

Live from Kalamazoo: 'It's 1895!' at Henderson Castle

By Steve Davy
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Step back in time to 1895 and the official house-warming party for Frank and Mary Henderson at what would become one of Kalamazoo's most prominent landmarks, the Henderson Castle on West Main Hill.

The castle, recently transformed into a bed-and-breakfast, will be the setting for the historical re-creation group Live from Kalamazoo's "It's 1895!" event on Nov. 3.

In association with the Kalamazoo County Historical Society and the Stuart Area Restoration Association, Live from Kalamazoo will present an evening based on the house party that the Hendersons gave upon completion of their new home. Party-goers are encouraged to dress up in 19th-century attire. Guests can dance in the ballroom to period music from the three-piece Brook Farm String Band. Brook Farm will also teach English country-style dancing, the authentic dance of the period.

"It's a little less formal than ballroom dancing, but it should prove to be a lot of fun," organizer Katherine Bonnes said. "It's not difficult to do."

Also planned is a wine tasting and performances by Kalamazoo's improv comedy troupe Crawlspace Eviction.

"They've been involved in our two prior Live from Kalamazoo events," Bonnes said. "Typically they portray prominent people from Kalamazoo of the period and perform skits."



MARK BUGNASKI / GAZETTE

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