

Raven Hill

DISCOVERY CENTER

WHERE SCIENCE HISTORY AND ART CONNECT

04737 Fuller Rd | East Jordan, MI 49727 | 231-536-3369 | info@miravenhill.org | www.MiRavenHill.org

We are open 10-4pm weekdays, 12-4pm Saturdays & 2-4pm Sundays. Open holidays & other times by appointment.
Raven Hill Discovery Center, incorporated in 1991, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.

Mission: Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

To: Raven Hill Friends and Supporters

From: Cheri and Raven Hill

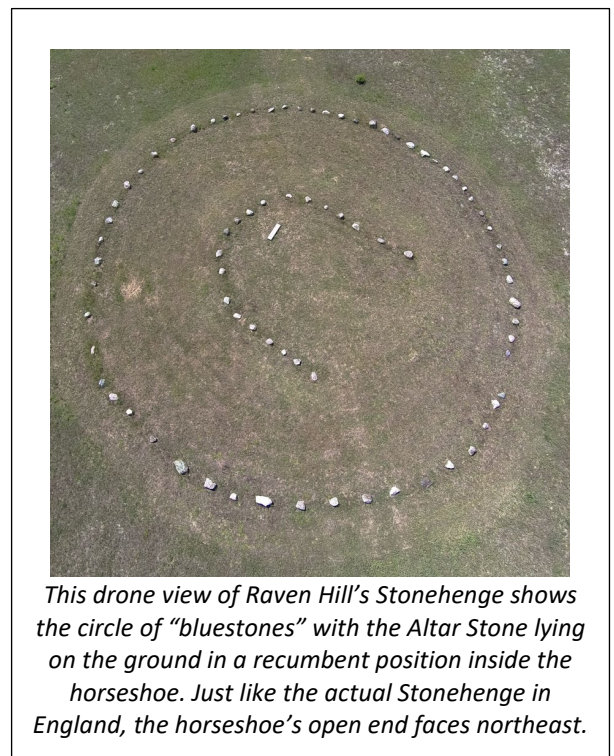
Date: June 10, 2023

Re: *Replica or Interpretation?*

None of the sculptures in Raven Hill Discovery Center's Ancient World are replicas. That is to say, they are not "works of art that are indistinguishable from the original pieces of art". Rather, they are artistic interpretations of originals from ancient times. Art is the oldest form of human expression and the art in the Center's Ancient World is a way of interpreting the past and making it come alive for visitors.



In 2012, Raven Hill's **Blurred Boundaries** grant award from the Michigan Council for Arts & Cultural Affairs (now Michigan Arts & Culture Council) explored the idea that history is often preserved as art. Professional and student artists participated in creating sculptures for the Center's Ancient World. The Sphinx, Pyramid and Roman Arch were designed and built by professional artists. Three sculptures—the Stone Throne, Twin Towers and Sleeping Bear—were fashioned in miniature by middle school students and then recreated as full-size sculptures by Dave Wilson of Northern Monument & Laser Engraving. Prior to 2012, local astronomer, Patrick Stonehouse, helped to layout our version of Stonehenge using native fieldstones left here by the glaciers to represent the bluestones of the actual Stonehenge. The Easter Island Moai was built by middle school girls working with artist Lori Hough and artist Jim Garrison carved the limestone Obelisk. All are artistic interpretations. This week, two more small sculptures were installed in the Ancient World.





Now, the Altar Stone at Raven Hill stands vertically welcoming positive energy to the Center's many visitors.

For years, the Altar of Raven Hill's Stonehenge has laid on the ground for fear of someone knocking it over and getting hurt. Now it is secure in a vertical position. The actual Altar Stone at England's Stonehenge is partially buried beneath two of the fallen stones of the largest trilithon. No one knows, whether it originally lay flat as an altar-like slab or if it stood upright. At Raven Hill, the vertical positioning of the Altar Stone lends itself to greater visibility, making it all the more impressive. In England and at the Center, the Altar Stone faces in a northeast direction, marking the midsummer sunrise, an important part in the cycle of life for prehistoric cultures. As described in Vastu shastra, a traditional Indian architecture that is based on the principles of design that brings harmony with nature, a northeast direction ensures wealth, prosperity and happiness. Many prehistoric civilizations, like Vastu Shastra and the ancient Chinese Feng shui, use energy forces to harmonize people with their environment.

The second sculpture was carved by Richard and Tim Leach from an old limestone step. Newly named the **Guardian of the Ancient World**, the sculpture is located near the Roman Arch and faces west toward the setting sun, symbolizing strength, peace and awareness of life's cyclic nature. James Madison, statesman and fourth president of the United States, once said, "The advancement and diffusion of knowledge is the only guardian of true liberty." May Raven Hill's **Guardian of the Ancient World** encourage Madison's ideal of liberty through "the advancement and diffusion of knowledge".

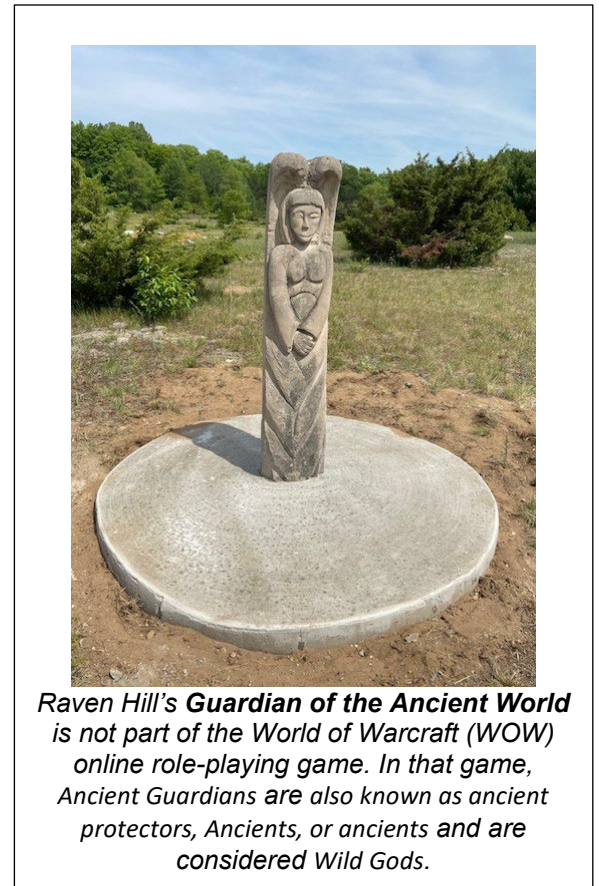
During the summer, Raven Hill is open to visitors seven days a week—10am to 4pm on weekdays, noon to 4pm on Saturdays and 2pm to 4pm on Sundays.

Summer Classes for Kids start Monday, June 12 and run for 11 weeks—Monday through Thursday of each week. Morning classes are 10:30am to 12pm and afternoon classes are 12:30pm to 2:00pm. Kids can come for either morning or afternoon classes or bring a lunch and stay for both.

Call 231.536.3369 or email info@miravenhill.org to register for classes or to make appointments to visit other times, including major holidays.

Hope to see you often this summer,

Cheri



Raven Hill's **Guardian of the Ancient World** is not part of the World of Warcraft (WOW) online role-playing game. In that game, Ancient Guardians are also known as ancient protectors, Ancients, or ancients and are considered Wild Gods.



Raven Hill Discovery Center is supported in part by the Michigan Arts & Culture Council (MACC) and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) through a 2023 Operational Grant Award.