

### **Sheep, Sap, and Stacks (of Pancakes, That Is)**

The Museum's annual welcome to Spring, the Sugaring & Shearing Festival, is pouring on the fun for families on Sunday, March 25, from noon to 4 p.m. This free community event is a great way for Museum members to introduce friends and family to the many offerings and opportunities of The Ella.

Take a step back into the past with a visit to Ella's Hillside Farmhouse kitchen where the stove top is bubbling with syrup, sugar, and a few surprises. Pop into the woodshed along the lane to learn about 19<sup>th</sup> century maple syrup production and the many hours involved in getting sap from the maple trees to the dinner table. Next to the Tower Barn find out the answer to "Baa baa black sheep, have you any wool?" while area farmer Duane Tirrell demonstrates sheep shearing. And take home a taste of the day with a visit to the Country Store at the end of Farm Lane where Youde's Sugar Bush products are available for sale.

When you've worked up an appetite step into Ella's Granary Restaurant for a "Sugaring & Shearing Maple Pancake Brunch" featuring Whole Wheat Pecan Pancakes, Buttermilk Pancakes, Waffles, Breakfast Casserole, Biscuits and Gravy, Chicken Tenders, Breakfast Meats, Fruit Salad, and of course, plenty of Maple Syrup for \$8.95 for adults and \$5.95 for children under 12. Ella's Granary will be open from 11 a.m. (before the Festival starts) to 3 p.m.

Inside the Museum don't miss the other activities including the Community Room where children's art "make & takes" and information about upcoming Museum events can be found. In the galleries, exhibits include the *Statewide Fine Arts Competition*, *Fascinations in Fiber*, *And the Bride Wore...*, the *Inaugural Exhibit of the Andrews Wildlife Gallery*, and the *Jackson History Gallery*.

The event itself is free with some activities and food items having a nominal fee. House tours of the first floor of Hillside Farmhouse are available for \$1. For more information or directions, visit the Museum website at [www.ellasharp.org](http://www.ellasharp.org) or contact the Museum by phone at (517) 787-2320.

### [News Items](#)

#### **The Ella Receives New Grants**

The Ella has received a \$5,000 grant award from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the continuing Textile Preservation Project. Begun last year,

The Ella's Collections Department continues work on preserving the permanent textile collection. The Ella also received a grant award of \$19,400 from the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs for the *Celebrate the Ella!* Capital Campaign Phase II: The Recreation of Historic Farmlane. This project continues the capital improvement project with a focus on recreating historic Farmlane using state-of-the-art soil polymer technology.

#### **Brick by Brick**

The Ella's new look has had many admirers including the Greater Jackson Chamber of

Commerce who recently announced the Museum as a winner of the Brick Award. The annual awards honor buildings with the best exterior improvements. It gives us another chance to thank our wonderful team of Architonics and Cunningham Construction Company as well as the many local subcontractors for all their hard work!

### **World Ceramic Lecture Series**

*Clay Feet: A Travel through Art and Time* lecture series featuring Mary Humphrey kicks off on Wednesday, April 11, at 7 p.m. Mary combines her nearly 30-year career in ceramics with her recent travels for a truly unique lecture experience. “I feel my work and my being have grown tremendously with every new experience. When I travel I have always found potters to share clay experiences,” says Mary. “In this series I will share my experiences, photos and most of all my love of ceramics and art from around the world. Each session will have art work from that country on display for your visual enjoyment.”

“Visit” Peru on Wednesday, April 11. Mary invites you to “Experience Lima, Cuzco and the famous Inca site of Machu Picchu, and a most intriguing experience with Pablo Seminario, a well known Peruvian potter.”

On Wednesday, April 25, *Clay Feet* will step into Korea. Mary notes, “My tour of Korea has engraved a love for Asian art and it's people on my heart.” This tour with an art emphasis, includes temples, sculptures, pottery, ancient kilns, food and a magnificent old and modern culture.

The series concludes on Wednesday, May 9, with Mary's travels to the vast and ever changing China, including Beijing, with the beautiful Forbidden City, the Great wall, Xiian, and the incredible Terra Cotta Warriors. “My second trip to China is a ceramic trip in search of ancient Chinese folk potteries and water reduction kilns, in this trip I am engulfed in the everyday life of the rural Chinese people and their ancient culture and arts.”

The *Clay Feet* lectures will begin at 7 p.m. Admission to each individual lecture is \$10 for Museum members and \$15 for non-members. Each evening will also feature a cash wine bar, punch, and light snacks. Reservations are strongly encouraged. Contact the Museum to make reservations or for additional information at (517) 787-2320.

### **Show Me a Story Family Night**

Families are invited to explore *The Fine Art of Illustrating for Children* exhibit on Thursday, April 12 (6:30-8:30 p.m.), with a night of activities, stories, snacks, and fun surprises. Artist Hector Trujillo will demonstrate the airbrush and talk about story boarding, creating characters, and illustrating children's stories. In the Community Room families will find several story page projects including 3-D art and favorite children's books. In the Museum galleries families will hear stories from the books featured in the illustrated pieces on exhibit. Admission cost is \$10 per family for Museum members/\$15 for non-member families. For more information about this Family Night contact the Museum at (517) 787-2320.

### **The Domestic Travel Committee Rides Again**

Join the Museum's Domestic Travel Committee on Friday, June 1, for a day in Detroit with visits to the Detroit Symphony and the Cranbrook Museum and Garden. Participants will enjoy a delicious lunch at Cranbrook. Other details were still pending at press time (including costs estimated at \$100 per person). For more information contact the Museum at (517) 787-2320.

### **Spirited and Comforting Gallery Walks**

Join "the Spirit Sisters" for a Gallery Walk through the *Fascinations in Fiber* exhibit. Curators Bev Simmons, Carol Stygles, and Maki Braun will lead the way at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 10.

Judy Horn, Museum Collections assistant, will lead a Gallery Walk through the *Comfort & Joy: Quilts & Coverlets With a Story* on Saturday, March 17, at 1:30 p.m.

### **"Scout" meets The Ella!**

Jackson has been encouraged to read Harper Lee's Pulitzer Prize winning novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Join the Jackson Literacy Coalition at the Museum on Saturday, March 17, at the kick off for "The Big Read" breakfast—featuring an appearance by actress Mary Badham who portrayed "Scout Finch" in the 1962 movie *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The old style Southern Breakfast includes country ham with red eye gravy, pecan pancakes, fried green tomatoes, Kentucky scrambled eggs, cheese grits, and biscuits for \$10 per person. Proceeds support the Jackson Literacy Coalition's Big Read to promote literacy and celebrate diversity. Another frequent Museum partner, CenterStage Jackson, is staging *To Kill a Mockingbird* March 16-18 and 23-25 at the Middle School at Parkside.

### **Kirtland's Warbler Commission**

Andy Andrews, founder of the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife, has commissioned champion carver Jason Lucio of Ontario to carve a life-sized Kirtland's Warbler. After completion, the Kirtland's Warbler will compete in the Ward World Championships of carving in Ocean City, Maryland in late April. After (hopefully winning) the championships, the Kirtland's Warbler will be immediately flown to the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art to be exhibited to the public. "As we build the Andrews Collection, we strive to be as thoughtful as possible about how each new piece fits in the collection and impacts the viewing public. The Kirtland's Warbler is a Michigan bird of great interest to many people and thus it is fitting that we commission this work at this time," said Andy. For more information about artist Jason Lucio see page ???.

### **New Staff**

On January 10<sup>th</sup> Jack Christensen joined us as the Director of Marketing. Jack brings more than 20 years experience in sales and marketing—including the non-profit arena—to the Museum. He enjoys volunteer work as a Chamber Ambassador, is a board member of the Michigan Theatre and is a past volunteer of MSU Bands. In his free time he enjoys golf and bowling, and is a season ticket holder for Spartan football. His wife of 29 years,

Connie, is a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Dibble School and he has two grown children, Tara and Alan.

Early morning visitors to the Museum are rewarded with the delicious aromas from the Granary kitchen as new chef—and expert baker—Richard Foster readies for the day by creating batches of muffins, breads, and other baked goods. “Working at the Granary is kind of like coming home,” he notes. “ [The Granary is] a simple, elegant and cozy place to help take people away from the business of life and feel ‘taken care of.’” Richard’s apprenticeships include stints at the University Club of MSU and the American Culinary Federation and Capital Professional Chefs. Richard is married to Renee, they have five children with only 14 year old Hannah still at home. He’s also a youth leader at the First United Methodist Church in Eaton Rapids.

## CALENDAR ITEMS

Volunteers:

Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History will meet on **Monday, March 12**, at noon for luncheon with a program immediately following. Speaking will be Ishwar Lazinarayan, Director of the Jackson District Library.

On **Monday, April 9**, the Friends will meet at noon for luncheon and a program given by Sandy Wilkens entitled, “Just in Time for Spring: Expressing Your Artistic Side in the Garden.”

All:

*Take a stroll through the Fascinations in Fiber exhibit Gallery Walk with the curators Bev Simmons, Carol Stygles, and Maki Braun on **Saturday, March 10** (1:30 p.m.) See page ?? for more information.*

Warm up to the *Comfort & Joy: Quilts and Coverlets With a Story* exhibit on Saturday, March 17. Judy Horn, Collections Assistant, will lead a Gallery Walk through the exhibit at 1:30 p.m.

*The Museum's annual Sugaring & Shearing Festival takes place on **Sunday, March 25**, (noon to 4 p.m.) with a special Granary Pancake Brunch. (Brunch at the Granary is available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.) See front page for more information.*

*Spring classes begin on **Monday, March 26** for adults and on **Monday, April 9** for children. Sign up now! Visit the Museum website for a full listing of offerings.*

Woo! Hoo! Spring Break! Check out the groovy Spring Break One Day Wonders all week for kids **Monday, April 2 through Friday, April 6**. Each day (9:30 a.m.-3:30p.m.) is a separate theme with activities such as visits to the Museum galleries and historic buildings, art projects, snacks, drama, and games all part of the fun. Contact the Museum for more information at (517) 787-2320.

The Museum is closed on Easter **Sunday, April 8**.

The *Clay Feet* Lecture Series kicks off on **Wednesday, April 11** and continues on **April 25** and **May 9** (7 p.m.)

Round up the family for the Show Me a Story Family Night of fun and illustrations on **Thursday, April 12** (6:30-8:30 p.m.)

Sit in on the Museum's Annual Meeting on **Tuesday, April 24** at 5:30 p.m. All members of the Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History are eligible to attend.