

New Executive Director Begins

The Museum Board announces the hiring of an Executive Director for The Ella. Christopher Gordy comes to the Museum from the Stephenson County Historical Museum in Freeport, Illinois (150 miles west of Chicago) where he was the Executive Director. Chris brings over 20 years of Museum experience to The Ella as well as a Master of Arts in Historical Administration from Eastern Illinois University.



Christopher Gordy

Chris is eager to get to know Jackson, "On my visits to Jackson I've been impressed with the community commitment to the arts. There's so much momentum already at the Museum as well as potential, I look forward to being part of that."

"The Ella has grown both in technology and historical stature. We are pleased that coming on board for us is a "high energy" someone who can interact creatively with both the business and educational communities while holding our long established traditions near and dear."

*Dr. Jane Grover
Museum Board President*

Chris is married to Susan, his wife of 10 years. They are the proud parents of Miss Sadie Lou, their black Lab/German Shepherd mix dog.

2008 Art & Wine Festival Un-Corked

The 4th annual Ella Sharp Museum of Art & History Art & Wine Festival will take place on Saturday, June 14 from 11a.m.-7p.m. Last year's addition of a live stage featuring local musicians proved to be the perfect accompaniment to the wine tasting and art booths. What could make this event even better? No admission fee! Enjoy the atmosphere and wonderful art free of charge. Tickets for wine tasting will be sold at the Festival. Food and other activities will also have a nominal fee.



For more information about the Art & Wine Festival visit the Museum website at www.ellasharp.org or contact the Museum by phone at (517)787-2320.

The 2008 ESMAH Art & Wine Festival is sponsored by The Walton Agency, The Rehm-ann Group, and the Jackson Citizen Patriot

INSIDE: MAY & JUNE CALENDAR OF EVENTS...

News

EVENT REPORT: 3 DAYS OF CLAY

by Mary Humphrey, 3 Days of Clay Co-chair

The Ella and The Jackson Pottery and Clay Guild partnered in the presentation of **3 Days of Clay**—Michigan's largest annual multi-day ceramic workshop.

The idea began with the realization that we have many potters in the midwest who are eager to learn new techniques and join together for camaraderie among those who love clay. Participants came from as far as New Hampshire.



Bill van Gilder was selected to be the first presenter, an internationally acclaimed ceramic artist who has been teaching pottery on the "DIY" TV network since 2004.

The workshop will continue to develop and grow and eventually every clay artist will know **3 Days of Clay** happens in Jackson, Michigan. **3 Days of Clay 2009** is scheduled for March 13-15, with a new presenter, Kristen Kieffer from Baldwinville, MA.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH WENDY'S

Starting in May The Ella will be open on Wednesday nights until 8 p.m. To kick-off the new hours Wendy's Restaurants of Jackson will sponsor free admission to the galleries and offer food coupon giveaways throughout the summer. The Education Department of The Ella will offer interactive fun-for-the-family opportunities during the extended Museum hours.

Wendy's will donate 10% of Wednesday evening purchase proceeds to the Museum. Please support Wendy's and the Museum every Wednesday night throughout the summer.

THE ELLA WANTS YOU!

The Ella has a special opportunity for people eager to get involved with the museum. The Ella's 4th Annual Art & Wine Festival is in need of energetic people to assist museum staff with various duties during the festival on Saturday, June 14, from 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Volunteer opportunities include: wine pourers pouring wine samples for festival attendees; wine sales & merchandise—help staff members with wine merchandise and bottle sales; Hospitality—help us ensure everyone is having a wonderful time; and much, more!

If you're interested in being a part of this fantastic event, please contact Rochelle at (517) 787-2320 or rochellec@ellasharp.org for more details.

SPRING GIFTS

Check out the new home and garden items for Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Teacher Appreciation gifts in the Friends Gift Shop. Support the Museum when you purchase gifts...

GO NORTH!

Visit northern Michigan with the Domestic Travel Committee September 16-18. Highlights of the trip include a stay at the recently renovated Park Place Hotel in Traverse City, tours of the Dennon Museum, the Old Mission Peninsula Winery, the Music Museum, and some fabulous meals, all for only \$359 per Member and \$380 for non-members. Single supplement is \$100 extra. For full details contact the Museum.

SPRING HOURS

The Museum is open:

Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Extended gallery hours on Wednesday evenings

4 p.m. - 8 p.m. courtesy of Wendy's

Closed Sunday and Monday

Contact the Museum by phone at (517)787-2320

or visit the Museum website at www.ellasharp.org

Ella's Granary Restaurant is open:

Tuesday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Enjoy the Granary (inside and on the Patio) on

Wednesday evenings for **Patio Parties**

rain or shine throughout the summer beginning

May 4, 4-7:30 p.m.

Granary reservations and info (517) 768-8495.

From the Collection

Ella

A FEW OF THEIR FAVORITE THINGS

By Judy Horn, Collections Manager

Each week brings new additions to the Museum collection and each new addition goes through a process of accessioning that includes a careful cataloging of the item, its provenance, and condition. Long-time Museum volunteers Bill and Janet Layton have spent countless hours in the storage areas assisting Museum staff with the collection. We asked each of the Laytons, "What's your favorite piece in the collection?"



Having worked as a volunteer at the Museum for over 14 years, it is very difficult to pick only one item or area... However, one collection has always fascinated me—the dresses. I love to hear the history such as that of an 1840s wedding gown that was never worn because the bride's intended had a change of heart. All dresses have a history and, with a little imagination, you can go back in time and feel that you know the lady that wore a particular dress.

—Janet Layton

Having lived in Jackson since I was a little boy, I have a great interest in Jackson History; it was very enjoyable working with Jim Zuleski locating areas where certain buildings or businesses used to be. I have the pleasure of assisting with the accessioning of things donated to the Museum and I am constantly learning more.

—Bill Layton

CONTRIBUTIONS

February through March 2008

IN HONOR OF LYNNE LOFTIS

Mary Deming

MEMORIALS

NANCY BABBS

Mr. and Mrs. A.P. Cook, III • Mrs. Hugh B. McVicker

Mr. and Mrs. T. Harrison Stanton

PHYLLIS COLEMAN

Jackson Newcomers Club

FRANK FENECH

Mary Deming • Barbara Harness • Lynne Loftis

Gene Wandel

DUANE HUNTOON

Mr. and Mrs. T. Harrison Stanton

RICK INGWERSEN

Mrs. Hugh B. McVicker

NANCY LODISE

Judy and Larry Bauer • Michele and Jim Biondolillo

Ken and Betsy (Rogers) Chambers • Tom and Harriet Cole

Mike and Paige Crowley • Laura Curtis • Joseph Divietri • Melissa Dorbeck

Susan Dumaw • David and Colleen Ebel • Jer and Shirley Fennell

Billie Fisher • Joy and Carl Hasbrouck • Larry and Barbara Jackson

Jann and Gary Krupa • James and Elizabeth Lodise • Lynne Loftis

Loren and Connie Lueck

Board of Trustees and Staff of Monroe Community College

Toby and Jo Neill • Parr & Stout, P.C. • Ron and Nancy Parzych

Donald and Patricia Pelton • Sally and Fred Pesetsky • Jim and Kerri Rocco

Tom and Sally (Rogers) Royce • Don and Sandy Sheldon

Gordon and Kathy Swihart • Tom and Jill (Rogers) Tossberg

Dick and Jewel Turner • Alice and Max Walton

VIOLA MAIN

Barbara Harness

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE COLLECTION

February through March 2008

Gerry Blanchard • Sue Chambers • Reginald Fennell • Bart and Karen Hawley

Robert Johnson • Frank Lane • Peterson's Jewelers • Patricia Riggs

Eleanor Russell • Lisa and Mike Sharpe • Inman Vandry • Delynn P. Ward

Philip Weyland • Jerry Wright

Michigan Watercolor Society

APRIL 6 THROUGH JULY 7, 2008 IN
THE HURST GALLERY

Regional artists exhibit their new work.



Michigan Watercolor Society

*Jackson Civic Art Association
Biennial Exhibition*

APRIL 27 THROUGH JUNE 22, 2008
IN THE EMMETT GALLERY

Up Next: Heisey Glass opening
June 29.

A Day in the Park:

A History of the Ella W. Sharp Park

MAY 23 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 14, 2008 IN THE PYRON GALLERY

Step inside to find out more about outside...



Jackson History Gallery

Also on exhibit:

*The Jackson History Gallery, the Andrews Gallery
of Wildlife Art, and the Merriman-Sharp
Interpretive Center.*

Coming soon... With your help!

The Collections and Exhibits Department is assembling an upcoming (October-January) exhibit on "collecting." People of Jackson with collections (glassware, art, dolls, cars, shoes, etc.) who are willing to loan them are asked to contact Katie Hill, Exhibit Coordinator at the Museum (517) 787-2320 ext. 228 or katieh@ellasharp.org.

1 Museum Fundraiser

Thursday, May 1, 5:00-7:00 p.m. \$100 per person

The inauguration of the Lynnea Loftis Endowed Chair for History and Cultural Programming and a night to honor retired Museum Director, Lynne Loftis.

6.. Early Michigan Festival Days

Tuesday, May 6 through Friday, May 9

Hundreds of school children visit the Museum this week to learn about life in the 19th century. Assisting them on their trip to the past are Museum staff, volunteers, and history students from Jackson High School.

12 Friends

Monday, May 12

Join the Friends of the Ella Sharp Museum and guest speaker John Fisher who presents a program on "Early Settlement in Jackson." Phone in reservations for the luncheon by noon on Friday, May 9.



The Boys of Summer... 1906

22 Grand Rapids Trip

Thursday, May 22

Participants in the Domestic Travel Committee's day trip to Grand Rapids will visit the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum, and will enjoy dinner at *San Chez*.

23 EXHIBIT OPENING: A Day in the Park

Friday, May 23

This new Pyron Gallery exhibit takes a look at the history of the Ella W. Sharp Park... from Merriman-Sharp farm land to golf courses, soccer fields, and special events like the Rose Festival.

15 Free Lecture

Thursday, May 15, 7 PM

Detroit sculptor Sergio De Guisiti explores "Art of the Untrained: Wonderful Visionaries and Their Works" in his slide presentation of untrained artists who create what has been called "Outside Art." Included are artists from Europe and the United States, especially the Detroit metropolitan area. These fantastic works are produced by self-taught artists who may be hermits, mental patients, religious obsessives, and unique individuals who build very public and private worlds.

Sponsored by County National Bank

*Don't forget...
Wednesday Night
extended gallery hours
(4-8 PM) and Granary
Patio Parties
(4-7:30 PM)*

1 Party in the Park

Sunday, June 1, 2:30 - 6:30 p.m. in the Ella W. Sharp Park
The 2008 Rose Parade ends in the park with a big community party. The Ella is joining in the fun by offering "make & take" art activities for children and free admission to the Museum galleries and the Farm Lane buildings. First-floor tours of Ella's Hillside Farmhouse will be available for a \$1 donation.

16 Summer's Cool Begins

Monday, June 16

Sign up for *Summer's Cool at The Ella* with day camps and One Day Wonders through August. Visit the Museum website for a full listing and description of each week's theme.

5 Free Family Lecture

Thursday, June 5, 6:30 p.m.

Journey to Paradise (Michigan!) on the Erie Canal! Michael P. Deren (as Erie Canal Boat Captain Bill Thomas) leads a fun-filled musical and participative imaginary journey from New York State to the Michigan Wilderness. This trip back in time is suitable for all ages. "Land for \$1.25 an acre! Fertile soil! No snow! No flies, no rats, no mosquitoes! Paradise!! Sing songs on the way! Duck for low bridges!"
Sponsored by County National Bank.

23 Gift Shop Volunteers

Monday, June 23, 10:00 a.m.

A quarterly meeting for Gift Shop volunteers to ask questions, learn about new merchandise and get to know each other. Interested in volunteering? Stop in today.

9 Volunteer Breakfast

Monday, June 9, 9:00 a.m.

All Ella Volunteers are invited to the annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Museum staff will be your servers. To sign up, call the Museum at (517)787-2320.

14 4th Annual Art & Wine Festival

Saturday, June 14, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Wine tastings, regional artists selling their work, live music, seminars, free admission, and a gorgeous June day... for a full listing of the Festival schedule visit the Museum website at www.ellasharp.org



Perhaps we should get the boat into the water first?