

# History Matters



Keego Harbor • Orchard Lake • Sylvan Lake • West Bloomfield

Newsletter of Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society

WINTER 2024 | CELEBRATING GWBHS' 50TH ANNIVERSARY | UPDATED SOCIETY & MUSEUM TIMELINE | SOCIETY PROGRAMS & NEWS

## Happy 50th Anniversary Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, 1974-2024!

Special activities and educational programs are planned throughout 2024 highlighting greater West Bloomfield history! Join us for special events early this year. See page four for details.



Join our members, volunteers, and sponsors for our

### 50TH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, January 27, 2024, 10 am-12 pm  
Orchard Lake Schools Dining Hall  
Enter from Commerce Road

Celebrate 50 years! Door prizes, presentation, and campus tour.

### Greater West Bloomfield History Through Maps

March 20, 2024



Join us for a

### HOLIDAY HOUSE PANEL DEDICATION

Thursday, April 25, 2024, 1 pm  
Park at the end of Pine Estates Drive

Dedication of this new Motorcities Marker at Pine Lake.

## 2024 Grants Received

GWBHS deeply appreciates tireless volunteer grant submission efforts. We are excited to receive these 2024 grants!

A Michigan Arts and Culture Council / National Endowment for the Arts grant allows GWBHS to further fulfill its Mission: enriching our communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing history by digitizing some of the museum's collection so artifacts are accessible online at no cost to the public at <http://gwbhs.pastperfectonline.com/>.



MICHIGAN  
ARTS &  
CULTURE  
COUNCIL

NATIONAL  
ENDOWMENT  
for the  
ARTS  
arts.gov

A Michigan Nonprofit Association grant from Michigan Nonprofit Relief Fund, a collaborative fund of Michigan Nonprofit Association and Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity, helps GWBHS pay for operational expenses in 2024.

m.n.a.   
Michigan Nonprofit Association

A Michigan Humanities grant allows GWBHS to enhance outdoor museum exhibits by illuminating them with spotlights and making displays more visible to the public at night.



## From the Desk of President Gina Gregory

### Happy 50th Anniversary Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society, 1974-2024

We are celebrating 50 years of volunteers collecting, preserving, and sharing history!

**A timeline is included in each 2024 newsletter!** GWBHS Timeline Part One is in the winter issue, Apple Island Involvement is in the spring issue, and GWBHS Timeline Part Two is in the fall issue.

**Special programs are planned throughout the year!** Save the date for summer special programs

- Apple Island Tours, June 8 and 9
- Celebration Appreciation Reception, July 17
- "Poker Rally" with West Bloomfield automotive connections, August 11

**2024 grants support GWBHS** with collection digitizing efforts, operational expenses, and Museum outdoor exhibit enhancements!

**Use of the City of Orchard Lake Village building for Orchard Lake Museum is secure** at this time!

**Yet, GWBHS needs members and volunteers. Without volunteers, there is no functional society.** As volunteers retire, who will take their place? Can 66,000 greater West Bloomfield residents step up in some small way to support this volunteer-run organization?

**Volunteers are needed** for Apple Island Tours, and the automotive Poker Rally. Contact [anna@gwbhs.org](mailto:anna@gwbhs.org) to volunteer or see [gwbhs.org/support/volunteer/](http://gwbhs.org/support/volunteer/).

**Support GWBHS by getting involved now.** Renew your membership. Only 2024 Society members receive mailed newsletters. Click "Join Our eClub" at [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org) to receive GWBHS emails! Kroger Community Rewards, sponsorships, tribute or memorial donations, and legacy planning are other ways to support our mission. Check out our gift shop too!

**Last but not least, we welcomed Anna Smith**, as Museum and Communications Assistant in September 2023. She quickly moved into the position, as Shelby Nelsen took a Sloan Museum full-time volunteer coordinator position.

### Required Member Vote at 2024 Annual Meeting

There will be a required vote of members to amend GWBHS Bylaws at the Annual meeting, January 27, 2024

#### CURRENT VERSION

Article 5, Section 2 Antidiscrimination Policy  
Services and membership are provided to interested persons regardless of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, marital status, handicap or political affiliation.

#### PROPOSED CHANGE TO

Article 5, Section 2 Equal Opportunity Policy  
GWBHS has an Equal Opportunity Policy. See [gwbhs.org](http://gwbhs.org) for more information.

## Updates from Anna Smith Museum & Communications Assistant



Anna Smith

Hello, my name is Anna Smith. I became the Museum & Communications Assistant at GWBHS in September 2023. I have additionally taken over the role of Archive Database Administrator for the 2022/23 "Our School History" Project. Thanks to a grant extension

from the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan, volunteers digitized over 1,400 items in total by the end of the project in December!

In 2024, I am excited to continue working with GWBHS as the Society celebrates its 50th anniversary. GWBHS also needs volunteers! They are a vital component of the programs we offer to our communities. If you are interested in local history and would like to volunteer, please email me at [anna@gwbhs.org](mailto:anna@gwbhs.org) or visit [gwbhs.org/support/volunteer/](http://gwbhs.org/support/volunteer/).



Anna, and Volunteer, Andrea Soultanian, Our School History Project

## A Look Back at fall 2023



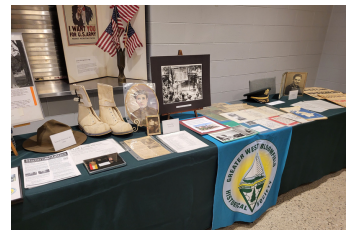
Jerry McManus, Antique Saws Open House



President Gina Gregory shared artifacts and history, Peace Memorial Rededication



Kyle Stalter, Mrs. Butterworth Bottle Collection Open House



Collection volunteers hosted a military exhibit, Heroes Appreciation Breakfast



DuAnne Sonnevile, Hand-crafted Christmas Open House



Collections Chair Sue Williams with a collection location binder

# 2024 Programs

## January - April



Greater  
West Bloomfield  
Historical Society

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



### Curling Open House

Sunday, January 14, 1-4 pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road  
See modern equipment and memorabilia of a

West Bloomfield Olympian who was on the 1932 demonstration curling team! Free admission, donations appreciated.

### Open House Docent Training

Wednesday, January 17, 1-2 pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Interested in welcoming people to the Museum and sharing our history? Come learn what it's all about.



### 50th Anniversary Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 27, 10 am-12 pm

Orchard Lake Schools Dining Hall

Enter from Commerce Road

Attend the 50th Annual meeting with special features! A Galeria and campus update will be given by Dr. John Radzilowski, followed by a tour of the 1880s and 2022 classroom buildings. Brunch reservations (\$15) due by January 23. Partnered with the Polish Institute of Culture & Research.



### Presentation: "Chaldeans in Southeast Michigan, Past and Present"

Sunday, February 4, 2 pm

WB Library Main Meeting Room

4600 Walnut Lake Road

This presentation gives an overview and understanding of the Chaldean community of Southeast Michigan, with West Bloomfield expansion plans. Free admission, donations appreciated. Sponsored with WB Library and WB Diversity Task Force.



### Recreation Open House

Sunday, February 11, 1-4 pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Outdoor recreation opportunities are plentiful! See early fishing, Friends of Apple Island memorabilia, sailing, skiing, and more! Free admission, donations appreciated.

**Open House Dates** 1-4 pm (closed holiday weekends or when a program is elsewhere). Come see new permanent exhibits interpreting local history and culture! *Free Admission, Donations Appreciated.*

#### January

Sunday: 1/7, 1/14  
Friday: 1/19

#### March

Sunday: 3/3, 3/10, 3/24  
Friday: 3/15

#### February

Sunday: 2/11, 2/25  
Friday: 2/16

#### April

Sunday: 4/7, 4/14  
Friday: 4/19



### Orchard Lake Museum Tour

Thursday, March 7, 1:30 pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Meet at the Orchard Lake Museum for a small group docent-led tour. This trip is in collaboration with WB Parks: pre-registration required, \$5.00 donation at the door. WB Parks Community Transit is available for current riders – for home pick-up and return only.



### "The Church in the Wildwood:" A 150-Year Legacy

Sunday, March 10, 1-4 pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian, the oldest church in greater West Bloomfield, marks the chapel's completion 150 years ago. Learn about the Scottish immigrants who founded the church and their connection to Apple Island.



### Presentation: History Through Maps

Wednesday, March 20, 7 pm

WB Library Main Meeting Room

4600 Walnut Lake Road

What can we learn about local history from historic maps? We'll share what we've learned. Three newly reproduced maps are available for purchase. Free admission, donations appreciated. Sponsored with WB Library.



### 1914 & 1954 Tax Books Open House

Sunday, April 14, 1-4 pm

Orchard Lake Museum, 3951 Orchard Lake Road

Come see 1914 and 1954 West Bloomfield tax record books. To learn more about your property, know your Township section number, property description and, if known, subdivision. Engaging permanent exhibits interpret local area culture and history. Free admission, donations appreciated.



### Holiday House Panel Dedication

Thursday, April 25, 1 pm

Park at the end of Pine Estates Drive

Celebrate this new historical marker at Pine Lake. Ron Gay shares the history resulting in this outdoor exhibit panel. Learn about the Motorcities Markers program with Brian Yopp, Deputy Director at Motorcities. Parking on the street. Sponsored with WB Parks.



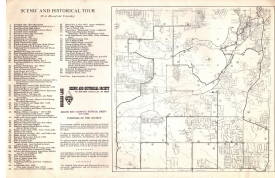
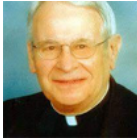
### Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary Spring Walk

Sunday, April 28, 2-3 pm

4700 Pontiac Trail

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

# Timeline of the Society and Orchard Lake Museum, Part One



**1974**  
Rev. Walter Ziemba & Mel Rycus co-found Orchard Lake Scenic and Historical Society (OLSHS)

**1975**  
OLSHS logo created

**c. 1977**  
A Scenic Historical Tour map is developed

**1982**  
Gift shop items available

**1987**  
Michigan's Sesquicentennial Historical Home/Church Tour

**1990**  
A 4,400 lb. conglomerate boulder is placed at the Orchard Lake Museum

**1994**  
GWBHS holds its 20th Anniversary Open House

**1996**  
GWBHS renews Museum lease due to community support

**1998**  
Keego Movie Theater artifacts received

**1999**  
120th Anniversary reenactment of Gen. Wm. T. Sherman's commencement address at Michigan Military Academy graduation

**2004**  
"Song of the Heron: Reflections on the History of West Bloomfield" by Charles Martinez is published by GWBHS Press

**1974-1981**  
300 attend the annual July 4th OLSHS picnic

**1976**  
OLSHS participates in Bicentennial celebrations

**1978**  
Society name changes to Greater West Bloomfield Historical Society (GWBHS)

**1983**  
First Apple Island Michigan Week Tour

**1987**  
City of Orchard Lake offers old city hall for Orchard Lake Museum

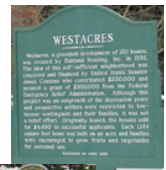
**1992**  
Free annual membership offered to Orchard Lake Village residents in appreciation of Orchard Lake Nature Sanctuary purchase

**1995**  
A Westacres and Orchard Lake School/Joseph Tarr Copeland historical marker is erected

**1997**  
Orchard Lake Museum 10th Anniversary Ice Cream Social

**1999**  
GWBHS hosts a 25th Anniversary Gala

**2002**  
A Wikipedia.org page about GWBHS is posted



# Thank You for Supporting GWBHS!

GWBHS could not serve the community without the help of our dedicated volunteers.  
Thank you to those who have recently given their time.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Alex, Addie, Hannah, Josh, and Sydney Dagg, Gina Gregory, Lana LaFortune, Kathy Peltier, Gino Santia, Susan K Williams

## PRESENTATION & OPEN HOUSE PRESENTERS

John Cohassey, Carol Fink, Jerry McManus, Judy Muhn, & Kyle Staulter

## GROUP TOUR DOCENTS

Carol Fink & DuAnne Sonnevile

## PROGRAM HOSTS & OPEN HOUSE VOLUNTEERS

Neil Hepburn, Gina & Rob Gregory, Kathy Peltier, DuAnne Sonnevile, & Susan K Williams

## MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Rick Bartus, Todd Bartus, Rob Gregory, Paul Mellerowicz, Neil Hepburn, & Christian Sonnevile

## PROGRAM PARTNERS

West Bloomfield Library  
West Bloomfield Parks

## EXHIBIT SPONSORS

Pat and Glen King, 2021  
Tom Bjorklund  
Gwynne & Jim Cherfoli  
GWBHS Memorial Fund for John Breeze Long 2022

## MATERIALS DISTRIBUTION

Sylvia Houlahan & Kathy Peltier

## 2023 SECOND SUNDAY OPEN HOUSE SPONSORS

Gino's Italian Restaurant  
Petite Gardens

## MUSEUM SUPPORT

City of Orchard Lake Village

## PUBLICITY & GWBHS CONTENT VIDEOS

Civic Center TV

## PROGRAM DONATION

Franklin's Cider Mill



*Volunteer, Doris Bonneville, 1997*

## Little Lamb Educational Program, 1996



*Nancy Salo, Louie Lawton, & Nancy Reed, Volunteers, engage with program attendees*



*Frank Salo, Volunteer (right), & program attendees pose with lamb, Orchard Lake Museum*



*Louie Lawton and Sebrina Borth, Volunteers, outside with program attendees*



Orchard Lake Museum  
3951 Orchard Lake Road  
Orchard Lake, MI 48323

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Warren, MI  
Permit # 164

### Board of Directors

Gina Gregory	President
Linda Kidd	Recording Secretary
Carol Fink	Corresponding Secretary
Susan K. Williams	Treasurer
Hannah Dagg	Communications, Exhibits
Karen Pushie	Membership database

### Committee Chairs

Christy Forhan	WBSD Liaison
Sue Grifor	Membership
Rick Bartus	Community Relations
Don Newman	Group Programs
Christian Sonnevile	Development/Fundraising

**Mission: enriching our communities by collecting, preserving, and sharing history.**  
**GWBHS is a 501(c)3 organization open to all and has served**  
**Keego Harbor, Sylvan Lake, Orchard Lake, and West Bloomfield since 1974.**



## GWBHS Membership Form

☐ New Membership    ☐ Renew Membership    ☐ \*Gift Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

\*Gift Membership From \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership • Jan. 1 to Dec. 31

- ☐ Individual    \$25  
☐ Family    \$50  
☐ Premier    \$75  
☐ Patron/Business    \$100  
☐ Life    \$600

☐ 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.

## Donation Form

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ This is a one time donation.

☐ This donation is in memory of:

☐ This donation is in honor of:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_

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