

**The Friends of Michigan History, Inc.
President's Annual Report 2010**

Fiscal year 2009-2010, like 2008-2009, was a very difficult and challenging period for the Friends of Michigan History. It was an extremely difficult year for any group supporting the promotion of Michigan history because of the fiscal problems facing Michigan State Government, local units of government, Michigan business and a large number of Michigan citizens. In spite of aforementioned problems, the relative success of this organization is due to the support of our membership, the efforts of our Board of Directors and the dedicated employees of the Michigan Historical Center.

The aforementioned economic problems have had a negative impact on Friends membership renewals and our ability to promote successful fund raising programs which now take on added importance as state support of museum operations declines.

Uncertainty concerning the departmental structure, the fate of the Historical Center in Lansing, ownership of Michigan History Magazine and numerous related questions created tensions, to name a few, between the Friends and the executive and legislative branches of government and the Michigan History Foundation.

While some of the issues have been resolved others will face the Friends in the coming year and beyond. In my opinion, our existence depends on our prudent response to a series of importance issues which will have to be addressed within the next few months.

It is important to note that up to the time of the transfer of ownership of the Michigan History magazine, practically every dollar the Friends collected supported the operation of the Michigan Historical Center. Our administrative costs were and continue to be contracted with the Michigan Historical Center Foundation. Magazine subscriptions provided to our membership were purchased from the now defunct Department of History, Arts and Libraries and the overwhelming majority of our contributions directly supported Michigan State Museum operations.

Among the purposes for which the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. was organized is to "receive and administer funds for the betterment of the Michigan Historical Center and other Michigan organizations devoted to the fostering and preservation of Michigan History; to promote the educational and interpretive activities of the Historical Center and other Michigan organizations that promote the preservation of Michigan History; and to support the museum, docent organization, archives and archaeology programs conducted for the Michigan Historical Center." Therefore I am proud to report some of our activities in support of the above listed goals:

Sponsored:	Annual Veterans Day program and Massing of the Colors
Allocated:	\$200 for museum activities related to the annual Silver Bells celebration
Allocated:	\$700 for the 20 th Anniversary of the Michigan Historical Center
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Summer Sizzles Day Camp
Allocated:	\$700 for Harvest Fest
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Archaeology Day
Allocated:	\$700 for Haunted History Program
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Docent Programs
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Winter Fest
Allocated:	\$1,000 for Statehood Day Programs

Allocated: \$1,000 for Scout, Camp and Week-end Programs
Allocated: \$500 for Community outreach, Music Program and Advent House Program
Allocated: \$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2009
Allocated: \$450 for Michigan Historical Society Awards-2010
Allocated: \$300 for Jackson Cascades Civil War Muster
Allocated: \$75 for Organization Membership with Historic Fort Wayne
Allocated: \$500 for Michigan Oral History Conference
Allocated: \$175 for Swainson Award Plaque

Our Fayette Historic Town Site affiliate continues its solid support of programs at Fayette and the Friends of Michigan History Walker Tavern affiliate continues working in support of programs and renovations at the Walker Tavern site.

Even though the Friends face serious challenges for 2010-2011, with your support we can and will continue to support museum operations and help insure the survival of quality state museum programs.

I extend my heartfelt personal thank you for your continued support and generosity.

Francis "Bus" Spaniola