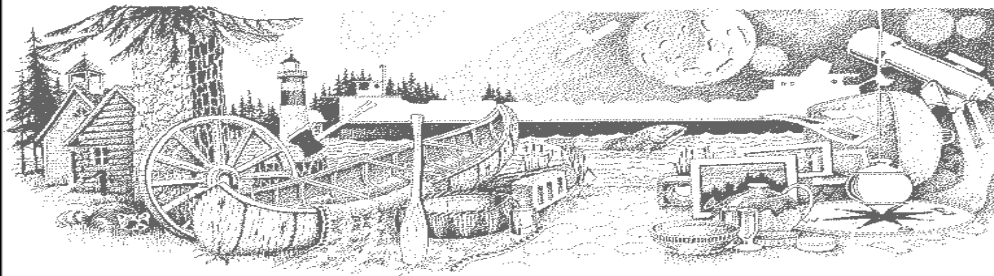


Passages

The Newsletter for the Besser Museum For Northeast Michigan

Volume 14 No. 3 Winter 2016



Season of Light

Stars of Wonder – A Celestial Celebration

Stars of Wonder: A Celestial Celebration: The opening reception for this year's Season of Light will take place **Saturday, November 19th from 6:00 pm – 8:30pm**. Tickets for this family friendly Christmas Gala are now on sale for \$15 per person. This year's opening reception will include the premiere of the "Stars of Wonder: A Celestial Celebration" exhibit, heavy hors d'oeuvres, musical entertainment, a preview of the new digital planetarium, and a chance to win beautiful door prizes from Bolenz Jewelry.

Visiting the Besser Museum during the holidays is a cherished tradition for many families. This year's Season of Light is sure to create special memories for the whole family. With traditional favorites and some new features, visitors will be mesmerized by the whimsical beauty created by the artistic talents of the museum volunteers.

This year's theme, "Stars of Wonder: A Celestial Celebration" was chosen to help celebrate the installation of the new digital planetarium. The soft opening of the new planetarium will give reception attendees a glimpse of things to come in the new year.

Helping to create the new twist with a celestial theme are 85 year-old Marilyn Thom, and her 65 year-old daughter, DeLynn Medina. Both are proud to be recognized as active senior citizens contributing to their community. These two talented ladies are in their sixth year of volunteering as set designers for the Christmas exhibit. Marilyn and DeLynn have spent hours painting four large murals depicting starry scenes, one being of the Heaven's Gate nebula.

Local artist, author, and retired teacher, Judy Dawley has been working alongside the mother-daughter duo painting her own scene that depicts the unfamiliar Arabian star lore of the Milky Way featuring ostriches. Dawley is also working on creating several other scenes of different cultural interpretations of common constellations. One scene portrays the Ojibwa Native American constellation story of the Winter Maker, Kabibona'kan. Judy's husband, Gary and artist friend, Betsy Willis helped with the Draco the Dragon constellation scene. This unique exhibit will both educate and entertain young and old alike.

Traditional favorites include the Christmas Village being set this year by Judy Poli. The Community Tree Gallery will be filled with over a dozen non-profit service organizations. Each organization will beautifully decorate their tree with a theme that helps to educate the public about the services they provide to the community throughout the entire year. If you would like to have your non-profit organization represented in the Community Tree Gallery next year, 2017, you can call the museum and get your name on the list. Each year the museum tries to offer the opportunity for new organizations to participate in the Season of Light exhibit.

The Besser Museum is also a great place to hold a small holiday party. For more information on rental rates and availability you can call the Besser Museum at 989-356-2202. The Season of Light exhibit, along with the Northeast Michigan Juried Art exhibition, will run from November 19th through December 31st.

For more information, or to purchase tickets to the Saturday, November 19th Season of Light opening reception for this year's "Stars of Wonder: A Celestial Celebration" stop by the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan, or call 989-356-2202, or visit www.bessermuseum.org

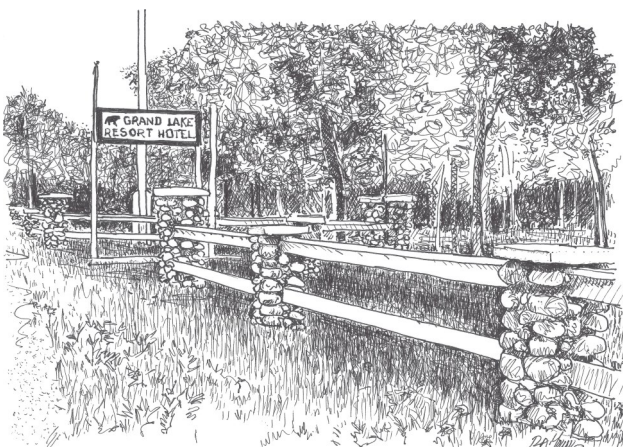
New Year - New Happenings

Exciting New Things Are Shaping Up at the Besser Museum For 2017!

American Print Makers Exhibit Opens January 7, 2017 in the Wilson Gallery

ALL IN THE FAMILY The Besser Museum will be kicking off the new year with two special exhibits featuring Northern Michigan artists. One is a sister and brother, author and artist team. The other is a sister and sister, author and artist team. These two sets of siblings share their talents combining words and images. Starting January 14th they will be sharing their artwork with you.

GRAND LAKE VINTAGE RESORTS



Decades ago, Janet Young promised her grandmother that one day she would write the history of the family's Birch Hill Hotel. What began as the story of one historic hotel has developed into a series of four books centered on the history of Presque Isle. Volume II, *Grand Lake's Vintage Resorts*, peers into the life and times of the men and women who built the first hotels and clubhouses along the shore of this isolated lake in the forested heart of Presque Isle. Personal stories of the resort owners, employees, club members, and guests are based on family letters, journals, interviews, newspaper articles, and legal documents from the 1870s through the 1940s.

Grand Lake's Vintage Resorts features a wealth of maps, rare photographs, and exceptional artwork. Janet's brother, businessman and artist Bob Young. Bob's splendid watercolor paintings, along with his detailed pen and ink sketches, illustrate idyllic summer vacations at the early rustic hotels of Northeastern Michigan. (Readers may recognize Bob as owner of Young's Appliance and Young's Art Van.) Bob's artwork, along with Janet's interpretations will be on display in the Trelfa Gallery through April. Please join them on January 14th at 3:00 PM for a meet and greet opening exhibit reception.

IMAGES FROM THE STORYTELLER'S NIGHT SKY

Mary Stewart Adams' "Images from the Storyteller's Night Sky" is an exhibit of original water color artwork and starry storytelling she created together with her sister, artist and designer Patricia DeLisa, for their Fairy Tale Moons calendar project from 2008 to 2011. Patricia created each image according to the scenes from traditional folk and fairy tales that Mary linked to the stars overhead throughout the seasons to support a humanities-based approach to understanding the night sky. As a star lore historian and Program Director for the Headlands International Dark Sky Park, Mary describes the work this way: "Our celestial world is like a mighty, living book that can be read from nearly every angle of human endeavor: Through the telescope of the scientist; the calendar of the agriculturist; the horoscope of the astrologer; the records of the historian; the rhythmic lines of the poet. Approaching the cosmos through the lens of the storyteller awakens the moral and cultural imaginations that are needed in order to inform and infuse the scientific research and discovery of our age with a soul-satisfying quality." Please join Mary Stewart Adams for a special meet and greet exhibit opening and presentation on Saturday, February 4th at 3:00 PM.



WRAPPING UP 2016

EXCEEDING OUR EXPECTATIONS!

In November of 2015, the Board of Trustees launched a 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign. The overarching goal was to strengthen the museum's mission and ensure the museum remains one of the finest cultural centers in Northern Michigan. The more specific goals were to renovate the antiquated planetarium equipment and transform the planetarium into a state-of-the-art, full-dome, digital Sky Theater and elevate the presentation of the exhibit galleries and major collections, with a specific focus on the Native American gallery, the Fine Art collection and the Historic Village structures. The Board of Trustees was also mindful to plan for the financial needs of future outreach programming.

Applying for, and receiving a Michigan Council of Arts and Cultural Affairs Capital Improvement matching grant for \$65,000 helped launch the campaign. The community support exceeded our expectations. Thanks to every single gift and pledge from local foundations, businesses and private donors, along with in-kind donations and several grants awarded, the Besser Museum 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign raised over \$530,000.

In October of 2016 the new digital planetarium equipment was installed. The planetarium upgrade included the installation of high-definition digital projectors, two new computer systems with software, energy efficient LED lighting and a new sound system. This transformation turned the only 30-foot, full-dome planetarium in Northern Michigan into a state-of-the-art IMAX style experience. The full potential for new programming is limitless.

The Besser Museum Board of Trustees and museum staff are extremely grateful for the overwhelming generosity and community support received for the 50th Anniversary Capital Campaign. Thank you!

RECAPPING SOME OF THIS YEAR'S ACCOMPLISHMENTS!

This is a year to Celebrate!

- Volunteers put in hundreds of hours building the Fishing Village around the Katherine V
- We received funding from the Michigan Humanities Council to create a Native American Traveling exhibit and co-host five lecture series held at sites along the US 23 Heritage Route
- Participated in the planning of the 2016 Lake Huron Discovery Tour
- Exhibited the Salvador Dali collection along with several special lecture presentations
- Created Coffee with the Curator, hosted by Danyael Dorr to complement the DDA's "Detroit Institute of Art Inside/Out" community art project
- Hosted the Historical Society of Michigan State History Conference
- Hosted the Michigan Great Lakes Fisheries Heritage Trails Conference
- Updated the Museum's curb appeal with new banners and sign
- Started the restoration of the Maltz Bank
- Hosted Log Cabin Day, Fall Harvest Fossil Fest, Juried Art Exhibit, NEMAG exhibit, Mark Beins and Stephanie LaFramboise, Chris Crown Blues Music presentation
- Received the retired DNR Chinook Research Vessel
- Co-hosted several Dark Sky presentations with the Friends of Rockport
- Lots of remodeling and reorganizing started, including the Gift Store, Collection Storage areas, the Wilson Gallery, and the Educational Multi-purpose room.
- Including numerous other projects staff and volunteers have been working on!

Celebration



Advance Tickets Only

9:00 P.M.

REFRESHMENTS • MUSIC • DOOR PRIZES



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for Northeast Michigan
ART • HISTORY • SCIENCE

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