



Historical Society of Saginaw County
 500 Federal Avenue
 Saginaw, MI 48607
 (989) 752-2861
 www.castlemuseum.org

Non-Profit
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 Permit. No. 70
 Saginaw, MI

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DECEMBER CALENDAR

- Tuesday, December 1:** **Lunch and Learn:** "Saginaw Subterranean Strings" Hammered Dulcimer Club. Group members will discuss this fascinating instrument and a short performance will be given. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **12:00 Noon.**
- Thursday, December 3:** Michigan Archaeological Society meeting. Morley Room. **7:30 p.m.**
- Friday, December 4:** **Movie:** "The Nutcracker" Free with general admission. **2:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, December 5:** **American Girl Party: Christmas Crafts and Traditions.** Dress you and your American Girl doll in your Sunday best and head to the Castle Museum for a fun-filled afternoon. \$5.00 per person/\$3.00 per person for members. Call 752-2861, Ext. 311 to make reservations. **1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, December 8:** **Lunch and Learn:** *Remembering our Past: Historic Saginaw Township* Author Larry Toft will discuss his new book exploring the history of Saginaw Township. The book will be available for sale. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **Noon.**
- Friday, December 11:** **Movie:** "A Christmas Carol" (1951) Free with general admission. **2:00 p.m.**
- Wed., December 15:** **Pages of History Book Club:** *Great Lakes Christmas Classics: A Collection of Short Stories, Poems and Illustrations* by Donna Winters. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **12:00 Noon.**
- Thursday, December 17:** **Sneak Preview of *Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration, Photographs by Barbara Beirne* exhibit.** Centennial Hall. Wine and cheese reception for HSSC members. **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
- Friday, December 18:** **Movie:** "Vintage Holiday Films" (1901-1925) Free with general admission. **2:00 p.m.**
- Saturday, December 19:** *Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration, Photographs by Barbara Beirne* exhibit opens in Centennial Hall.
- Tuesday, December 22:** **Lunch and Learn:** "The Eight-Point German Christmas Star" Chief Curator Sandy Schwan will teach you how to make this beautiful star. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. **12:00 Noon.**
- Friday, December 25** **Museum Closed.** Happy Holidays!
- Tuesday, December 29:** **Girl Scout Anishanabe Badge** – Learn about Native Americans from the tri-county area. Learn their games, hear their songs and make their crafts. \$5.00 per person. Call 752-2861, Ext. 311 to make reservations. **9 a.m. to Noon.**
- Friday, January 1:** **Museum Closed.** Happy New Year!
- Saturday, January 2:** **A Night at the Castle.** Spend the night in Saginaw's very own castle. Slumber party games and food. \$15.00 per person. Call 752-2861, Ext. 311 for more information or to make reservations. **7 p.m. to 8 a.m. January 3.**

DECEMBER 2009
Castle Courier

NEWSLETTER OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF SAGINAW COUNTY

Historical Society of
 Saginaw County

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MUSEUM HOURS
Tuesday-Saturday
10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Sunday
1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

GENERAL ADMISSION
 (excludes special events)
Adults \$1.00
Children \$0.50
Members FREE!

*Your Friends at
 The Castle Museum
 wish you and your
 loved ones a joyous
 holiday season!*



*The Historical Society of
 Saginaw County is committed
 to serve the community by
 telling the continuing story of
 the people of the Saginaw
 region through exploration,
 preservation and presentation
 of their historical and cultural
 heritage.*

**Castle Museum
 Welcomes New
 Executive Director**

Combining extensive administrative experience with a passion for history, Ken Santa was selected as the new Executive Director of the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.

Santa comes to the Museum from St. Mary's of Michigan where he served as the Manager of Media Relations and Communications. He also has extensive experience in broadcast journalism.



L to R: Ken Santa, Tom Trombley & Sherri Greene

The Museum also welcomes a familiar face to its management team with the addition of Thomas Trombley as Deputy Director. Trombley, a Saginaw resident, has been involved with the Museum for many years, including serving as Curator of Collections from 1981-1988.

Sherri Greene, who has been with the museum since 1998, is now the Museum's Business Manager/Finance Officer. Her responsibilities include budgeting, payroll and financial oversight, as well as operational duties.

This new management team will allow each person to focus on their areas of expertise, providing dynamic leadership in how we continue to tell the story of the people of the Saginaw region.

Sneak Preview of Smithsonian Exhibit

Historical Society members are invited to attend our wine and cheese reception on **Thursday, December 17 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.** to view our newest exhibit, *Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration, Photographs by Barbara Beirne.*

These black and white photo interviews are thought provoking and help to explore the issues of immigration, acculturation and cultural diversity. *Becoming American: Teenagers and Immigration, Photographs by Barbara Beirne* was organized by the Smithsonian Traveling Exhibition Service. The exhibit will be on display through February 4th, 2010.

This also is a great time to meet our new executive director Ken Santa. Santa started at the Museum on November 9th. For more information, please call Ruth Mancina at 752-2861, Ext. 315. We look forward to seeing you there!



Smithsonian Institution
 Traveling Exhibition Service

BECOMING AMERICAN TEENAGERS & IMMIGRATION



Museum Kicks off 2010 with Blockbuster Exhibit

Your Castle Museum will showcase a diverse range of exhibits this year beginning with *The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute to Soldiers and Marines*, which will open February 18, 2010.

The courage, camaraderie and human drama of U.S. servicemen and women in action is captured in 116 pictures chosen for this stunning exhibit, which will be on display through April 10 in the Museum's Centennial Hall. The exhibit is traveling throughout the country and will only be in Saginaw and Louisville, Kentucky in 2010. It is slated to be on display at the Gerald R. Ford Museum in Grand Rapids in 2011.

The exhibit assembles images taken from the earliest use of photographic apparatus to today's digital cameras, and covers Americans in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, Boxer Rebellion, World War I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Gulf War, Afghanistan and Iraq.

We are planning several special events for this exhibit and will keep you informed through the *Courier* and our website, which is www.castlemuseum.org



C o n n e c t i o n s C A S T L E



Bill Falkenberg working on the HO Scale Model RR

Bill Falkenberg may be passionate about trains, but there is something he enjoys even more: talking with people about railroad modeling and sharing the history of railroads, not just in Saginaw County, but throughout North America.

"I especially love talking with people and hearing their memories about certain railroads," said Bill, a volunteer with the Museum since 2006. "I really enjoy that more than anything else."

For almost 40 years Bill has worked with a model railroad, and after forming the Saginaw & Mid-Michigan Model Railroad Club, Bill's hobby became an adventure to which he has devoted many hours.

The Club put together a large layout that came to the Castle Museum as a visiting exhibit in the late 1970s, and in 2006 found a permanent home at the Castle.

Since then, Bill has received more than 10,000 visitors to the exhibit, which features over 1,000 feet of track. In all likelihood, Bill himself has said hello to each and every person who has come to see the exhibit, since he is here whenever the museum is open.

The train exhibit, which is "run like a real railroad" has had more than 4,500 visitors this year alone, said Bill, who was born and raised in Saginaw and worked as a typesetter and letterpress printer.

Bill, who also owns a recording studio, is married with two sons and two grandchildren. He also volunteers at his church and with the Old Saginaw City Lawnchair Film Festival since its inception.

We're not sure where he finds the time to do all those things, but we sure are happy that Bill and the railroad are part of our Museum.

Log On and Help the HSSC Win a Million Dollars



Each year JP Morgan Chase donates more than \$100 million to non-profit organizations throughout the country.

This year, Chase decided to team up with Facebook to help them determine which local charities matter most to communities. The campaign, "Chase Community Giving: You Decide What Matters", runs through December 11. The Historical Society of Saginaw County is eligible so please vote and tell all your friends to vote for the HSSC!

Here's how you do it:

1. First you must have a Facebook account.
2. Then go to this link: <http://apps.facebook.com/chasecommunitygiving/>
3. Type in Historical Society of Saginaw County - it's already pre-listed and click the "Go" button.
4. You will then see a Facebook application called Chase Community Giving. Your vote doesn't count unless you install the application and become a Facebook fan of Chase Community Giving.
5. Click Allow.
6. On the next page, which is Chase's Fan Page, become a fan.

It's that easy. You get up to 20 votes. The top 100 vote-getters will each receive \$25,000. Those top 100 now enter a final round where they can submit a million dollar grant proposal explaining to the Facebook universe what sort of good they will do. The top vote-getter will receive a million dollars and the next five vote-getters will win \$100,000 each.

Exhibit Pays Tribute to Wrona Sisters

Saginaw was home to many competitive speed skaters. Notable among those were the four Wrona sisters. The family has shared photos and other memorabilia with us to spark nostalgic memories of Hoyt Park.

The Wrona Sisters: Saginaw's Champion Speed Skaters is now open and is located in the Alcoves near the Morley Room. Please stop by and take a step back in time.

We are hoping to have a guest speaker in January 2010 who will talk about the history of Hoyt Park.



More than 750 people attended "Holiday Fun at the Castle" on Saturday, November 21st. Activities included a visit and photos with Santa, crafts, a scavenger hunt, face painting, tattoos, holiday movies and much more. Thank you to our volunteers who helped make this day a big success!



Volunteer Sally Enszer helps out with the Scavenger Hunt, which had the children looking for objects in the museum. Approximately 200 children participated in this event.

Need the Perfect Gift?

Don't forget to visit the Museum Gift Shop for all your holiday gift giving needs.

The store has many unique items perfect for your friends and family. Society members receive a 10% discount in our store, so stop by and peruse our new merchandise.

Receive the Castle Courier by E-mail!

Send us your e-mail address and help save on printing and postage costs. Sound good? E-mail Ruth Mancina at rmancina@castlemuseum.org and she will put you on her e-mail list!