

## Spring Newsletter

April-May 2022

*The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center preserves local history and inspires learning to inform and improve our community.*

Spring preparations have the History Center ready for a full slate of fun events this summer. In fact a number of programs are already underway!

March, April, and May saw the return of in-person **Monthly Meetings**.

On the **Saturday of Memorial Day**, we will host the summer kickoff party for members, this year held outdoors at the School House gardens.

A week later the SDHC will host an event with **Douglas Community Pride** on Friday June 3rd.

You can read more about the new exhibit at the History Museum, ***The Lure of Mount Baldhead*** (opening July 1) in this newsletter as well as exciting news about the **Michigan Museums Association** award recognizing the History Center...and so much more happening in the weeks to come!

Eric Gollanek  
Executive Director



### Summer Kick Off Memorial Day weekend at the History Center School House Gardens!

All members are invited to the traditional Memorial Day 'party of the year' **on May 28th from 5-7 PM**. Join us for drinks, appetizers, and good company as well as a preview of upcoming programs and volunteer opportunities.

This event is free as a benefit of your SDHC Membership! Please also consider bringing friends or neighbors as guests to show them the exhibits *A Century of Progress: 100 years of LGBTQ History*, the *Curator's Choice* art exhibit, and the David Csicko *History Book* exhibit.

[Click here for the Summer 2022 calendar of events](#)



Prepare to experience ***The Lure of***

### Membership Season at the History Center!



**Mount Baldhead** in the History Center Museum galleries this summer.

The new exhibit is scheduled to open Friday, July 1, at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum. The Museum, housed in the historic 1904 Saugatuck Pump House, is marking its 27<sup>th</sup> year of award-winning history exhibits and programming.

*Read more later in this newsletter...*

Membership renewals went out in the mail at the beginning of April. We have received excellent response over the last month, thank you to you all for your support!

If you have not yet replied, it's not too late to renew online today!

[Click here to renew your membership!](#)



## Root Camp returns with new format

[Click here to register for Root Camp!](#)

## Save the Date! Root Camp 2022 is back!

This year we are offering a new evening program running from 6:00-8:30 PM Monday through Thursday (June 20-23) where campers ages 6-12 will learn about the ghost town of Singapore and Summer Solstice: the shortest night and longest day of the year!

Same great Root Camp traditions with songs, snacks, history, and science/nature programs now in an evening format.

Registration now open! Watch this space and other SDHC channels for more information coming this week at <https://sdhistoricalsociety.org/current/rootcamp/index.php>



## History Center wins statewide Peninsulas Prize award!



On Thursday, May 12, the SDHC received the MMA's **Peninsulas Prize for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access**. This is a state-level award in recognition of the **Century of Progress: 100 years of LGBTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas** exhibit.

[Click here to read more about the MMA awards](#)



Thank you to the SDHC board who do so much for this organization and the mission. Thank you especially to the volunteer team on *Century of Progress*: **John Kerr, Sally Winthers, Vic Bella, Mike Mok, Randy Dirosa, Paula Gruben, and Bill Kelleher**. Additional research support for the exhibit came from **Jonathan Schreur, Ken Carls, Ken Kutzel, Ted Reyda, Mary Voss** and SDHC interns **Jen Cimmirusti, Nat Carow, Caleb Henning, Erik Livingston** and many others.



Photo caption: *Exhibit designer Sally Winthers and Dr. Jim Schmiechen at the opening of Century of Progress, September 2021 (Photo credit Lara Parent Photography)*

One person deserves special recognition in the success of this project: **Dr. Jim Schmiechen**. The year 2006 marked the beginning of the SDHC's "Gay History Project". The 2009 *Summertime* exhibit at the History Museum curated by Jim included some of the first LGBTQ history in a Michigan local history exhibit ever.

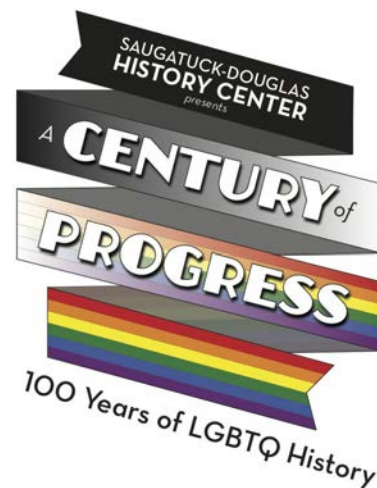
***These stories matter. They belong in a museum. And here they are.***

This exhibit feels even more important in 2022 than it did just one year ago. Doing inclusive history matters more than ever in a moment when LGBTQ people and allies are regularly denied basic civil rights and marginalized in society and institutions. This exhibit corrects the record and celebrates this community's history of being visible and heard.

***Thank you to the Michigan Museums Association for this honor and recognition for grassroots, volunteer-driven history.***



*Executive Director Eric Gollanek and MMA Board Secretary Sanam Arab presenting the award to the SDHC. (Photo credit Elayne Gross Photography)*



We are excited to announce that both ***Century of Progress*** and the related art exhibition, ***History Book: LGBTQ Portraits*** will reopen this spring and remain in place through the fall of 2022.

Regular hours will resume Memorial Day weekend, Friday-Sunday from noon to 4 p.m.

## In Memoriam

**Nancy Myers, member**

(May 12, 1943-January 17, 2022)

[Link to obituary](#)



**Maryrita Peters, member**

(October 13, 1943-March 20, 2022)

[Link to obituary](#)

**Paul Murphy, member**

(November 30, 1951-March 25, 2022)

[Link to obituary](#)





## **TENTH ANNUAL SAUGATUCK-DOUGLAS AREA ARMED FORCES DAY LUNCHEON**

**MAY 21<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAY 11:00 am COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DOUGLAS  
WE SALUTE OUR VETERANS PAST AND PRESENT  
ALL VETERANS EAT FREE  
(BUT NEED A TICKET)**

### **2022 Program –Medal of Honor Recipient, Jim “Doc” McCloughan.**



We are very pleased to announce that our main speaker for 2022 is Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, Jim “Doc” McCloughan. Mr. McCloughan was raised in the rural area of Bangor, MI. He graduated from Olivet College in 1968 with a BA in Sociology, received a MA in counseling in 1972, and taught and coached at South Haven High School for thirty eight years.

Drafted into the United States Army in 1968, Jim served as a combat medic with the Charlie - 3/21<sup>st</sup> 196<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, Americal Division where he rose to the rank of Specialist Five. In one battle alone “Doc” McCloughan has been credited with moving into the “kill zone” on ten occasions, saving ten American lives and one Vietnamese interpreter’s life. Specialist McCloughan was highly decorated receiving the Combat Medic Badge, two Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars with “V” device for valor, The U. S. Army Valorous Unit Citation, The National Defense Medal, The Good Conduct Medal, The Vietnam Service Medal with three Battle Stars, The Vietnam Campaign Medal, The Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with Palms and one Oak Leaf Cluster and the M16 Expert Rifle Badge. In 2017, Jim was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, our nation’s highest military commendation.

**ORGANIZATIONAL SPONSORS INCLUDE: S-D HISTORY CENTER; THE ROTARY CLUB OF S-D; COW HILL YACHT CLUB; AMERICAN LEGION POST 137; SAUGATUCK BOY SCOUTS; S-D VFW and AMERICAN LEGION; and COMMUNITY CHURCH OF DOUGLAS**

**TICKET INFORMATION -VETS FREE; OTHER TICKETS -ADULTS \$ 12 -Students \$6**

**PICKUP TICKETS IN PERSON AT - VICKI’S FAMILY DINER (Douglas) – Huntington Bank (Saugatuck) OR ARRANGE “ON CALL” TICKETS TO BE HELD FOR YOU AT THE DOOR- Call Chris at - 616 212-3443**



**Woodlands Nursery Garden Walk**

## SPECIAL INVITATION

### 2022 Public Garden Walk at Woodlands Nursery



**John Migas, who has been instrumental in creating and maintaining the “Back in Time” garden at the Old School House in Douglas, will conduct two escorted garden walks (open to the public) at his Woodlands Nursery (6541 Bradley Rd, Saugatuck) (Bradley splits off to the south side of the Blue Star and Maple Street intersection. Go to the very end of Bradley and park along the road).**

**Wednesday May 25<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm & Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30-pm**

**Many of John’s azaleas and rhododendrons should be in fine bloom. His plants are also on display at the world-class Japanese Garden at the Meijer Gardens in Grand Rapids, also at the Azalea Path Botanical Garden in Hazelton, Indiana.**

**(If you get lost or have questions call Chris- 616-212-3443)**

## The Lure of Mount Baldhead -- Museum Exhibit opens July 1st



The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center proudly announces the opening of a new exhibit this summer entitled ***The Lure of Mount Baldhead***. The exhibit is designed to provide a better understanding about Mount Baldhead as a geographic and historic place as well as highlight some of the reasons this iconic sand dune has been attracting people for centuries.

Visitors to the new exhibit will learn about the geological formation of a sand dune and the



unique climate and geographic conditions that

made Mount Baldhead possible. The exhibit will explore how Mount Baldhead has played a role in people's lives from prehistory to the present, and why the dune continues to be a significant attraction to residents and visitors in Saugatuck-Douglas today.

The exhibit is scheduled to open the weekend of July 1, at the Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum at Mount Baldhead Park. The Museum, housed in the historic 1904 Saugatuck Pump House, is marking its 27th year of award-winning history exhibits and programming.

In addition to the exhibit, the site features a riverside garden and terrace as well as a small gift shop that offers a variety of SDHC publications, maps, t-shirts, postcards and other souvenirs relevant to our local history.



Bill Kelleher (left) and master carpenter John Currens review the progress of the Mount Baldhead observation tower that will be used in the upcoming exhibit.



Historic postcard image of the observation tower atop Mount Baldhead.

## SDHC Family History Group

Come and join the Family History Group on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 3:30pm for a discussion about researching your family history. We are meeting in person and via Zoom on June 21, July 19, and August 16.

If you are not on our mailing list, please send a request to [sdhsfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:sdhsfamilyhistory@gmail.com) and a link will be sent to you for the meetings. Hope you can join us. John Mayer and Judi Thomas

## 2022 Membership News

The Board of Directors approved a simplified membership structure in 2021.

- Individual \$40
- Household \$60
- Business Partner \$250
- Lifetime Member \$1,000

Membership runs through March 31 each year. Renewal information will be mailed in April.

***Become a lifetime member!*** No annual renewals and special invites to Lifetime member only events!

**Click here to renew or make a donation with PayPal today!**

## About the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center

The Saugatuck-Douglas Historical Society was founded in 1986 by a group of charter members interested in preserving and sharing the unique history of Saugatuck, Douglas and the surrounding area. In 2016, the Society was renamed the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center to celebrate its growth and to recognize the development of the History Museum and Old School House sites.

We are a vibrant non-profit 501(c)3 history organization with nearly 700 members residing in nearby communities and across the country.

Members are the lifeblood of our volunteer organization.

To renew or join as a member, [visit our website](#) for more information.



The Saugatuck-Douglas History Museum is located at 735 Park Street in Saugatuck, in the historic Saugatuck Pump House building.

The History Center -- Old School House and Francis Surfboat Exhibit are located at 130 Center Street in Douglas.

The adjoining Back-in-Time Garden and Surfboat Exhibit are open daily.

The History Center Archives are available for research by appointment. For more information, e-mail the archives directly at [archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:archives@sdhistoricalsociety.org)

History Center main phone: 269-857-5751  
Archives direct phone: 269-857-7901



The SDHC is supported with a grant from **Michigan Humanities** and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act economic stabilization plan.



The SDHC also receives operational support from the Michigan Arts and Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).