

THE FUTURE OF HISTORY



Lakeshore
Museum Center

Our mission is to tell the story of Muskegon County by collecting, preserving and interpreting the history of its people and natural environment.

JUNE VOL. 21 ISSUE 2 2021



MUSEUMS MAKE YOU WONDER.

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COMMUNITY**

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SERVING OUR COMMUNITY

In Non-Traditional Ways

04

I am very proud to be leading the Lakeshore Museum Center, even during these crazy times. The staff that work here are smart, creative, and amaze me on a daily basis. An example of their creativity comes in a new program that the museum will pilot this June. Time Well Served was a concept for over two years that began as a seed planted from inspiration found at a museum conference.

Time Well Served is a unique partnership with the Muskegon County Sherriff's Department. The idea is to allow mothers who are currently incarcerated to visit with their children at the museum instead of in the jail. The goal is to provide children with a safe, fun, trauma-free space to spend time with their parent.

The Sherriff's department will select the mothers and transport them to and from the museum. The grant helps cover the salaries of the jail staff that will be accompanying the mothers. The museum will be offering guardians of the children 1-year memberships for free so they can visit multiple times and become comfortable with the museum. The museum will also provide a program, a craft, and a book for the kids to take home with them.

This project is made possible by a grant from the Greater Muskegon Service League's Woman and Children's Fund of the Community Foundation for Muskegon County. We are so appreciative to have been selected for this grant opportunity.

This is just one example of what the Lakeshore Museum Center offers to its community. Please read on for more amazing projects that the staff of the Lakeshore Museum Center are working on and hopefully this will inspire you to come and visit.

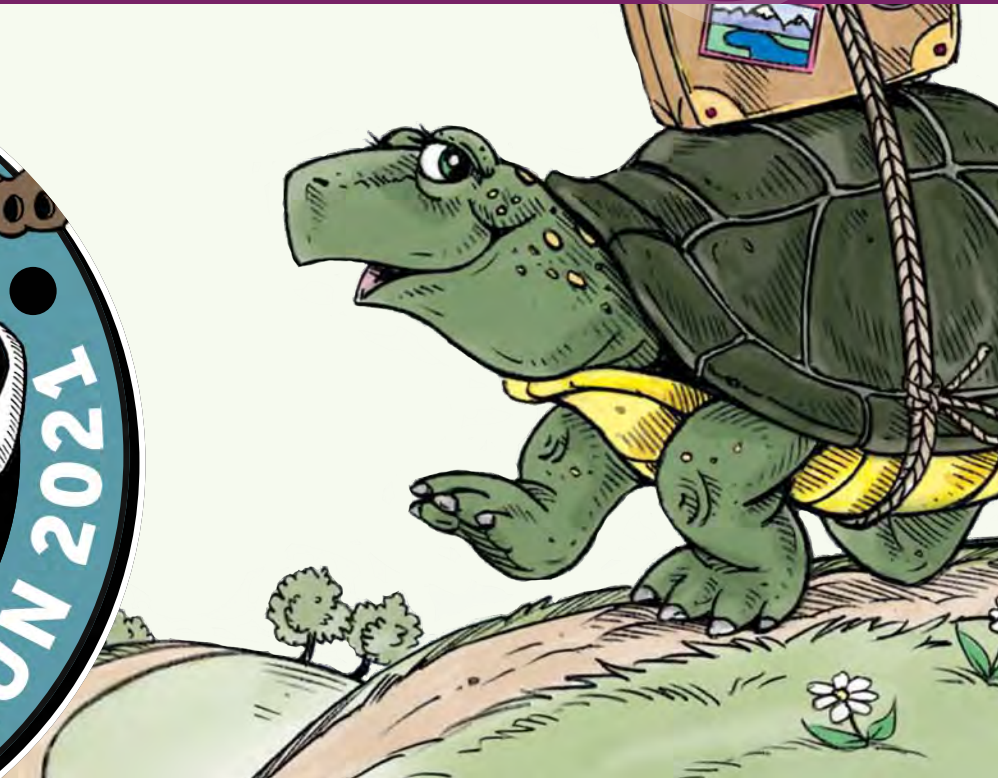


From the Executive Director
Melissa Horton

MOXIE'S REPORT

Fun for Everyone!

05



There has been a lot of action at the **Lakeshore Museum Center** and its sites these past few months!

First of all, our Hackley and Hume Historic Sites and the Muskegon Heritage Museum opened for tours in May! Both sites are toting new tours and exhibits like the "After Dark" tour at the Hackley and Hume Historic Site. This tour takes guests on a visit through the houses at (you guessed it) night!

The Muskegon Heritage Museum also has a new exhibit titled "It Runs in the Family." This exhibit features prominent black-owned businesses in Muskegon. Guests can follow the journey of the business from start to finish.

Finally, have you visited the "Turtle Travels" exhibit at our main Museum Center? This exhibit is a hands on, family friendly exhibit that allows guests to experience life as a turtle! "Turtle Travels" will only be here until September 4th so be sure to visit before it's gone!

WHAT'S ON VIEW?

EXHIBITS

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Life in the Slow Lane!

Don't miss our current temporary exhibition, **Turtle Travels**, open now through September 4, 2021. Find out what it's like for a turtle trying to cross a road or traverse changing habitats. Be a turtle tracker and see how real field biologists track animals in the wild.

Turtle Travels



You'll also discover cool turtle and tortoise facts — how their bodies and shells have adapted to many different habitats, why they need shells, the hazards they encounter in the wild, how they are important to many different cultures, and more.

Turtle Travels is a travelling exhibition created by the Environmental Exhibit Collaborative (EEC!), a group of natural science museums founded by the EcoTarium in Massachusetts, Vermont's ECHO, and Squam Lakes Natural Science Center in New Hampshire.

Celebrate 70 years!

Also coming to the museum in June, is a celebration of the 70th anniversary **Muskegon Chamber of Commerce Women's Division**. This exhibit will be on display in the first floor hallway, and will explore the history of the Women's Division and how the organization has grown and adapted over the years.

After Turtle Travels, visitors can look forward to **L'Dor V'Dor: Generations of Muskegon's Jewish Community**, opening September 29, 2021.

This exhibition celebrates the history of Jews in Western Michigan, exemplified by the Congregation B'nai Israel, which was founded in 1888. L'Dor V'Dor was created in collaboration with Congregation B'nai Israel and Grand Valley State University Kutsche Office of Local History, with generous support from Michigan Humanities.

Chani Collins, Exhibit Designer



UPCOMING PROGRAMS

STOP IN FOR A VISIT!

07

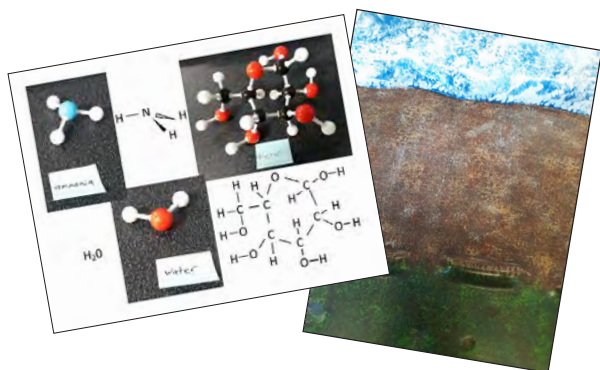


Meet Mollie!

Mollie joined the programming team at the main museum in the middle of May. You can find her most often in the STEM Center interacting with visitors and helping lead programs. Mollie is a graduate of Central Michigan University where she studied public history and worked at the Museum of Cultural and Natural History on campus.

She was also part of the Chippewa Marching Band for four years. In 2020 she was an intern at the International Museum of the Horse in Lexington, Kentucky. In her free time, Mollie likes to participate in competitive horse jumping and hunter competitions.

Pat Horn, Program Manager



STEM Workshops

With the start of summer break for schools, the museum is looking to continue your child's science education with a series of three exciting science topics. These three hour STEM Workshops in June will focus on a different topic each day. Each workshop will have fun activities to better understand the topic such as constructing model molecules and then seeing how the real life molecules mix together in different chemistry experiments.

Students will learn what a hydroponic system is, how to set one up, and then take it home with them to try and maintain it. On June 30th, participants will learn about how the Great Lakes were formed over thousands of years and how we can still see the impact of glaciers in Muskegon County today. Students can sign up for one favorite topic or sign up for all three.

Pat Horn, Program Manager



Summer Walking Tours

This summer we are offering two walking tours around downtown Muskegon to explore the rich history of the city up to where we are today. One is our history walking tour, which gives a view of the past and present businesses, residents, and streets of Muskegon. Topics covered include Hackley Park, the changes Western Avenue has gone through, and what life was like for some of Muskegon's families who lived and worked downtown. The second is an art and architecture tour of downtown Muskegon. This tour will discuss the statues and murals that are found throughout downtown, as well as the architectural styles of historic Muskegon buildings.

Both tours are 90 minutes in length and cover a total distance of 1 mile from start to end. The tours will occur rain or shine, so pack an umbrella if you spy clouds! Tickets are \$15 per person, \$13 for museum members. Each tour will be offered several times throughout the summer months. Tour dates can be found in the newsletter calendar; you can also call the museum or visit our website for more information. Tour groups are limited to 10 people.

Jennifer Reeths, Assistant Program Manager

DON'T CALL IT A COMEBACK:

08

2021 Programming at the Historic Sites

Back in Business!

While 2020 was a very unusual season at the Historic Sites, 2021 is shaping to be much closer to normal. In addition to our regular touring season from May to October, this year we are bringing back a number of popular programs and including several new ones as well.

Back by popular demand are the Hackley Attic Escape Room and All Access Tours, each with multiple chances to attend. Our ever-popular Scandal program will also be returning in August for the fifth year. The end of our season will also be full of popular programs, with Clue: Live!, Flashlight Tours, and Obituary Tours. New this year is our recurring After Dark Tours, which allow visitors to take a tour of the Hackley and Hume Houses in the evening to experience the houses in a new light. Our new Lunch and Learn on the Lawn programs will offer visitors a short program and an abbreviated tour for a fun and informative lunch break. In July we will launch our new History of Movies program, exploring early filmmaking and its ties to Muskegon.

We're excited to host so many exciting programs once again and hope to see you at one of them soon!



As the 2021 tour season gets underway, the Historic Sites have a few new things to see! During the extended closed time in 2020, the Historic Sites team worked hard on a number of areas.

First, the Hume House looks very different than previous seasons! After a long process of researching time period appropriate wallpaper and a lot of room preparation, one of the bedrooms on the second floor in the Hume House finally has wallpaper appropriate for the 1920s interpretation. That is not the only restoration being done in Hume, as the stained glass for the front doors has been restored!

Previously the glass had warped and become unstable due to the Michigan weather, but now is restored and in much better condition.

The Hume House isn't the only site that has seen changes lately. Last season the City Barn received a new exhibit on the main floor. The exhibit gives a brief history of the Chase-Hackley Piano Company and explains to visitors the company's background and history in Muskegon.

If visitors would like to see a Chase-Hackley piano, the Lakeshore Museum Center has 4 of the pianos between its 9 buildings and the exhibit tells visitors the location of each one.

Aaron Mace, Historic Sites Manager

A SEASON IN **FULL SWING**

Muskegon Heritage Museum

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Discover Something New!

The 2021 season is in full swing here at the Muskegon Heritage Museum. We are open for drop-in tours Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 11am to 4pm. Our popular Community Days are back this year.



On Wednesday, June 16th we will be featuring Woodworking & Furniture in Muskegon. Thursday, July 22nd features STEM Day 1: Simple Machines. Saturday, August 21st will be STEM Day 2: Complex Machines. Saturday, September 18th focuses on Oktoberfest & the Birth of Brewing in Muskegon. Our final Community Day for the season wraps up on Friday, October 15th looking at the West Michigan Pike: Travel & Tourism in the Auto Age. As always, these days are free to all guests thanks to a grant from Howmet Aerospace.

There are plenty of new things to see this season. Each year, we try to pull different objects from the collection and feature new businesses or products on display. One of the latest additions includes a set of C. G. Fleckenstein Company "Flex-Oak" shoe repair soles and heels.

The C. G. Fleckenstein Company was formed in 1908, in St Louis, Missouri. In 1917, they moved to Muskegon Heights and occupied the old Browne-Morse Plant at 2415 Park Street. They established a tannery, die cutting, packaging and shipping operation.

Their most famous product was the "Flex-Oak" sole, a replacement shoe sole made from specially prepared oak tanned and oiled impregnated leather.

The company claimed that their product lasted twice as long as ordinary soles. At their height, the Fleckenstein Company turned 30 boxcar loads of cow hides into 80,000 pairs of soles each day.

Rather than selling to commercial shoe makers or through shoe repair trade catalogs, Fleckenstein marketed directly to end users and home shoe repairers. They placed ads in farm journals, ladies' magazines and even the Saturday Evening Post like this November 1917 edition (pictured right). The campaign worked. By the mid-1920's C.G. Fleckenstein claimed to be the world's largest exclusive sole manufacturer in the world.

It appears that the company did not survive the ravages of the Great Depression. The tannery was sold at a bankruptcy auction on June 5th, 1935. Nine days later, it burned to the ground under mysterious circumstances.



Kirk Bunke, Heritage Museum Manager

COLLECTING HISTORY NOW

Collections

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We're collectors of life!

How will we remember our history? As museum professionals, we not only collect from the distant past, but we engage in field collection to document events in the moment. As the past year has shown us, history can change quickly. What I learned over my careers is that the age or condition of the object has little to do with its significance. What matters is the story an object tells.

I strive to bring this mindset to the Lakeshore Museum Center. Over the past year, we have shifted to more active collecting of our shared experiences. In the museum field, this is known as contemporary collecting or rapid response collecting. Museum professionals actively collect objects from events as they happen. There is added significance in that we can collect stories from the people who are there in that moment. This creates a much richer and diverse understanding of events. If these items are not collected there is the possibility the stories will be lost.

This type of collecting connects the museum's staff to our community. We are getting out of the storage rooms and seeing lived history. Over the past year, we have collected objects related to COVID-19, Black Lives Matter, and the 2020 Presidential Election. We have also collected items of more local significance, such as opening of new businesses, construction projects, or anniversary celebrations. We do not know what future generations will think when they look back at this time. But, within the museum field, we know we have an obligation to thoroughly and objectively collect history as it unfolds.

Brenda Nemetz, Collections Manager



SPRING CLEANING

Grounds Upkeep

11

Maintenance: Spring and Summer

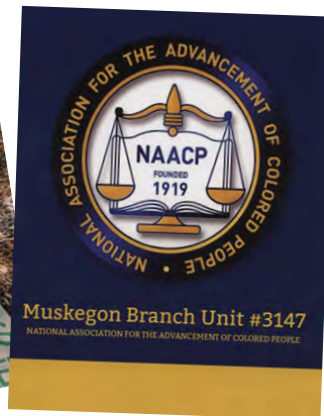


The Maintenance team has been working hard in preparation for a hopefully busy Summer. Spring cleanup and fixing winter damage was the focus as soon as the weather got nice.

Some of that work included cutting back trees around buildings, replacing shingles that came off, and of course lots of raking. Guests will see a new front door on the Archives building.

We worked with the historic district to make sure the new door is as close to the original as possible. Maintenance also reinstalled a new mini mastodon at the Mercy Health Arena after the original went missing. Guests now can find everyone on the scavenger hunt again.

Maintenance and Buildings Team



Recent Acquisitions to the Collection

- Homemade scrapbook about the Muskegon Lassies
- Sewing machine sold at Hardy Herpolsheimer's in the 1970s
- Archival materials from Engelwood Farm
- Forms and documents used in the accounting department of Anaconda Wire & Cable Company
- Framed portraits of City of Muskegon mayors
- 1979 Seaway Polka Fest Souvenir record album
- Digital images from COVID-19 vaccine clinics
- Humidor made by Muskegon woodworker Arthur Hollway, ca. 1910
- Photographs from the Kaydon 20th year anniversary
- Fire helmet and insignia pins owned by Battalion Chief Carl Rozyski
- Bell and Howell Ditto machine used by a first grade art teacher at Oak View Elementary School in the 1970s
- Local Carpenters Union Ledgers, 1917-1920
- Archival materials from the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution
- Price list from Byron E. Beebe, dated 1917
- Letter written by Mrs. Hume to Frank McKee two days after he married Florence Hume

A HELPING HAND

United Way RSVP and the LMC

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Thank you for doing your part!

In 2020, most of our volunteers stayed away from our Lakeshore Museum Center buildings due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic. Those that could and wanted to volunteer during that time were able to do so virtually or had to adapt to new COVID-19 precautions and procedures.

After a year of navigating COVID-19, we are excited to see many volunteers return for in-person work as our sites come alive for the summer and hopefully a few new faces through a partnership with the United Way of the Lakeshore!

The United Way of the Lakeshore runs the "Retired and Senior Volunteer Program" (RSVP). The RSVP is aimed at uniting volunteers with local non-profits that focus on certain areas. One of the areas is "Cultural Heritage," which our Lakeshore Museum Center, Muskegon Heritage Museum, and Historic Site fit perfectly!

Gwen, Volunteer Safety Manager



We are excited to partner with United Way to bring in new volunteer recruits who share a passion for Muskegon's history!

Are you interested in volunteering for the Lakeshore Museum Center or one of its sites?

Contact Gwen at gwen@lakeshoremuseum.org or visit our website at www.lakeshoremuseum.org to get involved!

WHERE DO YOU **ROAM**?

Membership Spotlight

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More to Explore!



Whenever I hear the word 'roam' the first thing I think of is the B-52's song by that name, an inspiration to go out and see the world. Even though we may not have been able to roam as much in the past year, doors are starting to reopen allowing us to once again go out and explore.

All Lakeshore Museum Center members have a silver sticker with the word 'ROAM' in their membership cards. That sticker gives members access to the Reciprocal Organization of Associated Museums (ROAM) reciprocal membership program, a network of museums in North America and beyond that extend the benefit of reciprocal free admission to one another's members (as determined by each museum individually).

We'd love to see where you ROAM! Send us a photo of an organization you've visited using your LMC membership card with a brief description, and it may be featured on our next newsletter. You can email your photos to graciela@lakeshoremuseum.org.

For a list of participating organizations, visit our website at www.lakeshoremuseum.org/become-a-member-at-the-lakeshore-museum-center

Reciprocal Membership



Don't forget! During the month of June, our reciprocal membership partner is the Sable Points Lighthouse Keepers Association.

Through this partnership, Lakeshore Museum Center members receive free admission to Big Sable Point Lighthouse, Little Sable Point Lighthouse, Ludington North Breakwater Lighthouse and the White River Light Station.

Please remember to check with each organization before planning your visit, as hours of operation and capacity limits may change due to restrictions from COVID-19.

Graciela, Guest Relations Manager

MEMORIES THAT LAST

Museum Shop

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Turtle Everything!

The Museum Center gift store geared up to support the Turtle Travels exhibit with a wide variety of fun new merchandise. From craft activities, to adorable plush turtles and tortoises, books and stickers, and a variety of made-in-Michigan turtle-themed jewelry, you are sure to find a souvenir to take home with you and remember your Turtle Travels experience.

The Museum Center gift store is open Monday through Saturday from 10am to 4pm.



Victorian Shopping

For the 2021 season, we are delighted to offer many of your favorite items like sun umbrellas, fans and embroidered pouches at the City Barn gift store. We are also bringing you new pieces that you will love: friendship cards, beautiful teatime essentials, accessories, and magnets.

The City Barn gift store is located in the heart of the Hackley & Hume Historic Site, and it is open Mondays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 4pm and on Sundays from 1pm to 4pm.

Graciela, Guest Relations Manager



PLAN YOUR VISIT

Calendar/Upcoming Events

15

Summer Events

June 10

Virtual Play and
Learn: Turtles
10:00am

June 11

Hackley Attic Escape Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm

June 14

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

June 16

STEM Workshop
Molecules and Chemistry

June 16

Woodworking & Furniture
in Muskegon

June 17

Lunch and Learn on the
Lawn with Tour
12:00pm - 1:00pm

June 18

All Access Tour
7:00pm - 8:30pm

June 20

Father's Day - Free Tours to
Muskegon County Dads
1:00pm - 4:00pm

June 23

STEM Workshop
Hydroponics

June 24

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

On Site Play and
Learn: Turtles
10:00am

June 25

Hackley Attic Escape Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm

June 28

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

June 30

STEM Workshop
Great Lakes Geology

July 2

After Dark Tour
9:00pm - 10:00pm

July 4 & 5

Independence Day
Closed

July 4

Independence Day
Closed

July 8

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

Turtles of Michigan & Turtle
Rehabilitation Presentation
6:00pm

July 12

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

July 15

Lunch and Learn on the
Lawn with Tour
12:00pm - 1:00pm

July 16

All Access Tour
7:00pm - 8:30pm

July 22

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

On Site Play and Learn:
Summer Session
10:00am

July 22

FREE Community
Days

July 23

History of Movies
(1) 6:00pm - 7:00pm and
(2) 7:30pm - 8:30pm

July 26

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

July 27-29

Enviroworks Day Camp

August 5

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

August 6

After Dark Tour
9:00pm - 10:00pm

August 9

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

August 13

Scandal
(1) 5:00pm - 6:30pm and
(2) 7:00pm - 8:30pm

John Ball Zoo:
Turtles Program
5:30pm

August 14

Scandal
(1) 5:00pm - 6:30pm and
(2) 7:00pm - 8:30pm

August 19

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

August 19

Lunch and Learn on the
Lawn with Tour
12:00pm - 1:00pm

KEY: LMC H&H MHM

August 20

All Access Tour
7:00pm - 8:30pm

August 21

FREE Community
Days

August 23

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

August 26

On Site Play and Learn:
Fall Session
10:00am

September 2

Downtown Walking Tours
10:00am and 2:00pm

September 3

After Dark Tour
9:00pm - 10:00pm

September 6

Labor Day
Closed

September 10

Hackley Attic Escape Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm

September 11

Hackley & Hume Fundraiser

September 17

All Access Tour
7:00pm - 8:30pm

September 18

Oktoberfest & the Birth
of Brewing in Muskegon

September 24

Hackley Attic Escape Room
5:00pm - 6:30pm

Lakeshore Museum Center
430 W. Clay Ave. Muskegon
231.722.0278

Hackley & Hume Historic Site
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Fire Barn Museum
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Scolnik House of the Depression Era
484 W. Webster Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

Muskegon Heritage Museum
561 W. Western Ave. Muskegon
231.722.7578

www.lakeshoremuseum.org

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The Three M's: Mendelssohn, McCartney & Mozart

Video Premiere • Fri • June 11 • 7:30 pm

A mesmerizing symphonic journey from Earth to the heavens.

Funky Groovin' with Jazz Flutist Alexander Zonjic

Video Premiere • Fri • July 2 • 7:30 pm

Featuring signature Zonjic tracks and classic jazz.



Mastodons!
ON THE LOOSE

Have you found all of the mini mastodons
as you explore downtown Muskegon?

MUSKEGON MUSEUM OF ART

WOMEN ARTISTS
ALL SUMMER
INSPIRING
TOGETHER

New summer exhibitions open in May!
muskegonartmuseum.org

RIISING VOICES 2: The Bennett Prize®
for Women Figurative Realist Painters

ANEKA INGOLD: Transfiguration

BEYOND THE CEILING:
Women of Studio Glass

WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT:
Stories from the Permanent Collection

HACKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Summer Reading 2021



HACKLEY
Public Library

HPL's Summer Reading program is FREE and
fun for ALL AGES to enjoy!

In addition to reading, there will be exciting
activities to complete, and cool prizes!

June 14 - August 14

hackleylibrary.org