent Air Force*
- **Isabella Causie** - Jr. Individual Website: *Easing the Pain: Anesthesia Alleviates Agony*

Isabella also won the statewide junior division award for Best Entry Using Primary Sources, sponsored by the Michigan Archival Association.”

The other local competitors included: (Junior Division) Henry Chen, Individ. Documentary: *Planes, Tanks, Gases, and Machine Guns: World War I Signals the Arrival of Modern Warfare*
Alexandra Risthouse, Individ. Exhibit: *Anna Howard Shaw: Pioneering Women’s Suffrage*
Mathilda Morneau, Individ. Exhibit: *The Synthesizer: A New Frontier in Music*
Liam Cook and Pierson McCarthy, Group. Exhibit: *Weathering Throughout History: A Frontier in Meteorology*
(Senior Division) Anya Gadd and Abigayle Waldon, Group. Website: *Behind the Slice: How Otto Frederick Rohwedder Reshaped America*

Did you know? 2023 marks the 150th anniversary of the City of Ludington. This will involve special events each month—for the full listing, go to <https://www.ludington150.com/calendar>