



# Grosse Pointe Historical Society NEWSLETTER

Vol. 35 No. 1

Local History Brought to Life!

SPRING 2018



## Midsummer Night ON KENWOOD

**A Fundraiser in support of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

On Thursday, June 21, 2018, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society will hold its 15th annual Summer Fundraiser Gala. This year's event, *Midsummer Night on Kenwood*, will be held at a spectacular 1927 Grosse Pointe Farms home on prestigious Kenwood Road. It was designed by architect Henry F. Stanton in the English Manor Style and features exquisite limestone outside and magnificent paneling inside. Partygoers will celebrate the Midsummer Night under tents in the formal garden, and on the flagstone terraces of the estate.

**Order tickets today!**

*Limited Reservations*



*For information, tickets and  
sponsorship opportunities*

313-884-7010 [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

Order tickets online now: [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

We are pleased to announce that the Executive Board at the December 6, 2017 meeting unanimously approved the selection of UHY-LLP-Certified Public Accountants effective January 1, 2018. The selection followed an RFP process. Ms. Erica Battle, our Account Representative, specializes in non-profit organizations. We are delighted with our new partner!

## Executive Board

**Patricia E. O'Brien, PhD** President

Stuart Grigg, Vice President-Development

Kay Burt-Willson, Vice President-Education

James Conway, Vice President-Conservation

J. Gerard Teagan, Treasurer

Mary Stelmark, Secretary

## Board of Trustees

Amy DeWys-VanHecke	Killeen Shafer
Valerie Dodenhoff	Michael Skinner
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Mercedes Kucyk	Patricia Theros
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## Administration

<b>Director of Education/ Collections Manager</b>	<b>Administrator</b>
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**Webmaster**

Jay Hunter

## Newsletter Coordinator

Shirl Williams

# The President's Perspective....

by Patricia E. O'Brien, PhD

In the Fall 2017 Newsletter I told you how Hopeful and Thankful I am for all that is happening right now at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. My theme continues in 2018, most notably on January 8th when Jim Conway – VP of Conservation, Bob Ross our Contractor, and I presented our proposal to the Grosse Pointe Farms City Council to construct a building on the property at 375 Kercheval which will permanently house our administrative services, archives and the Alfred B. and Ruth S. Moran Resource Center. The Council unanimously approved our plans! And I am very thankful for the hard work of our Building Committee – Jim Conway, Stuart Grigg, Mason Ferry, and Ann Loshaw – and the wonderful partnership and cooperation between GPF Terry Brennan and our contractor which brought us to this point. Our project is now “shovel ready.” Complete information about our Capital Campaign – The Future of Grosse Pointe Past – will be available to you very shortly. My dream and hope is that every member of our wonderful community will participate in this project. Our rich history belongs to each and every one of us!

Your Board has been hard at work to discern how to provide for the future since the 2014 – 2016 Task Force, and then in July 2016 when we took a leap and purchased the property at 375 Kercheval. I think this quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. aptly captures much of the way I have felt on this journey. “Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase.”

On March 14, 2018, GPHS, under the leadership of Trustee Mike Skinner, partnered with the Grosse Pointe School System to present a Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr's speech in Grosse Pointe South's gym on March 14, 1968. Approximately 500 people attended – some of whom had been in attendance 50 years earlier and shared their stories. I was privileged to represent GPHS as a reader of a portion of MLK's speech. This was an opportunity to celebrate and commemorate important GP History, and create some as well!

I am saddened to report the passing of two dedicated members, Herm Mozer and Peggy Woodhouse, who have now taken their place firmly as part of our rich history. Jack McCormick announced his decision in January 2018 to retire from “active duty,” but will continue to be seen at our events. You can read more about these individuals who generously gave their time to GPHS on page 5.

**SAVE THE DATE!!!!** On Thursday, June 21, we will hold our 15th annual Summer Fundraiser Gala – Midsummer Night on Kenwood – at a spectacular 1927 home on Kenwood Rd in Grosse Pointe Farms. Your invitation will arrive soon. This sophisticated Summer Solstice Celebration is not to be missed! Sponsorship opportunities are available.

About two weeks ago my new neighbors moved in – a lovely couple from Texas with their two young daughters. As we were chatting I asked if they received the blueprints for their home from the previous owner. They had not. I told them that GPHS has over 3,500 blueprints of homes in the Grosse Pointes and asked if they would be interested in having a copy if we had theirs. Indeed, they would! Izzy verified that we do have theirs and told me that she recommends the first page to be copied in color and that it is suitable for framing, and quite a unique conversation piece. I will deliver their blueprints to them shortly – complete with the first page in color – as my “welcome to the neighborhood” gift.

There was a question posed at a meeting I attended a week or so ago: Are the best days past, present, or are they yet to come? And how does your answer shape your behavior? I thought about this as it relates to the GPHS, and I realized we preserve our past history as well as document and record current happenings that shape the future. I believe our best days are yet to come! We share with many, many children and adults the wonders of our heritage in a way that increases their understanding of themselves and their relationship to those who came before them, and with whom they currently share a common life in this space, so that life in this community will be richer and better for all. I remain thankful and hopeful....



Photo: Marianne Shrader

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

*To become a Member or  
support GPHS*

Visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)

Select the link

**“Join & Support GPHS.”**

**Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

381 Kercheval Avenue

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010 Phone

# Midsummer Night

ON KENWOOD

A Fundraiser in support of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society

**June 21, 2018 7 – 10 pm**

A gorgeous historic home with rich paneling, brocaded walls, and soaring spaces. Tinkling fountains and ponds in a formal garden. Music on the air. Vintage cars. Delicious food and beverages. And that glorious Grosse Pointe summer weather!

Order tickets now 313-884-7010 or [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)



The sunken living room features paneling with gilded details.



Unique woodwork abounds throughout the home. ➤

Brocaded walls, crystal and marble furnish the lavish dining room.



## Galas through the years



Summer on the Lake, 2017



Moonlight at the Manor, 2016



Some Enchanted Evening, 2015



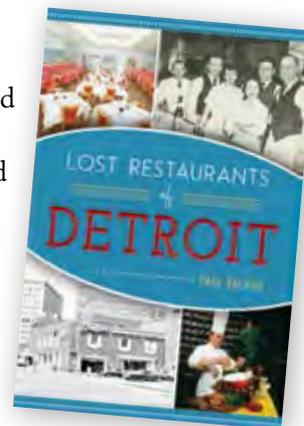
English Elegance, 2014

## GPS BICKNELL LECTURE SERIES 2018

### Lost Restaurants of Detroit

Wednesday, April 18, 2018 7:30p.m., Cook Schoolhouse, 20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods

While some restaurants come and go with little fanfare, others are dearly missed and never forgotten. In 1962, patrons of the Caucus Club were among the first to hear the voice of an eighteen-year-old Barbra Streisand. Before Stouffer's launched a frozen food empire, it was better known for its restaurants with two popular locations in Detroit and suburban locations including the one at Eastland, which so many Grosse Pointers frequented. It included the "Pointe" Room. The Machus Red Fox was the last place former Teamsters president Jimmy Hoffa was seen alive. Through stories and recipes nearly lost to time, this book explores the history of the Motor City's fine dining, ethnic eateries and everything in between. *Author:* Detroit native Paul Vachon is an author and freelance writer. His previous works with Arcadia and The History Press include *Forgotten Detroit*, *South Oakland County* and *Legendary Locals of Detroit*. Paul has also written many articles and pieces for various publications, including *Avalon Travel*, the *History Channel Magazine*, *Crain's Detroit Business*, *HOUR Detroit* and *Michigan History*. Paul earned his bachelor's degree from Sacred Heart Seminary College in Detroit.



### Willow Run (The Ford Bomber Plant) Co-sponsored by the Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

Wednesday, May 16, 2018 7:30p.m., Country Club of Detroit, 220 Country Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms

In May 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt called for the production of 50,000 military airplanes. He then drafted the president of General Motors, William Knudsen, to mobilize industry in the United States. The automotive companies were called upon to produce a massive fleet of bombers, as well as tanks, trucks, guns, and engines. By the Willow Run, a sleepy little creek near Ypsilanti, Michigan, Ford Motor Company built the world's most famous bomber factory, which was the ultimate manifestation of the automotive industry's role in building armaments during World War II. By the spring of 1944, Willow Run was producing a four-engine B-24 bomber each hour on an assembly line. With tremendous assistance from the Yankee Air Museum, this book presents a pictorial history of Willow Run during World War II. Ford President and Grosse Pointer, Edsel Bryant oversaw this facility, which helped the United States prevail in WWII. After his passing in May 1943 his son – Grosse Pointer, Henry Ford II worked with his grandfather, Henry Ford in overseeing the completion of bombers at Willow Run through mid-1945. *Authors:* Randy Hotton,



a graduate of Michigan State University and Central Michigan University, is a retired Navy captain and a pilot for USA Jet Airlines Corporation, which is based at Willow Run Airport. He serves on the board of directors of the Yankee Air Museum, and his father worked at the Ford Willow Run Plant during World War II. Michael W.R. Davis, a veteran Arcadia Publishing author, is a graduate of Yale and Eastern Michigan Universities and the former executive director of the Detroit Historical Society.



## John (Jack) McCormick Retires!

Jack has announced his intention to step down from his position on the Pointes of History Plaque Committee, which awards plaques to Grosse Pointe homes and other buildings of historic note which are minimally 50 years old. Jack was instrumental in performing all responsibilities of the committee: he researched the historical significance of the homes and buildings, presented the history at the meeting, and even assured that the plaque was properly affixed to the structure. Additionally, Jack also served two terms on the Board of Trustees in the capacity of Vice President of Administration. Jack was our resident piano player tickling the ivories at our Holiday Party and summer Galas for many years. We thank Jack for his years of service and wish him well in his future endeavors. We know we will see him and his lovely wife Betsy at future GPHS activities.



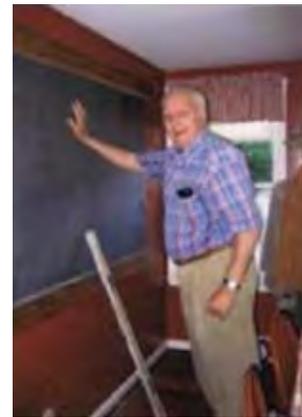
John (Jack) McCormick playing the piano.

## Herman (Herm) Mozer

In August of 2017 the Grosse Pointe Historical Society lost dear friend and dedicated volunteer Herman (Herm) Mozer. Herm joined the Grosse Pointe Historical Society board in 1991. After serving three separate – three-year terms, he was named an Honorary Board member in the newly created position of Vice President of Preservation.

Herm salvaged 2 slate chalk boards and installed them in the One-Room School on the second floor of the Provencal-Weir House. He also donated the Edwin Lodge Sun Dial. “Herman wanted the Grosse Pointe Historical Society to have the sun dial” said house manager and board member Mike Skinner. It is inscribed with the coordinates of Lodge’s home on Lake Shore Rd.

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society offers our condolences to Herman’s sons, Roger and Matt Mozer; sisters, Johanna Diepenhorst and Heidi Thomas.



Herman Mozer is shown installing the large slate board in 2011.

## Margaret (Peggy) Woodhouse

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is saddened to report the passing of our valued member and friend, Margaret (Peggy) Woodhouse on February 9, 2018. Peggy served the GPHS in a number of capacities over the years. She was a member of the Board of Trustees, served as a docent, and participated in historical research for our annual Pointes of History Plaque awards. We will all miss Peggy and her ready smile! We extend our condolences to Peggy’s husband, John (Woodie) Woodhouse.



Peggy Woodhouse holds one of our Bronze Plaques.

## Pointes of History Celebration

On Tuesday, May 8, the Grosse Pointe Historical Society will present our Pointes of History Celebration. This event celebrates the history and architecture of the Grosse Pointes' built environment by awarding historic plaques to properties of note.

The program will include narratives about the history and architecture of each property accompanied by a visual presentation. The current property owners are scheduled to attend and offer personal stories and memories that illuminate the properties' colorful past.

The public is welcome to attend this free event at the Grosse Pointe Farms Community Center located at Pier Park, Jefferson at Moross Road. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. At 8 p.m., a reception with refreshments will follow the plaque presentation program.

Since 1986, the Society has been annually awarding historic plaques to Grosse Pointe landmarks to recognize their historical or architectural value to the community, to encourage their continued preservation, or to recognize the value of adaptive reuse.

The bronze plaques, designed by J. William Gorski, bear the image of the Society's logo, a French windmill that stood on the shores of Lake St. Clair in the 1700's. They are 8 inches in diameter and weigh five pounds. The plaques are permanently mounted on the home or building at a location visible to the public.



On May 8, historic plaques will be awarded to:

1) **Bon Secours Hospital and Chapel** (currently Beaumont Hospital), 468 Cadieux. The original full-service hospital at 468 Cadieux was built by the Sisters of Bon Secours in 1945 to carry out their Catholic ministry to care for the sick and dying. The hospital and chapel were built on the same site on Cadieux where they began their health care ministry in 1922 in a wooden farm house. Although the original Bon Secours Hospital building built in 1945 has gone through extensive expansions and renovations over the decades, it continues serving the Grosse Pointes and eastside communities as a full-service hospital owned and operated by Beaumont Health. The plaque presentation will chronicle the Sisters' early history in Grosse Pointe and highlight the hospital's original chapel, where Sunday Mass is still celebrated, and portions of its original brick and limestone facade that are still visible on the hospital's exterior.

2) **31 Renaud, Grosse Pointe Shores.** This home was built in 1930 by local builder/architect Carl L. Meek, for Dr. George L. Renaud, a prominent throat specialist. It was the first house built on Renaud Street. The surrounding property extending from Lakeshore to Mack was all eventually purchased by Dr. Renaud. The Renaud children learned to ride horses on the property and ride ice boats on the lake. The home itself is constructed of stone and designed in the French Normandy style with a turret and steeply pitched roof. The plaque presentation will feature the home's interior design, which includes a vestibule and front hall, large living room and dining room, library, kitchen (including breakfast room and butler's pantry) and powder room on the first floor, second floor including 5 bedrooms, three bathrooms, two maids' rooms and a bath.

3) **874 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores.** This house was built in 1964 for W. Hawkins Ferry, a major force in modernist art and architecture. Mr. Ferry, a founding member of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society, was the grandson of Dexter Ferry Sr., the founder of the Ferry Seed Company.

When it came to his own residence, Mr. Ferry selected Grosse Pointe's own William Kessler to design a home that reflected his love of modernism. The home is situated on a beautiful site overlooking Lake St. Clair and features large glass curtain walls, wood paneling, spiral staircase and lighting. Not only is the home a work of art, it was designed to showcase Mr. Ferry's world class collection of modern

# Grosse Pointe Historical Society teams up with K-9 Response Team at 375 Kercheval Avenue

Our recently purchased “yellow” house at 375 Kercheval Ave., was busier than anticipated this winter. In October 2017 Grosse Pointe Farms officers came in and asked if the police K-9 force could use our building for training. We immediately said yes. Officers from Grosse Pointe Farms, Grosse Pointe Park, St. Clair Shores, Harper Woods, Marysville, and the Eastern Wayne County Special Response Team participated.

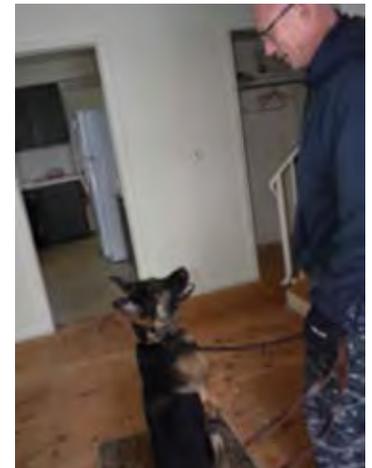
“We like to use empty homes to train the K-9 dogs”, said Grosse Pointe Farms Officer Tim Harris. “Grosse Pointe homes are especially desirable because they are not “cookie-cutter” homes. The Grosse Pointe Historical Society’s “Quad Level” home was a perfect place to train our dogs.”

So on a cold blustery day in February, officers came with their K-9’s ready to train. Officer Harris came with his dog Duke and Tom Price from Saint Clair Shores came with Axe. One of the tests for the dogs included officers hiding in the house and the dogs, using the officer’s scent, had to find him. Another consisted of officers hiding drugs somewhere in the house and the dogs had to enter the home and find them. Both Axe and Duke performed beautifully.

Duke recently obtained certification by completing three months of intensive training at the K-9 Academy, part of which was accomplished at 375 Kercheval Ave. He can now be seen carrying a badge and wearing a bullet proof vest around town.

Duke was put to the test shortly after graduating. On January 2, 2018 he, along with a fellow K-9 named Kaiser, apprehended two fleeing suspects following a home invasion in Harper Woods. Three days later, felony charges were filed against the two suspects. “Kaiser and Duke got two dangerous armed men off the street” said Officer Steve Johnson from Harper Woods.

Grosse Pointe Historical Society is very proud to have been able to assist the K-9 Response Team to train their dogs. Our motto is “Keeping History Alive” and now we can say we played a part in keeping our communities safe.



Tom Price rewards Axe, his K-9, for finding hidden paraphernalia in the brown box



The Special Response Team

## Pointes of History Celebration

Continued from page 6

furniture and art work. An enormous roof overhang shields the two story glass wall on the lake side to protect the artwork inside from direct sunlight. Additionally, the patio was designed by Detroit sculptor, Glen Michaels, who recently helped to replace missing paving stones. The current owners recently completed a two-year restoration of the home and patio to their original architectural intent and are working to have the home placed onto the National Register of Historic Places

### *The evaluative criteria for historic plaques include:*

The property should be over 50 years old.

Is the property associated with events that made a significant contribution to our history?

Is the property associated with the lives of persons significant to Grosse Pointe’s past?

### *Significance of the architect and architecture*

Does the property possess high artistic value?

Does it represent the work of the architect?

Does the property embody distinctive characteristics of a period or a type of construction?

Significance of the historical information yielded from the property.

# 1823 Society Members

Arkay-Walker Inc.

Beline Obeid Realty

Chip Berschback, Attorney

Cathy Champion, Realtor

Corbett Consulting

Louisa St. Clair Chapter  
National Society Daughters of the  
American Revolution

Edsel & Eleanor Ford House

James R. Fikany Real Estate Co.

Higbie Maxon Agney, Inc.

Ed Lazar Insurance Agency, Inc.

Rose Pest Solutions

The Little Blue Book

Wayne County  
Community College District

1823 members listed accurate as of 3/31/18

# Grosse Pointe Historical Society

381 Kercheval Avenue  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010 **Phone**

(313) 884-7699 **Fax**

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

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**HOURS:** Tues. & Wed.: 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
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**WEB SITE:** [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org)  
**E-MAIL:** [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

## Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

**GPHS Bicknell Lecture Series –  
Lost Restaurants of Detroit**

**Location:** Cook Schoolhouse  
20025 Mack Plaza, Grosse Pointe Woods

**Tuesday, May 8, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Pointe of History Celebration**

**Location:** Grosse Pointe Farms Community Center  
Pier Park, Jefferson at Moross Road

Historic Plaques will be awarded to:

Bon Secours Hospital and Chapel

31 Renaud, Grosse Pointe Shores

874 Lake Shore Road, Grosse Pointe Shores

**Wednesday, May 16, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.**

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(The Ford Bomber Plant)**

**Location:** Country Club of Detroit  
220 Country Club Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms

**Thursday, June 21, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.**

**15th Annual Gala**

Midsummer Night on Kenwood

Midsummer  Night  
ON KENWOOD

The 15th annual Grosse Pointe Historical Society fundraiser –  
order your tickets today!

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

