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- **Emilie Evans**, Detroit MHPN/NTHP Preservation Specialist
- **Katie Large**, Assistant to the Director
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BRIAN BLACK: cover (top row 2nd from left),
10 (bottom), 15 (bottom left)
TIM BOSCARINO: 6
RON CAMPBELL: 12
AMANDA DAVIS: cover (top row right, center row left,
center row right, bottom row left), 3 (bottom center),
4, 7 (top left), 9 (top center and bottom right),
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ELAINE ROBINSON: 15 (bottom center)
SCOTT SLAGOR: cover (bottom row right)
ELLEN THACKERY: cover (center row center), 3 (bottom left),
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When we, as Michiganders, think about places that matter to us, we tend to think big – Mackinac Bridge, the State Capital Building, and the skyscrapers in our downtowns. Perhaps we consider the church where our parents were married, or the school we attended, or we may think of the wonderful summertime visits to Mackinac Island or springtime trips to Holland.

But for those of us interested in historic preservation, we know that it isn't just the big, popular, or famous locations that matter – but the everyday places too. Our favorite uncle’s farm, the Art Deco bank at the corner, and the small town grange hall each carry importance to us.

Michigan Places Matter! This is exactly the message that the Michigan Historic Preservation Network (MHPN) is sharing. The MHPN, the only statewide membership organization focused on recognizing, preserving, and protecting Michigan’s cultural and historic resources, completed its thirty-fourth year in 2014. Our success is a direct result of working to engage local citizens within the community’s economy and cultural identity.

Supported by the efforts of our enthusiastic volunteers, generous donors and funders, devoted project partners, and a dedicated Board of Directors, every year the MHPN increases its impact, reaching more and more people with our mission and hopefully protecting or saving a few more of the places that matter. Our committees are populated with members who are passionate about their efforts, and the small staff is among the most effective in preservation in the entire country.

The spirit of community, a shared mission, and everyone working with MHPN in a means and method that best suits them, enables MHPN to cover a variety of issues simultaneously. Committees and staff work with elected and appointed officials from the federal to the local level educating, advocating, and promoting the important role historic resources in every community can – and should – play in the future.

Through a variety of educational programming, ranging from small community workshops to the successful 34th Annual Historic Preservation Conference, MHPN seeks to expand the understanding of our friends and neighbors about how historic preservation can improve their lives. New careers have resulted from the popular hands-on historic wood window workshops, the decisions of our Historic District Commissions have been enhanced, and program participants are able to look a little differently at their own community after traveling the streets of the communities where our events are held.

For the members of the MHPN, one of those small places that matter is our own building, the restored Thelma Joyce Osteen Comfort Station in historic Old Town Lansing. We continue to “walk the walk” of preservationists across the state by occupying a building that was restored and now houses not only the MHPN but two tenants as well. The Comfort Station is truly one of those Michigan Places that Matter, and a success story in its own right. The MHPN staff continues to work diligently on MHPN programs and projects and with communities across the state to assist with local preservation efforts. MHPN/National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) Greater Michigan Field Representative Amanda Reintjes worked with communities from Ironwood to Hillsdale. MHPN/NTHP Southeast Michigan Field Representative Ellen Thackery continued her fine work with the unique preservation challenges of that part of the state. Emilie Evans, who works in Detroit as the MHPN/NTHP Preservation Specialist, continued her amazing work with the citizens, non-profits, local government agencies and businesses of the city. Gary Scheuren, MHPN Program Director, continued coordinating our preservation initiatives, including the tax credit partnership, the Michigan Preservation Fund and preservation easement programs. And finally, Katie Large, MHPN Assistant to the Director, kept all of the staff and the office organized and running smoothly.

The 34th annual conference, the MHPN’s largest preservation education and fundraising program, was held this year in Jackson, Michigan. Under the banner, Michigan Places Matter!, the program offered thirty-six sessions, including in-seat, off-site, and tours. Once again the popular pre-conference Great Michigan Road Trip was offered. The tour, “History, Culture, and Kitch: A Cruise along US-12 through the Irish Hills,” traveled from Coldwater to Saline, with stops including the Tibbits Opera House, McCourtie Park, and a visit to the Main Street Community Saline’s downtown. The MHPN also continued our partnership with several other organizations active in promoting preservation, MSHDA’s State Archaeologist and the Michigan Barn Preservation Network, enabling conference attendees to expand their understanding of places that matter.

One of the MHPN’s favorite ways to showcase a property is to have an event there. In 2014, several “new” historic sites were added to programming, including house parties at two different Detroit locations: jazz club Cliff Bells and the amazing Redford Theatre. The Fall Benefit traveled to the west side of the state, to be held in the second-oldest theatre in Michigan, the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater. The MHPN visit to Coldwater also offered the Historic Resource Council an opportunity to hold one of their well-loved “Bring Your Own Hard Hat” gatherings at the nearby Kerr Building. These fun events not only brought valuable donations into our coffers, they offered opportunities to reach out to new and different stakeholders. We continue to look for innovative ways to connect with those who are supporters of our mission, from a broad spectrum of disciplines, age groups, income levels, and geographic locations.

The accomplishments of the MHPN in the past year included training seminars, both with hands-on workshops and for historic preservation commission members, advocacy efforts for resources across the state, and many, many more activities. But none of these accomplishments would be possible without the incredible generosity of everyone involved.

Through our shared efforts and belief in our mission, we are able to advocate for and protect Michigan’s precious historic and cultural resources. Thank you!
TREASURER’S REPORT

By Denise McGeen

MHPN has had a remarkable year. In 2014, the Network took on precedent-setting projects and continued its efforts to change the narrative about the importance of historic resources statewide, despite an ongoing decline in political support for preservation initiatives. Thanks to our funders, to Executive Director Nancy Finegood and her staff, to the Board of Directors, and to our volunteers, the Network successfully completed an ambitious year under budget and with tremendous momentum for the year ahead.

The year’s accomplishments are impressive. The MHPN raised over $50,000 at its annual fundraising events, including the 34th Annual Conference, which brought in approximately $22,000 more than the previous year; the fall benefit held at the recently restored Tibbits Opera House, which exceeded its target by eleven percent; a jazz night at Cliff Bells in Detroit; and a movie night at the Redford Theater, which exceeded its fundraising goal by thirty-four percent.

Many thanks to our funders, without whom these efforts would not be possible. In 2014, the Network received grants from: Clannad Foundation, Quicken Loans and Bedrock Real Estate, Michigan State Housing Development Authority and the State Historic Preservation Office, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, The Americana Foundation, the Erb Family Foundation and the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation.

Many thanks also to our intrepid members and volunteers who have tirelessly donated over 5,000 hours of work this year.
The Great Michigan Road Trip pre-conference tour, “History, Culture, and Kitsch: A Cruise along US-12 through the Irish Hills,” was a day-long tour with stops at the Tibbits Opera House, Coldwater; Mann House, Concord; McCourtie Park, Somerset; and Main Street, Saline.
The Michigan Historic Preservation Network mission states that “we advocate for Michigan’s historic places to contribute to our economic vitality, sense of place, and connection to the past.” In keeping with this, education is a hallmark of our annual efforts. Whether a Field Staff presentation, a workshop facilitated by a member of the Historic Resource Council, or a Board member or Volunteer taking an opportunity to speak with members of the public about historic preservation at a meeting or conference, MHPN takes its role in preservation education very seriously. To illustrate this fact, in 2014, the Greater Michigan and Southeast Michigan Field Representatives alone were active in a total of 125 individual communities in 65 of Michigan’s 83 counties, covering a total of 9,194 miles! These impressive numbers do not include the efforts of the Executive Director, Detroit Preservation Specialist, or the MHPN Board and volunteers.

**HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSIONER TRAINING**

In 2014, MHPN facilitated Historic District Commissioner training workshops in Battle Creek (Calhoun County), Boyne City (Charlevoix County), Jackson (Jackson County), Holland (Ottawa/Allegan County), Northville (Oakland County), Oakland County (through Main Street Oakland County), and Saugatuck (Allegan County). In partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), MHPN also facilitated training for the Holly (Oakland County) Historic District Study Committee in 2014.

New Historic District Commissioners learned about the Michigan enabling legislation allowing a community to establish a commission and locally designated historic districts, the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation, due process, the appeals process, and how to work with property-owners in the district. The Advanced training is aimed at more established commissions, and addresses more complex issues. The Advanced workshop includes more in-depth discussions of legal issues such as hardship and demolition by neglect, and it includes two optional modules the commission may choose. Possible selections include: hazardous materials (lead paint and/or asbestos), new construction in the local district and issues to consider, substitute materials, or weatherization. MHPN brings in additional subject matter experts as needed for these trainings.

**PRESERVATION TRADES TRAINING**

Thanks to the SHPO and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), we offered two intensive, hands-on Wood Window Repair training workshops for the South Fox Island Lighthouse Association (Leelanau County) and the Village of Vermontville (Eaton County). The workshops taught the fundamentals of repair and rehabilitation of traditional wood windows to individuals who were seeking to expand their skills and existing knowledge of traditional building materials under the guidance of trained preservation craftspeople.
YOUTHBUILD

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network approached Young Detroit Builders in late 2013, offering to help the organization build capacity and increase the diversity of its offerings by incorporating preservation-related trades instruction into its curriculum. MHPN instructors facilitated a series of workshops from December 2013 through April 2014. MHPN’s Executive Director assigned students to the MHPN workshops based on interest and existing skill level. These workshops generally had about six students, lasted about four to six hours, and were held at the Young Detroit Builders shop at 1627 West Lafayette Boulevard or at a field location. The workshops included the following topics: Window Rehabilitation, Stained Glass, Plaster, Storm Window Fabrication, and Paint Conservation and Decorative Painting.

Instructor Jim Turner of Turner Restoration facilitated the Window Rehabilitation sessions. These sessions included classroom instruction on wood and steel window rehabilitation and the restoration of a wood sash and a steel casement at the Young Detroit Builders shop. This workshop concluded with field work at the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative, a Young Detroit Builders partner. Young Detroit Builders students repaired a damaged window in a building owned by the Michigan Urban Farming Initiative.

Instructor Barbara Krueger, member of the American Glass Guild, facilitated the Stained Glass sessions. In these, students learned to repair damaged came work in both lead and zinc, lead safety, and glass cutting. Students created stained glass windows which they were able to take home at the conclusion of the workshop.

Instructor Jerry Milliken, self-employed plasterer, facilitated the Plaster sessions and taught students to work with wood, metal, and rock lath, and build a model plaster wall. At the conclusion of the workshop, students repaired a damaged plaster wall at the Young Detroit Builders headquarters.

Instructor Dave Deppe of Deppe Enterprises facilitated the Storm Window Fabrication sessions. Students learned about energy efficiency in historic buildings, and, using a method developed by Deppe Enterprises, students fabricated low-cost storm windows using readily-available materials and tools. These windows can increase the energy efficiency of a historic home, or serve as a temporary solution while primary windows are awaiting repair.

Instructor Debra Adamcik, conservator, taught the Paint Conservation and Decorative Painting sessions. Students learned techniques of paint conservation, including paint exposures and stenciling. Also included was instruction on interior painting. Students then applied stenciling and other finish techniques to create a mural in the Young Detroit Builders lobby.

In addition to the workshops, the Youthbuild program included two different field trips. The first was a day-long introductory session. Janese Chapman of the City of Detroit Historic Designation Advisory Board opened with an introduction to the principles of historic preservation. Afterwards, Robb McKay of the SHPO and Emilie Evans of MHPN and the National Trust for Historic Preservation joined students on a tour of recent or ongoing rehabilitation projects including Fort Wayne, the Detroit Opera House, and the Guardian Building. The second field trip concluded the Youthbuild workshops with a visit to Christ Church Detroit where architect Edward Francis of Resendes Design Group described recent rehabilitation work at the building.

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE

In 2014, MHPN held the 34th annual statewide conference in Jackson, Michigan. The conference, themed “Michigan Places Matter,” was held May 13-17 at the Commonwealth Commerce Center in downtown Jackson and was attended by 348 participants. Local broadcast television, JTV, and particularly the Bart Hawley Show, provided year-long coverage of our development of the program, and our participants began arriving on Wednesday before the conference and some stayed afterwards to “Make it a Jackson Weekend.”

Our registrants were encouraged to leave the conference headquarters on Thursday to buy lunch downtown, and the MHPN name was up on the marquee of the Michigan Theatre where our annual awards ceremony was held on Friday evening. A modest estimate of the dollars infused into the local economy by these activities is based on the MHPN’s $16,000 spent directly in town multiplied by three, or $48,000. And that doesn’t account for people who stayed at hotels other than our conference hotel, or went out for dinner, enjoyed a nightcap, or shopped.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS


Conference attendees and members of the community gathered in the spectacular St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church for the Friday presentation by Keynote Speaker Elizabeth Blazevich, Director of the Center for Design and the City at the American Architectural Foundation in Washington, D.C. Blazevich’s presentation, “Design and Cultural Heritage: Instilling Value in the Places that Matter,” highlighted connections to the Midwest and Michigan, and echoed the conference theme for all in attendance.
While the term advocate conjures legislative efforts—and that is sometimes the case with MHPN—there is so much more. In 2014, MHPN continued its efforts to protect historic resources by sharing news of preservation issues, such as the efforts to protect the Saugatuck Dunes; promoting historic properties available through various land banks; and by protecting historic resources with the placement of historic preservation easements.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

During 2014, MHPN continued our relationship with Michael Frederick, The Frederick Group, who worked as a dedicated lobbyist for MHPN in Lansing. Additionally, the MHPN Public Policy Committee was successful in reaching out to new and renewed partners doing similar place-based work, in monitoring and responding to legislation. A pair of bills MHPN supported would have amended the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Act by requiring that proposed permanent changes to the exterior of a registered historic site owned or financed by the DDA would have to be reviewed by the SHPO prior to the project approvals. Despite MHPN’s efforts, these two bills, Senate Bill 21 and 22, did not pass in 2014. Several additional issues being monitored also failed to have action, but required the work of the committee to assure that negative action was not taken against historic resources.

At the Federal level, MHPN responded to the Tax Reform Proposal introduced by Rep. David Camp (R-Cadillac) that would eliminate the Federal Historic Tax Credit and New Markets Tax Credit. While it was unlikely that this bill would move forward (Congressman Camp did not seek reelection), we were aware that his colleague Congressman Paul Ryan plans to step up to champion this effort in 2015. MHPN was represented at Advocacy Day in Washington DC, meeting with ten Congressmen, advocating for funding for the Historic Preservation Fund and protection of the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE

In addition to advocating for sound public policy, MHPN provides information and advocacy assistance to communities throughout the state. In 2014, MHPN Field Reps provided information and advocacy support for historic places and buildings in 125 different communities, including: Almont (Lapeer County), Ann Arbor (Washtenaw County), Chelsea (Washtenaw County), Detroit (Wayne County), East Grand Rapids (Kent County), Ferndale (Oakland County), Highland Park (Wayne County), Idlewild (Lake County), Ironwood (Gogebic County), Isle Royale (Keweenaw County), Jonesville (Hillsdale County), Lansing (Ingham County), Linden (Genesee County), Saugatuck ( Allegan County), and the Village of Vicksburg (Kalamazoo County).

As part of MHPN’s partnership grant with the SHPO and MSHDA, the City of Adrian (Lenawee County) participated in an in-depth Community Assessment. Residents, business owners, and city employees completed an online survey and participated in community meetings. The participants discussed the City’s historic preservation ethic and an action plan to further that ethic and engage more people in preservation-related activities in the city.

MHPN/National Trust for Historic Preservation (NTHP) Detroit Preservation Specialist Emilie Evans spent much of 2014 working to protect the city’s historic resources. Relationships with the Michigan SHPO, Detroit Future City, Detroit Land Bank Authority, Quicken/Bedrock, Jefferson East, Inc., Community Development Advocates of Detroit, and the Belle Isle Conservancy have all focused positive preservation attention on the city. As part of her efforts, and in conjunction with Mindfield Productions (the same team restoring the GAR Building in Detroit), the video Vacant Not Blighted, was produced. To date, the video with the simple message that a vacant building is not necessarily blight, has had over 8,000 views on Vimeo and was featured at the 2014 NTHP conference.
2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Early in 2014, MHPN played a major role in completing the Detroit Historic Resource Survey, a precedent-setting project that surveyed nearly 18,000 properties in just two weeks using volunteers and smartphones. The results have helped inform demolition decisions at the Detroit Land Bank Authority.

New Buffalo (Berrien County) and Irish Hills (Hillsdale County) are confronting demolition pressures in their communities. MHPN Field Representatives have communicated with local advocates and strategized how to implement alternative courses of action.

Among her many efforts in the City of Detroit, Emilie Evans advocated to preserve several significant resources in the city. Among these is the Deck Bar, in the Detroit’s Jefferson-Chalmers Neighborhood but owned by the City of Grosse Pointe Park. Originally constructed as the American State Bank in the 1910s, in the 1970s the building was one of the only gay bars in southeast Michigan. Evans testified before the Detroit Historic District Commission, who voted to deny demolition. In spite of these efforts, after years of being demolished by neglect, a month later, the building was demolished to make way for a pocket park.

In 2014, Southeast Michigan Field Representative Ellen Thackery assisted Almont (Lapeer County) with their historic school. She sent Almont DDA Director Nancy Boxey information, case studies about historic school reuse, MHPN’s grant resource sheet, information about the National Register of Historic Places, and we connected them with the Detroit Public Schools conference and helped promote their Request for Proposals to rehabilitate the building when it became available.

In October, 2014, Greater Michigan Field Representative Amanda Reintjes presented a joint session on the benefits of historic preservation and economic development to the Jonesville community with SHPO, MSHDA, Michigan Economic Development Corporation, and Michigan Main Street. Approximately 35 people attended.
One of the best ways MHPN can assist with the protection of Michigan’s historic places is by holding easements. An easement is a legal instrument between the property owner and the MHPN which establishes perpetual protection by preventing inappropriate changes to the historic fabric. The presence of a fully executed easement gives MHPN the ability to work with current and future owners to safeguard historic character, architecture, materials, and significance. By the end of 2014, MHPN held twenty easements plus two conservation easements. Easements are held on properties in Marshall (Calhoun County), Traverse City (Grand Traverse County), Grand Rapids (Kent County), Morenci (Lenawee County), Bloomfield Hills, Pontiac, and Lyon Township (Oakland County), Ann Arbor (Washtenaw County), and Detroit (Wayne County). As the easement holder, MHPN carries out no less than one annual monitoring of each property to document current conditions and determines if the property is being maintained in compliance with the easement agreement. In addition to the easements held by MHPN, we also monitor two easements held by the NTHP—one in Traverse City (Grand Traverse County) and the second in Milford (Oakland County).

Local historic districts are also a good way to protect historic resources and community character, and MHPN often helps to educate communities about local historic districts.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

Charlevoix (Charlevoix County) and Omena (Leelanau County) are moving forward in their efforts to designate local residential historic districts. The MHPN worked with both study committees and provided assistance with determining district boundaries, surveying, and drafting historic district design guidelines.

Emilie Evans spoke for MHPN in the effort to preserve the Eddystone and Park Avenue Hotels, both threatened by the planned Arena development in Detroit. Both Ellen Thackery, MHPN/NTHP Southeast Michigan Representative, and Emilie Evans also advocated to preserve the Park Avenue Building (at Grand Circus Park), Detroit, which is currently under court order to be boarded and secured.

MHPN offered assistance to St. Clair (St. Clair County) in their efforts to manage their historic assets, including the St Clair Inn. Field Representatives presented information to the City Council about a local historic district ordinance and commission and gathered information about how various other inns operate and were financed. These case studies were then shared with the Council and members of the community. St Clair passed a local historic district ordinance in May and their district study committee has been appointed and is researching and compiling a study committee report.

MHPN Field Representatives presented a public forum about local historic districts in Rochester (Oakland County) and the City passed a local historic district ordinance in November. MHPN will continue to offer assistance as the study committee does its work.

MHPN Preservation Fund-Intervention Program was also active in 2014. This program uses funds received through the State Tax Credit Investment Program to finance historic rehabilitation projects. During 2014, MHPN partnered with two historic development projects in Detroit and a third project in southwest Michigan. Efforts under the Preservation Fund-Intervention Program continue as MHPN seeks to partner with nonprofits, municipalities, Downtown Development Authorities, land banks, and religious organizations in need of loan funds to help stabilize their historic properties.
FALL BENEFIT

The MHPN hosted the 20th Annual Fall Benefit on Saturday, October 11, 2014 in the spectacular venue of the Tibbits Opera House in Coldwater. The opulent Tibbits Opera House is a Second Empire-styled theatre opened in 1882. In the 1930s, every shred of exterior 19th century detailing was destroyed during its conversion into a “modern” Art Deco movie theater. Removal of the Deco façade in the 1960s reduced the building to a characterless box. The Tibbits Opera Foundation and Arts Council, Inc. proposed in 1999 to have the theatre fully restored. Funds were raised with wide community support and façade work was completed in 2013.

As has been tradition for the last few years, the Fall Benefit was again used as a venue in which to present several of its awards to recipients best served by the gathering being held on the west side of the state. First, the Community of Coldwater was honored for its stunning reclamation of the Tibbits Opera House with the presentation of an MHPN 2014 Community Award. The second – the 2014 Leadership Award – was awarded to the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance. Saugatuck’s Lake Michigan / Kalamazoo River & Dunes Coastal District is an area of roughly 2,000 acres of relatively undisturbed dune and woodlands that hold a concentration of interconnected sites of historic and ecological significance. Despite the quiet beauty, this site has fostered a long public conversation about the rights of private development and the interests of the public. Championing conservation of the area has been the Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance, drawing attention to an issue with a statewide impact.

In addition to the presentation of the two awards, there was much to enjoy during the evening. It included strolling dinner fare and dessert, a hosted beer and wine bar, opera house tours, the Preservation Marketplace, and our popular silent and live auctions including everything from overnights at some of Michigan’s best historic hotels and B&Bs to books, football and symphony tickets, and Michigan-themed crafts. Before the doors to the Fall Benefit opened, the public was invited to tour the Kerr Building, a great historic building project just footsteps from the Tibbits Opera House. Approximately 30 Fall Benefit participants and Coldwater residents joined Owner and Developer JMWingard, LLC, Lake Michigan Financial Corporation, and MHPN’s Historic Resource Council for 30-minute guided tours of this 19th-century downtown space with new commercial and residential uses.

2014 HOUSE PARTIES

The MHPN has been doing “house parties” for over a decade, introducing new people to the organization by welcoming them to great historic venues. In 2014, two parties were held drawing a number of new and interested preservationists. The first party was held on a beautiful Saturday evening in June at the Detroit jazz club Cliff Bell’s. The venue was built in 1935 as Clifford Bell’s signature club and utilized exterior plans by Albert Kahn and an elaborate Art Deco interior designed by Charles Agree. Current owners Paul Howard, Carolyn Howard, and former MHPN board member Scott Lowell restored the club after it had stood empty for 20 years. When the newly polished gem re-opened...
in 2005, The New York Times noted that “Entering Cliff Bell’s is like walking onto the set of a Fred Astaire film.” The venue is intimately sized, so our view of the stage was a good one for the evening’s first set during our stand-up reception gathered around the bar.

The second house party of 2014 also sought out an interesting entertainment venue. The amazing Redford Theater was the site of the November gathering. Designed by architect Ralph F. Shreve in collaboration with the architectural firm of Verner, Wilhelmi, and Molby, the 1,571-seat theatre opened in 1928. As in many theatres of the era where Art Deco styling was used as a canvas on which exotic details were applied, the designers of the theatre created a Japanese-inspired interior meant to awe theatre-goers. The auditorium, for example, is configured like a palace’s interior courtyard with walls of Shoji screens and bamboo latticework topped by pagoda-style, tiled roofs. It is no wonder that the Detroit Chapter of the AIA honored it in 2006 as one of the city’s ten best interiors. Party participants were treated to a tour of the building and a light lunch served on the balcony overlooking the grand foyer. As lunch ended and pop and popcorn arrived, MHPN guests took their balcony seats for the organ “overture.” Then it was time for our movie, Alfred Hitchcock’s 1956 mystery-thriller, The Man Who Knew Too Much.

**BRING YOUR OWN HARD HAT PARTIES**

Twice in 2014, MHPN’s Historic Resource Council hosted Bring Your Own Hard Hat (BYOHH) parties. The first, held in conjunction with the 34th Annual Conference in Jackson, included a gathering of members in a local pub. The second BYOHH party followed more traditional lines and provided an opportunity for participants to tour the work-in-progress Kerr Building adjacent to the Tibbits Opera House prior to the 20th Annual Fall Benefit.

**THE 2014 YEAR-END GIFT SOLICITATION**

We have had a year-end gift solicitation since 1991. Although it has never been a high-yield effort, the year-end solicitations continue today, the cost of its donor contact being significantly reduced by initiating the approach via e-mail beginning in 2005. There has been a sense that in spite of its limited earnings, the year-end appeal is a good point of contact each year, and, significantly, can be grown into something more productive in time. For the fourth year, we created a four-part e-blast series designed and timed to attract the attention of different audiences during the busy holiday season: an appeal to shop in your traditional downtown on Black Friday; a traditional fundraising appeal to support a good organization; a request to consider history-oriented gifts when shopping, including memberships to the MHPN; and a “don’t forget” reminder to make your gift before midnight to start the New Year out right.
The DeZwaan Windmill, Holland. With the restoration of this 18th century Dutch windmill, brought to Michigan in 1964, the eighty-foot sails are once again turning, milling flour and serving as the linchpin in the revitalization of Holland’s Windmill Island Gardens.

The Elizabeth Lane Oliver Center for the Arts, Frankfort. The Oliver Art Center transformed a formerly abandoned 1934 Lake Michigan Coast Guard Station into a sustainable, community-centered social hub that retains the authentic characteristics of its original purpose.

Fort Gratiot Lighthouse, Port Huron. Innovative technology and a ground-breaking construction approach repaired the exterior masonry of Michigan’s oldest lighthouse, enabling the opening of the light station as one of the state’s newest tourist destinations.

Stewart Edward White Hall, Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids. Grand Rapids Community College created a sustainable, completely accessible faculty and administrative space within this historic 1907 Tudor Revival mansion, honoring the building’s historic integrity while giving it new life.

The Cultural Landscape Award is presented to an outstanding cultural landscape preservation project that restores a prior existing historic landscape or preserves a landscape of some historical or cultural significance. The 2014 Cultural Landscape award is presented to the McGregor Memorial Conference Center Reflecting Pool and Sculpture Garden on the campus of Wayne State University in Detroit. The meticulous restoration of renowned Modern architect Minoru Yamasaki’s masterpiece of landscape design is once again inspiring the university community and visitors with Yamasaki’s vision of “surprise, serenity, and delight.”

AWARDS

The MHPN presented 13 Historic Preservation Awards to winners in 2014. Winners from across Michigan were selected in six categories, including: Building, Cultural Landscape, Preservation Gem, Government/Institution, Tax Credit, and Lifetime Achievement.

Four Building Awards are presented for projects completed within the last three years. Winning projects may be a restoration or rehabilitation, and must include exterior work, but may also include interior work.

While many think of preservation as the multi-million dollar restoration of large historic landmarks, preservation is not limited by size, location or cost.

THIS YEAR’S WINNERS INCLUDE:

Four Building Awards are presented for projects completed within the last three years. Winning projects may be a restoration or rehabilitation, and must include exterior work, but may also include interior work.

Four Building Awards are presented for projects completed within the last three years. Winning projects may be a restoration or rehabilitation, and must include exterior work, but may also include interior work.
The Government/Institutional Award is presented to an agency, city, or institution who, by their actions, has accomplished significant positive changes in the historic preservation climate and activity in the State of Michigan. This year’s winner of the Government/Institutional Award is The Michigan State Historic Preservation Office of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority, given in recognition of its extensive and successful effort to document, evaluate, and celebrate Michigan’s leading role in Modern architecture and design in the mid-twentieth century.

The Preservation Gem Award is presented to an outstanding preservation project that includes restoration or rehabilitation of an element of a building, or of a structure or an object. The winners of this year’s Preservation Gem Awards are:

Honolulu House Museum Fence, Marshall. Meticulous historic documentation and exquisite craftwork by local artisans re-created the ornate fence that formerly surrounded the Honolulu House, one of Michigan’s, and the country’s, most unique historic structures.

The Tibbits Opera House Façade, Coldwater. After being hidden for more than seventy years, the stately Second Empire façade of the 1882 Opera House was unearthed and restored to its original glory following a twelve-year fund-raising campaign.

The Tax Credit Award is presented to an outstanding project completed in the last three years that included qualified use of federal and/or state tax credit programs. Two Tax Credit Awards were presented this year to:

The Coronado Apartments, Detroit. The rehabilitation of the 1894 Coronado Apartments, one of Detroit’s first apartment buildings, provides twenty-four safe and upgraded affordable housing units to community residents.

Cottage 36, The Village at Grand Traverse Commons, Traverse City. Part of the redevelopment of the former Northern Michigan Asylum complex, this rehabilitation gave Cottage 36 new life while creating twenty-nine affordable, eco-friendly housing units within a walkable community.

The winners of the final award category, the Lifetime Achievement Award, are selected by consensus of the Network’s senior leadership. The individuals who receive this award have worked throughout their careers to promote historic preservation in the State of Michigan. In 2014, three recipients were selected to receive the MHPN Lifetime Achievement Award.

Coleman Stephan Demeter, Jackson. Steve is being honored posthumously for his lifetime of dedication to discovering and sharing the prehistory and history of Michigan.

Norman and Ilene R. Tyler, Ann Arbor. The Tylers’ unique forty-plus year partnership has been committed to preserving communities through advocacy, teaching, and professional practice.
The MHPN’s members and volunteers are essential to advancing the organization’s mission and operations. In 2014, the organization engaged its members and volunteers through its annual conference, annual fall fundraiser, house parties, workshops, and its constant stream of communications via e-mail and social media. Members benefit from and support the organization’s professional expertise related to the rehabilitation of historic buildings, protecting historic resources, community engagement, the training and development of Historic District Commissions, and the numerous other ways in which we help communities advocate for the protection of their built environment. The organization is grateful for its 421 active members in 2014, including 157 individuals, 20 organizations, 17 Historic District Commissions and 115 Historic Resource Council members.

In addition to the traditional revenue generated by the MHPN, in 2014, volunteers reported 5,350.08 hours of work in 2014. That is the equivalent of $114,277.71 in labor or nearly three full-time staff members. The organization continues to improve its efforts to engage volunteers in its work.

2014 HIGHLIGHTS

MHPN produced and distributed the 2013 Annual Report, as well as 3 issues of the Network News, including one hard copy and two electronic versions. We sent a record 26 press releases and e-mail blasts covering everything from the introduction of Tourist Oriented Directional Signage (April 4, 2014), to the variety of workshops hosted by MHPN, and coverage of the spring conference and fall benefit.

Both the MHPN Facebook page with over 1,000 “likes” and our group page with over 200 very active members, have broadened the exposure of the organization. Similarly, the LinkedIn and Twitter accounts have grown in 2014 with over 400 combined followers.

The MHPN’s Historic Resource Council published its 16th Annual Member Directory. This go-to source for preservation professionals grew again to include 111 member listings from across the state representing 42 different categories in the 64-page Directory. Over 2,000 copies of the Directory were distributed to conference participants, Historic District Commissions, Main Street communities, and Historic Resource Council members. This does not include the number of people who consult the electronic version of the Directory on the MHPN website.

For the third consecutive year, MHPN was participated in Michigan Archaeology Day programming at the Michigan Historical Center. Board Member Katie Kolokithas (and her husband Stephen) along with Membership Committee Co-Chair Amara Frontczak and Communications Committee Chair, Elaine Robinson handed out kids’ preservation project materials to everyone in attendance. This opportunity enabled us to speak with youngsters and adults alike, sharing the programs and publications of MHPN with an audience that may not otherwise be aware of our work.

Commensurate with a board decision to evaluate dues every five years, the membership voted at the 2014 annual meeting to increase membership dues. The new dues, as of January 1, 2015 are as follows: $45 - Basic Membership; $25 - Students and Seniors; $80 - Organization/Institution/Government; $140 - Historic Resource Council; $150 - Historic District Commission or Study Committee.

The publication of A Community Guide to Repurposing Vacant and Underutilized Historic Buildings by Nan Taylor was completed in April 2014. The comprehensive document looks at everything from building ownership to evaluation and intervention, assessment and plans, and finally, marketing and financing. Made possible through funding by the SHPO and MSDA, the electronic version of the 34-page publication is available at www.mhpn.org, under “Press and Publications.”
Financial support came from 252 individuals, businesses, foundations, organizations, educational institutions, governmental bodies, and grant-making entities. Many gave more than once during the calendar year resulting in 386 transactions being individually acknowledged and receipted.

AMONG THE MHPN’S MANY ACTIVITIES, THESE 5 ATTRACTED THE MOST SUPPORT DURING 2014:

- Programs: $200,317
- Conferences: $91,722
- To be used for Greatest Needs: $24,277
- Fall Benefits: $11,333
- Operations: $7,639

The 18 members of the Heritage Society were an important part of the MHPN’s support base because each member pledges to make gifts totaling at least $1,000 in each of three consecutive years. To have these commitments made for consecutive years allows us to approach new projects and organizational development with greater confidence. In turn, that allows us to better serve our membership and the historic resources of Michigan. Making gifts in four of the five categories above, the 18 of them from among our 252 total donors provided support totaling $42,779 of the year’s $154,958 total non-grant contributions—meaning, 7% of the donor base gave 28% of the non-grant support.
OUR 2014 SUPPORTERS

The Michigan Historic Preservation Network takes this opportunity to express its appreciation to those contributing to our success. Many donors have been supporting the MHPN for years; others are new. We thank you all!

What follows is the listing of our 2014 supporters making contributions post-marked, time-stamped, processed, received, or hand-delivered between January 1 and December 31, 2014. Every effort has been made to ensure that all donors’ listings have been included correctly. If there are any omissions or errors, we sincerely apologize and will note a correction in next year’s annual report.

$10,000 or More:
Rob and Sarah Dworz<br>Grand Rapids, MI
Kidof Preservation Consulting<br>Michigan, MI
Rob and Sarah Dworz<br>Grand Rapids, MI
Grand Army of the Republic Building<br>David Carleton, Tom Carleton, Sean Emery<br>Detroit, MI
Elaine H. Robinson<br>Jackson, MI
Heritage Society - Copper
Ella Sharp Museum<br>Ann Arbor, MI
Turner Restoration LLC<br>James and Stephanie Turner<br>Detroit, MI
Heritage Society - Bronze

$5,000 - $9,999

Amanda D. Davis Photography<br>Amanda Davis<br>Mr. Clemens, MI
Michigan, MI

$2,500 - $4,999

The Americana Foundation<br>Marlene J. Fluharty<br>Novi, MI
BlackBerry Window and Door Systems<br>Michael Shields<br>Kalamazoo, MI
Heritage Society - Copper

$1,000 - $2,499

AIA Michigan<br>Cathy Mosley<br>Detroit, MI
Anonymous<br>Mi<br>The Christian Company<br>Ronald D. Steen<br>Lansing, MI
Heritage Society - Copper - Founding Member

Plante & Moran, PLLC<br>Gordon Goldie<br>Auburn Hills, MI
Heritage Society - Copper

Quinn Evans Architects<br>Steven C. Jones and Ruth E. Mills<br>Auburn Hills, MI
Heritage Society - Copper

Emerald: $33,334 and up
Platinum: $25,000-$33,333
Diamond: $20,000-$24,999
Gold: $15,000-$19,999
Silver: $10,000-$14,999
Crystal: $5,000-$9,999
Bronze: $2,500-$4,999
Copper: $1,000-$2,499
Level achieved if donation amount is paid within range for 3 consecutive years.
2014 SUPPORTERS continued...

Gillespie Group - The Armory
Patrick Gillespie
Lansing, MI

Integrity Building Group
Brian Mooney and John Biggar
Detroit, MI

JTV - The Bart Hawley Show
Bart Hawley
Jackson, MI

Rod Kreger and Betsy LaVier
Satellite Beach, FL

Lake Michigan Car Ferry - S.S. Badger
Shari Vandervest
Ludington, MI

Lead Renovator Training LLC
Edward Wenz
White Lake, MI

Susan Murdie
Jackson, MI

National Restoration LLC
John Fletcher
Milford, MI

Neumann/Smith Architecture
J. Michael Kirk
Southfield, MI

Porter One Design, LLC
Will Porter
Farmington Hills, MI

Thomas Roberts Architect, LLC
Wyandotte, MI

Sanders & Czapski Associates, PLLC
Ken Czapski
Marquette, MI

James A. Schmiechen, Ph.D.
Douglas, MI

J. Parkhill Smith
Flint, MI

Tibbits Opera House
Christine Dulaney
Coldwater, MI

Sylvia and Dave Tillman
Dearborn, MI

Butcher & Butcher Construction
Mark Dalrymple and Bob Meller
Rochester Hills, MI

Century Builders MI
David Varney
South Haven, MI

Cheryl Early
Plymouth, MI
east arbor architecture
Daniel E. Bollman, AIA
East Lansing, MI

First Congregational Church UCC
Rev. Kerry Snyder
Jackson, MI

Steven R. Fox with Bishop & Heintz, P.C.
Traverse City, MI

John Guidinger
Jackson, MI

Marilyn Guidinger
Jackson, MI

John Heiss
Troy, MI

Melinda Hill
Rochester Hills, MI

Jackson County Parks Department,
City of Jackson
Scott Robbins
Jackson, MI

Jackson Downtown Development Authority
Jonathan Greene and Rebecca Rae
Jackson, MI

Kalamazoo Historic Preservation Commission
Chris Wright
Kalamazoo, MI

Barbara E. Krueger
Hartland, MI
ted and Pat Ligibel
Lambertville, MI

Denise McGeen
Detroit, MI

Ruth E. Mills
Ypsilanti, MI

Old Town Commercial Association
Megan Barrett
Lansing, MI

Past Perfect, Inc.
Jennifer Metz and Rebecca Smith Hoffman
Grand Rapids, MI

Rueter Associates Architects
Marc Rueter
Ann Arbor, MI

Saarinen (Michigan) Chapter
of the Society of Architectural Historians
Ann Arbor, MI

Saint Mary Star of the Sea
Catholic Church
Fr. Timothy Nelson
Jackson, MI

Dawn and George Schumann
Douglas, MI

Sea Glass Fine Art
Thomas Fallon
South Portland, ME

Terri Sibo-Koenig
Saline, MI

Wigen Tincknell Meyer & Associates, Inc.
Ken Lemiesz, AIA
Saginaw, MI

Up to $249

Absolute Gallery
Kathy Holcomb
Lansing, MI

Adair Restoration LLC
Robin Adair
Ann Arbor, MI

James R. Anderson
Menominee, MI

Anna’s
Anna D. Kusterer
Jackson, MI

Automotive Hall of Fame
Eva Holinski
Dearborn, MI

Christine Ballard
Portage, MI

Xiaohan Bao
Williamston, MI

Barb Barber
Rochester, MI

Dawn Bilobran
Detroit, MI

Birch Lodge and Motel
William Rutter and Deb Rhead
Trout Lake, MI

Benjamin Bower
Trenton, MI

Mallory Bower
Trenton, MI

Christine Bowman
Jonesville, MI

Bradly’s Home and Garden
Bradly Rakowski
Lansing, MI

Gary Breen
Norton Shores, MI

Gary Raudebaugh
Grand Blanc, MI

Meredith Long
Curatoria Detroit

Mallory Bower
Trenton, MI

Nancy Villa Bryk
Ann Arbor, MI

Buddy’s Pizza
Lara Radka
Farmington Hills, MI

Caryl L. and Michael D. Burke
Dexter, MI

Ronald R. Campbell
Flint, MI

Casa Calabria
Jim Johnson
Marquette, MI

H. Daniel Chegwidden
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Chicago, IL

Tish Colett
Grosse Pointe, MI

James Conway
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Cooper Design Inc.
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Coopersville & Marne Railway Company
Jerry Ricard
Coopersville, MI

Cornerstone Architects, Inc.
Tom G. Nemitz, AIA
Traverse City, MI

Curatoria Detroit
Meredith Long
Oak Park, MI

Michael Darga
Northville, MI

Dearborn Inn
Bonnie Olszewski
Dearborn, MI

Delaware Copper Mine Tours
Lani Hendricks-Poyer
Mohawk, MI

Detroit Symphony Orchestra
Chuck Dyer
Detroit, MI

Franklin Diamond
Flint, MI

Diamond Jack’s River Tours
Bill Howe
Lincoln Park, MI

John Dunn
Livonia, MI

Martin Duquette
Holland, MI
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