

CURIOSITIES

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G. MENNEN WILLIAMS MACKINAC CELEBRATION JUNE 18

Mackinac Associates is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2022, and the biggest event on the Associates calendar is the annual G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration. So, for a special anniversary year, it seemed appropriate that the biggest event be held at a special location: the Michigan Governor's Summer Residence.

The Mackinac Celebration serves as the unofficial kick-off to summer. Like the past several years, Island House Hotel will cater the event, with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres beginning at 6:00 p.m. Portions of the residence will be available to tour during the cocktail hour.

Dinner will be served on the lawn of the Fort Mackinac Commanding Officers' Quarters at 7:30 p.m. under the tent.

For more information on the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration, or to purchase tickets, visit mackinacassociates.com or call 231.436.4100.

In addition, be sure to mark your calendars for other Mackinac Associates events: the annual Red, White, and Blue event outside Fort Mackinac on July 4; and the annual meeting on Mackinac Island on August 20. More information on these events will be available on mackinacassociates.com and in the e-news.



Dinner for the G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration will take place on the lawn of the Commanding Officer's House, across the street from the Governor's Residence.

200 YEARS: THE BEAUMONT AND ST. MARTIN STORY

2022 marks an important anniversary on Mackinac Island: 200 years since the accident that led to Dr. William Beaumont's famous experiments.

It was in June 1822 that a young man named Alexis St. Martin was shot. Dr. Beaumont, the post surgeon at Fort Mackinac, saved his life. This terrible accident set Beaumont and

St. Martin on a course of experimentation and discovery that remains crucial to medical science today. At the cost of St. Martin's permanent injury, Beaumont unlocked the secrets of human digestion. To commemorate this anniversary, the Dr. Beaumont Museum inside the American Fur Co. Store has been completely remodeled.

"We are excited to update this exhibit as part of our bicentennial celebration of this important event in medical history," said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks Director.

The exhibit stands in almost exactly the spot where St. Martin was accidentally shot. It will detail Beaumont's experiments and the scientific process, as well as the complicated relationship between Beaumont and St. Martin.

"This exhibit allows us to share the story of Dr. Beaumont and Alexis St. Martin in an exciting new way, with an expanded focus on the experiments and scientific discoveries that started on Mackinac Island," said Craig Wilson, Mackinac State Historic Parks' Chief Curator.

While the period setting of the American Fur Co. Retail Store will stay largely the same, the gallery space in the next room includes a number of new exhibit elements: original surgical implements similar to those employed by Dr. Beaumont; an interactive element



illuminating the unexpected "tools of the trade" Beaumont relied upon to perform his experiments; and a vintage diorama depicting Beaumont and St. Martin in the Stone Quarters at Fort Mackinac, which featured prominently in earlier exhibits.

Visitor's will also see a new logo for the American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, and large banners hanging outside the door commemorating the anniversary.

The new exhibit at the American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum was made possible, in part, through the generosity of Mackinac Associates and its members.

The American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum will be open daily 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. starting June 4 through August 20. As always, admission is free for Mackinac Associates members.



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MACKINAC JOURNEYS NOW OPEN AT ART MUSEUM

The opening of The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum saw the debut of *Mackinac Journeys*, the 2022 juried art exhibition in the changing gallery on the second floor.

Every Mackinac journey is unique. From lifelong residents to the novice first-timer, the journey to, around, and from Mackinac is always memorable. We encouraged artists working in all media to share with us their artistic visions of what a Mackinac journey meant to them. Of the 94 pieces submitted, 20 were selected by juror Vera Ingrid Grant for display.

“The annual contemporary art contest continues to support the mission of The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum by encouraging new artistic creations inspired by Mackinac Island,” said Steve Brisson, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. “I invite residents and visitors alike to tour the exhibition and enjoy this show during the 2022 season.”

Juror Grant is an independent scholar, curator, and writer. She most recently curated *Cullen Washington, Jr.: The Public Square* (2020); *Reflections: An Ordinary Day* (2019); *COLLECTION ENSEMBLE – a reinstallation of the permanent collection in Alumni Memorial Hall* (2019); and *Abstraction, Color, and Politics* (2019) for the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA); *Carrie Mae Weems: I Once was a Girl* (2017); *Harlem: Found Ways* (2017); *THE WOVEN ARC* (2016); and *Art of Jazz: NOTES*

(2016) at the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery at the Hutchins Center of Harvard University; and *The Persuasions of Montford* at the Boston Center for the Arts (2015). Grant was a fellow (2015-16) at the Center for Curatorial Leadership (CCL); a fellow at the Studio Museum in Harlem (2014); a Sheila Biddle Ford Foundation Fellow at the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute, Harvard University (2012); and a Visiting Scholar at the Center on Intersectionality and Social Policy, Columbia Law School, NY (2011). Grant has an MA in Modern European History from Stanford University with a concentration in comparative studies of race and visual culture and was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Hamburg. Grant served as Deputy Director for Curatorial Affairs, and curator of modern and contemporary art at the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) in 2018-19. Previously, she was the founding director of the Ethelbert Cooper Gallery of African & African American Art at the Hutchins Center, Harvard University.

“Right now I’m intrigued with projects that feature local and/or regional work, and how we may use our new virtual connections to share deeply and widely,” Grant said.

Grant will select a single Best of Show, second and third place, and three honorable mention awardees from the pieces displayed in the exhibition. Winners will be announced at the June 15, 2022 awards ceremony on Mackinac Island. The Best of Show winner will receive



Vera Grant

The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum Gold Medal and \$2,500 cash prize. Their name will be added to the list of annual Gold Medal winners, which is displayed at the museum. The second and third place winners will receive cash prizes of \$1,000 and \$750, respectively, and the three honorable mentions will receive cash prizes of \$250 each.

Mackinac Associates, along with the Mackinac Arts Council, donated the prize money. Associates members are welcomed and encouraged to attend the awards ceremony on June 15.



Phil and Valerie Porter

LEAVE A LEGACY

For the past 40 years I have had the opportunity to witness the outstanding support that Mackinac Associates has provided Mackinac State Historic Parks. Many major projects would not have been possible without the generosity of Mackinac Associates. In the midst of a rapidly changing world, Mackinac State Historic Parks, with the support of

Mackinac Associates, carries the important mantle of protecting, preserving, and presenting our rich history and magnificent natural resources for current and future generations. Valerie and I are honored to continue to support these efforts through annual appeals and the planned giving program.



DIRECTOR'S OUTLOOK: A WELCOME RETURN

In August 1929 eight Eagle Scouts marched into Fort Mackinac as the first contingent of the Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp. Among the group was future President Gerald Ford. Organized by Park Commission Vice Chairman Roger Andrews the program provided a unique opportunity for the scouts, allowing them to enjoy the wonders of Mackinac while completing a variety of service projects for the Park Commission. The annual camp proved so successful that in 1934 the commission constructed a scout barracks behind Fort Mackinac. The program lapsed for the next few years, due to funding shortages and Andrews' absence on the commission. However, it was fully revived in 1937, with Andrews' return and the financial support of Commissioner Lawrence Fisher. The following year the camp was opened to all Boy Scouts, not just those with the rank of Eagle.

Park Superintendent Carl Nordberg encouraged further development of the program in the 1940s. The Detroit Area Boy Scout Council was recruited to help administer the program and continues to have a special interest. Detroit Troop 194, in fact, has participated since 1942. The program evolved into a cherished Mackinac Island institution and continued to prosper through the joint support of the participating councils and the Park Commission. In 1961 and 1975 the barracks received much-needed renovations and expansions. In 1974, with the encouragement of First Lady Helen Milliken, Girl Scout troops were added to the program. Today, the weeks are nearly evenly split between Boy Scout and Girl Scout contingents.

It is gratifying that this program is nearly a century old and has benefited generations of young people, with over 42,000 participants. About 600 scouts per year spend a week apiece at the camp between Memorial Day and Labor Day. They raise and lower flags, assist at the entrances to our ticketed venues, serve at the Governor's Summer Residence during the

Wednesday tours, help with park cleanup, and complete service projects. A senior staff member, currently Group Tour Coordinator Cassie Boothroyd, coordinates booking the groups and provides administrative oversight. Other staff members who have directly supervised the program include Dave Armour, Phil Porter, and Katie Mallory. Since 1958 we have also employed a seasonal scout coordinator to supervise the daily operations and serve as liaison between each troop and park staff.

During the last two years, of course, none of this activity occurred. For the first time since 1936, the barracks stood empty. The barracks environment was too great a health risk under pandemic restrictions. It was a great blow not to have these eager young people as part of our team the past two years. We are pleased to have the program up and running again this year and



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very excited to welcome the scout troops back to Mackinac Island State Park. It is another example of a return to normalcy.

Following the expansions noted above, we have periodically updated the Scout Barracks over the years. It is once again in need of renovation. A major project is in the early planning stages which will include an addition to provide coed arrangements, update the kitchen, and add fire suppression. The project represents the value the Park Commission places on the camp as we near its centennial.

While the weekly structure of the camp is uniform, each troop has their own traditions. It is interesting to observe how each respond to the challenges and pleasures of being on Mackinac Island. The troops change over on Saturdays, and you will see each contingent marching either to or from the boat docks. If you spot them, give them a shout out and thank them for their service. It is our oldest all-volunteer program, and we are honored to have them as part of the Mackinac State Historic Parks' team.

PHOTO ALBUM: UPPER GUN PLATFORM CA. 1890

Cabinet cards were a popular souvenir item in the late 1800s and early 1900s. They first appeared in the late 1860s and were a thin photograph mounted on light or heavy card stock. Initially used to show landscapes, they eventually became popular for portraiture. This image from around 1890 of the upper gun platform at Fort Mackinac shows soldiers cleaning the cannons and admiring the view of the harbor. The recently completed Foley Brothers Studio is visible on the corner of Main and Fort Streets. Henry J. Rossiter operated a photographic studio on the island from the 1880s until around 1915. In addition to cabinet cards, Rossiter also produced and sold stereoviews which showed the image in three dimensions when viewed through a specialized handheld viewer. These images are important documentation of the changes to downtown and the island in general.



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In celebration of our 40th Anniversary, the board and staff of Mackinac Associates would like to recognize Club 200 – those that have been with us since the very beginning. The following members are still active today:

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Clark Blowski
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Dennis and Cynthia Cawthorne
John and Sheryl Childs
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