



*Grosse Pointe Historical Society*  
**NEWSLETTER**

Vol. 34 No. 1

Local History Brought to Life!

FALL 2017



*See inside front cover for details on this photo.*

### Front cover:

For years Jacobson's in the Village had Santa come to the store during the Holidays for children to ask for presents. But on Friday, November 29, 1974 Santa was transported by pilot and Village merchant W. Michael Williams, Charterhouse and Company president who flew Santa in on his own company helicopter!

## Executive Board

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Shirl Williams

Kay Burt-Willson Patricia E. O'Brien, PhD

# Perspective from the President

by Patricia E. O'Brien, PhD

Welcome to our Fall-Winter edition of the Newsletter. This is a brief review of some of the significant events over the last year and a half. Preserving and protecting our history and providing opportunities for children and adults to participate and enjoy their heritage are critically important. Marcus Garvey said, "A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots."

### My theme is Thanksgiving and Hope

I am especially thankful that we now participate in the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan

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Photo: Marianne Shrader

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

# Spotlight on the Board Kay Burt-Willson

In 2012 **Kay Burt-Willson** and her husband Rick moved to Rivard Blvd. in GPC. As a newcomer to Grosse Pointe, Kay thought it would be a good idea to volunteer locally to help her acclimate to her new neighborhood. She decided to call the GPHS, and asked to volunteer. "The minute I met Kay I thought she would be a wonderful fit", says **Izzy Donnelly**, Director of Education. She was eager to learn and showed an immediate interest in becoming a docent at the PWH. For the past 5 years, Kay has been giving tours at the PWH for our Open Houses held every second Saturday from 1:00-4:00pm. "Kay makes our guests feel welcome and her stories will always make you laugh", commented the Society President, **Patricia O'Brien**. Kay is now a board member and is VP of Education. "Being a docent for the Society has been tremendous fun, since many of the guests who come are history buffs themselves and they always teach me something I didn't know before".

Kay's talents quickly moved her toward education. She has become Izzy's top assistant for children's events. "Working with the children has been so rewarding over the years. The Society offers a really unique experience for children to work in this historic C. 1823 home", expressed Burt-Willson. Her interests have also led her to assist in programs for adults. Kay wrote "**News of Olde Grosse Pointe**", a delightfully entertaining play about a live radio production broadcasting actual historical vignettes and French legends from Grosse Pointe's past. Kay and a team of Society volunteers have performed this daytime play at the Rivers and the Homestead. It is available for online viewing at [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) The play is about 50 minutes long. "What a treat to share stories that jog memories and bring a smile. After all, that is what the GPHS is all about, commented Kay." She suggests that you stop in at the PWH and let her entertain you.

As of May 10, 2017, Kay was elected Regent of the Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution. The DAR objectives are historic preservation, promotion of education and patriotic endeavors.



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

*To become a Member or  
support GPHS*

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

Select the link

**"Join & Support GPHS."**

**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

381 Kercheval Avenue

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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(CFSEM). As stated on their website, and paraphrased here, The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) was established in 1984. Over the years it has funded numerous projects that improve the lives of those who live here. It is a permanent community endowment... supports a wide variety of activities.... Since inception it has distributed \$941 million through 61,000 grants to nonprofit organizations.... To become a member requires a significant initial deposit, and vetting to determine eligibility. An angel stepped forward in 2015 and established an endowed fund for GPHS. Participation in the CFSEM provides myriad opportunities for additional awards and grants as well as educational opportunities for Board members. Membership is an indication of our position as a serious organization.

I am thankful for our wonderful Media partners, **John and Terry Minnis**, and **Jody McVeigh** of the Grosse Pointe News, **Lauren McGregor** of Pointe Magazine, and **K. Michelle Moran** of the Grosse Pointe Times. They provide wonderful coverage of our newsworthy events to keep the community informed.

This is the third year that **Susie at Home** will partner with us for a shopping day on December 2, 2017. GPHS receives a percentage of all sales on that day.

I am most appreciative of our wonderful collaborative relationship with Grosse Pointe Farms. The Mayor, the Council and all the Public Safety staff are always responsive and helpful.

I am thankful for our donors who participate in so many ways. Please take special note of articles in this newsletter about our grant from **Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation** to digitize our collection. Equipment purchased through this grant provides cutting edge technology for our organization.

We appreciate all the home owners who for the past 14 years have opened their homes to us for our Summer Gala, our most significant fundraising event of the year. We appreciate all of you who maintain membership and donate generously to our annual appeal. We truly could not exist without you and your commitment!

And I am Hopeful!

The first acquisition of real property by the GPHS was the Provencal-Weir house in 1987. The house dates to c. 1823 and is thought to be the oldest existing ribbon farm house in the area. Our leadership at that time realized the need for a tangible place of our own and had the vision and courage to embark on that project to preserve that historic structure for generations to come.

In 2012 our leadership realized that long term continuance in our rented space in the Schwartz building for the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center, our administrative offices, and archival storage was not viable for the long term. A FOCUS group considered all possible options.

In 2015 the property directly across the street from the PW House at 375 Kercheval came on the market. Initially we thought it was out of reach. But with the vision and courage of the Board, and partnership of what was Talmer Bank and is now Chemical Bank, we were able to acquire the property with a mortgage. We immediately began planning on how to best use the property to meet our needs. As soon as plans are finalized we will unveil them to you. Stay tuned!

The Louisa St. Clair Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution was our first major contributor to The Future of Grosse Pointe Past.

Thank you to each and every one of you for your continued support of our mission and vision. The Future of Grosse Pointe Past is in our hands. Whether you are a long time member and supporter of GPHS or new to the community and discovering us for the first time we appreciate you. Thank you.

Never forget the importance of history. To know nothing of what happened before you took your place on earth is to remain a child forever. (Plutarch & Cicero)

I am Thankful and Hopeful!



Left to right: Peggy King Scully, Regent, Louisa St. Clair Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution; **Stuart Grigg**, VP – Development, Grosse Pointe Historical Society; **Dr. Patricia O'Brien**, President, Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

# Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation

On February 01, 2016 **Stuart Grigg**, VP of Development, submitted the GPHS Online Collections Access Grant Proposal to the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Fund.

The Society received notice from the Community Foundation of Southeastern Michigan that our grant application to the Ralph C. Wilson Endowment for Grosse Pointe Community Assets for \$25,000 to support Online Collections Access was approved. This grant will enable our team to implement a key long-term goal in the Strategic Plan, and energize activity at the Resource Center. We are confident that better access to our collections will bring new “eyes” to our online presence. It will reinforce public awareness of the important nature of our work. President **Patricia O’Brien** said, “The Society was thrilled and honored to receive this generous gift. We rolled up our sleeves and got right to work. A task force was formed immediately and was comprised of:

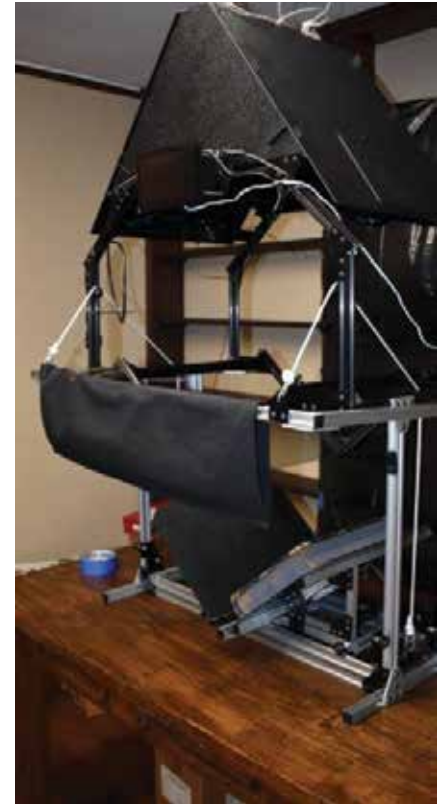
**Patricia O’Brien** – President of Grosse Pointe Historical Society, **Stuart Grigg** – VP of Development at Grosse Pointe Historical Society, **Izzy Donnelly** – Director of Education and Collections Manager at Grosse Pointe Historical Society, **Amy Van DeWys** – Grosse Pointe Historical Society Board Member, **Nathan Kelber** – Digital Projects and Collections Manager at Detroit Historical Society, **Leon Denison** – Technical support and **Jay Hunter** – Web Master.

The first item on the agenda was to upgrade our existing backup system. Storage Craft – Shadow Protect was recommended by Leon and he installed it immediately. The second item discussed was what new equipment we would need for Online Collections Access.

Nathan’s experience enabled us to purchase state of the art equipment. We now have an Epson 12000XL – PH Expression Flatbed Scanner, an Epson 12000XL – GA Expression Flatbed Scanner, a Camera Nikon D3400 with Macro Lens, a photography light tent, 600W Daylight Umbrella Lighting Kit, Gray background paper, an Archivist Quill Book Scanner, a wireless Barcode Scanner and Limo1200 Watt Photo Umbrella lighting Kit. We turned the Link Room at the PWH into our Digital Resource Photo Lab which houses the book scanner and the photo lab. Leon installed Wi-Fi at the Resource Center and the PWH so we could store a laptop at the PWH. A ThinkPad E570 laptop was purchased and now we can take images with the book scanner or the Nikon Camera, take out the memory card, put it in the laptop and show our clients the image(s) immediately.

We also upgraded our PastPerfect Museum Software from PP4 to PP5. Our accession number policy was upgraded to a 10 digit numbering system and with our

new scanners in place at the Resource Center; each item in the archives will be given an updated numbering system. This will allow us to re-scan each image in our archives, upload it to PP5, and install on the Online Collections Database with PP5.



Lower left: **Stuart Grigg** and Nathan Kelber discuss details for the grant.

Top right: Archivist Quill Book Scanner

Bottom right: The Nikon D3400 is on a tripod taking photos of objects in the light tent.



# SUMMER ON THE LAKE 2017

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Summer Gala was held on June 16, 2017 at 671 Lake Shore Road with a scenic backdrop of Lake St. Clair. The hosts for the evening were Chad and Katy Krueger. Their Coastal Craftsmen style home showcased the Kentucky horse barn wood re-purposed as flooring, Pewabic tile fireplaces, leaded glass windows and a vintage mantelpiece, salvaged from a Grosse Pointe estate.

A highlight of the evening was the Afterglow – “A Little Night Music” – featuring a concert on the Marquis de Riviere Stradivarius violin in the Music Room. The evening closed with the guests, who subscribed to the violin concert, being presented a custom made violin cookie.

Patrons and guests enjoyed tours of the home followed by a strolling supper and a display of vintage muscle cars.

The Miles Brown Quartet, a group of jazz musicians, added their magic during supper refreshments.

Floral arrangements were created by Flowers for Any Event. The Summer Gala was catered by Thibault and Moore Catering. Photographs for “Summer on the Lake” were created by Robin Maghelsie and complimentary portraits by John Martin.

# Summer ON THE Lake

## HOSTS

Chad and Katy Krueger

## GALA CO-CHAIRS

Valerie Dodenhoff, Cathy Walker

## HONORARY COMMITTEE

Dr. David Balle

Keith and Mary Kay Crain

Peter and Valerie Dodenhoff

Mason and Mary Kaye Ferry

Stuart Grigg

Stephanie Hampton

Ron and Mary Lamparter

James and Ann Nicholson

Patricia O'Brien, PhD

John and Lucy Prost

Tom and Mary Shafer

Louis and Patti Theros

Richard and Cathy Walker



President **Patricia O'Brien** and VP of Development **Stuart Grigg** present Chad and Katy Krueger with their family portrait as a gift of thanks for hosting as Co-Chair **Cathy Walker** looks on.



**Stuart Grigg**, Vice President of Development talks with Board member **Mason Ferry** and his wife **Mary Kaye Ferry**.



**Killeen**, **Elliot**, and **Mary Shafer** with **Lev** and **Lynne Wood**.



Hosts: Chad and Katy Krueger



**Mike Skinner** once again provided vintage cars and trucks on display by the garage.



The violin duet with a Stradivarius capped off the evening.

Photos: Robin M Photography

## POINTES OF HISTORY

# Albert Kahn sweeps this year's Pointe of History celebration

PLAQUE NO. 91

266 Lakeland Road, Grosse Pointe

The home at 266 Lakeland was designed by Albert Kahn, and built for Benjamin F. Tobin in 1912. The name given to the home was Rosecroft, because of the rose gardens that once graced its grounds.

The beautiful 18-room English Tudor home at 266 Lakeland features a three-story open staircase, large living room, dining room, library, morning room, garden room and recently renovated kitchen on the first floor. There are a total of 4 wood burning fireplaces and a dumbwaiter running through the four floors. The library has hidden shelves and original wood paneling, with a barrel ceiling and ornate plasterwork. The house also features Pewabic tiles, sleeping porches on the second and third floors, 126 windows, 74 doors and 112 stairs. It was the Junior League Designer Showhouse in 1986. The house remained in the Tobin family until 1944. It has had four subsequent owners before Drs. Agnes and Paul Ward purchased the home in 2013.



Home owner Michael Goodell talks about the history of his home on 225 Touraine for the History Pop-Up tour held on Saturday, October 28th.

## Pop-Up events

Board member, **Ann Loshaw**, organized two noteworthy and informative Pop-Up opportunities for members as well as the public. A Pop-Up is a nimble concept allowing us to quickly respond to an interesting, enlightening, or educational opportunity that comes up suddenly, and will disappear just as quickly. Information about Pop-Ups is provided to GPHS members via email blast, social media, Facebook, etc., and on our website. Remember to "Like" us on Facebook! Participation is easily achieved online through Eventbrite. Members pay a reduced price.

On Wednesday evening, October 25th, at the Pier Park Activity Room, approximately 25 individuals enjoyed a presentation on Historic Painting. The inaugural program featured new Grosse Pointe Park resident, Tony Kartsonas, owner and founder of Historic Surfaces. Tony has more than 20 years experience and involvement with 80 significant projects listed on the National Register or as National Landmarks. Additionally, he is an expert in projects involving architectural conservation and the restoration and conservation of painted surfaces, wood finishes, plaster and murals. His skills include gliding, glazing, poly-chroming, stenciling, trompe l'oeil, faux mabelizing, Venetian plaster and wood finishing.

Tony's presentation entitled, "Introduction to Historic Paint and Traditional House Painting", featured historic finishes and how they have evolved. The audience was very receptive and several asked when the next presentation will be held. We advised them to stay tuned – it will Pop-Up. We are fortunate to have Tony and Mata Kartsonas with this expertise as new residents of Grosse Pointe Park.

On Saturday, October 28, over 40 individuals enjoyed a tour of the "never before on the market" home of Michael Goodell at 225 Touraine. Mr. Goodell was enthusiastic to partner with GPHS because so many folks have asked him about the house over the years. Originally built in 1927 for Ernest M. Bartolomei, it was sold before he moved in to Mr. and Mrs. David H. Locke, Mary's grandparents, commented Goodell. They were an important part of Grosse Pointe society. The home has remained in the possession of the Locke/Northcutt family until now – almost 70 years. Participants enjoyed seeing the basement bar, used extensively during Prohibition and a safe-within-a-safe. Blueprints of the home provided valuable insight into plans from decades past. Copies will be included in the GPHS blueprint archives of over 3,500 homes.



PLAQUE NO. 90

795 Lake Shore Road (GP Shores Village Hall)

The Albert Kahn-designed City Hall for the Village of Grosse Pointe Shores at 795 Lakeshore Road celebrated its 100th anniversary in November 2015. The Village leaders held an anniversary party in honor of the first Village council meeting that was held in the building on November 1, 1915.

Notable Detroit architect Albert Kahn was retained to provide plans for the facility and an election was held. The proposition to build a new Village Hall costing \$22,000 was passed in November 1914. The Linsell Company was hired as contractor for the project. Construction was completed in about a year. The Council met for the first time in its new home on November 1, 1915 and a dedication was held on Friday, December 10, 1915.

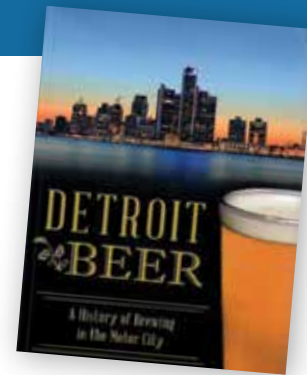
# GPHS BICKNELL LECTURE SERIES 2017

## Detroit Beer: A History of Brewing in the Motor City

Wednesday, November 15, 2017 7:30p.m., Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods

While in recent years Detroit's craft beer scene has exploded with activity and innovation, brewing has a long history in the Motor City. Small brewers popped up during the mid-1800s to support nearby saloons. Many breweries survived the dry years by producing "near beer," or non-alcoholic beer, which was quickly abandoned after Prohibition. Consolidation marked the following decades until only Stroh Brewery Company remained. Local brewing returned triumphantly with dozens of breweries opening their doors since the 1990s.

*Author: Stephen Johnson is the owner and founder of Motor City Brew Tours, a company that provides guided tours to area breweries. He is also an adjunct professor of marketing at Macomb Community College and has worked in both sales and marketing for over twenty years. Stephen earned a Bachelor's in Business from Western Michigan University and a Master's of Business Administration from Walsh College of Business.*



## 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr's 1968 Speech at Grosse Pointe High School

Wednesday, March 14, 2018 7:30p.m.

Gymnasium at Grosse Pointe South High School – 11 Grosse Pointe Blvd, Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236



NOTICE THAT THIS PROGRAM IS BEING HELD ON THE 2nd Wednesday rather than the 3rd Wednesday of the month in order to mark the exact 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speech at Grosse Pointe High [now South] on March 14, 1968, three weeks before he was tragically assassinated.

Plans for this commemoration have not been finalized but this is sure to be a must attend event. Please plan to visit the Society's website [gphistorical.org](http://gphistorical.org) and read the Grosse Pointe News in early March for more details.

# Second Saturdays 2017-2018

Provencal-Weir House at 376 Kercheval Ave., in GPF  
313-884-7010.

Saturday events are from 1:00-3:00pm. All reservations must be made by the Thursday before each event. The cost is \$20.00 for members, \$25.00 for non members.



## DECEMBER 9

Sew and stuff a felt ornament for your Christmas tree. Pick a reindeer or gingerbread man.

## JANUARY 13

Be prepared when the snow comes! Build your own snowman kit. Fimo clay will be used to make the mouth, nose and eyes; fleece for your scarf and a hat will be provided for his cap.



## FEBRUARY 10

Warm your home by making a heart garland for your mantle. Polymer clay will be used for the hearts of any color attached to ribbon.

# 1823 Society Members

Arkay-Walker Inc.

Beline Obeid Realty

Chip Berschback, Attorney

Cathy Champion, Realtor

Corbett Consulting

Louisa St. Clair Chapter  
National Society Daughters of the  
American Revolution

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

James R. Fikany Real Estate Co.

Higbie Maxon Agney, Inc.

Ed Lazar Insurance Agency, Inc.

Rose Pest Solutions

The Little Blue Book

Wayne County  
Community College District

1823 members listed accurate as of 11/9/17

# Grosse Pointe Historical Society

381 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010 **Phone**

(313) 884-7699 **Fax**

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

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**PAID**

Southfield, MI  
Permit No. 730

**HOURS:** Tues. & Wed.: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**WEB SITE:** [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

**E-MAIL:** [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)



## Holiday Party Please join the Trustees and Staff of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

Celebrate the holiday season, Friday,  
Dec. 8 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the  
Provencal-Weir House.

**FOOD**

**BEVERAGES**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**LABELLE COUNTRY STORE**



## Susie At Home

17139 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe MI

A wonderful way to start your holiday shopping and support the

## Grosse Pointe Historical Society!

Susie invites the community to the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual  
shopping day where **10%**  
of total sales will be donated to  
the Historical Society.

# Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>

10:00 AM ~ 5:30 PM

Refreshments will be served.