



# ViewPoints



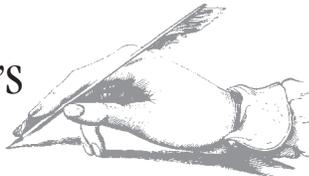
December 2014

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

*A* N OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members:

*Holiday Greetings to All! Remember to take time to be thankful for friends and relatives during these Holidays. I treasure the time filled with beautiful decorations and laughter round my dining room table.*

*The Board is still working dutifully. The Archives Committee is in the room at least two days a week and has been plugging along! Thanks to Win Keller, Jill Kuyper and Debbie Farynoski who have been constant in this effort. Our goal, remember, is to make our archives available to you and the general public.*

*We also continue to work closely with Grandview Heights Public Library on our new internet accessible timeline of local history. You can access the timeline through our website as well as the library website.*

*Our society Facebook page continues to grow, so please visit that, also. Many thanks to Win Keller and Tom DeMaria for their hard work. Also be sure to stop by the showcase in the "breezeway" in the Bank Block on Grandview Avenue. We continue to update these displays as well.*

*We anxiously await announcement of the broadcast date for WOSU's Columbus Neighborhoods segment which will feature The Tri-Village area. It is scheduled for Spring 2015. A ton of work went into this, so please don't miss it! Watch WOSU and local media for the announcement.*

*If you wish to make any contributions to the Society archives, please contact the Archives committee or email me at [tliberat@wowway.com](mailto:tliberat@wowway.com) We now have a form to document contributions.*

*Welcome to new Life Member Joan Curry.*

*Society officers for 2014-1015 are: Tracy Liberatore, President; Win Keller; Vice-president; Jane Harris, Secretary, Kent Studebaker; Treasurer. Board members are: Wayne Carlson, Jeri Diehl Cusack, Ruthanne James, Brian Kuyper, Jill Kuyper, Patrick Mooney, and Karen Riggs. Tom DeMaria has become Board Member Emeritus. He will continue to help with Facebook, the high school display case, and speaking engagements.*

*Have wonderful Holiday Memories!*

*Sincerely,  
Tracy Liberatore, President*

## Society Turns 40 Happy Anniversary!

The first Annual Meeting of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society was held on September 14, 1974 in Grandview Heights Public Library with a large attendance and the announcement of 119 founding members, including the first two life members. The library offered space for Society Archives.

During the 1973-1974 school year two Edison Elementary third-grade teachers, Amelia Muhlbach and Rebecca Laycock, had led their students in a local history project, interviewing residents, photographing local sites and collecting memorabilia. Win Keller, then a volunteer teacher's aide in Ms. Muhlbach's classroom, was asked to help record the memories of older residents. A conversation over lunch with Win's neighbor, Ann Larrick, became the genesis of the society.

An invitation to a steering committee meeting in March drew 50 persons; articles of incorporation were signed on July 16, 1974, a constitution and by-laws were written, and a membership drive launched on July 30. Annual dues were \$4.



*Standing in the picture of the officers elected are Grandview Mayor Joseph Wyman; Treasurer Virginia Abbott; and Councilwoman Ann Larrick, secretary. Seated are Dirk Voelker, vice president; and Win Keller president.*

*This issue sponsored by*

**ANONYMOUS DONORS**



## PART II: HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, GRANDVIEW LIBRARY!

Note: Part I of this article celebrating the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Grandview Heights Public Library appeared in the April 2014 edition of our Society's newsletter.

By Jeri Diehl Cusack, MLS

The Grandview Library of 1970 only faintly resembled the original building erected in 1935 and 1936 with New Deal era federal funding from the Works Progress Administration. By 1973, it had undergone yet another renovation with a major construction project that provided additional shelving space for the adult collection to the rear, or south side, of the building on the main level, as well as a much expanded children's department on the lower level.

The space on the first floor that, since 1952, had housed the children's room became the reference room, with the original, large wooden circulation desk situated nearby. The Library's main entrance moved from the center front of the building (now a porch visible from West First Avenue) to a location on the east face of the building, accessible from a ramp leading up from the public sidewalk. An elevator was installed just inside the new entrance to make both levels of the Library more accessible to patrons and staff members alike.

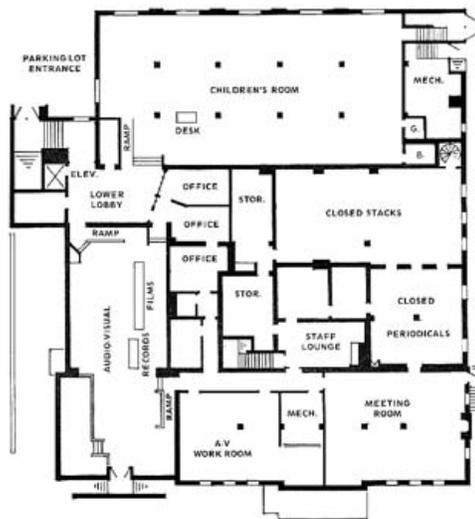
The Library's 1973 Annual Report proudly displayed the floor plans and use of the newly expanded building.

supplement the Library's budget through a sale of donated books. Their effort grew out of the club's desire to provide additional resources to the Library to purchase some "extras" outside the standard Library budget. The women held their first book sale in 1974 and started a tradition – and an organization – which endure to this day. Over the ensuing years, their generosity purchased such items as a coffee maker and refrigerator for the public meeting room as well as titles to expand the Library's collection of large print books.

Thanks to these founding mothers, an official "Friends of the Grandview Library" group came into being. It has grown substantially in membership and scope, but continues to raise money to support a wide array of Library services and activities to this day. Most of the Library's current program offerings, including its concerts and summer reading clubs are subsidized, if not completely underwritten, by the "Friends". Their sales of donated books, DVDs and other materials, as well as outdated items withdrawn from the Library's collection, are held several times a year and are eagerly anticipated events for local book-lovers and collectors.

By 1980, the Library needed additional parking space for its many users. It was able to expand off street parking capacity after the Library Board of Trustees acquired adjoining properties to the east (Grandview Cycle) and south (private residences). The Library site then stretched a full block long on West First Avenue, between Oakland and Ashland Avenues.

In the fall of 1986, under the leadership of Library Director Carol Pelz, who had taken the reins following the long tenure of Kathryn Hannon (1967 – 1984) plus a year under the supervision of Carol Haenicke (1984 – 1985), the Grandview Library sought passage of a continuing 2.2 mill operating levy. Pelz's vision for the Grandview Library included an expanded facility with more meeting space for the community, public computers for patrons of all ages, an enlarged Children's Department and additional gathering space for community



LOWER LEVEL  
ARCHITECT: Walter C. Hansen  
GENERAL CONTRACTOR: Mid-State Builders, Inc.



STREET LEVEL  
Ramps and an elevator make all departments in the Grandview Heights Public Library available to the physically handicapped.

### 1973 Library Floor Plans

In 1977 a second floor balcony was added to the Library's south side to accommodate even more book display space and storage, as the adult collection continued to expand along with other Library programs and services for local residents.

It was also in the 1970s that a group of local women, members of the Grandview Civic Welfare Club, sought to

events and public performances.

Unlike the three previous tax levies in the late 1920s, this Grandview Library ballot issue was approved overwhelmingly by the voters of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Construction commenced in 1987 and Mary Ludlum was named the Library's Assistant Director and charged with overseeing extensive Library



*Jeri Diehl Cusack and Mary Ludlum*

renovations and additions. About two years later, upon the completion of the project, the Community was invited to the Library's grand re-opening celebration on September 24, 1989.

In 1988, Carol Pelz was also instrumental in organizing the Central Library Consortium (CLC), which now includes the cooperative "sharing of resources and expenses among 14 Central Ohio library systems," according to the Grandview Library's website which also states that "the CLC serves 1.4 million residents across six counties with more than 4.5 million items."\*

Thanks to Ms. Pelz's dedicated efforts, the Grandview Library became a founding CLC member and continues to be the CLC's Administering Library. Thus the Grandview Library was "among the first in Ohio to institute daily delivery among the members to share materials and to do cooperative licensing of databases"\* - all of which led to cost savings for each of the member libraries at a time when, unfortunately, state funding for public libraries was steadily diminishing.

\*Current members of the Central Library Consortium include:

- Alexandria Public Library
- Bexley Public Library
- Columbus Metropolitan Library
- Fairfield County District Library
- London Public Library
- Marysville Public Library
- Pickaway County District Public Library
- Pickerington Public Library
- Plain City Public Library
- Southwest Public Libraries
- Wagnalls Memorial Library
- Upper Arlington Public Library
- Worthington Libraries

Additional adaptations/renovations/additions to the Grandview Library helped maintain the building and enhance its ability to serve its clientele during the years 2008 to 2013. \*Some of the most noteworthy include:

- 2008: Audiovisual Remodeling
- 2009: Consolidation of Circulation & AV Depts.
- 2010: Opened The Study Commons
- 2009: Parking Lot added across Oakland Avenue
- 2011: Opened "The Basement" (for 7-12 graders)
- 2011: Interactive Area added in Youth Services
- 2012: Story Time Area added in Youth Services
- 2013: Provided a Drive-Up Book Drop

Just as the physical size and shape of the Library changed over the years, so did the Library adapt and expand its services to embrace and provide current technologies in order to meet the needs of the community. Public typewriters were phased out and replaced by word processors and, eventually, by a large bank of public computers with free internet access.

While GHPL was long known to teachers for its outstanding 16 mm film collection, over time video formats changed from Beta to VHS, and later to DVD and BluRay. Likewise, the format of the Library's music collection saw records replaced by audiocassettes, then CDs and eventually return to LPs as the collection reflected users' preferences.

Reference materials on microfilm and microfiche evolved into digitized and online databases which became accessible in-house as well as to Grandview Library card holders, even remotely. Today free downloadable e-books and e-music as well streaming movies are available to Library patrons. Over the years WiFi service was extended throughout the Library and recently, in cooperation with the City of Grandview Heights Parks and Recreation Department, into city parks and public spaces.

The Grandview Library was entrusted with the photo collection of the Columbus Citizen Journal and received a grant to make possible the digitization of thousands of historically significant images. The project was dubbed "PhotOhio" and, upon completion, became "a searchable repository of thousands of photos, texts and documents relating to Ohio's history." Now available through PhotOhio are "the collections of Ohio newspaper photo archives, (Grandview Heights High School) yearbooks, local historical publications and more."\*\*

A variety of perennially popular Grandview Library programs and events continue the long tradition of service to the community. Annual summer reading clubs for children, teens and adults have encouraged year round enjoyment of the Library's collection, with a variety of prizes donated by local businesses as rewards. Music in the Atrium, a 25 year old indoor concert series, offers free musical performances inside the Library, typically during the months of September through May.

The Grandview Library's outdoor summer concert series, Music on the Lawn, celebrated its 29th season in 2014 and kicked it off with a special 90th birthday concert featuring Arnett Howard and his band, a crowd favorite for many years. On Tuesday evenings during the months of June and July, the Library's east lawn, at the corner of Oakland and West First Avenues, has become "the place



to be” to hear talented local musicians, enjoy a picnic dinner, see neighbors, people watch and perhaps clap, sway, or sometimes even dance to the tunes.

In 1994, the Library partnered with the Grandview Parks and Recreation Department to present the first craft and music event known as the Lazy Daze of Summer Festival to the community. Originally conceived as an opportunity for local crafts persons and artists to display and sell their wares – as well as a potential fundraiser for the Library and City, it was held at three different sites between 1994 and 2001: on school property south of Grandview High School; on Grandview Avenue’s Bank Block and at McKinley Field on Goodale Boulevard.

Eventually “Lazy Daze”, as it is now commonly known, moved to its current location on the lawn and streets surrounding the Library and was handed over to the newly organized Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Arts Council to administer in 2005. Plans are currently underway for the 22nd annual festival, which will be hosted by the Grandview Library for the 14th year on Saturday, July 25, 2015.

The local voters have continued to generously pass tax issues for the Grandview Library’s benefit with consistently high margins over the past twenty-two years. According to the Library’s history as shared on its website, six levies have been successfully passed including the following:

- in 1992, a 2.5-mill 5-year levy;
- in 1997, a 2.5-mill 5-year renewal levy;
- in 2002, a 2.5-mill 5-year replacement levy;
- in 2007, a 2.5-mill 5-year replacement levy;
- in 2010, a 2.2-mill replacement of the continuing levy of 1986; and
- in 2012, a 2.5-mill 5-year replacement levy.

Generous patrons and donors have also helped the Library raise over \$1 million for the Grandview Library Endowment Fund (GLEF), which originated with a \$10,000 deposit invested with the Columbus Foundation back in 1993. The GLEF was created in order to become a means of securing the Library’s financial future, and proceeds from early Lazy Daze festivals, lifetime membership dues to the Friends of the Library, as well as memorial donations, bequests, honoraria and many other financial gifts from numerous sources have continued to help the fund grow over the last two decades.

As always, the Grandview Library has depended on the guidance of a committed group of community volunteers who have been appointed its trustees. Harold Voelker served as President of the Library Board from 1945 until 1971, when M. Jack Snyder became Library Board President and served until his death in 1990. Soon after, Alphonse P. Cincione was elected to lead the Library Board and he is currently in his 25th year as its president. Now serving with Mr. Cincione as trustees are John Evans, vice president; Teri Antolino Williams, secretary; Amy Day; Eugene King; Dr. Edgar Shaudys and Deborah Sisinger.

Throughout the last seven years under both Mary Ludlum, who was promoted to Director in August, 2008 and who served until her retirement in August, 2013, and current Director Ryan McDonnell, the Grandview Library has had the distinction of being named by *Library Journal* as a “five star-rated library”, the highest possible ranking which factors into consideration the number of items borrowed (circulation), visits by community members, program attendance and Internet usage. Each element of the formula is calculated per capita. (For the record, the Library currently has more than 23,000 registered borrowers and employs about 47 people, with 34 full-time equivalents.)

The Grandview Library was also recently ranked second highest among all public libraries in the United States with budgets between \$1 million and \$4,999,999. Rebecca Felkner, current Assistant Director, explained that this ranking “is particularly meaningful because it is based on the community’s use of the library and its services” as stated in the November 20, 2014 edition of the *ThisWeek Tri-Village News*.

Felkner went on to express high hopes for the Grandview Library’s future, saying, “Director (McDonnell) has brought some great new ideas to our Library” and “we certainly aren’t going to rest on our laurels. We’ll continue to strive to improve.”

An exciting project on which the GH/MC Historical Society is now partnering with the Grandview Library involves the development of an interactive timeline featuring a touch screen which will be acquired through funding from the Society and installed in 2015. Several Society members have been researching information concerning local people, places and events to add content to this evolving historical tool.

On behalf of the Society’s trustees, I invite you to watch for the new touch screen which the Library hopes to install soon on the Library’s lower level (east side), on the wall just outside of the Library’s large meeting room and across from the showcase. What an appropriate gift this will be from the Society to the Library and the community, to complete the celebration of the Grandview Library’s 90th anniversary!

\*As listed on the Grandview Library’s website, [www.ghpl.org/about/#history](http://www.ghpl.org/about/#history)

\*\*As stated on the PhotOhio website, [www.photohio.org/](http://www.photohio.org/)

#### **Other reference sources used for this two part article:**

*Between the Rivers: The Story of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff* by Wayne E. Carlson, c. 2005.

*History of Upper Arlington: A Suburb of Columbus, Ohio* by Martha Sayers Suter & Heather Phalen, Second Edition c. 1988

[www.clcoho.org/](http://www.clcoho.org/), the website of the Central Library Consortium

[www.ghmchs.org](http://www.ghmchs.org), the website of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society



## The Breezeway in Grandview Avenue Bank Block



The Bank Block building on Grandview Avenue was built by Don Casto and dedicated in 1928. It was the nation's first shopping strip mall with dedicated parking. In 2000, when the Bank Block was awarded an Ohio historical marker, the Wagenbrenner Company upgraded the breezeway (the tunnel which connects Grandview Avenue with the parking lot) with new flooring, lighting, and display cases.

There are four display cases. The first features George Urlin's first Grand View Plat, with photos of the Urlins. The second case currently displays memorabilia from the former Stew Harrison's Restaurant, including many photos and planks from the interior. The third case features publications of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society. The final case is used for items of current interest: upcoming Society programs, Grandview Yard developments, and newer historical photos. Updated frequently, it is the window to check when you are on 'the Avenue.'

## Lighting Up the Night!

In November, 1987, Gail Morris, Vice-president of Grandview Civic Welfare Club, no doubt inspired by the luminaria tradition of the American Southwest, proposed "lighting up our neighborhood on Christmas Eve" by selling luminary supplies for a community wide project. David Groth of the City of Grandview Heights helped get the project launched.

The Civic Welfare Club in 1987 sold 2400 candles at \$0.35 for a profit of \$831.80, enough for the next year's supplies. Shoveled sand was provided by the City.

A luminary committee was established in 1989. In 1994 profits were \$1306.92. 1995 luminaria profits helped the club make donations to the schools, the library, Bobcat Boosters, Blue Star Mothers, NNEMAP and other local projects.

In 1996 6300 candles were sold and for the first time profits were used for Grandview Heights High School senior scholarships, as well as other local causes. In 1999 the club awarded two \$500 scholarships to GHHS graduates.

In 2000 profits went to needy families, as well as to ongoing local causes, and purchased trees for Edison elementary School.

The luminaria has become a community late December tradition, and continues to "light up the night," as well as throughout the year enable Grandview Civic Welfare Club to brighten the lives of countless folks in Grandview and beyond.

The luminaria and the sale of knitted items (made by club members) remains the club's only fund raiser.

In 2013 sales profits combined with members' donations for scholarships allowed the club to give four \$1000 scholarships to GHHS seniors.





## BECOME A MEMBER

*of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society!*

Please complete the information below and send with your check made out to: **GH/MC Historical Society** Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP	LIFE TIME MEMBERSHIP
YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1–SEPT. 30)	ONE-TIME PAYMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Single \$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Couple \$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$25.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Organization \$500.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$1000.00



ViewPoints is an occasional publication of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society.



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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney  
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## A REQUEST

Our web site makes accessible a great deal of historical material. If you wish to publish any of our material please do us the courtesy of crediting your source. A call to us to clarify any possible copyright issues would be appreciated.

## Timeline of Local History

Access Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society's new online Timeline, an interactive display of local historical events, pictures and stories.



### Two locations:

1. Visit the Society website, [www.gbmchs.org](http://www.gbmchs.org), and click on the Timeline icon on our homepage. OR
  2. Go to [www.gbpl.org/timeline](http://www.gbpl.org/timeline).
- Enjoy your visit to our exciting new information source. Scroll along from 1803 to nearly yesterday!

## Holiday Shop with Us!

Visit Grandview Heights Public Library on the following dates and select from Society publications and historic-scene playing cards. Society memberships make special gifts, also! Grandview Library ornaments, luminary supplies and knitted hats will be available. Grandview Arts Council will offer the *Century of Doors* poster. A one-stop shop for special local memory giving.

Saturday, December 20 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
 Sunday, December 21 1 – 5 p.m.  
 Monday, December 22 11 a.m. – 7 p.m.

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview  
Heights/Marble Cliff  
Historical Society

