

# eMoorings



March 2013

As I write this, spring is in the air and this always turns my thoughts to our summer party. A Tuscan Villa is the setting this year -- a wonderful home with deep roots in Grosse Pointe history.

Currently owned by Lora and Sergio Mazza, the villa is a treasure trove of fabulous details inspired by Northern Italian architecture. Carefully planned and maintained gardens surround the home.

We will enjoy an evening of dinner in the garden and music in the great room. You won't want to miss this *bellissima* event!

*Susan Hartz* -  
President, Grosse Pointe Historical Society



## *"La Dolce Vita"*

### *Tuscan Elegance for The Summer Gala*

**Save the Date! Watch the mail for your invitation**

**Thursday, June 6 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.**

The Charles A. Dean house, 221 Lewiston, is the site of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's 2013 Summer Gala. Designed by famed architect Hugh Keyes, construction began on the house in 1924 and was completed in 1926. The current owners, Lora and Sergio Mazza, have preserved the home's gracious & romantic features.

W. Hawkins Ferry in *The Buildings of Detroit* writes:

In the restless twenties the desire for formal grandeur subsided and architects began their frenetic search for the romantic and picturesque. One of the most prolific and versatile architects of the period in Grosse Pointe was Hugh T. Keyes whose Charles A. Dean house... displayed a predilection for colorful detail and at the same time a fine sense of overall design. Located on one of the few sloping sites in the area and surrounded by giant oak trees, this rambling villa with its red tile roof evokes memories of rural Tuscany.



## Points of History Celebration May 14

The Points of History Celebration takes place on **Tuesday, May 14** at **7p.m.** at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Road.

This year four bronze plaques will be awarded: 170 Merriweather, 1040 Harvard, 15840 Lakeview Ct. and 32 Lake Shore Road. (Complete histories of these homes will appear in the next edition of Moorings.)



**170 Merriweather Road** The home was designed by architect D. Allen Wright and was constructed by Amsbary-Merritt, Inc. for Frederick and Virginia Colby in 1934.

The Colby house is built in the French Normandy style, featuring a tower in the corner of two 2-story wings and details such as bottle bottom windows and reclaimed brick. Some of the home's unique original details include two Pewabic bathrooms; a Pewabic powder room with a sink that spouts water from a fish mounted on the wall; blue slate floors in the front hall, dining room, and up a spiral front stairway; bottle bottom windows in the first floor powder room and in the large window on the spiral stairway; French-style fireplaces in the living room and library; and leaded glass in the front door.

**1040 Harvard** This Georgian Colonial house was completed in 1916 for Charles Bewick by George D. Mason. It is the first home built on Harvard between Maumee and St. Paul. Mr. Bewick, a prominent Detroit businessman involved with lumber and real estate, passed away before the home was completed.

**15840 Lakeview Ct.** A second home designed by George D. Mason and built in 1930 is receiving a plaque this year. At one time, the home was owned by Troy H. Browning, the founder of the Browning Steamship Co.

**32 Lake Shore Road** The spacious Italian Renaissance-style home built in 1910 for Russell A. Alger, Jr. and his family was designed by architect Charles A. Platt of New York. Mrs. Allen Shipman was the landscape architect; and the house and gardens were designed together as a unit with particular attention to the use of various ground levels to the best advantage. It was called The Moorings.

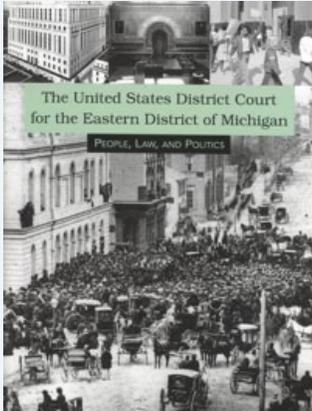
Following Russell Alger's death in 1930, the family sought a way for the house to be used to improve the quality of life in the community. In 1949, it was dedicated to a twofold purpose: to serve as a perpetual memorial to the 3,500 Grosse Pointers who served and the 126 who died in World War II, and to serve as a continuing center for educational and charitable activities of the Grosse Pointe community.



A Power Point display of all the past recipients will be shown following the presentation. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to the public. For information, call 313-884-7010.

## Bicknell Education Lecture Series

The Dr. Frank Bicknell Education Lecture Series was established in 1987, through an endowment established by his daughter and son-in-law to mark Dr. Bicknell's 80th birthday. The following distinguished historians and writers have been invited to present lectures this spring. All three are free and open to the public.



### **The United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan: People, Law and Politics**

**Wednesday, March 20 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch - 20680 Mack Ave.**

Author David Gardner Chardavoyne tells about his latest book, the first ever written about the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Created in 1837, this court operated until 1923 with a single trial judge. By 2010 it had 15 district judges, a dozen senior U.S. District judges and U.S. magistrate judges (many of them from the Grosse Pointes) and conducted court in five buildings throughout the eastern half of Michigan. Detailed will not only be this growth but the stories of its judges and others who have been impacted by this important institution.

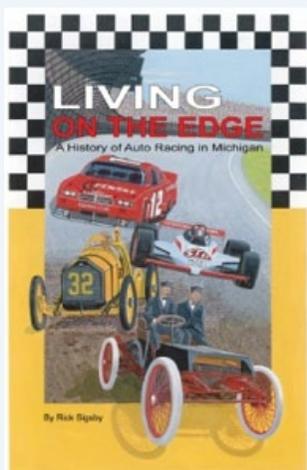
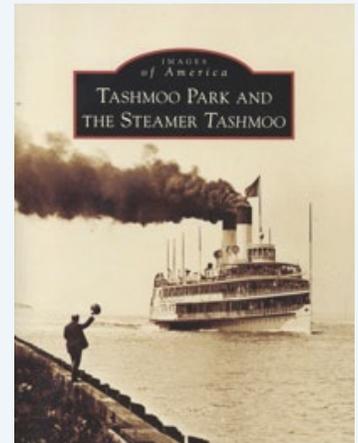
### **Tashmoo Park and the Steamer Tashmoo**

**Wednesday, April 17 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch - 20680 Mack Ave.**

Author and former Grosse Pointe and St. Clair Shores Librarian Arthur M. Woodford discusses his latest book, a pictorial history of Tashmoo Park, one of the area's most popular destinations in the first half of the 20th century, and a photographic excursion aboard the steamer of the same name.

Located on Harsen's Island, the park opened in 1897. It was a pleasant two-hour boat ride from the city. In its heyday, 250,000 people, including many Grosse Pointers, visited the park annually. The Steamer Tashmoo sank in 1936. The park went into decline, and closed in 1951.



### **Living on the Edge: A History of Auto Racing in Michigan**

**Wednesday, May 15 at 7:30 p.m.**

**Edsel & Eleanor Ford House - 1100 Lake Shore Road**

Author Rick Sigsby talks about his latest book -- the history of automobile racing in Michigan.

The story begins with the first race on the Grosse Pointe Track in 1901. This race ushered in a new era of sports entertainment in this area. This historically fascinating book traces the evolution of racing and explores the reason for the sport to have become one of the most popular spectator sports in North America. Included in the presentation will be highlights of how Grosse Pointers such as Edsel Ford I, Henry Ford II & Edsel Ford II were involved in racing.

# Talking Headstones Gets New Name, Location

Watch for ticket information on  
[www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) or call 313-884-7010

In only five years, Talking Headstones has become an important part of the fall celebrations of Grosse Pointe history. In partnership with Grosse Pointe Theatre, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society presented stories of individuals and families who forged the Grosse Pointe community.

The legacy of these productions continues on **October 3, 4, 5 and 6**, but in a new location, Edsel and Eleanor Ford House, and with a new name:

## "Legends of the Lake"

While the St. Paul Cemetery provided an atmospheric backdrop for the stories, it lacked rest rooms, dressing rooms and an alternative space for production in the case of inclement weather. The grounds of the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House afford these amenities.

The new title for this collaborative event came from Jeff Jay, a Grosse Pointe Historical Society member and lifelong Grosse Pointe resident... "This is a perfect title," said Izzy Donnelly, Director of Education. "It allows us to introduce any subject and location in Grosse Pointe's history to write about."

And the research and the writing have already begun. Researchers are locating documents in the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's archives and script writers are developing dramatic sketches from the material.

The October production theme, "*From Windmill Pointe to Gaukler Point*," begins with a vignette about the naming of Lake St. Clair in 1679. Other scenes in the production focus on events that occurred and people who lived along what are now the shores of Grosse Pointe.



## Second Saturday Events

The Second Saturday experiences are fun. Sitting around a table decorating cookies, making a bird house, sewing a doll are activities that help children expand their ability to interact with others, and aids in the development of the right side of the brain. Everyone has a good time and enjoys success as they complete a project.

The spring Second Saturday events are:

**April 13** - Dip and drizzle a 'Lovin' Spoonful' of Chocolate -- a mouth-watering treat! Ages: 6 years and older.

**May 11** - Create a wall hanging featuring *Love Birds on a Woodland Swing* and decorated with a bell. Ages: 7 years and older.

**June 8** - Open House: 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at The Provencal-Weir House. Free

All Second Saturday events take place from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval. Cost is \$15 per session for members, \$20 for non-members.

Reservations must be made by the Thursday before each event at **313-884-7010**.



## Blueprint Storage at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch

In partnership with the Grosse Pointe Public Library, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society residents will be able to research home blueprints from Grosse Pointe Park and Grosse Pointe Farms.

Under the watchful supervision of Michelle Agosta, a Society volunteer, the prints have been carefully re-boxed and labeled according to street name.

The documents that have been collected are being stored at the Grosse Pointe Public Library Woods Branch.

Reproduction capabilities will be offered at a low cost to homeowners. Viewing of the prints will be available by appointment through the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Resource Center at 376 Kercheval. Call 313-884-7010.

## Missing Social Secretary Editions

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has many research tools available for members to use when tracing genealogy or home history.

One such tool is The Social Secretary. Currently, the Resource Center is missing ten editions. It would be helpful to have a complete set of these valuable research tools.

Currently, the Society is looking for editions from: **1924, 1925, 1926, 1929, 1933, 1934, and 1938**. These may have a brown cover and binding.

Other editions that would complete the collection are: **1942, 1959 and 2003**. These may have a dark blue or black binding and cover.

Consider donating a copy, if you have one in your library. Call 313-884-7010 to donate.



# Ribbon Farm Days <sup>2013</sup>

Grosse Pointe Historical Society

Ribbon Farm Days at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society again offers children the opportunity to “step back in time” and experience summer as children would have 100 years ago. In each session, children will learn crafts, play games of the period, practice kitchen skills and investigate Grosse Pointe history.

For: Students entering grades 2 - 5 this fall. Hours: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. Children bring their own lunches.

- Session 1: June 18, 20, 25, 27 (Registration deadline, June 11)
- Session 2: July 9, 11, 16, 18 (Registration deadline, July 2)
- Session 3: July 23, 25, 30, Aug. 1 (Registration deadline, July 16)
- Session 4: August 6, 8, 13, 15 (Registration deadline, July 30)

## **SESSION I - Michigan Garden Theme**

- Create a garden-themed Batik wall hanging.
- Bake apple crisp topped with whipped cream that is hand whipped.
- Create a Paper Coil Basket embellished with yarn, beads and fabric.
- Learn to squeeze fresh lemonade.
- Investigate the history of the orchards on the Grosse Pointe Ribbon Farms.

## **SESSION 2 - Grosse Pointe History Theme**

- Create the Windmill Pointe Lighthouse – assemble and paint.
- Bake blueberry crisp topped with whipped cream that is hand whipped.
- Create a Zuni inspired animal necklace using Grosse Pointe’s wild life -- black bears, squirrels, turtles, owls, wolves, eagles, coyotes, raccoons and more.
- Discover the Windmill Pointe Lighthouse in Grosse Pointe Park.

## **SESSION 3 - Ribbon Farm Days Theme**

- Create a small quilt – each square will be painted and reflect the Ribbon Farm themes.
- Make flapjacks served with hand-whipped butter.
- Design and braid a rug – dyeing cloth, braiding and coiling – to create a round rug.
- Investigate the Ribbon Farms of Grosse Pointe.

## SESSION 4 - Fairytale Theme

- Create scented, molded soap with Alice in Wonderland character soap molds.
- Bake Cherry Cobbler topped with whipped cream that is hand whipped.
- Make a Red Riding Hood Doll with her basket and a big bad wolf.
- Learn the history of Red Riding Hood and the evolution of the story.

Ribbon Farm Days tuition: \$160 per session for members | \$180 per session for non-members.

### Ribbon Farm Days Tuition Discounts

#### Discounted rates for members:

One session \$160

Two sessions, each session is \$152 (5%)

Three sessions, each session is \$144 (10%)

Four sessions, each session is \$136 (15%)

#### Discounted rates for non-members:

One session \$180

Two sessions, each session is \$171 (5%)

Three sessions, each session is \$162 (10%)

Four sessions, each session is \$153 (15%)

For more information and to register, call 313-884-7010 or email [digital@gphistorical.org](mailto:digital@gphistorical.org).

