



SUMMER 2026

Dear Friends,

Summer is always an exciting season at the Hagen History Center, but I can confidently say there has never been a more exciting time for our organization!

The opening of the Frank Lloyd Wright Field Office Museum has been met with extraordinary enthusiasm, drawing national attention to Erie through feature stories in major publications and media outlets.

Architectural Digest, The Buffalo News, the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and our own *Erie Times-News* have already run and/or scheduled featured articles. Thanks to WJET-TV and Erie News Now for their coverage.

That momentum continues in August with an outstanding lineup of events, including our Women's Event on August 4, the Annual Meeting on August 11, and the Oliver Hazard Perry Symposium on August 13 - 14.

We are especially proud to debut the nation's largest and most comprehensive exhibit dedicated to Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry on August 14.

The return of the sunflowers to Girard, highlighted by a Philharmonic concert on August 9, promises another memorable community celebration. We invite you to experience this remarkable season with us as we continue preserving and sharing the stories that define our region.



ATTENTION MEMBERS

YOU'RE INVITED TO

Our Annual Member Picnic & Meeting

Charcuterie and drinks in the garden setting of the White House.

Tuesday, August 11

306 Walnut St., Girard, PA

5:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Free for current members
(details on back cover)



Caleb M. Pifer
President



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Save the Dates:

Women Creating a Legacy August 4, 2026

Battles Farm, Girard, Pa.,
during sunflower season

Annual Membership Meeting August 11, 2026

Battles Farm, Girard, Pa.,
during sunflower season

Command & Courage: Oliver Hazard Perry August 13 and 14 2-day symposium

A Night at the Museum September 12, 2026

Watson-Curtze Mansion
356 West 6th St., Erie, Pa.



HAGEN
HISTORY
CENTER

NEW FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT

Have you seen our NEW *Frank Lloyd Wright Field Office Museum*? It's a nationally recognized exhibit telling the story of Wright's life and legacy in an immersive experience. It complements Wright's San Francisco field office in our Permanent Exhibit Building and offers a deeper look into one of America's most influential architects.



WHAT DO VISITORS THINK OF OUR NEWEST EXHIBIT?

"Fallingwater Director Justin Gunther was impressed after attending the opening of Hagen History Center's new Frank Lloyd Wright Field Office Museum."

"The Field Office Museum offers visitors an opportunity to explore yet another original Wright-designed space, making our region one of the best in the country to experience the architect's remarkable legacy."

– *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette*

"The goal is that visitors will leave with an understanding of why Wright was revered during and after his life."

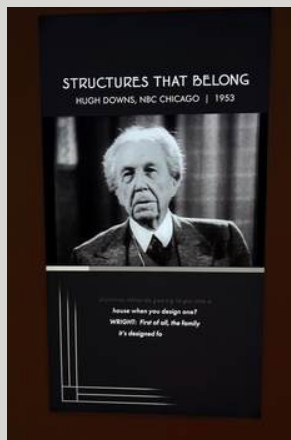
– *Architectural Digest*

Photos clockwise, from top left: Wright in his office; furnishings Wright designed for homes; two of the multiple panel displays that share Wright's architectural styles; an interactive kiosk where visitors can create their own stained glass window; a printout of their window in an acrylic stand.



FIELD OFFICE MUSEUM IS OPEN

Multiple displays reveal little-known facts about Wright's history. Did you know he designed his smallest and largest commissions while working in the San Francisco office? The largest was the campus of 3- and 4-story buildings that make up the Marin County Civic Center. The smallest was Eddie's doghouse. Step close to the doghouse, and you'll hear Eddie bark.



Take a selfie or two in our Crosley Hot Shot with Frank Lloyd Wright standing by. Wright loved these sparkling red vehicles and had a fleet of them.

Photos clockwise from top left: Wright as a child; museum panels that trace Wright's design theories; an interactive movie where Wright talks to visitors; the Crosley Hot Shot; several TV news/interviews play on screens in the museum; Marin County Civic Center and Eddie's doghouse.

WHAT'S COMING UP

Command & Courage: Oliver Hazard Perry NEW Exhibit opens August 14 at 10 a.m.

This is the largest and most comprehensive exhibit dedicated to Perry in the United States. It explores Perry as a naval commander, leader, and Erie icon — revealing the man behind the uniform.

Through letters, personal artifacts, and displays, visitors will discover Perry's character, values, and lasting legacy beyond the battlefield.

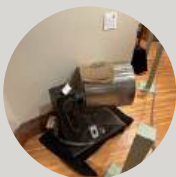
Born in Newport, Rhode Island, Perry was the eldest of eight children in a family whose roots trace back to the Mayflower.



We have met the enemy, and they are ours.

EXHIBIT SCHEDULES

Archives
Treasures



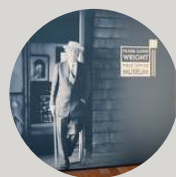
**Currently
On View**

Coppers'
Chronicles



**Currently
On View**

Frank Lloyd Wright Field
Office Museum



**Currently
On View**

Founding
Families



**Currently
On View**

Command & Courage:
Oliver Hazard Perry



**COMING IN
AUGUST**

Hagen History Center presents a 2-day symposium



Oliver Hazard Perry

History happened here. Now experience it.

Join us in Erie, Pennsylvania, August 13–14 at Gannon University for a powerful two-day symposium exploring the life and leadership of Oliver Hazard Perry—the man who helped secure America’s control of the Great Lakes during the War of 1812.

Hear from nationally recognized historians, authors, and a Perry descendant, offering new insight into one of the most pivotal figures in American naval history.

Curated by the Hagen History Center, this symposium brings together:



**DOUGLAS
BRINKLEY, PhD**

Renowned American historian, bestselling author, and professor at Rice University



**OLENKA
JOHNSON, PhD**

Professor, Strategic Leadership & Leader Development at U.S. Naval War College



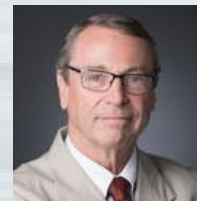
**CHRISTOPHER
HAVERN, MA**

Historian, Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC)



**MATTHEW C.
PERRY, PhD**

Lecturer and direct descendant of Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry



**CRAIG L.
SYMONDS, PhD**

Professor, U.S. Naval War College and distinguished naval historian



**WALTER
RYBKA, BA**

Author, former administrator of the Erie Maritime Museum, and former senior captain of the U.S. Brig Niagara



August 13–14

Gannon University | Erie, PA

REGISTER BY JULY 30

hagenhistory.org/events

Hagen History Center members \$10

Non-members \$20

Presented by:



This program is made possible through the generous support of our sponsors



DORIS BECKER
LECTURE SERIES

SUNFLOWER DAYS BLOOM AUGUST 9 TO 15



*Featuring acres of sunflowers at the Battles Farm.
The Girard Sunflower Festival runs from August 9th–15th, 2026
Here's the schedule:*

Sunday, August 9 at 6 p.m.

- **Music in the Sunflowers:** Erie Philharmonic Concert
(Free to the public. Bring your own chairs)
- Full Circle Winery and Godfrey Run will be on hand with beverages. (No outside beverages/no pets)

Monday, August 10 | Tuesday, August 11

Wednesday, August 12 | Thursday, August 13 7:00 p.m.

- **Wine + Charcuterie Picnic in the Sunflowers**
- Cost \$120 per couple. Limited to 16 people (8 couples) each night. Rain contingency is in place at the Yellow House.

Friday, August 14 at 9:30 a.m.

- Sunflower Painting Class
- \$60 per person. Limited to 16 people. Rain contingency is in place at the Yellow House.

Friday, August 14 | Saturday, August 15

7:00 p.m.

- Dine Among the Sunflowers with our Farm-to-Table Dinner (*These are the only Farm-to-Table Dinners this year*)
- \$150 per person, catered by The Erie Club. Full Circle Winery handles the beverage pairings. Limited to 22 people each night.

Saturday, August 15 at 9:30 a.m.

- Pottery Workshop
- \$60 per person. Limited to 16 people. Rain contingency is in place at the Yellow House.



NEW *Sunflower liquor on the way*



This summer, our new spiced rum beverage, made from our very own 2025 sunflowers, will be available with bottles for sale during our annual picnic and meeting.

Sign up for all events at hagenhistory.org/events



2026 DORIS BECKER
FREE SPEAKER
SERIES AT THE
JEFFERSON
EDUCATIONAL
SOCIETY

AUGUST 27 Historian Dr. Judith Ridner tells us about *The Dirty History of Soap*. Discover how soap's early beginnings of tallow and oils evolved across centuries and cultures.

COMING UP

JULY/AUGUST

July 31 to August 3 Dan Rice Days, Girard Yellow House and White House open for tours. Donations appreciated.

August 4 Women Creating A Legacy in Girard. [Visit our website for more information and tickets](#)

August 9 to 15 Sunflower Days

Featuring a free Erie Philharmonic concert, picnics, dinners, art classes, and pottery classes. (see page 6 for details)

August 11 Annual meeting for Hagen History Center members in the sunflowers at the White House. (see page 8 for details)

August 13 and 14 *Command & Courage: Oliver Hazard Perry Symposium* at Gannon University Yehl Ballroom (see page 5 for details)

August 14 New exhibit *Command & Courage: Oliver Hazard Perry* opens at 10 a.m. in the Wood-Morrison House.

August 27 *The Dirty History of Soap*. [Register at JESerie.org](#)



A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

In honor of our hometown's impact on American history, we will celebrate the nation's 250th anniversary by honoring Erie people who have made their mark on the national stage during *A Night at the Museum*.

Honorees include:

Marc Blucas | General Edward Bolton
Admiral Christopher Colvin | General James Dubik
General Michael Dunlavey | Ambassador William Heidt
Admiral Matthew Kohler | Dr. Jane Petro
Maria Sansone | Steve Scully | Doug Zurn

Saturday, September 12 • 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Erie, PA
Permit No. 433

356 W. 6th St.
Erie, PA 16507
www.hagenhistory.org
814-454-1813



MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO *Our Annual Member Picnic & Meeting*

Join Us

For charcuterie and drinks
amid the sunflowers of the White House.

Tuesday, August 11

📍 306 Walnut St., Girard, PA

🕒 5:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Free for current members ONLY

This annual member event also includes
our history awards presentation.

Please register by July 30 at
hagenhistory.org/events

