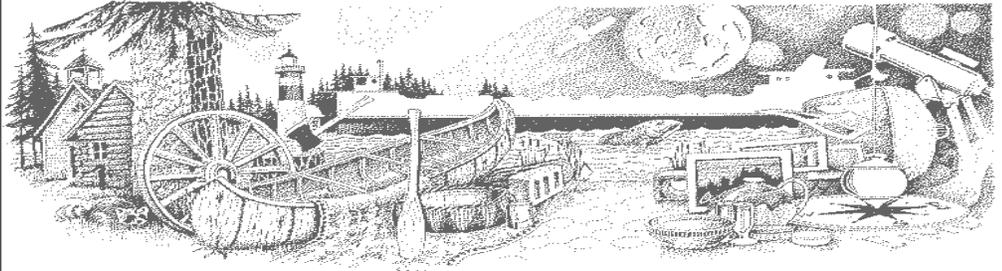


# Passages



The Newsletter for the Besser Museum For Northeast Michigan

Volume 13 No. 3 Fall/Winter 2015

## *The Besser Legacy, Building a Better Future*



The Besser Museum is excited to announce the installation of a new exhibit honoring the Besser legacy. The Besser Company generously teamed up with the Besser Museum for our 50th Anniversary to create an exhibit that will both give insight and inspiration. The purpose behind creating the new Besser Company exhibit is twofold. We not only wanted to keep the memory of our beloved Jesse Besser alive, but to keep his ideals of innovation, fortitude and passion for his business and his community alive as well. The Besser heritage is a valuable cornerstone in our northeastern communities and continues to strengthen the growth of cultural and economic development. The historical timeline exhibit will showcase the infinite possibilities of a dream pursued with tenacity.

The legacy of Jesse's determination to build a better future begins with his father Herman and their joint effort in creating, what is still today, a leading world-wide, manufacturing company headquartered in Alpena. The World Center for Concrete Technology at the Alpena Community College pays homage to the impact of one's ambitions extending far beyond their time. Jesse's personal commitment to provide opportunities for others to achieve a higher quality of life continues through the Besser Foundation's financial support of arts and culture, education, and access to health care. We have all benefited, in one way or another, from Jesse Besser's immeasurable contributions to our society.

As the Besser Museum prepares for the 2016 year-long celebration of 50 years of service, we are extremely honored and consider it most fitting to preserve and celebrate Jesse Besser's legacy with the installation of a new exciting exhibit.

### **50 Years! A Grand Celebration**

Next year, the Besser Museum will celebrate 50 years of preserving and celebrating Northeast Michigan's heritage. Creating a connection to our culture is a responsibility valued by many. Understanding, inspiration, creativity, appreciation, purpose, identity and enjoyment are just a few of the many proven benefits individuals who engage in cultural activities experience.

For the past 50 years, dedicated volunteers, board members, and community leaders have championed the mission of the Besser Museum to provide access to culturally enriching opportunities in Northeast Michigan. The Besser Museum continues to stand as a testament to a community that values culture, education, and technology.



## “TOAST THE GROWTH OF THE BESSER”

at this year’s Season of Light Reception.  
**Saturday, November 21, 2015**  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Besser Museum  
**\$10 per person**



Help us launch



## The Besser Museum’s 50th Anniversary

year-long celebration  
of great things  
to come in

2016



Jesse Besser



## Season of Light

“Home for the Holidays”  
Exhibit Opening Reception  
Saturday, November 21, 2015  
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Besser Museum  
**\$10 per person**

Holiday exhibits, mini planetarium shows  
Door Prizes, Hors d’oeuvres, and Cash Bar

### Favorite Holiday Traditions:

The Trees of Nations  
The Christmas Village  
The Community Trees  
Miniature Quilt Exhibit



Hors d’oeuvres provided by JJ’s Catering  
Sponsored by Alpena Power Co.



## The Heart of Besser Museum is YOU! Thank you!

As we reflect on the great accomplishments during 2015, we would like to thank our museum volunteers who have made it all possible. Starting at the end of this year with the Season of Light exhibit, DeLynn Medina and Marilyn Thom worked months on creating a fun holiday scene for the young and old to enjoy. Diane Sharp and her friends spent weeks setting her Christmas village exhibit. Several volunteers spent time helping prepare and decorate the Christmas trees. October’s Fall Harvest Fossil Fest is made possible thanks to all the volunteer demonstrators and tour guides. June’s Log Cabin Day is the same; without our dedicated volunteers the reenactment of old fashion days would not take place. This past March was a real treat for Museum members, thanks to those who volunteered to participate in the well-attended music programs. The community Youth Volunteer Corps provided fun learning opportunities during our Saturday Shout Eureka Programs. Throughout the year, volunteers helped weekly in the museum’s collections department and reception area. A dedicated crew of volunteers worked tirelessly on the 1928 Katherine V fish tug. Numerous local artists volunteered to create amazing art exhibitions. And this year, local artist and museum volunteer, Judy Dawley created a treasured keepsake, her book, *A Year in Alpena*. The book is not only a value to the community, but all the profits from the sale of the book benefit the Besser Museum. Books are available in our gift store. The heart of Besser Museum is you. Through your gift of time, money, or treasured artifacts, you are the heartbeat, the life giving source of the Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan.

# DALI & DANTE



The announcement is finally here. It is time for me to share the Besser Museum will be exhibiting all 41 Salvador Dali pieces from the museum's collections starting in January 2016!

A make-over of the Besser Museum's collection of Dali prints was made possible by 29 sponsors who participated in the Besser Museum's inaugural Adopt-an-Artwork fundraiser, which was open to museum members and held in February 2015. The exciting part for everyone, even for the museum staff, will be seeing the Besser Museum's *whole* Dali collection on display for the first time in decades!

The best part, is now all of the Dali artwork to be displayed will be sporting brand new acid free matting, brand new custom framing, AND museum quality glass that has an anti-reflection glaze. Specifically due to the generosity of the Dali sponsors we can now share all of the Salvador Dali pieces held in our collections with

Northeast Michigan and most importantly share them with you.

Starting in January of 2016 the Besser will open "Dali & Dante" an exhibit which will run through October 2016. That is 8 months of Dali! In addition we will begin several months' worth of Salvador Dali and Dante related activities, conversations and programs. The series will range in topics such as; "What is Surrealism" to "Dali Under the Microscope" and of course "Dante: This is Your Legacy."

If you missed out on the Adopt-a-Dali program and are interested in the Adopt-an-Artwork program, you are in luck! In January we will be announcing the next Adopt-an-Artwork artist at the Besser Museum.

This program is an affordable way to invest in the museum and help promote art in Northeast Michigan one art piece at a time.

**Look to the Museum's website and Facebook for upcoming announcements of dates regarding our Dali & Dante opening reception, exhibit related programs, and our Adopt-an-Artwork program.**

Danyael Dorr, Collections and Exhibit Manager

## *Founders Society* of the BESSER MUSEUM

The Founders Society of the Besser Museum has a long history of helping support the mission of the Besser Museum. Members of the Founders Society have volunteered in several capacities from hosting receptions, to setting exhibits, to teaching workshops, leading docent tours through exhibit galleries, working with school groups, tending to the flowers and shrubs in the museum's gardens, helping with restoration and conservation projects, helping catalogue collections, to baking cookies.

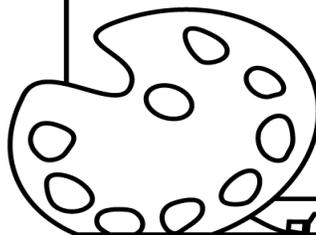
There is something at the museum for just about anyone's interest. Becoming a member of the Founders Society is a great way to support your community. Help preserve our past, impact our present, and influence our future.

Sign up to be a Founder Society member today.

## *Besser Museum Juried Art Exhibition*

*Opened through December 31*

This year Besser Museum's annual Juried Art Exhibition is a real crowd pleaser. Over 80 pieces were chosen for the exhibit from 177 entries. The *Best of Show* went to Mark Beins. Stephanie Laframboise placed second. Karen Jonkers place third. There were several honorable mentions.



*"Have no fear of  
perfection, you'll  
never reach it."*

Salvador Dali



## Find your way to the Besser Museum

Share your experience with your friends and family! Bring your guest and this coupon to the Museum or give it away for someone to enjoy the wonders of your Museum!

**Good for  
ONE  
Free  
Besser Museum  
Admission**

**Can be used for both  
Museum tour and Planetarium show**

**491 Johnson St. Alpena, MI 49707**

**989-356-2202 ~ [www.bessermuseum.org](http://www.bessermuseum.org)**



**BESSER  
MUSEUM**  
*for Northeast Michigan*  
ART • HISTORY • SCIENCE



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491 Johnson Street

Alpena, MI 49707

Phone 989.356.2202

Fax 989.356.3133

[www.BesserMuseum.org](http://www.BesserMuseum.org)

OPEN

Mon.-Sat. 10 am to 5 pm

Planetarium Shows

Saturdays at 2pm

The Besser Museum for Northeast Michigan is an educational, private, nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization accredited by the American Association of Museums. Its mission is to serve the public of all ages and abilities in art, history and science. Through research it collects, preserves and interprets artifacts, specimens and information concerning fifteen counties in Northeast Michigan. Through programs and exhibits, it promotes understanding and appreciation of the past and present.

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