



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Midland County Historical Society announces its original exhibition,
VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County
will return in 2012!**

MIDLAND – The overwhelmingly positive response and strong attendance at Midland County Historical Society's original exhibition, *VOICES: Extraordinary Women of Midland County*, has resulted in the decision to continue the exhibition another season, through 2012.

VOICES is currently open at the Doan History Center Wednesday through Saturday, 11 am to 4 pm, through October 29, after which it will close for the season. The exhibit will re-open in April, 2012. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for children ages 4 to 14, FREE to ages 3 and younger and MCHS Members.

Dedicated community volunteers worked for 11 months to plan, fund, research, and create *VOICES*. It has had lasting impact on our community, visitors from throughout Michigan, and the Historical Society archives. *VOICES* expanded beyond traditional galleries at the Doan Center and also incorporates computer kiosks to present additional information, voices and videos of contemporary honorees.

"*VOICES* has been a resounding success with the public, and has made invaluable additions to our body of knowledge about the contributions of women to Midland County history," remarks MCHS Director Gary Skory. "The exhibition will be on display during our 2012 season. We are fortunate to have an exhibit of this caliber."

VOICES Chair Tina S. Van Dam said, "The volunteers responsible for *VOICES* are delighted that strong public support for the exhibit and its multiple programming events has resulted in an additional season. *VOICES* recognizes the significant contributions of women to this community and tells the fascinating and often untold stories of women both known and behind the scenes. One more season will enable us to be even more effective in our outreach. Thanks to all who made this possible."

A number of events were held in conjunction with the exhibition, including a panel discussion on women in leadership with Ranny Riecker, Kathy Wilbur, Anne Doyle, Ruth Shaw and moderator Katie O'Mara; a presentation by Tawny Ryan Nelb on women's contributions in World War I and World War II; a presentation by John Blundell, author of *Ladies for Liberty: Women Who Made a Difference in American History*; and a program by Midland native and *Cathy* cartoonist, Cathy Guisewite.

A hardcover, full-color 152-page book containing information from the exhibit is currently on the press. The *VOICES* book may be pre-ordered at \$29.95 through the Midland Daily News. The regular price will be \$39.95 and it will be also available at the gift shops of the Doan History Center and Midland Center for the Arts.

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 and many other generous donors.

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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