

## *Believe in Santa Clause?*



*Whether you believe in Santa or any other myth, the Holiday's arrive each December and each of us are afforded time to reflect upon and contemplate our place in the universe. Most of us celebrate the Holidays via our family and/or religious traditions of Christmas, Chanukah, Id al-Fitr or others. (see below) We also take this time to express our caring and consideration of others via gift giving to loved ones and friends.*

There are 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.
- **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.*

*...continued on Page 2*

## The Society Pages

Volume 7 / Number 12 / December 2016

A publication of the Harsens Island St.  
Clair Flats Historical Society

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 44  
Harsens Island MI 48028

**Museum Address:**  
3058 S. Channel Dr.  
[email@hiscfhs.org](mailto:email@hiscfhs.org)



[www.HISCFS.org](http://www.HISCFS.org)

scan the code to go to the HISCFS  
website

**December 2016**

Editor: **Bernardo Licata**  
586-530-7100  
[editor@hiscfhs.org](mailto:editor@hiscfhs.org)

### HISCFS Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board  
**Bernardo Licata** – 586-530-7100  
[chairman@hiscfhs.org](mailto:chairman@hiscfhs.org)

President  
**Bob Williams** – 248-388-0465  
[president@hiscfhs.org](mailto:president@hiscfhs.org)

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
**Nancy Boulton** - 810-748-3802

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
**Susan Wrobel** – 810-748-3601

Treasurer  
**Joyce Hassen** – 313-336-1735

Secretary  
**Nancy Bonacquisti** – 248-840-3042

Directors  
**Kathy O'Connor** - 810-748-3113  
**Nancy Licata** - 810-748-1825  
**Charles Miller** - 810-748-7209

## Message from the Chairman of the Board

Dear Members and Friends,

As we close out **2016** (or in the Chinese Calendar, Year of the Monkey, **4714** or in the Jewish Calendar **5777** or in the Islamic Calendar **1438 AH**) the Board of Directors wishes to extend its warm wishes for the Holiday Season, no matter your background or traditions. During this Holiday Season we hope you will reflect upon our many likenesses and differences and remember that we are more alike than different.

A tradition of the Holidays is 'gift giving' to loved ones and friends. We hope each of you will receive and give the gift of tolerance and acceptance of our diversity. Take some time, during this Holiday Season, to 'make a new friend' who is not exactly like you and differs somewhat from you, your family and your traditions; and, truly learn who they are. You may find yourself pleasantly surprised.

We hope this Holiday Season brings you health and safety in your travels. The Society Board is most appreciative of your support to The Society and the Museum. We wish you peace and love and the comfort of your family your home and your friends.

Warm regards,

Bernardo Licata  
Chairman

## Join the Harsens Island Historical Society: Encourage a Friend or Neighbor to Become a Member Today ...or Give a Membership as a 'Holiday Gift':

"It's easy":

- Go to the following URL:  
<http://stewartfarm.org/hiscfhs/docs/memberapp.pdf>  
at the Historical Society Website
- Print the Membership Application.
- Fill it out; and,
- Mail it to: PO Box 44  
Harsens Island, MI 48028

*...continued from Page 1*

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](http://www.religioustolerance.org/xmas_menu.htm)

This information is provided as a 'historic-perspective' of our diversity.



Join us on Facebook!



# ***Annual Cookie Walk:***

***...At the Museum:***

***Saturday December 3***

***10:00 AM to 3:00 PM***

***Don't Miss this Annual Event***

***Buy a Tin – Fill it to the Brim***



## ***Cookies Galore***

***All Homemade and Incredibly Delicious***



PO Box 44  
Harsens Island MI 48028

## Harsens Island St. Clair Flats Historical Society 2016 Calendar of Events

*subject to change*

Members are welcome to attend any Board Meeting listed as Board/Membership Meeting  
(Location may change – See our website at: [HarsensIslandHistory.org](http://HarsensIslandHistory.org) for latest information)

### Museum Hours

**January, February, March, April**– CLOSED – Open by Appointment only

**May** – Saturdays – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday's – Noon – 4 PM

**June, July, August, September** – 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday's - 6 PM – 8 PM

Saturday's – 10 AM – 3 PM and Sunday's – Noon – 4 PM

**Winter Hours– By Appointment: Phone a Board Member** (see page 2 for phone numbers)

**January** No Events Scheduled for January

**February** No Events Scheduled for February