

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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(313) 884-7010

(313) 884-7699 FAX

e-mail: GPHistorical@aol.com

Web site: www.gphistorical.com

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Curator: Suzy Berschback

Administrator: Mary Kay DuCharme

Editor: Ann Marie Aliotta

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Grosse Pointe
Historical Society
established 1945
Celebrating 60 Years!
SPRING 2005
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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.
 Phone: (313) 884-7010 Fax: (313) 884-7699
 E-mail: GPHistorical@aol.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. Quaiife, 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

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The purpose of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society 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.)

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