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# Moorings

**GROSSE POINTE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*established 1945*

**Spring 2015**

Vol. 32 No. 1

## Protecting Our Collections

In 2014, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society was awarded a Collection Assessment Program (CAP) grant provided by Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The grant paid for extensive evaluations of collections and buildings by professional assessors. The final reports give us the backbone for future planning, preservation, conservation, and fundraising. The assessors' work outlined imminent

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## Manoogian Foundation Grant Speeds Preservation Work

GPHS is pleased to announce the receipt of a generous gift of \$10,000 from the Richard & Jane Manoogian Foundation. This was awarded for the purpose of funding the preservation work currently underway at the Provencal-Weir House.

Foundation Associate Director, Mark McCourt, toured the GPHS facilities with board representatives and staff. He said, "I was impressed with all that you have been able to do."

**RICHARD AND JANE MANOOGIAN FOUNDATION**

The Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation provides funding for the arts, education, health care, human services, community development, and federated giving programs.

**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

**381 Kercheval Avenue**

**Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236**

**(313) 884-7010 Phone**

**(313) 884-7699 Fax**

## Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series

**Wednesday, March 18, 7:30 p.m. Cook Schoolhouse, 25025 Mack Avenue, GPW**

Author Randall Fogelman presents, *Detroit's Historic Eastern Market*\*. Established in 1891, Eastern Market is the largest historic market district in the country. This cultural and commercial landmark remains a bustling and vital place frequented by thousands of Grosse Pointers and other Metro Detroit residents and visitors. It remains a place for generations of area residents to gather to purchase produce and plants, shop in unique stores and visit some of the area's oldest specialty food and dining establishments.

**Randall Fogelman** is the vice president of business development for Eastern Market Corp, a non-profit organization that manages it. Mr. Fogelman possesses degrees in Art History History and Urban Planning.



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## SAVE THE DATE

### *Some Enchanted Evening*

A rarely seen Palm Beach-style 1929 mansion in Grosse Pointe Farms is the site for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's 12th Summer Gala: Some Enchanted Evening. Proceeds from this event benefit the Society, which is celebrating its 70th anniversary of preserving Grosse Pointe history.

Designed for John B. Ford, the gala's setting has been home to an ambassador and a world-class automotive designer. The house is the only structure in Grosse Pointe designed by the prominent East Coast and Palm Beach architect August Geiger.

On this extraordinary occasion, the splendid interior and breathtaking



grounds will be opened to guests as they enjoy gourmet food and drinks, a swing orchestra, and an exhibition about renowned automotive designer Harley Earl, with rare classic cars on view.

Reservations are limited. Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for more details.

*Photo: Robin M Photography*

# THE GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY WAS ORGANIZED IN 1945 TO PROMOTE THE PRESERVATION OF OUR LOCAL HERITAGE AND TO SHARE THAT KNOWLEDGE WITH THE COMMUNITY.

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## Snug under our new roof

The Provencal-Weir House has a new roof! When the house was restored in the 1990s, a cedar-shake roof was installed. Time and weather took their toll and the roof failed in 2014, causing minor interior damage. The Provencal-Weir House is one of four designated historic sites in Grosse Pointe Farms. Changes to buildings in these districts are under the supervision of the Historic District Commission. (read more about it at: <http://www.grossepointefarms.org/about/about/historic-district>)

The cost of a new wood roof was deemed prohibitive by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society board of directors. This led to several months of dialogue and hard work by the Farms staff, the Historic District Commissioners, and the GPHS board (led by committee chair, James Conway) and staff to find a satisfactory solution.

Historic District ordinances generally dictate that "replacement parts" should either be what was present when a building or district was designated "historic" (in our case, the wood roof), or should return to something which was an appropriate part of the building in the past.

The archives in the Moran Resource Center at GPHS provided many photos of the Provencal-Weir house in the late 19th and early 20th century, which show a standard, asphalt shingle roof. Eureka! A solution which met the requirements of the historic district ordinance, the discernment of the commissioners, and the practical realities of the GPHS budget.

This project illustrates the special challenges of historic preservation. The Grosse Pointes value history and have capable volunteers and professional municipal officials, who can work together for appropriate outcomes that preserve and protect our built environment.

## If you were 192 years old ...

... you'd need a little rehab now and then, too!

The c. 1823 Provencal-Weir House is believed to be the oldest surviving residence in the Pointes. The rooms are interpreted to represent different periods in history: the parlor representing 1850-60; the dining room, the 1910s; and the schoolroom c. 1900. The House contains furniture, paintings, prints, textiles, books and Native American artifacts.

Restored in the 1990s, the P-W House, as it is affectionately-known, needs ongoing maintenance and "stepped up" improvements to reflect better preservation and conservation tactics. Urgent work is needed at the P-W House:

• Roof replacement	\$ 9,000
• Gutter, trim and ceiling repair	\$ 3,500
• UV-light filtering film on windows	\$ 5,500
• Interior storm windows	\$ 7,800
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 25,800</b>

**Donors are generously supporting these projects, including:**

*Ongoing conservation and improvements*  
Richard and Jane Manoogian Foundation

*Roof replacement*  
Grand Marais Questors 215  
Louisa St. Clair Chapter, DAR,  
in honor of Harriet Wheeler  
Anne L. Musial



Provencal-Weir house  
20th Century (left) and  
2015 (below).

**Call (313) 884-7010 to Volunteer.**

*Not Yet a Member? Want to donate?*  
Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
for a convenient way to do both. Select  
the link "Join & Support GPHS."

***No gift is too small OR too big!***

Please contact the offices at 313 884-7010  
or [info@gphistorical](mailto:info@gphistorical) to make a donation to  
help preserve and protect the collections  
in the Provencal-Weir House Ongoing  
conservation and improvements.

## Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series

Continued from cover

Wednesday, April 15, 7:30 p.m. Cook Schoolhouse,  
25025 Mack Avenue, GPW



Author Mark Hoffman presents *My Brave Mechanics: The First Michigan Engineers and Their Civil War*. As volunteer engineers for the Union army, this regiment was made up of skilled artisans, craftsmen, railroad men, and engineers whose behind-the-scenes work was crucial to the Union victory.

**Mark Hoffman** is deputy department director of the Michigan Department of History, Arts and Libraries.



Wednesday, May 13, 7:30 p.m. Edsel & Eleanor Ford House,  
1100 Lake Shore, GPS



Arthur Woodford presents a program relating to his latest book *Grosse Pointe Shores*. With only 1.1 square miles of land area, the "Shores" is the smallest of the five Grosse Pointe communities. It became a village in 1911 and residents voted to incorporate it as a city named "Village of Grosse Pointe Shores, A Michigan City" in 2009.

**Arthur Woodford** is a retired Grosse Pointes Assistant Librarian and Chief Librarian for the City of St. Clair Shores.

## Help us Preserve History in Creative Ways!

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is partnering with businesses to raise funds for the preservation and protection of the incredible legacy of the area. Some of the partnerships are one-day events, others are long term.

**Mark your calendar for the Buffalo Wild Wings and TCBY events.**

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) to print flyers and additional coupons.

## Protecting Our Collections

Continued from cover

environmental threats to the collections – in the areas of excess light and poorly-controlled heating and cooling.

While the assessment was underway, the 25-year-old roof failed (see related story) Additional repairs to the exterior include gutters and downspout attention.

The recommended interior work includes UV-light filtering film on windows and interior storm windows which will allow for better air quality and regulation. Benefits include lower operating costs for energy and the primary goal of protecting the building and collections.

## You can help!

Donors will be recognized in our newsletter, on the web site, and on a Preservation Partners plaque at the P-W House.

### Kroger Rewards Program

Help GPHS every time you shop at Kroger. Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for details.



### [www.Smile.Amazon.com](http://www.Smile.Amazon.com)

The next time you shop at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), key in [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com). You will be directed to select your organization. Complete your order as usual and a portion of your sale will be **donated to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society**.

### A great cause and some great food



**BUFFALO WILD WINGS**  
WINGS. BEER. SPORTS.™

Only valid at 23117 Harper Ave., St. Clair Shores, MI (586) 777-9464

All friends, family and supporters of Grosse Pointe Historical Society are invited to participate in their fundraising event on **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015**

Everyone is invited to gather at Buffalo Wild Wings in St. Clair Shores (23117 Harper Ave.) for lunch, dinner, or a snack. On this day, **20% of purchases\*** accompanied by the certificate below will be donated to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

\*Present this certificate to your server at the time of your order and 20% of your purchases will go to support the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. Valid towards Dine-In and Carry-Out. Not valid towards gift card purchases. Flyers are not permitted to be distributed inside or outside the restaurant.



Come enjoy a TCBY yogurt treat and help us raise money for Grosse Pointe Historical Society  
**10% of sales will be donated.**

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2 7P.M. TO 10 P.M.**

**TCBY 17045 Kercheval (in the Village)**

**313.885.0384**

[www.tcb.com/inthevillage](http://www.tcb.com/inthevillage)



# Some Enchanted Evening

## A GALA 70TH ANNIVERSARY FUNDRAISER FOR THE

### GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Thursday, June 18, 2015  
at 7 p.m. at a rarely-seen  
1929 Grosse Pointe  
Farms Estate. There  
will be gourmet food  
and drink, a big band  
orchestra and a Harley  
Earl Design Exhibit.



For more information and tickets,  
visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

Sponsorship Opportunities 313-884-7010.  
[Info@gphistorical.org](mailto:Info@gphistorical.org)

## Grosse Pointe Historical Society

381 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010 Phone

(313) 884-7699 Fax

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### DONORS GENEROUSLY SUPPORTING THE GROSSE POINTE HISTORICAL SOCIETY INCLUDE:



**The Edelweiss Foundation**



RICHARD AND JANE MANOOGIAN FOUNDATION

## SECOND SATURDAY AT THE PROVENCAL-WEIR HOUSE

### Saturday, March 14 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Children's Workshop

Participants will stuff and sew a Michigan Common Map Turtle. This project is the fourth in a series of "your own stuffed animal." Modest sewing skills needed. This event is best for ages 7 yrs. and older. Register at [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org) or 313-884-7010. Materials fee.



#### LaBelle's Country Store open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Located in the front of the Provencal-Weir House, LaBelle's Country Store features items that reflect Grosse Pointe. Books, prints, maps and toys are also available in the store.

#### Open House tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Trained docents guide visitors through the c. 1823 Ribbon Farm home that still has the original Michigan pine floors, was the first school in Grosse Pointe and the first building to provide Catholic Mass. The farmhouse has a storied past; come to hear its fabulous history. Tours are free.



### Saturday, April 11 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Children's Workshop

Create a beautiful Spring Fimo clay garland with eggs, chicks, baskets, tulips and bunnies. Fimo clay is used to mold the shapes and then the object is baked. This event is best for ages 6 yrs. and older. Register at [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org) or 313-884-7010. Materials fee.



#### LaBelle's Country Store open tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Open House tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Saturday, May 9 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

#### Children's Workshop

Children will make 'melt and pour' spring floral soaps using shea butter and goat milk products. This event is best for ages 7 yrs. and older. Register at [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org) or 313-884-7010. Materials fee.

#### LaBelle's Country Store open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

#### Open House tours from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

E-MAIL: [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

HOURS: Tues. & Wed.: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
1:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WEB SITE: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)