

The SOCIETY

HARSENS ISLAND / ST. CLAIR FLATS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGES

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

...in perspective

- *Image One, is of the collision of two distant galaxies, captured by JPL's Wide Field Planetary Camera #2*
- *Image Two, is our own Milky Way Galaxy*

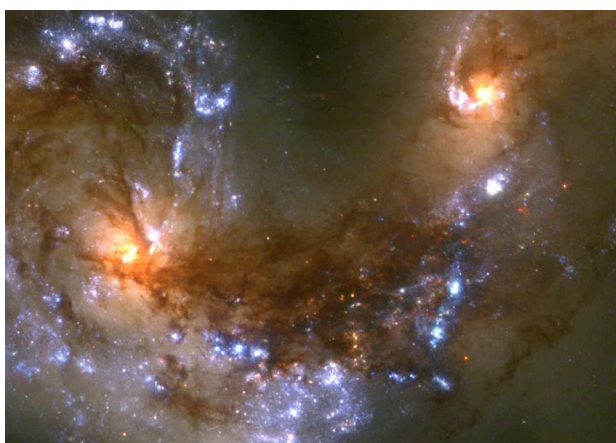


Image One



Image Two

Did you know that our Milky Way Galaxy stretches 100,000 light years across? (One of the brighter dots in the lower half of Image Two is our Sun.)

With those facts in-mind, take a moment this Holiday Season to ponder you and your relationship to the universe. Then ponder the earthly-world as we know it with the many beliefs about creation and our place in it here on Planet Earth.

Take a few minutes to then think about the many ways we as humans have interpreted Planet Earth, its existence and creation and how we honor that creation in different ways. Review page four-(4), where you will find further information about differences and interpretations.

Have a joyful, healthy, safe and tolerant holiday season, however you choose to celebrate it. May the New Year bring you tolerance so that we earthly humans may live in peace and one-day *all* begin to work together, live in harmony and learn the true mysteries of the universe that we *all* live in.

And after you are finished doing that...DON'T FORGET the:

Annual Cookie Sale & Shop for the Holidays...

...Saturday December 5, 10:00 AM a the Museum

The Cookie Sale is just a couple days away. You can participate by baking a few dozen cookies to donate to the sale and/or if you don't have time to bake, stop into the Museum Saturday, purchase a 'tin of your choosing', and fill it with your choice of a large variety of cookies. This is a wonderful way to support the Society and have Holiday Treats on-hand for friends and family.

The Museum Shoppe is a great place to shop for the Holidays. Historic Lecture DVD's, the unique Lampshade's with historic images or photos of your choosing, books and other items are available.

The Society Pages

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Clair Flats Historical Society

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www.HISCFHS.org

scan the code to go to the HISCFHS
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Message from the President

Dear Society Members,

In September 2011, I wrote the first of some sixty four- (64) Presidents Message's over the past five years. This December 2016 Message will be my last.

The September Message was an introduction. In the October Message I compared our battle to achieve our 'objectives' in military terms and related, via a quote from General George Patton, what we had to do to get there.

"Never tell people how to do things.

Tell them 'what to do' and they will surprise you with their ingenuity."

General George S. Patton

Well, that is exactly what has happened. We/your board have outlined the 'what' and your ingenuity has brought us to achieving our 'first objective', which was capture of the building by purchasing it in 2013. Our 'next objective' is fully 'owning-the-building' by paying-off the last 15% of the land-contract; and, we are heading into a final battle to do just that.

Your new 'First-in Command'/President Robert (Bob) Williams has prepared the case for achieving this 'next objective' with the 'Own-Our-Museum' Capital Campaign to complete this task. Details of the plan will be revealed in the next week on 'what' you can do to help achieve this 'next objective'. *The Board has already made progress with pledges and cash donations.* Watch your mailbox for complete details, timing and benefits to you and The Society.

Bob Williams was appointed to the Board in September 2011 and has served as director and first vice president. Bob is an architect. He has served as chairman of the Clay Township Phragmites Management Advisory Board and is involved with conservation and stewardship projects. Bob and his wife Sue reside in Berkley Michigan and are the owners of the Stewart Farm Ecology Center located on Stewart Road. Bob has a much longer resume of community participation. He and Sue were named "Michiganians of the Year" in 2011. We look forward to Bob leading The Society to future goals and objectives established by the Board.

An 'Island-family' gathering at the **Lions Annual Thanksgiving Dinner** was enjoyed by all who attended. Father Sig led with giving thanks. The food was great and the Detroit Lions WON...a great way to spend the day.

Completing these past five- (5) years as your President has been a rewarding experience. I offer my 'personal-thanks' to each of you who has contributed to making your Historical Society a successful endeavor. Your ingenuity has brought us to where we are today and will bring us to even greater achievements tomorrow.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

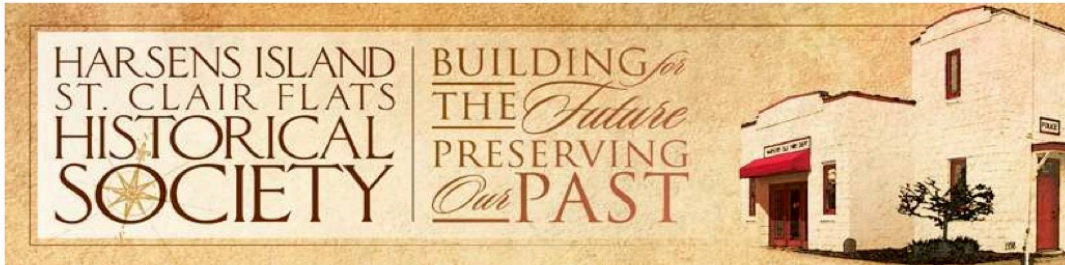
Warm regards,

Bernardo



Join us on Facebook!

Own Our Museum Campaign



We Have an Opportunity to Own Our Museum – We Need Your Help Now.

The Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society has come a long way since its first meeting in 2009. After just two years we rented the 1938 Fire Hall and opened our history museum. In our fourth year we were able to make a down payment on a land contract to purchase the building. In that time we have received over 900 items for our collection of Island memorabilia, and visitors have enjoyed the Museum every Saturday and Sunday each summer. The Society's popular lecture series has brought many regionally recognized speakers to the island. We have conducted three Tashmoo Day events to bring to life the history of our island.

Today the status of the purchase of the building is as follows:

- 55% of the cost is already paid
- 30% is being held in our savings accounts
- 15% additional is needed to own our building

Recently the sellers offered a substantial discount to the remaining balance if we pay off the land contract in the first few months of 2016. Additionally, the sooner we pay off the balance, the less interest we will pay in the long run. The Board of Directors would like to take advantage of this opportunity to reduce the total cost and place the building completely under our control. If in the next few months we can raise the remaining \$20,000 needed to complete the purchase it will assure our financial security and sustainability going forward. The discount offered combined with the elimination of future interest makes each dollar donated at this time worth about \$1.30.

We hope to make a database of our memorabilia available at the Museum and online. A secondary benefit to paying off the building is that more volunteer time can be focused on the collection.

To help us meet our goal, please consider making a generous donation before the end of the year. If in the past you considered a donation to the building fund, purchasing a Building Brick or upgrading to a lifetime membership, this is the time. We need your help now.

Please fill out the enclosed donation form and return it with your tax deductible donation. The Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Feel free to call me at 248-388-0465 or any other member of our Board of Directors if you have any questions.

Thank you and we hope on Memorial Day Weekend to all be celebrating the completion of our Museum purchase.

Robert Williams and the Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society Board of Directors

Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society, P.O. Box 44, Harsens Island, MI 48028 - www.HISCFHS.org

The increase of diversity in the U.S.:

The U.S. has traditionally been a Protestant Christian nation. However Protestants are believed to have become a minority for the first time during 2006. ⁴ Meanwhile, according to the national [ARIS study](#), about 75% of American adults currently identify themselves as Christians -- a number that is decreasing by about 0.8 percentage point per year. **If** this rate continues, Christianity will become a minority religion in the 2030s. Most Americans will then either have no religious affiliation or will identify themselves with a non-Christian faith.

A number of influences have been responsible for these changes. Some are:

- The major loss of membership by mainline and liberal Christian denominations in recent decades, compensated by
- a rise in attendance at conservative congregations;
- The influx of immigrants who follow non-Christian religions, like [Buddhism](#), [Hinduism](#), and [Islam](#);
- The rise of [Agnosticism](#), [Atheism](#), [Humanism](#), freethinking, and secularism;
- The increasing membership in new religions, like [New Age](#), [Wicca](#), etc.
- A return by many [Native Americans to the Aboriginal faiths of their ancestors](#).

America is clearly becoming more [religiously diverse](#). Canada, Europe and some other countries are following the same trend.

Reflecting this increase in religious diversity, there are now many religious celebrations widely observed during the month of December in North America. Many are related to the day when the winter solstice occurs -- between DEC-20 and 22. This date has the shortest daytime and longest nighttime of the day, in the Northern Hemisphere:

- **Bodhi Day** by **Buddhists**. This recalls the date when Buddha attained enlightenment.
- **Christmas** by **Christians**. The ancient Christians took over Saturnalia, an ancient Roman Pagan seven day festival of Saturn which started on DEC-17 and used it to commemorate the birth of Yeshua of Nazareth (Jesus Christ). [Internal evidence](#) in the Bible indicates that he was born in the Fall between 4 and 7 BCE.
- The **Day of the Return of the Wandering Goddess** has also been observed by followers of Kemetic Orthodoxy, the religion of ancient Egypt, since about 4500 [BCE](#). This celebrates the return of the Goddess Hathor to her father Ra and the healing of their relationship. It is synchronized to the Winter Solstice
- **Hanukkah (a.k.a. Chanukah, Festival of Lights, & Festival of Rededication)** by **Jews**. It is an eight day holiday that begins on the 25th day of Kislev which can occur in very late November or during December. Rabbi Allen Maller has donated an essay for this web site titled "[Why Hanukah is for Muslim Jews](#)."
- **Id al-Fitr** by **Muslims** for a few years before 2006. Between 2006 and 2008, it was **Id al-Adha** (a.k.a. the *Feast of Sacrifice* or *Day of Sacrifice*). During 2009 and 2010, it is **Ashura**:
 - For Sunni Muslims, Ashura* is a day of fasting that was originally observed by Jews to recall when God saved the Children of Israel from the Pharaoh in Egypt. Muhammad made it compulsory for Muslims as well.
 - For Shiite Muslims, Ashura* recalls an event circa 680-OCT-20 [CE](#) in Iraq when an army of the Umayyad regime martyred a group of 70 individuals who refused to submit to the Caliph. One of the martyrs was Imam Husain, the youngest grandson of Prophet Muhammad.
- [Winter Solstice](#) is celebrated by some **Native Americans** and **Aboriginals** in the rest of the world.
- Many **Atheists**, at least in North America, have begun to celebrate the **Winter Solstice**.
- **Saturnalia** by **Nova Romans (a.k.a. Romana)**. ^{1,2} These are **Neopagans** who worship the ancient Gods of Rome and who celebrate the ancient Roman holy days.
- **Yule** by **Wiccans** and some other **Pagans**

This month also includes a number of cultural celebrations. Three are:

- **Festivus**, a celebration "*for the rest of us*". It is as a simple, rather humorous family alternative to Christmas with a minimum of commercialization.
- **Kwanzaa** (a.k.a. Kwanzaa, Quansa) is a week-long, inter-faith celebration -- a cultural holiday celebrating African-American heritage.
- **Omisoka** is a very popular end-of-year celebration in Japan.
- **Shabe-Yalda**, an Iranian inter-faith celebration in honor of the sun's rebirth.

This information was obtained from: Ontario Consultants on Religious Tolerance at: http://www.religioustolerance.org/xmas_menu.htm

This information is provided as a 'historic-perspective' of differences in the broad context of human existence on Planet Earth.

Make a New-Year Resolution...

...become a VOLUNTEER in 2016

*I would like to **Volunteer at the Museum** on the **weekend days circled below:** (Orientation scheduled for Spring 2016)*

Circle the Dates you would like to work at the Museum:

May:

28 29 30 (Full Day Half Day)

June:

4 5 11 12 18 19 25 26 (Full Day Half Day)

July:

2 3 4 9 10 16 17 23 24 30 31 (Full Day Half Day)

August:

6 7 13 14 20 21 27 28 (Full Day Half Day)

September:

3 4 5 10 11 17 18 24 25 (Full Day Half Day)

Thank you for making your Historical Society and Museum a viable and successful endeavor. Without each Members dedication and support your Board of Directors could not achieve the goals and objectives you have set.



Learn more about the History of Harsens Island and the Flats...join the Volunteers

Complete the form and Mail this page to PO Box 44 or phone Nancy Boulton at: 810-748-3802

