It’s just like my father’s tepee: it even has the same number of sticks!” exclaimed the daughter of a Native American chief, as she gazed in wonder at the soaring timber trusses above what is now the Main Lodge (Great Hall) of the Mission Point Resort. It was only after the completion of the building in 1956 that the architect, William Woollett, heard of an Indian legend that one day a great tepee would rise on Mackinac, to which all nations would come and find peace. In the following years the legend seemed to become a reality. There’s a story behind these buildings, with their stunning architecture. The Great Hall is one of the most distinctive architectural structures on the island, with its nine-ton majestic trusses, converging at a height of 36 feet, resembling a large tepee.

In the 1940s, Moral Re-Armament (MRA), an international network of people working for positive change in the world, began holding conferences on Mackinac Island at the Grand Hotel and Island House. In 1954, when it became clear that a permanent center was needed, MRA broke ground for its first major building project at Mission Point—the 800 seat theater. The next year, the logs for the mighty trusses of the Great Hall were brought from the last remaining stand of virgin pine in Michigan.

Visit the Web site at www.us.iofc.org
Request a copy of the newsletter, Breakthroughs, by emailing info@us.iofc.org
Read about the history and current work of Initiatives of Change. Books include Forgiveness: Breaking the Chain of Hate and The Forgiveness Factor, both by Michael Henderson. On the Tail of a Comet, by Garth Lean, is the authoritative story of Frank Buchman, initiator of MRA. Other resources are available at www.us.iofc.org/resources.

For more information about Initiatives of Change

Visit the MRA exhibit on the 4th floor of the Activities Center.

Mission Point Resort Mackinac Island, Michigan (906) 847-3312 www.missionpoint.com

Visit the MRA Exhibit at Mission Point Resort

The History of the Buildings & How They Welcomed the World

Visit the MRA Exhibit at Mission Point Resort

The MRA Exhibit is located on the 4th floor of the Activities Center.
Volunteers from as far away as Australia and South Africa worked alongside skilled tradesmen from the island and northern Michigan on the construction.

The buildings were financed by contributions, as well as gifts such as cement from Los Angeles, a silk curtain from Japan and teak from Burma. Limestone for the huge fireplaces came from the Fritz Grebe farm near Mackinaw City.

People from more than 100 countries, including a group of 102 young Japanese in the mid-1950s, filled the conference center halls with their hopes for a remade world. Through personal change, they found that taking responsibility and forgiving others brought healing. This is the spirit that built these buildings. Take it with you.

**Initiatives of Change**

The work of MRA that was carried on at Mackinac for so many years continues under the organization’s new name, Initiatives of Change (IofC). Its purpose is to encourage individuals to find their unique contribution to the transformation needed in the world. Working together across differences of race, class, nationality or religion, IofC forms a worldwide community with a common purpose.

Training centers around the world include Panchgani, India; Melbourne, Australia; Petropolis, Brazil; and Caux, Switzerland, where summer-long international conferences are convened every year. Since its inception in 1946, the Caux conference center alone has drawn some 250,000 people from all over the world. At its 50th anniversary it was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Programs of Initiatives of Change**

*Hope in the Cities* brings communities together to address the issues of racial reconciliation and healing. Based in Richmond, Va., it works in partnership with other groups and emphasizes honest dialogue, acknowledgment of our common history, and an acceptance of personal responsibility.

The *Caux Scholars Program* focuses on the moral and spiritual dimensions of peacemaking and the relationship between individual transformation and change in the world. Since 1991, students from more than 100 universities around the world have gathered each summer to examine the personal, religious, social and cultural factors which create and sustain conflict, as well as strategies for dealing with those differences.

The *Connecting Communities Trustbuilding Program* (CCTP) is a skills-building program designed to increase the capacity to overcome divisions of race, culture, economics and politics. Drawing participants from across the United States, CCTP stands as a growing network of skilled facilitators and communicators, capable team builders, informed advocates, and credible role models.

*Action for Life* is a nine-month service learning and leadership development program that explores the issues confronting leaders and communities across the United States as well as approaches to creating change.

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The Legend Became A Reality

The exhibit includes wall-sized murals painted in the 1950s by Erling Roberts. The murals depict 121 people whose lives were touched by Moral Re-Armament (now Initiatives of Change).