



Remember when? Are you in this photo? It is the Cub Scout Troop #27 at the Fruitport Fire Barn, which now houses the Fruitport Township Offices. If you know any details about this photo, such as a date, or if you can identify anyone in this picture, please let us know. Meetings of the Fruitport Historical Society are held the last Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Burger Crest in Fruitport. (Photo submitted by Brian Zwart)



Reminiscing

by Al Schneider

Sometimes it’s fun to renew acquaintances. I’m referring to old friends on the written page. I’ve been doing some of that of late, revisiting and enjoying the classics.

For instance, I’ve been spending time with Nathaniel Hawthorn. I accepted his invitation to re-visit The House of Seven Gables. How long has it been since you roamed the spacious old house with its intriguing characters? We miss out on so much when we allow these narratives to fade out of memory. Not only have I been wrapped up with the written version of the novel, but I borrowed the film version from Netflix. Imagine seeing Shirley Temple playing the part of Phoebe Pyncheon! True, it wasn’t the bubbly, curly-haired Shirley that we all learned to love, but it was Shirley, nonetheless, and she played her part admirably.

Roaming about the old walls in the spacious mansion proved a special treat. I can’t recall a story with a more curious setting. The home’s numerous hallways, bedrooms, and stairways offer ample space for its residents and ghosts to steal about.

Until the flighty Phoebe came to spend time, cheer within the old walls was scarce. There was Hepzibah, one of the last of the aging Pyncheons, and until Phoebe’s arrival, the sole occupant of the sprawling structure. But that would not be accurate. There was a young Mr. Holgrave boarding in a gable off in another part of the house. And there was Cousin Clifford, who was sometimes seen creeping about the mansion, not always aware of exactly where he was. Hepzibah, in dire need of income, decided to open a small “cent store” near the building’s entrance where she disposes of objects no longer essential. Thus was the routine in the old place. An anxious Hepzibah moving about awaiting the tinkling of a bell signaling a customer.

Hepzibah, poor thing, suffered not only the misfortune of old age, but also a lack of compensating attributes. Hawthorne gives us considerable detail in describing Hepzibah’s early preparation for the day. It begins, he tells us, with “what would be mockery to describe the adornment of her person.” She spends much time in the early morning before her mirrors. “Who would have thought!” says Hawthorne. “Is all this precious time to be lavished on the matutinal (Hawthorne’s word, not mine) repair and beautifying of an elderly person who never goes abroad—whom nobody ever visits—and from whom, when she shall have done her utmost, it were the best charity to turn one’s eyes away!”

For those who prefer a romantic interlude with their mysteries, Hawthorne doesn’t disappoint. Remember the boarder living in a remote gable? Well, guess what. He happens to meet up with Shirley Temple, no less. This story has everything, something for everyone.

But you know what I like most of all about The House of Seven Gables? It’s the undeniable charm of the language interspersed throughout the novel. Call it style, if you wish. It begins on page one. Let’s see whether this graces you: “The aspect of the venerable mansion has always affected me like a human countenance, bearing the traces not merely of outward storm and sunshine, but expressive also of the long lapse of mortal life, and accompanying vicissitudes, that have passed within.”

There is more, of course. Gosh, we haven’t even been to the attic.

The Hope Project

by Heidi Tice

The Hope Project began in 2005 as an outreach program to educate and inform the community about the issue of human trafficking. Fruitport Congregational Church has started a journey towards learning about the human trafficking problem right here in the Muskegon County area and how they can help in our community and abroad.

The Hope Project’s mission is to raise awareness of human trafficking and to bring restoration and healing from its effects. The Hope Project is in the process of opening a home in West Michigan for girls, 11 to 18 years old, who have been rescued out of sex trafficking. The Hope Project will provide residential and non-residential treatment programs. The programs will utilize a holistic approach to rehabilitation by providing comprehensive services to address the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual aspects of recovery.

To start off the series of events, several members from the church participated in a run for Hope Project on Saturday, September 21.

Sarah Karnes spoke during the worship service on September 29. Sarah is involved in the Muskegon Hope Chest Resale Shop, proceeds from which help fund the safe house for girls who have escaped human trafficking. For more information, you can visit their web site at www.hopeprojectusa.org/hope-chest.

The Fruitport Congregational Church book club members are reading and discussing the book *Paint Chips*, by Susie Finkbeiner during the month of October. The book is about women who have been rescued from human trafficking and the struggle they had to go through to embrace society again.

On November 12, 2013, Kathy Hanson from Better Way Imports and Susie Finkbeiner, author of *Paint Chips*, will be speaking at the church at 6:30 p.m. Better Way Imports seeks to improve the livelihood of many individuals through marketing unique gifts, accessory items and durable goods produced by companies working to end sex trafficking. The women who make the products sold are from different areas of the world, earning a fair wage and living out of the sex trade. For more information, you can go to www.betterwayimports.com. You will be able to see some of the products available from Better Way Imports. Some of the products will also be available for purchase at the church.

Add this date to your calendar and come join us at the corner of Park Street and Eighth Avenue to improve your education and fight against human trafficking. •

Summer honors students named at MCC

(Submitted by Muskegon Community College)

Students named to the Academic Honors List for the summer, 2013 semester completed 6 to 11 hours per semester with at least a 3.5 grade point average. Fruitport students named to the list include Aimee Burnell, Joshiwa Farmer, Matthew Hoffman, Michelle Jonassen, Kaylee Poepoe, Ryan Sullivan, and Charles Wilson.

Nunica students include Stacey Bernethy, Ashley Boroff and Eric Mastee.

The GVSU veterans history project seeks vets’ stories

(Submitted by Grand Valley State University)

The GVSU Veterans History Project is an effort to record, preserve, and make accessible to the public the oral histories of individuals who have served in the U.S. military from World War II to the present, and of other individuals, military and civilian, US and foreign, with stories to tell that relate to those experiences.

We also collect and archive pictures and documents relating to their stories.

We work in partnership with the Library of Congress Veterans History Project, and share our interview materials with them. The project brings together faculty, staff and students from the Department of History, the School of Communications, university libraries, and other programs at GVSU in work that benefits area veterans, their families, and the community.

The collected interviews of those who have had wartime or military experience become an invaluable resource for historians, teachers, students, and other researchers. Each oral history interview is digitized and posted in our on-line archive, together with a detailed outline or full transcript, and in some cases, supplemented with pictures or documents provided by the veteran. The on-line archive is managed by GVSU’s Special Collections Library.

If you, or someone you know has a story to share, you can help by contacting the project director, Dr. James Smither by email (smitherj@gvsu.edu) or by telephone at (616) 331-3422.

Dr. Smither or a project volunteer will set up a time, date and location for an interview. Interviews can be conducted in homes, or in a studio setting. We will tell you how you can prepare for an interview in advance, and will also sit down with you to go over things before starting to record your story. You will receive a free DVD copy of your interview once it is processed.

There are also other ways you can help. To be successful, the program relies on many volunteers. There are more volunteer opportunities. Donations are also welcome.

For more information on the Veterans History Project, visit www.gvsu.edu/vethistory. •

St. Mary’s School hosting paper drive

by Pam Mettler

Everyone from the community is being encouraged to start collecting their newspapers and phone books for the Saint Mary’s annual fall paper drive, which will be held October 11, 12 and 13 at the church school grounds, 421 E. Exchange Street in Spring Lake.

Any member of the community wishing to collect these items and donate them to Saint Mary’s Parish School is being asked to do so to help in the school’s Home and School Association fundraising efforts.

All newspapers and telephone books should be bundled in paper bags or tied with string. No plastic bags will be allowed. They should be brought to Saint Mary’s Church parking lot on the south side of the building and dropped off during collection times as follows:

October 11 from 4 to 8 p.m.

October 12 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

October 13 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A semi trailer truck will be parked in the lot and paper items will be collected by designated staff. •

Fruitport Community Schools’ 2013 retirees

(Submitted by Fruitport Community Schools)

Fruitport Community Schools has announced the names of staff members who retired in 2013, with appreciation for their years of service and best wishes for their retirement.

Mindy Anderson (9 years, GSRP), Judy Baker (29 years in food service), Ann Blais (27 years, teacher at Edgewood), Al Burton (16 years, high school teacher), Nancy Christiansen (7 years, bus driver), Dave Closz (35 years, teacher at Shettler), Susan Dahl (22 years, bus driver), Judy Danhof (5 years, bus driver, nutritional aide), Sharon Geistel (11 years, custodian at the middle school), Linda Hendrie (15 years, high school instructional assistant), Dawn Kari-Ladd (34 years, teacher at Beach and Shettler), Janice Newmyer (19 years, instructional assistant at Beach), Kathy Niergarth (37 years, teacher at Beach), Barb O’Brien (23 years, occupational therapist at Beach), Tom Smith (28 years in maintenance) and Janet Wildfong (23 years, food service at the middle school). •