Grosse Pointe Historical Society

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 36 No. 1 Local History Brought to Life! SPRING 2019

ANDERSON VILLA

A gala fundraiser in support of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

Music of the Night

Enjoy a glamorous evening at the landmark Anderson Villa estate in Grosse Pointe Shores. This chateau-style, three-story home covers four acres of immaculately-landscaped grounds with formal gardens and 265 feet of shoreline on Lake St. Clair. The party includes a tour of the home, open bar, hors d’oeuvres and a strolling supper all while enjoying the Music of the Night entertainment.

GOURMET FOOD & DRINKS
MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
VINTAGE AUTOS ON DISPLAY

Order tickets today!
Limited Reservations

For information and tickets
313-884-7010 info@gphistorical.org
Order tickets online now: www.gphistorical.org
The President’s Perspective...

by Patricia E. O’Brien, PhD

Welcome Spring! After what felt like a particularly long and challenging winter season, I am thrilled to see daffodils peek their lemony yellow faces out of the ground, watch fat robins hop around the grass, and see ice disappear from our beautiful Lake St. Clair! All harbingers of promised summer in our fantastic community.

Your Grosse Pointe Historical Society has been extremely busy over these past months. The building at 381 Kercheval, which housed our Administrative Offices, Resource Center, and archival collections was sold last summer. Rent was drastically increased and the new owner wanted possession of the building. Your Board prudently decided to consolidate operations. Administrative Services moved across the street into our historic Provencal Weir House. It is cozy and appears to be working well for the interim. Huge kudos to Trustees Ann Loshaw – VP of Conservation – and Kay Burt-Willson – VP of Education – who had major responsibilities for this project. Many Trustees contributed hours sorting and packing to assure that our collections were moved safely and securely.

This year we added two Trustees to our Board who are seniors at ULS. Recommended by their teacher, Adam Hellebuycx Academic Consultant to the Board – Connor Barthel and Mary Weiermiller joined us in September for a one year term. Mary and Connor provided critical perspective from emerging leadership. You can meet them at the Gala as they and other student volunteers assist with check in. New student Trustees Darshana Subramanian and Nathaniel “Nat” Hodgson join in September and we can’t wait to meet them.

Under the very capable oversight of Trustee Mary Shafer, Gala Committee Chair, you can enjoy a glamorous evening at the landmark Anderson Villa estate in Grosse Pointe Shores on June 13. This chateau-style home covers four acres of immaculately landscaped grounds with formal gardens and 265 feet of Lake St Clair shoreline. The party includes a tour of the home, open bar, hors d’oeuvres and a strolling supper while enjoying Music of the Night entertainment. Gorgeous vintage Packards will be on display. Tickets are available on Event Brite now or call the office at 313-884-7010. This fabulous opportunity to show your support of GPHS is sure to sell out – so act fast!

The Capital Campaign to ensure The Future of Grosse Pointe Past is underway. Co Chairs Trustee Mason Ferry and Past President Lisa Gandelot, as well as myself and others, are able to visit with you to present opportunities, explain the nuances of the Campaign and answer questions. There are a variety of options to make a gift which will benefit the community for years to come. Options include a donation of appreciated stock, or a direct contribution from a RMD from an IRA. Mason Ferry has established the mechanism to transfer appreciated stock which is extremely beneficial to the donor. Another way for those, like myself, who are required to take Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) annually from an IRA is to make that gift directly. There are benefits to the donor for this as well. For more information call the office at 313-884-7010 and a member of the Capital Campaign Committee will contact you. As always, your financial advisor can assist with the best option for your individual circumstance.

I am grateful to all the wonderful Trustees, volunteers, members, and Community Partners who make this community and the GPHS vibrant and vital. I look forward to breaking ground on our Administrative Services building, which will house the Moran Resource Center, offices, archives, digitizing equipment, provide space for exhibits and educational offerings to all ages and preserve our rich heritage for all our citizens, and much, much more for years to come!

“Study the past, if you would divine the future.” – Confucius
The 16th annual Grosse Pointe Historical Society Gala fundraiser will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2019, 5:30 – 10:30 pm, at the home of James and Patricia Anderson on Lake Shore Road in Grosse Pointe Shores. Proceeds from the event benefit the general operations of the Society, which protects historic artifacts, shares Grosse Pointe history through its collections and web site, and brings history to life for current and future generations through programs, lectures, exhibits and activities.

Ticket sales for the event are open to all, but are limited in number. General admission tickets are $175 each, and may be purchased through the GPHS web site: www.gphistorical.org, or by contacting the Society office at 313-884-7010. Sponsorship opportunities are featured on the web site and through the office. For guests age 35 and under, a special “NexGen Leadership” ticket is offered at a reduced ticket price of $100 each. There will be a Raffle Drawing the night of the Gala, featuring premium prizes. 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes will be awarded.

“Music of the Night” guests will be part of a glamorous evening in the tradition of “Grand Grosse Pointe events.” Valet parking and a sampling of the home are part of the arrival experience, and the tented party includes open bars, hors-d’oeuvres and a catered, strolling supper and entertainment. A complimentary portrait by photographer John Martin will be offered, with the print available on departure. Historic Packard cars will be on display. A special add-on Afterglow will be offered. It will take place in the Music Room of the home and feature well-known local entertainer, Joe Armijo and a soloist, presenting a “Phantom of the Opera” medley and more, accompanied by after-party refreshments.

Sponsors will be welcomed at a pre-Gala preview reception in the home, with special house access, cocktails, special hors d’oeuvres, and entertainment.

Gala committee, assisted by daughter-in-law Killeen Shafer (Grosse Pointe Farms) and Kate Anderson, the daughter of the Andersons, (Grosse Pointe Shores). It’s noteworthy to have two generations of women from the same family committed to GPHS leadership.

Sponsorship opportunity information is available by contacting Anne Masterson, Director of Special Projects at anne@themastersongroup.net, 313 570-7449.

The home
950 Lake Shore Road is a landmark on the Lake. “Anderson Villa,” as the estate is known, covers four acres of immaculately-landscaped grounds with formal gardens and 265 feet of shoreline on Lake St. Clair.

The exquisite chateau-style home was built in 1991. The carved stone exterior is a delight of turrets, balconies, mansard roof, and terraces. The interior spans 27,000 sq. ft on three floors. A sweeping staircase highlights the soaring entry hall. The list of grand rooms includes an in-door pool, exercise, and family-entertainment complex. This leads to the expansive lawns and lake. There are a wine cellar, elevator, bedrooms each with a balcony, library, den, state dining room, parlors, great hall and living room, kitchen complex, music room and more. Delightful features include elaborate ceilings, wood and stone carving, and hand-painted murals throughout the house.

Outside, a massive terrace with bronze planters has elegant staircases which descend to the manicured lawns punctuated by a gazebo, and the boardwalk along Lake St. Clair.

“Anderson Villa” is truly the equal of the Pointe estates of the 1920s, like Rose Terrace and Stonehurst. And it’s a family home, with host, hostess, and family who welcome visitors to their estate at events which benefit many worthy local causes and organizations.
The last Grosse Pointe Historical Bicknell lecture for the 2018-19 season was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Benson Ford, second son of Edsel and Eleanor Clay Ford, was born a century ago on July 20, 1919. At birth he was named Edsel Junior, but was quickly renamed Benson, his maternal grandmother’s maiden name.

Easygoing, affable and good-humored, he left Princeton after two years to work at Ford Motor Company before enlisting into the Army Air Corp during WWII. As a Ford Motor Company Director and Vice President, he led the Mercury Division from 1948-56 and then served as Ford’s Chairman of the Dealer Policy Board until his passing in 1978. Additionally, Mr. Ford’s work on behalf of local charities was very extensive.

Presenter, Mark Heppner, President and CEO of the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Mark has been with the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House for the past seven years. As of March 1, 2019, he assumed the role of President and CEO. Previously Mark was the Executive Director of Salisbury House & Gardens in Des Moines, Iowa and Vice President of Museum Services at Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens in Akron, Ohio. He received his B.A. at Miami University of Ohio in History and minor in Political Science and Anthropology. Mark also possesses an M.A. degree from Cleveland State University in American History with specific focus in public history and archival research.

In 2014, as a gift to outgoing President Susan Hartz, whose passion and knowledge of gardens is well known, an herb garden was planted behind the Provencal Weir house. The plants were common to the residents of the area.

In Spring of this year, Grosse Pointe Garden Center with their project, Pointes Abloom, are working with the Grosse Pointe Historical Society to plant and tend the herb garden at the Provencal Weir house. Pointes Abloom provides garden workshops and gardening experiences to educate youth and families on the basic elements of flowers and vegetables, planting, maintaining and harvesting gardens. The three workshops they are focusing on this Spring are seeds, plants for pollinators and bees and butterflies.

The Grosse Pointe Herb Society is sponsoring the herb garden project and helping to select the herbs that would have been planted in the early 1800’s. Youth are volunteering to prepare the soil and plant the herbs to earn service hours.

Hope Hoffman, who leads Pointes Abloom, is excited to have several organizations working together on this garden project. Anyone who is interested in working on a garden project or who would like to help facilitate a workshop for youth, please call Hope at 248-390-0500.
Pointes of History Celebration - May 21, 2019

Each year GPHS awards plaques to homes or buildings of historical significance in the Pointes. This year’s honored properties are:

111 Cloverly Road, Grosse Pointe Farms – PLAQUE #95
The home at 111 Cloverly Road was designed and built in approximately 1924 for Hugh Ledyard. The architect was Robert O. Derrick, one of the most prominent architects in Grosse Pointe at the time. Mr. O. Derrick designed more than 25 homes, in addition to the Grosse Pointe Club (known as the Little Club), the Grosse Pointe Farms pumping and filtration station on Moross Road close to the lake, the Punch & Judy Theater building on the Hill, and the Henry Ford Museum building, which was modeled after Independence Hall in Philadelphia.

Hugh Ledyard was Secretary and Treasurer of the Art Stove Company of Detroit. He lived in the house at 111 Cloverly from 1924 until his death in 1951. Hugh’s sister, who became the Baroness Matilda Clemens Von Kettler, is thought to have made 111 Cloverly her residence during her visits to Grosse Pointe.

Many of Mr. O. Derrick’s residences, which were often designed for prominent clientele, were in the Colonial Revival or Georgian Revival styles, but 111 Cloverly is in the English Tudor style. Its interior is atypical of other Tudor homes in Grosse Pointe. The elongated narrow wings of the house, plus an extensive number of windows, capture natural light, making the residence bright and airy. According to the 1940 census, the house had a staff of four maids plus a gardener.

55 Vendome Road, Grosse Pointe Farms – PLAQUE #96
55 Vendome was designed by Alexander Girard in 1950 for Kathleen and John McLucas. Mr. Girard also created “modern style” homes for himself (1947) and for the Goodenoughg (1949) & Rieveschl (1950) families in the “Pine Woods” on Lothrop Road and operated two design studios in the Pointes.

The McLucas house is the only surviving private residence designed entirely by Alexander Girard, which has not been significantly altered. It is an excellent example of midcentury modern design, incorporating key elements such as open plan glass walls, custom built-in furnishings and bold color accents.

While the open web steel joist ceiling of the living room demonstrates Girard’s adaptation of industrial materials for residential use, it also reflects his work as a color consultant for the new General Motors Technical Center in the early 1950’s. Additionally, the home demonstrates the influence of traditional Japanese architecture, including: the cedar wood trim and the integration of the house into its site.

Current and third owners, Robert and Mary Lubera purchased the home in 2009 and enlisted the help of iconic Detroit designer, Ruth Adler Schnee, in their restoration of the home to its original appearance and intent.

1011 Yorkshire Road, Grosse Pointe Park – PLAQUE #97
The home at 1011 Yorkshire was built in 1916 by the Poupard Family, one of the most prosperous in the Grosse Pointes. The property was originally part of the larger Poupard Farm which was owned by Simon and Genevieve Poupard in the mid-1800’s. It was one of the spacious ribbon farms, or strip farms, that lined the shores of Lake St. Clair. It was bounded by the lake on the south, Harper Avenue on the north, Bishop Road on the east and Kensington on the West. The road that became Yorkshire ran down the middle of this large parcel. Simon Poupard was one of the organizers of the first volunteer fire departments in the area, which brought high social standing. His son, Charles Poupard, served as clerk for the Village of Grosse Pointe Park, and as treasurer for the board of education for 31 years. He reportedly never missed a meeting and was known for his kindness. Poupard Elementary School in Harper Woods was opened in 1951. Unfortunately, Charles Poupard died before he could be honored at the opening of the school. 1011 Yorkshire was in the Poupard family until 1963. Since then, the home designed in Georgian Revival style by Detroit architects, Larue and Rahles, has had several owners and had extensive renovations in 2007. The current owners, Charles and Kimberly Burke, have lovingly restored and maintained both the interior and exterior with respect for its architectural and historical integrity.
For all Grosse Pointers, history is part of our daily lives, whether our family has been here for generations or we’re more recent arrivals. Our history is rich in the stories of famous industrialists, iconic residential architecture, and the daily lives of residents going back more than 300 years. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is the only community organization that has taken on the responsibility to preserve this history and make it available for generations to come.

Today, we are honored to present a project we are calling The Future of Grosse Pointe Past – creating a permanent home for the administration and archives of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at 375 Kercheval. This is not only our campaign slogan; it encompasses all we have been able to accomplish in the past 70+ years, and what we expect to accomplish in the future.
Our new home at 375 Kercheval will provide the space to:

- **Create** a permanent home for historical documents of all the Grosse Pointes
- **Ensure** that these unique collections can be safely stored for generations
- **Share** collections with the world via digital technology
- **Welcome** more visitors to view and use the collections
- **Expand** public outreach to be a community resource for all the Grosse Pointes

For years, we have searched for a facility that is close to our most prominent buildings – the Provencal-Weir House and the Log Cabin – that can serve as the hub we need. **The Future of Grosse Pointe Past** will allow us to move from the small, rented, inadequate space in the Schwartz Building to space designed and built for our mission: To collect, preserve, and share Grosse Pointe history now and in the future.

As new replaced old in the Pointes, the collection of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society grew substantially, and we now house thousands of unique holdings not duplicated anywhere else. Without an endowment or permanent home, the collection wandered. The journey included, in the case of a large suite of irreplaceable blueprints, the home of a member for 19 years!

A task force looked at every option from a move, to construction adjacent to the Provencal-Weir House, to becoming a tenant in another local organization’s building, to warehousing the collection and running a “virtual office” to name a few.

In 2015, a house at 375 Kercheval was listed for sale and this presented the Grosse Pointe Historical Society with a once in a lifetime opportunity. After serious deliberation and negotiation, the leadership of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society purchased 375 Kercheval in July 2016.

Your gift to **The Future of Grosse Pointe Past** A Campaign for a Permanent Home for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society helps the past remain vivid and alive.

Looking forward to celebrating our 75th anniversary with this wonderful new building in 2020.
Wednesday, May 15, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.
GPHS Bicknell Lecture Series – Benson Ford: A Historical Perspective
Location: The War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI

Thursday, May 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.
Pointes of History Celebration
Midsummer Night on Kenwood
Location: Grosse Pointe Farms Community Center
Pier Park, Jefferson at Moross Road

Historic Plaques will be awarded to:
- 111 Cloverly Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms
- 55 Vendome Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms
- 1011 Yorkshire Rd., Grosse Pointe Park

Thursday, June 13, 2019 at 6:30 p.m.
16th Annual Gala
Music of the Night at Anderson Villa
Location: 960 Lakeshore Road
Grosse Pointe Shores, MI

Building the Vision

$1,500,000
Campaign Goal!
$1,000,000
Building
$500,000
Endowment

- Site acquisition
- Feasibility studies and architect fees
- Surveys, permits, contractor insurance
- Demolition, excavation, lower-level footings and walls, site preparation
- Interior and exterior construction
- Accessibility – ramp and elevator
- Furnishings and landscaping

1823 members listed accurate as of 4/15/19