The Official Magazine of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum

Museography

Join Ms. Frizzle and the gang as...

The Magic School Bus™ Kicks Up A Storm

PLUS...

Weather That Stopped Michigan In its Tracks

Day of the Dead Celebrations Live On

Dollhouse Furniture & more... inside!
Join us for the 21st Annual Chemistry Day
The Many Faces of Chemistry
Saturday
Oct. 13
12-4 p.m.
Local chemists from the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society explore many careers using chemistry through demonstrations and hands-on experiments.

Coming 2008...
FEB. 16–JUNE 1, 2008
Explore the secret life of buildings!
Learn how a house stays warm, why Mongolians live in gers, how skyscrapers stay tall, and much more.

AN EXHIBIT ABOUT BUILDINGS
Raise the Roof was produced by the Science Museum of Minnesota. The exhibit was made possible with support from the National Science Foundation.

LIVE LOCAL BREAKING NEWS
Weekday mornings from 5 - 8 a.m.
Holly DOYLE  Jeff VARNER

Weeknights at 5, 5:30, 6 & 11 p.m.
Judy MARKEE  Jeff McATEE
ON THE COVER: Ms. Frizzle and the gang come to town as the Magic School Bus leads you on an adventure to learn more about the weather that surrounds us. More information about the exhibition can be found beginning on page 4 of this issue.

Look for the icon at right throughout this magazine. It indicates objects you can view in the special Museography display case, located next to the reception desk on the main floor of the Museum, or in other exhibit areas throughout the KVM.

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FROM THE DIRECTOR

NATIONAL AWARD DEMONSTRATES UPJOHN’S PRINCIPLES

William E. Upjohn, the founder of The Upjohn Co., is remembered, among other things, for two sayings that once graced the walls of his enterprise: “Keep the Quality Up” “Everything We Do Is a Group Effort”

Both apply to the work we have taken on at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum and especially to the three-times-a-year publication that represents it.

As you know, every museum and historical organization in the United States publishes a newsletter or magazine to market its services. Museography artfully combines typical content—upcoming programs, special events, current exhibitions—with stories of our region’s past, of the people and events that have made history.

Because of reader contacts, we know that Museography’s stories are being read and appreciated by its regional audience.

Now we can say that Museography has also been recognized for excellence by our professional peers across the country. In September the American Association for State and Local History at its annual meeting in Atlanta gave Museography an AASLH Award of Merit.

Not only does Museography keep the Museum’s quality up, it is also the result of a group effort. Its stories intentionally carry no bylines because everyone is involved in its production.

Members of the staff determine content, research and write the articles, select illustrations, and proof final copy under the guidance of editor Karen Visser who sets our deadlines and keeps us on task.

Many of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum’s annual events are also group undertakings, made possible only because of the help of other community volunteers and organizations.

For more than 20 years, the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society has helped us present an annual Chemistry Day (see story on facing page). Downtown Kalamazoo Incorporated helps us put on our annual celebration of Safe Halloween. This year it takes place on Oct. 27.

Another group effort this fall involves the Museum, downtown churches, and dedicated volunteers in the 2007 Michigan Festival of Sacred Music slated for Nov. 8–11. Several free events will take place in our Mary Jane Stryker Theater.

During the four days of the Michigan Sacred Music Festival, Buddhist monks of the Drepung Loseling Monastery will be creating a mandala sand painting in the Museum’s World Works room on the first floor. Mandalas are painstakingly poured grain by grain to create intricate, colorful patterns of images. They represent acts of prayerful meditation intended in the Buddhist tradition to generate energies for global healing.

Other festival events at the Museum will include documentary films and a flute concert at noon. All are free and open to the public, but tickets are limited.

For its part, the Museum is hosting a special color-photography exhibition, “A Celebration of Souls: Day of the Dead in Southern Mexico” from Sept. 22 to Jan. 6 in the First Floor Gallery (story on pg. 11).

Developed by the Field Museum in Chicago, this bilingual exhibition focuses on the lives of villagers as they prepare centuries-old recipes, scatter marigolds to guide the dead home, and mark this annual event.
**Chemistry Day Oct. 13**

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum hosts its 21st Chemistry Day on Saturday, Oct. 13, from noon to 4 p.m.

Staged in conjunction with the observance of National Chemistry Week (Oct. 21–27), this year’s theme is “The Many Faces of Chemistry.”

In addition to new experiments and demonstrations tied to the special exhibition about weather on the KVM’s third floor, 2007 Chemistry Day will repeat activities that have attracted more than 1,000 to the Museum in past years to explore the marvels of this branch of science.

This year’s event also focuses on the many careers that use chemistry and offers information that teachers can apply in their classrooms for the observance of National Chemistry Week.

Southwest Michigan professionals who use chemistry in their jobs are invited to participate by contacting the Museum’s Annette Hoppenworth at (269) 373-7955.

**Co-sponsor is the Kalamazoo Section of the American Chemical Society.** Professional volunteers come from local businesses, colleges, universities, and high schools, including both students and teachers.

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**Ask the Curators**

**Q: Why is it hot in July when the Earth is farthest from the sun?**

A: It’s true—the Earth is about three million miles farther from the sun on July 7 than on Jan. 3. But on July 7, it’s summertime in Michigan. That’s a good indication something other than the sun’s distance is responsible for temperature and seasons.

The real cause of Earth’s seasons is the 23.5-degree tilt of its rotational axis. Our spinning planet is like a gyroscope, always keeping the same orientation in space—with the North Pole pointed at the star Polaris.

In January, when Earth is on the same side of the sun as Polaris, the North Pole is tilted away from the sun. The sun’s path over Kalamazoo is a low arc from southeast to southwest. The low angle (24˚) spreads the sunlight over a larger area. The time from sunrise to sunset is about nine hours.

In July, when Earth is on the same side of the sun as Polaris, the North Pole is tilted toward the sun.

The sun’s path across the Kalamazoo sky is a high arc from northeast to northwest. The high angle (71˚) condenses the sunlight into a smaller area. The time from sunrise to sunset is about 15 hours.

More concentrated sunlight shining for a longer part of the day accumulates more solar energy during summer months.

And remember, when it’s summer in Kalamazoo, it’s winter in Argentina, New Zealand and Australia.

**Q: Where’s the Gelfoam?**

A: Our thanks to Terry and Lynn Meisling for this question in one of the Museum’s visitor-comment books—there’s a lot to see at the Museum, so it might be easy to miss!

A small package of Gelfoam® is displayed in one of the cases in the “Kalamazoo Direct to You” exhibition on the second floor.

Gelfoam is an important product developed by the former Upjohn Company. In 1942 the Navy solicited Upjohn to manufacture serum albumin, a substance substituted for plasma to treat shock and severe burns. Serum albumin is part of whole blood.

During its early production, other by-products were created and recognized as potentially important for surgery. Two Upjohn scientists, John T. Correll (shown below in 1965) and Ed Wise, began working with one of the substances—thrombin. They whipped it with purified gelatin to create a foam. The result was Gelfoam.

It was first marketed in 1945 to control bleeding during surgery. Today it is manufactured as a sterile surgical sponge or a fine powder that can absorb many times its weight in fluid.

Send your question to Ask the Curators, Kalamazoo Valley Museum, P.O. Box 4070, Kalamazoo, MI 49003-4070, or via email to museumstaff@kvcc.edu.
The Children’s Museum of Houston created the bilingual, interactive attraction based on the best-selling Scholastic books and the TV series on The Learning Channel. With more than 58 million books in print and 52 award-winning episodes that have earned an Emmy and the Annenberg Award, “The Magic School Bus” is the most successful children’s science series in history.

While documentaries and news accounts tell the stories of devastating tornados, hurricanes and blizzards, few and far between are the educational, experiential materials that explain the “whys and wherefores” of the weather, especially with children in mind.

As they climb aboard “The Magic School Bus,” visitors of all ages learn how the air, the sun’s heat, water and land masses are factors in producing a gorgeous day, a rainy night, or a potentially deadly “devil wind,” as a tornado is often called.

The basics of meteorology are explored as well as the data-
collection tools and instruments required to predict and report the weather. A career component is part of the free exhibition, as well as safety precautions when the essences of Arlen’s lyrics are on the horizon.

Through its three interactive components—the experimental “Ms. Frizzle’s Classroom,” “The Weather Observatory,” and “Walkerville Weather Center”—the exhibition offers a compendium of natural clues that young people can easily read to help predict the weather that, as all of Michigan knows, is constantly changing.

It invites children into science adventures using familiar “Magic School Bus” themes and inquiry methods. They will don clothing appropriate for the weather event of their choice, handle such weather-mapping apparatuses as windsocks and anemometers, and engage in projects at their own speed.

For folks who have attended the hot-air balloon festivals in Battle Creek over the years and still don’t understand how those Christmas-ornament-like baubles get off the ground and way up there, “Ralphie’s Hot Air Balloon Race” will offer some insights.

That stop on the “Magic School Bus” route allows them to send miniature balloons sailing over a heated surface to capture the rising air. They learn not only how those balloons “fly,” but also the effects of heated air on the weather.

Other features—all named with kids in mind—examine the effects of heat on a variety of surfaces, how wind is created when hot and cold masses of air interact, why the tilt of our spaceship Earth is the cause of the four seasons in most parts of the planet, water’s role in weather’s ways, and how feathered, furry and scaly creatures can serve as personal meteorologists if people pay attention to their reactions.

In “The Weather Observatory,” the wonder of lightning and its causes comes into play. A thunderstorm is recreated and the genesis of a snowstorm is examined. Kids can even build a snowflake.

They become familiar with the water cycle and the stages of evaporation, condensation, accumulation and precipitation that are key elements of weather patterns. “Walkerville Weather Center” is where visitors can try their hands at being meteorologists and future anchors/reporters on The Weather Channel.

They can interpret live data and take a stab at delivering the news as both radio and TV journalists. Another experience is to report on what safety precautions to take if inclement weather has a bead on their community.

Along the way, they’ll see how difficult it is to predict the weather and get it right 100 percent of the time, while exercising their math skills and nurturing natural curiosity in things scientific. Geography and climate lessons are also part of the exhibition.

“The exhibit is targeted for children ages 5 to 12, their parents and guardians, and teachers,” said Tammie Kahn, executive director of The Children’s Museum of Houston. “It is the first weather-focused exhibit produced in the United States oriented exclusively for the learning needs of young children.”

Scholastic’s The Magic School Bus™ Kicks Up A Storm exhibit was created with cooperation from Scholastic Entertainment, Inc. and is circulated by the Children’s Museum of Houston with major funding from the National Science Foundation. SCHOLASTIC, THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS and logos are trademarks of Scholastic Inc. ©2005 Scholastic Inc. Based on The Magic School Bus book series ©Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen. All rights reserved.

www.kalamazoomuseum.org
In conjunction with the news department at WWMT-TV Channel 3, a weather station on the roof of the Kalamazoo Valley Museum offers visitors to the Museum’s website the latest information on weather.

Go to the Museum’s website at http://www.kalamazoomuseum.org and click on the weather-station button on the left side of the screen. It can also be reached from the WWMT-TV website at http://wwmt.com.

Viewable are up-to-date readings for: temperature, humidity, dew point, wind velocity, wind direction, wind-chill factor, a falling/rising barometer measurement, the day’s rainfall, the rate of the rainfall, the total precipitation from a storm, the rainfalls for the month and year, and the heat index. The day’s high and low for many of these measurements are available as well.

The Davis Vantage Pro II weather station was installed on the Museum’s roof more than a year ago. Its electronics and computer controls are based in the planetarium. It samples the weather conditions every 10 seconds and updates the website at five-minute intervals.

A ticker crawls across the top of the web page giving monthly highs and lows, while the daily highs and lows are displayed in a table on the left side.

The station is a part of Channel 3’s weather-school network.

When the clock radio clicks on early in the morning, one of the first things you hear is the daily weather forecast. You listen to learn whether you need sunglasses, an umbrella, or a sweater as you prepare for the coming day.

Sometimes summer heat waves form beads of sweat over the brow, or a blustery winter wind makes us shiver as our breath condenses before our eyes. There can be droughts where stunted rows of corn wither in the field or monsoonal storms that make rivers overflow their banks.

But most of the time, the weather we experience is somewhere between these extremes.

Predicting what to expect is the goal of weather forecasters, the fortune tellers of meteorology. Their forecasts come not from a crystal ball, but rather from understanding the science of interactions between the sun, atmosphere, oceans and continents.

And, of course, science involves observing, measuring, and keeping records that become the basis of predictions.

The science of weather is explored in a variety of programs at the Museum. New this fall is a planetarium show titled “Blown Away: the Wild Side of Weather.”

The program was produced at the Detroit Science Center’s planetarium, with support from the WDIV-TV weather team.

“Blown Away” reviews how the sun is the power plant that runs Earth’s weather machine. Solar radiation heats Earth’s exterior, warming the air just above the surface so that it becomes lighter and rises.

As surface pressure drops, surrounding air moves in to replace the rising air: a low-pressure system has started to form.

Since what goes up must come down, as the rising column of air begins to cool, the air settles, increasing the pressure at the surface, forming a high-pressure system.

Surface winds blow to balance the pressure between these high- and low-pressure areas. Solar radiation also heats large bodies of water, causing evaporation.

Water vapor rises and cools, then condenses to fall as rain or snow, which runs through rivers, streams and under the ground to the seas, completing the water cycle.

As the energy and water cycles churn, masses of warm, moist air collide with large accumulations of cool, dry air, forming weather fronts where winds and static electricity build into thunderstorms.

The strongest expressions of weather systems come as blizzards, tornados, and hurricanes move across the countryside.

Usually you go inside to escape the fury of a storm, but in this show the storm builds inside the planetarium. Blowers fill the domed chamber with howling wind, and strobes flash bolts of lightning on the planetarium sky.

“Blown Away” is offered as a public show on Saturdays and Sundays at 3 p.m. through the autumn months.

Pre-registered school and scouting groups can also participate in a 90-minute workshop about making and using simple weather instruments to observe the changing conditions.

Instruments constructed in the workshop include a wind vane and paper-cup anemometer. An assembly demonstration and take-home directions are provided for additional instruments, including a pop-bottle rain gauge, a tin-can barometer and a plastic-strip thermometer. The workshop describes and demonstrates how common weather instruments work, and explains the value of keeping a weather log.

In addition, for pre-registered school groups at the Museum, Keith Thompson, meteorologist for Kalamazoo’s WWMT-TV, explains his occupation, what goes into his weather forecasts and how they are put together.

Quick access to local weather conditions just keystrokes away
Great Flood of 1904

The Kalamazoo River is a relatively slow-flowing waterway that rises in Jackson and Hillsdale counties and meanders generally to the west for 150 miles until it empties into Lake Michigan at Saugatuck.

This peaceful river has sometimes created serious havoc – as in March 1904 when sudden spring downpours, on ground frozen solid by a bitterly cold winter, forced the river out of its banks and into streets.

That was not the first time Kalamazoo experienced floods. As early as May 1858, heavy rains produced overflows across Southwest Michigan. The Kalamazoo rose to a depth of 15 feet, flooding the bridge on East Main Street. The Portage Creek rose to a “great height” while the Arcadia Creek flooded most of the village north of the Michigan Central Railroad depot.

The flood of 1904 was not localized. Not only did the Kalamazoo crest at more than 8 feet above flood stage but the Grand and St. Joseph rivers, as well as rivers in the eastern part of Michigan and throughout Indiana, went over their banks.

On March 24, The Kalamazoo Gazette reported a small tornado had struck Grand Rapids and severe storms had hit Chicago. These were omens.

That same Thursday night, heavy rains pummeled the Midwest. In Kalamazoo, winter had frozen the snow-covered ground. With the soil unable to absorb the torrent, stormwater quickly ran off into the creeks and streams, melting the snow. Widespread flooding ensued.

Within hours, the Kalamazoo River was reaching historic levels. The Kalamazoo Evening Telegraph reported the river’s normal level was 67 feet. It would eventually crest at nearly 76 feet. Not only did the rainfall and snowmelt contribute to the flooding but trees, branches, and other debris clogged the ice-filled river in Cooper Township causing the waters to back up.

Hundreds of homes were flooded and 15 large factories closed, including the Kalamazoo Paper Co., the Kalamazoo Stove Co., and the Kalamazoo Sled Co., idling 2,000 workers.

At its peak, the waters inundated Kalamazoo from Portage Street on the west to Gilbert Avenue on the east, and from a quarter-mile north of Gull Road to Vine Street on the south where the water was more than two feet deep. The Telegraph noted that the two-square-mile area looked like a lake with many small boats used to get to houses and to cross the river.

All railroad service was suspended since tracks were covered with water and sometimes washed out. Some bridges were endangered. Five days would pass...
Armistice Day Storm

Armistice Day in 1940 dawned in South Haven with a dead-calm “Big Lake,” blinding sun rays ricocheting off the water’s surface, and unusually balmy, 60-degree temperatures for mid-November.

Within hours, Lake Michigan thrashed like a “giant washing machine,” sending Bonzai Pipeline-style, 30 footers crashing ashore, and plummeting the temperature 50 degrees.

South Haven residents, who lost eight commercial fishermen that day, said it was the worst they had seen Lake Michigan.

Four days earlier, on Nov. 7, a weather front had plowed into the Pacific Northwest. Winds of jet-stream magnitude started the four-month-old Tacoma Narrows Bridge weaving and undulating as if it were made of rubber.

Before the wind-induced collapse of what had just become the third-longest suspension bridge in the world, a Tacoma businessman captured some of the most remarkable news footage in film history, comparable to the Hindenburg’s conversion into an airborne inferno.

After 45 minutes of rocking and rolling, the bridge broke and cascaded 190 feet into Puget Sound.

That front was the vanguard of deadly weather across the United States. Winter struck with whiplash rage in the Rockies and the Plains. Three feet of snow fell in the Wasatch Mountains of Utah, temperatures shot to 21 below zero in Montana, and 80-mph winds were clocked. Some called it a “giant cyclone.”

Sixty-seven years ago in a commercial-TV-less nation, weather reports were not part of the American way of life. Meteorology existed, but few knew about it or paid any heed.

Being hardy sailors who had been blown all over the lake and into other ports by Lake Michigan’s ferocity, the eight chugged through the channel aboard “The Indian” and “The Richard H.”

Ranging in age from 28 to 56, they were iron men in wooden boats who knew tough weather and were confident they could
take whatever “The Big Lake” could dish out. They would plow their way to their nets full of lake trout and whitefish 30 miles off shore, collect their harvest, and return. It was their livelihood. But this day would be different.

By noon, Lake Michigan was boiling, sending waves over the lighthouse.

Four Coast Guardsmen boarded a 36-foot cutter and pushed their way into the raging seas on what seemed like a fruitless mission. Lost in history is whether the two tugs had left prior to the station’s posting of the coming arctic onslaught or whether the crews just ignored the warning.

The cutter entered the monstrous maelstrom knowing that two freighters had already gone down, while a 390-foot car ferry had been tossed onto the beach near Ludington as if it were a pickup stick.

For the Guardsmen, it was a 27-hour nightmare with the powerful cutter reduced to being a powerless pawn in the grip of a bone-chilling, wind-whipped fury.

After three hours, the crew started concentrating on their survival. The wind and waves nearly capsized the cutter attempting to make a turn, keelhauling one who was tethered to the wheel.

Ice-encrusted, the cutter made the Chicago harbor. In all, 65 perished in Lake Michigan that day. Only 16 of the bodies were recovered.

One of the South Haven fishermen was found Nov. 16 in his cork life jacket off of Grand Haven. Another jacket had a torn strap, as if the wearer had been violently ripped from its protection.

The fishing boats were ripped asunder by weather’s wrath. The nameplate of “The Richard H” was found at the Grand Haven State Park while wreckage from “The Indian” came ashore south of Grand Haven.

Accounts reported that veteran captains knew what was coming, but they collectively had a hunch “The Big Lake” would cushion the shock as it had before. They were wrong.

The adage of “All Quiet Before the Storm” held true that day as Lake Michigan took one of its worst poundings in recorded history. Vessels snapped in two as they were thrown onto shoals or beached by tidal waves.

Shoreline communities were sand-blasted and power-washed. Even across the state hours later, the winds were so powerful the St. Claire River dropped several feet as water was blown out of its channel.

There was nothing peaceful about “The Armistice Day Storm.”

Blizzards of 1967 & 1978

Baby Boomers know exactly where they were and what they were doing when President Kennedy was assassinated and when Neil Armstrong stepped on the lunar surface.

The shock of “9-11” in 2001 seared its way into everybody’s essence as well.

For Kalamazoos, three weather incidents rank a shade below those as memory etchers: the tornado of May 1980, and the blizzards of 1967 and 1978—both of them January “White Tornados.”

The 1967 avalanche measured 21 inches in its first assault, attempting to make a turn, keelhauling one who was tethered to the wheel.

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The 1967 avalanche measured 21 inches in its first assault,
Jan. 25, 1978, there was little indication they would be stuck in their driveways by dawn.

The 25 inches of snow was bad enough, but after the plows had catapulted the white stuff into the ditches, 60-mph winds put it right back into the roads. And that was the situation for 36 hours. Working in a bizarre partnership, the mechanical and natural powers produced 17-foot snowdrifts.

Amazingly, the Kalamazoo area escaped fatalities in what was described as an “amazing” blizzard. Commented a Paw Paw official whose community the winter before was smothered by a record snowfall of 167 inches—including an 18-inch blitz one evening—“This one (1978) beat the heck out of both of them (1967 and 1977).”

A counterpart in Allegan County said: “It was the dang wind... Officers had to work hard to get out of their cars... They had to turn their backs to the wind to get their breath.”

The Gazette—for the first time in its then 145-year history—did not publish on Thursday, Friday or Saturday because delivery was impossible.

The Sunday, Jan. 29, edition was full of photos of homes buried under tons of snow and stories about pregnant women in labor, diabetics in need of insulin, stranded motorists, homes running out of fuel and food, and reports of fires that could not be battled by drifted-in fire trucks.

Threading through the accounts of the area’s response to these natural cold-weather disasters was the warming sense that, on these particular days, everybody was a neighbor and everybody lent a helping hand.
DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATIONS ARE ALSO ABOUT LIFE

An exhibition exploring the history and significance of Day of the Dead celebrations in Oaxaca, a southern region of Mexico, opens Sept. 22 and continues through Jan. 6 at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

“A Celebration of Souls: Day of the Dead in Southern Mexico” uses 26 photographs by four photographers and bilingual text panels to capture the essence of a typical Oaxacan Day of the Dead. Villagers in the state of Oaxaca are shown immersed in all aspects of the celebration—preparing centuries-old recipes for the departed to enjoy, scattering trails of marigolds to guide the dead home, and offering chocolate and pan de muerto (bread of the dead) at community gatherings.

Various languages and traditions produce very different versions of the celebrations across Latin America and the U.S.

Many begin planning for Day of the Dead months in advance. The time of year, village markets feature an abundance of new clothes, elaborate floral arrangements, rich foods, and special treats to properly welcome back the spirits of loved ones. Ofrendas, elaborate altars offering favorite foods and drinks, candies, sweets, and flowers, are an important symbol of Day of the Dead. An ofrenda, built with the assistance of Dr. Irene “Ike” Vasquez, forms the centerpiece of the exhibit.

During this time of year, families honor deceased loved ones and welcome the spirits' return home.

Created Nov. 1 and 2, on the Christian observances of All Saints’ Day and All Souls’ Day, it is one of the most important ceremonies in Latin America. Traditionally, Nov. 1 is set aside for remembrance of deceased infants, or angelitos, and those who have died as adults are honored on Nov. 2.

Dr. Vasquez will lead the group in creating a community ofrenda. Audience members are invited to bring photos, toys or a favorite food to honor deceased loved ones, as well as memories that can be shared in word, song, or act.

“While it may have feet in the Pre-Columbian past of this hemisphere,” Vasquez said, “the celebration of Day of the Dead is now walking across the entire New World offering everyone a new way to deal with death. In this program, we will build our altar, learn from each other the memories we carry, and share much.

“After we have strengthened our bonds as a community,” she said, “we will disassemble our altar, returning all mementos and keeping fond memories until next year.”
Irene Vasquez went from picking cherries in Oceana County as part of a migrant family to a Ph. D. in comparative religion at Duke University. So she knows a bit about the evolution of her culture as it’s transplanted into the American soil of Southwest Michigan.

Her 12-year-old, Kalamazoo-based Magical Rain Theaterworks performs at K-12 schools, universities, museums, libraries, and festivals.

What the troupe does is a hybrid of entertainment, education and enlightenment. In a variety of venues, the repertoire explains to young people—not just of Latino heritage—the values and virtues of the Pre-Columbian era, traditional and current Mexico, and how much of that has been translated into the Hispanic-American experience.

She, husband Dan Runyan, and their 15-year-old son, Benito, believe the arts are powerful and relevant teachers.

A classic example is Day of the Dead celebrations that have their roots in New World civilizations long before they were affected by Spanish conquistadors, and how those made the transition into the Christian calendar. She calls it a marriage of Christianity and the Pre-Columbian reverence for the deceased.

“These are joyful celebrations,” she said, “a tribute to those who have gone before you. It is a welcoming ceremony, and very elaborate, even in homes of people who have very little. Day of the Dead observances are all about reverence, not a sense of morbidity.”

Vasquez’s parents came from Texas in the late 1940s, settling initially in Zeeland and then Holland as one of the area’s first Hispanic families. Her father, a World War II paratrooper and now 84, left the fields and worked at the General Motors plant in Grand Rapids for 33 years.

Meanwhile, her mother and five siblings spent summers working the farms of West Michigan—not solely for the financial benefits, but just as importantly to build family bonds and teach the ethics of hard work.

The Holland High School alumna majored in comparative religion and anthropology at Western Michigan University after giving the theater program a fling. It’s more than a fling now—it’s a career.

After a master’s in the history of religion at the University of Chicago, it was off to Duke and a doctorate. She’s also done some post-doctoral work at Harvard and taught at WMU.

As with other ethnic groups whose ties to their homelands have withered with passing generations, Vasquez has seen that happening to her heritage.

“Those who came here first had elders back in Mexico and their links to home villages were strong,” she said. “Those, like me, my brothers and sisters, who were born in the United States, are further removed, but not completely disconnected.”

Which is why Magical Rain Theaterworks embarked on its mission. However, the scenarios are changing.

Back in the 1920s, when Mexicans came to Detroit for auto-making jobs, Day of the Dead celebrations made the trip intact, including events that take place in cemeteries, which could be a little disconcerting for unaware Anglos. Cemetery celebrations seemed occult.

Contemporary celebrations in Southwest Michigan have also seen cemetery scenes erode, but the cultural umbilical cord is still strong through rituals and the creation of a special altar linking the present to the spiritual past.

The ofrenda is packed with family artifacts, candles, icons, photographs, trinkets, toys, offerings, and the favorite foods and candies of the ones being honored.

The altar frequently sparks an outburst of cultural karaoke. Somebody feels the spirit to sing the honored person’s favorite song, recite a poem, and even spew a few favored epithets.

The spirit behind Day of the Dead celebrations is being embraced by Americans of all cultural stripes. Funerals do not mark a death, but what that person accomplished in living. In Vasquez’s words, “Life is to be lived, but never forgotten.”
After calling children to school for nearly 100 years, this bell was removed from the belfry of Grand Prairie School in 1960. The school, located at Drake and Grand Prairie roads, was the last functioning one-room schoolhouse in Kalamazoo County.

In the 1950s, Kalamazoo, like the rest of America, was in the midst of the Baby Boom and urban sprawl. Young families were the norm and by 1956 the once-rural Grand Prairie schoolhouse was feeling the pinch of lots of kids. School officials anticipated 57 students that year—nearly double the number from the year before. It was far too many for the little school to handle.

The building was sitting on leased land made available by farmer Moses Kingsley on Jan. 1, 1864, for the purposes of operating a school. The 99-year lease, at the cost of $1 per year, was nearing its end just at the time that the school was outgrowing its purpose. The timing couldn’t have been better.

In 1958, the Kalamazoo Public Schools annexed the Grand Prairie School District that included the little schoolhouse. The leased land was returned to the heirs of Kingsley and the students began attending the new, modern Grand Prairie School at the corner of Drake Road and Croyden Avenue. The schoolhouse was subsequently demolished.

All that remained was the school bell. It was given to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum in 1960 and restored in 1995. Today it is on permanent display as part of the Core Exhibition in the atrium of the Museum.
“Nice weather we’re having today.”
“It’s so hot, you could fry an egg on the sidewalk.”
“If you don’t like the weather, just wait a few minutes.”

If you’ve lived in Michigan for any time at all, you’ve heard these words or even spoken them to launch a conversation. Michigan weather is ever changing and so do our responses to it.

Today we are lucky because we have an inkling of what we face each day.

For thousands of years, predicting the day’s weather has been crucial to the farmer planting crops or the merchant shipping his goods at sea. Such knowledge could mean the difference between success and failure.

It’s even more critical for those living in the mid-latitudes where weather is most changeable on a daily basis.

Predictions of weather were based on long periods of observation and were told in rhymes, anecdotes or adages:

> When clouds appear like rocks and towers, the earth’s refreshed with frequent showers.
> Or the familiar: Red sky at morning, sailors take warning; red sky at night, sailor’s delight.

Almanacs became an important weather resource for farmers and sailors. By definition, an almanac records and predicts astronomical events (such as the rising and setting of the sun), tides, and weather.

The earliest known almanac was printed in Germany in 1457. In America, the “Almanack for New England” was printed in Cambridge, Mass., in 1639 after the first printing press was brought to the new English colony.

“Poor Richard’s Almanack,” published by Benjamin Franklin from 1732 to 1757, was very popular in colonial America. It provided a mixture of seasonal weather forecasts, practical household hints, puzzles, and other amusements.

But it was Robert B. Thomas’ “The Farmer’s Almanack,” first printed in 1792, that became the most widely read. Readers believed his astronomical and weather predictions were more accurate, the advice more useful, and the features more entertaining.

Thomas had a secret weather-forecasting formula based on natural cycles. The results were uncannily accurate, by as much as 80 percent. Thomas died in 1846 but his almanac continued to be printed. While others jumped on the bandwagon, trying to capitalize on his popular almanac, none was as successful.

Adages and almanacs didn’t have all the answers. Weather predictions were still not reliable nor very immediate. But a change was in the “air.”
Soon after the end of the Civil War, the U.S. government began to officially record and disseminate meteorological data. In 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant signed a bill authorizing the Secretary of War to provide for “the taking of meteorological observations... and for giving notice on the northern lakes [Great Lakes] and on the sea-coast... of the approach and force of storms.”

Dr. Increase A. Lapham of Milwaukee, Wis., had been pushing his idea of a government-operated weather service for the previous 20 years. He was persistent, insisting it was all for the public good.

After a devastating Great Lakes storm in November 1869 resulted in $400,000 in damage, Lapham was able to capture the attention of Washington, resulting in the creation of a weather-signal system operated by the Army Signal Corps.

The storm-warning system began formal operation Oct. 23, 1871, with potential signal-flag displays at eight ports on the Great Lakes and 16 ports along the Atlantic Coast. At that time, only 50 general-observation stations existed.

Communication between stations was by telegraph. By the fall of 1872, confidence in the utility of weather information was so high that 89 agricultural societies and 38 boards of trade and chambers of commerce had appointed meteorological committees to communicate with the Army Signal Corps.

In addition to dispensing general weather forecasts for regions of the country three times a day, the service soon sent special warnings to areas facing cold waves and frosts.

Gathering and communicating weather data has evolved considerably since the first signal flags were flown in the 19th century.

Today, forecasting and receiving weather data is high-tech, using radar and satellites, television and the Internet.

Gone are the days when we have to rely on a red sky or an almanac to tell us what to expect. How lucky we are!

Kalamazoo Weather Milestones

Kalamazoo weather has had its extremes. With the aid of hobby meteorologist Ray Hackman and official weather records, here are some of the lowlights and highlights:

- The coldest recorded temperature was Jan. 19, 1994, at -20º F.
- The hottest temperature was July 6, 1988, at 103º F. From July 5 to July 9 of that year, records for the hottest temperature were set on those dates.
- The warmest Christmas Day was Dec. 25, 1982, at 65º F. • The very next year brought the coldest Christmas at 2º F.
- The latest below-freezing temperature in the spring occurred on May 27, 1961, at 31º F. The earliest fall-date, below-freezing temperature was Sept. 24, 1950, with 30º F.
- The earliest date with a temperature of at least 90º F was May 3, 1959. The latest date with a temperature of at least 90º F was Oct. 4, 1951.
- Kalamazoo’s heaviest snowstorm was on Jan. 26-27, 1967, with a total accumulation of 30 inches.
- Kalamazoo averages 72 inches of snow annually. During the winter of 1996-97, that was nearly doubled with 138 inches.
- On New Year’s Day 1982, the worst ice storm dropped 2 inches of freezing rain across the region.
A small delegation of men representing the Presbyterian Church from as far away as Massachusetts met on Dec. 9, 1856, in the basement of Kalamazoo’s Presbyterian Church to discuss the founding of a female seminary. The delegates were of the united opinion that the plan should be carried out as soon as possible and to locate the seminary in Kalamazoo.

They decided on a location just east of the Kalamazoo River on a bluff that is today on Charlotte Avenue off Humphrey Street at Gull Road. A few days later the Kalamazoo Gazette wrote that “no investment can be made that will so adorn our beautiful town or benefit its inhabitants as that which shall erect in our midst a second Mount Holyoke school.”

The reference to a second Mount Holyoke was because it had been decided that the school would be similar to the Mount Holyoke school in the east and would be conducted by much the same methods. The school was based on the teachings of Mount Holyoke’s founder, Mary Lyon—to send into the world young women with sound bodies, trained minds and well-rounded characters, strong in Christian faith and life.

Construction of the building was contracted by Chicago architects Bayles and Coleman. Work proceeded, but somewhat slowly, until 1860 when it stopped completely until the conclusion of the Civil War. The main building was completed in 1867 and the first students arrived (56 all together) from the Lake Erie Seminary in Painesville, Ohio. The first principal, Miss Jeanette Fisher, was keen on the pupils learning science. They studied biology, chemistry and anatomy, but they were also given domestic training by requiring an hour of housework each day.

As the school continued to grow, attended by students throughout Michigan and from other states, more space was needed. In 1892 Dodge Hall was built. It housed music rooms, a gymnasium, and family lounges. It had all the modern conveniences including an elevator, fire escapes, soft water on every floor, steam heat, and electricity.

The young ladies of the graduating class of 1906 were all from Michigan, one traveling all the way from Sault Ste. Marie. Only one was from Kalamazoo.
By this time, to enter the seminary, girls had to be 15 years old and in good health with a good academic record. Candidates had to pass exams in grammar, geography and mathematics. The course of study was rigid and included such subjects as geometry, physics, American and English literature, history of Greece and Rome, and ethics. After four years, graduates could be admitted to the University of Michigan with two years of college credit.

Exercise in the gymnasium was a daily requirement. Each girl wore a gym dress of navy blue flannel along with heavy stockings and tennis shoes. Outdoor exercise time was spent playing croquet, tennis, or walking the school grounds.

Attendance at Sunday church service was required, along with daily religious services in the seminary’s chapel.

Students were not allowed to leave the grounds without a chaperone. They could only walk a few blocks toward town, but if they went in the other direction, out into the country, they could walk for quite a distance. On trips to town, they often went shopping or attended events such as plays, musicals, and lectures. Some would get permission to visit friends, but only once a month on a Monday afternoon or once a term on a Sunday. Callers to the seminary could only come on Friday evenings and upon approval of the principal.

After 1892, a student association was formed. It held regular meetings and issued a booklet called “Oak Leaves.”

The seminary was supported by students’ tuition and contributions from the Presbyterian Church. Tuition slowly increased from $160 in 1867 to $200 in 1887. In 1894, out of necessity, it was raised to $250 a year. Dr. John Gray was hired in 1900 to pull the school out of a slump. He was not successful. In 1906 tuition was increased another 20 percent, which resulted in a significant loss of enrollment. Finally, the board of trustees found it necessary to close the doors on May 10, 1907.

Even though many alumnae felt the institution’s closing was the fault of Dr. Gray, some grumbled that the location of the school was less than desirable. The area was rundown and prone to flooding after heavy rains. There were other contributing factors. The founding of Western State Normal School in 1904 drew students away from the seminary. But the most important reason was the withdrawal of support by the Presbyterian Church in 1906, which was now supporting the new Alma College, a co-educational school, a type which was becoming more popular.

The seminary’s land and building were purchased by Oscar M. Allen, owner of the Globe Casket Co. The building was converted into apartments but by 1927 it had fallen into disrepair. The site was purchased in 1935 by members of St. Mary’s Catholic Church who razed the building that year. They salvaged some of the bricks and lumber to build their church that stands near the site today.
Schoolcraft Township in southern Kalamazoo County was organized in 1842. Until then, it had been part of Brady Township, which originally included all of southern Kalamazoo County.

For nearly 15 years, however, the area had been a primary focus of pioneer life in the county. Early settlers were attracted to Prairie Ronde, a large grassland that covered not only Prairie Ronde Township but much of Schoolcraft Township as well.

Schoolcraft’s early history was that of the settlement of the prairie rather than the geographic boundaries of Town 2 South Range 11 West (Schoolcraft Township), as it appeared on the surveyors’ maps.

The earliest settlers arrived in late 1828 but the first within the township’s boundaries was James Armstrong in 1829. By the end of the following year, nearly 60 families had settled on the prairie. They generally settled along the edge because nearby trees provided wood for houses and other buildings.

Situated almost in the center of Prairie Ronde was a 300-acre grove of trees. It struck the early settlers almost like an island in the midst of the open fields and so they came to call it the “Big Island.” Settlers quickly claimed land there as well.

In 1830, Thaddeus Smith, who had visited the previous year, brought his family to the eastern side of the wooded land. He and his partners, James Smith and Hosea Huston, arranged for a shipment of general merchandise, including blankets, tools, and fabrics, and, late that year, opened the first store in Schoolcraft.

In 1831, Smith, Huston, & Co. built a permanent store in what would become the village of Schoolcraft and opened a second store in the village of Bronson (now Kalamazoo).

Lucius Lyon, a politically well-connected land speculator, laid out the village in 1831 and named it for his friend, Henry R. Schoolcraft, a famous geographer and scholar.

Johnson Patrick built the Big Island Hotel in the village in 1832 and cabinetmakers, carpenters, and blacksmiths soon opened their shops. The post office for Prairie Ronde was moved there in 1832. The village quickly became the commercial center for the entire prairie and its settlers.

The saddlebags of Dr. Nathan Thomas carried medical supplies on his house calls throughout Kalamazoo County from 1832–1845.
The village of Schoolcraft was incorporated in 1866 with Evert B. Dyckman as the first president. Growth slowed for a time after the Michigan Central Railroad reached Kalamazoo in 1846, making Kalamazoo the county’s primary commercial center. Community leaders tried to lure a railroad to Schoolcraft but it was not until New Year’s Day 1866 that the Michigan Southern and Northern Indiana Railroad, a north-south line, linked Schoolcraft to Three Rivers and beyond. The line was completed to Kalamazoo in 1867. The Peninsular Railroad (now the Grand Trunk) reached Schoolcraft in 1871.

The railroad stimulated further economic development in Schoolcraft. Several additional hotels were built, including the Schoolcraft House. This was replaced in 1872 by the Troxel House, a building that now houses Bud’s Bar. Dyckman organized the First National Bank of Schoolcraft in 1870 to serve the town’s financial needs. Several manufacturing establishments, including an iron foundry and a carriage shop, opened. By the end of the century, the village was a thriving community.

Dr. Nathan Thomas, who arrived in Schoolcraft in May 1830, was the first physician in the county. He traveled by horseback to visit patients throughout Southwest Michigan. He and his wife, Pamelia, were ardent opponents of slavery. Their home, which still stands, was one stop on the Underground Railroad that aided fugitive slaves making their way to freedom in Canada.

Schoolcraft was not the only settlement in the township. In late 1830, a large caravan, led by Aaron Burson, made its way to the prairie. Its members settled two miles north of the “Big Island” near what is now Oakland Drive and U Avenue. As they were all originally from Virginia, the area became known as Virginia Corners. One of the cousins, John Brown, returned to Ohio and brought his family, arriving on Christmas Eve 1830. The bells worn by his horses on that trip are on permanent display at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

Another settlement, originally known as Brady, can be traced to the grain mill that John Vickers built on Portage Creek (a branch of the Portage River) in 1831. A small store there in 1834 was short-lived but the building was then used as a tavern. Matthew Wilson opened a blacksmith shop there around 1834 and the first successful store, operated by Hugh Finlay, went into business in 1844. Finlay’s store served as Brady’s post office.

Brady featured several inns such as the Occidental Hotel and the Junction House. The latter was built after the arrival of the Peninsular Railroad in 1871. The following year saw the official incorporation of the village at which time the name was changed to Vicksburg in honor of Vickers.

Together with Kalamazoo, Schoolcraft Township is one of the original areas of settlement in the county. It has a rich history that is still preserved and celebrated by its residents today.
1. The Wesley Indelible Check Perforator dates to 1899-1912. Banks and businesses used it when issuing checks. The dollar amount was punched on the check to ensure that the amount was not altered.

2. A home canning jar opener. Canning food began in the late 1700s and by the 1860s it had become commonplace and relatively easy. It wasn’t until 1858 that John L. Mason introduced the screw-on lid. His lid had an indentation around the perimeter. The metal ring on this opener dates from the mid- to late-1900s. A squeeze of the handle slightly tightens the metal ring.

3. A shoe-shaped pincushion. It was handmade in 1868 from red linen, wool stuffing, and glass beads. The fancy beadwork tells us it may have been made as a gift. Its good condition indicates it was used very little. Perhaps the original owner prized it as a treasured keepsake.

Today you might have one of these in the shape of a tomato.

Have a question about a person, object, or artifact that relates to the history of Southwest Michigan?

Send your question to Tom Dietz, curator of research, [tdietz@kvcc.edu or 269/373-7984] and you might see it answered in a future issue of Museography.
Create, experience, measure, and report on weather! More powerful than a hurricane, more packed than a snowball, refreshing as a spring breeze, and as fun as only Ms. Frizzle can make it—this exhibit is one bus you won’t want to miss.

Scholastic’s The Magic School Bus™ Kicks Up A Storm exhibit was created with cooperation from Scholastic Entertainment, Inc. and is circulated by the Children’s Museum of Houston with major funding from the National Science Foundation. SCHOLASTIC, THE MAGIC SCHOOL BUS and logos are trademarks of Scholastic Inc. © 2005 Scholastic Inc. Based on The Magic School Bus book series © Joanna Cole and Bruce Degen. All rights reserved.

A CELEBRATION OF SOULS:
DAY OF THE DEAD
IN SOUTHERN MEXICO

Sept. 22–Jan. 6, 2008
FIRST FLOOR GALLERY

Photographs and bilingual text panels capture the essence of a typical Oaxacan Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos).

This exhibition was developed by The Field Museum in collaboration with Mars, Incorporated.
GROUP ACTIVITIES AT THE KVM
Kalamazoo Valley Museum is a great destination for parties and group activities. Groups can attend concerts, planetarium shows, Challenger Learning Center mini-missions, movies, special classes or programs! Call the reservation coordinator at (269)373-7965 for more information on any of the programs available to groups of all ages.

VOLUNTEER ALERT!
Call the volunteer coordinator at (269)373-7987 and learn about the benefits of volunteering at the Museum.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
The Museum is barrier-free. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled for programs with a minimum of two weeks’ notice. Assisted listening devices are available for use in the planetarium. Our TDD number is (269)373-7982.

PLANETARIUM
Experience a journey into space like never before. Spectacular sights and sounds guide your imagination to locations and events throughout our amazing universe. $3/person.

SKY LEGENDS OF THE THREE FIRES
Saturdays, 11 a.m., Sundays, 1:30 p.m. • Sept. 1 – Dec. 30
Native American storyteller Larry Plamondon weaves three stories about how Coyote placed the stars, how Mud Turtle made the Milky Way, and how the bear was placed in the sky. Elementary and higher, 40 minutes

ASI: BASELINE
Wednesdays at 3 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. • Sept. 1 – Nov. 21
The Astronomical Scene Investigation unit learns that a star has blown away in the Cygnus-Pegasus region of the sky. To analyze the event, team members build a cosmic distance ladder using trigonometry, star clusters, variable stars and redshift. In the process, they explore the constellations of the autumn sky. Upper elementary and higher, 40 minutes

SEASON OF LIGHT
Wednesdays, 3 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 p.m. • Nov. 24 – Jan. 2
Elementary and higher, 50 minutes

DINOSAUR CHRONICLES
Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. • Continues through Oct. 7
Turn back the pages of time to explore the Age of Dinosaurs. Upper elementary and higher, 50 minutes

BLOWN AWAY: THE WILD WORLD OF WEATHER
Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. • Oct. 13 – Jan. 27
Discover the wild world of weather inside the planetarium theater. This show explores how solar radiation powers weather systems, and follows a drop of water through the water cycle. The show also provides safety information about blizzards, tornados, and hurricanes. Upper elementary and higher, 50 minutes

CHILDREN’S LANDSCAPE
Designed to introduce preschoolers and their parents to an interactive museum setting, Children’s Landscape offers hands-on activities, exhibits, and programs designed for children 5 and under. Children older than 5 may participate only if accompanying a preschool buddy, and their play must be appropriate to preschool surroundings. Free

Mon.–Fri.: 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Sat.: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. • Sun.: 1 – 5 p.m.
Extended hours and limited program times during holiday breaks

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER • The Four Seasons
Discover the four seasons by watching trees change, and learning about temperature, clouds, and wind. See how the weather affects how we dress and play.

DECEMBER/JANUARY • Dinner Around the World
Our mouth-watering, pretend food is back. “Eat” in your choice of a variety of restaurants or start from scratch by “growing” your own Velcro vegetables.

CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS — FREE
Stories, music, games, and art projects in programs appropriate for ages 3-5, approximately 20 minutes long. 10 a.m. & 1 p.m., M–F; 11 a.m. Sat.

MONDAY: Math
TUESDAY: Science
WEDNESDAY: Stories
THURSDAY: Music
FRIDAY: Art
SATURDAY: Stories
The Museum and the Western Michigan University Archives and Regional History Collection are presenting an Oral History Symposium for historical societies, genealogical societies, individuals creating family histories, students, teachers, and historians on Saturday, Sept. 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learn the pleasures and pitfalls of doing oral histories in an overview and panel discussion about “Voices and Images: The Experience of African Americans, Mexican Americans, and Native Americans in the Kalamazoo Area, 1920–1980,” a joint project of Western Michigan University and the Museum.

In addition, you can:
- Learn the what, why, and how of doing oral histories
- Learn how to plan and conduct an oral-history interview
- Get valuable information on preserving and cataloging
- Receive a resource manual with more information, including booklists and websites.

The symposium, which is funded by a grant from the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo, is free; however space is limited.

To register, call (269)373-7965. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 14.
We received a telephone call offering a collection of homemade miniature furniture. But this was not your everyday dollhouse furniture—this was a collection of beautifully crafted furniture miniatures. There was no question this was a rare gem of a collection.

The furniture was handmade by Thomas Eble, (1923-2001), who retired from The Upjohn Co. in the 1980s as head of infectious-disease research. In his spare time, he made dollhouse furniture (and a few dollhouses) for his youngest daughter and three granddaughters.

As Eble developed his skills, he moved on to a bigger challenge—making miniature replicas of authentic Early American and European furniture.

He built these pieces to be fully functional: doors and drawers open; table legs move; and desk tops go up and down. Many of his drawers have dovetail joints—the photo at left shows the scale of his beautifully precise work—and some of his fancier pieces also have inlay work.

From 1982 to 2000, Eble fashioned about 200 pieces. He gave many as gifts; others he sold.

As for the remainder, he and his wife, Peggy, displayed them in their home. The decision to donate this treasured collection to the Museum was not easy for the family, but one they knew would preserve it for posterity.

The Museum Collects...

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum collects objects that help tell the stories of people, businesses and events of Southwest Michigan. If you think you have something that belongs in a museum, please contact Tom Dietz at (269)373-7984 or tdietz@kvcc.edu. Our current wish list includes: Kalamazoo Duplex Phonograph; Les Paul Guitar; Fire or Police Uniform.
MUSIC AT THE MUSEUM
Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., $5
Sept. 20 – bLuE daHLiA
Oct. 11 – Twilight Hotel
Nov. 8 – Susan Harrison
Dec. 13 – KRESA
Holiday Jazz Concert
featuring Dean Moore Quintet and Jim Cooper Trio. [Tickets available through KRESA at (269)488-9601 (day) or (269)382-6103 (evening)].

FREE SUNDAY DOCUMENTARIES
Sundays, 1:30 p.m.—Inclement Weather
These weather-related documentaries supplement our special exhibition, The Magic School Bus™ Kicks up a Storm.
Oct. 7 – Tornado Glory: Experience the Real Chase
Nov. 4 – Memories of Kalamazoo’s 1980 Tornado from Channel 3 News
Nov. 18 – Hurricane Katrina
Dec. 9 – Magnetic Storm
Dec. 16 – Tsunami: The Wave that Shook the World
Jan. 6 – Mystery of the Megaflood
Jan. 20 – Memories of Kalamazoo’s 1980 Tornado from Channel 3 News

SILENT FILM FESTIVAL
Jan. 17–20
Featuring original scores performed live by Kalamazoo band bLuE daHLiA. Watch for details at www.kalamazoomuseum.org or www.blue-dahlia.com.

FILM MOVEMENT SERIES
Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., $3
Join us for these award-winning foreign independent films. (Note: These films are not rated.)
Sept. 27 – The Island (Russia, 2006)
Oct. 18 – Madeinusa (Spain-Peru, 2006)
Nov. 15 – Viva Cuba (Cuba, 2006)
Dec. 6 – The Bothersome Man (Norway, 2006)
Jan. 24 – A Simple Curve (Canada, 2005)

CONSTITUTION DAY
Monday, Sept. 17 – Free
PBS’ The Complete History of the U.S. Constitution
Kalamazoo Valley Community College and Kalamazoo Valley Museum commemorate Constitution Day with this informative documentary.
10 a.m. – Part One
2 p.m. – Part Two

MICHIGAN FESTIVAL OF SACRED MUSIC
Nov. 8–10; Free
Presented in conjunction with the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. For complete information, visit www.michfestsacredmusic.org
Nov. 8 – Film “Mystery of Love,” 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 9 – Sacred Flutes concert with Shakuhachi and Michael Chikuzen Gould, noon.
Nov. 9 – Film “Carpati: 50 Miles, 50 Years,” 1:30 p.m.
Nov. 10 – Film (To Be Announced) 11 a.m.
Holiday Hands-on Happenings

Come Celebrate!

Join us each day from 1-4 p.m. as we prepare for a party! FREE

Dec. 31: Dressing Up
Make hats, masks, jewelry, and accessories.

Jan. 1: Party Decorations
Create tissue-paper flowers, posters, name tags, and invitations.

Jan. 2: Party Favors
From crackers to balloon animals, make souvenirs.

Jan. 3: Games
Design and play party games.

Jan. 4: Wrapping It All Up
Decorate wrapping paper, gift boxes, cards and more.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum
230 N. Rose Street
Downtown Kalamazoo
FREE General Admission—Open Daily

HOURS: Mon.–Sat. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
(First floor re-opens at 6:30 p.m. for evening events in the Mary Jane Stryker Theater)
Sun. & Holidays 1 to 5 p.m.
CLOSED Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
(269)373-7990 • (800)772-3370
www.kalamazoomuseum.org