



NEWSLETTER

WE'RE OPEN!

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and Museum at Mount Baldhead are now both officially open for the season!



History Center
Monday & Thursday,
Friday & Saturday
11 am - 3:00 pm



**Museum at Mount
Baldhead**
Wednesday-Sunday
11 am - 3:00 pm

EVENTS CALENDAR

Read more about upcoming events in this newsletter. For the most up to date information visit our [Events page on the History Center website!](#)



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

It's mid-July as we finalize this latest History Center newsletter and we have a lot of history to reflect upon together. Our nation marked its 250th birthday on the 4th of July. You can watch [the first Tuesday Talk program I gave](#), recorded on July 7th, exploring the Spirit of '76 and the long history of Saugatuck centennial celebrations from 1876, 1930, 1968, and 1976.

Looking back over two and a half centuries, a few ideas stand out. First, Americans and Saugatuck-Douglas folks in particular love a special occasion for parades and community celebrations! But these major anniversaries are also a moment to recognize our shared histories and bring them to life through parade floats, concerts, fireworks, and yes public lectures too.

This month and next we have many opportunities to come together, socialize, celebrate, and learn. Don't take for granted our freedoms to gather together, critically examine our history, and celebrate the diverse people who have called the Lakeshore their home. Join us for a Tuesday Talk, a social event in the garden, or explore our [online collections](#) or [recorded programs](#) from the beach or the comfort of your air conditioned living room! But most of all, join us as a guest or as a member of our History Center community.

Eric Gollannek
Executive Director





Tuesday Talks

We've already had two amazing Tuesday Talks, and the fun is just getting started! Join us at the Douglas Union School when the school bell rings at 11 am for fun and informative programs.

All programs will be held indoors at the History Center. Space is limited to 50 in-person attendees so come early!

Admission is free for members, \$5 suggested donation for soon-to-be-members. 😊

Did you know SDHC programs can be viewed on our YouTube channel? [Visit our channel here](#) and subscribe for all the updates!

Consider becoming a Tuesday Talk sponsor to ring the school bell! Sponsorships are a great way to recognize your family or business and help support great Lakeshore history programming for \$250.

Contact Eric Gollannek at director@mysdhistory.org for more information.



Next Up

[July 21: The Interurban Railway to Saugatuck with Chris Clark](#)

[July 28: Nat Steinberg and Cora Bliss Taylor, Artists, with Linda Slusar](#)





BACKYARD BASH!

Featuring the Doctors of Jazz and the Outdoor Discovery Center

THURSDAY, JULY 16

5:30 - 8:00 pm



Join us for a Summer Social in the History Center's gardens. Beer and wine available for purchase, food from Douglas UCC, ice cream treats, and free entertainment! Enjoy a live concert from Holland's Doctors of Jazz and get Up Close and Wild with the Outdoor Discovery Center. The History Center will be open, so make sure to explore our exhibitions. This is a great chance to meet up with old friends and make brand new ones. Fun for all ages and space to socialize in the garden!



This event is co-sponsored by the SDHC and the SD District Library.



MEET JESSICA SUNDSTROM, COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY PROGRAMS COORDINATOR

Hi! I'm your new part-time Communications and Community Programs Coordinator, Jessica Sundstrom.

I have over a decade of experience working in cultural engagement, education, and communications. Previous museums include the Grand Valley State University Art Museum, the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, and the Saatchi Gallery in London, UK.

I received my Bachelor's degree from Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia, and my Master's degree from King's College London. I grew up in Florida/Georgia, but both of my parents are from Michigan and I spent many summer and winter holidays visiting up here with family.

Outside of work, I spend time with my partner of 6 years and friends I have made in the museum community. I enjoy creating art, especially embroidery, reading, antiquing, and cooking. I am currently reading two books - *The Indifferent Stars Above* by Daniel James Brown, and *The Book of Form and Emptiness* by Ruth Ozeki.



An embroidered self-portrait that I am (slowly!) working on.





INTRODUCING NEW BOARD PRESIDENT JOHN KERR

Dear History Center Members,

It is an honor to serve as the new President of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center following the election at the June board meeting. I am grateful for the trust our board of directors has placed in me, and I look forward to working alongside our dedicated volunteers, staff, board members, and supporters as we continue to preserve and celebrate the rich history of Saugatuck and Douglas.

One of my key priorities will be enhancing the financial sustainability of the SDHC through improved fundraising efforts and the pursuit of new funding opportunities. A stronger financial foundation will allow us to better preserve our collections, improve our facilities, and develop new programs for the community.

We also hope to expand our membership by welcoming new individuals and families who share an interest in our local heritage. Every member brings new ideas, enthusiasm, and support that help ensure the continued success of our organization.

Our exhibits and educational presentations will remain at the heart of our mission. We will continue offering engaging programs that connect people of all ages with the stories, people, and events that have shaped our community. At the same time, we are committed to developing new exhibits and presentations that inspire curiosity and encourage lifelong learning.

A special focus for me is our incredible collection of local art. The artwork entrusted to our care tells an important part of our community's story, and we look forward to increasing its visibility through thoughtful exhibitions and educational opportunities that highlight the many talented artists who have contributed to our region's cultural heritage.

None of these goals can be achieved without the continued support of our members, volunteers, donors, and friends. Your commitment makes everything we do possible. I invite you to share your ideas, participate in our events, encourage others to join, and help us shape an exciting future for our History Center.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working with all of you in the months and years ahead.

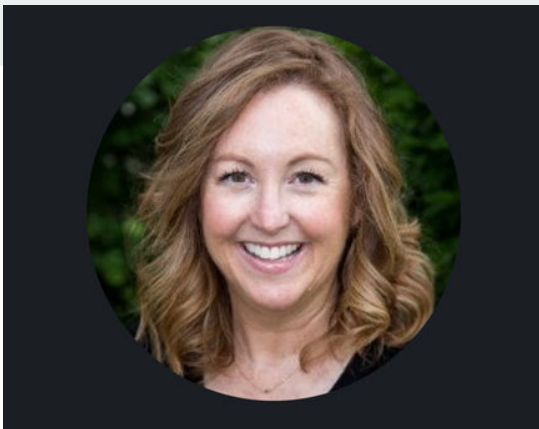
With appreciation,
John D. Kerr
President





MEET YOUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Tim Travis serves as a Board Member for the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center after retiring from a decades-long career as a teacher, coach, principal, and superintendent, most recently at Saugatuck Public Schools. As a new board member, Tim is eager to apply his passion for learning to explore how regional geology and geography have shaped local history. Outside of his historical interests and community involvement, Tim and his spouse, Margaret, enjoy spending time with their two sons, Scott and Lance, and their six grandchildren.



Eve McKeown is currently working at the Saugatuck Douglas Convention Visitors Bureau. They live in Pier Cove.

Andrew Zolper works for BMW North America and oversees operations throughout the Midwest. He is a 4th generation resident of Saugatuck and his great-grandfather was the last lighthouse keeper of the Saugatuck Lighthouse.



[Read more about the SDHC board on our staff & board page here](#)





NEW VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE



We have two new videos on YouTube!

First, you can enjoy a [Walking Tour of Saugatuck](#) with Cathy Brockton. Follow along as she narrates a photographic tour of historic buildings in Saugatuck, with stories about the buildings, their inhabitants, and their past uses.

Then, watch Dr. Andrea Riley Mukavetz, Chippewa, as she shares [Taking the Back Roads: Stories of the Gede Anishanaabeg Trails and Relationships to the Mounds](#). Grand Rapids Indigenous history, the Norton Mounds, Anishinaabe history, and Michigan burial mounds are central to this presentation.

Don't forget that all of our Tuesday Talks are also uploaded to [Youtube!](#) Never miss a talk again!

MEMBERSHIP

Membership renewals were mailed to current members in late April. If you have not yet renewed (or joined!) please visit [our membership page online](#).

We are a vibrant organization that preserves artifacts, buildings, and voices from the past. We have nearly 700 members who reside in nearby communities, around Lake Michigan, and in 26 states across the country.

Our Membership Plans include:

Individual: \$50

Household: \$75

Business Partner: \$250

Lifetime Member: \$1,000

Please get in touch with our office for more information at (269) 857- 5751. or purchase your membership [here](#).

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

The Saugatuck-Douglas History Center is a volunteer-driven organization. For 40 years, hundreds of volunteers have helped shape the History Center in all aspects of its operations. Volunteers from many walks of life bring expertise, experience, and enthusiasm to the Center and its programs.

To get in touch with us regarding ways to volunteer your time, visit our website or email our executive director, Eric Gollanek (director@mysdhistory.org). For more information, visit our [Volunteer Information](#) page, found on our website.

