

History Center News

September 14,
2015

Board Members:

Stephen Siciliano, chair
person

Jim Warner, vice chair

Gini LeClaire, secretary

Larry Hains, treasurer

Richard Fidler

Marly Hanson

Julie Schopieray

Ann Swaney

Newsletter Editors

Richard Fidler

Bill Ruesink

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From Chairman Siciliano's Desk

Stephen Siciliano

Change has certainly become the watchword for recent developments at the History Center of Traverse City. This August saw significant changes. It began with the retirement of several members of the Board of Directors including Board Chair Steve Harold, Secretary Stef Staley, Treasurer Steve Morris, and members Bruce Wiegand and Chris Wendell. Our new board consists of Board Chair Stephen Siciliano, Vice Chair Jim Warner, Secretary Gini LeClaire, Treasurer Larry Hains, and members Richard Fidler, Marly Hanson, Julie Schopieray, and Ann Swaney.

Certainly the most notable change was the unveiling of the Perry Hannah statue in Hannah Park. This project, led by former History Center board member Peg Jonkhoff, gives permanent recognition to Traverse City's founding father. The History Center partnered with the Community Foundation to offer our town a beautiful sculpture and landscaped area. The funds for the project came in part from Peg Jonkhoff and Fred Hoisington's book, [Perry Hannah's Gift: Then and Now](#), based in part from research in the History Center Archives.

The current focus of the Board is on developing new programming events. First, on Thursday, September 17th, Richard Fidler will introduce us to TADL's on-line offering, [The Grand Traverse Journal](#). That program will start at 4:00 PM in the McGuire Room at the Traverse Area Public Library. Members and the public are

welcomed.

Second, the National Writers Series will present “An Evening with Mardi Link”, on Wednesday, October 7, 2015, at 7:00 PM at Kirkbride Hall at the Commons. Tickets for this event are \$20 per person. All profits will benefit the History Center. Members and the public are welcomed. This event is particularly important for the Center as it is our primary fall fundraiser.

The Board is also working on preparing for the History Center's Annual meeting, scheduled for Sunday, October 25, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM at the McGuire Room. Among the agenda items will be the election of new members on the board of directors, a report on proposed History Center bylaws changes, and the announcement of new program activities.

There are several ways members can become more involved in History Center activities. These include serving in the Center archives, on Center committees and the Board of Directors, and providing programming to our members. If you would like to become more involved, please contact Center Archivist Peg Siciliano at 995-0313.

Tales from the Crypt

HCTC Archivist
Peg Siciliano

Each newsletter "Tales from the Crypt" will bring updates on the Archives. We chose this title in honor of longtime member Bob Wilson, who used to write a "Tales" column when he was President of the Historical Society. He and his wife Joy (also a former President) recently moved to California. Bob and Joy, we miss you!

This issue's column highlights the Traverse City Osteopathic Hospital, as the archives recently received new TCOH items from several former employees. Many of you may know that until the mid 1990s Osteopathic Hospital sat on the south side of Munson Ave, at the site of today's Munson Community Health Center. But how many of you know that the original TCOH, opened in 1947, sat on the south east corner of Division and Bay Street? Today that building is occupied by the Elk's Club. The Hospital moved from there to its Munson location in 1961.

When it opened on Bay Street in 1947 it boasted 30 beds; in 1961 the then-new Munson Avenue facility featured 50 beds, and a staff of 20 physicians. By its 30th anniversary in 1977, it had 83 beds, more than 40 physicians on staff, and 289 employees. In the 1990s TCOH merged with Munson Medical Center.

MMC is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year. It has nearly 400 beds, a medical staff of 420 physicians, and employs over 3,500 people.



TCOH Bay Street Building



TCOH Munson Avenue Building

Upcoming History Center Events

First program of the year:

Highlights from the Grand Traverse Journal

Historical vignettes as told by Richard Fidler, Amy Barritt, and Julie Schopieray.
September 17, Traverse Area District Library on Woodmere, 4:00-6:00 PM

Fundraising Event:

HC benefit with a noted local author: *An Evening with Mardi Link*
 October 7, Kirkbride Hall at the Commons, 7:00 PM. Tickets available at the
 Opera House, 941-8082 or online at cityoperahouse.org. \$15.00

Annual meeting:

Elect new board members, change bylaws. October 25, Traverse Area District
 Library on Woodmere, 2:00-4:00 PM
 If email address has changed recently, send update to rafidler@sbcglobal.net

Another Event You'll Probably Want to Attend

National Writers Series is hosting Hampton Sides, author of the New York Times bestseller *Ghost Soldiers* and several other books on epic historical events and people, including Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassin and Kit Carson. He is coming to the City Opera House on Sept. 17, 7 pm, to talk about his latest book—*In the Kingdom of Ice: The Grand and Terrible Polar Voyage of the USS Jeannette*. This is a terrific book about an 1879 quest to explore the North Pole; he also captures fascinating details about life in the late 1800s. Truly a great read, and, with Doug Stanton as interviewer, I think it will be an event well worth attending. Tickets are \$15—and only \$10 if you're a teacher. For details go to <http://nationalwritersseries.org/programs/an-evening-with-hampton-sides/>.

Anne Stanton
 Executive Director
 National Writers Series
 (231) 631-1551
www.nationalwritersseries.org

"To live a creative life, we must lose our fear of being wrong."
 ~ Joseph Chilton Pearce
 American Author

Latest from the Grand Traverse Journal

You can read these at gtjournal.tadl.org.

- The Artistry and Humor of Orson W. Peck
- Storm Cripples Entire City: Great Storms of Northern Michigan
- Tribute to Floyd Milton Webster (1920-2015)
- Cutting the Last Pine: A Romantic Vision of the End of the Lumber Era, 1911
- Traverse City's Dairy Lodge: An Architectural Relic
- Don't Kill 'Em: The Nuptial Flights of Ants

Your Chance to "Rock" with the History Center

The History Center Rocks! as it saves our local heritage, and you can be part of it! Come in and volunteer, and/or you can always make financial donations. Contact Archivist Peg Siciliano - peg@traversehistory.org; 995-0313 ex 104.

Volunteer Work (hours flexible):

- Organizing historic collections and photographs
- Entering index information about historic items into our computer database
- Assisting researchers
- Typing correspondence with donors and researchers; documenting our collections
- Filing
- Helping with event activities (set-up, decorations, food, take down)

Financial Assistance:

We know our supporters come from a wide variety of backgrounds, but even a small financial donation will be greatly appreciated. First, you can become a member for a low \$25 a year! Beyond that, you can give an unrestricted monetary donation, or request that your donation be restricted to a certain need. The list below gives you an idea of some of the History Center's costs:

Some things the History Center needs to cover financially:

- \$ 10 - Purchase of one small archival quality document storage box
- \$ 15 - Purchase of one large archival quality document storage box
- \$ 50 – Purchase of replace ink cartridges for printer
- \$100 – One toner cartridge for copier
- \$100 - Maintenance of one CPU (computer)
- \$150 - Cover one month's cost of phone and communication's line
- \$150 – Mailing of one month's newsletter/postcards
- \$500 - One month's rent
- \$700 - Cover one year of having our website online so our collections are available on the internet