



Drawing by Michael Klement

Impressions

NEWSLETTER WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

2012 WCHS Annual Report Highlights our Society's Vision

This issue of *Impressions* contains the 2012 annual report for the Washtenaw County Historical Society. We prepare our annual report to share the past year's highlights and successes with members, donors and other individuals that have been instrumental in helping the Society fulfill its mission.



Photo by Judith Tomer

The annual report also recognizes our generous donors and community partners that strengthen and expand the mission: to educate and inspire our community to engage in the preservation and presentation of area history. As you read it, we hope that you get a good understanding of the importance, value and quality of work of the Society and its volunteer board of directors

2012 Highlights We had a good year for attendance and participation. From school age students to seniors, several hundred visitors came to the exhibits at the Museum on Main Street and the Society's Sunday educational programs. We installed a new hanging system for exhibits. The website and Facebook page were updated on a regular basis. We continue to receive and respond to dozens of requests for help with local history questions and mysteries. We continue to develop strategic plans for organizational strength and longevity. The house and grounds were maintained and improved. You will read about all of this and more. We appreciate your membership and support and welcome your input, ideas and involvement. Feel free to contact us .

The Museum on Main Street

500 N. Main Street • Ann Arbor, MI 48104 • 734-662-9092

email: wchs-500@ameritech.net www.WashtenawHistory.org

Museum Hours (when there is an exhibit)

Saturday & Sunday, 12 Noon – 4:00 PM and by appointment for groups or individuals

Spring Exhibit Opens April 14

The Museum on Main Street is excited about the upcoming exhibit "Courting, Dating and Playing: Social Recreation in Washtenaw County". We are looking for the following items:

- Fraternity pins
- Letter sweaters
- Dance cards
- Photos from local hangouts
- Souvenir programs

Thank you to those of you who have already shared some of your photos, treasures and stories. We will be able to scan your photos and return your originals. Call us at 734-662-9092 or email wchs-1000@ameritech.net.

Garden Volunteers

Many of you have already noticed the emergence of some of the young bulbs around the Museum. We can always use an extra hand with the gardening tasks. If this is something you have an hour or two to volunteer with and get your hands dirty, call 734-662-9092.

Inside...

Museum on Main Street.....	1
President's Letter	2
The Dinnerware Museum.....	3
Dr. Richard English Interview	4-5
History from A-Z	6
Exhibits and Events.....	6
Courtship & Dating	7
March Educational Program.....	8

**Our mission is to educate
and inspire our community to
engage in the preservation and
presentation of area history**

BOARD OFFICERS

President

Leslie L. Loomans

Vice President

Karen L. Jania

Treasurer

Patricia W. Creal

Recording Secretary

Judith M. Chrisman

Corresponding Secretary

Pauline V. Walters

BOARD MEMBERS

Joseph Cialdella

Tom Freeman

Dale Leslie

Diana Mankowski, PhD

M. Joanne Nesbit

Sally Silvennoinen

Jay Snyder

Anita Toews

Jan E. Tripp

Susan Cee Wineberg

Cynthia Yao

Robert Yuhasz

DIRECTORS-AT-LARGE

Richard L. Galant, PhD

(Immediate past President)

Dean Greb

Susan Kosky

Donald Cameron Smith, MD

ADMINISTRATOR

Bev Willis, *Impressions* Editor

MUSEUM DOCENT

& GIFT SHOP MANAGER

John Kilar

ADVISORS

Ina Hanel Gerdenich

David LaMoreaux

Louisa Pieper

Kay Williams

Impressions is published seven times
a year September through May by the
Washtenaw County Historical Society,
a non profit 501(c)(3) organization.
Donations are tax deductible

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the February board meeting, after discussion and revision of a draft, the cash flow budget for calendar year 2013 was adopted. As with other years it is always a struggle to find funding for all the worthwhile projects and activities that the board would like to pursue in meeting our mission. Naturally, the end result is achieved by prioritizing and compromise. Nearly 60 percent of expenses are easily prioritized as payroll and museum building maintenance and operation expenses must be paid.

Despite our ability to draw funds from investments and cash flow from membership dues, nearly 25 percent of our annual cash flow needs to come from fundraising and donations (exclusive of donations designated for the Endowment Fund). We are hopeful that within a year or two the Endowment Fund will reach a dollar level which will allow modest draw downs for building repairs. The board has adopted the 4 percent annual rule for fund draws which allows a fund to recover from financial downturns. So, again, fundraising and seeking donations will be very important activities this year.

Another discussion at the meeting focused on our need to establish a Volunteer Coordinator position. There are many opportunities for volunteers on various committees and specific projects. Having one person (also a volunteer) with responsibility to follow up on inquiries and with knowledge of opportunities should enhance the volunteer experience.

The Work of the Society continues.

Leslie Loomans, President

How you can support the work and mission of the Washtenaw County Historical Society

Membership dues and donations continue to be a leading source of our annual funding. We count on the "Friends of History" to help preserve and maintain our 176 year old house and the historical collections at 500 North Main Street. Your tax-deductible dues and donations allow us to offer free educational programs and mount interesting and interactive exhibits. Up to 5% of membership dues are put into the WCHS Endowment Fund for major capital needs. We appreciate your help in maintaining and advancing our mission. For information call 734-662-9092.

Please mail your memberships and donations to:

Washtenaw County Historical Society
PO Box 3336
Ann Arbor, MI 48106-3336

or online at www.WashtenawHistory.org

Membership Categories

Membership runs Jan. 1-Dec. 31.

\$15	Individual
\$10	Student
\$10	Senior (age 60+)
\$19	Couple (one 60+)
\$25	Family (adult/child)
\$25	Library/Organization
\$50	Business
\$100	Patron
\$250	Sponsor
\$500	Sustaining

Membership Benefits

- Seven issues of *Impressions*
- Six educational programs
- 10% Museum Gift Shop discount
- Invitations to member events
- Opportunities to volunteer

The Dinnerware Museum

*Educational Program Report
by Diana Mankowski*



Margaret Carney

There is a new museum based in Ann Arbor, and as part of the WCHS educational program held at the Dexter Public Library, guests were given a preview of what to expect. On February 17, 2013 Margaret Carney, Ph.D. talked about her newest project – The Dinnerware Museum.

Carney is a ceramic art historian with a PhD in Asian Art History who has numerous publications and extensive experience in the museum world, including acting as the founding director of the Schein-Joseph International Museum of Ceramic Art at Alfred University in New York. Carney's grandparents moved to Ann Arbor more than 100 years ago and she has several relatives who attended the University of Michigan. It is because of these personal connections that she has decided to open her museum in the area.

Currently, her home on Main Street, just a few doors down from WCHS's Museum on Main Street, serves as office and storage space for The Dinnerware Museum. A temporary inaugural exhibit, entitled "Unforgettable Dinnerware," will be unveiled in April at the Ladies Literary Club of Ypsilanti. Carney hopes to find a permanent space to display her collections somewhere in Ann Arbor.

The Dinnerware Museum was established in June 2012 and obtained official 501(c)(3) status in October.

Carney describes her endeavor as "building a dream museum one place setting at a time," but the museum will be "not just grandma's dishes." Carney envisions the museum as educational, entertaining, and fun, with wide collecting parameters. The Dinnerware museum will celebrate a significant aspect of everyone's daily lives by collecting and displaying dinnerware of all different cultures, made of all different materials. Additionally, it will collect and display fine art that references dining and dinnerware and will collect relevant archival documents.

Carney's collection currently includes cupboards full of dinnerware. In those cupboards or to be acquired in the future are: glass, metal, paper goods, plastic, wood, neon, advertisements for glassware and other items, dinnerware pieces related to historical events or significant people in history, odd and strange objects such as baby food warming dishes with clown heads, a Reagan teapot by Hall China, non-PC items like a luncheon tray that includes an ashtray, picnic sets, fondue sets, and Barbie sets, photos of people enjoying dinnerware and documentation or depictions of dining from all parts of the world and all times in history.

International works include Rosenthal from Germany, American-made Lenox, Quimper and Longwy from France, Chinese tea bowls and Danish coffee sets. There will be designers, makers, and manufacturers of all kinds who either make or reference dinnerware, including a teapot mold by Eva Zeisel who was still designing dinnerware at 104 years of age. Other pieces to be acquired down the line include works by Paula Navone, Maxime Ansiau, and Duane Hanson. In a museum building Carney hopes to create period rooms and vignettes that display dining in various cultures, rent spaces out and serve food that would have been eaten

within those vignettes, and invite contemporary artists to accompany different events and shows at the museum.

But the building is a future goal. The more immediate aim of the upcoming show in Ypsilanti will be to highlight some of what makes The Dinnerware Museum's collection so expansive and interesting. It will include items from the museum's collection as well as objects and artworks borrowed from other museums and private collections.

There will be a Geiger counter next to original pieces of orange or yellow Fiestaware and some Vaseline Glass (a.k.a. Uranium glass) to show how they both really are radioactive.

Visitors will be able to admire David Oliveira's piece, a wire scribble sculpture of a dining scene; an oversized photograph of Sandy Skoglund's "The Cocktail Party", an installation piece in which people were entirely covered in Cheetos; and a Tiffany Art Glass finger bowl.



THE DINNERWARE MUSEUM

*You are invited to
The Dinnerware Museum's
Inaugural Exhibition
Public Reception*

Unforgettable Dinnerware
*Saturday April 27,
4-7 p.m.
Ladies' Literary Club
of Ypsilanti
218 N. Washington Street.*

*It will be on view daily
11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until May 17th.*

Free admission for all.

An Inquisitive Mind is a Powerful Tool

An Interview with University of Michigan Alumnus Dr. Richard English

by Quinn Kane

Hanging in the basement of a suburban home just outside of Bethesda, Maryland is a black and white photograph of three African-American men in their early twenties, each wearing stylish black suits, and gazing past the camera with an austere focus. On the left is Andrew Young, the instrumental Civil Rights leader who served as the executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference during the 1960s and later as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations during the presidency of Jimmy Carter. Young was also an avid supporter and colleague of the next man in the photo, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whose face, though masked by youth, is utterly unmistakable.

"He's always been my hero," says Dr. Richard English, the retired Provost of Howard University in Washington, DC, "this is a very important picture to me."

The pride in his voice is evident as he reflects on the moment, but the portrait's deemphasized placement at the bottom of the staircase typifies Dr. English's humble nature. His tone is remarkably unconceited as he is prompted to recall a diverse array of awards, honors and nominations he has received throughout the years, perhaps none more impressive than the Distinguished Alumni Award he received in 2005 from the University of Michigan. "That meant the world to me," he says, eyes beaming. "If you think about all the graduates of the University of Michigan—I mean everywhere I've gone in the world I've run into a U-M graduate."

Dr. English's roots are deeply embedded in Michigan, but his past also traces back to Alabama, where he attended Talladega College, triple majoring in History, Political Science and Art as an undergraduate. It was there that his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, held a



(L-R) Fraternity brothers Andrew Young, Martin Luther King Jr. and Richard English at an Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity leadership conference on The Talladega College campus in Alabama in 1957.

leadership conference for young African-Americans in the region, serving as the first introduction of Andrew Young to Martin Luther King Jr.

After graduating with honors from Talladega in 1958, Dr. English set his sights on the auspicious Rhodes Scholarship at Oxford University, which had previously been afforded to just one African-American—Alain Leroy Locke. "I was determined to be the second," says Dr. English. After making it through the first round of interviews in Birmingham, Alabama he was close to realizing his dream. "I wasn't worried about the academic side because I was a 4.0," he says, chuckling. "I'm not braggin' now—I'm telling you a story!" However, at the time athletic merits played an important role in selecting Rhodes Scholars, and this is what he believes ultimately eliminated him back in the final round—"I wasn't great at tennis" he remarked.

Disappointed—not discouraged—Dr. English applied for the Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, which was directed at grooming future University professors. In the final competition at Vanderbilt University, he won. But after finding out he had been granted the scholarship, one of the competition's advisors noted something curious about his application—he had identified just two universities as those at which he intended to pursue a graduate education. "He asked me, 'why have you limited yourself to these two schools? Why haven't you thought about any southern schools?'," he recalls. "And I wanted to tell him in a very direct and blunt way...that none of those schools could meet the standards that I was looking for. And so I applied to the two best schools in the United States—Harvard University and the University of Michigan."

(Continued on page 5)

He chose the latter, and so in the fall of 1958 Dr. English embarked on what proved to be an enduring tenure at the university he now simply refers to as “Alma-mater”. When he first arrived, however, some of his fellow students questioned a southerner’s potential to succeed at Michigan. “Talladega College? He’s not gonna make it, they would say.” But Dr. English struck back with determination—not anger—to his peers’ doubts, a method often employed by his lifelong hero. “As it turned out, there were only two A’s in that class”, he remembers, cracking a grin, “And I had one of them.”

At U-M, he went on to earn a Masters degree in History and Political Science in 1961 and another Masters in Social Work in 1964. For the next five years he worked on his Ph.D. in Social Work, Sociology and Social Psychology before being appointed Assistant Professor in 1970. From then on, he taught and researched in the School of Social Work, forming lasting relationships with colleagues and touching the lives of countless students. He served as a mentor for many black students, who, in Dr. English’s words “felt very alone” on a campus that was overwhelmingly white—but it was a young white student whose words touched him the most. “He wrote and told me that I was one of the best teachers he’d had,” he recalls. “But he said to me, ‘I wish you would share yourself more with students.’ That stuck with me.”

Students, for Dr. English, were the highlight of his time at Michigan. And although he would undoubtedly describe his experience in Ann Arbor as overwhelmingly positive, it was not unambiguously so. As a young African-American, albeit in a northern, progressive city, he faced a variety of prejudices. There were still many segregated restaurants when he arrived, he recalls, “although we would go there anyways.” Furthermore, the Law Quad was strictly off limits for housing for black students. He credits the wives of faculty members for mitigating the lingering effects of racism in Ann Arbor, pushing for desegregation and open housing for African-Americans.

But despite these challenges, his tone hints nothing of bitterness or resentment of missed opportunities. “People talk about how cold Ann Arbor was...but I made friends”, he says. Moreover, he finds comfort in the fact that he succeeded as an academic in an era that was inherently disadvantageous. “I was admitted to the University of Michigan on the basis of my undergraduate education at Talladega College,” he says, “that was before any type of affirmative action or anything like that...I’m very proud of that fact.”

His desegregationist mentality resonated into other parts of his life outside of education as well. When he and his [late] wife moved to Washington D.C., in the early ‘80s, they had a clear goal in mind in their search for a new church. “We wanted to get into a church where there was a racial mix”, he says. “It had to be a mix.”

While Dr. English never held any prejudice based on black and white, he was, admittedly, never able to abandon his bias for maize and blue. This was never more transparent than when he began recruiting faculty for Howard University. “When I got there, I completely turned the place around and at one point I wouldn’t hire anything but Michigan graduates to the point it got to be ridiculous,” he says with a laugh “But I’m very proud of that faculty today. The best teachers are Michigan graduates”.

If the fame of Dr. King and Andrew Young has evaded Dr. English, their passion for helping others certainly has not. Throughout his life he has exceeded expectations with an unbounded ambition, which he attributes to values his



Dr. English, receiving his Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2005 from UM Alumni Association president, Steve Grafton. It is the highest honor the Alumni Association can bestow on behalf of the University to celebrate the unselfish service and support that Alumnae give to the UM.

mother instilled in him. “She was always saying we had to be doubly prepared; we had to do more than the rest,” he says. “She was unrelenting about it, bless her soul.”

Indeed, his dedication to his profession as an educator was such that his wife would often ask him why he was worked so hard, often late into the night. “Being prepared is not just knowing the subject matter for the class but also knowing everything related to it”, he says, before offering his last words of wisdom to his novice interviewer. “An inquisitive mind is a very powerful tool, so I would say don’t stop after Michigan. The expectation is going to get tougher, but the point is, Michigan has prepared you for anything that’s out there.”



About the Author: **Quinn Kane** is a senior at the University of Michigan. A native of Midland, MI, he is an avid writer and enjoys playing golf and tennis in his spare time. In May 2013, Quinn will graduate from the University of Michigan with a degree in economics.

Explore Local History Online at www.WashtenawHistory.org

From A-Z you will find links to articles, resources, photographs, postcards, letters, oral histories and walking and driving tours. This issue highlights F-I. We are always interested in new sites to add. Send an email to Jan_Tripp@comcast.net



Friend-Hack House - Home to the Milan Historical Society, located at 775 County Street in Milan. A fine example of Eastlake/Stick style design. The house was originally designed for Olive Friend, an important figure in the short lived Electric Sugar Refining Company. www.HistoricMilan.com

Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County - The society was founded in 1974 to help and encourage the preservation and collection of genealogical records, and to promote the exchange of genealogical information.

www.WashtenawGenealogy.org

Historical Markers - Over 50 Washtenaw County historical markers with photos, descriptions, and maps. These markers have been erected as part of a program begun in 1955, and continues under the direction of the Michigan Historical Commission and the Michigan Historical Center. www.Michmarkers.com

Impressions - Enjoy over 70 years of local history and articles from the Washtenaw County Historical Society's newsletter. Issues are searchable and printable. www.WashtenawHistory.org

"Rural Barns" and "A Farm Girl in a Feed Sack Dress"

The Saline Area Historical Society presents Dorothy Kapp Shear who will share twenty-plus years of memories and provide an intimate look at farm life and agriculture as it was transitioning from manual labor and horses to greater mechanization and modern conveniences. This free program is open to the public. **Sunday, April 14, 2-3 PM**, Liberty School Media Center, Saline, MI
Email: salinehistory@frontier.com

Marriage and Divorce in the 19th Century

The Genealogical Society of Washtenaw County program and meeting is on **Sunday, March 24, 1:30-3:00 PM** at the Education Center Auditorium, on the St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Campus, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ann Arbor. The guest speaker is Bobbie Snow who will talk about Marriage and Divorce in the 19th century. This is a free program and open to the public. For more information go to www.WashtenawGenealogy.org

"Recent Acquisitions: Building on the Clements Collections"

The Clements Library never stops adding to its collections of primary source material. Already one of the finest American history research libraries in the world, its curators are always seeking new items to improve traditional strengths of the collection or to support new perspectives on the study of America before 1900. This exhibit features recent acquisitions of the Book, Manuscripts, Map, and Graphics divisions and shows how they fit in to the Clements collections. This exhibit opens March 4 and runs through July 12, 2013, Monday - Friday, 1PM - 4:30 PM. Clements Library is located at 909 S University Avenue in Ann Arbor. www.Clements.umich.edu

The Allmendinger Organ Company



Bently Historical Library

Learn about this remarkable musical business and the family that built it

Susan Wineberg, local preservationist and co-author of *Historic Buildings, Ann Arbor Michigan*, will trace the remarkable musical contributions of the pioneer German-American Allmendinger family and their internationally known Ann Arbor Organ Company. The talk takes place on **Wednesday, April 17** from 12 Noon to 1 PM at the Kempf House Museum. Admission is \$2 for the public, members pay \$1. The Kempf House Museum, built in 1853, was home to the Kempfs, a German-American Family who lived and worked in the 1890s. 312 S. Division St., Ann Arbor. Call 734-994-4898 or www.KempfHouseMuseum.org

Courtship & Dating Changes Over Time

By Susan Nenadic

Emily Faithfull traveled three times from England to America to research for her book, *Three Visits to America*, published in 1884. Her objective was to investigate "how America is trying to solve the most delicate and difficult problem presented by modern civilization." What could that problem have been? Urbanization? Transportation? Communication? None of the above. That most delicate and difficult problem was, in the mid-nineteenth century, "the woman question." By the end of the century it acquired a slightly different label: "the new woman." This "new woman" was at first simply a woman who strove for economic independence - a purse of her own. By the early twentieth century, however, the term connoted far more radical social freedom.

Women of the nineteenth century were not simply homebodies doing needlework. They owned stores and shops. They clerked in offices serving as stenographers, typists and book-keepers. They operated farms and worked in factories. They owned newspapers and properties they rented. For decades women had been attending the nation's colleges and universities which prepared them to enter all the professions. By 1900 there were over 7,000 female physicians and over 800 female dentists. In the United States 1,010 women were licensed attorneys. True the largest number (327,614) of professional women, were teachers, but the ranks of working women also included 1,041 female architects, 3,373 female members of the clergy, and 2,194 journalists. And, after more than a half a century of advocacy, women were approaching the very portals of political power.

The last four decades of the nineteenth century witnessed more women remaining unmarried than ever before. There were several reasons for this startling statistic. One cause was the Civil War.

It not only eliminated hundreds of thousands of men from the marriage market; it simultaneously gave women new opportunities for employment in fields such as telegraphy and government office work. A second factor was the vast opportunities available for men in both in the newly opened western territories and states and in the rapidly expanding national economy. Last but certainly not least, women were discovering that they could support themselves quite nicely without marrying.

Meanwhile new modes of transportation opened a wider world to both men and women. The transportation revolution which began with trains and interurban trolleys culminated with the bicycle mania of the late nineteenth century. "Wheeling [i.e. bicycle riding]" said Susan B. Anthony, "has done more to emancipate women than anything else." And finally in the first years of the twentieth century - the automobile. The bicycle and automobile provided something trains and trolleys did not.

They not only allowed women to move about efficiently, they offered private, individual movement.

The early twentieth century signaled a radical departure in almost all facets of society. In particular, the traditional mode of courtship was collapsing. No longer did men known to the family sit on the front porch or in the parlor, carefully chaperoned, as they had just a few decades earlier. Young women were meeting men at work and at public entertainments such as dance halls, parks and restaurants. Even if girls did live at home, the streetcar and automobile allowed them to leave the home for a "date." The very term, "date," did not exist in that context until the twentieth century when suddenly it became the man's prerogative to ask the woman out, and he was expected to pay for food or entertainment. Some historians suggest that this was because most working girls made so little money that they could not afford to pay while men, who earned more generous salaries, could.

But this new system of male's "treating" also included the unspoken expectation of sexual exchange even if it were as innocuous as a kiss. Most important it signaled a subtle but profound shift in gender relationships. In an earlier time, the woman and her family decided whom she would allow into her home to court her. Before the early twentieth century, she - not he - did the inviting.. That shift in prerogative from women to men is highly ironic. Women, by the very act of exercising their freedom to "go out" were, in actuality, losing a significant aspect of their autonomy.

Paraphrase excerpt from *A Purse of her Own*, by Susan L. Nenadic. Available in May, 2013



Jane Camp & Barbara Lorch on bicycles, 1920s-30. Bentley Historical Library



Drawing by Michael Klement

**Your copy of the WCHS
2012 Annual Report
is inside this issue!**

THE WASHTENAW COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

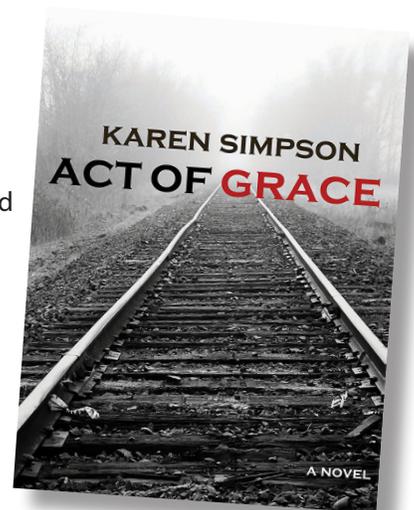
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM SERIES



Book Talk & Signing **Act of Grace**

This novel is inspired by an incident that happened almost 15 years ago at a Klan rally in Ann Arbor. "Act of Grace" has won several awards, including the Silver Independent Publishers Book Award for visionary fiction.

Author **Karen Simpson** is a former WCHS board member, passionate about the art of quilting, and the discipline of historical research.



Sunday, March 17, 2013 - 2-4 PM

Malletts Creek Branch, Ann Arbor District Library • 3090 E. Eisenhower Parkway (east of Stone School Rd)

*The Museum on Main Street • 500 N. Main • at the corner of Beakes & E. Kingsley
Open Saturdays & Sundays, 12-4 PM • Next exhibit opens April 14 • 734-662-9092*



www.WashtenawHistory.org
Email: wchs-500@ameritech.net