

Free 'Come Out!' presentation Friday

Illustrator Isabel Clare Paul and historian Tim Retzloff will present a "Come Out!" program Thursday, June 30, in the Saugatuck-Douglas History Center's Old School House, 130 Center St., Douglas, at 7 p.m. All are welcome, free.

It will cap the Center's June Pride Month celebration paired with building galleries open showing the SDHC's ongoing "A Century of Progress: 100 Years of LGBTQ History in Saugatuck-Douglas."

Retzloff and Paul will share the story of the first Christopher Street Detroit '72 Pride Parade, marking its 50th anniversary while presenting copies Retzloff's "Come Out! In Detroit" colored nonfiction comic book portraying the history of the march which had between 200 and 400 people in attendance.

Paul, its illustrator who identifies as a non-binary lesbian, is a graduate of the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit and Ypsilanti native.

On June 24, 1972, Detroit's Woodward Avenue came alive with a public parade, speeches in Kennedy Square, dance on Cass Avenue's Unitarian Church and next-day picnic at Palmer Park. These events finished off weeklong celebrations at Michigan State University, Wayne State University and the University of Michigan. That same week, Ann



Presenters Isabel Clare Paul and Tim Retzloff show copy of the latter's commemorative comic book.

Arbor City Council declared it Gay Pride Week — the first known official recognition by a governmental body in the United States of

LGBTQ pride. The Michigan Gay Coalition helped plan and coordinate these activities with representatives from metro Detroit,

Ann Arbor, Lansing and East Lansing plus other statewide municipalities. "As a longtime historian of Michigan's

LGBTQ+ past," said Retzloff, "I appreciate the special place that Saugatuck and Douglas have played in our in our efforts over many

years." For more information, visit MySDHistory.org.