



museON
winter 2016

goose bumps!

the science of fear



Also at the KVM starting April 23:

**Fares and Squares:
HISTORY OF CHECKER MOTORS**

From the Director



The Museum's festival season has arrived! The Storytelling Festival shares stories through the use of the spoken word, body language, music, and art. Plan on being here Friday and Saturday, February 5-6, to be part of the story!

Bill McElhone

The Play-In Contest and Fretboard Festival return for their 11th rendition. The Play-In Contest on January 8, 2016, gives

performers a chance to win an honorarium, time slot to play in the Festival, and opportunity to contract with the Museum during the 2016-2017 season. The Festival will be held on March 5, 2016, and will feature performers, vendors, and a host of other programs that will make this year's event memorable. For more details, please see <http://fretboard.kvcc.edu/> and the ad on page 19.

There is a host of exhibits covering topics from the Kalamazoo Gals, fear science, and Checker cabs. John Thomas, author of "Kalamazoo Gals: A Story of Extraordinary Women & Gibson's 'Banner' Guitars of World War II," has produced an exhibit with the same name. This special exhibit runs from January 23, 2016, to April 9, 2016. On February 6, 2016, Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear opens. The exhibit features engaging activities that allow visitors to experience fear in a safe and enjoyable environment, rate their response, and understand the science behind the emotion. Please see pages 4 and 5 for more information.

The storied history of the Checker Motors Corporation will be explored in an exhibit, Fares and Squares: History of Checker Motors, being developed in collaboration with the Gilmore Car Museum and the Checker Car Club of America. The exhibit opens on April 23, 2016, and will feature a 1920s-era Checker cab and other products produced by this iconic vehicle manufacturer. See pages 10 and 11 for more information.

There is still time to visit our Child in a Strange Country and In the Dark exhibits before they close by the middle of January. Also, the KVM is happy to once again partner with the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival for their film series April 29 to May 14. Check out <http://www.thegilmore.org/festival/> for more details.

Please check out the Museum's website at kalamazoomuseum.org for the full calendar of programs. Consider this your open invitation to come and explore your Museum of history, science, and technology. museON, everyone!



winter**2016**
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| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| From the Director | 2 |
| The Mission | CONTINUES 3 |
| Find Out What You're Afraid of at | GOOSE BUMPS! 4 |
| Julius Bellson and His | UKULELE 6 |
| Brewing Sustainably in | KALAMAZOO 8 |
| Fares and Squares: | HISTORY OF CHECKER MOTORS 10 |
| Food in | KALAMAZOO 12 |
| A Clock's | TALE 14 |
| | WHAT IS IT? 15 |
| Calendar of Activities | 16 |
| Recent Acquisition: | WWII MILITARY JACKETS 18 |
| Special Advertisements | 19 |

Cover: Checker emblem courtesy of the Gilmore Car Museum

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THE MISSION CONTINUES...

January 28, 2016, marks the 30th anniversary of one of the worst space exploration accidents in history – the explosion of the Space Shuttle Challenger.

Seven astronauts lost their lives that day, including Christa McAuliffe, a high school social studies teacher from Concord, New Hampshire, who was selected from over 11,000 applicants to be NASA's first Teacher in Space. Her duties included conducting basic science experiments in the fields of chromatography, effervescence, hydroponics, magnetism, simple machines, and Newton's laws. Her live lessons from space were aimed at helping students understand the goals of space exploration.

As the nation mourned, the family members of the Challenger crew came together, determined to continue the crew's educational mission. They created the Challenger Center for Space Science Education, an organization that has touched the lives of many students.

We can only wonder what, if the Challenger's crew were still with us today, would capture their attention and imaginations. Certainly, they would be reveling in – perhaps feeling a bit jealous of – the work of astronaut Scott Kelly, who at this writing holds the world record for the longest any human has lived in space (more than a year). NASA's Human Research Program is focused on many aspects of human space travel, including effects on the human body and psyche. Very likely, our Challenger crew would have participated in this important research that will almost certainly put humans into deep space within our lifetimes.

The legacy of the Challenger crew is not unlike legacies of so many explorers who went before them; that is, in part, that we as humans must continue to explore the unknown and work towards a future that we can at times only imagine.

Go to <http://kvm.kvcc.edu/challenger/> for links to some fascinating web sites and videos about the future of human space travel. You'll find NASA's archive of the Challenger mission and information about how space affects the human body, the video *A Year in Space*, with narration by Billy Dee Williams, and the futuristic animation *Wanderers*, narrated by the late Carl Sagan.



Background: Futuristic rendering of Mars's Cape Verde from the short film Wanderers



Members of the Challenger Space Shuttle

The KVM's Challenger Learning Center in Memory of Alvin H. and Emily T. Little opened in October 1993. It provides Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) experience in deep simulation to elementary and middle school students. The public have opportunities to participate in CLC experiences during special events: see www.kalamazoomuseum.org for details.

Find Out What You're Afraid of at

goose bumps!

the science of fear



Why do our hearts race, our knees shake, and our bodies sweat when we are scared? *Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear*, an exhibit developed by the California Science Center, explores this universal emotion that can save our lives. Through fun, interactive challenges, guests can experience fear in a safe environment and discover the science behind their physical and emotional responses. The exhibit opens at the Kalamazoo Valley Museum on February 6, 2016 and runs through May 8, 2016.

The exhibit includes immersive environments and full-body, interactive experiences that allow guests to test their own fears and rate their physiological responses. Leading scientists and their research on the neurobiology, physiology, and psychology of fear are also featured throughout the exhibit.

Goose Bumps! begins with the Fear Challenge Course, where visitors can face four common fears in a safe environment. The first challenge, Fear of Animals, dares guests to reach into concealed terrariums that might be the home of creepy-crawly creatures. In the next room, Fear of Electric Shock, visitors may feel their heart pounding as they anticipate getting zapped by a jolt of electricity. In Fear of Loud Noises, visitors test this innate fear that helps keep us out of harm's way. Finally, the Fear of Falling challenge allows guests to experience a sudden loss of support and then watch a video recording of their reaction to the backwards drop.

In the Fear Lab, a section which explores the brain's structures and pathways that drive the fear response, visitors will meet Mr. Goose Bumps, a larger-than-life figure that illustrates, through animation, how the brain and body work together in response to danger.

In *Faces of Emotion*, visitors can explore the facial expressions of fear and other emotions that may be universal in humans. Cutting-edge software is used to analyze and identify guests' facial expressions.

Fear in the Wild is a put-yourself-in-the-picture immersive video game that allows guests to explore common responses to danger, including freeze, flight, and fight. Visitors will discover how fear helps all animals—including humans—stay alive.

Fear and Society illustrates how some fears spread beyond the individual and become stronger as more people become afraid. A short film and exhibit display how our collective fears are represented and transmitted through media and pop culture.

The Phobia Wall illustrates that people are capable of learning to fear almost anything.



Below top: Guests examining human and animal brain specimens in Fear Lab

Below middle: Young guest seeing his on-screen image attacked by a virtual leopard in the Freeze Game in Fear in the Wild

Below bottom: A guest experiments with different sound tracks and effects to make a scary movie



Above top: Guests participating in a research project in Fear Lab
Above middle: Guests watching Mr. Goose Bumps get scared
Above bottom: Guests watching as a visitor is about to fall



Julius Bellson and His UKULELE

The graceful little ukulele has a magic appeal for almost every man, woman, boy and girl. Friendly and intimate...it encourages them to seek those thrilling joys to be experienced only through personally produced music.

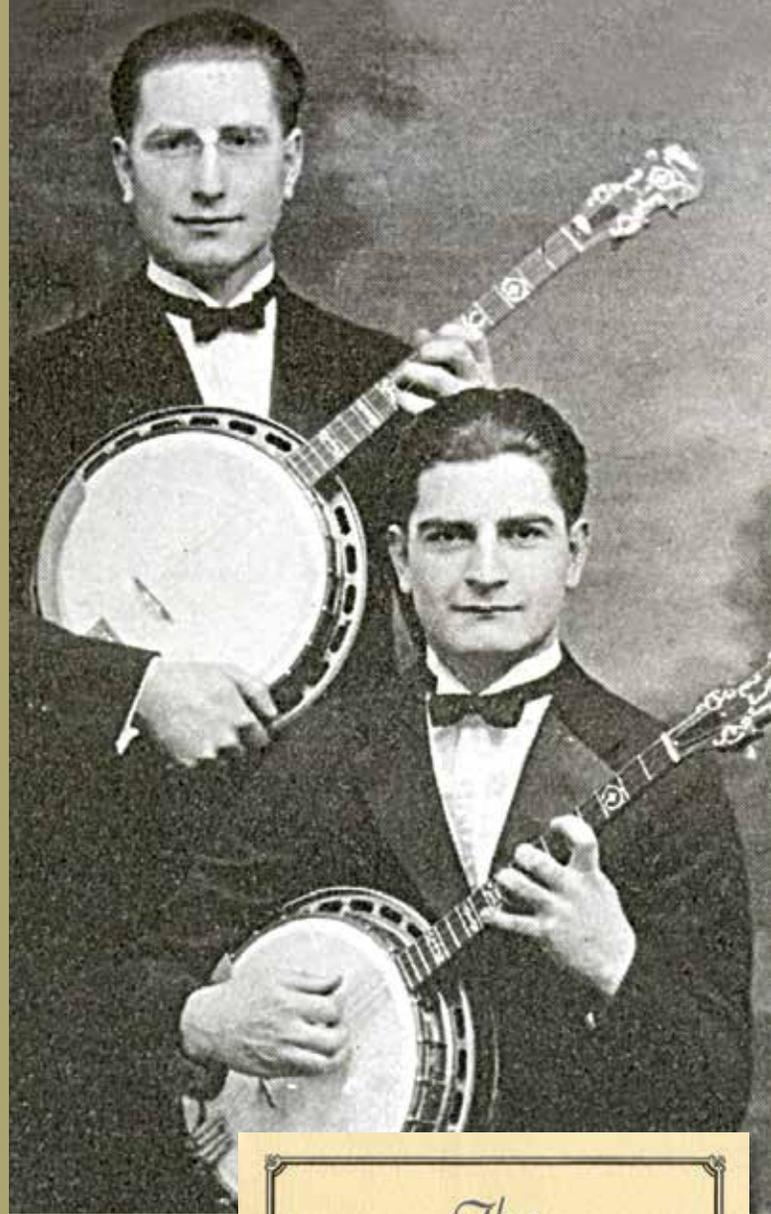
This description from a 1930 Gibson Company catalog describes the small yet powerful ukulele made by the master craftsmen at Gibson. While many people know Gibson for their famed mandolins and guitars, the company also manufactured other, lesser-known instruments like the ukulele.

Ukuleles came to Hawaii in the late 19th century via Portuguese immigrants. The instrument was quickly incorporated into Hawaiian music and culture. In 1915 at the Panama Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, ukuleles hit the mainland. The instrument along with the Hawaiian style of music was an instant hit, and soon the ukulele was incorporated into other genres of music.

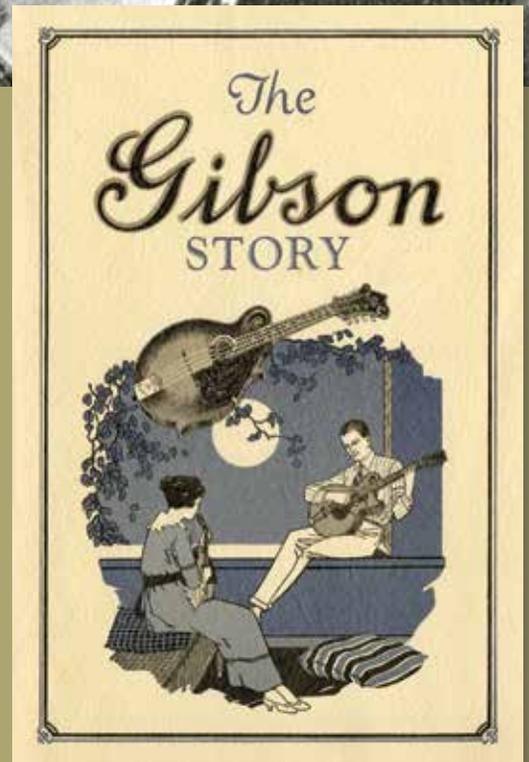
Instrument manufacturers, including the Gibson Company, saw a great opportunity and soon began manufacturing ukuleles. By 1928, Gibson was making four types, Uke-1, Uke-2, Uke-3, and a tenor ukulele. The Uke-3 style was a "De Luxe" Gibson. It touted rich mahogany throughout, alternating white and black ivoroid (celluloid plastic made to look like ivory), a rosewood fingerboard, pearl ornaments, nickel silver frets, the finest strings, and absolute musical accuracy. In 1928 it sold for twenty dollars. That's nearly \$280.00 in today's value!

Over the years, these Gibson ukuleles have become highly valued and prized by collectors and musicians. In July 2015, a vintage soprano Uke-3 was reported stolen from the home of Margie Bellson, widow of former Gibson executive Julius Bellson. Fretboard fanatics and Gibson enthusiasts took to social media in a hunt to return this prized possession to its rightful owner.

One might wonder how a small ukulele that once sold for twenty dollars could have become so valuable that it was tweeted to over 10,000 twitter followers and shared with over 170,000 Facebook followers. To understand its historical significance, we must first take a look at the original owner of the uke, Julius Bellson, a long-time Gibson employee.



Brothers Albert and Julius Bellson, 1925



The Gibson Story, a history of the Gibson Company, written by Julius Bellson

Julius Bellson was born Julius Balassone to Francesco and Diletta Balassone in Salerno, Italy, on June 3, 1905. By the time he was 18 months old, his parents moved the family to the United States, settling in Whiteside County, Illinois.

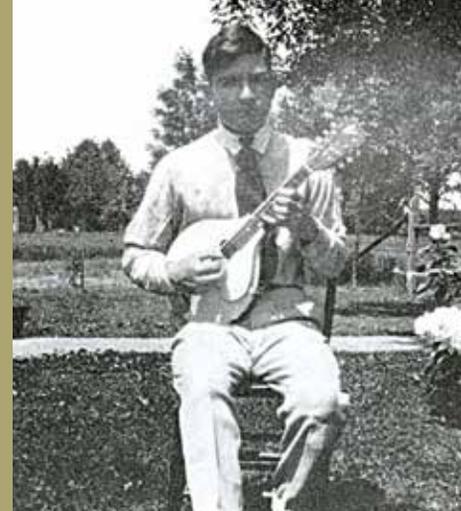
Musical talent ran in the Balassones' blood. By 1911, his older brother Alphonse, later known as Albert, was a music teacher and Gibson Agent in Rock Falls, Illinois. Julius went on to study the mandolin under Albert. By 1924, with the last name of Bellson, the brothers were living in St. Paul, Minnesota, working at the Bellson School of Music, Julius as a music teacher and Albert as the principal. Another brother, Luigi (Louis), also owned his own music store in Moline, Illinois. The brothers were talented musicians and could play numerous instruments. Many saw Albert as one of Minnesota's finest mandolinists. Louis's son, Louie Bellson, went onto become a world-renowned jazz drummer, playing with the likes of Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, and Tony Bennett.

Julius also played many instruments, including the tenor banjo, classic and standard guitar, mandolin, steel guitar, and ukulele. Throughout his career, he created an innovative way to teach music to his students, and it was not long before Gibson executives jumped at the opportunity to hire a talented musician and instructor. Julius had already been a Gibson Agent in Minnesota since 1924, and in 1935, he was hired by Gibson as a musicologist, responsible for supervising the writing, printing, and distribution of self-instruction books for various stringed instruments. Over his 38-year tenure at Gibson, he was instrumental in conducting experiments to help develop improvements for instruments and helped in continuing to advance Gibson's high level of standards for their instruments and accessories. He went on to serve as the personnel director during the 1940s, responsible for hiring the "Kalamazoo Gals" who built Gibson instruments during World War II. He worked as head of Industrial Relations and served as treasurer for the company. In 1973, he wrote a history of the company, *The Gibson Story*. He even had 33 years of perfect attendance!

After his retirement in 1973, he continued teaching music and publishing numerous guitar works, receiving an honorary Master of Music degree from the University of Nebraska in 1976.

Although Julius passed away in 1994, his legacy continues to live on through his instruments and the music that he developed over his lifetime. His ukulele has become one of his wife's prized possessions, so when it was stolen, one can only imagine the heartbreak it caused. Thanks to the rapid response from music lovers across the county, the thief realized that they could never get away with selling such a well-documented and well-loved instrument. Just days after the social media post went viral, the ukulele was returned to Mrs. Bellson's doorstep, safe and sound.

Julius with his mandolin at age 15



Gibson executives, c. 1951 (L-R) Walter Fuller, Julius Bellson, Wilbur Marher, Ted McCarty, and John Huis

Right: Julius and Margaret Bellson on their wedding day in 1933

Below: Margaret (Margie) Bellson and Kalamazoo Gals author, John Thomas, in 2013 with Julius' ukulele
Photo credit Richard Duby, courtesy of John Thomas





Kalamazoo Brewery, c. 1909

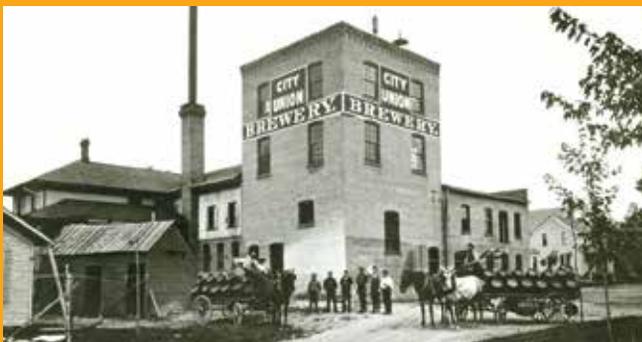
Kalamazoo has a long history of breweries operating within the city limits. The first commercial brewery within the state of Michigan opened in Kalamazoo in April of 1837; however, there are conflicting oral histories as to where it was located. One account states that it was located on present day Lake Street, yet another account had it on Kalamazoo Avenue. Just a few years later, there were several breweries and a distillery that called Kalamazoo home. The Kalamazoo Gazette reported that John Hall opened The Kalamazoo Brewery west of the village in 1846 at the same time Holmes & Harlan Brewery, which later became Hall & Holmes, was operating near the newly-constructed Michigan Central Railroad Depot.

Between 1850 and 1880, local breweries included the Kalamazoo Malt House, Portage Brewery, Burchnall's Brewery (also known as the Plank Road Brewery and operated by the grandparents of WWI hero Joseph Burchnall Westnedge); Sesemann's Brewery, Burr Oak Brewery, Franks Brewery, Taylor Thackwray & Co., Kalamazoo Spring Brewery, and Kalamazoo Steam Brewery. The latter was brewed with lager yeast and without the use of refrigeration. Steam beer used bottom fermenting lager yeasts at ale temperatures, which results in a very unique flavor that includes both ale and lager characteristics. It was considered a cheap and low-

quality beer consumed mostly by the working class. During the period from 1862-1871, the company produced 46,000 gallons annually.

After 1880, there were just three breweries operating within Kalamazoo, which included City Union Brewery, Cold Stream Brewery, and Kalamazoo Brewing Company, whose slogan was "Build up your hometown and patronize home industry by calling for the Brew from Kalamazoo." They also touted their beer as being "pure and without drugs or poison." The decline in breweries was attributed to several factors, including the Women's Christian Temperance Union movement gaining increased support, rising competition from other cities around the Midwest, and a significant per-barrel liquor tax that was levied.

The final blow to the brewing industry in early Kalamazoo came on May 1, 1915, when the residents of Kalamazoo voted to ban the production and sale of alcoholic beverages within city limits. According to the April 6, 1916, headline of the Kalamazoo Telegraph-Press, this act put "One brewery, 46 saloons and 15 clubs out of business." This was four years prior to the 18th amendment being passed nationally, which started the era of prohibition.



City Union Brewery, c. 1890's



Employees of City Union Brewery



BREWING SUSTAINABLY IN KALAMAZOO



Sustainable development chart

In the lexicon of modern environmentalism, “sustainable” has become a frequently-used term. That’s a good thing if we want to focus on and learn how to live in a world where human activity and natural resources can both flourish. The idea of brewing sustainably probably isn’t the first to come to mind when most people think of that lofty goal, but why not? Brewing has been a human endeavor for about 7,000 years, yet few of us think about what resources are used to get that glass of beer on the table. It’s time to consider how much water is used and what happens to it throughout the brewing process. How much fossil fuel is consumed, and how much is wasted? Where do the spent brewing grains go, and, for that matter, how is the grain grown in the first place?

All of these issues and more are part of the new Sustainable Brewing program at Kalamazoo Valley Community College’s Bronson Healthy Living Campus in downtown Kalamazoo (For more details about the new campus, go to <http://grow.kvcc.edu/>). Here, students will be learning how a good business can also make the best and most responsible use of natural resources. They will learn how to monitor wastewater by measuring the total organic carbon (TOC) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), both of which can indicate the presence of too much organic material in the water. (Did you get to hear the fall ’15 KVM program on research related to using brewery wastewater as a growing medium for algae to create biofuels? If not, check out <http://jakobnalley.weebly.com/research.html>.)

The spent brewing grains (from grain grown locally and sustainably) can be used as a source of high-protein additive to animal feed and, of course, in some of the artisan breads we love! Excess brewing yeast can also be used to delicious effect in sauces and gravies. Best of all, perhaps, is that Kalamazoo Valley students will be learning how to create and use energy recovery systems whereby heat from the vapor that is generated in the brewing process can be captured and condensed, and the resulting hot water reused. This feature of the brewing program is unique in the country, making Kalamazoo once again a place of innovation, where science and technology will make history!



Beer glass, bottles, and bottle opener from early Kalamazoo breweries

FARES AND SQUARES:

History of Checker Motors



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 by Morris Markin. A native of Smolensk, Russia, Markin immigrated to the United States at the age of 19, arriving at Ellis Island in 1912 with only \$1.65 in his pocket. Settling in Chicago, he worked for his uncle as a delivery boy, and within six years, he and his brother opened their own tailor shop.

By 1919, Markin ventured into the taxi business by taking over the operations of a Chicago cab fleet. Around the same time, he opened a body plant called Markin Body Co. that produced cab bodies. Three years later, Markin purchased a chassis company in Joliet, Illinois. In May of 1922, these businesses were merged into the Checker Cab Manufacturing Company, and Markin began looking for a new site to produce his taxi cabs.



Kalamazoo had the available structures that a startup automotive manufacturer needed to get the business growing. Markin purchased two recently-vacated automobile plants, the former Dort Body plant and the Handley-Knight plant, both located on Pitcher Street.

In 1929, an expansion of the plant was required in order to keep up with demand. Well-known architect Albert Kahn, famous for designing automobile plants in Detroit, was hired to design the new assembly buildings for the Pitcher Street plants. At the company's peak, over 100 vehicles a day and 5,000 a year were produced. The company had an agreement with a number of cab operators who used Checker cabs exclusively. These operators were Checker subsidiaries and included the Checker Cab Company, Yellow Cab, and the Parmalee Transportation Company.

Come see FARES AND SQUARES: HISTORY OF CHECKER MOTORS, a new exhibit open April 23 to August 21, 2016, featuring a 1920s Checker cab. This special exhibit was developed in collaboration with the Gilmore Car Museum.



Checker Cab Manufacturing Corporation, c. 1925

During WWII, Checker produced a number of products for the war effort, including self-contained trailers, water tanks, bomb release racks, and tank retrieval and tank recovery vehicles. During the war, cab drivers had to make do with the existing stock of Checker cabs, and stories of pre-war-built Checkers lasting for over a million miles helped build the company's reputation for size, comfort, reliability, and durability.

When the company resumed peacetime production, it introduced the A series cabs, most notably the A8, which was the standard Checker cab from 1958 until 1982. By 1965, over a quarter of the nation's cabs were Checker-built.

The popularity of the Checker cab led the company to experiment with vehicles for the consumer market. Beginning in 1959, Checker produced the A10 Superba line of sedans and station wagons in addition to its taxi cabs. The Superbas were the company's A9 cabs with slight modifications and rebranded as a family vehicle. Advertising literature promoted the Checker's "reliability, roomy interior, and value for the family." In 1961, the Superba was renamed the A12 Marathon.

The consumer market eventually accounted for 20 percent of Checker's production. Checker also experimented with other vehicles such as the Medicar ambulance for wheelchair-bound patients and the Aerobus, a limousine that seated as many as 12 passengers.

Checker was the most successful automobile manufacturer in Kalamazoo's history and produced one of its best-known products. In major cities across the country, in film and in song, Checker cabs became the icon with which taxi service was identified. In 1978, Kalamazoo and the Checker Motors assembly line were featured in a major motion picture, *Blue Collar*, starring Richard Pryor, Harvey Keitel, and Ed Begley, Jr.

Checker's decline began in the mid-1970s when the very features that contributed to the company's success now worked against it. Sturdy steel chassis and big bodies made for a durable, roomy cab but contributed to a vehicle weight of nearly 4,000 pounds. The weight made Checkers "gas guzzlers," and after the oil embargo of 1973 drove up fuel prices, it became difficult for the company to meet federal gas-mileage standards.

In 1982, the last Checker cab rolled off the assembly line at the Kalamazoo Plant. However, the company remained in business producing parts such as doors for vans, fenders, deck lids, roofs, frame rails, pickup boxes, and GMC truck parts. Checker also built parts for Ford Motor Co., Chrysler, and Navistar Trucks, and did metal work for companies outside the auto industry, making items as varied as parts for stadium seating and kitchen sinks. The economic downturn and near-collapse of the auto industry in 2008 proved to be too much. The company declared bankruptcy, sold its contracts and machinery, and went out of business in June of 2009.



1922 Checker Model C, Courtesy of the Gilmore Car Museum



Checker cabs on the assembly line, c. 1960s



Promotional photo of a fleet of cabs delivered to Avis, c. 1960s, Courtesy of the Gilmore Car Museum



Promotional photo for an airline company taken in New York City, c. late 1970s, Courtesy of the Gilmore Car Museum



Food IN KALAMAZOO



Food products of many varieties are easy for current Kalamazoo citizens to obtain, but when settlers were first arriving in the area, many would have counted on produce grown in their own gardens and would not have worried about finding a place to eat dinner besides their own kitchen table. In 1838, with a growing population, general stores for grocery and general shopping needs began to open. Many meals still would have been prepared at home, or people would have dined at saloons or hotels, but establishments identifying themselves as restaurants soon began to appear. As early as 1856, Oscar F. Coleman was noted as opening "...a first class restaurant..." which Coleman operated until the end of the Civil War.

By 1860, there were 22 saloons and restaurants in Kalamazoo. The Germania Saloon, located near the west side of Burdick near Main Street, boasted "Meals and Lunch at all hours. Choice Wines and Cigars. Best Lager in town always on Draught." This early directory shows a range of options, including the Young America Dining Saloon located on the corner of Main and Portage Streets, opposite the Kalamazoo House, which had cigar and wine choices but also offered oysters and sardines. Food

options cropped up near railroad depots and other travel centers. Kalamazoo had a Railroad Exchange, which offered mostly saloon fare with wine and cigars.

From the mid-1860s until the 1880s, restaurant and saloon listings continued to grow. The commonly-paired restaurant/billiard hall or saloon/billiard hall combinations began popping up around town, and by 1900, with a population in Kalamazoo of 24,404, there were many locally-owned establishments. In 1902, there were many food locations designated solely by the person running them, such as L.A. Burgh or D.H. Francis. Others had names including the G R & I Railway Restaurant (Grand Rapids & Indiana Railway), run by Mrs. William H. Skaates at 416 E. Main Street.

By the 1910s, the names of restaurants began to show the city's transition from frontier land towards a developed community. Names of restaurants started showing fancier, worldlier-sounding names like The Empire, Germania European Hotel, Manhattan Restaurant, and Metropolitan Restaurant, among others.



1860 City Directory ad

Hinkel's Restaurant, c. 1910



Slowly, these restaurant names and food offerings started to show the ever-changing population in the city, with immigrants arriving from different countries to make Kalamazoo their new home. In 1924, the City Directory listed the Oriental Chop Suey Café at 132 S. Burdick, run by James Yee Lum. Lum was born in California in 1879 to Chinese parents. The 1930 Census for Kalamazoo shows his wife, Josephine, working as a cashier at a restaurant and James as the restaurant manager, so it appears as though the Café was a family business.

The 1930s brought about the rise of quirky and fun names for restaurants. Gone were the days when a proprietor would just list his name and advertise an address. The 1935 City Directory has great examples, including The Ball and Chain Night Club, Dad's Lunch, Friendship Restaurant, Midget Lunch, Shrank's Tasty Food Shop, and the very confident Please-U-Café. Ten years later, the Please-U-Café was still operating at 238 E. Michigan Ave., run by George E. and Forbes A. Howk.

By 1945, Kalamazoo had 105 restaurants and lunch rooms. Chicken Charlie's was one restaurant on this list, a local place made famous by Charles Schwarz. Located at 3130 S. Westnedge Ave., Schwarz built the restaurant into a local eatery empire, starting Schwarz's Chalet, two drive-in restaurants, Schwarz's Alpine Haus, Schwarz's Chuckwagons, and Schwarz's Southland. By the mid-1980s, Schwarz Restaurants Inc. went bankrupt, and the long-time Chicken Charlie's building on Westnedge was sold and turned into a Damon's restaurant in 1989.

Also opened in the mid-1940s was the Deluxe Lunch at 1925 Pitcher. Purchased by Walter and Marguerite Niedzielski in 1946, daughter Ann Niedzielski remembers the time and family effort involved in keeping the diner open. Prices were kept affordable for the average worker. The diner brought in factory, city, and office workers, along with telephone line workers and truck drivers. Daily specials included Irish stew, liver & onions, and barbecued spare ribs. Walter also took a sandwich wagon over to the Atlas Press employees during their 15-minute breaks. During the Vietnam War, their hours were extended to match the 24/7 workdays of the surrounding factories.

Slowly, places like the Deluxe Lunch and Chicken Charlie's started seeing more competition from national chain restaurants. A & W showed up in the area in 1958, and 2 years later, a McDonald's Drive-In was at 5112 S. Westnedge Ave. This nationwide chain trend continued, and by 1985, of the 255 restaurant listings in the city, 67 are recognizable large chain restaurants, including nine McDonald's, eight Domino's, and six Wendy's.

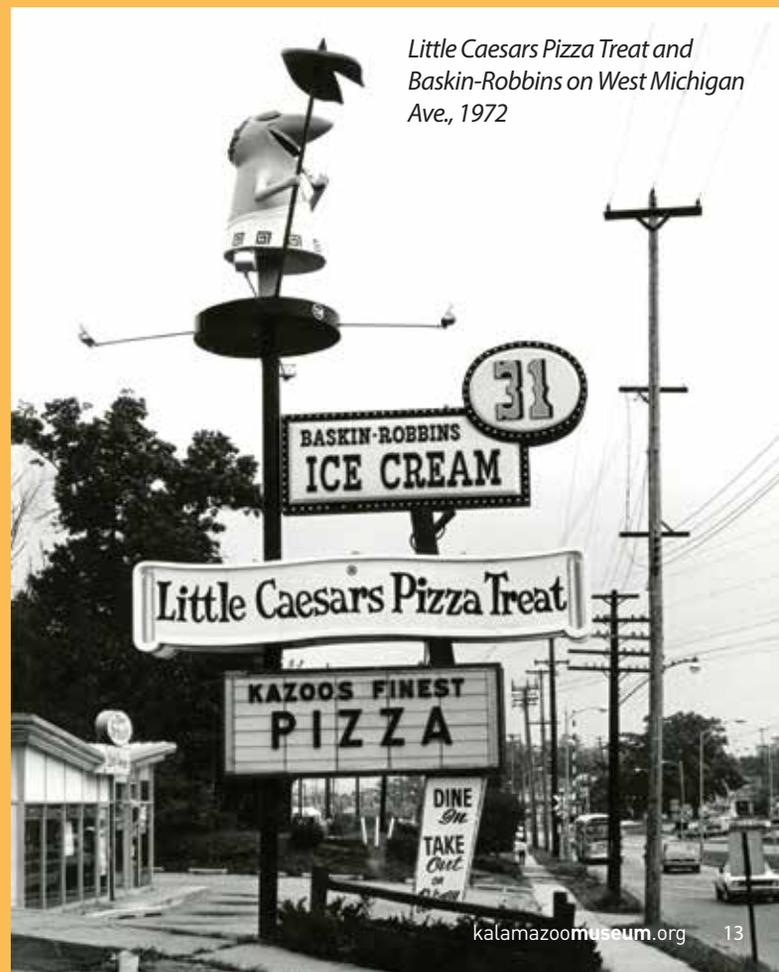
With the influx of these larger chains, many locally-owned businesses were forced to close. Yet some locally-owned restaurants have lasted throughout the years. Bilbo's Pizza, Theo & Stacy's, Just Good Food, and Bimbo's Pizza are just a few of the survivors.



Billboard for Chicken Charlie's Restaurant c. 1950



Deluxe Lunch c. mid 1950's



Little Caesars Pizza Treat and Baskin-Robbins on West Michigan Ave., 1972

A Clock's Tale

When this clock was first donated to the Museum in 1935, it came with minimal information. It was purchased by Daniel Denison in Berlin, New York, in 1838 for \$30.00 from William Moss. A note with the clock written by Denison's grandson M. B. Streeter states that he recalled the clock standing "...in a big hallway leading to the front door..." of his grandfather's home. The clock passed down through the family, given to Kalamazoo resident Daniel D. Streeter at the time of his grandfather's death. The clock stayed in the family until it was donated by M. B. Streeter's granddaughter.

Not much additional information was included. Measurements were taken, and the clock was placed into storage. The clock is in a 3-section wooden cabinet painted black with gold stenciling. The clock itself is lyre-shaped and is wood with a gilded, or gold-plated, surface. The cabinet with the clock sits on top of a long, shallow table with scroll-type legs. In 2013, an intern at the Museum was cataloguing tables and was given the task of also cataloguing this mysterious clock-cabinet-side-table combination.

With the intern's research, it was discovered that the clock's style is unique, a style similar to other clocks made by a particular clockmaker – Joseph Ives. Additional research into the will of

Daniel Denison, who died March 24, 1878, in Berlin, New York, further cleared up the clock's history. The will lists "1 gilt clock, book & clock case & stand" which was valued at \$16.00. This is the clock that was passed down to grandson Daniel D. Streeter (1843-1909) of Kalamazoo.

In June of 2013, the clock was appraised, and through the examination process, Joseph Ives was attributed as the clock's designer. Ives was born September 21, 1782, in Wallingford, Connecticut, and owned and worked for various clock making companies until the mid-1800s.

There are no signatures on either the case or any of the movement parts, so it is uncertain that he was the one who did the actual work, but the style matches other clocks made by Ives and includes some pieces which he patented. Since the clock is dated to c.1834, the maker is identified as Birge & Ives from Bristol, Connecticut, where Ives worked for several years. The style of this clock is very unique, and since Ives was always involved in the design of cases, it is probable that Ives was involved in the design of this one as well. This clock's story just goes to show that you never know what new secrets will be uncovered amongst our many wonderful artifacts.



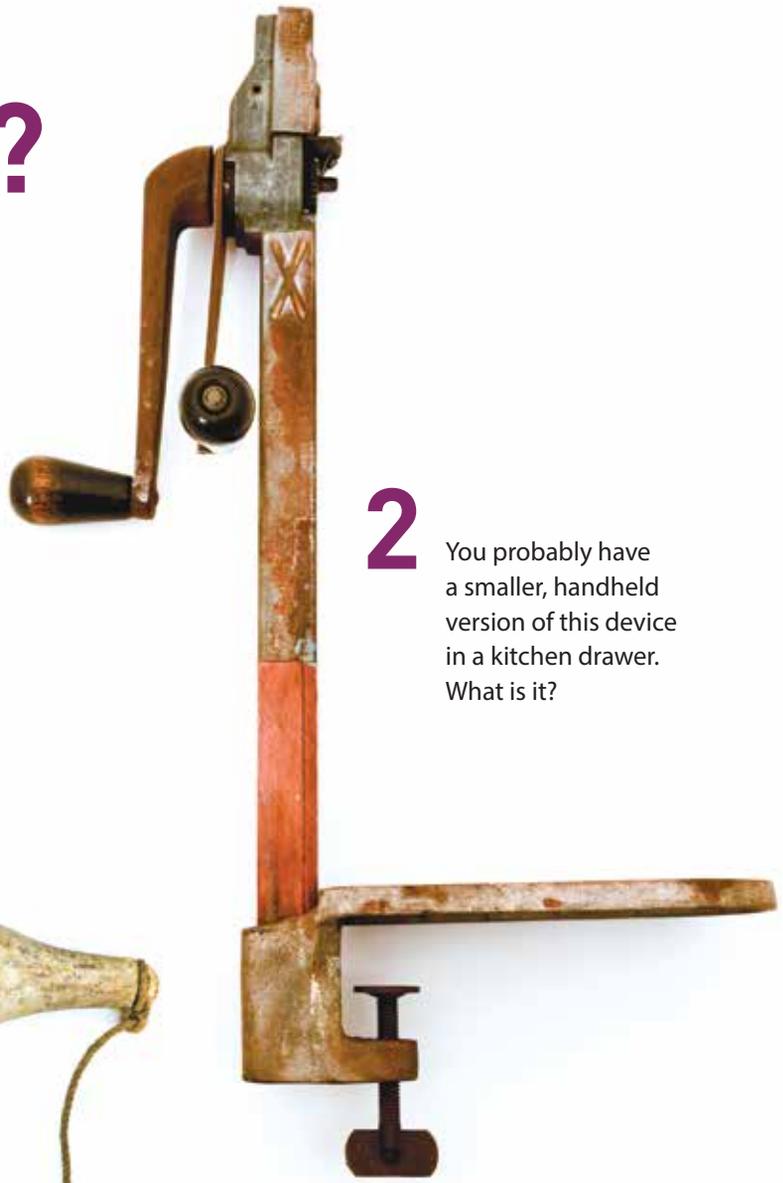
Clock, in wooden cabinet, c. 1834

WHAT IS IT?

1 This small tin device was necessary to be able to move around the house after the sun went down. What is it?



2 You probably have a smaller, handheld version of this device in a kitchen drawer. What is it?



3 For early farmers in Kalamazoo, this would have made transporting liquids easier. What is it?



1. Handheld lantern or lamp. Made of tin and two small handles, this candle lamp was safe and easy to carry.

2. Can opener. This commercial-sized can opener was manufactured by the Dazey Churn & Manufacturing Company in St. Louis, Missouri. According to the donor, it was used by Ward H. Nay of Kalamazoo to open paint cans.

3. Shoulder yoke. The yoke rested on a person's neck and shoulders. Buckets filled with water, milk, or sap hung from the hooks. The weight of the buckets was evenly distributed, making the load easier to carry. This 19th-century yoke belonged to one of the earliest Dutch families to settle in Kalamazoo, the den Bleykers.

FEATURED EVENTS

Check out the full calendar at kalamazoomuseum.org

SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS



GOOSE BUMPS! THE SCIENCE OF FEAR

Feb 6 – May 8, 2016

Why do our hearts race, our knees shake, and our bodies sweat when we are scared? Through fun, interactive challenges, visitors can experience and learn about fear in a safe environment.

Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear is developed by the California Science Center and supported by National Science Foundation.

KALAMAZOO GALS

Jan 23 – Apr 9, 2016

A story of extraordinary women and Gibson's Banner guitars of World War II.

FARES AND SQUARES: HISTORY OF CHECKER MOTORS

Apr 23 – Aug 21, 2016

A 1920s Checker cab will be featured in this history of Kalamazoo's contribution to the auto industry.

All exhibits are **FREE!**

MUSEUM EXPLORERS

5 – 8 p.m. *Featured guests appear at 6 p.m.*

Join the Museum Explorers for exhibit sneak previews and special events not usually offered to the general public. All you have to do is show up and sign up with your e-mail, and you'll get invitations to special happenings like these:



Friday, Feb 12:

KALAMAZOO'S TALENT

Meet Benjamin Yonattan from the 2015 America's Got Talent competition. See him dance, hear his story, and learn how he has conquered his fears as he continues to dance while losing his sight.

Friday, Apr 22:

TASTING KALAMAZOO HISTORY: IT'S 1884, DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOUR FOOD IS COMING FROM?

Ellie is back with recipes and food our Kalamazoo forbears might have enjoyed. Let's see how sustainable their food-sourcing was when Kalamazoo became a city!

HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS

Jan 9: The Great Freeze! 1 – 4 p.m. **FREE!**

Come in out of the cold for an afternoon of family fun! Enjoy a variety of winter-related crafts and go on a scavenger hunt through the Museum for cold-weather artifacts.

Jan 23: Festival of Health 12 – 4 p.m. **FREE!**

Take charge of your health! Join community experts and advocates to discover how you can be a healthier you.

Feb 6: Annual Storytelling Festival: Stories Gone Wild! 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. **FREE!**

An all-ages festival that will feature professional storytellers every hour from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Don't miss the Friday night kick-off (see Friday Night Highlights for details).

Feb 20: Monster Madness! 1 – 4 p.m. **FREE!**

Design, decorate, and create monsters that may or may not scare you!

Mar 5: Fretboard Festival 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. **FREE!**

Instrument designers, workshops, and live performances from area musicians run throughout the day! Don't miss the Friday night kick-off (see Friday Night Highlights for details).

Mar 19: St. Patrick's Day Party 1 – 4 p.m. **FREE!**

Enjoy the parade in the morning, then continue the party at the Museum in the afternoon! Holiday crafts, costumes, games, and more!

SPRING BREAK HANDS-ON HAPPENINGS 1 – 4 p.m. daily

The Creative Arts

Explore your creative side and let the artist in you come out!

- Apr 4: Visual
- Apr 5: Musical
- Apr 6: Dance
- Apr 7: Written
- Apr 8: Theater

Daily planetarium shows are \$3 per person:

Sky Legends of the Three Fires 1 p.m.

Stories from the Native American people of Michigan explain how stars were scattered across the sky.

Space Park 360 2 p.m.

Travel through a digital amusement park. across the sky.

Daily in the Challenger Learning Center for \$3 per person:

- Challenger Experience 1:30 p.m.
- Mars Mini-Mission 3 p.m.

June 4: AniMotion Festival 1 – 4 p.m. **FREE**

See us in the Do-Dah Parade, then come to the Museum for fun with Lego-themed animation you create yourself! Don't miss the Friday night kick-off (see Friday Night Highlights for details).

Visit kalamazoomuseum.org for details on all programs.

PLANETARIUM

FEATURE SHOWS:

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

Black Holes: The Other Side of Infinity

Jan 2 – Mar 18

Super computing technology takes the audience on a hunt for the ultimate cosmic monster – to the center of a black hole, a place humans can never venture.

Invaders of Mars

Mar 19 – Jun 17

Orbiting spacecraft from Earth and robotic landers explore the Martian surface.

FAMILY SHOWS

Mon – Fri at 11 a.m. (through March 18), Sat at 1 p.m., Sun at 2 p.m.

Secret of the Cardboard Rocket

Jan 2 – Mar 18

Two children build a rocket out of a cardboard box and take a fantastical voyage through the solar system with the help of a magical book and their own vivid imaginations.

Bear Tales

Mar 19 – Jun 12

Through stories, "grizzly" puns, and natural history, learn to identify constellations as they slowly drift across the springtime sky.

SEASONAL STARGAZING SHOW

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

Orion Nights

(through Mar 17)

During cold winter nights, the bright stars of Orion the Hunter twinkle overhead. Learn to find stars within the constellations.

The Artists' Sky

Mar 19 – Jun 16

As long as people have looked up into the sky, they have been inspired to create art. Experience the stars through the expression of story, song, painting, and music.

LASER LIGHT SHOWS IN THE PLANETARIUM:

Art Hop Fridays at 8 p.m.

Led Zeppelin

Jan 8 – May 6

All shows are \$3 per person.



JANUARY

FEBRUARY

MARCH

APRIL

SUNDAY SERIES

Mary Jane Stryker Theater



Still new: Second Sunday Science! Fourth Sundays are history and culture, with all new or updated topics. Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. and are FREE. Seating is limited. See detailed information online or pick up fliers at the KVM.

Jan 10:
Science and Technology Used in Teaching Students Who Have Visual Impairment
(Dr. Dawn Anderson)

Jan 24:
Lincoln in Bronson Park (Tom Dietz)

Feb 14:
Bi-racial Marriages: Narratives from Kalamazoo (Kalamazoo Valley Community College faculty and staff)

Feb 28:
Artifactory (Friends of Poetry and Tom Dietz)

Mar 13:
Rain Gardens/Rain Barrels – Conserve Water and Prevent Pollution (Jamie McCarthy)

Mar 27: Closed for Easter

Apr 10:
Avoiding Climate Chaos: The Threat of Global Warming and What We Can Do About It (Drs. Paul Clements, David Karowe, and Ronald Kramer)

Apr 24:
Tasting Kalamazoo History: Favorite Dishes & Recipes from Rich Midwestern Heritage
(Ellie Carlson)

May 8:
Invite a Monarch to Lunch – Plant a Milkweed (Ilse Gebhard)

May 22:
The Match-e-be-nash-she-wish: Looking Back, Looking Forward (John Shagonaby and David Brose)



CHALLENGER LEARNING CENTER

In memory of Alvin H. and Emily T. Little

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

PUBLIC PROGRAMS:

THE CHALLENGER EXPERIENCE

Young children and their grown-ups lift off from Earth, dock with a space station, and return to Earth – all in 20 minutes! Children under the age of 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. \$3 per person.

MINI-MISSIONS

This 45-minute session in the spacecraft simulator will fly you to Mars and back. For ages 8 and up. Just like real astronauts, the crew will read and follow directions to successfully complete their mission. Each child aged 8 to 11 must be accompanied by a partner aged 12 or older. \$3 per person.

PROGRAMS FOR GROUPS:

Reservations required

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.



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. – FREE**

***Friday Art Hop live music experiences begin at 6 p.m. – FREE**

***Laser Light shows begin at 8 p.m. – \$3 per person**

Jan 8: Fretboard Festival Play-In Contest at 5p.m.

Feb 5: Storytelling Festival Kick-Off with **The Storytellers' Musical Stories** at 5:30 p.m. and **Ralph Stocker, Sand Painting Stories**, at 7 p.m.

Calligraphy by Pen Dragons Calligraphy Guild

Mar 4: Fretboard Festival Kick-Off Concert with **The Crane Wives** (indie-folk-rock-pop) at 7 p.m.



Apr 1: **Mortals 2** (vintage rock, blues, and original music)



From Fractals to Forms Watercolor, oil, and acrylic paintings by Frankie Heynig

May 6: **Jared Knox Band** (country) **Feathership of the Wing Jewelry Exhibition** by LeeLee Joy



Jun 3: AniMotion Festival Kick-Off Event: **KVCC Student Animations with Legos** and **Who Hit John?** (original old time) See the KVM website for start times.

Recent Acquisition

WORLD WAR II MILITARY JACKETS

In 2014, Linda Law of Kalamazoo approached the Museum about donating her parents' World War II Army jackets for the permanent collection. Although not complete uniforms, the story behind the people who wore these jackets makes them truly unique.

When the United States entered World War II, American life changed instantly. Men joined the military, and women joined the workforce, taking up jobs left vacant by men going to war. Nearly 350,000 women joined the armed forces, many serving in the Army Nurse Corps.

The lives of Phillip Law of Kalamazoo and Dorothy (Dottie) Neher of New Berlin, New York, were changed forever by the events of World War II, and a chance encounter aboard a hospital ship would bring them together for over 50 years.

Dorothy Neher was born in Schenectady, New York, in 1922. She graduated from Syracuse University in 1943 and served as a First Lieutenant Nurse in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. Phillip Law was born in 1919 and was a Kalamazoo native. He attended business school in Kalamazoo and, even though blind in one eye, served in the U.S. Army as a Supply Sergeant on the *Wisteria*, a hospital ship, during the War. While exact details of their first meeting are not known, it was aboard the *Wisteria* that Phillip and Dorothy met.

The *Wisteria* first launched as the *William Osler* in March 1943. By 1944, the War Department acquired the ship and converted it to a hospital ship used to transport wounded soldiers and evacuees. The *Wisteria* was a floating hospital, complete with recreation rooms, diet kitchens, mess rooms, operating room, x-ray unit, laboratory, and dental suite. It could house approximately 600 patients and had a staff of 17 Army medical officers, 39 Army nurses, 159 enlisted men, 123 civilian crew members, four Army Signal Corps men, and two Army chaplains.

During the War, hospital ships had protected status under international agreements. The ships were painted with a green horizontal band and large red crosses on the sides, and they had to have "continuous illumination from sunrise to sunset." All hospital ships had their names changed to that of flowers. The Surgeon General at the time wanted their names to identify them as a hospital ship and not a naval vessel, and "Flowers indicate a quality



Above: Dorothy Neher (Law) and Phillip Law's World War II military jackets

*Right: Phillip & Dorothy aboard the *Wisteria**

*Below: The World War II hospital ship *Wisteria**



of mercy and from many are obtained curative drugs used in the treatment of the sick."

Dorothy and Phillip met aboard the ship during one of their many Atlantic crossings from 1944-1946 where they helped bring wounded and sick soldiers back from Italy and southern France. On July 3, 1946, Dorothy and Phillip married in New Berlin, New York. The couple settled in Phillip's hometown of Kalamazoo, where they raised their children. Phillip worked for Humphrey Products and the National Water Lift Company, and Dorothy continued her work as a registered nurse.

The jackets are not only a piece of World War II history, but also serve as a reminder of hope, optimism, and even love in the midst of war.

Burton Henry Upjohn CHILDREN'S LANDSCAPE

Mondays–Fridays 9 a.m.–3 p.m., 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.

CIRCLE TIME PROGRAMS

Mondays-Fridays at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m., and Saturdays at 11 a.m.

(No Circle Time during Spring Break, April 4-8, but play hours extended until 5 p.m. each day)

These literacy-based 20-minute programs are free of charge to families and preschool groups. Programs are designed for children ages 3 – 5 and may include stories, musical activities, games, and art projects.

December/January: Nursery Rhymes and Fairy Tales

February/March: Monsters • **April/May:** Opposites

Extended hours and limited program times during holiday breaks.

FESTIVAL OF HEALTH

Saturday, January 23, 12 – 4 p.m. FREE!

NEW DATE for your favorite healthy fun day at the KVM! Community experts and advocates provide information, games and activities for families.



MUSEUM EXPLORERS

Join the Museum Explorers for exhibit sneak previews and special events not usually offered to the general public. All you have to do is show up and sign up with your e-mail, and you'll get invitations to special happenings like these:

Friday, February 12: **Kalamazoo's Talent**



Benjamin Yonattan from America's Got Talent. Photo by Mark Bugnaski - MLive/Kalamazoo Gazette

Friday, April 22: **Tasting Kalamazoo History:**
It's 1884, Do You Know Where Your Food Is Coming From?



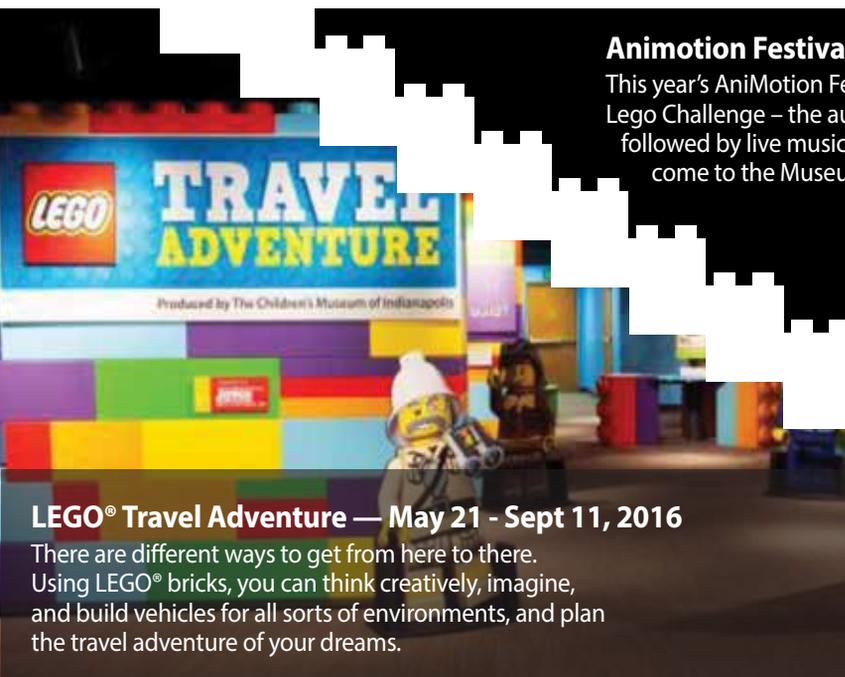
Ellie Carlson, historian and living history interpreter

Details are inside this issue and on our website.
Events are 5 – 8 p.m. and are FREE.
Special guest appearances begin at 6 p.m.



Animation Festival — June 3 & 4, 2016

This year's AniMotion Festival kick-off begins with the 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? On Saturday, see us in the Do-Dah Parade, then come to the Museum for fun with Lego-themed animation you create yourself!



LEGO® Travel Adventure — May 21 - Sept 11, 2016

There are different ways to get from here to there. Using LEGO® bricks, you can think creatively, imagine, and build vehicles for all sorts of environments, and plan the travel adventure of your dreams.



Kalamazoo VALLEY™ Museum

230 North Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 995
Kalamazoo, MI

It's festival time!

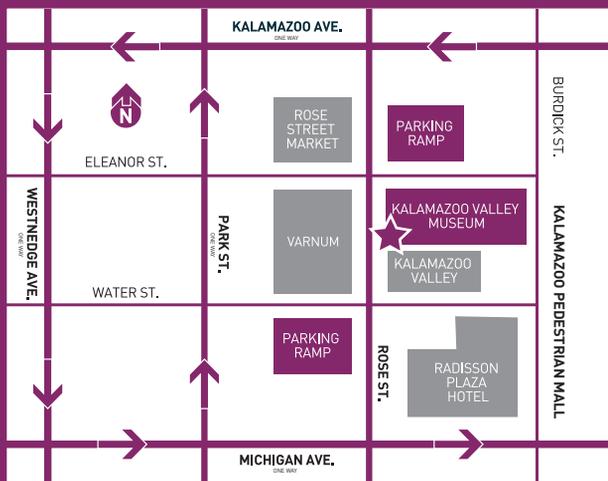
Chase away the winter blues with these two lively and entertaining festivals, not to be missed...



Storytelling Festival: Stories Gone Wild!
Friday and Saturday, February 5 & 6

Fretboard Festival
Friday and Saturday, March 4 & 5

Details are inside this issue and on our website. Admission and all performances are FREE.



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: Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve,
Christmas Day, and Easter*

Kalamazoo VALLEY™ Museum

230 North Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

269.373.7990 | 800.772.3370

www.kalamazoomuseum.org

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[@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

