60th Annual
Michigan in Perspective
The Local History Conference
Friday, March 23 • 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Check-In, Registration, and Exhibits
8-9 a.m. Refreshments and Exhibits
9-10 a.m. Opening Keynote

From Isolationist to Internationalist: Senator Arthur Vandenberg
Hendrik Meijer, Meijer Inc.
The idea that a senator—Republican or Democrat—would put the greater good of the country ahead of his or her party seems nearly impossible to imagine today. But Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan, who hailed from Grand Rapids and served in the U.S. Senate from 1928 to 1951, did exactly that. Come to hear Hendrik Meijer explain how Vandenberg forged bipartisan coalitions to form the foundation of modern American foreign policy as we know it.

10-10:15 a.m. Exhibits Break
10:15-11:30 a.m. Concurrent Session I

Hot Dog! Michigan’s Coneys
Joe Grimm, Michigan State University School of Journalism
Coney Island hot dogs can be found in many states across America—but no state can really cut the mustard in competition with Michigan! Learn how Michigan’s Coney industry was shaped by one immigrant family and how Coney dogs differ in Detroit, Flint, Jackson, Port Huron, and other cities throughout the Great Lakes State.

The Murder of Vincent Chin: The Catalyst for Asian-American Civil Rights
Frances Kai-Hwa Wang, NBC Asian America, PRI Global Nation, University of Michigan
In 1982, 27-year-old Chinese-American Vincent Chin became the victim of a hate crime when he was brutally murdered in Highland Park by two autoworkers. Come hear how the federal trials that followed introduced a historic legal milestone and mobilized Asian Americans to come together to work for Asian-American civil rights.

Steaming Over the Waves: The Walk-in-the-Water’s Bicentennial
Walter Lewis, Author and Historian
The year 2018 marks the 200th anniversary of steam navigation on the upper Great Lakes. Join us in a rousing retelling of that history—including the construction and voyages of the steamship Walk-in-the-Water, which ran on Lake Erie between Detroit and Buffalo, and the lively personalities involved in the industry’s pioneering stages.

The Legacy of New Deal Art
Elizabeth Clemens, Walter P. Reuther Library—Wayne State University
The New Deal’s Federal Art Project shaped much of Southeastern Michigan’s creative environment during the Great Depression. This session will explore some of the projects and artists impacted by the program and highlight a recent venture by the Walter P. Reuther Library to restore a New Deal-Era mural in Detroit.

Detroit 1967: The Three Trials of the Algiers Motel
Dan Aldridge, Greater Detroit Communiversity
Danielle McGuire, Wayne State University
On July 26, 1967—the fourth night of the 1967 Detroit Rebellion—three African-American teenagers were killed by police at the Algiers Motel. This session will explore what happened that night, how the officers responsible ultimately escaped accountability, and what justice might have otherwise looked like in the aftermath of such violence.
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11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote (ticket required)

**Interviewing Michigan: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly**
Chuck Stokes, WXYZ/WMYD-TV 7/20 Detroit
Throughout Michigan's history, media has greatly influenced the state’s politics, economics, culture, and society. Join us as media personality Chuck Stokes of WXYZ Detroit recalls some of his most fascinating interviews with Michigan leaders during his 30-year career in Detroit television. The speaker will also discuss the preservation of local media, including both how it can be done and why it is so imperative to archive media history for future generations to access.

**From POW to Punster: The Story of Sonny Eliot**
Jane Nordberg, Jewish Historical Society of Michigan
Detroit weatherman Sonny Eliot enjoyed a successful 60-year broadcasting career—but what many do not know is that he spent 18 months during World War II as a prisoner of war in Europe, shot down over Germany in his B-24 bomber. Join us to hear Eliot's gripping story as a wartime POW.

**Frederick G. Sampson: Preaching Beyond the Pulpit**
Freda Sampson, Freda G. Sampson LLC
For 30 years, the Reverend Dr. Frederick Sampson made an enormous impact on the city of Detroit. Join us for a glimpse into how Sampson’s work influenced Detroit’s religious communities, political environment, economic progress, and educational development at a pivotal time in the city’s history.

**Calling All Historians: Current Historical Research Roundtable**
Facilitated by Joel Stone, Detroit Historical Society
Ever wonder what other historical societies, museums, libraries, and archives are up to? Guided by a facilitator, this session will offer an opportunity for participants to discuss the current happenings within their organizations; address recent successes and issues; and discuss questions having to do with research, collections, membership, and more.

**Opening New Doors: LGBT History in Southeast Michigan**
James Toy, Office of Institutional Equity—University of Michigan
Prior to 1970, there was no organized liberation movement for sexual orientation in Michigan, but with the dawn of a new decade came the beginning of a changing era. This session will discuss the first liberation fronts that sprung up in Michigan as well as gender-identity concerns that have come to light more recently.

**Votes for Women: Untangling Michigan’s Suffragist History**
Jo Ellyn Clarey, Greater Grand Rapids Women’s History Council
Ruth Stevens, Grand Valley State University
A century ago, Michigan granted full suffrage to women, which at last allowed them to vote in state and local elections. In this session, the speakers will discuss the history of the suffrage movement in Michigan; the significance of local school board elections; and the movement’s inclusion of geography, race, and ethnicity.
The Salty Mitten: Mining for White Gold
Erik Nordberg, Walter P. Reuther Library—Wayne State University
Because Michigan's Lower Peninsula sits atop one of North America's largest saline basins, salt production has been a vital component of the state's industrial and economic history for more than 150 years. Come listen to how Michigan's salt production industry has impacted Lower Michigan from Detroit to Bay City to Manistee.

Realtors and Racism: The Point System of Grosse Pointe
Edward Egnatios, W.K. Kellogg Foundation
Join us in this session to hear the speaker describe the history of the Point System, which was used by real estate agents to racially segregate neighborhoods in Grosse Pointe. Current community initiatives to address racism and commitments to equality and change in the city will also be discussed.

If These Waters Could Talk: Maritime Archaeology in the St. Clair Flats
Daniel Harrison, Department of Anthropology—Wayne State University
The freshwater delta at the mouth of the St. Clair River—known as the St. Clair Flats—has a celebrated history that spans hundreds of years, from long before European contact to the present day. Come to hear this session's speaker tell the exciting archaeological tale of the St. Clair Flats.

The Odyssey of Waukazoo’s Band: A Fight to Stay Home
Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Michigan was not spared by the federal government’s policy of Indian Removal, which displaced Native Americans from their homes across the country. In Northern Michigan, Odawa Chief Waukazoo and his band resisted the invasion of their homelands. Join us as we remember their struggle to resist Removal and remain at their ancestral homes.

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New Books in Michigan History
The Great Water: A Documentary History of Michigan (MSU Press) with Matthew Thick, University of Michigan—Flint
By offering a collection of stories, letters, diary entries, and documents from Michigan’s past, this book offers personal insights into the rich history of the Great Lakes State.
Greetings From Detroit (WSU Press) with Dan Austin, HistoricDetroit.org
This book explores scores of Detroit postcards from throughout the city’s history, showcasing its vintage views and describing the historical popularity of postcards in America.

Medicine at Michigan (U-M Press) with Dea H. Boster, Columbus State Community College, University of Michigan
This history of the University of Michigan’s medical school explores complicated relationships between Michigan cities, competition in medical practices, and innovations in science and clinical instruction.

Local History Conference Annual Friday Reception
Join us for our Friday Reception, where you can network and mingle with old friends, new acquaintances, and other conference attendees. There will be light refreshments and a cash bar. Plus, you'll be serenaded by the harmonious sounds of the musical ensemble “Michigan Strings.” The trio's repertoire includes French-Canadian, Celtic, and American traditional and folk selections.

This reception is free for all registered conference attendees, but tickets are required. Sign up for your free ticket when you register.
Saturday, March 24 • 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Check-In, Registration, and Exhibits

8:15-9:45 a.m. Breakfast and Keynote (ticket required)

For those not attending the breakfast and keynote, light refreshments will be available beginning at 9 a.m.

From Mason to the Motor City: Malcolm X in Detroit
Ilyasah Shabazz, Ilyasah Shabazz Enterprises
Malcolm X was a renowned African-American social activist who focused primarily on equal rights during the tumultuous 1950s and 1960s. Having spent his formative years in Lansing and living in both Detroit and Flint as a young adult, Malcolm X maintained close ties with Michigan throughout his life. This keynote session, presented by his daughter, Ilyasah Shabazz, will follow Malcolm X’s life and work with special emphasis given to his many connections to the Motor City.

9:45-10 a.m. Exhibits Break

10-11:15 a.m. Concurrent Session IV

It Happened Here Too: Slavery in Detroit
Bill McGraw, Detroit Free Press
Though located in the northern United States, Detroit was nevertheless home to slavery in its history. Come hear the speaker describe how he stumbled upon that surprising discovery as well as the fact that media outlets such as the Detroit Free Press once supported slavery and the suppression of civil rights.

Style and Structure: The Architecture of Detroit
Wendy Evans, Wayne State University
The history of Detroit would not be complete without including its remarkable architecture, which includes a mix of styles of buildings designed by a variety of well-known architects. This session will explore the city’s architectural history from the nineteenth century to the present, focusing particularly on those buildings that still exist today.

Changing Perceptions: Why Indigenous Names Matter
Eric Hemenway, Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
The names of Michigan’s people and places have changed over time, especially those of Indigenous origin. Come hear how changing the identity of people and their homes has widespread repercussions—from town names to the very labels we use in American society to identify other populations who live around us.

Back to the Future: Using New Technologies in Research
Melanie McComb, Genealogist
Though the need for historical research will never change, the mediums through which professional and amateur historians can access sources certainly will and has. This session will cover the many ways in which researchers can use technologies of the future—including social media platforms, blogging programs, and mobile applications—to better understand the past.

Putting the World on Wheels: Michigan’s Auto Labor Heritage
John Beck, Michigan State University School of Human Resources & Labor Relations • Steve Bieda, Michigan State Senate District 9 • Brian Yopp, MotorCities National Heritage Area
The legacy of labor in Michigan is one that requires persistent preservation and promotion. This panel will discuss the many efforts throughout history to highlight the contributions of workers who built and maintain Michigan’s auto industry, including discussions of district-level political activities as well as recent labor-based oral history projects.
Saturday, March 24 • 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Check-In, Registration, and Exhibits

11:45 a.m.-1:45 p.m. Luncheon and Keynote (ticket required)

Judge Cohn will also receive HSM's History Hero award during the keynote.

A Conversation With Judge Avern Cohn
With Columnist and Commentator Jack Lessenberry
Join us as the Honorable Avern Cohn recounts some of his experiences as a Senior United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. In a casual setting, Judge Cohn will be sharing interesting stories with well-known columnist and commentator Jack Lessenberry. The conversation will include memories from the Judge's personal life along with famous, not-so-famous, and infamous tales from his many years on the bench. Don't miss this exciting and unprecedented conversation amongst friends!

1:45 - 2 p.m. Exhibits Break
2 - 3:15 p.m. Concurrent Session V

Read All About It! Detroit’s African-American Newspapers
Louis Jones, Walter P. Reuther Library—Wayne State University • Dale Rich, Association for the Study of African American Life and History • Alfred Thomas, Retired Teacher
From blazing the trail for future newspaper publications to inspiring new generations of journalists, Michigan's African-American presses have a storied history as the voices of the community. A panel of speakers will discuss the important role that the press has played in reporting cultural, historical, and political news of interest—not always reported in the mainstream press—to local, regional, and national African-American communities.

Invading Russia: Michigan’s Polar Bears
Gordon Olson, Grand Rapids City Historian Emeritus
Near the end of World War I, U.S. soldiers were sent to Russia to help stop the Bolshevik takeover. Today, American intervention in the Russian Civil War is nearly forgotten in the United States—as is the fact that many of the U.S. soldiers fighting there were Michigan men.

Trading on the Lakes: Furs, Empire, and the Merchant John Askin
Justin Carroll, Indiana University East
John Askin was a Scots-Irish immigrant to North America who built his fur trade in the Great Lakes region during the mid-eighteenth century. This session will address how Askin's successful trade industry was impacted by the British Empire's colonial conflicts and mismanagements during the height of the American Revolution.

Was It Murder? A Documentary’s Quest for the Truth
Geri Alumit Zeldes, Michigan State University
In the mid-1970s, two Filipina nurses were convicted for poisoning patients in Ann Arbor’s VA Hospital, but both were eventually acquitted of the crime. Join us to view excerpts of That Strange Summer, a documentary on the event, interspersed with discussions of the film with its director.

Terror in the City of Champions: The Black Legion
Tom Stanton, University of Detroit Mercy
The city of Detroit experienced one of its most turbulent periods during the mid-1930s. Come learn how a nefarious secret society called the Black Legion, which operated in a militaristic order and displayed a high propensity for violence, threatened the city and infiltrated almost every area of business, including sports.

3:15-3:30 p.m. Exhibits Break
3:30-6:30 p.m. Saturday Gala (ticket required) (see back page for description)
Full Conference Registration includes…
Opening Keynote • 25 Breakout Sessions • Friday Reception • Saturday Gala

Saturday-Only Registration includes…
10 Breakout Sessions • Saturday Gala

**For those who choose the Regular/Friday Lenten Fish option, you will have a fish lunch on Friday. You will then return to the Regular meat meals on Saturday.**
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Saturday Gala 3:30-6:30 p.m.—We Built This County: Voices of Macomb’s Past

In 1818, Macomb County became Michigan’s third county, with the town of Mount Clemens as its county seat. Join us for a bicentennial birthday celebration of Macomb County and Mount Clemens!

With the help of reenactors, you will see and hear what it took to form the county from those who lived it! Come to “meet” Major General Alexander Macomb; Judge Christian Clemens and his wife, Elizabeth; Mrs. Margaret Conner; Mr. Frederick Beech Wollcott; Mrs. Sarah Upton; and many more! Light refreshments will be served, and there will be plenty of opportunities to chat and take photos with the reenactors. The gala is free for all registered conference attendees, but tickets are required. Sign up for your free ticket when you register.