



# CLARKE HISTORICAL LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

**January 2014**

(Best viewed on-line)

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## Spring Semester Hours

The Clarke is now open for the spring semester. Our regular hours are Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, beginning January 18. Stop by to consult our bevy of resources concerning Michigan history, children's literature and texts, and Central Michigan University history or have a look at our current exhibit!

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## Our Front Porch Exhibit Ending Soon

The current exhibit, *Our Front Porch*, will be ending at the end of January. Among the most beloved of CMU radio programs, *Our Front Porch* began over thirty years ago, with the simple goal of giving local musicians a venue to showcase their talent and share their music. Over the years, the program has



become a major sponsor of live concerts throughout mid and northern Michigan, often partnering with like-minded groups such as the Wheatland Music Organization. The program has become a showcase for folk, blues and bluegrass, Cajun, zydeco, and Celtic music.

This exhibit celebrates the program through the stunning photography of Peggy Brisbane and Robert Barclay, who, for years, have photographed the concerts sponsored by *Our Front Porch*. In addition visitors can select and hear recordings from each of the show's musical genres using an interactive sound system. The music, selected by John Sheffler (with a little help from his friends), features some of the program's most memorable performances, as well as a few personal favorites.

The *Our Front Porch* exhibit celebrates the donation of the program recordings to the Clarke Library, where they will be preserved and made available for future listeners. WCMU Radio serves as a media sponsor of the exhibit. In addition the exhibit is underwritten, in part, by the Cindi J. and Kathryn R. Graham Endowment, with additional support from the Croll Family Endowment and the Friends of the CMU Libraries.

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## New Exhibit Coming in February

A new exhibit of favorite items from the Clarke will be installed in February. We will display a collection of the favorite books and items found in the Clarke, selected by CMU faculty, staff, and students as well as members of the local Mount Pleasant community and beyond. Stay tuned to the [News and Notes blog](#) for more details.

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## Spring 2014 Speakers Announced

We have planned a slate a great speakers who will be joining us this Spring for the Clarke Speaker Series. On February 24, Michigan artist Patricia Lay Dorsey will discuss her battle with multiple sclerosis, which she has documented through her photography, and the impact this battle has had on her life.

We will also hear from Michigan author Don Faber on March 5, who will talk about his book, *The Boy Governor: Stevens T. Mason and the Birth of Michigan Politics*, a biography about Michigan's first governor, and the youngest man in American history to be the chief executive of a state.

On March 17, William Rapai, author of *The Kirtland's Warbler: The Story of a Bird's Fight Against Extinction and the People Who Saved It*, will come to discuss the story of a great team who helped restore this endangered bird's limited breeding habitat in the northern Lower Peninsula.

The Clarke will also host a presentation about the history of Gentle Friday and the rise of the activism on the CMU campus in the 1960s and 1970s.

Keep up with the latest news and updates via the [Clarke Historical Library website](#), [News and Notes blog](#), and this newsletter.

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## Recent News Posted on the Clarke Blog

Make sure to check out our recent [blog posts](#) from December, which include the story of [CMU's Warriner Hall chimes](#), a tale of [Lt. M. R. Kelso, the Navy V-12 Program, and Sadie the cocker spaniel](#), and a remembrance of the [100th anniversary of the Calumet Italian Hall Disaster](#). This month, we will share a story of an Aladdin Home in Northville and the 35th Anniversary of Muhammad Ali visiting CMU's campus among others. Stay tuned!

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