



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 2, 2011

Midland County Historical Society presents:

- What:** **VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County**
- When:** **May 6 – October 29, 2011 (opening rescheduled due to local road flooding)**
- Where:** **Herbert D. Doan Midland County History Center, 3417 W. Main St., Midland, MI 48640**
- Cost:** **\$5 Adults | \$3 Children ages 4 to 14 | FREE to ages 3 and younger and MCHS Members**

Information: Call Ticket Office at (989) 631-8250 or (800) 523-7649 or www.mcfta.org

Find this on our website: <http://www.mcfta.org/ExhibitionsMCHS.html#women>

MIDLAND - Discover the empowering stories of hundreds of women whose lives have left impressions on our community and beyond in ***VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County***, opening to the public on May 6 at the Doan History Center, 3417 W. Main Street, Midland. Exhibit hours are 11 am to 4 pm Wednesday through Saturday. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 4 to 14 and FREE for ages 3 and under and for MCHS Members. Admission includes entry to all areas of Heritage Park. *VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County* is co-sponsored by Midland Center for the Arts, The Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, Chemical Bank, Merrill Lynch – The Iles Group and Gerace Construction.

"Research for this exhibition has uncovered many stories of women who made notable contributions to our county's history," says Gary Skory, MCHS Director. "Women's stories are often underrepresented in historical collections. This exhibition will go a long way toward closing that gap. You'll be amazed and inspired by the stories of these ladies!"

A number of upcoming special events and activities will present additional opportunities to learn more of the role of women in our community. Visit mcfta.org for updates. For more information about *VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County*, call (989) 631-5930 x 1300.

CHANGING ROLES ~ CHANGING LIVES ~ CHANGING OUR COMMUNITY

VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County presents dynamic stories highlighting the lives of hundreds of women who have impacted Midland County through the years, and celebrates their lives and contributions. Visitors of all ages will gain insight into the important role women play in shaping Midland County. Engaging stories, photographs and personal artifacts, as well as unique video conversations from contemporary women, and a centerpiece photo mosaic, all speak to the power of women to affect innovation, progress and change.

From the early Native American women, to women who call Midland County home today, they made their distinctive mark on all phases of life: the arts, science, rural life, healthcare, business, law, education, and so much more. They were known as pillars of society, hell-raisers, or just ordinary folk. They acted in the public eye and behind the scenes, alone with private conviction or with a group of like-minded colleagues. These women each made their world better in ways small and large. Many of the institutions, programs and benefits we take for granted each day were born of their wisdom, energy, and hope. Come hear their voices and see their

faces, celebrate and honor their achievements, take inspiration from their lives, preserve their legacies and tell the stories of others who also make a difference.

A HERCULEAN EFFORT

A dedicated Exhibit Steering Committee of community volunteers has been working for nearly a year to plan, research, and create *VOICES*, which will have lasting impact on our community, exhibit visitors, and the Midland County Historical Society archives. The Doan History Center has been a hubbub of activity as dozens of volunteers work to define the scope of the exhibit, identify and research Midland women from the past, and plan related education and outreach events. It has been a Herculean effort.

“The steering committee and volunteers have learned a lot about not only Midland County women, but also the number of hours it takes to produce an exhibition like this,” remarks steering committee chair Tina S. Van Dam. “We knew this project would be interesting, worthwhile and timely. We’re so glad we charged ahead.”

VOICES uses spaces at the Doan History Center beyond traditional galleries, and incorporates computer-based interactive kiosks to present additional information, the voices of many Midland County residents and videos of contemporary honorees.

SPECIAL EVENTS

GALA OPENING RECEPTION

May 5 • 7 – 9:30 pm (rescheduled from April 29)

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres created by Midland Country Club, delectable desserts courtesy of The H Hotel, wine and other beverages, and coffee service compliments of Grounds for a Better World. Special exhibition tours and remarks throughout the evening. Cocktail attire.

\$75 (price includes a \$40 tax-deductible contribution)

PUBLIC GRAND OPENING

May 6 • 11 am – 6 pm (rescheduled from April 30)

Includes special guests, tours and fun activities for all ages from 4 pm to 6 pm.

FREE Exhibit admission & extended hours – this day only!

Discounted Family Memberships: \$40 (regularly \$50) – this day only!

“REMEMBERING THE LADIES” – VICTORIAN FUNERAL AND CEMETERY TOUR

May 7 • 1 – 6 pm

Discover unique funeral customs from times gone by and travel to the Midland Cemetery for guided tours featuring actors portraying Midland County ladies of note “returning from the grave” to share stories of their lives.

Tea & Tour: \$30 | \$26 MCHS members

Tour only: \$15 | \$12 MCHS members

Mother’s Day Special: All moms enjoy FREE admission to VOICES exhibition – May 7 only!

HERITAGE SERIES

May 19 • 7:30 – 9 pm

“The Dionne Quintuplets” – Born in 1935, the identical quintuplet girls from Canada were a world sensation, their young lives at times compared to a circus sideshow. Seventy-six years later, the quint’s story still fascinates listeners.

\$5 | FREE to MCHS members

The Midland County Historical Society maintains Heritage Park, which includes the Herbert D. Doan Midland County History Center, 1874 Bradley Home Museum and Carriage House and the Herbert H. Dow Historical Museum. The Historical Society was founded in 1952 and is dedicated to fostering the understanding, appreciation and preservation of Midland County’s heritage.

Midland Center for the Arts, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation formed under the laws of the State of Michigan incorporating six groups: Alden B. Dow Museum of Science and Art, Center Stage Theatre, MATRIX:MIDLAND, Midland County Historical Society, Midland Symphony Orchestra, and Music Society – Choral. Activities at Midland Center for the Arts are supported in part by the Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts. For the latest Center news, visit our web site at www.mcfta.org.

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