

POCO muse LETTER

AUTUMN 2015



COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART : VALPARAISO



PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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POCO muse NEWSWORTHY

HERITAGE DINNER FUNDRAISER SUPPORTS PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM OPERATIONS

On September 25, the Porter County Museum Foundation hosted its second Heritage Dinner to support the operations of the Porter County Museum. PoCo Muse staff, board members, and guests celebrated Porter County's rich history by experiencing stories placed at each table. Thanks to the PoCo Muse volunteers, Parea Restaurant, and Wildflour Bakery for making the Heritage Dinner a success. Most importantly, thanks to all the attendees that supported the Porter County Museum's mission to educate, enrich, and inspire our Porter County communities!

PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM JOINS THE CONVERSATION ON VALPARAISO ARTS DISTRICT

Valpo NEXT, the city's recent planning initiative, wrapped up in 2014, and now it's time to put the plan in action. As part of the Valpo NEXT initiative and Valparaiso's vie for America's Best Community, the city has asked community members for their input on developing an arts and culture district in downtown Valparaiso. The Museum was happy to host one of these conversations during the summer.

During the open house, attendees were asked to identify assets, ask questions, express concerns, and give their big ideas for a proposed arts district on Indiana Avenue in Valparaiso. The conversation continued during a summit event at the newly opened Urschel Pavilion in downtown Valparaiso, where representatives from Planning NEXT were on hand to collect residents' big ideas.

But the conversation continues! Do you have big ideas for an arts and culture district in Valparaiso? Curious about what has been proposed thus far? Visit www.valponext.org to find out more, or attend the Valparaiso Culture District open house on October 14 from 6-8p at Valparaiso's City Hall.

SUMMER PROGRAMS BRING VISITORS TO THE POCO MUSE

The diversity of summer programming at the PoCo Muse brought thousands of visitors to the Museum to celebrate Porter County's history. During the Popcorn Fest alone, the Museum saw more than one thousand visitors, who were invited to help solve a "mystery" at the Museum. A successful Block Party, as well as presentations about the Lincoln Highway, Joseph Bailly, the Shirley Heinze Land Trust, History of Popcorn Fest, Frank Dudley, and antique automobiles brought hundreds to the Museum. A special thanks to our volunteers and speakers who make these events possible. We're looking forward to an equally busy autumn at the PoCo Muse!



Gregg Hertzlieb Presents on
Dunes Artist Frank Dudley

FROM THE CHAIR

As you can see with our latest exhibit, *Neighbors: Stories of Community in Northwest Indiana*, the Museum is engaged in presenting the history of our county and surrounding areas. History is not always comfortable, nor should it be. Fact checking and a balanced perspective are hallmarks of an intelligent, well-thought-out presentation. Exhibits that bring visitors in and engage them in history are imperative and the mark of a professional museum. Through the collaboration of our team, narrative and space become a seamless experience.

However, these exhibits cannot happen without the support of our community. Our funding comes from the Porter County Council and Commissioners, Valparaiso City Government, Indiana Dunes Tourism Bureau, membership, and events such as the Heritage Dinner and Historic Home Tour. As with most non-profits, money is always tight. Through frugality, innovation, and sweat equity, the Museum has reached an amazing level of professionalism. In the past few years, PoCo Muse has gone from a good county museum to a first-rate venue. This could never have happened without our dedicated, talented, and passionate employees. Consistency and continuity require a highly qualified and engaged staff, and the PoCo Muse Foundation raises money to pay our people the salaries that such excellent work deserves.

Operating funds are not glamorous or exciting but they are necessary. You don't always see the results of your financial investments at a glance. I don't brag that part of my donation keeps the floors clean and toilet paper in the bathroom. But then, have you ever been in a bathroom without toilet paper? It's true that when it comes to raising money for the Museum, to quote Blanche Dubois, we "have always depended on the kindness of strangers." But more often, to paraphrase Joe Cocker, we get by with a little help from our friends. Your support is the reason for the museum's growth and vitality, and we could not exist without your help.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joanne Urschel".

Joanne Urschel

Chair of the Board of Trustees

FROM THE DIRECTOR

For as long as I can remember, fall has been the busiest time of year at the PoCo Muse. Summer is gaining momentum, but the months between September and December bring the most visitors. Pleasant weather and a well-attended Popcorn Festival brought in over 1,000 visitors in a single day. The Popcorn Fest panel discussion earlier in September welcomed back some of the founders of the festival. The evening proved to be one of the most interesting and enjoyable programs in recent memory. Orville Redenbacher's daughter even stopped by to be part of the conversation!

October got off to a great start with the *We Are Porter County* Series installment of a tour of the (normally locked) Old City Cemetery on Union Street. Steven Mockler of the David D. Porter Camp #106 of the Sons of the Union Veterans told stories of a few of our local Civil War veterans. I chimed in about some of the more colorful Porter County characters taking up residence in the cemetery since 1839. If you missed out, be sure to join us for another tour on Saturday, October 17 at 2p or a veteran-focused tour at 3p.

Lastly, things are progressing nicely with our expansion project at 16 Indiana Avenue. Façade work begins October 16 and will wrap up, weather permitting, in mid-March 2016. We are all working very diligently behind-the-scenes to prepare our final plans for the last and largest phase of this project. I am working closely with the Board of the Museum Foundation to finalize the details of our capital campaign, which should move into the quiet phase before the end of this calendar year.

If you have not visited to see our new *Neighbors* exhibit, please make plans to do so. It is the most powerful exhibit our team has ever undertaken. Many thanks to Heath Carter and the students of his Hands-on History course at Valparaiso University for making it all possible.

See you at the PoCo Muse!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin Matthew Pazour".

Kevin Matthew Pazour
Executive Director

COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPARAISO OPENS

SECOND SEASON OF CSA VALPO FEATURES EIGHT NEW LOCAL ARTISTS!

The Porter County Museum is excited to announce that Community Supported Art Valparaiso is back for a second season featuring eight new literary and visual artists. These emerging and mid-career artists from Porter, Lake, and Laporte counties work in a variety of media, including painting, printmaking, poetry, mixed media, and jewelry.

Over the last twenty years, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) has become a popular way for consumers to buy seasonal food directly from local farms. With the same "buy local" spirit in mind, the Community Supported Art (CSA) Valpo project aims to support local art, artists, and collectors.

Shareholders in CSA Valpo support new works by these artists created uniquely for this project, and have the opportunity to meet the artists and other arts supporters at a variety of events. Only fifty shares are sold each season, and cost \$150. Shares in CSA Valpo go on sale October 1, and eight original works of art, one from each artist, are delivered to shareholders during a pick-up celebration in the spring of 2016.



From the Fanghor Forest, Jayde Petersen

The Porter County Museum is delighted to host a season preview exhibition of the artists from **December 5, 2015 - February 27, 2016**. The Porter County Museum's ongoing collaboration with CSA Valpo has brought many new visitors to the Museum, and offered new and varied exhibitions to Museum patrons and members. The Museum is happy to have the chance to display the work of eight new, talented artists, and support the arts in Northwest Indiana.

Join CSA Valpo artists, organizers, and shareholders during the opening of Season Preview: Community Supported Art Valparaiso on **Saturday, December 5, 2015 from 1-4p**. At **2p** hear from the artists themselves during a panel discussion about the artists' inspiration and process, as well as the role of art in our communities.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPO, THE ARTISTS, OR HOW TO BUY SHARES, VISIT WWW.CSARTVALPO.COM.

CONGRATS TO THE 2016 COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ART VALPARAISO ARTISTS:

ERIC BRANT, DAWN DIAMANTOPOULOS, COREY HAGELBERG, PHILLIP HERROLD, JAYDE PETERSEN, AURELIA PLOUTIS, TINA PORTER, & LIZ WUERFFEL



Sycamore Seedpod, Elizabeth Wuerffel

NEIGHBORS: STORIES OF COMMUNITY

NEW EXHIBIT EXPLORES THE COMPLEX HISTORY OF RACE RELATIONS IN THE REGION

On September 26, the Porter County Museum opened a new exhibit, *Neighbors: Stories of Community in Northwest Indiana*. The exhibit emerged as a collaboration between Valparaiso University's Hands on History Class, who researched the complex history of civil rights and race relations in Lake and Porter Counties.

The exhibit asks visitors to reflect upon what it means to be a neighbor. By telling stories of inclusion and exclusion from the history of Porter and Lake Counties, the exhibit investigates how communities are imagined, formed, and change over time.

Visitors to the exhibit experience the Region's history chronologically from the settling of the Region through the present, learning of early interactions with Native Americans, the economic forces that pulled diverse groups of people to Lake and Porter Counties, and exclusionary practices, such as "sundown" laws, that were instituted in growing communities. The exhibit also discusses efforts to remove difference during times of economic hardship, and, conversely, organizations' efforts at integration. These stories are contextualized with a timeline of significant national civil rights events, as well as local and national statistics. While the exhibit describes a difficult history that we are no doubt living out today, more importantly, it asks us to imagine our futures, our neighbors, and how we wish to live in community together. What does it mean to be a good neighbor?

This exhibit represents many firsts for the PoCo Muse. *Neighbors* discusses a difficult history never before addressed by the Porter County Museum. It also broadens the scope of the Museum's focus, from Porter County to Lake and Laporte County neighbors. Finally, this exhibit is the first designed to be a travelling exhibit, which will move in 2016.

Lastly, this exhibit would not have been possible without the work of Dr. Heath Carter and Valparaiso University's Hands on History class. During the fall of 2014, the class collected research on many aspects of civil rights and race relations throughout the Region. Their work was integral in the creation of the exhibit.

MANY THANKS TO PROFESSOR HEATH CARTER'S HANDS ON HISTORY STUDENTS

KAYLA NOMINA, KATIE BERNABEI, TOMMY MORRISON, CHRISTINA CRAWLEY, PATRICK OLSEN, CHARLOTTE SODERMAN, VINCE VERGARA, BRITTANY BOETTCHER, TORI BINELLI, STEPHANIE SEKULOWSKI, & LUCAS PHILLIPS



OCTOBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

OCTOBER 1 GUIDED TOUR OF UNION STREET CEMETERY

Join Kevin Pazour, director of the Porter County Museum, for a tour of Union Street Cemetery. Learn more about the early history of Valparaiso through this free, guided tour. The tour will begin at the cemetery, located at 402 E. Union St. in Valparaiso.

TOUR BEGINS @ 5:30P

OCTOBER 3 TRENT PENDLEY READING

Visit the Porter County Museum on Saturday, October 3 at 2p to hear from local author Trent D. Pendley. During the talk, Pendley will discuss his new novel, *Toys in the Closet*.

PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P



OCTOBER 16

FALL HARVEST FEST
Stop by the PoCo Muse during Fall Harvest Fest, downtown Valparaiso's Halloween celebration, for games, activities, and plenty of candy!

EVENT FROM 4-6P

OCTOBER 17 GUIDED TOUR OF UNION STREET CEMETERY II

Miss the first tour? Kevin Pazour will be at the Cemetery at 2p for a repeat performance!

PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P
VETERANS FEATURED @3P

OCTOBER 31

DAY OF THE DEAD
Visit the PoCo Muse on Halloween for this annual cultural celebration. Decorate sugar skulls, play a game of loteria, create papeles picados, and learn more about this Mexican holiday commemorating the deceased during this free family day.

EVENT FROM 10A-4P

NOVEMBER 5 PORTER COUNTY & THE VIETNAM WAR

Learn about Porter County's involvement in the Vietnam War from Tom Szmagaj, a long time Valparaiso resident and local history enthusiast who has interviewed veterans and their families.

PROGRAM BEGINS @ 5:30P

NOVEMBER 7

TRAGER FARM TOUR
Tour the Trager Farmhouse (5250 U.S. Highway 6) in Portage, Indiana with representatives from the PoCo Muse and the Portage Township Historical Society. The beautifully restored farmhouse allows visitors a glimpse into the past and insight into the early history of Porter County.

PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P

NOVEMBER 11 VETERAN'S DAY PROGRAM RECEPTION

Everyone is invited to thank local veterans during a reception at the Museum following the Veteran's Day Commemoration at the Memorial Opera House.

RECEPTION BEGINS @ 2P

NOVEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

NOVEMBER 21

FAMILY TREASURES PRESERVATION WORKSHOP
Join Tamara Hemmerlein from the Local History Services division of the Indiana Historical Society to learn how to preserve your family heirlooms, documents, and photographs for future generations.

PROGRAM BEGINS @ 2P

DECEMBER 3 COMMUNITY SUPPORTED ARTS MEMBER'S PREVIEW

PoCo Muse members and CSA Valpo supporters are invited to a private reception to meet and greet CSA Valpo artists and organizers.

RECEPTION FROM 5-7P

DECEMBER 4 HOLLY DAYS

There's a very jolly guest visiting the PoCo Muse just in time for Christmas. Stop by the Museum to visit with Santa, and enjoy a delicious bake sale hosted by the Valparaiso Woman's Association.

EVENT FROM 5-7P

DECEMBER 5 CSA PUBLIC OPENING & ARTIST TALK

Join CSA Valpo organizers and artists for an opening reception! At 2p, the artists will gather for a panel discussion about their inspiration, process, and the role of the arts in our communities.

OPENING FROM 1-4P
PROGRAM BEGINS AT 2P

DECEMBER

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

FROM THE COLLECTION

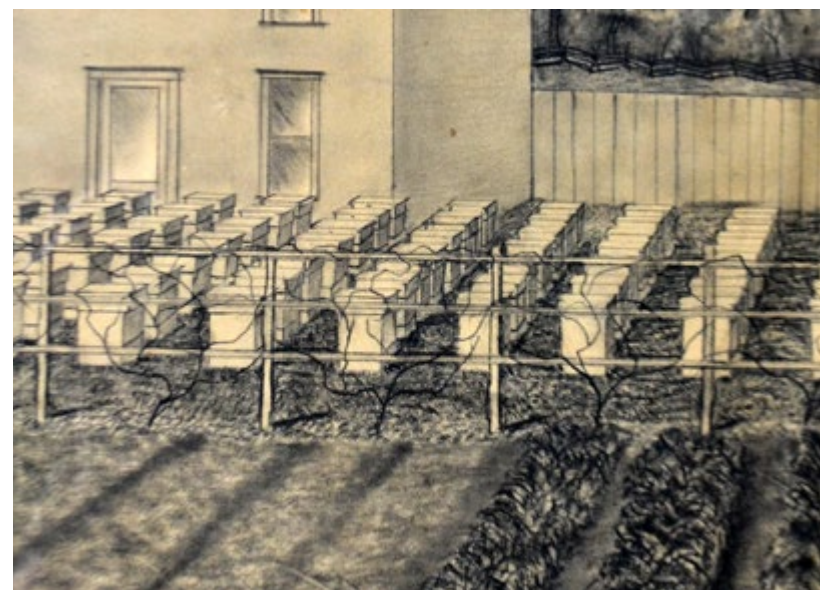
This is an exciting time for the arts in Porter County as city planners and local artists work with the members of the community planning and developing an Arts and Culture District in Valparaiso. This initiative builds upon the existing efforts of already established local institutions that promote the arts, not the least of which is the Porter County Museum.

Significant support of the arts was shown by the Museum when it opened the Robert Cain Gallery. The exhibit of Robert Cain's artwork followed by exhibits of art from Community Supported Art (CSA) and the Enclave Project generated interest, attracted new visitors, and built on the Museum's traditions of promoting its own art through exhibits and of preserving the art it has in storage behind the scenes.

One notable piece of art in storage is the charcoal and ink sketch of the T. S. Bull residence and apiary by N. W. Wineland. Christian and Christina Green purchased the original acreage for this Washington Township farm after Christian became partially crippled from a log rolling off a wagon at his sawmill in Prattville. Son William took over the farm after Christian died, and after William's death, the farm was handed down to daughter, Helen, and her husband T. S. Bull.

A sketch by N. W. Wineland, very similar to the one of the Bull property, was featured on the Antiques Roadshow in 2012. The guest on the show presented a sketch depicting a group of Improved American Merino Sheep that had belonged to her ancestor, Isaiah McGinley of Valparaiso. The appraiser, who estimated the date of the work to be ca.1880, explained that the sketch was an example of folk art produced by itinerant artists who traveled the Midwest getting permission to sketch the property of prosperous farmers.

The sketch of the Bull residence and apiary is just one example of valued, historical art tucked away inside the Museum. There are many more. The Porter County Museum is not unlike other museums in having many more items in storage than on exhibit. Perhaps this puts the Museum in a rather enviable position. Not only does it have the privilege of promoting art, it has the privilege of preserving it as well.



Detail: Bee Hives in Bull Residence & Apiary Sketch

Helen Arvidson

Helen Arvidson
Chair of the Collections Committee

THIS MONTH IN HISTORY: 1915

Thanks to PoCo Muse Volunteer Carrie Durnell for selecting and transcribing these stories.

OCTOBER, 1915 VALPO MAN HEARS TALK ACROSS THE OCEAN

For the first time in the history of the world, conversation spanned the Atlantic ocean last night by wireless telephone, and Valparaiso was abreast of the times. M.E. Packman, wireless expert of Dodge's Institute, in his laboratory, with instruments and equipment made by himself, recorded the messages as they passed from the Arlington station to Paris. The station here is the only one in the world, outside of New York, Honolulu, San Francisco, and Paris, with the apparatus of sufficient power for the reception of the aerial messages by wireless telephone. To Mr. Packman belongs the honor of the building and installing the instruments, in the basement of the wireless building of the local school.

Mr. Packman was sitting in his laboratory last night, endeavoring to pick up something from the atmosphere, while he waited for Mrs. Packman to return from a party. Suddenly into his ears came the call, "N.J. This is N.A.A." This continued for some time. Then distinctly came the voice, "Hello Patee; hello Patee. This is Webb talking." This was at 11:15, and Mr. Packman knew that Arlington was calling in an effort to reach Paris by wireless telephone. A successful feat heralded this morning by the press all over the world. At the time, he was searching with a wave length of 6,000 meters.

Then another voice came to the ears of the animated man in the Dodge laboratory, and it spoke in the French tongue.

"Parlez Vous Francais?" That's what is said, Mr. Packman told the interviewer today. "I don't know how to spell it."

NOVEMBER, 1915 MISTAKE OF CONTRACTOR CAUSES COMMENT TODAY

The name of "J. Lowenstine & Son," cut in glass over the [arch] of the Lowenstine store building, caused comment all over town this morning. The impression prevailed that one of the sons was leaving the firm. "It was just a mistake on the part of the contractor," laughed Maurice Lowenstine, when he was asked to explain. In a short time an "s" will be added, and both sons will again be represented.

All day today a gang of men tussled with the big plate glass that is being set into the show windows. Little by little they are being placed, and in a few days the big establishment will present a finished appearance from the outside.

Dodge Institute of Telegraphy ca. 1910



DECEMBER, 1915 COUNTY SCHOOLS & CITY TAKE CHRISTMAS VACATION

Schools all over the county, with scarcely an exception, will take the usual Christmas vacation of one week, according to the announcement of Superintendent Fred H. Cole today. Some will dismiss as early as Thursday night to allow those teachers far from home to reach the parental roof-tree in time to get their feet under the table for the feast. Occasionally, where time has been lost, a school will continue through next week to insure an earlier dismissal in the warm spring weather.

Valparaiso will resign itself to festivities. For the first time in the history of the city, most of the stores will be closed all day. Heretofore, the rule was to remain open a half day on Christmas that corrections might be made in the purchases of shoppers before. Barber shops will remain open until noon. Druggists have indicated that they will do business a good share of the day.



SATURDAYS @ THE POCO MUSE

OCTOBER: UNION STREET CEMETERY TOUR

Due to interest generated during the first Union Street Cemetery tour earlier in October, there will be a repeat performance on **Saturday, October 17** at **2p**. Join Executive Director Kevin Matthew Pazour for a tour of the oldest cemetery in Valparaiso, located at 402 E. Union Street. Learn about the early history of Valparaiso from the notable residents buried there. This tour is free and open to the public. At 3p, guests particularly interested in the veterans buried at Union St. Cemetery are welcomed to an in-depth tour.



Old City Cemetery ca. 1914

NOVEMBER: FAMILY TREASURES PRESERVATION WORKSHOP

The Museum is excited to welcome Tamara Hemmerlin from Local History Services of the Indiana Historical Society for a workshop on **Saturday, November 21** at **2p**. Does your family have valued heirlooms and old photos? Learn how to best care for these important artifacts of your family history during this free workshop. You are invited to bring these objects, documents, and photos to the Museum to find out how to best preserve them, so they can be passed on to future generations in your family.

DECEMBER: CSA VALPO OPENING

On **December 5** from **1-4p**, celebrate a new season of Community Supported Art Valparaiso, an art initiative featuring eight local artists. During the opening, meet the artists, learn more about CSA Valpo, and find out how you can support local artists. At 2p, the artists will take part in a panel discussion about their own work, and the role of the arts in our communities. For more info about the CSA, visit www.csartvalpo.com.



MUSEUM STORE

Stop by the Museum Store during the holiday season for a unique shopping experience! We have Dia de los Muertos items in stock in conjunction with our annual celebration held on **October 31** this year. Just in time for Christmas, we will have ornaments and decorations for sale, along with unique gifts for any local history enthusiasts you may know. However, the most interesting gift you can give is a Museum membership! Know someone who would enjoy the exhibits and programs at the PoCo Muse? Introduce them to the Museum with a gift membership, good for one year. Finally, remember that purchases made in the Museum Store support the work of the Museum to educate, enrich and inspire our Porter County communities! Thanks for your support!

BECOME A MEMBER!

YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUPPORTS THE MUSEUM & INCLUDES UNIQUE BENEFITS

Are you a member of the PoCo Muse? Individual memberships start at just \$30, support the every day work of the Museum, and come with many benefits to you. As a PoCo Muse member, we keep you in the loop on all of our exhibits and programs through postcard, newsletter, and e-mail reminders. When you become a member, you are invited to special member events, including exhibit previews throughout the year. Enjoy 10% discounts in the Museum Store. Best of all is the knowledge that your membership supports the work of the Museum in educating, enriching, and inspiring our Porter County Communities.

Finally, PoCo Muse Members are enrolled in the Time Travelers program. Hundreds of partner museums offer benefits including discounted or free admission, gift shop discounts, and free parking. See a full list of participating museums and the special benefits they offer to Time Travelers by visiting www.timetravelers.mohistory.org.

Want to learn more about becoming a member of the PoCo Muse? E-mail membership@pocomuse.org or ask a Museum representative during your next visit!

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We would like to recognize the following individuals and organizations for supporting our mission by becoming members of the Museum's Foundation this past quarter.

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OCTOBER

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Tour of Union Street Cemetery

3 **TRENT D. PENDLEY**

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17 **SATURDAYS @ POCO MUSE:**
Tour of Union Street Cemetery

31 **DAY OF THE DEAD**

POCO
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LETTER
AUTUMN 2015



[/pocomuse](http://pocomuse)

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7 **TRAGER FARM TOUR**

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Family Treasures Preservation Workshop

EMAIL info@pocomuse.org

CALL 219.465.3595

VISIT pocomuse.org

DECEMBER

3 **CSA VALPO MEMBER**
PREVIEW

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5 **SATURDAYS @ POCO MUSE:**
CSA Valpo Exhibit Opening

POCO
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LETTER

PORTER COUNTY MUSEUM
153 S. FRANKLIN STREET
VALPARAISO, IN 46383

