



The Herstory Chronicles

Newsletter of the Women's History Project of Northwest Michigan

October 2014

Leading Ladies of Traverse City debut in October

By Peg Siciliano, History Center

The History Center of Traverse City is excited to announce Fall 2014 *Legends of the Grand Traverse Region: Leading Ladies of Traverse City.* It opened on September 18 and there will be an open house on October 2.

Exhibits will reveal the history of three 19th- and 20th-century women's organizations: The Traverse City Woman's Club, the Ladies Library Association, and the Friendly Garden Club.

Well into the twentieth-century, many professional fields were closed to women. Across the country, women of talent and

(See Leading Ladies on p. 2)

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Annual Meeting & Lunch

Saturday, October 18

11:30 AM–2 PM, COST: \$15

*Community Room, Traverse Area District Library
610 Woodmere Ave., Traverse City*

Annual Business Meeting and Election of Board

Program

Why Are We Here? The Dynamics of Faith, Action & Consequences

Speaker: Gladys Muñoz

In an interdependent world, we are like pieces of a big puzzle. Each one of us has a place, and a relationship with one another. "Solidarity" brings meaning and a reason to the question, "Why are we here?"

We will look at some common daily activities and how our everyday decisions generate far-reaching consequences.

Luncheon

Catered by Centre Street Café

Reservations are required by October 14.

Call 947-5178 or send your check with reservation form, found on back page and on the website:

www.whpnm.org.

President's Corner—

Rebuilding oral history program

by Amy Barritt, president

In the March newsletter, I announced that WHPNWM is rebuilding the oral history program to create a streamlined process with sustainability in mind. Your board has had a handful of opportunities to test its new design. We feel confident that we are on the right path!

One of our biggest challenges is finding people willing and able to tramp the field and record oral histories. Please consider offering your time and talents, or recommend us to interested friends. Board members provide the training, the equipment and monetary compensation for travel and time, but we need interviewers.

In May, board members had the pleasure of supporting the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society at Northwestern Michigan College. The local chapter hosted the PTK Regional program with resounding success; it was quite the feat of organization, with chapters

coming from all across Michigan. WHP board members were on hand to



provide much-needed fuel for the students: coffee and snacks!

We continue to support the History Center of Traverse City in its commitment to preserving the city's historical collection and caring for the Carnegie Library building for the city.

Please feel free to direct any questions to me about the Women's History Project and its relationship with the History Center, admin@whpnm.org.

Finally, expect to see a renewed sense of purpose from the board at our Annual Meeting. We hope you will join us for lunch, election of officers, and to hear our speaker, Gladys Muñoz, an outstanding Traverse City woman and recipient of the Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award in 2013.

Board of Directors

President: Amy Barritt
Vice President: Nancy Bordine
Secretary: Martha Vreeland
Treasurer: Etta Rajkovich

Directors

Karen Anderson
Maddie (Buteyn) Lundy
Kathi Houston
Carolyn Micklatcher
Jane Purkis
Shauna Quick
Sandy Seppala

Phi Theta Kappa Liaison
TBD

Newsletter Editor
Sandra Seppala

Send articles and announcements for the newsletter to Sandy, sansep19@earthlink.net, or contact her at 421-3343. Next deadline, Dec. 15, 2014. Those accepted are subject to editing for length and content.

Slate of Officers announced

By Etta Rajkovich

The Nominating Committee—Kathi Houston and Ashley Flees—announced the slate of officers as follows:

- President: Amy Barritt
- Vice President: Nancy Bordine
- Secretary: Martha Vreeland
- Treasurer: Etta Rajkovich

Elections will take place at the Annual Meeting in October. Nominations will be accepted from the floor.

Leading Ladies continued from p. 1

expertise found other ways to influence their communities, and Traverse City was no different. Many women joined together in public service organizations, such as the groups featured as this fall's "Legends."

Oral History: Dorothy E. Lanham

Interviewed on July 19, 2003, at her home in Maple City, Michigan.

I was born in Boone County, Indiana. My grandfather, Fredrick Ulysses Lanham, and my father, John Lanham, owned a farm and threshing machine. Grandfather was in poor health, so he used to travel, trying to find a place where he felt good. When he came to the Traverse City area, he felt wonderful. So he decided to sell everything, and move up here. He was a very charming man, so the rest of the family sold everything too and followed him. We came to the Traverse City area when I was 18 months old.

A childhood memory that I remember most was that the trees were being cut. They couldn't get rid of the tree stumps very good, so they would chop them and burn them. They would just burn them constantly, trying to get rid of the stumps. It seemed like there was always smoke in the air.

The Depression years were very hard. I know my father was out of work for a long time. He worked on bridges. In fact, that's what brought us to Glen Lake, his work on the Glen Lake Narrows Bridge. He moved us near there, and we got settled in Burdickville. To us everything was wonderful then. Dad was working and Glen Lake was a nice place to swim and everything. We were very happy there.

There was a teacher at Maple City High School named Russell Newell who made a big difference

in my childhood. He would teach from the newspaper. That was the first time that I began to learn about how horrible Hitler was, and also what the Japanese were doing. I also learned that the Jews were treated terrible, and I heard about lynchings and things that way. Before that, I guess I was in, sort of, a fog. I just didn't pay any attention. Russell Newell made me aware of the social issues and the social problems, and the fact that FDR was not an ogre, but a darn good guy, and very much for the people. He helped bring new programs that helped a lot.

Even in Burdickville, some people thought well of Hitler. There were signs at various businesses around Glen Lake, "Gentiles Only." My friend, Dottie, was working at a hotel over by the narrows that had taken in a Jewish family. Some people came along and said, "You have to get rid of them." They took that family's clothes and things and threw them out the door.

Around Glen Lake some people were very prejudiced; there were just a few, but they just thought Hitler was wonderful. I have a brochure of the golf course that was on the other side of the picnic grounds, and it says, very definitely, "Gentiles Only."

I thought FDR was wonderful, and so was his wife! He knew about people. They [weren't] for the rich all the time. You know Hoover wouldn't do a darn thing for anybody. I remember him and

I remember Coolidge, too; they didn't do anything, they didn't listen to people. Then along came FDR, and WPA (Work Projects Administration), and things began to improve. Roads began to be fixed. Roads paved. Electricity brought in. Telephones brought in. The things we think of as ordinary now just did not exist before.

I got my first job at Leelanau Camp for Boys at the Homestead, to raise a little nest egg. I think the most I ever got was \$2.50 a week, plus room and board. In fact, that was the year that Social Security went in; I paid right from the beginning. When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, I began to try to get one of the women services to let me join. I was so underweight that they told me to go home and gain twenty pounds. Well, I couldn't gain, so I went looking for a job in Chicago. I got a job almost immediately at Rand McNally doing war maps.

Our military would bomb places before they invaded. They'd do it in several places so the enemy wouldn't know our intentions. I'd correct a map that we had already done, because, after a bombing run, they would photograph the damage. I'd check those aerial photos and make any corrections or changes. I remember checking the aerial photos after they bombed Dunkirk, to correct things that were damaged. It was very fascinating. I always knew

(See Oral History on p. 4)

Oral History *continued from p. 3*

how the war was going, because it seemed like we got things to work on just before we would make an invasion. I knew our troops were going to Africa because we had been doing maps of there before they started in. After that, we started in on maps of the South Pacific.

I was working for Rand McNally at the end of the war. Everybody was all excited about the news, the same way as when Japan surrendered. The thing I remember thinking was, “my brothers are safe now,” because I had two brothers in the war.

After the war, Rand McNally laid off almost everybody. I was one of the few people that they kept; I did whatever they needed. Sometimes I did artwork. Quite often I would read over a book that some professor would write. Frequently it wasn't up to date. I was supposed to keep it up to date. I read three or four newspapers all the time. I did a lot of editing and checking for accuracy.

I stayed at Rand McNally for a long time, until the company

began to expand. They opened up in several states, and I didn't want to go farther south.

So I came back and built a (retail) store. It was rough going actually. I didn't have much money, and couldn't make much money. So my boss called me up and asked, “How about you coming back?” So I said I'd come back for the winter, because they were busy in the winter and I wasn't. So that's the way it was for quite a few years, I'd work six months here and six months wherever they sent me. I would go and find out why a project was all mixed up. They'd do part of it in one place, and another part somewhere else, and then it wouldn't jive. I became what they called a “troubleshooter.” I wasn't very popular.

I could hold my own. I had been the oldest in my family; I had to hold my own. I didn't like to be bossed. I like being my own boss. I guess that's why I never married. Every time I got close to thinking I might, “Oh, no, oh, no. You'd be divorced in nothing flat.”

I liked being a woman, but I didn't like the fact that quite

often when I was the boss over a group of men, they were making more money than I was. When I complained to the boss about it, he said, “What do you mean? You already make more money than any other woman working here.” I said, “What does that got to do with it? When some man that I can fire, or tell what to do, from the beginning makes more than I do?” One of the guys said, “Well, men have a family to support.” And I said, “Yes, but that doesn't mean that I'm supposed to support them.”

I remember this one man coming to me asking, “I've been here six months; I expect to get more money. Will you write me a letter of recommendation?” I said, “Okay, how much do you make?” And he said, “Three-fifty an hour,” which was fairly good then. I said, “What do you mean? I make three-fifty an hour and I'm your boss.” He didn't like that.

But it was interesting work. I liked it. It was fascinating. If the work wasn't fascinating, I wouldn't bother. It had to be interesting. I was an independent critter.

Join WHPNW

Women of Wisdom: \$10

Students: \$10

The Rest of Us: \$15

Business/Organization: \$25

**Dues payable to WHPNM; send
to P.O. Box 4463**

Traverse City, Michigan 49685.

Thank you for your support!



Gladys Maria Muñoz to speak at Annual Meeting

Gladys Muñoz, well-known local advocate for intercultural understanding, will speak at our annual meeting. She will focus on our interdependent world and the important role each person plays. “We will look at some common activities and how our everyday decisions have far-reaching consequences,” she says.

Gladys Maria Muñoz was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in 1953. She was the daughter of Dr. Agustin Muñoz (pediatric cardiologist) and Gladys T. Muñoz (dietitian), and the eldest of five daughters. She attended elementary and high-school at Colegio Vedruna, an all-girls’ school run by the Carmelites Sisters of Charity, a Catholic, religious, teaching order from Spain.

These women were ahead of their time. The education and life example they provided, together with her parents’ example, instilled in Gladys the message, “the opportunities and gifts we receive are to be shared to make a better world.”

Gladys graduated from the University of Puerto Rico in 1975 with a Bachelor in Science and a concentration in Home Economics and Child Development. In 1996, she earned a Master in Science Administration from Central Michigan University.

Gladys lived in Japan for three years, an experience that was an answer to her high-school dreams and, an “eye opener” to a different world and a different reality of life.

In 1987, she moved to Traverse City with her four children after attending a year of graduate school at the University of Florida in Gainesville.

For the first three years in TC, Gladys worked as a migrant/bilingual teacher, summer-school director, and daycare supervisor for Michigan Migrant Projects. This experience was the foundation for her future involvement with local farm working and migrant communities.

For the next six years, Gladys worked at Holy Rosary School in Cedar as principal and kindergarten teacher. During this time, she completed her MSA and a 3-year ministry-formation program, which was offered by the Diocese of Gaylord.

She also was accepted for a 5-year term as a member of the National Advisory Council for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB). The late Bishop Patrick Cooney appointed her as a member of the first Diocesan Council in the Diocese of Gaylord.

In the summer of 1995, Gladys took her four children on a mission experience with the Maryknoll Missionaries to Oaxaca, Mexico.

When they returned, Gladys was hired at St Mary’s, Lake Leelanau, as the high-school Spanish and religion teacher for grades 9–12. She organized the first two of a total of 10 mission education experiences to the U.S./Mexican border.

From the summer of 1997 to 2000, Gladys began, with the

support of the Catholic Diocese of Gaylord, the Migrant Ministry, now known as the Hispanic Apostolate, to address the pastoral and spiritual needs of the migrant agricultural workers in Northern Michigan.

Her visits to Ghana with Catholic Relief Services and to Peru with the Columban Fathers in the summer of 2000, emphasized the importance of “fact-finding” instead of “labor-intensive” mission experiences.

From 2000 to 2006, Gladys became the pastoral associate at St. Michael’s Church in Suttons Bay and St. Gertrude’s in Northport. She and Fr. Wayne Dziekan led 10 mission experiences, which included the U.S./Mexican border, Bolivia, Peru, and Puerto Rico.

After a brief training for medical interpreters at the University of Arizona, Gladys was hired by NMHSI, former migrant health clinic, to organize and direct the Language and Cultural Services office. It offered interpretation services and training to local health providers, social services organizations, and Munson Medical Center.

In November 2012, Gladys began her own business, Language and Cultural Awareness Services of Northern Michigan, LLC. Its mission is to create a bridge to better understanding between people and cultures.

Gladys was the recipient of the Sara Hardy Humanitarian Award in 2013.

Gladys is very proud of her four children and seven grandchildren.

My mother: an amazing woman

Dotty Wilhelm French

Grace Edna Canterbury was born in New York City, N.Y., in 1896. The family later moved to Wilton, Conn., and her father took the train into the City. The house was located near a Congregational Church. The minister suggested that Grace might like to attend Olivet College in Olivet, Mich.

She took the train to Olivet College and, because it was such a distance, she did not go home until she finished. In the summer, she went to Mayfield, Mich., with a teacher and worked at a summer camp. A teacher's degree took only two years in those days. Brothers Ralph and George Wilhelm also attended Olivet College. Grace and George met and fell in love.

Grace returned to New York and taught Home Economics in Troy, N.Y. George attended the University of Michigan to earn a degree in business.

George's father, Anthony J. Wilhelm, built and opened Wilhelm's Department Store in Traverse City in 1886 and he could afford to buy an automobile. After graduating from U of M, George and his parents, Kate and Anthony, drove to Wilton, Conn., where Grace and George were married. Grace later joked about their honeymoon, which was the trip back to Traverse City.

Grace and George had four children: Alice, Dorothy, Anthony, and George Howard.

When I was four years old, my mother wanted to remodel the

house. Shingle siding, shutters on the windows, and an attached car garage. Even today it is the only attached garage in old Traverse City. People had a carriage houses because there were no cars when they were built.

My mother decided to learn to drive and, in 1935, she drove my sister, Alice, her violin teacher, Mozelle Sawyer, and pianist, Rubin Barnet, to Indianapolis, Ind., to compete in a violin contest. My dad and I took care of the boys.

My grandfather Wilhelm lived on the same block and just across the street from the store. He had retired letting George and Ralph run the store. He still had a vegetable garden in the backyard and gave the vegetables to my mother. Every day he walked around the block. He always sat on his front porch and, at age 90, sitting on the porch he died.

Four months later, my father died at age 40 due to a doctor's mistake. There were no antibiotics. A sulfa pill would have saved him. I was 14.

Saddened by her tragic loss, a few months later my mother decided to become a partner at Wilhelm's Store with my Uncle Ralph. After work, she came home and fixed a good dinner. Interested in cooking, I knew how to make a few dishes. She taught me how to make a white sauce at age 12. I was able to start dinner preparations for her.

After graduating from high school in 1943, I left for Ann

Arbor to attend the University of Michigan. She called once a week as she knew I was worried about her. During my second year at the University, she told me that she was seeing a man. His wife had died two years ago. Fred Miller was working for AAA Insurance and was my mother's agent. She had invited him up for cake when he visited regarding her policy. He lived at The Park Place Hotel.

The Park Place was a popular place to go in those days. Almost every weekend you would find them having dinner and dancing later in the evening. Fred was the uncle of a classmate of mine.

My mother and Fred never married because he said she needed to be free to visit her children. Howard (my brother) and my husband both worked for large corporations and were transferred to different states.

In 1947 after my graduation, my mother drove us to Queenstown, Md., on the Chesapeake Bay, to visit my grandparents. Most women in those days would never have considered driving those distances. She continued to drive and visit me in Cleveland, the Philadelphia area, Pittsburgh, and Chicago.

Fred finally said they should get married as her children were all on their own. A few days later, the manager of the Park Place called her and said that he had died in his sleep.

She quit distance driving at 85. She died at age 94. For her generation she was truly a remarkable woman!

Calendar

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

October

13 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM.

18 Annual Meeting & Lunch. Sat., 11:30 a.m to 2 p.m. \$15. *Why Are We Here? The Dynamics of Faith, Action & Consequences.* Speaker: **Gladys Muñoz.** Business Meeting & Election of Board. RSVP by Oct. 14 (see p. 1).

24 Book Discussion. Fri., NOON. *Voyagers* by Margaret Elphinstone

November

10 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM.

January

12 Board Meeting. Mon., 2 PM. *Place TBD*

20 Deadline for articles for newsletter.

23 Book Discussion. Fri., NOON. *The Women's Great Lakes Reader* edited by Victoria Brehm. *Place TBD*

Change of mailing address

The Women's History Project has a new mailing address: P.O. Box 4463, Traverse City, Michigan 49685.

WHP has offices in The History Center through December 31, dependent upon the agreement between The History Center board and the City of Traverse City.

WHP Book Discussion Group

You are invited to our book discussions

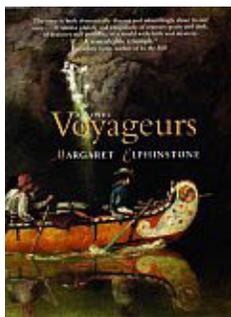


By Karen Anderson, co-chair

Although the WHP Book Group has struggled to draw a crowd in summer-busy July, “The Long-Shining Waters” by Danielle Sosin broke this rule and we had big group around the table for a wonderful discussion.

The book featured the stories of three women from three different centuries, each living on Lake Superior and feeling her life shaped by those long-shining waters.

To keep this theme going, the group decided to read *Voyagers* by Margaret Elphinstone at our next discussion on **Friday,**



October 24.

The book traces the 1812 journey of a naïve Quaker from England as he travels the Great Lakes and rivers with the *Voyagers* in search of his sister. The book is available at Horizon and in area libraries.

Further, we've selected *The Women's Great Lakes Reader*, edited by Victoria Brehm, for both our January and April reads,

because it's 500 pages—so we can read half at a time.

It's a collection of essays, stories, poems about women in our Great Lakes region. An added bonus is the possible visit by Victoria Brehm to our meeting in April. Stay tuned. We'll meet on the **fourth Friday,**

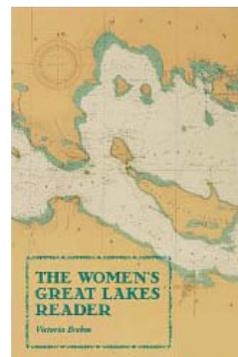
January 23 and April 24.

We're still mulling a July selection, so we expect to have that in hand by October. All are welcome to join the discussion.

You don't have to like the book to enjoy the conversations, which are always wide-ranging, informed, informal, and fun.

Our October discussion will take place in the Board Room of the History Center on Sixth Street—from noon to 1:30. We'll furnish snacks and beverages. Bring a sack lunch if you wish. Stay tuned for the location for the January and April discussions.

Co-Chairs are Karen Anderson and Ann Swaney. Call Ann for more information, 223-7489.



WHPNM Mission

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

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

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

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

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

Membership dues for 2015: \$ _____

Contribution: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

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

***Send your check to WHPNM, PO Box 4463, Traverse City, Michigan 49685 by October 14.
Space is limited! Call 947-5178 with questions.***

Print names of guests here.



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