



MONTHLY

NEWSLETTER



Director's Corner

If September marks the slow transition from the heat of the summer to the first indications of fall, October increasingly finds us matching the energy of the fiery fall foliage: burning bright as the shadows grow longer and evenings turn darker.

We began the month with a return of the Cruise Through History exploring the 'ghost town' of Singapore. We gathered on a dark and stormy night for our Members Picnic (indoors!) Last week we finished this summer's mammoth painting project at the History Center and 'dressed up' the building in its Halloween colors. The countdown is *ON* for Haunted History events at [Riverside Cemetery](#) and of course [Douglas Halloween](#).

I hope you'll join us at our October events. Please consider [volunteering](#) or [becoming a sponsor](#) of the History Center's 4th annual Party Before the Parade.

Eric Gollanek, PhD
Executive Director

History Center awards honor
Zita and Slusar

At its annual Members Picnic on October 1st, the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center recognized **Renee Zita** with its top honor, the Charles J. Lorenz Award of Achievement, and also honored **Linda and Vern Slusar** as Volunteers of the Year.

The Lorenz Award, established in 1997, honors the memory of Charles "Chuck" Lorenz, a passionate researcher on the early history of Saugatuck as well as a founding member of the organization.

This year the awards committee made the decision to recognize **Renee Zita** for this honor for her longtime service to the Saugatuck community and the SDHC. Renee Renaldi Zita has logged countless hours at the Museum at Mt Baldhead. She also served for over a decade on the History Center board of directors, providing leadership, stewardship, and support to the organization.

The Volunteer of The Year Award was jointly awarded to **Linda and Vern Slusar**, two outstanding volunteers who bring their own strengths while also working very much as a team. They joined the SDHC in 2020 and became important volunteers on the Collections Committee. Linda has distinguished herself for her Tuesday Talks on Cora Bliss Taylor and Nat Steinberg. Vern has served on the SDHC board of directors for the last five years.

[Read more about our honorees online under 'News' at \[mysdhistory.org\]\(https://mysdhistory.org\)](#)





SPOOKY SEASON AT THE HISTORY CENTER

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY COMES ALIVE!



**Thursday,
October 22**
Riverside Cemetery
4:30 - 6:30 PM



**Saugatuck
Township**

Join us for the return of this family-friendly event with Saugatuck Township at Riverside Cemetery to learn about the historic figures of Saugatuck-Douglas and the history of cemeteries!

Enjoy cider and donuts in the Caretaker's Cottage, interact with living history figures, and learn about the deep history buried in our community!

Parking and shuttle to Riverside Cemetery departs from the Saugatuck Township offices at 3461 Blue Star Highway in Saugatuck.

Tickets are \$5 and are available for purchase now. [Click here for more details!](#)

PARTY BEFORE THE PARADE

Saturday, October 31

History Center in Douglas
6:00 - 10:00 PM

For the fourth year, the History Center will transform itself into a spooktacular destination to socialize and party before the Douglas Halloween Parade for Adults.

Start planning your costumes now for our Costume Contest with \$1,000 in prizes available!

Pose for photos with our professional photographer Lara Parent, get up close and personal with the Pumpkin King, and enjoy wine, beer, and mocktails.

DooOooOOn't miss your chance to party with the coolest ghouls and ghosties around, or you'll never be able to rest in peace!

[Read more about tickets, volunteer, and sponsorship opportunities](#)





You're invited to an exclusive History Center culinary event and fundraiser on November 3rd

An extraordinary Italian culinary experience is coming to Saugatuck on Tuesday, November 3, when the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center hosts an exclusive fundraising dinner featuring Chef Luigi Gandola, traveling from Bellagio, Italy to the Lakeshore.

The intimate evening, beginning at 5 p.m. at Lulu Cadieux, 249 Mason Street in Saugatuck, will bring the spirit and artistry of Italian cuisine to West Michigan. Guests will enjoy a thoughtfully crafted, multi-course dinner prepared before their eyes by Chef Gandola, whose culinary career has earned him recognition for his energy, talent, and dedication to his craft.

Each course will be paired with wines selected by Sommelier Mindy Trafman, whose thoughtful selections will complement the menu and enhance the flavors of the evening.

Beyond the dining experience, the event directly supports the work of the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center. Thanks to the generous sponsorship of **Lulu Cadieux, Annie and Rick Hayes, and Marian Nunn**, 100% of the revenue from the event will come to the History Center.

Tickets are \$350 per person and space is limited.

Visit our [events page](#) to purchase your tickets today or reach out at 269-857-5751 or director@mysdhistory.org for assistance.





OUR LOCATIONS

Visit the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center and Museum at Mount Baldhead!



History Center
Downtown Douglas
Friday & Saturday
11 am - 3:00 pm



Museum at
Mount Baldhead
Saturday & Sunday
11 am - 3:00 pm

SDHC FALL BOARD RETREAT



On Friday, October 3rd the History Center board of directors gathered for a fall board retreat in Pier Cove. The day-long event featured activities facilitated by Tim Travis and Mark Neidlinger assessing the SDHC's successes, priorities, and vision for the future. Watch for more information about this process and next steps for the History Center in an upcoming winter newsletter.

Read more about the SDHC board at mysdhistory.org

FAMILY HISTORY HELP

October 20, November 11

Saugatuck-Douglas District Library
2:00 - 4:00 PM

Join Chris Clark and Judi Thomas in the study room at the Saugatuck-Douglas Public Library to help you:

- Answer questions about your family tree
- Start your family history
- Decide how to organize your work
- Discover what is available in the Library and the History Center
- Learn how to use Ancestry Library Edition or other tools
- Consider new ways to get past a "brick wall"
- Find new family history resources and more!

You don't need to register.
Drop in at any time!

