

The Rochester Era

ROCHESTER-AVON HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2020

ROCHESTERAUVONHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG

IN THIS ISSUE

Appraisal Day: March 8

President's Message

Why Support RAHS?

Welcome New Members

February Programs

RAHS Calendar



27th Annual Antique Appraisal Day

March 8, 2020

Mark your calendars for our 27th annual Antique Appraisal Day at the Rochester Community House on Sunday, March 8 from 12 to 4 p.m. This yearly event is a major fundraiser for RAHS. Proceeds from appraisals help fund our educational programs and support our mission to support local history and preservation efforts in our community.

RAHS is blessed to have many skilled appraisers with us again this year, as well as a few new ones. We are grateful for the appraisers' donations of time and talents. Experts will give appraisals on musical instruments, coin and paper money, artwork, jewelry, and more!

Admission is free for all. All appraisals are VERBAL only and are five dollars each, with a maximum of five appraisals. Sales are not permitted at this event.

RAHS will offer light refreshments, compliments of our sponsors, and raffle prizes will round out the afternoon. Take advantage of this enjoyable experience and bring your great uncle's banjo, your cherished porcelain doll, or that interesting piece of artwork from your attic you've always wondered about. The outcome just could be historic!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we head into a major election year, it may be easy to take sides and stay steadfast in our opinions and ideas about the world we want to live in. As a community organization, the Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) has been and will remain neutral about politics and political causes. We do not endorse candidates running for public office. We do not give to political causes. Certainly, there are legal reasons RAHS does not take part in politics – we are a nonprofit organization -- but there are also reasons related to our mission:

The Rochester-Avon Historical Society is a nonprofit organization that educates our community about local history to foster appreciation and preservation of our historical resources and pride of place.

In recent surveys conducted by the American Historical Association, Americans are looking to historical societies and museums in increasing numbers to help separate fact from fiction when it comes to news and politics. Historical societies like ours offer a respite from the complexities of a 24-hour news cycle. RAHS and other similar agencies help to put news and information into context, separate fact from fiction, and offer lessons in how history repeats itself.

During the 2019-2020 season RAHS has featured programs on a variety of subjects. From suffrage and immigration to war and mental health, we hope our programs inspire and foster appreciation for history regardless of political views or parties. RAHS is a community organization that welcomes all with respect and gratitude. We are certain that as this election year unfolds, our members and the community we serve will continue to value RAHS for its mission and love for history.

Wishing you a great New Year ahead!

-- Tiffany



Tiffany Dziurman
President
Rochester-Avon
Historical Society

Why Support the Rochester-Avon Historical Society?

By Katie Stozicki

Historic resources are vital in revealing the story of our past and present. The Rochester-Avon Historical Society (RAHS) works tirelessly to preserve historic sites and their stories in the community. Many such societies are organized and managed by volunteers. Volunteering is the act of giving time to help an organization and is a crucial part of keeping RAHS running. Without volunteers, RAHS would not be able to preserve the past and educate the community on local history.

Founded in 1969, RAHS aims to educate the Greater Rochester Area about the past and believes educating citizens about the past celebrates a democratic way of life and fosters an appreciation for local history. With 122 members and growing, RAHS creates awareness of historic people, buildings, and sites through educational programs and community events. RAHS also supports preservation by applying for state and local historic markers around the community.

Volunteers have kept RAHS running for over fifty years. According to Debbie Doyle of the American Historical Association, 25% of historical societies have more than one full-time staff member, which means 75% of historical societies, including RAHS, are staffed entirely by volunteers and/or part-time workers. Because of this, volunteers are crucial to RAHS' mission. Financial supporters of RAHS and paying members further the society's mission to preserve history. Historic preservation encourages economic development since it fuels tourism, entices businesses to open in historic neighborhoods, and helps citizens develop a deep understanding and love for their town. History Relevance, a group that aims to help history organizations educate the public, says, "History is a catalyst for economic growth. Communities with cultural heritage institutions and a strong sense of historical character attract talent, increase tourism revenues, enhance business development, and fortify local economies." When people learn about the history of their community, they better understand the place they live and work in, thus building a community bond among residents, visitors, and businesses. Because of this, a town with an appreciation for history and historic preservation is more likely to be a peaceful, helpful, and happy community.

In addition to preserving the past, supporting RAHS also means supporting the environment. Because historic preservation aims to reuse old buildings, it reduces the number of teardowns and rebuilds that can pollute the air and release toxic chemicals into the environment. Repurposing and reusing buildings limits reliance on new materials. The United States Environmental Protection Agency, an independent agency of the US federal government dedicated to protecting the environment, states, "Repurposing old buildings – particularly those that are vacant – reduces the need for construction of new buildings and the consumption of land, energy, materials, and financial resources that they require." Wood can be reused, which prevents the cutting down of trees, and old non-biodegradable materials do not end up in a landfill.

My experience with RAHS has helped me to better understand the world around me. By being involved with different historic preservation projects, I am more aware of how important history and historic preservation is to our community. By volunteering, I have learned more about my community and what came before me.

RAHS' goal is to get others to understand that history and what happened in the past is much more than dusty books and old buildings. History teaches important lessons, creates an exemplary community, and inspires people. Volunteers for RAHS are vital in preserving the past and not only help their local community, but also the world around them.

Katie is RAHS' communications director and is currently in her junior year of high school.

27th Annual Antique Appraisal Day

Sunday: March 8, 2020
Noon - 4pm

Rochester Community House
816 Ludlow, Rochester MI

Specialists will be available to appraise the following items:

Books, manuscripts, first editions, records, sports memorabilia, pop-culture; comic books, cast-iron toys, coins, clocks, glass, pottery, china, collectibles, lighting, furniture, military items, antique weapons, dolls, teddy bears, fine & costume jewelry, Eastern art, engravings, oil paintings, prints, stained glass, stringed instruments and accessories, and more!

Bring your items or photos of larger items and have your treasures appraised. All items will be appraised at fair market value. Buying and selling will not be permitted.

Verbal Appraisals Only

Admission is FREE

Appraisals are \$5 per item – cash only. We will not accept credit card or checks.

Limit 5 items per person

Welcome

New Members

Dr. Richard Stamps

Dr. John Todd

Dr. Joel Young

New Website Coming Soon!



Our new website will be up and running in the next few weeks. We are glad to be working with Trent Design on the new site, which will feature historic Rochester area photos, a blog, a new events calendar, a new shopping cart, and more. The site will be easier to navigate and provide improved resources.



We are pleased to announce that the Community Foundation of Greater Rochester recently awarded RAHS a grant worth \$2,500. The money will help us to publish an updated guidebook of historic sites. The book will be available later this year, so stay tuned!

We thank the Community Foundation for this wonderful grant, and we appreciate the support for local history.



Just a friendly reminder...

NO evening meeting in January
NO Brown Bag meeting in January or February

Thursday Evening Lecture Series

Fidelia Woolley Gillette: 19th Century Suffragist, Minister, and Educator

Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Hills Public Library Multipurpose Room

Author, lecturer, activist and one of America's first ordained women, Fidelia Woolley Gillette (1827 – 1905) used her rhetorical and literary gifts to improve and inspire the lives of 19th-century women. As a worker in the early attempts to win the right to vote for women, Gillette rubbed elbows with the movement's founders. Her writings reached a nationwide audience. While Gillette's own family life disappointed her, she labored to bring peace and joy to the parishioners she ministered to.



Maureen Thalmann
RAHS member &
February's guest speaker

On Thursday, Feb. 6 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Rochester Hills Public Library Multipurpose Room, researcher and writer Maureen Thalmann will present "Fidelia Woolley Gillette: A Thinker of Uncommon Breadth" and discuss Gillette's life, including her relationship with her daughter, the actress Florence Gillette.

This event is free and open to the public.

Brown Bag Lunchtime Program

March 3 at 12 p.m. at the Rochester Hills Museum, Calf Barn

Rochester Hills Museum archivist Samantha Lawrence will present, "*Mother's, Daughter, and Leaders of Rochester, Michigan.*" Attendees are encouraged to bring a lunch. RAHS will provide cookies and light beverages. This event is free and open to the public. Registration is required to ensure enough seats. Please call the Rochester Hills Museum at 248.656.4663 or send an email to rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org to register.



January 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

January 21

RAHS Board of Directors Meeting

February 6

Thursday Evening Lecture

February 18

RAHS Board of Directors Meeting

February 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

RAHS could use a helping hand or two so if you have a creative side or love to connect to the community, contact us!

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Heritage Days
- Walking Tour

To contact us, call 248-266-5440 or send an email to rahsupdates@gmail.com.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Tiffany Dziurman, President
- Sarah Helferich, First Vice President
- Brian Dunphy, Second Vice President
- Janet Potton, Corresponding Secretary
- Ginger Ketelsen, Recording Secretary
- Cary Downer, Treasurer
- Katie Stozicki, Communications Director
- Carla Gallusser, ERA Newsletter Director
- Richard Dengate, Membership Director
- Barb Bates, Historic Preservation Director
- Programs, open position
- Special Projects, open position



COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

- Gail Kemler, Honorary Historian
- Deborah Larson, Research
- Media, open position

Join the Rochester-Avon Historical Society Today!

Membership Application

- New**
 - \$15 **Student** Open to person currently enrolled in a secondary or post-secondary educational institution.
 - \$20 **Individual** Open to any person interested in local history.
 - \$35 **Household** Includes immediate family members living in the same household.
 - \$100 **Business/Sponsor** Designed for community businesses and individuals with a desire to promote the restoration and promotion of local history.
 - \$250 **Lifetime** Perpetual membership for those who wish to make a long-term commitment to the preservation of local history.
- Renewal**



RAHS is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

- Annual Picnic
- Antique Appraisal Day
- Historic Research
- Fundraising
- Genealogy Research
- Heritage Days
- Oral History
- Publications
- Historic Walking Tour Guide/Assistant
- Photography/Videography
- Refreshments at Meetings
- Special Project Volunteer
- Website/Social Media
- Volunteer Interests/Other

Name: _____
 Address: _____

 Phone: _____
 Email: _____

Mail Completed Form with check payable to: RAHS P.O.Box 80783 Rochester, MI 48308-0783 <http://rochesteravonhistoricalsociety.org/>

P.O.Box 80783
Rochester, MI 48308-0783

