From the Director

The new year will include the annual return of some favorite events, including Fretboard Festival and Spring Break Hands-On Happenings, along with three new “must see” exhibits and the first Storytelling Festival on February 2. (See page 19 for more information.)

The exhibit “African Americans in World War II” runs January 12 through April 14, 2013. More than 2.5 million African Americans served in all branches of service and in all theaters of operations during World War II. Despite extensive discrimination and segregation, they met the challenge, persevered, and served with distinction and honor. In addition, black support of war efforts from the home front was important to the success of allied forces. The exhibit features 40 photographs and is produced by the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History. See page 6 for a closer look at Kalamazoo’s African American war years experience.

“From Here to Timbuktu: A Journey to West Africa” is a wonderful, immersive journey that takes visitors through three of West Africa’s geographic regions. The exhibit will appeal to families and school groups. The Museum will also showcase related items from its own collection. See more details in the article on page 4.

“Decades of Dazzling Dresses,” an exhibit direct from the Museum’s own costume collection, will be open from May 4, 2013 through January 19, 2014 in the first floor gallery. It will feature a unique dress and complementary accessories from each of the decades of 1880 to 1920.

In addition to these special exhibits, the Museum’s permanent interactive exhibits are always fun and informative. Check out the Museum’s website for the full calendar of other programs, including hands-on activities, planetarium shows, Sunday History Series, Friday Night Highlights, Art Hops, and more. Find details at kalamazoomuseum.org.

We are well positioned to enjoy an even better new year. museON, everyone!

William McElhone
Sometimes you can find the most interesting things in the most unexpected places. That's what happened in 2011 during the renovation of old Corporation Hall at 154 South Kalamazoo Mall.

Built in 1867, the building served a variety of government and community needs, including the fire station and public library. More recently, it was home to the Athena Book Store, the Soup Kettle, and Sandwich Express.

While renovating the building for residential and retail space, contractors found a variety of items behind the walls that one might call “trash”—newspapers, candy and cigarette wrappers, even old books. But there was a “Eureka” moment when they found an old fireman’s cap and a photograph of a policeman. Next stop was the Museum. We accepted the “trash” along with the cap and photograph as an interesting bit of urban archaeology.

The cap was worn by a member of the Eureka Hose Company No. 1, which was only in existence from 1876 to 1877. It may be the only three-dimensional piece of history from that company to still exist. The photograph of Stephen Wattles, police chief from 1884-1885, is similarly rare. Only one other known image of Wattles exists and is currently on display in the Museum’s History Gallery.

Both pieces required conservation treatment to ensure that they’d last another 135 years or more. They were sent to Chicago to be cleaned and stabilized by professional conservators. The process does not restore the pieces to new—that would remove too much of the original material. Instead, conservators work with the existing materials, relaxing, reshaping, reattaching, and re-lining to stabilize each for exhibition and storage.

While the pieces don’t look pristine, their beauty is in the fact that they are historically rare and important to this community. They, and the rest of the “trash,” have been worth saving.
Visitors to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum will have a chance to learn about West African culture, language, and geography from February 16 to June 9, 2013, when a national traveling exhibit, “From Here to Timbuktu: A Journey to West Africa,” is displayed.

The exhibit takes visitors on a journey through three of West Africa’s geographic regions – the coastal region, the Savanna grasslands, and the Sahel bordering the Sahara Desert and leading to Timbuktu, an ancient center of learning.

Children can “travel” by moped, camel, fishing boat, and over canopy walks as they move through the regions illustrated by colorful graphic panels. Along the way, they participate in explanatory hands-on activities that provide a taste of West African life. They can fish with nets like coastal fishermen, experience the sights and smells of the urban Apapa marketplace in Lagos, Nigeria, explore the rainforest, experience traditional housing and social activities such as a dance school and village beauty shop, and get creative while sifting through sand in the Sahel region. The journey ends at the City of Timbuktu, where children can learn to write their names in the native languages of Arabic and Tuareg and send a postcard detailing their “travels.”

The goal of the exhibit is to help develop understanding and regard for other cultures through discovery and exploration. The exhibit is designed to engage the minds of children 12 years old and younger.

Museum Director Bill McElhone said the exhibit offers an opportunity to enhance Black History Month studies. “The exhibit gives children and adults alike an opportunity to explore the differences of cultures a world away while celebrating some of the similarities that cut across culture,” McElhone said. It will also include a display of authentic West African artifacts from the Museum’s collection.

“From Here to Timbuktu: A Journey to West Africa” was created by EdVenture Children’s Museum in Columbia, South Carolina, made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

A Special Collection Donated to the Museum

“From Here to Timbuktu” gives the Museum an opportunity to display some of its West African artifacts. Missionaries, teachers, and travelers from Kalamazoo often brought such items home with them. They later donated them to the Museum.

Among those donors is Dr. Dirk Vander Steen, who worked in Nigeria from 1965 through 1978. Vander Steen attended Western Michigan University to study for his Doctorate in Educational Administration.

He first went to Nigeria in 1965 as a missionary-teacher but accepted the challenge to become the Superintendent of the Benue Leprosy Center for three years, returning to educational administration as a government Senior Education Officer until 1978.

Many of these artifacts were made by the patients at the Center, but Vander Steen also collected from both the region and throughout West Africa. Together with the Museum’s other African artifacts, they illustrate the more contemporary cultures of that region of Africa.
In the Western world, Timbuktu is a place often mentioned as remote, distant, and perhaps even mythical. But in the context of West African history, Timbuktu was not obscure, but a very real place, important both in economic terms, as a terminus on an crucial international trade route, and in intellectual terms, as a center of Islamic learning for West Africa.

Located on the bend of the Niger River and situated between the Sahara Desert to the north and the savannahs and forests of the south, Timbuktu was in an ideal location to serve as a place of economic and cultural exchange in West Africa. Indeed, from the 12th century, caravans of camels laden with goods from North Africa, especially salt, led by Tuareg and Berber merchants, stopped in Timbuktu. There, they would exchange their wares for goods from West Africa, especially gold, and return north.

Control of Timbuktu was crucial for the economic well-being of many West African empires, the most noted of which was Mali. Under Malian emperors, or mansas, Timbuktu became famous as a trading city, and a prosperous one at that. One of Mali’s most prominent emperors, Mansa Musa, made a fabled pilgrimage, or hajj, to Mecca in 1324. He is said to have left so much gold in Egypt along the way that it took up to twelve years for the value of that metal to recover after his visit.

Mali’s emperors patronized the establishment of institutions of higher learning in Timbuktu. Scholars from throughout West Africa gathered there to study at three famous mosque-based schools, or madrasas. Timbuktu was also the center of an active trade in Islamic manuscripts and books.

After Spanish and Portuguese discoveries in the 15th century redirected much of the world’s trade toward the Atlantic, the trans-Saharan trade declined, and with it, Timbuktu’s fortunes. Today, Timbuktu remains an important city in the modern Republic of Mali, though admittedly not for its size or economic vitality, because it has little of either. Rather, Timbuktu stands out for its historical importance, as is evidenced by its selection as a Unesco World Heritage Site.

View a gallery of more Timbuktu photos

Group of young men of Timbuktu standing in the doorway of a local home as a rain spout hovers overhead.
A war and the efforts of a group of Kalamazoo residents were instrumental in developing the Douglass Community Center. In November 1917, the Reverend William J. Northcross, pastor of the Second Baptist Church, together with Charles Stafford and Jesse Graine, organized the Soldiers’ Friend Club. Recruiting other like-minded men such as Forrest Hill, Joe Pettiford, and Joe Small, they recognized that there were few social and recreational options for African American soldiers who came to Kalamazoo on furlough from Camp Custer.

Their efforts led to the organization of the Douglass Center in the old Turn Verein Hall on North Burdick Street. The Center was not formally dedicated until July 3, 1919, but it provided reading rooms and recreational opportunities as well as a welcoming rest for those soldiers stationed at Camp Custer during and immediately after World War I.

In April 1921, a formal Douglass Community House organization purchased the furnishings and equipment from the War Camp Community Service, Inc. The former soldiers’ club then became a center for Kalamazoo’s African American community.

For the next 20 years, the Douglass was the focus of community life. The demand for space was so great that a new facility was needed.

A new building, located at Pitcher and Ransom Streets, was dedicated on Sunday, February 16, 1941. Less than a year later, the United States entered World War II. The new Douglass Center once again found itself providing support for African American soldiers and their families.

As early as April 18, 1942, the Les Chic Cheres club hosted a party for soldiers at the Douglass Community Center. The Center also participated in a Kalamazoo Day program at the USO Club on Hamblin Avenue in Battle Creek on May 8, 1942.

Soldiers on furlough from Fort Custer near Battle Creek, as well as local soldiers on leave from military service elsewhere, turned to the Douglass Community Center for rest and relaxation.
The Center and the clubs that met there sponsored parties, banquets, and dances for the soldiers. Many young men away from home, possibly facing the risks of combat, found a welcoming space for reading, for recreation, and for meeting new and old friends.

One of the most active groups that organized specifically to support soldiers and their families was the War Wives Club, which organized in the summer of 1944. It was open to all women whose husbands were in military service. The War Wives were an active group that met every Monday evening at the Douglass Center.

In early 1945, the War Wives organized a large party in the Douglass Center for four hundred guests from Kalamazoo, Battle Creek, and surrounding communities. In May, the club organized a tea and fashion show. While they advertised it as their first annual show, there can be little doubt that none of the women were disappointed that the war would end before a second show could be organized.

At war’s end, the Center would once again resume its peacetime role as a focal point in the lives of Kalamazoo’s African American community. However, as it had during World War I, the Douglass Community Center had met the needs of African American soldiers during the long years of the Second World War.
The variety of storytelling methods that we use throughout the Museum will be celebrated during a Storytelling Festival on February 2, 2013. From 10 am to 5 pm, the Museum will present its first annual Kalamazoo Storytelling Festival. Come listen to storytellers, participate in workshops, see what related vendors have to offer, and, for children big and little, create book-related and other crafts.

We invite you to see, hear, and ponder all the stories within KVM’s exhibits. Wander through the Museum’s exhibits and you will encounter stories of people with diverse backgrounds and life experiences. Quotes or recordings of individuals are often used to help visitors connect with the authenticity and relevance of the history or science in the exhibits. We also use historical records such as census data, eyewitness accounts, letters, diaries, and newspaper articles to create a “voice” for those who left no written document or recordings of their own words.

A visit to the Story Tree in Kalamazoo Direct to You is an example of the power of storytelling. Many cultures embrace the use of storytelling to educate, entertain, and pass on history and value systems to younger generations. Anishnabe oral traditions are still very much alive and vital to Michigan Native Americans’ cultural identity. The Story Tree offers two recorded contemporary tales that entertain and teach: one told by Larry Plamondon, Odawa, professional storyteller and author, and another by Shirley Brauker, artist and storyteller. In another recording, Plamondon explains why stories are so important to Native Americans. He asserts that those of us who possess language and memory therefore have stories. A third Anishnabe voice offers us the opportunity to hear the Lord’s Prayer as it was translated into Ojibwe in the early 19th Century.

The Ojibwe Bible on exhibit in the display case behind the Story Tree is an interesting artifact that represents a significant crossroads of cultures. Because Native Americans had no written language, the Bible is a transliteration, created to assist in teaching Christian stories and values by missionaries and preachers. When it comes to storytelling, this one object is deep with complexity, not only in the meaning and intent of Biblical text itself, but in the act of transmitting ideas, beliefs, and practices from one culture that relies on the written word to one that uses memory and the spoken word to preserve and convey its own value systems.

Another artifact in this same exhibit tells stories in another way – visually, in the form of a carved clay pot. Shirley Brauker, Odawa, uses imagery from Native American culture and lore to create her art and tell these stories – from words to three-dimensional images.

This pot was used by the KVM to illustrate Anishnabe stories about the stars and earth in the planetarium show, Sky Legends of the Three Fires.

Explore the Museum galleries to discover the stories of history, science, and culture told through artifacts, voices, music, and moving pictures.

Mark your calendar for February 2 and the Storytelling Festival.

The story tree in the Museum’s history gallery, Kalamazoo Direct to You.
Be Mine

OH MY VALENTINE

Whether exchanging with school chums or a hopeful romantic interest, Valentines delight both sender and receiver. Commercially-manufactured Valentines were introduced in the United States in 1847, and today over 1 billion are exchanged throughout the world each February 14th. The Museum collection includes 400 Valentines. The selection shown here are some of the fancier cards or more romantic cards and date between 1865 and 1925.
his hiding place,
All paradise
excelling.

Within their lustrous
depths he lies,
There Love hath
made his dwelling.

'Tis in your own most
beauteous eyes;
One of the most exciting stories in Western Michigan University’s athletic history unfolded in the fall of 1983. Ten young women, WMU’s volleyball team, captured the support of tens of thousands of Kalamazoo sports fans by posting a record of 30 wins without a defeat and earning a berth in the NCAA championship tournament.

The team was coming off a strong 1982 season in which they had finished first in the Mid-American Conference. They then won the post-season MAC tournament and went on to the first round of the NCAA championship, where they were defeated by Brigham Young University.

Six players, three seniors and three sophomores, returned for the 1983 season. They had worked together under Coach Rob Buck and included senior All-American Jackie Backus. Two highly recruited sophomores, Paige Paulson and Heather Sawyer, were among the first women to receive full four-year athletic scholarships to WMU.

As one win followed another, university and community support for the Broncos began to grow. Early season crowds of less than 100 swelled to several thousand. A team that played several early season games in area high school gymnasiums now filled the bleachers at Read Fieldhouse.

Often seasons have turning points, but different players remember them differently, particularly after the passage of thirty years.
For Paige Paulson, a late season match in which they swept Purdue on the road was critical. By then, the Broncos knew they were good. The victory against Purdue proved they could play against nationally-ranked powers.

Heather Sawyer recalled a match earlier in November at Miami of Ohio. After winning two easy games, the Broncos may have lost their focus, and the Miami team won the next two games and had the Broncos on the ropes in the deciding fifth game. She remembered that senior Amy Timmers, who was serving at the time, rallied the team and pushed them to a 16-14 victory that kept the unbeaten season alive.

Following the Purdue match, the team returned and closed out the season with four more victories. The crowd support that the Broncos enjoyed so impressed the NCAA that it moved the first round tournament match to Kalamazoo.

On Saturday, December 3, a huge crowd packed Read Fieldhouse to watch Western take on Nebraska. After dropping the first game by a score of 15-9, the Broncos reeled off three straight wins to defeat the Cornhuskers and advance to the Mideast Regionals. On the following Friday in West Lafayette, Indiana, the Broncos met Purdue for the second time in a month. This meeting was more challenging, as the Boilermakers stretched the match to five games, but again WMU prevailed.

The following day, WMU met UCLA in the Mideast Regional Finals. The young athletes’ season came to an end as the highly-favored California powerhouse easily defeated the Broncos in three games. Thirty years later, however, the memory of that amazing and magical season lingers on.
We live in a violent universe. It is not obvious as we experience Spring’s warming temperatures and on those rare, cloudless nights when we have the opportunity to gaze into the quiet, starlit sky. Winter constellations cling briefly to the western horizon, while the stars of summer anxiously peek up in the east. Overhead, we find the bears and lion who dominate the spring sky.

This tranquil scene is an illusion. In the depths of space, natural forces are in a constant war of creation and destruction.

Clouds of gas called nebulae are drawn together by the relentless pull of gravity. They form dark globules we see silhouetted over the background glow. The globules collapse, heating their interiors until sustained nuclear fusion ignites a new star. For a while, the ball of gas glows as the star balances the pressure of its inner fire while gravity continues to pull inward. When the last nuclear fuel is exhausted, gravity wins the battle, and the star collapses onto its core.

If that star was a little larger than our Sun, the falling outer layers rebound off the collapsed core, ripping the star apart in a supernova explosion. After the shell of expanding gas drifts away, the rapidly spinning core is revealed. A neutron star is left behind. Giant stars collapse into a well so deep that their light cannot escape, forming a black hole.

Even our Sun periodically blasts an expanding bubble of plasma called a Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) toward Earth. The high energy CME particles slam into the magnetic field over our heads, bringing about geomagnetic storms that make compass needles swing and the upper atmosphere glow in auroras. Overhead, electronics in satellites are fried, while at Earth’s surface, electrical currents are induced in power lines, tripping breakers and sending us into the dark.

Exploding supernovae, black holes, and CMEs are only part of the violence surrounding us in the universe. There are smaller events like rogue asteroids and comets crossing the paths of planets until the day they come too close, scarring the larger worlds. There are larger events like galaxies ripping through one another in slow motion, scattering old stars as clouds of gas burst into formations of new stars. And there are mysterious events like beams of gamma rays born in cosmic collisions that are lethal over distances measuring thousands of light years.

We live in a violent universe. Fortunately, the universe is immense, and most events are very far away. Learn more at the planetarium show The Violent Universe, showing Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday at 3 pm, from March 23 through June 21.

Watch the Violent Universe Trailer
What is it?

1. A cherry pitter. Also called a cherry stoner, it could pit 20 cherries with one stroke. The cherries were loaded in the carrier tray and inserted into the box, which has 20 pegs at the top. When the lever was pressed down, the pits were pushed out and the cherries placed in a bowl. This cherry pitter dates to the 1870s.

2. A toaster. Early toasters were made out of hand-wrought iron and were used over the fire. They had a long handle to keep the cook a safe distance from the heat. This toaster has small legs for sitting on the hearth, and it revolves in order to toast the bread more efficiently. Blacksmiths often embellished their work with scrolls, spirals, or loops. It dates from the late 18th to early 19th century.

3. A skirt marker. It marked the location of a hem for a seamstress. The marker was placed at the desired length, and when the bulb was squeezed, chalk in the glass bottle would "puff" out to mark the hem. It was patented in 1940.

It measured something to be worn. What is it?

It made pie making much easier. What is it?

We still use it to make breakfast. What is it?
SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS

African Americans in World War II
January 12–April 14, 2013
This photographic exhibit showcases the efforts of African Americans on and off the field of battle.
This exhibit is from The National Museum of Nuclear Science & History.

From Here to Timbuktu: A Journey Through West Africa
February 16–June 9, 2013
Adventure through West Africa’s spectacular and diverse geographic regions.
This exhibit is organized by EdVenture Children’s Museum and made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services.

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

Weird Science
January 19, 1–4 pm
Science that makes you ask, “How?” Join us for demonstrations, hands-on experiments, and crafts explaining the mysteries of science. FREE!

First Annual Storytelling Festival: Tales with Ties
February 2, 10 am–5 pm
A full day of storytellers, participatory workshops, vendors, and book related crafts for all ages. FREE!

From Kalamazoo to Timbuktu
February 23, 1–4 pm
Create a variety of West African crafts and take a little bit of Timbuktu home with you. FREE!

Spring Break Hands-On Happenings: A Patchwork of Stories
African-American stories come to life as we celebrate a history rich in culture and traditions. Make different crafts each day that are inspired by a popular children’s book. Daily, FREE! April 1–5, 1–4 pm

April 1 When I Am Old with You by Angela A. Johnson
April 2 Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
April 3 Anansi the Spider by Gerald McDermott
April 4 Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
April 5 Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

All Hands-On Programs are FREE! Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for details on all programs.

Festival of Health
May 4, 12–4 pm
It's time to take action and make a positive difference in your health! Local health experts will share tips on nutrition, exercise, and ways to reduce your stress and become healthy. Walk, run, or cheer on participants in this year’s Kalamazoo Marathon on May 12. FREE!

PLANETARIUM

FEATURE SHOWS
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 3 pm

Secrets of the Sun (Jan 5–Mar 22)
The story of our star is explored in Secrets of the Sun. From the nuclear forces churning at the heart of the Sun to the mass ejections of solar material into surrounding space, discover the power of the Sun and its impact on the planets and, ultimately, life on Earth. Learn about the Sun's origin and move forward in time to its ultimate death.

NEW! Violent Universe (Mar 23–Jun 21)
The starry night sky is our window to a fantastic, ever-changing sculpture we call the universe, where constructive and destructive forces make changes over timespans lasting millions of years or millionths of a second. Discover how asteroids alter worlds, bursts of energy sterilize surrounding space, and gravity flings stars apart as galaxies collide.

FAMILY SHOWS
Mon–Fri at 11 am, Sat at 1 pm, Sun at 2 pm

The Little Star That Could (Jan 5–Mar 22)
A sweet animated story about a little star that is born and searches for a place in space to call home, as well as a name and some planets to keep him company along the way.

NEW! The Cosmic Zoo (Mar 23–Jun 21)
Families will enjoy this animated story about how images of animals were placed in the night sky.

SEASONAL STARGAZING SHOW
Saturdays at 2 pm

Orion Nights (Jan 5–Mar 21)
The Artists Sky (Mar 23–Jun 20)

LASER LIGHT SHOWS IN THE PLANETARIUM:
New Time: Every Friday night at 8 pm
Space Park 360 (Jan 4 – May 31)
Travel through an amusement park that spans the Solar System. Computer generated graphics create unique but somewhat familiar rides at each of the planets.

All shows are $3 per person

Eat Well, Play Well
Come Bien, Juega Bien

June 22–September 8, 2013
Children and families engage with nine highly interactive areas to discover nutrition and fitness, and the science of making healthy choices. Bilingual (English/Spanish)

This exhibit was produced and is toured by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry. This exhibit was made possible by a Science Education Partnership Award (SEPA) grant from the National Center for Research Resources (NCRR), a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

All exhibits are FREE!
**SUNDAY SERIES**
Mary Jane Stryker Theater

All programs begin at 1:30 pm and are **FREE**!
Seating is limited.

**January 13** “Patent King” – Jay B. Rhodes
Learn more about this inventive genius from Kalamazoo.

**January 27** Capitalists of Kalamazoo
Some of Kalamazoo’s 19th century investors and businessmen who contributed to this city’s economic development are featured in this lecture.

**February 10** African Americans in 19th Century Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo’s African American community has deep roots here. This program explores how the local newspapers covered the community.

**February 24** Kalamazoo Artfactory
Poets explore Kalamazoo topics while Museum Curator Tom Dietz offers historical background.

**March 10** “The Sins of Kalamazoo” – Gambling, Saloons, and Pool Halls
Does Carl Sandburg’s poem really describe Kalamazoo? Hear about Kalamazoo’s “dens of iniquity” to find out!

**March 24** The Ladies Library Association and the Ladies’ Soldiers Aid Society
Sharon Carlson, Director of the Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collections, describes activities of the Ladies Library Association during the Civil War.

**April 14** Play Ball!
Baseball in Kalamazoo
From baseball’s beginnings, the sport has been a popular pastime in Kalamazoo.

**April 28** Off to the Races!
Horse Racing in Kalamazoo
Kalamazoo was once a hotbed of enthusiasm for harness racing.

**May 12** Orlando Moore, the 25th Michigan Infantry, and the Battle of Tebbs Bend
This program marks the 150th anniversary of this battle which took place in Kentucky on July 4, 1863.

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**CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER**
In memory of Alvin H. and Emily T. Little

The CLC is a space-flight simulation experience for all ages. Go to our website for details on public program dates and times and to make reservations for groups.

**The Challenger Experience**
$3 per person

Young children and their grown-ups lift off from Earth, dock with a space station, and return to Earth – all in 20 minutes! Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

**Mini-Missions**
$3 per person

This 45-minute session in the spacecraft simulator will fly you to Mars and back. For ages 8 and up; each child aged 8 to 111 must be accompanied by a partner aged 12 or older.

**The following missions are available by reservation only; call or go online for details**

- **Junior Missions**
  $5 per person
  90-minute missions designed for small groups of up to 14 participants, ages 8 and up.

- **Full Crew Missions**
  $25 per person
  This 3-hour program is designed to build teamwork and leadership skills for adults or students in grades 5 and up.

**MUSIC, MOVIES AND MORE**
Mary Jane Stryker Theater

First Sunday Jam with Kalamazoo Folklore Organization, 1:30-4:30 pm

**FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS**
Check kalamazoomuseum.org for details on all offerings.

Live music and movies begin at 7 pm; Music $5, Movies are **FREE**! Art Hop events begin at 6 pm, **FREE**!

**February 1** Art Hop
Kalamazoo Academy of Rock

**February 8** The Tuskegee Airmen (Movie)

**February 15** Dixon’s Violin (Digital Violin)

**February 22** America Beyond the Color Line (Movie)

**March 1** Art Hop Play-In Contest
(Begins at 5 pm)

**March 8** The Musical Brain (Movie)

**March 15** The Music Instinct: Science and Song (Movie)

**March 22** Fly Paper opens for the Kalamazoo Fretboard Festival
(Alternative/Blues/Rock) **FREE**!

**March 23** Fretboard Festival
(Multiple artists and vendors 11 am –6 pm **FREE**)

**March 29** Jerusalem: Center of the World (Movie)

**April 5** Art Hop Delilah DeWylde and the Lost Boys (Rockabilly, Americana, Honky Tonk)

**April 12** Stand Up: A Summer at Comedy Camp (Movie)

**April 19** Digeometric (Funkfusion)

**April 26** American Experience: Summer of Love (Movie)

**May 3** Art Hop MI Hiryu Daiko (Japanese Drum)

**May 10** Carrie McFerrin (Folk, Indie)

**May 17** Treading Blu (Alternative)

**May 24** Gunship Radio (Michigan Desert Rock)

**May 31** The Boogie Woogie Kid (Boogie Woogie)

**June 7** Art Hop Who Dat? Blues Band + Marci Linn Band (Blues)
As the marching band begins to play at half-time during a football game, the eyes of the crowd are drawn to the majorette leading the musicians onto the field. With a graceful blend of dance and gymnastics, the woman sends the metal baton sailing high and deftly snatches it as it falls back to earth.

In August 2012, Kerrie Jackson donated her mother’s Plainwell High School costume (left) and related items to the Museum. Ms. Jackson’s mother, Joanne Marshall Doster, began twirling at the age of 12. She entered competitions and won several awards. After graduating from Plainwell High School, Joanne went to Western Michigan University, where she also was a majorette. She was so talented that she was asked to perform a twirling routine at the 1956 Tangerine Bowl.

Joanne was so dedicated to the art of twirling that even after her student years, she stayed active. In the 1960s, she organized a baton troupe called the Liberty Belles. The troupe performed for local parades and celebrations, including American Bicentennial celebrations.

These artifacts and photographs document an aspect of modern culture that we often take for granted. Their donation to the Museum’s collection is important in the preservation of a unique aspect of everyday life.

SPRING BREAK
HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

April 1–April 5
Daily 1–4 pm FREE

A Patchwork of Stories

African-American stories come to life as we celebrate a history rich in culture and traditions. Make different crafts each day that are inspired by a popular children’s book.

April 1 When I Am Old with You by Angela A. Johnson
April 2 Max Found Two Sticks by Brian Pinkney
April 3 Anansi the Spider by Gerald McDermott
April 4 Pink and Say by Patricia Polacco
April 5 Tar Beach by Faith Ringgold

Additional programs: check our website for special Planetarium showtimes and Challenger Experience offerings.
Stringed instrument makers, music lovers, and fans of all ages, come to the 2013 Fretboard Festival!

FRIDAY, MARCH 22
7 PM – 9 PM
Kick-off concert

SATURDAY, MARCH 23
11 AM – 6 PM
Local musicians, luthiers, and historians gather for a day of music, workshops, and lectures.

fretboardfestival.com
/FretboardFestival

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION
Monday-Saturday 9 am–5 pm
Friday (Oct-May) 9 am–9 pm
Sunday + Holidays 1 pm–5 pm
Closed: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and Easter

Handicapped accessible. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the Planetarium. Our TDD number is 269.373.7982