

# Ionia County Historical Society CHRONICLE

The *Almost* Monthly Publication of the Ionia County Historical Society — October 2008



## ANNUAL MEETING HELD New Directors & Officers Elected

### October 2008 Meeting Minutes

The October 1, 2008, meeting of the ICHS was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Blanchard House by President Linda Ciangi. She welcomed guests, including Marilyn Nash (whose efforts in decorating Main Street's store windows for special events were much applauded). Being the final meeting of the current year, the president expressed her thanks to all committee people, volunteers, and contributors. She specifically noted the contributions of the board members, and those of Joan McCord for many special events, activities, and specifically the Ionia Theatre Travelogues program.

Bob Nixon moved to accept the Secretary's Report as published in the Chronicle, which was supported by Mike Gallagher and carried. Hank Knoop then delivered the Treasurer's report, noting a \$200 donation from the Bartelt family (to fund something for visiting children) and another successful month. This report is available on request, and it was moved by Brian Quinn, supported by Dave Cook, to accept the report. The motion carried.

Mr. Knoop having the floor, he reported on the success of the recent Duck Race at the Fall Festival. 333 Ducks were sold, and the event was a great success. Dave Cook noted that over 1400 attended the event this year, and it was suggested that an air horn be used to signal the beginning of the

race next year. Hank thanked the volunteers, and noted that the free apples were a hit, and bottles of water sold well.

Hank also reported on the recent visit of the local Paranormal Investigators. Four groups toured the house on September 26 and plan to report their findings to us soon. They held a business meeting before the investigation, and hope to do the same again in the future.

The Thursday evening workshop sessions continue, and are being very productive. Decoration has begun for the holiday season, many, many photographs are being sorted through, and the preservation of cloth goods is proceeding well.

Upcoming events include...

Holiday Photos at the Blanchard House are set for Oct. 3, 4, 5 and 6. Doni K. reports that three have signed up so far.

A classic car club will be visiting the B-House on the afternoon of Oct. 4 for a tour – Joan McCord is showing them through.

October 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 pm will be the "Upstairs Downtown" tour in conjunction with the Chamber's "Rediscover Downtown" event. Chairman Joan McCord reports that "all's well" but more volunteers are welcomed. There are eight sites on the tour now, and response has been good.

The Antique Appraisal Roadshow will be coming to the Commission on Aging again, November 1 from 1 to 5 p.m. Once again we welcome Glen Rairigh of Americana Auctions, and items

will be verbally appraised for \$5 each – whatever can be easily carried into the site.

October 23 will be the Chili Challenge for Big Brothers-Big Sisters again. Kitty's Café has once again offered to sponsor the ICHS stand. If you would like to volunteer to serve dogs on Main Street, call Barb Ehlert or Linda Ciangi. And wear a Halloween costume!

The Blanchard House will be open for tours on December 7 and 14 from 1 to 4 p.m. to show off our Christmas Decorations. If you'd like to be a host, please contact Linda C.

Other business:

Thank you to Gallaghers for painting the back porch, to Brian Quinn and Gerry Perry for assisting roofer Bob Miller in cleaning out the eaves and downspouts, to Joan McCord for floral displays throughout the house, and to Kathleen Perrin for her appraisal of the landscaping and grounds with an eye to future enhancements.

Larry McKaig (our neighbor to the east) has requested the removal of the lilac next to the property line (he is allergic). ICHS members acknowledged this request and will take action.

President Ciangi has been asked to represent the ICHS as a server at the Humane Society spaghetti dinner on Oct 14. Members are invited – tickets are \$7 in advance and \$8 at the door.

November 8 will be a Holiday Arts & Crafts show at the Eclectic Gallery on Main Street.

November 22 at the Ionia Theatre will be a "Raise The Roof" fund raiser concert for repairs on the Theatre roof. "Three Husbands on the Loose" and "The Sea Cruisers" will be performing live on stage.

### A NOTE from the Editor:

As usual for the October Chronicle, this issue is heavy with Meeting Minutes. But be sure to check the calendar for the many seasonal events coming up - and other items of historical interest. — D.M.

There are plans to have another spring Yard Sale for the ICHS, so continue to collect contributions to this event.

Joan Nixon passed around a sign-up sheet for monthly refreshments for next year. She reminds all that this is not a competition – any refreshments will do! If you are interested, please contact her to see what months in 2009 are still available.

Dave Cook reminds us that two churches in town will be celebrating 175 years next year, and one will be 150. Plans are in the works for celebrations – stand by for details.

Our next meeting will be November 5 at the Blanchard House, and our program will be presented by the new Librarian, Deb Dudek. This promises to be a lively presentation.

The December meeting will be our usual Holiday Potluck, then in January we will meet at the Parrish House of St. John's Episcopal Church, in February at the Ionia Court House.

The meeting was adjourned at approx 8:00 to convene the Annual Meeting (see minutes elsewhere in this issue).

### 2008 ANNUAL Meeting Minutes

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the ICHS was brought to order by President Linda Ciangi at approx. 8:00 on Wednesday, Oct. 1 at the Blanchard House.

The motion was made by Bob

*More on page two...*

The Chronicle is the official publication of the Ionia County Historical Society. It is written, edited, and published by David McCord, Secretary. Any comments, suggestions, corrections (of course), or contributions should be directed to the editor c/o the ICHS at P.O. Box 1776, Ionia, MI, 48846 or via [www.ioniahistory.org](http://www.ioniahistory.org).

## APPRAISAL ROADSHOW

NOVEMBER 1, 1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

with **Glen Rairigh**  
of Americana Auctions

at the Ionia Commission on Aging  
115 Hudson Street - Ionia

**\$5.00 per item - Verbal appraisals only**

The Ionia County Historical Society, Commission on Aging, and Americana Auctions will not be held responsible for any loss or breakage at the time of the appraisals. Proceeds to the Ionia County Historical Society.

*Annual Meeting Minutes,  
continued from page one.*

Nixon, supported by Doni Knoop, to forego the Roll Call, Reading of Notice, and Reading of Minutes as called for in the By Laws. Motion carried.

President Ciangi delivered a brief report, recounting the many successes over the past year, and extended thanks to all who contributed to make it happen and make the ICHS a vital organization within the community. The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were acknowledged as previously published. The meeting then proceeded to the election of two new Directors for the Board. Outgoing are Barb Ehlert and Doni Knoop; nominated are Barb Ehlert for a second term, Kathleen Perrin, and Bonnie Klingbeil. Ehlert and Perrin presented brief arguments on their own behalf, Klingbeil was not present. Secretary David McCord handed out ballots to the members assembled for the vote, and collected them for counting. After refreshments, the members gathered again in the parlor where the results were announced: of 26 votes cast, Barb Ehlert received 21, Kathleen Perrin received 23, and Bonnie Klingbeil received 7. Congratulations to our two new Board Members and thanks to Doni Knoop for her term as a Director, and to Bonnie Klingbeil for her willingness to serve. The meeting was adjourned directly thereafter.

## 2008 October 1 Board Meeting

The new ICHS Board of Directors met shortly after the Annual Meeting on October 1, 2008. Present were the Linda Ciangi, Gerry Perry, Barb Ehlert, Kathleen Perrin, Stephanie

VanderMolen, outgoing board member Doni Knoop, Treasurer Hank Knoop, and Secretary David McCord. As the Directors settled in, President Linda C. mentioned an opportunity for the ICHS to engage the talents of a Caricaturist for the 2009 Community Expo. His services would cost \$265, which we could split with the Friends of the Library, and he would provide a "History of Caricature" as well. The date of the event has not yet been set by the Chamber of Commerce. The Board expressed interest in discussing the subject further, but no decision was made.

Also in that vein, President Ciangi noted that she is working on a joint fund raising venture with the Ionia Theatre to bring a Johnny Cash tribute concert to town next summer. More information will be coming and dates determined for consideration.

Election of Officers for the ensuing year were next on the agenda. The incumbent president was unopposed for the new term, and unanimously elected. Vice President Gerry Perry declined to serve another term, and Linda C. nominated Kathleen P. for the position. The nomination was supported by Barb E. and she was elected. (Linda noted that she'd like to expand upon the V.P.'s duties regarding accessions and notifications. This prompted a brief discussion of By Laws and the exact wording therein regarding the duties of the officers. Further discussion will be forthcoming if the Board feels it necessary.) Linda nominated David McCord to continue as Secretary (supported by Barb E.) and Gerry P. nominated Hank Knoop to continue as Treasurer (supported by Linda C.). Both were elected. Linda thanked Gerry for his years of service, and especially as V.P. for the past year.

Gerry was therewith honored "for the record" as "Ambassador at Large" for the ICHS.

Discussion ensued regarding times for Board Meetings. For now, meetings will continue on the 2nd Tuesday at 7:00, place to be announced. The next Board Meeting will be at the Commission on Aging on October 14th.

Stephanie noted an "Apple Dumpling Sale" that the Lowell Historical Society has been very successful with, and would like to look for a similar program for the ICHS.

It was also noted that the estate of Ralph Bartelt has pledged \$200 towards a children's program of some kind at the Blanchard House. This will be discussed further in the future, including a possible "scavenger hunt" style challenge for visiting youth.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

## 2008 October 14 Board Meeting

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Ciangi at 7:01 pm at the Commission on Aging. (The meeting was held there since President Ciangi was asked to be a "Celebrity" Server for the Animal Shelter Fund Raiser.) Also present were: Gerry Perry, Kathleen Perrin, Barb Ehlert, Hank Knoop and Doni Knoop.

Upstairs Downtown recap: Great Success and many thanks to the McCords. \$722 was the net profit and plans are already being considered for next year.

The Chili-Dawg Challenge: October 23 - Kitty's is providing the hot dogs, buns, and fixings.

We need to setup, sell, and provide water to sell. We also need to setup a scarecrow for the competition that occurs that day. Tent setup will start at 1:00 pm (Jerry & Hank). Doni will provide two roasters to keep everything hotter. Workers are need from 3:30 till 7:30.

Christmas Decorations for the Blanchard House need to occur soon since the house is rented on October 25 for a Christmas Party. Doni also volunteered to help Linda as the ICHS representative for that party.

Workers are needed for the Blanchard House on Dec. 7 & 14

when it will be open to the public. Linda has a tentative schedule.

November 18th meeting of the Tri-River group will be at the Blanchard House.

The Board approved the ICHS participation in a Spring Church tour. As proposed we would only have supporting activities at the Blanchard House as each church celebrates their anniversary. The exact activity that we would have has not been finalized. Possibilities include a Tea Room, special entertainment, etc.

The possibility of the Fair using the Blanchard Carriage House to sort pictures was unanimously approved.

The plans for the Nov. 1 Antique Appraisal are well positioned and a fun, profitable, event is set to occur.

Doni Knoop reported that seven photo sessions occurred during the "Photos by Becca" at the Blanchard House on Oct. 3, 4, & 5. This netted \$140. for the ICHS as well as great publicity, posters, photos, and post cards that were provided by Becca (Bales) Usher.

A press conference is planned at the Blanchard House with the Michigan Haunted & Paranormal Investigators (H&PI) to provide the Sentinel with information on their methods. The H&PI investigation of the Blanchard House on September 26, 2008 did NOT communicate with any spirits. However, the five hour event was an enjoyable occurrence for all who participated and it netted \$200. to the ICHS. Note, several other groups have noticed unidentified orbs in their photos during events at the Blanchard House.

The Treasurer issued a reminder that we need to step up work on activating the Heat the Blanchard House Campaign. One little change this year is that anyone can send donations to the ICHS and ear mark them for the Heating Campaign and the Treasurer will make sure that they are deposited in the correct fund.

The dates for the next ICHS Board meetings were set as Nov. 18 and Dec. 16. Both meetings will be held at the Blanchard House and are scheduled to start at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Henry E. Knoop - Treasurer  
(filling in at this meeting as the Secretary)



## The People On The Paper

by David McCord, ©2008

These images in sepia, these memories in gray,  
These torn and broken corners, colors faded all away.  
Cast in light and shadow, they were captured by the lens.  
Faces here of strangers, or families and friends.

Lives all in a shoebox, suspended there in time,  
Waiting in the darkness, silent and sublime.  
Looking out from somewhere, from a time that's come before.  
A trick of the emulsion - an image... nothing more.

You might know a few of them, as long as mem'ries last,  
But some remain a mystery now buried in the past.  
Some formal, some in frozen flight, some happy, sad, or proud,  
In cradles, caps, and wedding gowns, or in their fun'ral shroud.

And in my hands I hold them now, with some un-sought-for drive  
To know them all, and give them names, and keep them all alive.  
Connecting now to yesteryear, connecting theirs to mine,  
And all these fading images become a paper shrine.

The people on the paper have a life now all their own,  
And they hope their fading stories will be told.  
The images will fade away to leave their lives alone  
As the people on the paper all grow old.  
Oh, the power of the camera can be cold.

And in the photo album, or packed deep in some drawer,  
Preserved upon the paper are these lives that came before.  
Someone's lasting legacy pressed flat upon the page,  
Their hopes and dreams and history grown brittle now with age.

The people on the paper have gone on, each to their fate,  
And I hope their legacy is being served.  
I hold them in my hands now as the hour's growing late  
And hope they got the best that they deserved.  
May the people on the paper be preserved.

## Upcoming Programs and Events

**REMEMBER Thursday Evening Workshops at the Blanchard House.**  
If local history is of interest, this is a great way to get involved. Stop in!

Saturday, November 1, 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### APPRAISAL ROADSHOW

at the Commission on Aging building  
with guest Glen Rairigh! (*See advert.*)

Wednesday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting at the Blanchard House  
PROGRAM:

Deb Dubek - the new Ionia Librarian

Tuesday, November 11, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting — location TBA

Saturday, November 22, 7:00 p.m.  
Ionia Theatre "Raise the Roof" Concert  
(fund raiser for Theatre repairs)  
[www.ionia-theatre.com/info.htm](http://www.ionia-theatre.com/info.htm)

Wednesday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting at the Blanchard House  
PROGRAM:

### Holiday Potluck & Christmas Stories!

Sundays, December 7 & 14, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Blanchard House open for Tours

Tuesday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting — location TBA

Wednesday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.  
Regular Meeting at the Parrish House  
behind St. John's Episcopal Church  
PROGRAM:

Deb Dubek - the new Ionia Librarian

Tuesday, January 13, 7:00 p.m.  
Board Meeting — Location TBA

*For other upcoming events - visit the ICHS  
website at [ioniahistory.org](http://ioniahistory.org).*

*The Historical Society bids a fond thank you and farewell to out-going DDA Director Sara Jezewski. She supported ICHS events and activities and graciously shared with us her study of local architectural landmarks.*



Here's the latest issue of the...

# Ionia County Historical Society CHRONICLE

Ionia County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 1776  
Ionia, MI 48846

www.ioniahistory.org



## JOIN TODAY!

If you'd like to help us preserve the area's heritage, please fill in the form below and send it, with check or money order, to the ICHS Treasurer, care of Box 1776, Ionia, MI 48846.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Please Check Your Membership Type:

- Regular = \$20
- Sustaining = \$35
- Business Buddy = \$40
- Corporate = \$250
- Life = \$1000
- Free to Students under 18
- Gift = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please Share a Little Information:

- Renewing Member
- New Member

If you're a new member, how did you hear about us?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Thanks!

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Other souvenirs are available from the Ionia County Historical Society as well! Please inquire on your next visit.