



Here but Hibernating

After much discussion, the Raven Hill Board has made the difficult decision to “hibernate” for 12 months, so that everyone can stay socially distant from one another and the Center can safely open a year from now with a plan for whatever the future brings. Opening for this 2020 spring and summer season would be difficult in this time of social distancing. Fall and winter are slow times, so opening in the spring of 2021 in time for spring field trips, discovery camps and summer visitors, seems to be the best option for the Center at this point in time, if that is feasible. Work is going on behind the scenes and your continued support is appreciated. Check us out daily on Facebook and the website (www.MiRavenHill.org) for informal learning activities, photo memories, history pages, updates and more. We may also be reached via email (info@miravenhill.org) or phone: 231.675.6025. Stay safe and keep in touch, everyone.

Labor Days Exhibit Rescheduled to 2021

In 2019, Raven Hill Discovery Center was one of ten sites in the United States selected to collaborate on a pilot project with the Smithsonian’s Museum on Main Street’s program. The project’s purpose is to create an exhibit about the national & local history of work. **Labor Days: A History of Work** will chronicle the rise & fall of work in northern Michigan and how it relates to work in the rest of the state, the nation

and around the world. After consulting with Smithsonian staff, the **Labor Days** exhibit has been rescheduled to August & September of 2021, due to COVID-19. Raven Hill Discovery Center is working behind the scenes on the research & design of the exhibit, as well as related exhibits, programs and events during this “down time”.



Checkers has enjoyed several Zoom sessions with local classrooms!

All Events & Programs Postponed

All 2020 Raven Hill events and programs, including the June 6th Garden Party; Luke Buck’s Watercolor Workshop; all Discovery Camps and the August 2nd Pedal, Pig, and Pint Bike Event have been postponed until 2021, due to the continuing COVID pandemic. Look for bigger, better events and programs next year. We will reopen in 2021 with the Garden Party and Watercolor Workshop in June; Discovery Camps throughout the summer and the Bike Event in August. Stay tuned for updates as Raven Hill plans for the future.



Alive, Well and Working

Not only can you check us out on Facebook and look on the website for Home Learning Opportunities, Photo Memories, History Pages, and more, you can also call and make an appointment to come walk the grounds, schedule a “Museum To Go” bin for pick up or delivery OR pick a time for the kids to Zoom, Skype or FaceTime with Checkers or Spike!



Air exerts pressure. More air outside pushes water into glass, where there is less pressure—flame uses up oxygen in air!

Raven Hill Classroom Goes Online

The stay at home orders have been hard on families, as parents have had to become teachers and children have had to learn to learn remotely. Raven Hill has stepped up to the plate and is providing some fun, hands-on learning for kids and adults. With their mission in mind: to provide a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts, Raven Hill is coming into homes via their website (www.MiRavenHill.org) and Facebook. Cheri Leach, Director of Programming, is doing what she loves best: teaching! She has gone back into the “classroom” and is sharing her favorite school lessons with families everywhere. From air pressure to pioneer toys to May baskets, each lesson uses items found in most homes to illustrate science, history and art concepts, often pulling in snippets of information that make fascinating connections for students of all ages.

Observation Wall Installation Progresses

In 1995, antique printing equipment—linotype and letter press—was donated to Raven Hill, along with drawers of type. The Print Shop was built to house the equipment. The machinery is in working order, but lately it has been covered with plastic and the Print Shop area has been used for glass and metal classes. Most glass classes are now taught in the Main Museum building. The metal work is being moved to its new location in the Work Shop area, so that there will soon be a dedicated Wood Shop, Metal Shop and Print Shop. Thanks to a grant awarded by the Baiardi Family Foundation, work has begun on an Observation Wall in the Print Shop, so that the linotype, letterpress and type cases can be uncovered and on display in a dust-free environment. The smaller tabletop press, litho press and other equipment will eventually be out in the hands-on area for classes—for both historical and artistic printing applications!



Visitors will be able to see the antique Linotype and letter press, once the Observation Wall is completed!!

Backstories

Usually, there isn't enough time in the day to record the backstories of Raven Hill. The history or background behind the facilities and exhibits exist in the mind of the founders and need to be recorded for future visitors. This has been said many times over the years, but time to do it has always been the problem. Now, there is time! Staying home and staying safe has provided a unique moment in time to get backstories on paper. Go to the Center's website and check out our latest Photo Journal page or email cheri@miravenhill.org to request the series. Each page features some aspect of Raven Hill, such as the Ancient World, Jurassic Park or the Print Shop. There are pictures and a short explanation of how things came to be. While it isn't the complete backstory, it does "hit the highlights" and it's definitely a step in the right direction!



The Moai or Easter Island head was built in 2006 by middle school girls working with an artist.

Look into the Past



Out for a drive in 1911

Raven Hill recently started posting a History Journal page on the website (www.MiRavenHill.org). Each day, a picture or group of pictures is featured. Viewers are encouraged to look closely at the details in each photo to get an idea of what life was like during that particular time and place, be it a car from 1911 or a Cross Cut Drag Saw from 1895. As they say, "the devil is in the detail", so look close and see how much you notice, BEFORE you read the text at the bottom of the page! THEN, look back at the picture and see how much more detail you notice!

This Gift of Time

John O'Leary, opinion contributor for USA Today, said "**the pandemic is a chance for us to focus on what truly matters.....**The pandemic has forced us to slow down and become introspective....it (this pandemic) reminds us how fragile life is, as well as the extraordinary gift that life is.....it (COVID-19) has given us a season to reevaluate what we once knew to be important and to rediscover what matters most." Raven Hill is thinking positively and taking advantage of this gift of time to do just that: slow down, reevaluate and rediscover. We appreciate your continued support during these uncertain times.



Marsh Marigolds



Despite being closed, the Animal Room continues to require TLC—tender loving care!

Thanks for Your Support

When Raven Hill closed its doors to the public on March 13, 2020, deciding to reopen in spring 2021, its income was majorly impacted. In 2018-19, revenues from spring field trips, family admissions, discovery camps, classes, exhibits and outreach accounted for \$122,206 or about 55% of the Center's total revenue. This spring & summer, that revenue will totally evaporate. So far, both the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation (\$5,000) and Michigan Humanities HOPE program (\$7,500) have stepped up with emergency relief funding for Raven Hill. Grant applications for operational support will soon go out to the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs and Charlevoix County Community Foundation, as well as to other funding sources, as we become aware of them. The Center has received \$13,900 through the Payroll Protection Plan or CARES Act. All of this will help cover the \$93,000 needed to cover the basic expenses, like utilities, insurance, maintenance, salaries and get Raven Hill through to next spring.

Meanwhile, staff and volunteers are thinking positively and working as they can, in anticipation of a grand reopening in spring 2021 and an awesome Smithsonian **Labor Days** exhibit in August & September of 2021. Please remember Raven Hill and help us thru these uncertain times with a membership or a donation. Checks can be sent to Raven Hill, 4737 Fuller Rd, East Jordan, MI 49727. Alternatively, you can make a donation on the website (www.MiRavenHill.org) or call Cheri at 231.675.6025 to make a credit card contribution. Thank you in advance for supporting Raven Hill.



Raven Hill Memberships and Donations 2020

During this COVID-19 pandemic, in support of educational programming, please accept my/our membership contribution. All memberships will be valid for two years.

Name/s _____ Company _____

Address _____ City, State, Zip _____

Email address (to receive updates) _____ Phone _____

Membership Levels (Check One): Individual (\$45) Family (\$95) Grandparents (\$115)
 Generations (\$155) Discovery Circle (\$250+) Sponsor Circle (\$500+) Raven Circle (\$1000+)

I would like to add a donation of \$ _____. Please indicate how you would like the additional donation allocated by filing in the appropriate amount/s in the blanks below.

\$ _____ Unrestricted COVID-19 \$ _____ in Memory or Honor of _____

\$ _____ Facilities \$ _____ Programs \$ _____ Grant Matches \$ _____ **Labor Days** Exhibit

TOTAL AMOUNT (membership + donation, if any) \$ _____

Please make your check payable to Raven Hill Discovery Center, 4737 Fuller Road, East Jordan, MI 49727. All gifts are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law. Thank you. For more info, call 231.536.3369.

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