

Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 or visit www.gphistorical.org for further information

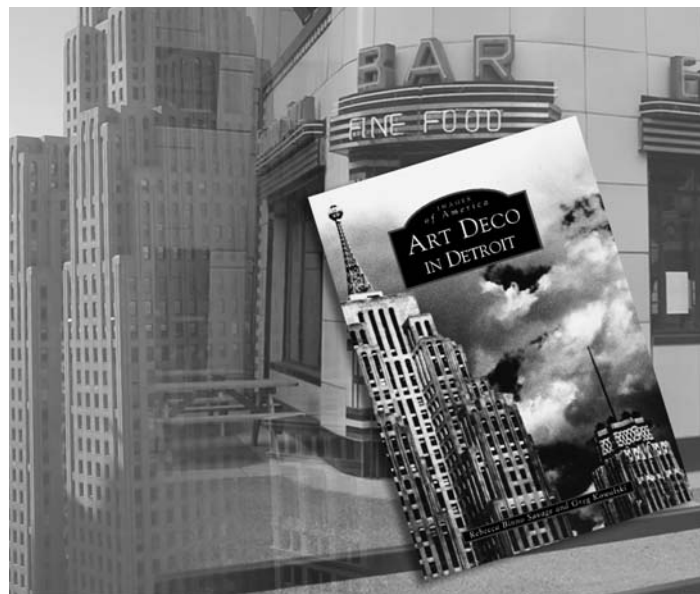
The following events are free of charge

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.



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

Schwartz Building • 381 Kercheval Avenue

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

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e-mail: info@gphistorical.org

Web site: www.gphistorical.org

Hours: Tues. & Wed: 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., 1:30-4 p.m.



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.



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Grosse Pointe
Historical Society
established 1945
FALL 2006
Vol. 23, No.3

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 curricula 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**



THE PRIVATE BANK

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.

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



Carolyn Candler

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The Grosse Pointe Historical Society Headquarters, Provençal-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

Grosse Pointe Historical Society Membership Form

| | | | |
|---|---------|--|------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen | \$25.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Donor | \$125.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual | \$35.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$250.00 |
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Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$ _____
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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!



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-campment 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

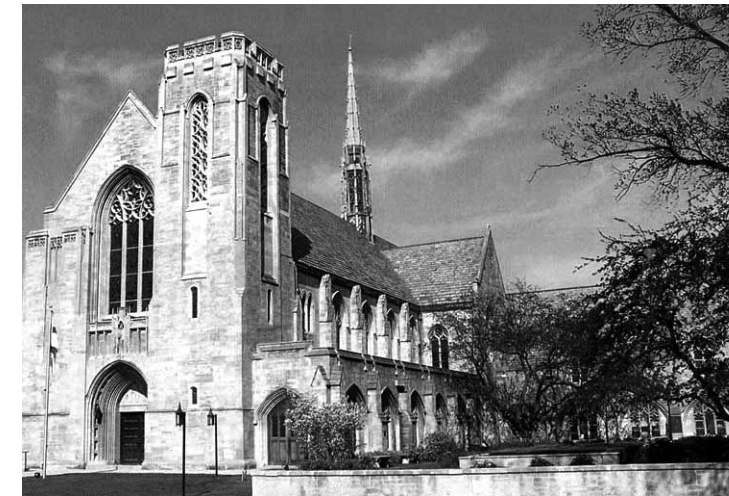
Cook Schoolhouse Saved for Posterity continued from front page

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.

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.

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

Remember...THEN?



Santa's Sleigh, 1975

Look at NOW...WOW!



Santa's Sleigh, 2004