

# Ella

WINTER 2018

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## Membership Benefits Added in 2018

We are excited to announce new perks and activities for members to help everyone explore, engage, and enjoy history, science, and the arts – and to continue to make Ella Sharp Museum even more of a community centerpiece. Members will enjoy exclusive activities, including special tours and events at Ella Sharp Museum, Cell Block 7, and the Hurst Planetarium. Members will also receive access to early and discounted ticket sales for our major events, including the Art, Beer and Wine Festival and new offerings such as Murder Mystery (see page 5). As a member, you can also enjoy the members-only entrance line at the Art, Beer, and Wine festival and other special festival privileges. Keep that summer vibe going with free admission to Patio Parties. As always, members also receive discounts on classes, our museum stores and discounted admission at all of our ticketed events and galleries, including Cell Block 7.

We also want to hear from you about how we can make membership even more fun and meaningful! Stop in, give us a call at 517-787-2320, email, or comment on our Facebook page.

Make sure to renew to take advantage of the newest membership perks! And remember, memberships make great gifts!

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## Thank You to our Interns!

We extend a very special thank you to our fall interns who have contributed time and effort on several projects and events. This fall we were fortunate to work with Lacina Steiber from Eastern Michigan University, Austin Edmiston from Spring Arbor University, and Eric Boulis who is a recent graduate of Wayne State University. All three have been tremendous additions to our departments.

Thank you again for all of your hard work, dedication and the positive attitudes you brought to the museum each day.

## Thanks to all our Fall Harvest Volunteers

Thank you to all of the hard-working volunteers who contributed to our annual Fall Harvest. With the help of our volunteers and the beautiful weather, we welcomed over 2,000 guests to the museum. Our community festivals would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our wonderful volunteers. As always, thank you for all that you do!

# Ella

## From the Director

Dear Friends,

As I finish my first year in Jackson (that was fast!) I do what most of us do in late December: I think about all the things I've enjoyed in my new community and all the wonderful activities we've shared at the Museum. Jackson has been warm and welcoming to my family while we've enjoyed activities ranging from summer car shows to hiking snow-covered trails.

We've had a great year at the Ella, too. These are a few of my favorite highlights:

**Museum Day in Jackson!** Through an Experience Jackson initiative, all the museums in Jackson County welcomed visitors for free in September. We hosted more than 2000 visitors between Cell Block 7 and the main museum.

**Ella Goes to School** at the Lyle Torrant Center where we provide innovative educational programming integrating science with art. We make it accessible for learners of all abilities and now this program serves adults from residential homes.

**Art by Michigan artists** presented in thought-provoking exhibits, including a selection of prints from the Prison Creative Arts Project and student work featured in the 11th Annual Art-a-Loan program.

### **Community-centered photography exhibit**

SONS: Seeing the African-American Male featured 32 Jackson men and encouraged visitors to look beyond stereotypes.

**Collections grants** to fund critical work organizing the Merriman-Sharp family papers and creating an access guide for researchers.

**Art, Beer and Wine** drew the largest crowds ever, attendance increased more than two thirds over 2016.

Other fun things I hope you experienced include a special evening devoted to all things Star Wars. We celebrated the opening of the new movie with a (sold-out!) special planetarium show The Science of Star Wars and a lively trivia contest hosted by MeggaXP. Everyone enjoyed laughter, rivalry, and prizes.

I'm looking forward to great new events in 2018. Mark your calendar for our first Winter Festival on January 27th and an interactive Murder Mystery dinner on March 10th. We'll roll out new member benefits and we've planned great new exhibits, too. With your help we can do even more to bring history to life, encourage creativity, and join with others to uncover and celebrate the many stories of Jackson.

I'll see you at the Ella!



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## Volunteer & Member Events

### Volunteer Kick-Off

Thursday, January 11, 2018  
5:30–7:30 p.m.

At the kickoff event, Thursday, January 11, you'll get to know Ella Sharp Museum, Cell Block 7, and Hurst Planetarium better while finding out how you can help your community explore, engage, and enjoy art, history, and science.

### Volunteer Meetings

Wednesdays, January 17, February 21, & March 21  
10:30 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.

Looking to volunteer and bring art, history, and science opportunities to the Jackson community? Join us at a volunteer meeting to learn how you can become a bigger part of the Ella Sharp Museum, every third Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. or 5:30 p.m.

### Members Only Cell Block 7 Tour

February 22, 2018

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Admission is free to all Members

Members are invited to a special Cell Block 7 tour. If you've never experienced Jackson's Prison Museum, this is a great opportunity to see this one-of-a-kind museum. Admission for members are free, non-member guests are \$5



### Ella's Babies: Parent & Child Gallery Tours

Sunday, February 17, 2018  
2:00 p.m.

It's never too early to start visiting museums! Bring the little ones for a 15-minute visual tour and sensory exploration of Joyce Grace's whimsical art work. This experience is specially designed for infants to 18 months. The tour will be followed by a make & take keepsake. Parents/guardians will be treated to coffee, tea and sugar cookies, in the spirit of Ella's hospitality. This event is free for members, and \$2 for non-member parent/child.

## **Murder Mystery at the Museum**

March 10, 2018, 6–9 p.m.

\$55 per person/\$100 per couple

\$50 per person/\$90 per couple for members

Join us for a stimulating evening of fine dining and engrossing live theater as we play out “The Curse of the Hope Diamond” at the Museum. Leave your diamonds at home, lest the curse be contagious, but be prepared for an entertaining, interactive experience. Register online at [ellasharp.org](http://ellasharp.org) or call for reservations at 517 787-2320. 1920s attire encouraged.



## **Winter Festival**

Saturday, January 27, 2018

4–8 p.m.

Join us on January 27, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. for the first annual Winter Festival at Ella Sharp Museum. Bringing together a host of seasonal activities such as ice sculpting, bonfires, live music, dry-ice demos, festive lights on Farm Lane, and Northern Lights Planetarium shows, the Winter Festival kicks off a new tradition for the Jackson community. The new event will please young families and adults alike, with plenty to do for all ages.

The museum is also delighted to be joined by Jackson Symphony Orchestra and the Dahlem Center for Environmental Education at this year’s Winter Festival. Jackson Symphony Orchestra will preform live music for festival-goers, while Dahlem Center will conduct demonstartions in the Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art. “We’re pleased and proud to be collaborating with the Dahlem Center, the JSO and Nellie’s Lavender Farm for our first annual Winter Festival. This festival builds on our tradition of engaging community festivals with new winter-themed activities. Our staff is eager to engage the Jackson community with our unique resources and partnerships in this exciting new venture,” explains Katie Gigliotti, Director of Learning and Engagement at Ella Sharp Museum.

Winter Festival is Saturday, January 27. We hope to see you there!

# Exhibit Explores How Families Deal With Memory Loss

Our featured exhibit *Home is Where the Senses Are: A House Full of Memories* offers an interactive experience inspired by a miniature house in the museum's collection. A man from Jackson built this elaborate replica of his family's home for his mother when she began showing signs of memory loss. For this family, the miniature home served as a way to create, reminisce, and connect even through sadness and loss.

Full-size tableaux recreate house rooms, illuminating how human beings use the senses to create and retrieve memories. Informative panels define dementia and Alzheimer's disease and explain some of the causes of memory loss. Prompts encourage visitors to try "reminiscence therapy," using props to foster discussion of past events, traditions, and experiences with loved ones who are suffering memory loss. Reminiscence therapy has been shown to improve cognitive function and bring comfort to afflicted individuals and their families. Visitors can share their experiences with loved ones suffering memory loss in part of the exhibit as well, offering suggestions and ideas that may help others.



# Wood Carvings Coming Soon to the Directors Corner

From late January through Spring, the Director's Corner Gallery features wood carvings by Dr. R. Charles Medlar. Medlar, who has been carving for more than 30 years, creates whimsical faces and figures from plant roots and wood scraps.



# Cell Block 7 Hosts Photo Exhibit on Children in Foster Care

Cell Block 7 is pleased to partner with the non-profit group *Art&Soul Dreams* to raise awareness about children in the foster care system who need permanent homes. Right now, more than 300 Michigan children need permanent homes. Combining art with activism, *Art&Soul Dreams* created this traveling photograph exhibit highlighting the courage and resilience of older children in foster care.

According to founder Melissa Parks, *Art&Soul Dreams* “harnesses the power of art and social awareness to generate mindfulness, stimulate dialogue, change perception, and encourage positive change around the conversation of foster children.” *Art&Soul Dreams* also provides opportunities and support for those who wish to become adoptive or foster parents and mentors to these children. Such networks of support are crucially important. As children age out of the foster care system, they can face challenges including school completion, difficulty finding a job, and even homelessness and incarceration. Cell Block 7 is honored to host this exhibit to encourage conversations about opportunity, equality, and social justice.

The exhibit runs through January 31, 2019. Watch for our closing event held January 27. We hope you can join us for this important conversation.

## Exhibit Calendar



**Home is Where the Senses Are | now–May 19, 2018**



**Journey: Watermedia by Joyce Grace | now– April 22, 2018**



**Objective/Reflective: Mixed Media Works by Cynthia Foley | now–April 1, 2018**



**Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art | Semipermanent gallery**



**Never Enough Time | Semipermanent gallery**



**Jackson History | Semipermanent gallery**

## Donations to the Collection

Donations to the Collection through December 1, 2017  
A special thanks goes to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the museum's collection. These valuable items are an irreplaceable part of Jackson County's history.

Candy Anderson  
Jesus Castillo  
Cindy Conant  
Ed Fagerlund  
Carol Freer  
Natalie Field  
Foundation  
Cheryl Gumper  
Conning Horning

Hot Air Jubilee  
Jackson District  
Library  
Bonita Kothe  
Daniel McAuliffe  
Lee McCoy  
Dana Poliziani  
Patricia Reynolds  
Diane Scholl

Alice Shankland  
Ken & Ruth Smith  
Al Spiess  
Ross Vandercook  
Suzanne Weible  
Richard Wierzbicki  
Jean Yohne

## From the Ella Sharp Museum Collection

### Dia de Muertos Skeleton

We are thrilled to acquire a Day of the Dead display created by former Jackson resident Jesus Castillo. Originally from Guanajuato, Mexico, Castillo has generously shared his cultural traditions with the Jackson community. Dia de Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a Mexican holiday celebrated every year between October 31 and November 2. Family members gather to celebrate the deceased, helping them along their spiritual journey. Castillo would spend the month of October setting up an elaborate display in his yard to mark the holiday, featuring altars, flowers, sugar skulls, and skeletons dressed in native costumes. The skeleton pictured is La Catrina who represents death in Mexico and reminds the living that no matter your status in life we all end up the same way. She is a very common figure in Day of the Dead celebrations.

Now that Castillo has donated his collection to the museum, the Ella looks forward to exhibiting these items for Day of the Dead in 2018.





## Classes

### Adult Ceramics-Beginner/Intermediate

Wednesdays, January 10, 17, and 24  
1–4 p.m. or 6–9 p.m. \$75/\$65 for members

New to ceramics or just developing your skills? Join us for this class focused on jewelry and miniatures. You'll have the chance to work with porcelain as well.

### Adult Ceramics-Advanced

Wednesdays, January 11, 18, and 25  
6–9 p.m. \$75/\$65 for members

This class is designed for those with advanced ceramic skills. Jewelry and miniatures, with the chance to work with porcelain too. Jewelry and miniatures, with chances to work with porcelain as well.

### Open Studio

February 4-10, 11-17, 18-24

Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.–4:45 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m.–6:45 p.m., Sunday noon–4:45 p.m.  
\$75/\$65 for members

We welcome previous students back into the ceramics studio for open studio time. Register by the week. Includes a seven day period of open studio time. Clay not included.

## "Ella Goes to School" Program Expands

In January 2018, Ella Sharp Museum expands its successful "Ella Goes to School" program to Jackson County ISD's East Campus. "Ella Goes to School" began as an initiative to bring interactive, museum-based programming to students at the Lyle Tarrant Center. Recognizing that physical access to the museum is not always possible or convenient, Ella staff members created this program to bring the museum to the students. The museum provides materials and supplies along with appropriate art, history, and science instruction for students of all ages. Weekly lessons build on current exhibits or activities in the museum, linking them to the curriculum at the Tarrant Center. Lessons use sensory integration as a tool for learning and follow STEAM principles (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics). While these programs currently serve students with special-needs, "Ella Goes to School" can be adapted for all classrooms.

"We are excited to expand this program for the Jackson Intermediate School District," says Katie Gigliotti, Director of Learning and Engagement. "We will continue to bring accessible, engaging lessons to students as we use the museum's resources to become a hub for STEAM activities in the Jackson community."

If you are interested in bringing the Ella into your classroom, please contact Katie Gigliotti at [katieg@ellasharp.org](mailto:katieg@ellasharp.org) or 517-787-2320 x 223

### Hurst Planetarium

Thanks to generous contributions from the Hurst Foundation and the ongoing support of our donors, we will refurbish the Hurst Planetarium throughout 2018. Our plans include enhancing the seating in the dome, modernizing other aspects of the building, and developing new programs for audiences to enjoy. Please be patient through this transition as we update the Hurst Planetarium to make it an even more exciting destination in Jackson!

# new & renewed members

August 1–October 31, 2017

## Student/Teacher

Billie Jean Buda  
Sandra L. Kerwin

## Individual

Ann Acker  
Barbara Anderson  
Rachel Bahl  
Beverly Baker  
Janet Brooker  
Mary Lee Clark  
Florence Cushman  
Dorothy Dimitry  
Stephanie L. Drago  
Phyllis Drews  
Jack Esterline  
Betty Gamble  
Timothy Giroux  
Dorothy J. Graham  
Jesse Hammond  
Linda Hayes  
Nancy Hinton  
Nancy Kang  
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Dennis Kiley  
Richard Lambert  
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Rita Lundberg  
Virginia Lutz  
Patricia C. May  
Gail McGlynn  
Sally Mulnix  
Jack Myers  
Margie Pelkey  
Kathleen M. Rensch  
Patricia Rombyer

Pamela Pond  
Daniel Scholten  
Roberta A. Sexton  
Patricia Spencer  
Joanna Steinman  
Ann Swain  
Dorothy Tetreault  
N. Robert Uddin  
Robert H. Walker  
Gene Wandel  
Christina Wasick  
Francene N. Wingo  
Carol Woodhurst

## Dual

Mark & Linda Alyea  
Allison Andrews & Jenn Lyons  
Bruce & Barbara Barton  
Sue Ann & Max Behncke  
Steve & Margaret Beison  
Cindy & Rick Bellew  
Betty Bishop  
Kathy & Corky Bouldrey  
Max & Sue Brail II  
Donald & Kristen Braunreiter  
Philip & Sandy DuPuis  
Ken & Mary Elenbaas  
Herb & Penny Flowers  
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Cathy & Terry Julian

Drs. Amanda & Kit Kirkland  
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Ron & Nancy Parzych  
Val & Norm Peterson  
Robert & Wilma Prater  
Pete & Betty Pultz  
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Jack & Sandy Scheffler  
Kathleen & Arnold Slusher  
Tom & Traci Spring  
Dr. John & Patricia Stover  
Carl & Doris Swenson  
George & Kathie Veach  
Steven & Ave' Veneklasen

## Family

Deborah Andrews & Chris Kurek  
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## Volunteer Spotlight

Karen Beers has been with the museum since 2010, serving in many roles. The past president of the Board of Trustees, Karen also served as interim executive director for nearly six months, guiding the museum through an important transition. She remains an active and dedicated volunteer, assisting in the accounting and development departments. Karen's commitment and generosity are priceless assets to the museum. Her selflessness, patience and positivity are hard to miss every time she volunteers at the museum.

Thank you Karen for all of your hard work and dedication!

# memorials & contributions

August 1–October 31, 2017

## Memorials

### Charles H. Aymond Memorial Endowment Fund

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Tom and Cathy Zimmerman

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Frank & Irene Myers -  
Anonymous

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I've Been Framed

## 2017 Art, Beer, & Wine

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The Arts & Cultural Alliance of Jackson  
County  
Jackson Magazine  
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Ladwig's Culligan  
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The Michigan Theatre

## Cupola Society

The Cupola Society was established in 2015, in recognition of our 50th Anniversary. It celebrates our most dedicated individual donors and their contributions in 2015 and into the future.

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### \$50,000 +

Natalie Field  
Maritom Pyron

For more information about becoming a member of the Cupola Society, please contact us at [info@ellasharp.org](mailto:info@ellasharp.org) or 517.787.2320.

**Make sure to renew to take advantage of the newest membership perks! And remember, memberships make great gifts!**



ELLA SHARP MUSEUM



American Alliance of Museums



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## Museum Hours

Monday	closed
Tuesday	10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Wednesday	10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Thursday	10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Friday	10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Saturday	10 a.m.–5 p.m.
Sunday	noon–5 p.m.

### Platinum

Henry Ford Allegiance Health  
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### Gold

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### Bronze

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Community Choice Credit Union  
Richmond Brothers, Inc.  
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### Silver

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Experience Jackson

### Bronze

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NorthStar Capital, LLC

### Platinum

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Jackson Community Foundation

### Gold

Myrna Berlet

### Bronze

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Allen Spiess Jr.

education



events



exhibits



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Thank you to our 2016/2017 sponsor partners to date. Sponsorship opportunities remain available. Please contact us at [info@ellasharp.org](mailto:info@ellasharp.org) or 517.787.2320 with inquiries.