

Time Lines

February 2021 Edition



HOLIDAY MEMORIES GONE VIRTUAL

In early October, we had high hopes of being able to pull off a highly modified in-person version of Holiday Memories. As the month progressed and November dawned, it became clear that with the worsening COVID-19 pandemic, even the modifications for attendance, distancing, and more would not be enough. The difficult decision was made in mid-November to pivot Holiday Memories to an entirely virtual format for the safety of the community, members, volunteers and staff.



The following weeks were filled with a great deal of time spent behind cameras and video recorders, alongside countless hours in front of screens. While the results were far from the norm for Holiday Memories, it was a wonderful opportunity to share Holiday Memories in new and exciting ways, far beyond the brick and mortar walls of the Museum. Visitors from across the country and world were able to experience the displays, activities and more from the comforts of home.

If you did not have a chance to check out the many offerings, from Craft Night with Chloe the Craft Elf, to behind the scenes looks at the animation and what it takes to put the exhibit together, the content is still available and can be easily accessed from the 2020 Virtual Holiday Memories landing page (<https://sheboyganmuseum.org/2020-virtual-holiday-memories/>). It even contains



what we hope is a sneak peak for 2021 — the animation which we hope to share again in person this coming November and December.

We want to thank everyone for their support with this difficult decision. While we were busy creating the content, the lack of hustle and bustle, excited voices, and jokes from Bruce the Spruce left us with a hole in our hearts, and some pretty tired eyes. We are all hoping for a happier, healthier, and more together Holiday Memories 2021.

...to collect, preserve, and educate about the history of Sheboygan County.

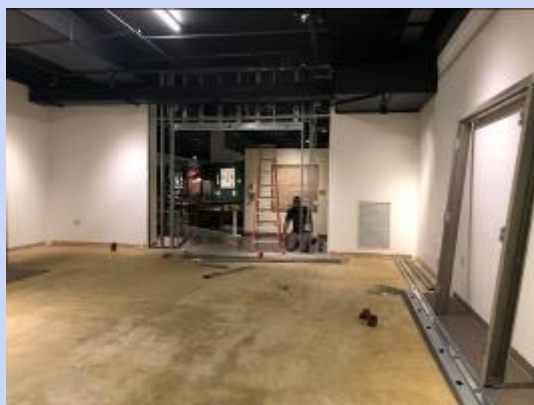
DIRECTOR'S NOTES

I cannot say this enough, welcome 2021! The past year has been quite the time at the Society and museum. As things were steadily moving forward, the COVID crisis we all experience put a huge pause in the progress we were making. But we at the Society realized that this was not the first pandemic our nation has experienced and it most definitely will not be the last. We took a small bit of time to reorient and then moved forward in 2020.

Although we could not share our museum or wonderful programs and exhibits as we did in the past, we were able to keep sharing new things thanks to modern technology and a staff not afraid to jump into the unknown. This all culminated with our Holiday Memories 2020 event that went fully virtual. We were able to share the holiday spirit through our virtual platform and we continue to share them on our YouTube page.

We first went home to be safe for a few months as we started to develop a plan for the remainder of 2020. Once that was complete, we set about finding and applying for several grants as well as government assistance to keep the staff working as well as make some much needed renovations to the museum. Through an NEH CARES grant we were able to make our high quality education programs virtual. We are now in the midst of sharing them with area educators. We have received high marks on the programs from the teachers who have used them.

Through a grant from the Melitta and Joan Pick Charitable Trust we were able to make major renovations to the interior of our main building. We will be finishing the second half of this project this coming spring. Another major part of the renovations was the installation of a new chiller unit on the main building. This should help us better control the temperature and humidity in the building, two major components to preserving our artifacts.



We also experienced an increase in our memberships and donations. I would like to thank all our members who generously increased their membership levels for 2021 as well as those who contributed to our Buy-a-Bill campaign. The Society supporters deserve a much appreciated 'thank you' as your increased support allowed us to continue to develop and maintain our exhibits and programming. Another well deserved 'thank you' goes to the County of Sheboygan for once again supporting our annual operations with a grant. They also increased the amount over last year's generous grant. We are happy to know our County is willing to show their support financially.

As you will read, we are open to the public for 2021. We have kept the rules and protocol from summer 2020 in place to make sure our staff, volunteers and guests remain safe as we come out of the pandemic. We are also excited to get back to our public programming later this year, as long as we can do it in a safe manner. We hope that by the start of the next school year we can start welcoming back our area elementary students to the museum for our Full-Day Educational Programs. We have missed the children and their energy to learn.

In the words of Ellie Mae Clampett, "Ya'll come back now, ya hear?" We are looking forward to the gradual return to normalcy in 2021 and we hope to see all of your faces again real soon.

Travis



PROGRAMMING

Well friends, a new year has begun, but unfortunately many of the restrictions and concerns surrounding the pandemic did not magically disappear with the change of the calendar. While this may be the case for now, there is hope on the horizon! We are in agreement with other museums and cultural institutions that virtual programming is overwhelming the public as “screen fatigue” has set in. While we will continue with some virtual content, we have chosen to scale back. This will provide us with additional time to prepare for the exciting in-person programming that we have planned for late spring and summer! For the time being, our goal is quality over quantity, and we think we have some wonderful virtual programs and content that you can look forward to:

Reminiscing with Sheboygan Recipes - This popular video series will continue in 2021, but it will now be posted on the second Tasty Tuesday of each month. You can find these videos featuring historic, Sheboygan related recipes on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Women's History Month (March) - Can you guess who Chloe is? Each Monday in March, I will be dressing up as a famous woman from history! Watch for these posts on our Facebook page, or come visit the Museum to see me in person.

Virtual March Speaker Series - Videos can be accessed on our Facebook page and YouTube channel. More details to be announced soon!

Museum Madness (April) - After you've completed your NCAA college basketball brackets, try your hand at our Museum Madness Bracket which will feature artifacts from the Museum's collection! Divisions include Chairs, Cheese, Churches, and Children. Who will be crowned the greatest of them all? Visit our website to vote.

Experiencing Cabin Fever? Don't forget to check out our self-guided tours on Vamonde! Additional tours are in development. Visit www.vamonde.com to learn more.

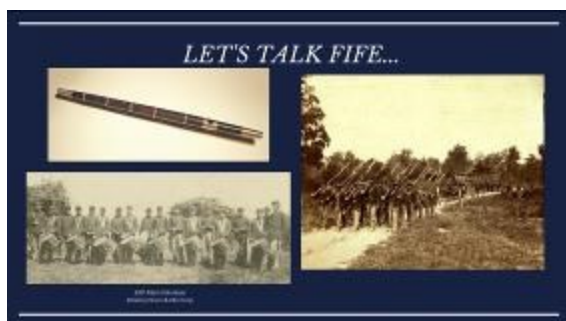
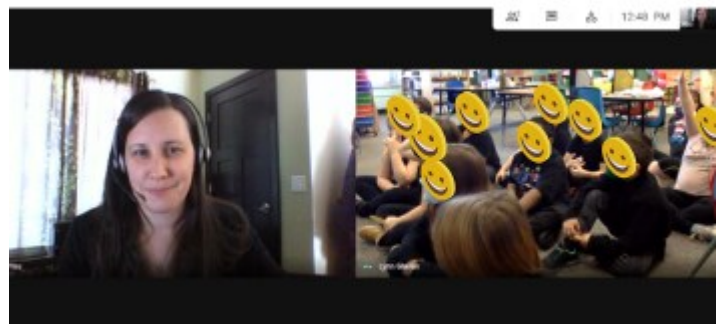


FULL DAY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The New Year finds the Education Department busy with creating virtual and interactive programs that will provide a way of getting some of the content of our four programs to area elementary students. Some schools have already used the material for the *Journey to Sheboygan County* program. A big thank you to teachers Lynn Glavan and Amy Luedtke for being the first to participate in Live Interactive Sessions.

We are also working on *Historic Jobs of Sheboygan County* and we will soon be finished with the *First Peoples of Sheboygan County* and *The Civil War and Sheboygan County* (the only program to retain its original name). While these pursuits have kept us busy, we still miss the in-person programs at the Museum.

What we miss the most is hearing the voices of the students in the classroom and in the galleries. We can still hear them asking questions or commenting to each other about the things they were doing.



We miss the bubbling of anticipation as we would walk the sidewalk to the Taylor House, the yelps of disappointment upon finding out your group would not be the first to enter the wigwam, the huffing and puffing when trying to drive a nail into a fake horse's hoof.

We even miss going into the Weinhold Log House and hearing, “Are we going upstairs?” “No.” Big sighs. Going into the Schuchardt Barn and hearing, “Are we going upstairs?” “No.” “Awe, man!” Going into the Bodestab Cheese Factory and hearing, “Are we going to go upstairs?” “No.” “Boo.”

So, while the virtual and interactive programs will deliver solid historical content to area students, we really miss the in-person interactions, excitement and disappointment alike.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

2020 wrapped up with some fantastic volunteers in our monthly spotlight. In October, we featured Bob Mueller & the Lakeshore Miniatures Club. Bob began around 2009, as an individual involved in the Lakeshore Miniatures Club. Since then, he has become the main contact with the Lakeshore Miniatures Club and is instrumental in coordinating the group's participation in Holiday Memories.

As part of the club Bob, along with The Lakeshore Miniatures Club members have displayed their creations, along with coming in on the weekends to demonstrate their process of creating their works. When asked "Why do you volunteer here at the museum?" Bob's reply was he enjoys the history of Sheboygan County, including all the different things about the villages, families and lineage of Sheboygan County that make it what it is. Thank you to Bob and all the club members!



Our November 2020 Volunteer Spotlight was the Lake Shore O Gauge Railroaders. While disappointed we didn't get to see them in 2020, Dave Tauschek, along with other members of the group have been volunteering since at least 2001. Though years ago trains were a more popular Christmas gift for children, the Railroad group helps keep the lost art and magic alive for the public every year when they set up a Lionel Train layout as part of opening weekend of Holiday Memories. We look forward to welcoming them back for 2021.

In December, the Volunteer Spotlight focused on Bob and Mardel Fischer, a regular set of faces during Holiday Memories. They began volunteering around 2016, Mardel helping in the kitchen and Bob helping out at the Make & Take table, along with occasionally filling in as the guy in the red suit. When asked why they volunteer, both Bob & Mardel said they "believe the Museum is a worthwhile cause." They have traveled all over visiting different museums and believe the Sheboygan County Historical Society & Museum is one of the nicest museums they have seen. They are proud of the museum we have here and have enjoyed meeting the people that come, having many interesting conversations and meeting locals at the various activities. They also like what the staff does for community involvement.



IN MEMORY OF BERNIE MARKEVITCH



Along with the community, we were deeply saddened by the loss of long-time volunteer and "Lead Elf" Bernie Markevitch in late November. Bernie had been volunteering for well over two decades, first by leading the decorating of the Taylor House every year for Holiday Memories. In 2013, he became Lead Elf, helping to layout the yearly display of Prange's animation into an ever changing selection of holiday vignettes. Likewise, he shared his love of Christmas by encouraging and guiding a vision of decorating the entire Main Museum for the annual exhibit. His imagination and creativity always resulted in something magical.

Not only was Bernie an instrumental part of Holiday Memories, he was also a walking encyclopedia of Sheboygan history. He had a story for every store in the downtown area and a memory of nearly every event of the last 50 years. That love of history and Sheboygan resulted in one of our most popular events in the last 10 years — The Bernie and Henry Show — where Bernie partnered with friend and fellow volunteer Henry Jung to take visitors on a walk down memory lane of growing up and living in Sheboygan.



We will miss Bernie — his boisterous laugh, his witty sense of humor, even his love of adding glitter to everything. It was, and will always be, an honor to have known, worked with, and called him friend.

HAPPY SECOND RETIREMENT AL PRICE!

Our head of maintenance for the last 16 years, Allen Price has officially retired...Again!

Al started as a volunteer in 2003 shortly after retiring from his first career and liked it so much, he joined the staff within a year. All of us at the Sheboygan County Historical Museum are so incredibly grateful to Al for his many years of service making the Museum a better physical place for our guests, volunteers and staff, and a welcoming space thanks to his warmth and kindness.

We were thrilled to be able to celebrate Al's achievement at the Museum with a small, socially distant, tool themed potluck lunch at the end of January. The staff and Al's core team of volunteers toasted his retirement with great food and

laughter. We will miss Al and his wife Marilyn, who was always near by to help, but we look forward to seeing them again in the future as guests at programs and exhibits.

**Please join us in
saying a big
"Thank You!" to Al!**



COLLECTIONS SPOTLIGHT

What better to do with all this snow than go out “coasting” down a steep hill? We can’t think of anything better! And for years, several Sheboygan County manufacturers made sure it was possible.

For many decades, sleds came in two primary styles. The clipper sled, with a low profile and pointed runners, was designed for speed and “belly flop” riding. While it was considered appropriate for all children to sled, girls typically rode on cutter sleds. Cutter sleds sat higher, with open framework runners and often featured elegant bow bent fronts and intricate painting.

While Garton Toy Company and White Wagon Works often get the most attention, several other Sheboygan County companies also found success making sleds and wagons.



Globe Toy Company was associated with both the Globe Manufacturing Company and Honold Manufacturing. Both companies were based in a building at 824 Pennsylvania Avenue and associated with Gustave Honold. While Honold Manufacturing was best known for producing racks and other accessories for undertakers, Globe Manufacturing was better known for metalstamplings along with tool and die equipment. By the late 1920s, Globe had a toy division that specialized in scooters and wagons. Throughout the early 1930s, they are often cited as manufacturers of all and the 1936 city directory puts the company’s toy division at 19th and Wildwood.

In February 1938, the Garton Toy Company announced the purchase of Globe’s toy making assets, including the real estate, machinery, inventory and “good-will.” The purchase led to the proclamation that Sheboygan was now the “largest toy center in the world.”

*Sheboygan County Historical
Society and Museum*

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Mark Your Calendars

Please note that we will continue to follow Sheboygan County Safe Restart recommendations, including best practices for physical distancing, capacity, and hygiene. In the event we need to postpone or cancel any programming, the Museum will notify the public via social media, our website and emails to our members.

Feature Traveling Exhibit
**February 1 -
March 16, 2021**

**CLOTH
AS
COMMUNITY**
Hmong Textiles in America

Exhibitsusa NATIONAL ENDOWMENT OF THE ARTS MAAA MID-AMERICA ARTS ALLIANCE SHEBOYGAN COUNTY Historical Society & Museum

Originally curated by Carl Magnuson, and updated by Geraldine Craig, *Cloth as Community: Hmong Textiles in America* features 28 textiles—flower cloths and embroidered story clothes—created by members of the Hmong community. The works illustrate the profound historical relevance of textiles in Hmong culture along with the way the art form shifted as it adapted to new realities.

MUSEUM STAFF

Travis Gross, *Executive Director*

Tiffany Chen, Nathan Chisholm, Angela Hullin, Tamara Lange, Dale Robson, Chloe Seider, Vicki Stopar