



The Herstory Chronicles

Newsletter of the Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan

September 2013

Fall Legends celebrated

The History Center named Frank Stulen and John Parsons, and Leo and Carmen Ocanas, and the local Hispanic community as its Fall Legends.

These new Grand Traverse Region Legends will be featured at the History Center through exhibits and presentations.

Legends will explore the story of industrial pioneers Parsons and Stulen, known as founders of the Second Industrial Revolution.

Legends also will celebrate the region's Hispanic population, a group that has played an integral role in the area's economy for decades. Special attention will be paid to the Leo and Carmen Ocanas family. They were the
(See Legends on p. 6)

Annual meeting program is "Feminism: Unfinished Revolution"

In honor of Helen Milliken, a lively discussion on Saturday, October 26

By Karen Anderson



Are you a feminist? Why or why not? For the record, a feminist is someone who believes in the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes. Helen Milliken worked hard to get the Equal Rights Amendment ratified but died in 2012 without seeing this dream fulfilled. In honor of her legacy, we're hosting a forum on feminism at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 26, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

What impact did the Women's Movement have on your life? What do you think remains to be done to achieve equality of the sexes? What gives you hope? Three women from three different generations will offer their perspectives and invite your insights. Our participants will be Kay Boyne, Susan Odgers, and Betsy Coffia.

In the summer of 2012, the WHP Book Group discussed Gail Collins' remarkable book, *When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present*. If you've not read it, we recommend it. This fall, the Book Group is tackling *Lean In*, the bestselling book by Facebook CEO Sheryl Sandberg who urges women to pursue their careers without ambivalence.

Please join us at the Annual Meeting on October 26 for a stimulating conversation and delicious luncheon as well as our business meeting and election of the board. Reservation information is included in this newsletter.

No book has yet been written in praise of a woman who let her husband and children starve or suffer while she invented even the most useful things, or wrote books, or expressed herself in art, or evolved philosophic systems.

—Anna Garlin Spencer,

Woman's Share in Social Culture, 1912

What's Inside

President's Corner	2
Slate of Officers	2
WHP Book Group	3
If you lived to be 100...	4
Calendar	4
Annual Meeting reservation & Membership Renewal form	5

President's Corner—

Looking back, moving forward

by Kathi Houston, president

I started writing this column for the *Herstory Chronicles* three years ago, when I became president of this unique organization. Since then, I have met and come to know many outstanding women from the five counties in our area.



Honoring their presence by continuing the work of the Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan was my original and is my continuing intent.

Looking forward, new board members and members-at-large elected at the annual meeting will have a chance to work with our development of oral histories and the History Center's Legends' honorees. They also can create future programs that will encourage the public to learn about the women who have helped shape the development and progress of our area.

Save the date now to attend our annual meeting on October 26 at the History Center, where we will elect new officers and members of the board as well as take an in-depth look at feminism and what it means to us.

We look forward to an active year, adding more oral histories of the women of our area, book discussions, and expansion of our program.

Your active involvement is welcome—*there is a place on the stage if not in the spotlight!*

Slate of Officers announced

By Etta Rajkovich, nominating committee chair

The Nominating Committee—Etta Rajkovich (chair), Carolyn Micklatcher and Adrienne Rossi—announced the slate of officers as follows:

- President: Amy Barritt
- Vice President: TBD
- Secretary: Martha Vreeland
- Treasurer: Etta Rajkovich
- Director: Kathi Houston
- Director: Karen Anderson
- Director: Carolyn Micklatcher
- Director: Jane Purkis
- Director: Sandy Seppala
- Director: Maddie Buteyn
- Director: Shauna Quick

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in October.

Board of Directors

- Karen Anderson
- Amy Barritt
- Nancy Bordine
- Dotty French
- Kathi Houston
- Carolyn Micklatcher
- Jane Purkis
- Etta Rajkovich
- Sandra Seppala
- Martha Vreeland
- Jacquie Wilson,
Phi Theta Kappa Liaison
- Sandra Seppala,
Newsletter Editor

**I am no bird; and no net
ensnares me: I am a free
human being with an
independent will.
—Charlotte Brontë**

WHPNM Mission

*To preserve and recognize
the contributions of women
to their families and
communities in northwest
lower Michigan.*

Come, discuss, and Lean In!

By Ann Swaney

The WHP Book Discussion Group will meet at noon at the History Center on Friday, October 25, to discuss *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg.

In response to Sheryl's 2010 TEDTalk on the ways women are held back—and the way we hold ourselves back—viewers around the world shared their own stories of struggle and success. This overwhelming response inspired Sheryl to write this book. In *Lean In*, she shares her personal stories, uses research to shine a light on gender differences, and offers practical advice to help women achieve their goals.

The book challenges us to change the conversation from what women can't do to what we can do, and serves as a rallying



cry for us to work together to create a more equal world. Sandberg graduated from Harvard College *summa cum laude* with an A.B. in economics and was awarded the John H. Williams Prize for the

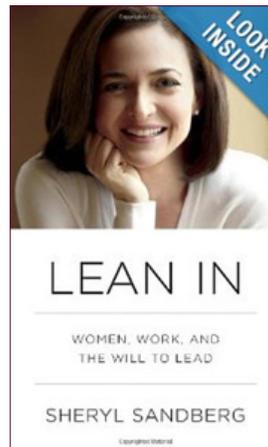
top graduating student in economics.

While at Harvard, Sandberg met then-professor Larry Summers, who became her mentor and thesis adviser. Summers recruited her to be his research assistant at the World Bank, where she worked for a year on health projects in India dealing with leprosy, AIDS, and blindness.

In 1993, she enrolled at Harvard Business School and, in 1995, she earned her M.B.A. with highest distinction.

From 1996 to 2001, Sandberg served as Chief of Staff to then United States Secretary of the Treasury Larry Summers under President Bill Clinton where she helped lead the Treasury's work on forgiving debt in the developing world during the Asian financial crisis.

She joined Google Inc. in 2001 and served as its Vice President of Global Online Sales & Operations from November 2001 to March 2008. Since 2008, Ms. Sandberg has served as Chief Operating Officer at Facebook.



Lean In has been called “A manifesto for working women,” by some reviewers and also received its share of skepticism. Our discussion is likely to include comparisons between working women of today, especially those in management, with women's jobs in

decades past.

Come learn about the more than 7,000 “Lean In” circles that have been developing in over 50 countries in response to this book.

Also at this meeting, we will choose the books for the next three discussions. Have you read or want to read good historical fiction or non-fiction about women? We welcome your input—especially if you think the title will lend itself to a good discussion. Please send suggestions to aswaney@acegroup.cc

The discussion group meets at the History Center on Sixth Street in Traverse City. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Snacks and beverages furnished.

Call 223-7489 for further information.

Send articles and announcements for the newsletter to Sandy, sansep19@earthlink.net, or contact her at 421-3343. Next deadline, December 20. Those accepted are subject to editing for length and content.

Would you do anything different if you knew that you would live to be 100 years old?

Vivian Prindl is 102 years old. She lives simply in a family summer cottage that has not been upgraded to satisfy any digital lifestyle. No cellphone, computer or microwave clutter her life. Her home is littered with books. As an avowed bibliophile, her passion for the written word necessitates a weekly delivery from the local library. In fact, her passion for the written and printed word has led her on many adventures around the world. Her latest tome, *Siberia*, lies on the smallish sofa.



“My great-granddaughter is going to Siberia to teach English and I don’t know much about that place.” But she will and then she will share what she learns.

Mrs. Prindl loves children. She is still teaching in Vermont and California. At summer’s end in northern Michigan, she headed to Vermont to teach grades 1–4. Any state appreciates her volunteer teaching; all states and their students win in this struggling economy. “California loves me because they don’t have to pay me.” Maybe so, but this is a win-win situation for everyone. Children are the recipients of her love and guidance and she continues her life-long pursuit of educating.

Technology has invaded all our lives but Mrs. Prindl is concerned about its effects on children. She is skeptically curious and voices her opinions. But more importantly, she asks pertinent questions of my young tech-savvy companion.

When we arrived we were greeted with a firm handshake... a really firm handshake. At the close of the interview, we were offered neck massages and trivets crocheted by those able hands. I am happy to have something tangible that will remind me of this woman and a life well-lived.

Vivian Prindl’s rules for living well:

- Drink a bottle of beer a day
- Walk to the end of the road and back each day (about a mile)
- Read and be curious
- Care deeply

Jacquie Wilson (interviewer) and Shauna Quick (technical support) set out on a mission to interview “Mrs. Prindl” on Tuesday, September 3. Retired Librarian Ann Swaney first heard of Vivian Prindl through Susan Odgers (NMC/GVSU instructor). Ann suggested that Vivian might be a good candidate for our oral history project.

Calendar

All meetings are held at the History Center unless designated otherwise.

October

14 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM.

25 Book Discussion. Fri., NOON. *Lean In: Women, Work and the Will to Lead* by Sheryl Sandberg

26 Annual Meeting & Lunch. Sat., 11:30 a.m to 2 p.m. \$15. **Feminism: Unfinished Revolution.** Panel: Kay Boyne, Susan Odgers, and Betsy Coffia. Business Meeting & Election of Board. RSVP.

November

11 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM. *History Center board room*

December

20 Deadline for articles for newsletter.

Join WHPNW

Women of Wisdom: \$10

Students: \$10

The Rest of Us: \$15

Business/Organization: \$25

Dues payable to WHPNM; send to address below.

Thank you for your support!

Shauna, a tech-savvy NMC/Ferris student, called Mrs. Prindl the last week of August and secured the interview date. We drove to Suttons Bay and sat down in the family summer cottage to interview this very vibrant 102-year-old woman.



**Women's History Project
of Northwest Michigan
Annual Meeting**

Saturday, October 26, 2013

11:30 AM-2 PM

\$15

Panel

Feminism: Unfinished Revolution

with Kay Boyne, Susan Odgers, and Betsy Coffia

Annual Business Meeting and Election of Board

Luncheon

Catered by Centre Street Cafe

History Center of Traverse City

322 Sixth Street, Traverse City

RSVP (see form below)

**Women's History Project of NW Michigan
Annual Meeting Reservation & Membership Renewal Form**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Number attending: _____ *(please print names of guests on back)*

Meeting reservations (**\$15 each**): \$ _____

Membership dues for 2014: \$ _____

Contribution: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Dues	
Student	\$10
Senior	\$10
Individual	\$15
Business/ Organization	\$25

**Please send your check to WHPNM, 322 Sixth Street, Traverse City, MI 49684
by October 21.**

Space is limited! Call 947-5178 with questions.

Legends continued from p. 1

first area migrant workers to purchase their own orchards.

Legends activities started with an exhibit opening and presentation on September 16. The impact of Parsons and Stulen on this region and on industry world-wide will be examined. Long-time Parsons employee, Richard Lewis, shared stories about the company and its founders, and he presented items from his personal collection of memorabilia.

The Fall Legends will run through Sunday, October 13. It will close with a fiesta-themed celebration of our Hispanic community and the Ocanas family. Speakers will include Gladys Munoz.

Munoz received the Traverse City Human Right's Commission 2013 Sarah Hardy Humanitarian Award for her service to the Hispanic community. For more than twenty-five years she has worked as a medical interpreter and advocate for the area's Spanish-speaking population.

The original "Legends of the Grand Traverse Region: Community Out of Diversity" project debuted in fall 2012 with support from the Michigan Humanities Council.

Legends already has helped preserve the stories of Art Duhamel, Emilia Schaub, Les Biederman, Dr. Augusta Rosenthal-Thompson, the Rev. Marshall Collins, and Dr. Harry Weitz.

Each fall and spring new activities will continue to

highlight the diverse people who helped make the Grand Traverse area what it is today.

While based at the History Center, representatives from several area organizations coordinated Legends. These include the Grand Traverse Area Genealogical Society, the Northwest Lower Michigan Women's History Project, Temple Beth El, the Hispanic Apostolate of the Diocese of Gaylord, the Traverse City Human Rights Commission, Professor Jim Press of Northwestern Michigan College's History Department, Cindy Winslow of the Grand Traverse Tribe's Eyaawing Museum and Cultural Center, and the Traverse City Human Rights Commission.



Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan
322 Sixth Street
Traverse City, MI 49684