

The Village Press

Winter 2019

60 West Wattles Road • Troy, MI 48098



248-524-3570

www.TroyHistoricVillage.org



[/TroyHistVillage](https://www.instagram.com/TroyHistVillage)



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Donation by **Johnson Niles Descendant**

We gain new knowledge of American history and confirm our local heritage every time an artifact is discovered. In early October, Suzanne Offutt, a third great granddaughter of Johnson Niles contacted the Village from her home in Maryland to inform us that she was ready to donate her archive of family history. Two weeks later Fed Ex delivered a treasure trove of Troy Township history. Included were over twenty-seven documents, images, and objects including a scrapbook of newspaper clippings annotated by Rhobie Niles, pioneer Johnson Niles' granddaughter. The scrapbook includes obituaries, articles, and photographs. Also included in the collection is a Jaquard coverlet that was a gift to Julia A. Niles the daughter of Johnson Niles. It is dated 1834, the year Julia turned eighteen.

Curator Elizabeth Thornburg, the Collections Team, and our long-time researcher Ray Lucas have been poring over the collection, comparing, verifying, and updating the names, dates, and events in the donation with the Village's genealogy files.

Elizabeth is also processing the collection which includes the following steps. Each object in the donation has been photographed and assigned an accession number or permanent numerical identification number. Each number, photograph, and item description is uploaded into a permanent digital inventory and linked to the donation record. All Village Collections records are kept on Past Perfect, a Collections Management computer program used by many museums. *Continued on page 6*



Johnson Niles Grandchildren Silas and Rhobie Niles



Friends Cora Niles and Carrie Phelps



Ms. Ouffett's Grandmother Alice Marguerite Niles Clements

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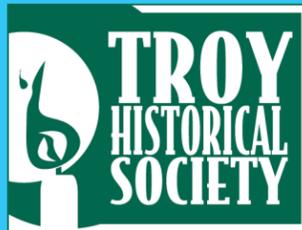
National Endowment for the Arts



NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE HUMANITIES

PURE MICHIGAN





THS News

New THS President

Padma Kuppa is the new President of the THS Board of Trustees and the newly-elected State Representative for Michigan's 41st District, which includes Troy and Clawson. While some might suggest that doing both jobs will be a challenge, Padma's life is defined by multiple roles and embracing every new frontier that she faces. Padma was born in India. She was five years old when her parents immigrated to the United States to pursue higher education and a 15 year-old teen when her family returned to India. She faced challenges balancing her identity during high school and college as she navigated cultures and countries. "I looked Indian but I thought like an American," she said. Her goal was to return to home, to the United States. She attended graduate school in New York and in 1998 moved to Troy with her husband and children. Padma fell in love with this community and became involved in the school district and civic and cultural organizations while pursuing her career. "I believe when you love something, you help it thrive," she explained. "And I love the Village, how it welcomes everyone and how we celebrate history here. The Village is a jewel in our community, and we need to help it thrive!" We look forward to working with Padma in her new roles as we achieve our shared goal of a thriving Village.



Thank You Judy!

The staff, Board of Trustees, and Village volunteers wish to thank Judy Iceman for her outstanding contributions since 2011 as the President of THS. During the past 7 years, Judy developed Employee and Volunteer Handbooks, participated in two Strategic Planning workgroups, and volunteered her time at many Village events and fundraisers. Her warm smile, generous donations of food and refreshments, and her gracious professional leadership during meetings were deeply appreciated. The Board and staff look forward to her continued participation on the Board as she passes the President's gavel to incoming President Padma Kuppa.

In Memoria

Long-time volunteer Glen Marshall passed away suddenly on November 2, 2018. Born in January 1946, Glen graduated from Cooley High School and earned an associate's degree from Henry Ford College. He served in the US Army Medical Corp followed by a career as an X-Ray technician. Glen loved history, steam-powered machines at the annual Buckley Old Engine Show, and working the presses in our Print Shop. He will be sorely missed by the Village staff and volunteers.



THS News

continued on page 5



Executive Director... Loraine Campbell



Perhaps you've read about a recent report commissioned by

the Woodrow Wilson Foundation to see how much Americans know about US History and our government. One thousand randomly selected, native-born Americans were asked to take the same test immigrants must pass by a minimal score of 60% correct before they can become US Citizens. The result was disturbing— only 36 percent of the Americans passed. Only a quarter of those tested knew the 13 original states; why the colonists fought the British; or something notable that Benjamin Franklin did. Thirty-seven percent thought that he invented the light bulb.

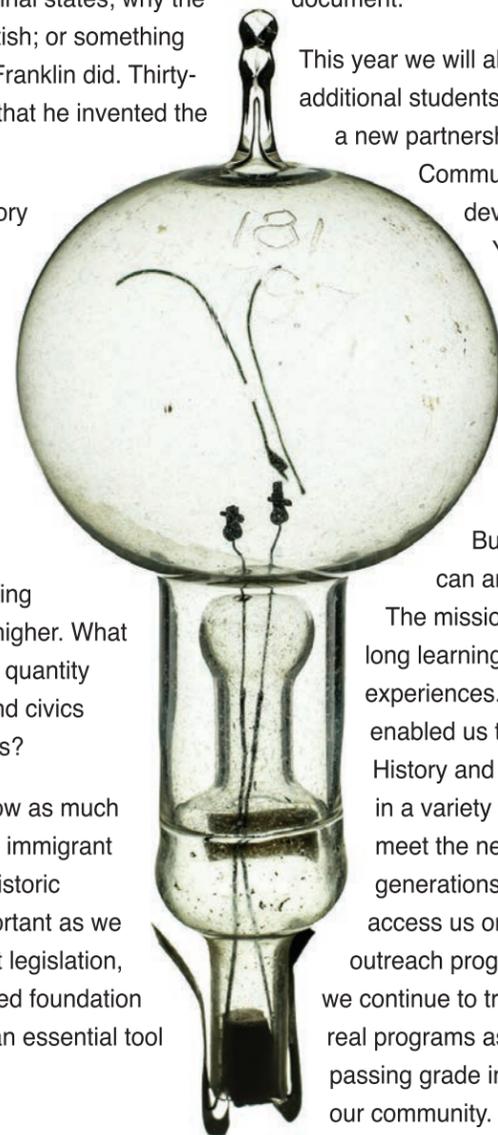
As someone in the history business, what is most alarming to me is that younger citizens scored lower. A majority of those 65 and older answered six out of ten questions correctly while only 19 percent of those under age 45 received a passing score of 60 percent or higher. What does this say about the quantity and quality of history and civics education in our schools?

Should our children know as much American History as an immigrant seeking citizenship? Historic context is critically important as we analyze issues, support legislation, and vote. An unvarnished foundation in American History is an essential tool for all Americans.

So what is the role and responsibility of THS? How can Village education programs and services do more? We do a great job immersing thousands of elementary students in pioneer life. Civil War Days gives eighth graders important information about the daily lives of soldiers and civilians and the issues that they grappled with during a most challenging era of American History. Constitution Cafés provide excellent opportunities for thoughtful discussions on the principles set forth in our governing document.

This year we will also welcome 3,500 additional students to the Village through a new partnership with Detroit Public Community Schools. We'll develop new History to You-Civil War units with financial support from the Michigan Humanities Council and redouble our efforts to offer teen Constitution Cafés.

But I agree that we can and must do more. The mission of THS is life-long learning through engaging experiences. Your support has enabled us to offer solid American History and social studies content in a variety of formats that best meet the needs of different generations who visit the Village, access us online, or attend an outreach program. Because of you, we continue to transform ideas into real programs as we work towards a passing grade in history and civics for our community.



Address:

60 W. Wattles Rd.
Troy, MI 48098

Website:

www.troyhistoricvillage.org

Facebook:

[/troyhistvillage](https://www.facebook.com/troyhistvillage)

Cheddar Facebook:

[/cheddardthevillagehouse](https://www.facebook.com/cheddardthevillagehouse)

Twitter & Instagram:

[@troyhistvillage](https://twitter.com/troyhistvillage)

Winter Hours:

Mon-Fri: 10am-3pm
Closed December 24
- January 1

Admission:

Free for Members
Adults: \$5
Seniors: \$3
Children 6-12: \$3
Children under 6: Free

Villager:

Sign up to be a Villager!
See back page.

Donate:

To support the Village through donation, mail a check payable to the Troy Historical Society or call 248-524-3570 with your credit card.

February Open House Days

February 18 and 19, 10:00am - 2:30pm

Mark your calendars for days to explore each of our ten historic buildings. If weather allows, work outside to build snow sculpture and try snow-snakes. Create a craft, sample warm drinks, and take a break from winter! Free—donations welcome. Check troystoryhistoricalvillage.org website for greater detail.



Hearth & Soul

This winter, cozy up with a warm beverage and real-life tales of historic restoration!

Troy Historic Village (60 W. Wattles Road) inside Old Troy Church

January 16, 7pm: 1850s Farmhouse

Learn how Kevin & Susan Lindsey restored their a gorgeous 1853 farmhouse in Troy.

BONUS! January 19, 10am: 1850s Farmhouse Tour

Kevin & Susan take guests through their historic 1850s home. **Space is extremely limited; advance registration is required. Call 248-524-3570.**

February 7: Cool Communities

Guided by preservation architects Gene Hopkins and Tamara Burns, envision a new future for an old structure.

March 14: Field School

Professor Nancy Villa Bryk leads a virtual tour of EMU “field school” projects including historic interior and exteriors like Tower Cottage at Cranbrook Educational Community.

Price per program: \$3/Troy Historical Society Member; \$5/Non-member; FREE/ Students with school ID. Register at 248-524-3570.

Maple Syrup Days

Join us at Stage Nature Center for Maple Syrup Days on March 2, 9 & 16!

Sample Michigan maple cream and maple syrup during your visit. Purchase these and other maple-infused products to take home. Program registration information is available at troynaturesociety.org. Michigan maple products will also be available for purchase at the THV Village Store in December. Visit www.troyhistoricvillage.org for product information.



THS News *continued*

New Faces

Once again we begin the New Year with changes in staff. Two THS staff members, Julie Zaporski and David Moan, resigned to take jobs that reduced their hour-long commutes to the Village. So we welcome Jennifer Peters as our new Volunteer and Guest Services Coordinator and two new Historic Interpreters, Sarah Faist and Tom Arwady. Jennifer holds a MS in Historic Preservation from Eastern Michigan University and a BA from Albion College with a double major in Anthropology and Art History. Sarah Faist also graduated with a double major in History and Anthropology from Central Michigan University and has worked as an educator at the Michigan Science Center. Tom Arwady taught social studies for many years and has gained presentation skills as an actor with the Ridgedale Players. Our long-time graphic designer and webmaster Laura Rangos also resigned in the fall to focus on her own art. We have filled her talented shoes with Jill Valuet, a graphic designer and owner of Rowan Arts and retained Melanie Westendorf to keep the Village website current. A warm welcome to all of these new Villagers!



Jennifer Peters



Sarah Faist and Tom Arwady

Help us Save Money

It costs \$2.90 to print one copy of the Village Press and 71 cents to mail it to your home. You can save THS \$14.44 each year by downloading your quarterly newsletters on your home computer. Simply email info@thvmail.org and ask to receive your newsletter electronically. Please include *E-deliver VP* in the subject line. Thanks so much!

A Greener Village

History teaches us that individuals and small steps can lead to significant change. Therefore, beginning in 2019, Styrofoam and plastic plates, cups, and coffee stirrers will be replaced with paper and more environmentally friendly materials at monthly teas and other Village events. We will also provide water dispensers rather than bottled water. Another New Year's goal will be to offer guests the opportunity to sort their trash and deposit it in labeled receptacles for recycling.



Annual Report for FYE 2018

A comprehensive summary of the most recent fiscal year, July 1, 2018- June 30, 2018 is now available on our website. This year's report features a video report, a one-page easy to read summary of program, attendance, and financial information, and a full report that can be downloaded and printed. Please direct any questions or comments to Executive Director Loraine Campbell.



Cheddar's Preschool Story Hour

Join Cheddar the Village Mouse in listening to a classic tale in our monthly program for little historians! A simple craft and a yummy treat will make your child's visit complete. Select Wednesdays, 10:30 - 11:30am. THS members: \$5/adult, \$3/child; non-members: \$6/adult, \$4/child. Appropriate for children ages 2-5; child must be accompanied by an adult. Advance registration required. Call 248-524-3570.

Snow

December 5

Cozy & Comfy Despite the Cold

January 9

Friendship

February 6

At the Zoo

March 6

Donation by Johnson Niles Descendant

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Elizabeth and her team will then update the Niles Family Collection Finding Guide, which is a comprehensive annotated list of Niles Family records, images, and artifacts. The updated guide and a virtual Niles family exhibit will be available on the THV website. In there will be a virtual Niles Family exhibit on the THV website. "I'm confident that an item or two from this exceptional collection will also be exhibited in the restored Niles Barnard House," said Loraine Campbell.

Mrs. Offutt's donation of her family's heirlooms is an incredibly generous act. It enhances our understanding of the past and provides a physical connection with our heritage. Villagers, including the THS Board of Trustees, staff and volunteers are grateful to Suzanne Offutt for her outstanding contribution and we look forward to welcoming her family to the Village for the gala opening of her great-great-great grandfather's home in 2019.

Bit of History

By Stephanie Suszek



This issue of the *Village Press* coincides with two month-long celebrations of history: Black History Month and Women's History Month. Traditionally underrepresented in the canon of US History studies, the largely-untold stories of black women have increasingly found expression in books, classrooms, museums, monuments, and media.

Take, for instance, the story of Henrietta Lacks (1920-1951), an African American woman raised in rural Virginia on land that had once belonged to her white, slave-owning great-grandfather. In 1951, Henrietta sought treatment for her cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, MD, the only nearby hospital willing to accept black patients at the time.

The radium-insertion treatments were brutal and ultimately ineffective. The cancer metastasized and Henrietta passed away within the year, but not before Johns Hopkins researchers collected and cultured some of her cancer cells. These HeLa cells were unique in their apparent immortality and the incredibly fast rate at which they multiplied, qualities that made them extremely valuable to biomedical researchers. Like Jonas Salk, who used them to create the polio vaccine, scientists and doctors the world over still use Henrietta's cell line to save countless lives.

Henrietta's contribution was largely unknown, however, until journalist Rebecca Skloot published her book, *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, in 2010. Even the scientists using her cells knew them simply by their "HeLa" abbreviation. Neither Henrietta nor her family knew of her contribution—Johns Hopkins researchers took the cells without seeking permission, a practice that was typical at the time, regardless of a patient's gender or race.

Henrietta's legacy extends far beyond her immortal cell line. Since Skloot published Henrietta's story in 2010, Johns Hopkins says it has determined that it could have done more to inform the Lacks family and respect their privacy. Johns Hopkins now hosts annual memorial lectures and high school symposia, and grants a scholarship and a memorial award, all in Henrietta's name. The Henrietta Lacks Memorial Foundation established by Skloot helps other people whose contributions to science were made without their knowledge or consent.

Even as stories like Henrietta's force us to confront some uncomfortable truths about our past, retroactive recognition allows us to (finally!) honor unsung heroes and bring their stories into the mainstream.

Thursday Teas at Two



Sip a cup of tea while enjoying a slice of history. Guests are welcome to bring their own china cup and saucer. Register in advance, space is limited. Old Troy Church, 2-3pm. \$7/THS Member, \$8/Non-member, Winter Season Tickets: \$24/THS Member, \$28/Non-member. Supported by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts. Refreshments sponsored by Oakmont Rochester.



Michigan Notables: Civil War

Thursday January 24

Despite no battles being fought here, Michigan men and women played an important role in the war between the North and the South. Join interpretive staff of THV as they guide your understanding of this portion of our nation's history. You'll meet a nurse, a soldier, a politician and more others who hailed from the Wolverine State.



When Amelia Came to Michigan

Thursday February 28

Did you know that Amelia Earhart visited Michigan more than 25 times to promote opportunities for women in the aviation industry? Al and David Eicher will share a lecture and visual presentation on Earhart's childhood, family life and education, flying experiences, world records and 8 years of adventures in Michigan.



Hat Moments

Thursday March 28

It's all about hats and history this month! Linda Hannah of Hat Moments, LLC brings an admired segment of fashion history to life with an enthusing presentation that weaves historical pieces into the flow. View gorgeous, vintage head wear and learn fascinating stories behind fabulous styles.



Mt. Clemens Rose Gardens

Thursday April 25

Often called the Rose Capital, Mount Clemens was one of the centers of the rose growing industry in the United States, and the largest producer of roses in the state. One of the most successful was the Weiss Family's Mt. Clemens Rose Gardens, with a half a million rose plants in production at one time. Lynn Anderson and Micki Weiss will detail the rich history of this historic industry and the prominence of the Weiss Family in it, including their employment of Japanese-American families from the internment camps of World War II.



Constitution Cafés



Sponsored by the Oakland County Bar Foundation. Utilizing the Socratic Method of inquiry and discussion, participants engage in civil discourse to 'create' a new Constitution. These programs are FREE to attend. Join in the discussion on select Sundays at 2:00 pm:

Freedom to Assemble and the Redressing of Grievances

December 9

Declarations of War and Treason! Art. 1, § 8, Cl. 11 and Art. 3, § 3, Cls. 1 & 2

January 13

Funding Government, Taxation and the 16th Amendment

February 10

Madison's lost idea: The Virginia Plan and the National Veto

March 10



Volunteer Spotlight

By Laura Boeberitz

This month we are shining our spotlight on **Carolynn Teufner**. Carolynn taught first graders and special education students in Southfield for 35 years. She has lived in Troy much of her life, but only recently became acquainted with the Troy Historic Village. Since joining our Volunteer Corps she has assisted with craft prep, our summer open houses, the Troy Traffic Jam, and has even harvested vegetables from the garden. Most recently she has been a huge help to Laura Boeberitz while preparing and presenting the Cheddar Preschool Story Hour program.

Carolynn loves many things about the Village. She mentioned the aroma of wood smoke in the log cabin and the scents in the other buildings. She also loves the old memories that seem to linger in houses and the new memories that are created with each person's visit. She loves that her daughter chose to get married in the Village church a year ago. When not at the Village, Carolynn volunteers at Bemis Elementary three days a week. Each year she also likes to learn a new skill. This fall she is learning book binding at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center prompted by her interest in book restoration.



ATTENTION – Seniors Who Love the Troy Historic Village

If you are:

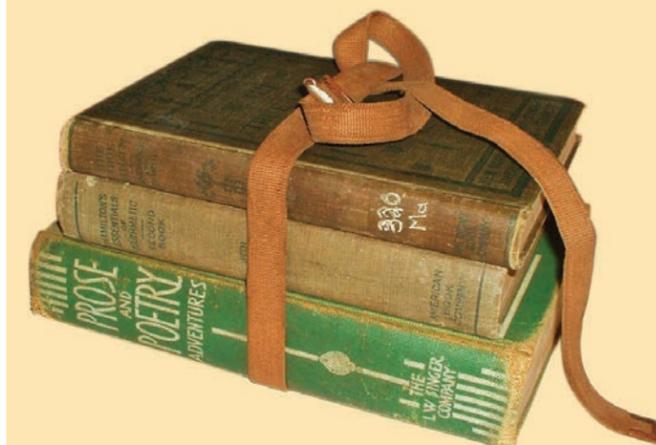
- Over age 70-1/2,
- Have an Individual Retirement Account (IRA),
- Are required to take taxable Required Minimum Distributions (RMD's) from your IRA every year, and
- Want to donate to support the Troy Historic Village



You can now make Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD's) to the Troy Historical Society directly from your IRA. These contributions will count as part of your RMD's but will not be part of your Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for federal income tax purposes.

By making your donation to the Troy Historical Society as a QCD, assuming that you do not need to take that portion of your RMD as "spending money", you can reduce the otherwise taxable portion of your RMD by the amount of your donation. This in turn will reduce your U.S. income tax even if you do not itemize charitable contributions but take the standard deduction instead. For some seniors enrolled in Medicare, making a substantial QCD to reduce your RMD and AGI could also result in premium savings for Medicare Parts B and D.

To be sure that you qualify to make a QCD, and to be sure that it is made so as to reduce your taxable RMD, we strongly recommend that you consult your tax advisor before making a contribution in this manner.



Homeschool Happenings

Families and homeschool groups, visit the Village this fall for fun and educational programs. Advance registration required; call 248-524-3570 to register. Recommended for ages 5-13. Select Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30am. Price per program: \$6/THS Member \$7/Non-member. Price for winter season: \$10/THS Member \$12/Non-member

Time in a 100 Year Old House

Tuesday, December 4

Look for clues about the 19-teens inside the Parsonage. We will combine letterboxing with jigsaw and crossword puzzles as we sleuth out hundred year-old History—some of it made here in Michigan!

Three Trades: Chandler, Printer, Tinsmith

Tuesday February 26

(program longer than 90 minutes)

Make a candle. Print sayings of Ben Franklin. Learn about tin. Share biographies from each of these occupations.



January 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|------------------------------|---------------------|--|---|--------|----------|
| | | 1 Village Closed | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 10:30am Cozy & Comfy Despite the Cold | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| 13 2pm Constitution Cafes: Declarations of War and Treason! | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Martin Luther King Day | 22 | 23 | 24 2pm Teas at Two: Michigan Notables: Civil War | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

Beaumont

Looking to kick-start a healthy New Year?

Join our Thursday Walking Group, a partnership with Beaumont Health. Each week participants meet for a one to two mile walk that combines exercise and fresh air

with opportunities to explore interesting neighborhoods and trails. For more information or to sign up for this free program email apd@thvmail.org.



GENIUS HIGH YIELD CHECKING!

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2 Simple Requirements!

- 10 or more debit transactions of at least \$5 during the month
- Must be enrolled in eStatements
- Open or convert your account today

*APY is Annual Percentage Yield. Paid on balances up to \$7,500 each month if requirements met.

Troy Branch
1960 E. Big Beaver Rd.
248-528-0302



27 Southeast Michigan branches, find more at genisyscu.org.



February 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|---|----------|---|----------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 10:30am Cheddar Friendship | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 2pm Constitution Café: Funding Government, Taxation and the 16th Amendment | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 10am February FREE Mid-winter Break Open House | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 10am Homeschool Happenings: Three Trades: Chandler, Printer, Tinsmith | 27 | 28 2pm Teas at Two: When Amelia Came to Michigan | |

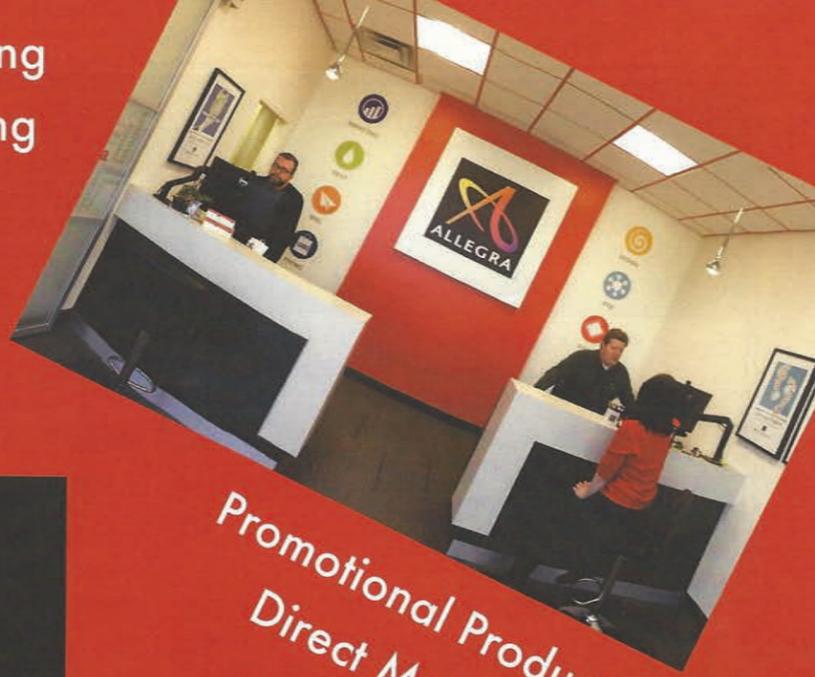
Facilities Rental Availability

Do you know someone who is planning a wedding?
The Village provides beautiful indoor and outdoor venues for intimate wedding ceremonies, photography sessions, and outdoor receptions. For information regarding pricing and availability email events@thvmail.org.



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We are looking forward to better serving you.

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www.allegratroy.com • jim@allegratroy.com



March 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------|---------|---------------------------------------|---|---------|----------------------------------|
| | | | | | 1 🏠 | 2 🏠 10am Maple Syrup Days |
| 3 🍯 | 4 🏠 | 5 🏠 | 6 10:30am Cheddar: At the Zoo 🏠 | 7 🏠 | 8 🏠 | 9 🏠 10am Maple Syrup Days |
| 10 2pm Constitution Café: Madison's lost idea: The Virginia Plan and the National Veto 🍯 | 11 🏠 | 12 🏠 | 13 🏠 | 14 🏠 | 15 🏠 | 16 🏠 10am Maple Syrup Days |
| 17 🍯 | 18 🏠 | 19 🏠 | 20 🏠 | 21 🏠 | 22 🏠 | 23 |
| 24/31 🍯 | 25 🏠 | 26 🏠 | 27 🏠 | 28 2pm Teas at Two: Hat Moments 🏠 | 29 🏠 | 30 |

Gift Shop

The Village Store will feature Michigan-made maple syrup, maple cream, and delicious maple infused products this month. Join us at the Stage Nature Center's Maple Syrup Days Saturday

March 2, 9, 16. or stop by the Village Store Monday through Friday to purchase products and pick and pick up complimentary recipes cards.

Become a Villager Today!

- To support quality, engaging family education
- To support Hands-On local learning
- Free Admission to the Village
- Programs Discount
- Village Press
- 10% Discount in Village Store
- E-Newsletter - Monthly

YES! I want to be a Villager. Please process my Troy Historical Society membership which will activate my Villager status at the Troy Historic Village.

- \$35: Individual
 \$50: Couple/Family (includes children under 21)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please Email my quarterly Village Press

Payment Options:

Enclosed Check / Check # _____

Visa Master Card Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Security # (3 digit code on back) _____

Card Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Already a Villager?

I want to support historic preservation and programs at the Village. **I wish to donate:**

\$ _____ General Fund

\$ _____ Niles-Barnard Renovation

\$ _____ Adopt-A-Class

\$ _____ Special Programs

\$ _____ Other _____

Return completed form & payment to: 60 W. Wattles Road, Troy, MI 48098
Make checks payable to: Troy Historical Society

Troy Historic Village
Troy Historical Society
60 W. Wattles Road
Troy MI 48098