

# 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**



## ***Victorian Caroling Party***

For our members and friends

**Sunday, December 4**

**2:00-4:00 p.m.**

**Provencal-Weir House, c. 1823**

**Complimentary**

Refreshments will be served

Carolers from Grosse Pointe North  
High School in costume will perform



## ***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.

***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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Dated Material  
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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
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 \_\_\_\_\_

Corporation \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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/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! 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.*

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 Michael W. Skinner .....Co-President  
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 Richard Strowger .....Treasurer  
 Danielle DeFauw .....Secretary

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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](mailto:GPHistorical@aol.com) Website: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).



## 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.