From the Director

As noted in the last edition of museON, this year, Kalamazoo Valley Community College is celebrating its milestone 50th Anniversary. A special exhibit, Kalamazoo Valley at 50, will open on September 1 and run through the end of the month, with a special reception at the September 9 Art Hop. The exhibit features artifacts, historic photographs, and video that highlight five decades of the College’s unique story. See bonus insert and page 10 for related articles.

On Friday, September 9, Art Hop will begin a weekend of celebration with two musical acts and a featured display of mixed media art. On Sunday, September 11, our Sunday Series program will feature Kalamazoo Valley faculty member Scott Myer’s presentation on the life and career of architect Alden B. Dow, with a special focus on his design of Kalamazoo Valley’s original campus in Texas Township.

In continuing with this theme of design, the exhibit Sustainable Shelter: Dwelling Within the Forces of Nature opens on September 24, 2016, and runs through January 6, 2017. This exhibition introduces visitors to the functions of shelters and how animals and humans have adapted to differing environments through an amazing diversity of structures. Lots of hands-on interactives will make this exploration of shelters both meaningful and memorable. See pages 4 and 5 for related article.

Let’s Dance!, an exhibit produced by Museum staff, opens on October 15. Learn about the dance bands, dance halls, and dancing done in the city over the years, hear stories from the people who danced and played the music, and see clothing and more spanning from the 1920s to the 1980s. The exhibit features dresses and other KVM Collections artifacts that represent these eras, and runs through January 16, 2017. See pages 12 and 13 for related article.

There is still time to see the LEGO Travel Adventure exhibit before it closes on September 11.

In addition to these special exhibits, be sure to check out the Museum’s permanent interactive exhibits and wide variety of fall programs, including an expanded planetarium show schedule, Sunday Lecture Series, Art Hops, Chemistry Day, Safe Halloween, Holiday Parade festivities, and Hands-On events. Please visit the KVM’s website at kalamazoomuseum.org for additional details.

Have a wonderful fall full of fun, creativity, and living well.
museON, everyone!

Bill McElhone
In the depths of lakes, rivers, and streams that make up our wonderful state is where one could find a creature that once shared the waters with dinosaurs. We are talking about lake sturgeon, *Acipenser fulvescens*.

Sturgeon, a massive and primitive fish native to Michigan, has been found in the archaeological record dating back to the Cretaceous Period. These majestic fish have called North America home for the last 100 million years and have been able to do so for many reasons.

The sturgeon’s life cycle is a unique tale compared to modern sport or farmed fish. Unlike these true boney fish, sturgeons represent a transition between fish with only cartilage, like sharks, and fish with bones. They reproduce at an extremely slow rate and infrequently, reaching sexual maturity at 15-20 years old and spawning only a handful of times throughout their life. Their immense size, reaching up to 9 feet in length and 200 pounds, can be attributed to their average life span of 70-150 years.

Until European settlement, sturgeon were free to meander the fresh, flowing waters of Michigan, including the Kalamazoo River. Many factors, such as pollution, over-harvesting, and lack of spawning grounds due to damming, have contributed to sturgeons’ decline in Michigan and their subsequent listing as a threatened species by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

In the Kalamazoo River system, biologists are seeing less than 1% of the historic sturgeon population. Nmé (Anishnaabek word for sturgeon) are important to cultural identity for Native Americans in the Midwest, as they have traditionally been an important food source, and also have special significance in clan identity. Recently, the Match-E-Be-Nash-She-Wish Band of Pottawatomi Indians (Gun Lake Tribe) received a grant to fund a riffle project in the Kalamazoo River. The riffles are shallow, roughly-moving sections of the river that will, hopefully, create spawning ground for the sturgeon. It will be many years, due to sturgeon’s life cycle, before we can know if this effort is successful.

What can we do to help the effort? Public education is the key to ensuring sturgeon succeed in the future. For more information about lake sturgeon and raising fish in Michigan, you can visit the Wolf Lake State Fish Hatchery Visitor Center to learn how you can help protect this magnificent creature. For details about the sturgeon rehabilitation effort in the Kalamazoo River, visit http://mbpi.org/lake-sturgeon-rehabilitation/.

“DINOSAURS” AMONG US

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Beginning this fall, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will host the traveling exhibit Sustainable Shelter: Dwelling Within the Forces of Nature. The exhibit, on loan from the James Ford Bell Museum of Natural History in Minneapolis, explores biodiversity, human and animal architecture, ecosystems, and energy and water conservation—all from the perspective of the “home.” It will be on display from September 14, 2016, to January 8, 2017.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum Director Bill McElhone said the exhibit will introduce visitors to the functions of shelters and how animals and humans have adapted to differing environments. “These adaptations are very innovative,” McElhone said. “Everyone can relate to the exhibit as it discusses the basic human needs of food, water, clothing, and shelter.”

Sustainable Shelter illustrates the ways that human dwellings extract, use, and discard energy, water, and other natural resources. The exhibit reveals innovative new building technologies and strategies that can help restore the health and viability of natural cycles.

Graphics, cartoons, and interactive computer games explore how daily actions are part of the earth’s carbon and water cycles. Visitors are invited to test ways to make homes more sustainable. Scale models show how the size and environmental impact of American homes have changed over time. “The do-it-yourself visitors will even have a chance to build their own model shelters,” McElhone said.

The exhibit also includes an actual metal cast of an underground ant colony, a seven-foot high termite mound, and a diorama of the subterranean burrows of a ground squirrel. The impressive large-scale models show what we can learn from animal architecture.

McElhone said the exhibit is a fitting complement to the Kalamazoo Valley Community College buildings that are new to the downtown Kalamazoo neighborhood. “The exhibit, just like the new Bronson Healthy Living Campus, helps encourage all of us to question current standards and practices in order to challenge ourselves to re-imagine a ‘greener’ and healthier lifestyle. The exhibit’s intent, in part, is to promote a greater awareness of the world around us.”
The Termite Mound section reveals intricate patterns of tunnels and other structures. The Life Cycle of a House (left) and example of a mid-1800’s house (center) illustrate human habitations, while the Living Mini-Biosphere (right) gives visitors a close-up experience of plants and the atmosphere inside.

Sustainable Shelter

 Dwelling within the forces of nature

The Termite Mound section reveals intricate patterns of tunnels and other structures.
Textiles are a part of our everyday life. Nowadays, our clothing is made with no expectation of it lasting for generations. Garments that are now purchased from large retail chains used to be custom made or handmade in the home. For this reason, and for the symbolism that clothing can represent, textiles are often passed down through the generations. Quilts, wedding dresses, christening gowns, and handmade doilies are cherished as family treasures. So what do you do with these treasured family items? How do you keep them safe to pass on to the next generation?

In the book Saving Stuff, Don Williams and Louisa Jaggar state that the care of textiles (and truly the care of all objects) comes down to one thing: treating each item like “Grandma.” It sounds like a funny thing to say, but when you think about it, the idea stands up well. For those of us lucky enough to have a Grandma, how do you normally treat her? With respect, love, kindness, and a watchful eye. Similarly to Grandmothers (or Grandfathers as well), you do not want to hang textiles from a nail, or use wire hangers. You would not keep them in a basement or an attic, and you would be sure to take them to a “doctor” or conservator if something were really wrong. Of the many beliefs of museum work, the one that stands out boldly in this analogy is, “Do the least amount of harm.” The same ideal goes for treatment of any textile item that you may have in your own home.

Clothing is worn, and after having been saved over the years and donated to the Museum, that clothing has often lived quite a life. Rips, torn hems, shattering silk, stains, and other signs of a well-lived life come to be preserved forever at the Museum. The preservation process at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum happens in the Collections department. We use acid-free materials, unbleached muslin, padding, and more to protect and save these items for the future. The Collections storage area has temperature and humidity controls in place in order to extend the life of the objects.

There is a big difference between textile preservation and conservation. Preservation is what the Collections department does here on a daily basis. Trying to keep ripped areas from getting worse or keeping creases and fragile spots in garments from forming is part of the day-to-day duties of the department. This is quite different from textile conservation. Conservation implies that there is active repair and work being done in order to further the textile’s life. Sometimes, that means simply adding supportive material to a tear; other times, it could mean stabilizing an item in the hopes to save it from complete breakdown. Conservation, therefore, is more active, and while some of the preservation work done at the Museum is also active, it is not as in-depth. The Museum does not have a conservation lab on site, so when conservation work is required for an item, we send these items out to qualified conservators.

Earlier this year, the Museum sent out two dresses to a conservator in preparation for our Let’s Dance! exhibit, opening October 15. These two dresses are going to be displayed during the exhibit, and in order to make sure that they are stable enough to display, some repairs had to be made to tears in the garments, as well as stabilizing stains and other issues. This is very detailed, careful work. Work on our two garments included cleaning stained areas, repairing holes with custom-dyed patches hand-stitched in place, and securing frayed portions around tears in the fabric.
Chandra Obie of Obie Textile Conservation, LLC, at work on one of the dresses we sent to her for conservation treatment in April of this year. Chandra repaired small tears in the fabric using custom-dyed cotton organdy, applied by hand stitching.

Chandra also treated the dress with a 5-step cleaning process that ended with two rinses using deionized water. The dress was blotted dry with blotting papers and cotton toweling. This dress and another were returned to the Museum in June of this year.

Dress damage before and after conservation

If you are interested in learning more about textile preservation and preserving your family’s heirlooms, come out to the Mary Jane Stryker Theater on December 11 at 1:30 p.m., where Kalamazoo Valley Museum Collections staff will give you tips and tricks to protect your textiles.
With the election season upon us, we thought it would be a great time to take a look back at the visits that past Presidents have made to Kalamazoo either before, during, or after their Presidency.

Abraham Lincoln is the first to have graced Kalamazoo with his presence when he attended a political rally held at Bronson Park for Presidential Candidate John C. Fremont on August 27, 1856. Back then, he was a relatively unknown Illinois Lawyer, but just four short years later, he was elected to the office of President. This stop would be Lincoln’s only known visit to Michigan.

President William McKinley was welcomed by thousands of local residents when he attended the Third Annual Free Street Fair on October 17, 1899. His visit was marked with a grand parade through downtown Kalamazoo and a 35-minute reception attended by local and national dignitaries.

Next came Theodore Roosevelt in 1900 while campaigning for the office of Vice President under incumbent President William McKinley. Garret Hobart, who was Vice President for McKinley, had died, and Theodore Roosevelt, Governor of New York and hero of the Spanish-American War, was selected as his successor, bringing youth and vigor to the ticket.

On September 21, 1911, sitting President William Howard Taft came to town to dedicate the newly rebuilt Burdick Hotel located at the corner of Rose Street and Michigan Avenue, where the Radisson Hotel currently stands. The townspeople graciously welcomed the President with a parade and grand dinner at the Hotel, featuring Kalamazoo Roast Spring Chicken. President Taft would visit Kalamazoo again in 1921 to speak to Kalamazoo College student societies on the subject of the League of Nations.
On October 1, 1952, future President Dwight D. Eisenhower made a brief whistle stop appearance in Kalamazoo, giving a campaign speech off the back of the train as it sat idle at the Michigan Central Railroad Depot.

Two future Presidents would visit Kalamazoo in October of 1960, just two weeks apart from one another. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon each stopped and addressed residents. Kennedy appeared on the steps of the Kalamazoo City Hall, and Nixon made a whistle stop campaign speech stressing his steadfast commitment to fighting communism and emphasized the importance of his 8 years’ experience serving as Vice President. Nixon would visit Kalamazoo once more in 1968 during his campaign to become the 37th President of the United States.

In early 1974, President Gerald Ford visited Kalamazoo to attend a $1,000-a-plate fundraiser at the Kalamazoo Country Club. Ford became President upon Richard Nixon's departure on August 9, 1974. He claimed the distinction as the first, and to date only, person to have served as both Vice President and President of the United States without being elected to either office.

Next up was President William Jefferson Clinton on August 28, 1996, when he spoke at Thomas Merrill Memorial Park on the topic of cleaning up the Nation’s water supply by the year 2000. After this, he proceeded on to the Democratic National Convention held in Chicago, where he was nominated to run for re-election with Al Gore as his Vice President.

President George W. Bush made visits to Kalamazoo in 2000, 2001, and 2004. His 2001 visit included a speech at Western Michigan University on the topic of the nation and its economy.

President Barack Obama gave the June 10, 2010, commencement address to the graduating seniors of Kalamazoo Central High School after the school was declared the national winner of the Race to the Top High School Commencement Challenge, where more than 1,000 schools competed to have Obama as their commencement speaker. Obama personally chose the winner among the finalists. Having him give the graduation address was the prize in a nationwide competition sponsored by the White House and the U.S. Department of Education to promote college readiness among the nation’s public schools. The White House said they were looking for a school that would serve as a model for preparing students for college. Central’s entry focused on the Kalamazoo Promise, the college scholarship program for Kalamazoo graduates, and the reform efforts the Promise has inspired.

Whatever the result of the 2016 Presidential election may be, it is sure that if the future President visits our fair city, we will be there to record the momentous occasion for the benefit of future generations.
Museum exhibits don’t just happen overnight; they take years, decades, and sometimes centuries to be created. The staff at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, along with staff at the Texas Township Campus Library, have been collecting and preserving information and items related to Kalamazoo Valley Community College since the College was formed back in 1966. The College was created in response to growing public concern about the lack of vocational and technical training opportunities in the area.

During the month of September, the Museum will be displaying the artifacts, stories, and photos that make the College such a unique part of Kalamazoo’s history. We could not have done this by ourselves. Museum staff relied on members of the Kalamazoo community to share their memories of what the past 50 years were like at the College. We focused on the perspective of members of the early administration at Kalamazoo Valley, faculty, staff, and students, both past and present. Longtime employees of the College, including Scott Williams and Nancy Young, scoured offices, storage areas, and classrooms looking for Kalamazoo Valley memorabilia for display. The first President of the College, Dale B. Lake, said it best in his 1973 President’s message:

*Kalamazoo Valley Community College has taken many “giant steps” in these short but fast moving five years since the first students entered September 16, 1968. As we look to and plan for the future, we remain dedicated to a high level of service and truly being a “community” college.*

This remains true decades later, as Kalamazoo Valley continues to be at the forefront of enriching the lives of students and the community through quality educational programs and services.
Innovations are usually a result of creative problem-solving on the part of many individuals. Our food system is comprised of many elements, including how food is produced, who produces it, how it is distributed, who has access to it, and much more. This complex system is the focus of many innovations that we in Kalamazoo can observe in an urban farm just off Crosstown Parkway.

The science of aquaponics is both complex and amazingly simple in its efficiency. It’s also a thing of beauty for those of us who thrill at the sight of robust, lovely, edible greens that require no pesticides, herbicides, or other environmentally-damaging practices.

In order to grow, plants have a few basic needs: light, water, carbon dioxide from the air, and nutrients. Hydroponic production is a way of growing plants in a soilless medium such as coconut fiber and irrigating them with fertilized water. This can only be achieved in a highly-controlled indoor environment, such as the Food Innovation Center on the Bronson Healthy Living Campus in downtown Kalamazoo. There’s more to this story of innovation in food production, and that’s aquaponics, which is the combination of hydroponic plant production with aquaculture, or fish farming.

Aquaculture is practiced worldwide, and while it can be done sustainably and responsibly, it naturally produces a large amount of waste (fish poop!) that can be harmful to aquatic ecosystems. Fortunately, the waste from aquaculture is an ideal fertilizer for plants. Aquaponics links aquaculture to hydroponic plant production to create a closed-loop system.

As the fish produce waste, the water in the system is pumped through their tank to a settling tank, where colonies of beneficial microorganisms convert the raw waste into healthy fertilizer, and then through the hydroponic system. The plants filter the water as they draw up nutrients for their use, and then the water flows back, clean, into the fish tank. In a finely-tuned system, the only addition needed is fish food.

The fish most commonly used is Tilapia, a name that refers to over 100 species of medium-sized fish of the genus tilapia. Plants prefer to grow in warmer temperatures, as do Tilapia. Great Lakes fish need lower temperatures not conducive to plant growth and cannot tolerate being crowded as Tilapia can; fewer fish equals less fertilizer for the growing plants.

Does all this high tech innovation mean that food production can now be sustainable environmentally and financially? Time, and further innovations, will tell.

These are the fish tanks from an aquaponic operation. KVCC is installing the Nelson and Pade, Inc. Clear Flow Aquaponic System shown here. Photo courtesy of Nelson and Pade, Inc.
Let’s Dance!

Teenagers were not the only ones dancing in Kalamazoo. Many adults would spend a Saturday evening dancing at local clubs or hotel ball rooms. This style of dress, popular in the mid- to late 1960s, would would have been worn to a local dance club.

Get ready to put on your dancin’ shoes. On October 15, 2016, the exhibit Let’s Dance! will open at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. This exhibit will feature popular dance fashions for men and women from the 1920s-1980s, local dance bands, and popular music of the time. Whether a high school prom, a dance at the Douglass Community Center, or a dance band playing at a local club, dancing has been a popular pastime throughout the years. Take a look at a few of the items from the Museum’s collection that tell the story of dancing in the community.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, Kalamazoo was home to various record hops, also known as sock hops. (Teens would often dance in their socks due the damage that could be caused to wood floors by hard-soled street shoes.) Most often hosted by a local disc jockey and held in school gymnasiums, these events would provide a variety of popular music for rock and roll dances. This photo shows local teens dancing at a record hop hosted by WKZO disc jockey Lee Dershem in 1960. Photo courtesy of Lee Dershem.
Dress worn by Margaret Verhage at a dance at Nazareth Academy, 1961-1963. Shorter formal dresses began to gain popularity in the late 1950s and continued to be worn into the 1960s.

With segregation still prevalent during World War I, the Douglass Community Center opened in 1919 as a recreational and cultural center for African American soldiers stationed at Camp Custer near Battle Creek. After the War, the Center became a social, recreational, and educational center for the African American community in Kalamazoo, offering activities such as athletics, games, arts and crafts, and clubs, and even hosting dances. Many soldiers still participated in activities, as seen in this 1940s photo of a harvest dance at the Center.

Tea-length dresses with sweetheart necklines and layers of tulle were popular in the 1950s. This dress was worn to the Kalamazoo Central High School Prom in 1951.

Margaret Verhage at the 1961 Mardi Gras dance at Nazareth Academy
Far more than simple instructions for making certain dishes, cookbooks offer tidbits about all aspects of a recipe. In Kalamazoo’s early days, sourcing exotic ingredients like some spices and seafood might have been a challenge, yet there is ample evidence that cooks were able to obtain these items. Recipes can also reveal something about the objects used in storing, preparing, and serving foods. Measurements are another area of interest. Often, instructions included non-standard measurements, in part due to the lack of tools, but also because the quality and specific nature of ingredients varied greatly by region or season. Cooks, therefore, needed to know their way around a kitchen, the market, and the palette of the people for whom they cooked.

But many recipes in cookbooks go untried, so what does that say about learning from cookbooks what was actually prepared and eaten in any given period or region? This is where we look to manuscript (handwritten) or community cookbooks in which favorite recipes are contributed by local residents. Additionally, menus from banquets and restaurants, as well as grocers’ ads and inventories, reveal valuable information about the availability of ingredients as well as cultural preferences in foods.


Try these tempting recipes if you dare!

**Creamed Oysters**

1 quart oysters.
2 tablespoons of butter, browned in spider.
Heat oysters in butter three minutes; add 3 tablespoons of cream, 1 tablespoon of flour, mixed with milk or water; beat yolks of 4 eggs and stir in eggs after you take from the stove. Serve on buttered toast or patties.

*Mrs. L. J. Hale*

Shipped fresh or canned/brined, oysters were very popular in the Midwest from pre-Civil War years to well into the 20th century. The “spider” referenced would have been a shallow skillet; originally, these were footed so that they could be used in hearth-cooking. By the time this cookbook was written, the term likely referred to any kind of frying pan.

**Steamed Brown Bread.**

1 cup sour milk.
Scant half cup molasses.
2 tablespoons brown sugar.
1 teaspoon salt.
1 large teaspoon soda.
2 cups Graham flour.
3/4 cup wheat flour.
Steam two and a half hours, then bake half an hour, in a slow oven. Use coffee cup in measuring.

*Mrs. Chas. A. Peck*

Graham flour is whole-wheat flour named after Sylvester Graham, who decried the increasing use of refined flour as unhealthy in the early 19th Century. Using sour milk avoided wasting slightly off milk not fit for drinking (common in the age of little or no refrigeration and before pasteurization of milk was common) and activated the baking soda. Note that the instructions are lacking when it comes to how to steam the bread and in what sort of container!

The KVM will continue to delve into our region’s food history. Find more old recipes and other interesting food history tidbits on our website!
1. This medieval looking device was used for chopping or cutting many people’s favorite bad habit. What is it?

2. This tin box would have been found in a 19th century kitchen. What is it?

3. This leather and metal device would be found on an athlete’s foot. What is it?
SUSTAINABLE SHELTER: DWELLING WITHIN THE FORCES OF NATURE
SEPTEMBER 24 – JANUARY 8
The Sustainable Shelter exhibit explores biodiversity, human and animal architecture, ecosystems, and energy and water conservation—all from the perspective of the “home.”

LET’S DANCE!
OCTOBER 15 – JANUARY 16
Dancing has long been a way to bring people together. Learn about dance bands, dance halls, and dancing in Kalamazoo, hear stories from the people who danced and played the music, and see clothing from the 1920s to the 1980s.

Winter Holiday Break: Dec 26 – Jan 6: FREE theater performances at noon
Dec 27: Karen Czarnik, Storyteller
Dec 29: BenJammin, Musician
Jan 2: Ivory Williams, Storyteller
Jan 4: Gemini, Musicians
Jan 6: Gwendolyn Lewis, Storyteller

WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK PLANETARIUM SHOWS FOR FAMILIES
Weekdays, Dec 26 – Jan 6
Season of Light 11 a.m.
Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs? at 1 p.m.
Space Park 360 at 2 p.m.
Magic of the Otherworld at 4 p.m.

Special Winter Holiday Break Challenge Learning Center programs for individuals and families
Tickets are $3/person:
The Challenger Experience – 1:45 p.m.
Mini-Missions – 3 p.m.

Let’s Dance! Dancing at the Home!

All exhibits are FREE!

All exhibits are FREE!
SUNDAY SERIES
Mary Jane Stryker Theater

Second Sundays usually feature science topics, and fourth Sundays are history and culture, with all new or updated topics. Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. and are FREE. Seating is limited.

See detailed information online or pick up fliers at the KVM.

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER
In memory of Alvin H. and Emily T. Little

The CLC is a space-flight simulation experience, now for all ages! The following missions are available for groups by reservation only; call or go online for details:

JUNIOR MISSIONS
90-minute missions designed for small groups of up to 15 participants, ages 8 and up. $5 per person.

FULL CREW MISSIONS
This 3-hour program is designed to build teamwork and leadership skills for adults or students in grades 5 and up. $25 per person.

Special Winter Holiday Break Challenger Learning Center programs weekdays, Dec 26 – Jan 6, for individuals and families.

THE CHALLENGER EXPERIENCE
1:45 p.m.
Young children and their grown-ups lift off from Earth, dock with a space station, and return to Earth – all in 20 minutes! Children under the age of 15 must be accompanied by a partner aged 16 or older.

MINI-MISSIONS
3 p.m.
This 45-minute session in the spacecraft simulator will fly you to Mars and back. For ages 8 and up; each child aged 8 to 15 must be accompanied by a partner aged 16 or older.

FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS
Mary Jane Stryker Theater

The Museum is open until 9 p.m. on Art Hop Fridays year-round. A variety of live entertainment, visual art, and 2 music light shows are available each month. See detailed information online or pick up fliers at the KVM

Friday Art Hop Visual Experiences open at 5 p.m. – FREE

Friday Art Hop Live Music Experiences begin at 6 p.m. – FREE

Sep 9: Rachel B (Soulful Empowerment Pop) and Kaitlin Rose (Folk, Americana, and Roots)

Holly Northrup’s “Minimal” (Mixed Media)

Oct 7: Crawlspace Eviction (Improv Comedy)

Marlena Smith’s “Alphabet Medley” Art Exhibition (Jewelry Exhibition)

Nov 4: Thunderbolt & Lightfoot (Folk) and Olivia Mainville and the Aquatic Troupe (Folk Pop)

Charlotte Bishop’s “Rainbow Visions” Art Exhibition (Acrylic and Pastel)

Dec 2: Kalamazoo Mandolin and Guitar Orchestra (Holiday Classics)

Derek Ketchum Photography A Selection of Live Local Music Photography - Year in Review

TWO Music Light Shows every Art Hop! $3 each

Pink Floyd’s Wish You Were Here at 6:30 p.m.

Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon at 8 p.m.

FEATURED EVENTS

Sep 11
KVCC’s Tower of Light
with Scott Myers, KVCC Faculty
A short presentation on the origins of the most distinctive architectural feature of KVCC’s Texas Township Campus and its designer, Alden B. Dow.

Sep 25
Here I Stand: One City’s Musical History
with Sonya Hollins, author
Hear about the talented African American musicians who honed their skills in Battle Creek. With never-before-published photos and stories, Ms. Hollins will talk about her 10 years of research that led to the publication of this book.

Oct 9
Solve a Mystery with Chemistry
with Kim Hilton (a.k.a. Chemical Kim), KVCC Faculty
Come and learn with hands-on activities about the physical and chemical changes that a chemist can perform on substances to identify their compositions.

Oct 23
Early Cemeteries in Kalamazoo
with Tom Dietz, historian
Discover and explore some of the earliest cemeteries in Kalamazoo and the stories buried in them.

Nov 13
A Sense of Place: The Past, Present, and Future of Southwest Michigan’s Characteristic Natural Communities
with Tyler Bassett, PhD Candidate at MSU W. K. Kellogg Biological Station
Learn about the defining features of southwest Michigan’s natural landscape, how this landscape has changed since European settlement, and what is being done to maintain and restore the most important elements.

Dec 11
Preserving Your Family’s Textiles
with KVM staff Regina Gorham and Sarah Humes
Get tips and techniques for proper care and storage of your family’s treasured textiles.

The CLC is a space-flight simulation experience, now for all ages! The following missions are available for groups by reservation only; call or go online for details:
Recent Acquisition

BRIDESMAID DRESS

There’s a popular saying, “always a bridesmaid, never a bride,” but in the case of these types of dresses at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum, just the opposite is true. The Museum’s collection contains more than 35 wedding dresses, with at least one from every decade from the 1860s-1970s. There is even a wedding dress that dates as far back as 1837. It was not until May 2016 that the Museum acquired its first bridesmaid dress for the permanent collection.

One reason for the sizeable collection of wedding dresses at the Museum is owed to how people choose to save things. People tend to save things that they cherish or that have sentimental value to them. Many times, due to the significance of a wedding dress, brides will save their dresses and eventually pass them down to other generations in their family. Bridesmaid dresses usually do not carry the same significance as a wedding dress and in many cases are repurposed after the wedding into a different style of dress, or the dress may be discarded.

Luckily, this was not the case with Mary (Verhage) Klenow. Earlier this year, Mary donated a bridesmaid dress along with the matching shoes and headpiece that she wore in 1964. Mary was the maid of honor in her sister Margaret Verhage’s wedding, when she married Thomas Miles on September 12, 1964. The wedding took place at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, with a reception at the home of the bride’s parents, Dr. Martin and Sigried “Cissy” Verhage of Kalamazoo.

Purchased at Jacobson’s Department Store in downtown Kalamazoo, Mary’s ballerina-length dress is made of sapphire-blue taffeta with three-quarter-length sleeves, a bell skirt, and a cummerbund. The outfit is made complete by a matching circlet headpiece with veil and custom-dyed high heeled shoes. The bride wore a similar style ballerina-length, scoop-neck dress.

One might be surprised to see that shorter-length bridesmaid dresses were in fashion over 50 years ago, but beginning in the 1950s, hemlines on dresses rose, and although special-occasion dresses like bridesmaid dresses were made in short and long lengths, the prevalent style trended toward the shorter length. This A-line silhouette with wide skirt continued to be a popular style into the early 1960s. Ballerina-length dresses were popular with high school and college students and were usually worn over crinolines. In the case of this dress, the crinoline is built into the underlayer of the dress.

Although bridesmaid dresses may not carry the same significance as wedding dresses, they still have an important story to tell and help to document popular fashion trends throughout history.
EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS

VOLUNTEER AT THE MUSEUM!

Thinking about finding new ways to get involved in our community? Consider volunteering at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum! We are looking for a few individuals to help us make our museum inviting and exciting to all. Whether you are interested in science, history, arts and crafts, teaching, storytelling, or just like talking to people, the Museum has a place for you!

Volunteer and internship opportunities are available in the following areas of the Museum’s operations:

**Hands-On Programs** – available to volunteers ages 14 and up
**Historical Collections** – available to volunteers ages 18 and up (all positions are currently filled)
**Gallery Aides** – available to volunteers ages 16 and up
**Museum Internships** – available to students ages 18 and up (currently accepting applications for the winter 2016 semester)
WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK
DECEMBER 26 – JANUARY 6

Come to the Museum to enjoy a variety of programs for the whole family and extended hours in Children’s Landscape.

FREE theater performances at Noon:
Dec 27: Karen Czarnik, Storyteller
Dec 29: BenJammin, Musician
Jan 2: Ivory Williams, Storyteller
Jan 4: Gemini, Musicians
Jan 6: Gwendolyn Lewis, Storyteller

Special Planetarium shows daily Monday – Friday during Winter Break:
Tickets are $3/person.
Season of Light 11 a.m.
Did an Asteroid Really Kill the Dinosaurs? 1 p.m.
SpacePark 360 2 p.m.
Magic of the Otherworld 4 p.m.
See calendar listing inside for more planetarium show titles and times.

Challenger Learning Center programs for individuals and families:
All tickets are $3/person:
The Challenger Experience – 1:45 p.m.
Mini-Missions – 3 p.m.

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION
Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Art Hop Fridays 9 a.m.–9 p.m.
Sunday + Holidays 1 p.m.–5 p.m.
Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas

Accessible environment. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks’ notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the planetarium and Theater.

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees.

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