



# History Matters

Winter 2017

Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

## Local Historian to Discuss Interurban at April Library Event

For 30 years at the beginning of the 20th century, the Detroit United Railway (DUR) operated an interurban electric railroad across the Detroit area. Farmington historian Brian Golden will discuss the interurban and its route from Farmington to Pontiac, which began at Grand River and followed Orchard Lake Road to the north.

Brian is very active in many historical groups in Farmington and Oakland County. He is the author of 5 local history books and conducts historical tours in Farmington.



### Farmington Junction: A Trolley History

Wednesday, April 26, 2017, 7 p.m.

WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road

Local historian Brian Golden explores the interurban, a light-rail system which ran from downtown Detroit, through Farmington, and then to Pontiac. Sponsored with the West Bloomfield Library. No charge.



(Top) A passenger poses with staff of DUR and a Sylvan Lake to Pontiac interurban car, circa 1900.

(Bottom) The DUR waiting room at the Orchard Lake Railroad Station.

## Learn About Historic Preservation in Oakland County at Annual Meeting



Ron Campbell, Preservation Architect for Oakland County, will discuss *This Place Matters*, a campaign of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, during the second half of the GWBHS 2017 Annual Meeting. Groups around Oakland County have photographed themselves with a banner proclaiming “This

Place Matters” at many locations of historical significance and posted them online. It is all part of an effort to encourage the preservation of these places.

GWBHS took photos with the banner earlier this year at Orchard Lake Museum and on Apple Island.

### Annual Meeting & *This Place Matters* Presentation

Saturday, January 28, 2017 10 a.m. - noon

Orchard Lake Schools

3535 Commerce Rd., Dining Hall, Bldg. 15

Annual meeting and *This Place Matters* presentation by Ron Campbell. \$15 includes brunch. Reservations by January 24 at [www.gwbhs.org/events](http://www.gwbhs.org/events), [rsvp@gwbhs.org](mailto:rsvp@gwbhs.org) or 248.518.0871. No annual meeting charge. Parking info: enter from Commerce Road and park in the first west parking lot, close to this year's dining room.

## From the Desk of President Gina Gregory... *Looking Back & Forward*

**1967.** History always interprets the past from current perspectives. Now with 50 year perspective, we have the opportunity to consider the Detroit 1967 riots. Jamon Jordan's presentation offers a broad look at the Detroit area's long racial history. His presentation was well received by 600 attendees of the keynote address at the Historical Society of Michigan's Local History 2016 Conference.

**2016.** GWBHS Overview & 2016 Review, a media slide presentation, will be highlighted during the January 8 annual meeting and will be available online in February.

**2017.** Please renew your membership and consider increasing your GWBHS support level. GWBHS only receives donations and our financial needs continue to rise.

**GWBHS future.** GWBHS mission statement: The Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.

GWBHS has been operating with a small group of six to seven volunteer board members who work to further the GWBHS mission statement. Board members have been looking for the next president but have not seen anyone volunteer. I am willing to serve as president for a maximum of three more years, until January 2020, or will step down sooner if another person is interested in the position, and is approved by the Board. If none is found, what will happen? It may be time to consider other possibilities. We hope during this time, interested members and friends of GWBHS can explore, formulate, and implement plans

for a more sustainable GWBHS structure and future.

Board members are hosting an exploratory meeting with facilitator Brian Golden at the West Bloomfield Library Main Meeting Room, January 21, 2017, 10 a.m. - noon. Brian led three very worthwhile Strategic Planning meetings in the summer of 2015. At this meeting, we hope to create a study committee and plan. (Historical Society of Michigan is providing a list of groups, similar to GWBHS, who have evolved their structure over the years).

The public appreciates the local history we share through gwbhs.org, events, open houses, Apple Island Tours, and group programs.

What might sustain GWBHS as volunteer availability shifts? We hope you will attend this meeting to share ideas and/or consider how you might support a study effort.

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## GWBHS Launches Restaurant Fundraiser Program

Do you like to eat at Panera Bread? Support GWBHS on Thursday, February 16, 2017 from 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Bloomfield Hills Panera Bread (2125 S. Telegraph Rd.). Simply present the enclosed flyer with your order.

This is our first restaurant fundraiser. Look for details on upcoming restaurant fundraisers in future emails, newsletters, and on our web site at [www.gwbhs.org/shopping-restaurant-support/](http://www.gwbhs.org/shopping-restaurant-support/).

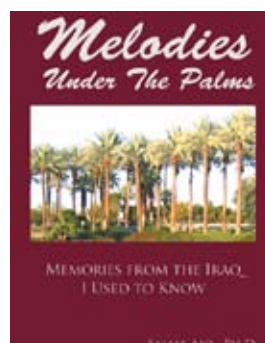
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## Black History Month: Remembering the 1967 Rebellion

Historian and Lecturer Jamon Jordan, founder of the Black Scroll Network, will present a program for Black History Month. He will discuss Detroit racial history and the 1967 Detroit Rebellion. This free event will take place at West Bloomfield Library on **Sunday, February 26, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.**



Jamon Jordan



## Iraq to West Bloomfield

Salma Ajo, Ph.D. is a local author who will speak about her experiences recounted in her 2015 memoir *Melodies Under the Palms* and her life in West Bloomfield. Born in Basra, Iraq, Dr. Ajo immigrated to the United States in 1971. This free event will take place **Sunday, March 26 at 2:00 p.m.** at West Bloomfield Library.

# 2017 EVENTS



Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society hosts and sponsors programs covering a wide variety of local history topics throughout the year. Visit [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org) for more information and final event details.

## Annual Meeting & *This Place Matters* Presentation

*Saturday, January 28, 10 a.m. - noon*

*Orchard Lake Schools, 3535 Commerce Rd., Dining Hall, Bldg. 15*

Annual meeting with *This Place Matters* presentation. \$15 brunch ticket donation. Reservations by January 24 at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org), [rsvp@gwbhs.org](mailto:rsvp@gwbhs.org), or 248.518.0871. No annual meeting charge. Parking info: enter from Commerce Road and park in the first west parking lot, close to this year's dining room.

## History of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion

*Sunday, February 26, 2 p.m., WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road*

Historian and Lecturer Jamon Jordan looks at Detroit racial history, noting the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Rebellion. No charge.

## Volunteer Opportunities Meeting

*Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Are you looking for flexible, interesting volunteer opportunities? Come learn our needs -- from one-time to long-term commitments. No charge.

## Iraq to West Bloomfield

*Sunday, March 26, 2 p.m., WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road*

Salma M. Ajo, PhD, shares her life experiences growing up in Iraq during the 1950s-60s and her life in West Bloomfield. No charge.

## Spring Nature Walk

*Sunday, April 23, 2-3 p.m., Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary, 4700 Pontiac Trail*

Join Naturalist Carol Fink for a guided tour. Walk through rolling terrain and explore the breathtaking spring flowers. Sponsored with Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary. No charge.

## Farmington Junction: A Trolley History

*Wednesday, April 26, 7 p.m., WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road*

Local historian Brian Golden explores the interurban, a light-rail system which ran from downtown Detroit, through Farmington, and then to Pontiac. Sponsored with the West Bloomfield Library. No charge.

## Apple Island Docent Training

*Wednesday, May 17, 7 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Would you like to lead a tour on Apple Island or guide a 2nd grade class through the Orchard Lake Museum? Come see what it's all about. RSVP by Tuesday, May 16 to Gina 248.622.7570. No charge.

## Apple Island Tours

*Saturday, May 20 & Sunday, May 21, 10 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.*

*Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Rd*

Self-paced guided tours of Apple Island. First come, first served. No reservations. 3:30 p.m. is last departure. \$15 adult ticket donation, \$10 child 5-12 years ticket donation (no kids under 5). \$5 GWBHS and Time Travelers members ticket donation.

## Join the Memorial Day Parade(s)

*Monday, May 29, 9 a.m. - noon, Keego Harbor and Sylvan Lake*

Walk or bike in the Monday Memorial Day parades! Or bring your vintage car! To participate contact DuAnne, 248.683.1542 or [duannesonneville@hotmail.com](mailto:duannesonneville@hotmail.com).

## National Trails Day Walk

*Saturday, June 3, 8:30 - 11 a.m., Walnut Lake Road entrance of WB Trail*

Celebrate National Trails Day by walking the West Bloomfield Trail's scenic and historic rail-to-trail path beginning at the Walnut Lake Rd. entrance. Step off the trail to the Orchard Lake Museum for refreshments. See Parks and Recreation Brochure for more information. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Parks & Recreation. No charge.

## Volunteer Opportunities Meeting

*Saturday, June 10, 10 a.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Are you looking for flexible, interesting volunteer opportunities? Come learn our needs -- from one-time to long-term commitments. No charge.

## Appreciation Reception

*Wednesday, July 12, 6 - 8 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Members, supporters, & volunteers are invited for refreshments to this GWBHS appreciation reception. Complimentary drawing ticket included for choice of multiple prizes. RSVP by July 10 to [rsvp@gwbhs.org](mailto:rsvp@gwbhs.org) or 248.518.0871.

## Aromatherapy History

*Wednesday, September 27, 7 p.m.*

*WB Library Main Meeting Room, 4600 Walnut Lake Road*

Kirsten Douglass shares the history of essential oil use and their many benefits. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Township Library. No charge.

## Treasures in the Trunk Sale

*Sunday, October 8, 1-4 p.m., Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Trunk Sale in the museum parking lot. GWBHS fundraiser. To rent space contact Sue, [sue@gwbhs.org](mailto:sue@gwbhs.org) or 248.757.2451.

## Autumn Nature Walk

*Sunday, October 15, 2-3 p.m., Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary, 4700 Pontiac Trail*

Join Naturalist Carol Fink for a guided tour. Walk through rolling terrain and explore seasonal autumn beauty. Sponsored with the Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary. No charge.

## Italian Evening

*Wednesday, October 18, 6 p.m., Gino's Restaurant side room, 1999 Cass Lake Road*

Enjoy Gino Santia's personally prepared gourmet Italian dinner with homemade wine. Travelogues. Limited seating for 40 with \$50 donation tickets available at [gwbhs.org/events](http://gwbhs.org/events). Proceeds support GWBHS.

## Monthly Open Houses at Orchard Lake Museum

**Second Sundays, 1-4 p.m.**

*3951 Orchard Lake Road*

Enjoy temporary and permanent exhibits interpreting area history and culture. Hands on activities and monthly themes. No charge.

## 2017 Open House Dates & Themes

January 8 - Ice Harvesting

February 12 - Indoor Games

March 12 - theme TBD

April 9 - Lake History

May 20 & 21 - Apple Island Tours

June 11 - Lake Archaeology

July 9 - Michigan Logging

August 13 - Vintage Cars

September 10 - Quilts

October 8 - Treasures in the Trunk Sale

November 12 - WWII Whitfield letters

December 10 - Nutcrackers

# Orchard Lake Museum News



## Guest Exhibit Rings in the New Year

Board Member Sue Williams has shared her collection of party spinners and ratchet noisemakers for a New Year themed guest exhibit.



## Share Your Collection

If you have a collection of historic items that you would like to share, we would love to talk to you about it. The public can share collections at an Open House or as a temporary museum exhibit. Please contact Sue Williams at [sue@gwbhs.org](mailto:sue@gwbhs.org).

### *Have something to donate?*

If you own something related to area history that you would like to donate to the GWBHS collection, bring it to an Open House or contact us at [contact@gwbhs.org](mailto:contact@gwbhs.org) or 248.757.2451. We also encourage you to share your memories and digital photos via email to [archives@gwbhs.org](mailto:archives@gwbhs.org).



## Visit the Museum Store

A variety of items are available for purchase in the Museum Store, including books, postcards, photographic prints, and printed maps.

This 1872 map of West Bloomfield is one of the items available. The print has different colored sections that indicate the 13 school districts students at that time. Reproduced as 11"x17", this colored map reveals lots, buildings, and owners' names of the time, \$10.

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## Thank You

GWBHS could not do so much good work without the help of our wonderful volunteers. Thank you to those who have recently given their time and helped out.

### **Kit Homes**

Anita MacSorley, Diane Eanes, Gina Gregory, Sue Murphy

### **Pine Lake Cemetery Tour**

Anita MacSorley, Barb Krause, Carol Fink, Christian Sonnevile, Diiane Eanes, Don Newman, DuAnne Sonnevile, Gina Gregory, Hannah Dagg, Jerry Nechel, Karen Ashford Huyghe, Karen Pushie, Linda Kidd, Lynda Cook, Mary Bem, Mary Duncley, Paul Mellerowicz, Sue Murphy, Sue Williams

### **Autumn Nature Walk**

Carol Fink, Sue Murphy

### **Open Houses (September - December)**

Speakers: Jim Cherfoli, Donna Mallonen, Jerry McManus  
Docents: Gwynne Cherfoli, Diane Eanes, Gina Gregory, Rob Gregory

### **Museum Storage**

Rob Gregory, Linda Kidd, Ron Montgomery

### **Donated Shelving**

Joe Leonard

# Apple Island - An Enduring Gift



## Ward Family on Apple Island

In 1915, Willis C. Ward purchased Apple Island from the Campbell family. He built a large home, complete with electricity from a generating system installed on the island.

After Willis Ward's death in 1943, his children Marjorie and Harold inherited his properties in Orchard Lake. Harold Ward donated the land that would eventually become Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary to Cranbrook in 1969.

## Marjorie's Gift

Marjorie Ward Strong was a lifelong resident of Orchard Lake. After her death in 1970, her husband General Frederick Smith Strong, Jr. donated Apple Island to West Bloomfield School District as the Marjorie Ward Strong Woodland Sanctuary. In accordance with Marjorie's wishes, the land was to be used as an educational nature center for students.



## Apple Island Today

Second graders in the West Bloomfield School District tour Apple Island during the spring and fall to gain an appreciation for nature and conservation of our natural resources.

The annual Apple Island Tours opens the island to the public during the third week-end in May. For more information, visit [www.gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours/](http://www.gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours/).

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## Once in a Lifetime Opportunity to Camp on Apple Island

Imagine watching the sunset from the comfort of your Apple Island campsite. Enjoy an overnight stay on the island with a hosted campout, boat transportation to/from the island, a historical tour, hot dinner, and hot breakfast for up to 10 guests (age 10 and older). West Bloomfield Educational Foundation (WBEF) & GWBHS will provide food, activities, transportation, historical tour, and an on-site naturalist for this May 27-28 campout

This amazing item will be up for auction during the WBEF Casino Night silent auction on Friday, February 10.

### West Bloomfield Educational Foundation Casino Night

Friday, February 10, 2017, 7-11 p.m.

Edgewood Country Club, 8399 Commerce Road, Commerce Township, MI 48382

See [WBEF.org](http://WBEF.org) for details.



Orchard Lake Museum  
**Phone 248.757.2451**  
3951 Orchard Lake Road  
Orchard Lake MI 48323

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### Board of Directors

Gina Gregory	President
Diane Eanes	Recording Secretary & Volunteer Coordinator
Carol Fink	Corresponding Secretary
Sue Williams	Treasurer
Helen Jane Peters	Historian
Hannah Dagg	History Matters Editor

### Committee Chairs

Don Newman	Group Programs
Christian Sonnevile	Development/Fundraising
Christy Forhan	Our School History Chair
Sue Grifor	Membership

### GWBHS Mission Statement

*The Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that collects, preserves, researches and stimulates public interest in the history of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake and West Bloomfield.*

### GWBHS Tribute Donations

Make a donation in honor of someone with a love for local history. [www.gwbhs.org/donate](http://www.gwbhs.org/donate)



## Membership & Donation Form

Membership Year: Jan. 1 to Dec. 31    ☐ New Member    ☐ Renewal

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I prefer to receive my newsletter by email link.  
☐ Please contact me about volunteering with GWBHS.

*Please make checks payable to GWBHS. Credit card payments are accepted through PayPal at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org).*

*GWBHS is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations are tax deductible according to IRS regulations.*

Membership includes access to Time Travelers reciprocal membership network

Mail to: GWBHS 3951 Orchard Lake Road Orchard Lake, MI 48323.

- |  |       |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual      | \$20  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family          | \$40  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Premier         | \$50  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron/Business | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life            | \$600 |

Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(in honor of \_\_\_\_\_)

Total Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Support GWBHS Throughout the Year



## Help GWBHS When You Shop on Amazon!



We appreciate everyone who participates in the AmazonSmile program.

When you shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), Amazon will donate a percentage to GWBHS, at no cost to you. Here's how:

### Steps to Setting Up Your Amazon Account to Donate to GWBHS:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com/>
- Select a charity by typing in our name: Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (or for those already on Smile.Amazon, go to 'your account' then click on 'change charity')
- Click on Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society
- Use smile.amazon.com every time you shop Amazon and GWBHS will get a percentage!

## Volunteer

Are you looking for flexible, interesting volunteer opportunities, from one-time to long-term commitments?

Contact Volunteer Coordinator, Diane Eanes, at [volunteer@gwbhs.org](mailto:volunteer@gwbhs.org) or [248.528.0871](tel:248.528.0871).

## Restaurant Rewards

Restaurants and other food services support GWBHS by hosting an event at their site. When GWBHS family and friends eat there, the host site donates a portion of sales directly to GWBHS! <http://www.gwbhs.org/support>

## Help GWBHS When You Shop at Kroger!



We appreciate everyone who participates in the Kroger Community Savings program. Kroger donates a percentage of your purchase to us every time you shop and use your Kroger Plus card, at no cost to you.

### Steps to Setting Up Your Kroger Card to Donate to GWBHS:

- Register online at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)
  - Sign in or Create an Account and follow the prompts
  - Once your account is set up, click on Edit Kroger Community Rewards information & register your Kroger Plus card
  - Enter NPO number (27610) or name of organization (Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society)
  - To verify enrollment, Greater West Bloomfield History Society will appear on the right side of the page
  - Do this yearly to keep GWBHS as the charity
  - Use your card every time you shop, and GWBHS will get a percentage!
- You can also enroll by calling Customer Service at 1-866-221-4141

## Sponsorships

GWBHS Sponsorship program provides a variety of opportunities for businesses and individuals to make a difference in the level of service we can provide to the community.

<http://www.gwbhs.org/support/sponsorships/>  
[contact@gwbhs.org](mailto:contact@gwbhs.org)



# FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Help support

## GREATER WEST BLOOMFIELD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**February 16, 2017  
4:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.**

**at the Panera Bread bakery-cafe at  
2125 S Telegraph Rd  
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302**

**Bring this flyer when you dine with us and we'll donate a portion of the proceeds from your purchase. Please hand in a hard copy or show an electronic version of this flyer upon placing your order. Purchases of gift cards are not counted towards the event. It's a great way to combine great taste and great fun - for a great cause.**

**Learn more about Fundraising Nights at Panera Bread at:  
[www.PaneraBread.com/fundraiser](http://www.PaneraBread.com/fundraiser)**