



Groundbreaking for Phase One: What a day!



WWII veterans and original Rosie the Riveters, engraved shovels in hand, break ground for The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial

What an incredible celebration on April 7th as twenty WWII veterans and original Rosie the Riveters broke ground for Phase One of The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial. Despite the chilly weather, spirits were high as we were joined by over 400 guests, including veterans organizations from across the state, as well as federal, state and local dignitaries. The story was picked up on the AP wire and was featured in newspapers and media s around the world, including Singapore, Israel, England, Canada, and the Philippines--not to mention all over the United States. WWII vets Art Fishman, Bill Rosnyai, and Ethel "Cricket" Poland, who were featured in the stories, are now known around the world!

Rich Luterman, veteran and chief meteorologist for Fox 2 emceed the event, with the National Anthem being sung by Detroit singer Karen Newman. US Representative Andy Levin presented board president John Maten with a proclamation acknowledging the groundbreaking as he, Oakland County Executive Dave Coulter, and Royal Oak mayor Mike Fournier pledged their support to the project. American Legion Post 253 of Royal Oak presented colors and Tribute Rosies entertained. The highlight of the day was watching the WWII veterans and original Rosie the Riveters being escorted to their seats like the heroes they are and being celebrated as they broke ground for their memorial.

What a great event!

We're not done yet!

While the groundbreaking ceremony was a huge step forward, it represents the first phase of memorial construction. Fundraising continues as we work towards the necessary funding for the 50' x 10' granite wall, full-sized statues and other memorial elements.

That's where you come in!

We were fortunate to have many new volunteers join us in helping out at the groundbreaking ceremony and look forward to working with them on future events. Thank you for your assistance!

We are currently looking for people to serve on the capital campaign committees as we develop strategies and ideas for outreach. If you are willing to help, please contact us.

[I want to help!](#)

Groundbreaking Memories

Thanks to photographers Jim House of Winding Trail Photography and board member Russell Levine, we have incredible images of our groundbreaking ceremony. Here are just a few. Be sure to visit our website for more!





[Click here for more groundbreaking ceremony photos](#)



Royal Oak Mayor Michael Fournier and board members Molly Gale, Chris Graveline, Debi Hollis, Russell Levine, Judy Maten, John Maten, Ronnie Cyrus, Ryan Friedrichs and Kim Jones break ground.

Thank You to our Groundbreaking Event Sponsors

We want to thank our generous businesses and community organizations for sponsoring our groundbreaking event, including:

Leading Sponsors:

Jewish War Veterans, Bloomfield

General Sponsors, cont'd.

Durst Lumber, Berkley

Township

Pegasus Entertainment Incorporated,
Southfield

William Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak

General Sponsors:

Bank of Ann Arbor

City of Royal Oak

City of Royal Oak Senior Center

Frentz & Sons Hardware, Royal Oak

George Jerome & Company, Roseville

Kris Held Graphic Design, Troy

Royal Oak Chamber of Commerce

Savers Wholesale Printing, Madison Heights

Signarama, Troy

Winding Trail Photography, Rochester Hills

Woodward Corner Market, Royal Oak

Order Paver Bricks Before May 1 to Ensure Installation as Part of Phase One



Donating a brick for the Walk of Honor is a great way to remember family member veterans or original Rosies, organizations or businesses who contributed to the war effort.

We have over 1200 engraved bricks but can accommodate more. If you have not yet ordered bricks but would like to, please place your order on or before May 1, 2022, to ensure installation during Phase 1 of construction. Bricks can be ordered online.

Brick prices will increase on May 2 as installation costs will increase after Phase One is complete.

[Purchase a brick](#)

Welcome to our New Board Member

The Board of Directors welcomes newest member, Ronnie Cyrus, to the The Michigan WWII Legacy Memorial Board. Retired from the US Army with over twenty years of service, Ronnie comes with a wealth of experience in negotiations, operations management, coaching, and emergency management.

Ronnie serves as vice-president of the board of directors for the Michigan Heroes Museum in Frankenmuth and is an Ambassador for the NFL, serving as Detroit Lions coordinator for the Salute to Service and Hometown Heroes events. He has a passion for education and is the founder of the Borean Christian Academy and Cyrus Library for Kids in Monrovia, Liberia.



Ronnie admits, "I am a great writer, an eloquent speaker, am really great with people, and even better at putting great people together."

We welcome Ronnie to the Board of Directors and look forward to working with him!

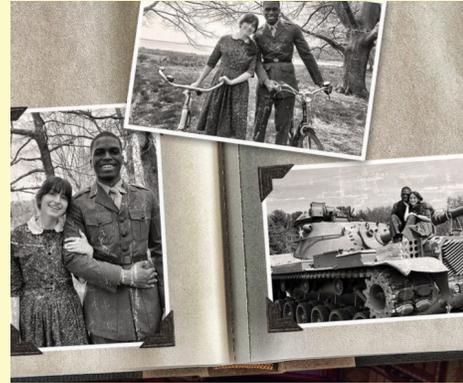
Check this out!

World Premier at the Redford Theater

Peter Ferry's "Old Heart"

The world premier of the play adaptation of Peter Ferry's bittersweet love story, "Old Heart", will be held on May 14 and 15 at the Redford Theater in Detroit.

The story traces the lives of Jewish translator Sarah van Praag and African American Army Lieutenant Tom Johnson. Meeting after four years of hiding when the Allies liberated southern Holland, the two work to smuggle food to the starving. Leading separate lives after the war, sixty years later, as Tom's children attempt to move him to assisted living in his hometown of Detroit, Tom secretly returns to the Netherlands hoping to find his first love.



[Click here to preview the play](#)

[Click here to purchase tickets](#)

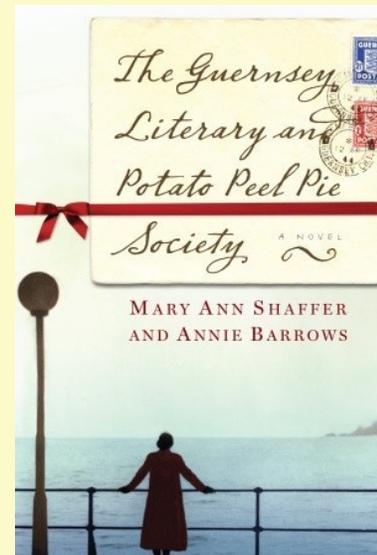
Book of the Month

The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society

by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

January 1946: London is emerging from the shadow of WWII and the island of Guernsey is occupied by the Germans. A correspondence begins between Juliet Ashton (Lily James) and members of The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society, a secret group of residents on the island, with them sharing their experiences of Nazi-occupied Guernsey Island. When an idea for a book catches Juliet, she goes to visit the island, making life-long friends and taking life changing steps along the way.

You will find yourself captivated by this story and how beautifully it is written.



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