

Heritage NEWS

NOVEMBER 2007

General Meeting
Wednesday,
November 14, 2007
at 7:30 p.m.
Ladies' Literary Club
218 N. Washington St. • Ypsilanti

Restoration of a Treasure

The Ypsilanti Historical Society and the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will present a joint illustrated program on the restoration of the historic Starkweather Tiffany window and its permanent installation in the Ypsilanti Historical Museum. The program will be held at two venues and in two parts, starting at the Ladies' Literary Club at 218 N. Washington on October 24 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a short walk to the

Ypsilanti Historical Museum at 220 N. Washington to view the completed display and answer on-site questions. The public is invited.

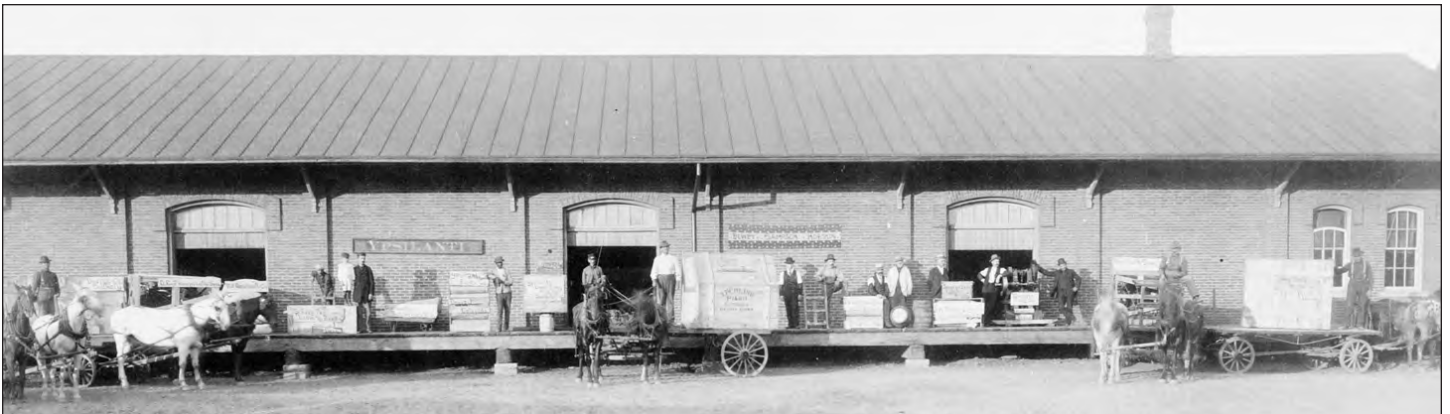
The program will be conducted by local architect Denis Schmiedeke, the project coordinator and permanent display designer; and Dirk Thompson III, CEO of Thompson Art Glass Studios of Brighton, Michigan, who will discuss

**Starkweather Tiffany Window
Restoration Program**
Wednesday, October 24
7:30p.m.
Ladies' Literary Club

and illustrate the actual step-by-step process of restoring the Tiffany window, a long and intricate process of disassembly, cleaning, replacement of newly fired colored glass where needed, reassembly and installation in the library of the Museum.

The Starkweather Tiffany window was originally installed in the entrance

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Ypsilanti's Freighthouse Topic at November Meeting

On November 14, 2007 at 7:30 p.m., the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation will host a presentation by Nathalie Edmunds and Bonnie Penet, interim co-chairs of the Friends of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse. The event is at the Ladies' Literary Club, 218 North

Washington Street. Edmunds and Penet will recreate some of Ypsilanti's marvelous history as reflected in stories and exhibits showcased during Heritage Festival in 2006 and 2007. More than

400 visitors viewed this year's exhibits and contributed nearly \$1000." The more we learn as we research the Freighthouse, the more excited we become about its restoration and preservation," said Penet. "The Depot and Freighthouse should be viewed as The focal point of this entire area's development from 1838 through the end of World War II. Everything . . . aside from the aircraft that flew out of Willow Run, and a few buses and

trucks . . . everything and everyone arrived or departed Ypsilanti on the railroad."

"The story of the Ypsilanti Freighthouse," Edmunds continues, "is not only brick and mortar, it's about continuing to tell the people stories. The people who built the railroad and made it grow . . . the people who came, settled, and built Ypsilanti . . . the farmers

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Barns & Outbuildings in Ypsilanti

Owners Receive Special Awards at September Meeting



427 Ballard
Kermit Coleman



169 North Washington
Peter Greenquist



313 East Cross
Marshall & Hanna Kitchens



310 North Grove
Rod & Shari Johnson



206 North Huron
Tom Manchester



216 South Huron
Norman Raupp



316 North Grove
Hugh Kennedy & Dory Ulanoff



314 Maple
Barb Zmich & Celeste McClellan



323 Maple
Chloe Elin Duke
& Michael Kozura

Treasure

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tower of the Ladies' Library at 130 North Huron, at Washtenaw Avenue, in 1890. The tower is an addition Mary Ann

Starkweather had built to her Italianate residence which she donated to the city for a ladies' library. She had the tower built in the late 1880s to create a prominent public entrance and contain the stained glass window she had commissioned to be designed and crafted by the Louis Comfort Tiffany Studios of New York City. Appropriately, the mosaic of the colored art glass depicts a robed lady reading a book in the Art Nouveau Style of the period.

In 1949, the Ypsilanti Ladies' Library Association granted the building with the window and its contents to the city for a public District library where it remained until 1963 to move to the former Post Office on Michigan Avenue. After that, the building remained largely vacant until 1972, the city's sesquicentennial year, when it was used for the headquarters to create a summer Greek Theater in Riverside Park which never materialized. Near the end of 1978 volunteers removed the Tiffany window to the Historical Museum where it remained for 29 years in the Craft Room on the second floor with its prime face to a wall. In October 2006, Alvin Rudisill, president of the Ypsilanti Historical Society, requested Schmiedeke to have the window restored and to prepare a means for its permanent display in the Museum.

In November it was transported to Thompson Art Glass Studios for its restoration taking nearly 12 weeks. During that time local master craftsmen were recruited to build and finish a large illuminated case to house the window and to fabricate custom flanking bookcases for historical references of crafts and the community. A full account of the means and methods of its restoration and the construction of its new permanent display in the library of the Museum on the first floor will be discussed with words and illustrations at the program.



Don Randazzo Honored

On September 26, at the Heritage Foundation's first public meeting of the year, founding YHF board member Don Randazzo was presented with a plaque honoring his year's of dedication to preservation in Ypsilanti and southeastern Michigan. The following are comments made by YHF president Hank Prebys:

"This evening, we have been talking about Historic Preservation. As you all know preservation does not just happen. Sometimes it takes money and it most always takes care and time. One of the other aspects of historic preservation is the people who have been important with follow thorough—with the hard work and the skills necessary to help preserve our built environment. One of these people is Don Randazzo, a charter member of the YHF. Tonight we want to honor him. I worked with Don for many years at Henry Ford Museum & Greenfield Village. There, for just over ten years, he was a restoration carpenter. He was very well-respected for his skills and his attention to detail. One of his spectacular achievements was the reconstruction of the Owl Hite Lunch Wagon, though there are many other projects that he can point to with pride. There are others here tonight who can also point out many of the Don's special skills that he shares with his community."

Jane Schmiedeke spoke about Don's work on the Historic District Commission, Denis Schmiedeke spoke about Don's special skills and abilities, John Harrington explained Don's work on the Towner House, and former mayor Cheryl Farmer spoke about Don's volunteerism. Finally, current mayor Paul Schreiber told personal stories about Don, as did several others in the audience.

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and business people . . . many whose families are still here today. It's also about ourselves, who can become involved with The Friends of the Freighthouse to complete the restoration and continue to tell Ypsilanti's story to future generations."

"But we have great needs at the moment," adds Penet, "both financial and in terms of active personal commitment." Edmunds concludes, "We're telling a story and asking for a commitment at the same time. Please come." The public is welcome and, as always, refreshments will be served.



The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation

Heritage News

c/o Don Randazzo
6101 Hitchingham Road
Ypsilanti, MI 48197

Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Board Members

- Hank Prebys, President
- Joe Mattimoe, Treasurer
- Jan Arps-Prundeanu
- Pattie Harrington
- Barry LaRue
- Bill Nickels
- Bonnie Penet
- Don Randazzo
- Jane Schmiedeke
- Penny Schreiber
- Andrea Webber

See you at the General Meeting - Wednesday, November 14, 7:30 pm

Heritage News is the newsletter of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation. It is published five times a year: September, November, January, March and May, and distributed, free of charge, to the membership by mail, and made available to the public at City Hall, Farmers' Market and various business locations in the three business districts in the City.

Have you visited the YHF website lately? There are new features you may find interesting • www.yhf.org

YHF Donates Gift Baskets

The Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation was delighted to donate two gift baskets to the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's annual auction on October 20, 2007. The lucky



winner will enjoy a night's stay at either the Parish House Inn or The Queen's Residence Bed & Breakfast, dinner at the Sidetrack restaurant in Depot Town or Haab's restaurant downtown, and two tickets to the Ypsilanti Automotive Museum. The gift baskets were filled to the brim with promotional materials about Ypsilanti, including a self-guided historic walking tour. The YHF strives to promote historic preservation through education, and this is a wonderful way for us to carry out our mission while showing off our wonderful historic town.

Yes! I would like to support preservation and become a member of the Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation.

Please check the appropriate box and return with your check to:

Joe Mattimoe, YHF Treasurer
301 N. Grove, Ypsilanti, MI 48198

- Students & Seniors \$5
- Individual \$10
- Family \$15
- Contributing \$25
- Supporting \$50
- Sustaining \$100
- Lifetime \$1,000

Name _____

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