



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

# Heritage News

c/o Don Randazzo  
6101 Hitchingham Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

Hank Prebys, President  
Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer  
Jan Arps-Prundeanu  
Pattie Harrington  
Barry LaRue  
Bill Nickels  
Bonnie Penet  
Don Randazzo  
Jane Schmiedeke  
Penny Schreiber  
Andrea Webber

*See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, January 31, 2007, 7:30 pm*

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

**Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • [www.yhf.org](http://www.yhf.org)**

# 2007 CALENDAR



**March 21**  
Gardens for your Home



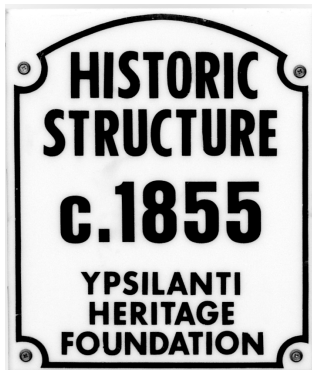
**May 23**  
Marker Banquet



**August 19**  
Historic Home Tour

If you would like to nominate a building for a Historic Marker designation send (before April 1) a very brief description of the building and its address to:

Don Randazzo  
Chair, YHF Marker Committee  
6101 Hitchingham Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197  
e-mail: [drandazzo@provide.net](mailto:drandazzo@provide.net)



*Yes! I would like to support preservation and become a member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.*

Please check the appropriate box and return with your check to:

Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer  
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- Students & Seniors \$5
- Individual \$10
- Family \$15
- Contributing \$25
- Supporting \$50
- Sustaining \$100
- Lifetime \$1,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

# Heritage NEWS

JANUARY 2007

## General Meeting

Wednesday,  
January 31, 2007  
at 7:30 p.m.

Ladies' Literary Club  
218 N. Washington St. • Ypsilanti

## *An Evening of* Asking the Experts

Please join on Wednesday evening, January 31, at 7:30 at the Ladies' Literary Club, to "Ask the Experts." This evening is a wonderful opportunity to pick the brains of five restoration professionals—a mason, a restoration carpenter and home inspector, a house painter par excellence, a former museum curator, and a door and window man—to find out everything you need to know about maintaining your historic home.

**Mike Condon** owns Ypsilanti Restoration. He dabbles in carpentry and remodeling but his greatest area of expertise is masonry. Mike says he will take your questions on "all things that need mortar."

**Don Randazzo**, long-time Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation board member retired from the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village, where he worked as a restoration carpenter. Don also owns a home inspection business.

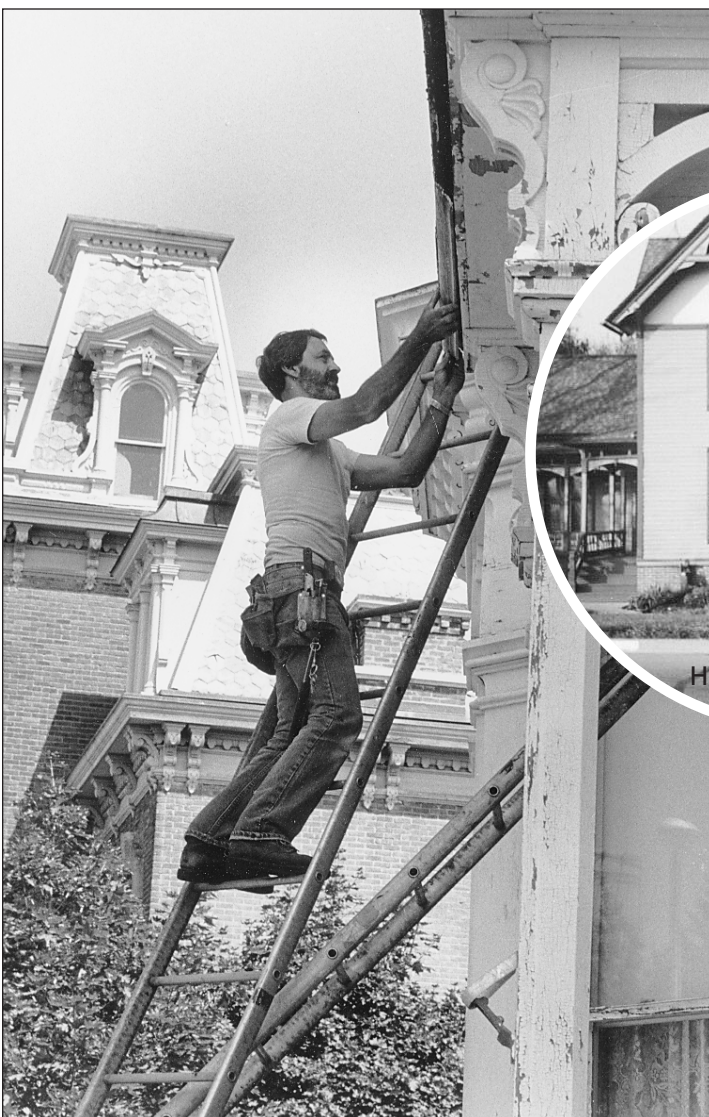
**Ron Rupert**, owner of Home Services Ltd., is one of the premier house painters in Washtenaw County. Among his many, many projects was the complete restoration, inside and out, of the historic 1883 Hack House in Milan. Ron can tell you how to take a vintage house back to where it was.

**Henry Prebys**, YHF board president retired a year ago after thirty years as a curator at the Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

An expert on American interiors, Hank is also a bottomless pit of knowledge about too many things "antique" to mention in one article.

**Barry LaRue**, also a YHF board member, works at the University of Michigan as a backstage manager for University Productions. Barry has had his residential builders' license for thirty years and does freelance repair work on old houses. Barry is versatile, citing window repair, porch repair, and door and window hardware as his particular areas of expertise.

Don't miss this exciting evening. We urge you to arrive with questions in mind. As always, the public is welcome and refreshments will be served. The Ladies' Literary Club is at 218 North Washington Street, Ypsilanti.



Board Member, Don Randazzo repairing the exterior of the Ypsilanti Historical Museum.

Hack House, Milan



# The Ypsilanti Historical Museum



## Is Getting a Facelift

**I**t has taken months, but on September 19 the Historical Museum at 220 North Huron was finally purchased from the city by the Ypsilanti Historical Society. City council approved an agreement that had been worked out between YHS president Al Rudisill (represented by local attorney Tom Manchester) and city manager Ed Koryzno (represented by city attorney John Barr). The YHS board quickly added their approval, agreeing to a price of \$250,000 for the house. A payment of \$125,000 has been made and the remainder of the money will be paid over ten years.

Long-time deferred maintenance began immediately! The first order of business became all things leaking. The leaky roof on the carriage house has been replaced and the leaky main roof on the house repaired. The leaky lower porch roofs are contracted for replacement but work will have to wait until the weather improves. Half-round gutters and downspouts on the house also await better weather for installation.

The third-floor attic, formerly the home of pigeons and even the occasional raccoon, was unusable. Immediately after the sale was finalized, the attic was cleaned and its roof insulated and sealed. In addition, the attic's stairway and floor have been painted. Four protected lights have been installed and two handrails now assist people going up and down the attic stairs. Many items previously stored in the basement were moved to the attic.

The basement has been cleared out in preparation for the replacement of the lower portion of the brick walls. These walls have deteriorated as a result of groundwater wicking up the bricks and popping them. Anything in the basement that didn't go to the attic has been moved to a classroom in the vacant George School. Thanks go to the Ypsilanti Public Schools for gener-



ously offering to help the museum! Farm implements stored in the basement have been given to the Saline Farm Museum.

Visitors to the museum gift shop will notice the brand-new storm door that was hung in December. And most recently, on January 4, a new energy-efficient furnace was installed. With new attic insulation and new programmable thermostats, the cost to heat the museum will decrease dramatically.

All of the above work had to be done immediately to save the building and to cut the cost of operating the museum. The Ypsilanti Historical Society Endowment Committee has been planning a major fund-raising campaign since before the sale of the house was finalized. Look for an announcement and an invitation to contribute to the endowment fund. Donations are tax deductible, of course. Best of all, they will help perpetuate one of the wonderful gems of the Ypsilanti community!





# Heritage NEWS



AUG./SEPT. 2007

## GOOD NEWS EDITION

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation  
presents

2007 GOOD NEWS ISSUE  
reporting, for our own delight  
and that of our Festival visitors,  
on some of the improvements  
that have occurred in the  
Ypsilanti Historic District  
over the past year.

It's also our chance to say  
Thank You to everyone who cares  
for and about Ypsilanti!



## *Historic Home Tour 2007*

**Sunday, August 19  
noon - 5pm**

The 30th Annual Historic Home Tour will take place on Sunday, August 19th from noon - 5pm. Advance tickets are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, and Quinn's Essentials, and Bowerbird Mongo they are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden. Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour. On the day of the tour, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 208 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Avenue. (see special home tour insert)



# Good News in Ypsilanti

**Heritage Foundation HISTORIC STRUCTURE MARKERS** were awarded this year to the houses at:



216 N. Grove



133 W. Michigan



1203 Whittier

*Congratulations!*

**In the WIDER WORLD department:**  
**The Ugly Mug Cafe** on West Cross at Hamilton was listed by [espressomap.com](http://espressomap.com) as one of the best spots in North America for great espresso! "Coffeegeek approved, they serve their own roast ... Excellanti."

### RESCUE EFFORTS

There are always special thanks for all the good people who save a

historic building from years of neglect and abuse. This year it's 402 S. Huron. The long worry is over! Great new owners are restoring the desperately forlorn Queen Anne and it will once again be a real beauty in that neighborhood!



### NEW

Folks who haven't visited the Archives of the Historical Museum recently will be astonished to find that the Archives have moved from the building behind the Museum to the newly refurbished, gorgeous brick space in the basement of the Museum itself. Access to the Archives is via the brand new handicap-accessible entrance at the north side of the Museum. Go to see this beautiful facility even if you're not looking for great-grandpa's history – it's worth a visit!



### GREAT NEWS

The Ypsilanti City Council has voted to accept the circa 1840 Greek Revival Starkweather farmhouse on Huron River Drive as a gift from its long-time owner. A Request for Proposal will be issued soon to solicit proposals from parties able and willing to restore this very significant historic structure.



### RECONSTRUCTION

There's a brand new village barn at 416 N. Huron, taking the place of the original barn which was illegally demolished several years ago by a previous owner. It's a good new neighbor in an old neighborhood.



### RESTORATION

This is worth going out of your way to see - the restoration is complete at 133 W. Michigan, now known as the Michigan Heritage Building. Gone is the 1960's metal facade and the limestone elements which were severely damaged during installation of the metal facade have all been replicated. It's once again its handsome, historic self.





**GOOD WORK**

There's a handsome new fence along the alley at 321 High – makes this busy little country lane a pleasant place to jog, walk the dog, ride a bike, or stroll with the kids.

The historic fire station portion of the **Michigan Firehouse Museum** has a new slate roof, as well as fresh fire engine red paint on all its trim – looking better than ever, old friend!



Not particularly visible, but still very good news, is the extensive masonry repair on the **Methodist Church tower** and at **St Luke's Episcopal**

**Church**. This is just the sort of work that keeps our historic structures in good condition and looking handsome down through the years.

STUNNING paint colors on the **Ladies Library** at 130 N. Huron



The much-loved **caboose in Depot Town** must have had a birthday – it got presents! An historically accurate paint job and a new copper roof make this treasure a real eye-stopper!



**GREEN & GROWING**

The huge pots marching down the center of Michigan Avenue are more beautiful than ever.



Enthusiastic volunteers have created a community garden at the north end of Frog Island – a very creative and thriving effort.

The police and fire stations swarmed with volunteers, police officers, and fire fighters planting flowers in front of both stations on Ypsi Pride Day – looks great coming into town on Michigan.

**NEW BUSINESSES**

Several new businesses have opened downtown and Depot Town – we welcome them and they will welcome you! We generally refrain from mentioning specific new businesses for fear of missing some, but we will mention one which has just opened this summer, that could be of interest to our visitors. At 220 S. Huron, the **Queen's Residence B&B** offers delightful and elegant accommodations. The **Parish House Inn** at 103 South Huron is also a wonderful place to stay.

THANKS to everybody who turned out on Ypsi Pride Day and worked so hard all over town painting, repairing, weeding, planting – IT SHOWS!

**MUSEUMS — Don't miss these treasures!**

**Antique Fire Equipment Museum**

W. Cross Street between Huron and Washington

**Ypsilanti Automotive Heritage Museum**

E. Cross at North River

**Historical Museum**

on N. Huron just south of Cross

Thanks to everyone who makes Ypsilanti a better place to live, police, fire fighters, city manager, city department heads, city employees, mayor and city council, boards and commissions! They're a great bunch doing a great job in hard times. Thanks also to the Department of Public Works for great service year-round, for SUPER snow removal and for never missing their scheduled rounds, even during the chaos left by storms.

**Special Thanks...**

to all those folks who quietly and faithfully maintain their properties, who sweep and water, pick up and plant, repair and paint. If we missed mentioning you, know that without your effort Ypsilanti wouldn't be the great place it is!

There are still onions among the orchids – nobody knows that better than we do. BUT, next year, again, there will be fewer onions and more orchids! Come back and see us then! We love having you here and your annual visit is a wonderful incentive for us to "get ready for company"!

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Lifetime \$1,000

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## 2007/2008 SCHEDULE

Meetings are held at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti at 7:30p.m. The public is welcome.

**26**  
SEPTEMBER **Historic Barns & Out Buildings Awards**

**14**  
NOVEMBER **Ypsilanti Freighthouse: History & Updates**

**23**  
JANUARY **Inventorying your Household Contents, including your Antiques and Art**  
Cameron Innis of Freeman Bunting

**26**  
MARCH **Garden Program**  
TBA

**21**  
MAY **Annual Marker Awards Banquet**

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • [www.yhf.org](http://www.yhf.org)

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*See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, September 26, 2007, at 7:30 pm*

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## 2007 Historic Home Tour



921 Woods Road

### *Michael & Laura DeBacker*

Prolific local architect R. S. Gerganoff designed this impressive stone and slate-roofed house in the picturesque English Medieval style for the Ferguson family in 1941.

Since its first appearance on this tour, in 2001, the house has undergone dramatic changes. Michael and Laura DeBacker, the latest of many owners, bought the house in summer 2002 and moved in with their three small children, Hannah, Jack, and David. Laura became very excited when she saw a newspaper ad for the house, she explains, because it mentioned a third-floor ballroom. "All my life I've had this dream of living in a house with a ballroom," she says.

In their first year in the house, the DeBackers had all of the windows replaced with fiberglass ones in the style of the original casement windows. Next they turned their attention to the landscaping, adding trees, shrubs, perennials, and bluestone and sandstone walks. Their biggest project was hiring architect Michael Klement, and contractor Deb Moore of Custom Design Build, to reconfigure several crucial rooms on the first floor. The den, which includes a fireplace, is now a dining room, and the kitchen, breakfast room, and former dining room have become a terrific kitchen opening into a family room, making the house much more livable for a modern family. The painted cabinets in the new kitchen match the era of the house and the colors in the new linoleum were inspired by the colors in the original linoleum and wallpaper.

Tourgoers are going to enjoy seeing the changes to the house but they will also love everything that remains original—its five tiled bathrooms, five bedrooms, spacious first- and second-floor foyers, the bar in the very nifty basement, the marble fireplace in the living room, and, of course, the third-floor ballroom! Tourgoers will also appreciate the DeBackers' art collection, put together over the years from forays to the Saline antiques fair and the Ann Arbor Art Fair.



922 Pleasant Drive

### *Paul & Penny Schreiber*

The brick center-entrance colonial revival at 922 Pleasant Drive is the home of Ypsilanti mayor Paul Schreiber and his wife, Penny. The Schreibers are the second owners of the house, which was designed in 1937 by Ypsilanti architect H. E. Schlesinger for Phyllis and Ted Williamson. "Dr. Ted" died in spring 1985 and Phyllis sold the house to the Schreibers in late July.

The house is traditional, with lots of double-hung windows, large rooms, wood floors, and plaster walls in excellent condition. But it is a good guess that the art deco movement—flourishing at nearby Cranbrook in the 1930s—influenced Schlesinger because his design for 922 included an art deco fireplace in the living room, an unusual aluminum balustrade up the curving stairway, art deco-style tile in the master bath, and a curved wall in the spacious second-floor hallway.

The Schreibers were first on this tour twenty years ago, in 1987, and then again ten years ago, in 1997, the year after they remodeled their kitchen. Many changes have been made throughout the house since then, most notably a complete redo of the first-floor laundry room, which doubles as an annex to the kitchen. Other rooms have been repainted, wallpapered, or redecorated, including son Tim's bedroom, now a light-filled den, and daughter Claire's bedroom, now a guest room. The Schreibers' delightful screened porch, where they eat and entertain all summer long, has a fresh and colorful new look.

In late 2001 the Schreibers threw away their rust-encrusted pink metal backyard shed and replaced it with a custom-built shed painted to complement the brick on their house. It is the perfect focal point for their patio and gardens.

### **The 30th Annual Historic Home Tour - Sunday, August 19th from noon-5pm**

**Advance tickets** are on sale in Ypsilanti at Haab's Restaurant, Norton-Durant Florists & Gifts, and Quinn's Essentials, and Bowerbird Mongo they are also available in Ann Arbor at Downtown Home & Garden.

Tickets are \$10.00 in advance and \$12.00 the day of the tour. **On the day of the tour**, tickets are available at the Home Tour ticket booth in front of the Historical Museum at 208 North Huron Street from 10 a.m. until 3 pm and Haab's on Michigan Avenue.

## 2007 Historic Home Tour



310 Hiawatha Street

*Mary Jane Dennison  
& Rick Humesky*

This 1933 brick vernacular Tudor is one of two houses on today's tour designed by eclectic Ypsilanti architect R. S. Gerganoff. When Mary Jane (M. J.) Dennison bought the house in 1992, it was a modest piece of charm sitting in the middle of a half-acre city lot just a few houses in from busy West Cross Street. The small house made a big statement, though, with its terrific front Roman window. It is impossible to walk by without fantasizing about knocking on the door and asking to see the room with the Roman window.

M. J. purchased the house from the Helen Crane estate. Helen's husband, Morton, had been groundskeeper for EMU, and he planted many of the trees on the property. By 1997 M. J. had met Rick Humesky, who is now her husband, and they decided to increase the size of the house and add a garage. M. J. was adamant that the house addition must appear seamless. "I didn't want it to look like a wart," she says. She and Rick hired Ann Arbor architect Mary Kalmes. When the 1933 brick could not be matched, the brick that had been removed for the addition was refurbished and put back. The house's red gables are a great modern touch, which was carried over into the new garage.

Today the house has a beautiful galley kitchen, with a space for a table beyond; a family room; a cute mudroom for the dogs; and an expanded master bedroom. The living room with its wood-beamed cathedral ceiling, lovely but simple fireplace, and that aforementioned Roman window lives up to its sidewalk-fantasy reputation. Tourgoers will enjoy standing in the room and looking through the house to the large window in the new family room.

The inside of the house feels cozy and English cottage-ey. M. J. is a veteran stalker of estate sales, Depot Town antiques stores, and the Saline antiques fair. She also inherited antiques from her mother and her favorite "auntie." When you exit the house into the pretty and secluded backyard, you will think you are far out in the country.



415 North Huron Street  
Wilkinson-Lewis-Greene House

*Steve Hudock & Jeff Ellis*

The stunning Italianate Wilkinson-Lewis-Greene house is one of Ypsilanti's most significant historic structures.

Built in 1878 by James Wilkinson for his widowed mother, the house was purchased in 1905 by Harriet Adelaide Lewis, herself a widow with several children. Lewis's daughter Evangeline lived in the house for many, many years.

Following Evangeline's death, the Ypsilanti Historical Society owned the house for a period of time. In late 1989 Earl Greene bought the house from the Historical Society. Greene would prove to be the rescuing angel of this beautiful house, a structure which was once described by Ward Swarts, a restoration architect who contributed to the formation of the Ypsilanti Historic District, as "one of the finest extant examples of eclectic Victorian/Italianate architecture in the Midwest."

Greene spared nothing in his restoration efforts. He employed a researcher from Henry Ford Museum/Greenfield Village and the finest artisans and woodworkers to be found. During the two years following Greene's purchase of 415 North Huron, the restoration team accomplished near miracles. Extraordinary decorative painting was revealed and restored. Under many coats of paint, ceiling paintings were discovered and restored. Door and window frames were found to be of a type of walnut that is now extinct.

Earl Greene died a few years ago, but the house is once again blessed. Its new owners, Steve Hudock and Jeff Ellis, understand its architectural and historical significance and are committed to its preservation.



## 2007 Historic Home Tour



111 East Forest Street

*Bill & Marcia Phillips*

When a Realtor told Bill and Marcia Phillips that he thought the house they were looking at was a Sears catalogue kit home, they were immediately smitten. Marcia, a former history teacher and research historian, learned that the original owners, Frank and Katharine (Kitty) Lidke, had purchased the "Fullerton model" in 1926 for \$2,294. The lumber was precut and numbered and then shipped to the Ypsilanti depot, complete with instructions. The practical, sturdy lines of this American Foursquare reflect a uniquely American design, popular in the 1920s.

When Sears began selling kit homes in 1908, the company's primary aim was to display and advertise its furniture, home appliances, and accessories. The Phillips house still has the original Sears light fixtures, hardware, kitchen cabinets, and bathroom fixtures. Even the kitchen sink is original!

In 2004 the Marcia and Bill undertook a major project: the removal of the faux brick siding that had been installed in the 1940s. They invited their friends to "putty parties" to patch the hundreds of nail holes, and they painted the house a shade of gold very close to its original color. The quality of the materials used was evident, says Bill, because none of the clapboards needed to be replaced.

This delightful example of Americana is now restored and preserved for all to appreciate and enjoy. Marcia and Bill have filled their home with family heirlooms and other period pieces. The house really feels like the 1920s.



220 South Huron Street

*The Queen's Residence  
Bed and Breakfast*

*Joe & Marla Queen*

This circa 1870 Victorian Italianate house was built by H. P. Glover for Samuel Barnard, vice president of Ypsilanti's Peninsular Paper Company. Charles Newton, chief buyer for Henry Ford's Greenfield Village, owned the house from the late 1920s into the 1940s. Newton changed the exterior, adding Roman Doric columns, and its current style now veers toward classical revival. Newton also installed an authentic early-eighteenth-century Connecticut kitchen and tavern in the basement. Henry Ford visited the house many times.

In 1999 Marla Frudden (now Queen) purchased 220 South Huron, her third historic house. "I always wanted to own a B and B," says Marla, who had the idea in mind when she discovered this outstanding example of nineteenth-century gracious living. She met Joe Queen in 2005 through their mutual interest in ballroom dancing. They married in April 2006 and began to plan a Bed and Breakfast. The Queen's Residence opened in April and Marla and Joe are offering ballroom dancing lessons to their guests. "We're going for the romance," says Marla, "the dancing, the hot tub, the two pergolas."

Marla started collecting antiques when she was sixteen. The house is filled with her finds picked up over many years from Ann Arbor's Treasure Mart, yard sales, and antique shops. "I like using my stuff," she says.

Tourgoers will enjoy every inch of this spacious high-ceilinged house, which was last on the tour in 2001. Be sure to walk through the wonderful brick-wall-enclosed courtyard, which includes the new pergolas. The basement tavern remains a highlight.





# Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2007

**General Meeting**  
Wednesday,  
November 14, 2007  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Ladies' Literary Club  
218 N. Washington St. • Ypsilanti

## *Restoration of a Treasure*

The Ypsilanti Historical Society and the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will present a joint illustrated program on the restoration of the historic Starkweather Tiffany window and its permanent installation in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. The program will be held at two venues and in two parts, starting at the Ladies' Literary Club at 218 N. Washington on October 24 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a short walk to the

Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 N. Washington to view the completed display and answer on-site questions. The public is invited.

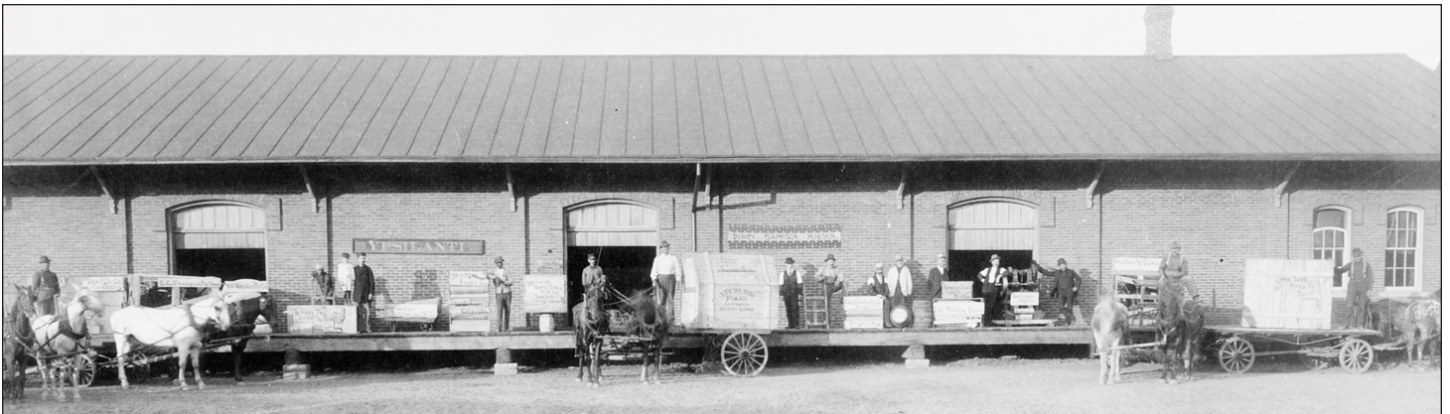
The program will be conducted by local architect Denis Schmiedeke, the project coordinator and permanent display designer; and Dirk Thompson III, CEO of Thompson Art Glass Studios of Brighton, Michigan, who will discuss

**Starkweather Tiffany Window  
Restoration Program**  
Wednesday, October 24  
7:30p.m.  
Ladies' Literary Club

and illustrate the actual step-by-step process of restoring the Tiffany window, a long and intricate process of disassembly, cleaning, replacement of newly fired colored glass where needed, reassembly and installation in the library of the Museum.

The Starkweather Tiffany window was originally installed in the entrance

See **Treasure** on page 3



## Ypsilanti's Freighthouse Topic at November Meeting

On November 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will host a presentation by Nathalie Edmunds and Bonnie Penet, interim co-chairs of the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. The event is at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North

Washington Street. Edmunds and Penet will recreate some of Ypsilanti's marvelous history as reflected in stories and exhibits showcased during Heritage Festival in 2006 and 2007. More than

400 visitors viewed this year's exhibits and contributed nearly \$1000." The more we learn as we research the Freighthouse, the more excited we become about its restoration and preservation," said Penet. "The Depot and Freighthouse should be viewed as The focal point of this entire area's development from 1838 through the end of World War II. Everything . . . aside from the aircraft that flew out of Willow Run, and a few buses and

trucks . . . everything and everyone arrived or departed Ypsilanti on the railroad."

"The story of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse," Edmunds continues, "is not only brick and mortar, it's about continuing to tell the people stories. The people who built the railroad and made it grow . . . the people who came, settled, and built Ypsilanti . . . the farmers

See **Freighthouse** on page 3



# Barns & Outbuildings in Ypsilanti

Owners Receive Special Awards at September Meeting



427 Ballard  
Kermit Coleman



169 North Washington  
Peter Greenquist



313 East Cross  
Marshall & Hanna Kitchens



310 North Grove  
Rod & Shari Johnson



206 North Huron  
Tom Manchester



216 South Huron  
Norman Raupp



316 North Grove  
Hugh Kennedy & Dory Ulanoff



314 Maple  
Barb Zmich & Celeste McClellan



323 Maple  
Chloe Elin Duke  
& Michael Kozura



## Treasure

continued from page 1

tower of the Ladies' Library at 130 North Huron, at Washtenaw Avenue, in 1890. The tower is an addition Mary Ann

Starkweather had built to her Italianate residence which she donated to the city for a ladies' library. She had the tower built in the late 1880s to create a prominent public entrance and contain the stained glass window she had commissioned to be designed and crafted by the Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios of New York City. Appropriately, the mosaic of the colored art glass depicts a robed lady reading a book in the Art Nouveau Style of the period.

In 1949, the Ypsilanti Ladies' Library Association granted the building with the window and its contents to the city for a public District library where it remained until 1963 to move to the former Post Office on Michigan Avenue. After that, the building remained largely vacant until 1972, the city's sesquicentennial year, when it was used for the headquarters to create a summer Greek Theater in Riverside Park which never materialized. Near the end of 1978 volunteers removed the Tiffany window to the Historical Museum where it remained for 29 years in the Craft Room on the second floor with its prime face to a wall. In October 2006, Alvin Rudisill, president of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, requested Schmiedeke to have the window restored and to prepare a means for its permanent display in the Museum.

In November it was transported to Thompson Art Glass Studios for its restoration taking nearly 12 weeks. During that time local master craftsmen were recruited to build and finish a large illuminated case to house the window and to fabricate custom flanking bookcases for historical references of crafts and the community. A full account of the means and methods of its restoration and the construction of its new permanent display in the library of the Museum on the first floor will be discussed with words and illustrations at the program.



## Don Randazzo Honored

On September 26, at the Heritage Foundation's first public meeting of the year, founding YHF board member Don Randazzo was presented with a plaque honoring his year's of dedication to preservation in Ypsilanti and southeastern Michigan. The following are comments made by YHF president Hank Prebys:

"This evening, we have been talking about Historic Preservation. As you all know preservation does not just happen. Sometimes it takes money and it most always takes care and time. One of the other aspects of historic preservation is the people who have been important with follow thorough—with the hard work and the skills necessary to help preserve our built environment. One of these people is Don Randazzo, a charter member of the YHF. Tonight we want to honor him. I worked with Don for many years at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. There, for just over ten years, he was a restoration carpenter. He was very well-respected for his skills and his attention to detail. One of his spectacular achievements was the reconstruction of the Owl Hite Lunch Wagon, though there are many other projects that he can point to with pride. There are others here tonight who can also point out many of the Don's special skills that he shares with his community."

Jane Schmiedeke spoke about Don's work on the Historic District Commission, Denis Schmiedeke spoke about Don's special skills and abilities, John Harrington explained Don's work on the Towner House, and former mayor Cheryl Farmer spoke about Don's volunteerism. Finally, current mayor Paul Schreiber told personal stories about Don, as did several others in the audience.

## Freighthouse continued from page 1

and business people . . . many whose families are still here today. It's also about ourselves, who can become involved with The Friends of the Freighthouse to complete the restoration and continue to tell Ypsilanti's story to future generations."

"But we have great needs at the moment," adds Penet, "both financial and in terms of active personal commitment." Edmunds concludes, "We're telling a story and asking for a commitment at the same time. Please come." The public is welcome and, as always, refreshments will be served.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

# Heritage News

c/o Don Randazzo  
6101 Hitchingham Road  
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

## Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

- Hank Prebys, President
- Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
- Jan Arps-Prundeanu
- Pattie Harrington
- Barry LaRue
- Bill Nickels
- Bonnie Penet
- Don Randazzo
- Jane Schmiedeke
- Penny Schreiber
- Andrea Webber

*See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 pm*

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

**Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • [www.yhf.org](http://www.yhf.org)**

## YHF Donates Gift Baskets

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation was delighted to donate two gift baskets to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's annual auction on October 20, 2007. The lucky



winner will enjoy a night's stay at either the Parish House Inn or The Queen's Residence Bed & Breakfast, dinner at the Sidetrack restaurant in Depot Town or Haab's restaurant downtown, and two tickets to the Ypsilanti Automotive Museum. The gift baskets were filled to the brim with promotional materials about Ypsilanti, including a self-guided historic walking tour. The YHF strives to promote historic preservation through education, and this is a wonderful way for us to carry out our mission while showing off our wonderful historic town.

*Yes! I would like to support preservation and become a member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.*

Please check the appropriate box and return with your check to:

Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer  
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- Students & Seniors \$5
- Individual \$10
- Family \$15
- Contributing \$25
- Supporting \$50
- Sustaining \$100
- Lifetime \$1,000

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