



museON

summer 2016



**LEGO
TRAVEL
ADVENTURE
EXHIBIT
INSPIRES
CREATIVE
PLAY**

From the Director



Bill McElhone

This year, Kalamazoo Valley Community College and the Kalamazoo Valley Museum are both celebrating milestone anniversaries. For Kalamazoo Valley, it is the 50th anniversary of when citizens voted to establish a community college in August of 1966. As for the Museum, it is celebrating several anniversaries: 135 years since the first collections that led to its founding were donated, 20 years in the “new” building, and 25 years of being part of Kalamazoo Valley.

This and the next issue of museON will feature stories, events, and highlights from the related upcoming exhibit, Kalamazoo Valley at 50. See pages 10-11 for related article.

The summer festivities at the Museum will kick off with the Jump into Summer AniMotion Festival on June 3rd and 4th. This year’s festival kickoff begins as part of Art Hop, with Kalamazoo Valley’s Center for New Media students’ Lego Challenge. The audience will judge the best Lego animation in this fun competition, followed by live music by Who Hit John? The fun continues on Saturday with a create-your-own Lego-themed animation and other activities. See ad on the back cover.

The LEGO Travel Adventure exhibit is open through September 11, 2016. Using Lego bricks, you can think creatively, imagine, and build vehicles for all sorts of environments. See related articles on pages 4 - 6.

Fares and Squares: History of Checker Motors runs through August 21, 2016. It features oral histories with former employees, as well as artifacts, including a 1923 Checker cab on loan from the Gilmore Car Museum. See page 3 for related article.

This year’s Summer Hands-On Happenings, Check out My Museum!, will focus on the 20th anniversary of this special place. From the wall of contributors to the 4th floor collections, the stories of local residents can be discovered. Join us each week and create themed crafts as Museum staff share secrets about their favorite exhibits. Participate in a weekly Lego exhibit challenge and see your creation on display. This free program runs every Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. from June 29 through August 10. See the calendar on pages 16 – 17 for more details for this and other activities.

Have a wonderful summer full of fun, creativity, and living well. museON, everyone!

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CORRECTION: *In a photo on page seven of the Winter 2016 issue, the man in the middle of the photo was misidentified as Wilbur Marher. The correct spelling of his name is Marker.*

museON summer2016

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President Morris Markin examines assembly line work at the Kalamazoo Checker Motors plant, 1960s. Courtesy of Gilmore Car Museum

Oral Histories and WHY WE COLLECT THEM

Oral histories are the collection and study of historical information using sound recordings of interviews with people having personal knowledge of past events. Over the years, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum has collected and preserved many wonderful memories in the form of oral histories from community members on a variety of topics. The topics range from Civil Rights in Kalamazoo, the Douglass Community Center, and working at Gibson Guitars, and now we are focusing on the Checker Cab Company, which called Kalamazoo home from 1922 until 2009. Working with long-time Checker employee and President of the Checker Car Club of America, Jim Garrison, staff at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum began collecting these oral histories in preparation for our exhibit Fares and Squares: History of Checker Motors.

Oral histories tell an important story about a place in time from the perspective of the interviewee. These stories help to bring together a shared connection between people and their community and emphasize the understanding that everyone's story matters. At the same time, collecting oral histories creates an invaluable archive for future generations.

The history of the Checker Cab Company is a uniquely American tale with the rags-to-riches story of its founder, Morris Markin,

to the Checker cab itself, which became a true American icon recognized all over the world. With the Checker Cab Company, we hope to collect stories of not only those who worked at the company, but those who owned a Checker cab and their very own piece of American history. One such memory from a Museum patron is as follows:

I grew up in Alabama, and my family actually owned and drove at least 6 Checker taxi cabs. The Chevy dealer in our neighborhood bought one each year for his personal use and then would sell it to my dad after one year because he wanted a new one. There were five kids, and my Dad was 6'5" tall and wore a hat back in the 60's, and we were all tall as well. I owned the last baby blue 1975 one until 2005, when I sold it to a man who was restoring a Checker in Iowa, and he bought it and brought it completely back to its full glory. I am so excited about this exhibit because I absolutely LOVE Checkers!

For more information on this project or to share your Checker Cab memories, please contact Julie Bunke at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum at 269-373-7984 or jbunke@kvcc.edu.



LEGO TRAVEL ADVENTURE EXHIBIT INSPIRES CREATIVE PLAY



Throughout history, inventors and explorers have been inspired by distant places and the idea of creating vehicles that can transport people on new adventures. The LEGO Travel Adventure exhibit, on display at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum from May 21 to September 11, 2016, allows visitors to plan adventures and build vehicles for imaginary journeys through all kinds of terrain, including mountains, oceans, jungles, deserts, and more.

LEGO Travel Adventure provides an immersive environment where visitors can experience professionally-built LEGO brick models of air, land, and sea vehicles and use LEGO bricks to create their own vehicles. Learn the function of different parts, including sails, wheels, and rudders, and begin to examine questions such as "How do you steer a vehicle?" Use LEGO bricks to think creatively, imagine, and build vehicles for all sorts of environments, and plan the travel adventure of your dreams.

The exhibit's DUPLO Bricks Build/Play Area is designed for families with children ages 2 to 5. Here, they can start building their DUPLO dream machine using DUPLO bricks and vehicle parts. Once the vehicle is ready, test drive the creation on a play table or send it on an adventure over different graphic terrains. Plus, take a photo in the racecar built of DUPLO bricks.

At the LEGO Systems Build/Play Area, designed for families with children ages 6 and up, pick a "build table" and dig through bins of parts for creative building ideas. Labels suggest travel challenges that builders might encounter, like "Could your vehicle . . . sail across a lagoon?" Plus, take a digital photo of your vehicle, drop in an exotic backdrop, and email your unique creation home or to a friend.

Dressed as pilots, sailors, racers, or world explorers, take the wheel of the life-sized LEGO Travel Adventure Vehicle, engage



in large-motor play, and imagine traveling all the way around the world over multiple terrains.

View cases showing a variety of LEGO brick vehicles on real travel backdrops, including the San Francisco Bay Bridge and the Arc de Triomphe in Paris.

Check out dioramas of four key moments in transportation history, including the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk and Henry Ford's automobile factory and Model T.

Play the "Travel Adventure Challenge" vehicle-building computer game, making creative choices to build a vehicle that can conquer multiple obstacles to get to a destination.

Kalamazoo Valley Museum Director Bill McElhone said that even though the exhibit is geared to ages 6 to 12, there are activities for all ages. "Legos are an ageless favorite, and we expect this exhibit to appeal to everyone," McElhone said.

LEGO Travel Adventure is produced by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis in cooperation with LEGO Systems, Inc. LEGO and the LEGO logo are trademarks of LEGO Group.

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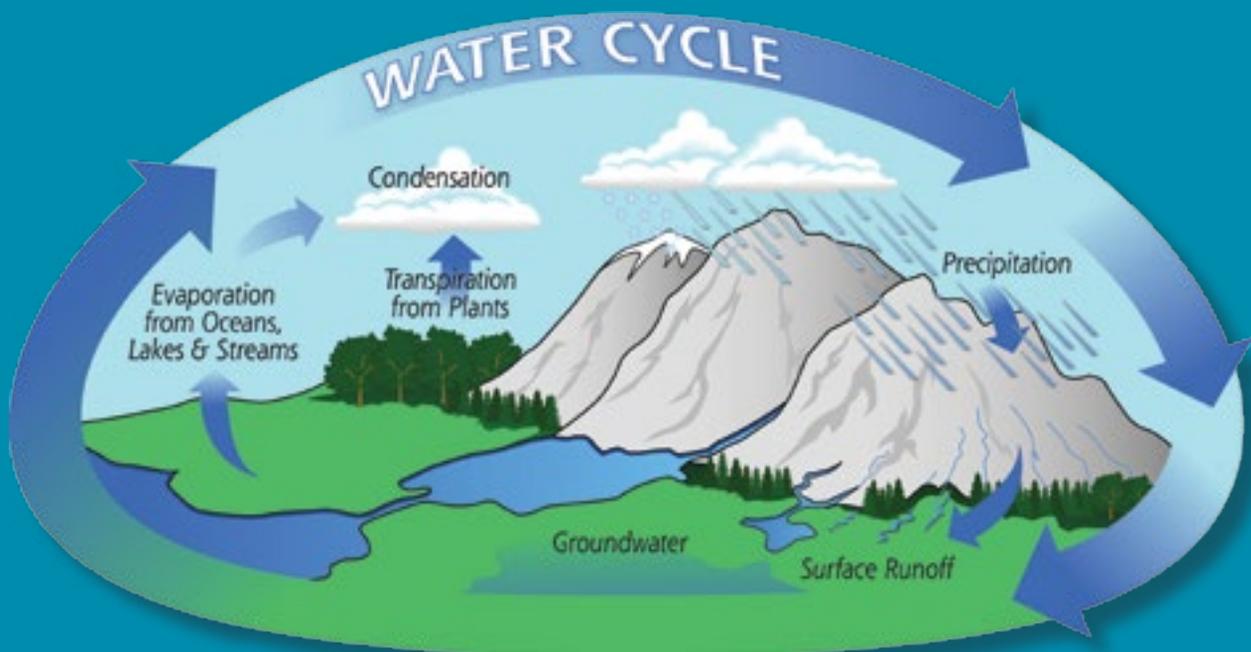
Water Stewardship in a WATER-RICH STATE

Why should residents of a water-rich state like Michigan be concerned with water conservation and water stewardship? Organizations like the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, the Michigan Water Stewardship Project, and the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have some answers for you. First, it might surprise you to learn that water is not a renewable natural resource. The earth has the water it has, constantly recycling water from the surface of the earth to the atmosphere and back to earth. Would that it were that simple, however.

Water on the land surface can reach bodies of water, like lakes, rivers, and oceans, either by runoff or by seeping into the ground, moving through geologic formations. These groundwater systems are called aquifers, something we hear a lot about in Michigan. You'll remember from your grade school lessons about the water cycle that surface water evaporates, moving into the atmosphere where it can

condense and fall back to earth in the form of rain, snow, sleet, or hail. The cycle is more complex than that, but that's the general idea. The Michigan Water Stewardship Project's website offers some interesting facts: about 97% of all water on earth is in our salty oceans. Another 2% is frozen – polar ice caps and glaciers. Only 1% of the earth's water is accessible and useable by humans, and the Great Lakes hold about 20% of fresh surface water for the whole world, or about 95% of fresh surface water for the U.S. Since the Great Lakes are fed by groundwater, good stewardship of our aquifers becomes a critical issue.

According to NOAA, scientists still have lots to learn about how groundwater aquifers work all around the world. What are all the ways humans and natural cycles affect our water, locally and globally? How can improving our understanding of groundwater help us predict water resources, water quality, and climate change?



What can we do as individuals to be better stewards of our water? According to the Kalamazoo River Watershed Council, one way is to use barrels to capture runoff from your roof! Vessels used to collect rainwater are called rain barrels. By collecting rainwater, we can avoid some of the problems that come with storm water runoff, which carries with it chemicals and fertilizers from lawns or pollutants from hard surfaces like driveways. Runoff from roofs and drives doesn't have time to seep into the ground, which acts as a natural filter, before the groundwater finds its way to aquifers that are our source of drinking water.

We've all heard stories of industrial and agricultural runoff polluting our rivers and lakes, but residents and other urban areas can cause a lot of runoff, too. In fact, urban areas with dense residential neighborhoods and commercial developments cause five times more runoff than natural green landscapes. With rain barrels, residents can collect and use the rainwater for gardens – which will appreciate the chlorine-free water – or washing cars, but not for drinking.

In our part of the world, we take water for granted. Drought is not a huge issue here, except for short periods of time. Visit some of the websites listed below to learn more about earth's water cycles and the ways – big and small – each of us can become citizen scientists and good stewards of our most invaluable natural resource.

U. S. Geological Survey:

<http://water.usgs.gov/edu/watercycle-kids-adv.html>

This site provides an interactive water cycle diagram that explains things like transpiration, sublimation, infiltration, and much more!

The Groundwater Foundation:

<http://www.groundwater.org/get-informed/basics/whatis.html>

A great site to understand more about groundwater and how it affects our water quality.

National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration:

http://www.education.noaa.gov/Freshwater/Water_Cycle.html

The water cycle is one of six Grand Science Challenges identified in NOAA's 20-year plan.

Michigan State University:

<http://www.egr.msu.edu/igw/GWIM%20Figure%20Webpage/>

Learn about the groundwater inventory and mapping project.

Kalamazoo River Watershed Council:

<http://kalamazooriver.org/>

Check out this site for local events and information.

Be sure to come to the KVM

during the August Art Hop to see the Rain Barrel Roadshow. Students from KVCC and Kellogg Community College competed to participate in a rain barrel-painting contest, and the finalists' barrels will be on exhibit at the Museum August 5 only.



Edward B. Desenberg and the **PRETTY LAKE CAMP**

This year, Pretty Lake Vacation Camp celebrates its 100th Anniversary. The camp exists thanks in large part to founder Edward B. Desenberg.

Edward was born in Kalamazoo September 8, 1867, to German immigrants Bernhard L. Desenberg and Bertha Schuster Desenberg. Bernhard was an early Jewish settler in Kalamazoo and was involved in the local Reform Jewish congregation, Temple B'nai Israel, and actually hosted the first recorded meeting of the Congregation B'nai Israel on October 1, 1865. He also ran a wholesale grocery in town on East Main Street.

During his youth, Edward studied music, even going to Germany to attend music conservatories in the 1880s and early 1890s. He gave music lessons out of his parents' home on Lovell Street. Edward also composed music, some of which was played by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra, and it was noted in his obituary that he was the first person to play xylophone in Kalamazoo! Edward worked as a bookkeeper in his father's grocery and was the organist and choir director for Temple B'nai Israel on South Street.

During the early 1900s, Edward's mother, Bertha, was involved in local philanthropy. She and a group of women supported bringing a Fresh Air School to Kalamazoo. The goal of this movement was to provide children with fresh air and exercise, which was seen as healing, along with nutritional meals to improve their health. The group of women thought this British-based initiative would fill needs locally, responding to children who suffered from anemia, malnutrition, and tuberculosis, among other maladies.

To that end, Bertha and the group put together a two-week camping trip during the summer of 1915 to West Lake in Portage for 21 local children. Bertha enlisted Edward's help, asking him to shuttle children to camp and deliver an extra tent. When Edward came to the site and saw that the outhouse area was disturbingly close to the water supply, he took immediate action. He approached well-to-do philanthropists in town and in six weeks' time had raised \$6,000 for the project that would become Pretty Lake Camp.

He moved quickly. By winter of 1915, the future camp site was purchased for \$500. By July 15, 1916, construction was complete. The first 15 campers spent six weeks there, along

with two adults, a cook, and a matron. Edward shuttled children back and forth in his personal vehicle.

Edward dedicated himself to building the camp up. He built an ice house in 1917 and helped with the winter ice harvest, and was also able to get the sleeping area wired for electricity, eliminating the hazardous lanterns in the wood structure. In 1919, he was able to add a second outdoor sleeping porch that measured 12 feet by 112 feet, as well as enlarge the kitchen and install a bath and lavatory, thanks to a donation from the Kalamazoo Rotary Club. Edward, always looking for ways to improve the camp on a tight budget, drove to Camp Custer in Battle Creek to get some plumbing supplies for the camp. Since Camp Custer was dismantling equipment in response to the Armistice ending World War I, Edward was able to get a 14-service lavatory for \$150, and got it delivered for \$10 and installed for free when a plumber offered his services gratis.

By 1921, there were 90 cots at the camp, and Edward was figuring out how to make ends meet. He was still one of the main people transporting children out to the camp, but in 1923, he not only got a car, but was able to hire a driver. This year was also a benchmark: the camp reached Edward's dream of 100 campers. Always thinking of the children, even when they were not at his camp, Edward was able to get his friends and local merchants to donate fruits, nuts, candy, apples, and oranges each year to be tied up in white Tarleton bundles and handed out to the students around the holidays. Edward notes in his written history of the camp that his mother greatly enjoyed getting these goodies together for the children.

In 1930, Edward moved to Chicago and was living with his widowed sister, Alma. Edward passed away in Chicago on January 20, 1940, and is buried in the Jewish section of Mountain Home Cemetery in Kalamazoo.

Today, as the Pretty Lake Camp celebrates its 100th Anniversary, Edward is remembered for his dedication and philanthropy. After his death, the camp continued to expand. A total of 108 acres were added in 1968, the Adventure Centre was opened in 1978, and a 37-acre farm was purchased in 2000. In 2016, the camp consists of 250 acres and hosts 800 campers each summer. Over the years, Pretty Lake Camp has given the gift of a free summer camp experience to over 50,000 at-risk children from Kalamazoo County.



Above: Pretty Lake Carnival revelers

Background Photo:
Campers swimming along the waterfront
All images courtesy of Pretty Lake Camp



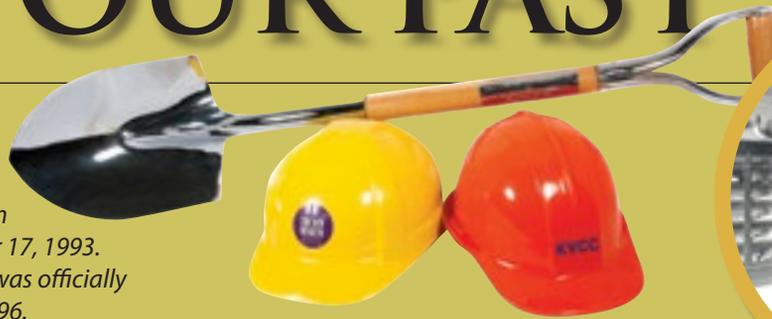
Above: Campers washing their shoes, 1947

Below: Edward Desenberg stands in the center, wearing a white suit



135 YEARS OF EXAMINING OUR PAST

Right: Shovel and helmets used at the groundbreaking for the Museum at its current location on September 17, 1993. The KVM at its Rose Street location was officially opened to the public in February 1996.



Left: The Kalamazoo Public Museum, 1955. At this time, the Museum was located in the Peck House. In 1959, the building was demolished to make room for a new air-conditioned Library and Museum building.

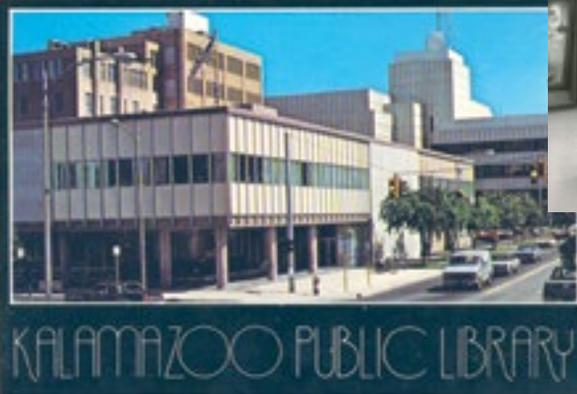
Above: Early collection of the Museum, c. 1895. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum traces its beginnings to the 1880s, when Dr. H. O. Hitchcock proposed the idea of a community museum. With the School Board's formal resolution of thanks to Horace M. Peck, a local banker, for the donation of "corals, fossils and marbles" on April 20, 1881, the Museum was born.

For many years, the Kalamazoo Valley Museum has been a vibrant center of activity in downtown Kalamazoo. KVCC President Marilyn Schlack talks about the school becoming the Museum's "parent" in an interview at <http://kvm.kvcc.edu/localhistory/stories/StoryCorps/>.

Don't miss the KVM's upcoming exhibit on the history of Kalamazoo Valley Community College, Kalamazoo Valley at 50, which is open September 1 - 30, 2016. The Kalamazoo Valley Museum has been operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College since April, 1991.

Below: The Museum's first official home, the Peck House, 1953. The Museum's collection of "relics and curiosities" continued to grow in the basement of the Library until 1927, when the Kalamazoo Board of Education purchased the Queen Ann-style home that belonged to Horace B. Peck, son of Horace M. Peck. The Peck House was located next to the Library on South Rose Street.





Above: The Kalamazoo Public Museum and Library were housed in the same building from 1959-1996. The Museum was located on the second floor of the building and housed a planetarium and exhibit hall, with collections storage located in the basement.

Above: Interior of the Museum when it was located in the Library building, 1959. In 1983, a study found that the Museum and Library were overcrowded, and this was a hindrance to future growth. In 1984, the School Board changed the Museum from a Library department into a separate institution.

Right: KVCC President Marilyn Schlack breaking ground on the new Museum, 1993.



Left: 1993 groundbreaking for the new Museum: employees Elspeth Inglis and Paula Metzner with KVCC Vice President Nancy Woods.

Right: The KVM's ever-popular Checker cab is delivered to the Museum, October 1995. The cab had to be brought in before the building was finished and hoisted by a mechanical lift in order to maneuver it into its place in the History Gallery.

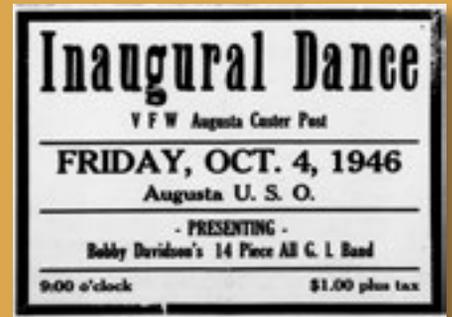


Left and above: Construction of the Museum, Summer 1994.

Right: Front of Kalamazoo Valley Museum as it appears today.



Bobby DAVIDSON Orchestra



Advertisement from Climax Crescent Newspaper, September 27, 1946

The Bobby Davidson Orchestra at Club Hollywood in 1945, photo courtesy of Helen Davidson

Did you know that Kalamazoo is home to the Godfather? Well, maybe not the Godfather that we think of from movies, but Kalamazoo does have its own "Godfather of Jazz," Robert "Bobby" Davidson. Davidson was well known for being the leader and drummer of the Bobby Davidson Orchestra, a 16-piece band that was a staple in the Kalamazoo and southwest Michigan music scene for over 40 years. He also taught music at Western Michigan University.

Although Davidson led the Bobby Davidson Orchestra well into the late 1980s, his music career started over 50 years earlier in the mid-1930s, when he began drumming in the Kalamazoo Central High School Jazz Orchestra. The Jazz Orchestra was a 16-piece band that provided music for school dances, play nights, and assemblies. They made up an extensive portion

of the Band Follies of 1936. The Follies and annual band concert were so popular that they played for a full house at the Kalamazoo Central High School auditorium, and the event was said to be "one of the finest evenings of entertainment ever witnessed beneath the roof of this building."

Just five weeks short of graduation, Bobby left high school to pursue his dream of playing music. Early on in his career, he played with the Anson Weeks Orchestra, a well-known band that toured throughout the country. From about 1938 to 1939, he teamed up with friend Bill Fox to form the Fox-Davidson Orchestra. They played many of the local Presidents' Balls (parties celebrating the inauguration of the U.S. President) and college events.

It was around this time that Davidson met Helen Benton. Originally from Alto, Michigan, Helen came to Kalamazoo to visit friends. During her visit, she met the guys in the band, and the rest is history. Helen and Bobby were married on May 5, 1941, in Kalamazoo. Helen knew that marrying a musician would mean lots of traveling and many weekends apart, but Helen, along with some of the other band members' wives, would get together and see the band play. "We were all one family," said Helen in a 2016 interview.

In 1942, as Bobby was about to be drafted to serve in World War II, he made the decision to enlist in the United States Air Corps (later the Army Air Forces). Helen remembers four or five different occasions when Bobby was on alert to be sent overseas. Each time, Helen would begin to pack, and there would be tearful goodbyes, and each time, Bobby would find out at the last minute that he had been called back and was not going. Bobby originally enlisted as a pilot, but because of his musical talent, he ended up serving in the Special Services Air Force Band. He later went on to direct the band at the Cadet Center in San Antonio, Texas.

When Bobby returned to Kalamazoo in 1945, he formed the Bobby Davidson Orchestra, at the time a 14-piece dance band made up of returning G.I.s (members of the United States Armed Forces). It is believed that his orchestra was the only all-G.I. orchestra in the United States.

The band's first gig was at Club Hollywood, which would become one of Bobby's favorite venues. One of Kalamazoo's earliest nightclubs, it was located on the corner of Spring and Portage Streets. The band was so popular that their two-week gig turned into thirteen weeks. In the early years, the band not only played the clubs in Kalamazoo, but traveled throughout Michigan, Ohio, and Indiana. The band played together for over four decades, well into the late 1980s, performing at venues such as the Kalamazoo Country Club, Don Neal's Mr. T-Bone, and many local proms and weddings. They also provided musical accompaniment to acts such as Pat Boone, the Hi-Los, and even Bob Hope, when the stars put on shows in the area.

Music was Davidson's life. Not only did he and Helen run a music store in Kalamazoo, but in 1952, Elwyn "Doc" Carter, chair of what is now Western Michigan University's Music Department, asked Davidson to teach part-time as a percussion instructor. When Bobby pointed out that he did not have a degree, Elwyn simply stated that it did not matter and that Davidson knew more than the students would ever wish to learn. Davidson went on to teach full-time, founding the University Jazz Lab Band, and was instrumental in creating the Jazz Studies Program at Western. In 1982, under the direction of Davidson, the Jazz Lab Band was invited to perform at the prestigious Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. When he retired from the University in 1982, Davidson was honored by the music community as the "Godfather of Jazz" for his work as a band leader and teacher.

Although Davidson passed away in 2012, his jazz legacy continues today through the countless students he taught, band members he performed with, and fans who packed the local venues and ballrooms to dance to that big band music.



Artist Anne Coleman's painting of Club Hollywood in Kalamazoo



Bobby Davidson Orchestra, courtesy of Helen Davidson



Bobby Davidson drumming, courtesy of Helen Davidson

We need your help!

In October 2016, the Museum will be opening a temporary exhibit that focuses on dances, proms, and dance bands from the 1920s-1980s in the Kalamazoo area. We are looking for instruments used by band members, photos, or accessories from dances or proms, or any memories or stories you may have. If you think you have something that would fit, contact Collections Manager Regina Gorham by July 31st at 269-373-7958 or rgorham@kvcc.edu.

History, Art, and LEGOs



The first Baptist Church (erected in 1856, with additions through the 1970s) stands in Bronson Park

LEGO lovers will definitely want to be in Kalamazoo this summer. Now, for those of you who are not LEGO aficionados, we're betting there's still something in it for you. For instance, with LEGOs, we'll bring you history, art, and even a little science. But wait – you do know what LEGOs are, don't you? Oh, of course you do...

The LEGO story begins in the early 20th century in a small carpenter's shop in Denmark owned by Ole Kirk Christiansen. Focusing primarily on the building trades, the shop met hard times during the Great Depression. Like so many entrepreneurs in times of economic difficulty, Christiansen tinkered with other products, which included wooden toys.

The LEGO name was officially adopted in 1934, derived from the Danish words *Leg godt*, meaning "play well." Members of the company later noted that the name in Latin means "I put together." Perfect. In the '40s, the company began experimenting with interlocking bricks made of plastic. After a halting start (the general populace still preferred wooden toys well into the '50s), the LEGOs we've come to know and love became an international sensation.

David Kohrman, like so many other youngsters, was enamored of LEGOs as early as age 5. As it happens, he and his parents also enjoyed "old stuff," including old buildings. After church on Sundays, the Kohrman family would drive around Kalamazoo

looking at historic buildings, some now no longer gracing our city's streets. Combining the two loves – history and LEGOs – was easy for David. Well, not exactly easy. Constructing accurate, scale models of Kalamazoo's historic buildings sometimes requires thousands of LEGO bricks and hundreds of hours of time, from concept to final product. David's work will be on display at City Hall and at the KVM this summer.

David will also serve as judge for LEGO animations that Kalamazoo Valley Community College students will create and produce for the AniMotion Festival on June 3rd. The winning team will receive their very own "Figgy" (term coined by Kalamazoo Valley instructor and animator Aubrey Hardaway; it's the LEGO version of an Oscar), designed and created by David. The AniMotion Festival will include free showings of student and faculty work, the LEGO Brickumentary, and opportunities to build your own LEGO creation.

The Burdick Hotel was built in 1911 to replace an earlier structure that had burned. The 1911 building was torn down in 1973; the Radisson Plaza Hotel is there now

This will all come together when the KVM, together with KVCC's Center for New Media, will launch a summer of LEGO fun with this year's AniMotion Festival June 3-4. At the same time, David Kohrman's LEGO recreations of some of Kalamazoo's historic structures will be on display at City Hall to help celebrate the Hidden Kalamazoo Tour on Father's Day weekend, June 18-19 (go to hiddenkalamazoo.com for details).



WHAT IS IT?

1 This stone plate with a central depression and drain was commonly used in ancient Egypt. What is it?



2 This box could be used for personal entertainment or even to train small animals! What is it?



3 Palm-size and brass, this device required a radio to properly function. What is it?

3. A 1940 decoder pin. Radio Orphan Annie's Secret Society members used this Ovaltine-sponsored mail-order pin, fit with numbers and letters along the edge, to crack coded messages broadcasted on the children's radio serial Little Orphan Annie (1931 - 1942). A Christmas Story's (1983) Ralphie decoded "a crummy commercial," but in reality, messages previewed upcoming episodes.

2. Music box. Made of lithographed tin, it features cherubs and musically-inspired imagery along the sides. Music boxes were primarily used for personal entertainment, but this specific German-styled tin box was designed to be used as a canary trainer. Training canary birds to sing specific tunes was a popular pastime in the early 20th century.

1. Ink palette. Similar to a mortar and pestle, a small hand-held stone was used to press materials such as cosmetics, medicine, or paint into the palette. The resulting mixture could be poured out through the drain into a vessel for storage. It is estimated that this palette dates to 664 - 30 BCE.

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



LEGO TRAVEL ADVENTURE

May 21 - September 11

There are different ways to get from here to there. To go on an adventure in the air, on land, in space, or on the water, all you need is the right vehicle. Use LEGO bricks to think creatively, imagine, and build vehicles for all sorts of environments. Plan the travel adventure of your dreams!

LEGO Travel Adventure is produced by The Children's Museum of Indianapolis in cooperation with LEGO Systems, Inc. LEGO and the LEGO logo are trademarks of LEGO Group. ©2012 The LEGO Group. All rights reserved.



FARES AND SQUARES: HISTORY OF CHECKER MOTORS

Through August 21, 2016

For six decades, Checker cabs, with their iconic black and white checkered detailing, were synonymous with taxi service in America's cities, and those cabs were built right here in Kalamazoo. This exhibit explores the company's history and features a 1923 taxi.

All exhibits are **FREE!**

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

Check Out My Museum! Wednesdays, 1 - 4 p.m. From June 29 through August 10

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum celebrates 20 years as a community museum. Join us each week as Museum staff share secrets about their favorite exhibits. Participate in a weekly Lego exhibit challenge and see your creation on display.

June 29: Space, in a Galaxy Far, Far Away... Discover space exploration.

July 6: Kalamazoo Direct to You Follow the Kalamazoo River through history.

July 13: Michigan's Wacky Weather The weather is constantly changing in our little part of the world.

July 20: Lights, Camera, Action! Discover how energy, technology, and the human body all work together.

July 27: Getting Down to the Core of What We Do Objects of history tell our story.

August 3: All Wrapped Up Kalamazoo's mummy is featured in today's program.

August 10: Grow with Us Explore museum-related themes in an educational environment for children and their caregivers.

All Hands-On programs are **FREE**
Visit our website for details.

MORE SUMMER HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS 1 - 4 p.m. daily

Special Wednesday-only planetarium shows for families.

Shows change weekly; all tickets are \$3/person. Showtime is 1 p.m.

June 29: Dawn of the Space Age

July 6: Ice Worlds

July 13: Wildest Weather in the Solar System

July 20: Magic of the Otherworld

July 27: Sky Legends of the Three Fires

August 3: Stars of the Pharaohs

August 10: In My Backyard

Space Park 360 - Weekly at 2 p.m.

Travel through an amusement park that spans the Solar System

Special Wednesday-only Challenger Learning Center programs for individuals and families. All tickets are \$3/person:

The Challenger Experience - 1 p.m. and 1:45 p.m.

Mini-Mission - 3 p.m.

PLANETARIUM

FEATURE SHOWS:

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

Invaders of Mars (through June 17)

Secrets of the Sun June 18 - September 16

From the nuclear forces churning at the heart of the Sun, to the mass ejections of solar material into surrounding space, discover the power of the Sun and its impact on the planets and ultimately life on Earth

FAMILY SHOWS

Sat at 1 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

M-F 11 a.m. show resumes June 20

Bear Tales (through June 12)



One World, One Sky June 18 - September 16

Join Big Bird, Elmo, and their Chinese friend Hu Hu Zhu, exploring the sky they share. Discover the Big Dipper and North Star, and take an imaginary trip to the Moon.

See Summer Hands-On Happenings description for special planetarium shows geared for families and kids on Wednesdays only, June 29 - Aug 10

SEASONAL STARGAZING SHOW

Tue, Thu at 3 p.m.; Sat at 2 p.m.

The Artists' Sky (Through Jun 16)

Treasures of the Great Lakes

June 18 - September 15

Learn how navigators on the Great Lakes have used the night sky and lighthouses to guide them to their destinations. Discover how you can use bright stars as "lighthouses" to guide you through the constellations.

LASER LIGHT SHOWS IN THE PLANETARIUM:

Every Art Hop Friday night at 8 p.m. (June 3, July 8, August 5)

Magic of the Otherworld

June 3 - August 5

All shows are \$3 per person.

The planetarium will be closed for yearly maintenance September 6-9.

CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

*Mondays-Fridays 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wednesdays open until 5 p.m. (June 29-August 31)
Saturdays 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Sundays 1 - 5 p.m.*

Children five and under are encouraged to play and explore with their adult caregivers in three rooms of interactive exhibits and playful environments. **FREE!**



June/July Careers

Explore careers with the help of playful environments, activities, puzzles and more!

August/September A Colorful Season

Enjoy the contrasting colors, weather, and changing activities as we move from summer to fall.



Closed for yearly maintenance September 26 - 30.

CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

In memory of Alvin H. and Emily T. Little

The CLC is a space-flight simulation experience, now for all ages! *The following missions are available for groups by reservation only; call or go online for details:*

JUNIOR MISSIONS

90-minute missions designed for small groups of up to 15 participants, ages 8 and up. \$5 per person.

FULL CREW MISSIONS

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

Special Wednesday-only Challenger Learning Center programs June 29 - August 10 for individuals and families. All tickets are \$3/person:

THE CHALLENGER EXPERIENCE

1 p.m. and 1:45 p.m.

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 15 must be accompanied by a partner aged 16 or older.

MINI-MISSIONS

3 p.m.

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 15 must be accompanied by a partner aged 16 or older.



FRIDAY NIGHT HIGHLIGHTS

Mary Jane Stryker Theater

The Museum is open until 9 p.m. on **Art Hop Fridays** year-round. A variety of live entertainment, visual art, and a laser light show are available for adult audiences each month. See detailed information online or pick up fliers at the KVM.

Friday Art Hop Visual Experiences open at 5 p.m.; Live Music Experiences begin at 6 p.m. – FREE

Laser Light Shows begin at 8 p.m. – \$3

July 8: THE MUSHMEN (Ska-Core) and **Brotha James** (dance/hip-hop/pop)

Photography and Poetry by artist Colin Overhiser of Captured Photography

August 5: Foliás Flute and Guitar Duo (Chamber Music) and **Dixon's Violin** (Transformational Journey via Violin)

The Rain Barrel Roadshow will feature art compositions by KVCC and KCC students who will use rain barrels as their canvases. The public will be able to cast votes for their favorite pieces.

Now, to start the summer fun...

JUMP INTO SUMMER

The KVM will join the June Jubilee festivities with performers, activities, and special guests:

Friday, June 3 Art Hop: An entertainment double header **FREE**

Starry Night LEGOs presented by Aubrey Jewel Hardaway, animator and KVCC instructor (5:30 p.m. start) and **Who Hit John** (7 p.m. start)

Magic of the Otherworld (laser light show) begins at 8 p.m. **\$3/person**

Saturday, June 4: AniMotion Festival 12 - 4 p.m. **FREE**

Expand your June Jubilee fun when you come to the KVM to try your hand at the world of animation and multimedia arts. This year's theme is LEGOs! KVCC Students will show their LEGO creations, and the public will get to vote for their favorites and create their own LEGO animation. See the ad on the back page for details about the day's events.

AniMotion Festival

Recent Acquisition

LADIES' BROWN DRESS & UNDERSLIP

They say that good things come to those who wait, and in the case of a recent donation to the Museum, this statement could not be more true.

In June 2014, Nancy Hilaski came to the Kalamazoo Valley Museum to donate an elegant brown dress and matching underslip that appeared to date to around the 1880s. The dress was in excellent condition for being over 125 years old, complete with beautiful brocade flowers on the skirt, plush velvet trim, and ornate black buttons with gold-color inlay. The Museum was thrilled to have been offered such a wonderful item, but at the time, the donor did not know who originally wore the dress, and this caused a dilemma.

The Museum focuses on collecting items that have a connection to Kalamazoo or the surrounding area. Museum staff knew that dresses in this condition are few and far between, but without knowing anything about the history or story of the dress, the Museum made the tough decision not to accept it for the permanent collection until more information was known. Nancy agreed to dig into her family history to find the answers.

In December 2015, Nancy contacted the Museum with information that the dress belonged to her great-grandmother, Matilda Murphy Brown; she even had a box of photographs of Matilda and her family.

Matilda Murphy was born in New York on May 26, 1856. By 1860, she was living in Kalamazoo along with her parents and two siblings. It is not clear what brought the Murphys to Kalamazoo, although her father, a carpenter, may have been able to find work in the growing village.

On February 20, 1878, Matilda married David Ogden Brown in Kalamazoo. Brown had served as a sergeant in the 19th Michigan Volunteer Infantry Regiment during the Civil War. Matilda and David settled in David's hometown of Martin, Michigan, in Allegan County, where they farmed and raised seven children.



*Matilda Murphy
Brown Harding, c.
1930s, courtesy of
Nancy Hilaski*



This dress, based on its near pristine condition, may have even been Matilda's wedding dress when she married David in 1878. It was not uncommon for brides during this time to wear dresses in colors such as brown, or even black. Although white wedding dresses were becoming more popular, most women needed the dress to be practical and useful, as it would be worn again for other special events and occasions.

After David passed away in 1904, Matilda went on to marry Freeman Harding. She passed away in 1950 at the age of 94, and the dress remained in the family until Nancy brought it to the Museum. Now, with a known connection to Kalamazoo, the dress has a permanent home in the Museum's collection. It is a piece of Kalamazoo history that was definitely worth the wait!

CAMP911



TUESDAY, JULY 12 OR TUESDAY, JULY 19
9 a.m. – 4 p.m. **FREE!**

This is an interactive camp designed to educate children on the importance of emergency preparedness. Participants will learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), how to access the 911 system, basic first aid, fire safety, bike safety, abduction awareness, severe weather action, and gun safety.

Each one-day camp will take place at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum. Limit 25 students, ages 9 to 11.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED AT
lifeems.com

Registration opens May 1, 2016

For more information, or to learn of other dates and locations, contact Kimberly Middleton at 269.373.3116 or at kmiddleton@lifeems.com.

Sponsored by Life EMS Ambulance in partnership with the Kalamazoo Valley Museum.

Sustainable Shelter

DWELLING WITHIN THE FORCES OF NATURE

SEPTEMBER 24, 2016 – JANUARY 8, 2017

Sustainable Shelter investigates the ways that human dwellings extract, use, and discard energy, water, and other precious natural resources. The exhibit reveals innovative new building technologies and strategies that can help restore the health and viability of natural cycles.



--- Cut and keep for Summer Happenings ---

SUMMER 2016 HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

Wednesdays, from June 29 to August 10
1 – 4 p.m. **FREE!**

Check Out My Museum!

The Kalamazoo Valley Museum celebrates 20 years as a community museum in its “new” building. Join us each week as Museum staff share secrets about their favorite exhibits.

- June 29 **Space, in a Galaxy Far, Far Away**
- July 6 **Kalamazoo Direct to You**
- July 13 **Michigan’s Wacky Weather**
- July 20 **Lights, Camera, Action!**
- July 27 **Getting Down to the Core of What We Do**
- August 3 **All Wrapped Up**
- August 10 **Grow with Us**

All Hands-On Programs are **FREE!**
Visit our website for details.



2016 JUMP INTO SUMMER!

Animation festival

center for new media ▶ kalamazoo valley museum



FRIDAY, JUNE 3 • ART HOP

5 p.m. Student LEGO Animations

5:30 p.m. Film and talk: "The Art of Play: Creating Art with Bricks" presented by Aubrey Jewel Hardaway, animator and KVCC instructor

7 p.m. Who Hit John? **FREE**

8 p.m. Magic of the Otherworld laser light show (\$3/person)

SATURDAY, JUNE 4 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

All activities, shows and programs are FREE. join us for an afternoon of LEGO's and animation fun!

11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. KVCC Student original LEGO animations

12 – 4 p.m. Hands-on fun with stop motion animation and more, led by students of KVCC's Center for New Media AniMotion Labs!

1 p.m. LEGO DC Super Heroes: Justice League: Attack of the Legion of Doom movie

2:30 p.m. A LEGO Brickumentary, a kid-friendly documentary about the history of LEGOs

12 – 3:30 p.m. every half hour: Nitewalk, a spooky animation in our planetarium, usually seen only on Halloween!

12 – 3 p.m. every hour: Challenger Experience in our Challenger Learning Center



FREE GENERAL ADMISSION

Monday–Saturday 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Art Hop Fridays 9 a.m.–9 p.m.

Sunday + Holidays 1 p.m.–5 p.m.

Closed: Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas

Kalamazoo VALLEY™ Museum

230 North Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370

www.kalamazoomuseum.org

[/KalamazooValleyMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooValleyMuseum)

[@kalamazoomuseum](https://twitter.com/kalamazoomuseum)

Handicapped accessible. Sign language interpreters may be scheduled with a minimum of two weeks' notice. Assisted listening devices are available in the planetarium and Theater.



The Kalamazoo Valley Museum is operated by Kalamazoo Valley Community College and is governed by its Board of Trustees

