Winter at the Ella

Winter Festival: page 5
New Member Benefits: page 2
Classes: page 9
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!

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!
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!

From the Director

---

**Board of Trustees**

Rick Mills  
President

Karen Beers  
Past President

Marc Egan  
Treasurer

Dan Machnik  
Secretary

Stephanie Drago  
Friends Board President

Dan Bissot  
Paul Buchholz  
Brennan Clark  
Anna Fisher  
H. Ron Griffith

Erin Mazur  
Chad Noble  
Jane Robinson  
Leslie Youngdahl
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.
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 demonstrations 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
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 Yohnes

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 the museum, the Ella looks forward to exhibiting these items for Day of the Dead in 2018.
Classes

**Adult Ceramics-Beginner/Intermediate**
Wedgesdays, 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 Torrant 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 Torrant 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 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!
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
Advance Turning & Manufacturing
Andy Andrews
Dillon & Associates
Ronald & Marvel Jones
Louis Glick Memorial & Charitable Trust
Tara G. Lebda
Chuck & Chris Medlar
Ronald & Marvel Jones
Louis Glick Memorial & Charitable Trust
Tara G. Lebda
Chuck & Chris Medlar
Ronald & Marvel Jones
Louis Glick Memorial & Charitable Trust
Tara G. Lebda
Chuck & Chris Medlar

Bonnie & Michael Breton
Keith & Beth Ann Huntley

Jack Bunce
Dana Aymond
Robert & Barbara Duke

Roger Gilbert
Robert & Barbara Duke

Carol Goyings
Keith & Beth Ann Huntley

Millie Hadwin
Dana Aymond
Judd Bacon
Donald & Kristen Braunreiter
Sally Bunce
Robert & Elise Cole
Jerome & Jaye Congleton
Robert and Barbara Duke
Margaret E. Eaton
Carl & Linda English
Friends of Ella Sharp Museum
Chuck & Linda Furgason
Jewel Gill
Edward and Helen Greene
Cheryl Gumper
Kevin Harty
Lois Harty
Elizabeth Herndon
Constance D. Hobde
Bary & Ellen Keatley
Eleanore Langford
Diane McMeans
David & Jill Mittleman
Suzanne Tangen
Dick & Sally Van Schoick
Ron & Pat Szymanski
Russell C. Youngdahl

Barb Lally
Robert and Barbara Duke
Chuck & Sue Wrzesinski

Carole Thompson
Robert and Barbara Duke

Hellen Zimmerman
Dana Aymond
Peter & Kathryn Benington
Marjorie R. Borsum
Kim Braun
S Z Buckley
Capitol Research Services, Inc.
– Rachelle Neal
Richard E. Clifton
Bud & Olivia Davis
Friends of Ella Sharp Museum
Jewel Gill
Edward and Helen Greene
Cheryl Gumper
Kevin Harty
Lois Harty
Elizabeth Herndon
Constance D. Hobde
Bary & Ellen Keatley
Eleanore Langford
Diane McMeans
David & Jill Mittleman
Suzanne Tangen
Dick & Sally Van Schoick
Ron & Pat Szymanski
Russell C. Youngdahl

Ronald Zimmerman & Sue
Livingston
Tom and Cathy Zimmerman

In Honor of
Honorarium Brick:
Frank & Irene Myers - Anonymous

Donations
Addison P. Cook III Foundation
Cheryl Conrad
Friends of Ella Sharp Museum
Roger & Cheryl Hanson
John & Fran Parker
Sierra Club
Experience Jackson
Edward R. Scott
Jackson Audubon Society, Inc.
Diane Rockall
Richard Lambert
Dorothy Dyer
United Way of Jackson County
Hurst Foundation
The Natalie Field Foundation
Deborah Marshall
Allen Spiess, Jr.

In-Kind Donations
Allen Spiess, Jr.
The Crazy Cowboy
Kibby Cobb Liquor & Deli
Pickle Barrel Deli
Buffalo Wild Wings
Junk Yard Dog
Knight’s Steakhouse & Grill
Polly’s Country Market
I’ve Been Framed

2017 Art, Beer, & Wine Sponsors
County National Bank
Craft Insurance Agency, Inc.
Art Moehn Chevrolet
Willis and Machnik Financial Services
Richmond Brothers
Erin Mazur & Marco Shehab
Rooney’s
Community Choice Credit Union
Commonwealth Associates
Experience Jackson
JTV
Meckley’s Cidery/Flavor Fruit Farm

Hammond Hardware
The Kellogg’s Company
The Arts & Cultural Alliance of Jackson County
Jackson Magazine
Lomar Machine & Tool
Ladwig’s Culligan
K 105.3
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.

$5,000 +
Myrna I. Berlet
Thomas and Nancy Evanson
Georgia and Travis Fojtasek
Melling Family
Edward and Helen Greene
Anthony P. Hurst
Ronald and Marvel Jones
Mary M. McVicker
Eric and Patti Poppe
Thomas A. Troy

$10,000 +
A. Bennett Schram

$25,000 +
Andy and Sandy Andrews
A. P. and Beatrice Cook
Jim and Joyce Grace
Sheldon and Jean Laughlin
Allen Spiess, Jr.

$50,000 +
Natalie Field
Maritom Pyron

For more information about becoming a member of the Cupola Society, please contact us at 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!
### Museum Hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>10 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>10 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>10 a.m.–7 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>10 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>10 a.m.–5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>noon–5 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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