The end of summer opens the door to a full schedule of new and familiar fall programming at the Museum, highlighting the subjects of history, science, technology, and more.

Among the “new” are two exhibits, “Voices for Social Justice” and “Kalamazoo for the Union!” “Voices” showcases the recorded recollections of individuals whose work has contributed to making our community a better place. It opens on October 4, 2014 and runs through January 19, 2015. See the back page for a details.

Opening later in October is the “Kalamazoo for the Union!” exhibit, featuring the community’s contributions and daily life during the U.S. Civil War from 1861 to 1865. Through a series of vignettes, visitors can explore the home front activities of residents from Kalamazoo and southwest Michigan. The exhibit features Collections items rarely displayed. See the article on page 4.

Also new for this fall is the launch of a new Museum Explorers program. Our goal is to make visits to the KVM even more meaningful by providing opportunities for you to share your suggestions and comments with our staff. Sign up at the Museum or visit our website at kalamazoomuseum.org. We’ll reward your participation with monthly eNewsletters and invitations to special events. The Museum Explorers’ first big event is a sneak preview of “Kalamazoo for the Union!” on Thursday, October 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

In addition to the special exhibits, don’t miss the Museum’s permanent interactive exhibits and wide variety of fall programs. The popular Sunday Lecture Series has been expanded to include science-related topics to go along with the full slate of history themes.

The Museum, along with the City of Kalamazoo’s Parks and Recreation Department, will collect Halloween costumes for Safe Halloween. This year's Halloween event, a unique collaboration with the City and Downtown Kalamazoo, Inc., will be held at Bronson Park from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and at the Museum from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 25. The Museum will give away free plastic pumpkins, perfect for collecting treats while supplies last. We'll also give away 500 of these pumpkins beginning on Friday, October 3 at the Art Hop.

Friday Night Highlights, Art Hops, Chemistry Day, Holiday Parade festivities at the Museum, and Hands-On events provide a full calendar. Check out the Museum’s website for more details.

Have a wonderful fall. museON, everyone!
A piano and a mystery came to the Museum’s attention in 2005. Tom Blum, a local resident, purchased it in the 1980s. “While crawling under the piano,” Tom said, “I noticed that there was some writing on one of the main beams. It said ‘State Fair Michigan September 20, 1864’… On the fallboard is also written ‘Reeds Temple of Music Chicago’.”

In September 1864, the Michigan State Agricultural Fair and the Michigan Sanitary Fair took place simultaneously at the National Driving Park in Kalamazoo. Some pianos exhibited at the State Fair were sold, but one was donated and raffled at the Sanitary Fair to raise money to support Union Army soldiers. Was Tom’s piano purchased or won in the raffle?

By September 21, all the pianos from Reed’s Temple of Music had arrived at the two fairs. That same day, the Chicago Tribune published a letter from Alanson Reed: “Please accept the seven octave Piano from ‘Reed’s Temple of Music’, of Chicago, on exhibition in your Hall. This instrument is valued at $500. Accept it as an offering to the noble cause you are engaged in…”

Mrs. Ruth Potter, President of the Kalamazoo Soldier’s Aid Society, acknowledged that “the instrument has already been disposed of at the sum set upon it, $500.”

Therein lies the mystery. The Chicago Tribune reported that Mr. Reed’s “superb Chickering Grand drew the gold medal, and was subsequently sold to Allen Potter, Esq., of Kalamazoo, for $1,500.” Tom’s piano is a Chickering. Complicating the history of this piano, a newspaper article reported that “Mr. Whortley, a jeweler of this city [Kalamazoo], was the lucky holder of the ticket which drew the elegant piano contributed by Mr. Reed.”

Another twist arises because Martha Munsell Granger recalled in her memoirs that “at the Fair, my sister sold chances on a piano at five dollars a chance, the piano being donated by the Chickering agency at Chicago, if it brought five hundred dollars, which it did, and the daughter of an express-wagon driver won it.”

So which piano belongs to Tom Blum? We’re not certain. We do know, however, it was at one of the Fairs and has remained in Kalamazoo ever since. It will be on view in “Kalamazoo for the Union!” from October 18, 2014 to May 17, 2015.
On Tuesday, June 11, 1861, the Kalamazoo Nationals baseball team and 30 fans took the train to Dowagiac for a pleasant game of baseball. Kalamazoo won 28 to 5. The Kalamazoo Gazette ran ads for ice cream parlors, sarsaparilla to make root beer, and fruits and spices, not to mention clothing, new carriages, and all manner of medical tonics. Were it not for a single news article on page 2, one might not have known there was a war on.

For the four years from April 1861 to April 1865, however, that great Civil War had tremendous impact on Kalamazoo County. To mark the 150th anniversary of the end of the war, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum has organized a new exhibit entitled “Kalamazoo for the Union!”

“Kalamazoo for the Union!” is not an exhibit about the military history of the war. It depicts how the war affected one community and one county. Local newspaper stories recount the patriotic fervor that gripped Kalamazoo at the start of the war. Images from the Museum’s collection depict the men who served. Letters to family and friends share the soldiers’ perspective on military life.

Museum artifacts help flesh out the story. The actual lottery box used when men were drafted in October 1863 and the rifle George Munger carried when the Confederate President, Jefferson Davis, was captured are two examples.

Women contributed to the war effort as well. They organized a Ladies Soldiers Aid Society, which collected food, clothing, and bedding for the men. In 1864, the Society sponsored a statewide Michigan Sanitary Fair at the National Driving Park, which raised money for needed supplies for the soldiers.

The exhibit also seeks to show what daily life was like. Baseball games were played. Newspapers carried ads for holiday gifts and supplies. Horse races were run at the National Driving Park, located at Portage and Stockbridge, when the park was not used as a training camp for soldiers.

In short, at least in Northern cities, life went on. Only the absence of loved ones – husbands, sons, and brothers – served to remind Kalamazoo residents that there was a war. A recreated front parlor in the exhibit, though, reminds us that not all those men returned.

When the war ended and the soldiers returned home, the memory of the war was preserved through veterans’ organizations and commemorations of the heroes. The war changed life in Kalamazoo. This is the story that is told in “Kalamazoo for the Union!”
First-hand accounts of the experiences of Civil War soldiers from Kalamazoo County are available on the Museum’s website. The Civil War Blog provides transcriptions of original letters in the Museum’s Collection. Curator Tom Dietz provides commentary as well as the context of time and place for each letter.

One set of letters follows Orville “Tip” DeWaters of the 13th Michigan Infantry from January 1862 until he died from his wounds in April 1865. A current series traces the experiences of Spencer McOmber with the 7th Michigan Cavalry. McOmber’s letters will continue, with monthly entries through the summer of 2015.
The horse model served in the U.S. Army, Camp Grant in Illinois during World War II as a training model for soldiers in the Veterinary Corps. According to Mary Lou Paeglis, it was kept in a classroom near her father’s office.
September 8, 1941, almost 3 months to the day before the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States was in a national emergency – impending war. 1st Lt. Norman H. Stoner of the Army’s Veterinary Corps at Camp Grant, Illinois contacted the Kalamazoo Board of Education to inquire if the Army could borrow the Kalamazoo Museum’s full-size model horse. He wrote, “If the Board of Education is not in need of this horse we thought as a patriotic gesture they would loan it to the Army for use in education of Army personnel.”

The Board could not ignore this appeal to patriotism and approved the loan. An Army truck from Camp Grant picked the horse up and took it to Camp on October 6, 1941.

Stoner told the Board that the men in the Veterinary Corps were being trained in “anatomy, physiology, first aid and restraints of horses, principles of horse shoeing and some meat and dairy inspection.” He promised they “would not use this specimen for any type of instruction which would in any way mar the appearance of the model.”

Stoner’s daughter, Mary Lou Paeglis of Kalamazoo, recalls her father using the horse for instruction. She says, “I loved the horse. I called him ‘the horse that went to war’.”

When the horse was returned in October 1946, the Kalamazoo Gazette headline read, “City’s Only Horse with War Record, Limp Back to Museum.” Stoner said the “city-bred cavalrymen practiced saddling, bridling, grooming and other tasks,” but admitted that it lost its mane and tail, “both of which were traced to the GI’s fondness for unusual souvenirs.”

Nevertheless, the horse was back, safely in storage, awaiting its next assignment. That didn’t come until the new Library and Museum building was completed in 1959. The horse was repainted and given a new tail and mane. For the next 20 years, it was displayed with various old vehicles – carriages, wagons, and even a fire pumper.

In the early 1980s, the horse retired to storage. Its surface was scratched and chipped from years of display and being touched by visitors. This past year, we decided to call it back to duty. With a fresh coat of paint, the horse will be displayed in the Civil War exhibit “Kalamazoo for the Union!,” which begins October 18. Visitors will be able to see it up close but not touch it. When the exhibit closes on May 17, 2015, it will retire to an air-conditioned storage “stall” until its next assignment.

The origins of this horse model are sketchy. Susan Stebbins Stark of Lansing purchased it from a private collector and donated it to the Museum in 1938. Ms. Stark recorded that it came from a saddle and harness maker “out East” and dated to the 1870s.

Full-sized wooden horse models were once common. They were used for display at saddle shops and for fitting harness and tack.
Become a
CITIZEN SCIENTIST
Many people perceive science as something difficult to do, but it doesn’t have to be. Science is the investigation of nature. It begins with an interesting observation that leads to a question. For example, when a rainbow arches across the sky, you may wonder what makes the bands of color, or if the bands of color are always the same. Questions lead to investigation and experimentation and understanding.

Nowadays, when a question arises, a quick online search often produces a satisfactory answer from the authority of the World Wide Web. If not, you may need to dig into the musty pages of a book. Everything has been figured out. Or has it?

There are still unexplored worlds, lost ancient secrets, and mysteries in the depths of the seas. There are questions about Earth’s environment, diverse ecology, and nature, from sub-atomic particles to the vastness of the Universe.

From the Renaissance through the late nineteenth century, the study of science was a hobby, not an occupation. This was the age of the Gentleman Scientist—Galileo, Newton, and Darwin, to name a few. While the rest of the world toiled to survive, Gentleman Scientists who had inherited wealth, land, or a position had the time and luxury to pursue scientific investigations. They worked independently on projects but engaged in social networks like the Royal Society of London, where they presented findings to their peers.

The day of the Gentleman Scientist diminished as research laboratories appeared in the late nineteenth century. Thomas Edison created one of the first at Menlo Park, New Jersey. Alexander Graham Bell, a competitor of Edison, formed the Volta Laboratory in Georgetown, Washington, DC a few years later. Scientific research during their age was driven by inventing new technologies which could be patented and marketed for profit. Science and business joined to develop the emerging technologies of telephones and radio. Later research laboratories would focus on medicines.

Pure science, the investigation of nature without having commercial or military applications in mind, was becoming too complex for individual scientists and moved into university and government laboratories.

Today, computers and cameras collect so much raw data that large teams of scientists cannot sort through it all. To work through the flood of information, science is soliciting the help of amateur scientists through crowd sourcing, where a large group of volunteers process data and bring significant information to attention for detailed analysis.

Astronomy became one of the first sciences where amateurs made genuine contributions to scientific research. In the early 20th century, astronomers were overwhelmed with the task of gathering and analyzing data related to variable stars—stars that cyclically change brightness. They turned to backyard stargazers, forming the American Association of Variable Stars Observers. Another group, the American Meteor Society, began by monitoring meteors falling through the atmosphere. As the Space Race began in the 1950s, amateur astronomers were recruited into the Moon Watch program to monitor artificial satellites orbiting Earth.

With the availability of personal computers in the last decade, NASA began enlisting citizen scientists to assist with mapping the surface of the Moon and Mars. Recently, there have been programs to classify and catalogue galaxies and planets orbiting distant stars.

Today, there are other citizen scientist programs to explore. One enlists volunteers to transcribe log books from early mariners, extracting information about the temperature and wind. Another examines shards of ancient documents, identifying bits of text so that they can be translated.

If you’re curious about the world around you, or just want to learn about scientific investigation, join us at the Museum on Sunday afternoons, November 2 and December 7, at 1:30 p.m., as we offer programs about how you can participate in citizen science projects.

To get a head start, visit the websites https://www.zooniverse.org, http://science.nasa.gov/citizen-scientists/, or http://www.birds.cornell.edu/citsci/.
In 1908, trains picked up passengers every day, taking them as far north as Mackinaw City and south to Cincinnati, Ohio.

This view from 1913 looks west down Main Street (Michigan Avenue). The Columbia Hotel on the right side of the image is still standing.

East view of the old depot after it was renovated in 2000. Today, it is home to the Kalamazoo Community Foundation.

Photo: ©Jurek Wajdowicz/DesignEWS.com
Railroad passenger depots have dotted the landscape of downtown Kalamazoo since the late 1840s. Today only two remain. One, on Kalamazoo Avenue, still functions as a passenger depot. The other has not been used in that capacity for almost 60 years—the old Grand Rapids & Indiana station (later the Pennsylvania Railroad station) at the corner of Pitcher Street and East Michigan Avenue. The depot was built in 1874 after a fire destroyed the original structure.

Over the course of 125 years, the building has changed little, as seen in the historic images on this page. Then in 2000, the ARCUS Foundation renovated the depot which won it a State of Michigan Historic Preservation Award. It is also on the National Register of Historic Places.

This photo from 1955 (right) was taken from the east side of the building, where passengers were picked up and dropped off. By 1956, passenger service was eliminated at the station.

The depot was home to the Whistle Stop Restaurant from 1963 to 1985.

This is believed to be the earliest image of the depot, taken about 1885. Main Street (today Michigan Avenue) passes in front of the station. Two eateries are just across the tracks to provide “warm meals” (as one sign claims) for busy travelers and railroad employees.
On September 1, 1914, Martha, the last passenger pigeon, died at the Cincinnati Zoo. A century earlier, there may have been as many as 5 billion passenger pigeons in North America. John J. Audubon, the great naturalist, said that he once observed a single flock that took three days to fly over.

Pigeons were a popular food in the 19th century and were hunted for commercial use. Because they were easily caught, they also provided food for home use, especially during difficult economic times. In 1931, Gail Davis of St. Joseph County recalled that her father, Hewlett Davis, and grandfather “…could go out with their nets a couple times a week and return with a sufficient number of pigeons to keep their table supplied regularly all Summer…They were kept alive in an empty corn crib and killed as wanted.”

The extinction of the passenger pigeon shocked many people at the end of the 19th century and may have contributed to a growing awareness of endangered species like the American bison.

Pigeons became extinct for several reasons. Overhunting was one factor, as was the loss of their natural habitat as cities and farming expanded. The sheer number of birds also played a factor, as a huge flock could completely devour all edible foodstuffs in the area where it roosted.

The last large strongholds of the pigeons appear to have been in the upper Great Lakes. In 1878, newspaper accounts described a large nesting flock in the Petoskey area. An estimated 1.5 million pigeons were reportedly killed there, mostly by professional hunters called pigeoners, who shipped the birds to Eastern markets and restaurants. It’s believed that the last wild pigeon in Michigan was killed in 1898 near Detroit.

In its permanent collection, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum has a taxidermy mounted passenger pigeon, which is on exhibit through December. The net that Hewlett Davis made to capture pigeons, which his daughter remembered years later, will also be displayed.
“I have seen them at such times reminding me of a vast flood of water rolling over a rocky bottom, sending the water in curved lines upward and falling farther down the stream.”

- Chief Simon Pokagon, Hartford, Michigan, Dec. 17, 1896

This passenger pigeon was caught in the Petoskey area in the 1870s, the site of one of the last and largest nesting grounds for the bird in Michigan. This specimen was donated to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in 1963.
Recent presidents have revealed their food passions: jellybeans, pretzels, cheeseburgers, even a disdain for broccoli. President Lincoln’s great food passion? Gingerbread!

Lincoln’s culinary tastes were purportedly quite simple. As most Americans know, Abe Lincoln was born and raised in humble circumstances. The ingredients needed for gingerbread were not easily obtainable on the Indiana frontier in the early part of the 19th century, and ginger and sorghum were probably an expensive indulgence for the Lincoln family, making gingerbread only an occasional treat. No wonder, then, that his story of savoring his mother’s gingerbread made a lasting impression on so many, or that he chose that story to tell during a debate with Stephen Douglas.

As the story goes, young Abe scored his usual three cookies on baking day and went outside to sit under a tree to savor this most favorite of childhood treats. But before he could nibble even one toe of a gingerbread man, a neighbor boy of an even poorer family demanded one of the cookies. Abe complied, and the boy devoured the cookie in short order.

The boy demanded a second cookie while Abe was still taking his first bite. Reluctantly, Abe relinquished a second cookie, saying, “You seem to like gingerbread men.” To which his ravenous young neighbor replied, “Abe, I don’t s’pose anybody on earth likes gingerbread men better’n I do and gets less’n I do.”

In the rancorous 1858 debate with Stephen Douglas, Lincoln tried to diffuse the tension with a reference to this story from his childhood, saying about Douglas’ false flattery on previous occasions, “Then, as the Judge [Douglas] had complimented me with these pleasant titles (I must confess to my weakness), I was not very accustomed to flattery and it came the sweeter to me. I was rather like the Hoosier, with the gingerbread, when he said he reckoned he loved it better than any other man, and got less of it.”

On October 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. the KVM invites the public to attend the first Museum Explorers event at which special guest Ellie Carlson will give a costumed presentation on foods and cooking in the age of the Civil War. Don’t fret – there will be gingerbread men enough for everyone!
1. It’s noisy but soothing at the same time. What is it?

2. This could bring the outdoors indoors. What is it?

3. This is a sampling probe used by the Kalamazoo Paper Company. What might it have sampled?
NEW! MUSEUM EXPLORERS
Calling all inquisitive people, young and old alike! Join the Museum Explorers for exhibit sneak previews and special events not usually offered to the general public. All you have to do is show up, sign up with your e-mail, and become part of a special group of people who will receive invitations to special events like this one:

KALAMAZOO FOR THE UNION!
OCT. 18, 2014 – MAY 17, 2015
Immerse yourself in Civil War history through the eyes of the people of Kalamazoo County. The exhibit showcases their efforts through stories and events of the time, along with hands-on activities.

VOICES FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
OCT. 4, 2014 – JAN. 19, 2015
The KVM and Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society are working together to continue the community conversation about race, equity, and social justice in this exhibit based on oral histories of contemporary residents of Kalamazoo.

Ellie presents: Abe Lincoln’s Gingerfolk.
Thursday, Oct. 16 from 5-7 p.m., FREE
Join us for a preview of “Kalamazoo for the Union!” and listen to a costumed presenter as she tells the story of Abe Lincoln’s gingerbread men. Everyone gets to take home a gingerfolk!

October 11: Chemistry Day, 12-4 p.m., FREE
Celebrate the sweet side of chemistry with this year’s National Chemistry Week theme—CANDY! The Kalamazoo Valley Museum and the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society will provide the yearly favorites as well as a few new treats!

October 25: Safe Halloween: A Spooktacular Celebration, 12-4 p.m., FREE
Enjoy a traditional Halloween with ghosts, goblins, zombie face makeup and more. Children get a free pumpkin bucket (while supplies last).

NiteWalk
Every 30 minutes from 11 a.m. through 3:30 p.m. Take a spooky NiteWalk through a cemetery, caves, and dark corridors. This program will run all day for FREE during Safe Halloween. Not recommended for small children or those easily spooked!

Spooky Spaceship Adventure
Every 30 minutes from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. during Safe Halloween. A brave and daring crew is needed to investigate a spooky spaceship that has been abandoned while orbiting Earth. Appropriate for ages 2 and up; children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Limited seating; strollers are not permitted. FREE tickets available 30 minutes before each Adventure!

November 15: It’s a Small World
12-4 p.m., FREE
Celebrate diversity by creating crafts and gifts from around the world. The Kalamazoo Children’s Chorus will perform throughout the afternoon.

All Hands-On programs are FREE.

PLANETARIUM

FEATURE SHOWS
Mon, Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun at 3 p.m.

Galaxies
Sept. 20 – Nov. 26
Our home galaxy, the Milky Way, appears as a faint band of light stretching across the sky. Within the Milky Way, stars are born from clouds of dust and gas, live out their lives building the elements of life, and die leaving fantastic objects behind. Learn about the nature of galaxies, how they interact with one another, and how they cluster into larger structures throughout the universe.

Mystery of the Christmas Star
Nov. 28 – Jan. 2
Journey back 2000 years to Bethlehem as we seek to discover a scientific explanation for the star the wise men followed to find the baby Jesus.

FAMILY SHOWS
Mon – Fri at 11 a.m., Sat at 1 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

BIG
Sept. 20 – Nov. 26
Just how big is space? Sir Richard Attenborough describes the sights seen through the port of a spacecraft on our way outward to the edges of space. Take this journey as we voyage past planets, spinning galaxies, and stars that are forming while others are dying.

Season of Light
(Nov. 28 – Jan. 2)
Additional show times: Mon – Fri at 11 a.m.
Orion the Hunter is now Orion the zoo keeper in this thirty-minute interactive family show that tours the constellations.

SEASONAL STARGAZING SHOW
Tue, Thu at 3 p.m.; Sat at 2 p.m.

Measuring the Night
Sept. 20 – Dec. 19

Orion Nights
Dec. 20 – March 19
All shows are $3 per person.

LASER LIGHT SHOWS IN THE PLANETARIUM:
Every Friday night at 8 p.m.
Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon is back!
All shows are $3 per person.
SUNDAY SERIES
Mary Jane Stryker Theater

All programs are on first and third Sundays and begin at 1:30 p.m. FREE! Seating is limited.

**Sept. 7**
Township History Series: Comstock
Tom Dietz, KVM curator and local historian, will offer a program about Horace Comstock and the township that bears his name.

**Sept. 21**
Meet David Coverly!
Creator of Speed Bump, David Coverly, will undoubtedly provide a few laughs today. His books will be available for sale.

PUBLIC PROGRAMS

**The Challenger Experience**
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. $3 per person.

**Mini-Missions**
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 11 must be accompanied by a partner aged 12 or older. $3 per person.

GROUP PROGRAMS

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

**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. $25 per person.

**Winter Holiday Break**
December 29 - January 2
The Museum is open and will offer shows and demonstrations throughout the week. Check our website for more detail on these programs:

- Planetariums shows: $3
- The Little Star That Could Daily at 1 p.m.
- Space Park 360 Daily at 2 p.m.

- **Special Challenger Learning Center Programs:** $3
  - **Challenger Experience** Daily at 1:30 p.m.
  - **Mars Mini-Mission** Daily at 3 p.m.

  Demonstrations FREE:
  - Electricity
  - Moon Phases
  - Cooking a Comet
  - Mystery Artifacts...and MORE!

FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS
Mary Jane Stryker Theater

**FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS**
Live events, movies, Art Hops, and laser light shows every Friday night! Check our website for details on all offerings.

**Fridays**
Art Hop events begin at 6 p.m.
Live events and movies begin at 7 p.m.
Laser Light Shows begin at 8 p.m.
Prices listed individually below:

**October 3 Art Hop**
Dragon Wagon (Bluegrass, Folk, and Rock) FREE

**October 10**
Crawlspace Eviction (Improv Comedy/Interactive) $5

**October 17**
MI Hiryu Daiko (Japanese Drums) $5

**October 24**
Let’s Talk about Zombies (panel discussion with Kate Ferraro) FREE

**October 31**
The Great Boodini (Purveyor of Spooky Magic) $5

**November 7 Art Hop**
Delilah DeWylde and the Lost Boys (Rockabilly, Americana, and Honky Tonk) FREE

**November 14**
33rd Street Band (Variety/Cover Band) $5

**November 21**
The Moxie Strings (Celtic/Americana Fusion) $5

**November 28**
“Love and Valor: One Couple’s Intimate Civil War Letters.” Introduction by KVM staff (Movie) FREE

**December 5 Art Hop**
Kalamazoo Mandolin & Guitar Orchestra (Classical) FREE

**December 12**
The Duffield/Caron Project (Blues, Boogie, and Ballads) $5

**December 19**
Leslie Goddard’s Clara Barton – Civil War Nurse (Character Reenactment) $5

Friday night theater programs resume January 9, 2015.

**Laser Light Shows in the Planetarium:**
Every Friday Night at 8 p.m.
Pink Floyd’s Dark Side of the Moon is back! $3

Check out the full calendar at kalamazoomuseum.org
Recent Acquisition

SCHOOL PINS

A Little Piece of School Spirit

In the summer of 2013, the Museum received a large box of yearbooks, high school newspapers, and other memorabilia belonging to Robert Slager and Ruth Locker Slager of Kalamazoo. Of all the items in the box, it was the smallest items that caught the Museum staff’s attention.

These handmade wooden pins from Milwood School and Kalamazoo Central High School date back to the late 1930s and early 1940s. Ruth and Robert’s son, Ron Slager, believes the megaphone pin with the “M” for Milwood belonged to his father. The KCHS pins belonged to either his mother or father, since they both graduated from Central. He speculates that they may have been made as part of a wood shop project or even in an art class.

Both Ruth and Robert were involved in activities and sports while at Central. Ruth was active in the Girls Athletic Association. As a member of the G.A.A., she was responsible for helping plan the annual Silver Ball turn-about dance, where it was up to the girls to ask the guys out for a night of dancing and games. Robert was a manager for the baseball team and a starting guard for the 1942 football team.

After graduation in 1943, Roger served in the United States Navy during World War II. He later owned and operated several businesses in Kalamazoo. Ruth graduated in 1940 and worked as a secretary for Dr. Homer Stryker at the Orthopedic Frame Company, now known as Stryker, Inc. The couple married in 1948 in Kalamazoo and remained lifelong residents.

Even though they may be small, these pins were important to the Ruth and Robert as mementos of their school days. Ron saw the value in these pins when he donated them to the Museum. As he put it, “Sometimes it’s the little things that people remember.”
MUSEUM EXPLORERS
PREMIER EVENT!

“Sharing Abe Lincoln’s Gingerfolk & Other Lessons in Civil War Cooking”

October 16 • 5 – 7 p.m. FREE

WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK

December 29–January 2

Get out of the house and visit the Museum to partake of planetarium shows, demonstrations, and special Challenger Learning Center missions throughout the week. See the calendar inside and check our website for more detail on these offerings.

Planetariums shows $3:
- The Little Star That Could (younger audiences) Daily at 1 p.m.
- Space Park 360 (all ages) Daily at 2 p.m.

Special Challenger Learning Center Programs $3:
- Challenger Experience (all ages, but children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult) Daily at 1:30 p.m.
- Mars Mini-Mission (ages 8 & up; children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult) Daily at 3 p.m.

Demonstrations FREE:
- Electricity - Moon Phases - Cooking a Comet
- Mystery Artifacts… and MORE

October/November Counting the Day Away
December/January Let’s All Get Along

Extended hours and limited program times during holiday breaks.

Evidence Found: EXPLORATIONS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

February 14 – August 30, 2015

It’s not what you find, it’s what you FIND OUT! Discover what real archaeologists do, find, and learn in this new interactive exhibit.

Mondays–Fridays 9 am–3 p.m.; Saturdays 9 am–5 p.m.; Sundays 1–5 p.m.
Children five and under are encouraged to play and explore in three rooms of interactive exhibits and playful environments.

CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS
Mondays-Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 a.m.
These literacy-based 20-minute programs are free of charge to families and preschool groups. Programs are designed for children ages 3-5 and may include stories, musical activities, games, and art projects.

October/November Counting the Day Away
December/January Let’s All Get Along

Extended hours and limited program times during holiday breaks.

VOICES SOCIAL FOR JUSTICE


The KVM and Southwest Michigan Black Heritage Society are working together to continue the community conversation about race, equity, and social justice in this exhibit based on oral histories of contemporary residents of Kalamazoo.

Opening reception and panel discussion will be held on Sunday, October 5 at 1:30 p.m.
This fall, we’re mixing it up in our Friday Night Highlights series!

The Stryker Theater is the location for live music, comedy, improv, magic, theatrical performances, and more—even zombies!

Pink Floyd’s **Dark Side of the Moon** returns to the planetarium every Friday night.

*Details online.*