



Did you know that "Overture for a City" was a symphony written by Dr. Samuel Jones when he was conductor of the Saginaw Symphony Orchestra in the 1960s? His inspiration for the piece came from the song, "I Was Born in Saginaw, Michigan" by Lefty Frizzell. Visit the Castle Museum to see the full score by Dr. Jones and listen to a recording of it at our exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra.

The name of this exhibit? "Overture for a City."

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SEPTEMBER 2010

# CASTLE COURIER

Newsletter of the Historical Society of Saginaw County

500 Federal Avenue

Saginaw, MI 48607

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www.castlemuseum.org



## Museum Welcomes Exhibit Curator

Distinguished Professor and Military Veteran to Share Life Story

Guy Stern, co-curator of *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings*, is coming to the Castle Museum on **Tuesday, September 28th. His talk will begin at Noon and is free with museum admission.**

Dr. Stern is the sole surviving member of a Jewish family from Hildesheim, Germany, that was lost in the Holocaust. As the oldest child and only son, his parents sent him to America, where he joined his uncle's family in St. Louis and resumed his high school education. Like other exiles from Europe in the late 1930s, Stern brought with him a set of skills that would later prove invaluable to him and his new homeland.

Among his most deeply held goals was a desire to return to Europe to fight in World War II against the Nazis. The U.S. Army established a special training base at Camp Ritchie in Maryland to prepare experts on Germany, many of them Jewish exiles, to be spies, interrogators and translators. Dr. Stern served as a master sergeant in the military intelligence service of the U.S. Army, taking part in the Normandy invasion. His experiences were commemorated in Christian Bauer's 2004 documentary film "The Ritchie Boys". Stern won a Bronze Star Medal for his innovative interrogation techniques created and applied during the end of World War II.

Dr. Stern's visit to the Castle Museum is made possible through support from the Saginaw Jewish Welfare Fund. *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings* is organized and circulated by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C.



*Books Are Weapons in the War of Ideas* poster produced by the Office of War Information. This poster featuring a quote from President Roosevelt was one in a series. Credit: Courtesy U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

- Thursday, Sept. 2:** **Michigan Archaeological Society meeting.** Morley Room **7:30 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Sept. 14:** **Lunch and Learn:** Brett Mitchell, Conductor of the Saginaw Bay Symphony Orchestra, will discuss the symphony's program this year and his vision for the future. Free with museum admission. Dessert and beverage provided. **12:00 Noon.**
- Friday, Sept. 17:** **Teaching About the Holocaust Through Drama.** Janet Rubin, professor of theatre at Saginaw Valley State University, will offer this dynamic presentation in connection with our newest exhibit, *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings*. Her program will be immediately followed with a gallery tour of the Fighting the Fires of Hate exhibit led by Assistant Curator Jennifer Gildenstern. This event is free with paid admission to the museum. A light snack will be provided. **1:00 p.m.**
- Tuesday, Sept. 21:** **Pages of History Book Club:** "TV Land Detroit" by Gordon Castelnero. Dessert & beverage included. Free with general admission. Co-Sponsored by the Public Libraries of Saginaw. **12:00 Noon.**
- Tuesday, Sept. 28:** **Lunch and Learn:** Guy Stern, Ph.D., co-curator of *Fighting the Fires of Hate: America and the Nazi Book Burnings* will be here to discuss this powerful exhibit. **Please see Page One for more information. 12:00 Noon.**
- Wednesday, Sept. 29:** **Walking Tour:** *The Sites of Downtown Saginaw - A History of the City and its Buildings.* Since its initial development in the 1850s as the City of East Saginaw, downtown Saginaw has been a regional center of commerce and the focal point of civic and social life. Tour begins at Castle Museum. \$5.00 per person. Members Free. **Please call Tom Trombley at 752-2861, Ext. 304 for reservations. Tour begins at 1:00 p.m.**



Ken Santa  
Executive Director

## Millage Renewal Solidifies Castle Future

The August 3rd millage renewal, which was passed by an overwhelming majority of Saginaw County voters, has put the future of your Museum on solid ground. We'll still get less money for the next few years due to the drop in property values, but budget adjustments will be made to deal with that loss. We have a lot for which to be thankful.

I would like to thank the staff of the Castle Museum for their hard work and dedication during a time of transition. Our Board of Directors deserves great appreciation for guiding the way to a successful millage campaign as well as providing leadership and expertise. Most of all, I would like to thank our volunteers and the members of the Historical Society of Saginaw County for your unwavering support of our Museum and the things that we do. Community backing is absolutely essential for any successful museum and I'm glad to say we have that support here.

The future is bright for the Castle Museum. We will continue to preserve this beautiful building and to make it a beacon for downtown Saginaw. We plan to refine our exhibits in order to more fully interpret our local history. And our mobile museum, History on the Move, will continue to take our artifacts on the road to local schools. On behalf of the entire staff, thanks again for your commitment to the Castle Museum of Saginaw County History.

### Museum Hours

Tuesday - Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### General Admission

Adults \$1.00  
Children .50¢  
Members FREE

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 connections

Sandy Schwan



While there is no doubt that Sandy Schwan loves Saginaw County, there is another place in Michigan that she might secretly love more.

The Upper Peninsula.

"It's my favorite place to go," says Sandy, who is the Museum's

Chief Curator and longest-serving employee.

"I feel like I've entered another world. There's a sense of peace and I love the water."

When she is not visiting the Upper Peninsula, Sandy is hard at work at the Museum helping to preserve our county's history through the objects we have in our collection and acquiring new artifacts. "Everyone and every object has a story and they are all worth preserving," notes Sandy, who has a

bachelor's degree in anthropology from Grand Valley State University and a master's degree in history with an emphasis in museum studies from Central Michigan University.

To Sandy, history is like a puzzle and there is nothing she enjoys more than putting the pieces back together. She enjoys finding things from long ago and bringing them back to life.

"Every story we hear, photographs or diaries we find, are pieces to the puzzle and help us understand our past."

After 18 years at the Museum, Sandy, who grew up in Freeland, still enjoys her job and getting to meet so many different people.

"I love the stories they share with me."

## WANTED: Wooden Hangers

We are in the process of making padded hangers for our clothing collection and are in need of wooden hangers. If you have any lying around that you do not know what to do with, please consider donating them to the museum.

For more information or to make a donation contact Tom Trombley at 752-2861, Ext 304.

## The Artifact

### Lobby Light Fixture from Castle Building

When the enlarged and renovated Castle Building was dedicated in 1937, the building featured an elegant new public lobby. Running the length of the building, this grand space featured a paneled oak ceiling, Colorado travertine-sheathed walls, terrazzo floors and six, custom-made light fixtures. Designed by the architects for the renovation, the fixtures featured a white glass globe mounted in a bronze frame. Their simple geometric forms reflected the Art Deco styling of the 1930s; however, their ornamental bands clearly related the fixtures to other decorations in the Castle Building.



Amazingly intact, the lobby continues to dazzle visitors to the Museum; however, the light fixtures were removed in the 1960s and fluorescent fixtures were installed. We are very fortunate that one of the bronze frames was discovered by Joan and John Bintz and was donated to our collection, which is currently on display in the exhibit *Collected Treasures*.

## Memorials & Planned Giving

A Memorial Gift has been made by Ken and Jackie Willman in memory of Sharon Borchard

A Memorial Gift has been made by Margaret E. Clark in memory of Edward Charles MacRae, Jr.

Memorial Gifts have been made in memory of Roy Grobe

by the following individuals:  
The Mark Moriarty Family  
Carol Rard and Errol Putman  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Russo  
Mike and Shelli Wood  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Smith  
Dennis and Cynthia Kozlowski  
Robert and Linda Scott

Memorial Gifts have been made in memory of the Honorable Edmund M. Troester

by the following individuals:  
Margaret E. Clark  
Richard and Jan Stringer

A Memorial Gift to support the Auto Manufacturing Exhibit has been made by Margaret E. Clark in memory of Thomas L. "Thom" Enszer

You can contribute to the Castle Museum and Historical Society by planning for a special kind of gift. Although cash contributions are always appreciated, there are other creative and flexible options that can benefit you and the Museum.

Through your bequest or other planned gift, you can ensure that this incredible cultural treasure - the Castle Museum - will continue to educate and entertain visitors of all ages for years to come.

A planned gift offers many advantages which your financial planner can share with you.

You can help ensure the Museum's future by creating a trust while you are living or by including the Museum in your will.

Another meaningful way you can support the Castle Museum is by making a donation specifically for an exhibit or an event, or for a special purchase, such as a bench to put in the garden or a tree.

There are many ways in which you can support your Castle Museum. If you would like to talk to someone about this, please call Sherri Greene or Ken Santa at 752-2861.

A donation has been made by Susan Stroebel Iaderosa honoring Robert Strobel

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