

## The Niles-Barnard House

### Preserving the Light for Future Generations

On October 20 the Troy Historical Society passed another milestone as the 1837 Niles-Barnard House rolled down Livernois and on to its new foundation at the Troy Museum & Historic Village. The carefully planned move was completed without any problems as dozens of utility company crews worked from cherry pickers to raise and lower electrical, fiber optic and telecommunications lines. Onlookers stood in amazement as Fred Christian of C & A House Movers supervised the moving crew's final tight turn off of Wattles Road and on to the Museum site. Two inches separated the roofline and a tree, and barely five inches stood between the front wheel of the truck and the freshly excavated basement. (Whew!)

One week later, the cement foundation walls had cured and the house was lowered inch by inch. One could hear the soft groan of the old hand-hewn timbers as the house settled on to steel beams fabricated specifically to reinforce the 170-year old building.

Architects, Gene Hopkins and Tamara Burns, smiled broadly when they saw the house. "It just fits so well on the site, it's just beautiful," Gene commented. Structural Engineer Steve Rudner noted that the house withstood the move with little damage. There are new cracks in the old plaster and doors that don't open or close easily, but these changes were anticipated.

Crews, under the direction of general contractor Frank Rewold and Son Inc., will work through the end of the year to stabilize the house until further restorations are financed. Gas and electric lines have been installed to service a sump pump and furnace. "We will keep the house at fifty degrees this winter to help preserve the old structure and the new cement foundation," explained Loraine Campbell.

Finally the THS Board of Trustees placed battery-powered candles in each of the windows of the house. The lights flicker on every night in December. On each of the front doors is a cheerful holiday swag donated by the Troy Garden Club. "They are visual reminders for the community," said Loraine. "The lights are on. THS is moving forward. We share a commitment to preserve our heritage for future generations."



The Heritage Campaign Committee



The house moving to its new location

# Troy Museum Update

By Loraine Campbell

In the last six months we have submitted two proposals to the Kresge Foundation to support the Troy Museum. The larger \$250,000 grant to implement a Strategic Alliance with Oakland County that would provide a sustainable operations plan for the Museum was not awarded. However, our application for \$40,000 of general operational support was funded. The first installment of \$20,000 was received through the City in October and must be used by July 30, 2011. These dollars will fund:

- Limited weekend hours to facilitate requests for weddings and weekend programs
- Increased custodial service
- Important professional affiliations that provide access to grants
- A temporary curator
- General operational and program services.

The second half of the grant will be allocated in August 2011. The THS will ask the City to transfer those funds to the Society as part of the financial agreement included in their Letter of Agreement to assume operational control of the Museum on July 1.

Elements of the Letter of Agreement were developed by the Transition Team, reviewed by the Board of Trustees and submitted for review by City Council in December. On January 10, 2011 City Council will take action on the “elements” and a request for seed money to support the Society as it implements the transition. Those who wish to read the full informational packet provided to City Council can access it on the THS website.

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## Annual Appeal: A Great Start!

The 2010 President’s Annual Appeal asked you to support Museum operations during its challenging transition from City to THS administration. The initial response was excellent with \$3,000 donated in two weeks. We are most grateful for the generous contributions received, but also hope that those who have not responded will consider a gift or pledge. The Troy Museum & Historic Village is an incredible cultural and community resource. It reflects the vision, dedication, and hard work of hundreds of THS members and volunteers during the past 40 years. The Museum serves as a unique setting for lifelong learning that benefits thousands of school children and hundreds of families, adults and special needs groups each year.

Please help us preserve the light for future generations. A donation form is enclosed with this Village Press.



The Niles-Barnard house at its new home



# I want to help the Troy Historical Society move on!

\_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my donation to keep the Troy Museum open.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please contact me regarding a donation of materials, labor or securities.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount donated/pledged (please circle): \$\_\_\_\_\_ This donation is made in memory of/ honor of  
(please circle if applicable):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

My/ Our pledge will be paid in 1 2 3 4 installments (please circle appropriate number)

Total/ Partial Payment Enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Check No.: \_\_\_\_\_

VISA                      MasterCard      Discover (please circle)

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of expiration: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

***Please make checks payable to the TROY HISTORICAL SOCIETY***

***Thank You!***

# simple holiday cheer

On December 4 nearly 400 people participated in Simple Holiday Cheer, a volunteer-staffed celebration of the Christmas season. Children made pop-up Christmas cards with THS Board member Ron Bernard and his granddaughters and strung popcorn and cranberries in the log cabin with pioneer reenactors Kevin and Susan Lindsey. (Kevin serves on the Historical Commission.) Ron Buchanan assisted Museum Store volunteers in the General Store, while Linda Buchanan, Helen Gach and Mary Hatala worked in the Parsonage. Ward Randol, Judy Holmberg and high school students from Project Lead welcomed families with children who visited with Santa while new volunteer Mike Nowosatko and his son Dane helped children construct wonderful memory boards of their visit. As always, the staff and volunteers are grateful to the Troy Garden Club for purchasing and hanging beautiful fresh evergreens and for serving delicious cookies and holiday punch. This year we are also grateful to Macy's Bistro and Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory for generous donations of cookies and coupons.

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## Coming in 2011

The Troy Historical Society is partnering with religious congregations in Troy to provide a unique lecture series in 2011. Each monthly lecture will be held in a different house of worship and will focus on the history of that congregation and their role in building our community. "We will also have a wonderful opportunity to explore the architecture and religious symbolism in each building," said Museum Manager Loraine Campbell.

The Historical Society has been delighted by the enthusiastic response from the clergy and laity who embraced the idea and volunteered their time to develop this series. They hope that people throughout Troy will join them each month for these special presentations.

Reservations are not required and lectures are free to all THS members. The Historical Society suggests a donation of \$5 for nonmembers. Presentations begin at 7:30 pm and refreshments will be served. **Please note specific dates for each lecture.**

- Wednesday, January 19:** North Hills Christian Reform Church  
3150 N. Adams Road (northeast corner of Adams at Big Beaver)
- Thursday, February 17:** Northminster Presbyterian Church  
3633 W. Big Beaver Road (between Coolidge and Adams)
- Wednesday, March 16:** Troy First United Methodist Church  
6363 Livernois (between Square Lake Road and South Blvd)
- Wednesday, April 20:** Emerson Unitarian Church ("The Barn Church")  
4230 Livernois (just north of Wattles Road)
- Wednesday, May 18:** Bharatyia Temple  
6850 Adams Road (southeast corner of Adams at South Blvd)

Enjoy an afternoon with Friends

**Thursday Teas at Two**

Sip a cup of tea while enjoying a slice of history! These delightful 1-hour programs are offered at 2 pm each month in the Old Troy Church at the Museum. Tickets are \$ 7.00 per person, includes museum admission. Registration required in advance. Please bring your own teacup or use our disposable products. Please call the Museum with your questions or to reserve your tickets (248) 524-3570.

**January 27: Frederick Douglass Tea**

Re-enactor **Johnny Bellamy**, of the 102<sup>nd</sup> United States Colored Troops Co. B, brings Frederick Douglass to life. Johnny looks the part and presents the story of the famous orator, writer, statesman, and abolitionist.

**February 24: History of Dance Tea**

See the dance steps from the Regency Period to Civil War era, up through Barn and Contra Dancing. **Glen & Judi Morningstar** will lead us on a “Dance through American History” with help from fiddle and dulcimer.

**March 31: Schoolteacher Tea**

An early-1900s schoolteacher, portrayed by storyteller **Lois Sprengnether Keel**, will talk about the development of schools in Michigan and what a typical school was like. She will also entertain us with stories about students!

**April 28: American Songbook Tea II**

Go down a musical memory lane with singers from the **Michigan Opera Theatre** Touring Company, who will share selections, anecdotes, and history from the giants of 20<sup>th</sup>-century musical theater.

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!**

The Troy Historical Society would like to welcome our new members:

- Richard Cronin
- Michael Culpepper
- Kathleen Hawthorne
- Mr. And Mrs. Sean Kelly
- Dave and Becky Thomas

**Troy Historical Society  
Membership Application and Renewal Form**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthday (D/M): \_\_\_\_\_

- Enclose payment for membership in the following categories:*
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Individual       | <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Family/Couple           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Business        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 Non-profit Institution |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 Individual Life |   |

Please check if you would like Newsletters via E-mail:   
Memorial contributions and bequests are welcome.  
Your interests or personal collections/Your history in Troy: \_\_\_\_\_

Help preserve Troy’s history. Send this form and your payment to:  
Troy Historical Society, P.O. Box 6, Troy, MI 48099

We care about our members and would like to keep updated on any cares or concerns. Please feel free to call Gerry Young at 586-802-1225.

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How do you like our new look?  
Any questions or comments please send to:  
The Village Press  
Attn: Alison Iceman  
60 W. Wattles  
Troy MI 48098  
Or e-mail us at:

[thevillagepress@troymuseum.org](mailto:thevillagepress@troymuseum.org)

We welcome any members’ articles for the newsletter, subject to content and space limits.

## Join the Historical Society Help Preserve the Light

The Troy Historical Society was organized in 1966 to promote the appreciation and awareness of the rich heritage of the citizens of Troy, to encourage preservation of records, pictures, structures, and other objects of local historical significance, and to sponsor programs to carry out these purposes.

You can become a member by mailing in the membership application on the back page of this newsletter.

Society board meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (except summer) at 7:30 p.m. at the Troy Historical Museum. All Society members are welcome to attend.

Please check the expiration date of your current membership which is on your address label. Those membership dates that are highlighted are in need of being renewed before our next newsletter. For example, if your expiration date is September 2005, you can extend your membership to September 2006.

Enjoy the past by visiting and taking advantage of the outstanding lectures, festivals, and displays at the:

### **Troy Museum & Historic Village**

60 West Wattles Road  
(248) 524-3570

Hours:

Tuesday-Thursday

10am-3pm

Children: \$2

Adults: @3

Children under six are free

[www.ci.troy.mi.us/parks/museum](http://www.ci.troy.mi.us/parks/museum)

### **Society Board Officers:**

President: Cheryl Barnard

Vice President: Judy Iceman

Treasurer: Fred Rounds

Deputy Treasurer: Ward Randol

Secretary: Catharine OGawa

### **Board members:**

Gloria Anderlie, Richard Barnard,

Ron Bernard, Kinda Hupman,

Alison Iceman, Judy Iceman,

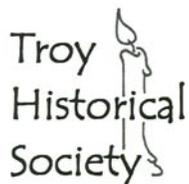
Sherrill Jackson, John Lavender,

Sue Lavender, Judy Siess, and

Gerry Young.

### **Village Press:**

Alison Iceman, Layout Editor



Troy Historical Society

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