

# Upcoming Events

Call (313) 884-7010 or visit [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org) for further information

The following events are free of charge

## Fall 2007 Dr. Frank Bicknell Educational Lecture Series

Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lakeshore Dr., Grosse Pointe Farms

### *Historic Fort Wayne*

Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m.

GPHS Board member and former chief curator at the Detroit Historical Museum, James Conway author of the new book, *Detroit's Historic Fort Wayne*, speaks on the importance of the fort, which was built in the 1840s to protect Detroit from British invasion, and its changing role throughout the years.

### *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*

Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m.

Society curator Suzy Berschback and *the Moorings* editor Ann Marie Aliotta, authors of the new book *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*, look back with affection, amusement, and awe at how Grosse Pointe has changed over the years and how it has stayed the same, comparing historical images with contemporary photographs.

### *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe Booksignings*

Saturday, September 22\*, 1:00-4:00 p.m.

*Provencal-Weir House*

376 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe Farms

Saturday, September 29\*, 7:00 p.m.

*Borders Bookstore*

17141 Kercheval, Grosse Pointe

Saturday, October 6, 5:00-9:00 p.m.

With an exhibit of historical photographs and artwork

*Great Frame-Up*

20655 Mack Ave, Grosse Pointe Woods

Wednesday, October 17\*, 7:30 p.m.

*Grosse Pointe War Memorial*

32 Lakeshore Rd., Grosse Pointe Farms

\*Proceeds from sales at these signings to benefit the GPHS



Published by the **Grosse Pointe Historical Society**

Schwartz Building • 381 Kercheval Avenue

Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

(313) 884-7010

(313) 884-7699 FAX

e-mail: [info@gphistorical.org](mailto:info@gphistorical.org)

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

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

*The purpose of the  
Grosse Pointe Historical  
Society is to preserve and  
promote the history of the  
Grosse Pointe Community.*

### *2007 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 1:00-4:00 p.m. and enjoy a tour and a fun, brief history lesson! All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by an adult.

**October 13** Celebrate, learn about and sample **300 Years of Detroit Cooking** with author Marguerite Humes.

**November 10** 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 Victorians celebrated the season with Cyndee Harrison.

**NON PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Detroit, MI  
Permit No. 1387**

Dated Material  
Please Expedite



# the Moorings

Grosse Pointe  
Historical Society  
established 1945  
FALL 2007  
Vol. 24, No.3



*"May I help you?" Nancy Pacitto as the proprietress of the LaBelle General Store*

## LaBelle General Store Grand Opening

### *Concert and Book Signing Part of Celebration*

The community is invited to enjoy the Grosse Pointe Historical Society's new gift store, LaBelle General Store, as it celebrates its grand opening on Saturday, September 22, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. The store is located in the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval Ave., Grosse Pointe Farms, where a general store originally operated in the 1910s.

The entire Provencal-Weir House got a makeover this summer with new displays of clothing and artifacts to enjoy. The centerpiece is the recreation of a turn-of-the-century store with details like an old-fashioned brass cash register and vintage clothing displays.

Customers can buy period goods like jacks, needlepoint samplers, puzzles, and outdoor games like hop scotch as well as Society items including books and video tapes.

Enjoy cider and donuts at the grand opening and meet the proprietors (re-enacted) of the original store. Local acoustic band Rosetta Pebble will perform.

Authors of the new book *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*, Suzy Berschback and Ann Marie Aliotta, will be on hand to sign copies. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Society.

### Soirée Française C'est Magnifique

A beautiful evening, delicious food, and delightful company combined to make the Soirée Française a wonderful success for the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. More than \$26,000 was raised at the event, which took place on June 15 at the lakefront home of Mireille and Warren Wilkinson.

The funds will support the Society's education projects including the development of a historic period curriculum for grades 6-12 to be used with the Grosse Pointe schools. Another project is expanding the on-line educational materials and archives to make the historic resources easily accessible.

Over 200 people attended the fourth annual fund raiser held at the historic home, designed c. 1928 by Robert O. Derrick.

"Because of the tremendous generosity of our members and friends and our gracious hosts, the Wilkinsons, we will be able to bring our treasured history alive for generations of schoolchildren," said Board President Stuart Grigg. "What a gift to the community!"



### Curator, Moorings Editor Pen Book on Grosse Pointe History

A new book about Grosse Pointe history is about to hit the shelves, thanks in big part to the Grosse Pointe Historical Society. *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe*, written by GPHS curator Suzy Berschback and the *Moorings* editor and public relations coordinator Ann Marie Aliotta, comes out September 17. It contains 200 images of our fair community, many of which came from the GPHS archives.

The book is part of Arcadia Publishing's series on American life which compares historical images with contemporary photographs. *Then and Now: Grosse Pointe* will be available in bookstores around town, at Jerry's Party Store, and at the GPHS Resource Center and Provencal-Weir House.

Several book signings are scheduled this fall. See the back page for more information.

# Society Elects New Board Members

The following new members have joined the GPHS Board of Trustees:

**Kay Agney** - Kay has resided in the Grosse Pointe community since 1976 and has worked for Higbie Maxon Realtors since 1980, a firm that she now owns. Through this career in real estate she has a great knowledge of the history of properties in the community. She is treasurer of the GP Chamber of Commerce, serves on the development committee for the Karmanos Institute, is a past President of the Grosse Pointe Board of Realtors and member of the Women's Council of Realtors.

**Denis Bouchard** - Denis started his business life with his own construction company rehabbing homes. During this time he became a journeyman bricklayer, completed a BA in Psychology and an MBA. After starting with the City of Detroit rehabbing homes he transferred to the Historical Museum as Business Activities Manager. He left the museum in 2006 and is now in retail management.

**Gregory Jakub** - Greg and his family are recipients of a historical marker from the Society for his restoration and preservation of their 1911 home at 560 Cadieux. He has lived in the Grosse Pointe community since 1985 and has worked at St. John's Hospital since 1987 where he is in Marketing and Public and Community Relations. He is a past board member of the Metro East Chamber of Commerce and was St. John's representative on Mayor Archer's strategic community planning initiative. He has also worked with the Grosse Pointe Chamber of Commerce and the East Shore Optimist Club.



*New Grosse Pointe Historical Society Board Members  
Greg Jakub (left), Kay Agney, and Denis Bouchard.*

## Evans Scholarships

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society awarded three high school seniors the Clayton Walker Evans Educational Scholarship. The students are selected each year by consulting the History Departments of their high schools. The scholarship was founded in 1993 in memory of Evans who had been active president of the Society for many years.

This year's recipients are Andrew VanEgmond from Grosse Pointe North who will attend Michigan State University on a full scholarship, Andrew LaLonde from University Liggett School who will attend Washington and Lee University, and Tamara Andrade from Grosse Pointe South who will attend the University of Michigan.

### Officers

Stuart W. Grigg . . . . . President  
Patti Schollenberger . . . . . Vice President-Administration  
Herman Mozer . . . . . Vice President-Preservation  
Denis Bouchard . . . . . Treasurer  
Danielle DeFauw . . . . . Secretary

### Honorary Board

Chip Berschback  
Patricia R. Colett  
Michael Farley  
Lisa Mower Gandelot  
Nancy Griffin  
Ronald C. Lamparter  
Russell H. Peebles  
Robert J. Petz, Jr.  
Thomas E. Singelyn, DDS  
Gail R. Stroh-Marentette

### Curator

Suzu Berschback

### Administrator

Linda Johnson

### Parliamentarian

Andrea Weyhing

### the Moorings Editor

Ann Marie Aliotta

### Curator Emeritus

Jean Dodenhoff

### Board of Trustees

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kay Agney          | Josephine (Jo) Malecek |
| Dennis Bouchard    | William Penoyar, Jr.   |
| Carolyn Candler    | Sara Malcomson Ralph   |
| Elizabeth Canzano  | Ann Rock               |
| James Conway       | Rick Ruffner           |
| Amy DeWys-VanHecke | Mary Lighton Shafer    |
| Valerie Dodenhoff  | Michael W. Skinner     |
| Douglas Dossin     | Paul J. Sloan          |
| Debbie Graffius    | Elizabeth (Penny) Soby |
| Kiki Herfert       | Molly Valade           |
| Gregory Jakub      | Khristi Zimmeth        |
| Maud Lyon          | Gail Zmyslowski        |

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

# GPHS to Conduct Tour of Community Churches



## Architectural Legacy Celebrated

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society will celebrate the architectural legacy in the community that spans nearly two centuries with a new program touring three Grosse Pointe churches on October 20.

Traveling by bus, guests will visit St Paul on the Lake (left) whose story begins in the 1820s. The carvings, windows and façade explain the rich history of this parish.

Next they will visit St. James Lutheran Church, which is based on a plan of an historic Boston church and celebrates an American architectural style.

The tour's final stop is the mid-century modern design of First English Lutheran Church which melds glass, form and style into a uniquely American form.

The tours will be led by local historians and church docents. The tour leaves the Grosse Pointe Historical Society Provencal-Weir House at 9:15 a.m. (please arrive by 9:00 a.m.) and returns at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$25 for Society members, \$30 for non-members and includes bus transportation to the churches and lunch. For more information or to make reservations, please call 884-7010.

## Restore a Piece of History

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society has begun a campaign to renovate the porch of the Provencal-Weir House. The entire house had a significant renovation in the 1990s, but the porch still needs major work. We estimate the cost to be about \$4,800 including labor and materials (including a board tear-down session). Anyone interested in sponsoring, contributing or working on this project should contact the GPHS at 884-7010.

## eBay Auction Items to Benefit the Society

You can get it on eBay—and benefit the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

Through an arrangement with former antiques dealer Diane Reh, a portion of the selling price of items given to the Society from local household sales companies that are sold through her site on eBay will go directly to the GPHS.

Here's how it works:

- Log on to ebay.com and sign in, then click on the site map (on the upper right).
- Under the “More Ways to Find Items” category (scroll down to find this on the left), click on “Search for Items.”
- Under the Search column on the left, click “Items by Seller.”
- Enter decodiane as the seller's user ID, check “Include completed listings” and click on Search. You will see a list of the items Reh is offering, indicating those which will benefit the GPHS.



About 60 percent of the final price goes back to the GPHS and generally Reh will get a lot more for an item than in any other sale venue.

“I just sold a book for \$67 that would've only got about \$3 at a garage sale,” she said. She also sold a collectible cookie jar for more than \$200.

Reh was contacted a few months ago by GPHS member and Rose Terrace Quester Nancy Pacitto who collected items to sell from local household sale companies and wanted a better venue than a garage sale.

“It's a wonderful way to make money for an organization,” Reh said.

With the money already raised on eBay, the GPHS has purchased a laptop computer to use in the Resource Center and at the Provencal-Weir house at events and on Second Saturdays, so visitors can access the website.

Anyone with upscale items they feel would be appropriate for this on-going fundraiser to benefit the Society should contact Reh at (586) 783-5537.

# Thank You 2006 Donors

Ms. Doris Adler  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul Alandt  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Aliotta  
 American Association of  
 University Women  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gebran S. Anton  
 Mrs. Gwen Balance  
 Mr. Daniel Barrett  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Baubie  
 Mr. David A Beatty  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles B. Begg, Jr.  
 Ms. Pamela Berry  
 Suzy & Chip Berschback  
 Anne & Don Berschback  
 Mr. & Mrs. James F. Berschback  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Berschback  
 Mr. & Mrs. Christopher J. Blake  
 Mr. & Mrs. L. Douglas Blatt  
 Mr. Douglas A. Boehmer  
 Mr. & Mrs. A. James Bonahoom, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey A. Bond  
 Ms. Antoinette P. Book  
 Mrs. Frances Book  
 Mr. & Mrs. Herbert Book, Jr.  
 in memory of Patrick Fox  
 Mrs. Margaret A. Borden  
 Mr. & Mrs. Francis J. Boyle  
 Ms. Susan Boynton  
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael J. Brennan  
 Mrs. H. Robertson Brinker  
 Mr. Anthony F. Brinkman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kevin P. Broderick  
 Mrs. Wilber M. Brucker, Jr.  
 Mrs. Heather Burgess  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Burke  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ralph M. Burton  
 Ms. Carolyn Candler  
 Mrs. William S. Carleton  
 Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin G. Chapman  
 Mr. & Mrs. John R. Cobau  
 Mr. William Cohan  
 Mr. & Mrs. Gary A. Colett  
 Mrs. Charlotte M. Collins  
 Ms. Sheila Connolly  
 Mr. Walter B. Connolly  
 Mr. & Mrs. James E. Conway  
 Mrs. Ralph Cooper  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Crowley  
 Mrs. Alfred W. Cytacki  
 Mr. Carl Dalligan  
 Mr. & Mrs. D. Frederic De Haven  
 Mr. & Mrs. David De Vries  
 Amy DeWys-VanHecke &  
 John VanHecke  
 Mr. & Mrs. Paul F. Decker  
 Mrs. John Denler  
 Mrs. Dorothy Denomme

Mr. & Mrs. Paris DiSanto  
 Mr. Allen G. Dickinson  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Diehl, Jr  
 Ms. Margaret K. Dietz  
 Mr. & Mrs. J. McGregor Dodds  
 Ms. Jean Dodenhoff  
 Dr. & Mrs. Peter Dodenhoff  
 Dr. & Mrs. Mitchell P. Dombrowski  
 Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Dossin  
 Mrs. William L. Drennen  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian D. Ebner  
 Mr. Robert G. Edgar  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dale Ehresman  
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles W. Elliott  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. Elsey  
 Mrs. Charles Endicott  
 Mr. John Entenman  
 Ms. Catharine J. Farley in memory of  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joseph W. Farley  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael Farley  
 Mr. & Mrs. James G. Farquhar  
 Mr. & Mrs. James E. Fisk  
 Mr. & Mrs. James A. Fitzgerald  
 Mr. & Mrs. John B. Ford, III  
 Mr. & Mrs. William C. Ford  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ronald G. Forster  
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Fox  
 The Franzen Family  
 Mr. & Mrs. Roger Fridholm  
 Mr. Mark Gade  
 Mr. & Mrs. Jon B. Gandelot  
 in memory of Olivial & Leon  
 Mandel, and Lucy Hamilton  
 Mrs. Robert Garbarino  
 Mr. & Mrs. William Y. Gard  
 Mr. & Mrs. George A. Gardella, Jr.  
 Mrs. Max Gardner  
 Ms. Margaret Garmhaus  
 Mrs. Charles W. Gauss II  
 Mrs. Richard G. Gersch  
 Mr. & Mrs. William D. Gilbride, Jr.  
 Mr. Gaylord W. Gillis, Jr.  
 Mrs. John A. Gillis  
 Mr. & Mrs. James R. Gitre  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Graffius in memory  
 of Frank Sladen  
 Miss Betty Grebe  
 Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Griffith  
 Mrs. William H. Griffith  
 Mr. Stuart W. Grigg  
 The Grosse Pointe Academy  
 Mrs. Rodney Guest  
 Mr. & Mrs. Robert A. Hackathorn, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Haigh  
 Mr. & Mrs. David M. Hamilton  
 Mr. & Mrs. Verne Hampton II  
 Ms. Marlene Harle in memory of  
 Rosemary & Richard S. Debo  
 Mr. William J. Hartman  
 Mrs. Joseph Hartmann  
 Mr. & Mrs. John Hastings

Mrs. William P. Heller  
 Mr. & Mrs. William P. Heller, Jr.  
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard A. Herbert  
 Mr. & Mrs. William P. Herbert  
 Mrs. Robert T. Herdegen, Jr.  
 Ms. Kiki Herfert  
 Mr. & Mrs. T. Denny Hoag  
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore R. Hodges, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael D. Hollerbach  
 Mr. Donald P. Howard  
 Mr. Daniel Hughes  
 Mr. Jay F. Hunter in memory of  
 Thomas W. Hunter  
 Mr. & Mrs. William L. Hurley  
 Paula & Michael Jarvis  
 Mrs. Mary F. Jensen  
 John Paul Jones Society  
 Dr. & Mrs. Alex Johnson  
 Mrs. Laurie Jost  
 Mr. & Mrs. Brian Juergens  
 in memory of Barbara Lucander  
 Mr. Stephen M. Kelley  
 Kelley, Casey and Moyer, P. C.  
 Ms. Shirley J. Kennedy  
 Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Kerzie  
 Mr. & Mrs. John L. King  
 Mr. & Mrs. James Kordas  
 Dr. & Mrs. Michael Kosinski  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Kratzet  
 Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Kurap  
 Mr. & Mrs. John C. Ladendorf  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard W. Lambrecht, Jr.  
 Lawrence Scripps Wilkinson  
 Foundation  
 Dr. & Mrs. James W. Lepczyk  
 Dr. Frederick J. Lepley  
 Dr. Susan M. Lewandowski  
 in memory of Joseph Mihalak  
 Mrs. Charles M. Lightfoot  
 The Little Blue Book  
 Mrs. Frederick L. Lounsberry  
 Mrs. Gordon R. Maitland, Jr.  
 Mrs. Robert M. Malecek  
 Mr. & Mrs. Dutch L. Mandel  
 in memory of Olivia & Leon  
 Mandel  
 Mr. Richard Manoogian  
 Col. & Mrs. Michael V. Marston  
 Mr. & Mrs. Theodore McGraw  
 Ms. Christine K. McNaughton  
 Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. McPhail  
 Mrs. Joseph Mengden  
 Mr. & Mrs. Peter J. Mercier  
 Mrs. Hilary H. Micou, Jr.  
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard K. Miller  
 Mrs. Charles R. Moon  
 Mr. John B. Moran III  
 Mr. Ronald Morketter  
 Mr. Herman E. Mozer  
 Mr. & Mrs. Frank Mullen  
 Mrs. Cynthia Navarro

Mr. & Mrs. Frederick O. Neumann  
in honor of Tish Colett  
Mr. & Mrs. William Newnan  
Mr. & Mrs. James M. Nicholson  
Ms. Barbara Nickles in memory of  
Michael Robert Nickles  
Mr. & Mrs. Jan Niedbala  
Ms. Anne S. Nowak in memory of  
Mark C. Stevens  
Jane & Robert Nugent  
Mr. Peter Oldani  
Mr. & Mrs. William Ouellette  
Mr. & Mrs. Russell H. Peebles  
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Pegg  
Mr. & Mrs. William W. Penoyar, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Kenneth Perry, Jr.  
Ms. Sara J. Phillips  
Mr. & Mrs. Michel J. Pilorget  
Ms. Marian B. Potter  
in memory of William Potter  
Mrs. Sara M. Ralph  
Mr. & Mrs. William C. Rands III  
Mr. & Mrs. John S. Richardson  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ridder  
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Rock  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Roney  
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Rosen  
in honor of Stuart Grigg  
Mrs. Penny Rudolph  
Mr. William M. Rutledge  
Mr. & Mrs. Benedict P. Rybicki  
Mrs. Sylvia S. Sanders  
Mrs. H. R. Schemm  
Dr. & Mrs. Klaus Schmidt

Mrs. Gloria F. Schmitt in memory of  
Frederick R. Fletemeyer  
Dr. & Mrs. John R. Schneider  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Schollenberger  
Mrs. Frances L. Schonenberg  
Mr. James L. Schroth  
Mr. Joseph Schwartz  
Mr. Alexander Scotford  
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd F. Simpson  
Dr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Singelyn, DDS  
in honor of Lisa Mower Gandelot  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael W. Skinner  
in honor of Lisa Mower Gandelot  
Mr. Paul James Sloan  
Mr. & Mrs. David Sloss  
Ms. Myrna M. Smith  
Mr. and Mrs. Steven T. Smith  
Ms. Elizabeth Soby  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard G. Solak  
Miss Angeline Speck  
Miss Geraldine Speck  
Dr. & Mrs. Henry Sprague  
Mrs. Florence M. Stahl in memory of  
Frank Sladen  
Mr. & Mrs. F. Robert Steiger  
Mrs. Gail Stroh Marentette  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard J. Strowger  
Mrs. Charles C. Sullivan III  
Ms. Mary A. Sullivan  
Mrs. Robert Swanson  
Mr. & Mrs. Kurt O. Tech  
Mr. Louis Theros  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Thibodeau, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. David R. Thomas

Mrs. Pat Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thompson  
Mr. & Mrs. Minert N. Thompson, Jr.  
Mr. Edward C. Turner  
Mrs. Richard H. Turner  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Valade  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Vallee  
Mrs. Mary Ann Van Elslander in  
honor of Sister Verenice McQuade  
Mr. & Mrs. George C. Vincent in  
honor of Dr. Thomas Singelyn, DDS  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas M. Walworth, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Gail L. Warden  
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald E. Warren  
Ms. C. Wascher  
Mrs. Dorothy Wasinger  
Mr. Colton P. Weatherston  
Ms. Karyn Weir  
Dr. & Mrs. B. Thomas Weyhing III  
Carol & James Whitehead  
Mr. & Mrs. Fred W. Whitehouse  
Ms. Bethine S. Whitney  
Mr. & Mrs. Edward W. Wilberding  
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence S. Wilkinson  
Mr. & Mrs. Jeffery Willemain  
Dr. & Mrs. Francis Wilson  
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Woodhouse in  
memory of Adele Huebner  
Dr. Calier Worrell  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Zeller  
Khristi & John Zimmeth  
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Zmyslowski  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert F. ZurSchmiede

## Grosse Pointe Park Centennial Events



### Tour of Fairview

On Saturday, September 22, local author and historian, Nicholas Sinacori, will guide bus tours of the former Village of Fairview, an area which encompassed Grosse Pointe Park. Sinacori will point out sites of auto plants, famous locations including two race courses, and people and places that brought Detroit and the Grosse Pointes to automotive prominence. Tickets are available at the Grosse Pointe Park City Office, \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors and children under 17.

### Centennial Cruise at the Park's Farmers Market

Owners of pre-1975 restored classic cars are invited to display them during this year's final Grosse Pointe Park Farmers Market on Saturday, September 29. You and your ride will receive a certificate of participation, and prizes will be awarded. Space is limited and you must be registered for a display space. Call your car show pals and tell them about this great summer's end event.

*For information on these events, call Kiki Herfert at 313-822-9199 or [kikiherfert@gmail.com](mailto:kikiherfert@gmail.com).*

# Oral History Project with SOC Begins

Do you have Grosse Pointe related tales to tell? Have you lived a good portion of your life in Grosse Pointe and want to share your story with your family and others?

The Grosse Pointe Historical Society is starting a unique project with Services for Older Citizens collecting personal accounts about life in Grosse Pointe.

Starting September 27, on the last Thursday of each month from 1:00-3:00 p.m., Susan Hartz and Laura Larson from the GPHS will be at SOC to conduct a 40-minute interview, made by appointment, with Grosse Pointers about their personal history. The history will be recorded and transcribed and become part of the GPHS archive. The recorded stories can then be shared with the entire community for generations to come.

“We all have stories to tell. If we do not collect and save those memories, those stories, then one day they will disappear forever,” said Suzy Berschback, GPHS curator. “We are delighted to be able to help preserve and share oral histories. It’s a vital part of the mission of the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.”

The GPHS, a non-profit organization, suggests a donation of \$10 to help cover costs. Volunteers are needed to conduct and transcribe the interviews. For more information, or to make an appointment, call the GPHS at 884-7010.

## What's New on the Web



Several new features have been added to our website in recent months. Be sure to visit and take look.

### Joseph Berry Exhibit

A web exhibit featuring photos of the Berry family, “Edgemere” house and extensive gardens, and streetcar sketches by young Joe Sherrard, Joseph Berry’s grandson.

### The Village Slideshow

Vintage photos provide a glimpse of The Village shopping district through the years, from the early 1920s to today.

### Streaming Video Gallery

“Recollections of The Past 1650-1900,” Volume 1 of our Grosse Pointe history documentary series is now available on our website.



## Storytime in October

GPHS docent Nancy Pacitto will host a special story time for children on Sunday, October 7, from 12 noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Provencal-Weir House, 376 Kercheval. She will read from *The Old Mill* by Margaret Wise Brown and *The Voyageur's Paddle*, a story about Jacques, a little boy who lives in the woods of Michigan and wants to be a voyageur. Cookies and lemonade will follow the reading. The event is open to the public free of charge. It is part of the Victory in the Pointes celebrations. Parents are welcome. Reservations are encouraged. Call 884-7010 or visit our website, [www.gphistorical.org](http://www.gphistorical.org).

*The following three buildings were given a bronze marker by the Grosse Pointe Historical Society at their annual meeting to designate their historical significance to the community. The selection committee is chaired by Peggy Woodhouse.*



**Backman House**  
**1894 Grocery Store and Home**  
**194 Moross Road**

This property had a very early beginning. In 1778 it was described as “Land on the west side of Lake St. Clair, containing 3 acres in front and 40 acres in depth. This was the land that would become the estate of Magloire Morass in 1850 and later part of the Charles G. Moran Subdivision in 1874.” In August 1892, Lot #22 was sold to Matthys Lodewyk and a year later, after his death, the lot was purchased by Charles L. and Kate Backman for \$410.00.

In 1894 the building contained the Backman Grocery Store which sold produce and penny candy treats. Children’s shoes were another standard item. The Backman store delivered in those days and the horse and wagon were housed in an old barn behind the store. In front were displays of fresh fruits and vegetables. Behind the store the living quarters had 8 bedrooms and 1 and 1/2 baths for the Backman family. Upon Backman’s death in 1938, Lot #22 was passed on to his eldest son, Linus Backman (Uncle Len) in 1939. He and his sister, Mrs. John Kerby, lived there with nothing to show that their home was once a popular country store. Uncle Len continued to live at 194 Moross until his death in 1966.



**Charles and Ingrid Koebel House**  
**Eliel and Eero Saarinen, Architects, completed 1940**  
**203 Cloverly Road, Grosse Pointe Farms**

In 1937, Charles and Ingrid Koebel retained the architectural firm of Eliel and Eero Saarinen to design and build a residence in Grosse Pointe Farms. The project was the first commission of Eliel and Eero. In many aspects of the design, indeed, in many respects the house mirrors the Saarinen House at Cranbrook, Bloomfield Hills. Robert F. Swanson, who associated with his father-in-law and brother-in-law prepared final plans for the house in October 1939. Pipsan Saarinen Swanson was retained as

Interior Designer. Other members of the Saarinen family provided additional design elements, including custom-woven textiles and art objects. The house features custom designed interiors, lighting, hardware, furnishings and finishes.

The Saarinen design of the house contains repeated use of circles inscribed in rectangles, and reflects the architects’ integration of interior and exterior environments, hand-made and machine-made elements, and of architecture, sculpture, art, interior design and fine craftsmanship.

The two-story, five-bedroom flat roofed structure contains 5600 sq ft of living space. It is one of only two single family homes in the US, outside of Cranbrook, that was jointly designed by Eliel and Eero Saarinen. Three of the original “signature” Saarinen gates are located on the property.



**William A. McGraw House**  
**1884 Queen Anne Cottage**  
**Redesigned 1927 by Robert O. Derrick**  
**71 Lake Shore Road**

The pretty Queen Anne cottage designed for William A. McGraw was located at Lake Shore Road and Lakecrest. The property embraced about 10 acres and was known as “The Poplars” because of a row of Lombardy Poplars, and an Osage orange hedge that defined the front of the property. It was a ribbon farm that extended from Lake St. Clair to Grosse Pointe Blvd. The interior of the residence was a model of convenience, and its general finish and tasteful appointments were admired by all. An attractive feature of the grounds of Mr. McGraw and his neighbor Mr. Dyer was the little park in front, extending to the lake. McGraw was the son of A.C. McGraw whose firm A.C. McGraw & Co. was one of the oldest and most successful mercantile firms in Detroit. He married Harriet A. Robinson, a niece of John S. Newberry.

In 1927, there was extensive remodeling done to the façade for Percival Dodge, by Robert O. Derrick. At that time, the property consisted of 3 acres. It is a 14 room, two-story, gracious home with outstanding features, quality and architectural details rarely found today. It has 7 natural fireplaces, historic gardens, high ceilings and a carriage house.

In 1927, there was extensive remodeling done to the façade for Percival Dodge, by Robert O. Derrick. At that time, the property consisted of 3 acres. It is a 14 room, two-story, gracious home with outstanding features, quality and architectural details rarely found today. It has 7 natural fireplaces, historic gardens, high ceilings and a carriage house.