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ON THE COVER: Senior flight director Donna Odom helps students on a mission in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s Challenger Learning Center. The CLC takes off for its 10th anniversary this fall. For more information on the CLC and events surrounding the celebration, see the articles beginning on page 3 of this issue. Look for the * symbol throughout this magazine—you can see featured artifacts on display in the special Museography case, located next to the reception desk on the main floor of the museum, or in other exhibit areas throughout the museum.

This magazine is composed of recycled products and is recyclable.
On Sept. 6, 2002, the city of Kalamazoo gathered a small group of participants together on the mall east of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum for the long-anticipated installation of public art called “The Wheel of History.”

California artist Mark Lere had spent the last few weeks installing pieces of sculpture in the green space along the pedestrian mall. Dignitaries made the appropriate remarks, the small crowd clapped, and the public-art project officially became a part of the cityscape. A year has passed, and “The Wheel” looks as if it has been there all along.

As a good neighbor, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum took on the job of providing an exhibit interpreting this public artwork. Curator of Research Tom Dietz had assembled a list of significant names, dates, and events in Kalamazoo history. Students in the Western Michigan University Department of Art designed and installed an interactive computer program to display the community-history list and background on the artist’s work.

The result of their efforts—an interactive computer program—now resides on three MacIntosh computers in the museum’s first-floor gallery outside the planetarium. Tom’s timeline was itself based on the work of three other local historians: David Strauss of Kalamazoo College, Paul Millikan of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, and Sharon Carlson of Western Michigan University. Museum visitors may explore the story of the sculpture, the biography of the artist, and significant moments of Kalamazoo’s past on those three computers.

Like Alexander Calder’s sculpture in Grand Rapids, Lere’s “Wheel of History” was not welcomed with rave reviews. One local artist bemoaned its failure to “elevate and enrich our city” in a Kalamazoo Gazette viewpoint article on Sept.16, 2002. “The Wheel,” from the front, bears a resemblance to an oversized satellite dish or a stereo speaker cone, but then someone called the orange Calder piece a “snowplow” when it first appeared in Grand Rapids.

New art is often not understood or appreciated. As time goes on, understanding grows. And a subsequent letter to the editor expressed gratitude and delight at finding a “sculpture garden” wherein a 7-year-old girl and her mother could “gain a deeper understanding of the present.”

Because we are living through some interesting turns of history’s wheel these days, I would like to reflect upon the wheel, the stone seat, the fountain, the map and the pathway that comprise our neighborhood pocket park. My focus is less on what they say as art, and more on what they may have to tell us about history and the changes that it
Thanks to the generosity of Mary and Jim Tyler of Kalamazoo, thousands of Southwest Michigan youngsters have been able to take one small step toward a relevant understanding of math and science via simulated missions into space.

The 10th anniversary of their family’s gift to harbor a Challenger Learning Center in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will be celebrated by special programming and activities on Saturday, Oct. 18.

Dedicated to the memory of the seven Space Shuttle astronauts who perished in the fiery skies over Florida on Jan. 28, 1986, Challenger Learning Centers—there are now 47 across the North American continent with Kalamazoo’s being No. 16 on that list—continue that crew’s teaching mission by delivering applied math and science knowledge as participants take part in mock space adventures.

The Tylers flash backed to that tragedy last Feb. 1 when seven more astronauts died aboard the Columbia as the shuttle disintegrated in a ball of fire, yet they remain fervent supporters of the exploration of space.

Kalamazoo’s Challenger Learning Center is named for Mary’s parents, Alvin H. and Emily Tedrow Little. Her father, who was born six weeks before the Wright Brothers made history on the sands of Kitty Hawk, N. C., grew into an avid aviation activist. Before he died at the age of 79, Little witnessed the miracles of flight, from Charles Lindbergh’s solo journey across the Atlantic to Neil Armstrong’s leap onto the lunar surface in 1969.

Little passed on to his daughter a passion for flying. The day after her Kalamazoo Central High School graduation in 1946, Mary traveled to Stephens College in Missouri for six weeks of flight training, an eventual open-cockpit solo, and a private pilot’s license.

In the wake of the Challenger disaster, the families of the seven astronauts, including teacher Christa McAuliffe, came together under a common cause to use the spirit of space discovery as a vehicle for meaningfully teaching science and math. The result was the creation of the Challenger Center for Space Science Education.

Mary said she first became aware of the crew’s revived educational mission when she saw June Scobee, the widow of the crew’s commander, interviewed on television.

“I was fascinated by the concept,” she says. “My first thought was—what a wonderful thing if they could pull it off. My second thought was—what a wonderful thing if we could get one of those learning centers in Kalamazoo.”

Deeply affected by Scobee’s quest, the Tylers sent in a $50 donation to the new organization that is based in Alexandria, Va. “The more I learned about it, the more intrigued and impressed I became. I know that I am...
biased, but I love Kalamazoo. This is a great place to live. And what Jim and I learned from our parents is that we have a responsibility to keep it that way.

“When we were growing up (Jim, a former Marine, who is also a Kalamazoo Central alumnus), we had advantages and opportunities for people that you just can’t find in communities of this size. I was determined that Kalamazoo should somehow get a Challenger Learning Center.”

When the campaign to build a new museum splashed down on the local scene in 1991, it was the perfect time and the perfect place. Kalamazoo’s Challenger was designed to fit in the former museum on the second floor of the Kalamazoo Public Library and staged its first missions in the fall of 1993. When the Kalamazoo Valley Museum was ready for visitors in February of 1996, the Tylers’ gift easily made the transition.

Mary has served on the Kalamazoo Challenger’s advisory committee for the full decade. “It has certainly filled our expectations as a wonderful learning resource,” she said. “When combined with a planetarium show, a Challenger mission is a very meaningful experience.”

That’s reflected in the letters the Tylers receive from appreciative students, such as teacher Carol Hodges’ seventh-graders at Hillside Middle School. “They always send us thank-you notes and we appreciate the thought.”

Because most of the junior astronauts who board the Kalamazoo Challenger and staff its Mission Control were not around in 1986, they had no point of reference with what happened to the shuttle. Columbia changed all of that.

“That’s reflected in the notes they write to us,” said Mary about the words that were forwarded in journal form to the Columbia families. “They sense what the experience is all about and it does promote their interest in pursuing careers in math and science. That’s why Jim and I made the donation.”

The Tylers were nationally honored with the Challenger 7 Award in 1993 and traveled to the organization’s headquarters twice. “Receiving the Challenger 7 Award was a true milestone in our lives,” she said. Those occasions brought the Tylers into conversations with former President George Bush, former First Lady Barbara Bush, author Ray Bradbury, and ABC-TV journalist Cokie Roberts.

Early on, the Tylers had met all of the Challenger families with one exception, the widow of astronaut Elison Onizuka. Ironically, Mary completed the cycle when she attended the 50th reunion of her University of Colorado graduating class in 2000. Onizuka’s daughter was a member of Colorado’s Class of 2000.

It was kind of like home week because the keynote speaker was Scott Carpenter, one of the seven original Mercury astronauts. Fifteen of those who have followed in his jet stream at NASA were also in attendance.

Mary said the national master plan is to take the number of Challenger centers to more than 50, but global events—possibly “9-11,” have put that mission on hold.

Meanwhile, the Kalamazoo Challenger—the only one located in Michigan—continues to fly, and that is a legacy to treasure.
Some 80,000 middle schoolers, teachers and “common ordinary earthlings” have shared those feelings, sensations and reactions in the 10 years that the Challenger Learning Center has sent “pretend” astronauts “out there” to experience living and working in space.

From Muskegon County to the Detroit area, from Lansing to northern Indiana, they have come because, thanks to the generosity of a Kalamazoo family, a Challenger, with its adrenaline rush of an educational adventure in outer space, was built for the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in 1993.

The Challenger concept evolved from the national tragedy on Jan. 28, 1986, when seven American astronauts, including civilian teacher Christa McAuliffe, were killed as Space Shuttle Challenger made its fiery fall from the skies over Florida.

The astronauts’ families, seeking ways to carry on the teaching and educational objectives of the shuttle’s doomed mission, agreed to establish the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, headquartered in Alexandria, Va.

The center went about creating realistic and exciting computerized scenarios in which students and educators work in teams to solve authentic math, science and technology problems during a space-flight simulation. In the process, positive experiences raise students’ expectations of success and inspire them to pursue careers in math, science and applied technology.

Kalamazoo’s was the 16th Challenger Learning Center on the North American continent and the first to link to a community college. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is home to Michigan’s lone Challenger. There are now 47 in existence in 27 states, the District of Columbia, Great Britain, and Canada. They are housed or operated by four-year universities, K-12 schools, aviation and space museums, and museums of science, technology and industry. Four, including KVCC’s, have a variety of relationships to a community college.

Challenger expeditions into “The Final Frontier” are geared for middle-school students, and not just those who may be already interested in science. Their teachers undergo preliminary training so they can integrate the lessons into existing math and science curricula.

One aspect of the cross-discipline exercise is that students fill out job applications for the mission’s teams, of which there are eight—medical, isolation, probe, communications, life support, remote, navigation and data. The simulations take place in two Challenger sets—a space station, replicating the experience of working in orbit, and a mission control, similar to the one used by NASA at the Johnson Space Center.
Full-scale missions can also be booked by business groups and community organizations interested in building corporate teamwork and effective communications. Mini-missions are also available to the public.

No particular expertise in science and math is necessary, and one doesn’t have to be a computer whiz. The only requirements are basic reading and math skills, and a sense of adventure. What Challenger mission participants learn is that science, math and high-tech skills are far from being boring. The almost-like-real space missions and exercises illustrate the practical and technological applications of math and science principles in meaningful, relevant ways.

Among the inventory of Challenger missions are a rendezvous with a comet, a probe to build a research base on the moon, a look at the Earth’s fragile environment from deep space, and a mission to Mars. Kalamazoo’s is one of a few Challengers to offer all four missions, which are currently being updated.

The comet scenario is now on the front burner to coincide with NASA’s Stardust mission that is steering a spacecraft toward a January 2004 rendezvous through Comet Wild-2. As it passes through the universe’s version of a bottle rocket, special equipment will collect microscopic particles, dirt and dust samples that will not only be instantly analyzed but will eventually be returned to Earth—at a special landing site in Utah—in another technical miracle by January of 2006.

“It seems as though we run as many missions as there are lights in the night sky,” said senior flight director Donna Odom. “Including school groups, which are the majority, and mini-missions for the public, we probably book approximately 300 or more in a year.”

Almost since its first missions that were directed by two KVCC instructors (Rick Margelis and David Dobbs) on special assignment, the Kalamazoo Challenger has had a waiting list. “It’s always wise to book in advance,” Odom said, “but on occasions there are cancellations by school groups that open up some time slots at the last minute.”

The per-student cost for a Kalamazoo Challenger mission is $5 for youngsters attending schools within the KVCC district and $8 for those out-of-district. A capacity 30-person mission ranges in cost from $150 to $240.

“Thanks to the fact that our museum is supported by a millage,” Odom says, “that’s a bargain.” At other Challengers across the country, especially those that must be self-supporting, the cost for a mission is as much as $800.

“The best thing about the Challenger,” she said, “is that it teaches a child independence and to engage in critical thinking. While they work as a team, they must also think for themselves because they are the ones making the decisions. There are no right or wrong decisions. There are just consequences to each decision.”

Fellow flight director Kathy Godin agrees. “It makes them think outside of the box. Teachers are very impressed by what their students do here and how they do it.

“You can see the change in some of the students’ body language,” Godin said, “especially those who thought they really didn’t want to come. But when they get inside, either the space module or Mission Control, you can see their attitudes do a 180. They love it. The Challenger Center people really did something visionary in conceiving this.”
A rocket engine, similar to the one that propelled astronauts Alan Shepard and Gus Grissom into suborbital flights early in the 1960s as part of the Mercury space program, will be on display at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum as part of the 10th anniversary of the Challenger Space Center on Oct. 18.

Part of the Kalamazoo Aviation History Museum’s extensive collection, the Redstone rocket is in “better than mint condition,” said Jerry Pahl, the education assistant at what is locally called “The Air Zoo.”

“That’s because one of our volunteers, Les Chase, has just completed an 18-month restoration project,” Pahl said.

Chase knew what he was doing because the retiree worked for Rocketdyne, the division of the North American Rockwell Corp. that designed and built Redstone’s propulsion system.

Standing nearly 11 feet tall with a diameter of 5.5 feet and weighing nearly 1,500 pounds, the Redstone was powered by an explosive mixture of alcohol and liquid oxygen that produced temperatures of 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit to gain a thrust of 78,000 pounds.

The Redstones that sent astronauts into space found their way into such places of honor as the Smithsonian Institution. This particular model was used on test flights and satellite launches.

“Basically,” Pahl said, “the Redstone was the next level up from what the Germans used to power their V-2 rockets during World War II. The Army took it from there for its ballistic missiles.”

With Chrysler Corp. serving as the lead contractor, the first test firing took place in 1950. The results were satisfying enough to begin production in 1952. Five years after the first test flight, a Redstone engine—one that was nearly three years old and in storage for 14 months—sent the Explorer I satellite into space on Jan. 31, 1958. Man would soon follow.

With more powerful engines needed for deep-space thrusts and lunar exploration, and with advancing technology overlapping its usefulness, the Redstones began to be phased out from both the space programs and the U.S. military’s defense strategies. They were retired from service in the fall of 1963.

The aviation museum’s Redstone was donated anonymously to its collection in 1999. “We were just able to get around to restoring it,” Pahl said.
Gravity & Microgravity

Sir Isaac Newton first described the nature of gravity more than 300 years ago.

In his famous “thought experiment,” he imagined a cannon at the top of a very tall mountain. Two forces acted upon each cannonball as it was fired: the force from the explosion and the force of gravity. The combination of these two forces would cause the cannonball to travel in an arc. If the cannonball were fired with more and more power, it would hit the ground farther and farther away from the cannon. If the cannonball were fired with enough power, it would travel entirely around the Earth and return to its starting point, completing an orbit of the Earth. To try shooting a cannonball around the Earth, visit http://spaceplace.jpl.nasa.gov/orbits1.htm

Gravity affects everything we do. Many experiments are being performed in space because scientists want to know how things will react when they are not being influenced by gravity. We call this a microgravity environment. Microgravity is the word used to describe the condition of being in free-fall, like Newton’s imaginary cannonball.

Here’s a cool experiment you can try at home to help you better understand the concept of microgravity. This experiment demonstrates that free-fall eliminates the local effects of gravity. Ask an adult to help you. You will need the following materials:

- Styrofoam or paper coffee cup
- Pencil or other pointed object
- Water
- Bucket or other catch basin

First, punch a small hole in the side of the cup near its bottom. Hold your thumb over the hole as you fill the cup with water. Now remove your thumb and let the water stream out into the bucket on the floor. Gravity is the force that makes the water move toward the center of the Earth, or “fall.”

Place your thumb over the hole again and refill the cup with water. What do you think will happen to the water if you drop the cup? Hold the cup up high and drop it into the bucket. What happened to the water?

If you have a video camera, you may repeat the experiment while someone videotapes it. Then play it back in slow motion.

For more information on Sir Isaac Newton and other scientific explorers, check out the Discovery Walls in KVM’s Science in Motion gallery. They have lots of fun facts for you to uncover about milestones in our understanding of Energy, The Body, and Technology.
What Is It?

Make some guesses about these objects from the KVM collection. How old do you think they are? What were they used for? (Answers at the bottom of the page.)

**#1** This is an essential tool in providing electricity.*

**#2** These smooth, round rocks were used in paper manufacturing.*

**#3** You have to step on this to make it work.*

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Ask the KVM!

Have a question about a person, object, or artifact that relates to the history of the southwest Michigan area? Send your question to Tom Dietz, KVM curator of research (269/373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu) and you may see it answered in a future issue of Museography.
The human element of the game and the excitement of a fall Saturday on a college campus when the home team takes the field will permeate the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s football exhibit for its “FAN·tastic Football Kickoff” on Sept. 20.

Because Western Michigan University is not scheduled to play a game that Saturday, Bronco cheerleaders, the mascot, and local bands will be at the museum for an afternoon of special programming and activities revolving around “Football: The Exhibit,” the current nationally touring showcase that will be on display through the Super Bowl.

On Sept. 5, the day before Western’s home opener against the College of William & Mary, the WMU Athletic Department hosted its Touchdown Luncheon at the KVCC Arcadia Commons Campus. Game footage of the Broncos in action was shown in the museum’s Interactive Learning Hall.

Created by the Museum of Discovery in Little Rock, Ark., “Football: The Exhibit” explores the science, mathematics and technology behind America’s fall gridiron passion. Complementing it is a locally created exhibition on what football has meant to Southwest Michigan at the college, high school, community and social levels. On display are artifacts, photographs, uniforms, helmets and other football memorabilia unique to this part of the state.

The theme of the exhibit is that the science in ordinary life can be revealed through football’s basics—passing, kicking, the action at the line of scrimmage, and even cheerleading. It demonstrates why the spiral stabilizes the flight of the football and how balance, angular momentum and center of gravity are key components of blocking, tackling and sacking the quarterback.

The sport is analyzed in its scientific connotations in the throwing of a forward pass, in the advancing of the ball by running, in the kicking game, and in the trenches — the organized chaos known as the line of scrimmage.

In the “Spring Track,” youngsters can dial in the speeds of a variety of animals—turtles, squirrels, rabbits, deer, giraffes, bears, elephants, or cheetahs. Flashing lights will show each runner whether he or she has been able to match that particular member of the animal kingdom.

Throwing in a wind tunnel explains the principles of aerodynamics while “The Momentum Track” brings the world of rapidly moving bodies traveling on a collision course into the realm of reality. Speeding cars crashing into each other is compared to the physics of when football players moving at top speed hit each other for the fun of it.

With 27 touchdown receptions and 3,599 receiving yards in his career, Steve Neal (1997–2000) ranks as the greatest pass receiver in WMU history. Photograph courtesy of Western Michigan University Intercollegiate Athletics.

“Football: The Exhibit” delves into the equipment of the game and how it has transcended over the decades because of technology, from leather helmets to nearly shock-proof shoulder pads to flak jackets that can protect a quarterback’s cracked ribs during a game. Addressed are such health issues as drug misuse, steroids, and how advances in sports medicine have changed the treatment of knee injuries from major surgeries to small, almost non-intrusive incisions.

Scheduled from 1 to 4 p.m., the Sept. 20 activities are free and open to the public. There is no admission charge to the museum nor the football exhibit.
Thirty years before Jackie Robinson made history with the Brooklyn Dodgers, Sam Dunlap played the same role at Western State Normal School. Both were African Americans who helped integrate all-white sports teams. Robinson’s accomplishments earned him admission to the baseball Hall of Fame. Dunlap is in Western Michigan University’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

Samuel J. Dunlap was born July 8, 1895, in Chicago. His family moved to Benton Harbor where he was a standout high school football player. In 1915, he entered Western State Normal School. Western opened in 1904. President Dwight Waldo was an ardent supporter of college athletics, especially football. In 1907, he hired William H. “Bill” Spaulding as football coach. With Dunlap in the backfield, Spaulding turned the Western Hilltoppers into a high-scoring machine.

As a freshman, Dunlap made the varsity as a punter and halfback. He quickly demonstrated the talents that earned him the nickname, “The Black Ghost.” In a 79–0 rout of Alma College, Dunlap ran for three touchdowns, passed for another, and intercepted a pass. He amassed a staggering 430 yards of offense in the game. That season, Western went 5–1.

The 1916 season was Dunlap’s finest. Western again went 5–1. Dunlap scored 19 touchdowns for the season, a school record that has never been broken. Against Ohio Northern, he scored seven touchdowns. He tallied 122 points in the six-game season. Western’s only loss came at the hands of Notre Dame. Knute Rockne, Notre Dame's coach, called Dunlap one of the finest athletes he ever saw. The 1916 team scored 389 points, more per game than Fielding Yost’s fabled “point-a-minute” Michigan squads.

In 1917, Coach Spaulding implemented a passing attack that diminished Dunlap’s role. Although his offensive production dropped, Dunlap remained a defensive bulwark. Western finished the regular season with a 4–2 mark. They lost the mythical normal school national championship to the Indiana State Normal School of Pennsylvania.

After military service during World War I, Dunlap returned for his final season in 1919. The team went 4–1, rebounding from a poor 1918 season. In his four seasons at Western, Dunlap was the right halfback, a defensive back, and the punter. He was also on the track and field squad and the baseball team’s second baseman.

Dunlap encountered the racism that permeated American society. In 1915, Culver Military Academy refused to play Western if Dunlap was on the field. Dunlap sat out the game, the only game he missed. His teammates trounced Culver, 83–14.

Such prejudice was not limited to Western’s opponents. In 1917, Coach Spaulding dismissed a recruit who refused to play with Dunlap. Later that year, Dunlap had to make separate travel arrangements because no teammate would share accommodations on the trip to Pennsylvania.

After graduation, he worked in New York and Los Angeles. In 1951 Dunlap and his wife, Lenora, returned to Kalamazoo. An Athletic Department job never materialized, so Dunlap worked as a custodian at Western. He died March 23, 1961, a true sports pioneer—Western’s first African American athlete.
In 1828, Southwest Michigan offered daunting challenges and the promise of untapped rewards. Fur traders maintained seasonal outposts in the region but American settlers preferred the southeastern corner of the Michigan Territory near Detroit. That would change as the 1820s gave way to the “Michigan Fever” land rush of the next decade.

At the age of 57, the father of 17 children, and a man who had moved numerous times in his life, Bazel Harrison might have seemed an unlikely trailblazer. Yet on a November evening in 1828, Harrison led a band of 21 hardy pioneers to what is now Prairie Ronde Township. There they hastily built cabins to prepare for the approaching Michigan winter. Kalamazoo County’s first permanent white settlers had arrived.

Who was this patriarch who set out with his family and friends to start a new life on the Michigan frontier? Bazel Harrison was born on March 15, 1771, in Frederick County, Md. As a child, he attended school for three months, but learned to read and write. In 1790, he fell in love with Martha Stillwell. Martha’s mother disapproved of the young man but, with the aid of her father, she and Bazel eloped. Their marriage lasted nearly 70 years.

While Bazel was still a child, William Harrison moved his family to Virginia and later to Franklin County in Pennsylvania. Perhaps Bazel inherited his father’s restlessness. Over two decades, the Harrisons moved several times until 1828 when Bazel, determined to move to Michigan before winter, set out from Springfield, Ohio, with a party of 23 family members and friends in late September.

A huge Pennsylvania wagon drawn by two teams of horses led the caravan, followed by four smaller wagons, a cart, numerous horses and oxen, three cows, 50 sheep and about 50 hogs. They traveled through the Ohio towns of Urbana, Piqua, and Sidney following the Miami River and wagon trails until they reached Fort Wayne, Ind.

Eager to get settled before the cold and snow arrived, the party moved northwest crossing the fertile Goshen and Elkhart prairies, so beautiful that some wanted to stop and settle there. But Harrison was set on Michigan. They pushed ahead, reaching Prairie Ronde on Nov. 5, 1828. They spent one night on the southeastern edge of that vast prairie, the largest in Kalamazoo County. The next day, a local Potawatomi chief, Sagamaw, led Harrison to a small lake on the northwestern edge of the prairie. Here the pioneers made their new home.

The Harrison family may have been the first white settlers in the county, but they were certainly not alone, with several Potawatomi villages in the region. Any isolation Harrison may have felt was short-lived. Other settlers began to pour into Kalamazoo County as soon as spring weather arrived in 1829. On July 4, the first pioneer wedding on the prairie was celebrated and later the same month Sarah Shaver gave birth to a daughter, Calista, the first white child born in Kalamazoo County. Within two years, some 60 families lived on Prairie Ronde.

The growing community required some government and in 1830 the first local elections were held. Bazel Harrison was elected highway commissioner and Territorial Gov. Lewis Cass appointed him a judge of the Kalamazoo County Court. Judge Harrison was known for his integrity and was trusted to resolve disputes among the settlers.

Harrison lived to see remarkable changes on the frontier he came to in 1828. The move to Michigan was the last of many in his life; he would spend 46 years in his new home. He died Aug. 30, 1874, at the age of 103. His funeral, held at son John’s house, attracted more than 800 people.

The pioneer spirit that led Bazel Harrison to Prairie Ronde paved the way for countless other settlers who migrated to Michigan and Kalamazoo County.

—Mandana Nordbrock and Tom Dietz
In 1844, Mannes Israel, a traveling dry-goods salesman, took ill while in Kalamazoo. During his recuperation, he noticed that the young village offered promising opportunities. He decided to stay and opened a dry-goods store. A native of Waldeck-Pyrmont in Germany, Israel was Kalamazoo’s first Jewish resident.

In the 1850s and 1860s, other German Jewish immigrants came to Kalamazoo. Most became merchants, often after working at established stores. Their numbers grew and, in 1865, 17 families organized Congregation B’Nai Israel. Ten years later, they built their first temple on South Street near Burdick Street.

The families appear to have been generally accepted in Kalamazoo. The men were welcomed into fraternal orders, such as the Masons and the Odd Fellows. They supported the Union during the Civil War, became Republicans, and later many supported the reform movements of the Progressive Era. Some attended Kalamazoo’s liberal People’s Church as well as the Temple B’Nai Israel.

The Jewish merchants were active in local business. Samuel Rosenbaum came to Kalamazoo in 1867 after running a dry-goods store in Three Rivers since 1857. He went into business for himself, eventually organizing the Kalamazoo Pant and Overall Co. The Rosenbaum Building still stands on East Michigan Avenue at Edwards Street.

Another merchant, Henry Stern, operated a clothing store where Meyer Desenberg clerked in 1853–54. Desenberg went to California in 1855 where he sold tobacco and fruit as well as engaged in gold mining with some success. He returned to Kalamazoo and opened a grocery store with his brother, Bernhard, in 1860. Around 1880, Meyer moved to Salt Lake City for several years, investing in gold and silver mining. He returned to Kalamazoo and started the Desenberg and Schuster grocery.

Bernhard Desenberg progressed from selling food stuffs with brother Meyer to owning his own wholesale grocery business, which became the largest in the city. Designed by famous Chicago architects Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, the Desenberg Building is on East Michigan Avenue.

David and William Lilienfeld owned a wholesale liquor business and the Lilies Cigar Company. Sam Folz was born in Hillsdale, came to Kalamazoo in 1875, and worked as a cigar maker in the Lilies factory. He eventually went into the clothing business, opening Folz’s Big Store in the Peninsula Building at East Michigan Avenue and Portage Street. He served one term as mayor of Kalamazoo in 1903–04.

By the mid-1880s, other Jewish immigrants were arriving in Kalamazoo. They came from Eastern Europe and Russia, and practiced a more traditional form of Judaism. In 1886, they organized the Orthodox Jewish Society, which incorporated as the Congregation of the Children of the House of Moses in 1891. Their synagogue, dedicated in 1907, stood near East South and Pitcher streets.

Both congregations prospered into the 20th century. B’Nai Israel built a larger temple on Park Street in 1911 but the membership declined after 1920. The congregation reorganized in the 1960s. The Congregation of Moses purchased the B’Nai Israel temple in 1946 but soon outgrew it. Its new synagogue on Stadium Drive, still in use, opened in 1961.

While the local Jewish community may not be as numerous as others, it has contributed greatly to the diversity and vitality of Southwest Michigan.

—Tom Dietz, Curator of Research
“Saturday Night at the Museum” will feature an eclectic billing of concerts, performances, and lectures, plus a film series showcased in the latest in high-definition technology for cinema and video.

The attractions will be linked to a change in the Kalamazoo Valley Museum's open hours. Wednesdays will return to a 9 a.m.-to-5 p.m. format, while the Saturday schedule will see the doors stay open until 9 p.m.

Targeted to expand its program offerings for adult audiences, “Saturday Night” will be staged in the technology-upgraded and reconfigured Mary Jane Stryker Interactive Learning Hall (ILH) on the museum's first floor. There will also be a series of special presentations booked for the Universe Theater and Planetarium.

“We will be providing another entertainment option for people who like to patronize downtown restaurants and nightspots,” said museum director Patrick Norris. “We want to be a part of generating attractions for young adults, college students and empty-nesters.”

Collaborating on the 84-seat ILH’s make-over were the architectural firm of Eckert Wordell, Intaglio Visual Arts and Technologies, and the Kalleward Group as the contractor.

What promises to be the spotlight attraction will be high-definition electronic cinema that provides a unique audio-visual experience on a 14-by-26-foot screen with detail and color surpassing the best of what Hollywood does and offering five times the clarity and color of conventional video.

Viewers feel as though they are experiencing in person the event filling the screen because of the clarity, color and depth of image. It’s like looking through a newly washed window.

“When the museum opened in February of 1996,” Norris said, “occupying the Stryker Interactive Learning Hall was a Disney-esque experience called OPUS, which stood for ‘Optimal Patterning and Understanding System.’”

But the technology that made OPUS such a star—compact discs—quickly became available to the general public. With the phased-out OPUS now having been recycled to its origins as an industrial robot, the museum engaged a design team to brainstorm on how to use that high-tech space to serve the Southwest Michigan community and complement its range of programming.

The result is a facility equipped with state-of-the-art, high-definition video capabilities that delivers crystal-clear images and a surround-sound system that the Boston Pops would hock their instruments to get. Yet, the reconfiguration’s multi-media features can be tailored to fit computer presentations, musical performances, and the lecture circuit.

Already booked for the new space in the fall is the museum’s “Sunday Series” that focuses on Southwest Michigan history.

Southwest Michigan’s Jewish community and the origins of high school football in the state will be the opening topics. (See the inside back cover of this issue for more information on the KVM’s Sunday Series.)

Each presentation will begin at 2 p.m. in the Stryker Hall.
War news is devastating enough as bombs blitz buildings, bridges, and human beings, but the initial reports out of Baghdad as U.S. troops swept through the Iraqi capital brought those who treasure antiquities nearly to tears.

There were reports of looting at museums, creating the impression that fabled collections were in jeopardy.

“I almost cried,” said Paula Metzner, assistant director for collections services at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum who has had a lifelong interest in Middle Eastern archeology. “That part of the world is called ‘The Cradle of Civilization’ and all of that physical history was now gone, never to be retrieved. I was devastated.”

Thankfully, the news at that time was a little premature. Forward-thinking Iraqi curators, Metzner’s peers in what has become a nation now being ravaged by guerilla warfare, imitated what their colleagues at the British Royal Museum in London did as the Germans’ nightly bombardments loomed during World War II. There were no such technological marvels as “smart bombs.” If they wanted to save it, they had to hide it.

The English bivouacked their priceless treasures and antiquities deep below the city’s surface in vaults and reinforced tunnels, well out of harm’s way of Germany’s most powerful bombs. And so did the Iraqi collectors, relocating the lion’s share of their most valued and historically significant archaeological items to bunkers and storage vaults well before warfare loosed the looters in the historic city.

“Less of the irreplaceable stuff was lost than we thought,” Metzner said. “Reports are that the looters may have only taken a couple thousand items that were less significant to the rich history of the region. That was good news for historians and the people of Iraq.”

These days, antiquities are not supposed to be dug and shipped all over the world to public or private collections. Except for research purposes, finds tend to stay in the vicinity of their origins because of laws and human respect. Native American burial grounds and Egyptian tombs are no longer fair game for the archaeologist to plunder in the name of science.

However, there seems to be a growing, active market in the trade of illicitly acquired antiquities, especially in post-war Iraq where U.S. forces continue to take casualties. Reports of archaeological looting seem to be growing, doing tremendous harm to the search for knowledge in “The Cradle of Civilization.”

Because of their significance to the history of civilization, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s cuneiform collection is handled with kid gloves, if handled at all. After all, they are some of the first written material in the world—the writings of people who lived 5,000 years ago.

Two graduate students from the University of Michigan Department of Near Eastern Studies have been translating what was written on the 60 inscribed clay tablets, cylinders, bricks and cones. Some of them date back to 3000 B.C.E. (Before the Common Era).

The collection of cuneiform, which dates to the 4th and 3rd millennia and constitutes the world’s oldest written documents, was donated to the museum after the death in 1931 of Kalamazoo’s “Peppermint King,” Albert Todd. He traveled throughout the United States and
Europe purchasing works of art, rare books and antiquities.

The students have been dating the artifacts and piecing together the evidence to determine their places of origins. The likely candidates are such fabled cities as Babylon and Ur in the nations that once existed in what is now central and southern Iraq.

There is a link to Hammurabi, the Babylonian king noted for his codification of family law, criminal law, and economic provisions during his 40-year reign from 1790 to 1750 B.C.E. And also to Nebuchadnezzar, one of Babylonia’s most heralded rulers from 630 to 561 B.C.E.

Some of the cones contain royal inscriptions. They were used to decorate temples dedicated to deities, or to etch in stone, so to speak, a worldly deed by a ruler. One tells of Hammurabi’s fortifications of a wall in the Babylonian city of Sippar. Five bricks, specially placed in royal palaces, refer to several of Nebuchadnezzar’s military commanders.

Business logs can be traced to 2100 B.C.E. and periods of economic prosperity in Ur. There are receipts of goods delivered to temples and palaces, and records of the number of bales of goods produced by one party and sold to another. These records were crafted by a stylus making marks on the clay pieces when they were wet and pliable. The wedge-shaped marks are called “cuneiform,” giving the tablets their name.

Norman Yoffee, the professor of Near Eastern studies at the University of Michigan who arranged for the translation project, has also been following the story about archaeological predators.

“There have been many conflicting reports about the looting at the Iraq Museum,” he said. “Much of the spectacular art materials, sculpture, jewelry, and the like were preserved in a variety of ways. Some were taken to bank vaults for safekeeping. One of the most famous pieces of all, a sculptured head of a goddess from the time of the first cities in Mesopotamia, was returned to the museum whose vaults were not violated.”

He reported that the situation is different in the Iraqi countryside. “Some well-known sites are being robbed by organized gangs, probably from local villages where money and other resources are scarce. Since the embargo on products to Iraq, the economy has been so dire that the amount of site-robbing in the countryside increased to unprecedented levels. So, although the situation with regard to antiquities seems to be not as catastrophic as we had thought, it is certainly not good.

“It is important,” Yoffee said, “that collections of tablets and artifacts that have found their way to museums, as they did in the Kalamazoo case, be studied. It’s not known how much of the history of Mesopotamia has been lost recently and in the last years. We need to work with all the resources we have.”

Iraq’s heritage is the world’s heritage. Every person has a stake in Iraq’s success in protecting and preserving its ancient treasures, whether they are in the National Museum or in still-to-be excavated archaeological sites. The restoration of order and security will insure that future generations will have access to a wealth of knowledge about the origins of civilization.
Growing up in Niles, Laura Eiler enjoyed trips to the “Big City” of Kalamazoo for two reasons. First, it was the birthplace of her parents, Joseph and Evelyn Szakas. Secondly, she relished visits to the Kalamazoo Public Library and the enchanting museum upstairs with its mysterious mummy and horizon-expanding planetarium shows.

More than 30 years later, with the mummy ensconced in a new home, Eiler now regularly visits the Kalamazoo Valley Museum with her own two pre-schoolers and “gives something back” as a member of its community advisory committee.

“Those growing-up memories are still vivid,” said the 15-year Pfizer Co. training professional who became involved with the advisory committee at the suggestion of Derl Oberlin, a Pfizer colleague who has been a museum adviser for seven years. “It was a nice fit. We take the kids there because it’s a terrific place. I never had much chance for volunteer work so this was perfect for me.”

Eiler has been close to Southwest Michigan history, too. Her father taught the subject at Niles High School where she graduated in 1978. She’s well-schooled in her hometown’s heritage as the “City of Four Flags” under the banners of Spain, Great Britain, France and the United States.

Her parents were born in Kalamazoo. Her maternal grandparents were Dutch while her father’s parents emigrated from Hungary. “Only in America can you have a Dutch-Hungarian ancestry,” she said.

After majoring in chemistry at Kalamazoo College (Class of 1982), Eiler sampled life in her chosen profession at Wayne State University. “I found the work interesting, but really didn’t enjoy the practical aspects of chemistry.”

Being a chemistry major at a liberal-arts college came in handy when she was attracted to a unique University of Michigan program that offered a master’s in business administration for those who did not pursue that discipline in their undergrad days. “All the math, economics and other liberal-arts courses I took helped in earning my MBA.”

Next stop was a training job in Detroit with a consulting group. Within five years, she was looking fondly on a return to this side of the state.

“I had always enjoyed Kalamazoo and wanted to be closer to my family,” she said. “To me, it is a nice size for a town. There is so much to do and offers so many opportunities. If you can’t find anything to do in Kalamazoo, you are not looking hard enough. Besides, Chicago and Detroit are both down the road.”

She made “a cold call” to The Upjohn Co. and learned the power of serendipity. The company just happened to be looking for somebody like Eiler—a training professional with a background in chemistry. By 1988, she was “home.”

When she’s not on the job or pursuing her enjoyment of gardening and cooking, she and her husband, Mark, who works at SalesPage Technologies Inc. in downtown Kalamazoo, have their hands full with two sons, Sam and Ben. The youngsters are nearing their fifth and second birthdays, respectively.

“I’ve been fairly familiar with what the museum offers young children at the Children’s Landscape,” Eiler said, “but serving on the committee has opened my eyes to its vast array of programming for people of all ages. I do know there is an effort to broaden what we offer to adults. I think that is what (Curator of Research) Tom Dietz’s ‘Sunday Series’ is all about.”

“Serving on the committee has opened my eyes to [the KVM’s] vast array of programming for people of all ages.”
Mark Crawford is proof that music is mathematical. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum volunteer didn’t know it at the time but his pursuit of Kurt Cobain and other up-and-coming punk rockers as a student at East Detroit High School in the early 1990s served as something of a training grounds for his current status—a math instructor at Western Michigan University, his alma mater.

Crawford is not quite certain why he ended up as a math major other than the fact it was the only subject he “was decent at in high school.” Crawford’s father has dedicated his working career to industrial security while his mother transformed from the insurance sector to be a headhunter for corporations.

The closest tie to the world of calculus, algebra, fractions and decimals is an uncle who has master’s degrees both in electrical engineering and business, and is now thinking of law school.

Crawford doesn’t think a doctorate is on his horizon, even though he has chalked up on his resume an advanced degree in his specialty. That he’s a math instructor at a university level ranks as an academic miracle.

“My grades in high school were not exactly the best,” Crawford said, “probably because my friends and I spent way too much time collecting used CDs, and making the alternative-music scene. We liked the stuff you couldn’t hear on mainstream radio. I never focused on studies. Nothing seem to grab my attention.”

After gaining some academic stability at Macomb Community College, Crawford enrolled at Michigan State University in 1993 where he “fell into old habits.” Crawford decided to take a new educational lease on life and came to Kalamazoo. He buckled down on what he “was decent in,” earning his first degree in 1999. Heeding the advice of instructors, he advanced right into grad school, adding that accomplishment to his resume in 2001.

“Now I really had to look for a job,” he said. What happened is that the job came looking for him. While working at a Galesburg warehouse owned by the parents of a friend, Crawford received a telephone call from the WMU Department of Mathematics. He was encouraged to apply for a vacant one-year, renewable appointment to teach.

Since then, he’s taught folks not too much younger than he the finer points of calculus, finite math, and algebra. He’s also taught himself that Kalamazoo is not too shabby a place to call home.

Sitting in his apartment, he picked up a copy of *Museography* and read where the museum was in search of volunteers. “Why not?” the bachelor thought.

“It’s really been great fun and a terrific learning experience for me,” he said. Crawford often plays something of an overseer’s role during hands-on activities, helping youngsters to perform the tasks and ease frustrations.

“When 700 to 800 kids come through the doors for Wednesday-afternoon activities,” he said, “that’s a real rush. They seem to be crawling over each other to get to the activities tables.”

Crawford also enjoys the one-on-one encounters in the Science in Motion gallery, especially when he challenges a youngster to use the principles of science in designing a car that will beat his model around the track.

“It’s fun,” he said. “And it’s certainly not work.”
Once the autumnal sounds of Friday-night and Saturday-afternoon football fall silent, a different kind of musical rhythm will echo through the halls of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. The next nationally touring attraction will be “Latin Jazz,” a bilingual product of the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. The story of this legendary blending of Afro-Cuban music and American jazz that evolved in New Orleans and New York City has a 2004 booking at the downtown museum from Feb. 14 through May 31.

“Latin Jazz” is the last of five Smithsonian exhibitions created to celebrate the heritage of this genre of music. The other four are: “Beyond Category: The Musical Genius of Duke Ellington,” “Louis Armstrong: A Cultural Legacy,” “Jazz Age in Paris, 1914–40,” and “Seeing Jazz.” The series was supported by a grant from the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund.

The Kalamazoo-bound exhibition will include seven free-standing artifact cases featuring musical instruments and paper documents, text panels in both English and Spanish, fabric murals, vintage photographs, small percussion instruments for visitors to try in a hands-on music studio, and audio-visual units that showcase the talents of artists who created and spread this unique expression of rhythms.

The next edition of Museography will contain greater details about the Smithsonian exhibition, whose subtitle is La Combinación Perfecta—“The Perfect Combination.”

Latin Jazz: La Combinación Perfecta has been organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and America’s Jazz Heritage, A Partnership of the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund and the Smithsonian Institution. Additional support has been provided by BET Jazz.
SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

FOOTBALL: THE EXHIBIT through Jan. 18, 2004
Explore the science and fun behind the game of football in this action-packed hands-on exhibit. The companion exhibit, Football in Southwest Michigan, traces the history of football activity in our local region with photographs and artifacts. FREE
Football: The Exhibit is a traveling exhibit organized by the Arkansas Museum of Discovery. Football in Southwest Michigan is organized by the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

COMING IN 2004:

LATIN JAZZ
Feb. 14 through May 31, 2004
This bilingual exhibition tells the story of the evolution of Latin jazz from its cultural context to musicians and their instruments. The exhibition features maps, audio-visual stations, vintage film footage, oral history interviews, documents, photographs, musical scores, several instruments, and a hands-on room. FREE
Latin Jazz: La Combinación Perfecta has been organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and America’s Jazz Heritage, A Partnership of the Lila Wallace-Reader’s Digest Fund and the Smithsonian Institution. Additional support has been provided by BET Jazz.

FEATURED PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Join us for a series of Saturday family programs, the Sunday Series, and your annual favorites. Visitors can drop in anytime during the hours indicated for hands-on programs. All programs are free. A star (★) indicates programs of special interest to adults. (B) indicates programs of interest to Brownie scouts. Scouts, call for a complete list of our programs designed just for you.

FAN-TASTIC FOOTBALL KICKOFF
September 20; 1 – 4 p.m.
Kick off the football season with a party featuring our interactive football exhibit and free hands-on activities. WMU’s Bronco cheerleaders and mascot Buster Bronco, and members of the Southwest Michigan Jaguars will be on hand as well as the Portage Cheer America team, the Liberty Belles Baton Corps and the Loy Norrix High School Marching Band. A drawing for great prizes and treats make this a FAN-tastic afternoon!

JAM SESSION ★
Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7, Jan. 4; 2 - 5 p.m.
Listen to K’zoo Folklife Organization music on the first Sunday of every month.

THE JEWS IN MICHIGAN ★
Sunday, September 21; 2 p.m.
Judith Levin Cantor discusses the story of Michigan’s Jewish community with an emphasis on southwest Michigan.

WORLD SPACE WEEK
Saturday, October 4; 2 p.m.
Celebrate World Space Week (October 4–10) with Kathy Godin, Solar System Ambassador, and take a tour of space exploration put together by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

SAFE HALLOWEEN: A HALLOWEEN HARVEST ★
Saturday, October 25; 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Discover the roots of Halloween from traditional harvest ceremonies and spiritual beliefs, to dress-up parties through arts and crafts activities. Get spooked with free showings of Nightwalk in the planetarium (recommended for ages 6 and up.)

HALLOWEEN PARTY FOR TEEN ARTISTS
Saturday, October 25; 7 – 9 p.m.
This special art program just for teens explores a variety of art forms with a Halloween theme! Meet and work with local artists!

MICHIGAN’S PIGSKIN GLADIATORS: The Beginnings of High School Football ★
Sunday, October 5; 2 p.m.
Join John Armstrong, author of The Way We Played the Game, for a look at early high school football in Michigan.

GET INTO THE HABIT ★
Saturday, October 11; 1 – 4 p.m.
Get into healthy habits such as washing your hands, brushing your teeth, exercising, and eating right. Enjoy lots of fun art activities and learn about how to be strong and fit.
CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER: 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
Saturday, October 18; 1 – 4 p.m.
Join us in celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Kalamazoo Challenger Learning Center. Fun activities include a workshop presented by Dr. Jeff, the dynamic astrophysicist from the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, and a chance to meet astronaut Jack Lousma.

RAMPTOWN ★
Sunday, November 2; 2 p.m.
Amanda Campbell of WMU and Donna Odom, Museum Educator, will discuss a recent archaeological study of Ramptown, a pre-Civil War African American Community in Cass County near Vandalia.

CHEMISTRY DAY
Saturday, November 8; 12 – 4 p.m.
The 17th annual Chemistry Day starts right after the Holiday Parade. Chemists from the community will demonstrate yearly favorites in addition to activities related to this year’s space exploration theme.

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF BAZEL HARRISON ★
Sunday, November 16; 2 p.m.
Curator Tom Dietz traces the story of Kalamazoo County’s first white settler, Bazel Harrison, on the 175th anniversary of his family’s arrival in Prairie Ronde.

THANKSGIVING SMORGASBORD
Friday & Saturday, Nov. 28 & 29; 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Fly a mission, watch a planetarium show, see science and history demonstrations, and enjoy the exhibits.

WHERE THE STREETS GOT THEIR NAMES ★
Sunday, December 7; 2 p.m.
Street names reveal much about the early history of our community. Curator Tom Dietz discusses the origin of street names in Kalamazoo County.

WINTER HOLIDAY HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS
Join us for a full palette of holiday programs!

SHADES OF BLACK AND WHITE B
Monday, Dec. 29; 1 – 4 p.m.
Explore shadows, cutouts, and silhouettes as we learn more about black and white.

COLORS OF THE RAINBOW B
Tuesday, Dec. 30; 1 – 4 p.m.
Mix, experiment, and create using all the colors of the rainbow.

NEW YEAR’S FEST—BEST FRIENDS B
Wednesday, Dec. 31; 5 – 8 p.m.
Celebrate friendship by making gifts for your friends and family. Experience the digital amusement park in the planetarium (these evening shows are free.)

WHAT’S THAT SHAPE? B
Thursday, Jan. 1; 1 – 4 p.m.
What can you do with shapes and numbers? Come see!

ART IN 3-D B
Friday, Jan. 2; 1 – 4 p.m.
Puppets, dolls, toys, and sculptures are all part of this three-dimensional program.

SPECIAL FEATURES
Holiday Mini-Missions $3/person
Dec. 29, 30, 31 & Jan. 1, 2; 2 & 3 p.m.
Holiday Planetarium Shows
Dec. 29, 30, 31 & Jan. 1, 2; $3/person
In My Backyard—1 p.m.
Season of Light—4 p.m.
Demonstrations
Dec. 29, 30, 31 & Jan. 1, 2
1:30 & 2:30 p.m. Free

MYSTERY OF THE MISSING MOON
Sat. & Sun. • 1:30 p.m. • September 6 – November 9
Ms. Finch’s class begins their study of the moon’s changing phases with a story from a faraway land. On the night of the full moon it is nowhere to be seen. Find out why before the November 8 total lunar eclipse.

MARSQUEST
Wed., Sat. & Sun. • 4 p.m. • September 6 – November 9
This fall the planet Mars appears as a brilliant reddish-orange star in the night sky. MarsQuest reviews the history of Martian exploration up through the recent Mars Global Surveyor mission, and looks ahead to future exploration of the red planet.

SEASON OF LIGHT
Wed. 4 p.m.; Sat. & Sun. • 1:30 & 4 p.m. • November 12 – January 4
Seasonal celebrations light up the long, dark nights of winter. Trace the origins of holiday symbols including menorahs, Yule logs, luminaries, Christmas trees, and even Santa himself. Travel back in time to see one possible explanation of the Star of Bethlehem.

Experience a journey into space with state-of-the-art technology providing spectacular sights and sounds to guide your imagination to locations and events throughout our amazing universe. All programs $3/person.

THE UNIVERSE THEATRE & PLANETARIUM

HANDICAP-ACCESS
The museum is handicapped accessible. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled for programs with a minimum of two weeks notice. Assisted listening devices are also available in the planetarium. Our TDD number is 269/373-7982.

AUDIO TOURS
Learn more at your next KVM visit! Audio tours are now available at the museum’s front desk. Tour cost is $3 each.
Challenger Learning Center (CLC) is an innovative educational facility complete with a Space Station and Mission Control. Mini-missions are hands-on, fun learning experiences. Age restrictions are imposed for safety reasons, as well as for the enjoyment of the program by all participants.

**VOYAGE TO MARS: MINI-MISSION**
Sat. & Sun. at 3 p.m.
Live out your space-age fantasies with this exciting space adventure. You will be on the first Mars-Earth Transport Vehicle preparing to land on Mars. Your mission, should you accept it, is to help create a control base at Chryse Station, located at the site of the first Viking landing. Tickets available on a first-come, first-serve basis on the day of the mini-mission. **Ages 6 & up, $3/person. Each child ages 6 to 11 must be accompanied by a partner 12 years or older.**

**SPECIAL GROUP MISSIONS**
Attention scouts, clubs, and businesses! Experience first-hand the value of working as a team and using effective communication in these exciting simulated space missions. **Call 269/373-7965 for details and reservations.**

**FULL GROUP MISSIONS**
Full missions are great for business training, or just plain fun! Experience first-hand the value of working as a team and using effective communication. This program includes one hour of pre-flight activities and orientation and an exciting two-hour simulated space mission. Successful crews will receive a certificate and mission memorabilia. **Ages 12 & up; 15 to 34 participants. Registration is required at least two weeks prior to mission date; $25/person.**

**JUNIOR MISSIONS**
This is a specially designed 90-minute mission for children and adults. Pre-flight hands-on activities prepare the junior astronauts for their exciting flight in the Challenger Learning Center’s spacecraft simulator. Successful crews will receive certificates and mission memorabilia. **Ages 8 & up; 8–14 participants. Registration is required at least two weeks prior to mission date; $10/person.**

**CHILDREN’S LANDSCAPE**

Children’s Landscape is designed to introduce preschoolers and their parents to an interactive museum setting. Hands-on activities, exhibits, and programs are designed for children five and under. Children older than five may participate only if accompanying a preschool buddy, with the expectation that their play be appropriate to preschool surroundings. **Free**

- **Monday through Friday** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- **Saturday** 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Sunday** 1 to 5 p.m.
- Open until 5 p.m. during Holiday Breaks

**CIRCLE-TIME PROGRAMS**
Circle time programs are offered free of charge to families and preschool groups. Different stories, musical activities, games, and art projects will be offered each week. Programs are approximately twenty minutes long and begin at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. **Free**

- **MONDAY:** Preschool Math (ages 3–5)
- **TUESDAY:** Preschool Science (ages 3–5)
- **WEDNESDAY:** Preschool Stories (ages 3–5)
- **THURSDAY:** Preschool Music (ages 3–5)
- **FRIDAY:** Preschool Art (ages 3–5)

**SEPTEMBER**
In My Backyard
It’s time to explore your backyard. Learn about animals, seasons, and stars.

**OCTOBER / NOVEMBER**
Native Americans
Learn about the Anishnabe, Michigan’s first people. Decorate with Potawatomi floral designs, make a dream catcher, and learn about wigwams and how to identify animal tracks.

**DECEMBER / JANUARY**
The Four Seasons
Discover the four seasons by watching trees change, and learn about temperature, clouds, and wind.
brings. I think that “The Wheel of History” does achieve what public art is supposed to do: generate reflection in a special environment.

The idea of a work of downtown public art represented Kalamazoo College’s contribution to the Arcadia Commons project, the public-private partnership that renewed the historic heart of the city—the three blocks bordering Arcadia Creek and Rose Street. Blessed with a special endowment for sculptural works, Kalamazoo College had decided to present a work to the city of Kalamazoo.

The project was administered through the Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission, a group of civic-minded artists and teachers who put out a call for entries, brought finalists to Kalamazoo to present their concepts, and, with public input, selected California artist Mark Lere. Lere is an environmental sculptor of national reputation whose works are in the collections of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles, Newport Harbor Art Museum, and the Indianapolis Museum of Art among others. He has been recognized with National Endowment of the Arts Visual Artist Grants. He is a veteran of several public-art projects in Seattle, Sacramento, Irvine, Los Angeles, Taiwan, and San Francisco.

The need for infrastructure repairs delayed the Kalamazoo installation. In the early 1990s, the downtown’s utility infrastructure was catching up with the computer age. The Kalamazoo Mall, including the section upon which Lere’s sculptures were to be situated, had to undergo excavation so that new utility and data lines could be mapped and buried. Re-opening the mall between Michigan Avenue and Lovell Street took precedence over the section next to the museum.

Not until the spring of 2002 was the infrastructure work finished. By summer, city crews had re-landscaped the area, and sections of “The Wheel of History” could finally begin to arrive.

Lere’s installation consists of four sculptural elements in a landscaped, block-long rectangle of grass, benches, and small trees. The whole area is intended to be walked through, sat in, stepped on, and experienced directly from a variety of perspectives. The wheel itself is the dominant feature. Standing on edge 15 feet or more in the air, it is frozen in its rolling passage through time. The path it stands upon is the symbol for infinity. As the wheel has rolled along, it has left footprints along the path of infinity. Different symbols extrude from the rolling edge to imprint themselves along the track.

The implication is hopeful. The symbol for infinity suggests that humanity may survive to keep on imprinting time with human achievements. Each symbol on the wheel and along its path stands for a particular type of event: a famous person, a moment in politics, and so on. These symbols are translated into key events in local history on the computer timeline inside the museum.

In the middle of the area, Lere has created a three-compartment bench, a conscious symbol for society. The three seats deliberately recall Henry David Thoreau’s remark in Walden: “I had three chairs in my house: one for solitude, two for friendship, three for society.” Here one can sit alone to contemplate the park and the cityscape that surrounds it, visit with a friend, or even create a small society.

The Kalamazoo County Public Art Commission had asked entrants in its Arcadia Creek Sculpture Competition to propose a “site-specific, architecturally scaled, interactive work.” Lere’s “Wheel of History” meets that set of specifications. I hope you can find time to visit this patch of philosophical ground in the heart of the downtown, next door to Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

“Ask the KVM!”

Have a question about a person, object, or artifact that relates to the history of the southwest Michigan area? Send your question to Tom Dietz, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s curator of research (269/373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu) and you may see it answered in a future issue of Museography.
Eyes on the Prize: Prange Optometry Chair

It's big… it's heavy… and it took four men to move it… but it's worth it!

This Bausch & Lomb ophthalmic chair and instrument stand had been used at the H. T. Prange & Sons optometry practice since 1940.

Earlier this year, Prange Family Eye Care (as the practice is now known) moved to a new location on Peeler Street. The new facility did not have room for the chair, so Dr. Harold T. Prange donated it to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

In the century since Henry T. Prange opened a practice as “Graduate Optician and Optometrist” at 149 S. Burdick St. in 1899, three generations of Pranges have followed in his footsteps. His three sons, Horace, Henry H., and Harold C., joined his practice in the 1920s and 1930s.

They moved to the Prange Building on the northwest corner of Rose and Lovell streets where each brother had a room equipped with its own ophthalmic chair. The chairs were identical so the brothers could use the same equipment regardless of the room in which they worked.

As time passed, only Harold’s chair remained at the practice. He used it until his retirement in 1993. The chair was also “retired,” and used only for pre-testing patients. Today it is an historical artifact that documents the longest running optometry practice in Kalamazoo.

Paula Metzner
Assistant Director, Collection Services

What are we looking for?
The kinds of things museums look for might surprise you. It isn’t always a great work of art or a piece of fancy furniture… more often it’s the stuff of everyday life. Today the Kalamazoo Valley Museum is collecting for the 20th century. If it was used between 1900 and 1999, and can help tell the story of southwest Michigan, it may be just what we’re looking for. If you have something you think belongs in a museum, please contact Tom Dietz, curator of research, at 269/373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu.

Our Wish List includes: Kalamazoo City Directories (before 1977) • Souvenir celery spoon from Kalamazoo • Toys & games (especially from the 1950s and 1960s) • World War II home front memorabilia (such as items representing women going to work; Victory gardens; war bonds; Red Cross Canteens)
Southwest Michigan’s Jewish community, the origins of high school football in the state, and a pre-Civil War African-American community in Cass County are the opening topics when the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s “Sunday Series” returns in the fall.

Judith Levin Cantor, author of *Jews of Michigan*, will discuss on Sept. 21 the statewide history of Jewish people with an emphasis on Southwest Michigan. Her book is part of the “Discovering the Peoples of Michigan” series.

On Oct. 5, “Michigan’s Pigskin Gladiators: The Beginnings of High School Football” will be the topic of John Armstrong, author of *The Way We Played the Game*. In 1899, Michigan became the first to organize a state football championship. Armstrong examines those first champions and the reasons why the championship competition ended in 1905.

“Ramp-town: A Pre-Civil War African American Community in Cass County” comes alive on Nov. 2 through the eyes of Amanda Campbell of Western Michigan University and Donna Odom, flight director of the museum’s Challenger Learning Center for Space Science Education. They will discuss the archaeological excavations at Ramp-town near Vandalia in Cass County.

Tom Dietz, the museum’s curator of research, probes “The Life and Times of Bazel Harrison” on Nov. 16 as part of the 175th anniversary of his family’s settlement in Southwest Michigan. The Harrisons were the first permanent white settlers in Kalamazoo County. They established a home near present day Schoolcraft in November 1828.

Returning for a second “Sunday Series” billing will be “Where the Streets Got Their Names” on Dec. 7. Dietz examines the origins of street names in Kalamazoo County and what they disclose about the early history of the community.

Dietz’s next presentation in the series is “The Economic History of Kalamazoo” set for Jan. 18. It will be a sequel and an updated version of his previous program on the 19th century economic history of Kalamazoo. Dietz will discuss the business leaders, industries, and companies that led the city’s transition from a frontier outpost to a manufacturing center.

With one exception, all of the programs will be presented in the museum’s Interactive Learning Hall. The Ramp-town presentation will be held in Room 128 of the Arcadia Commons Campus. All begin at 2 p.m. and are free.
Holiday Hands-on Happenings

Join us for a full palette of holiday programs! See colorful planetarium shows, travel to Mars (the Red Planet) in the Challenger Learning Center, and participate in a rainbow of demonstrations and arts and crafts that everyone will enjoy. Plus: don’t miss this year’s family activities during New Year’s Fest.

Shades of Black and White
Monday, Dec. 29; 1 – 4 p.m. Explore shadows, cutouts, and silhouettes as we learn more about black and white.

Colors of the Rainbow
Tuesday, Dec. 30; 1 – 4 p.m. Mix, experiment, and create using all the colors of the rainbow.

New Year’s Fest—Best Friends
Wednesday, Dec. 31; 5 – 8 p.m. Celebrate friendship by making gifts for your friends and family. Experience the digital amusement park in the planetarium. The evening shows are free.

What’s That Shape?
Thursday, Jan. 1; 1 – 4 p.m. What can you do with shapes and numbers? Come see!

Art in 3-D
Friday, Jan. 2; 1 – 4 p.m. Puppets, dolls, toys, and sculptures are all part of this three-dimensional program.

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