



Spring 2021



Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

Apple Island Tours Go Virtual for 2021

Though it will be different than usual, Apple Island Tours are back, virtually, giving everyone a chance to learn more about this local treasure from the comfort of home, free of charge. Four Zoom presentation times are available on Saturday & Sunday, June 12-13, at 10 am and 1 pm. The virtual presentation will feature a tour of Orchard Lake Museum outdoor exhibits and a virtual island tour with volunteer island docents and presenters Genot (Winter Elk) Picor and Mikwhandan (Mike) Jewell.

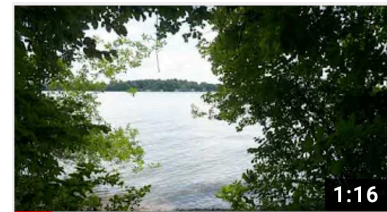
Zoom login details are available at gwbhs.org/apple-island-tours/ and on the enclosed 2021 Programs insert. Depending on the weather and COVID-19 restrictions, Apple Island informational panels may be displayed outdoors at Orchard Lake Museum.

Silver Sponsors

bugs Beddow & the Good Stuff
Magnolia by the Lakes

Community Partners:

City of Orchard Lake Village
West Bloomfield Parks
West Bloomfield Schools



2021 Virtual Apple Island Tours Teaser

View the video at
<https://youtu.be/BSZqfmlx4cs>

Upcoming Events



**Virtual Open House:
Interurban Railway**
Zoom* Meeting ID: 702 835 2055
May 9 • 1 pm



**Virtual Presentation: Perspectives
on Traditional Native American Life**
Register with wblib.org
May 19 • 7 pm



Virtual Apple Island Tours
See gwbhs.org/events for Zoom links
June 12 & 13 • 10 am & 1 pm



**Virtual Open House: Sylvan Lake
100th Anniversary**
Zoom* Meeting ID: 896 2249 1708
July 11 • 1 pm



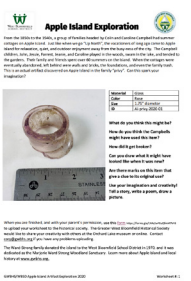
**Virtual Open House:
Walter Flanders**
Zoom* Meeting ID: 893 2283 6239
August 8 • 1 pm

Expanded Virtual Offerings

New, easy to access activities and programs

Volunteer from Home

We now offer several virtual volunteer opportunities. Interested volunteers can choose from a variety of projects including digitization of VHS tapes/slides/audio cassette tapes; preparation of spreadsheets for archive donations to be imported into our archive database; video interview community members via Zoom; recruit new volunteers. Detailed plans, training, equipment, and materials will be provided where appropriate



Homeschooling

We have an exciting new activity available online for homeschoolers. For the September 2020 open house, GWBHS Historian and WBSD School Board Member, Christy Forhan, created a series of Apple Island Artifact Exploration Worksheets. These worksheets provide brief histories of various Apple Island archaeological artifacts and encourage curious minds to think and answer questions about each artifact. We encourage you to share your completed

worksheets with GWBHS! See: gwbhs.org/education/apple-island/apple-island-archaeology/.

Expanded Virtual Offerings continued on page 3

From the Desk

of President Gina Gregory

GWBHS continues to serve the community during the Covid-19 pandemic with virtual programming. We are so fortunate to have received a Covid-19 support grant as expenses increased for virtual programming. Interestingly, we saw:

2020 Strategic Planning Sessions by ZOOM with higher attendance. These plans will be developed and direct Society initiatives.

More volunteerism, while safely socially distanced, to carefully develop an updated Orchard Lake Museum exhibit layout, restore the doctor's carriage, reorganize archive collections. New GWBHS historic content video presentations.

Cory Taylor developed and gave a presentation with new video content for a virtual conference V.I.B.E., **Virtual Innovative Business Event** hosted by Greater West Bloomfield Chamber of Commerce, Civic Center TV, Facebook live and Lakes FM 89.3.

Christy Forhan developed and gave a ZOOM 10-minute presentation on the **Native American history of Apple Island** to Global L-T employees as part of the company's Diversity and Inclusion committee in recognition of National Native American Heritage month. Kelly Denawetz, of Global L-T and a West Bloomfield resident, thought to contact GWBHS with a request to share our unique history with her fellow employees.

Positive Feedback

"It has really been amazing for our residents. It's fabulous to have access to GWBHS educational programs, especially virtual access in the midst of COVID." from Linda Ybarra-Bozzone, Director of Sales, Sunrise Senior Living of Bloomfield.

"I appreciate everyone's effort there at GWBHS. I enjoy the email notices of the virtual programs you are hosting and making your members aware of. You are the finest example of any museum/historical society that have maintained such a presence as you have during these trying times. My hat is off to you. I have forward many of your programs to other historical societies as an example of what can be done. GREAT JOB!" from Ron Campbell, Oakland County Principal Planner / Preservation Architect.

Sign up for the free GWBHS emails with program notices and other information at gwbhs.org. Upcoming events are included on the gwbhs.org website front page, in GWBHS eblasts, at Facebook (Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society) and Instagram ([historymattersatgwbhs](https://www.instagram.com/historymattersatgwbhs)).

Please support GWBHS with your donations, membership, planned giving, and volunteerism. We need many volunteers and members to support GWBHS activities. Renew or become a member today at gwbhs.org/support/donate. We look forward to seeing you virtually or in person when the time is right.

GWBHS Members Honored During Michigan Week

Congratulations to Bill Bertakis, Jerry McManus, and Barb Krause, who were award recipients during the virtual Michigan Week Award programs for their community involvement. They all are GWBHS members.



Bill Bertakis received the 2020 Dr. Seymour Gretchko Youth Advocate Award - Individual for his involvement in educating Roosevelt School students in the "Tool Room" where he started a program to instruct students in trade skills. He is a long time leader with the Keego Harbor Optimist Club and the West Bloomfield Optimist Club.



Jerry McManus received the 2020 Lifetime Volunteer Leadership Award. He volunteers to preserve local history with the Friends of Highland Recreation Area to rejuvenate the historic former Haven Hill Estate of Edsel and Eleanor Ford, the Preservation Bloomfield preservation efforts with the Barton Farmhouse, and the Iosco County Historical Society in EastTawas, MI.

Volunteer Recognition at GWBHS Annual Meeting



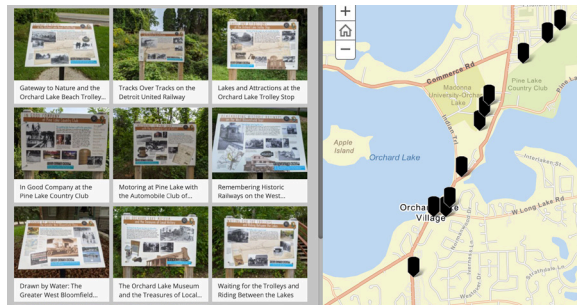
Mel Rycus received the Distinguished Service Award in appreciation of his 1974 suggestion to preserve the history and historical facts of Keego Harbor, Orchard Lake, Sylvan Lake, and West Bloomfield and his co-leadership with Father Walter Ziemba initiating this organization. Mel lives in Arizona and we enjoyed being able to virtually present this award to him during the meeting.

Gina Gregory gave the President's Merit Award for Museum renovation to Rob Gregory and Sue Grifor, and for leadership during COVID-19 to Carol Fink, Christy Forhan, and Cory Taylor.

Expanded Virtual Offerings Continued from page 1

MotorCities Markers

For the October presentation on the Wayside Sign Outdoor Exhibits, now called MotorCities Markers, we generated an interactive map of all 25 outdoor panels in the Greater West Bloomfield area. See: gwbhs.org/exhibits/history-outdoors-motorcities-markers/. You can filter the map to a single city or look at all 25 locations at once. Each pin has the exact sign's location coordinates with the sign image. When you visit the signs, be sure to tag us in any social media posts you may share on Facebook (Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society) and Instagram (historymattersatgwbhs).



Videos

We are excited to announce GWBHS is producing our own historical content videos! Find these 2020-2021 videos and more on Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/user/GWBHS>. Watch for additional video postings and new presentations planned through August 2021!

Apple Island was featured with the 50th anniversary of West Bloomfield School District ownership, September 2020:

- Apple Island: Then & Now
- Apple Island as an Educational Resource
- Apple Island and it's Community Connection

Also see:

- Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary Spring Tour
- History Outdoors: MotorCities Markers Presentation
- Orchard Lake Museum Outdoor Exhibits Walking Tour

Then & Now: Our Four Communities of Greater West Bloomfield

This video includes photographs and video footage depicting the history of each of our four communities of Greater West Bloomfield. Video at: https://youtu.be/_9paD3OmjIs

We followed roadways, beginning at the West Bloomfield Township Civic Center, through the township, then north through the City of Orchard Lake Village, the City of Keego Harbor, and the City of Sylvan Lake, with GWBHS historians Gina Gregory, Helen Jane Peters, DuAnne Sonnevile, and Sue Williams.

This virtual tour was created in memory of Betty Bradbury (1926-2016), Orchard Lake resident and 40 year GWBHS volunteer. Betty enjoyed volunteering with GWBHS and sharing local history. She always wished for an approachable local history resource. GWBHS fulfills her wish with this presentation and purchase of 25 copies of West Bloomfield and the Tri-Cities by Ron Gay for educational programs, made possible by the Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society Memorial Fund for Betty Bradbury.



Covid-19 Grant Received

Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS) is most appreciative of the Oakland Together Cultural Institution Covid -19 Support Grant award received through Oakland County in December 2020.

These grants were awarded to arts, cultural, and stewardship institutions that provide cultural understanding and diversity, conservation, and stewardship while enhancing the quality of life for Oakland County and southeastern Michigan. GWBHS received the grant with a depleted checking account due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

The GWBHS grant award has helped support new socially distanced programs, with funds allocated to operation costs, safety supplies, and virtual functionality. Pictured at left: new air purifier

Your Support Can Have Lasting Impact

Orchard Lake Museum is undergoing major changes and you or your business can be a part of it. You now have the opportunity to show your support of local history by becoming an Exhibit Sponsor. Professionally produced, 18" x 30", color exhibit panels are being designed to include recognition of our sponsors.

Consider this opportunity to sponsor a panel, with your name seen and appreciated for years to come. Other support opportunities are available as well. See details at gwbhs.org/support/sponsorship/.

Remembering Charles H. Martinez

By Gina Gregory



Charles H. Martinez

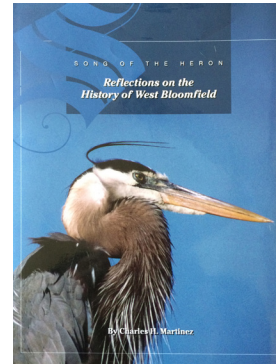
Charles H. Martinez, 1932 - 2020, a GWBHS member, contributed so much to increase our understandings of local history. He worked as a contract archaeologist for over 26 years. He excavated some 50 archaeological sites and authored numerous reports and monographs on the results of these investigations. He served as president of the Michigan Archaeological Society. (see TheDigitalArchaeologicalRecord.org)

He was an active Oakland County Pioneer and Historical Society (OCPHS) member, a board director for many years, and the executive director in the 1990s. He researched and wrote many articles and booklets including funeral practices and *Hammering Out the Past: Prehistoric Artifacts Found In Oakland County*, now available at the Orchard Lake Museum. In 2020, Charlie was named an OCPHS Lifetime Achievement Award winner. On the Pine Grove grounds, a sign was installed designating a tree named in his honor. The chosen tree was planted near multiple sites where he conducted archaeological digs over the years.

GWBHS best remembers him as author of *Song of the Heron: A Reflection on the History of West Bloomfield*, available at the Orchard Lake Museum. This informative, well-researched book chronicles West Bloomfield area history. We are fortunate to have this valuable resource. In 2014 Charlie received the GWBHS Distinguished Service Award (DSA), with his name added to the DSA plaque and a recognition certificate presented.

He was in declining health when I hand delivered an invitation to the Apple Island National Register of Historic Places Celebration June 7, 2019, but he was very pleased to learn that Apple Island received this national status

The life and work of Charles H. Martinez will be celebrated at the OCPHS annual meeting on May 15, 2021.



Left: Cover of *Song of the Heron*, 2004

Right: 2014 GWBHS Annual Meeting: Distinguished Service Award - L-R: Gina Gregory, OCPHS President Mike West, Charles H. Martinez

Remembering Frank Salo

By Rob Gregory



Frank Salo during Apple Island Tours 2007

We remember Frank Salo (1932-2021). He and his wife Nancy were GWBHS volunteers who enjoyed sharing local history. When Frank retired as the beloved Plant Engineer at Scotch School, they began the tradition of giving docent-led tours to WBSD second grade students to Apple Island and the Orchard Lake Museum annually

Frank and Nancy were the lead docents for Apple Island Tours for many years. I, along with other docents, learned the island trails from Frank. He had an easygoing, informative manner, and I derived my delivery style from him.

Frank used to give each child on an Apple Island Tour a necklace string with a 3" medallion from a fallen Apple Island cedar limb. My children still have theirs. He made and donated the pioneer doll house we've had on display at the Museum. He constructed exhibit cases for island posters, made a stand for the traditional graces game, and hand crafted wood gee-haw whammy diddle mechanical toys and button whirligigs for GWBHS.

Frank and Nancy received a Volunteer Service award from the Michigan Week Breakfast Awards Committee in 2006. Christy Forhan recalls her experiences: "Frank and Nancy also shared memories of his days as custodian at "old Scotch" when I was working on the Our School History project. He even showed me where he signed the wall in a back staircase after installing a much-needed handrail. He was a living piece of local history for sure."

2021 Programs

MAY - AUGUST



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

Due to COVID-19, our events through summer 2021 will be held virtually via Zoom. Direct Zoom links for our open houses and other event information can be found on our website at gwbhs.org/events. For more information about how to join a Zoom: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->.

Virtual Open House - Interurban Railway

Sunday, May 9 • 1pm

Zoom*: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7028352055> Meeting ID: 702 835 2055

Virtually, local historian Brian Golden travels the interurban, a light-rail system which ran from downtown Detroit, through Farmington, to Pontiac. The railway shortened travel time to the "up north" getaway that was West Bloomfield. Q & A.

Virtual Presentation - Perspectives on Traditional Native American Life**

Wednesday, May 19 • 7pm

Registration: http://wblib.org/services/virtual_registration.php

Or view at civiccentertv.com

Virtually, Anishnabai Native American presenter Mikwhandan (Mike) Jewell shares his perspectives about traditional Native American life in a 45-minute video recorded in native costume in a natural setting. Video produced by Civic Center Television; tentatively scheduled for broadcast on CCTV. Live Q & A. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Library.

Virtual Apple Island Tours

Saturday, June 12 & Sunday, June 13 • 10am & 1pm

Zoom*: see sidebar (right) for Zoom meeting links.

A free virtual presentation featuring a tour of Orchard Lake Museum outdoor exhibits, volunteer island docents, presenters Genot (Winter Elk) Picor and Mikwhandan (Mike) Jewell, and a virtual island tour. Sponsored with West Bloomfield Parks and West Bloomfield Schools. Apple Island informational panels will be outdoors at the Museum depending on the weather and COVID-19 restrictions.

Virtual Open House - Sylvan Lake Village 100th Anniversary

Sunday, July 11 • 1pm

Zoom*: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89622491708> Meeting ID: 896 2249 1708

Virtually, historian Helen Jane Peters shares the history of Sylvan Lake Village, 1921 – 2021. Live Q & A. Sylvan Lake panels will be outdoors at the Museum, depending on the weather and COVID-19 restrictions.

Virtual Open House - Walter Flanders

Sunday, August 8 • 1pm

Zoom*: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89322836239> Meeting ID: 893 2283 6239

Dr. William Spencer will present virtually about his grandfather, Walter Flanders, an early automotive entrepreneur, who had a large estate in West Bloomfield. He'll include what it is like to own a Flanders 20 Runabout. Live Q & A. Showcase your classic car in the Museum parking lot depending on the weather and COVID-19 restrictions. See gwbhs.org on August 1 for final plans.

For more details and a complete list of events, visit gwbhs.org/events.

*How to join a Zoom event:

Visit join.zoom.us and enter the Meeting ID. If you are using a mobile device, it will prompt you to install the Zoom app.



**Event co-sponsored with Civic Center TV and West Bloomfield Library

Apple Island Tours Zoom* Meeting Links

Saturday, June 12 – 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81936987247>

Meeting ID: 819 3698 7247

Saturday, June 12 – 1pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86283091827>

Meeting ID: 862 8309 1827

Sunday, June 13 – 10am

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81472833238>

Meeting ID: 814 7283 3238

Sunday, June 13 – 1pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82026832106>

Meeting ID: 820 2683 2106



Volunteer's Family Inspires Carriage Restoration Project

These past months have given me time to reflect about life and provided opportunities to try new adventures. One of the many joys of working with the Historical Society, is that I get an up close and personal knowledge of our many collections. I recently took on the challenge of restoring our 100 year old buckboard doctor's carriage. It was donated to the historical society by Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Robb of West Bloomfield. While it's been a fixture at many of our outdoor events, its years sitting on the front porch had it looking quite dull and useless.

I spent many, many hours working on the carriage. I learned wagon repair, sanding, priming, and painting with several coats of glossy paint. The wooden wheels and numerous spokes were quite the challenge. With my back to the museum and my eyes on Orchard Lake, I was able to ignore the loud traffic zipping by and reflect on an earlier and more peaceful time. Our rich community spoke volumes to me about lives well lived.

I had additional reasons for improving the looks of the wagon. My father was an old fashioned family physician in Detroit. Certainly not that old as to drive a horse drawn carriage, but nonetheless, he made house calls and delivered babies at homes. This wagon honors the way he practiced medicine. The other motivation is my brother. He has been in the painting business for over 40 years, and I have had many opportunities to help him paint homes. Being a stickler for detail and neatness, he inspired me work at my best. I will never be as good a painter, but I sure learned the importance of patience and accuracy in the profession.

The carriage is back in its place on the porch at Orchard Lake Museum. My hope is that when people visit or drive by, the doctor's carriage will catch their eyes and encourage them to ask, "What was life like in the old days?"

Enjoy,

Carol Fink
GWBHS Board Member



Carol Fink and the doctor's carriage

Latest Outdoor Exhibit Is Lesson in Nature



Above: embedded sign exhibit
Right: sign in 1980, photo
courtesy of Orchard Place
resident Rick Bartus



A new Orchard Lake Museum outdoor exhibit "What Nature Does" highlights what is visible of two street signs nailed to an oak tree for 80 years- the just visible end portions of two street signs: Commerce Road and Orchard Place. This tree section was made available when the tree was cut down during maintenance work on the north side of Commerce Road at the cobblestone entryway to Orchard Place. The cobblestones once marked the entrance to the Pelletier farm, a 175 acre farm, spanning from Orchard Lake to Cass Lake. Mr. E LeRoy Pelletier was the first Ford Motor Company advertising manager. Around 1938, Mrs. Gertrude Pelletier wrote a letter to Orchard Lake Village officials requesting street signs so the Fire Department could find their farmhouse on Orchard Place road, not easily seen from Commerce.

Rick Bartus, knowing the significance of the tree, acted quickly to save the tree section and donated it to GWBHS.

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.

Apple Island Tours Silver Sponsors

bugs Beddow & the Good Stuff,
Magnolia by the Lakes Senior Living

Apple Island Tours Partners

City of Orchard Lake Village, West Bloomfield Parks,
West Bloomfield Schools

West Bloomfield Parks Winter & Summer Guide Ad Sponsor

Townehall Place Senior Living

Web Sponsor

Mindell Realty

History Matters Sponsor

Sunrise Senior Living Bloomfield Hills

Program Sponsors

Gino's Italian Restaurant, Petite Gardens, Melaleuca: The Wellness
Co., Mindell Realty, Sunrise of Bloomfield Hills

Archive Donation

Glen King, Jim Campbell, Rick Bartus, with help by Rob Gregory

Museum Volunteer

Neil Hepburn

Museum Galleries Design Updates

Kasey Pierson, owner of Pierson Interiors, came to the museum
and offered her paint color choice perspectives

Museum Exhibit Planning

Professional exhibit designers Larry Hutchinson, Executive
Director, and Hutchinson Studios, LLC, and Karl Mayry
Executive Director, Through the Learning Glass LLC, Enhancing
Educational Environments came to the Museum to explore exhibit
considerations and perspectives with Christy Forhan, Sue Grifor,
Carol Fink, Gina Gregory, Hannah Dagg, Linda Kidd, Sue Williams

Virtual Event & Open House Presenters

James Craft, Carol Fink, Christy Forhan, Barb Frye, Brian Golden,
Rob and Gina Gregory, Jamon Jordan, Cathy Haase, Ron Pawl,
Helen Jane Peters, DuAnne Sonnevill, Cory Taylor, Sue Williams,
and Jim Crow Museum of Racist Memorabilia

Virtual Program Partners

West Bloomfield Library, West Bloomfield Parks

Virtual Event Support Volunteers

Brian Golden, Gina Gregory, Neil Hepburn, Clayton Nummer

Strategic Planning Leadership & Participants

Facilitator Brian Golden, James Bayson, Hannah Dagg, Diane
Eanes, Carol Fink, Norm Finkelstein, Gina Gregory, Sue Grifor, Neil
Hepburn, Barb Krause, Paul Mellerowicz, Tim Pawl, Christian and
DuAnne Sonnevill, Cory Taylor, Sue Williams, Robin Ann Yurk

Technology Support

Elise Gregory, Paul Gregory

Television Donation

Estate of Jean Forhan

Helped develop West Bloomfield School District virtual 2nd grade Apple Island educational materials.

Christy Forhan

Doctor's Carriage Restoration

Carol Fink, Rob Gregory,
Sherwin Williams Commerce professional account support



Carol Fink and Gina Gregory display the newly restored doctor's carriage.

Country Club Staff Helps with Apple Island Cleanup

In fall 2020, the Orchard Lake Country Club landscape staff volunteered
to cut and clear felled Apple Island trees through West Bloomfield School
District with GWBHS support. Their efforts are appreciated.





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

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Gina Gregory	President
Diane Eanes	Recording Secretary
Carol Fink	Corresponding Secretary
Sue Williams	Treasurer
Linda Kidd	Historian
Hannah Dagg	History Matters Editor
Karen Pushie	Database & Presenter

Committee Chairs

Christy Forhan	WBSD Liaison
Sue Grifor	Membership
Barb Krause	GWBC Liaison
Don Newman	Group Programs
Christian Sonnevile	Development/Fundraising

Office & Activities Coordinator

Cory Taylor

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.



*Thank you to our
newsletter sponsor!*
SunriseSeniorLiving.com



GWBHS Membership & Donation Form

☐ New Membership ☐ Renew Membership ☐ Gift Membership* ☐ Donation

Name

Address

Email Phone

*Gift membership from: Phone

Address

☐ Please contact me about volunteering with GWBHS.

Make checks payable to GWBHS. Credit card payments are accepted through PayPal at 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.

Please ask your employer if they match employee charitable donations
and remember the Society in your wills, living trusts, and estate plans.

Membership • Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

<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

\$

☐ This donation is in honor of:

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