

Where  
the past  
is present

**DETROIT  
HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY**

## *News Release*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**CONTACT: Bob Sadler,  
Director of Marketing and Sales  
313.833.7937 or  
313.819.5761 (cell)  
bobsadler@detroithistorical.org**

### **THE DETROIT HISTORICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATES A RECORD-SETTING 2015 SOCIETY BALL, HELD AT DETROIT'S HISTORIC PACKARD PLANT**

The **2015 Detroit Historical Society Ball** became the first black-tie event to rock the historic **Packard Plant** Building 22, 6235 Concord Avenue in Detroit, on **Saturday, December 5, 2015**. The Society welcomed some 700 guests, who enjoyed a cocktail and hors d'oeuvres reception, seated dinner with both live and silent auctions, and a festive afterglow. In all, the evening raised a record-setting \$507,000 to support exhibitions and educational programs at the Detroit Historical Museum and Dossin Great Lakes Museum.

2015 Society Ball co-chairs were **Lisa Baruah** of Grosse Pointe Park, **Lena Epstein** of Bloomfield Hills and **Alicia Nicholson** of Grosse Pointe Farms. **Hour Detroit** was a media sponsor.

The Society also recognized the generous support of **Presenting Sponsor, Mimi and Sandy McMillan** of Grosse Pointe Farms. Not only is McMillan a generous supporter, but he has also served on the Society's Board of Trustees for over 17 years and is currently immediate past President.

McMillan's family has strong historical ties to Detroit and the Packard Motor Car Company, who made the historic location on East Grand Boulevard the iconic symbol it is today. His great uncle, Phillip H. McMillan, was a founding investor in the company during its inception in 1902 and served on the original board of directors and later as corporate secretary. His grandfather, James T. McMillan, served on the Packard board during the 1930s and 1940s. Upon his death in 1946, his son, James McMillan, Sandy's father, served until the company discontinued operations.

**JPMorgan Chase** was the Presenting Educational Initiatives Sponsor for the 2015 Ball. Platinum Sponsors included **The Display Group, Ford Motor Company**

and **Quicken Loans**. Gold Sponsors included **American House Senior Living Communities, Beaumont Health System, Lear Corporation**, the **Manoogian Foundation, Alicia and John Nicholson, Penske Corporation, Bobbi & Stephen Polk**, and **PVS Chemicals**. Silver sponsors included the **Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Alandt; Arte Express; Mr. & Mrs. Thomas C. Buhl; Citizens Bank; Crest Automotive; David & Sherry Cotton; General Motors; Ruth & Al Glancy; Harvey Rice Foundation; Jaffe, Raitt, Heuer & Weiss; The Jayne Group; David & Kristin Nicholson; Stephanie & Tim Nicholson; PNC Bank; PricewaterhouseCoopers; Proximo Spirits; Republic Tavern; Lloyd and Maurcine Reuss; St. John Providence; Paul & Cheryl Van Tol; Vesco Oil; Whelan Family Foundation and Wolverine Packing Company**.

Built in 1939, the Packard Motor Car Company's Building 22 is a 260,000 square foot warehouse designed by H. E. Beyster Corp. It was used for construction of the one-of-a-kind Rolls Royce Merlin aircraft engine. Exclusively made in Detroit, the engine was used for P-51 Mustang fighter planes during World War II and was one of the most reliable and powerful engines ever made. The Packard Plant Building 22 once teemed with hundreds of factory workers and today is being repurposed in a new, creative way as **Display Group's Rick Portwood** sets up shop.

The Detroit Historical Society is a private, nonprofit organization located in Midtown, the heart of Detroit's cultural center. Founded in 1921, its mission is to tell Detroit's stories and why they matter. Today, the Society operates the Detroit Historical Museum and the Dossin Great Lakes Museum. In addition, the Society is responsible for the conservation and preservation of more than 250,000 artifacts that represent three centuries of our region's rich history. Through its museum exhibits, school tour programs, community-based programs and history-themed outreach efforts, the Society serves more than 150,000 people annually. For more information on the Detroit Historical Society, visit [detroithistorical.org](http://detroithistorical.org).

# # #