

Ella

FALL 2019



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Ella

From the Director



It's hard to believe it's been 50 years since man landed on the moon. I remember watching the Apollo missions on television, and feeling thrilled each time a rocket launched. My friend Bonnie lived across the street from our elementary school, and her mom brought a television to our classroom so we could all

participate in the countdown together. Each re-entry was exciting, too. At first, I couldn't pick out the astronaut's capsule on our TV screen, but as it got larger and larger, I couldn't wait for the splashdown and the excitement of seeing the astronauts emerge.

Fifty years ago was pretty exciting in Jackson, too. That was when Peter F. Hurst presented the community with a state-of-the-art planetarium. Peter was a local industrialist and philanthropist who founded Jackson's Aeroquip Corporation. A longtime Ella Sharp Museum supporter, he also served as the museum's president for a time in the 1960s. While some funding for Jackson's new planetarium came from the National Defense Education Act, Peter's significant contributions made the project a reality – and the new planetarium was named in his honor.

This gift launched 50 years of space-themed school programs and astronomy clubs in local elementary and high schools. While the planetarium operated under the auspices of the Jackson Public Schools for most of its life, today the Ella Sharp Museum proudly delivers this service to Jackson. We still provide programs to school children, but we also invite the public to enjoy our live and recorded shows, featuring our new OmniStar projector, on weekends and some weekday evenings. Our new telescopes also come out for special events, so you can get a closer look at the Moon and stars.

I hope you'll join us on September 20th as we proudly celebrate the Peter F. Hurst Planetarium's 50th anniversary with a free community event.

You may have seen the planetarium years ago, but have you seen it lately?

I'll see you at the Ella!

Board of Trustees

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Are You a New Member?

If you've joined the museum since the last newsletter, welcome to the family of supporters of one of the most distinctive cultural institutions in Michigan! "The Ella," established in 1965, is really three museums in one, celebrating achievements in art, science and history.

The main museum complex contains more than 10 buildings – including the 19th-century home and farmstead of our namesake, a newly renovated planetarium, and a multi-purpose educational facility that houses galleries, classrooms and community spaces – situated in the midst of Jackson's largest and most beautiful park. On the other side of the I-94 expressway is our most unique contribution to Michigan tourism: Cell Block 7, one of only a handful of prison museums in the country.

With these resources at our disposal, we are able to make substantial contributions to our community and county. Through the course of a year, the Ella hosts four community festivals and a variety of special events; presents 10 to 20 original and traveling exhibits; and delivers more than 50 unique educational programs to

visitors all ages. Behind the scenes, our curatorial staff works to collect and conserve thousands of pieces of art and artifacts that are important to the Jackson area. And your membership helps make all of this possible.

If at any time you have questions about your benefits or suggestions for ways to make membership a more meaningful experience, please don't hesitate to contact the membership and volunteer coordinator at 517-787-2320. (If you'd like to talk about volunteer opportunities, this is the way to contact us, too.)

In the meantime, enjoy all the benefits – including this newsletter – that your membership entails. And thank you for joining the Ella Sharp Museum!

NOT A MEMBER YET?

Visit ellasharpmuseum.org/support/membership
or call 517-787-2320 to join now!



A Little Bit About Ella

Ella (Merriman) Sharp was a resident of Jackson who lived from 1857 to 1912. A generous, civic-minded individual, she was known in her lifetime as a leader in local women's clubs. She was one of the first women to champion forestry, and she led a statewide effort to establish forest preserves and a fire patrol system. In recognition of her many achievements, she was inducted into the Michigan Women's Hall of Fame in 1998.

Peter Hurst's 1969 Gift Helped Jackson

Reach for the Stars!



The year was 1969. America was in the midst of a space race with the USSR, and two of our astronauts had just set foot on the moon. NASA was planning other missions to outer space, and interest in interplanetary exploration was at its peak.

Into that environment stepped Jackson industrialist Peter F. Hurst, the first chair of the board that oversaw the Ella Sharp Museum. Hurst, who had worked in the aviation industry from the beginning of his career as an engineer, understood that the museum needed a boost of capital to be able to adequately serve the needs of the community. So he donated part of his personal fortune as founder of Aeroquip, a successful manufacturing concern, to support the expansion of the museum's campus and – most importantly – the construction of a planetarium on the grounds of the Ella. The result? Fifty years of stellar experiences for Jackson-area students and visitors from around the state.

The museum has dedicated 2019 to honoring Hurst's vision, culminating in a festival on September 20. And you're invited!

*Join us for a
Family-Friendly, Free & Fun Event
Friday, September 20, 2019
6-9 p.m.*

*Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the
Peter F. Hurst Planetarium*

*Featuring planetarium programs, Illuminatus
Lasers shows, telescopes and science demos, the
Jackson Model Rocketry Club, music, food trucks,
a photo booth, giveaways, hands-on
activities AND the opening of a new,
space-themed exhibit!*



50 Years: Jackson & Space

Museum Launches Exhibit Celebrating the Planetarium's Anniversary

Opening September 20 and continuing through March 29, 2020 is a new, original exhibit detailing the history of the planetarium, the life of its primary benefactor and Jackson's unique contributions to space exploration.

On display will be photos and documents from the museum's collection as well as artifacts from private collectors and Kalamazoo's Air Zoo – the latter lending the use of a flight suit worn by Jackson native Al Worden during his Apollo 15 mission. The careers of Worden and James A. McDivitt Jr. and NASA employee Robert Freitag will receive prime attention as will the history of the Michigan Space and Science Center that was once located on the campus of Jackson College.

This special exhibit was produced with the support of the Hurst Foundation.



PLANETARIUM CALENDAR

The following programs will be presented in the Hurst Planetarium; tickets are available at the doors of the planetarium.

COST: \$6 adults, \$4 adult members, \$4 children 6-18 (free under 5)

■ Through September 29, 2019

Robots on Mars

Sundays 1:30 pm

Imagine the Moon

Sundays 2:30 pm, Thursdays 6:30 pm

■ October 3, 2019 – January 30, 2020

Mayan Archaeoastronomy: Observers of the Universe

Sundays 1:30 pm

In a feast of colors and sounds, this show illustrates how the Mayans developed the ability to orient their temples in relation to the movement of the Sun, the Moon and Venus.

Jupiter Up Close

Sundays 2:30 pm, Thursdays 6:30 pm

Buckle up! We're taking the 2016 Juno spacecraft to the solar system's largest planet. Explore the mysteries beneath Jupiter's clouds and dozens of moons.

Smithsonian Shares Its “Things Come Apart” Exhibit with the Ella



Smithsonian

Within every object, tool or device that we use there are dozens of components that work together to represent the creativity, passion and highest levels of achievement of their time. When it comes to the objects we use every day, the sum really is greater than the parts. “Things Come Apart” – a new exhibit delivered to the Ella from the Smithsonian Institution – features captivating photographs of deconstructed devices, fascinating videos and encased disassembled objects that display the effects imagination has on technology and the evolution of design.

There’s a hands-on element to this exhibit, too; children of all ages can become a part of the design experience through activities from Spark!Lab, developed by the Smithsonian’s Lemelson Center for the Study of Invention and Innovation.

The “Things Come Apart” exhibit was organized by Todd McLellan and the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Services (SITES). The Spark!Lab Activity Kits have been provided through a grant from the Smithsonian Women’s Committee.

Thank you to donors of the Charles H. Aymond Memorial Endowment Fund for helping to bring this educational presentation to the Jackson area.



Mantel Clock

Mantel clock made by E. Ingraham in 1928.

Component count: 59.

Photograph by Todd McLellan



EXHIBITS CALENDAR

The Living Wilderness: The Story of Berlet Films | through September 8, 2019

Art a' Loan | September 1-30, 2019, CP Federal City Square, Downtown Jackson; October 3-17, 2019, Ella Sharp Museum

Things Come Apart | through January 26, 2020

50 Years: Jackson & Space | September 20, 2019 – March 29, 2020

Andrews Gallery of Wildlife Art | semi-permanent exhibit

Never Enough Time | semi-permanent exhibit

Jackson History | semi-permanent exhibit



WHEN: Saturday, October 26, 2019, 6–9 p.m.

COST: \$60 individuals, \$110 couples; \$55 individual members, \$100 couple members
To purchase tickets, visit ellasharpmuseum.org.

Second Chance to Enjoy the Murder Mystery Event

A black hole has suddenly appeared in the sky, threatening to swallow up the beautiful blue planet Azuria. A leading scientist who believed she could save the planet has been poisoned, and her solution died with her. While plans are being made to evacuate to another planet, the Chancellor goes missing. Who is responsible for all this murder and mayhem?

That's for you to figure out during "Rescue Mission in Space," a live, interactive theater experience developed to coincide with the museum's year-long celebration of the Hurst Planetarium's 50th anniversary.

For the price of admission, you can be part of the action. (Costumes are encouraged!) Tickets also include a buffet-style meal from the Catering Company (with vegetarian options) and one complimentary drink. A cash bar will be available.

FIRST FRIDAYS CALENDAR

New to the Ella this year, First Friday programs enable you to experience the Ella Sharp Museum, Cell Block 7 and the Hurst Planetarium in new and exciting ways. Each program runs from 7-9 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door OR online at ellasharp.org. Light appetizers from Cherry Creek Winery and a cash bar are available.

COST: \$10/person, \$15/couple; free for members

■ October 4

Ever seen a ghost? Listen to Gerald S. Hunter, author of "Haunted Michigan," talk about ghostly apparitions and other supernatural phenomena in the Jackson area.

WHERE: On the museum patio, weather permitting.

■ November 1

Celebrate Mexico's Day of the Dead holiday by enjoying live music, food, drinks and traditional activities such as papel picado and viewing select pieces from the collection of former Jackson resident Jesus Castillo.

WHERE: In the Granary.

■ December 6

Join Zachary Constan of the National Superconducting Cyclotron Laboratory on a virtual tour of this Michigan facility where scientists study the inner workings of atoms.

WHERE: In the planetarium.

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

■ Girl Scout Open House

WHEN: Saturday, November 16, 2019, 1-5 p.m.

COST: \$25 scouts, \$10 adults

■ Ella's Explorers Club

WHEN: September 21; October 19; November 16; December 21, 10 a.m.-noon

COST: \$4 drop-in or \$36/year; \$3 drop-in or \$30/year members

■ Fall Ceramic Classes

Beginner/Intermediate Students

Wednesdays 1-4 p.m. or 6-9 p.m.

September 18 and 25; October 2, 9 and 16;

November 6, 13 and 20

Thursdays 1-4 p.m.

September 19 and 26; October 3, 10 and 17;

November 7, 14 and 21

Advanced Students

Thursdays 6-9 p.m.

September 19 and 26; October 3, 10 and 17;

November 7, 14 and 21

COST: \$200; \$175 members

For more information or to register, visit ellasharpmuseum.org.

ABW Festival Welcomes 5,000+ Visitors

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Jackson District Library
Johnny's Tree Service
Meckly's Cider/Flavor
Fruit Farm
Michigan Shakespeare Festival
Napoleon Lawn & Leisure
Roaming Goat

Maybe it was the temperature: a balmy 80 degrees. Maybe it was the setting: the beautiful parkland surrounding Ella Sharp Museum. More likely it was the broad selection of beer, wine and cider highlighted by dozens of booths of colorful, affordable art that drew more than 5,000 people to our signature event of the year on June 8.

Pulling off the Art, Beer, and Wine Festival is a monumental task. Planning starts in October; by the time the festival rolls around, more than 20 museum staffers have gotten involved in soliciting community partners and sponsors; signing up food and beverage vendors; reviewing musicians' and artists' applications; ordering supplies; preparing the grounds and arranging for security. Then you add in a committed corps of 325 volunteers to make the day run smoothly.

If everything goes well, two goals are accomplished: to highlight Michigan artists and businesses and to offset costs enough to support museum programming. The 2019 festival netted more than \$90,000 for the latter purpose.

Thanks to all who made this year a success! And mark your calendars for next year's festival, scheduled for June 13, 2020.



Functional and Fine Art

In May, we unveiled three art installations that double as bike racks by Michigan artists Gary Willcock, David Flack and Brandon Fischer. Sponsors included Emmons Service, Inc., OmniSource and Erin Mazur and Marco Shehab Support the Arts.



Museum Manager Talks About Impact, Importance



It's been five years since the opening of Cell Block Seven (CB7), a museum located on the grounds of the State Prison of Southern Michigan. Though some in the county questioned the need for such an institution, CB7 has proved popular – registering more than 35,000 visitors to date. As CB7 enters its sixth year of operation,

Manager Brad Collins thinks it's important to revisit why this cultural attraction is important to the area.

"Jackson was the birthplace of Michigan's penal system," Collins explains. "Our first prison opened here in January 1839 with 39 inmates. From this modest beginning, more than 30 correctional facilities developed throughout the state." Over the course of 180 years, Jackson has maintained an unbroken connection to corrections, even housing two separate institutions that held the title of "the largest walled prison in the world." The county's penal footprint now includes four facilities holding 4,000 to 5,000 inmates at any given time.

For these reasons, Collins affirms, there is no better place than CB7 to explore Michigan's prison history. "The fact that visitors have the opportunity to learn about such history in a place where it actually transpired is one that shouldn't be taken for granted."

U-M Students Contribute to CB7 Projects

This year, CB7 engaged four students from the University of Michigan to work on three separate, yet related projects for the museum. Plans are to put all of their hard work to good use, as the museum looks to make some changes to its content in the near future.

■ Emily Cornish and Eimeel Castillo, students in U-M's museum studies program, focused their capstone project on researching and reaching out to other prison museums to see how they approach the often-challenging topics associated with such institutions. The students developed a comprehensive list of American prison museums and a survey that will be administered later this year.

■ Rackham Fellow Alex Honold worked on an oral history program made possible through The Natalie Field Foundation's Local History Award. Alex, a PhD candidate in education with a background in history, conducted interviews with community members as well as former inmates and prison employees associated with Jackson facilities as far back as the 1970s.

■ Jeremy York, a PhD candidate in history, participated in a data-gathering project that was also funded by the Field Foundation. The main objective of his project was to identify and locate any materials related to prison history throughout the many historical repositories in Michigan.

new members

January 19–August 1, 2019

Student/ Teacher

Carey Baumgardner
Brian Couling
Jessica Crandell
Julie Durocher
Connie Dwyer
Shelley Gibbs
Leigh Haroff
Debra Dornan Hirth
Debra Irvine
Jason Khon
Brianna Kinney
Kevin Krieger
Hallie Levine
Betty Lindquist
Constance Miller
Bernie Nabozny
Katherine Reaume
Heidi Rhodes
Suzanne Richardson
Annie Stone
Scott Struck
Dana Van Sumeren

Individual

Kimberly Carter
Traci Cooper
Vicki Dillon
Deborah Gosline
Troy Hadley
Michelle Hirsch
Lynn Hoskins
Timothy Kohlitz
Lisa Leonard
Jessica Lingane
Margaret D. Martin
Loreen Maule
Julianna Mayo
Darryl Merredith
Jane O'Neil
Michelle Pratt
Peg Proebstle
Janet Somalinog
Dale Welihan
David Welihan
Kory Wittman
Robin Wormser
Anne Williston

Dual

Sharon Bliss & Amanda
Hemgesberg
Kevin & Debra Collins
Mark & Mark Cunningham
Jason & Susan DePriest
Todd & Lisa Desy
Michael & Mona Holsapple
Kent & Kellie Hubbard
Kellie Garris & Sylvia Clark
Roger & Elizabeth Kremer
Nancy Macaluso
Ross Maynard & Mary
O'Reilly
Judy Rich & Brian Funston
Bob & Jean Ross
Gary & Nancy Siegrist
James & Jennifer Yocum

Family

Robert & Katherine
Albertson
Rhonda Ball
Sharanne Bennett
Janet Brown
Debbie Chambers
Gene Chapel
Justin & Emily Charles
Frederick & Elizabeth
Corwin
Monica Day
Joseph & Michelle Gibson
Allen & Gail King
Steve & Monica King
Evan & Cynthia Nelson
William & Faith O'Brien
Jerry & Pam Sine
Donald & Rosario Tanguay
James & Patricia Timmons
Richard & Shari Walters
Steve & Christina Williams

Sustainer

William & Susan Horvath

Investor

Jeff Hanson
Donald & Amy Jones

Benefits of Annual Membership

Student (\$20) ■ Teacher (\$20) ■ Individual (\$40) ■ Dual (\$50)

- Free admission to Ella Sharp Museum
- Free admission to Merriman-Sharp House tours
- Discounted admission to the Hurst Planetarium and Cell Block 7
- Subscription to Ella News, the quarterly newsletter
- Personalized membership card
- Advance and discounted tickets to year-round events
- Discounts to ceramics classes
- Free admission to stroller tours
- Free admission to First Friday Series
- Free admission to Ella's Patio Parties
- Invitation to member-only events
- 10% discount at the museum store

Family (\$60) All benefits above plus...

- NARM membership (North American Reciprocal Museums)

Sustainer (\$125) All benefits above plus...

- Discount on room rentals
- One Jackson Symphony Orchestra complimentary concert ticket

Investor (\$250) All benefits above plus...

- One individual membership to give as a gift

Benefactor (\$500) All benefits above plus...

- Two individual memberships to give as gifts
- Free tuition to one class

Steward (\$1,000) All benefits above plus...

- Five individual memberships to give as gifts
- Free tuition to two classes
- Complimentary use of the Activities Room once a year

Join for \$60 to Access 1,000+ Other Museums

If you choose to join the Ella at the Family level or above, you'll also enjoy membership in the North American Reciprocal Museum (NARM) Association, providing access to more than 1,000 arts, cultural and historical institutions along with botanical gardens, children's museums and science and technology centers in the U.S., Bermuda, Canada, El Salvador and Mexico. For more information, contact the membership and volunteer coordinator at membership@ellasharp.org or 517-787-2320.

Memorials

Charles H. Aymond Memorial Endowment Fund

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Jacob Jabkiewicz
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Dina Prokos Gesouras
Andrew & Catherine Rieman
Melanie & Christina Simmons
John & Sharon Vanderpool
Martha Warner
Keith & Barbara Wellman
Gary & Christie Willcock

Rod Scheele

Robert & Donna Hardy
Robert Walker

Art a' Loan Is Out of This World!

Did you know that Art a' Loan, the annual Jackson County student art competition and exhibit, is entering its 13th year? Forty-five artworks from students in kindergarten through 12th grade have been selected to be professionally framed and displayed, first at CP Federal City Square, followed by Ella Sharp Museum and then into the community. This program is a partnership between the Ella Sharp Museum and the Jackson Civic Art Association.

The 2019 theme is "Out of This World." For more information about the upcoming reception, exhibit or how you can rent a piece of art, visit ellasharpmuseum.org/exhibits/art-a-loan or call 517-787-2320.



John Whiting

Sue & Alan Amstutz
Tom & Anne Baker
Brian & Sharon Bell
Steven & Shirley Chu
Travis & Georgia Fojtasek
Sherwood & Joyce Furman
John & Susan Gruel
Robert & Donna Hardy
Frances Jesel
Dan & Deborah Luginbuhl
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In Honor of

Georgia Fojtasek

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In-Kind Donations

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Mid-Year Appeal

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Marilou Stewart

Year-End Appeal

Philip Chamberlain

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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.

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events



exhibits



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