

# Looking Forward to 2020

By Jim Williams

Bay City is located on the east side of Michigan's lower peninsula near the base of the Saginaw Bay on Lake Huron. The city, along with nearby Midland and Saginaw, form the Great Lakes Bay Region. Bay City's proximity to Saginaw Bay made it the center of Michigan's storied lumber industry. Stately homes of former lumber barons still line Center Avenue.

The Saginaw River runs through the city. There are river walks on both sides of the river allowing for pleasant leisurely strolls. Marinas up and down the river serve all kinds of pleasure-boaters from sailors seeking the wind to power-boaters out for a cruise. Only Florida has more pleasure boats than Michigan.

From a fresh-catch seafood restaurant on the water to an authentic churrascaria (Brazilian steakhouse) new to Uptown, get ready to experience bright, bold flavors — and the unbeatable views to match! Choose from 54 craft brews on tap and American gastropub classics with a twist while you take in views of waterfront Wenonah Park at Tavern 101, or experience a bistro inside Bay City's original City Hall with 150+ wines from around the globe. See sushi hand-rolled before your eyes at Fusion 1 Cafe, try poké bowls and bubble tea at Sushi Remix, or sample fresh, local eats at our new City Market.

The Doubletree Hotel, site of the 2020 Four Freshmen Society Convention, sits adjacent to the river, with easy access to the East side river walk. Experience some of the best antique shopping in Michigan — including Michigan's largest antique center — and pop into dozens of other boutiques and eateries peppered from Uptown to Downtown, most of which are in easy walking distance from the hotel.

I know you will find an enthusiastic welcome when you visit. Both the Hotel and the Great Lakes Bay Region Bureau of Tourism, who are looking forward to you being here, have promised to do everything they can to make your time here, not only pleasant, but memorable. More to come. By the way, the Freshmen will be here!

# Denver to Bay City

By Gil Peterson

I would like to start by extending my heartfelt congratulations to Kathy Bazz, Nancy Driscoll and the entire Denver Convention Committee for orchestrating a terrific convention. Everything went extremely well. The hotel was excellent and the hotel staff was accommodating in every way. Thanks to each of you for your dedication and many hours of planning and execution.

The Thursday night jam session was one of the best and Dave Blackwell handled the emcee duties flawlessly. We even had a song by Chaz. Thanks Chaz....it sounded great. Do it again next year.

Curtis Calderon's music video was outstanding and very well received. By the way, If you didn't know, Curtis wrote the arrangement and sang all four parts on the recording. The only thing that could have been better is if Curtis could have been with us himself. Maybe next year in Bay City. Thanks Curtis, we loved it.

The Friday and Saturday night Freshmen concerts were superb. They were right at the top of their game. Their selection of material could not have been better. The Saturday individual dedications added a very special and personal touch for all of us. Thank you Freshmen for your thoughtfulness.

Also, thanks to Dave Bentley, Trudy Feigum and the FFMF, we had the opportunity Saturday to be entertained by the Fresh Four. This is a group of four eighteen year old college freshmen from Florida who happen to love the Freshmen sound and they sing it very well. It was delightful to hear their performance. We all loved having them and their parents with us this year. All in all, I think our Denver convention was very successful and everyone I spoke with truly enjoyed the experience. Once again, we all extend our sincere thanks to the entire Denver Convention Committee.

As most of you know, our 2020 convention will be held in Bay City, Michigan. Jim and Linda Williams are planning a blockbuster convention for us. The Bay City area is serviced by three airports and numerous airlines. Although I have never been there, I understand it is a beautiful area and our Double Tree Hotel is located within walking distance of many restaurants and shops. The convention dates are September 24, 25, and 26. Mark your calendar now! You do not want to miss this one! I look forward to seeing all of you there.

