



Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945

## "The Moorings" Newsletter

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# the Mooring's

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
*established 1945*  
Summer 2014  
Vol. 31 No. 1

## Blue Star Museum



As part of the Blue Star Museums Project, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society hosts an Open House, Saturday, August 10 from 1 pm to 4 pm. The Blue Star Museums Project

This is a WWI American Red Cross Canteen Worker Badge in the archives at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center.

## Society earns CAP Grant



Heritage Preservation is pleased to announce that the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has been chosen to participate in the 2014 Conservation Assessment Program (CAP).

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society joins the 2,800 museums that have participated in CAP in its 22 year history of serving museums. Heritage Preservation's CAP is supported

through a cooperative agreement with the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services. CAP assists museums by providing funds for professional conservation and preservation specialists to identify the conservation needs of their collections and historic buildings and recommend ways to correctly improve collections and building conditions.

Heritage Preservation's President, Lawrence L. Reger, praised the Grosse Pointe Historical Society for "making the vital work of caring for collections and sites a priority of their institution, even in these challenging financial times, and helping ensure that they are available to present and future generations."

CAP provides a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections and historic buildings – The Provencal-Weir House, the Log Cabin and the Alfred B and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center.

Professional conservators will spend two days surveying the site and three days preparing comprehensive reports that will identify conservation priorities. The on-site consultation will enable the the Grosse Pointe Historical Society to evaluate its current collections care policies, procedures, and environmental conditions.

Heritage Preservation is a national non-profit organization dedicated to preserving the cultural heritage of the United States. By identifying risks, developing innovative programs, and providing broad public access to expert advice, Heritage Preservation assists museums, libraries, archives, historic preservation and other organizations, as well as individuals, in caring for our endangered heritage. To learn more about Heritage Preservation, please visit [www.heritagepreservation.org](http://www.heritagepreservation.org).

offers free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day 2013.

Tours of the nearly two centuries-old Provencal-Weir House and log cabin highlight the offerings for this special celebration.

The free admission provided to active duty U.S. military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps – and up to five family members.

## Three properties showcased

History lives and thrives in the Grosse Pointes. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society recognized three properties that reflect the variety of buildings in the area.

The individuals and organizations that have with their imagination and creativity sought to preserve and even repurpose these buildings were acknowledged for their vision at a free program, Tuesday, May 13 at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Three properties, The Red Crown Restaurant, The Country Club of Detroit and the Rohns House at 888 Lake Shore, received Plaques,

The Red Crown Restaurant, originally a Standard Oil gas station, was built in 1932 by the company. All the stations featured beige brick, red roof tiles and a distinctive façade.

The second building to be honored was the Country Club of Detroit. CCD has a history of "new club houses."

The first home for the Country Club was a building on the lake, near the foot of Fisher Road, built in 1886. The second club house was built and designed by Albert Kahn in 1905 on lakeside property. In 1911, the Club bought

the Weir farm in order to build a new and better golf course on the "upper" property. In 1923 the next clubhouse was opened. Designed by Albert Kahn, the building was like an English country estate. Two years later, a fire gutted the building. Smith, Hinchman & Grylls carried out a new design.

The third property is the summer home built at 888 Lake Shore. The Hermann C. Rohns House is an example of summer homes that were built on the lake in the early years of the 20th century.

Rohns, built the cottage in 1904. The brown shingle style home and carriage house include many Craftsman details.

The current owner, Patricia Galvin, has maintained and restored these unique elements.

*Susan Bologna, Michael Farley, Ben Gravel, Greg Jakub were the researchers for this presentation. Technical assistance was provided by Daniel Kubacki.*

Complete presentation on each property is available on the web site at [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org)



Ron Konopka created a 1/24 scale model of the Standard Oil Station c. 1950 that has been repurposed as the Red Crown Restaurant, 15301 Kercheval. Some of his collection were on display at the War Memorial for the Pointes of History Celebration.



**September 17 –**

***Arsenal Of Democracy: The American Automobile Industry In WWII***

*Presenter: Dr. Charles K. Hyde*

Cook Schoolhouse

25025 Mack Avenue, Grosse Pointe Woods, MI

Automobile manufacturers in Detroit and the surrounding area accounted for one-fifth of the dollar value of the nation's total war production in WWII. Dr. Charles K. Hyde details the industry's transition to a wartime production powerhouse and its notable achievements.

**October 15 –**

***The Boy Governor: Stevens T. Mason And The Birth Of Michigan Politics***

*Presenter: Dr. Don Faber*

Stevens T. Mason Elementary School

1640 Vernier, Grosse Pointe Woods

Don Faber tells the story of this dominant political figure in Michigan's early development, Michigan's first governor at age 24, the youngest chief executive in any state's history. Capturing Mason's youthful idealism and visionary accomplishments, including his advocacy for a strong state university and legislating for the creation of the Soo Locks.

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Telephone: (313) 884-7010.

Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

# Ribbon Farm Days

Step back in time to 100 years ago. What did children do in the summer? Was it fun? Find out when elementary aged children have the opportunity to discover what children did for fun when the Grosse Pointe Historical Society sponsors, Ribbon Farm Days 2014.

Ribbon Farms Days allows children in the community to develop an increased understanding of a very unique history that we share," said Patricia O'Brien, vice president for education.

Led by Isabelle Donnelly, director of education, each of the four two week sessions focuses on a theme that incorporates one or more of these traditions: Michigan Gardens, Grosse Pointe History, Crafts and activities of the last two centuries and Fairy Tales and children's stories.

The two week sessions begin June 17 and continue through August 14. All programs begin at 11 a.m. and end at 3 p.m.

A special field trip to the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House for the Fairy Tale Festival is part of Session IV.

Held at the historic Provencal-Weir House, Ribbon Farm Days provide students in grades 3, 4 and 5 the opportunity to learn about the children who lived in Grosse Pointe in the past. Enrichment, crafts and cooking experiences introduce children to skills and games from our rich history.

**Session I, June 17, 19, 24 & 26 is called Gardens.** Students investigate migration patterns of birds and butterflies indigenous to the area. Crafts focus on traditional ways of making our gardens attractive to birds and butterflies.

**Session II, July 8, 10, 15 & 17 is about Grosse Pointe History.** In this session students discover life in Grosse Pointe when it was a forest and farm land. Crafts focus on boats and homes. Cooking skills include making turnovers.

**Session III, July 22, 24, 29 & 31 is everything there is to know about Ribbon Farms.** Games children played domestic chores and crafts focus on making candles and holders, dying wool and weaving. Cooking skills include making cornbread.

**Session IV, Aug. 5, 7, 12 & 14 is about Children's Stories.**

Children have the opportunity to investigate the importance and meaning of stories for children. An added attraction is a field trip to the Eleanor and Edsel Ford House for the Peter Pan exhibit followed with a special Peter Pan Pirate scavenger hunt. Transportation to the Ford House is included.

Children bring lunch from home.

Registrations begins May 1, 2014

Tuition for members is \$90 for one session, \$170 for two sessions, \$160 each for three sessions and \$150 each for four sessions.

Non-Member tuition is \$125 per session.

Information at: 313-884-7010 or [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)



# Thank You Donors

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is grateful for the generous support of the community. We are able to continue our mission because of the overwhelming response to our Annual Appeal.

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Dishwasher  
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for the Parlor,  
circa 1850  
Window treatments  
for the Dining Room,  
circa 1900  
Resource Center  
Flat bed Scanner  
Computer Updates



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# English Elegance

**An evening  
at a Georgian  
Manor House**

*Cocktails, strolling supper,  
docent-led tours, vintage autos and  
musical entertainment.*

**SUPPORT THE GPHS AT AT THE SUMMER GALA!**

## Holiday Shopping at LaBelle Country Store

Located inside the Provencal-Weir House, the LaBelle Country Store has become the “go to” place for gifts that are unique to Grosse Pointe.

The store will be open Friday, Dec. 13 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 14 and Dec. 21 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Vintage toys and stocking stuffers are available at very reasonable prices.

**Ornament:** The second ornament in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society collection represents the Joy Bells (*see article below*).

**Pewabic Tile:** A new supply of the commemorative Pewabic tile, designed specifically for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, is available.

**The Grosse Pointe Squirrel:** “Peanut” is nuts about Grosse Pointe. This stuffed replica of our ubiquitous black squirrel won’t dig up tulips or bury treasures in your yard.

**Desk Calendars:** The 2014 Grosse Pointe Historical Society monthly desk calendar features Lake St. Clair water sports of the past.

**LaBelle Soaps:** Handmade guest soaps in a variety of colors and designs are available.

**Books:** The collection focuses on local history and fiction with a local setting. With more than 20 titles from which to choose, finding the right book for your history buff is very easy.

**Jewelry by Jan:** Local artist Janice Hendrie presents her latest creations. Necklaces, bracelets and earrings made from gemstones that Jan has carefully selected are a new feature in the store this season.



## Holiday Open House

Friday, Dec. 13 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Join us for Holiday Treats, Caroling, Entertainment,  
Shopping at LaBelle Country Store

## The Joy Bells celebrated in this year’s Christmas ornament

Once they rang from the grounds of “Fair Acres,” the Henry B. Joy estate; now they stand at the corner of Moross and Grosse Pointe Blvd.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society honors the Joy Bells unique place in Grosse Pointe history by featuring the bells on this year’s commemorative Christmas ornament.

Available in the LaBelle Country Store, the limited edition ornaments sell for \$10.

The bells were commissioned by Mr. Joy in 1929 from George Paccard & Fils, a French bell foundry in Annecy le Vieux.

Each of the 15 bells is bears the inscription “Henry B. Joy, 1929,” plus the seal and name of the bell foundry.

The clock mechanism attached to the bells rings the Westminster Quarters every 15 minutes and strikes on the hour. When the bells were on the Joy estate, they rang between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

There is also a mechanism attached to the bells that can play tunes. Scratched on the frame is “Carmen”, a reference to the opera. This function may have played after the hour or at special times of day.





# Membership Matters!

Annual membership dues are the life-blood of any local organization. At the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, we rely on dues to keep our doors open.

This year we reviewed the structure of our membership program. The Membership Committee compiled information for a comprehensive study of other local historical societies in Michigan. We compared ourselves to organizations of similar size and mission.

The result of this work is streamlined membership categories and three additional membership benefits. The first big change is our enrollment in Time Travelers. This program is available to members in all categories. Created in 1998 by the Missouri History Museum, Time Travelers is a reciprocal membership network for historical sites and museums throughout the United States. Members of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society receive benefits and privileges at museums and historical sites nationwide. These benefits may include free or reduced admission, gift shop discounts or free parking.

The second new benefit to many membership categories is the use of the Provencal-Weir House for an event. The Provencal-Weir House is a good venue for birthday parties, showers, client appreciation events and more.

For family memberships, we want to treat your children to a free weekend workshop called "Second Saturdays" where children participate in creating a unique craft!

If you maximize your membership, and are sure to capitalize on all the new perks, you'll see that membership in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society *pays for itself!*

## 1823 Society

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society recognizes the importance of partnerships with the community. The Membership Committee with the approval of the Board of Trustees has initiated the 1823 Society.

This membership is available to businesses and offers:

- A 20% discount in the LaBelle Country Store.
- A membership in *Time Travelers*
- Two DVDs: *Recollections of the Past* and *The Past as Prologue*
- A Grosse Pointe Historical Society Pewabic tile
- An opportunity to hold two meetings or gatherings, at no charge, at the Provencal-Weir House.
- A listing in the Society's newsletters, *Moorings* and *eMoorings*.
- A listing as Business Sponsor on the Grosse Pointe Historical Society website with link.

In addition, Charter Members of the 1823 Society will be recognized separately on the Grosse Pointe Historical Society website and identified as "1823 Society Sponsors" at the Pointes of History Plaque Awards and the Summer Gala.

### 1823 SOCIETY MEMBERS

- Champion & Baer, Inc.
- Edsel & Eleanor Ford House
- Higbie Maxon Agney Inc.
- Beline Obeid Realty
- Pointe Magazine

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

This is an excellent way to learn about local history and contribute to our Grosse Pointe heritage.

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

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Telephone: (313) 884-7010.  
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# Legendary Locals

Grosse Pointe is a community of many transformations. Today, it is known as an affluent suburb of Detroit, but Native Americans were the first inhabitants of this haven on the water. In the late 1600s, the fertile land, rich forests, and easy access to water attracted European settlers to the region. And, as neighboring Detroit began to prosper, the allure of Grosse Pointe's lakefront drew weekend pleasure-seekers, then summer vacationers, and later permanent residents who wanted to live on the shores of Lake St. Clair. Throughout this diverse, fascinating history, one thing has remained constant: the character of the people who call Grosse Pointe home. Hardworking, civic-minded, and devoted to family and friends, these individuals embody the spirit of Grosse Pointe, a unique community where generation after generation keeps coming back to live and play.

Born and raised in Grosse Pointe, Suzy Berschback has written three other Arcadia books, two of them with longtime resident Ann Marie Aliotta. They enjoy sharing the many varied tales of their hometown and have been known to dig in the archives or attics and say, "We just have to tell this story!"

The book event is Dec. 21 from 2 to 4 pm at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval info at 313-884-7010 or [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

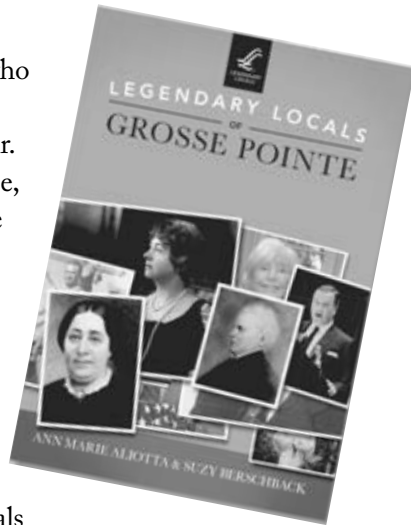
# Grosse Pointe Historical Research

The researchers at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society help members with genealogical questions. Some of the tools that are regularly used are the *Polk City Directory* and *The Social Secretary*.

We are missing the following editions of *The Social Secretary* for 1925, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1938, 1939 and 1942.

Currently, we are looking for any editions of the *Polk City Directory*.

Books may be dropped at the Moran Resource Center at 381 Kercheval.



# Second Saturday Events for 2014

*Tap into children's creative side at Second Saturday programs at the Provencal-Weir House.*

*Each two hour event focuses on a seasonal craft or a simple kitchen project.*

*The kitchen projects include dipping pretzels or fruit into melted chocolates and decorating them to give as gifts to family and friends. Or the children may be helping with baking simple recipes. All the projects can become family projects at home.*

*Seasonally based crafts are selected based on the skill level of the children and additionally, engage their creativity. These creations are meant to be displayed in the child's home. "There is no better way to involve children in the preparation for the holiday than to have one of their creations as part of the decoration," said Izzy Donnelly, education director.*

## January 11

**No sew fleece pillows.** A winter themed blue fleece pillow is the craft for January. Children will cut the design, cut and tie fringe, stuff the pillow, glue the decorations. Their newly created pillow can be used on the couch in the living room or their bedrooms.

## February 8

**The Valentine kitchen project** features strawberries dipped in white chocolate and then decorated with sprinkles and pink and red chocolate. It's not only delicious, but fun, too. The completed treats will be placed in festive bag wrapped with Valentine's ribbon. These will be great for gifts for grandparents or guests.

## March 8

**Sew and stuff Grosse Pointe's native black squirrel.**

The third project in our series of sewing stuffed animals allows children to create a squirrel made from ultra soft faux fur fabric.

## April 12

**Create a spring votive candle.** Using real egg shells that have been prepared ahead of time, children will dye the shells, melt candle wax, and create a spring votive. As the candles dry, children will paint wooden egg holders to complete the project.

## May 10

**Welcome summer by making Wind Chimes.** Bells, beaded yarn and a painted dowel are used to create a wind chime that will delight the family.

These classes are appropriate for children from 7 -10 years of age. Classes begin at 1 p.m. Registration is required. Call 313-884-7010 for information.



# Legends wrap up

Despite the threat of bad weather, the show did go on. Not on the outdoor stage as planned, but under the protection of a tent.

*Legends of the Lake* reenacted some familiar and some not so familiar stories about people whose lives were connected to Lake St. Clair.

Researched by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, written and produced by the Grosse Pointe Theatre, and presented at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, *Legends of the Lake* played to sold out audiences each of the three nights in October.

The production was directed by Jane Burkey, and produced by Emma Jean Evans with Mickie Pizzimenti as the Stage Manager. The researcher for the project was Isabelle Donnelly.



Narrator Marie Carolyn Watson Hamlin (Patricia O'Brien) discovers the early history of Lake St. Clair from Robert Cavalier de la Salle (Eddie Tujaka).

The seven vignettes were narrated by Marie Carolyn Watson Hamlin (Patricia O'Brien) who published *Legends of Detroit* in 1883. Robert Cavalier de la Salle (Eddie Tujaka) told the story of the naming of Lake St. Claire. The vignette was written by Harry Burkey.

"The Devil's Grist Mill," written by Mary Lou Britton, featured Shawn Henry, Pat Stewart, Charly Davis and Robby Mullinger in the retelling of a tale of greed and the supernatural.

In Grant's Castle with Henry Kelsey III, Perry Calisi, Sal Rubino and Elizabeth Schaefer, the audience learned about this extraordinary family and their role in the development of the cultural life of the area. The vignette was written by Phyllis Reeve.

The story of Euphemia and Pierre Provencal written by Peter DiSante was presented by Robby Mullinger, Cyndy Nehr and William Giovan.

Beth Teagan, Jack Fennessy, Cliff Levin, Henry Kelsey II, Natalie Boehmer, and Sydney Anderson presented Margie Reins Smith's vignette and about the Hall Family and their home Tonnacour.

The story of Josephine Weber Gaukler was written by Dennis Wickline and was acted by Mary Stelmark, Stella Woitulewicz, Charly David and William Giovan.

"The final vignette, about the Cotswold home designed and built by Albert Kahn for Edsel and Eleanor Ford, was written by Mike Trudel.



The Hall family photographed at Tonnacour.



Cyndy Nehrand, William Giovan as Euphemia and Pierre Provencal.



Jean LeDuc (Charly Davis), Martine (Pat Stewart), Josette DeLuc (Shawn Henry) reenact the legend of "The Devil's Grist Mill."

# Ribbon Farm Days

Ribbon Farms Days at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has ended and Grosse Pointe children have once again had the unique experience of playing, crafting and cooking in much the same way as their counterparts 100 years ago.

“The history of the area includes French, British, American and Native American influences. Ribbon Farms Days allows children in the community to develop an increased understanding of a very unique history that we share,” said Patricia O’Brien, vice president for education.

Led by Isabelle Donnelly, director of education,



*Children painting a batik – garden flag.*

each of the four two week sessions focused on a theme that incorporated one or more of these traditions: Michigan Gardens, Grosse Pointe History, Crafts and activities of the last two centuries and Fairy Tales.

The children enjoy the Provencal-Weir House and learn Grosse Pointe history in a home that has stood for nearly two centuries. “If I could have any house in the world I would pick the PWH to live in,” said one eight year old at the end of a session.

“Children learn that the young people who lived in this house faced many of the same concerns,” said Donnelly. The crafts that children learned are the same as those from 100 years ago – simple carpentry, basic sewing, weaving, dyeing and baking.



*Children are putting the light in their Windmill Pointe night lights.*



*Children are learning quilt making.*



*Children learning wood crafts.*



*Painting the Windmill Pointe House “night light” to create an authentic look.*

**“If I could have any house  
in the world  
I would pick the PWH to live in”**

– an eight year old at the  
end of a Ribbon Farm session



# La Dolce Vita thank you

*La Dolce Vita* was a wonderful opportunity to meet friends, enjoy an excellent repast and be amazed at the beauty and artistic elegance of the Charles Dean House.



It was made possible by the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Sergio Mazza, who invited us into their home, and the people in the community who donate their time and talent to this event. We are grateful for their continuing support.

The enduring beauty of the Tuscan countryside was the backdrop for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's 10th Summer Gala, "La Dolce Vita," on Thursday, June 6, at the Charles A. Dean house in Grosse Pointe Farms.

Chaired by Susan Hartz and Susan Budrys, the party's honorary chairs Cynthia Dean Navarra, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dean, and the Ruffner family who purchased the home in the 1970s the evening was a rhapsody of food and entertainment.

The Honorary Committee included: Judy and Randy Agle, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Booth II, Cynthia and Julius Huebner, Stephanie Germack-Kerzic and Patrick, Mary and Ron Lamparter, Mary and Thomas C. Shafer and Diane and Tom Schoenith

Ridgeland, the Tuscan-style home designed by famed architect Hugh T. Keyes, was built for Mr. and Mrs. Charles A. Dean, Jr., on one of the few sloping sites in Grosse Pointe. Bordered by giant oak trees, this Italian villa is the result of a successful collaboration between the homeowner and architect.

The party included tours of the house led by docents: Lynn Detwiler, Marlene Harle, Martha Louisell, Bernadette Medura, Athena Pappas and Pam Scanlon.

An Italian-inspired strolling supper was catered by Robert Nahra and his staff at Lakeland Manor and Event Center.

Music in one of the gardens featured Cristina Carollo, lyric soprano, and Joe Recchia, accordionist. Classical guitarist Levi Henson performed in another garden. In the living room, pianist Jack McCormick played the music of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and other American Songbook composers.

"Preserving our historic buildings honors the artisans who poured their talents into their work, and so we are pleased to welcome supporters of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society to our home, Ridgeland," said Lora Mazza, current owner and host of the fundraiser.

Construction on the L-shaped house, which is approximately 8,800 square feet, began in 1924 and was completed in 1926.



"We, as well as the previous residents, enjoy the architectural brilliance of this unique home, Lora Mazza added. "It is designed to fit the landscape while creating views which really make one feel as though they are in Tuscany. Built in the 1920's, the house is perfectly suited for entertainment of large or small parties and offers many charming features to please the eye."

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors and donors for La Dolce Vita.

Business and corporate sponsors included: Michael Dixon and Darrell Finken, Rita and Terry Ernest, Grigg Graphic Services, Grosse Pointe Florists, Grosse Pointe News, John F. Martin Photography, Lakeland Banquet & Event Center, Lucido's Florist.

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# Thank you Donors

Making a contribution to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society supports a wide range of activities.

With financial contributions the Society is able to continue to improve the **Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center Resource Center** and the Provencal-Weir House.

With contributions that enhance our collections, the Society is able to make more information available to those researching for academic or personal projects.

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***Shipwrecked: Reflections of a Sole Survivor.***

**Wednesday, Nov. 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

**1890 COOK SCHOOL HOUSE 20025 MACK AVE.  
GROSSE POINTE WOODS 48236**

On November 29, 1966, up-bound on its last trip of the season and during a 65 mph gale on Lake Huron, the 603 foot steam ship *SS Daniel J. Morrell* broke in half with the loss of 28 lives.

Dennis Hale, author of *Shipwrecked: Reflections of a Sole Survivor* relived those harrowing hours to a packed audience. Dennis has been featured on the Discovery Channel, *Oprah Winfrey Show* and *Today Show*. He tells the story of his survival in the face of incredible odds and recounts the events leading up to and following this tragic event.



***Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812***

**Wednesday, March 19, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.**

**1890 COOK SCHOOL HOUSE 20025 MACK AVE.  
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Douglas Fisher and Joel Stone present a program relating to their latest book, *Border Crossings: The Detroit River Region in the War of 1812*.

Their book uncovers the personal and group interactions often ignored in histories of this conflict. In August 1812, Detroit was surrendered to the British. For more than a year Detroit and the surrounding area was controlled by the British. Until 1815, Americans occupied settlements on the Canadian side of the Detroit River. These multiple "border crossings" had profound implications for the diverse inhabitants of the Detroit River region, including widespread privation, imprisonment, enemy attacks, and dispossession of homes and land.

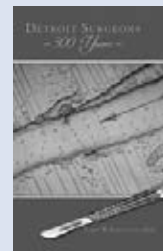


***Detroit Surgeons: 300 Years***

**Wednesday, April 16, 2014, 7:30 p.m.**

**1890 COOK SCHOOL HOUSE 20025 MACK AVE.  
GROSSE POINTE WOODS 48236**

Grosse Pointer and former Grosse Pointe Historical Society Trustee, Larry Stephenson, M.D., presents a program relating to his recent book, *Detroit Surgeons: 300 Years*. This book chronicles the surgical history of the Detroit area during the past three centuries. After the founding in 1868 of the Detroit Medical College, the forerunner of WSU School of Medicine, the book's main focus becomes the medical school's department of surgery. Along the way, histories are presented about surgical specialties and sub-specialties of the medical school. These stories are authored by surgeons in their respective fields. Many area surgeons are featured. The surgical histories of some of the area hospitals are also told.



***The Centennial of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club***

**Wednesday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.**

**EDSEL & ELEANOR FORD HOUSE,  
1100 LAKE SHORE ROAD,  
GROSSE POINTE SHORES 48236**

Grosse Pointer and former Grosse Pointe Historical Society Trustee, Larry Stephenson, M.D., presents a program relating to the upcoming book, *The Centennial of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club*.

The Club, founded in 1914 through the efforts of a group of 25 sailing and ice-boating enthusiasts as a private sailing club, has a fascinating history. The Italian Renaissance-style clubhouse was designed by Boston architect Guy Lowell who won this commission in the early 1920s but died at sea before his plans were fully developed. Despite Mr. Lowell's passing, his concept of an 18th-century Italian renaissance building combining sun-washed stucco walls and terra cotta tile, topped by a 187-foot steeple, stands as a spectacular monument to his creative genius. The clubhouse officially opened amid great fanfare on July 4, 1929 virtually on the eve of the Great Depression, but the club survived and has flourished.



## Talking Headstones returns Oct. 11 - 14

St. Paul's Cemetery is once again the site of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and the Grosse Pointe Theatre's collaborative production of "Talking Headstones," Oct. 11 -14 at 8 p.m.

The fifth annual dramatic event is presented on a specially created stage lit by hurricane lamps and torches. Carefully researched by the GPHS volunteers and staff and written by playwrights of the GPT, the stories reveal the life and times of people who lived in the area.

From 1812, "Fall of Detroit" by Dianne Pegg features the remembrances of Catherine Campau Moran, Phelice Moran, George Moran and Uncle Joseph Moran.

The story from 1856, "Temperance," is also written by Dianne Pegg and highlights Charles Moran Jr. and Virginia Moran St. Aubin.

"Remembering" by Gwenn Bashara Samuel is a recollection of life in 1865 from the point of view of Catherine Peltier Beaufait and Louis Beaufait.

Peter DiSante has created a snapshot of 1867 in "New Church," featuring the thoughts of Pauline Vernier Van Antwerp and Catherine Van Antwerp Kirby.

As we complete the 19th century, "Don't Forget," based on events in 1891, features Louis Allard and Theresa Allard.

1925 is presented in "Roadhouse," written by Peter DiSante and incorporating the words of Edmund Vernier.

Lighted, free parking is available at Grosse Pointe Methodist Church, across the street from St. Paul's Cemetery.

Bring lawn chairs and a flashlight. And dress for the weather.

Tickets are available by calling the Grosse Pointe Theatre at 313-881-4004 \$10 for GPHS & GPT members and \$15 for non-members.



The cast of the *Talking Headstones* 2011.

Photo credit: Dale Pegg

## Fox Indian Massacre 1712

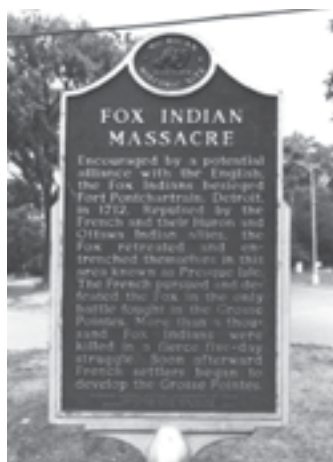
The Grosse Pointe Historical Society marks the 300th anniversary of the Fox Indian Massacre with observances on Wednesday, Sept. 19 and Saturday, Sept. 22.

A memorial to honor the lives of those killed in the battle is planned for Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m. at the site of the Historical Marker at Lakepointe and Windmill Pointe in Grosse Pointe Park.

Noted historian of early Detroit Fr. Russ Koehler, pastor of historic St. Anne's Parish in Detroit, will lead the memorial service.

The public is encouraged to participate in this event that marks an important part of our local history. Parking is available on Windmill Pointe Drive.

Following the service, the community is invited to the Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture at the Ewald Branch Library on E. Jefferson Ave. to hear Elizabeth Vogel, GPHS trustee, explain the actions that led to this tragic event. The lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. (see page 12).





# Re-Enactment of Life in Grosse Pointe and Detroit in the 1700s

To show what life was like for the settlers at the time of the Fox Indian Massacre, the GPHS presents "A Day in the Life of Grosse Pointe in the 1700s" on Saturday, Sept. 22, at Patterson Park on Essex Road in Grosse Pointe Park from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Re-enactors will wear clothing typical of the early 1700s. Clutching muskets, laundry and farm implements, re-enactors will tell about their lives and work.

The Alliance Française, a French history and cultural organization, will present dancing and music typical of the 18th century.

Actors will read stories from the *Legends of Le Detroit*, a book published in the 19th century that recounts stories of the region.

The event is free and open to the public. No park passes are required and there is ample free parking on the grounds.

## City of Grosse Pointe city survey

The first complete reconnaissance level historic and architectural survey of the City of Grosse Pointe was completed in August by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Preservation Committee.

The survey is the first major step in the GPHS strategic initiative to document the historic significance of all Grosse Pointe properties, using guidelines established by State of Michigan's Office of Historic Preservation.

"The value of this survey is that it starts us toward assessing our community's built environment, using the state standards to identify and designate historic districts. We ultimately want to create a rich, historically accurate database of our community and make it accessible to everyone," said Greg Jakub, chair, GPHS Preservation Committee.

The survey field work began in the fall of 2008 when a preliminary "windshield" survey was made. This part of the project involved the committee members driving through the neighborhoods to identify the types of buildings and their use. When completed, the information served as a starting point for the rest of the survey.

GPHS hired Kristine Kidorf, a historic preservation consultant, to implement the survey. Actual field work began in spring 2011. Two student assistants did historic research, took photographs and recorded the data on each of the 2,300 homes and commercial buildings in the City of Grosse Pointe.

"We are grateful to the Wilkinson Foundation for its continued support of our historic survey project," said Michael Farley, GPHS Preservation Committee member.

This data will become a fundamental resource supporting current and future planning efforts such as the development of The Village and potential identification of historic areas. The latter is a strategy attracting the attention of homeowners, real estate agents, and city leaders as a way to leverage the value of Michigan's older communities in a very competitive real estate market.

The survey work will also be useful and of interest to individual homeowners.

**We are grateful to the Wilkinson Foundation for its continued support of our historic survey project.**

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provençal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

This is an excellent way to learn about local history and contribute to our Grosse Pointe heritage.

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

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"Join & Support GPHS."

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provençal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment.

The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM and 1:30-4:00 p.m. for research. Telephone: (313) 884-7010. Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

# Ribbon Farm Days, Summer 2012

Summer is a time of discovery, creativity, and quiet reflection for children. Ribbon Farm Days offered children an opportunity to leave their more passive activities and enter the world of active and creative participation.

Ribbon Farm Days, held at the Provencal-Weir House during June and July, is a place where children experienced ways in which their counterparts from past centuries would have passed their summer days – with baking, gardening, weaving, painting, sewing and games.

## In the Garden – Session One

In Session I the children created an indoor *Fairy Garden*.

They began by filling a 10-inch round pot with soil and planted Jade, Fittonia and Baby Tears. Fairy doors, stones, benches and ponds were fashioned from Fimo clay. Additional supplies included a wire bench, white picket fences and a Garden Fairy. These young gardeners became responsible for maintaining their Fairy Gardens at home with proper sunlight and watering.

During Week 2 the children created *Tin Lanterns*. Earlier settlers frequently used lanterns like these when they needed

to milk cows or harness horses early in the morning and late



Children creating the fairy garden.

in the evening. These lanterns lit the dark barn and kept the hay safe from fire.

Ribbon Farm children used 32-ounce cans. They created designs on paper and attached them to the cans, which then were filled with water and frozen. The children used a hammer and nail to fashion the pattern on the frozen lantern. Finally, they added a candle they had made, and a handle. At night, when the candle is lit, the patterns glow in the garden.

We discussed the local orchards of the past focusing on pear, apple and cherry trees, indigenous to Michigan and Grosse Pointe. Children learned to make pear strudel and hand-shaken whipped cream.



Painting windmills on the porch.

## Windmill Pointe – Session Two

In 2012 we observe the 300th anniversary of the 1712 Fox Indian battle at Windmill Pointe. The second Ribbon Farm Days session focused on aspects of life during the early part of the 1700s.

To review the extraordinary history of Grosse Pointe's shores, the children built a three-dimensional puzzle of a *Windmill*. The 78-piece structure had to be assembled and then held together with hot glue. Once completed, the children painted their working windmills to take home.

In the second week, students made Native American-inspired *Hand Sewn Vests*, adorning them with threads and beads. Each child was fitted with fabric and was responsible for cutting the patterns and sewing the seams.

The children also explored music and rhythmic instruments of this earlier period. They made and painted musical pods, or rattles.

Corn was a staple of the early settlers in the area. Students made corn bread, using an old time-tested recipe.

## Ribbon Farms – Session Three

The Ribbon Farms hugged the shores of the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair in the 1800s. The Provencal-Weir House is a surviving Ribbon Farm dwelling from that time.

These farms were worked by dedicated families like Pierre Provencal, his wife Euphemia, their daughter Catherine and their 24 adopted children. In order to sustain themselves, everyone had to “help.”

There were many household tasks that children helped with – weaving, dyeing, sewing and cooking. In the third Ribbon Days session, children used wool yarn and wove a small tapestry on a wooden loom. Unfortunately, the berries and plants that would have been used to dye the wool are not readily available today. The alternative was to use cherry, lime, grape, lemon, orange, black cherry and tropical punch Kool-Aid to dye the wool. Once the wool was dyed, the children hung it outside to dry.

Week 2 they sewed their own cloth doll by tracing and cutting their doll templates, sewing them, turning them inside out and stuffing them with fiber filling. Then they attached the arms and legs to the torso. Once finished, they traced and cut the pattern for the dresses, sewed them, and decorated the dresses with fabric markers. They finished their

dolls by sewing their hair with yarn. For refreshments they enjoyed fresh squeezed lemonade and we made flap jacks from scratch adorned with home whipped butter and syrup. De-lish!



# Men, Horses, And Machines

## *A Journey through Automotive and Horse-racing History*

Politics, religion, horse-racing, and money combined to change Detroit's horse culture into the present-day automobile era.

How this happened is explained during a two-hour historical adventure on Saturday, Oct. 27, when the Village of Fairview Historical Society presents a unique bus tour of an area that helped shape the Detroit of the 20th century.

Founded in 1903, the Village of Fairview stretches from Alter Road to Water Works Park.

Organized by Moira Mahoney, director of development with The Village of Fairview Historical Society and Nick

Sinacori, president of The Village of Fairview Historical Society, highlights of the Fairview tour include:

- the original horse-racing and automotive alley of the early 1900s;
- original sites of the Detroit Jockey Club and Detroit Driving Club;
- an ancient Indian burial ground – site of the Sauk and Fox Indian Massacre
- homes of Belgian, Arts & Crafts and River-Rock architectural influence near Harbor Island;

*Continued on page 5*

## Thank you Donors

Making a contribution to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society supports a wide range of activities. Financial contributions allow the Society to improve the Resource Center and the Provencal-Weir House. Memorabilia contributions add to our collections and our knowledge of our shared history.

### 2011 Annual Appeal

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Stuart W. Grigg in memory of Kiki Herfert  
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Suzy Berschback  
First Varsity Letter from Grosse Pointe High School (ca. 1928)  
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### Donations to Programs

Tom Giftos  
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Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture, April 18, 2012

## Sponsors for “By the Light of the Silvery Moon”

To make an event like an evening at the Charles Remick house possible, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society depends on the generosity of people in the community who donate their time and talent. We are grateful for their continuing support. For 2012 the Grosse Pointe Historical Society thanks the following:

### Gold Level Sponsors – \$2500+

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**For their time and generous gifts, we thank the following:**

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## Men, Horses, And Machines

*Continued from page 4*

- historic Indian Village highlighting the prominent auto-baron homes from the turn of the century;
- A 30-minute tour of Lawrence Fisher's private mansion;
- Grosse Pointe Wine Shop building;
- wine and cheese afterglow.

Three departure-time options are available for the bus tour on Oct. 27: 9 a.m., noon and 3 p.m. The coach boards at the Ewald Branch of the Grosse Pointe Library, 15175 E. Jefferson.

Registration is \$20 and seating is limited to 25 registrants per tour. Make reservations by calling 313-884-7010.



*Jeanne Bourget and Jack McCormick provided music in the Great Room.*



*Dr. Cheryl Wesen and Dr. Richard Baumgarten enjoying the garden.*



*Alex Billiu and Ryan McCormick*



*Susan and Jonathan Hartz by the "Light of the Silvery Moon."*



*Elizabeth Vogel and Mike Woolsey*



*Geoff Spencer and Gina Hanson*

## Revellers enjoyed the Silvery Moon Party

"By the Light of the Silvery Moon," was a major sheet music hit for the Jerome H. Remick & Co, music publisher. The song lyric provided the theme for the Summer Party, June 15 held in the home Albert Kahn designed for Remick in 1927.

And although it was a beautiful starry evening, Grosse Pointe Historical Society featured its own moon reminiscent of the 1920s and 30s.

"It was like taking a step back in time," said Kay Agney, co-chair.

Music was provided in the garden by The Balduck Mountain Ramblers and in the Great Room by Jack McCormick at the piano and song stylist, Jeanne Bourget.

"When you were in the Great Room, you could just imagine all people who had gathered there before to hear music and enjoy each other's company. It was really very special," said Elizabeth Vogel, co-chair.

The home on Ridge Road was painstakingly restored by its current owner and our host, David Montgomery.



*Mr. and Mrs. John Montgomery and David Montgomery, our hosts for the evening.*



*George Jerome, Maud Lyon, Joe Katulic and Ann Jerome*





*Susan and John Bologna*



*Cathy Walker and Margaret Loomis enjoy a balcony view of the gardens.*



*Stuart Grigg, Sara Ralph, Patricia O'Brien*



*Stephanie Vella and Jason Meints*



*Mark and Judy Weber, Suzy Berschback*



*Jay Fitzgerald with his 1929 Cadillac*



*Lynn Kurtz, Donna Ridella, Greg Ridella and Harry Kurtz*



*Ann and Walter Fitzpatrick with Lucy and John Prost*



*The Baldock Mountain Ramblers delighted guests with their musical tributes to the first quarter of the 20th century.*

# Pointes of History 2012

*Since 1986, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has awarded bronze plaques to Grosse Pointe landmarks to recognize their historical or architectural value to the community, to encourage their continued preservation, or to recognize the value of adaptive reuse.*

*This year three homeowners were presented with plaques to be installed on the front of the home: The Theodore Beaufait House in Grosse Pointe Woods, 175 Merriweather in Grosse Pointe Farms and 17315 East Jefferson Avenue in The City of Grosse Pointe.*

## THE THEODORE BEAUFAIT HOUSE

The Beaufait family traces its history in the Detroit area to Colonel Louis Beaufait, who arrived in Detroit with Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac. Louis was an upstanding member of the early Detroit French community. He held various positions, including a state delegate from Wayne County, a state senator, an Indian interpreter and a judge, and served as a justice over sessions involving crime and misdemeanor.

(later Mack). Two years later, Louis sold a portion of his land to August Cook; today, this is the site of the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club.

The main farmhouse was built in 1885; in 1900, a second farmhouse was built. In 1917, property from these early farms was purchased for the Lochmoor Club. The remaining Beaufait property and farmhouse was eventually deeded to

Louis' grandson, Theodore (Mary Jane Lennon), who raised five children in this house: Catherine, Matilda, Veva, Theresa, and Joseph.

Beaufait Street first appeared on Wayne County maps in 1872. In 1925, Theodore moved this house across Mack Avenue to its present location on Beaufait. Moving a house was accomplished by propping it up on timbers and dragging it with a team of horses. When this house was moved, it underwent a radical change. It was rotated sideways, the original front porch was removed and the roof was extended to add onto the front and back. The house was also covered with a brick veneer supported by steel beams. These changes make the house almost unrecognizable today as the same 1885 farmhouse. The original logs still support both stories of this building.

The Beaufaits were actively involved in local community endeavors. In 1928, Theodore's son, Joseph, was elected President of Lochmoor Village, now Grosse Pointe Woods. Joseph was a

leader in the community and the township.

As a real estate developer, he named Lennon Street after his mother's maiden name; Anita was named after one of his daughters, and Beaufait was named after his father. In 1940, the Grosse Pointe School System purchased 16 acres of the Beaufait Farm as a future site for Parcels Junior High. The building was completed in 1951. The original site of the Beaufait farmhouse is now used as ball fields by the current Parcels students.

A daughter of Theodore Beaufait, Veva, lived in this house until 1974, when at the age of 91; the property was sold to the present owners.



Photo credit: Susan Bologna

Beaufait Street in Grosse Pointe Woods is named after the family that occupied this farmhouse.

Two other streets in Grosse Pointe Woods that are named for members of the family are Anita and Lennon.

Originally located on the east side of Mack Avenue, the Beaufait farmhouse was between the neighboring farms of the Van Antwerps and the Cooks. The children of the area first attended school in the granary of the Beaufait Farm. Due to heat issues and fear of a fire, August Cook eventually donated land and Cook School was erected on Mack Avenue.

In 1865, Louis L. Beaufait purchased 160 acres from the Vernier family located along a dirt road called Clinton





### 175 MERRIWEATHER

Designed by Louis Kamper, 175 Merriweather was built in 1931-1932 for John Robert Sutton, Jr. (Jack), and his wife Paula Kling Sutton, niece of the architect. It is an example of the Georgian Revival Style.

The house, a present from Kamper and Paula Kling's father to the newly married couple, it was the second house built on Merriweather on land that was originally part of a cherry orchard.

Amenities inside the house include a bordered green terrazzo floor in the basement, original black and white Pewabic tiles on the entrance hall floor, and a flamboyant master bath covered with pink, blue and black Pewabic tiles. The house has a white oak pegged floor in the library and a garden room with heated slate flooring. A small space under the portico was used as a wine cellar.

Prior to the 1940s, this area was an expanse of undeveloped field from Merriweather to Cloverly Road in the block between Kercheval and Ridge. Across Ridge Road was "Pine Woods," a popular play area for children. In the winter, they would sled down the tree-covered hill, across Charlevoix, and into fields that are now Mt. Vernon Road. Al Green, a well known restaurateur, had a "Blind Pig" nestled in the woods.

John Robert Sutton was very active in Grosse Pointe Farms politics, serving as a Village Trustee in

1934-46 and Police and Fire Commissioner 1938-46. Sutton served a term as Commodore of the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club. As Vice President of General Underwriters Insurance Company, Sutton specialized in marine insurance.

During WW II, Sutton was a Deputy Chief Air Raid Warden. When the Air Raid siren sounded at night, "blackout shades" were pulled down so any light in the house could not be seen by enemy aircraft above.

Paula Kling Sutton was involved in women's organizations, including the Neighborhood Club

Thrift Shop, Women's Exchange of Detroit, and the Red Cross. During the war many Red Cross meetings and classes were held in her home to learn bandaging techniques. Paula was the daughter of Kurt (Olga) Kling, owner and President of

the Philip Kling Brewing Co., a well known brewery prior to prohibition.

### 17315 EAST JEFFERSON AVENUE

Built in 1928 for Mrs. Arthur McGraw, a widow whose son and family lived next door on Lakeland, the house was designed in the Colonial Georgian style by noted architect Charles A. Platt of New York. Self-trained as an architect, Platt is also considered one of America's most influential landscape designers. Platt's design philosophy emphasized the integration of interior and exterior space through strong visual and circulatory connections and the use of formal architectural elements throughout the garden.



The McGraw house is constructed of Flemish Bond brick and has the original slate roof. There is a motor court in front of the house with an English pea stone drive and Belgian block curbing.

The house still contains the original bi-fold garage doors, which came from Germany, and the English lead and copper drain pipes. The house contains five wood-burning fireplaces, the original Chrysler Kopin refrigeration system and the apartment over the garage for the Major Domo (the head of the house hold staff). There is a limestone sundial set into the chimney on the Lakeland side of the house. No changes have been made to the original architectural layout of the home.

Platt designed the rear gardens, which have been maintained very closely to the original plan.

At some point prior to the acquisition of the home by the current owner, the solarium was enclosed in glass and heated. Mrs. McGraw lived in the house until 1950, when it was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Charles Merkel. Mrs. Merkel, who lived the house until her death in 1982, was the granddaughter of John Simpson Gray, one of the twelve original investors in the Ford Motor Company. The current owner purchased the house in 1982.



# Second Saturday Events for 2012-2013

*An important part of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's outreach to children and families are the Second Saturday Programs. This year, Izzy Donnelly, education director, offers crafts and cooking projects that reflect the lives of people living at the early part of the twentieth century.*

## September 8

**Make** Pastry Turnovers from fresh Michigan apples and topped with "shaken" whipped cream. Ages: 6 years and older.

## October 13

**Create** a Halloween Garland to decorate a mantel or a doorway. Made from Fimo clay and yarn, these whimsical witches, ghosts and bats will delight everyone. Ages: 7 years and older.

## November 10

**Decorate** glass hurricane jars with transparent foliage to create candleholders for your Thanksgiving dinner table. Ages: 7 years and older.

## December 8

**Bake** Gingerbread Cookies – a must at Christmas time – decorate them with confectioner glaze and imagination. Ages: 6 years and older.

## January 12

**Make** a Rockhopper Penguin Fleece Scarf. Cut, sew and glue! These penguins have those bushy eyebrows that will make the scarf a stand-out. Ages: 7 years and older.

## February 9

**Bake** Heart Shaped Sugar Cookies topped with our very own colored sugar for Valentine's Day. These will be wrapped in festive bags to keep or give away. Ages: 6 years and older.

## March 9

**Sew** and stuff a Sitting Bunny made from white fleece. This project is the second in a series of sewing your own stuffed animals. Ages: 7 years and older.

## April 13

**Dip** a "Lovin' Spoonful" of Chocolate and drizzle it with colored candy and chocolates for a mouth-watering treat! Ages: 6 years and older.

## May 11

**Celebrate** spring by sewing Love Birds on a Woodland Swing wall hanging. Ages: 7 years and older.

*All Saturday events will take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval.*

*Cost is \$15.00 per session for members, \$20.00 for non-members.*

*Reservations must be made by the Thursday before each event.*

**313-884-7010.**

# Provencal-Weir House Open House

The names of streets, parks and public places are daily reminders of our connection to the past. Learn about the roots of Grosse Pointe at this fall's three Second Saturday Open House events, from 1-4 p.m. on the Saturdays of Oct. 13, Nov. 10 and Dec. 8.

*Your Open House tour will answer such questions as:*

- Who are Pierre Provencal and his wife, Euphemia (St. Aubin), and why did they raise so many children?
- What are Ribbon Farms, and why did they dominate the shores of Lake St. Clair and the Detroit River?
- What do windmills have to do with Grosse Pointe?
- What are the relationships between the Provencal family and Fr. Gabriel Richard?
- Who is John LaBelle, and why did he purchase the Provencal-Weir House and then move it from Lakeshore Road to its present location?
- Who lived in the Provencal-Weir House?
- Why did the Grosse Pointe Historical Society decide to restore the house? How did they do it?
- Where did the Log Cabin come from, and why was it moved?

During the Open House afternoons, visitors also can investigate the One Room School House, the site for school field trips.

To complete your tour (and perhaps start your Christmas shopping), the LaBelle's Country Store features history-related publications, Pewabic tiles, Victorian-era toys, hand-made soaps and baby blankets. Plus Grosse Pointe's stuffed mascot – Peanut, the squirrel.

## Birthday Parties at the PWH

Every birthday is special!

Make your child's next birthday party especially memorable at the Provencal-Weir House.

Izzy Donnelly, education director, works with parents to plan a fun-filled celebration featuring such activities as making treats, creating a special make-and-take craft, playing games or going on a scavenger hunt.

Donnelly plans all of the activities, in conjunction with parent requests. Parties are limited to 12 children and are typically 2 to 2 ½ hours.

For information and to set the date for your next party call: 313-884-7010.

# From Behind the Blackboard

An important aspect of the work of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is to introduce children to the Provencal-Weir House. Using the Michigan Curriculum Framework and the Social Studies and English Language Arts Standards, Izzy Donnelly, director of education, has created an educational experience appropriate for elementary students.

With the One-Room School room at the PW House as a backdrop, students learn the history of the house and experience “the life of a student” at the beginning of the 20th century.

In her fourth year as School Mistress, Donnelly welcomed 36 elementary classes and five Scout groups from the Grosse Pointe area to the world of slates, McGuffey Readers, recitation, competitive



Elementary students pose outside the Log Cabin during their One Room School House experience.

spelling bees, local history and more. The schools included: Monteith, Poupard, Ferry, Richard, Kerby, Trombly, Mason, University-Liggett, Star of

the Sea, St. Paul, Grosse Pointe Academy and Hamtramck Academy.

“I liked when we wrote on slates. I learned that they used a cool book called McGuffey Reader,” said a third grader from Monteith.

The foresight of the Board of Trustees to create this model school room made possible this one-of-a-kind opportunity for students.

“Their vision was so clear,” says Donnelly. “The room is just charming to look at but more importantly, it is an academically functioning classroom.”

Teachers and parents are impressed with what the Society offers to the community.

“The adults and kids were all raving about the historical experience we enjoyed today,” said a second-grade teacher from Ferry.

At the end of the trip, each student received a colorful bandana or log pencil as a thank-you gesture for visiting the One-Room School.

“I want the children to have a token to take home reminding them of their day here,” Donnelly said. “The GPHS needs them. These children are our future.”



Poupard's second grade girls enjoy a visit to the log cabin c. 1840.

## SPECIAL EVENT: Saturday, October 6, 2012

**Author Book-Signing, Lecture & Special Grosse Pointe Hunt Club Dinner Event**

**Showcasing Author Nick Sinacori's Recently Published Book: “Men, Horses, And Machines”**

The transition from horse to automobile happened in Grosse Pointe Township on October 10, 1901. The dynamics behind this shift are explored in



The Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, when it opened in 1911, became the repository of many artifacts from the Detroit Driving Club including this July 17, 1894 inaugural trophy.

Nicholas Sinacori's newly published book, *Men, Horses and Machines: A Journey through Automotive and Horse-racing History in Detroit*.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society, The Village of Fairview Historical Society and The Grosse Pointe Hunt Club are collaborating to host a special lecture,

dinner and book-signing on Saturday, Oct. 6 at 5:30 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Hunt Club, 655 Cook Road in Grosse Pointe Woods.

The book is of special interest because it uncovers how the intersection and influence of politics, money, horse racing, and religion combined to change Detroit's horse based society into the modern manufacturing and automobile era. The power structure of Detroit included original Detroit settler families, banking, public transportation, real estate investors, manufacturers, heavy industry, horse racing syndicates and promoters, and the politicians and religious leaders of the day all had a major influence on how Detroit grew, what it looked like, and how the people lived.

Guests will be served cocktails (cash bar) beginning at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner. The lecture follows dinner and includes a private tour of the barn and Hunt Club grounds. A meet-and-greet with the author, a book-signing, and dessert with coffee concludes the evening.

Tickets are \$25 per person which includes dinner from a select menu. For reservations contact:

The GPHS at 313-884-7010 by Thursday, Oct. 4.



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## Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures 2012-2013

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society in partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public Library presents five of the six Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures.

The first lecture presented at the Ewald Branch Library, is preceded by special event memorializing the lives of those who died. (see p. 1) The next four lectures will be at the Woods Branch Library. The final lecture is presented in co-operation with the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House.

**Wednesday, Sept. 19 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**The Ewald Branch Library**  
**15175 East Jefferson**

*Markers and Massacres:*  
*The French, the Fox Indians and the Pointes*

Manuscript by Grosse Pointer, historian, and Grosse Pointe Historical Society Trustee, Elizabeth Vogel: 2012 marks the 300th anniversary of the Fox Indian Massacre, which occurred in present day Grosse Pointe Park. The State of Michigan erected a marker on Windmill Pointe Drive in 1977 as a remembrance of this battle. Ms. Vogel illuminates the complex and complicated relationship between the French and their Native American allies that led to this tragic massacre of 1000 men.

**Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Grosse Pointe Woods Library**  
**20680 Mack Ave. at Vernier**

*Detroit's Historic Places of Worship*

Book by Marla O. Collum, Barbara E. Krueger & Dorothy Kostuch with photos by Dirk Bakker  
This book is a vibrantly photographed historical survey of architecturally and historically significant houses of worship that represent 8 denominations and nearly 150 years of history. The focus will be on Detroit's most prolific era of church building, the 1850s - 1930s.

**Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Grosse Pointe Woods Library**  
**20680 Mack Ave. at Vernier**

*Jacobson's: I Miss It So!:*  
*The Story of a Michigan Fashion Institution*

Author, Bruce Allen Kopytek speaks to us about his most recent book. Join us in this return to the elegance of Jacobson's, a beloved Michigan institution for more than one hundred years. Meet the personalities who transformed it from humble origins to a staple of sophistication throughout Michigan and Florida. This deluxe specialty store gave customers a peerless social, shopping and dining destination.

**Wednesday, March 20, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Grosse Pointe Woods Library**  
**20680 Mack Ave. at Vernier**

*The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan: People, Law and Politics*

Author, David Gardner Chardavoyne tells us about his latest book, the first ever written about the U. S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. Created in 1837 this court operated as recently as 1923 with a single trial judge. By 2010 it sat 15 district judges, a dozen senior U.S. district judges and U.S. magistrate judges (many of them from the Grosse Pointes) and conducted court in five buildings throughout the eastern half of Michigan. Detailed will not only be this growth but the stories of its judges and others who have been impacted by this important institution.

**Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**Grosse Pointe Woods Library**  
**20680 Mack Ave. at Vernier**

*Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo*

Author and former Grosse Pointe & St. Clair Shores Librarian, Arthur M. Woodford will discuss his latest book, a pictorial history of Tashmoo Park, one of the area's most popular destinations in the first half of the 20th century, and a trip aboard the steamer of the same name. Located on Harsen's Island, the park opened in 1897. It was a pleasant two hour boat ride from the city and in its heyday, 250,000 people, including many Grosse Pointers, visited the park annually.

**Wednesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.**  
**2013 Edsel & Eleanor Ford House,**  
**1100 Lake Shore Road**

*Living on the Edge: A History of Auto Racing in Michigan*

Author, Rick Sigsby will talk about his latest book relating to automobile racing in our state. The story begins with the first such race in Michigan on the Grosse Pointe Track in 1901 when a new era of sports entertainment was born in this area. This historically fascinating tale, explains why this sport has grown to become one of the most popular spectator sports in North America.







# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society

*established 1945*

Spring 2012

Vol. 29 No. 1

*By the Light of the Silvery Moon*



**Friday, June 15, 2012 • 7 p.m.**

*A benefit for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at  
an English Country House designed by an American Master*

**Classic Cocktails and Elegant Hors D'oeuvres  
served in the traditional Grosse Pointe Manner**

**Docent-led house tours • Jack McCormick at the grand piano  
Music in the Garden • Vintage auto on display**

Albert Kahn designed the Tudor-style home that is the site of this year's fundraiser in 1927 for Jerome H. Remick, the largest publisher of sheet music of his time. Remick pioneered the sheet music store. Across the United States, "Remick Song Shops" allowed patrons to try out the hot Tin Pan Alley Hits. The Remick list of composers and lyricists included: George Gershwin, Harry Warren, Al Dubin, Gus Kahn, and Richard Whiting. Remick's taste in music was inclusive.

As a major supporter of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, Remick served several times as its president. His contributions were critical to the construction of Orchestra Hall and the hiring of Ossip Gabrilowitsch as the DSO's conductor.

This gracious and elegant home has been painstakingly restored by current owner, David Montgomery. Attendance is limited. Call 313-884-7010 for information and reservations.

## Points of History Celebrates Historic Buildings May 8

The annual Points of History celebration takes place on Tuesday, May 8, at 7 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Drive. Bronze plaques will be awarded to three homes: an original Ribbon Farm farmhouse in Grosse Pointe Woods, a home and garden designed by Charles Platt in Grosse Pointe and a home designed by Louis Kamper in Grosse Pointe Farms. A Power Point display of all the past recipients will be presented and refreshments will be served. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 884-7010.

## 2012 Ribbon Farm Days start June 19

Ribbon Farm Days gives children (or grandchildren) an opportunity to experience Grosse Pointe summers in the 1800's: Play with vintage toys, bake desserts from scratch, paint, sculpt, sew, dye fabrics, weave, dip candles, hammer tin cans and mold clay.

Sign your children up for 2012 Ribbon Farm Days featuring three different two-week summer sessions for children around the ages of 6 to 12 years old.



The girls are painting their pots for their soaps.

This experience gives your children an opportunity to work and play in a house that is considered

to be Grosse Pointe's oldest surviving residence. Held at the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, in June, July and August, sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

See pg. 5 for the complete schedule or visit us online at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).

## Second Saturday May 12

1-3 p.m., Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval

Paint your very own beautiful Bird House to hang in your back yard!

Ages 7+ \$15 for members; \$20 non-members

Please make a reservation by May 10. Call 313-884-7010



## Kiki Herfert, 1942-2012

Past board member and friend Kiki Ann Herfert passed away on Friday, March 23, 2012. A Trustee for the GPHS from 2004 through 2009, Kiki was a passionate historian and a tremendous asset to GPHS. A huge supporter of Grosse Pointe Park, she helped organize the *View of Fairview* tours with friend Nick Sinacori. "Kiki's passing has left a void with respect to a liaison to Grosse Pointe Park and she was very important in organizing and promoting *View of Fairview*" says Sinacori. She wrote a paper at Wayne State University called *A History of the Growth and Development of Grosse Pointe Park* which is a testimony to Kiki's knowledge and passion of local history. Although we won't see her walk through the doors of the Resource Center, Kiki's love of history will live in the heart of the GPHS.

## Izzy's Corner

### Izzy's Second Saturdays Recap

After one of Michigan's warmest winters on record, Ian Plansker proudly displays a snowman he was able to build using the items made at Izzy's Second Saturday event held in January called "Snowman Kit." Each kit contained a plastic hat, a fleece scarf that the children cut the fringe on and Easter eggs for buttons. The children molded charcoal, carrots and pipes out of Fimo clay which was then baked in the oven for about 30 minutes to harden. All the contents are stored in the hat for re-use.



On March 10th, children came to the "Sew and Stuff your very own Polar Bear"



event at the Provencal-Weir House. Each child traced and cut the bear template and sewed their polar bears as they stuffed them. Here the children proudly show off their finished products!

### School visits

On Feb. 10, 28 Grosse Pointe Academy fifth-graders graced the One-Room School House for a full day of classes.



Trevor Clor presided as the School Master while his team teacher, Katy Klimczuk, assisted.

Gina McEveny's Special Ed class from Parcell's Middle School to visit the One-Room School on Feb. 15 for a half-day session. They toured the house, read from the McGuffey readers and wrote sentences on the slate chalk board. Lunch was in the parlor and during recess, students played with the vintage toys.

To date, there are 37 classes and five scout groups are scheduled for the One-Room School.

**IZZY DONNELLY**  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



GPA visits One-Room School with Trevor Clor as Headmaster

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Photos taken by  
Izzy Donnelly

## Not Yet a Member? Want to donate?

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for a convenient way to do both.

Select the link

"Join & Support GPHS."

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment.

The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM and 1:30-4:00 p.m. for research. Telephone: (313) 884-7010. Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)



## Services for Older Citizens

### A Home of thier Own

(This article is taken from information on the SOC website, socservices.org.)

Since 1978, Services for Older Citizens has been helping seniors remain in their own home with dignity. Today, SOC serves 9,000 of the 11,000 seniors in our community each year. But in 34 years of serving the community, SOC was outgrowing its facilities and the need for a building that has adequate space for the programs the seniors need was becoming evident.

#### A NEW FACILITY

SOC's vision is a simple one--to continue to provide the best services to seniors living in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods communities. To realize this vision, SOC was gifted a lease for \$1.00 on a 10,000 sq. ft. facility for the next 30 years - the beautiful, historic Newberry House on Ridge Road in Grosse Pointe Farms adjacent to Cottage Hospital. This generous donation by Henry Ford Health System will dramatically transform senior services in the Grosse Pointes and Harper Woods by providing more space for programs while also making sure that SOC will remain economically sustainable.

Currently an estimated \$3 million restoration of the Newberry House is taking place. The new facility will include:

- A lobby with a (volunteer) receptionist
- A dedicated dining/banquet room available for SOC activities and community events
- A fully functional kitchen
- Several multi-purpose activity rooms adaptable to exercise and yoga classes, crafts, educational classrooms for lectures and computer classes

- A media center
- A safe, welcoming place to have coffee, play cards and sit in comfortable chairs with a friend at all hours of the day
- Private offices for social workers
- Increased office space to accommodate 100% more volunteers than SOC can currently have at any given time.

The new home on Ridge Road will vastly enhance SOC's ability to improve its programming. Current programs offered monthly will be offered weekly, including:

- Teas
- Birthday celebrations
- Theme weeks
- Educational programs
- Special Workshops

Current programs offered weekly will be offered daily. This will include:

- Computer classes
- Lunch five days a week instead of four
- Trips
- Wii tournaments

As many people know, the Newberry House was at one time a nurses' residence. SOC is asking anyone with memories or photos of their time spent at the home to call them.

SOC is currently operating in the Henry Ford Medical Center - Cottage, 159 Kercheval on the 3rd floor. For more information, call 882-6900.



Newberry House

## Lewis Mansion/Parish House at St. Paul's Catholic Church

The Parish House on St. Paul's property has a wonderful rich history. Below are two letters describing the origins of this property.

#### Letter from E. Lewis

*These houses were built in the late 1800s, maybe 1890. The one on the left, Alexander C. Lewis, my grandfather, lived in it until he died in 1908. Then it was sold to Edwin Scott Barbour and years later sold to Mrs. Barbour's nephew Byrus Henry. St. Paul Catholic Church, 157 Lake Shore Drive, G. P. F. purchased it in about 1930? It is now the parish house for the church. The other house on the right belonged to my father A. Aug. Lewis where we lived until he died in 1919. It was then sold about 1927 to Mrs. John Wendell Anderson who had it torn down about 1930. The property is now owned by the Church. I hope this bit of information will be of some help.*

*Sincerely, E. Lewis*

#### Letter from Annette Remick

*House on 151 Lake Shore Road. In the Burton abstract #301371, my grandfather, Alexander Lewis, purchased this property in 1854 from Thomas W. Lewis, a relative. (Brother I think) My grandfather built these two houses with the bridge on top. (When, I do not know). He lived with our family on the one on the right, next to the church, and "gave" the other each summer to a different son or daughter, Muir, Currie, Carpenter, Henry B. Lewis families. Later my father, Ingersoll Lewis bought both houses from our Lewis Estate, and then the insurance company made him remove the bridge as it was a fire risk. We lived for years in the house on the right, later selling the other house to Edwin Barbour, in about 1922. Mrs. Barbour's father was then living next door to our property-Mr. Albert Henry, father of Burns Henry and Edith Henry Barbour.*

*After renting this house of our on Ridge Road from the Deans for 22 years I have just bought it - so am now, once again back on old Lewis property, where I used to come with my pony cart, as a child - it was all fields and a lovely violet filled swamp then!*

*Cordially,*

*Annette Remick*



Lewis Mansion

# GPHS blue prints find a new home

The GPHS has been responsible for hundreds of blue prints that were brought in years ago from the Grosse Pointe city and real estate offices. The proper storage of these blue prints has been a challenge. Though light in weight, they take up a lot of space.

When more blue prints became available from the Grosse Pointe Park offices, former board member Peter Robbins offered to house them in his basement. That was over 15 years ago. Eager to keep these valuable remnants of Grosse Pointe's architectural history properly stored, the GPHS searched for an appropriate place for these blue prints.

During a recent meeting to determine another collaborative project between the GPHS and the Grosse Pointe Public Library Director, Vickey Bloom, Assistant Director, James Moffett and Reference Librarian Mary Rapas, agreed to find safe storage space for these documents.

The GPHS Board of Trustees unanimously approved the merger and on Thursday, March 29, six trusty volunteers suited up and delivered these treasures to the Grosse Pointe Woods Library.

The GPHS blue prints have been properly catalogued thanks to the hard work of long time volunteer Ellie Moran. She hand wrote the addresses of every blueprint on round labels back when Jean Dodenhoff was in charge. "This made my job much easier," said Michelle Agosta, current manager of the blue prints.

The prints from Grosse Pointe Park are another story. They need to be labeled and catalogued. "This will takes months for us to accomplish," says Agosta. The ultimate goal of this project is to have blue print reproduction capability available to the community.

If anyone in any of the Pointes has blue prints in their homes and would like to see them stored safely at the Library, call the GPHS at 313-884-7010.



The blue print volunteer team has loaded the U-haul and are ready to transport the blue prints to the GPW Library.

*From left to right: Adrianna Agosta, Jack McCormick, Izzy Donnelly and Mike Skinner. Not shown are Gail Sidlek and Michelle Agosta.*



GPW library – the blue prints are on the shelves.

*From left to right: Katie Ecclestone, Mark Pinney, Michelle Agosta and Vickey Bloom, Director of the Grosse Pointe Library.*

## Social Secretary Books

Thank you to those of you who brought in the Social Secretary books we requested in the last *Moorings*!



These books are valuable assets to members working on home and family research.

Because of your donations, we have added 11 books to our collection. (Please see the donor list for details). After contacting the Social Secretary office of Grosse Pointe we also received the blue books from 2010 and 2011. They informed us that all future books will be printed every other year.

We are still looking for 1959 and 2003 of the blue books and 1922, 1924, 1925, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1942 and 1945 of the brown books.



13 books were added to the "Blue book" cabinet

# 2012 Ribbon Farm Days

## Session I

June 19, 21, 26, 28

11-3:00 p.m.

Registration deadline: June 12th.

### MICHIGAN GARDEN THEME

- Build an indoor Fairy Garden with a planter, dirt, plants, stones, furniture and fairies.
- Make bridges, doors and planters with Fimo clay for the garden.
- Squeeze fresh lemonade.
- Make Candles-votive.
- Create Tin Lanterns to hang in your garden on warm summer nights.
- Learn about the orchards on the Grosse Pointe Ribbon Farms.
- Make homemade pear strudel with our own whipped cream.

## Session II

July 10, 12, 17, 19

11-3 p.m.

Registration deadline: July 3

### GROSSE POINTE HISTORY - WINDMILL POINTE

- Assemble and paint windmill.
- Make Musical instruments.
- Squeeze fresh orange juice.
- Make homemade vests and adorn with thread and beads.
- Learn the history of the Fox Indian Massacre in 1712 at Windmill Pointe.
- Make our own butter and serve with homemade cornbread.

## Session III

July 24, 26, 31, Aug. 2

11-3 p.m.

Registration deadline: July 17

### RIBBON FARM DAYS IN GROSSE POINTE

- Dye fabric or yarn with boiled berries and herbs.
- Weave a wall tapestry with the dyed fabric or yarn.
- Sew a fabric doll (male or female).
- Paint the fabric and sew the clothes.
- Squeeze fresh lemonade.
- Learn the story of the ribbon farms in Grosse Pointe.
- Make fresh pancakes with syrup and homemade butter.

Children bring their own lunches. Fee is \$160.00 per session for members; \$180.00 per session for non members.

For more information contact Izzy at 313-884-7010 or at [digital@gphistorical.org](mailto:digital@gphistorical.org)

# DAR Gives Award

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution honored Izzy Donnelly, Education Director with their *Women in American History* award on March 17, for her children's educational programs held at the PWH. These include School field trips, scout visitations, RFDs and her Second Saturday events.

Regent Grace Bliss Smith sent Izzy's award to the Michigan State Regent for review and it was approved to be sent to Nationals. Results should be in by June.

# The Origins of the Neighborhood Club Thrift Shop

*This article is taken from the Neighborhood Club Scrapbook by Mrs. Chas. F. Dodenhoff, July 7, 1965. Gift of Mrs. Ellis Merry 4/1984*

In 1927 the Board of Directors decided to expand the Neighborhood Club and the Community Fund granted us permission to organize a campaign to raise money to build the present Neighborhood Club. Mr. D. M. Ferry Jr. donated eight acres on which the present bldg. is located. The money raising campaign was very successful with the exception of about \$2000.00, which was needed for furnishings. Mrs. Russell A. Alger, who was President of the Board of Director at the time, suggested that we hold a rummage sale in the gymnasium to raise the necessary deficit. A large committee of interested people was organized and within a very short time enough articles had been collected to fill the gymnasium.

Following a publicity campaign a two-day sale was held. It was so successful that the doors had to be closed at intervals in order to maintain order and serve the crowd. This first sale liquidated the deficit. This venture was such a success it was decided to continue holding rummage sales thereby establishing a reserve fund.

A year later plans were made to organize a permanent rummage sale and the board room at the Neighborhood Club was transformed into a sales room. Later, the building that houses the present Grosse Pointe Branch of the Post Office was secured as headquarters for the Thrift Shop, in order to relieve the overcrowded facilities of the Neighborhood Club. The name at that time was changes to the Neighborhood Club Thrift Shop.

The Neighborhood Club Thrift Shop occupied the Post Office Building for approximately two years. At that time, the present Thrift Shop Building was owned by the Neighborhood Club and was being used by the Public Library. The Library was offered larger quarters by the Board of Education, which they accepted, and promptly moved. It was then decided by the Neighborhood Club Thrift Shop to use this building as their permanent site thereby bringing about a closer consolidation of Neighborhood Club interests.



# Thank You, Donors

## DONATIONS

Ms. Kathy Kirchner, GPS 1976 Reunion  
Mr. and Mrs. John McCormick  
Mrs. Nancy Pacitto

## GIFTS

### **Mr. Ray Arondoski**

Copy Prints of 705 Pemberton and 1145 Balfour

### **Ms. Nanci Bolton**

Map of Grosse Pointe

### **Ms. Marisa Collins, Mason Elementary School**

World Map

### **Mr. James Conway**

Copies of "Detroit Bike Trips"

Papers on "The Wardwell House" written by Henry Heatley, 1979

### **Country Club of Detroit**

1988, 2000 and 2002 Social Secretary Books

### **Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Dossin**

Geologic Atlas of the United States

### **Mrs. Theresa Edwards**

1960 Social Secretary Book

### **Mrs. Margaret Fausone**

Abstract Lot 11 – 1916 and

Program of the Grosse Pointe Area Council of Defense

### **Mr. Jay Hunter**

Two 8 x 10 Picture Frames and a framed "Guindon" picture

### **Mr. Richard Lambrecht**

2005 and 2010 Social Secretary Books

### **Mrs. James McMillan**

2006 Social Secretary Book

### **Mrs. Paula Sarvis Sutton**

1999, 2001, 2004 and 2009 Social Secretary Books  
"Fancy Grosse Pointe People" by J.D. Owens

### **Mr. Rich Sigsby, Dreambuilder Publications**

"Living on the Edge" – A History of Auto Racing in Michigan

### **Mr. Michael W. Skinner**

"Michigan Aircraft Manufacturers" by Robert F. Pauley

### **Elizabeth Soby**

Grosse Pointe Optimists programs, photos and related documents of the Grosse Pointe High School Class of 1933  
Copies of the "Tower" magazine

### **The Social Secretary**

2010 and 2011 Social Secretary Books

### **Mrs. John Woodhouse**

The Remick collection of Standard Popular Songs

### **Donations for our Legends of Le Detroit Event on October 28, 2011**

James Kordas, Metropolitan Bakery – Hot Dog Buns

Doug Cordier – Sterno and for being "Chef Extraordinaire"

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Dossin – Tiki Torches and Soft Drinks

Phil Filkin – Tiki Torch Oil

Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hartz – Chili and Chopped Onions

Ms. Susan Lewandowski – Table Cloths

Mr. and Mrs. John McCormick – Hot Dogs

Elizabeth Soby – Paper Goods

### **Donations of Cookies and Time for our Christmas Celebration on December 2, 2011**

Mrs. Susan Bologna

Ms. Susan Budrys

Ms. Susan Lewandowski

Mr. John McCormick – at the piano

## 2011 Annual Appeal

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# 2011 Annual Appeal *(continued)*

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 Mrs. Sara M. Ralph  
*in memory of my Mother and Father*  
 Mr. and Mrs. William C. Rands III  
 Mr. Brandon M. Rogers



Mirielle and Warren Wilkinson at the Open House Christmas Party held at the PWH in December.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard D. Rohr  
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 Ms. Christine A. Roznowski  
 Mrs. Penny Rudolph  
 Mr. William M. Rutledge  
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 Mr. Kenneth Skurda  
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 Ms. Karyn Weir  
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 Mr. Lawrence S. Wilkinson  
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 Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Wolking  
 Ms. Deborah Wolney  
 Mr. and Mrs. John T. Woodhouse  
*in honor of Michael Farley*

# Children of the American Revolution Host John Paul Jones, George Washington at the Provencal-Weir House

The National Society of the  
Children of the American Revolution's



David Cowen dresses up as George Washington his costume was compliments of the Grosse Pointe Theatre.

John Paul Jones Society is sponsored by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution. (DAR). This society is open to any child

(from birth to 21 years of age) who is a lineal descendant of an American Revolution patriot, or someone who aided in the cause of the patriots.

JPJ meets five times a year and this year held their 2011 Christmas meeting at the Provencal-Weir House on December 17. The program, *T'was the Night Before Christmas*, lead by Izzy Donnelly, included a tour the PWH c. 1823 and then the log cabin c. 1840. Elizabeth Findeis, Senior



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e-mail: [admin@gphistorical.org](mailto:admin@gphistorical.org)  
Web site: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

President of JPJ provided a beautiful lunch and afterwards the beloved Christmas story was read to the children.

JPJ also had their George Washington Birthday party at the PWH on Feb. 18. David Cowen, a professional actor, recreated the young 27 year-old George for the children. David presented George Washington's early years including how he surveyed the great western wilderness as a General of the Continental Army. He explained how he became the first President of the United States and why he chose not to become a King. Following a lunch served by Elizabeth, she brought a birthday cake celebrating the young George Washington's 280th birthday.



Children of the American Revolution come for a meeting and lunch in December at the PWH.

Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures  
2011-2012

## REMEMBERING HUDSON'S

May 16, 2012 7:30 p.m

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores

Mike Hauser, Marketing Manager at the Detroit Opera House, presents a program relating to his latest book, *Remembering Hudson's: The Grand Dame of Detroit Retailing*, co-authored with Marianne Weldon. In this book Hauser and Weldon present the idea that "The J. L. Hudson Company redefined the way people in our area shopped and enjoyed leisure time. Many in Metro Detroit share memories of great times spent shopping and enjoying spectacular events sponsored by Hudson's. A solid and lofty icon built by businesspeople who believed in their passion, Hudson's defined Detroit's downtown, creating trends and traditions in consumer culture that still resonate nationwide."

Additionally, it should be noted that company founder, Joseph L. Hudson was Eleanor Clay Ford's uncle and Eleanor and Edsel Ford were married in his home on November 1, 1916.

Enjoy dinner in the Cotswold Café prior to this lecture. Reservations encouraged, 313-884-4222.









# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society

established 1945

Winter 2011

Vol. 28 No. 3



*Celebrate the  
Spirit of the Season*  
at the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society

## Christmas Open House

Friday, Dec. 2, 2011 7:00 p.m.



Come Enjoy  
Caroling

Entertainment  
Holiday Treats

Shopping at LaBelle's  
Country Store

For information,  
call 884-7010

## A History of the Neighborhood Club

*The Neighborhood Club has been an important part of our community since it was formed in 1911. Earlier this fall, the old building was demolished to make way for the new Neighborhood Club Wellness and Community Center, set to be completed in early 2013.*

*Below is a history of the club, taken from "Notes for Publicity," from the Neighborhood Club Scrap Book by Mrs. Chas. F. Dodenhoff, July 7, 1965, gift of Mrs. Ellis Merry April, 1984. GPHS Director of Education Izzy Donnelly finishes up the story and reports on the new building.*



The first Neighborhood Club

The Grosse Pointe Neighborhood Club located at 17145 Waterloo, City of Grosse Pointe 30, Michigan, was organized as the Mutual Aid and Neighborhood Club on January 14, 1911. A group of summer residents "of the Pointe" discovered many

*Continued on page 7*

## Holiday Shopping at La Belle's Country Store CHRISTMAS 2011

La Belle's Country Store is located in the Provencal-Weir House. The store is named after John La Belle who moved the house c. 1914 from its original location at Provencal and Lake Shore Road to the present location. We have some new and wonderful holiday gifts this year. The shop is open every second Saturday and by appointment. Call 313-884-7010. GPHS members are eligible for a 10 percent discount. Just ask for it at the cash register. Here are just a few of our fabulous new gift ideas:

- **Pewabic Tile:** Grosse Pointe Historical Society introduces its brand new, limited edition, commemorative Pewabic tile of Grosse Pointe Park's Windmill. This unique oval tile measures 3 ¾" x 4 ¾" and is ready to hang. Its translucent blue glaze is reminiscent of the sky with our beautiful Lake St. Clair.

- **Ornament:** We have a lovely *new* ornament of a color rendering of the Provencal-Weir House. It is a limited edition, first in a series, ornament measuring 3" in diameter and has a



*Continued on page 3*

## Izzy's Corner

### SCHOOL VISITS

As of mid-November, 18 classes are scheduled for field trips to the Provencal-Weir House's One-Room School. The word is out that the One-Room School is a great experience for a day of classes from the 1900s. The most important benefits for local teachers are the location, the One-Room School and the local history we offer. We are also affordable. We allow for lunch and recess with vintage toys and offer pioneer costumes if needed. I had a fifth grade boy come up to me last year and say, "I was very concerned about recess when I got here because you do not have a playground. But I have to tell you I have had a lot of fun here today with your toys." I assured him how relieved I was with a smile.

### SCOUTS

Girl Scout Troop 40696 visited the Provencal-Weir House in October, 2011 for a class on etiquette and earned their etiquette badges. These 4th grade Monteith students learned how they would have set a table in 1922 for a twelve course meal, what suitable manners were for a young lady of that time period, how to stand and walk appropriately with a book on their head, and how to formerly greet adults. Also, they learned how to set a formal dining room table for 2011, what manners and appropriate behavior is in school, at home and at play. At the end of the class they shook cream into butter for a treat with pumpkin muffins baked by their troop leader Michelle Rees.



Girl Scouts from Troop 40696 learn to shake cream into butter

November brought Boy Scouts from Richard School's first grade for a tour of the house and log cabin. The following week the Wolf Scouts from Star of the Sea came for a tour. The Provencal-Weir House and log cabin are a pure delight for all the children and scouts who pass through its doors.

**IZZY DONNELLY**  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



ULS came to the one-room school on November 18th for a wonderful day of school.

Chris Plansker is recording 23 songs from the Regina Music Box. A CD is now available in La Belle's Country Store.



## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

This is an excellent way to learn about local history and contribute to our Grosse Pointe heritage.

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

### Officers

Susan Hartz.....	President
Jack McCormick.....	Vice President-Administration
Stuart Grigg .....	Vice President-Development
Susan Bologna.....	Vice President-Education
Herman Mozer.....	Vice President-Preservation
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### Honorary Board

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Izzy Donnelly

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### Parliamentarian

Andrea Weyhing

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Jean Dodenhoff

### Webmaster

Jay Hunter

### Moorings Editor

Ann Marie Aliotta

Photos taken by  
Izzy Donnelly

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"Join & Support GPHS."

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# Holiday Shopping at La Belle's Country Store

## CHRISTMAS 2011

Continued from cover

red ribbon attached for hanging. It is hand painted and has a description on the back. It will be a beautiful addition to your home.

• **Stocking Stuffers:** Want to get your children off the video games? Our wooden toys are a perfect gift for them. These classic toys include the Buzz Saw, Jacob's Ladder, Pick-Up-Sticks, Spinning Tops, Wooden Yo-yos, Jacks, and Whistles. These affordable gifts encourage creative thinking, help develop coordination, dexterity and are a lot fun.

• **Vintage Toys:** The *Rolling Hoop* is made of solid native hardwood, is 28" in diameter by 1 1/2" wide and 1/4" thick. A dowel is included as a rolling stick, as well as a history card. This well-constructed toy encourages exercise and balance.

• The *Game of Graces* has two 10" diameter solid wood grace hoops, packaged with four tapered 22" solid wood wands and eight lengths of colored ribbon in a poly bag, with history and instructions. This game was meant for proper young ladies back in the day.

It promotes exercise, coordination and is enjoyed today by boys and girls.

• **Home Made Soaps:** La Belle's now features its own goat's milk soaps. These creamy soaps come in multiple colors, and make great gifts. The molds include flora and fauna images, land/ sea animals, light houses, Petroglyphs, hearts and even dinosaur shapes.

• **Desk Calendars:** La Belle's 12 month desk calendar is back. This year's black and white calendar showcases many of the mansions on Lake Shore Road that are now torn down. The color calendar is full of new and beautiful photographs of Grosse Pointe and Michigan. These calendars have legible numbers and are 4 1/4" x 8 1/4".

• **PWH Note Cards:** Eight beautiful note cards (4 1/4" x 5 1/2") in a set of a pen and ink drawing of the Provencal-Weir House.

• **The Shop Mascot:** For our younger audience we have our lovable, plush, soft squirrel named "Peanut" who is nuts about the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

• **Books:** Our books available at La Belle's focus on local history and fiction with a local setting. They include *Murder in Grosse Pointe* and *Treasure in Grosse Pointe*, *Grosse Pointe Then and Now*, *Remembering Hudson's*, *The Grosse Pointe War Memorial* and *Grosse Pointe 1880-1930*. Our newest book *Jacobson's, I Miss It So* was written by Bruce Kopytek and tells the history of this beloved and missed department store.

• **Cutting Boards:** Add class to your kitchen with our solid pine cutting board custom-made by a local craftsman and engraved with the GPHS logo.



Pewabic Tile



note cards



Game of Graces



La Belle soaps



Jacob's Ladder



PWH Ornament



2012 Calendar



Rolling Hoop

# Legends of Le Detroit 2011

The premiere *Legends of Le Detroit*, held on the grounds of the Provencal-Weir House on October 28, was a big success. Roughly 120 people were in attendance to enjoy free chili dogs, sauerkraut dogs, pop, and chips. Six actors read stories from the book written by Maria Caroline Watson Hamlin. Cider and donuts were served at the intermission.

"It was a *very* chilly night to have an outside event and I was delighted so many people came to hear these wonderful legends", said Izzy Donnelly, director and producer of the event. The food was donated by many GPHS board members. "The response from them was amazing" said Donnelly. "I

had everything I needed within two days of my request."

Doug Cordier cooked the hot dogs with the help of Susan Budrys, Jack McCormick, and Herman Mozer. Boy Scout Troop 96, lead by Matthew Fleckenstein, helped light all the luminaries, assisted people with their chairs and cleaned the tables. There were many other volunteers that helped make it such a successful evening. The Grosse Pointe Hunt Club's chef, Frank Cherro, rode Lacey, one of their boarded horses, to the event with Maggie Yash assisting. "This added so much to the evening,"



People were lined up for free hot dogs on a crispy October night for Legends of Le Detroit.

said Donnelly. "I asked Frank if he would chant hauntingly while riding by on the horse, 'Beware of the Legend of Le Lutin, for it returns to Grosse Pointe tonight.' He was a great sport about it and did it with great panache." All the costumes were loaned from the Grosse Pointe Theatre. A big thank you goes to the neighbors on Lakeview and Mary Lane for letting us block off the corner of Lakeview and Kercheval.



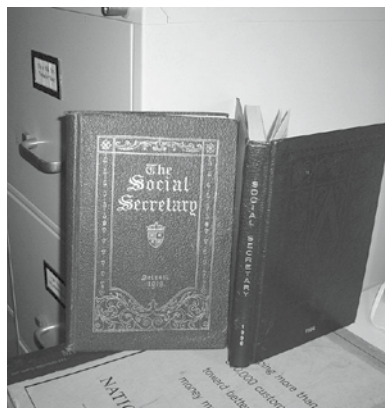
From left to right. Matthew Becker, Vice President of Fine Arts Society of Detroit, Dave Cowen Wayne State University Theatre graduate and member of Players Playhouse, Gina Telford, member of Fine Arts Society of Detroit, Agnes Ward, member of Theatre Arts Club of Detroit, Fine Arts Society of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Theatre, and Harry Burkey, member of Grosse Pointe Theatre and Stagecrafters. (Not shown, Izzy Donnelly, President of Theatre Arts Club of Detroit and member of Grosse Pointe Theatre)



Jack McCormick, board member and volunteer for the evening, asks, "Hot dog, anyone?"

## Social Secretary Books

The Social Secretary books are one of our greatest treasures in the Alfred B. & Ruth S. Moran Resource Center. They provide us with family names, home addresses, summer homes and clubs people belonged to. To date we have over 75 books in our collection from 1919 to 2011. We would like to try and complete the collection with your help. Below is the list of the years we are missing. If you have any of the books from the dates listed below



and would like to find an important home for them, please let us know. Your donation will assist us in completing our collection of the Social Secretary books at the Resource Center. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society thanks you in advance for your time and help. The desired books are: 1922, 1923, 1924, 1929, 1930, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936, 1938, 1942, 1959, 1960, 1988, 1999, 2001, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2009, and 2010.

## The Joy Bells Are Back!



Grosse Pointe Farms residents are happy once again to see that the newly cleaned Joy Bells are back where they belong. The structure at Joy Bells Park on the corner of Grosse Pointe Boulevard and Moross has had a beautiful face lift and the shining golden bronze bells are ringing once again.



# Izzy's Saturday Events 2011-2012

*All Saturday events will take place from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval. (Please note that some events are not on the second Saturdays and dates are subject to change.) Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$15.00 per session for members, \$20.00 for non-members. Reservations must be made by the Thursday before each event. Ask for Izzy at 313-884-7010.*

## Dec. 10

Homemade **Christmas Candy**. Come and hammer candy canes in a zip lock bag, melt white chocolate and pour them into Christmas molds. These delights will be enjoyed by the entire family during the holiday season. Ages 6+

## Jan. 14

Make you very own **Snowman Kit** using Fimo Soft Polymer Clay. We'll make black coal eyes, an orange carrot nose, a brown pipe, small black circles for a mouth and three large colored buttons. We'll finish with a felt scarf for the perfect custom made snowman! Ages 8+

## Feb. 11

Bake **Heart Shaped Chocolate Chip Cookies** for the Valentine season and learn about the history of Valentine's Day. Ages 7+

## March 10

Hand **Sew and Stuff** your very own Polar Bear made out of white felt. Children must have a basic knowledge of stitching. Ages 8+

## April 21

Come and greet spring by making **Floral Homemade Soaps**. This "melt and pour" goat's milk soap is creamy and there will be different colors and scents to add. Ages 8+

## May 12

Paint your very own beautiful **Bird House** to hang in your own back yard! Ages 7+

# October Second Saturday

Bat-O'-Lanterns, Frank-O'-Lanterns and Ghost-O'-Lanterns were big hits with the children and parents for "Izzy's Saturday Events" held on October 22 at the Provencal-Weir House. Every child received two plastic pumpkins that they painted white, black or green. Then each one was adorned using cut-out templates and colored foam sheets to decorate them for the perfect Halloween decoration.



GPHS President Susan Hartz helps the children make their ghost and bat-o'-lanterns



Mac is very proud of his pumpkins



Finished Bat, Ghost and Frank-O-Lanterns



# New at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is constantly growing and sometimes updates need to be made to accommodate such growth. Our top researchers, Pam Scanlon and Susan Bologna, know this all too well and made a couple of great suggestions for the Resource Center. By carefully rearranging some of our drafting file cabinets we were able to create a lighted work station with enough space to view our rare, oversized books. These fragile books need to be handled very carefully and having a work station now allows us to view these books with more ease and efficiency.

Our indispensable handy man, Phil Filkin, helps us re-organize the Resource Center



## Thank You, Donors

### DONATIONS

The Kresge Foundation  
 Louisa St. Clair Chapter, NSDAR  
 Junior League Gardeners  
 Mrs. Kay Agney, Higbie Maxon Agney Realtors  
 Mr. and Mrs. Jon Gandelot  
 Mr. and Mrs. Charles Harle  
 Mr. Herman Mozer

### GIFTS

#### ***Mrs. Patricia Colett***

Book, *More faces – I have seen*  
 Program, “The Merry Go Round of 1936”

#### ***Mrs. Patricia Cosgrove***

Four old-fashioned bread pans, ladle, small black frying pan

#### ***Mr. and Mrs. John Conway***

Architectural drawings of residence of  
 Mr. and Mrs. J. Walter Drake on Windmill Pointe Drive

#### ***Mr. Ric Geyer***

Blueprints, building drawings and letters related  
 to construction of 1100 Buckingham Road

#### ***Mr. Robert Hackathorn***

Marble corner from fireplace at Torrey House  
 (torn down in the early 1960s)

Handwritten letters from Mrs. C.A. Dean  
 and typed transcript of the letters

#### ***Mrs. Suzanne M. Karle***

Abstract of Hollywood Sub-Division

Abstract and Title of \$6,000 Deed

Blue Prints of 1470 and 1454 Hollywood

#### ***Ms. Sue Roncker***

Membership roster of the Suburbia Garden Club

#### ***Ms. Anne Silver***

Hand-drawn women on Hotel Gotham Stationary

#### ***Mr. Hal Smith***

Booklet, “Here, There and Everywhere!”

Five Christmas Cards from Judy and Bob Kanzler

#### ***Mrs. Elizabeth Soby***

Book, *In Detroit ... Courage was Fashion*,  
 by Alice Tarbell Crathern

Grosse Pointe Puzzle and the game Grosse Pointopoly  
 24 piece Wm. Rogers silver plated silverware set

#### ***Mrs. Eric VanderHagen***

Leather-bound scrapbook from Cercle Dramatique

#### ***Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weybing***

School District Artifacts, real estate information, blueprints,  
 Anecdotal family memories

## A History of the Neighborhood Club

*Continued from cover*

social needs of the permanent residents of the community which included health, education, family welfare and recreation. The original organization meeting was held at the Detroit Country Club with a board of twenty-four women who elected the following officers: President, Mrs. R. A. Alger Jr.; Secretary, Miss Florence Pond; and Treasurer, Mrs. W. Howie Muir; and a house was rented on Rivard Boulevard. The physical facilities progressed with the growth of the community and the Neighborhood Club moved to a building and small gymnasium on Oak Street, now known as Muir Road, and from there to the present location of eight acres donated by Mr. D. M. Ferry. By a popular donation drive in 1927, \$150,000 was raised for the present building which is now valued at \$400,000. The athletic field consists of a football field, three softball diamonds, two hardball diamonds, children's playground and six tennis courts.

The building, erected in 1928, was a two story brick construction approximately 100' by 100', which consisted of a 60' by 90' gymnasium, with a stage 31' by 20'; kitchen, which could serve into the gym and dining room; games room, adult lounge, welfare office, social service office, Director's office, boys and girls Worker's offices and men's and women's lavatories all on the first floor. The basement had a janitors room, boiler room, boy's and girl's locker and shower rooms, storage rooms and two handcraft rooms. The second floor consisted of an assembly room, approximately 50' by 50', two club rooms, a library, and a worker's office.

The first Director of the Club was Mr. George Elworthy whose guidance was enjoyed from 1919 until his retirement in 1961. Mr. Edward Krattli became Executive Director of the club after Mr. Elworthy's retirement.

On June 21, 1962, it was necessary to close the Neighborhood Club. After extensive study by consultant engineers and a notice from the insurance company that the liability protection could no longer cover activities in the building, the Neighborhood Board deemed it best to study the matter before making any necessary repairs. The Neighborhood Club was temporarily situated at 710 Notre Dame Ave., Grosse Pointe.

After three years of consideration and exploration of the best way to carry out the original terms of the Charter, the Neighborhood Club Board voted to turn over the property to the Grosse Pointe Board of Education for use as a Community Recreational Center.

On November 29, 1966, the Neighborhood Club broke ground for their new building which opened in December 1967.

Funds for it came largely from the sale of the property across the street. The building consisted of a lobby, three offices, and two lounges, 40' x 60', which were equipped with pool and ping-pong tables, games, T. V., snack bar and lounge furniture. This facility was enjoyed by the community for 44 years.

As Grosse Pointe grew so did the needs of the Neighborhood Club. After many meetings and discussions it was decided that a new facility was to be built on the same grounds. So, on the morning of September 17, 2011, Grosse Pointers woke up to the demolition of the Neighborhood Club's second building in its 100-year history.

The Neighborhood Club administrative offices have been moved to 240 Chalfonte in Grosse Pointe Farms until the new facility is finished. The scheduled time of completion is hoped to be January of 2013. "We should have a new and updated rendering of this facility on our website very shortly," said Executive



The second Neighborhood Club

Director Stuart Alderman. This impressive building will have 48,000 square feet and three levels.

"The existing offices and Nursery School will return but we will have many new offerings for the community," continued Alderman. "There will be a state of the art indoor five lane pool, a fitness room, an aerobics room, and gymnasium. The basement will have a sports room for local teams as well as traveling teams. They'll have strength and conditioning machines with TVs in the room. Fitness classes, personal trainers and indoor swimming lessons will be available to the public."

"Beaumont Hospital will be leasing 25 percent of space from the Neighborhood Club, but the building is owned by the Neighborhood Club," said Alderman. "Now we can go in a new direction. We want this to be the main focal point in the community. There is going to be something for everyone here."

The Society for Older Citizens (SOC) is relocating. Look for an article on SOC and the history of the Thrift shop in the next issue of the *Moorings*.

(313) 884-7010  
(313) 884-7699 FAX

e-mail: admin@gphistorical.org  
Web site: www.gphistorical.org  
Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

## Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures 2011-2012

### **MARCH 21, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*  
Jim Conway, Grosse Pointer and Site Manager of Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne, presents a program entitled *A Hidden History: the Story of Springwells in Southwest Detroit* relating to the section of the City of Detroit formerly known as Springwells Twp. (site of historic Fort Wayne) and its connections with Native Americans for more than 1,000 years. From the ancient Woodland Indians to the French and British colonial-era villages to the War of 1812, a chain of significant events occurred in this area that Conway will explain in vivid detail.

### **APRIL 18, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*  
Detroit Free Press reporters Joe Grimm and Katherine Yung present a program relating to their latest book, *Coney Detroit* (to be published in March 2012), that explains why Detroit became the world capital for Coney Island hot dogs. The story begins with Greek immigrants selling hot dogs from carts and develops into hundreds of Detroit area restaurants run by people of many nationalities. The book explains why Coney Islands, which have deep roots in many places, found favor in Detroit as they have nowhere else in the world. The authors will discuss the families and individuals that stand behind the counters, and are often the owners, and the pride they take in serving up Metro Detroit's favorite food.



### **MAY 16, 2012 7:30 p.m.**

*Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores*  
Mike Hauser, Marketing Manager at the Detroit Opera House, presents a program relating to his latest book, *Remembering Hudson's: The Grand Dame of Detroit Retailing*, co-authored with Marianne Weldon. The J. L. Hudson Company redefined the way people in our area shopped and enjoyed leisure time. Many in Metro Detroit share memories of great times spent shopping and enjoying spectacular events sponsored by Hudson's. A solid and lofty icon built by businesspeople who believed in their passion, Hudson's defined Detroit's downtown, creating trends and traditions in consumer culture that still resonate nationwide. Additionally, it should be noted that company founder, Joseph L. Hudson was Eleanor Clay Ford's uncle and Eleanor and Edsel Ford were married in his home on November 1, 1916.



*Enjoy dinner in the Cotswold Café prior to this lecture. Reservations encouraged, 313-884-4222.*





## Lilac Time at the Chateau Raises Nearly \$50,000

*Lilac Time at the Chateau*, this year's summer fundraiser, was a wonderful success, raising nearly \$50,000 for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. A delightful June evening provided the perfect backdrop for the benefit, held on June 3 at the beautiful lakefront home of Dr. and Mrs. David and Shery Cotton.

More than 400 guests attended the event. They were greeted with vintage cars and miniature airplanes on display on the front lawn, in front of an original French pear tree.

Before they entered the house, the guests were photographed by John Martin, who donated his services and a copy of the photo, which guests picked up at the end of the evening.

All agreed that the event was wonderful. The newly renovated Cotton home was absolutely stunning. The Monet-inspired gardens were lovely. Superb wine donated by many friends of the GPHS and a vodka

bar donated by Kozi, plus delicious, international food stations catered by Lakeland Manor were enjoyed by all. Musicians strolling throughout the grounds and Jack McCormick on the grand piano in the great living room added to the festive air, as guests watched sailboats and freighters glide by on Lake St. Clair.

"The evening could not have been more of a success," said GPHS president Susan Hartz. "Everyone was having a lovely time and the generosity of the Cottons was marvelous."

Money raised at the June party goes toward operating cost at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center and maintenance of the Provencal-Weir House, as well as programming. "This fundraiser is the most important event of the year," said Hartz. "Without it, we would not exist."



Jack McCormick at the piano



Donna Hoban, Physician in Chief Beaumont; Rick Swaine, Beaumont Hospital Director; Chris Stesney-Ridenour, VP of Operations Beaumont



Peggy Stanton, Ray and Jane Cracchiolo and Grosse Pointe Park Mayor Palmer Heenan



Dr. and Mrs. David Cotton receive an honorary GPHS bronze plaque and an acrylic painting done by Izzy Donnelly.



Molly and Mark Valade are flanked by Ken and Susan Kirchner.



Ed and Marsha Russell

## All New Talking Headstones, Sept 8-11

History takes the stage once again as the fourth *Talking Headstones* opens on Sept 8 and runs through Sept 11. The annual collaboration between the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS) and the Grosse Pointe Theatre (GPT) is becoming one of the most anticipated events of the fall. Young and old alike delight in seeing stories of their community come to life on a specially created stage in the St. Paul Cemetery, lit by hurricane lamps and torches.

This year's production is all new and focuses on Grosse Pointe from the 1910s-40s. Stories include:

*Continued on page 6*

## Izzy's Corner

### **Ellie Moran given volunteer award**

Longtime GPHS volunteer Ellie Moran was recently awarded the All Star Volunteer Award by Services for Older Citizens in a ceremony at the Grosse Pointe Farms Pier Park. She received this prestigious award for volunteering at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center for over 20 years. We are so lucky to have Ellie!



Ellie Moran receives her award from SOC Executive Director Sharon Maier.

### **More than 700 students visit One-Room School this Spring**

Introducing children to the delights of local history is one of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's most important missions. This year, more children than ever before visited the Provencal-Weir House's One-Room School.

In May and June alone, 29 elementary school groups came to the One-Room School at the Provencal-Weir House. More than 700 passed through the PWH doors to experience what school might have been like for Grosse Pointe children 100 years ago!



The boys love being in the log cabin!

33 groups of school children learning the wonderful history of Grosse Pointe and Pierre and Euphemia Provencal.

"I was just delighted there were so many first time visitors this spring," Donnelly added. "The teachers were just amazed at the local history we offer in our program and how it all ties so closely to their curriculum. They also loved the fact that the Provencal-Weir House is so close to their schools. Many groups were able to walk and carry their lunches over their shoulders."

Full-day classes for third, fourth, and fifth grades offered a spelling bee and the winner was awarded a vintage toy from LaBelle's Country Store. "Some of the children were worried they would not receive anything to take home, but this year I supplied each student with a log pen or pencil as a 'thank you' gesture for visiting the One-Room School. Many of the teachers commented afterwards how wonderful the Provencal-Weir House experience was and that the children especially enjoyed the pencils and pens," Donnelly said. The Provencal-Weir House visits are open to all the schools year round. For details go on our website or call Izzy at 313-884-7010.

### **New volunteers and assistants help at the GPHS.**

This summer brought new faces to GPHS. Mary Ridella and Daniel Kubacki were assistants at Ribbon Farm Days 2011 and were a tremendous help. William Dawson started at the Resource Center and is helping with digitizing. Michelle Agosta continues to be valiant in organizing, cataloging and storing our blue prints. By the new year we hope to have a list of all the blue prints we have in our possession on our web site.

**IZZY DONNELLY**  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

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Ann Marie Aliotta

Photos taken by  
Izzy Donnelly

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Select the link

"Join & Support GPHS."

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### **CORRECTION**

Annual Appeal 2010:

Mr. and Mrs. Jon B. Gandelot



# 2011 Historic Plaques

## *English Terrace*

English Terrace townhouses, at Rivard, Jefferson Ave., and Roosevelt Place, were built between 1926-1929 as apartments. The builder was John Frazer, who lived on Washington Rd.

The building was designed by architect Richard H. Marr, who was born in Detroit in 1886, and received his degree in architecture from Harvard. After practicing for two years in Boston, Marr returned to Detroit where he specialized in designing homes and apartment buildings. He designed a number of homes in the Palmer Park-Sherwood Forest area, including a home for William Fisher, one of the founding brothers of the Fisher Body Corporation, in Palmer Woods.

English Terrace was built in the Tudor style with a steeply pitched slate roof featuring cross gables and dormers. The overall effect is that of a large English country home. The first floor is brick with accents of limestone and clinker brick. The second floor and parts of the third floor are generally half-timbered, infilled with stucco. The building features tall, narrow, multi-paned casement windows, usually in multiple groups, and tall, brick chimneys with limestone caps.

Floor plans have similar configurations and most units have up to six bedrooms. All units have four floors, including full basements. Interiors feature crown moldings, textured plaster, marble hearths, and front and service stairs to the second and third floors. There is a secluded park area at the rear of the building.

The building remained as apartments until the 1950s, when the units were converted to individual ownership.



## *John Kerby Sr. House*

The present house at 310 Kerby has been situated on three different sites along Kerby Rd. In 1796, John Kerby purchased 120 acres of land from his father-in-law, James Donaldson, for £120. In 1811, his wife, Alice, also inherited additional adjacent land upon the death of her father. At one time, the ribbon farm consisted of 242 acres, starting at Lake St. Clair and extending north to the present I-94.

The original Kerby homestead was a log cabin located on the waterfront of Lake St. Clair and Kerby Road. At some point, John Sr. build a wooden structure, which is the core of the house now located at 310 Kerby. He also opened a dirt lane to Mack Ave. This tree-lined lane, running through the center of the Kerby property later became know as Kerby Road.

Rufus Kerby, grandson of Alice and John Sr., lived in this house with his wife Catherine Van Antwerp, which was still on the waterfront. Rufus was the village's first postmaster and ran a post office and small general store from the home in the late 1800s.

At that time, many Grosse Pointe houses were moved to make room for Jefferson Ave., mansions or Kercheval businesses. This was the case with the Kerby house. In 1893, Rufus sold the lakefront portion of his tract and moved his house inland on Kerby near Charlevoix, not far from the Kerby family cemetery. In 1912, the house was sold to his cousin, E.J. Tucker. In 1928, he sold the acreage to the school system as the site for the "new" Kerby School.

In the 1940s, the house was again moved to the eastern side of Kerby, north of Beaupre, its present location. At that time, renovations included the removal of the long front porch and a brick façade covered the exterior wooden walls. In 1994 the house still contained the original mantle and staircase.

## *355 Lakeland*

This home, designed by Crombie and Stanton, was completed in 1927. It is of the French Provincial Revival style and features intricate brick work, limestone trimmed windows, an emphasis of symmetry throughout the façade, and a steeply-pitched slate roof with flared eaves. The doorway is surrounded by Doric columns that support a simple composite cornice. This is the base for an exquisite, oversized stained glass window of the double-masted ship, the Griffon, which carried the first explorers to Lake St. Clair.

Although records are inconclusive, it appears that the house was build for Henry Monroe Campbell Jr. The Campbell family history is deeply entrenched in the French roots of Grosse Pointe and would explain why the image of the Griffon would have been selected for the stained glass window. The Campbells owned the house until 1951.

Ford Ballantyne, vice president of the Wyandotte Chemical Company, owned the home from 1952 until his death in 1963.

The longest standing owners have been Tom and Diane Schoenith, who occupied the home from 1976 to 2011.





# Ribbon Farm Days, Summer 2011

Once again this summer, the Provencal-Weir house was the place where young Grosse Pointers could take a break from the trappings of a 21st century childhood and travel back in time, experiencing first-hand how their 18<sup>th</sup> century counterparts would have whiled away their summer days.

Three two-week sessions of Ribbon Farm Days program were held during July and August, with about 20 children, ages 6 to 13 yrs. old, attending. In *Session I*, they dyed and scented their own soap and poured them into beautiful decorative molds. Some of the images include dolphins, horses, a lighthouse, flowers and many more. Then the kids created ceramic bowls to put the soap in and painted the pots. They baked homemade cornbread and shook whipped cream into butter. It took about a half an hour for 10 children to form the fresh butter.

In *Session II* GPHS Director of Education Izzy Donnelly measured the children's feet, cut out the felt and then the children sewed their own custom-fit moccasins. They decorated them with markers and sewn beads. They created buffalo hide paintings with Native American symbols, squeezed fresh grapefruit for a tasty beverage and made Cinnamon Peach Crisp with fresh peaches. Three of the mothers asked for the recipe!

In *Session III*, the children made homemade ink from blackberries, an old Roman recipe. They crushed the berries and put them through a strainer. Then they added vinegar and salt and put them in small glass ink jars. They practiced penmanship from the 18th century on the slate boards, and, using turkey-feathers quill pens, they wrote on stationary paper. They melted candle wax in a pot and dipped the wick to make taper candles. Then they made fresh blueberry crisp and squeezed fresh lemonade.

Lunch was usually on the porch and recess included playing with the game of graces, hoop and stick, cup and ball, jump rope and the buzz saw. They went up to the One-Room School for some lessons and read books on related topics. On the very hottest day, they had recess inside and played card games, checkers and pickup sticks.

"Ribbon Farm Days is a time for children to slow down, be creative, enjoy each other's company, play old fashioned games, sew, paint, do ceramics and bake from scratch," said Donnelly. "One mother told me she planned her whole summer around it. We have had a wonderful time!"



Atticus shows off his Buffalo Hide Painting.



Ian shows the story he painted on his Buffalo Hide Painting.



The children proudly show off their home made soaps.



Ava Jacobs shows off her taper candles she dipped earlier that day.



"All this shaking for just a little butter"?



The children proudly display the handmade moccasins.



Mary Ridella and Daniel Kubacki help as Ava Jacobs draws with her turkey feather and blackberry ink.



# City Survey Update

By Greg Jakub, Chairman, GPHS Preservation Committee.

The historic survey of approximately 2,300 structures in the City of Grosse Pointe is the final stage. A team of historic preservationists has been diligently photographing and documenting architectural data related to the homes and commercial buildings in Grosse Pointe since early spring. The information that they collected is now being entered into a data base according to the guidelines from Michigan's State Office of Historic Preservation. The end result of the survey will be a report available to the community on the history and trends that led to the development of the City's current built environment. The final report is planned to be complete in the fall.

The project's goal is to create a valuable database that will be a fundamental resource supporting current and future efforts such as the development of The Village and potential identification of historic areas. The latter is a strategy attracting the attention of homeowners, real estate agents and city leaders as a way to leverage the value of Michigan's older communities in our very competitive real estate market.

We are very grateful to the Wilkinson Foundation for its continued support of our historic survey project. Our plan is to complete the survey of Grosse Pointe City as the first step in surveying all the Pointes. Ultimately we foresee creating a rich database of our history and making it accessible to everyone in our community.

## Where are the Joy Bells?

By Izzy Donnelly

If you have driven by Joy Bells Park on Moross and Grosse Pointe Boulevard you may have noticed that the bells are missing. Being curious I called the Grosse Pointe Farms office and spoke to City Manager Shane Reeside. He assured me that the bells were doing just fine. "We are in the process of repairing the structure," he said. "We will replace the cedar shake roof, repair the mechanism that plays the bells, paint the structure and clean and re-polish the bells. We hope to be finished by the end of the year and this project has been funded by the Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation."

The 15 bells of this carillon were commissioned in 1929 by Henry B. Joy from the Paccard Foundry in the French Alps for his estate, Fair Acres. The structure was moved to its present location on Friday, July 3, 1992. Every bell contains the inscription of Henry B. Joy, the date 1929, and the seal and name of the bell-founder: George Paccard et Fils. "Unfortunately," writes William De Turk, Assistant Carillonneur/Librarian in Florida's Bok Tower Gardens in 1997, "the bells are horribly out of tune because they were not tuned at the foundry: a practice they discontinued when they realized the English foundries were tuning bells and getting the world market. Why Mr. Joy went to this foundry is a mystery", continues De Turk, "because, as a member of Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, he would have been exposed to the 1926 English bells in its tower." None-the-less, Grosse Pointers have become accustomed to the out-of-tune bells and will welcome their return. Soon the Joy Bells will be ringing again.



## Welcome New Board Members Susan Lewandowski and Dave Tarrant

**Susan Lewandowski** grew up in Dearborn, but has lived in the Grosse Pointes since 1982. She graduated from the University of Michigan with a degree in Political Science. After college, she earned a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and began a career with the federal government.

She retired in September 2010, from the U.S. Army Tank -Automotive and Armaments Life Cycle Management Command (TACOM) in Warren, Michigan, after almost 33 years of federal service. During the last ten years, she was the Chief of the Business Law Division, supervising 25 attorneys with responsibility for the legal sufficiency of the billions of dollars of contracts awarded by TACOM.

Lewandowski joined the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in the mid 1980s. She is a member of Soroptimists International of Grosse Pointe and an active member of both the Fine Arts Society of Detroit and the Theatre Arts Club. Also, she has recently joined Grosse Pointe Friends and Neighbors and is enjoying widening her circle of friends in the Grosse Pointe communities.

**Dave Tarrant** was educated in history – both undergraduate and graduate studies. After obtaining a B.A. in History, he joined a Ph.D. program in History of Technology. His on-going hobby project is original research into the use and fate of all B-17 aircraft (over 1000) that continued to be used by U.S. forces in the post-World War II period. He also maintains a considerable collection of archival material in automotive history, and enjoys making a study of it.

Since 1993 Dave spent time serving the Detroit Historical Museum in a variety of



*Continued on page 6*



# Sponsors for Lilac Time at the Chateau

## ROSE LEVEL SPONSORS

Russell Development Company	\$2500.00
Molly and Mark Valade	2500.00



Enjoying the evening on the lake

## RHODODENDRON LEVEL SPONSORS

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Dr. Clark J. Okulski	500.00

## IN-KIND

Hosts – Dr. and Mrs. David Cotton  
 Loan of Cars – John and Michael Forster  
 Loan of Model Airplanes – Stefek's Ltd.  
 Entertainment – Jack McCormick at the Piano  
 Public Relations—Ann Marie Aliotta

## Welcome New Board Members Susan Lewandowski and Dave Tarrant

*Continued from page 5*

volunteer positions, including as a member of the Board of Trustees. He also worked on the committees that developed the Motor Cities Exhibit. After spending many years serving Ford and Navistar in a wide variety of positions in the truck business, Dave is now CEO of a clean-tech enterprise dedicated to electric vehicles – LightSpeed Environmental, Inc. He and his wife, Maud Lyon, have a son, Steve, who is also a Grosse Pointe resident.

## WINE DONATIONS

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 Mr. and Mrs. Russell Peebles  
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## OTHER DONATIONS

Photographs of Guests –  
 John Martin Photography Studio  
 Flowers –  
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nahra  
 Painting (gift to hosts) –  
 Izzy Donnelly



Dr. Clark Okulski and friend

## All New Talking Headstones, Sept 8-11

*Continued from cover*

- the beginning of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society with one of the founders, Ellen Probert;



Talking Headstones cast 2010.

- the shock of Diego Rivera's mural commissioned by Edsel Ford;
- a young Julie Harris's thirst for acting;
- the flu pandemic from WWI featuring the Boone family;
- a dramatic episode during WWI involving the Van Tien family;
- a love story from WWII featuring Lawrence Kennedy, former Grosse Pointe school administrator; and
- the death of the "Lone Ranger" featuring former Grosse Pointe Farms police chief Joseph Trombley.

Free parking is available at G. P. United Methodist Church, 211 Moross, just across the street from the cemetery. Attendees must bring their own chairs and make certain to wear appropriate clothing for the weather. A flash light is also recommended for exiting. Show times are 8:00 p.m. every evening.

Tickets are \$10.00 for members of GPT or GPHS and \$15.00 for nonmembers. For tickets call Grosse Pointe Theatre at 881-4004.

# Izzy's Saturday Events 2011-2012

All Saturday events will take place from 1:00–3:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval. (Please note that some events are not on the second Saturdays and dates are subject to change.) Refreshments will be served. Cost is \$15.00 per session for members, \$20.00 for non-members. Reservations must be made by the Thursday before each event. Ask for Izzy at 313-884-7010.

## Sept. 17

Come and make **Caramel Apples** drizzled with chocolate! We will use Granny Smith Apples to dip in melted caramel and then drizzle them with chocolate! Ages 6+

## October 22

Make **Bat-O'-Lanterns, Frank-O'-Lanterns and Ghost-O'-Lanterns** using small pumpkins, paint and craft foam. Turn these small Jack-o'-Lanterns into a spooky fun Halloween scene. Ages 7+

## Nov. 12

Decorate four **Napkin Rings** made with mini-wreaths adorned with hand designed leaves for your Thanksgiving dinner table. Ages 8+

## Dec. 10

Homemade **Christmas Candy**. Come and hammer candy canes in a zip lock bag, melt white chocolate and pour them into Christmas molds. These delights will be enjoyed by the entire family during the holiday season. Ages 6+

## Jan. 14

Make you very own **Snowman Kit** using Fimo Soft Polymer Clay. We'll make black coal eyes, an orange carrot nose, a brown pipe, small black circles for a mouth and three large colored buttons. We'll finish with a felt scarf for the perfect custom made snowman! Ages 8+

## Feb. 11

Bake **Heart Shaped Chocolate Chip Cookies** for the Valentine season and learn about the history of Valentine's Day. Ages 7+

## March 10

Hand **Sew and Stuff** your very own Polar Bear made out of white felt. Children must have a basic knowledge of stitching. Ages 8+

## April 21

Come and greet spring by making **Floral Homemade Soaps**. This "melt and pour" goat's milk soap is creamy and there will be different colors and scents to add. Ages 8+

## May 12

Paint your very own beautiful **Bird House** to hang in your own back yard! Ages 7+



Ian is ready to take a bite of his 'Crunchy the Snowman'



After the Bite

## Thank You Donors

### DONATIONS

Alice Kales Hartwick Foundation  
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Photos and CD of Lake Shore Road  
Photos of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Country  
Club, McMillan and Newberry Estates

Mr. Ernie Kurschat  
Milk Creek Memories (oral history by Chet Redpath)

Mr. and Mrs. John McCormick  
White Fold-out Table

Mrs. Nancy Renick  
Store Sign of "Jack Tarpley – Interiors – Antiques"

Mrs. Eric VanderHagen  
Two leather-bound scrapbooks from Cercle Dramatique



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## Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures 2011-2012

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road,  
Grosse Pointe Farms*

Mike Davis presents a program relating to his latest book, *The St. Clair River*. This river is one of the world's greatest natural waterways and a key link in the Great Lakes. This book covers the area's recorded history from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the present.

### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road,  
Grosse Pointe Farms*

Jack Dempsey presents a program relating to his new book, *Michigan and the Civil War: A Great and Bloody Sacrifice*, in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the American Civil War in which Michigan lost over 14,000 residents. On May 16, 1861, only a month after the war began members of the First Michigan Regiment marched into Washington, D.C. The arrival of the regiment, the first from a western state, was met with jubilation and they were invited to an audience with President Lincoln. It was then, popular lore has it, the President exclaimed, "Thank God for Michigan."

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2011 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road,  
Grosse Pointe Farms*

Anthony J. Yanik presents a program relating to his latest book *The Fall and Recapture of Detroit in the War of 1812: In Defense of William Hull*, just in time for the bicentennial of the opening campaign of the War of 1812 in Detroit, a location the War Department considered one of the significant launching points for the invasion of Canada. Detroit's surrender only two months after the declaration of war shocked the nation and led to the court-martial of Brigadier General William Hull. Hull was sentenced to death – the only commanding general ever to receive such a sentence in U.S. military history. Yanik's book exams and reconsiders Hull's abrupt surrender and the general's defense that the decision was based on sound humanitarian grounds.

### MARCH 21, 2012 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road,  
Grosse Pointe Farms*

Jim Conway, Grosse Pointer and Site Manager of Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne, presents a program entitled *A Hidden History: the Story of Springwells in Southwest Detroit* relating to the section of the City of Detroit formerly known as Springwells Twp. (site of historic Fort Wayne) and its connections with Native Americans for more than 1,000 years. From the ancient Woodland Indians to the French and British colonial-era villages to the War of 1812, a chain of significant events occurred in this area that Conway will explain in vivid detail.

### APRIL 18, 2012 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road,  
Grosse Pointe Farms*

Detroit Free Press reporters Joe Grimm and Katherine Yung present a program relating to their latest book, *Coney Detroit* (to be published in March 2012), that explains why Detroit became the world capital for Coney Island hot dogs. The story begins with Greek immigrants selling hot dogs from carts and develops into hundreds of Detroit area restaurants run by people of many nationalities. The book explains why Coney Islands, which have deep roots in many places, found favor in Detroit as they have nowhere else in the world. The authors will discuss the families and individuals that stand behind the counters, and are often the owners, and the pride they take in serving up Metro Detroit's favorite food.

### MAY 16, 2012 7:30 p.m.

*Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road,  
Grosse Pointe Shores*

Mike Hauser, Marketing Manager at the Detroit Opera House presents a program relating to his latest book, *Remembering Hudson's: The Grand Dame of Detroit Retailing*, co-authored with Marianne Weldon. The J. L. Hudson Company redefined the way people in our area shopped and enjoyed leisure time. Many in Metro Detroit share memories of great times spent shopping and enjoying spectacular events sponsored by Hudson's. A solid and lofty icon built by businesspeople who believed in their passion, Hudson's defined Detroit's downtown, creating trends and traditions in consumer culture that still resonate nationwide. Additionally, it should be noted that company founder, Joseph L. Hudson was Eleanor Clay Ford's uncle and Eleanor and Edsel Ford were married in his home on November 1, 1916.

*Enjoy dinner in the Cotswold Café prior to this lecture.  
Reservations encouraged, 313-884-4222.*





## Lilac Time at the Chateau

*Friday, June 3, 2011 ~ 7 p.m.*

*A benefit for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society*

*at a 1927 European-style Estate on Lake St. Clair*

*Sumptuous strolling supper with music in the Monet-inspired garden*

*Docent-led house tours ~ Vintage autos and planes*

*Jack McCormick at the grand piano ~ Vodka tasting table ~ White glove wine bar*

This year's summer fundraiser is taking place in the fabulous lakefront home built in 1927 for Ross W. Judson, former president of the Continental Motors Corp., and aviation pioneer. The home was designed by noted architect Wallace Frost in the French manor home style.

No expense was spared when the home was built, and current owners, Dr. and Mrs. David Cotton, have lovingly restored the manor to its original grandeur.



*Painting by Izzy Donnelly*

The meticulously landscaped grounds, inspired by Monet's garden in Giverny, France, are a special source of pride.

The theme of the party, taken from the title of the 1928 movie *Lilac Time*, celebrates the aviation and gardening passions of the original and current owners. *Lilac Time* is set in a French village where a lilac farm has been turned into a British airfield during World War I.

RSVP early – attendance is limited. Call (313) 884-7010 for information and reservations.

## Pointes of History Celebration May 10

The public is invited to celebrate the rich architectural history of Grosse Pointe at this year's Pointes of History Celebration on Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Three structures will be awarded historical plaques at this annual event designed to recognize the historic and architectural integrity of Grosse Pointe's built environment.

"This celebration is a chance to share the pride we feel with other homeowners in our historic community," said Greg Jakub, chairman of this year's GPHS historic Plaque Committee.

The Plaque Committee researches structures throughout the year. The research reveals a profile of the buildings considered for plaques.

This includes the structures' origins, occupants over the years, architectural styles, modifications, renovations and historical significance.

*Continued on page 5*

## Historical Society Forms Now Online!

Requesting historical research through the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is now just a mouse click away! The GPHS has put many of its forms on line for the convenience of the community.

Simply log on to the GPHS website and click on the "Forms" link on the left. Visitors can request historic research, get permission to use a photo, rent the Provencal-Weir House, and, of course, become a member or make a donation – all over the Internet.

An added feature for members of the GPHS is one hour of research free.

"We really think having these forms on line will make things so much easier for our members and for residents of the community," said GPHS President Susan Hartz. "Hopefully more people will visit our website and see the great things we have to offer." Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) today!

## Izzy's Corner

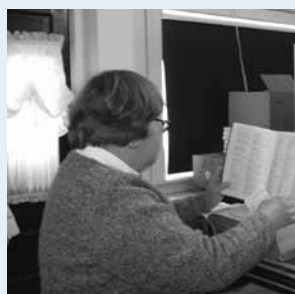
When you stop in the Resource Center you will find many of our wonderful volunteers hard at work filing, researching and organizing. We could not get our work done without them and we would like to thank them for their diligent work.

**Aulga Prokopowicz** – Keeps track of all newspaper and magazine articles written about the GPHS and brings them in to file. Aulga has been coming for over 25 years!



Ellie Moran

**Pam Scanlan** – Comes in on Tuesdays as well and does research for people who call and e-mail with requests. She has been coming for 4 years.



Pam Scanlon

**Cindy Safran** – Assists Helga with filing. She has been here for over a year and a half.

**Michelle Agosta** – Just started with us and has been helping us organize our blue print collection.

### *Volunteers on our Second Saturdays*

**Russell Peebles** – Gives tours at the PWH. He trained Izzy for tours and is an excellent tour guide.

**Susan Budrys** – Gives tours of the PWH and also helps Izzy with Second Saturdays.



Aulga Prokopowicz

**Ellie Moran** – Comes in on Thursday mornings and helps with filing and organizing our index cards and photographs. Ellie has been a volunteer for over 25 years!

**Susan Bologna** – Comes in on Tuesdays and does research for people who



Phil Filkin and Susan Bologna

**Janice Hendrie** – She has been filing real-estate files from a new accession given in December 2010. She started with us in July 2010.



Janice Hendrie

**IZZY DONNELLY**  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

This is an excellent way to learn about local history and contribute to our Grosse Pointe heritage.

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

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### Not Yet a Member? Want to donate?

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for a convenient way to do both.

Select the link

“Join & Support GPHS.”

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment.

The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM–12:30 PM and 1:30–4:00 p.m. for research. Telephone: (313) 884-7010. Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)



# Ribbon Farm Days 2011

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is bringing back its popular summer series for children, Ribbon Farm Days.

Give your children (or grandchildren) an opportunity to experience what Grosse Pointe summers were like for children in the 1800s. Polly Wolly Doodle your way to soap making, dyeing cotton fabric with berries and flowers, weaving, hand sewing, candle making, walks after lunch and playing with vintage toys. Imagine what it was like for boys and girls to live in one of Grosse Pointes original Ribbon Farm homes.

Four separate two-week sessions will take place at the **Provencal-Weir House** c. 1823 in June, July and August, providing arts and crafts, storytelling, vintage games, baking, and singing songs of yesterday. Come and join the fun!

## Session I – June 21, 23, 28, and 30

Make soap in various colors and molds, bake homemade cornbread from scratch adorned with churned (shaken) fresh butter and Michigan honey, make a coil ceramic dish/vase, squeeze fresh grapefruit for a refreshing beverage and then learn the history of the Provencal-Weir House.

## Session II – July 5, 7, 12, and 14

Sew your own moccasins, make Cinnamon Peach Crisp with fresh Michigan peaches and real whipped cream, do a buffalo hide painting, make fresh limeade, and learn about the Fox Indian Battle at Windmill Pointe in Grosse Pointe Park.

## Session III – July 19, 21, 26, and 28

Dip beeswax candles, make Blueberry Crisp from scratch with Michigan blueberries, trim a quill pen to write with and make your own dye for ink, prepare fresh pink lemonade, and learn what school and life was like for pioneer children in the 1800's.



Dyed cotton strands hanging to dry RFD 2010

## Session IV – August 2, 4, 9, and 11

Dye yarn using berries, herbs and other items from nature, make fresh Cherry Cobbler with Michigan grown cherries, do a weaving with the dyed yarn, paint a snake gourd, make fresh pink lemonade and learn the history of the Grosse Pointe's Ribbon Farms.

Each **two week** session is for children ages around 7 to 10 yrs. old. *All sessions are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.*

*Children must bring their own bag lunches. An assortment of snacks and refreshments will be served daily.*

**FEE: Members \$160, Non-members \$180. All fees are per child/session.**

***IF you sign up for 2 sessions, the second session will be \$135.00 for members, \$155.00 for non-members.***

***IF you sign up for three and/or four sessions the third and fourth session (on top of signing up for sessions I & II) fee will be \$125.00 for members and \$145.00 for non-members for sessions III & IV.***

**Please call GPHS for more information at (313)-884-7010.**

# Children Experience One-Room School



This May and June will bring many schools to the Provencal-Weir House for their spring field trips. Over 20 classes are coming to visit our One-Room School. Some are return visitors and others are newcomers. The children will wear our period costumes, get a tour of the house (for first time visitors), and have classes in the One-Room School. Studies will be based on our state-approved curriculum and include reading out of our McGuffey readers, writing on slate boards, arithmetic and finish with a spelling bee. The winners of this year's spelling bee will be able to select a vintage toy out of our Labelle Country Store for a prize. Lunch will be eaten outside (weather permitting) and the children will be able to play with our updated vintage toys.

# Meet our Archivist

## Caitlin Clyne

Caitlin Clyne has been providing her services in the Resource Center since last spring. She is completing her graduate certificate in Archival Administration from Wayne State's School of Library and Information Science and has an undergraduate degree from Wayne in anthropology. She has worked in the collections of several museums



and archives, including the Detroit Historical Society, Wisconsin Maritime Museum, Troy Museum and Historic Village, and the Detroit Public Library's Burton Historical Collection. We are so grateful to have her help and thought *The Moorings* readers would like to know a little more about her.

### ***How did you first get involved with the Grosse Pointe Historical Society?***

I first came as a researcher, interested in my family's history in Grosse Pointe. My Irish great-great aunts came to the area around 1880 and married French ribbon farmers with names like Beaufait and Beupre. In spring 2010, I was taking a class in archiving photograph collections, and requested to do my internship with the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, as I'd always wanted a chance to work with their archives. The internship ended, but I remained, and in September I was officially brought on staff as archivist.

### ***Why are you interested in history?***

I've always been interested in history through the stories that artifacts can tell us. I think that's what first led me to archaeology. In school, history can seem dry and distant to many people. But objects, photographs, and documents provide us with an immediate connection to the past and the people who came before us. For example, pioneer life can seem very abstract until one steps into the Society's log cabin and feels how cramped and confining life inside must have been.

### ***What types of things are you doing for the Society?***

Over the past six months I've accessioned over 80 percent of the backlog of donated materials, cataloging items such as photographs, property abstracts, yearbooks, blueprints and genealogies into our PastPerfect Museum Software. I've also helped bring the Society up to modern professional museum standards by developing a Deed of Gift form for incoming donations, as well as reproduction/usage forms for materials in the collections. I'm continually working to make the collections more organized and accessible for researchers.

### ***Why do you think local history is so important?***

Growing up, we learn history on a mainly national or state level, and it can seem very removed from our own lives. Local history illustrates how the men and women in our own communities shaped the future in ways we can personally connect to. For example, Jacobson's or Sanders were not national institutions, but their businesses in Grosse Pointe played important roles in the lives of thousands of residents, myself included.

### ***How can organizations like the GPHS help preserve and promote local history?***

Aside from collecting and preserving materials of historical significance, organizations like the GPHS also help preserve and promote local history by engaging the people in our community through programs and events. We introduce children to local history through our One-Room School program, and we reach out to other community organizations for partnership opportunities.

### ***What can residents do to help preserve and promote local history?***

People often hold a wealth of information about the history of their own community. Identify residents in your area who have stories that need to be told and recommend them to local historical organizations to arrange an oral history recording. Or utilize your own community knowledge to assist as a volunteer with research and cataloging in the archives.

You can also support the local historical organizations by attending sponsored events or historical programs. Better yet, become a member of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and receive added benefits, such as one hour of free research on any local topic, and special member-only rates for any research thereafter.

### ***Why is local history important to all age groups (senior citizens, young adults, children)?***

Local history has something to offer for every generation, from teaching the ways of the past to offering visions of the future. It gives older adults an opportunity to connect to the places and events that shaped their lives and share the resulting stories. For children, learning about local history through interactive experiences often creates their first sense of what life was like before the constant connection of the digital age, and creates a foundation on which to build their understanding of history.

For the generations in between, local history provides the most exciting opportunity of all. It gives a context of how people and events created the world we live in today, and offers lessons and inspiration for creating a better community in the future through the decisions we make.

### ***Anything else you'd like to add?***

I'm incredibly grateful for all the support I've received from the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. They've placed a great deal of trust in my capabilities and my input, and the confidence I've gained from that has become an integral part of my foundation as a professional. The enthusiastic and dedicated staff and trustees of the Society are wonderful and I'm very proud of the direction they are taking the Society in order to grow as both a historical resource and part of the community.



## Valentines Day Party



The Valentines evening held on February 11, 2011 at the Provencal-Weir House was filled with culinary delights and musical merriment. As the twenty plus guests arrived they were greeted with sparkling Prosecco and Italian antipasti platters. Chef Doug Cordier did a demonstration on how to cook spicy jumbo shrimp sauté and classic Veal Marsala. Mark Garmo from Village Market hosted a wine tasting event and chocolate truffles followed the meal. The evening was topped off with Jack McCormick playing romantic love songs on the piano. People were singing and dancing the night away.



"This was the third and best Valentines Cooking Demonstration Dinner Party," said Cordier. "It was such a great event. Very personal. Everyone was in the mood to have a special evening."

## Library of Congress Traveling Exhibit Draws Crowds

More than 1000 people from our community came to visit "Gateway to Knowledge," the Library of Congress' traveling exhibit which was parked outside of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Provencal-Weir House last December.

Housed in a specially-designed 18-wheel truck, the exhibit features facsimiles of many of the Library of Congress' top treasures and information about the millions of resources in the Library's collection. It is staffed and driven by two docents well-versed in the Library and its collections, parks at various universities, libraries, community centers and other public venues.

The GPHS held a VIP ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, December 17, to open the exhibit, which was open to the public free of charge through Saturday, December 18. The GPHS was one of only a few stops in Michigan.



## Christmas Party

The GPHS annual Christmas Party Celebration was held on Friday, December 3, 2010, at the Provencal-Weir House. This free event was our way of saying "thank you" to our members and community for their continued support. The house was full of joyful members and guests for punch, sweets and caroling. Our Christmas



tree was decorated with Helga Liedtke's ornaments made by her sister in Germany. LaBelle's Country Store was open and Penny Soby was busy at the cash register all night. Hors d'oeuvres were passed around and a lovely punch was served. Izzy Donnelly started the evening playing Christmas Carols on the piano as many of our guests sang in merriment. Jack McCormick continued the Christmas spirit on the piano with his colorful playing and by the end of the evening our guests did not want to leave. It was a delightful way to start the Christmas season.

## Pointes of History Celebration May 10

*Continued from cover*

"Each house has its own fascinating story to tell starting with who originally built it, how it changed over the years, or why it hasn't changed," Jakub said.

Plaques number 72, 73 and 74 will be awarded at the May 10 event. Current owners of the homes have been invited to accept the plaques which will be mounted on their homes. A slide show will feature pictures of homes and buildings that have previously received plaques since the program was started by GPHS in 1987. Many owners of homes that previously received plaques attend the Celebration event.

A wine and cheese reception will follow the historic plaque presentation program.



# Thank You to Our 2011 Donors

## DONATIONS

Ms. Susan Allum

Ms. Marlene Harle

Mr. and Mrs. John McCormick

Mr. Joseph Schwartz

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Wilkinson

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Woodhouse

2010 Christmas Party

2010 Christmas Party

Support of Grosse Pointe City Survey Project

2010 Christmas Party

## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Mr. Doug Cordier

Mrs. Sally Cudlip

Mr. and Mrs. E. Donaldson

Mr. Mark Garmo (Village Food Market)

Ms. Jackie Kalogerakos

Mr. James Lloyd

Mr. Herman Mozer

Ms. Valerie Naughton

Mrs. John Park

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Weyhing

Mrs. Peggy Woodhouse

Time to prepare food for our 2011 Valentines Party

Documents of Muir Family

Hat worn by Elizabeth Muir at wedding of Helen Joy Lee

Original photograph of wedding party of Helen Joy Lee

History of Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan

Alumni Perspective (Fall 1982) of

University Liggett School

Grosse Pointe Soccer Association

Yearsbooks and 1974-75 Team Rosters

Wine for the wine tasting at our 2011 Valentines Party

Martin Luther manuscripts and memorabilia

S.A.E. Handbook – 1931 Edition

Seven photographs depicting installation of Slate Chalk Board at Provencal-Weir House

Genealogy Documents of Cadieux Family

Photos of Stores on Mack Avenue from the Estate of Wally Toles (Toles Real Estate)

School District Artifacts, Real Estate Information and Photos,

Anecdotal Family Memories

Grosse Pointe High School Viewpoints and Miscellaneous documents

## Authentic Slate Chalk Boards Installed in One-Room Schoolhouse

Herm Mozer is admittedly a bit of a scavenger. His house on Maumee, once the carriage house on the John and Anna Dwyer Estate (now Lakeland Ave,) is full of materials and resources he got from houses and buildings in Grosse Pointe



and Detroit that were being torn down. He has dedicated himself to restoring this house, where he has lived since 1968, using much of these items.

"I didn't have any money and I needed materials," Mozer said. Also, he didn't want these good materials thrown out. "I knew someday somebody would want them. Everything I've scavenged has gone to good use."

Some of Mozer's most interesting finds were whole

pieces of slate from chalk boards at the old Maybee School on Oakland Ave. in Highland Park, which he got when the building was being torn down about 20 years ago. (Mozer was working at the Highland Park Chrysler Plant as an automotive engineer at the time.) The slate is about 3/8" thick and has a specially ground face that can be written on with chalk.

"This is really neat stuff and I didn't want to cut it up into pieces," Mozer said. So he kept the slate in tact in his home until a few months ago, when it was installed in the GPHS One-Room School House.

"It is wonderful to have genuine slate chalk boards in our schoolroom," said Education Director Izzy Donnely. "It really adds to the authenticity of the experience! We are so grateful to Herm for thinking of us and for hauling it up here. The installation was no easy task."

Herm enlisted the help of his bricklayer, Harold Burgett, to carry the approximately 200-pound piece of slate up the schoolroom.

"I knew someday it would find a good home," he said. "I'm thrilled it was our own Provencal Weir house."

# 2010 Annual Appeal

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## Izzy's Second Saturdays, 2011

*Please call 884-7010 by the Thursday before and ask for Izzy to sign your child up.*

**May 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

*Provençal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval*

Come for **Candle Making** to put in your own designed **Patterned Tin Lanterns**. Hammer patterns on the tin can and watch it glow at night for your summer pleasure. Cost is \$20.00 for members/\$25.00 for nonmembers.



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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is so grateful to board member Russell Peebles for his donation of a hand-made wool blanket dating back to the Civil War. The blanket belonged to Peebles' mother, Florence Houston Peebles. It was made by Florence's two maiden aunts who lived in Blacksburg, VA. Florence lived with them for a while when she was a child, after her mother died. They gave her the blanket which she then passed on to Russell. It is a wonderful addition to the Provençal-Weir House.

**SPRING 2011**  
*Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series*

### Frontier Metropolis

**Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.**

*Edsel & Eleanor Ford House,  
1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores*

Brian Dunnigan, curator of maps at University of Michigan's Clements Library, will present a program relating to his monumental book (18 x 13 ¼ inches), which includes every known image of Detroit in the pre-photographic era from its founding in 1701 through 1838. Included in this book are almost three dozen drawings, which include all or a portion of Lake St. Clair and the Grosse Pointe area.

**Co-sponsors: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and  
Wayne State University Press.**



**Wednesday, September 21, 2011 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Michael W.R. Davis will present a program relating to his latest book (published in July 2011), **The St. Clair River**, an area that has been utilized for recreational purposes by generations of Grosse Pointers. This river, separating Michigan from Ontario, is one of the world's greatest natural waterways and a key link in the Great Lakes chain. This book covers the river's recorded history from the French fur trappers of the 17th century to the resorts like the Old Club, with its many Grosse Pointe members, to the modern ocean going ships which connect the area directly with the rest of the world.

**Wednesday, October 19, 2011 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Jack Dempsey will present a program relating to his new book (published in April 2011), **Michigan and the Civil War: A Great and Bloody Sacrifice** in recognition of the sesquicentennial of the of the American Civil War in which Michigan lost over 14,000 residents.

On May 16, 1861, only a month after Union troops surrendered Fort Sumter, members of the First Michigan Regiment marched into Washington, D.C. The mere arrival of the regiment, the first from a western state, was met with jubilation and they were invited to an audience with President Lincoln, and it was then, popular lore has it, the President exclaimed, "*Thank God for Michigan.*"

His utterance would turn out to be prophetic in the long war ahead, as time and time again the courageous interdiction of Michigan forces would turn defeat into victory for the Union. Michigan's role in the war continued to the very end, when the 4th Michigan Cavalry captured the Confederate President, Jefferson Davis as he was escaping to Florida, effectively putting an end to any further hostilities.

**Wednesday, November 16, 2011 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Anthony J. Yanik will present a program relating to his latest book (published in September 2011) **The Fall and Recapture of Detroit in the War of 1812: In Defense of William Hull** just in time for the bicentennial of the opening campaign of the War of 1812 in Detroit, a location the War Department considered one of the significant launching points for the invasion of Canada.

Detroit's surrender only two months after the declaration of war shocked the nation and led to the court-martial of Brigadier General William Hull. Hull was sentenced to death—the only commanding general ever to receive such a sentence in U.S. military history. Mr. Yanik's book exams and reconsiders Hull's abrupt surrender and the general's defense that the decision was based on sound humanitarian grounds.



## Library of Congress Traveling Exhibit Stops at Historical Society

The Library of Congress's traveling exhibit "Gateway to Knowledge" rolls into Grosse Pointe at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval.

The exhibit, housed in a specially-designed 18-wheel trailer, has been bringing treasures and information from the Library of Congress into cities and towns across America since September. "Gateway" parks in front of the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval Ave, on Friday, December 17, from 4:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 18, from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The exhibit is free to the public.

A VIP ceremonial ribbon-cutting will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Friday. A strolling cocktail party and open house follow in the Provencal-Weir house.

The Gateway exhibit brings facsimiles of many of the Library of Congress's top treasures and information about the millions of resources in its unparalleled collections. It is

*Continued on page 3*

## New Outflow Pipes Installed at Provencal-Weir House

Tom Singelyn, the unofficial "house manager" for the Provencal-Weir house, oversaw an important project this summer, finishing the pipe replacement project that started a few years ago. New fresh water input pipes were installed then by Art Tucker & Son Excavating, replacing ones from the early 1900s which were plugged with roots and constricted due to oxidation and broken tiles. This final stage was for outgoing

waste water pipes, again installed by Art Tucker. "They have been very generous with the GPHS," Singelyn said. "They are very civic-minded people." Singelyn added that they were wonderful to work with. "I hope they realize how much we appreciate Art Tucker's generosity. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society works very hard for our funding, so support like this is really important."



## Society Celebrates 65 Years



The Grosse Pointe community came out in full force to celebrate the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's 65th Anniversary on October 9. Young and old enjoyed the sunshine while sampling homegrown Michigan refreshments including Vernor's and Faygo pop, Sanders ice cream treats,

*Continued on page 5*

## GPHS Receives Two Generous Grants

Two recent grants to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society will be instrumental in funding day-to-day operations of the organization as well as a specific project.

A \$10,000 Kresge Foundation grant, to be distributed over a two-year period, will provide general operating support. The first half of the grant was awarded in August; the second \$5,000 will be paid in October 2011.

The Wilkinson Foundation, endowed by Grosse Pointe residents Warren and Mireille Wilkinson, awarded the GPHS a \$5,000 grant to continue work on an important survey of the "built environment" of the City of Grosse Pointe. This on-going project has received continued support from the Wilkinsons.

"We are immensely grateful for the generosity of both these organizations," said GPHS President Susan Hartz. "Their support will allow us to continue providing our important services and programs to the community and to keep Grosse Pointe history alive."



# GPHS Profile:

## Mike Skinner

*For countless members of our community, the Dr. Frank Bicknell Lectures provide informative, insightful, and entertaining glimpses into a wide variety of subjects having to do with our fascinating past. Since 1992, current GPHS Honorary Board Member Mike Skinner has been involved in the lecture series committee, chairing it for most of this time. He has also been a speaker on several occasions. Mike is a dedicated volunteer whose passion for local history has benefitted the entire community.*

Mike was asked to join the board in 1990 by Jean Dodenhoff, GPHS curator from 1982-2000, after getting to know her over the previous few years when he located and donated artifacts and Dodge and Ford related books for the Society's collection. He grew up in Detroit very close to Grosse Pointe and has always loved Lake St. Clair and the great mansions and architecture found in this beautiful community. His father worked for WJBK Radio and TV and he passed his love for Detroit and area history to Mike, as did his mother and her love of classical architecture.

*Continued on page 7*

## View From The President

This has been a very busy and exciting fall for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. On September 10 and 12th *Talking Headstones* took place once again on the grounds of St. Paul Cemetery located on Moross Rd. The play was produced by Harry Burkey and directed by his wife, Janie Burkey. This joint venture held by GPHS and the Grosse Pointe Theatre brought in over 300 people. Brand new scripts were written by Grosse Pointe Theatre members with the assistance of local playwright Kim Carney. Much of the research was done at the Alfred B. & Ruth S. Resource Center and some of the stories included Josephine Alger, Miss Kitty Scanlon and the Legend of Windmill Pointe.

Saturday, September 25, View of Fairview was hosted by Nick Sinacore, Kiki Herfert and Ken Schramm. The bus toured through the former Village of Fairview, an area that encompassed Grosse Pointe Park and beyond. There were three bus tours during the day and all were completely sold out. Absopure's Bill Young underwrote the bus and we told him we sold out so quickly that we had to get a "bigger bus." Mr. Young was more than gracious to accommodate us with the larger bus.

On October 9th we celebrated Grosse Pointe Historical Society's 65th Anniversary with an open house at the Provencal-Weir House. This event was full of Michigan made food products and music by Ben Steel (and his Bare Hands). Tours of the PWH were given all afternoon and items were purchased at La Belle's Country Store.

The Library of Congress' Gateway to Knowledge new traveling exhibition comes through Grosse Pointe on Friday, December 17 and Saturday, December 18. The GPHS is honored to sponsor this event to continue "keeping history alive."



Susan Hartz

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

This is an excellent way to learn about local history and contribute to our Grosse Pointe heritage.

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

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## Not Yet a Member? Want to donate?

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for a convenient way to do both.

Select the link

"Join & Support GPHS."

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment.

The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM and 1:30-4:00 p.m. for research. Telephone: (313) 884-7010. Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

*Susan Hartz will present Her talk "Glorious Gardens of Grosse Pointe" to your organization or group. The Power-Point presentation is filled with images of historic properties and gardens of old Grosse Pointe. Call the Grosse Pointe Historical Society for information.*

## What's New at the Resource Center and Provencal-Weir House?

If you haven't stopped by the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center in the past few months, you might not recognize the place. We have updated and upgraded the facility, giving it a bit of a "facelift" inside and out. Thanks so much to Phil Filkin, our new "handy man," who has been hard at work on a number of projects. He made all four of our computers compatible with each other and consolidated our phone/fax lines for a savings of \$300 a year. Phil installed a new internet security system that will save \$160 per year.

Besides updating our technology, Phil has undertaken a number of refurbishments to the Resource Center. He sanded and re-stained the front door making it weatherproof and beautiful! He also power-washed the outside of the building.



Our electronic equipment has been re-arranged for ease and convenience. And he helped us re-organize and hang photos, prints, and artifacts on the Resource Center walls. It has the atmosphere of a real research library with interesting and informative artwork on display.

At the Provencal-Weir House, Phil repaired some of the damage on the side porch and repainted it. He installed a proper electrical receptacle in PWH basement for de-humidifier. We are thrilled to have him!

## Library of Congress Traveling Exhibit Stops at Historical Society

*Continued from cover*

expected to travel to up to 60 sites in states across the Midwest and South over the next year.

"We are thrilled to host this fantastic exhibit," said GPHS Board Member Elizabeth Vogel. "This is a dream come true. We are pleased to have the support from the Grosse Pointe Public Library, Grosse Pointe Public Schools, and the city of Grosse Pointe Farms in making this stop a success for the entire community.

"We are especially grateful to Harry Kurtz, president of MRA, whose company built the custom-designed 18-wheel trailer that houses the 'Gateway to Knowledge.' MRA is a Michigan-based company located in St. Clair Shores. The Kurtz family members are life-long residents of Grosse Pointe Shores."

The exhibit will include programming especially for teachers and students and provide relevant and engaging learning experiences for lifelong learners. The trailer is staffed and driven by two docents well-versed in the Library and its collections. The trailer will be parked at various schools,

libraries, community centers and other public venues. The trailer expands to three times its road width, and visitors will enter from a central staircase to find several areas of museum-style exhibits. The exhibition will feature facsimiles of such treasures as the 1507 Waldseemüller Map (the first document to use the word "America"); the 1455 Gutenberg Bible; the rough draft of the Declaration of Independence, in Thomas Jefferson's hand with edits by Benjamin Franklin and John Adams; the 1962 drawings for the comic book that introduced Spider-Man to the world; the handwritten manuscript to jazz pioneer Jelly Roll Morton's "Frog-i-More Rag"; and Walt Whitman's poem "Leaves of Grass."

Founded in 1800, the Library of Congress is the nation's oldest federal cultural institution. The Library seeks to spark imagination and creativity and to further human understanding and wisdom by providing access to knowledge through its magnificent collections, programs and exhibitions. For more information, visit [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov).

### Pierre and Euphemia Provencal, their adopted children and their livestock on the farm

One of the many pleasures I experience at the GPHS is learning the rich history that surrounds us. This summer we joined *Ancestry.com* and I looked for information on Pierre and Euphemia Provencal. In particular, I was interested to see if I could find anything about their adopted children. It has been noted that they had 24 adopted children and before this summer we knew very little about them. How old were they? When did they arrive? Were they there all at the same time? All we really knew was that the Provencals educated them, housed them and made them productive citizen in the community. To my delight I found the 1850 and 1860 U. S. Census report on Pierre and Euphemia Provencal and this is what I discovered!

In 1850 Pierre was called Peter and his last name was spelled Prevonsal. He was 53 years old and was a farmer. Euphemia's name was spelled Uphemia. She was 36 years old and was a housewife. Catherine, their only daughter, was 8 years old. There was a 95-year old gentleman who resided at the farm house. His name was John B. Coshwa and he had no property value. There were four adopted children living on the farm at the time: Theresa Beaubien, aged 18; Caroline Pockett, aged 14; Francis Connor, aged 5; and Richard Connor, aged 2.

In 1860 Pierre Provencal was 62 years old and was still a farmer. Euphemia was 46 and a housewife with more adopted children. Catherine Provencal was 18 years old and a seamstress. Celina Vallie was a servant on the farm. She was from Canada and was 22 years old. Benjamin Steger was a farm hand aged 27 and came from Switzerland. The adopted children living on the farm in 1860 were Richard Cooms, aged 12; Francis St. Aubin, aged 4; Mary St. George, aged 14; Edmund Grant, aged 14; and Theodore Grant, aged 12.

Pierre's three nephews were also adopted. Their names are Benjamin, Isadore and Adolph Vincent. There is no information on these three children in either census report.

Peter had 100 acres of improved land, 147 acres of unimproved land. The cash value of the farm was \$10,000.00 and the value of his farming implements and machinery was \$25.00. He had 12 horses, 5 "milch" cows, 2 working oxes, 8 sheep and 8 swine. The value of the livestock was \$484.00. He had 150 bushels of rye, 800 bushels of Indian corn, 400 bushels of oats, 400 lb. each of ginned cotton and 20 lbs. of wool. This information keeps the Provencal-Weir House Museum alive!



Euphemia Provencal



Pierre Provencal

IZZY DONNELLY  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## Talking Headstones

Nearly 300 members came out over two nights to see history come alive on stage during two productions of *Talking Headstones*. This collaboration between the Grosse Pointe Theater and the Grosse Pointe Historical Society delighted the audience with stories of Grosse Pointe's past amid the wonderful atmosphere of St. Paul's Cemetery on Moross. A big thank you goes to the following members of Trombley Boy Scout Troop 86, led by David Pingree, for their help in clean-up, set up, helping guests to their seats, setting up luminaries and closing up for each performance: Alex Manchester, Eric Lucander,

Anthony Genaro, Tony Genaro, Pat Mulier, Josh Williams, John McNamee, and Deborah Pingree.

For more fabulous photos of the event, visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/grossepointetheatre/sets/72157625384724437/with/5224471627/>.



Jessica Boehmer and Luke Naidow in "The Promise of a Lifetime".



Royce Howes (Rick Mason) interviews Helen Duncan (Kathy Conlon).



Donna Miller, Ruth Ellen Mayhall and Phyllis Reeve in "A Thirst for a Change".



## New Board Members

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is pleased to welcome four new members to its board of trustees: Susan Bologna, Gail Sidlek, Scott T. Vandemergel, and Elizabeth Vogel.

**Susan Backman Bologna** retired in 2006 after a long career in education including 15 years as a teacher and 20 years as an administrator and superintendent of Dearborn Heights No. 7 Schools. Her family has resided in the Farms since it was marshland, and she tells of being raised listening to the tales of yesteryear. In addition to her passion for local history, she also has a love of cooking. In keeping with this interest, she occasionally provides walking tours of Eastern Market through Preservation Wayne. She graduated high school from St. Paul Catholic School and has a Bachelor of Science from Western Michigan University and two graduate degrees from Wayne State University.

**Gail Sidlek** is currently an independent consultant specializing in automotive joint ventures/patent licenses. He spent 10 years as an automotive body designer with GM, Ford, Chrysler, Firestone, and various contract companies, and was a Vice President at Firestone Industrial Products and President of Romeo Rim. Born in Detroit and a graduate of Pershing High School, Sidlek received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Wayne State University in 1972. He loves to garden and is a self-proclaimed "car nut" who has restored sev-



Liz Vogel (left), Scott Vandemergel and Susan Bologna. Not pictured, Gail Sidlak.

eral antiques and now focuses on his Rolls Royce SC III [retro rod] which he has owned since 1979.

**Scott T. Vandemergel**, the departmental director of City Assessor of the City of St. Clair Shores, was born at Cottage Hospital in the Farms in 1970, grew up on Moross Road, and has lived within five miles of the place

of his birth for his entire life. He received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree, with a major in finance, in 1992, and a Master of Business Administration degree, in 1993, both from Wayne State University. He has led walking tours for the GPHS and has been a Provencal-Weir House docent. A member of Historic Trinity Church, his personal interests include endurance running (completed various marathons), voracious book-reading, local history and architecture (also a member of other history groups), and animal welfare (volunteer with Grosse Pointe Animal Adoption Society).

**Elizabeth Vogel** is a life-long Grosse Pointer and currently resides in the Farms. She graduated from South in 2000 and has two degrees in history: a B.A. from Albion College, and M.A. from Loyola University Chicago. Currently, Liz works for Kay Agney at Higbie Maxon Agney Realtors. She has written over a dozen home histories for various residents of the Pointes. Liz has been the co-chair of the GPYC's archives committee for the past two years. She is active in the community as a volunteer reading mentor and is beginning her third year as a 7th grade catechist at St. Paul on the Lake. Additionally, Liz is active with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and Hill Association. Recently, she was invited to join the Grosse Pointe Public Library services working group.

## Society Celebrates 65 Years

*Continued from cover*

Kowalski hot dogs on Metropolitan Bakery buns, and Better Made potato chips.

"We had a constant flow of people," said education director Izzy Donnelly, who counted around 150 attendees. "It was a lovely day."

The event was chaired by GPHS board members Doug Cordier and Susan Budrys.

"The 65th Birthday party was a huge success," Cordier said. "Our mission was to interact with our community and get them thinking about our historical heritage here in Grosse Pointe and Michigan. By giving tours of the Provencal-Weir House and serving foods produced by local companies, we did just that. It was a great tribute. I think we all had a ball!"

The GPHS certainly has a lot to celebrate! Since its inception in 1945, the group has grown to 850 members and has a regular program of lectures, tours, presentations, and other events, along with the One-Room Schoolhouse program. The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center is truly a community treasure where local artifacts, photos, and documents are stored and available to members for research. The Society frequently partners with other community non-profits including the Grosse Pointe Theatre, Grosse Pointe War Memorial, and the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House.



# Thank You to Our 2010 Donors

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65th Birthday Party  
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65th Birthday Party  
Seminar on Oriental Rugs

65th Birthday Party  
65th Birthday Party

Title Abstract for 671 Westchester Road, GPP  
Burton Title Abstract for 403 Belanger, GPF  
17 Photos of homes on Lake Shore Road that have been torn down  
Documents pertaining to the E.B. Caulkins Jr. family  
Time to prepare food for Valentine "Amore"  
Book "75 years – Assumption Greek Orthodox Church"  
Various item (ltr. of 3-16-10)  
1909 and 1937 Blue Books 1948 Social Register  
Social Secretary (1948,1981,1983,1984, 1992)  
Michigan Social Register (1948,1971,1973)  
1941 photo of National Association of Gardeners  
4 Packets "Donut Seeds"  
GP South High School 1928 – 2003 Banner  
Wine for the wine tasting at the "Amore" event (2-12-2010)  
Parking Lot for the "Talking Headstones" performances  
Photos and documents of the Locke-Balmes Family  
Bonhams publication The Magnificent Pearls of Anna Thompson Dodge  
Ivory Cane  
2 AT&T 2-Line Speakerphones  
2 Oval American hooked Rugs  
De-Humidifier for P-W House  
Blueprints for the Henry Ford II property in Grosse Pointe Farms  
Slate Blackboards for One-Room Schoolhouse  
2 Books "seven Acres of the Poupard Farm" the 1300 block of Yorkshire  
The Joseph Socier Farm: Bishop Road  
Photo Album of Historic Sites  
Children Books for our School Programs  
De-Humidifier for P-W House  
7 Architectural Artifacts from Rose Terrace  
Book "The Remaining contents of Rose Terrace and photographs of the Estate  
Permission to hold "Talking Headstones" in St. Paul Cemetery  
27 Heritage Magazines (1985 thru 1990)  
Reno Family History DVD "1870 Mich.-US Federal Census Index  
Printing Charges for GPHS Manuals (\$97)  
Book "Fireball" by Henry B. Hager  
Newspaper Articles about Martin Luther King  
Obituaries of Millie Schoenith and Zora Arkus-Duntov (Mr. Corvette)  
2004 Designer Show House Brochure, etc.  
St. Clare of Montefalco Diamond Jubilee booklet  
1951 Social Register  
Burton Abstract of Title of 80 Moross Road  
Photos and history of 80 Moross Road  
Black and Color Cartridges for Lexmark Printer, Manual

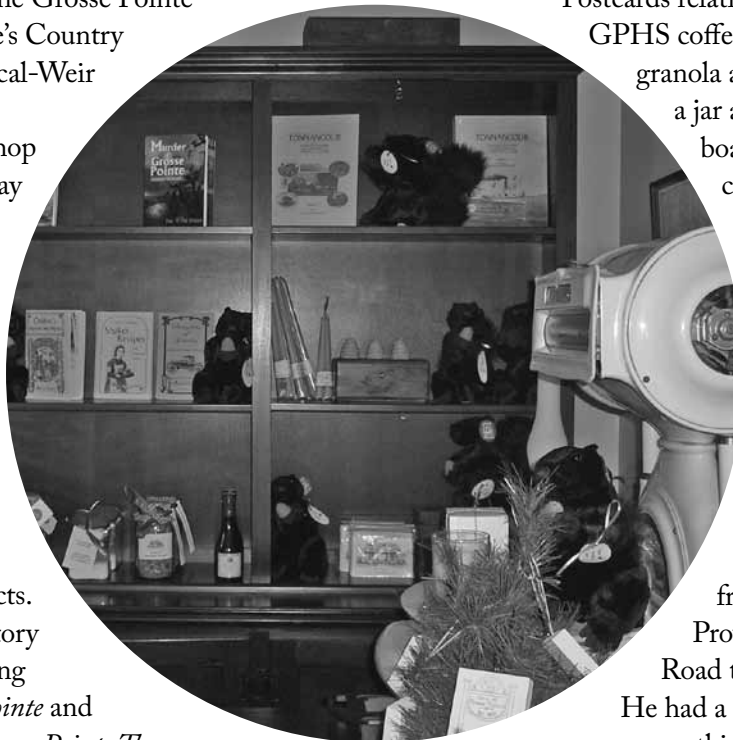
# Holiday Shopping at La Belle's Country Store

Looking for a unique holiday gift? One that shows your pride and affection for our wonderful historic community?

Look no further than the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's La Belle's Country Store, located in the Provencal-Weir House at 376 Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms. The shop is open every second Saturday and by appointment. Call 313-884-7010. And remember, with your membership, you are eligible for a 10 percent discount. Just ask for it at the cash register.

The LaBelle Country Store features classic games and toys like Jacks, Buzz Saw, card games, craft projects. Books focusing on local history and fiction with a local setting include: *Murder in Grosse Pointe* and *Treasure in Grosse Pointe*, *Grosse Pointe Then*

and *Now*, *The Grosse Pointe War Memorial* and *Grosse Pointe 1880 – 1930*. There are other titles, too, so, browse our collection.



Postcards relating to Grosse Pointe history, GPHS coffee mugs, and ready-to-make granola and cranberry muffin mix in a jar are on sale. Solid pine cutting boards custom-made by a local craftsman and engraved with the GPHS logo and name are also available. The shop mascot is the authentic black squirrel. These huggable, plush squirrels are available for our young customers.

The store is named after John La Belle who moved the house c. 1914 from its original location at Provencal and Lake Shore Road to the present location. He had a general store and small grocery on this site.

## GPHS Profile: Mike Skinner

*Continued from page 2*

Mike especially loves automotive history and the fact that so many automotive pioneers lived in the community was another reason he was drawn to the GPHS. He owns a 1921 Model T Touring and drove it in the Grosse Pointe Santa Claus Parade with GPHS banners.

Mike served as GPHS President in 1996-98, right after serving as President of the Dearborn Historical Society (in fact, there was one month when he was President of both the Dearborn and Grosse Pointe Historical Societies in May 1996) and was Co-President, with Lisa Gandelot in 2005. As Co – Chairman of the Video Documentary Committee of the GPHS he oversaw the production of the video histories of Grosse Pointe: "The Past as Prologue, 1900-Present" and "Recollections of the Past, 1650-1900."

He has also had leadership positions at many other historical organizations including Henry Ford Estate-Fair Lane, Henry Ford Heritage Association, National Automotive History Collection (Detroit Public Library) and T-Plex ca. 1904 Ford Motor Company Piquette Avenue Plant. He is also a founding member of the Piquette T's Model T Ford Club Chapter based at the Plant.

Mike has been HR Director for Production Tool Supply and all of its affiliated companies since 1995. Before that he worked for CBS/Fox and Technicolor Video Services and this is what led him to help oversee the production of the Society's two videos. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree both in business administration, from Wayne State University.

The Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture series was created as a result of a gift from the Bicknell family in honor of Dr. Bicknell's 80th birthday. It has always been meant to fund programs about the area's history. "It was a distinct pleasure to get to know Dr. Bicknell," Mike said. "During his life time before almost every program I would have dinner with him and the speaker at the Country Club of Detroit and a number of out of town speakers stayed at the club courtesy of Dr. Bicknell."

Despite his many years of service, Mike's commitment to local history is still strong. "Being involved with GPHS is very rewarding and I would urge anyone who loves the community or wants to preserve and/or learn more about its incredible history to get involved," he said.



# Izzy's Second Saturdays, 2011

*All events will take place from 1:00–3:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir house, 376 Kercheval, unless noted. Refreshments will be served at each event. Cost is \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non members, unless noted. Please call 884-7010 by the Thursday before and ask for Izzy to sign your child up.*



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## January 8

Make your own **Snowman Fleece Hat** to keep you warm during the winter months.

(313) 884-7010  
(313) 884-7699 FAX

## February 12

**Heart Shaped Soaps** will be made to decorate for Valentine's Day.

e-mail: [admin@gphistorical.org](mailto:admin@gphistorical.org)  
Web site: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

## March 12

Come and make **Crunchy Snowmen** with pretzels and white chocolate. Mmmmmm, yummy.

## April 9

**Easter Basket Cupcakes.** Chocolate cupcakes with white frosting will be decorated to look like Easter Baskets.

## May 14

This event will take place from 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Come for **Candle Making** to put in your own designed **Patterned Tin Lanterns**. Hammer patterns on the tin can and watch it glow at night for your summer pleasure. Cost is \$20.00 for members/\$25.00 for nonmembers.

## Detroit Area Test Tracks

**Wednesday, March 16, 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Michael W.R. Davis will present a program relating to his new book about area automotive test tracks and proving grounds. In the 1920s, major auto makers finally moved their testing of new vehicles and drive trains from public thoroughfares like Grosse Pointe's Lake Shore Road and Jefferson Avenue. Area test tracks and proving grounds were a source of curiosity for decades because of the secrets they held. This book goes behind the walls of these facilities to show how they evolved and what took place inside.

## Newscast for the Masses

**Wednesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Grosse Pointer Tim Kiska will present a program relating to his latest book about the evolution of television news in Detroit, from its beginnings in the late 1940s, when television was considered a "wild young medium," to the early 1980s, when cable television permanently altered the broadcast landscape.

## Frontier Metropolis

**Wednesday, May 18, 7:30 p.m.**

*Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores*

Brian Dunnigan, curator of maps at University of Michigan's Clements Library, will present a program relating to his monumental book (18 x 13 ¼ inches), which includes every known image of Detroit in the pre-photographic era from its founding in 1701 through 1838. Included in this book are almost three dozen drawings, which include all or a portion of Lake St. Clair and the Grosse Pointe area. **Co-sponsors: Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and Wayne State University Press.**





# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945

Fall 2010  
Vol. 27. No. 2

## Tour the Historic Village of Fairview

Take a tour of the lost Village of Fairview, the municipality that existed for four years between Detroit and Grosse Pointe Farms, before Detroit annexed the area and the city of Grosse Pointe Park was created in 1907.

Nick Sinacori, historian and author of the book *The History of the Village of Fairview*, will guide bus tours of the area including sites of historic race courses and locations famous in automotive history. Railroad and streetcar historian and author Ken Schramm will help participants "ride the rails" into the past. And local historian Kiki Herfert will give a history of the forces and times that developed Windmill Pointe and its mansions during the roaring twenties.

Tours will take place on Saturday, September 25, at 10:00 a.m., 12 noon, and 2:00 p.m., with buses leaving from the Ewald Branch of the Grosse Pointe Public Library. Tickets are \$7. For information, contact Kiki Herfert at 822-9199 or [kikiherfer@gmail.com](mailto:kikiherfer@gmail.com). Tickets are available at the Grosse Pointe Park city offices.



## Talking Headstones Returns with all New Stories September 10-12

History comes to life once again with the immensely popular *Talking Headstones* collaboration between the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS) and the Grosse Pointe Theatre's (GPT) Historical Pointes. Produced on a stage in historic St. Paul's Cemetery, performances are Friday-Sunday, September 10-12 at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15; \$10 for members of the GPHS and GPT. Free parking is available at the church across the street.

This year's production is an entirely new script, according to GPT Education Director and show producer Harry Burkey. It will cover the years 1890-1930 in the Grosse Pointe area and features stories of the Alger, Martens, Scanlon, and Van Teim families, among others. There's even an encounter between temperance advocate Carrie Nation and Mary Alger, who fought to repeal Prohibition. Episodes include "The Legend of Windmill Pointe," "Miss Kitty Scanlon," "A Thirst for a Change," and "Life at the Moorings."

Noted Michigan playwright Kim Carney has returned to head up the writing of this year's production. Jane Burkey is the director.

## 400 Guests Celebrate GP History, Raise Over \$30,000

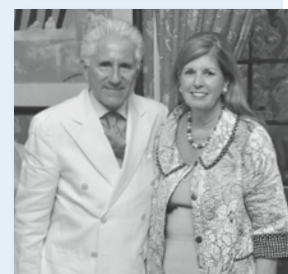
More than 400 guests from all over metro Detroit celebrated Grosse Pointe history and raised over \$30,000 for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at the group's annual summer party held on Thursday, June 24.

The event, called *La Fete d'Ete (A Summer Party)* was held at the gracious, French Manor-styled home of Roosterail owners Tom and Diane Schoenith. Guests dined on fabulous fare prepared by the club's Chef Dave including beef tenderloin, lamb chops, shrimp, and oysters from Massachusetts. They listened to swing music by the 18-piece Saline Big Band Orchestra playing on the balcony of the home. Inside, Jack McCormick entertained at the grand piano. Schoenith also turned his garage into a black-and-white disco, equipped with mirrored balls and flashing lights, which opened at nine.

All four floors of the home were open for the party including a Margarita station in the attic and champagne in the basement Adventurer's Club. Schoenith's beautiful yard was entirely tented, with tables draped in purple, orange, and fuchsia silk setting the mood for an exotic evening. Guests lingered under the tents and on the patio well into the evening.

Money raised at the event will fund the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's educational programs, archives, and Resource Center. Sponsors included Detroit Public Television, Beaumont Hospital, Gandelot and Associates, John A. & Marlene L. Boll Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cracchiolo, Carolyn Candler and Charles Leahy, Dr. and Mrs. Peter C. Dodenhoff, Maud Lyon and David Tarrant, the Charles Whitney Foundation, Citizens Bank, Northern Trust, and Russell Development Company.

Pictures of the party can be viewed on GPHS website [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).





# School Visits to the Provencal-Weir House

The 2009-2010 school year brought teams of curious students to the Provencal-Weir House for a day of school that transported them back in time. Grades one through five came for tours of the house, the log cabin, lessons in reading from our McGuffey readers, writing, spelling and even some old-fashioned discipline. The "Dunce Cap" is a favorite with students. In fact, when the fourth and fifth graders from the Grosse Pointe Academy caught their teacher, Mr. Lapadot, giving out an answer too quickly for their spelling bee, they insisted he wear the "Dunce Cap" as a consequence. When donned, the squeals of delight rang through the One-room School Room and enhanced the already successful day for the students and



teachers.

Learning is easily achieved when it is fun and the impact on the children at the end of the day is always evident. One mother told me that she and her son were driving home one night and her son's visit to the Provencal-Weir House was so memorable that he asked if they could drive by it to see it at night. This year's number of students more than doubled from last year and first grade was added to the curriculum. Groups included students, scouts, and even senior citizens from the Sunrise Senior Living home.

**IZZY DONNELLY**

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

## View From The President

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding. My job is to make sure we accomplished what we set out to do. I think we have done just that. Take a look at what we have been up to:

- Enlarged programs and curriculum for school children throughout the year at the Provencal Weir House
- Guided tours by trained docents of the Provencal Weir House throughout the year.
- Ongoing digitizing of photos for preservation from our archives.
- Informational booths at community events manned by trained volunteers.
- Six Bicknell Lectures, some partnered with the War Memorial and the Ford House.
- "Talking Headstones" in conjunction with the Grosse Pointe Theatre, a one act play in the St. Paul Cemetery about Grosse Pointe residents 100 years ago.
- La Fete d' Ete, our major fundraiser party at Tom and Diane Schoenith's historic home in Grosse Pointe City. The party was a smashing success.
- Second Saturday tours by a local historian Scott Vandemergel and others.
- Oral histories recorded by video of 80 to 100-year-old Grosse Pointe citizens at Neff Park during the celebration of the Park's 100th birthday.
- Eco tulip sale, successful as a mini-fundraiser thanks to all our committed volunteers and our industrious staff.



Susan Hartz

- Dixie Swim Club, a rollicking play in conjunction with the Theatre Arts Club of Detroit fundraiser at the historic Player's Playhouse

- Party of the Century last fall at Victoria and Robert Liggett's home was another successful fund raiser in conjunction with the Van Eslander Breast Cancer Center.

- "Amore", Doug Cordier's Valentine dinner at the Provencal Weir House was another successful fund raiser.

- Three plaques awarded to historic and important homes in Grosse Pointe

Coming up this Fall:

- The Talking Headstones performance with an all-new script and cast of characters. This play will be conducted at the St. Paul's cemetery, in conjunction with the Grosse Pointe Theatre
- Walking tours on Second Saturdays by Scott Vandemergel
- View of Fairview in September with Nick Sinacori, Kiki Herfert, and Ken Schramm

Check out our award-winning website for dates and details of all upcoming events at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org). Please join in the fun at one of our interesting events where history comes alive.

SUSAN HARTZ

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

This is an excellent way to learn about local history and contribute to our Grosse Pointe heritage.

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

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"Join & Support GPHS."

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The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM-12:30 PM and 1:30-4:00 p.m. for research. Telephone: (313) 884-7010. Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

*Susan Hartz is available to offer her well received talk "Glorious Gardens of Grosse Pointe" to your organization or group. The powerpoint presentation is filled with images of impressive historic properties and gardens of old Grosse Pointe. Fee: \$100.*

## 2010 Historic Plaques

### 980 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores

The original United States patent title for this property was given to the French "Habitant" family of Julien Forton, in August 1808. Shortly thereafter, Julien Forton deeded a portion of the very large farm, bordered by Lake St. Clair, Mack Avenue and the Macomb County (Mill River) line, to his daughter Monique, who married Joseph Robertjean (aka Robert John).

In 1848 the Robertjean family sold a portion of the land to Pauline Van Antwerp, who built the first permanent house on the property in 1849. The middle section of the present house is the 1849 house. It is believed to be the oldest clapboard house in Grosse Pointe still on its original foundation

The property descended in the Van Antwerp family, inherited by Pauline's daughter Catherine Van Antwerp Kerby, who remod-



eled the house on both ends. In 1910 the heirs of Katherine Kerby sold lots 1 and 2 of the large farm to Frank Biscoe, founder of Biscoe Motors, who built the Arts & Crafts motor garage and apartment, now known as 976 Lake Shore or as the "Carriage House."

In 1914 the property was sold to William Mertz, a lawyer, and his wife Lois. In 1953 they divided their property and sold the main house, now known as 980 Lake Shore to Mr. and Mrs.

William R. Hamilton, but the Mertzses retained the Carriage House for themselves. The Hamiltons undertook significant renovations to the house. Mrs. Hamilton said that the materials found inside the walls were amazing, including hand-blown glass, hand-made nails, old newspapers, and the original insulation, which was straw!

In the 1970s the Hamiltons sold the property to Mr. & Mrs. John Wendell Anderson, Jr. In 1980, they sold the property to Mr. & Mrs. John L. Booth II, the current owners.

### 415 St. Clair Avenue, Grosse Pointe

In 1909-1910 Oren Hawes, a lumber yard owner living at 106 Pingree Street in Detroit, decided to replace his Victorian summer cottage, located at the foot of Notre Dame on Lake St. Clair, with a more substantial year round home. The structure to be replaced was purchased by Mr. Trombley who planned to move it onto a piece of land he owned on St. Clair Avenue, just west of the Cadieux School.

The cottage with its surrounding porches, and field stone fireplace was placed on wooden rollers and in July 1910 under the assistance of movers Norbert Neff and Mr. Bliss, the building arrived at its new home, 415 St. Clair Avenue, complete with a new, even though not quite level basement!

This structure stood apart from the others, with its hip roof, eyebrow windows, detailed brackets and glass enclosed porches, which must



have allowed spectacular views of the lake and now look onto a quiet residential street.

The house was eventually deeded to Mr. Trombley's daughter, Lyda and her husband Peter Loedwyck. They never lived in the house but used it as rental, even as a store and for some time as a primary school!

The Loedwycks owned the property until 1948 when a young engaged man sought a home for himself and his soon to be bride. Mary Dickinson and William (Bill) Herbert made 415 St. Clair their "honeymoon cottage." They planned to remain in their home for five to ten years depending on the size of their future family. Those few years have turned into sixty two years and counting!

The white cottage with black trim remained until the Herberts thought; "hip roof, barn like structure...why not red?"...and the rest is history.

### 78 Lake Shore, Grosse Pointe Farms

Designed by architect Hugh T. Keyes in 1928, 78 Lake Shore, is an example of the French Normandy style. Keyes designed a number of homes in the Grosse Pointe area. Among those are the Edith and Benson Ford house and the Charles A. Dean house.

Built for the Dwyer/Palms family, this 6,500 square foot home features a dramatic step-down living room with lake views, a sweeping staircase, curved hallways and multiple fireplaces. Some exceptional features are the copper gutters and downspouts, imported French mantelpieces and French crystal sconces in the foyer and living room.

The Dwyer/Palms house was the first in the area wired for telephones. Until recently, there was a circuit panel in the garage through which all the neighborhood phones were wired.

The home was originally built for Marie Fleitz Dwyer, the widow of



Francis T. Dwyer. Francis Dwyer was the son of Jeremiah Dwyer; the founder of the Detroit Stove Company and the Jewell Stove was its major product. Francis began with the family firm, but went on to form his own company, Standard Foundry. He was also director of Peninsular Stove Company.

Francis Dwyer died unexpectedly at age 43 in 1912. He was survived by his wife Marie and their 8-year-old daughter, Marion Mark. Marion married Charles L. Palms, Jr. in 1924. Charles was one of four children of Martha and Francis Palms who was involved in banking, automobile manufacturing and civic endeavors.

In 1929, Marie Dwyer moved into 78 Lake Shore and in 1931, the young Marion and Charles Palms moved in with her. The Palms raised a family of five children and took ownership of the home in 1958 when Marie died. The Palms lived in the house until 1962.

The Greiner family owned the house until 1975 when it was sold to its current owner, Gail Sidlek.

# Izzy's Second Saturdays, 2010

All events (except May) will take place from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir house, 376 Kercheval. Refreshments will be served at each event. Cost is \$10.00 for members, \$15.00 for non members. Please call by the Thursday before to sign your child up and ask for Izzy.

## September 11th

Izzy's Cozy Cooking Class-Come and make homemade **French Apple Tarts**.

(313) 884-7010  
(313) 884-7699 FAX

## October 9th

Custom make your very own **Trick or Treat bags**. Felt templates of witches, bats and ghosts will be supplied to glue onto your cotton Halloween bags to Trick or Treat with.

e-mail: [admin@gphistorical.org](mailto:admin@gphistorical.org)  
Web site: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

## November 13th

Decorate two **Turkey Votives** for Thanksgiving's dinner table. Small glass bubble votive holders will be decorated with tissue paper and battery operated tea lights will be supplied.

## December 11th

Bake **Gingerbread Cookies** for your Holiday season. This is a return event for Second Saturdays. Make gingerbread cookies from scratch with white frosting to adorn. A must for the Holiday season.



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FALL 2010  
Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series  
GROSSE POINTE WAR MEMORIAL, 32 Lake Shore Drive

## Michigan State Fair

**Wednesday, September 15, 7:30 p.m.**

Grosse Pointer John Minnis will present a program relating to his new book. *The Michigan State Fair*, held on the same site in Detroit less than 10 miles from the Grosse Pointe community since 1902, was the longest running state fair in the country before being discontinued this year after 160 years.

## Boneyards: Detroit Underground

**Wednesday, October 20, 7:30 p.m.**

Richard Bak will present a program relating to his new book, which is an exploration of burial sites and customs in metro Detroit and the historical and social changes behind the treatment of the deceased in our area. A perfect program less than two weeks before Halloween.

## Summer Dreams: The Story of Bob-Lo

**Wednesday, November 17, 7:30 p.m.**

Grosse Pointer Patrick Livingston will present a program relating to his book about Bois Blanc ("White Woods") Island. The island gained strategic importance when Fort Amherstburg was built in 1796 to guard passage along the Detroit River after Detroit became a part of the United States. Grosse Pointers will fondly remember the island as an amusement park from 1898 until 1993, owned by Grosse Pointe's own Browning family for most of these years. Today it is being developed as the Bob-lo Island and Marina Resort Community and is now served by a private car ferry.

## Ribbon Farm Days, 2010



Campers enjoyed a variety of activities that harkened back to a simpler time. The children painted snake gourds, dyed fabric from berries, hung them to dry and wove a belt with the fabric on homemade looms. Homemade lemonade was enjoyed by all, as well as French pear crepes made from scratch. Izzy Donnelly ran the camp with assistants Kerri Marowske and Victoria Slater. Most of this year's campers were new to Ribbon Farm Days at the Provencal-Weir House. Some came back from school visits or Second Saturdays.







# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society

established 1945

Spring 2010

Vol. 27. No. 1

## President's Reflection

The first six months as President have been fun and challenging and very busy. We have implemented a new education program, reopened the La Belle Country Store and we are completing



Susan Hartz

what appears to be a successful Annual Appeal.

As we work our way through these new initiatives, we must rely on our volunteers to ensure our contin-

ued success. Presently, we have volunteers digitizing photos for the archives, filing newly donated original photos and printed matter, giving tours of the Provencal Weir House, serving as sales assistants in La Belle's Country Store and greeting folks at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society booth at civic events – West Park Farmers Market in Grosse Pointe Park, the Annual Village Sidewalk Sale and Street Festival and more. The opportunities are bounded by our imaginations.

I am impressed with the work our volunteers accomplish. We could not possibly conduct business without their help. But there is room for many more willing hands. Share your skills and interest by volunteering. Call 313-884-7010 and we will match you with a job you are sure to enjoy.

Remember, we are all Keepers of History. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society could not exist without our members and the community at large donating their time, family photos and information for all to enjoy.

SUSAN HARTZ  
PRESIDENT,  
GROSSE POINTE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



The historic H.M. Jewett House (above)



Victoria and Robert Liggett with Harry and Jane Burkey in period costumes. (left)



Art Van Elslander with Victoria and Robert Liggett (below)

## The Party of the Century!

Victoria and Robert Liggett hosted *The Party of the Century* in celebration of their home's 100th birthday on October 2, 2009. The magical evening at the historic *H.M. Jewett House* in Grosse Pointe Shores featured a tour of their entire home, excellent food and music provided by the talented Rennie Kaufmann. Funds raised by this special night were given to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and The Liggett Breast Center at the Van Elslander Cancer Center. Thank you to Vicki and Bob for keeping history alive in Grosse Pointe!

Photos of the party printed courtesy of Photography Unlimited Studio

*Susan Hartz is available to offer her well received talk "Glorious Gardens of Grosse Pointe" to your organization or group. The powerpoint presentation is filled with images of impressive historic properties and gardens of old Grosse Pointe. Fee: \$100.*

## Tonnancour

Please note that the lovely photograph of Tonnancour, the Theodore Parsons Hall estate, displayed on one of the four Grosse Pointe Historical Society postcards was generously provided by Marie P. Fuger. Ms. Fuger is a descendent of the Hall family. Her great grandmother was Marie Hall Fuger Delbos. The photograph dates to 1881, taken during the summer grand opening of the house.





## Director of Education

2010 has brought new schools and age groups to the Provencal-Weir House. Our active outreach to local schools has received an enthusiastic response. Many reservations have been scheduled and our spring calendar is filling up. Call soon to make reservations for your students.

Izzy Donnelly

We are also in the process of developing a new educational program which will focus on the history and impact of Father Gabriel Richard. This will be available to all area schools later this year.

Local scouts have been added to our outreach program for after school activities. Two Girl Scout troops from Kerby Elementary School are scheduled to come in March for a class on etiquette and music from the turn of the century.

Watch for the upcoming announcement for our *Ribbon Farm Days* summer camp scheduled for June, July and August.

From my experience, once people see the Provencal-Weir House they fall in love with it and all that Grosse Pointe Historical Society has to offer. With this in mind, it has become my mission to introduce this historical site to as many schools and children's groups as possible because I have fallen in love with it, too.

**IZZY DONNELLY**

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Izzy's Cozy Cooking: Gingerbread Cookies

## SECOND SATURDAY SERIES

*Free tours of the Provencal-Weir House will be offered every Second Saturday between 1 and 4 p.m. Visit La Belle's Country Store every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 1 and 4 p.m. for gifts, crafts, toys and specialty foods. Gift baskets are available. A free 2 p.m. house tour is offered on shop days.*

Please call (313) 884-7010 for more information or to make reservations.

### March 13, 2010

*Izzy's Winter Warm Up, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

Make fleece pocket scarves to wrap yourself up in this last month of winter. Hot chocolate will complement the program. The event is for children between the ages of 8 and 10 years old. Fee is \$10/member and \$15/non-member. Please make your reservation by Thursday, March 11th.

### April 10, 2010

*Eco-Tulip Sale, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.*

GPHS will host a special eco-tulip sale. We will be selling our first "Official Grosse Pointe Tulip," a classically shaped triumph tulip with magenta petals. Why organic tulips? The most important reason is that they are grown with respect for nature and the environment. This means no synthetic pesticides or fertilizers are used.



*Izzy's Birdseed Biscuits, 1p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

Make heart-shaped birdseed biscuits to hang in your garden. Refreshments will complement the program. The event is for children between the ages of 8 and 10 years old. Fee is \$10/member and \$15/non-member. Please make your reservation by Thursday, April 8th.

### May 8, 2010

*Neighborhood Walking Tour, 1 p.m.*

The tour, led by Scott Vandemergel, will start at the Provencal-Weir House promptly at 1 p.m. Free for members, \$5/non-member. Call for tour details and to make reservations.

*Izzy's Spring Sugar Cookies, 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

Create a bouquet of flower-shaped cookies. Refreshments will complement the program. This event is for children between the ages of 8 and 10 years old. Fee is \$10/member and \$15/non-member. Make your reservation by May 6th.



## Support the Society with a legacy gift.

Help us keep Grosse Pointe history alive for future generations by remembering the Society in your estate plans. Bequests, a gift of an insurance policy or IRA are easy ways to remember the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

## We need you!

Consider donating your time to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We have many volunteer opportunities, including *Provencal-Weir House tour guide, sales assistant in La Belle's Country Store, office assistant or archivist in the Moran Resource Center, event assistant, gardener and handyperson.*

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**Executive Director/  
Moorings Editor**  
Maureen Devine

**Curator Emeritus**  
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**Director of Education**  
Izzy Donnelly

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## Old French Pear Trees of Grosse Pointe

"But the crowning glory of the French orchard was the pear tree. Nearly every homestead possessed one, some two or three, few exceeded a half-dozen. Such was its wonderful size and productiveness that one specimen usually amply satisfied the wants of a family...Many show a circumference of trunk of eight or nine feet and rear their lofty heads seventy sometimes eighty feet from the earth. They bear uniform crops; thirty to fifty bushels being often the annual product of a single tree. The fruit is of medium size, ripening about the end of August...The flesh is crisp, juicy, sweet and spicy. For stewing and preserving it is quite unrivaled."

*-History of Wayne County and the City of Detroit, Michigan, volume II, 1930*

Much has been written about the famed French pear trees of Grosse Pointe over the years. Their size, age and productivity even made an impact back in 1930. It's hard to imagine that several survive today, still bearing fruit, some as old as 300 years. These trees are not native to this area and, it is claimed, they would not grow in any other location outside of Grosse Pointe, Detroit and Monroe. The French originally brought these seeds and saplings from Montreal via France during the time of Louis XIV.

As we slowly lose these great trees due to age, weather damage and disease, the community has come together documenting tree locations through the Pear Tree Chapter of the Questers and Grosse Pointe Historical Society. Whenever possible, the trees have been treated to prolong their lives. It has been a losing battle until David Milarch, founder of The Champion Tree Project, offered

a glimmer of hope. This visit was organized by Alan Marschke and it was funded by Tom and Jean Baumgarten and Mark and Molly Valade. Milarch heads a program cloning heritage trees, a technique to preserve historic trees through new technology. Clippings were taken from the surviving Windmill Pointe pear tree and three forms of cloning were utilized to help guarantee healthy new trees for future plantings in Grosse Pointe. Twelve viable clones have been produced to be planted in the next year or two. These will be 100% genetic matches to the original tree. These genetic clones will yield healthy, strong and long-lived trees to be introduced back into the community to thrive for the next 300 years as examples of living history from our colonial past.

*In respect to this fascinating history, old-fashioned apple, pear, walnut jam from France is available for purchase at La Belle's Country Store.*



French pear tree at Speck estate Fairholme, Lake Shore Road, c. 1930

## News from the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society continues to grow – by the end of December 2009 we had 842 active members – an increase of 79 members since the end of 2008.

Our 2009 Annual Appeal was a great success – and is still ongoing. You will find a listing of all donors on our website. Please visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to view.

Your generosity and support is greatly appreciated. All funds will be directed to programs, facilities, events and collections.

We thank the following for donations received between July and December 2009.

### Donations:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Liggett  
-and all *Party of the Century* attendees  
Wilkinson Foundation  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Palms  
Mrs. Sara Ralph

### In-kind donations:

Mr. Larry Baranski  
Mr. and Mrs. A. Bayster  
Mrs. Ann Bushman  
Mr. Michael B. Carrier  
Mr. Thomas Coles

Ms. Eugenie Durant  
Ms. Katie Gacobelli  
Mr. and Mrs. Julius Huebner  
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Mrs. Elizabeth Soby  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Sullivan III  
Mrs. Mary Vitolins

## From the Director



**Maureen Devine**  
*Executive Director*

This has been a challenging year financially for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. We appreciate the positive response to our 2009 Annual Appeal and for all private donations sent to support our educational programs, collections, building maintenance and operating expenses. It is interesting to note that our active membership numbers are up by 79 members since 2008. However, the overall dues received are down from

the previous year. On the positive side, it is heartening to see that people are interested in our organization and what we do for the community. Please remember that donations are the main source of income for the Society. We count on you to help keep us moving forward. The Annual Appeal is ongoing and donations may be made any time of year by mail, in person or via the GPHS website. Thank you for your support!

La Belle's Country Store is open every Wednesday and Saturday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. We have been refilling the shelves with popular standbys like French jams, local honey, scented soaps and black squirrels (our store mascot). We invite you

to stop by to see our new offerings including beeswax candles handmade by Green Toe Gardens (producer of the local honeys we sell) and books from Wayne State University Press such as *The Guardian Building and Frontier Metropolis*. In addition, Ann Marie Aliotta and Suzy Berschback have authored a new Arcadia Book called *Grosse Pointe War Memorial* available in March. We also sell CD's produced by two local groups dedicated to early Detroit/American music – *Le Compagnie* with Genot Picor and *Lac La Belle* featuring Grosse Pointe's own Joel Peterson. Many more new items are expected to arrive this spring. We hope to see you soon.

## Responsible Stewardship and the Web

In an effort to be good stewards we have decided to make *the Moorings* newsletter available online instead of post by the end of 2010. This decision will save the Society money by reducing cost of postage and printing. Please confirm your name and email address by calling or sending it to [admin@gphistorical.org](mailto:admin@gphistorical.org). If you do not have an email address, let us know and we will continue to send you a copy via the post office. We want to keep all our members informed about upcoming programs and events, follow-ups and news relating to the history and preservation of Grosse Pointe.



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### SPRING 2010 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

**Wednesday, March 17, 2010 7:30 p.m.**

**The Grosse Pointe War Memorial**, presented by Suzy Berschback and Ann Marie Aliotta

**Location:** Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms  
Event co-sponsors include Grosse Pointe War Memorial and Grosse Pointe Historical Society

The Grosse Pointe War Memorial, designed by New York architect Charles A. Platt, was built in 1910 for Russell Alger, Jr. and his family. Alger was Vice President and stockholder of Packard Motor Car Co. The mansion was donated to the Detroit Institute of Arts in 1936 but ownership reverted back to the Alger family in 1948 when the Detroit City Council declined to continue supporting a suburban facility. The following year it was given to the Grosse Pointe community in honor of WW II veterans. It is a local, state and national historic site.

*Book signing will follow talk.*



**Wednesday, April 21, 2010 7:30 p.m.**

**Great Architecture of Michigan**, presented by John Gallagher

**Location:** Edsel & Eleanor House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores  
Event co-sponsors include Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Wayne State University Press and Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

This book, which includes superb photography by Balthazar Korab, underscores and exemplifies the diversity and sophistication of Michigan's architectural heritage. In addition to four distinct homes in the Grosse Pointe community, this volume includes icons like the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island, the Michigan State Capitol in Lansing, and the Fisher Building.

*Arrive early for a special pre-lecture dinner at the new Cotswold Café in the Ford House Activities Center. Dinner is available starting at 6 pm. Experience the new décor and selection of exciting new menu items.*

*Book signing will follow talk.*



**Wednesday, May 19, 2010 7:30 p.m.**

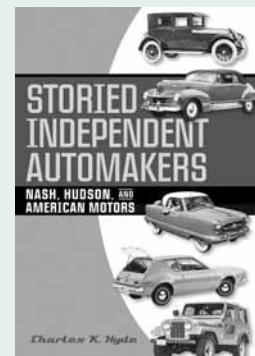
**Storied Independent Automakers: Nash, Hudson and American Motors**,

presented by Dr. Charles Hyde

**Location:** Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms

With roots extending back to the early twentieth century, Nash Motor Company and Hudson Motor Car Company survived until 1954 when they merged to form American Motors Company. AMC remained independent until it became part of Chrysler Corporation in 1987. These companies, often overlooked, made notable contributions to automotive engineering and styling and were an important part of the American automobile industry. Dr. Hyde will focus on the visionary leaders who managed the companies, including Grosse Pointers Roy D. Chapin, A. Edward Barit and Roy D. Chapin Jr.

*Book signing will follow talk.*







# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society

established 1945

Summer 2009

Vol. 26, No. 3

## President's Reflection

I'm pleased to write to you as the new President of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. I see this opportunity as a chance for me to give back to this community that I have loved



Susan Hartz

and lived and worked in all my life. Grosse Pointe has a rich and vibrant history and one that must be preserved for future generations. Our

mission will be just that, the preservation and promotion of Grosse Pointe history.

My focus will be to continue working with groups and individuals in the community to bring timely and interesting programs to our members and residents. In doing so I will strive to engage more volunteers who are eager to help us achieve our goals.

I look forward to working with our staff, Maureen Devine – Executive Director, Izzy Donnelly – Education Director, and Helga Liedtke – Administrator. We will announce our new Board of Directors in the next issue of *The Moorings*. Stay tuned, we have a great lineup.

I'm very proud of the Society's past accomplishments including our fabulous award winning website and our ongoing archival digitization project supported by the Wilkinson Foundation. We have many continuing projects that reach out to the Grosse Pointe community. We

continued on page 7

To see more photographs of the party, please visit <http://www.gphistorical.org/delovely.html>



Jon Gandelot, George Simon, Debbie Simon, Debbie Graffius and John Graffius

## Grosse Pointe Historical Society presents A De-Lovely Night in Grosse Pointe

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society's annual gala fundraiser "A De-Lovely Night in Grosse Pointe" on June 19th was a resounding success! More than 400 people were in attendance to hear Rennie Kaufmann sing songs of Cole Porter and the 1930s, to enjoy the fine array of foods by Hotz Catering, with the support of Doug Cordier and co-chair Lisa Mower Gandelot, and to see the beautiful Simon home. This Georgian-style residence was originally built for F. Caldwell Walker, grandson of Hiram Walker, by local architect Robert O. Derrick. In fact, the Walker history inspired the company Canadian Club in Windsor, Ontario

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## From the Director



**Maureen  
Devine**  
*Executive  
Director*

This has been a busy spring and summer. The annual gala fundraiser, *A De-Lovely Night in Grosse Pointe*, was sold out once again! Four hundred people attended the event at the Simon home and everyone enjoyed good music, food and company. Although it did rain a little later in the evening, it did not dampen the spirits of guests. Thank you all for your support and for helping make the evening special and full of fun. Also, thank you Simon family for making this beautiful home available to the GPHS – it is filled with so many fond memories for the community. I would also like to

enthusiastically thank all of the sponsors and donors who helped make this event possible during these difficult times.

In an effort to make history fun and accessible, Izzy Donnelly has been working diligently on outreach to the schools with Debbie Graffius. She has organized a fun-filled summer camp, *Ribbon Farm Days 2009*, for children ages 6 through 9. We hope to expand these offerings in the coming year. During year-end field trips this past May and June, several local elementary school teachers suggested visiting the Provencal-Weir House multiple times during the upcoming school year. Their hope is to break up the grade-appropriate, state approved curriculum into smaller segments to allow them to focus on specific topics for each visit to parallel their study plans. We thought this was a great idea and we hope to keep the One-Room School buzzing with activities from September through August. Please call GPHS with any questions or to make reservations.

Lastly, I would like to share what is

happening in the GPHS gift shop, located in the Provencal-Weir House. Although the space is tiny, we have been filling it with interesting new merchandise ranging from specialty foods, books, stationary, hand-crafted items and artwork, as well as Victorian style toys and games. Our plan is to expand our hours and to make the shop available on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons, as well as by appointment.

With respect to the history of our French ribbon farmhouse, we will be selling old-fashioned French jams (apple/pear/walnut, rhubarb and others), black currant and herbes de Provence vinegars, locally produced honeys, and rustic grain mustards. I like to think these are the types of items that Pierre and Euphemia Provencal would have made and enjoyed themselves while living in the house. Please watch for the announcement of our expanded hours and grand opening in early September.

All Society members will receive an e-blast with more information.

## News from the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is growing – as of January, 2009 we have increased our membership from 763 to 800 active members.

We appreciate the many monetary and in-kind donations that arrive at our door to assist in maintaining the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, as well as the Provencal-Weir House.

### **Thank you to the recent donors to the 2008 Annual Appeal:**

Ms. Kay Agney  
Mr. and Mrs. Denis Bouchard  
Mr. and Mrs. J. Michael Getz  
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Hartz  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Kurap  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert H. Lees  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Rock  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shafer  
Mr. Robert G. Tighe

### **Donations:**

City of Grosse Pointe, dedicated to the GP City Survey Project.

Alice Kales Hartwick Foundation

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Glancy III

McGregor Fund

### **We have also received the following in-kind donations:**

Mrs. Mary Bissa ..... Full set of Heritage Magazines

Mr. Lawrence Garska ..... Picture of the 1940 Police Department of the Village of Grosse Pointe Park and the commemorative plaque presented to Mr. Garska

Mrs. Susan Hartz ..... Book "Picturesque Detroit"

Ms. Ursula Kroppa ..... Burton Abstract and tax bills dating back to 1930 to 1940  
Copy of testament of Mr. Gottfried Stoeber



## New Online Exhibition

# Art and Orchids: The Whitcomb Estate

We would like to announce our most recent online exhibition *Art & Orchids: The Whitcomb Estate*, which was generously funded by the Wilkinson Foundation. The exhibition features the legacy of philanthropy bestowed upon the city of Detroit by Anna and Edgar Whitcomb and the beauty of their gracious, historic residence, once part of T.P. Hall's lake front estate known as *Tonnancour*. The Whitcombs shared a love of fine art and flowers. They filled their home with distinguished Old Master paintings and five greenhouses with exotic flora, especially their treasured collection of rare orchids. Eventually a large group of paintings and sculpture were gifted to the Detroit

continued on page 6



Izzy Donnelly

## Educator's Observations

In March I was pleased to be hired as the Director of Education at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. One of my first duties was to learn the history of the Provencal-Weir House and the GPHS organization, as well as prepare to play the role of the School Mistress in the One-room Schoolhouse, a functioning classroom located on the second floor. When I first viewed the classroom I was charmed by its warmth and impressed by the historical accuracy of the space. It's an enchanting room filled with benches, McGuffey Readers, chalk boards and maps on the walls – even a lone “dunce cap” set in the corner (never used, by the way).

After allowing for time to review the materials my first month and to learn the various curriculum for 2nd through 5th grades, the reservations for local school groups started rolling in. In

May and June, 175 eager 2nd grade students from Mason, Ferry and Kerby visited for their year-end field trip. What struck me most was the children's reaction to the house, which ranged from excitement to awe. Teachers, parents and children donned pioneer costumes with squeals of delight and were instantly transported back in time. We toured the Provencal-Weir House, had lunch on the lawn and played outdoor games. After lunch, real school work began. In tandem with the State of Michigan “Know your Local History” curriculum, students performed the play “Did You Ever Hear a House Talk?” This history-based program has been approved by the State of Michigan to compliment the studies for various age groups at local schools.

Also, having been a music specialist for years, I decided we needed to introduce music to the program. I moved my 19th century Dulcitone, a keyboard instrument once owned by my Aunt Mary Grace, to the classroom. Following our lessons, the students and I sang songs of pioneer days which included “Oh Susannah”, “Polly Wolly Doodle” and “I've Been Workin' on the Railroad.” It was wonderful to fill the house with music and singing children!

One of the final projects for the day was a fun-filled treasure hunt and a tour of the small log cabin in the back yard. This was a huge highlight for the students! As the day closed, we returned our costumes to the closets and were immediately transported to our modern lives filled with cell phones, iPods and computers.

With the house full of laughing children, I couldn't help but think how happy Pierre and Euphemia Provencal would have been to see joyful children in their home once again.

In 2009/2010 we hope to accommodate a wider range of students, the curriculum will focus on various topics to accommodate the “Know Your Local History” program for all elementary school age groups – 2nd through 5th grades. The Society would love to schedule educational field trips throughout the school year and to act as a support to local schools. We hope to see you next year!

**IZZY DONNELLY**  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION  
GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Second grade students prepare to read “Have You Ever Heard a House Talk”



Students learn the old-fashioned way in the One-Room School House.



## A De-Lovely Night in Grosse Pointe

continued from front page

(previously Hiram Walker) to donate a variety of whiskies to help stock the bar. Our team of docents, from Edsel & Eleanor Ford House and area Quester groups, shared information about the architecture, the art collection, the history of the house and previous owners including F. Caldwell Walker, Wendell W. Anderson and George and Penny Simon, as well as fond memories of the Simon family shared by so many people in the community. The ten Simon children and their parents, George and Penny, touched many people!

The generous proceeds from this event will help fund the Society's educational initiatives including the Second Saturdays events, One-room Schoolhouse, Ribbon Farm Days, and will help support the care and maintenance of the archival collections and the Provencal-Weir House. Thank you all for attending this important event. We appreciate your support!

Grosse Pointe Historical Society thanks the following hosts and sponsors for their generous support of A De-Lovely Night in Grosse Pointe.

### HOSTS:

Marianne and John Shock  
Cindy and Paul Simon  
Debbie and George Simon

### SPONSORS:

*You're the Top* (\$5000)

Detroit Home Magazine

*De-Lovely* (\$2500)

Molly and Mark Valade

*Wunderbar* (\$1000)

Alan Marsche's  
Oriental Rug Gallery

The Private Bank

Gandelot & Associates

Citizens Bank

Maud Lyon and David Tarrant

Charles R. Whitney Foundation

A special thank you for those who could not attend but still sent in a donation and to the following businesses:

*Canadian Club*

*Grigg Graphic Services*

*Grosse Pointe Florists, Inc.*

*Hotz Catering*

*Jerry's Club Party Store*

*Trader Joe's*



Left to right – Suzy and Chip Berschback



Young volunteers at check-in table; Kerri Marowske, T. Elliot Shafer and Victoria Slater.



Guests gathering on the terrace.



Left to right – Joe Katulic, Lisa Gandelot, Susan Hartz and Stuart Grigg.

1928 Packard on lawn at 211 Vendome,  
on loan courtesy of John Forster, Royal Oak.



Wait staff and Hotz Catering  
putting on the final touches.



Left to right:  
Mary Lee O'Bryan,  
Dr. William Cosgrove and  
Marlene Hamel



Left to right: Peggy Woodhouse, Dr. Patricia O'Brien,  
Jack McCormick, Betsy McCormick and John Woodhouse.

## Social Networking: A New World

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society may be focused on preserving our past, but we are evolving and using new technology to connect with a broader audience. We have joined the current trend of social networking on **yelp.com**, **twitter.com** and **facebook.com**. To find us when visiting these sites, search for **Grosse Pointe Historical Society** or 'tweet us' using **gphs1823**. These pages will include upcoming program announcements, news links and general information. We appreciate your reviews and comments – let us know what we are doing right or how we might improve our communications to you.

In an effort to be responsible stewards during this difficult economic climate, we plan on sending our members *the Moorings* newsletter via the internet beginning in 2010. Please call us at (313) 884-7010 with your email address or forward it to [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org). If you do not have an email address, let us know and we will send you a copy of *the Moorings* via the post office. We want to keep you informed about all upcoming programs, follow-ups and news relating to the history and preservation of the Grosse Pointes.



## Upcoming Second Saturday Events

Free tours of the Provencal-Weir House will be offered every Second Saturday between 1 and 4 pm. Also, plan to visit our gift shop to see the new selection of specialty foods, local honey, handcrafted works of art and jewelry, books, Victorian toys and many other interesting items.

### September 12, 2009

#### Pointes of History Guided

#### Neighborhood Walking Tour, 2 pm.

Scott Vandemergel returns to lead another Pointes of History guided neighborhood walking tour. Scott, a local historian, will talk about the various houses along the way, as well as the history surrounding the now demolished Tonnancour estate. This walk will last 1 ½ hours and it will be approximately one mile long. It will depart from the Provencal-Weir House at 376 Kercheval Avenue a 2:00 pm. The route will follow Kercheval north to Provencal, then east to the lake, south on Lake Shore Road.

Free for members; \$5 for non-members.

### October 9-10, 2009

#### Talking Headstones, a theatrical

#### performance at St. Paul's Cemetery

Friday at 8 pm, Saturday at 6:30 and 8 pm.

#### Co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe

#### Historical Society and Grosse Pointe Theatre.

Back by popular demand! Please join us to enjoy a magical live performance featuring the documented historical past of people buried in St. Paul's Cemetery. The performance is an outdoor event. Please bring your own chair and dress appropriately. For more information, visit our website or call (313) 884-7010. The cemetery is located at the corner of Moross Road and Country Club Lane.

\$10 for members; \$15 for non-members.

### November 14, 2009

#### Genealogy Workshop, sponsored by the Daughters of the American Revolution. 1:30 pm.

The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) will sponsor an afternoon genealogy workshop. DAR members will suggest ways to research your family heritage. Please bring your personal documents, if available. There will be a short presentation by DAR members at 1:30 pm and then you have the opportunity to meet individually to examine your family history. Visit our website or call (313) 84-7010 for additional information.

Free to members, \$5 for non-members.

## Second Saturday Follow-up

Our spring Second Saturday Series offered a fun variety of activities this past spring and was enjoyed by all who attended. Cyndee Harrison hosted the May tea with a beautiful array of pastries and tea for visitors to enjoy. She was prepared to share the history and etiquette surrounding "afternoon tea" and the May Pole was set up on the lawn to celebrate the month of May, her two sons assisted for the afternoon. In June, Scott Vandemergel, history buff and St. Clair Shores Tax Assessor, led a Neighborhood History Walking Tour that departed from the Provencal-Weir House. The group traveled to Lake Shore Road, up Kerby and back to GPHS via Kercheval. They stopped along the way to discuss the history of the community and various buildings, including the Moross Pumping Station; the Schmidt House at 301 Lake Shore Road, where the present owner, Robin Heller, came out to talk to the group about the history of their home; and the 70+ year old Grosse Pointe Florists, where James Farquhar shared the background of their family business. Genot

Picor (musician and storyteller)

and Michael Francis (fiddler

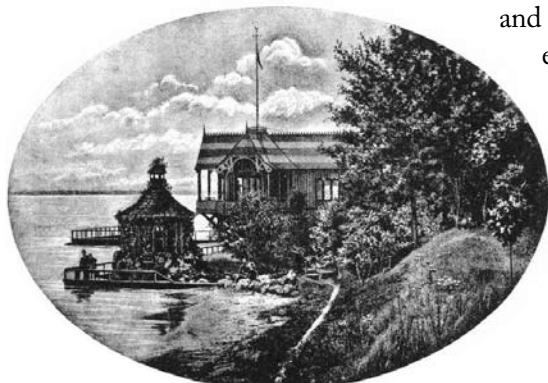
extraordinaire) presented

A Summer Veillé

(celebration) in July

on the lawn of the Provencal-Weir House.

The guests enjoyed lively music of the 1800s and stories relating to Old Grosse Pointe and Lake St. Clair.



Tonnancour estate

## Art and Orchids: The Whitcomb Estate

continued from front page 3

Institute of Arts and the Belle Isle Conservatory received the donation of over 600 orchids, making it one of the largest municipally owned orchid collections in the country. Visit our website at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to access the exhibition slide show and learn more about this touching story.

*\* Black and white photographs were supplied by Warren Wilkinson, grandson of the Whitcombs.*

*Color images were supplied courtesy of the Detroit Institute of Arts.*

## Lost and Found:

Pair of men's eyeglasses found at 211 Vendome following the party. These have been moved to our office. Please call (313) 884-7010 to arrange for pickup.

For more information on this event visit our website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)



# Grants for GPHS

We are very pleased to announce that the Grosse Pointe Historical Society was recently awarded two grants, one focused on upgrading computer systems from the Kresge Foundation, in tandem with the Cultural Alliance of South-eastern Michigan, Michigan Nonprofit Association and NPower. The other grant included the presentation of the Bookshelf, a professional set of books covering many aspects of collection care. This was distributed through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) with the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and was given to select libraries and museums across the country.

The Kresge grant, presented to 19 local organizations, allowed us to upgrade various software and equipment needs. We added additional memory, a NAS server and purchased various flash drives to allow us to share and efficiently backup our data. We also improved our “networking” abilities, added new Norton Anti-Virus software and Microsoft Office 2008, to replace the 2003 version. Along with ten other recipients, GPHS also received additional consultant time to set up the new equipment and train our staff. This will help us function well and keep us up to date with new technologies. This timely grant is greatly appreciated.

The IMLS Bookshelf was organized to help libraries and museums in the United States understand proper and up-to-date collection care. The books focus on a variety of themes including museum housekeeping, developing a disaster preparedness plan to protect people and collections in the face of an emergency, ethics involving the care of cultural and specialized collections, and understanding legal issues involved with museum collections. This grant is the result of a multi-year, multi-faceted national initiative to raise the public’s awareness and a call to action to Connect to Collections and preserve our heritage.

## President’s Reflection

continued from front page

hope to partner with the five local municipalities and many organizations including schools, nonprofits and the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce.

And last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank Stuart Grigg who for the last three years has been our President. With his guidance, our Society has made great strides. I will strive to do as fine a job during the next two years.

I’m looking forward to all of us working together to make our Society run smoothly and efficiently, and have some fun along the way, as we preserve history for generations to come.

Please visit our website at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to learn more about our organization and contact us with your thoughts and ideas. We would love to hear from you.

SUSAN HARTZ

PRESIDENT, GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Support the Society with a legacy gift.

We are inviting donors to include GPHS in their wills and trusts. Annuities, IRA’s and insurance policies are an easy way to leave a gift. We look to you for support dedicated to the important work we do.

...or make a donation online.

### Officers

Susan Hartz ..... President  
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Herman Mozer.....Vice President-Preservation  
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### Not Yet a Member?

Check out this Convenient Way to Join!

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
and select the link,  
Join & Support GPHS.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823,  
376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday  
of each month during special events, and by  
appointment. The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran  
Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 AM–12:30 PM  
and 1:30–4:00 PM. Phone: (313) 884-7010.

### Correction from Spring 2009 issue:

In reference to New at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center and the gift from Dick Walters, the Reno brothers grew up on Ridge Road not Reno Lane. Lawrence Reno moved to Reno Lane after he got married.



I was recently found in the archives. Please let the staff know if you recognize me.



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## Bill Kennedy: Inside the Fabulous Files



**Wednesday, September 16, 2009**

**Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms**

Lawrence Baranski, Director of Public Programs at the Detroit Institute Arts, will present a program relating to long time Grosse Pointe resident, Bill Kennedy.

Willard "Bill" Kennedy was a Hollywood actor, voice artist, and host of the long-running Windsor and Detroit based television show "Bill Kennedy at the Movies". This local TV icon's program first appeared on CKLW-TV in Windsor and then on WKBD in Detroit, running from 1956 through 1983. In 1985 Kennedy donated his Fabulous Files to the Detroit Institute of Arts' film department, more than 10,000 photographs and other ephemera spanning eighty years of American film history. The talk will be illustrated with numerous rare images taken from this collection, as well as a look at Kennedy's relentless collection of minute film facts.

## The Guardian Building: Cathedral of Finance

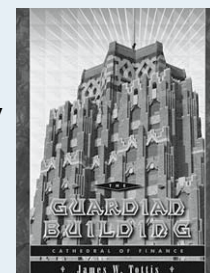
**Wednesday, October 21, 2009**

**Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms**

*Co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Grosse Pointe War Memorial and Wayne State University Press.*

James W. Tottis, former Associate Curator of American Art at the Detroit Institute of Arts and Professor in the Humanities Department at Wayne State University, will present a program relating to his book, *The Guardian Building: Cathedral of Finance* and the Grosse Pointe residents behind the company that created this work of art.

Perhaps the most recognizable structure erected during the 1920's in Detroit was the Union Trust Building, now known as the Guardian Building. The expressive Gothic-inspired elements, bright orange brick facade, and brightly colored ceramic accents immediately set it apart from the surrounding buildings. The interior is similarly extravagant, with a lobby ceiling made entirely of multicolored tiles, walls and floors accented by exotic marbles, and platinum-colored Monel metal elevator doors, gates, and handrails.



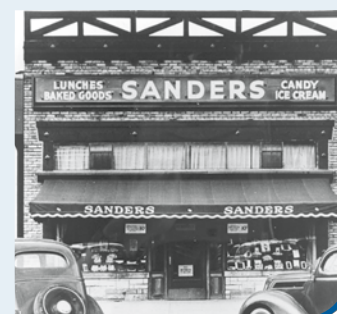
## Sanders Confectionery

**Wednesday, November 18, 2009**

**Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms, 7:30 pm**

Greg Tasker, former Detroit News Editor and Reporter and widely published freelance writer, will present a program relating to his book, *Sanders Confectionery*.

For more than 130 years, there has been no sweeter word in Metro Detroit than Sanders. The venerable confectioner was once as much a part of Southeastern Michigan as the Big Three, J. L. Hudson's department store, and Coney Island. A Detroit icon, it served a fountain of memories for generations. At its peak, the company boasted more than 50 stores, including a Grosse Pointe store, which closed its original location in the 1990s - only to reopen down the street to continue creating memories for the new millennium.









Grosse Pointe Historical Society presents  
**A De-lovely Night in Grosse Pointe**

*A gala benefit for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at the stately F. Caldwell Walker House (see page 7),  
now recognized as the Simon home, on a prestigious street in Grosse Pointe Farms*

**Friday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.**

**Featuring**

A strolling summer supper.

The music of Cole Porter performed by Rennie Kaufmann.

Black and white attire suggested

**Event Co-Chairs**

Suzy Berschback, Lisa Mower Gandelot, Susan Hartz and Molly Valade

**Limited Reservations**

For more information, please call (313) 884-7010 or e-mail [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

*Funds raised will support the operations and activities of GPHS.*



## New Teacher at the One-room Schoolhouse

A new teacher will be ringing the bell at the One-room Schoolhouse this spring. Izzy Donnelly will be running the program for local children at the Provencal-Weir House.

Donnelly, a musician, artist, actress, and former teacher, is perfect for the job, said GPHS Executive Director Maureen Devine. "Izzy will draw on her experience to bring local history to life. Her fun personality will shine through," said Devine. "Field trip season is upon us and I predict the student groups will enjoy spending the day with our new schoolmistress."

*continued on page 3*



### *From the Director's Desk*

As I look over the past few months at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, I'm surprised by how much has been accomplished. The Society is an active group of volunteers and board members. As the new face here, I thank everyone who has warmly welcomed me and helped me in my new position as Executive Director.

Also, there is one more new face at GPHS. We have hired an Education Director/One-room Schoolhouse Teacher, Izzy Donnelly. Please read the article about this talented, experienced

and engaging addition to the staff. We are very pleased to welcome her. A number of schools are already calling to schedule their upcoming spring field trips. The month of May will be a beehive of activity, which is what we like. There are twelve months in the year and there is always room for more visitors on our schedule.

I wish to thank Lori Stefek and Doug Cordier for hosting Second Saturday events at the Provencal-Weir House. Weather was not kind on January 10th for Lori Stefek, of Stefek's Auctioneers and Appraisers. Nevertheless, she was on-site, cheerful and prepared to help the attendees learn more about their family treasures. Visitors did make their way through the blowing blizzard with heirlooms in hand. We hope to schedule another session in the near future – during a warmer season! Please stay tuned.

On Valentine's Day, Doug Cordier offered a cooking class and food tasting event to a sold out crowd. It was a fun filled evening and the shrimp Tosca and ricotta gnocchi were delicious! I have already successfully made both recipes at home. Doug is an excellent chef and teacher.

In addition to public programming, we have many behind-the-scene organizational initiatives going on. Projects involve a possible expansion to accommodate archival storage at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, a shift to in-house book-keeping, continued progress on the archival digitizing endeavor. Visit our website for future updates and progress reports.

We are always looking for new members and volunteers. We have been pleasantly surprised by the continued support during these difficult economic times. We thank you for recognizing the importance of this organization to our community. Please invite and encourage friends and family to join and participate, too. We are here to benefit the five Grosse Pointes and surrounding communities. Thank you for your support!

*Maureen Devine*

Executive Director



*Not Yet a  
Member?*

*Check out this  
Convenient  
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## Spring 2009 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

### Albert Kahn, the Fords and Grosse Pointe

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 7:30 p.m.

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores



During the centennial of Kahn's work with the Fords, we will explore his relationship with that family and his other works in Grosse Pointe. *Complimentary*

## New Teacher at the One-room Schoolhouse

*continued from front page*

Donnelly can't wait to get started. "I am delighted to be working with GPHS. I am so impressed with the Provencal-Weir House and all that the Society has done to preserve it," she said.

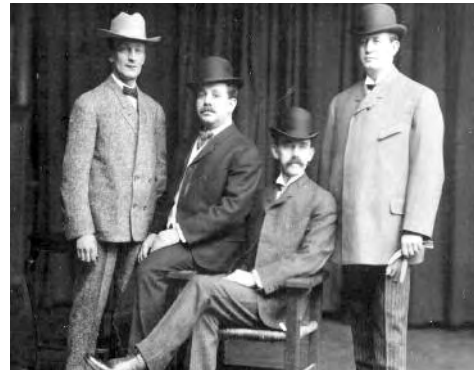
"I think the one-room schoolhouse is such a valuable resource for our children to be able to dress up in period costume and really 'feel' like they are back in time. The experience will bring history to life and make learning fun for all of us. The Provencal-Weir house is a tremendous asset to the Grosse Pointe community and I am proud to be part of it!"

Donnelly taught at the Grosse Pointe Academy for 14 years. Before that, she was at St. David Elementary School in Detroit. She is a member of the Theater Arts Club and Fine Arts Society of Detroit and has been in numerous plays at the historic Players Playhouse, of which her grandfather was a member.

The One-room Schoolhouse program gives children the opportunity to turn back the clock and experience the classroom as local predecessors did. The second floor of the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, has been transformed into a one-room schoolhouse, c. 1900, complete with benches, individual chalkboards and McGuffey Readers. They will even be able to dress-up in old-fashioned costumes.

The curriculums replicate what lessons were taught in the 1900s and show how they are different - and the same - from lessons taught today. The room can accommodate up to 30 students, their teacher, and two parent volunteers. The school day runs from 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Curriculums for the second, third, fourth, and fifth grades are currently available. Teachers are welcome to follow these curricula, but are not limited to them. Any teachers who are interested in bringing their classes should call the Society at 313-884-7010.

## New at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center



*Hickey's first staff, c. 1900*

We have received some interesting contributions in the past few months.

Bill and Mary Jo Huntington, of Hickey's Walton Pierce, donated some fascinating bits of history after the legendary clothier closed in February: A wall-mounted bronze plaque and bronze table-top sign that both read E.J. Hickey Co. and a photo of the first staff of E. J. Hickey's from 1900 in their original downtown Detroit location. Also included was a photo of Henrietta Pierce, Bill's grandmother and couturiere, who in 1925 opened Walton-Pierce also in Detroit, the fashionable women's store that eventually moved to Grosse Pointe and later merged with E.J. Hickey's Co.

Dick Walters stopped by in January and gave us a hand-made duck-decoy and two fishing lures by Grosse Pointers Laurence and Louis Reno. The items are carved and detailed in wood, as well as hand painted. The brothers lived on Reno Lane many years ago and enjoyed fishing and duck-hunting on Lake St. Clair.

We hope to display these items for visitors to see later in the year.



## Pointes of History, May 12

The public and all past plaque recipients are invited to attend the POINTES OF HISTORY CELEBRATION on May 12, 2009, 7:00 pm at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. It is an opportunity to come share your knowledge about your property and to learn about other locations that have played a prominent role in the history of Grosse Pointe. We will award the 2008-2009 plaques and recognize all past plaque recipients. A wine and cheese reception will follow. Please come and share your history with us. Call the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 884-7010, for more information or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



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## Valentine's Tasting

*Talented chef and GPHS Board member Doug Cordier hosted a delightful Valentine's evening for about 20 friends of the Society. Cordier prepared Italian delicacies including antipasti, ricotta gnocchi, and shrimp Tosca. Guests also enjoyed a wine tasting, courtesy of Mark Garmo of Village Food. Cordier displays a gnocchi board, used to form ridges in the pasta.*



*Gym class from the 30s.*

## Mason turns 80

On February 27, Maureen Devine, Susan Hartz, and Izzy Donnelly of the GPHS helped Mason Elementary celebrate its 80th birthday. The school opened in 1929 with 99 students. It was only the third elementary school in the district and taught grades K-4.

The Society was given original copies of the first three issues of Mason's school newsletter, Masonews, from 1929. They provide a wonderful glimpse into schooldays 80 years ago. Our favorite items include notice of the Leisure Time club, whose aim is "to teach one how to wisely use his leisure time," and an announcement that, to raise money, the students are selling "Ready-Jell." Ads included one from the "Milk Salesman" and Lochmoor Meat Market, phone Lenox 6118, which had a coupon for 25 cents on a \$2 purchase.

### **Thank You, Donors**

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*Fourth grade students presented a timeline of the school.*



## Saved by the Ice

On February 4, 1928, a Douglas C28 took off from Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Mt. Clemens. The craft ran into trouble and was forced to make an emergency landing on the ice on Lake St. Clair in front of D.M. Ferry's home at 17100 Jefferson Avenue.



### Windows on Time

Next time you go to CVS in the Village, check out the front window. A dozen historic images from the GPHS are on display in large light boxes. Do you remember when Kercheval looked like that?



## F. Caldwell Walker House *(continued from front page)*

Robert O. Derrick designed this dignified, Georgian estate for Hiram Walker's grandson, F. Caldwell Walker, in 1931. Walker never had a chance to completely finish the interior or live in the house. Due to the depression, he lost it to the bank. Three years later the house was sold to Wendell Anderson Sr. of Bundy Tubing. Five Belgian craftsmen were hired to finish the wood and plaster work inside – a three year project. Anderson lived there until 1963, when the home was sold to George and Penny Simon who raised their 10 children there. It is still presently owned by the Simon family.

The impressive red brick structure has strong classical lines including Ionic columns on the front and rear porches. Also, other elegant appointments decorate the exterior, including four decorative carved stone medallions flanking either side of the building front, which represent the Four Seasons. The estate sits on 2.2 acres of land, and the house itself is approximately 18,000 square feet.

# Spring/Summer Second Saturdays

Drop in for our open-house tours of the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and enjoy these activities from 1:00-4:00 p.m.  
Sponsored by the Alice Kales Hartwick Foundation

## *Mother's Day Tea (event on Saturday)*

**May 9, 1:00-4:00 p.m.**

Our annual May tea party. Guests will don their favorite hat and learn more about the history and tradition of afternoon tea while enjoying a selection of teas and light refreshments. Don't have a hat? Hostess Cyndee Harrison's vintage collection will be available! Enjoy Maypole dancing on the lawn, weather permitting.

## *Walking Tour*

**June 13, Tour begins at 2:00 p.m.**

Take a guided walking tour of the neighborhood around the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Provencal-Weir House. The tour, led by St. Clair Shores City Assessor Scott Vandemergel, will last one-two hours. Points of interest include 301 Lakeshore Pumping Station, Moross Road, John Wynne House, Tonnancour, Windemere Place, and Provencal Road. The walk will be approximately one mile.



## *The History and Preservation of Lake St. Clair*

**July 11, 1-4:00 p.m.**

Genot Picor and a lecturer from the Clinton Watershed Conservancy will inform participants of the Lake Conservation Program's efforts to keep Lake St. Clair healthy and alive for everyone to enjoy. There will be activities for children. Light refreshments will be served.

## *Stay tuned!*

*The GPHS is in the process of creating a summer camp for children ages 7-8 and 9-10.*

*The camp will offer activities including arts and crafts, music, cooking and other popular activities of yesterday. Details to follow.*

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## Welcome Maureen Devine, New Executive Director



**T**he Board of Trustees of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is excited to announce its new Executive Director, Maureen Devine. Devine, a native Grosse Pointer, has an extensive background in caring for art and historical collections, including 10 years at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House starting in 1988. Most recently working in Chicago as a consultant curator to McCormick Place, Chicago's premier convention center, and as associate exhibit curator for The Glass Experience at the Museum of Science and Industry, Devine brings more than 20 years experience organizing and administering museum collections, as well as fundraising and community relations.

"Maureen has roots in the community and world-class education and experience," said Stuart Grigg, president of the Society. "She has the

proven ability to envision our future from a strategic level and to help the Grosse Pointe Historical Society take its next step toward growth and goals."

Devine started out as an artist who received her BFA in printmaking from Western Michigan University. She later focused on art history for her MA from Wayne State University and has participated in several professional development programs on museum leadership and collecting. She lives in Detroit with her husband, Larry Baranski, Director of Public Programs at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

As head curator at the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, Devine was responsible for the care and documentation of the art and historical collections, and was involved with historic preservation and public programming. She left there in 1998 and joined Driehaus Capital Management in Chicago as art curator. Driehaus' founder owns several historic buildings and an exceptional 19th century fine and decorative art collection. She was responsible for the care, research, display and documentation of the corporate and private collections in the Chicago headquarters, international offices, and private residences, as well as historic preservation of several historic structures.

"The legacy of Grosse Pointe represents a wealth of interesting social history and architecture relating to our community, as well as to the City of Detroit. This heritage reaches back to the Native American presence, to French ribbon farms, to the great houses, the auto industry, and now the new millennium. I look forward to preserving, sharing and celebrating this history," said Devine.

## Wilkinson Foundation Supports Further Digitizing, City Survey



Digitizing the collection of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society will continue as planned thanks to a \$10,000 grant from the Wilkinson Foundation, endowed by Grosse Pointe residents Warren and Mireille Wilkinson. Artwork, photos, documents, books, and maps will be scanned and then made available on the Society's Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), through an on-line search engine, for research. Additional Web galleries and exhibits may also be added. To date, the Web site has 15 online exhibits.

A portion of the grant funding is designated for continuation of a survey of the "built environment" of the City of Grosse Pointe. This study was begun by

*continued on page 7*

# Eagle Scouts Help Clear Cemetery and Host Event

Once again, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society was the beneficiary of the hard work and diligence of some local Eagle Boy Scouts. Kevin Bennett, a student at Grosse Pointe North, was a big help in preparing St. Paul's Cemetery to be ready for the Talking Headstones program held in October.

"Kevin wanted to do something for the community and really took an interest in the St. Paul cemetery that he has biked by a number of times during the many years he has lived here," according to his mother, Maureen. "Kevin has worked pretty hard to try and earn his Eagle by the age of 16 and part of that is to do a major project for the community or a conservation project."

The first weekend, Kevin and about 19 other boys weed-whacked around the grave stones, pulled weeds and trimmed back along the fence line, pruned the trees to see the headstones underneath the trees, raked and threw out trash. They added new mulch at the beginning and spoke with the neighbors who were very excited to see the work being done. The scouts found and uncovered a large Thibault grave that was obliterated by weeds. They carefully dug it out and are extremely proud of the marker.

The next week, Kevin, with the help of Mr. David and Andrew Poletis, put together a hand-made park bench which Kevin worked on for over a month and added that to the cemetery. He also flanked each side with solar lights. Then, Kevin added some flowers, continued clean up, and also added flags to the veterans' graves.

The boys finished the project by serving as tour guides for the October event, dressed as ribbon farmers. Since they were familiar with grave markers, they were able to escort family members to their particular ancestors' graves.



## *The Past for the Future: A Simple Way to Give a Legacy Gift to the Society*

"I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% percent) of my net estate, as finally determined for estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes."

*We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills or trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call (313) 884-7010.*

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*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
is to preserve and  
promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe  
Community.*

---



### *Second Saturday Pastimes*

On the Second Saturday of each month, drop in for our open-house tours of the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and enjoy these activities. Sponsored by the Alice Kales Hartwick foundation.



#### *Romantic Food and Wine February 14, 6:00-9:00 p.m.*

Join GPHS board member, chef Doug Cordier for a special evening. Learn the secrets of how to prepare two of Doug's favorite dishes: Shrimp Tosca and Ricotta Gnocchi with almond pesto. Included in the fun will be an Italian Antipasti platter and Blind Wine Tasting featuring special wines provided by Marc Garmo at the Village Market.

*Reservations are limited to 20 attendees.*

*Cost is \$40.00 for members, \$45.00 for non-members. Members will be given first preference.*



#### *The Tinsmith and Colonial Foodways March 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m.*

Ross and Jerri Grover were re-enactors at Greenfield Village for many years. Ross is a professional blacksmith and tinsmith and will discuss all kinds of tin work. Jerri will demonstrate Colonial foodways (cooking and eating traditions) and prepare samples, with activities for children.

*Cost: \$5.00 for all guests.*

#### *Glorious Gardens of Grosse Pointe April 11, 1:00-4:00 p.m.*

In the heyday of the estates and mansions of Grosse Pointe, gardens were as important as the home itself. Nationally known landscape architects, as well as local talent, were commissioned to embellish the property. GPHS Board member and estate specialist Susan Hartz will give a presentation on these glorious gardens. Refreshments will be served.

*Space is limited to 35 guests.*

*Reservations required.*

*Cost: \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members.*





*Program Director Nancy Pacitto was digging around in the archives of the Main Branch of the Detroit Public Library and discovered this information for an article in the Detroit Journal on April 26, 1911.. We thought it was particularly interesting relative to today's foreclosure epidemic.*

*The headline reads:*

## **Mrs. Weir, Once Worth \$100,000, Left Almost Penniless: Loses Fight to Save Old Homestead**



Mrs. Weir, widow of James Weir, a former probate judge of Wayne County finds herself penniless and alone in the world.

When her father Peter (Pierre) died in 1893, he left to Mrs. Weir a handsome tract of land in GP Village with a frontage of 150 feet on the lake shore. The recent sale of the property for \$165,000 to the Country Club by the Union Trust Co. conceals a story of hardship

and struggle that few women left alone in the world at Mrs. Weir's age have had to wage.

The piece of property has been in litigation and the objective of various creditors for 10 years, ever since Mrs. Weir, unable to stand on her feet alone, was compelled to borrow \$18,000 from William Cottrell, once prominent in Mt. Clemens, to meet her requirements. This was the fatal step that led her down the stairway to loss of fortune.

Mrs. Weir gave Cottrell a mortgage for the amount and when she found that she could not meet it she renewed it several times until the sum had increased to \$50,000. Cottrell urged her to sell the property but it had been her home since childhood and there were sentimental reminiscences connected with the place which forbade her. So Cottrell threatened foreclosure.

Mrs. Weir then appealed to Joseph H. Berry, varnish manufacturer, for help and Berry consented to aid her,

giving the Union Trust Co. a guarantee for moneys advanced on the Cottrell mortgage. The mortgage, taxes and interest kept piling up until, when Berry died, he was indebted to the Union Trust Co. \$50,000 for money advanced on the old Provencal home and farm.

In the meantime, Mrs. Weir had given Berry a second mortgage. Shortly after Berry's death, Cottrell also died and the administrator for both estates could do nothing but foreclose.

The Berry estate was compelled to pay off the Cottrell mortgage to protect itself and the entire indebtedness was thus valued to \$115,000 about the entire value of the property at the time.

Then the Union Trust Co. administrator for the Joseph Berry estate sold the property to Mr. Frederick Alger who acted for the Country Club, the price received being \$165,000.

Some five years after Mr. Berry's death, Mrs. Weir brought suit against the Berry estate, his heirs and the Union Trust Co, the Country Club and all the purchasers of the property charging them with fraud and asking for the restoration of the property.

The November 19, 1914 issue of the Detroit Journal states, Mrs. C. Weir Loses Extended Lawsuit. Judge Van Sile rendered his decision and exonerated the Country Club, Frederick M. Alger, the Union Trust and the estate of Joseph H. Berry from the charges of fraud.



## **Good Enough to Eat!**

The Provencal-Weir House has inspired numerous artists throughout its history, but recently, two Grosse Pointe Farms residents recreated the building in a unique medium—gingerbread. Neighbors Thom Coyle and Dennis Miriani designed their work for a gingerbread house contest sponsored by the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House in November. Their house was on display at the Ford House through early January along with other entries.



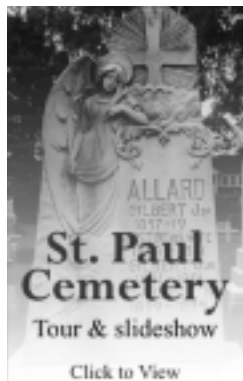
## What's New on The Web *New Online Exhibits Added to Web Site*

Three new online slideshows and online exhibits have been added to the Web recently. We invite you to log on to [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) and view some fascinating images of our historic community from the comfort of your home. All of these exhibits were made possible by the Wilkinson Foundation.

**St. Paul Cemetery** A slideshow of headstones and history of Grosse Pointe's only cemetery. The article by J. William Gorski includes a history of the cemetery and the stories of many of the families buried there, among them Allard, Beaufait, Cadieux, Frazho, Groesbeck, Newberry, Russell and Vernier.

**My Journey: A Student's Historical Perspective of Pierce and Brownell Middle Schools and Grosse Pointe South High School** An exhibit by our summer intern, Victoria Slater, featuring historical narratives and photo slideshows of the Grosse Pointe schools she attended.

**Stonehurst and the Schlotman Family** Tour the magnificent mansion, "Stonehurst," and learn about the "other" Ford family whose estates graced the Grosse Pointe shoreline. Includes a section on the spectacular yacht, Stellaris.



*Pierce students participating in  
safety patrol c. 1940s*



*Tapestry of Stonehurst by Stella Schlotman*



## Regina Sublima Music Box

The Society had the great fortune to be the recipient of a long-term loan of a Regina Sublima Music Box with 30 music discs from Mike Dixon. Music is created when a perforated metal disc rotates over a set of combs and dampers, tuned in chromatic scale. It is fully operational and will be playable for tours and groups visiting the Provencal-Weir House c. 1823, where it now stands in the dining room.

The Regina Music Box company was established by German immigrant Gustave Brachhausen in 1892. Regina boxes have long been renowned among collectors for the quality of their tone.

The box has been loaned by Mike in memory of his mother, Mrs. Peter (Joan) Dixon. She had been a member of the Society since 1979.



*“1856 Temperance” written by Dianne Pegg; Charles Moran Jr. played by Don Cillufo, Virginia Moran St. Aubin played by Tamara Connelly.*



*“August 16, 1812—Fall of Detroit” written by Dianne Pegg; Louis Beaufait played by Larry Marco, Young George Moran played by Daniel Harris, Uncle Joseph Moran played by Dante Buffalini, Young Phelice Moran played by Becky Fogelsong, Mother Catherine Campau Moran played by Delores Basile.*



## Talking Headstones Event Scares Up Ancestors

October's Talking Headstones walk through St. Paul's Cemetery was a sell-out success, with more than 200 people attending. Among the guests were about 70 descendants of the families

buried there including Allard, Reno, Trombley, Moran, D'Hondt, Vernier, Cook, Labadie, Beaupre, Rivard, Cadieux, Trombley, Meininger, Korte, and Martin.

The event was a joint venture with the Grosse Pointe Theater, including

**Project Leader:** Mary L. Petit

**Producer and Assistant Director:** Kathy Conlon

**Stage Manager:** Mikie Pizzimenti

**Costumes:** Ginger Hupp, **Make-up:** Arlene Marie Schoenherr

**Stage and Lighting:** Sal DeMercurio assisted by Don Corbin, Geoff Proven, and Dale Pegg.

During a writer's workshop this summer, six writers from the Grosse Pointe Theater created the scripts under the direction of Kathy Conlon, vice president of the Theater. They used information from the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and St. Paul Church and William Gorksi, former GPHS Board Member.

Volunteers that evening were Lynn Detwiler, Scott Vandermergel, Pam Scanlon, Chip and Suzy Berschback, and members of a local Eagle Boy Scout troop.



*“1865 Remembering” written by Gwenn Bashara Samuel; Catherine Peltier Beaufait played by Lois Bandler, Louis Beaufait played by Larry Marco.*



# GPHS Beneficiary of \$5,000 State Quester Grant



The Michigan State Organization of Questers was proud to recognize and congratulate the members of Rose Terrace Questers #1438, Fox Creek Questers #216, Pear Tree Questers #193, and Pettipointe Questers #243 as the 2008 Grant Recipient winner of \$5,000. The money was used for the restoration of the front porch of the Provencal-Weir House c. 1823.

In addition to the grant money, each of the chapters donated \$500 from their treasuries to ensure that this project would be completed in a timely manner. In total, \$7,000 was raised for the project.

Only one such grant is awarded each year, based on the need and historic value of the project, and on the ability

of the chapters to support the project. It was awarded to GPHS Program Director Nancy Pacitto, also a founding member of the Rose Terrace Questers, and Lynn Detwiler, of the Rose Terrace Questers, at the state Quester convention earlier in the fall.

*Stop by and take a look—the house has never looked better!*

*continued from front page*

## *Wilkinson Foundation Supports Further Digitizing, City Survey*

GPHS several years ago. Emphasis shifted to Grosse Pointe Farms, resulting in historic district legislation and the creation of the Beverly Road Historic District. (see [http://www.ci.grosse-pointe-farms.mi.us/historic\\_district.cfm](http://www.ci.grosse-pointe-farms.mi.us/historic_district.cfm)). The Wilkinson Foundation granted funds in 2007-08 to revitalize the City survey, and important work was begun. The current funding will allow that work to continue, with a goal of completion of the survey in 2009-10.

---

## *Not Yet a Member? Two Convenient Ways to Join!*

1. Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) and select the link, *Join the Society, Membership*.
2. You can also fill out the form below and mail it directly to the Society.

### Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

☐ Senior Citizen \$25.00  
☐ Individual \$35.00  
☐ Family \$50.00  
☐ Friend \$75.00  
☐ Business \$100.00

☐ Donor \$125.00  
☐ Benefactor \$250.00  
☐ Major Benefactor \$500.00  
☐ Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period) \$1,000.00

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

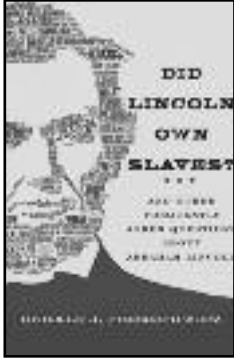
\_\_\_MC \_\_\_VISA Acct No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in Planned Giving information

Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to:  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Thank you for your support!

## Spring 2009 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

*Complimentary. Seating is limited*



### ***Lincoln Bicentennial*** **Wednesday, March 18 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Dr. Gerald J. Prokopowicz, chair of the history department at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina, will present a program relating to his book, *Did Lincoln Own Slaves? and other frequently questions about Abraham Lincoln*, commemorating the bicentennial of the birth of the sixteenth President of the United States.

Dr. Prokopowicz previously authored the critically acclaimed *All for the Regiment: The Army of Ohio, 1861-1862*.



### ***Shopping in Downtown Detroit*** **Wednesday, April 22 7:30 p.m.**

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms*

Michael Hauser, marketing manager of the Detroit Opera House, will present a program relating to his latest book (December 2008) *20th Century Retailing in Downtown Detroit*. Mike, a Bicknell Lecturer last October when he spoke about his book *Detroit's Downtown Movie Palaces* (2006), also co-authored *Hudson's: Detroit's Legendary Department Store* in 2004.



### ***Albert Kahn, the Fords, and Grosse Pointe*** **Wednesday, May 20 7:30 p.m.**

*Edsel & Eleanor Ford House, 1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores*

During the centennial of Kahn's work with the Fords, we will explore his relationship with that family and his other works in Grosse Pointe.



*Published by the*  
**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

381 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236  
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(313) 884-7699 FAX

**e-mail:** [GPHistorical@aol.com](mailto:GPHistorical@aol.com)

**Web site:** [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

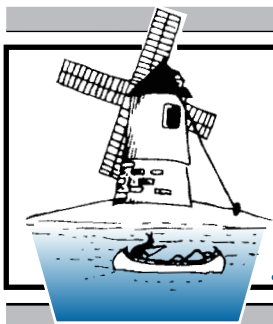
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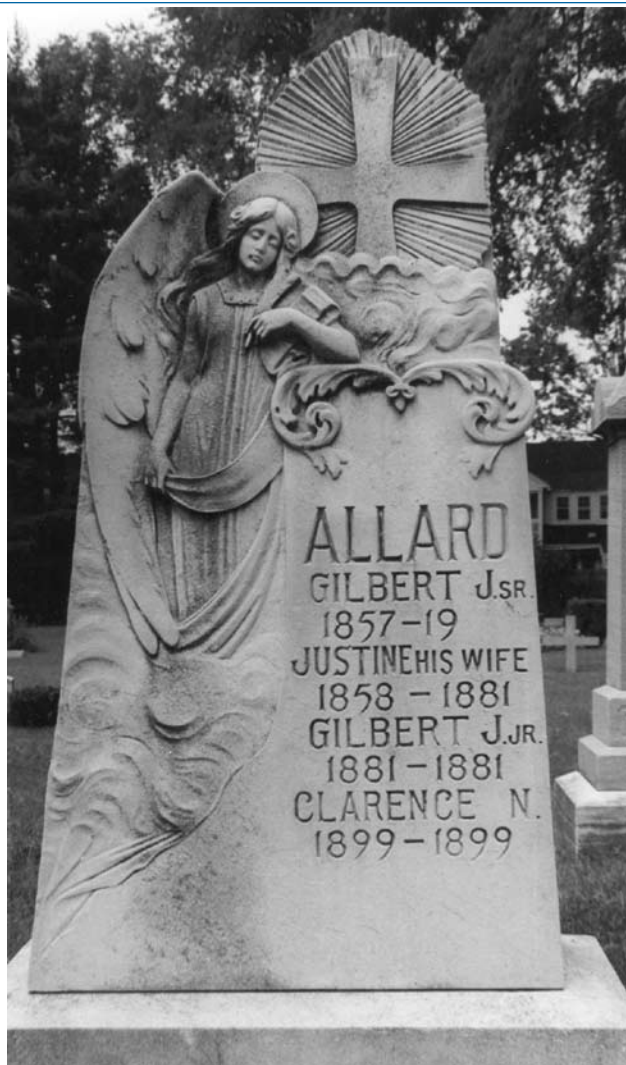






# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945  
Fall 2008  
Vol. 25, No.3



## “Talking Headstones”

*A Walk Through St. Paul's Cemetery*

Saturday, October 11, 2008

*Featuring actors from the Grosse Pointe Theatre  
portraying the documented historical past of people  
buried in St. Paul's Cemetery*

**Performances at 6:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.**

at St. Paul's Cemetery

Country Club Lane and Moross in Grosse Pointe Farms  
*Please bring a flashlight.*

**Refreshments will be served**

at the Provençal-Weir House

376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Parking for the event is on Lakeview or Kercheval.

### **Tickets**

**\$10 for members of the Historical Society**

**\$12 for non-members**

**Advance ticket sales only**

Space is limited.

Call (313) 884-7010 for tickets and information.

## Online Exhibits Bring Grosse Pointe History to Your Computer Screen

Taking a trip back in time can now be done over the Internet, thanks to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. Three new online exhibits featuring scores of historic photographs have recently been posted on the Society's Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), and two more will soon be added. The exhibits were funded by the Wilkinson Foundation.

Just log on to the Web site, click on Slideshows and Exhibits on the right. The new exhibits are:

### **1911 Flying Exhibition**

On June 19, 1911, a select group of Grosse Pointers gathered on the grounds of the Grosse Pointe Golf Club (on what was the club's race track and is now the athletic field at Grosse Pointe South High School) to take to the skies in one of the Wright brothers newfangled flying machines. Industrialist Russell A. Alger was president of the Detroit Aero Club

*continued on page 6*

# Log Cabin Gets the Bugs Out

The GPHS log cabin had some unwelcome visitors this spring—the powder post beetle—but astute attention and timely action saved the building from being destroyed.

Board member Jim Conway discovered the post beetles when he was volunteering at our Encampment in May, giving tours of the cabin. He is very familiar with this type of damage since he was the Director of Fort Wayne in Detroit for over 20 years and had seen it before. He alerted fellow board member Tom Singelyn, who contacted Rose Exterminators. The company confirmed the identity of the Lyctid powder-post beetles, known for their craving for oak wood and their tendency to leave dust or powder behind.

After carefully covering the cabin with a tent to contain the pesticide, Rose successfully fumigated it. Tom and Norm Johnson replaced two ceiling beams in June after Rose was finished. The cabin is now bug-free and open for touring.

The log cabin was originally built about 107 years ago near Lake St. Clair in Macomb County. It was transported to Christ Church Grosse Pointe in 1938, then taken apart and moved to its current location, behind the Provencal-Weir House, in 1999.

P.S. Hope everyone noticed the log cabin as the background for a fashion shoot in the June issue of *Signature* 48236/48230 magazine!



*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*

## *The Past for the Future: A Simple Way to Give a Legacy Gift to the Society*

“I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% percent) of my net estate, as finally determined for estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes.”  
*We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills or trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call (313) 884-7010.*

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment. The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00AM–12:30PM and 1:30–4:00PM. Phone: (313) 884-7010

## A Royal Success

More than 500 history buffs and supporters of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society turned out for "A Royal Celebration at Bellmor," the society's summer gala. The event grossed \$75,000 for educational and community outreach programs celebrating local history. The event, chaired by Mary Shafer, was held at the 1928 mansion, Bellmor, designed for John Bell Moran by Robert O. Derrick and currently owned by Randy and Judy Agley. The home is on Windmill Pointe in Grosse Pointe Park. Thanks to all who attended and to our most generous donors listed below. Pictures of the evening are on the next page.

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## From the Program Director

We were very fortunate to have several young people working in the Alfred B and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center this summer as interns. Victoria Slater, a senior at Grosse Pointe South, worked on a web exhibit on her impressions of student life in Grosse Pointe throughout the years.

Elliott Shafer and Gretchen Valade each did community service at GPHS this summer for Albion College. Elliott was a tour guide at the Provencal-Weir House, organized our map collection and worked at the registration table at the Bellmor party. Gretchen worked as a student teacher with me at the Provencal-Weir House with second graders from Ferry and Kerby schools.

Kerri Marowske did a fantastic job of organizing and creating catalogs for the Resource Center. She will be a sophomore at Albion in September and plans to be a museum curator.

—Nancy Pacitto



Clip and Save!

## Second Saturday Pastimes

On the Second Saturday of each month, drop in for our open-house tours of the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and enjoy these activities. Sponsored by the Alice Kales Hartwick foundation, these activities and the tour are free of charge but donations are suggested.

**September 13, 1-4 p.m. Guided Walking Tour of the Neighborhood** surrounding the Provencal-Weir house. Tour starts promptly at 2 p.m. from the Provencal-Weir house, led by Scott Vandemergel. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Complimentary.

**October 11, 6-9 p.m. St. Paul's Cemetery Walk**  
see front page

**November 8, 1-4 p.m. Legends of the Fall**  
Local legends come to life with Genot Picor and fiddler Michael Francis. Complimentary.

**December 13, 6-9 p.m. Dickens of a Christmas Party** Enjoy local carolers, refreshments and holiday treats, and Christmas décor and exhibits, hosted by Cyndee Harrison. Complimentary.





# A Royal Celebration at Bellmor June 11, 2008

*Photos by Renee Landuyt.*



*Helen and Lawrence Erickson*



*Marita Grobbel and Dennis Andrus*



*Rosann and Martin Kovalcik*



*Peter Huebner, John Prost, Julius and Cynthia Huebner, Peggy Falcon, Lucy Prost, and Laura Huebner*



*Jon and Lisa Mower Gandelot*



*Dr. Larry Lloyd, Kerri Marowske, Gary and Kathy Marowske, and Linda Lloyd*



*Tom and Mary Lighton Shafer, event chair, and their daughter, Kate.*



*Vera Mazza, Mireille and Warren Wilkinson, and Andrew Manny*



*Good Queen Bess and her court were on hand to greet the guests. (Harriet Berg as Queen Elizabeth and members of the Renaissance Dance Company of Detroit)*



*Host and Hostess Randy and Judy Agley and their son and daughter-in-law, Jim and Rosario Agley*



*Dr. Yousef and Eileen Bishai*



*Queen Elizabeth knights the Agleys*



*Khristi Zimmeth (left) and Barb Belfore*



## Thank You, Donors

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Mr. and Mrs. Alfred R. Glancy III  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven Lowden  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Solak  
Joseph and Jennifer Hudson Parke Fund  
McGregor Fund

### In Memory

Mrs. Anne E. O'Brien in memory of  
John H. Wilson

### Front Porch Fund

Grand Marais Questers

### Log Cabin Fund

Alice Kales Hartwick Foundation

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Mr. Charles T. Berschback  
Mrs. Lisa Gandelot  
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Jerry's Party Store  
Mrs. Nancy Pacitto  
Ms. Laura Rodin  
Ms. Andrea Weyhing

## Online Exhibits Bring Grosse Pointe History to Your Computer Screen

*continued from front page*

and an early investor in the Wright Airplane Co. He arranged for a Wright Flyer airplane and a pilot to come here and give demonstration rides to the Aero Club members and their families. The exhibit shows pictures of this event with text by John A. Bluth.

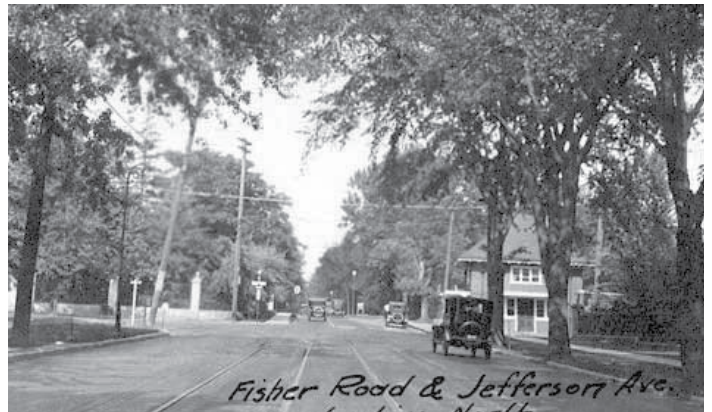
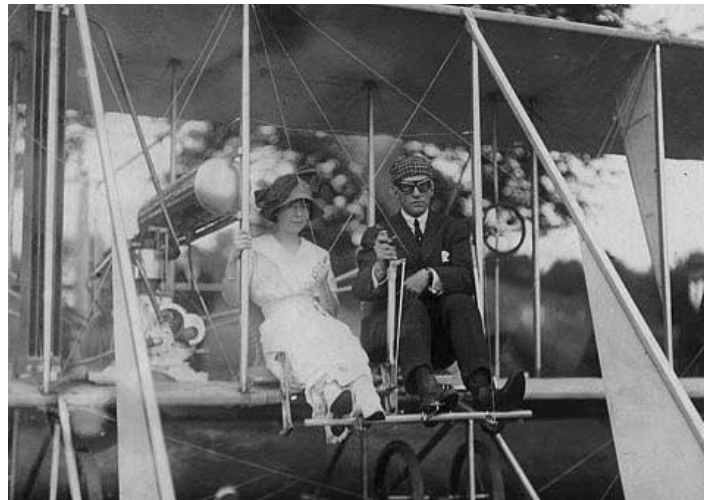
The story goes that Alger's daughter, Josephine, was the first woman passenger in the plane and inspired the song "Come Josephine in My Flying Machine," made famous in the movie *Titanic*.

### Grosse Pointe Farms Street Survey

During the late 1910s and early 1920s Grosse Pointe Farms undertook a land survey documented in photographs. The photos are part of the Ignastius Backman Collection from the Farms city offices. By the 1910s, the advent of the car accelerated the development of Grosse Pointe. New inland roads like Oak (now Muir) attracted tradesmen, estate workers and village employees while streets like Beverly lured businessmen and professionals. Estate owners used inland portions of their property for subdivisions like Lothrop; developers replaced farmland with boulevards like Cloverly.

### Historic Bronze Plaques Recipients

Since 1986, the Society has been annually awarding bronze plaques to Grosse Pointe landmarks to recognize their historical or architectural value to the community, to encourage their continued preservation, or to recognize the value of adaptive reuse. This exhibit showcases all 65 recipients, detailing their street address, architect and architectural style, year built and year awarded. A great way to take a tour of some of Grosse Pointe's most important structures.





# New at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center

## It's about time

Next time you stop in the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center or Provencal-Weir House, you will be greeted with the wonderful sounds of clocks chiming. The most beautiful is the Cadieux clock in the Resource Center. Designed by William Cadieux, the oldest son of Isidore, around 1917, it was donated to the Society in 1991 by Dutch VandenBoom. The Grandfather clock was oiled, received new hands and a winding key and "runs like a champ!," according to GPHS President Stuart Grigg.

Three more clocks inside the Provencal-Weir house were also refurbished and make wonderful tick-tock sounds all day long. "It really adds to the atmosphere of the historic house," said Program Manager Nancy Pacitto.



## New map acquired

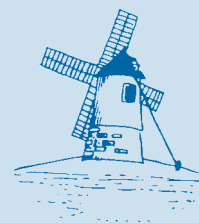
Honorary Board Member Mike Skinner recently acquired an early twentieth century plat map of Grosse Pointe from John King Books in downtown Detroit. The map, from Mason L. Brown & Son Civil Engineers, shows Grosse Pointe Park, Grosse Pointe Village and Grosse Pointe Farms including the Grosse Pointe Manor subdivision, described as an "entire district within this boundary restricted exclusively to single residence ranging from \$3,500 to \$15,000." Stop by and check it out!

## New brickwork at Moran Resource Center

The entry to the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center got a face lift over the summer. The City of Grosse Pointe Farms redid the sidewalk with bricks left over from a park project, added a bench and put a second trash receptacle at the corner of Lakeview and Kercheval. Farms City Manager Shane Reeside was excited to spruce up the corner that gets a lot of traffic.



*GPHS member Ken Steketee enjoys a ride in Mike Skinner's Model T during the August event at the Provencal-Weir House celebrating the 100th anniversary of the car. Steketee bought his first Model T in 1938 for \$10.00 when he was 14 years of age and sold it in 1941 for \$15.00. About 25 people got rides in the two cars and about 50 people enjoyed Mike's lecture on the history of the car that "put the world on wheels."*



*Not Yet a  
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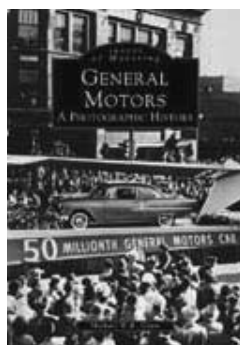
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Convenient  
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Visit  
[www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
and select the link,  
*Join the Society,  
Membership.*

## Fall 2008 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

Grosse Pointe War Memorial 32 Lakeshore Dr.

Complimentary



### **General Motors Centennial** **Wednesday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.**

Mike W. R. Davis, will present a program relating to his book, "General Motors: A Photographic History." The previous day, September 16, 2008 will mark the centennial of the founding of GM, the world's largest automobile manufacturer for over 75 years. Davis has authored numerous books, including *Chrysler Heritage: A Photographic History*, *Detroit's Wartime Industry: Arsenal of Democracy*, *Ford Dynasty: A Photographic History*, *The Ford Fleet 1923-1989* & *America's Favorite Homes: Mail-order Catalogues as a Guide to Popular Early 20th Century Houses*. Mike, a Yale graduate, served as corporate communications director of the *Detroit News* and *Evening News Association* and as a Public Relations Manager at Ford Motor Company.



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(note: fourth Wednesday of the month instead of the third) Michael Hauser, will present a program relating to his book, *Downtown Detroit's Movie Palaces*. In the first half of the 20th century Downtown Detroit was the place Grosse Pointers went to attend first run movies on the big screen. At its peak, the area surrounding Grand Circus Park boasted a dozen palatial movie theatres containing 26,000 seats. Hauser is marketing manager for the Detroit Opera House.

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Published by the  
**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

381 Kercheval Avenue  
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(313) 884-7699 FAX

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## Special Membership Now Available to Businesses

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is now offering special membership opportunities for businesses.

“Our friends in the professional, financial and retail communities have supported the Society since its inception. We are delighted to be able to now offer a special membership opportunity just for businesses to recognize their backing and assistance,” said Stuart Grigg, president of the Society.

A Business Membership to the Society, available for \$100, offers many benefits, including:

- Use of GPHS Business Member logo on your website and publications
- HotLink listing on our award-winning website
- Annual listing in the Society’s quarterly newsletter, *the Moorings*, as well as e-blasts
- Recognition at the annual Pointes of History Celebration
- Discounted sponsorship opportunities (newsletter underwriting, event sponsorship, historical map, etc.)
- A framed windmill painting plaque (above)—suitable for display in your business

Contact the Society at (313) 884-7010 for more information.



*Colonial French Marine fife and drum corps from Port Huron entertains the crowd with traditional music from Detroit’s past at the mini-encampment in May.*

## Support Needed from City Governments

Several members of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society recently spoke at the Mayors Breakfast, a gathering of city officials from the five Pointes, explaining the mission and accomplishments of the Society and asking for financial support.

We are now asking you, members, friends, and supporters of the Society, to reinforce our request by writing to the city government and asking for their financial backing. Specifically, we have asked each city government for \$5,000 per year to go toward our educational, outreach, and archival initiatives. This would create a more formal partnership between the Society and the cities, furthering the goals of each with regards to promoting and preserving the unique heritage of Grosse Pointe. Grosse Pointe Farms has already committed.

*continued on page seven*

## Changes at the GPHS

Change is good, which is a good thing because there are a number of them taking place at the Society. Suzy Berschback, our curator, has taken a challenging and exciting position at Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe. Linda Johnson, our administrator, will soon move to Boston with husband Alex, who has an exciting new job there. Suzy and Linda have truly been visionary team members, and will be long-remembered and sorely missed. Happily, Suzy will now join the Board of GPHS, hardly missing a beat.

New faces join us, and familiar faces take on different roles. Nancy Pacitto, an active docent and volunteer who was instrumental in the recent redecorating of the Provencal-Weir house interior, comes on board as Interim Program Manager for Programs and Activities. We will soon name a Curatorial Project Manager for the Digitization Project to continue digitizing the collection and coordinating online exhibits. This project has been generously supported by The Wilkinson Foundation. Our first Scholar-Intern joins us this summer -- see the article about her in this issue. And Helga Liedtke, who has volunteered in the Resource Center, and draws on a lifetime career in business management, will assume the role of GPHS administrator.

Over the summer, we will be recruiting for our first Executive Director. This move represents a Board commitment to the goals long-nurtured at GPHS, and a logical step in our organization's growth, development, and commitment to preserving and promoting Grosse Pointe history. Please see our website for additional information about this.

I hope you will join me in wishing Suzy and Linda well, and welcoming our new team members, with your support and encouragement. I look forward with great anticipation to the next phase of the Society's growth.

**Stuart Grigg**  
President

Dear Friends,

*It has been my honor to work for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society for the last five years. I am forever grateful to Stuart Grigg, who has encouraged and empowered me to put my passion for local history to work for the enjoyment and education of the community. I have made lifetime friends on the board, and with our staff volunteers and members. I am thrilled to accept a position on the board as I move to Beaumont Hospital, Grosse Pointe as Community Affairs Manager.*

*As I leave this position as Executive Director, I am satisfied with the growth steps we have taken in the last few years. We have completed a strategic plan and spent the last year beginning to implement it. We have won the County Commissioners' Award of Excellence from the Wayne County Council for Arts, History and Humanities for our website, newsletter and programs. We are well underway digitizing the collection for preservation and sharing with our members.*

*I believe we are in a good position to continue our momentum and growth. We have a dedicated board and a talented and passionate staff and growing list of volunteers. Thank you to so many friends for the honor of supporting the Society and its mission and all that we have been able to accomplish together.*

Historically yours,  
**Suzy**

***The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.***

### Officers

Stuart W. Grigg . . . . . President  
Patti Schollenberger . . . . . Vice President-Administration  
Herman Mozer . . . . . Vice President-Preservation  
Denis Bouchard . . . . . Treasurer

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Chip Berschback  
Patricia R. Colett  
Michael Farley  
Lisa Mower Gandelot  
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Ronald C. Lamparter  
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Mike W. Skinner  
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### Administrator

Linda Johnson

### Program Manager

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### Parliamentarian

Andrea Weyhing

### the Moorings Editor

Ann Marie Aliotta

### Curator Emeritus

Jean Dodenhoff

### Board of Trustees

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Carolyn Candler	William Penoyar, Jr.
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Debbie Graffius	Molly Valade
Susan Morris Hartz**	Khristi Zimmeth
Kiki Herfert	Gail Zmyslowski*
Gregory Jakub	

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment. The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00AM-12:30PM and 1:30-4:00PM. Phone: (313) 884-7010

\*through June 2008

\*\*beginning June 2008

## Thank You, Donors

### Donations

Mr. Douglas A. Boehmer  
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### In Memory

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Shafer in memory of Anita Spina  
Ms. Carolyn Switzer in memory of Ruth S. and Alfred B. Moran  
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### Gifts in Kind

Mrs. Noreen Fancy  
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Mr. Brandon M. Rogers  
Ms. Laura Rodin



## New Intern

Victoria Slater (above, left, with Stuart Grigg), a junior at Grosse Pointe South, will be interning at the Resource Center this summer. Her main duties will be to work in digitizing the collection. "The thing I love most about Grosse Pointe history is the fact that everyone has their own story, and most stories tend to be connected in some way," she said. "And because a lot of the houses are still up, and families still live in the area, it makes the history actually come alive. What really interested me about the internship was being able to learn more about the history through other people and their stories, then being able to share that information with others who are equally excited about Grosse Pointe."

## New Members Join Board



*Suzy Berschback, Susan Morris Hartz, and Doug Cordier*

**Suzy Berschback** joins our board after serving as the Society's Curator for the past five years. She has coauthored two books relating to Grosse Pointe, *Grosse Pointe: 1880-1930* (2001), with Madeleine Socia and *Grosse Pointe Then & Now* (2007), with Ann Marie Aliotta. She has also written several articles for the Grosse Pointe News and many of her photos have also been featured in the paper. She was the Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator for the Grosse Pointe War Memorial from 1990 to 2000 and is the new Community Relations Manager at Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe.

Suzy possesses a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations from Michigan State University and is a graduate of Grosse Pointe South High School. She and her husband, Chip, who served as Society President from 1998-2000 and who is an honorary board member, both grew up in the community. They have two daughters.

**Doug Cordier** previously served two three-year terms on the Grosse Pointe Historical Society board from 2000 to 2006. A former biology teacher and radio executive, Doug is a Certified Ergonomic Consultant and principal of Cascom Group LLC, but he is probably better known around town for his real passion and culinary avocation as a chef. Doug has been teaching Italian and corporate cooking classes at the Pointe Peddler and Grosse Pointe War Memorial for twenty years. Along with teaching, Doug is also a celebrity TV chef with Chuck Kaess on "Who's in the Kitchen?" as well as culinary charity fund raiser for the Ontario Food & Wine Expo, Detroit Institute for Children, Bon Secours, Wigs for Kids and Lake Shore Optimist Club. Doug and his wife Mary Beth also lead a tour each year to Tuscany, Italy.

**Susan Morris Hartz** previously served one three-year term on the Grosse Pointe Historical Society board from 1988 to 1991. Since leaving our board she has continued to provide assistance to the Society by pricing antiques that have been donated for the Society's Upscale Sales.

Susan once owned an antique shop in the community and for 30 years she operated "Hartz Household Sales," during which time she conducted over 1,200 estate sales and 500 appraisals. From 1995 to 2004 she hosted "Conversations with the Collectors" on Grosse Pointe Cable. She is a current member of the Grosse Pointe City Beautification Committee. She is a graduate of Wayne State University. She and her husband, John were born and raised in the community and have been married for 44 years. They have two children and five grandchildren.



# Four Historic Plaques Awarded a



*Robbie Robertson House*  
*Alden Dow, architect*  
*741 Middlesex, Grosse Pointe Park*

Alden Dow was born in Midland and studied engineering at the University of Michigan, planning on entering the family business, Dow Chemical Company. After three years in Ann Arbor, he transferred to Columbia University to study architecture. He opened his architectural office in 1934, after spending a memorable summer with Frank Lloyd Wright.

The home on Middlesex reflects Dow's philosophy of "Composed Order": The idea is to achieve harmony among the people, materials, and ideas involved. The home, the breezeway to the garage, and the landscape combine to make this unique building design a dynamic experience. The Unit Block System dominates Dow's design. He wanted to carry a bold geometric pattern through the house and into the garden outside. He cast rhomboid blocks with square faces. One horizontal course has blocks angled to the right, the following course has them angled to the left.



*Grosse Pointe Public Library*  
*Marcel Breuer, architect*  
*10 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms*

In 1951, Dexter M. Ferry, Jr., announced his intention to donate a building for a central library to be constructed on the corner of the high school property at Fisher and Kercheval. Marcel Breuer, a Hungarian-born architect, one of the fathers of modernism, was commissioned to design the building. He created a small, elegant structure, two stories tall, with a front facade that was partly unadorned brick to echo the traditions of Grosse Pointe building materials, and partly a series of tall windows that created a transparency inside and out.

Breuer did not want this to be just a repository of books, but a repository of active discussion of ideas. The building was to feature a large cathedral-ceiling reading room, a large children's reading room, and reference and adult reading rooms.

To preserve this landmark while creating the necessary expansion for today's needs, architects from the Boston firm Design Labs tried to imagine how Breuer would approach the project. Their expansion project will save an architectural gem and create a thoughtful new structure onto the old.



**At the Society's Annual May Meeting, a special commemoration was held to honor the more than 60 homes and buildings that have received historic plaques from the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. Four new buildings were added to that illustrious list. Photos by John T. Woodhouse, Jr.**

# at Pointes of History Celebration



*Leonard Willeke House*  
*Leonard Willeke, architect*  
*1100 Berkshire, Grosse Pointe Park*

Leonard Willeke called the style of his new home Modern English. He was influenced by English architect Sir Edwin Lutyns and American architect Harrie T. Linberg. The U-shaped floor plan is compact and convenient and provides light and air circulation throughout the house. To insure a pleasant view of the garden from all rooms, the driveway, garage court, laundry yard, and children's play area were all located at the north end of the property.

The interior rooms are filled with walnut detail. The main hall and living room have barrel vaulted ceilings to accent the rectangular shape of the rooms. Pewabic tiles are used throughout the house. Floral and animal motifs in the paneling and plaster wall trim are designed by Willeke and typical of his work.

Willeke said he incorporated so many special features because it was to be his final home. "I have used the best and most artistic designs that I have found in my many years of study and travel abroad as an architect in this house," he wrote.



*Henry Sherrard House*  
*Unknown architect, believed to be Albert Kahn or*  
*Mason & Rice*  
*59 Lake Shore Rd.*

Built in 1892 by Joseph Berry for his daughter, Charlotte and her husband Henry Sherrard, this home is one of the oldest surviving year-round houses in Grosse Pointe. The architecture is primarily a combination of 19th Century Shingle and Romanesque Revival styles.

The asymmetrical design of the house features projections for rooms of varying shapes, including a tower with a conical roof, a rather Victorian touch. For a time, the first floor of the tower was the office Joseph Sherrard, who lived in the house all his life, marrying late, at 55. A bedroom occupies the second floor of the office. The master bedroom, with a fireplace, faces east and offers a view of Lake Shore Rd. from an alcove with eight rectangular windows with lead glass panes.

The house was owned by the Sherrard family until approximately 1983. It was the setting for several works by author Jack Kerouac and there are stories of a ghost in the attic.



*See what's new!*  
[www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

# GPHS's Own Antiques Road Show

Trash, treasure, or somewhere in between? That was the question on the minds of the people who attended the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's recent antiques appraisal event.

Veteran appraiser Bob DuMouchelle of DuMouchelle Art Gallery in Detroit volunteered his time to help attendees separate the worthy from the worthless.

"I always enjoy seeing what shows up," says Bob, who also appears on the popular PBS series "Antiques Roadshow." "Even after so many years in the business, I'm still surprised at what comes out of the woodwork."

Curious collectors – most from Grosse Pointe and other nearby suburbs -- showed up on a snowy Saturday and paid \$5 for each item to find out more about their family heirlooms and estate sale finds. All proceeds went to support GPHS programs. Docent Nancy Pacitto presided over the event.

From a cow bell to a copy of the Count of Monte Cristo, the items ran the gamut from collectible to kitsch.

GPHS Board member Tom Singelyn was among those who patiently waited their turn for DuMouchelle's attention. He brought with him a family whiskey bottle, a military medal, a Disney tea set, a military print and a letter opener.

DuMouchelle was most intrigued with the letter opener, which he identified as Turkish and dated to the 19th century.

"If it's sterling, which is hard to tell, it's worth about \$2,500," DuMouchelle told him. "If it's not sterling, only \$1,500. Either way, it's a beautiful piece."

Peter Nyboer of Grosse Pointe City brought in a painting. "A neighbor lady gave it to me," he says. "With the Ashcan exhibition at the DIA, I wondered if it was the Ashcan School," he said.

DuMouchelle identified the work as one by Alexander Minewski, an American painter who lived from 1917-1979. "That could have coincided with the Ashcan School," he said. "It's an intriguing work." He valued it at approximately \$500.

Nyboer also brought in a foot warmer (\$200-\$400) and a Shaker-style box sporting the original milk paint (\$500-\$800).

Other highlights include a French mantel clock worth \$200-\$300, a 19th-century wool winder (\$400-\$600) and an original Audubon bird print – the most valuable item brought in that day.

"Audubon is widely copied, but I truly believe this one is original," says DuMouchelle. "This is a really, really nice piece, although it could use a reframing." He valued the large print at \$3,000-\$5,000 at auction.

Valerie Dodenhoff, also a board member, brought in some beautiful sterling spoons in a fitted case that were appraised at \$250 and an intricate vintage print of a Latin star chart. She expressed the feelings of everyone at the first (but hopefully not last) event.

"This is fun," she says. "I like seeing what everyone else brings in. It's just like watching Antiques Roadshow."

—*Khristi Zimmeth*





## Support Needed from City Governments

*continued from page one*

If you would like a copy of the report given at the Mayors' Breakfast or more information on how to help with this effort, call the Resource Center, 884-7010. Below are the addresses of the city governments; address your letter to the City Council Members at:

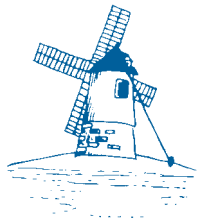
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Grosse Pointe, MI 48230

**Grosse Pointe Farms**  
90 Kerby  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

**Grosse Pointe Park**  
15115 E. Jefferson  
Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230

**Grosse Pointe Shores**  
795 Lake Shore Rd.  
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI 48236

**Grosse Pointe Woods**  
20025 Mack Plaza  
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236



## Unique Grosse Pointe Goods Available

Show your love of history and affection for Grosse Pointe with a beautiful item from our Grosse Pointe Goods store. Featuring images from our extensive archives, these items are wonderful gifts—for yourself or others. Keep cozy with a GPHS sweatshirt or baseball jersey. Adorn your walls with beautiful photos and drawings of the color Map of Grosse Pointe Township, Windmill watercolor, Grosse Pointe Summer Cottages, or Grosse Pointe Shores, circa 1920. Sip your tea from a mug with a map of the Ribbon Farms on Lake Shore Rd.

Take a look at these and other great items on our Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



---

### Not Yet a Member? Two Convenient Ways to Join!

1. Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) and select the link, *Join the Society, Membership*.
2. You can also fill out the form below and mail it directly to the Society.

#### Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

☐ Senior Citizen \$25.00  
☐ Individual \$35.00  
☐ Family \$50.00  
☐ Friend \$75.00  
☐ Business \$100.00

☐ Donor \$125.00  
☐ Benefactor \$250.00  
☐ Major Benefactor \$500.00  
☐ Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period) \$1,000.00

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\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in Planned Giving information

Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to:  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Thank you for your support!



Clip and Save!

## Second Saturday Pastimes

On the Second Saturday of each month, drop in for our open-house tours of the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and enjoy these activities. Sponsored by the Alice Kales Hartwick foundation, these activities and the tour are free of charge but donations are suggested.

*June 14, 1-4 p.m. Ice Cream Social* with local folk music group Rosetta Pebble. Complimentary.

*July 12, 1-4 p.m. Historical Caricatures* by appointment with artist Marcella Rochon. Complimentary.



*August 9, 1-4 p.m. Model T Celebrates 100 years!*

Celebrate with the Model T club, see their cars and meet the members, hear speaker Mike Skinner, GPHS board member and Ford historian speak on the Model T. Complimentary.

*September 13, 1-4 p.m. Guided Walking Tour of the Neighborhood* surrounding the Provencal-Weir house. Tours start promptly at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. from the Provencal-Weir house, led by Al Dickenson. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Complimentary.

*October 11, 6-9 p.m. St. Paul's Cemetery Walk* led by Amy DeWys-VanHeck, Marguerite Humes and Bill Schwedler. Tickets are \$10 per person by Oct. 8, or \$12 at the gate.

*November 8, 1-4 p.m. Legends of the Fall* Local legends come to life with Genot Picor and fiddler Michael Francis. Complimentary.

## Fall 2008 Dr. Frank Bicknell Lecture Series

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial 32 Lakeshore Dr.*

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**e-mail:** GPHistorical@aol.com

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Historical Society  
established 1945  
Spring 2008  
Vol. 25, No.1



## *A Royal Celebration at Bellmor*

Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Annual Soiree

Wednesday, June 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.

Join us for a special evening benefiting the Grosse Pointe Historical Society amid the splendor of Bellmor, the 1928 Tudor mansion built for John Bell and Serena Moran by Robert O. Derrick.

Enjoy a strolling dinner and entertainment by Rennie Kaufmann and the Renaissance Dance Company. Limited tickets are available. Call (313) 884-7010 for information.



## *Tour Three Historic Grosse Pointe Churches*

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society will once again conduct a tour of three historic Grosse Pointe churches on **Saturday, April 19, at 9:00 a.m.:** **Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, St. Clare of Montefalco Roman Catholic Church and St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church.**

Traveling by bus, guests will first visit Grosse Pointe Memorial Church. Although the current worship spaces were built in 1925, the influence of this community faith spans more than 140 years. Learn

*continued on page 2*

*St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church and The Ark entrance*

## Tour Three Historic Grosse Pointe Churches

continued from front page

more about the Little Ivy Church, the current church architecture and history of this dynamic community.

Next visit St. Clare of Montefalco Roman Catholic Church. Since 1926 the Order of St. Augustine has been responsible for the spiritual life of this parish community. The present building, dedicated in 1952, replaced the 1927 church. The architecture, stained glass and carvings tell the story of their faith and history. Major renovations in the church building were completed in 2000.

The tour's final stop is St. Ambrose Roman Catholic Church established in 1916 as a Catholic parish community. The first church was wood frame, designed by Donaldson and Meier in 1917. Ten years later, the current Norman Gothic style building was built and dedicated. The design earned critical acclaim in American Architecture Magazine for its attention to detail. Detroit Stained Glass Company fabricated the Arts and Crafts style windows.

Lunch will be served in St. Ambrose's gathering space, The Ark.

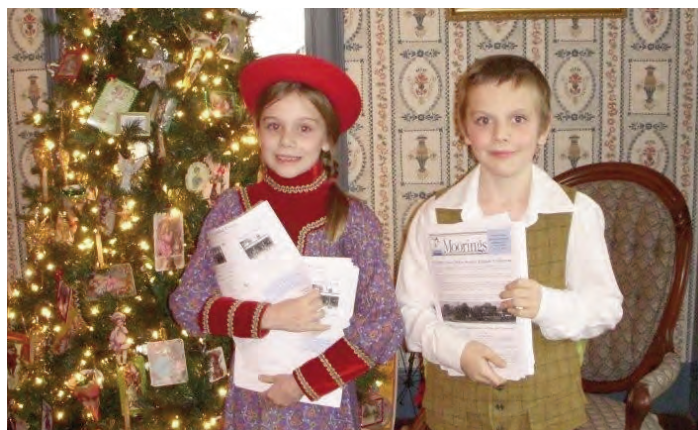
The tours will be led by local historians and church docents. The tour leaves the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval, at 9:15 a.m. (please arrive by 9:00 a.m.) and returns at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for Society members, \$30 for non-members and includes bus transportation to the churches and lunch.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 884-7010.

### The Past for the Future: A Simple Way to Give a Legacy Gift to the Society

"I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
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*We are indebted to our donors who have included the  
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easy way to leave money to the Society. If you would  
like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss  
other gift planning ideas, please call (313) 884-7010.*



*Catherine and Jimmy Fennessey, dressed as 19th century schoolchildren, helped out at the Provencal-Weir house in December. The house was part of the Grosse Pointe South Mothers' Club Holiday Walk tour of homes. Hundreds of visitors from the Pointes and beyond explored the house, learning of its legacy and the history of this community.*

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment. The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.--12:30 p.m. and 1:30--4:00 p.m.  
Phone: (313) 884-7010

# GPHS Members and Guests Invited to Pointes of History Celebration



*2007 Bronze Plaque recipients Marlene and Ken Harle, Jennifer and Todd Callewaert, Historic Homes Plaque Chairman, Peggy Woodhouse, James Kelly and committee member, Valerie Dodenhoff.*

Since 1986, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has been annually awarding historic plaques to Grosse Pointe landmarks. These plaques recognize historical or architectural value to the community, encourage their continued preservations, and recognize the value of adaptive reuse.

On May 13, the Society will hold a special ceremony that will honor the more than 60 homes and buildings that have received commemorative plaques. The plaque winners, members of the Society and the community are invited to attend the program beginning at 7:00 p.m. and followed by a wine and cheese reception at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.

Former plaque recipients will be acknowledged. Photos and information on all the recipients will be on display. Four new recipients will be honored for adaptive reuse, restoration, and maintaining the historically significant structures. Outgoing Historical Society trustees will be recognized that evening, as will be new trustees, and outstanding volunteers.

"The event will be a great opportunity to share the historic legacy of your home and learn a little more about local history," said Peggy Woodhouse, Historic Homes Plaque Chair.

"We wanted to thank our membership, and get to know other historically-minded members of the community," said board president Stuart Grigg. "It will be an evening to celebrate some extraordinary structures and extraordinary people."

*Still not a member? Call (313) 884-7010 or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for more information, to make reservations or to join the Society.*

# History of Grosse Pointe Mapped Out



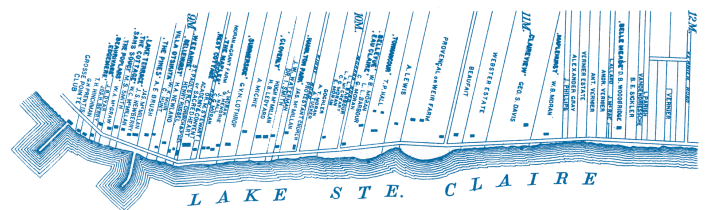
Have you ever driven through the Grosse Pointes and wondered about the origins of a beautiful old mansion or how a certain street got its name?

Now the answers to those questions are at your fingertips with the new Lakeshore Map: A Tour of Grosse Pointe from Windmill Pointe to Gaulker Pointe, just published by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. The map illustrates 50 places of interest in the Pointes and includes historical information about the community and beautiful, historic photos.

"We are so excited about this latest guide to Grosse Pointe history. It's a great way learn about the old mansions that still remain," said GPHS curator Suzy Berschback. "Spread the map out at home to get a great picture of the historic places in Grosse Pointe. Or take it along on your bike or in the car and do your own tour."

Maps are available at the Provencal-Weir House tours and Second Saturday events, at the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, and to members. The map will also be given to members at the Pointes of History Reception, May 13.

The map was made possible by proceeds from the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's summer parties and generous map sponsors the **DAR Louisa St. Clair Chapter** and **real estate brokers Carolyn Candler and Donna Stoner**. The Society is grateful to the Grosse Pointe Chapter #147 of the Questers for their original research on this material.



See what's new!  
[www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)



## Second Saturday Pastimes

On the Second Saturday of each month, drop in for our open-house tours of the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and enjoy these activities. Sponsored by the Alice Kales Hartwick foundation, these activities and the tour are free of charge but donations are suggested.

**April 12, 1-4 p.m. Community wide History Scavenger Hunt** Start and end at the Provencal-Weir house, led by Nancy Pacitto. Complimentary.

**May 10, 1-4 p.m. Mini Encampment at the Provencal-Weir House.** Enjoy a historical timeline with 20 re-enactors led by Paul Ignagni with special appearance by the Fiddlepointe players of Grosse Pointe. Complimentary.

**June 14, 1-4 p.m. Ice Cream Social** with local folk music group Rosetta Pebble. Complimentary.

**July 12, 1-4 p.m. Historical Caricatures** by appointment with artist Marcella Rochon. Complimentary.

**August 9, 1-4 p.m. Model T Celebrates 100 years!** Celebrate with the Model T club, see their cars and meet the members, hear speaker Mike Skinner, GPHS board member and Ford historian speak on the Model T. Complimentary.

**September 13, 1-4 p.m. Guided Walking Tour of the Neighborhood** surrounding the Provencal-Weir house. Tours start promptly at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. from the Provencal-Weir house, led by Al Dickenson. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Complimentary.

**October 11, 6-9 p.m. St. Paul's Cemetery Walk** led by Amy DeWys-VanHeck, Marguerite Humes and Bill Schwedler. Tickets are \$10 per person by Oct. 8, or \$12 at the gate.

**November 8, 1-4 p.m. Legends of the Fall** Local legends come to life with Genot Picor and fiddler Michael Francis. Complimentary.

**December 13, 6-9 p.m. Dickens of a Christmas Caroling Party** with horse drawn carriage rides in the neighborhood. Enjoy local carolers, refreshments and holiday treats, and Christmas décor and exhibits, hosted by Cyndee Harrison. Complimentary.



Mini- encampment, May 10

## Then and Now: Grosse Pointe

### Discussion and Book Signing at the Grosse Pointe Public Library



Join GPHS curator Suzy Berschback and the *Moorings* editor and public relations coordinator Ann Marie Aliotta for a discussion of their recently published book,

*Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*. The talk takes place on Wednesday, March 12, at the Woods branch of the Grosse Public Library at 7:30 p.m.

Proceeds of book purchases will benefit the Grosse Pointe

Historical Society.

The program is free of charge, but seating is limited. To register, call the library at 343-2074, x220 or visit [www.gp.lib.mi.us](http://www.gp.lib.mi.us).

## Provencal-Weir House Wish List

Funds, material and/or labor:

- to add a chimney to the log cabin,
- to repair or replace damaged brickwork on the Lakeview walkway,
- for storm windows for the house,
- for period curtains for the living and dining room.

Call 884-7010 for more information or to donate.



Mystery and mayhem were on tap at the "Juice Joint" in the Provencal-Weir House in January. The house was filled to capacity with molls and mugs enjoying a murder mystery party that reveled in the wild and romantic Roaring 20s.

# A Windmill Pointe Story

*The archives at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society are filled with intriguing information about our community. The following is an excerpt from the Grosse Pointe Guide written by the WPA about 1935. The complete text is available in the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center. We invite you to visit our Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org). You never know what you'll discover!*

**July 25th, 1810:** There were on the premises a dwelling house, barn, stables and a windmill. About 20 acres were under cultivation and enclosed. This private claim is now part of the Windmill Pointe Subdivision in the Village of Grosse Pointe Park. The windmill built of stone was erected on the lake shore near the foot of what is now Lakepointe Avenue, by one of the first French settlers in Grosse Pointe, and was used as a grist mill, propelled by the wind to grind the corn and wheat of the colonists. It was doubtless a crude affair but performed the work more satisfactorily than had been done before that time, when only hand work was employed.



In the early days of the mill's activities, it is said, the farmers and the Indians who resided in Canada crossed the lake in small boats bringing their grain to the mill for grinding. This was due to lack of grist mills on the Canadian border.

This old mill is said to have been built about 1750, and was in operation until about the year 1800. Efforts by historians to definitely fix the date and name of the builder have not been successful. Old French records show this mill, together with a house and barn, to have been situated on this land and as early as 1759. It was occupied by Jean Baptiste Leduc who might be considered the original owner as well as the builder of the mill. There are no records to show that Leduc built this old mill but, in the absence of any proof to the contrary, we are willing to believe Leduc is the original builder of the first mill on Windmill Pointe.

On the lake shore of this private claim is now located the village waterfront park and many beautiful homes. The home of R.W. Judson at 15324 Windmill Pointe Drive now occupies the site upon which stood this historical windmill. Nothing remains of this old mill, house and barn, but as a reminder of the past there still

remains two very large French Pear trees standing as sentinels over this old landmark.

*Historical Note: The remaining millstone from this windmill is now located in the Trial Gardens at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial.*

## Online Memberships Now Available

Joining the Grosse Pointe Historical Society just got a whole lot easier! Simply visit the Society Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) and click on "Join the Society Online." It's safe and secure. Use a credit card or a Paypal account.

Membership benefits include:

- A subscription to the Society's quarterly newsletter, The Moorings
- Use of the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center
- Early notification of Society programs
- Special invitations to Society events
- The opportunity to participate in research projects
- The opportunity to participate in volunteer programs
- Eligibility to rent the c.1823 Provencal-Weir House for an event.

New members in 2008 receive a copy of the DVD edition of Recollections of the Past (Grosse Pointe 1650-1900) and The Past as Prologue (20th Century Grosse Pointe) as our thanks.



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# Spring 2008 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information

## **Great Lakes Shipwreck Hunter** Wednesday, March 19, 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial*

*32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms*



David Trotter, subject of the new book *Shipwreck Hunter: Deep, Dark and Deadly in the Great Lakes* will discuss his work as a renowned shipwreck discoverer, deep diver, author, lecturer and photographer. In over 20 years of diving, he has been the first to locate, identify and document over 70 Great Lakes shipwrecks. His shipwreck discoveries and programs have also been featured on television and in newspapers throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has also written several articles on Great Lakes shipwrecks for historical journals and national scuba diving publications.

## **Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne** Wednesday, April 16, 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial*

*32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms*



Jim Conway, GPHS board member and former Detroit Historical Museum Chief Curator will present a program relating to his new book, *Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne*. This fort, built in the 1840's to protect Detroit from the British in Canada,

was used for military related purposes through the Vietnam War era.

## **Model T Ford Centennial** Wednesday, May 21, 7:30 p.m.

*Edsel & Eleanor Ford House*

*1100 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores*



Bob Casey, Curator of Transportation at The Henry Ford, presents a program relating his new book on the history of the Model T

Ford. With over 15,000,000 Model T Fords built between 1908 and 1927, it was the car that put the world on wheels. Sales of over 2,100,000 in its peak year (1923) represented over 50 percent of the world market, at a time when over half of all of the cars in the world were Ford Model Ts.

## **Special Pre-lecture Dinner at the Hill**

HEADING OUT TO THE BICKNELL LECTURE?

Why not make a night of it, starting with dinner at the Hill Seafood and Chop House?

The Historical Society is partnering with the restaurant to offer a prix fixe dinner to members before every Bicknell Lecture. The dinner will be offered at 5:30 p.m. and will cost \$16 for an entrée, salad and dessert. Drinks, tax and gratuity are not included. Reservations must be made in advance to receive the promotion. Call the Hill at 886-8101.



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

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*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*





## \$20,000 Grant Helps Society Digitize Collection

The Historical Society's long-range goal of making its archives more accessible to the general public was given a tremendous boost by a \$20,000 grant from the Wilkinson Foundation, endowed by Grosse Pointe residents Warren and Mireille Wilkinson.

"Mireille and I are very impressed by the way the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is run and the qualities of the people involved," Wilkinson said. The couple also donated the use of their gracious lakefront home for last summer's Soiree Francaise fundraiser.

The grant will be used specifically to preserve deteriorating materials and provide access to artifacts and documents at the Resource Center and on the Web for a much larger audience, according to Society curator Suzy Berschback. Artwork, photos, documents, books, and maps will be scanned and then made available on the Society's Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), through an on-line search engine. Additional Web galleries and exhibits may also be added to the Web site.

"The tremendous generosity of the Wilkinsons will be a great start in helping us preserve our precious resources and make them available to anyone with access to the Internet," Berschback said. "We are delighted that many more people will be able to learn about Grosse Pointe's fascinating history thanks to them."



## Grosse Pointe Goods Available On-line—in Time for Christmas!



Can't get enough of Grosse Pointe history?

You might like a pair of boxer shorts emblazoned with the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's logo or a mouse pad with a painting of the historic Grosse Pointe Windmill. How about a coffee mug with the Grosse Pointe ribbon farms or a wall clock with an historic Grosse Pointe image?

Now you can adorn yourself, your home or office with items bearing images from the Society's extensive archives. They make wonderful gifts, too.

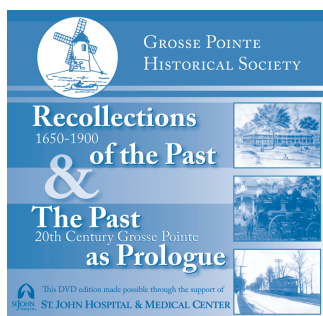
Grosse Pointe Goods are available through the Society's new on-line store. You'll find dozens of unique gifts featuring the distinctive windmill painting and select images from the archives. Some of the wonderful images include an antique map of the area showing the original ribbon farms, a holiday ornament with the cover illustration from Silas Farmer's book *Souvenir of the Pointe*, and beautiful watercolors and photographs.

Gifts include mugs, tote bags, pillows, wall clocks, journals, and even chef aprons and hoodies and other clothing.

*continued on page 2*

# Grosse Pointe History DVD Available Now

The two popular Grosse Pointe documentary videos, *Recollections of the Past, 1650-1900*, and *The Past As Prologue, 1900-present*, are now available together on one



DVD and can be purchased at the Provencal-Weir house or Resource Center. The cost is \$10 or free to anyone who joins the Society as a lifetime member.

The transfer of the VHS videos to DVD was made possible by a gift from St. John Hospital and Medical Center.

“As a long-time member of this community, we understand the area's rich historical traditions,” said Rhonda Welsh of St. John Hospital and Medical Center Marketing Department. “We were excited to provide a community sponsorship that supports the Historical Society’s important work.”

## The Past for the Future: A Simple Way to Give a Legacy Gift to the Society

“I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% percent) of my net estate, as finally determined for estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes.”

*We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills or trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call (313) 884-7010.*

# GP South Holiday Walk Includes Provencal-Weir House

Kick off the holidays in grand style with a tour of six of Grosse Pointe’s most beautiful homes, decked out in holiday splendor, for the Mothers’ Club of Grosse Pointe South High School Holiday Walk. This year, the tour will include the Provencal-Weir House.

The walk will take place on Sunday, December 9 from 12:00 noon – 4 p.m.

Along with the Provencal-Weir House, homes on this year’s tour include:

- A unique arts and crafts inspired, restored and expanded former carriage house, nestled in a private setting;
- A lovely Colonial home with notable collectables, owned by a local florist;
- A redesigned home owned by a local builder, including an open kitchen and great room with a massive stone fireplace;
- A newly decorated home owned by a well-known decorator with beautiful lake views; and
- A grand Georgian home with rooms decorated with various holiday themes and antique furnishings

Tickets for the Holiday Walk are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door and may be purchased at many stores in the Pointes or by calling Lisa Baird at (313) 300-7908.

## Grosse Pointe Goods Available On-line—in Time for Christmas!

*continued from front page*

“With the holidays approaching, we think this is a great way to celebrate our heritage and give your friends and family a unique gift,” said GPHS Board President Stuart Grigg.

To shop and order, simply visit the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), and click on “Grosse Pointe Goods On-line Store.” Proceeds benefit the GPHS. More images and products will be added on an on-going basis, so be sure to visit often.

### Officers

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month during special events, and by appointment. The Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m. Phone: (313) 884-7010

# Provencal-Weir House Receives Exterior Refurbishments

## Eagle Scout Project Spruces up House

The Provencal-Weir House underwent a terrific face lift this fall, thanks to the hard work of Life Boy Scout Stephen Detwiler and a diligent group of Historical Society members led by Tom Singelyn.

Stephen, age 16, working toward his Eagle Scout ranking, embarked on a project to “restore and beautify the Provencal-Weir House.” Together with nine scout members of Troop 96 (Grosse Pointe Memorial Church) and three non-scout friends, he organized an extensive, multi-task work effort last fall.

The project included:

- Painting the entire brick foundation of the house;
- Resetting the bricks with slag and grid lock under the back door steps and herb garden in the backyard;
- Painting the Provencal-Weir House sign, mailbox, and bell stand, and adding copper caps to the sign and mailbox;
- Removing all varnish finish on two teak benches and sanding all surfaces to return the wood to its natural state;
- Removing stones and cement blocks from the southern fence line; and
- Leveling the ground along the driveway and foundation around the house.



“The Boy Scouts worked diligently and put in many hours and many sessions,” said Singelyn. “The result is outstanding.”

Before beginning, Stephen had to write up a detailed description of his Eagle Project which included a project description, benefits from the project, materials needed, and thorough outline of safety precautions.

“What was key to complete this project on time was being well-prepared each day for the tasks at hand, having the right supplies, food and able workers,” said Stephen. “The experience taught me a lot about myself and how I work with others. I hope the volunteers enjoyed the camaraderie of the friends and felt a sense of accomplishment.

“The project would not have been successful without donations from Shelby Paint, Soulliere Landscape, Ace Hardware, Subway and Jerry’s Club Party Store, and the help of my parents, troop advisor, and the GPHS representatives.”



## New Porch Built

The Provencal-Weir House finally got a badly-needed new front porch. Historical Society members Norm Johnson (professional carpenter and foreman) Debbie Grafius, Gary Collette, Paul Sloan, Herm Mozer, Peter Nyboer, Valerie Dodenhoff, and Tom Singelyn got together one early October morning to disassemble the old, rotting one.

After that Norm and Tom began construction started on a new porch deck made of specially treated wood designed to withstand the elements. The design of the decking slants away from the house and will shed water toward the lawn. It will be stained next summer after a drying out time.

Funding for the new porch came from the Rose Terrace Questers #1438, Fox Creek Questers #216, and Pear Tree Questers #193.





# Two Events to Warm up Your Winter

## ***Murder at the Juice Joint***

An Evening of Murder, Mayhem & the Mob  
*A Second Saturday event for adults*

January 12, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

**Provencal-Weir House**

376 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Farms

*Reservations requested. Free of charge; donations welcome.*

With the passing of prohibition and organized crime on the rise, The Juice Joint, a swanky speakeasy run by Rosie Marie, has been nothing but jumping. To celebrate its success, Rosie is planning a party to remember at the exclusive nightspot... and you are invited!

However, one of the names on the guest list is on another's hit list. No one is safe from the consequences.

With the murder on the menu, you are certain to find a medley of individuals to make the night most memorable. From the major mobsters and their molls to the swanky singer with her hopes at Hollywood. The cigarette girl with a temper that sizzles to the crooked police chief with nothing to lose—no one is safe from murder...but everyone will have a chance at solving it. Will the culprit be the Mayor who is capable of murder? The blacklisted bootleggers desperate to increase their sales? Or possibly the director with a shot at making history?

***The Juice Joint** will be certain to serve up a night of mayhem and local history. Come promptly at 6:00 p.m. in costume to learn your past. Come dressed as a mobster or moll from the 1920s.*



## ***Love is in the Air***

*A Second Saturday event for adults*

February 9, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

**Provencal-Weir House**

376 Kercheval

Grosse Pointe Farms

Tickets for this event are \$25 per person by Feb. 6.

An enchanted evening for adults in the romantic atmosphere of the historic Provencal-Weir House. Enjoy a musical serenade from Rosetta Pebble, champagne tasting, and custom chocolate tasting from Alinosi's, family-owned since 1921. View a beautiful exhibit of Grosse Pointe wedding fashions.



## Looking for a great Christmas present that benefits the Grosse Pointe Historical Society?



*Then and Now: Grosse Pointe* is a wonderful way to learn more about our history and support the Society. When you buy a copy through the Historical Society or next door at Jerry's Club Party Store, all the proceeds go directly back to the Society.

Written by Society curator Suzy Berschback and *Moorings* editor Ann Marie Aliotta, the book contains hundreds of historic

and contemporary photos illustrating the changes that Grosse Pointe has gone through over the years. Most of the historic photos came from the Society's archives.

Call 884- 7010 or stop by Jerry's, 383 Kercheval.



## Grosse Pointe Historical Society Receives Wayne County Award

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society recently received the County Commissioners' Award from the Wayne County Council for Arts, History and Humanities. The award recognized the Society for its creativity in programming, their new Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), and on-line exhibits, and their newsletter, *the Moorings*. It was presented at a ceremony on October 4 at the Henry Ford Centennial Library.

Society president Stuart Grigg, of Grosse Pointe, accepted the award on behalf of its board, staff and members. Also present were board member Penny



*GPHS Board President Stuart Grigg*

Soby, Joe Katulic, docent Nancy Pacitto and curator Suzy Berschback. The Web site designer is Grosse Pointe city resident, Jay Hunter. *The Moorings* editor is Farms resident, Ann Marie Aliotta.

"Last year, we went through a strategic planning process at the Historical Society and found universal agreement across our stakeholders that access to our collections and information is our number one goal. This award recognizes that we are achieving that goal and inspires us to do even more," said Grigg.

## Second Saturday Pastimes

On the Second Saturday of each month, drop in for our open-house tours of the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and enjoy these activities. Sponsored by the Alice Kales Hartwick foundation, these activities and the tour are free of charge but donations are suggested. \*A limited number of limited tickets will be sold for February and October events by calling (313) 884-7010.

**January 12, 6-9 p.m. Murder at the Juice Joint** An Evening of Murder, Mayhem and the Mob. You be the house detective and solve the mystery in the 1823 Provencal-Weir house. Nancy Pacitto hosts. Complimentary.

**\*February 9, 6-9 p.m. Love is in the Air** An enchanted evening for adults to enjoy a musical serenade, champagne and chocolate tasting, and a spectacular exhibit of Grosse Pointe wedding fashions. Cyndee Harrison hosts. Tickets for this event are \$25 per person. Reserve by February. 6.

**March 8, 1-4 p.m. Riches or Rubbish?** Antique appraisal afternoon with Dumouchelle's Art Gallery. \$5 per item suggested donation to Society. [www.dumouchelle.com](http://www.dumouchelle.com)

**April 12, 1-4 p.m. Community wide History Scavenger Hunt** Start and end at the Provencal-Weir house, led by Nancy Pacitto. Complimentary.

**May 10, 1-4 p.m. Mini Encampment at the Provencal-Weir House.** Enjoy a historical timeline with 20 re-enactors led by Paul Ignagni with special appearance by the Fiddlepointe players of Grosse Pointe. Complimentary.

**June 14, 1-4 p.m. Ice Cream Social** with local folk music group Rosetta Pebble. Complimentary.

**July 12, 1-4 p.m. Historical Caricatures** by appointment with artist Marcella Rochon. Complimentary.

**August 9, 1-4 p.m. Model T Celebrates 100 years!** Celebrate with the Model T club, see their cars and meet the members, hear speaker Mike Skinner, honorary GPHS board member and Ford historian speak on the Model T. Complimentary.

**September 13, 1-4 p.m. Guided Walking Tour of the Neighborhood** surrounding the Provencal-Weir house. Tours start promptly at 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. from the Provencal-Weir house, led by Al Dickenson. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Complimentary.

**\*October 11, 6 -9 p.m. St. Paul's Cemetery Walk** led by Amy DeWys-VanHeck, Marguerite Humes and Bill Schwedler. Tickets are \$10 per person by Oct. 8, or \$12 at the gate.

**November 8, 1- 4 p.m. Legends of the Fall** Local legends come to life with Genot Picor and fiddler Michael Francis. Complimentary.

**December 13, 6-9 p.m. Dickens of a Christmas Caroling Party** with horse drawn carriage rides in the neighborhood. Enjoy local carolers, refreshments and holiday treats, and Christmas décor and exhibits, hosted by Cyndee Harrison. Complimentary.

## Archives Reveal Fascinating Trivia

# Weird Weather Not Unusual in Grosse Pointe's History

*The archives at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society are filled with intriguing information about our community. Below is an excerpt from the "Guide to Grosse Pointe," written in the 1930s, that details the some unusual weather the Pointes had in the 18th and 19th centuries. We invite you to visit our Web site, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org). You never know what you'll discover!*

### *Climatic Idiosyncrasies and Phenomens*

#### PERIODIC RISE AND FALL OF LAKE ST. CLAIR

Stories have been told about the great rivalry which once existed between the east and the west wind. How the east wind, being victorious prevailed for seven years until the waters of the rivers and lakes had risen to such a height as to threaten inundation to the lodger and corn fields of the tribes living on the banks, when the Great Spirit seeing the misery of his children and listening to their petitions, recalled the west wind which reigned for seven years, thus forcing back the waters into their original channel. Many today notice the fact relative to the waters of the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair and we find a memorandum of it in the journal of Capt. Morris, of her majesty's Eighteenth Infantry, who visited Detroit in 1764. That the waters of these lakes rise for seven years and fall for seven years; in fact there is a seven years tide. Considerable doubt still exists as to the cause of the periodic rise and fall. The floating ice from Lake Huron one spring so blocked up the channel of the Ste. Claire River that Lake St. Claire and the Detroit River was almost drained. The water had receded from the shore of Grosse Pointe nearly four miles from the shore. The surf had raised several sand ridges. A similar freak of nature occurred in 1818. In winter the ice seems to have some effect.

The winter of 1779-80 was the most severe on record. Horses and cattle died from exposure to the cold and in the spring hundreds of them were found dead in the woods. On May 16th, 1780, Colonel DePeyster wrote Colonel Bolton at Niagra saying; "After the most severe winter ever remembered, this is the earliest we think prudent to venture a vessel on the lake." In the spring and summer of 1788 the rains, the most violent ever known, washed away the embankment. Early in 1784 an extraordinary frost set in, extending all over this region. The oldest resident could not remember any such snow as that of the succeeding winter; in some places it was five or six feet deep and caused great distress. As late as March 6th, the snow was four feet deep. In Lake St. Clair, a mile from the shore, the ice was three feet thick and it did not disappear until May.

The winter of 1811-12 brought an earthquake in place of storms. Its first manifestations occurred on December 16th, 1811, up to December 21st, shocks were of daily occurrence, and they were felt at intervals until late in February. They were especially notifiable in the vicinity of Detroit on January 22 and 23, on the 24th, at seven p.m. and also on February 7th, 1812.

In 1816, ice formed every month in the year. From the 14th, to the 20th, of April 1821, eight inches of snow fell. The winter of 1823 was very mild. Flowers blossomed in the winter out of doors. On May 1st, 1824, there was a foot of snow on the ground. In 1826 the winter was so mild that grass is said to have grown a foot in January.

#### INUNDA OF 1827

The rise of St. Clair River and Lake St. Clair occurred in 1827. Many farm houses and two church building were carried off by the flood, while many tracts of shore lands were submerged.

#### TORNADO, 1835

Perhaps the best remembered and most extraordinary phenomenon was that which the people of the country witnessed in 1835. On Christmas Day of that year, an exceptionally heavy fall of snow covered the ground, which was followed on the 26th by a mist. The rain ceased suddenly, the clouds lowered, grew dark, and assumed such appearances as would lead the spectator to conclude that this globe was about to collapse. The storm king at length broke loose, swooped down from the northwest in black night, uprooting trees, sweeping everything in his track, and bringing with him such a current of icy air, that man and beast not then in shelter, were frozen to death. This storm was so sudden as it was phenomenal. It is well remembered by the old settlers and forms for them a mark on the page of time.

#### GROSSE POINTE METEORITES

It has been said that in 1837, a meteorite fell in Grosse Pointe and buried itself on the property of J.B. Marsack, known as private claim No. 239. No official record of verification has been located. It has also been said that a meteorite fell on the property of Mrs. Chauvin in the early fall of 1901, and was visible until 1910. It resembled a huge piece of dark granite, estimated to weigh one ton or more; and that the meteorite could be seen on a bright sun shiny day also could be felt by prodding with a pole a dozen feet below the surface.

The spot described is now the home of Fred C. Burden, 17020 East Jefferson Avenue between Notre Dame and St. Clair Roads, City of Grosse Pte. Mr. Burden's greenhouse in rear of his home now covers the spot where the meteorite is reported to have fallen. No official record of this meteorite has been found.

#### THE METEOR, 1857

The meteor which was seen on November 1st, 1857, was passing south ward proved to be a most eventful one. Its journey was accompanied by a sharp rumbling sound like thunder.



Hold your Special Event at the Provencal-Weir House!

## Historic Home Now Available for Members to Rent



Members of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society can now apply to rent the 1823 Provencal-Weir House (PW House) for special events. Just follow the steps below to have a memorable event in the unique and historic Society Headquarters and Museum House!

1. Call the Society to check availability at (313) 884-7010 or email at [gphistorical@aol.com](mailto:gphistorical@aol.com).
2. After checking, we will confirm by phone or email that the PW House and a GPHS docent are available for your event. The docent will open and close the PW House and be on hand to answer questions about the House. The docent will be present at the House during event.
3. Download the PW House Rental Application and Agreement from [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org), sign and send in payment to secure your date. The PW House is \$200.00 for a three-hour event, and \$100.00 for each additional hour. Renters are responsible for set-up, clean-up, damages and any liquor liability issues. A credit card number is required.
4. Contact one of the preferred caterers directly for events. View their menus and contact them directly.

The GPHS is not able to answer any questions regarding the serving of alcohol on the premises. If alcohol is being served renters must complete the necessary state paperwork through the Michigan Liquor Control Commission.

*Please see the Web site for more complete information.*



*Photo by Nancy Pacitto*

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### Not Yet a Member? Two Convenient Ways to Join!

1. Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) and select the link, *Join the Society, Membership*.
2. You can also fill out the form below and mail it directly to the Society.

#### Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

- ☐ Senior Citizen \$25.00  
☐ Individual \$35.00  
☐ Family \$50.00  
☐ Friend \$75.00

- ☐ Donor \$125.00  
☐ Benefactor \$250.00  
☐ Major Benefactor \$500.00  
☐ Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period) \$1,000.00

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_ VISA Acct No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in Planned Giving information

Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to:  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kerecheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Thank you for your support!

# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information



Please join us in celebrating the season at a special

## *Christmas Tea Open House*

*Provencal-Weir House*  
*Saturday, December 8*

*1:00-4:00 p.m.*

Enjoy Tea,  
Hot Chocolate,  
and other  
Holiday Treats



Mothers' Club of Grosse Pointe South

## **Holiday Walk**



Featuring the  
**Provencal-Weir House**

Sunday, December 9

12 noon-4:00 p.m.

For tickets call,  
Lisa Baird at (313) 300-7908  
(See story on pg. 2)

### **Save the Date**

**Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture**  
**to be Announced**

**March 19**

**7:30 p.m.**

**Grosse Pointe War Memorial**  
**32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms**

*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

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*"May I help you?" Nancy Pacitto as the proprietress of the LaBelle General Store*

## LaBelle General Store Grand Opening

### *Concert and Book Signing Part of Celebration*

The community is invited to enjoy the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's new gift store, LaBelle General Store, as it celebrates its grand opening on Saturday, September 22, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The store is located in the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms, where a general store originally operated in the 1910s.

The entire Provencal-Weir House got a makeover this summer with new displays of clothing and artifacts to enjoy. The centerpiece is the recreation of a turn-of-the-century store with details like an old-fashioned brass cash register and vintage clothing display.

Customers can buy period goods like jacks, needlepoint samplers, puzzles, and outdoor games like hop scotch as well as Society items including books and video tapes.

Enjoy cider and donuts at the grand opening and meet the proprietors (re-enacted) of the original store. Local acoustic band Rosetta Pebble will perform.

Authors of the new book *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*, Suzy Berschback and Ann Marie Aliotta, will be on hand to sign copies. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Society.

### Soirée Française C'est Magnifique

A beautiful evening, delicious food, and delightful company combined to make the Soirée Française a wonderful success for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. More than \$26,000 was raised at the event, which took place on June 15 at the lakefront home of Mireille and Warren Wilkinson.

The funds will support the Society's education projects including the development of a historic period curriculum for grades 6-12 to be used with the Grosse Pointe schools. Another project is expanding the on-line educational materials and archives to make the historic resources easily accessible.

Over 200 people attended the fourth annual fund raiser held at the historic home, designed c. 1928 by Robert O. Derrick.

"Because of the tremendous generosity of our members and friends and our gracious hosts, the Wilkinsons, we will be able to bring our treasured history alive for generations of schoolchildren," said Board President Stuart Grigg. "What a gift to the community!"



### Curator, *Moorings* Editor Pen Book on Grosse Pointe History

A new book about Grosse Pointe history is about to hit the shelves, thanks in big part to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*, written by GPHS curator Suzy Berschback and the *Moorings* editor and public relations coordinator Ann Marie Aliotta, comes out September 17. It contains 200 images of our fair community, many of which came from the GPHS archives.

The book is part of Arcadia Publishing's series on American life which compares historical images with contemporary photographs. *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe* will be available in bookstores around town, at Jerry's Party Store, and at the GPHS Resource Center and Provencal-Weir House.

Several book signings are scheduled this fall. See the back page for more information.

# Society Elects New Board Members

The following new members have joined the GPHS Board of Trustees:

**Kay Agney** - Kay has resided in the Grosse Pointe community since 1976 and has worked for Higbie Maxon Realtors since 1980, a firm that she now owns. Through this career in real estate she has a great knowledge of the history of properties in the community. She is treasurer of the GP Chamber of Commerce, serves on the development committee for the Karmanos Institute, is a past President of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and member of the Women's Council of Realtors.

**Denis Bouchard** - Denis started his business life with his own construction company rehabbing homes. During this time he became a journeyman bricklayer, completed a BA in Psychology and an MBA. After starting with the City of Detroit rehabbing homes he transferred to the Historical Museum as Business Activities Manager. He left the museum in 2006 and is now in retail management.

**Gregory Jakub** - Greg and his family are recipients of a historical marker from the Society for his restoration and preservation of their 1911 home at 560 Cadieux. He has lived in the Grosse Pointe community since 1985 and has worked at St. John's Hospital since 1987 where he is in Marketing and Public and Community Relations. He is a past board member of the Metro East Chamber of Commerce and was St. John's representative on Mayor Archer's strategic community planning initiative. He has also worked with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and the East Shore Optimist Club.



*New Grosse Pointe Historical Society Board Members  
Greg Jakub (left), Kay Agney, and Denis Bouchard.*

## Evans Scholarships

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society awarded three high school seniors the Clayton Walker Evans Educational Scholarship. The students are selected each year by consulting the History Departments of their high schools. The scholarship was founded in 1993 in memory of Evans who had been active president of the Society for many years.

This year's recipients are Andrew VanEgmond from Grosse Pointe North who will attend Michigan State University on a full scholarship, Andrew LaLonde from University Liggett School who will attend Washington and Lee University, and Tamara Andrade from Grosse Pointe South who will attend the University of Michigan.

### Officers

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Herman Mozer . . . . . Vice President-Preservation  
Denis Bouchard . . . . . Treasurer  
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Carolyn Candler	Sara Malcomson Ralph
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James Conway	Rick Ruffner
Amy DeWys-VanHecke	Mary Lighton Shafer
Valerie Dodenhoff	Michael W. Skinner
Douglas Dossin	Paul J. Sloan
Debbie Graffius	Elizabeth (Penny) Soby
Kiki Herfert	Molly Valade
Gregory Jakub	Khristi Zimmeth
Maud Lyon	Gail Zmyslowski

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# GPHS to Conduct Tour of Community Churches



## Architectural Legacy Celebrated

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society will celebrate the architectural legacy in the community that spans nearly two centuries with a new program touring three Grosse Pointe churches on October 20.

Traveling by bus, guests will visit St Paul on the Lake (left) whose story begins in the 1820s. The carvings, windows and façade explain the rich history of this parish.

Next they will visit St. James Lutheran Church, which is based on a plan of an historic Boston church and celebrates an American architectural style.

The tour's final stop is the mid-century modern design of First English Lutheran Church which melds glass, form and style into a uniquely American form.

The tours will be led by local historians and church docents. The tour leaves the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Provencal-Weir House at 9:15 a.m. (please arrive by 9:00 a.m.) and returns at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for Society members, \$30 for non-members and includes bus transportation to the churches and lunch. For more information or to make reservations, please call 884-7010.

## Restore a Piece of History

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has begun a campaign to renovate the porch of the Provencal-Weir House. The entire house had a significant renovation in the 1990s, but the porch still needs major work. We estimate the cost to be about \$4,800 including labor and materials (including a board tear-down session). Anyone interested in sponsoring, contributing or working on this project should contact the GPHS at 884-7010.

## eBay Auction Items to Benefit the Society

You can get it on eBay—and benefit the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

Through an arrangement with former antiques dealer Diane Reh, a portion of the selling price of items given to the Society from local household sales companies that are sold through her site on eBay will go directly to the GPHS.

Here's how it works:

- Log on to ebay.com and sign in, then click on the site map (on the upper right).
- Under the "More Ways to Find Items" category (scroll down to find this on the left), click on "Search for Items."
- Under the Search column on the left, click "Items by Seller."
- Enter decodiane as the seller's user ID, check "Include completed listings" and click on Search. You will see a list of the items Reh is offering, indicating those which will benefit the GPHS.



About 60 percent of the final price goes back to the GPHS and generally Reh will get a lot more for an item than in any other sale venue.

"I just sold a book for \$67 that would've only got about \$3 at a garage sale," she said. She also sold a collectible cookie jar for more than \$200.

Reh was contacted a few months ago by GPHS member and Rose Terrace Quester Nancy Pacitto who collected items to sell from local household sale companies and wanted a better venue than a garage sale.

"It's a wonderful way to make money for an organization," Reh said.

With the money already raised on eBay, the GPHS has purchased a laptop computer to use in the Resource Center and at the Provencal-Weir house at events and on Second Saturdays, so visitors can access the website.

Anyone with upscale items they feel would be appropriate for this on-going fundraiser to benefit the Society should contact Reh at (586) 783-5537.



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## Grosse Pointe Park Centennial Events



### Tour of Fairview

On Saturday, September 22, local author and historian, Nicholas Sinacori, will guide bus tours of the former Village of Fairview, an area which encompassed Grosse Pointe Park. Sinacori will point out sites of auto plants, famous locations including two race courses, and people and places that brought Detroit and the Grosse Pointes to automotive prominence. Tickets are available at the Grosse Pointe Park City Office, \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children under 17.

### Centennial Cruise at the Park's Farmers Market

Owners of pre-1975 restored classic cars are invited to display them during this year's final Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market on Saturday, September 29. You and your ride will receive a certificate of participation, and prizes will be awarded. Space is limited and you must be registered for a display space. Call your car show pals and tell them about this great summer's end event.

*For information on these events, call Kiki Herfert at 313-822-9199 or [kikiherfert@gmail.com](mailto:kikiherfert@gmail.com).*

## Oral History Project with SOC Begins

Do you have Grosse Pointe related tales to tell? Have you lived a good portion of your life in Grosse Pointe and want to share your story with your family and others?

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is starting a unique project with Services for Older Citizens collecting personal accounts about life in Grosse Pointe.

Starting September 27, on the last Thursday of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Susan Hartz and Laura Larson from the GPHS will be at SOC to conduct a 40-minute interview, made by appointment, with Grosse Pointers about their personal history. The history will be recorded and transcribed and become part of the GPHS archive. The recorded stories can then be shared with the entire community for generations to come.

"We all have stories to tell. If we do not collect and save those memories, those stories, then one day they will disappear forever," said Suzy Berschback, GPHS curator. "We are delighted to be able to help preserve and share oral histories. It's a vital part of the mission of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society."

The GPHS, a non-profit organization, suggests a donation of \$10 to help cover costs. Volunteers are needed to conduct and transcribe the interviews. For more information, or to make an appointment, call the GPHS at 884-7010.

## What's New on the Web

Several new features have been added to our website in recent months. Be sure to visit and take look.

### Joseph Berry Exhibit

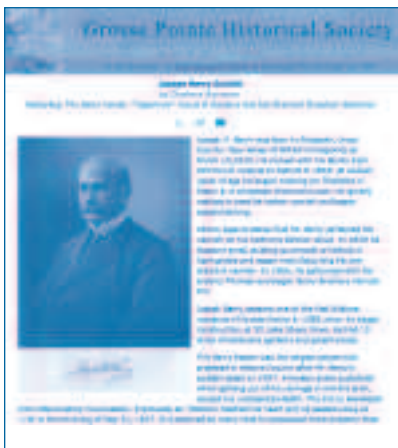
A web exhibit featuring photos of the Berry family, "Edgemere" house and extensive gardens, and streetcar sketches by young Joe Sherrard, Joseph Berry's grandson.

### The Village Slideshow

Vintage photos provide a glimpse of The Village shopping district through the years, from the early 1920s to today.

### Streaming Video Gallery

"Recollections of The Past 1650-1900," Volume 1 of our Grosse Pointe history documentary series is now available on our website.



## Storytime in October

GPHS docent Nancy Pacitto will host a special story time for children on Sunday, October 7, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval. She will read from *The Old Mill* by Margaret Wise Brown and *The Voyageur's Paddle*, a story about Jacques, a little boy who lives in the woods of Michigan and wants to be a voyageur. Cookies and lemonade will follow the reading. The event is open to the public free of charge. It is part of the Victory in the Pointes celebrations. Parents are welcome. Reservations are encouraged. Call 884-7010 or visit our website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



*The following three buildings were given a bronze marker by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at their annual meeting to designate their historical significance to the community. The selection committee is chaired by Peggy Woodhouse.*



**Backman House**  
**1894 Grocery Store and Home**  
**194 Moross Road**

This property had a very early beginning. In 1778 it was described as “Land on the west side of Lake St. Clair, containing 3 acres in front and 40 acres in depth. This was the land that would become the estate of Magloire Morass in 1850 and later part of the Charles G. Moran Subdivision in 1874.” In August 1892, Lot #22 was sold to Matthys Lodewyk and a year later, after his death, the lot was purchased by Charles L. and Kate Backman for \$410.00.

In 1894 the building contained the Backman Grocery Store which sold produce and penny candy treats. Children’s shoes were another standard item. The Backman store delivered in those days and the horse and wagon were housed in an old barn behind the store. In front were displays of fresh fruits and vegetables. Behind the store the living quarters had 8 bedrooms and 1 and 1/2 baths for the Backman family. Upon Backman’s death in 1938, Lot #22 was passed on to his eldest son, Linus Backman (Uncle Len) in 1939. He and his sister, Mrs. John Kerby, lived there with nothing to show that their home was once a popular country store. Uncle Len continued to live at 194 Moross until his death in 1966.



**Charles and Ingrid Koebel House**  
**Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Architects, completed 1940**  
**203 Cloverly Road, Grosse Pointe Farms**

In 1937, Charles and Ingrid Koebel retained the architectural firm of Eliel and Eero Saarinen to design and build a residence in Grosse Pointe Farms. The project was the first commission of Eliel and Eero. In many aspects of the design, indeed, in many respects the house mirrors the Saarinen House at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Robert F. Swanson, who associated with his father-in-law and brother-in-law prepared final plans for the house in October 1939. Pipsan Saarinen Swanson was retained as

Interior Designer. Other members of the Saarinen family provided additional design elements, including custom-woven textiles and art objects. The house features custom designed interiors, lighting, hardware, furnishings and finishes.

The Saarinen design of the house contains repeated use of circles inscribed in rectangles, and reflects the architects’ integration of interior and exterior environments, hand-made and machine-made elements, and of architecture, sculpture, art, interior design and fine craftsmanship.

The two-story, five-bedroom flat roofed structure contains 5600 sq ft of living space. It is one of only two single family homes in the US, outside of Cranbrook, that was jointly designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen. Three of the original “signature” Saarinen gates are located on the property.



**William A. McGraw House**  
**1884 Queen Anne Cottage**  
**Redesigned 1927 by Robert O. Derrick**  
**71 Lake Shore Road**

The pretty Queen Anne cottage designed for William A. McGraw was located at Lake Shore Road and Lakecrest. The property embraced about 10 acres and was known as “The Poplars” because of a row of Lombardy Poplars, and an Osage orange hedge that defined the front of the property. It was a ribbon farm that extended from Lake St. Clair to Grosse Pointe Blvd. The interior of the residence was a model of convenience, and its general finish and tasteful appointments were admired by all. An attractive feature of the grounds of Mr. McGraw and his neighbor Mr. Dyer was the little park in front, extending to the lake. McGraw was the son of A.C. McGraw whose firm A.C. McGraw & Co. was one of the oldest and most successful mercantile firms in Detroit. He married Harriet A. Robinson, a niece of John S. Newberry.

In 1927, there was extensive remodeling done to the façade for Percival Dodge, by Robert O. Derrick. At that time, the property consisted of 3 acres. It is a 14 room, two-story, gracious home with outstanding features, quality and architectural details rarely found today. It has 7 natural fireplaces, historic gardens, high ceilings and a carriage house.

# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for further information

The following events are free of charge

## Fall 2007 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series

Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms

### *Historic Fort Wayne*

Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.

GPHS Board member and former chief curator at the Detroit Historical Museum, James Conway author of the new book, *Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne*, speaks on the importance of the fort, which was built in the 1840s to protect Detroit from British invasion, and its changing role throughout the years.

### *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*

Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.

Society curator Suzy Berschback and *the Moorings* editor Ann Marie Aliotta, authors of the new book *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*, look back with affection, amusement, and awe at how Grosse Pointe has changed over the years and how it has stayed the same, comparing historical images with contemporary photographs.

### *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe Booksignings*

Saturday, September 22\*, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

*Provencal-Weir House*

376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

Saturday, September 29\*, 7:00 p.m.

*Borders Bookstore*

17141 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe

Saturday, October 6, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

With an exhibit of historical  
photographs and artwork

*Great Frame-Up*

20655 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods

Wednesday, October 17\*, 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial*

32 Lakeshore Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms

*\*Proceeds from sales at these signings to  
benefit the GPHS*



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

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Web site: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical  
Society is to preserve and  
promote the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*

### *2007 Second Saturday Pastimes*

Come to the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, on the Second Saturday of each month during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's complimentary open-house tours from 1:00-4:00 p.m. and enjoy a tour and a fun, brief history lesson! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

October 13 Celebrate, learn about and sample 300 Years of Detroit Cooking with author Marguerite Humes.

November 10 Re-enactors share traditions, legends and ways of life for Michigan Native Americans of early Grosse Pointe with Paul Ignagni and friends.

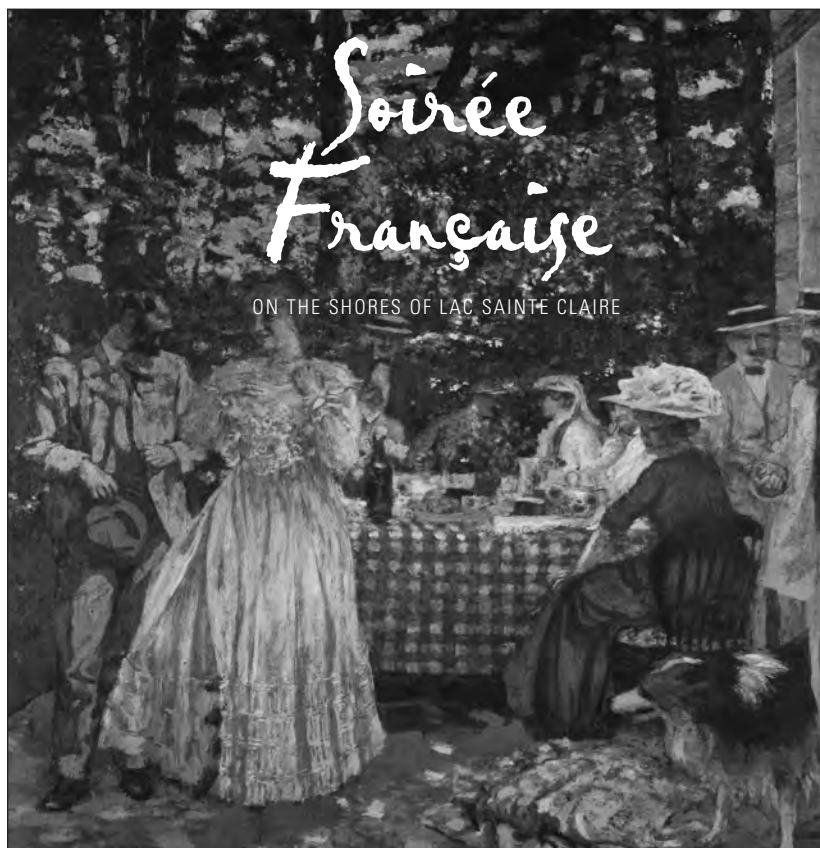
December 8 Christmas Tea and Tour Learn about Christmas traditions of old Grosse Pointe. Peppermint tea and special homemade gingerbread boys! Learn how the Victorians celebrated the season with Cyndee Harrison.

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A benefit evening for The Society at a beautiful historic lakeside home in Grosse Pointe

**Friday, June 15, 2007 • 7 p.m.**

Sumptuous foods featured in a Buffet Campagnard

Music by Picks & Sticks StringBand

*Limited reservations*

*Hostess and Host*

Mireille and Warren Wilkinson

*Soirée Honorary Chairs*

Mary and Ron Lamparter

Happy and Bill Rands

*Soirée Chairs*

Diane and Doug Dossin

Patricia and Dick Strowger

*For more information*

Please call (313) 884-7010

or e-mail [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org).

Invitation to follow.

## Life on a Ribbon Farm Camp Summer 2007

### An Interactive Historical Program for Children



Children in the area are invited to learn about the old farm life of 18th century Grosse Pointe this summer as the Society brings back the popular summer series, *Life on a Ribbon Farm*, for children 7-11 years old. The program will take place, Monday, July 16–Thursday, July 19, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir house c.1823, 376 Kercheval, in Grosse Pointe Farms.

The term “ribbon farm” or “strip farm” refers to Grosse Pointe’s early agricultural properties that were approximately 300 to 500 feet of lakefront and extended inland from one to three miles. This property usually began at the lake with a farmhouse and garden, barn with animals, apple, cherry or pear orchards, wheat and corn fields, and woods.

*continued on page 2*

*continued from front page*

## **Life on a Ribbon Farm**

### **Monday, July 16: Picnic Foods and Lawn Games**

Make checkerboard sandwiches and butterfly cookies, then enjoy an outdoor picnic, bug catching and the old-fashioned lawn games and crafts.

### **Tuesday, July 17: Habitant Fun and Games**

Explore Grosse Pointe's early French roots and make delicious French crepes and apple cider. Have a scavenger hunt and learn about the French Provencal family.

### **Wednesday, July 18: Early American Theatrics**

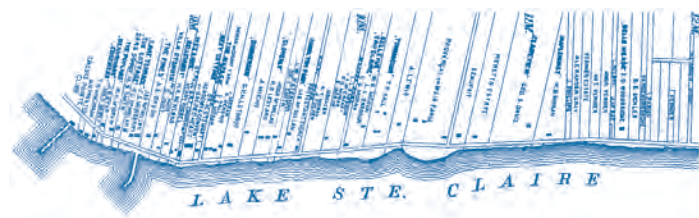
Explore the lives of early American boys and girls through theatrical escapades! Plenty of opportunities to hone your acting skills, learn about props, and stage directions. Bring a shoebox to make your own set.

### **Thursday, July 19: Good Ol' Summertime Picnic**

Make your own chicken, a salad, potatoes and cakes. While supper is in the oven we will pot our own herbs to take home and start your own garden.


The fee is \$120.00 per child for the four-day program. Please register in advance by sending a check to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Please note your phone number and your child's name and age.

*For more information, please call the Society at (313) 884-7010 or visit the website at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).*





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The Private Bank  
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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m., during special events, and by appointment. The Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m. Phone: (313) 884-7010

# Help Wanted

Have you always wanted to get more involved with the Historical Society, but are not sure how? Now, for the first time, interested Grosse Pointe Historical Society members can serve on our board committees to make use of their time and talents on behalf of their community. If you have ideas to share, contacts to help us, or just would like to help make things happen, please contact us at (313) 884-7010 or [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org).

## **Membership Committee**

Recruiting new members  
Plan membership events and activities

## **Public Relations Committee**

Promotion of all GPHS programs and events  
Brochures and print collateral materials

## **Development Committee**

Identify grant sources  
build relationships with funders  
Write proposals  
Prepare grant reports  
Government funding  
Conduct the annual fund campaign  
Cultivate individual contributed support

## **Resource Center Committee**

Overall responsibility to create public access to historical information  
Management of the Resource Center  
Development of website exhibits

## **Collections Committee**

Collections management (acquisitions, policy, conservation)  
Development of internet-based access to collections



## Garage Sale, May 19

Portions of this year's Tailgate Treasures garage sale/swap event at Windmill Pointe Park in Grosse Pointe Park will benefit the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. The event will take place on Saturday, May 19 from 8:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and will be open to Park residents as well as members and friends of the Society. Please contact Kiki Herfert at [kikiherfert@gmail.com](mailto:kikiherfert@gmail.com) if you can help out at the sale or if you have items to sell.

## Grosse Pointe Park Celebrates Centennial

To celebrate its 100th birthday as a city, Grosse Pointe Park has a number of events in the works. The first is a Birthday Party on May 19 at Windmill Pointe Park presided over by Mayor Palmer Heenan. The party is complete with birthday cake and the release of 100 red, white, and blue bio-degradable balloons. The event is in conjunction with the Tailgate Treasures garage sale/swap event (see article below) and the annual Perennial Exchange.

Also planned are a classic car display, a guided bike tour of the Windmill Pointe area, and the Palmer Heenan Lecture series on Park history to begin in the fall. Details on these and other events will be released as soon as they are available.

Anyone with historically relevant items including photos; neighborhood, street, and family histories; essays; and papers can be sent to the City of Grosse Pointe Park, 15115 Jefferson, Grosse Pointe Park, MI 48230. Call (313) 822-9199 or email [gphistorical@aol.com](mailto:gphistorical@aol.com) for information.

—Kiki Herfert

*Chair, Centennial Volunteer Committee*

[kikiherfert@gmail.com](mailto:kikiherfert@gmail.com)

## Historical Society Wish List

Call us at (313) 884-7010 if you can help us obtain any of these items or sponsorship opportunities.

- Dress-up closet repairs and additions, \$200.
- Printed curriculum materials to distribute to all teachers of second-fifth grade, \$500.
- Two beaver fur hats, \$160.
- Old fashioned bucket for drinking water, \$50.
- Funds for curriculum development for sixth-twelfth grades, \$7,000.
- Create hands-on exhibits for kids, \$500.00
- Native American exhibit, \$1000.
- Three old fashioned floor lamps, \$150.
- 30 clipboards, \$120.
- Period curtains for house \$5,000.
- Storm windows, \$5,000.
- LCD projector for presentations and videos, \$1000.
- 32" flat-screen TV for video presentation, \$1000.
- New porch, \$10,000.
- Grosse Pointe map design and printed guided historical tour, \$5,000 sponsor needed.
- Funds to produce DVDs from our videos 1650 to present, \$5,000.
- Archival supplies, photo jackets and folders, \$500.
- Storage containers, more space, \$200.
- A volunteer coordinator for our volunteers!



# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for further information

*The following events are free of charge*

## **Spring 2007 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series**

Grosse Pointe War Memorial

32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms

### ***The 80-year History of Pro Musica Detroit*** **Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.**

Alexander Suczek, long time Grosse Pointer, *Grosse Pointe News* contributor, local summer chamber music festival organizer and President of Pro Musica Detroit, will discuss his recently published book, *The Witness of Music: The 80-year History of Pro Musica Detroit*.

This book explains how Detroit's leading musicians and music lovers organized a local chapter of the prestigious, New York-based concert group, Pro Musica. Detroit had the only one of 20 such chapters to survive the 1929 stock market crash and thrive for 80 years. Suczek will discuss how it has thrived and the amazing list of great composers and brilliant artists the group has been presenting in Detroit ever since.

***The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical  
Society is to preserve  
and promote the  
history of the  
Grosse Pointe community.***



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

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Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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**e-mail:** [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

**Web site:** [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

**Hours:** Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

## ***Second Saturday Pastimes***

Come to the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, on the Second Saturday of each month during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's complimentary open-house tours from 1:00–4:00p.m. and enjoy a tour and a fun, brief history lesson! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

### **May 12 *A May Day celebration of old with musical group Fiddlepointe.***

Learn about Maypoles, May dances and May celebrations of old Grosse Pointe with Cyndee Harrison.



### **June 9 *All Things Vernors!***

Sample Boston Coolers, Cream Coolers with Marguerite Humes, author of 300 years of Detroit Cooking. Lisa Mower Gandelot will share family artifacts.

**July 14 *Old Time Photos*** Wear your own costume or use our dress-up closet and sit for an Old Time Photo. Nancy Pacitto photographer, or you can bring your own camera. We will e-mail you your photo! Appointments recommended. 884-7010.

**August 11 *Feast of St. Clare*** Celebrate the anniversary of the naming of Lake St. Clair. Re-enactors show us how the voyageurs survived in early Grosse Pointe at a mini-encampment with Paul Ignagni and friends.

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Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945  
WINTER 2007  
Vol. 24, No.1



## *Joyeuse Fete de Saint-Valentin*

Wine and Chocolate Tasting Party  
**Wednesday, February 14**

6:00–9:00P.M.

Provencal-Weir House

376 Kercheval Avenue, Grosse Pointe Farms  
313-884-7010

*Candlelight and Violin Music*  
*by the Seasonal Strings*

Tickets are \$35 per person and are limited

Sponsored by the Red Hat Micro-Winery,  
St. Clair Shores

Reservations held at the door.

## On-line Exhibit Shows Grosse Pointe Glitz



*Rose Terrace II, built by Anna Thompson Dodge and completed in 1934 for more than \$7 million*

Ever wonder how the other half lived in Grosse Pointe in the early decades of the 1900s?

*Puttin' on the Glitz*, a new on-line exhibit on the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), gives a rare glimpse into the personal lives of Grosse Pointe's rich and famous. The simple-to-use exhibit features numerous photos of Grosse Pointe's own auto baron families, their classic yachts, gracious homes, and elegant lifestyles. Also available are newspaper clippings, family trees, and articles chronicling the glamorous and sometimes tragic lives of Grosse Pointe's social elite.

*continued on page 4*



## A Simple Way To Leave A Legacy

The important work of the GPHS is supported mainly by private contributions from individuals and foundations. Your support is essential to our operation.

Please help us keep the stories and traditions of our remarkable community and its past a part of our lives today with a contribution.

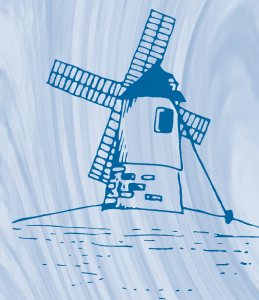
We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills and trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. Future residents of Grosse Pointe will benefit tremendously from these thoughtful gifts to continue to preserve our heritage.

### *Sample Language*

"I \_\_\_\_\_ give devise and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_ % percent) of my estate, as finally determined for the estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes."

If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call the Society at 884-7010 or write to us at 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

## This issue of *the Moorings* was supported in part by **The Private Bank of Grosse Pointe**



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Herman Mozer . . . . . Vice President-Preservation  
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# Share Your Story by Creating an Oral History

You have an important story to tell and the Grosse Pointe Historical Society wants you to tell it! Your own personal history—what you experienced throughout all the stages of your life—provides an important perspective on the history of our society and makes history come to life.

Oral history-- the systematic collection of living people's testimony about their own experiences—listens to these stories. Historians have finally recognized the value of the memories of everyday people, not just the rich and famous.

You and your family members can preserve unwritten family history using oral history techniques. You don't have to worry about "doing it right." A simple interview, recorded on audio cassette tape or by video camera, will become a priceless treasure. Start by just talking to someone for an hour. Contact the Society, 884-7010, or visit our website [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for more information.

## *How to Create an Oral History*

- Contact the person to be interviewed or to interview you (don't be too shy to let your children or grandchildren know you'd like to record your personal history).
- Set aside at least an hour—you may want to break the interview into several sessions.
- Have a well-working recording device—tape recorder, digital recorder, video camera.
- Prepare a list of questions to get started. See our website for some suggestions. Go over the questions before hand so you have some idea what to talk about.
- Try to remember specific names and nicknames of people, places, streets, stores, etc. These details provide a real concrete sense of life in the past.
- Structure should provide a guideline, but not be restrictive. Save some time for free-flowing memories.
- **Send a copy of the interview to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society to add to our archives.**

*On September 25, 2002, Janice Lauhoff and her son came to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Resource Center to record an oral history with Gwen Balance. They discussed their wonderful memories of life in Grosse Pointe Park. Mrs. Lauhoff noted that her parents in their later years did not want to leave the city.*

My parents were Robert and Arlene Rasmussen. They moved to Grosse Pointe in 1948. My father saw a lot on Lakepointe and he liked it, designed a plan for a house and hired a builder to construct the home. I am the oldest in the family, and I have a brother who was born on my second birthday. My sister, Kay, was born eight years after that, and Sally was born ten years after that. My mother spread us out.

Dad worked for Giffels and Rossetti. He walked down to Jefferson every day and took the Lakeshore bus downtown. [As children], we spent many hours at the Grosse Pointe Park. Boats came close as they entered or left the Detroit River. You could see sailboats, yachts and cruise ships such as the North and South American. My father spent a lot of time watching the boats from the park and could identify all the lake freighters and ocean-going ships by the markings on their funnels.

There were wooden docks for mooring boats until the ice carried part of them away one winter. There was a bath house and concession stand on the west side of the park. My sisters hung out at the park all summer to swim and play tennis. The swimming area was enclosed by a cement wall. There was a sandy bottom and bubbles in the shallow end (a roped-off area where the water was only up to four feet deep). There was a pipe to aerate the water. We would try to sit on the bubbles, and they might even push you a little bit out of the water. In the winter, you could ice skate in the area enclosed by the cement wall.

There were always fireworks on the Fourth of July. We went to the park or stood on the boulevard of Windmill Pointe Drive. In 1963 or 1964, Dad, Mom and Sally went to the end of the dock at the park to see Queen Elizabeth's yacht go by on its trip up stream. She came out of her cabin and waved to the people on the dock.

In the fall of '58, a Canadian bomber crashed in the canal at Alter Road. Sally had just returned from school. It exploded and burst into flames. Small pieces were scattered on Barrington and Pemberton between Windmill Pointe and Korte. The two pilots were killed but nobody on the ground was injured, although two houses were damaged. People gathered airplane parts for souvenirs but the police asked that they be turned in to help the investigation.

My sister remembers a man who sold fruits and vegetables from his truck. There was also a man with a bicycle-mounted grinding wheel who walked up and down the streets ringing a bell to let you know he could sharpen knives or scissors. Of course, there was also the Twin Pines milkman and the Awrey and Sanders baking trucks.

My sister, Sally, remembers fifth and sixth grade ballroom dancing classes at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. A Mr. and Mrs. Wilson taught them. They taught the Double Swing, the Waltz and the Fox Trot. The students went to dance parties at each others homes. The dance they all wanted to learn was Bristol Stomp.

## Puttin' on the Glitz

*continued from front page*



*Charlotte Ford's Debutante Ball*

Pictures of the Dodge family and friends dressed up as pirates, clowns, and exotic dancers for an elaborate costume party and a copy of the invitation to Charlotte Ford's debutante ball (which featured Nat "King" Cole as the entertainer) are some of the interesting and little-seen items featured on the exhibit.

"There's never been a collection of photos and articles recounting the family lives of these Grosse Pointers available like this before, especially of the Dodge family," said GPHS curator Suzy Berschback. "With an on-line exhibit like this, it's so easy for anyone to look at these artifacts and see a special slice of Grosse Pointe life."

## Historic Plaques

Since 1986, the Society has been annually awarding historic plaques to Grosse Pointe landmarks to recognize their historical or architectural value to the community, to encourage their continued preservation, and to recognize the value of adaptive reuse.

The bronze plaques bear the image of the Society's logo, a French windmill that stood on the shores of Lake St. Clair in the 1700s. They are 8 inches in diameter and weigh five pounds.

The sites are evaluated using the following criteria:

1. Significance in Grosse Pointe history
  - Is the property associated with events that made a significant contribution to our history?
  - Is the property associated with the lives of persons significant to our past?
2. Significance of the architect and architecture
  - Does the property possess high artistic value?
  - Does it represent the work of the architect?
  - Does the property embody distinctive characteristics of a period or a type of construction?
3. Significance of the historical information yielded from the property
  - The property should be over 50 years old

If you would like to submit a property for consideration for a Grosse Pointe Historical Society plaque, please mail a one-page background information sheet describing the property along with a current photo and a contact name, address and phone number to us at:

**GPHS Resource Center**

381 Kercheval Avenue - Suite 2

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236-3085

In the 1920s, the rapidly expanding automobile industry was creating vast new fortunes and greatly enlarging old ones thanks to huge pre-income tax profits. The hub of the industry was in Detroit and many of the auto barons settled in Grosse Pointe on the shores of Lake St. Clair. In addition to the beautiful lakeside vistas, prohibition (75% of all illegal liquor entered the U.S through this area at the time), and flourishing club, sporting and social scenes all made Grosse Pointe the place to be!

Already by the 1910s, a second generation of Grosse Pointe summer people including auto executives Henry B. Joy, John and Horace Dodge, Harry Jewett and Russell Alger, Jr. began replacing the charming Victorian cottages and old farmhouses with eclectic mansions designed by nationally known architects including Detroiters Albert Kahn and New Yorker Charles Adams Platt. Impressive Tudor and neoclassical homes preceded by more than a decade the Cotswold manor of auto baron Edsel Ford. In the late 1920s, new mansions, like those of Packard's Alvan Macauley and Hudson Motors' Roy Chapin, looked out across broad, manicured lawns toward the lake. Even in the difficult early 1930s, Mrs. Hugh Dillman, formerly Mrs. Horace Dodge, added yet another palatial Lake Shore residence in Grosse Pointe Farms, Rose Terrace. Learn more about this special chapter of Grosse Pointe history by viewing the slide shows on line.

**This exhibit was made possible by a grant from the MotorCities National Heritage Area and the MotorCities Mini-Grants Program.**





# MLK's 1968 Speech at Grosse Pointe High School available on Website



Grosse Pointe has a special but little known connection to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., which is examined in full on the Society's website.

The Nobel-prize winning activist gave a speech at Grosse Pointe High School (now Grosse Pointe South) on March 14, 1968, three weeks before he was assassinated (see pictures at left and below). His speech, entitled "The Other America," was delivered in the school gym to a capacity crowd of 2,700, according to a *Grosse Pointe News* article. Some 200 picketers from the right-wing organization Breakthrough demonstrated in front of the building and interrupted King's speech numerous times. King was asked to speak by the Grosse Pointe Human Relations Council, a group of concerned citizens who worked on issues like fair housing.

A copy of the speech along with pictures of King's appearance can now be found on the website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), as well as comments from members of Breakthrough and the Human Relations Council.

"We had a copy of the speech in our files at the Resource Center and felt the community would be interested in it," said Society curator Suzy Berschback. The event had major historical significance, she said.

According to accounts in the Society's files, The Grosse Pointe Farms Police Chief actually sat

on King's lap in the car ride to the high school in order to protect him, Berschback said. "That's how volatile the situation was."

Anyone who attended the speech is invited to e-mail us at [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org) with their remembrances.



## What's New on the Web

**Video Gallery**—View clips from "Past As Prologue" Volume 1 of our Grosse Pointe history documentary. VHS tapes are available for purchase from the Society.

**Finding Aids** in PDF file format are now available online. These keys to the collections and materials in the resource center will assist researchers. Included are

- **The Garden Club of Michigan Archives**
- **Heritage Magazine Subject Index**
- **Plat Book Locations**
- **WPA Grosse Pointe Guide**  
Historical Stories and Interviews  
Compiled by The Works Progress Administration

- **Doris Cook Personal Papers**  
Materials related to local history classes taught in the Grosse Pointe Public School
- **Henry Russel's Three Mile Drive Association Archives**  
The Association was founded in 1927 as a means of maintaining the quality of residences on Three Mile Drive between the Detroit River and Kercheval Avenue and insuring strict compliance with all building restrictions.
- **Jacobson's Collection**  
Sales promotion documents and photos from Jacobson's in the Village.
- **School of Government Archives**  
Concerned since its inception with the discussion of topical, government-related issues, the School of

Government was founded as the School of Government of Wayne County in 1940 by Clara Hantel Brucker (1897-1980).

- **Mrs. Winnifred M. Weyhing Real Estate Collection**  
This collection contains Mrs. Weyhing's personal real estate files primarily created while she was associated with Ann Goodman (Goodman Real Estate).
- **Frederick Scully Real Estate Collection**  
This collection contains materials which pertain to the development of Grosse Pointe area real estate by both Arthur Scully and his son, Frederick.



Clip and Save!

## Second Saturday Pastimes

Come to the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, on the Second Saturday of each month during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's complimentary open-house tours from 1 to 4 p.m. and enjoy a tour and a fun, brief history lesson! All ages welcome children must be accompanied by an adult.

**February 10 Make your own Victorian Valentine** and learn about the special love in the Provencal family while enjoying raspberry tea and chocolate cakes. See romantic artifacts of the 19th century including a beautiful wedding dress and valentines of old with Cyndee Harrison.

**March 10 Mardi Gras Tour with New Orleans jazz, celebrating our French roots.** French roasted coffee and beignets. Learn about the French Habitants of old Grosse Pointe with Amy VanHecke.

**April 14 Life on the Ribbon Farm** Learn about the old Grosse Pointe Ribbon Farms. Learn to make butter and biscuits from scratch and enjoy homemade lemonade with Marguerite Humes.

**May 12 A May Day celebration of old.** Learn about Maypoles, May dances and May celebrations of old Grosse Pointe with Cyndee Harrison.

**June 9 All Things Vernor's!** Boston Coolers, Cream Coolers with Marguerite Humes, author of *300 Years of Detroit Cooking*.

**July 14 Old Time Photos** Wear your own costume or use our dress-up closet and sit for an Old Time Photo in the Provencal-Weir House, c.1823. Suzy Berschback photographer. We will e-mail you your photo! By appointment.

**August 11 Feast of St. Clare** Celebrate the anniversary of the naming of Lake St. Clair. Re-enactors show us how the voyageurs survived in early Grosse Pointe at a mini-encampment with Paul Ignagni and friends.

**September 8 Learn all the local lore of St. Paul's Cemetery** and who is buried there while enjoying black tea and spooky treats with Amy VanHecke.

**October 13 Celebrate, learn about and sample 300 Years of Detroit Cooking** with author Marguerite Humes.

**November 10 Legends of the Fall** Re-enactors share traditions, legends and ways of life for Michigan Native Americans of early Grosse Pointe with Paul Ignagni and friends.

**December 8 Christmas Tea and Tour** Learn about Christmas traditions of old Grosse Pointe. Peppermint tea and special homemade gingerbread boys! Learn how the Victorian's celebrated the season with Cyndee Harrison.

# Thank You Donors

## Donations in memory of Jeanette Evans

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*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical  
Society is to preserve and  
promote the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*

# My Work as a Docent

*Nancy Pacitto has been a docent with the Grosse Pointe Historical Society for the past two years, though she's been involved with the Society for much longer through her work with the Questers. A secondary school teacher of English, creative writing, and history and former tour guide with Perservation Wayne, Pacitto has been helping out with the Second Saturdays Pastime events since they began about a year ago. The Moorings caught up with her recently to find out about her work as a docent.*



*Nancy Pacitto*

*What do you like about being a docent?*

The children. Several come back all the time and they've become my little friends. I've seen them grow a lot.

One Saturday a particular child named Cailtin said to her mother, "Mom, this was the best day of my life." She wants to come back and dress up in period costume some time and be a reenactor.

Another time I heard two sisters, Brooke and Abigail, who had been making yule logs and paper dolls with me telling their mother, "Mom, this is a regular. We're coming here every single time."

*Sounds like Saturday events at the Provencal-Weir House are great for kids.*

I get a lot of positive feed back from the parents. It's a terrific place for fathers to bring their children. One time, we had about nine dads participate in the scavenger hunt and they were really into it—they were like little boys again.

*How do you engage the children?*

I ask them questions; try to learn from them and in turn they learn from me. I insist on respect. When I've worn my school marm costume from 1900 it's much easier to get their respect and attention. They're really in another era.

*Why do you think this work is important?*

I hope the people who come will develop a sense of community and a sense of belonging to a place that has a history. That connection will give them an understanding of the larger picture of history. And a love of history.

I know busy families are trying to fit it in between soccer and other activities. We can give them just enough to get their attention and get them to come back. Like the little girl who wants to come back to learn about Indians with her Native American Girl Doll and the little boy who wants to learn about farmers. That is their connection to history. We need to take that and make it seem relevant to the future. You have to start someplace.

I really think the Provencal-Weir House is changing from being just a historic house to a becoming a home for these kids and their families. They'll come all the time. I'm beginning to see it and I'm very proud of it.

*Anyone interested in becoming a docent can call the Society at 884-7010.*

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## From the Archives

The Historical Society has recently acquired nearly 100 digital copies of photos from the Grosse Pointe Academy archives, showing a fascinating account of the early days of the school, when it was Sacred Heart Academy, more than 100 years ago. The pictures show young students at school and at play on the grounds of the school and in the area. These photos are available for to view for research or personal interest. Contact the Society at 884-7010.

The pictures below show young women in rowboat by a dock in front of the convent and cows grazing on Kenwood Road. The nuns owned the property all the way to Ridge Road and this property was used for farming. They sold the property in 1929 and used the money to build the main school building on Moran Road. Kenwood was the name of the mother house in Albany, New York, where all the nuns in the New York province (which Grosse Pointe was a part of at the time) went to become a postulant then a novice, then a nun. The nuns probably named the road after this house.





# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for further information

The following events are free of charge

## **Spring 2007 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series Grosse Pointe War Memorial 32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms**

### **Detroit Street Railways Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m.**

In a follow-up to his previous presentation last spring, Kenneth E. Schramm, author of *Detroit Street Railways*, will present a slide program relating to the various street-cars and interurban cars that once formed the vast public transportation system in metropolitan Detroit with special emphasis on those that operated in and around the Grosse Pointes between the 1890's and 1950's.

### **The History of the Village of Fairview; Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Grosse Pointe Park Thursday, April 19, 7:30 p.m.**



Nicholas P. Sinacori, a life-long Grosse Pointer and President of the Village of Fairview Historical Society, will discuss his upcoming book, *The History of the Village of Fairview*, to be published by WSU Press in

2007. The new book will identify and chronicle the lost history of this village, that was split between the City of Detroit and Grosse Pointe Park when the Park was established in 1907, and explain its rich legacy in the birth and evolution of the automobile and the legendary names whose influence were left for posterity.

### **The 80-year History of Pro Musica Detroit Thursday, May 17, 7:30 p.m.**

Alexander Sucek, long time Grosse Pointer, *Grosse Pointe News* contributor, local summer chamber music

festival organizer and President of Pro Musica Detroit, will discuss his recently published book, *The Witness of Music: The 80-year History of Pro Musica Detroit*.

This book explains how Detroit's leading musicians and music lovers organized a local chapter of the prestigious, New York-based concert organization called Pro Musica and how it is the only one of 20 such chapters to survive the 1929 stock market crash and thrive for 80 years. Sucek will also explain why this organization has thrived and the amazing list of great composers and brilliant artists they have been presenting in Detroit for over three quarters of a century.

### **Second Saturday Pastimes**

See pg. 6 for the complete list for 2007

Come to the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, on the Second Saturday of each month during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's complimentary open-house tours from 1 to 4 p.m. and enjoy a tour and a fun, brief history lesson! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

**February 10** Make your own *Victorian Valentine* and learn about the special love in the Provencal family while enjoying raspberry tea and chocolate cakes. See love artifacts of the 19th century including a beautiful wedding dress and valentines of old with Cyndee Harrison.

**March 10 Mardi Gras** Tour with New Orleans jazz, celebrating our French roots. French roasted coffee and beignets. Learn about the French Habitants of old Grosse Pointe with Amy Van Hecke.

**April 14 Life on the Ribbon Farm** Learn about the old Grosse Pointe Ribbon Farms. Learn to make butter and biscuits from scratch and enjoy homemade lemonade with Marguerite Humes.



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

Schwartz Building • 381 Kercheval Avenue

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010

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e-mail: [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

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## Major Gains for Local History

GPHS Helps Two Projects Preserve and Promote our Heritage

### ***Library Puts Historical Materials On-Line***

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is assisting the Grosse Pointe Public Library in a major project, the Local History Archives, designed to make historical research easier and more effective. The library is digitizing its historical materials and has already made two full-text newspapers, the book *The Mansions of Grosse Pointe*, and *The Heritage Magazine* available electronically. The library's website also now includes a link to the Society's website and vice versa.

The Society provided the library with some materials they were missing, including early Grosse Pointe newspapers and missing *Heritage* magazines and *Grosse Pointe News* issues. As the project moves into its next phase, the Society has been asked to provide documents including maps, photos, certain rare books, and other manuscripts to be scanned and digitized. This material will be available on both websites, according to Society curator Suzy Berschback.

"We were thrilled to help facilitate in the sharing of historical material with the community," Berschback said. "That is key to our mission."

Anyone with an internet connection can access the Local History Archives and retrieve historical materials. Articles can be read in their original format, printed, downloaded, or e-mailed.

"Working together with other organizations is a good way to accomplish both our goals, while providing the community the information they are looking for," Berschback said. "This project is something the library has funding to do right now and we do not. It's a great way to pool resources."



*Cook Schoolhouse, c. 1918*

### ***Cook Schoolhouse Saved for Posterity***

The Cook Schoolhouse, one of Grosse Pointe's finest historic landmarks, was saved for generations to come this past summer when owner Mark Alan donated the building to the City of Grosse Pointe Woods and real estate developer Larry Campbell offered to cover the cost of moving it off its original site on Mack Ave. to its new home in Ghesquiere Park.

In its new location, the schoolhouse can be used for different community events and programs, including plans to be used for the historic one-room schoolhouse experience currently run in the Provencal-Weir House.

"We are thrilled to be working with Grosse Pointe Woods to bring the Cook Schoolhouse to life with our specially written curriculum for Grosse Pointe second through fifth grades," said Society President Stuart Grigg. "Now we can offer the program at two campuses. The fourth grade curriculum is perfect for the Cook Schoolhouse."

*continued on page 6*



## A Simple Way To Leave A Legacy

The important work of the GPHS is supported mainly by private contributions from individuals and foundations. Your support is essential to our operation.

Please help us keep the stories and traditions of our remarkable community and its past a part of our lives today with a contribution.

We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills and trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. Future residents of Grosse Pointe will benefit tremendously from these thoughtful gifts to continue to preserve our heritage.

### *Sample Language*

*"I \_\_\_\_\_ give devise and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_ % percent) of my estate, as finally determined for the estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes."*

If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call the Society at 884-7010 or write to us at 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

This issue of  
*the Moorings*  
was supported in part by  
**The Private Bank  
of Grosse Pointe**



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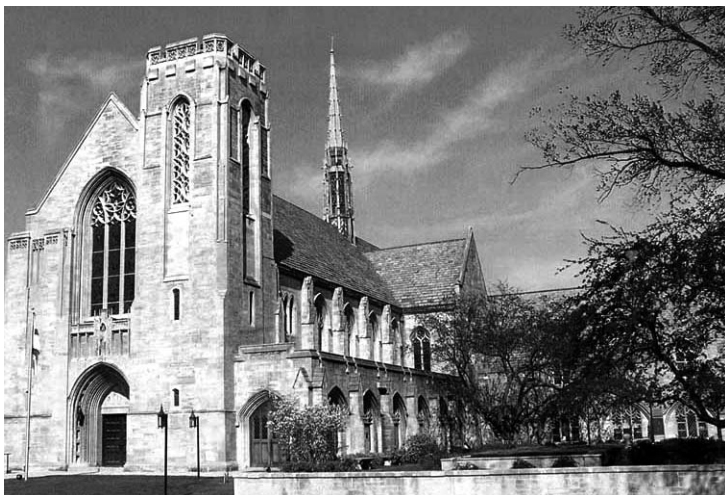
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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m., during special events, and by appointment. The Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m. Phone: (313) 884-7010

# Historic Bronze Marker Awarded



## Christ Church Grosse Pointe 61 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

Christ Church Grosse Pointe was a mission of Christ Church Detroit. The present church was designed as the chapel of what was planned to be a much larger cathedral. Work was started in 1928. The architects were Mayers, Murphy and Phillips of Betram Grosvenor Goodhue Associates of New York who also designed Christ Church Cranbrook. The church is built like those of the middle ages. There are no nails, just wooden pegs; no plaster, just stone and mortar.

The Narthex, with its great curving stairway, was designed in the manner of the Chapter House of Wells Cathedral in Somerset, England, build in 1077. The Cloister, which was not enclosed until 1957, was inspired by Canterbury

Cathedral. The fine stained-glass windows were made by Willet & Sons of Philadelphia and the church boasted an organ built and installed by Casavant Freres of Quebec.

The architects chose sandstone from the quarries at Clearville, PA for the exterior because of its iridescence in the sunlight. Grey limestone from Indiana was chosen for the inside because it was restful. The floor is also sandstone.

Because the church is one of the few built during the Depression, many outstanding artisans were available to beautify it with intricate wood carving and detailed stonework. The year 2000 brought about the completion of the 32,000-square-foot Christian Education Wing and five new stained-glass windows, designed by Willet & Sons, were installed.

### What's New on the Web

In his article, "The Best Twelve Country Houses in America: Drybrook," published in *Country Life in America* magazine in 1915, noted architectural writer Henry H. Saylor discussed in detail the Grosse Pointe Farms home of Truman H. Newberry. The house was designed by

Trowbridge and Ackerman with landscape architecture by William Pitkin, Jr., and built around 1914. The entire article, text and pictures, can be found on the website.

Also new on the website are selected articles from *Tonnancour: Life in Grosse Pointe along the Shores of Lake St. Clair, Volume 2*, edited by Arthur M. Woodford. The articles are courtesy of the Ruffner family. *Tonnancour Volumes 1* and *2* are available for purchase at the Society's office or on the website under the link Grosse Pointe Goods.

The following articles can be downloaded:

- "Detroit in 1796," by Isaac Weld
- "A County is Proclaimed: The Founding of Wayne County and Grosse Pointe Township," by Clarence M. Burton
- "Grosse Pointe's First Settlers: From Whence Did They Come?," by Jean Dodenhoff
- "Grosse Pointe and Le Grande Marais," by Mina Humphrey Varnum
- "The Hall Family of 'Tonnancour,'" by Thomas W. Brunk
- "Early Days in Grosse Pointe," by Friend Palmer
- "The Wardwell House: A Legacy of Old Grosse Pointe," by Henry Heatley
- "John S. Newberry and James H. McMillan: Leaders of Industry and Commerce," by Thomas A. Arbaugh
- "A Beacon of Tradition: The Building of The Grosse Pointe Yacht Club," by James P. Gallagher
- "Yachts of The Auto Barons," by John F. Polacsek
- "The Game of Golf Comes to Grosse Pointe: The Founding of The Country Club of Detroit," by David Robb
- "Movies at The Punch: A History of The Punch and Judy Theater," by Carrie Jones



# Thank You, Donors

Thanks to all our generous donors who helped make this past summer's *A Night in Tuscany* fundraiser such a success. More than \$20,000 was raised that night to support the Society's many programs and resources that help preserve our local history and share it with the community.

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**Lora and Sergio Mazza**

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# New Board Members

## Douglas Dossin

Doug is a resident of Grosse Pointe Farms and a graduate of Grosse Pointe North High School. His family has strong ties to the area. Two Detroit institutions are named for his family: the Dossin Great Lakes Museum on Belle Isle and Dossin Elementary School. His great love for Detroit history led him to earn a B.A. in history from Valparaiso University. He was employed by Standard Federal, where he became their Vice President of Operations, and then Franklin Bank, where he worked in their branch system. He is currently a private investor. He and his wife have two children.

## Amy DeWys-VanHecke

Amy is a museum educator, grant and funding consultant and was the curator of education at the Detroit Historical Museum from 1996-2004. She is also a principal of the ASA Consulting Group. Additionally, she has extensive experience producing museum curriculum materials. Amy holds an undergraduate degree in archeology and a graduate degree in anthropology/museum studies and has completed doctoral work in educational leadership. She is an adjunct instructor at Henry Ford Community college. She and husband, John, have two children and live in Grosse Pointe.

## Josephine (Jo) Malecek

Jo, who served on the GPHS board before, is a hard-working, hands-on volunteer. She is a garden expert who has recently been beautifying the environment around the Provencal-Weir House. Jo has many years' experience of volunteerism and has been a devoted supporter of the Society. She helped organize the Society's first "Sounds of Christmas" fund raiser in 1988. Jo has been a nurse for many years at Henry Ford Hospital. Her husband and one of their two daughters have also served on the GPGS board.

## Then & Now

# Here Comes Santa Claus

For 31 years, Santa Claus has been escorted to his post in the Village by a parade down Kercheval Ave, sponsored by the Village Association. It started in 1975 in the pouring rain with a home-made sleigh and only a handful of groups participating. A highlight was both the Grosse Pointe South and Grosse Pointe North marching bands. The parade today has close to one hundred floats, marching bands, and community groups. Santa even got a new luxury sleigh last year. Over the years, groups have endured all kinds of weather—downpours, freezing sleet, and blissful sunshine—but never once has the parade been canceled. Grand marshals have included Mort Crim, Ernie Harwell, and Kermit the Frog with Miss Piggy. Favorite marchers have included the Detroit mounted police, the Budweiser Clydesdale horses, and the Minivan Moms. This year's parade, with its theme "Join the Team," takes place on Friday, November 24, at 10:00 a.m.

## Remember...THEN?



*Santa's Sleigh, 1975*

## Look at NOW...WOW!



*Santa's Sleigh, 2004*

### Donations for One Room School House

Grosse Pointe Questers # 147 for school room supplies

### In Honor of Denyse and Tom Singelyn's 50th Anniversary

Lisa and Jon Gandelot

### In Memory of Adele Huebner

Mrs. Gerard Mooney

### In Memory of Elma L. Claycomb

Mr. and Mrs. Roger J. Beaubien

### Gardening Tools and Supplies for the Provencal-Weir House

Mrs. Robert M. Malecek



*Clip and Save!*

## ***Second Saturday Pastimes***

Come to the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, on the Second Saturday of each month during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's complimentary open-house tours from 1 to 4 p.m. and enjoy a tour and a fun, brief history lesson! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

***January 13 Winter School Days*** Enjoy hot cocoa and homemade cookies and learn about Grosse Pointe school days of old. Treat yourself to a one-room schoolhouse experience in circa 1900 with Bill Schwedler.

***February 10 Make your own Victorian Valentine*** and learn about the special love in the Provencal family while enjoying raspberry tea and chocolate cakes. See romantic artifacts of the 19th century including a beautiful wedding dress and valentines of old with Cyndee Harrison.

***March 10 Mardi Gras Tour with New Orleans jazz, celebrating our French roots.*** French roasted coffee and beignets. Learn about the French Habitants of old Grosse Pointe with Amy VanHecke.

***April 14 Life on the Ribbon Farm*** Learn about the old Grosse Pointe Ribbon Farms. Learn to make butter and biscuits from scratch and enjoy homemade lemonade with Marguerite Humes.

***May 12 A May Day celebration of old.*** Learn about Maypoles, May dances and May celebrations of old Grosse Pointe with Cyndee Harrison.

***June 9 All Things Vernor's!*** Boston Coolers, Cream Coolers with Marguerite Humes, author of *300 Years of Detroit Cooking*.

***July 14 Old Time Photos*** Wear your own costume or use our dress-up closet and sit for an Old Time Photo in the Provencal-Weir House, c.1823. Suzy Berschback photographer. We will e-mail you your photo! By appointment.

***August 11 Feast of St. Clare*** Celebrate the anniversary of the naming of Lake St. Clair. Re-enactors show us how the voyageurs survived in early Grosse Pointe at a mini-encampment with Paul Ignagni and friends.

***September 8 Learn all the local lore of St. Paul's Cemetery*** and who is buried there while enjoying black tea and spooky treats with Amy VanHecke.

***October 3 Celebrate, learn about and sample 300 Years of Detroit Cooking*** with author Marguerite Humes.

***November 10 Legends of the Fall*** Re-enactors share traditions, legends and ways of life for Michigan Native Americans of early Grosse Pointe with Paul Ignagni and friends.

***December 8 Christmas Tea and Tour*** Learn about Christmas traditions of old Grosse Pointe. Peppermint tea and special homemade gingerbread boys! Learn how the Victorian's celebrated the season with Cyndee Harrison.



*Cook Schoolhouse today*

## ***Cook Schoolhouse Saved for Posterity*** *continued from front page*

The schoolhouse was built in 1890 on 1/3 acre of land owned by the Cook family. It was one of Grosse Pointe Township's first public schools. Members of many of Grosse Pointe's founding families sent their children there including the Cooks, the Beaufaits, the Trombleys, the VanAntwerps and the Bryses. At that time, it was not uncommon for families to have up to six children attending the school at any one time.

The building was used as a school until 1922. After the school closed, the building served as home of the Salem Lutheran Church, the first home of the Grosse Pointe Symphony, a music studio and a residential apartment. Alan bought the building in 1967 and he has maintained it for modern day use while preserving many of the structure's original elements. The original windows exist as does the bell in the front tower which still works.

***The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote the history of  
the Grosse Pointe Community.***

## Conversation with a Member

# Carolyn Candler

### How long have you been a member of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society?

I've belonged to the Society for about 5 years, and been on the board for 1½ years.

### What prompted you to join?

I was fascinated by the historical homes here. I have always liked the idea of preserving these homes as best as we can. People may not realize that in about 10-15 years, the majority of homes in Grosse Pointe will be more than one hundred years old. Very few places in the country have an area as large as we do with homes one hundred years old.

I am also interested in historical homes because of my family, who came here in 1843 and became home builders after the demise of their shipping business (after sailing ships become obsolete). Their original home was located near what is now the City County Building near the Detroit River. My uncle, Henry Candler, donated quite a few things to the Burton Historical Library collection regarding the settling of Detroit.



Carolyn Candler

### What are some of the best things you enjoy about being a member?

I really enjoy the events. They are so interesting and really a lot of fun. You meet the most interesting people from very diverse backgrounds. The activities geared toward young families, like the Legends of the Fall, are terrific. I was really impressed with how much the people attending enjoyed the event.

I also enjoy the people involved with the Society. The members and board members are so dynamic, so hardworking and very professional. It's a great group to belong to.

### What are some of the most important things the Society does?

I think just making people in the community aware of all we have to offer, and all that Grosse Pointe has to offer, like the resources that would help people learn more about the homes in the area and the people who lived in them. The activities really help bring all that to people's minds.

### Why is it important to preserve and promote the history of Grosse Pointe?

In Grosse Pointe, it's not just one historic house--it's a whole community of wonderful old homes. The quality is incredible. You can't buy a house that's made as beautifully as the houses were in the 20s and 30s. You can't get that quality of construction: beautiful detailing, gorgeous molding, and pretty wood libraries. You can't buy that any more.

It's important to preserve all that or at least make people appreciate what they have.

### Personal

**Family:** two grown sons

**Career:** associate broker with Bolton Johnston Assoc.

**Home:** has lived in Grosse Pointe for 20 years. Before that she lived in Indian Village and Lafayette Park, in a Mies Van Der Rohe development

### Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

- ☐ Senior Citizen \$25.00
- ☐ Individual \$35.00
- ☐ Family \$50.00
- ☐ Friend \$75.00

- ☐ Donor \$125.00
- ☐ Benefactor \$250.00
- ☐ Major Benefactor \$500.00
- ☐ Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period) \$1,000.00

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\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in Planned Giving information

Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to:  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Thank you for your support!



# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for further information

The following events are free of charge



Clip and Save!

## Fall 2006 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture

Grosse Pointe War Memorial

32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms

## Art Deco in Detroit

Wednesday, November 15, 2006 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Binno Savage, preservationist and board member of the Detroit Area Art Deco Society will present a slide show relating to her recent book, *Art Deco in Detroit*. Many Grosse Pointe structures and buildings such as the Guardian and Penobscot skyscrapers in downtown Detroit will be shown along with a general discussion of this "modern" style of architectural design, so popular from the 1920s-1950s.



## Second Saturday Pastimes

1:00-4:00 p.m., Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval

For all ages (children must be accompanied by adult)

The activity and the tour are free of charge.

Reservations are encouraged, but not required.

**November 11 Legends of the Fall** Paul Ignagni shares traditions, legends and ways of life for Michigan Native Americans of early Grosse Pointe.



## December 9 Christmas Traditions in Grosse Pointe

Learn about simple but meaningful celebrations of old with Sandy Marhoff. The Provencal-Weir house will be festively decorated by the Rose Terrace Questers of Grosse Pointe.



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

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## Grant to Fund Website Exhibit on Auto Pioneers

An online exhibit titled "Auto Barons of Grosse Pointe" will soon be added to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's website, [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org), thanks to a grant from the MotorCities National Heritage Area, an affiliate of the National Park Service.

"MotorCities is pleased to partner with your organization to create new and exciting projects that help with our mission to preserve, interpret and promote our regions' rich auto legacy," said the organization in a letter to the Society.

The on-line exhibit will explore the houses, families, and Grosse Pointe life of some of the famous automotive entrepreneurs including the Fords, the Fishers, the Dodges, and the Chapins.

"We are thrilled to have received this grant. It will help us in our mission of sharing our great historical resources with the public and making some fascinating photographs and stories accessible to many people through the internet," said Stuart W. Grigg, president of the Society's Board of Trustees.

The online exhibit should be up and running by November 2006.



*Habor Hill, John F. Dodge House*

## Schoolhouse Programs Available Online

For second through fifth grade teachers, taking their students on a historical trip back to schools days 100 hundred years ago has never been easier. Curriculum showing a typical school day for each of these grades, c. 1900, is now available on the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's website.

Teachers can review the curriculum online to prepare for a visit with their class to the society's one room schoolhouse. Located in the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval, the schoolhouse provides today's children the chance to see what life was like for kids their age 100 years ago in Grosse Pointe.

Teachers and their classes can come for the day, from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. They are invited to bring a sack lunch and even dress up in the Society's old-fashioned clothes.

The Society has carefully put together grade-appropriate curricula including lessons, games, and discipline used

*continued on page 3*

## Historic Pictures to Decorate

Visitors to the Grosse Pointe Farms Community Center at Pier Park later this summer will notice some wonderful photos of historic Grosse Pointe adorning the walls. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has been working to provide art for their walls that show the area in days gone by.

"It's all about sharing our archives and bringing them out into the public where the community can enjoy them," said curator Suzy Berschback.

Berschback has been working with Farms Boat Club member Maureen Peterson to select pictures that would suit the different rooms of the Center. "Each room has a unique theme," according to Peterson. "We've got garden scenes, views of the lakeshore, Pier Park throughout the years, and even some really cool old maps."

Some of her favorites are photos dated from 1941 showing kids playing on the Pier in their bathing suits.

"The Community Center is a great place to showcase these pictures and make it more interesting. It's like a gallery for these pictures that many people have not seen," Peterson said.





## Letter from the President

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has its physical presence – the 1823 Provencal-Weir House and the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center – in Grosse Pointe Farms. But our endeavors are “without borders,” and celebrate the history of all five Grosse Pointes from the dim and distant days of swamps, farming, hunting and trading, to memories of Grosse Pointe students visiting with Hollywood stars, just a few decades ago.

For much of its history, the Grosse Pointes were not known by their current names and boundaries, being called simply Grosse Pointe and Grand Marais through the 18th and much of the 19th centuries. The Provencal-Weir House originally stood on a site near present day Provencal and Lake Shore Roads. History in our community is ever-growing and ever-changing!

Our membership and the support of the community through our Annual Appeal is represented throughout the Grosse Pointe municipalities. The attendance at our events including, the recent fundraiser, “A Night in Tuscany,” is equally cosmopolitan (We REALLY served the larger community here, with guests from as far away as Grand Rapids, Florida and Italy!). We could change our name – to the Grosse PointeS Historical Society, but that just doesn’t have the right ring to it. We do want you to know that wherever you live in or outside the Grosse Pointes, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is here to serve you with research, information, preservation, education, and activities which celebrate the rich heritage of our communities – all five of them!

Historically yours,  
*Stuart W. Grigg*  
President



This issue of  
*the Moorings*  
was supported in part by  
**The Private Bank  
of Grosse Pointe**



**THE PRIVATE BANK**



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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823,  
376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second  
Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m.,  
during special events, and by appointment.  
The Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave.,  
is open Tuesday and Wednesday,  
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Phone: (313) 884-7010

# Una Bella Sera

A sold out crowd of 175 historically minded people attended *A Night in Tuscany*, on Friday, June 16, 2006, at Lora and Sergio Mazza's 1924 Italian style home. It was the third annual Celebration of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

Party chairmen for the very successful event were Mark and Gail Zmyslowski and Mary and Tom Shafer. Proceeds from the event will benefit the preservation of our local heritage and help share that knowledge with the community. For more information, visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)



*Clockwise from top left: A Night in Tuscany co-chairs Mark and Gail Zmyslowski and Mary and Tom Shafer; gracious hosts for the evening Lora and Sergio Mazza; a delectable summer feast; a beautiful summer night made a memorable evening for all who attended the party on the lovely grounds of the Mazza's home.*

## Schoolhouse Ready for Grades 2–5 *continued from front page*

100 years ago. Teachers can stick to the curriculum as closely as they like, or adapt it to suit specific educational needs. The room can accommodate up to 30 children, their teacher, and two parent volunteers.

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to review the curriculum and learn more about our programs.

### Second Grade

Provençal-Weir House Talking House play: Learn about all the inhabitants of the house from the early 1800s

until today

### Third Grade

How Businesses Grew in Grosse Pointe in the 1800s

### Fourth Grade

Michigan History and how Grosse Pointe Fits in

### Fifth Grade

1800s Log Cabin Artifacts and their Uses by Pioneer Families

Reservations are now being taken for dates in 2006-07. Call the Historical Society at 884-7010 for information.



# New Board Members

The following individuals were elected to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Board of Trustees at the annual May meeting. Stuart W. Grigg was elected president of the board.



*New board members Penny Soby (left), Beth Canzano, Mary Shafer, and Rick Ruffner. Not pictured are Ann Rock and Bill Penoyar*

**Beth Canzano** grew up in Grosse Pointe but spent many years in Chicago and California. When she, her husband, Matt, and two children, Boris and Bella, returned to the area a few years ago, she realized that she had taken the area's rich history and its distinctive architecture for granted, and that some of it had disappeared in the time she'd been gone. She took action in the form of 60 Lakeshore, attempting to work with the Grosse Pointe War Memorial and various historical and preservation groups to have the historic home moved to her current Lakeland lot. While that was ultimately unsuccessful, it raised in her a desire to help save Grosse Pointe's heritage.

**Rick Ruffner** is the founder and president of Avanti Press, Inc., a publisher of greeting cards, headquartered in downtown Detroit. He graduated from Grosse Pointe South High School and earned a BS degree in business from Florida Southern College. He is married to Cat Ruffner, and their family of four includes Tyson, now a junior at GPSHS; Jessa, a freshman at GPSHS; Zoe, who lives in New York City and is in the 8th grade; and Isabella, who just celebrated her first birthday. Other board affiliations include the Detroit Club, the Michigan Humane Society, and the Boy Scouts of America - Detroit Area Council (Eagle Scout).

**Bill Penoyar** has lived in the Farms all his life. He graduated from Grosse Pointe High School in 1947, went to University of Michigan and transferred to Wayne State University. He was in the Air Force for a couple of years and then went back to University of Michigan for a master's in business. He has been retired since 1994 and is also active in the Grosse Pointe Lions Club.

**Ann W. Rock** is currently director of foundation and government relations for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She has worked as development director for Music Hall Center for the Performing Arts, as a grant manager for the Detroit Historical Society, and as an independent grant-writing consultant. She is involved in several other organizations including the Wayne State University Press, Children's Hospital of Michigan, Michigan Supreme Court Learning Center and the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs. Rock received a B.A. from the University of Michigan, an M.B.A. from the University of Detroit, and is currently working on an M.A. at Wayne State University. She is a member of the Michigan Museum Association and the American Association of Museums.

**Mary Shafer** has been an engaged community advocate for more than 20 years. Past associations include board membership for nine years with the Flint Institute of Music, the parent organization of the Flint Symphony Orchestra (FSO), and the 1500 student body of the Flint School of Performing Arts. She is a sustainer of the Junior League, past member of the Assistance League to the North East Guidance Center, and belongs to the Detroit East Suburban Alumni Group of Kappa Kappa Gamma. Shafer has been married to her husband, Tom, for 24 years. They have a daughter, Katie, who attends college in Colorado, and son, Elliot, who is a senior at Grosse Pointe South.

**Penny Soby** is a life-long east side resident. She earned a B.A., teaching certificate, and M.A. from Wayne State University and also studied at the University of Wisconsin, University of Edinburgh and has begun a M.A. program from Central Michigan University. Soby has taught in Detroit at Eastern High School and Martin Luther King Jr. High School, in Utica at Stevenson High School, and at both Grosse Pointe South and North. She has two married daughters.



# Historic Bronze Markers Awarded



## Bellmor, 15420 Windmill Pointe Dr.

Bellmor is a magnificent cut stone and brick English Tudor style mansion. It was built in 1928 by J. (John) Bell Moran and his wife, Serena Murphy Moran, on land his father gave him as a wedding gift. It is modeled after the great sixteenth century Tudor manor house, Compton Wynyates, which is also the inspiration for Meadowbrook Hall. The 15,000 square foot mansion was designed by noted architect Robert O. Derrick.

The care and detail supplied by the day's best craftsmen can be found in every part of the residence. The French Fleur-de-lis and Irish Rose patters, representing the ancestries of the Morans, are repeated throughout the home in such places as pressed plaster ceilings and exquisitely carved and detailed oak paneling. Stained glass inserts in the large win-

dows which grace the main stairway represent a coat of arms of both families of the original owners. Magnificent brickwork and stone carvings are some of the notable features found on the exterior. Foremost is the carving the Griffon, the first ship from the Old World to enter Lake St. Clair, which is represented in limestone above the portico.

After sitting empty in the 1970s, the mansion avoided the wrecking ball only after the owner could not secure a demolition permit. It was featured as the Junior League of Detroit's Designer Show house in 1990.

Current owners Randy and Judy Agley have lovingly restored this community masterpiece. When they moved into the home in 1999, the woodwork was almost black from years of neglect. Over a period of 18 months, the Agleys refinished many of the home's original features while adding a modern heating and cooling systems and redesigning the flow of the main floor to be more functional for 21st century living.



## 15520 Windmill Pointe Dr.

This Georgian Revival mansion was designed by Detroit architect Alpheus W. Chittenden for John Battice Ford in 1903. Ford was the grandson of Captain John B. Ford who founded Michigan Alkali Company (now BASF) in Wyandotte in 1889. The home was originally built on the riverside of East Jefferson Ave. in Indian Village. It remained there until 1928 when J. B. Ford's son and daughter-in-law, Frederick S. and Esther Ford, moved it by truck to Windmill Pointe. Esther was the daughter of Pewabic Pottery's co-founder Horace J. Caulkins. The Fords lived in this home from 1929-1951.

Chittenden was the first Detroit architect to embrace the Georgian Revival style at the turn of the century and is known for his grand city mansions and country estates. His work is noted for its impeccable attention to architectural detail.

The Georgian style provided successful early twentieth century businessmen with a sense of status. This house represents an interesting departure from most of Chittenden's Georgian Revival residences, as it is faced with carefully distressed limestone rather than the usual red brick. Typical Georgian style details include the quoins (cornerstones), belt course, and modillions (ornamental brackets) under the roof line cornice. Chittenden combined the Adam style with Italian Renaissance revival to create the river façade. The original river façade in Indian Village was far more ambitious than the present architecture.

The Society also awarded a historic marker to Christ Church Grosse Pointe. We will feature the church in the Fall issue of *the Moorings*.

## What's New on The Web

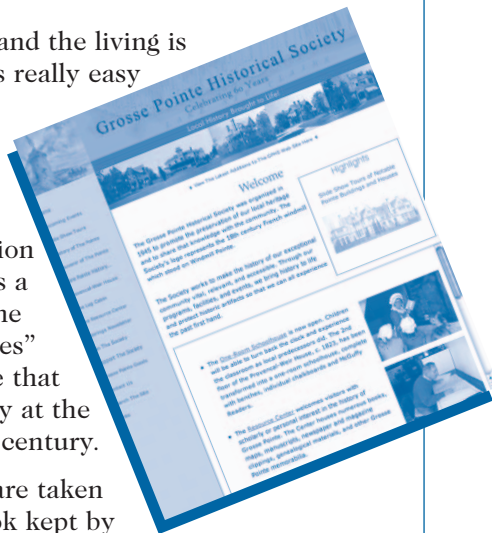
# Summer Cottages of the late 1880s

Summer's here and the living is easy...but it was really easy for the summer residents of Grosse Pointe in the 1880s.

The latest addition to our website is a virtual tour of the summer "cottages" along Lakeshore that had their heyday at the end of the 19th century.

The 29 images are taken from a scrapbook kept by Lewis Maire and include the Hinchman Boathouse, the Joseph H. Berry residence, and the Grosse Pointe Country Club. Also shown are permanent residences, churches and schools.

Just go to [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), "mouse over" the link at the top-center of the home page, and click on the link "A Tour of Lake Shore..."



# Intern Satisfies Personal Interest in History

For the past few months, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has been very fortunate to have the services of intern Amy Silverston.

The 24-year-old history buff has been organizing photographs and helping out with general office duties. Her latest project has been researching photos for the Society's upcoming online exhibit, "Auto Barons of Grosse Pointe."



*Intern Amy Silverston*

"History has always been my favorite subject. I like knowing how life was back then, what people were doing and the different levels of society," she said.

When Silverston returned home to Grosse Pointe Shores after graduating from the University of Vermont with a degree in biology and psychology, she went online to see if there was a historical organization here. She found the Society's website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org), which was soliciting volunteers.

Working at the Resource Center has given Silverston a crash course in old Grosse Pointe. "I was flabbergasted by what is here," she said. "I love looking at pictures of the houses and families and how they lived. I love looking at the old clothing."

The Civil War and World War II are of particular interest to Silverston. She was fascinated to find some letters from a Grosse Pointe battalion fighting in the Civil War.

This fall, Silverston moves on to attend law school at Roger Williams University. She plans to use her love of history in her profession and encourages others to stop in the Resource Center and see what we have.

"It opens your eyes to see where Grosse Pointe came from," she said. "There was such a neighborhood-family feel back then. I think we can learn through history how to keep Grosse Pointe a close-knit community."

## Evans Scholarships Awarded



*The Grosse Pointe Historical Society awarded three high school seniors the Clayton Walker Evans Educational Scholarship. The students are selected each year by consulting the History Departments of their high schools. The scholarship was founded in 1993 in memory of Evans who had been an active president of the Society for many years.*

*Pictured are GPHS Scholarship Committee Chair Danielle DeFaux (left) and students Arnav Moudgil of Grosse Pointe North, Foster Chamberlin of Grosse Pointe South, and James Robert Baubie of University Liggett.*

## Not yet a member?

**For information on joining the GPHS, visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) and select the link "Join the Society, Membership."**





*In the early 1930s, a fascinating history was written about the area known as the Grand Marais, or great swamp. We've excerpted some of the chapters for your enjoyment. The entire text is available on our website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).*

### Chapter One: The Grand Marais

**P**resqu' Isle--almost an island--was the descriptive French name for the distant sandy knoll which lay beyond the ready sea, as isolated and as nearly as inaccessible as any island. Here, the few lighthouse people lived in solitary seclusion; their only neighbor was a hermit Frenchman who lived on Windmill Pointe and who spent his days hunting muskrats in the swamp and his nights in getting drunk

Bordering Lake St. Clair and next to Windmill Pointe was the Big Marsh or in French Grand Marais?. It began at the site of the present water works on Jefferson Avenue and rolled away in a prairie-like sweep with marsh grass growing along the nearby Detroit River and Lake St. Clair as far up as Bishop Road in Grosse Pointe. When the autumn rains came, the entire surface was submerged, and the wintry frosts soon converted in into a miniature sea of glass. Previous to the draining of the Grand Marais, clay dykes were built, and a drainage canal was constructed in 1870. The dyke ran parallel to the lake one hundred feet from the shore, and a pumping station was erected to drain the Grand Marais at the foot of what is now Audubon Avenue...

### Chapter Two: Indians and Indian Troubles

**A**lthough no mention of an Indian settlement in Grosse Pointe is made by historians, the beautiful lake, St. Clair, was always a great attraction to the Indian, and was beloved by him. This district densely wooded and bordering the lake, was for years, the Indian hunting ground. Peche Island, just off Grosse Pointe shore was selected by the great chieftan, Pontiac, for his summer home until his death in 1762. There, he had a commanding view of the waterways and could visit the French farmers along the shore with out being discovered first.

The Indians were a constant source of fear and annoyance to the early settlers of Grosse Pointe. They used to land here when coming over from Canada and passing through the township would confiscate anything and everything which suited their fancy. Many cattle were driven off by them; horses, too, were driven off every year. The tribes were then so powerful that the settlers never dared to offer any resistance

### Chapter Three: Old Familiar Landmarks

**A**nother venerable old pear tree worth mentioning is one which was planted on the old Rivard farm, now on the estate of Dr. Fred. Murphy, in Grosse Pointe Farms. It stands about one hundred feet in height, and behind it are eleven old French apple trees which are called the Apostles; the pear tree which completes the number is named the Judas tree.

These pear trees have been the inspiration for poets. These two verses were taken from the History of Michigan written by Silas Farmer. The first poem was written by J. L. Bates of which this is the last verse.

Many a thrifty Mission Pear yet o'erlooks the blue St. Clair.  
Like a veteran, faithful warden; and their branches gnarled and olden,  
Yield their juicy fruits and golden,  
In the ancient Jesuit garden.  
Still each year their blossoms dance,  
Scent and bloom of sunny France?.

The second, taken from the same book, was written by W. H. Coyle of which the ninth and last verses are quoted here.

Where the white sailed ship now rides the waves,  
Ye have watched the bark canoe,  
And heard in the night the voyageurs? songs,  
And the Indians? shrill halloo.

Live on old trees, in your green age,  
Long, long may your shadows last  
With your blossomed boughs and golden fruit,  
Love emblems of the past?.

Now, there are but few lone survivors among the old pear trees. Soon, there will be nothing to remind us of those days when the fleur-de-lis gaily waved over the land which we now call Grosse Pointe except the legends and memories handed down to us by those who have passed on to a far and distant land.



# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information • The following events are free of charge

## Fall 2006 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lectures

Grosse Pointe War Memorial

32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms

### *Motormen & Yachting: The Waterfront Heritage of the Automobile Industry*

Wednesday, September 20, 2006 7:30p.m.

Michael M. Dixon, author and past member of our Society board will present a fascinating program relating to his latest book, *Motormen & Yachting: The Waterfront Heritage of the Automobile Industry*. Mike's previous books include, *Life at the Flats: The Golden Era of the St. Clair River Delta* and *When Detroit Rode the Waves: A Summer Cruise from Toledo to Port Huron* about the excursion boats of the early 20th Century.

### *TV LAND Detroit*

Wednesday, October 18, 2006 7:30 p.m.

Gordon Castelnero, author of the new book, *TV LAND Detroit* will present an in depth and personal look at characters such as Soupy Sales, Captain Jolly, Milky and Bozo the Clowns and personalities like Bill Kennedy, Rita Bell, George Pierrot, John Kelly (and many more) in this discussion of the most popular and best remembered local shows from the golden years of Detroit television.

### *Art Deco in Detroit*

Wednesday, November 15, 2006 7:30 p.m.

Rebecca Binno Savage, preservationist and board member of the Detroit Area Art Deco Society will present a slide show relating to her recent book, *Art Deco in Detroit*. Many Grosse Pointe structures and buildings such as the Guardian and Penobscot skyscrapers in downtown Detroit will be shown along with a general discussion of this "modern" style of architectural design, so popular from the 1920s-1950s.



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

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Web site: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*



### *Second Saturday Pastimes*

1:00-4:00 p.m., Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval  
For all ages (children must be accompanied by adult)  
The activity and the tour are free of charge.  
Reservations are encouraged, but not required. For  
information, call (313) 884-7010 or visit the website.

*August 12 Feast of St. Clare.* Celebrate the anniversary of the naming of Lake St. Clair with a mini-encampment. Re-enactors will teach us about life as a voyageur in early Grosse Pointe. Enjoy storytelling, crafts and games with Paul Ignagni and friends.

*September 9 Tour de Grosse Pointe by bike and learn your local historical sites with tour guide Stewart McMillin.* Begins promptly at 1 p.m. at 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. You must be able to keep up with the group as we will have a lot on our schedule!

*October 14 Old Time Photos.* Wear your own costume or use our dress-up closet and sit for an Old Time Photo in the Provencal-Weir House, c.1823. Speedi Photo Portrait Studio will be taking the photographs. A sitting fee of \$25. includes one black and white sepia 8 x 10 photograph. The sitting fee benefits the GPHS.

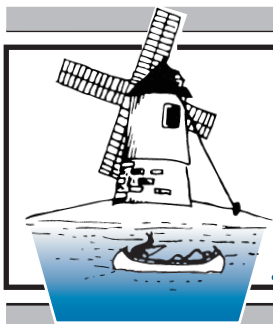
*November 11 Legends of the Fall.* Paul Ignagni shares traditions, legends and ways of life for Michigan Native Americans of early Grosse Pointe.

*December 9 Christmas Traditions in Grosse Pointe with Sandy Marhoff.* Learn about simple but meaningful celebrations of old.

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# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945

SPRING 2006  
Vol. 23, No.1



*Historic Tea, April 8*

## Participate in History at Second Saturdays Pastimes

Take a hands-on trip back in time via the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Second Saturday Pastimes.

Since January, the Society has been offering the community the opportunity to participate in historical activities as part of its monthly open house at the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The activities highlight different aspects of Grosse Pointe history each month.

Upcoming events include "The History of Afternoon Tea," with Cyndee Harrison of the Tea Party Company, on April 8, and "Glorious Gardens of Old Grosse Pointe," with master gardener, Mil Anthony, on May 13.

"While the tradition of afternoon tea is often credited to Anna, Duchess of Bedford, there is historical evidence that the French were actually the first to enjoy this break with tea and a small snack," Harrison said. "This event will be a wonderful way to learn about the history, tradition, and etiquette of afternoon tea, as well as some fun parlor games."

The activity and the tour are free of charge. Reservations are encouraged, but not required. For information, call (313) 884-7010 or visit the website at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org). For a more complete list of the events, see the back page.

## Take Action to Save Historic Properties

*Grosse Pointe recently lost another historic gem with the demolition of the Lodge House at 60 Lakeshore. Despite cooperative efforts, a buyer couldn't be found with the resources to restore and move the building. There are many sides to this story, but most would agree it was a loss to the community to have this historic residence razed.*

*The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has information for individuals who are interested in preventing the further demolition of historic properties. The following is taken from the Society's brochure "Take Action."*



*Stonehurst, demolished in 1974*

First of all, do your homework. Gather background material to substantiate the historic significance of the property in question.

Find out as many details about the history of the property as you can (construction dates, architects, owners, etc.).

Does the property have any historic designations (local, state, or federal)?

Then, contact the appropriate local government offices to determine who is involved in and the procedures and expected timetable leading to the demolition. Speak to officials about the situation. (It's best to seek the advice of a real estate attorney before taking action.)

Next, get in touch with the property owner or developer to find out exactly what is being planned. Compare their comments with information obtained elsewhere. Then notify the community of the property's significance and possible demolition. Contact the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, the local newspapers, the neighbors, and the mayor and council of the community involved.

Finally, take action. Attend city or village council meetings and bring as many neighbors from around the property as possible. Provide the council with written and visual information explaining your objection to the proposed demolition. Don't neglect to monitor the property during this process to ensure that the owner or developer does not launch further attempts to get approval for inappropriate property use. If possible, try to work with the owner or developer to create a suitable use of the property.

For more information, call 884-7010.





## Letter from the Presidents

On December 14, 2005, we lost yet another valuable member of the Society's board. Adele Huebner, who had served on our board for over five years, was a lifelong resident of the community and an enthusiastic student of its history. Her passion for Grosse Pointe history will be missed.

That spirit and passion, however, is evident in the supporters of our Society, who donated more than \$26,000 to the 2005 Annual Appeal, making it the most successful campaign in our history. A heartfelt thank-you to each of our donors, and to our Vice President for Development, Stuart Grigg, who created the appeal.

2005 also saw the loss of still more significant community structures on Lake Shore Road. After a long cooperative struggle to put together a plan to move 60 Lake Shore Road, a home built in 1903 for Dr. Edwin Lodge, the home was demolished along with the adjoining house to make room for a new condo development. Mike Farley, honorary trustee, and several others are to be commended for attempting to save this historic shingle style mansion.

Meanwhile, the Crescent Sail Yacht Club membership, in a very close vote, followed through with a plan to remove the largest remaining boathouse in the community—a boathouse that was designed almost 100 years ago by Albert Kahn for Henry B. Joy of Packard Motor Car Company. The demolition will allow the club to add less than a dozen additional boat slips on the site.

Our Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the Grosse Pointe Farms Community Building. We hope you will be able to attend.

*Lisa Mower Gandelot and Michael Skinner*  
Co-Presidents

### 2006 Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

Senior Citizen	\$25.00	Donor	\$125.00
Individual	\$35.00	Benefactor	\$250.00
Family	\$50.00	Major Benefactor	\$500.00
Friend	\$75.00	Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period)	\$1,000.00

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Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_MC \_\_\_\_VISA Acct No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ I am interested in Planned Giving information

Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to: Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.  
Thank you for your support!

### The Past for the Future: A Simple Way to Give a Legacy Gift to the Society

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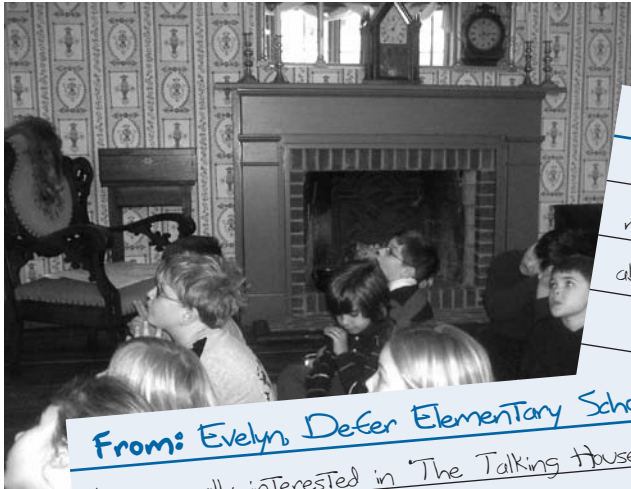
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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823,  
376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second  
Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m.,  
during special events, and by appointment.  
The Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave.,  
is open Tuesday and Wednesday,  
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m.  
Phone: (313) 884-7010

# Class in Session at the One-room Schoolhouse

Since opening in October, the Society's new One-room Schoolhouse, on the second floor of the Provencal-Weir House, has had near perfect attendance from children around the Pointes. Students can spend a full day, 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., in the classroom, donning period attire and learning lessons from 100 years ago. Second graders perform a play called "The Talking House," the story of all the people who have lived in the house from 1823 through the 1990s. A couple of classes were so thrilled with their experience, they wrote thank-you notes to the Society or letters to their pen pals about the visit. We've printed a few of them below. To learn more, visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



If you are interested  
in bringing your class To  
The One-room Schoolhouse,  
call 884-7010.

From: Jimmy Defer Elementary School

Thank you for showing and Telling me Things I  
never even knew, BUT most of all Telling me  
about The log cabin.

From: Evelyn Defer Elementary School

I was really interested in "The Talking House"  
and The Fair. When we were pretending To be  
in school There, IT was fun. I've never seen a  
dance cap before.

From: James Grosse Pointe Academy

We had To act like people in 1880  
and put our lunch in (cloth) napkins  
with no plastic.



From: Libby Defer Elementary School

I liked venturing To The Top floor and I really  
liked The school and liked To see The books and  
The STUFF They played with. I like doing The  
Tongue-Twisters.



From: Morgan Grosse Pointe Academy

The other day we went To a one-room school-  
house. First we had To walk one and a half  
miles. We wrote on slates and stood when we  
talked. We sat on stools and had strict Teachers.  
IT was fun.

From: Alexa Grosse Pointe Academy

We played The games They played (in The  
1800s). We had To write poems and recite  
them. If we didn't behave, we could get The  
hickory stick. The Teachers were allowed To  
smack kids with IT (back Then).

# Thank You 2005 Annual App

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## Seeking Historical Nominations for 2007

Each spring, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society awards Bronze Markers to historically significant properties in the area. The plaques, which have been awarded since 1986, bear the Society's logo, the French windmill that stood on the shores of Lake St. Clair in the 1700s. It recognizes historical and architectural value, continued preservation, or adaptive reuse.

If you have a noteworthy house or building that's more than 50 years old, we'd like to hear from you. Simply submit a description of the building including its history, architect, style, owners, and any thing else of interest, along with a picture of the building. Call 884-7010 for more information.

## Donations for One-room School House

Grand Marais Questers #215  
Louisa St. Clair Chapter, DAR

## Donations for Saturday Docent Program

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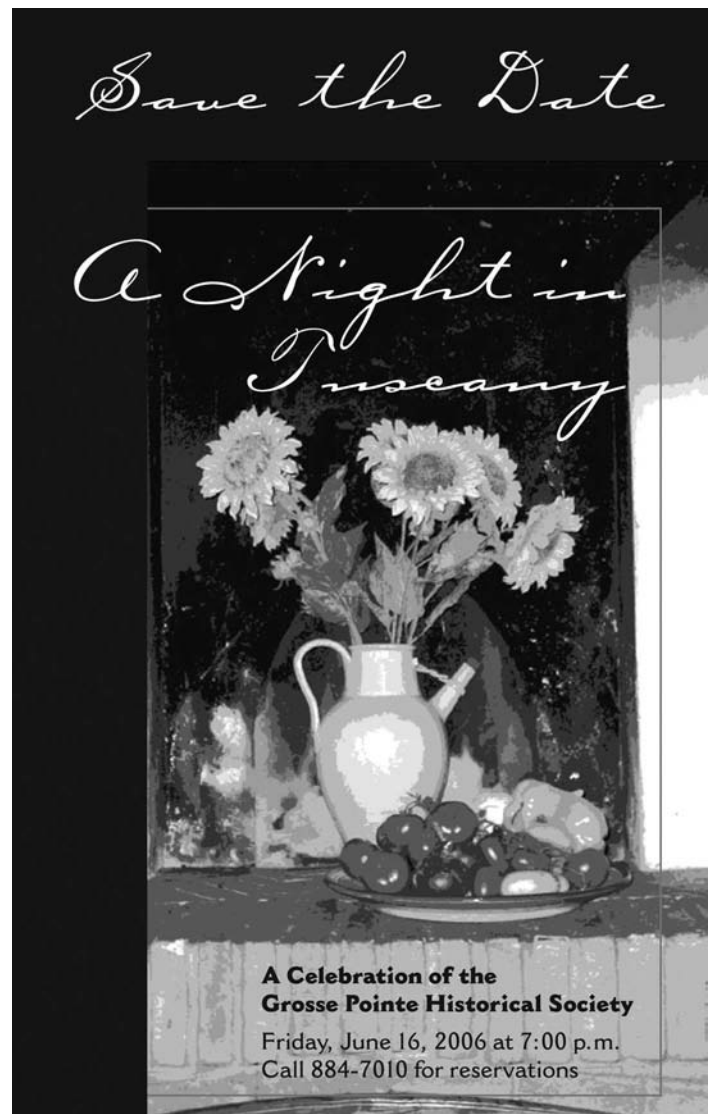
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# Historic Bronze Markers Awarded



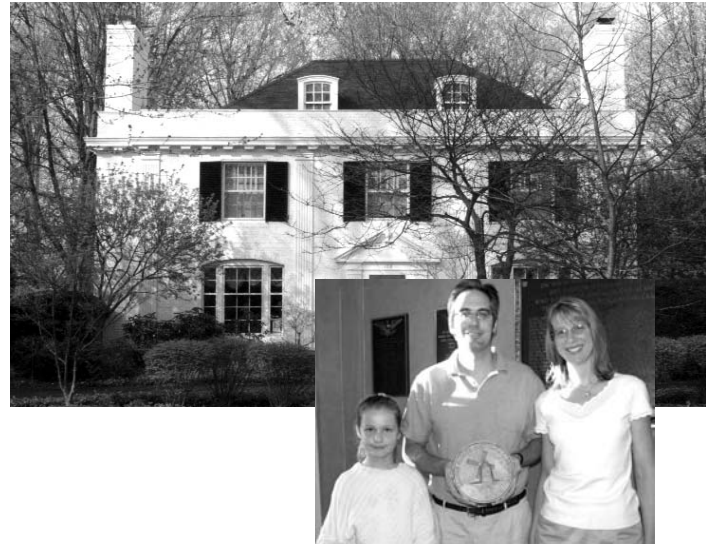
## 560 Cadieux Rd.

The house at 560 Cadieux Rd. was designed by architect Frank E. Hill and built for the Breitenbach family in 1911. At the time, it was one of the few homes on Cadieux and was surrounded by ample grounds. The house is located on a gently rising slope, giving it a formal and classic presence. Its external style is similar to a center entrance colonial but its stylistic elements are from the Arts and Crafts and Prairie styles, with large overhanging eaves with roof brackets, a wrap-around veranda/rear porch, and evenly-spaced, unadorned windows. The house is complemented by a two-car garage that matches the home's brick architecture.

Interior features of the home include oak woodwork and floors, an oak paneled dining room, and Pewabic tile fireplace. A small kitchen, functional by modern standards, is next to a large formal dining room and entry hall, indicative of the fact that receiving guests for formal gatherings was typical of life in Grosse Pointe during the early years of the twentieth century.

Harold Prell Breitenbach earned a Ph.D. in Latin and Greek and taught English at the University of Michigan. His wife, Charlotte Hanstein, had lived on St. Clair. Harold and Charlotte Breitenbach's daughter, Lois, was two years old when they moved into the house on Cadieux. She grew up to become Lois Quig and moved to Chicago. She returned to her parents' home on Cadieux in the 1960s and lived there until approximately 2000 when she moved in a nursing home.

Lois Quig recorded her family's history for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in August 2001. She indicated that her father was responsible for having property set aside for public use for the residents of the City of Grosse Pointe, which is now the playground and tennis courts at Elworthy Field and the lakefront property that became Neff Park. Lois Quig sold 560 Cadieux to the current owners, Gregory Jakub and Kathleen Kelly, in 2001, and she died the next year.



## 168 Vendome Rd.

The house located at 168 Vendome Rd. was designed by noted architect Robert O'Derrick, who designed many well-known buildings in this area, including the Grosse Pointe Club, the Punch & Judy Theatre, the main building at the Henry Ford Museum, Josephine Ford's playhouse on the grounds of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, the F. Caldwell Walker house (also on Vendome Road) and a number of other private residences.

Construction of 168 Vendome began in approximately 1928 for a local auto baron, but due to the beginning of the Great Depression, the house was not finished until the early 1930s. The house is wonderfully scaled and detailed in the classic Georgian or Federal style with high ceilings, elaborate moldings, built-in cabinetry and window seating, features that O'Derrick used successfully on other buildings. Between each level of the house is 18 inches of concrete, making the house both very sturdy and very quiet.

The house has original Pewabic Pottery in two of the bathrooms and an old-fashioned powder room on the first floor. The back of the house was built for live-in servants and there is a hot house on the second floor accessible by a small door. There is a room in the basement for the storage of fruits and nuts, and the boiler room has a walk-in, fire-proof vault installed by Peter Olfs Safe Company from Detroit, used by the original owner to store valuables.

The current owners, Chris and Lisa Maiorana, have lived in the house since 2000 and have decorated in keeping with the style and history of the house. They have some of the original building plans from Robert O'Derrick as well as a historic water pump chart detailing the home's boiler and water system, from the noted heating plumbing engineers, L.L. McConachie Company, formerly located at Maryland Ave. and Jefferson in the early 1900s.



# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information

*The following events are free of charge*



## ***Detroit's Street Railways***

*Kenneth E.  
Schramm,  
Author of Detroit's  
Street Railways*  
will discuss the  
street cars and

once-expansive public transportation system in Detroit  
on the 50th anniversary of the last trolley run in the city.

**April 26, 7:30 p.m.**

**A Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture  
Children's Home of Detroit, Community Room  
900 Cook Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods**



## ***Packard Proving Grounds***

A slide presentation on the history of the famous facility  
used for high-speed and rough-condition testing of auto-  
mobiles. The Proving Grounds also contained engineering  
labs designed to test engines, chassis, electrical compo-  
nents, fuels, and lubricants under a variety of conditions.  
Co-sponsored by the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House.

*John MacArthur*

*President of the Packard Motor Car Foundation*

**Thursday, June 15, 7:30 p.m.**

**Edsel and Eleanor Ford House  
1100 Lake Shore, Grosse Pointe Shores**



*Published by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society*

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Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010

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**e-mail:** GPHistorical@aol.com

**Web site:** www.gphistorical.org

**Hours:** Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.

*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*

## ***Second Saturday Pastimes***

1:00-4:00 p.m., Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval  
For all ages (children must be accompanied by adult)

### ***April 8 Afternoon Tea***

Discover the history and traditions of this time-hon-  
ored custom with Cyndee Harrison; enjoy homemade  
biscuits and jam.

### ***May 13 Glorious Gardens of Old Grosse Pointe***

Learn about the flora and fauna of our area with Mil  
Anthony and view the photo exhibit Gardens of  
Grosse Pointe's Past

### ***June 10 One-room Schoolhouse Experience celebrating 200 years of Hans Christian Anderson.***

Local historian and former teacher Marguerite Humes  
takes you back in time, with a special focus on  
Anderson's classic fairy tales.

### ***July 8 Celebrate Bastille Day with an Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social***

Enjoy French folk music and lawn games.

### ***August 12 Feast of St. Clare***

Celebrate the anniversary of the naming of Lake St.  
Clair with a mini-encampment. Re-enactors will  
teach us about life as a voyageur in early Grosse  
Pointe. Enjoy storytelling, crafts and games with Paul  
Ignagni and friends.

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# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945  
WINTER 2005  
Vol. 22, No.3



## Third Annual Legends of the Fall

A crisp autumn night was the perfect setting for the third annual Legends of the Fall, held October 7 at the Provencal-Weir House. Attendees of all ages shared a delightful evening of fall fun including bobbing for apples, a corn roast, donuts-on-a-string, and pumpkin decorating. Tales of the supernatural from Grosse Pointe's early days were brought to life by master storyteller Genot Picor, with a little help from some Grosse Pointe Historical Society members.

## Encampment

Hundreds of visitors were transported back in time two hundred years to an early settlement on the banks of Lake St. Clair during the Grosse Pointe Encampment, held September 24 and 25 at Neff Park in the City of Grosse Pointe. Re-enactors dressed in period attire set up authentic camp sites and portrayed numerous people that would've lived in the area in the 18th and early 19th centuries: Native Americans, British military personnel, and settlers from France and Great Britain. The event was co-sponsored by the City of Grosse Pointe. Demonstrations included muzzle loading, domestic duties, and military drills.



## One-room Schoolhouse Opens

The school bell rang for the first time at the Society's new One-room Schoolhouse on the second floor of the Provencal-Weir House on October 19. The first class, a group of 24 third graders from the Grosse Pointe Academy, experienced what it would have been like to go to school in Grosse Pointe in the early 1900s. Their teacher, Jeanette Stepanek, followed a curriculum specially written for the Society. Feature articles on the class appeared in the *Grosse Pointe News* and the *Detroit Free Press*. Earlier this fall, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held with members of the Grosse Pointe Questers, who have been tremendous supporters of this effort. The group donated more than \$2,500 for furnishings and books and continue to give volunteer hours. The Louisa St. Clair chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution donated \$5,000 for elementary age curriculum development.



## 2005 Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

Senior Citizen	\$25.00	Donor	\$125.00
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Family	\$50.00	Major Benefactor	\$500.00
Friend	\$75.00	Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period)	\$1,000.00

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I/We consent to having my/our name published in *the*

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Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to: Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Thank you for your support! All but \$8.00 of your membership dues is tax-deductible in accordance with state and federal laws. The \$8.00 covers the subscription price of *the Moorings*.



## Letter from the Presidents

As we reflect back on 2005, we can paraphrase Dickens: it was the happiest of years...and the saddest. The Society celebrated 60 incredible years of growth and community involvement. We sponsored a number of excellent programs, including the new One-room Schoolhouse, and hosted hundreds of visitors. Take a look at the front page to see some highlights.

We also lost three of our most ardent supporters, Ruth and Al Moran and Frank J. Sladen, Jr. We deeply mourn their passing and gratefully honor all they did to make the Society what it is today.

We recently discovered that many of you did not receive the last issue of *the Moorings* due to an error at the post office. That issue contained stories about the 60-year history of the Society, the One-room Schoolhouse program, the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, and others. If you would like to receive a copy, just call us at (313) 884-7010 and we'll send another one out to you.

*Lisa Mower Gandelot and Michael Skinner*  
Co-Presidents

## The Past for the Future: A Simple Way to Give a Legacy Gift to the Society

"I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% percent) of my net estate, as finally determined for estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes."

*We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills or trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. Future residents of Grosse Pointe will benefit from these thoughtful gifts to continue to preserve our heritage. If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call the Society at (313) 884-7010.*

### Officers

Lisa Mower Gandelot ..... Co-President  
Michael W. Skinner ..... Co-President  
Patti Schollenberger ..... Vice President-Administration  
Stuart Grigg ..... Vice President-Development  
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## 2006 Second Saturday Pastimes

Come to the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, on the second Saturday of each month during the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's open-house tours from 1 to 4 p.m. and also enjoy the following offerings. For all ages.

### *January 14 A One-room Schoolhouse Experience.*

Teacher Bill Schwedler will take you back in time to 1900. All ages welcome.

*February 11 Old Time Photos.* Bring your sweetheart, yourself or your whole family. Dress yourself or use our old fashioned dress-up closet and sit for an Old Time Sepia photo in the Provencal-Weir House, c.1823. Speedi Photo Portrait Studio will be taking the photographs. \*A sitting fee of \$25 includes one black and white sepia 8 x 10 photograph. The sitting fee benefits the GPHS.

*March 11 Make, Taste and Learn the history of French Chocolate Molding with Carol Milligan.*

*April 8 Learn all about the History and Tradition of Afternoon Tea with Cyndee Harrison.* Put on your Easter bonnet and enjoy homemade biscuits and jam.

*May 13 Glorious Gardens of Old Grosse Pointe with Mil Anthony.* Learn about the flora and fauna of old Grosse Pointe and view photo exhibit of Gardens of Grosse Pointe's past.

*June 10 A One-room Schoolhouse Experience celebrating 200 years of Hans Christian Anderson.* Teacher Marguerite Humes will take you back in time. Learn about Hans Christian Anderson.

*July 8 Celebrate Bastille Day with an Old fashioned Ice Cream Social with Cyndee Harrison.* French folk music will entertain us while we play lawn games.

*August 12 Feast of St. Clare.* Celebrate the anniversary of the naming of Lake St. Clair with a mini-encampment at the Provencal-Weir House. Enjoy storytelling, crafts and games with Paul Ignagni and friends.

*September 9 Tour de Grosse Pointe by bike and learn your local historical sites with tour guide Stewart McMillin.* Begins promptly at 1 p.m. at 376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms. You must be able to keep up with the group as we will have a lot on our schedule!

*October 14 Old Time Photos.* Wear your own costume or use our dress-up closet and sit for an Old Time Photo in the Provencal-Weir House, c.1823. Speedi Photo Portrait Studio will be taking the photographs. A sitting fee of \$25. includes one black and white sepia 8 x 10 photograph. The sitting fee benefits the GPHS.

*November Legends of the Fall.* Paul Ignagni shares traditions, legends and ways of life for Michigan Native Americans of early Grosse Pointe.

*December 9 Christmas Traditions in Grosse Pointe with Sandy Marhoff.* Learn about simple but meaningful celebrations of old.



### The Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Legacy

On September 2, the Society hosted a reception to pay tribute to the legacy of Ruth and Al Moran. Their children, Tom and Sarah Moran Martin and Jeff Moran, their grandchildren and many friends of the Society and the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church and Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation were there. The Society was presented with a check for \$90,000 from the Morans, which was left as part of a charitable remainder trust. The Morans were involved with the Society's mission of preserving Grosse Pointe's history. To honor their commitment, the resource center has been renamed the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center.

It was especially fitting that the reception was held at the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, since Al was instrumental in the restoration of the house. He was a hands-on history buff who led the restoration of the exterior. Ruth was a teacher and her love of learning and of books was well-known among Society members. She attached great importance to the resource center and all its treasures.



### Frank J. Sladen, Jr. 1920-2005

Grosse Pointe lost one of its great leaders with the passing of Frank J. Sladen, Jr. in October. His steadfast leadership as president of the Society from 1982-1984 and his dedication as a trustee for many years have left an indelible mark. We would not be where we are today without his involvement and direction. He is pictured above at the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party held last summer where he received the Society's Bronze Historical Marker for his historic importance both to the Society and the community at large.

# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information



**Annual  
Dr. Frank Bicknell  
Educational Lecture**

**Mark McPherson as  
*Charles Dickens***

**Wednesday,  
November 30  
7:30 p.m.**

Grosse Pointe South  
Auditorium  
11 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

**Complimentary**



## ***A History of the Country Club of Detroit***

Bill Krag will present slides of the past and present

**Thursday, January 19, 2006, 7:30 p.m.**

Main Dining Room, Country Club of Detroit

\$10 per person, for members and their guests

Refreshments will be served.

RSVP by January 12 to

Paula Wigton, 377 Moross, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236.

Call 886-9143 for information.



## ***Victorian Caroling Party***

For our members and friends

**Sunday, December 4**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Provençal-Weir House, c. 1823**

**Complimentary**

Refreshments will be served

Carolers from Grosse Pointe North  
High School in costume will perform

***The purpose of the Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society is to preserve  
and promote the history of the  
Grosse Pointe community.***



*Published by the*

**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

Schwartz Building • 381 Kercheval Ave.

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010

(313) 884-7699 FAX

**e-mail:** GPHistorical@aol.com

**Web site:** www.gphistorical.org

**Hours:** Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
1:30-4 p.m.

**Curator:** Suzy Berschback

**Administrator:** Linda Johnson

**Editor:** Ann Marie Aliotta

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# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945

FALL 2005  
Vol. 22, No.2

## Grosse Pointe Historical Society Celebrates 60 Years in a Grand Style!



*Dorothy Renaud, Kay MacKay, Marilyn Wade, and  
Chris Wardwell*



*60-year-old Birthday Celebrants*



*Hosts Victoria and Robert Liggett with Lisa Mower  
Gandelot, Society President*



*Tish and Gary Collett and Leontine Cadieux*



*Frank Sladen*



*A "Jewett" automobile owned Robert Liggett*

## Letter from the Presidents

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has had a wonderful year of celebrating its 60th anniversary. New members and cherished "veteran" members, new programs, a special birthday gala at Robert and Victoria Liggett's on June 17th, the anticipated opening of The Society's one room school-house on September 9th and our second Encampment on the Shores of Lake St. Clair co-sponsored with the City of Grosse Pointe on September 24th and 25th are a few of the highlights.

None of these successes would be possible without the dedication of our trustees, Curator Suzy Berschback, our cadre of volunteers and you, our members and donors. All have worked with enthusiasm, dedication and interest on the various projects. Thank you!

During this 60th anniversary year, we lost two long-time and cherished former Board members, Honorary Trustee Alfred Moran (preceded by his beloved wife and dedicated Society volunteer, Ruth in late January) in early February and Janice Wenzel Rehmann in late June. Both were devoted to The Society and helped The Society grow and develop into what it is today.

On September 2nd, The Society hosted a reception for Sarah Moran Martin, Jeff Moran, their children and friends of Al and Ruth Moran. At that time, Sarah and Jeff presented a substantial Legacy gift to The Society from their parent's charitable remainder trust to be added to the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Endowment Fund for the Resource Center of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. The Grosse Pointe Farms Foundation and Grosse Pointe Memorial Church also received Legacy gifts from the Moran's trust. The generosity of Al and Ruth Moran will continue to benefit the Grosse Pointe community for generations to come. We are, indeed fortunate, to be the recipient of one of their Legacy gifts.

We would like to thank Mary Kay DuCharme for almost two years of dedicated service to The Society as administrator. She did a superb job. Enjoy your retirement, Mary Kay!! We are pleased to announce that Linda Johnson started the same week that Mary Kay retired so that we did not miss one beat. Come in and introduce yourself to Linda and see how great the Resource Center looks—thanks to our Curator Suzy and The Society's volunteers.

As we look forward to the next 60 years as we cherish our past, we thank you for your support and interest in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. You make a difference.

*Lisa Mower Gandelot and Michael Skinner, Co-Presidents*

### Provencal-Weir House Docents



*Please welcome our three new docents: Russell Peebles, Nancy Pacitto, and John Wilson. These wonderful volunteers will conduct the tours of the Provencal-Weir House on the second Saturday of each month from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Anyone interested in serving as a docent may call 884-7010.*

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Stuart Grigg	Vice President-Development
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# Grosse Pointe Historical Society: Bringing the Past to Life for 60 Years



*Tom Singelyn and Al Moran check out what needs to be done to the Provencal-Weir House in 1993.*

On a spring evening in 1945, a handful of history buffs got together to share stories about the old families and properties of Grosse Pointe and to try to establish an organization that would make sure these memories lived on for future generations. Sixty years later, they would surely be delighted at how the Grosse Pointe Historical Society has grown into a thriving, dynamic part of the community. Today, the Society sponsors frequent activities for all ages, from black-tie galas to children's workshops to historic lectures to family festivals. The Society owns and maintains two historic structures and helped preserve a third building in the community. Its Resource Center houses a permanent collection of artifacts and memorabilia that is available to the public.

"Grosse Pointe has a fascinating history and discovering its past is a rewarding experience for people of all ages," said curator Suzy Berschback. "It's a very important way to connect to our community and feel a part of it."

"The stories of this place one, two, or three hundred years ago capture our imagination. It's a lot of fun to envision what it was like here for past generations," she said. "The layers of generations are so intriguing: the Native Americans, the French habitants, the pioneers, farmers, and fishermen, the summer people, the auto barons. All these different groups of residents give Grosse Pointe so much character."

## The first 50 years

The Society celebrated its Golden Anniversary ten years ago with a party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald M.D. Thurber on Rathbone Place. Members marveled at how far the Society had come since its inception in May 1945 as a small group of loosely organized history enthusiasts with a fervent interest in Grosse Pointe. For the first 30 years or so, the group was quietly active, accepting donations of historical artifacts, presenting lectures, and even collaborating with the Detroit Historical Museum on its 1956 series, "Salute to Suburban Detroit." The Society moved around a lot, residing in libraries, schools, and the Grosse Pointe War Memorial over the years. At one point, the Society was actually incorporated into the Friends of the Grosse Pointe Public Library.



*Leon Mandel, Mike Farley and Lisa Mower Gandelot burn the mortgage to the Provencal-Weir House after raising funds to pay it off in 2001.*

In 1978, committed citizens, led by James Gram, Mrs. William Ledyard, and Mrs. Robert Hamilton, decided to reactivate the Grosse Pointe Historical Society as an independent organization. In the following two years, bylaws were prepared by Charles Wright III, incorporation papers were filed, and the first set of officers were elected on February 5, 1980. George Zinn was an important part of the reorganization.

The next 15 years saw much growth and change. The Society hired a curator, Jean Dodenhoff, to catalogue the collection and help the public during open hours. The collection expanded tremendously and membership grew from 64 in 1980 to more than 600 in 1995. The culmination of these years was moving the Resource Center in July 1995 to its current permanent quarters at 381 Kercheval Avenue in Grosse Pointe Farms.

*continued on page 6*

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# Log on to New Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has taken a decidedly modern approach to history with the launch of its new website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org). History buffs and interested residents are invited to log-on to find a wide variety of information about the history of this region and about activities sponsored by the Society.



The website features a contemporary design by Jay Hunter that is easy to navigate. Visitors have access to many photos and drawings from the archives, articles and other information about Grosse Pointe, a list of current

Society events which is regularly updated, details on how to become a member, and even a copy of the quarterly newsletter, the Moorings.

“The new website is a way to give people unlimited access to the resources of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at their convenience,” said curator Suzy Berschback. “We have been collecting materials for 60 years and now we have a channel to share them with the community while continuing to preserve the originals.”

## Highlights of the site include:

- Selections from the 1886 publication *Grosse Pointe on Lake Sainte Claire* by Silas Farmer (one of the Society’s most valuable documents), with text and many photographs.
- Legends of Grosse Pointe including werewolves and goblins that haunted the lakeshore.

The new design is the first of a three-phase project. The Society hopes to expand the website even further with interactive maps, a historical scavenger hunt, an on-line grade school curriculum developed with the one-room schoolhouse project, and more photographs. Anyone interested in supporting this project can earmark a donation for “Website Development.”

---

## Thank you to our Donors

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in memory of Alfred and Ruth Moran  
in memory of Janice Wenzel Rehmann  
in memory of Mike Skinner’s mother

Mr. and Mrs. John Graffius, in memory of  
Charles R. Whitney

Mr. and Mrs. John Graffius, in memory of Alfred and  
Ruth S. Moran

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Mrs. Karla Behr Standish, in memory of Phil Blanchard

Mr. and Mrs. David Sloss

Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Ulrich

Charles R. Whitney Foundation

*Correction from the last Moorings: Our apologies to  
Mrs. John Hendrie for our error.*



# One-room Schoolhouse to Open September 9



*Gary Colett paints a bench for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's One-Room Schoolhouse.*

Beginning this September, modern children will be able to turn back the clock and experience the classroom as local predecessors did. The second floor of the Provencal-Weir House is being transformed into a one-room schoolhouse, circa 1900, complete with benches, individual chalkboards, and McGuffey Readers. They will even be able to dress-up in old-fashioned costumes to complete the experience.

"The one-room schoolhouse will bring history to life for children and give them an experience, not just a lec-

ture. We hope it will get kids excited about history," said curator Suzy Berschback. "We want people to touch, taste, smell and feel a part of history. Taking people back in time, especially children, gives them a new sense of appreciation for the luxuries of life we enjoy everyday. There is nothing like laying down on a horse hair mattress to help you appreciate your own bed, or explaining the outhouse to help you appreciate indoor plumbing, or cooking dinner from scratch to help you appreciate the microwave, or doing your homework on a chalk slate to help you appreciate the computer."

The one-room schoolhouse will also feature a display of photographs from old schoolrooms including the 1890 Cook School and the early Kerby and Trombley schools and artifacts like 1900 classroom rules and day plans. The Society is looking for donations of Grosse Pointe School memorabilia to enhance the exhibit.

A curriculum is being developed for the second through fifth grades that will replicate what lessons were taught at the turn of the century and show how they are different—



*The second floor of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Provencal-Weir House.*

and the same—from lessons taught today. Teachers are welcome to follow this curriculum, but are not limited to it.

The project has been funded mainly by a \$2,500 grant from the Grosse Pointe Questers. Many members of the group are former teachers and they were very excited about the idea. "We are pleased to support the one-room schoolhouse and interested in making learning about history fun for local children," said Carol Stephenson, president of the chapter.

## Can You Help?

We need the following items: Ladle/scooper for serving water at lunchtime; 2-4 old-fashioned coatracks; c. 1900 toys for showcases (marbles, jacks, for ages 7-11 to compare to today); an old-fashioned compass; an old wood stool; a dunce cap; a hickory stick; a c. 1880 teacher's desk.

For more information about visiting with a class or to donate items, please call (313) 884-7010 or visit the Grosse Pointe Historical Society website at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



## High School Seniors Awarded Clayton Walker Evans Educational Scholarship

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society awarded three high school seniors the Clayton Walker Evans Educational Scholarship. The students are selected each year by consulting the History Departments of their high schools. Pictured are GPHS board members Patti Schollenberger (back row, left) and Danielle DeFauw with recipients Maria Salciccioli (front row, left), Grosse Pointe North; Paul Leahy, University Liggett School; and Jennifer Paone, Grosse Pointe South High School. The scholarship was founded in 1993 in memory of Evans who had been a president of the Society.



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## Grosse Pointe Historical Society: Bringing the Past to Life for 60 Years

*continued from page 3*

### Tremendous growth in the last decade

Since its 50th Anniversary, the Society has continued to expand and progress. Probably the most significant accomplishment since the 50th Anniversary was the complete restoration of the Provencal-Weir house.

“The Provencal-Weir House is a symbol of The Society and our dedication to the community. It is living history and a tremendous resource for learning,” said Lisa Mower Gandelot, co-president of the Society and leader of the Provencal-Weir House restoration efforts.



*Taking down the Log Cabin, piece by piece, to move it to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in 1997.*

Purchased in 1988 to eventually become the Society's headquarters, the white clapboard Greek Revival farmhouse is one of Grosse Pointe's oldest surviving homes. Built in 1823, it was originally located on the lakeshore near where Provencal Rd. is now. It was moved to its present site, 376 Kercheval, in 1914. The Society has spent 14 years and many tens of thousands of dollars renovating and furnishing the home to be historically accurate. In 2001, they held a Mortgage Burning Party, after raising funds to pay off the mortgage balance on the house. Today, the Provencal-Weir House regularly hosts events and programs. Tours are given once a month.

The Society acquired a second historical building in 1995, a log cabin from the mid-1800s that was located on the grounds of Christ Church Grosse Pointe. Between May 1997 and January 1999, the cabin was taken apart, transported to its current location behind the Provencal-Weir House, where the logs were treated with insecticide, and then reassembled log by log. It took 77 hours to take the cabin down and more than 700 hours to reassemble, re-roof, and chink it. Today, the public can visit the cabin as part of the Provencal-Weir House tour.

“With the acquisition of these buildings, we made the commitment to be here to stay and to be a vital, energetic, proactive force in the community,” said Gandelot.

The Society has shown it really knows how to party in recent years. The Great Gatsby Gala of 1997 and last year's Rumrunners Rendezvous were wildly successful fun and fund-raisers. This year's Party for Posterity 60th Anniversary Celebration on June 17 was another fabulous festivity. Bastille Day has been celebrated several times by the Society as a nod to Grosse Pointe's French heritage.

### The best is yet come

“Great plans are in store for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society,” according to Mike Skinner, Society co-president. “Our board is committed to getting more people of all ages excited about history. Suzy Berschback became our new curator in 2004 and has been instrumental in helping us achieve this.

A new website, [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org), was launched this spring with a modern look and updated information designed to make the Society's archives available to anyone with access to a computer. “We have thousands of beautiful photographs and unique documents to share with the community,” said Skinner. “Our current website is just laying the foundation to continue to build for years to come. We are excited about adding on-line exhibits.”

Numerous programs have been developed for families to experience the past together and to get kids interested in history. Last year's summer program for children, “Life on a Ribbon Farm,” was a big success and will be held again this summer. An Encampment at the Grosse Pointe City Park is planned for September 24 and 25 with costumed re-enactors demonstrating what life was like along the shores of Lake St. Clair in the 1700s.

“One of the most exciting of our new programs is the One Room Schoolhouse which will open in September,” according to Skinner. The Society has transformed the second floor of the Provencal-Weir house into a classroom from the 1900s, complete with benches, individual chalkboards, and McGuffey readers. Kids in the second through fifth grades will be able to experience what it would have been like to go to school in Grosse Pointe one hundred years ago. Funding for this was provided by the Grosse Pointe Questers.

Today the Society stays true to its mission of preserving and promoting the history of Grosse Pointe with exciting programs and resources for all ages. The programs are supported mainly by private contributions from individuals, business, and foundations. To join the Society or for more information, call (313) 884-7010 or visit the website at [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org).



*A Lovely Evening*



*A Sell-out Crowd*



*Former curator Jean Dodenhoff with Lisa Mower Gandelot*



*Mr. and Mrs. Elliott and Mrs. John Danaher*

## **60th Anniversary Celebration Biggest Fundraiser Ever for Society Party for Posterity Raises Almost \$35,000 for Community Programs**

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society hosted its largest fundraiser yet, The Party for Posterity, held on June 17 at the gracious home of Robert and Victoria Liggett. The party was a sell out at 225 people and raised about \$35,000 to help the Society forge ahead with an ambitious series of educational offerings and community programs.

The strolling supper was held in the Liggett's 1909 mansion, the former home of auto magnate Harry Jewett. The Liggetts spent 10 years restoring the Lakeshore Road home and even had a Jewett automobile, built by Jewett's company, on the grounds that night.

Another highlight of the evening was celebrating the 60th birthdays not only of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, but of several of its members and friends, including Board President Lisa Mower Gandelot, Tom Cliff, Dick Allison, and Marilyn Magreta. Frank Sladen was also honored that night for his invaluable service to the Society for the past 25 years. He was given the Society's Bronze Historic Marker for his historic importance both to the community and the organization.

---

# Thank You to our Party for Posterity Donors

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Robert and Victoria Liggett

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*Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If a mistake has been made, please accept our apology. Please call (313) 884-7010 with any corrections.*

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## New Board Members Elected



*Six new members were elected to the Board of Trustees at the May meeting: (left to right) Maud Lyon, Carolyn Candler, Khristi Zimmeth, Gail Zymslowski, James Conway, and Valerie Dodenhoff.*

**Carolyn Candler** has been in the real estate business for more than 22 years. She and her family share a great interest in the ongoing history and preservation of homes. Her ancestors emigrated from England in the 1840s and worked as shipbuilders and then the developers of the sub-division now known as Highland Park. They lived in the Wayne State University area and then Indian Village.

**James Conway** recently retired from his position as the chief curator for the Detroit Historical Museums, where he has worked since graduating from Wayne State University with a degree in anthropology and archeology in 1971. While working at the branch facility, Historical Fort Wayne, he coordinated the renovation of the 1880 Commanding Officer's House, the Spanish American War Guardhouse, and the Tuskegee Airmen's Museum. He is the American Vice President of the International Algonquin Club. He has consulted on many local historic preservation and renovation projects, including the Provencal-Weir House.

**Valerie Dodenhoff** was born in London, Ontario, and moved to Grosse Pointe 37 years ago after marrying Dr. Peter Dodenhoff. Since 1995, she has worked on convention registration staffs and on special projects for the Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau.

**Maud Lyon** came to Detroit in 1987 to be the chief curator of the Detroit Historical Museums. She served as director from 1990-1999. In 1999, working with Chairman Edsel B. Ford II, she founded Detroit 300, the non-profit organization created to celebrate the 300th anniversary of Detroit in 2001. From 2002-2003, she was Senior Vice President for the Detroit Symphony Orchestra and now has her own consulting company, Maud Lyon & Associates, assisting non-profits in strategic development and fundraising.

**Kristi Zimmeth** is an award-winning writer and editor who has most recently worked for Signature magazine and Meredith Publications, owner of titles such as Better Homes & Gardens, Traditional Home, and Country Home. A former editor of Travel & Leisure magazine in New York City, she has also freelanced for Bride's, the Chicago Tribune, and the Los Angeles Times.

**Gail Zymslowski** is a life-long Grosse Pointe resident who is involved in many community organizations. She is a board member of her sorority alumnae association, Kappa Kappa Gamma, and also serves on many boards associated with Lochmoor Club, including golf and swimming. She lives in Grosse Pointe Shores with her husband, Mark, and their three children, Bryan, 18, Kara, 11, and Lisa, 9.



***The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
is to preserve and promote  
the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.***

## Legends of the Fall, October 7

Celebrate the delights of Autumn at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's third annual Legends of the Fall, October 7, 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House. Tales of the early days of Grosse Pointe will be acted out by renowned storyteller Genot Picor. Enjoy apple bobbing, pumpkin decorating, corn roasts and donuts and cider. Admission is \$5.00 per person, \$20.00 per family.



## The Past for the Future

A Simple Way to Give a Legacy  
Gift to the Society

"I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% percent) of my net estate, as finally determined for estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes."

We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills or trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. Future residents of Grosse Pointe will benefit tremendously from these thoughtful gifts to continue to preserve our heritage.

If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call the Society at (313) 884-7010.



## Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture

*Mark McPherson as  
"Charles Dickens"*

Wednesday, November 30

7:30 p.m.

Grosse Pointe South  
Auditorium

11 Grosse Pointe Blvd.

Call 884-7010 for information





# Grosse Pointe Encampment: On the Shores of Lake St. Clair, 1700-1820

*September 24 and 25  
Neff Park, City of Grosse Pointe*

Step back in time during the free Grosse Pointe Encampment: "On the Shores of Lake St. Clair: 1700-1820," Saturday, September 24, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, September 25, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Neff Park in the City of Grosse Pointe, 17350 E. Jefferson Avenue.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society and the City of Grosse Pointe are co-sponsoring this interactive portrayal of frontier life on the Great Lakes. Re-enactors dressed in period attire offer authentic depictions of French voyageurs, Native Americans, British military personnel traders, and French and British settlers.

These historic figures will delight children and adults alike with tall tales and a variety of demonstrations including muzzle loading, cannon fire, and military life in the 1700s.



Guests are invited to browse and buy quality wares at the Encampment's "Sutlers" Tent or select from a variety of Grosse Pointe historical books, videotapes, and other informative videos.

"This is a chance for the citizens of this area to learn about the early settlements and how our ancestors lived among the natives and survived in a harsh, unforgiving environment," said Dale Canapini, co-chair of the event.

For additional information, call Encampment Co-Chair Debbie Graffius, (313) 882-4062, or the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, (313) 884-7010, or visit the website at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



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**Web site:** [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

**Hours:** Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.,  
1:30-4 p.m.

**Curator:** Suzy Berschback

**Administrator:** Linda Johnson

**Editor:** Ann Marie Aliotta

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## Former Jewett Mansion to Host Society's 60th Anniversary Celebration



The GPHS will celebrate its 60th anniversary in grand style at a party to be held in the Georgian mansion on Lakeshore Rd. built by auto magnate Harry Jewett and presently owned by Robert and Victoria Liggett. Like the Society, the house has undergone changes and renovations and has emerged a proud emblem of our wonderful community.

The 7,500-square foot white clapboard house sits on more than two acres with a panoramic view of Lake St. Clair. Built in 1909, it was designed by Walter McFarlane, the architect of Ridgemont, David C. Whitney's Lakeshore home (now demolished).

The home follows the Georgian style with grand Palladian windows, numerous fireplaces and beautiful moldings. After World War I, a large living room, often called the ballroom, was added behind what is now the library. This spacious, bright room features a magnificent crystal chandelier. With features like a ballroom-sized living room, a morning room and solarium with wonderful views of the lake, seven bedrooms, and a third-floor attic playroom, the home is one of Grosse Pointe's most gracious and historic.

But it wasn't always such a showpiece.

"The house was falling apart when we saw it, but we fell in love with it," said Bob Liggett, who bought the home in 1989. "We called it the Havesham House (after the decaying mansion in Dickens' classic novel *Great Expectations*). It was sad, but elegant amid the debris. We took it on as a case and made it our own."

The Liggetts took about 10 years to renovate just about every aspect of the house. The house was completely stripped to bare wood and repainted, new copper gutters and downspouts replaced the original, the front entrance porch and patio have been restored, and new wrought iron was installed. The home was insulated for the first time in the fall of 1992, just after a modern kitchen was completed. The Liggetts also added up-to-date wiring for computers and a state-of-the-art entertainment-media center in the basement.

*continued on page 6*

Save The Date  
*Grosse Pointe Historical Society*  
*60th Anniversary Celebration*

Friday, June 17, 2005 7:00 p.m.

Strolling Dinner

Entertainment by Rennie Kaufmann

Limited Tickets Available

Call (313) 884-7010 for information.



# “A Dickens of a Good Time”



*Victorian and present day carolers filled the Provencal-Weir House with a festive spirit at December's "A Dickens of a Christmas" holiday party. The house was packed with merry-makers of all ages, many of whom were first-time visitors. They listened to the joyful sounds of singers from Grosse Pointe North. Afterwards, a group of revelers went caroling on a few blocks near the Provencal-Weir House. The Fox Creek Questers of Grosse Pointe did a splendid job of decorating the house. Lizzie's Catering of St. Clair Shores provided wonderful food for all to enjoy.*

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, 376 Kercheval Ave., is open the second Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m., during special events, and by appointment. The Resource Center, 381 Kercheval Ave., is open Tuesday and Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and 1:30-4:00 p.m.

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E-mail: [GPHistorical@aol.com](mailto:GPHistorical@aol.com)

Website: [www.gphistorical.com](http://www.gphistorical.com)

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## Ruth and Al Moran

It is with great sadness that the Grosse Pointe Historical Society acknowledges the untimely deaths of Ruth and Al Moran, two long time loyal and enthusiastic supporters of the Society. Al was an honorary board member and an amazingly energetic person who helped mastermind the restoration of the Provencal-Weir House. Many days, he could be seen raking the leaves or painting the house. Al once said how much pleasure it gave him to be able to give his time, energy and money to a “hands-on” project. Ruth helped out at all the events Al was a part of. It is a big loss for our entire community—they enriched the very fabric of Grosse Pointe through their charitable endeavors. Our sympathy and love are with their children Sarah and Jeff, and their grandchildren and their extended family. Services will be held on Saturday, March 19, at 1 p.m. at the Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 16 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms.

*Lisa Mower Gandelot, President*

## Read about Grosse Pointe during March, National Reading Month

We all believe our fair community is extremely noteworthy, but you may not realize how many books, both fiction and non-fiction, feature Grosse Pointe. From self-published family histories to the Pulitzer-prize winning novel *Middlesex*, books on Grosse Pointe are as varied as the people they describe. They can be entertaining, enlightening, and educational.

Following is a comprehensive list. Let us know if we've left anything off. Please note many of these are available for browsing at the Resource Center. Happy Reading!

*A Brief History of St. Paul's Parish*, Theodore H. Mecke

*Fancy Grosse Pointe People*, J.D. Owens, Pinque and Greene Productions, 1992

*Grosse Pointe Blank*, Tom Jankiewicz, screenplay, United Artists. 1994

*Grosse Pointe Girl: Tales from a Suburban Adolescence*, Sarah Grace McCandless, New York, Simon and Schuster, 2004

*The Grosse Pointe Guide*, Federal Writers Project, Grosse Pointe, typed, 1936

*Grosse Pointe Memorial Church, 1865-1990: Its history, its life*, Thomas A. Arbaugh

*Grosse Pointe on Lake Sainte Claire*, Silas Farmer and Theodore P. Hall, Detroit, Silas Farmer, 1886: Reprint, Detroit, Gale Research Company, 1974.

*Grosse Pointe Pimp*, Mark Steel, Riveting Publishing, 2003

*Grosse Pointe, Michigan: Race Against Race*, Kathy

Cosseboom, Michigan State University Press, 1972

*Images of America: Grosse Pointe 1880-1930*, Madeleine Socia and Suzy Berschback, Chicago, Tempus Publishing Inc. for Arcadia Press, 2001

*Legends of Le Detroit*, Marie Caroline Watson Hamlin, reprint of Hamlin 1884 volume, Detroit, Gale Research Co., 1977

*Middlesex*, Jeffrey Eugenides, New York, Farrar Straus & Giroux, 2002

*Murder in Grosse Pointe: The 49th Grave*, Andrew Hartwood, Universe, 2004

*The Grosse Pointe Artists Association*, Thomas W. Brunk, The Association, 1992

*The Virgin Suicides*, Jeffrey Eugenides, New York, Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1993

*Tonnancour, Life in Grosse Pointe and Along the Shores of Lake St. Clair Vols. I & II*, Arthur M. Woodford, editor, Detroit, Omnigraphics, 1994 & 1997

*This is Detroit*, M.M. Quaife, Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1951

*The Buildings of Detroit*, W. Hawkins Ferry, Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1968

*The Mansions of Grosse Pointe*, W. Hawkins Ferry, Michigan Society of Architects, 1956

*Rum Running and the Roaring Twenties: Prohibition on the Michigan-Ontario Waterway*, Philip P. Mason, Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1995

*I Remember Detroit*, John C. Lodge, Detroit, Wayne State University Press, 1949

# Thank You 2004 Annual App

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Mrs. Mary Ann VanElslander, *in memory of Mr. Peter Hage*  
Mrs. Clover R. Wagner, *in memory of Lawrence A. Wagner*

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Miss Shirley Wiederhold, *in memory of William M. & Ethel Wiederhold*  
Mr. John Wilson  
Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson Foundation, *in honor of all veterans*  
Mrs. Charles Wright III  
Mrs. John T. Woodhouse, *in appreciation of Dr. Thomas E. Singelyn, D.D.S.*  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zeller  
Mr. & Mrs. Geroge H. Zinn, *in honor of Lisa Mower Gandelot & Frank Sladen*  
*Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy. If a mistake has been made, please accept our apology. Please call (313) 884-7010 with any corrections.*

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of the  
Grosse Pointe  
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is to preserve  
and promote the  
history of the  
Grosse Pointe  
Community.***

## Former Jewett Mansion to Host Society's 60th Anniversary Celebration

*continued from front page*

Their three girls, 15-year-old Emily and 14-year-old twins, Roberta and Marjorie, have grown up in the rambling house. "It is an amazing home to raise a family in," Liggett said. "They loved the attic playroom when they were younger because it has lots of nooks and crannies to store their stuff in. And they would sit in the windows and look out over the lake while they were reading or doing their homework."

Along with its architectural interest, the house is full of history. The earliest record of the property dates back to 1811 when Francois Ambroise Tremble was granted the land, then over 61 acres, by U.S. President James Madison. In 1876, the land was purchased by James M. Fisher (after a number of previous sales) and in 1884, sold to William B. Moran, who deeded it to John V. Moran. It was used as a dairy cattle and horse farm. Harry Jewett bought the Moran property in 1907.

Jewett, a prosperous civil engineer who became president of the Paige-Detroit Motor Co. raised his family there. The home has been the residence of several

other prominent families including Charles and Blanche Campbell, the Alfred W. Cytackis, and the Frederick S. Fords, and R.P. and Mary Lee Marshall Scherer, Jr.

Asked if there were any legends attached to the house, Liggett said that, although Harry Jewett died there in 1933, his spirit has remained quiet all these years. There is the story of a bootlegging operation that took place in an underground holding tank in the backyard. Sources can't confirm or deny the validity of that report, however.

In 1982, the Junior League of Detroit chose the house for their Designer Show House. It is the recipient of a Grosse Pointe Historical Society Historical Markers. The house has also been featured on HGTV.

*Editors note: most of the information about this house was obtained at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's Resource Center. Anyone interested in the history of their own house can contact the Resource Center at 884-7010 for details on how to conduct their own research.*

## The Past for the Future

A Simple Way to Give a Legacy  
Gift to the Society

"I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (or \_\_\_\_\_% percent) of my net estate, as finally determined for estate tax purposes, to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society (GPHS), a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization located in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, to be used in furtherance of its charitable purposes."

We are indebted to our donors who have included the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in their wills or trusts. Insurance policies, IRAs, or annuities are an easy way to leave money to the Society. Future residents of Grosse Pointe will benefit tremendously from these thoughtful gifts to continue to preserve our heritage.

If you would like to leave a restricted gift or would like to discuss other gift planning ideas, please call the Society at (313) 884-7010.



## His Finest Hour

*"Sir Winston Churchill" spoke to a full house at the Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture last November. History buffs filled the Fries Auditorium at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial to hear actor-playwright Mark MacPherson bring the legendary statesman to life.*



### Scouts Sample History

Girl Scouts from three different troops in Grosse Pointe braved one of this winter's worst snow storms to attend the "History Sampler for Scouts" at the Provencal-Weir House in January. They received a tour of the house and Log Cabin and learned about what daily life would be like for girls their age during the 1800s. They also got to try their hand at candle-dipping, a necessary skill in nineteenth century Grosse Pointe.

### Genot to Visit March 9



French voyageur Genot Picor presents "Songs and Stories of The Voyageur" on March 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Children's Home of Detroit, 900 Cook Rd., Grosse Pointe Woods. Picor, dressed as a 18th century French-Canadian explorer, recounts stories of his travels through the Great Lakes and his encounters with the native people, as well as the French and English settlers. He uses music, dance, puppetry, and role-playing to tell his tales and always invites members of the audience to participate. This Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture is free and open to all ages. Please call (313) 884-7010 for more information.

## 2004 Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

(If you are already a member, please pass this along to a friend.)

### Membership Classifications

Senior Citizen . . . . .	\$25.00	Donor . . . . .	\$125.00
Individual . . . . .	\$35.00	Benefactor . . . . .	\$250.00
Family . . . . .	\$50.00	Major Benefactor . . . . .	\$500.00
Friend . . . . .	\$75.00	Lifetime (may be paid over three-year period) . . . . .	\$1,000.00

Name (as you would like your mail addressed) \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_ Membership Category \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_MasterCard \_\_\_\_VISA Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_

I/We consent to having my/our name published in *the Moorings*. \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

\_\_\_\_I am interested in Planned Giving information

Please make your check payable to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society and send it to:

Grosse Pointe Historical Society, 381 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

Thank you for your support! MICS 12443-0689 All but \$8.00 of your membership dues is tax-deductible in accordance with state and federal laws. The \$8.00 covers the subscription price of *The Moorings*.



# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 for further information

## ***The Chapeau Show Luncheon*** **April 16, 2005, 12:00 noon \$20.00** **Grosse Pointe War Memorial**

Celebrate spring the old-fashioned way in a new or vintage hat. Bea Reid of Excentricity will present a fashion show of historically accurate ladies' caps and hats from the 1700s–1950s. Ladies are encouraged to wear hats and gloves and even period costumes, if they wish. Co-sponsored by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.



Advance reservation is suggested. Call Paula Wigton, (313) 886-9143, or Paula Sarvis, (313) 881-2191, to RSVP. Checks should be made out to Louisa St. Clair Chapter DAR and mailed to Paula Sarvis, 342 McMillan, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236. Tickets may be sold at the door if available.

## ***The Dodge Brothers: The Men, the Motorcars, and the Legacy*** **Dr. Charles Hyde, author and Professor of History at Wayne State University** **May 18, 2005, 7:30 p.m.**

### **Edsel and Eleanor Ford House**

Hyde will discuss the pioneering siblings and their impact on the early days of the automotive industry

in Detroit. He will emphasize their work as suppliers to Henry Ford, but also their success in producing the Dodge Brothers automobile. He will also talk about houses they built, the boats they operated, and their various charitable/community activities.

## **NEW PROGRAM**

### ***Paint the Town: Historic Grosse Pointe***

**Tuesday, March 29, Ages 7 to 11**

**10:00-11:30 a.m. or 1:00-2:30 p.m.**

**Provencal-Weir House FREE\***

***Lorraine Krentzin, instructor***

Create your own rendering of a Grosse Pointe historical site, choosing from 20 photos to base your work on. Paint and paper will be provided; please bring your own markers and crayons. Instructor Lorraine Krentzin has 27 years experience as an art instructor in the Grosse Pointe Schools. Space is limited; call (313) 884-7010 to reserve a spot.

\*In lieu of a class fee, children are asked to bring a "white elephant" to sell in the Historical Society's gift shop.



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Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010

(313) 884-7699 FAX

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**Web site:** www.gphistorical.com

**Hours:** Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.,  
1:30–4 p.m.

**Curator:** Suzy Berschback

**Administrator:** Mary Kay DuCharme

**Editor:** Ann Marie Aliotta

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# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945

WINTER 2004  
Vol.21, No.3

## Fall Fun for All Ages at GPHS



More than 200 people celebrated autumn at the second annual Legends of the Fall. Old and young alike listened wide-eyed to ghost stories of early Grosse Pointe. The guests also enjoyed traditional October delights like bobbing for apples, donuts-on-a-string, roasted corn, and decorating pumpkins.



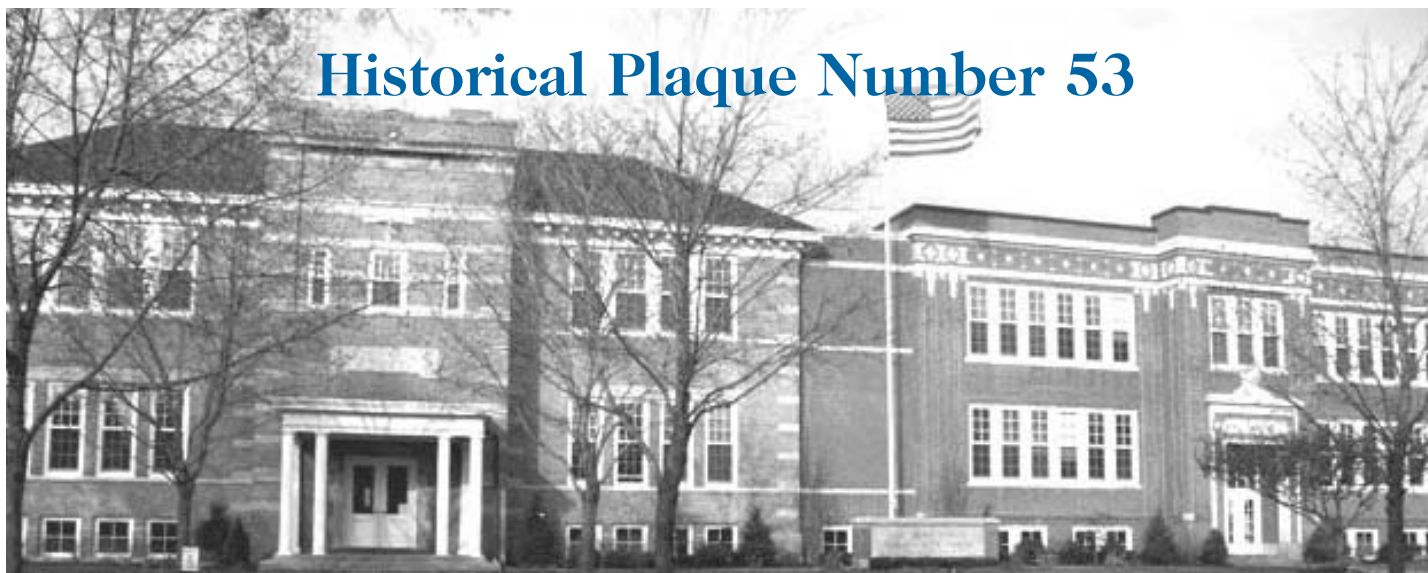
Local school children and their parents enjoyed a visit from "French-Metis voyageur" Genot Picor at the Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, in September, co-sponsored by the Grosse Pointe Public Library.



Grosse Pointe Farms residents Peter and Colleen Demczuk, dressed as early French settlers of old Grosse Pointe, won first prize in the historical spirits costume contest at the Historic Halloween Happenin' held at the Provencal-Weir House in October.



# Historical Plaque Number 53



## Grosse Pointe Public Schools Administrative Buildings, 389-399 St. Clair

In 1905-06, Grosse Pointe School District No. 1 built its second school building, a two-story brick structure at 389 St. Clair Avenue in the Village of Grosse Pointe. There were eight classrooms serving 240 pupils. It was named the Cadieux School after the Cadieux family who resided in the Village. Francis Cadieux served as the District No. 1 School Inspector for 33 years. In 1916-18, a north building, 399 St. Clair, was added due to the increased classroom demand.

By 1924, the school housed all area students from kindergarten through the twelfth grade. Cadieux School was so overcrowded that double sessions had to be scheduled. Thirty-four

different classes were being taught there. Groundbreaking for a new, secondary school at the corner of Fisher and Grosse Pointe Boulevard took place in January 1927. The high school opened the following February. After two years at the new school, the offices of the Grosse Pointe Public School System moved back to the Cadieux school, where they have been located ever since.

The School Board announced plans to vacate the two buildings on St. Clair in 1992, but the decision was met with public outcry and a bid to purchase the property was rejected. In 2002-03 the buildings underwent a major renovation, including a full connection between the two buildings and many other significant improvements.

### Officers

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Debbie Graffius .....Vice President-Development  
Herman Mozer .....Vice President-Preservation  
Richard Strowger .....Treasurer  
Frank J. Sladen, Jr .....Secretary

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters is located in the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval Avenue, and the Resource Center is located at 381 Kercheval Avenue, both in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, 48236. The Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823, is open the second Saturday of each month, 1:00-4:00 p.m., during special events, and by appointment.  
**Phone: (313) 884-7010 Fax: (313) 884-7699**  
**E-mail: GPHistorical@aol.com**

# Meet the New Board Members

**Susan Boynton** recently retired from 25-plus years as a docket analyst with the Michigan Supreme Court and later the Wayne County Circuit Court. Before that, she taught English at Parcels. She has worked as a political consultant in Wayne county elections and is active in many community organizations.

**Stuart Grigg** is the owner and president of Grigg Graphic Services, a marketing communications company specializing in health care and non-profit clients. He has also been a managing partner in W.J. Bell Properties, which owned, restored and rented historic homes in Detroit's West Village neighborhood.

**Kiki Herfert** became involved in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society after using the Resource Center to research her senior thesis, "A History of Grosse Pointe Park," for Wayne State University a few years ago. Her work experience includes management and training of office staff and software support professionals.

**Claudia Fabiano Shannon** has had marketing and finance positions on the staffs of former Senator Spencer Abraham and former Governor John Engler as well as with the Michigan Republican Party. She is currently a chairperson of the National Kidney Foundation of Michigan's fundraising drive.

**John Stevens** founded and successfully ran his own architectural practice for 25 years in Detroit and he remains a member of the American Institute of Architects. Sailing has been his passion for many years and he has won

numerous races. He was recently elected to the Grosse Pointe City Council.

**Robert Wood, Jr.**, runs the Robert Wood & Associates residential design firm. He worked for Pulte Home Corp. designing homes and communities in the United States, Mexico, and Argentina. His work has been featured in *Traditional Homes* and *Better Homes & Gardens*.



## From the President

2004 was a busy time at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. Hundreds of people from school children to seniors attended events, did research at the Resource Center, came to lectures, and participated in workshops. They learned about our history, met friends with common interests, and just plain had fun. It was a great year!

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you these activities are funded mainly through private contributions from individuals and foundations. We are a local organization supported mostly by local people who value the enrichment of this community. Your support of the Annual Appeal is essential to our operation.

Please help us preserve the history of our remarkable community. A successful Annual Appeal will ensure that we can continue creating programs and events that celebrate and commemorate our treasured past. To contribute, please call 884-7010.

*Lisa Mower Gandelot, President*

---

## Thank You, Donors

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Beadle

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## IN-KIND DONATIONS

Thomas R. Brown, Grosse Pointe  
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Thanks also to Thomas R. Singelyn for arranging  
for these two in-kind donations

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April 16, 2005, 12:00 noon

Grosse Pointe War Memorial Reception Room, \$20

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*Co-sponsored by the Louisa St. Clair Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.*

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Dr. Charles Hyde, author and Professor of History at Wayne State University

May 18, 2005, 7:30 p.m.

Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, Complimentary

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***The purpose of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society is to preserve and promote the history of the Grosse Pointe community.***

## NEW PROGRAM

### *History Sampler for Scouts*

Saturday, January 22, 2005

10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon, Provencal-Weir House

\$8 per scout (no charge for parents and troop leaders)

Brownies, Girls Scouts, and Boy Scouts age seven and up are invited to experience history and learn about the past during this new, one-day program. Children will get a tour of the Provencal-Weir House and Log Cabin and learn about how families lived in this area in the 1800s. They

will also learn about and perform chores like churning butter and dipping candles that were part of daily life.

Each participant can apply through their troop for a badge.

Reserve your space today by calling 884-7010.



*Brownie Troop 2173 of Kerby School visited the Grosse Pointe Historical Society in October as part of their work on a try-it badge "Listening to the Past."*



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