



# Spirit of Salem

A Publication of the **Salem Area Historical Society**

**P.O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175**

[www.sahshistory.org](http://www.sahshistory.org)

[Salem\\_Area\\_HS@yahoo.com](mailto:Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com)

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**"Keeping the Past Alive for Tomorrow"**

## 2024 Upcoming SAHS Schedule

- Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 PM, **SAHS Membership Meeting** at Salem Township Hall

This meeting is SAHS's annual Potluck Dinner and Business Meeting followed by Mike Nardelli's presentation about *Honey Bees*. Please bring a dish to pass, your own plates and flatware, and your drink.

- Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, **SAHS Membership Meeting** at Salem Township Hall

A SAHS Business agenda including a presentation titled *Entomology* by Erika Tucker, who has an informative blog about the insects and nature in our area. She will teach you more about these critters.

- Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 PM, **SAHS Membership Meeting** at South Salem Stone School

After the SAHS Business agenda, there will be a presentation titled *Thayer School* by Joe Oldenburg. Many Salem Township children attended this school and Joe will tell us about the school's history.

- Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 AM, **SAHS Trinkets to Treasures Community Yard Sale** at Jarvis Stone School Historic District

Applications are now being accepted to be a seller at this annual event.

## Message from the SAHS President

Sorry that this is the only edition of the Spirit of Salem newsletter this year. It has been a busy year which is detailed in this edition. In order to keep up this scope of events, we are looking for volunteers to assist. There will be many volunteer opportunities in 2024 with some only taking a few hours. The SAHS Board is compiling such a list and I will email it to members and will be asking for volunteers.

There are three big projects that SAHS will be doing in 2024. The first is to begin the process of creating an addendum to the *History of Salem* book that will cover the 50 years since its initial publication. The second is to complete and dedicate the State of Michigan Historical Marker Plaza. The third is to restart the Archive project with regular work sessions sorting and filing the material in the South Salem Stone School.

Thanks to all who have contributed their time, talents, and money to make Salem Area Historical Society the successful non-profit entity that it is today.

May you and your loved ones be blessed this season and may you enjoy a safe and loved-filled Holyday Season.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS!!**

Terry Cwik

# State of Michigan Historical Marker Plaza Project

Thank you to all who have worked on or contributed to this project. This project started with an idea in 2011 and hopefully will be completed in 2024. This is brief summary of the project timeline:

- Summer 2011 – SAHS Board decides to start the process
- Fall 2011 – Grant written for funding
- December 2011 – First Grant received
- September 2014 – Sue Bejin completed initial design of Marker Plaza
- Summer 2017 – Research began for Marker Application
- November 2018 – Six-Month Fundraising Campaign started
- December 2020 – Historical Marker Application sent to State of Michigan
- March 2022 – After submitting additional information, South Salem Stone School is approved
- June 2022 – After more rebuttal, Dickerson Barn is approved
- February 2023 – After 13 revisions, text for the marker is approved
- April 2023 – SAHS orders and pays for State of Michigan Historical Marker
- September 2023 – 4-Month Historical Marker Plaza Fundraising Campaign started
- September 2023 – Flagpole and Bell Tower posts installed
- October 2023 – Brick Pavers and Benches installed
- November 2023 – Historical Marker delivered

Now that the historical marker has arrived, the plan is to have it installed in the spring. The bell tower is under construction and completion is planned for spring.

The funding for project to date has been provided by the following:  
County Material Corporation,  
Rock Shoppe, Dul Foundation Fund,  
Salem Tool, Margaret DiPonio,  
GFL - Arbor Hills Landfill,  
AA Anchor Bolt, Anonymous,  
Community Foundation of  
Plymouth, Rocket Enterprise, Inc.,  
Domino's Pizza, Marcia Van Fossen,  
Dave Herriman, Terry Cwik & Diane Holmes, Memory of James Albert Brown, Brian & Jennifer Debler,  
and Gary & Sherry Whittaker. Donations are still being accepted. More information can be found on the SAHS Website: [SAHSHistory.org](http://SAHSHistory.org)



## **History of Salem Update Project**

The Salem Area Historical Society (SAHS) was formed in 1975 to celebrate the Bicentennial of the Declaration of Independence by the United States of America. One of the Society's first efforts was to research and publish a book titled the **History of Salem**. With the Semiquincentennial coming in 2026, the SAHS Board is asking everyone for their assistance in creating an addendum to this book that will cover the time period since 1976. Anybody can research and submit a write-up that covers this time period. The length of the submission can vary based upon the topic. Photographs can be included. Students are encouraged to coordinate a submission with a school project/assignment. The submissions will be edited and compiled by the SAHS into the addendum. If you are interested in this project or seek more information about this project, please send an email to [Salem\\_Area\\_HS@yahoo.com](mailto:Salem_Area_HS@yahoo.com). The following is a list of some of the possible topics that could be covered. If you have other topics, please send them to us.

Salem Families	Hamlet Sewer System	Obstbaum Orchards	Three Cedars Farm
Salem Farms	Urban Services Dist.	Willow Greenhouse	Salem Elementary
Salem Area Hist. Society	Salem Farm Preserve	Veterinarians	Salem Airport
•South Salem Stone Schl	Shatter Family Preserve	•Country Cat Clinic	Plane Crashes in Salem
•Dickerson Barn	Creekshead Nature Prse	•Remrock Farms Vet	U.S. Post Office
•J S S Historic District	M-14	•Salem Vet Services	Churches
Neighborhoods	Salem Township Maps	Industrial Businesses	•Salem Bible
•Beacon Hills	2020-1 COVID Pandemic	•Arbor Hills Landfill	•Salem Congregational
•Wellington	Salem Community Events	•Calo & Sons Const.	•Tri-County Baptist
•Salem Woods Drive	•Salem Flag Day Parade	•AA Anchor Bolt	•Christ Temple Church
•Hidden Ridge	•Christmas with Santa	•Salem Tool	•Our Savior Apostolic Lu.
•Salem Farms Drive	Salem Promise	•Alumitect Industries	•Mile City
•Wilderness Drive	Karl's Cabin	•Gardner-Westcott	•Salem Walker
•Abi Lane	Convenience Stores	•Storage Facilities	Salem Veterans
•Lapham Way Estates	•The Store	•All American Storage	•Korean
•Saddle Ridge Road	•Country Fair Market	•Plymouth Salem Storage	•Vietnam
•Pinecrest Estates	•Fox Hills Market	•Salem RV	•Gulf War - Desert Storm
•Northville Crossing	•Edith's Market	Gas Stations	•Iraq
Conant Farm Hist. Dstr.	Golf Courses	Rock Shoppe	•War in Afghanistan
Rider House	•Fox Hills	Riding Stables	
Salem Township Hall	•Salem Hills	•Willowbrooke Farm	
Salem Township Officials	•Downing Farms	•Twin Elm Training	
Salem Township Fire Dpt	•Brea Burn	•Meadowlark Equestrian	

## **Recap of Recent SAHS Events**

### **SAHS 2022 Christmas Party ☺**

The Salem Area Historical Society 2022 Events concluded on **December 4<sup>th</sup>** with its Annual Membership Christmas Party. This event was held at the South Salem Stone School and was attended by 16 members. Pat Hatala was presented the Salem Area Historical Society Honoree Award in recognition for her many years of dedication and service to the SAHS. It was an enjoyable afternoon of friendship shared in a Christmas atmosphere with food and drinks.



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### **SAHS January 2023 Meeting**

On Wednesday, **January 25<sup>th</sup>**, Salem was blanketed with 8” of snow during the day. Thus, the SAHS’s meeting with our annual Pot-Luck Dinner at the Salem Township Hall was only attended by 4 people. It was concluded by Dale Leslie, a Dixboro native, using his YouTube Channel to show a video about his family and its family business, Leslie Supplies. Dale explained how one can use still photographs, old audio recordings, and photos from the internet to create an interesting video about an historic topic.

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### **SAHS February 2023 Meeting**

On Wednesday, **February 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Salem was blanketed with a late afternoon ice storm, thus greatly reducing the attendance in the Salem Township Hall to only 8. The meeting concluded

with a presentation by Phil Weitlauf, founder of the Michigan War Dog Memorial non-profit. He talked about the start of the pet cemetery on Milford Road and 11 Mile Road in 1936, its decline in the 1990s and 2000s, his discovery of it in 2011, the work to restore it, the mission of the MWDM non-profit, and the burial services for the military and first responder dogs. Attendees were treated to a salute by four MWD dogs.



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### **SAHS March 2023 Meeting**

On Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, in the Salem Township Hall, SAHS with 11 attending held a membership meeting and its annual election. The SAHS officers elected for 2023/4 are: Terry Cwik, President; Bryan Wirthlin, VP; Janet Bernardino, Secretary; Sue DiMilia, Treasurer; Marlene Donoghue, Officer-At-Large. This was followed by a presentation titled “Michigan’s Most Dangerous Women“ by Tobin Buhk. Tobin talked about the 34 women who were housed in the Detroit House of Corrections (DeHoCo) while it was located in Detroit from 1861 to the late 1920’s. There were 34 women sentenced to life during that time. Most were convicted of murdering a husband or lover. The majority of the murders were by poison, which was available through pharmacies of the time. The vast majority of them were released via a pardon and a few by parole.

## SAHS April 2023 Meeting

On Wednesday, **April 26<sup>th</sup>**, at the South Salem Stone School, SAHS held a membership meeting with a presentation and readings by Russell Doré about his book, “They Put America In The Air; Behind the Scenes Building the Commercial Aircraft Industry with The Wright Brothers, Bill Boeing & Donald Douglas.” He covered the time period from Wright’s first flight in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to the present. Topics included the early airline companies and their planes, the change from mail delivery to passenger and mail delivery to passenger-only planes, the first presidential plane for FDR, and the jet airplane. The topic was of much interest to those seven in attendance.

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## Trinkets to Treasures Yard Sale

On Saturday, **May 20<sup>th</sup>**, SAHS held its a community yard sale. This was a successful group effort lead by Sue DiMilia. There were 9 neighbors selling their “Trinkets” along with SAHS selling the items donated for sale. The sellers, the buyers, the lookers and the SAHS volunteers were entertained all day with music and singing by Marty Raymond and Eva Greene. This event netted \$556 for the SAHS.



## SAHS May 2023 Meeting

On Wednesday, **May 24<sup>th</sup>**, in the South Salem Stone School SAHS held a membership meeting with the presentation to the 15 attendees on “The Salem Train Wreck of 1907” by Joe Oldenburg. The Pere Marquette Railroad shops in Ionia had an outing to Belle Isle for its workers and their families. 800 people in 11 cars left Ionia (near Lansing) at 6AM for a train ride to Detroit with an estimated arrival time of 10AM. Around 9:13 AM, the east-bound excursion train passed through Salem and continued through the Van Sickle cut (just north of 5 mile and east of Napier in Northville Township), and was struck head on by a westbound freight train. Although the wreck occurred in Northville Township, the wreck is named after the last station through which the train passed; therefore, it is called the Salem Train Wreck. The crash resulted in two train cars that telescoped, one car was almost standing on end, and two that were crosswise on the track. 28 people died on scene with 100 injured. Eventually 34 people died as a result of the accident. At the inquest, in addition to the error of the train schedule, the structural integrity of the train cars, which were made of poplar and yellow pine without steel structure, was questioned. After the accident, the workers from the railroad company removed damaged vehicles and burned damaged cars. Pere Marquette Railroad initially said they would not pay damages, but they eventually settled with the families of the dead and injured. Pam Yockey brought the original book showing the settlements made by the company. This train wreck was the worst train wreck in Michigan history.



## Arts & Crafts Fair

On Saturday, **August 19<sup>th</sup>**, the Salem Area Historical Society's Arts & Crafts Fair was held on the grounds of the Jarvis Stone School Historic District. This year's event included a Bake Sale in the school and a basket raffle. The Fair had 32 vendors, who experienced a steady flow of customers and SAHS netted \$1,650. Once again, we were entertained all day with music and singing by Marty Raymond and Eva Greene.

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## SAHS Annual Barn Dance

This Year's Annual Barn Dance on Friday, **September 8<sup>th</sup>**, featured the playing of the Picks and Sticks and dance calling by David Smith. Our special THANKS to Gary Whittaker and his staff at Three Cedars Farm for hosting this charitable and family fun event.



## SAHS September 2023 Meeting

On Wednesday, **September 28<sup>th</sup>**, SAHS's meeting included a presentation by Duane O'Parka, President of the Brighten Chapter of Rolling Thunder. He explained the history of Rolling Thunder, how it was started, why it was started, and what are their future plans.

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## SAHS Annual Dinner/ Auction

On Sunday, **October 1<sup>st</sup>** at the Salem Hills Golf Club, the 36 attendees purchased 54 auction items. As has been the case in the past, this was

once again the largest annual fundraiser for the SAHS with a net income of \$2,757.



## SAHS October 2023 Meeting

The October 25<sup>th</sup> meeting began early with a demonstration of Pampered Chef household items, sauces and recipes by their local representative, Maureen Kimmel. She had laid out a table of appetizers for members and guests to sample while she illustrated the usefulness of items in the Pampered Chef catalog. The monies from member and guest purchases this night and for several days after the meeting were donated as a fundraiser for SAHS. After her sumptuous demo, the meeting continued with a fast-paced Salem history game of "SWITCH" patterned after the nightly show of the same name on the Game Show Network. Five players volunteered from the attendees to participate in the contest by answering question on Salem Township history. Bryan Wirthlin was the winner of a basket of goodies.

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## SAHS 2023 Christmas Party

The Salem Area Historical Society held its Annual Membership Christmas Party on **December 4<sup>th</sup>**. Due to two days of rain the venue was changed from the South Salem Stone School to the home of Diane and Terry and was attended by 11 members. With Christmas music playing. The group enjoyed an afternoon of friendship while soaking up the Christmas atmosphere with talk, food, and drinks.

## **Excerpt from SAHS Publication**

Salem Area Historical Society Publication: *The History of the South Salem Stone School*

By: **Jean Bemish**

Date: Historical Monograph No. XII 2002

“One of 10 one-room rural school districts in continuous operation in Washtenaw County for more than a century, Salem Township District No. 3 convened an elementary class for 138 consecutive years from 1829-1967. The present building housed classes from 1857 to 1967.

A dispute among the old pioneers as to where the first Salem No. 3 school house was located has never been definitely settled. However, it is quite generally believed that the school at Bullock’s Corner (North Territorial and Curtis Rds.) built in 1829 and first taught by Charles Dean was the first school. It was located on the opposite corner from the present South Salem Stone School.

...

The present South Salem Stone School has remained unchanged in its exterior appearance since it was built of locally found stone and boulders in 1857. But the interior of the unusually substantial structure has been made as up-to-date as that of any Ann Arbor sprawling new elementary schools by progressive Salem Board of education over the years.

The building’s first heat was furnished by the then tried and tested “Box Stove.” The stove was placed on a brick foundation in the center of the floor, where it hungrily consumed as many as five three-foot logs in a single cold winter’s morning.

The first seats were double, but students were not allowed to prompt one another in recitation of the complete multiplication tables through the 14s. Perfect memorization of these and the rules for multiplication, division and other mysterious processes was an early graduation requirement.

...

Foxes, deer, wild turkeys, and other game animals were so common in the early days that the settlers used to shoot the while standing in their doorways. This practice considerable enlivened classes of the three or more male teachers who were not adverse to interrupting class to bring down a buck from the school house door.

When this occurred, the rest of the day’s class was usually devoted to the finer points of skinning and dressing the deer, with ample “laboratory time” available to all the students.

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## **SAHS Publications**

If you would like to read the entire *The History of the South Salem Stone School*, you can purchase it and any or all of the other SAHS publications on the SAHS Website Publications Page ([https://sahshistory.org/?page\\_id=114](https://sahshistory.org/?page_id=114)).

# Members of the Salem Area Historical Society - 2023

Salem Area Historical Members can purchase a Lifetime Membership or an annual Memberships, which expires on March 31<sup>st</sup> of each year. Those Lifetime Salem Area Historical Members become “Members into Perpetuity” upon their death.

## Members into Perpetuity

Donoghue, Wally  
Holland, Lee  
Klassen, Keith  
Kruse, Billy  
Skelly, Jerry & Marge

## Lifetime Members

Ascher, David & Kimberly  
Bourgoin, Leonard  
Brautigam, Michael & Cindy  
Cwik, Terry & Diane  
Debler, Jennifer & Brian  
Donoghue, Marlene  
Griffith, Mark & Jane  
Heyl, JoAnn & Bob  
Muirhead, O'Neil  
& Berry, Sue  
Murray, Jim  
Uherek, Paul J.  
Van Fossen, Debbie  
Van Fossen, Marcia  
& London, Elwood

## Annual Members

Aznavorian, Kathy & Michael  
Baker, Laurence  
Bejin, Sue & Geary, Mike  
Bernardino, Janet  
Brown, Marcella  
Bultman, Chuck  
Cook, Barbara E. & Danny J.  
Cross, Faye M.  
DeGrazia, Claudia  
DeLancey, Merton & Ann  
DiMilia, Jim & Sue  
DiPonio, Margaret  
Donoghue, Amy  
Doré, Russell  
Drogs, Linus  
Eaton, Bill  
Gierman, Helen  
Gonzales, Sandra M.  
Gustafson, Michael  
Hatala, Pat  
Hill, Susan & Mark  
Hufnagel, Stephen  
Humecky, Morgan & Sherry  
Keller, Crystal & Hockey, Randy  
Kimmel, Maureen  
Kryka, Sr., Anton J. "Tony"  
Kwantes, Cathy & Ellens, Dan  
Lau, Jo & David  
McCrary, Bob & Marcia

Michalek, James  
Michno, Aileen  
Moebs, Barbara & Lawrence  
Nardelli, Laura & Michael  
Obarzanek, Laura  
Packard, Garry  
Pearson, Bradley J.  
Raymond, Sandra & Marty  
Ringo, Chris & Tom  
Roberts, Steve  
Ryskamp, Lynda  
Sanctorum, Carol & Joe  
Schroeder, Ellen  
Shepherd, Doug & Toni  
Skelly, James  
Staebler, David  
Theeke, Tina & Herman  
Truman, Cynthia & Bob  
Turppa, Marie-Louise  
Van Sickle, Tillie  
Waite, Bob & Beverly  
Whittaker, Gary & Sherry  
Williams, Kay & Karl  
Wirthlin, Bryan & Kristina  
Yockey, Pam

## **Elections of the Salem Area Historical Society**

The Salem Area Historical Society has begun its search for next year's slate of officers with self-nominations and its election at our Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to hold and execute the duties of one of these offices for the 2024/5 Membership Year (April 1st to March 31st), you need to be a current member of the SAHS for at least the last two membership years and you need to contact one of the current SAHS Board Members on or before January 24<sup>th</sup> and indicate your desire to run for one of these positions.

The Salem Area Historical Society's current Board of Officers encourages you to nominate yourself and for you to encourage others to nominate themselves. The satisfaction of being part of the team that is preserving Salem's past for the future is a great reward for the amount of time that is needed to fulfill the duties of the office. Files describing the duties of each position can be found on [SAHS Membership](#) page of the SAHS Website.

## **Jarvis Stone School Historic District Maintenance**

In 2023, the Salem Area Historical Society, once again, completed maintenance projects at the Jarvis Stone School Historic District. Besides the normal landscaping upkeep and fire extinguisher



maintenance, Sue DiMilia, Terry Cwik, Bryan Wirthlin and his helpers installed a new floor in the green shed while cleaning it out and organizing the contents of the shed. Also, due to storm damage, the roof of the north extension to the school needed to be replaced along with the fascia and soffit.



## **Panic Haunted Experience**

Jen and Brian Debler along with Bryan Wirthlin hosted the Panic Haunted Experience north of Seven Mile Road in October. Although four of the five days had poor weather, those that did attend enjoyed the haunted experience in the woods.

**SAHS Trinket to Treasures Yard Sale Application**  
**Saturday, May 18, 2024 - 9 AM to 2 PM**

**7991 North Territorial Road, Plymouth 48170 - Salem Twp.**  
**(Northwest corner of North Territorial & Curtis Roads)**

SAHS Member Fee: \$10 per 15' x 15' space  
Non-Member Fee: \$15 per 15' x 15' space

Space sizes are approximate. You need to bring your own tables and chairs.  
There is no electricity. Set up time 8:15 – 9:00 AM.

**Applications due by May 10, 2024.**

**Sorry, no refunds, unless SAHS cancels the event.**

Make check payable to: **Salem Area Historical Society**

Mail to: **SAHS, P. O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **1 space / \$15 (\$10 members) x** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of spaces =** \_\_\_\_\_ **(total)**

**Check #:** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like us to contact you by email regarding other SAHS events?

\_\_\_\_\_ **Yes**      \_\_\_\_\_ **No**

If you have any questions, please contact  
[SAHS.YardSale@gmail.com](mailto:SAHS.YardSale@gmail.com) or  
visit the Salem Area Historical Society  
website [www.sahshistory.org](http://www.sahshistory.org) for sale  
and membership applications.



Please use the form below to join us as a member of the Salem Area Historical Society for 2024.

New and Renewing SAHS Annual Memberships will last until March 31, 2025. Consider becoming a SAHS Lifetime Member. SAHS is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and contributions to it may be tax deductible. You can also use this form to send your tax-deductible donation to the Salem Area Historical Society. You are encouraged to make copies and distribute this form to your family and friends. Another option is to join using the form on our Website or via PayPal where a credit card can be used: [SAHS Membership Page](#)

## SAHS Membership Application

**Make check payable to: Salem Area Historical Society Mail to: SAHS, P. O. Box 75011, Salem, MI 48175**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **email ID:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Fee:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Membership Type:**  
**+ Donation:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 per Senior \_\_\_ \$15 per Individual \_\_\_  
**Amount Enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 per Family \_\_\_  
\$50 per Business/Organization \_\_\_ and  
\$300 Lifetime Membership per Couple \_\_\_

Salem Area Historical Society  
P.O. Box 75011  
Salem, MI 48175

President	Cwik, Terry
Vice President	Wirthlin, Bryan
Secretary	Bernardino, Janet
Treasurer	DiMilia, Sue
Member At-Large	Marlene Donoghue