



The Oakland Township Historical Society (OTHS) Newsletter  
[www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) Oakland County, Michigan

## From the Desks of the Co-Presidents

What a wonderful 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration we had at our June Potluck! The evening program showcased the history of our organization and our many accomplishments over the past 50 years. Diana Borrusch, who has been with OTHS since the start in 1974, wrote an article that was shared at our program and was such an excellent tribute that we wanted to share it again here in this newsletter. Thanks to everyone who came out and to all of the presenters – Mary, Anthony, Barb, Colleen, Gayle, and to Mary Asmus who put together the information shared on the barn survey and Christmas floats.

We also held our annual elections and are excited to welcome new Board members Gerald Schuchard, Michelle Pfarrer and Alexa Pfarrer. A huge thanks to Bill Kroger, who has stepped down from the Board and his role as Recording Secretary, for his many, many years of service to the Society. Michelle has taken on the Recording Secretary role. Gayle Kowalchick has also stepped down from the board but will continue on as our Facebook and Newsletter marketing Chair and act in an advisory capacity to the Board. Mary Tischler has stepped down as Chair of Programs and wants to thank Colleen Barkham, who has agreed to replace her.

Sue Fox was the recipient of a Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of her many contributions to the Society and her Board Director positions over many years. Sue has served as our Treasurer and Membership Chair for a long time. She holds open hours for our Archives most Wednesdays at CLF, and has done so much to organize and catalogue our archives into PastPerfect Museum software database. Thanks to Anthony's generous donation of a new laptop, she has been able to upgrade the tech needed and is working with an intern to get everything transferred to the new system. We've had many members renew their membership and are excited to have several new members join us – we hope to see you all at our Fall potluck! Thanks to all of you who help keep history alive in this Township. And you won't want to miss our Flumerfelt Flea coming up September 21-22. Lastly, if you enjoy gardening we could use some help maintaining all of the beautiful garden beds at Cranberry Lake Farm – just email [othspresident@gmail.com](mailto:othspresident@gmail.com) to volunteer for this or other committees.



**Anthony Kowalchick  
and Mary Tischler,  
OTHS Co-Presidents**

## FLUMERFELT FLEA MARKET

The Flumerfelt Flea Market is right around the corner!

**September 20, 21, & 22**

**Friday—Early shopping 6:30 -8:30 PM\***

\*\$3 fee will be charged for early shoppers.

A great way to get first dibs on great items.

**Saturday—10 AM to 5 PM**

**Sunday—Noon to 4 PM**

Cranberry Lake Farm,  
384 West Predmore Road,  
Oakland Twp., 48363  
Flumerfelt Barn



The Sale will be held in the Red Barn named after John Flumerfelt. We will have many unique finds - from antique dishes, original art, furniture and household items, to farm rustic and vintage collectibles. This event is a fundraiser for our society so please drop by and support us!



## OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1974 -2024

by Diana Borrusch (member since 1974)

Can it really be 50 years since our founders, Delta Kelly and Barbara Kandarian, both retired teachers, discussed the idea of forming the "Oakland Township Historical Society" in March of 1974? They had just attended a Township board of trustees meeting in the old township, which is now occupied by our police. The idea was inspired by listening to a couple who were inquiring about the history of their property at the meeting.

Delta and Barbara set plans to promote, advertise and obtain members. By September of 1974 they had 25 committee members. Their first important project was to research, document, and photograph the historic buildings. The committee drove around to photograph the buildings and interview the owners and residents. Once they had gathered 90 slides, they invited 70 people to view their findings and vote on 25 to be pictured in their booklet "Heritage in Oakland Township" along with a history of our township and map. The Society attended a board of trustees meeting to request a loan of \$2,000 to publish their booklet. We paid back our loan in a few years, which surprised the township board. We were able to publish our booklet to share our knowledge with our residents and future generations in time for the 1976 celebration for only \$3.00 each.



In March of 1975, the first board for our Society was elected: Delta Kelly, President; Barbara Kandarian, Vice President; Jeanne Phillips, Secretary, Gerry Black, Treasurer; and Diana Borrusch, Bernice Kareus and Bernice Stirner, Directors.

The Township's hall or the "Paint Creek United Methodist Church" (PCUMC) were used for our meetings, programs and potlucks. Members enjoyed monthly programs and encouraged their friends to join us. Thanks to these early years, many photographs, historic papers and family stories added an interesting and valuable resource to our records and future archives.

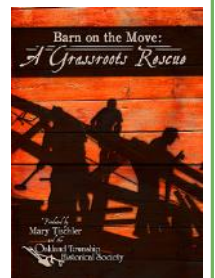


The Greater Rochester Heritage Days, known as the Heritage Festival, started in 1974 to celebrate our nations' bicentennial. It gave us the opportunity to participate. At first it was held on the grounds of Dinosaur Hill Nature Preserve and later moved to Rochester Municipal Park. We demonstrated plowing and let the attendees try it out. We have participated every year but one. Jeanne Phillips brought some of her plants from home to sell which was the start of our famous and profitable plant sale. This event provided us a chance to educate and promote our township, society, make friends and earn money.

One of our early events was called "Antiques in Action." We did this for two years in March in the Baldwin School. The idea was to be demonstrating how the items were used and only charged 25 cents entry fee. The second year there was a huge snowstorm. One of our members, Howard Brabeau, brought his antique cutter and gave rides to attendees which was a real hit.

We joined in the Rochester and Lake Orion Christmas parades, held on different days. Our first float was an antique car pulling a float decorated with a Christmas tree and gifts. As the years passed, we added larger and more detailed floats and received awards.

Our monthly meetings included history programs, show and tell, tours, pot-lucks, and field trips. We have had many projects and fund raisers. Goodison Good Tyme, Appraisal Day, Flumerfelt Flea, Log Wheels, State Markers, Museum set-up and tours, Goodison Exhibit, township Barn Survey, relocation of the Flumerfelt Barn to Cranberry Lake and making of the Barn CD for sale and documentation, we were instrumental in getting the Delta Kelly School named after our founder, repairing the Paint Creek Waterwheel, and providing some of our programs for



## Celebrating 50 Years 1974 ~ 2024

(Continued on page 3)



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**OAKLAND TOWNSHIP HISTORICAL SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY 1974 -2024**

*(Continued from page 2)*

other groups. There are far too many accomplishments to list all of them. Our Society is an amazing group of members and friends.

One of Delta’s dreams was to purchase the old one-room Eaton School, built before 1860, when it came up for sale. She wanted to save it from being turned into a residence and be used for our Society. The owner was currently renting it to the "Church of Christ." We could not afford it, however we did hold a meeting inside while it was still a church. The new homeowners do take good care of the building. It is located at Lake George and Predmore Roads.

The historic Ross/Goodison House owners, kindly offered to donate their building as long as it could be moved. It was a salt box and located on Silver Bell Road just west of the railroad tracks. Our Township board agreed to allow us to move it onto their property close to the old township hall. This house had been lived in by a relative of Betsy Ross. A new foundation was built, the house relocated and the exterior repaired and painted. We were excited to start on the inside when a fire mysteriously burned the structure down late one night. This was a great loss to all of us.



The Township later allowed us to have the small DUR waiting booth to be placed on the site where the Ross/Goodison House had been moved. Before our Society could get it repaired, a man operating a huge machine accidentally backed over it while doing some work for our township.

The documentation of our township’s 62 historic barns (50 years or older) took us two years to complete. It helped bring an awareness to save a few of these township precious buildings and it was a fun project to work on. The Flumerfelt Barn, at CLF, provides a place to hold meetings, programs, sales, displays of our antiques, square dances, weddings, events, etc. We made a professional CD of the dismantling and rebuilding of the Flumerfelt Barn as a fund-raiser.

The township’s Signal House, originally located in Goodison near the railroad, we rescued, and had restored by Doug and Harry Caruso. It will soon be relocated back in Goodison, with the proper signage. We are turning ownership over to our PRC so it will be properly maintained and on view.



The PRC purchased Cranberry Lake Park for our Township and the HDC manages the 16-acers and historic farm. We work well with the PRC and HDC and help them maintain the farm and we lease the Caretaker's House for our Museum. We share use of the Flumerfelt Barn and have an Archives on the Main House 2nd floor. Cranberry Lake Farm has become the jewel of our township. We have a display case at the Paint Creek Cider Mill that we use to display historical artifacts and change it about every six months. We also have a beautiful Barn Quilt on the side of the Flumerfelt Barn. We are grateful to all our hard working, talented members and friends. Our accomplishments and events are amazing! We look forward to many, many more years of service, and the making of lasting friendships while saving our township’s history.



*PDF versions of the Oakland Township Historical Society's newsletters are available online at [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org) under NEWS.*



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# Announcing our newest board members!



Michelle Pfarrer is a recently retired engineer who has always had a passion for farming. She and her husband Bill have raised two daughters in Oakland Township. She enjoys fine arts, crafts, gardening, and antiquing.

Alexis Pfarrer is a history graduate student at Oakland University. She is serving a second term as the department's graduate assistant and is also a member of the Oakland County Historical Society. She is passionate about nineteenth-century American history and plans to pursue a career as a professor. In her spare time she researches genealogy, raises chickens, and enjoys nature walks with her dog.



Gerald Schuchard is a retired automotive designer, teacher and now an artist who paints Oakland Township in water colors and oils. He has lived in Oakland Township for 22 years and previously served on the OTHS board as a director.

## Welcome!

## OTHS BOARD

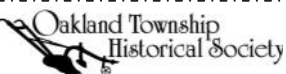


- Mary Tischler, Co-President
- Anthony Kowalchick, Co-President
- Sue Fox, Treasurer
- Colleen Barkham, Program Chair
- Michelle Pfarrer, Secretary
- Alexis Pfarrer, Director
- Tom Asmus, Director
- Barbara Barber, Director & HDC Representative
- David Phillips, Director
- Gerald Schuchard, Director
- Gayle Kowalchick, Social Media Chair
- Diana Borrusch, Donation Committee Chair

### OTHS Membership

Help us continue to be a Society to be proud of. We welcome new members!

Share the form below with a friend or neighbor.



#### Membership Application Form

Membership Category:

Additional Donation:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Individual \$18 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Patron \$50 \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Business \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

New \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable and mail with this form to :  
Treasurer, Oakland Township Historical Society  
384 Predmore Road, Oakland, MI 48363 (do not send cash)  
For more information contact Sue Fox at 248.693.9646 or  
e-mail [othsmember@comcast.net](mailto:othsmember@comcast.net)

We need your help! Consider donating your memories, time, money, or skills to help us preserve our heritage. Do you have a story to share? Do you want to submit a written memoir to our archives or have us tape an interview with you? Do you have a barn more than 50 years old? Have you found any old arrowheads or other ancient artifacts? Do you want to help with the plant sale at Heritage Days, Flumerfelt Flea, Down on the Farm, restoration of Cranberry Lake Farm, or other fun things? Please indicate below. We will contact you!

YES! \_\_\_\_\_ I have artifacts or historical photos, stories or other information      YES! \_\_\_\_\_ I would like to Volunteer with an event, committee, program, etc.

The OTHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. All contributions and membership fees are tax deductible as provided by law.



# Fall 2024 OTHS Programs and Events

## Fall Potluck and Program

Wednesday, September 4th, 6:30 PM, Lecture begins at 7:00

The Underground Railroad in Oakland Township. Presented by Carol Bacak-Egbo.

Please bring a dish to pass.

Cranberry Lake Farm, 384 W Predmore Rd.



## Goodson Good Tyme

Saturday, September 14th, 11 AM to 3 PM

Bear Creek Nature Park, 740 W Snell Rd



## Music In The Garden

Friday, September 20th 6:30 to 8:30 PM

Concert with David Thomas; Tours of the Farm available at this event.

Cranberry Lake Farm, 384 W Predmore Rd.



## Flumerfelt Flea Market

Friday September 20th, 6:30 to 8:30 PM; Preview and shopping;

\*\$3 entry fee on day only for early birds

Saturday, September 21, 10 AM—5 PM

Sunday, September 22, 12 PM— 4 PM

Cranberry Lake Farm, Flumerfelt Barn, 384 W. Predmore Rd.



## Down on the Farm

October 5th, 11 AM to 2 PM

Cranberry Lake Farm, 384 W. Predmore Rd.



Check our Facebook page later this year for November-December announcements ~ <https://www.facebook.com/OTHSMI/>

Pot-lucks are in the Cranberry Lake Farm (CLF) Flumerfelt Barn at 384 W. Predmore Rd in Oakland Township. November, December and March programs are at the Paint Creek United Methodist Church (PCUMC), 4420 Collins Rd. A bad snow storm will mean that we would cancel our program and reschedule it. Join our Society to stay on our mailing list and receive more information about program location, time and details.

**WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.** The public is welcome to our programs. There is no charge for our programs. For program information or to submit program ideas and speaker suggestions, email Colleen Barkham, Program Chairperson, [thsbarkham@hotmail.com](mailto:thsbarkham@hotmail.com). For membership or other information contact Sue Fox, Membership Chairperson, (248) 693-9646.

Visit our Facebook Page @othsmi or our website: [www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org](http://www.oaklandtownshiphistoricalsociety.org)



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## Find Us on Facebook

Have you ever wondered where the names of local roads like Snell, Dequindre or Gallagher came from? You can find out on the OTHS Facebook page. Join our 1,000 followers and become follower 1,001! Learn about William Goodison and keep up with our latest programs and events. Find out about local historic homes like the house at 825 Mead Road or the house at 5770 N. Rochester Road. Check us out at [facebook.com/othsmi](https://www.facebook.com/othsmi) or search Facebook for Oakland Township Historical Society.



<https://www.facebook.com/OTHSMI/>

## A Big Thank You to our Volunteers who came out to Heritage Days Festival

Bill and Jean Kroger, Barb Barber, Anthony Kowalchick, Mary Tischler, Sue Fox and Mary and Tom Asmus. As a small organization we can't thank our



group of volunteers enough for their dedication, support and commitment to maintaining our Township's history and educating the community. The plant sale held at this event is

**Thank You!** another fundraiser for our society!

Want to get involved and help our Society?

We always need gardeners for our many areas around the farm, as well as individuals to help with our fundraisers and events throughout the year. If you would like to volunteer please contact our co-Presidents at

[OTHSPresident@gmail.com](mailto:OTHSPresident@gmail.com).

Interested in becoming a Member?

We'd love to meet you! Fill out the OTHS membership form on page 4.



The **OTHS store** has many great gift items for sale - A few popular items: Ed Noble prints, Lyn Seiffert large color prints, Lyn Seiffert note cards, *It's the Berries* Cranberry Recipe Book, Carolyn Dulin ceramic art, Mill sack dish towels and aprons, and many other items! Contact Sue Fox.



Don't forget that your Kroger purchases can help support OTHS. Sign up for Kroger 'Community Rewards' and choose Oakland Township Historical Society as your charitable organization.



*Mission Statement:* OTHS is dedicated to gathering, interpreting and preserving the history of Oakland Township. It's your memory, it's our history, it's worth preserving!



384 West Predmore Road  
Oakland, Michigan 48363



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Recycle!

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