



Fall 2023  
Issue Number 11

---

Become a  
Member

Renew Your  
Membership

Make a  
Donation

## History is Our Story, and Our Story is Your Story

Dear Members,

As we near the end of 2023, it's time to reflect on the journey we've taken together this year. We want to express our **gratitude for your support, membership, and shared enthusiasm** for preserving the history of our beloved communities. You help us continue to tell our story.

**In this edition**, you can:

- discover how **the Italian community** has been a significant part of our local history.
- enjoy the newest **History Walks** tour: ***The Italian Connection***.
- learn how to **volunteer** to help frame the Society's **50th Anniversary celebration** in 2024 and prepare for our **2025 Tour of Homes**.
- read a ***Moment in Time*** gleaned from the Society's archives (*Moment In Time Revisited*).
- welcome two **new Society Trustees**.
- check out the Society's **newest digital timeline**: Final Salute.

Many Society **resources are accessed** through both the **Society's website** at [www.ghmchs.org](http://www.ghmchs.org) and the **Society's digital collection** online [here](#). Also, follow the Society on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [X](#).

At this time of year, we are asked to support many organizations. **Please consider making an end-of-year donation to the Society [here](#)** so we can continue to tell our story. Donations of \$1000 or more will be recognized as a Benefactor for the year of the donation.

We look forward to another year of history and discovery in 2024 --it's going to be an exciting year as we celebrate **our 50th anniversary!** Until then, have a wonderful holiday season!

**Kent Studebaker**  
President

---

# Our Italian Community

The **Italian population** has had a **significant impact** on the history of Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. The earliest Italian immigrants to the area arrived in the late 1800s, seeking employment opportunities, in particular in the area's **quarries** such as Marble Cliff Quarry. These immigrants often found restrictions on housing in the area, resulting in the **founding of San Margherita** across the Scioto River from Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Early on, the quarry provided shack-like homes to workers along McKinley Avenue and the railroad tracks. As quarry workers became more economically stable, they constructed homes along Trabue Road.

By the 1920s, the Italian population had grown large enough to **establish a vibrant community** with its own social clubs, churches, and businesses.



However, like many immigrant communities, the Italian population **faced discrimination and prejudice**.

They were often viewed as outsiders and faced challenges in finding housing and employment. In the 1930s, the federal government's **Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC)** was **created to help stabilize the housing market** during the Great Depression. It, however, also created ethnic and economic disparities in communities that **negatively impacted** the ability for many Italian families to move into some suburban communities. Despite these obstacles, the Italian community persevered and **continued to make significant contributions to the area**. Many Italian families moved into Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff as housing restrictions were removed.



In the decades that followed, the **Italian population continued to thrive** and contribute to the area's economic and cultural development. Many Italian families started businesses that included restaurants (e.g., ***Presutti's Villa*** pictured at left) and grocery stores (e.g., ***Ciccone's*** pictured above) that became local staples. The area's Italian community also **celebrated their heritage through**

**cultural events**. Local elected leaders like Marble Cliff Mayors ***Falco*** and ***Monaco*** claimed Italian heritage.

If you're eager to dive more into this captivating exploration of Italian heritage, you're in luck! The Society's **publication *The Italian Heritage*** is available for purchase. Whether you're of Italian descent, a history buff, or simply curious about the heritage of our communities, this publication is a valuable resource.

**To get your hands on *The Italian Heritage***, simply visit the Society website [here](#) for more information. By owning a copy, you not only **gain insights into the past but also support the valuable work of the Society** in preserving our local history.

---

## Calling All House and History Enthusiasts: Join the 2025 Tour of Homes Planning Team!

The Society's triennial **Tour of Homes** will next be held in **2025**. Initial tour planning starts in 2024. To make the tour a resounding success, **we are seeking passionate volunteers** to serve as leads on the tour planning team.



Grandview Heights / Marble Cliff

### ***Why Be a Part of the Tour of Homes Planning Team?***

The Society's Tour of Homes showcases the beauty and history of the unique homes in Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. **By joining the planning team, you'll have the opportunity to:**

1. Celebrate Our Communities' Heritage: Increase recognition of and demand for our unique communities,
2. Foster Community Spirit: Connect with like-minded individuals who share a passion for history and community,
3. Showcase Your Expertise: Utilize your skills and talents, whether in event planning, marketing, or history, to make the 2025 Tour of Homes an unforgettable experience,
4. Make a Difference: Play a pivotal role in organizing an event that not only educates but also raises funds to support the Society's mission.

### ***How Can You Get Involved?***

We're **looking for volunteers** to fill key roles within the planning team, from coordinating logistics and securing sponsorships to creating marketing materials and organizing volunteers.

If interested, please **contact the Society** at [\*\*\*ghmctourhomes@gmail.com\*\*\*](mailto:ghmctourhomes@gmail.com). We can provide descriptions of various roles, general schedule, and approximate time commitment involved, so you can decide what might best suit you.

This Tour of Homes is more than just a history lesson or home tour; it's also a fun gathering for neighbors and friends. To see information on past tours, [click here](#). **Thank you for considering supporting the Society in our**

signature event.

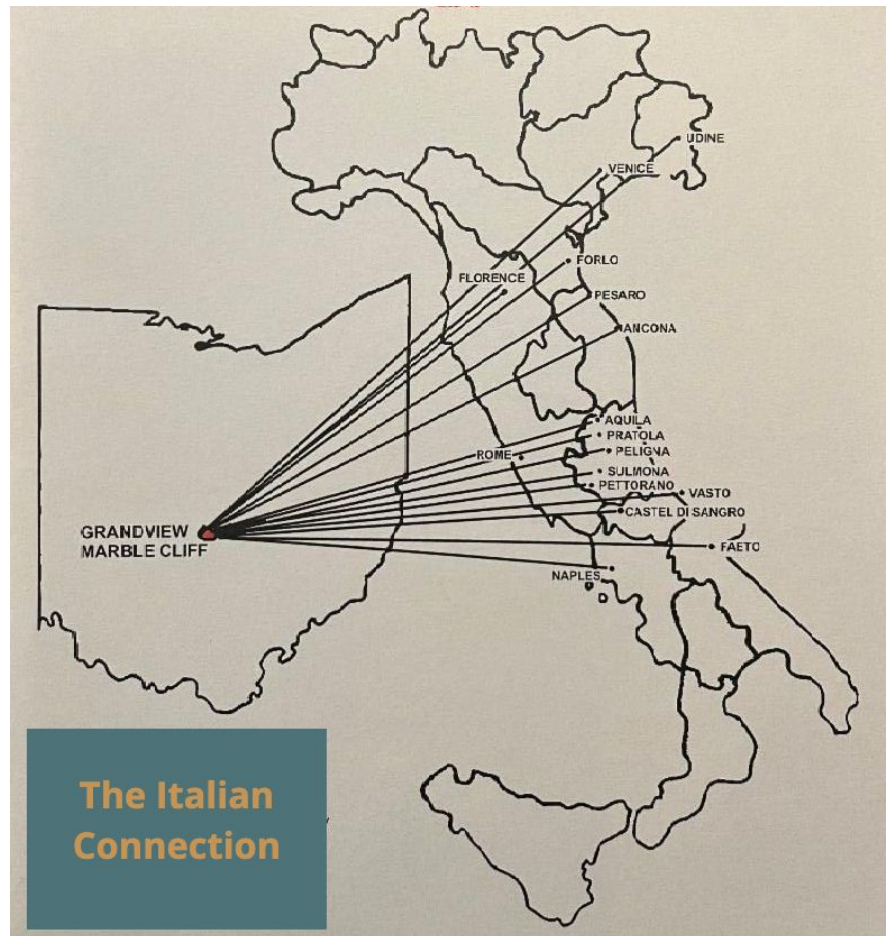
---

## Embrace the Chill and Discover More: The Italian Connection Walking Tour Awaits!

Don't let cooler weather shut you in. Enjoy crisp clear skies, fall leaves, and holiday decorations on our **newest History Walks** walking tour. You'll also learn about resilient Italian immigrants and the warm lives they created in our communities. **The Italian Connection** walking tour is available anytime, and is self-guided so you can explore at your leisure.

Enjoy this and 11 other walking tours by **downloading the free app** at at

[grandviewhistorywalks.org](http://grandviewhistorywalks.org) or from the [Apple App Store](#) or [Google Play Store](#).



---

## A Moment In Time Revisited Red Shoe Mystery



**Lola Celli emigrated to America in 1930 from Italy** with her parents Michele and Ida, and brother Felice. Four years later they moved into a home at 1783 West Third Avenue in Grandview Heights, between Westwood and Glenn Avenues. Lola excelled at **Grandview Heights High School**, graduating near the top of her **class in 1941**. After graduation from The Ohio State University, the multi-lingual Lola took a job teaching Home Economics at West Mansfield High School. She often returned **by train to visit to her family's**

**home in Grandview Heights**. On February 23, 1946, during one such visit, she left her family's home to take the First Avenue bus to downtown Columbus for shopping. **She was not seen again**. Lola often **wore her favorite red shoes to classes** in Mansfield, and she had them on that day. A motorcyclist on Olentangy River Road near West North Broadway told police that he **saw a red shoe fly out of a passing coupe** in which a man and

woman were arguing. Another motorist confirmed the red shoe, giving this missing person case the “**Red Shoe Mystery**” description. Many leads were followed in the case, but most turned out to be false leads. Areas around Grandview Heights were searched several times, in one sweep by over a hundred high school students from Grandview Heights and Upper Arlington, but no significant evidence has been found. Grandview Heights police **continue to treat the case as an open case**

Moment in Time - reprint from November 9, 2016

To see the Society's collection of *Moment in Time*, [click here](#).

---

## Help the Society Plan for a Celebration

Are you passionate about our community's history and eager to make a lasting impact? **Join us in planning the Society's 50th Anniversary celebration** in 2024! We're looking for dedicated volunteers to help create memorable events that honor our rich heritage.



This is a **unique opportunity** to collaborate with like-minded individuals, brainstorm creative ideas, and organize a celebration that will bring our community together. Whether you have event planning experience or simply a deep love for our towns, your skills and enthusiasm are welcome.

Together, we can make the 50th Anniversary a momentous occasion. **Join us in preserving our past and building our future!** To get involved, please contact us at [ghmchs@gmail.com](mailto:ghmchs@gmail.com) with your name and contact information. Let's create history together!

---

## Welcome New Society Trustees

The Society is pleased to **introduce two new Trustees, Fritz Harding and Mike Young**, who are joining the Board. Their extensive expertise and passion for preserving local history make them valuable additions to the Society's leadership.

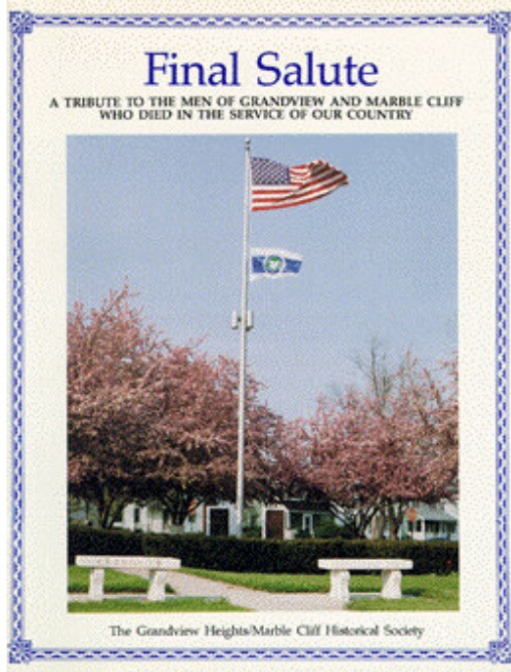
**Fritz Harding**, known for his **commitment to and involvement with varied historical and cultural institutions and his expertise in local history and historic preservation**, will play a pivotal role in advancing the Society's mission.

**Mike Young**, having grown up in Grandview Heights, **offers his experience as a military historian and teacher which will provide excellent direction** in the Society's mission of telling our local story.

Fritz and Mike will collaborate with the existing Board members **to lead the Society toward a successful future**, fostering a deeper appreciation for the area's history and heritage.

---

# Check Out Our New Digital Timeline: *Final Salute*



On Veterans Day, November 11, 2023, the Society, in collaboration with the Grandview Heights Public Library (GHPL), introduced its second interactive digital timeline. With information digitized from the Society's *Final Salute* publication, the timeline honors individuals from Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff who died in service to our country. The timeline provides a brief description of each individual's military service. The *Final Salute* timeline joins the general history timeline which depicts the history of our communities. Both are on the touchscreen monitor located on the second floor of GHPL.

The interactive *Final Salute* timeline offers a unique way to learn about and remember these brave individuals from Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff. Have you had a chance to explore the timeline at GHPL? Check it out the next time you're there.

You can preview the *Final Salute* [here](#). The general historical timeline can be viewed [here](#). Copies of the original print publication are available for purchase from the Society [here](#).

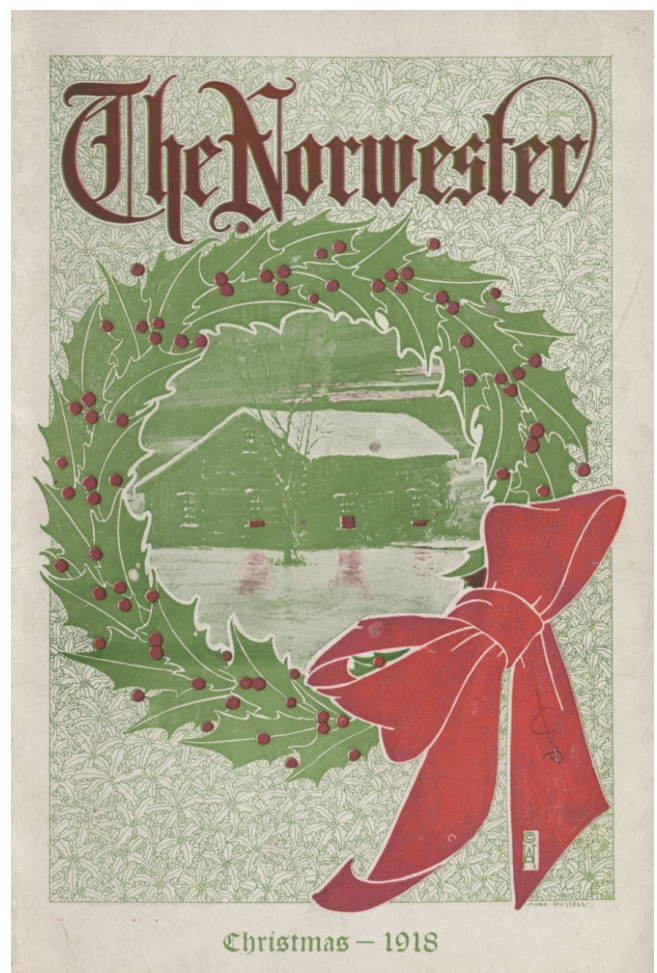
---

## The Society Wishes You Happy Holidays

Since this is the final edition of the Society's e-new for 2023, we **wish you a joyful holiday season** filled with cherished memories. **May this season bring happiness, togetherness, and a touch of history to your celebrations!**

NOTE: This **image is from The *Norwester* magazine**, published monthly from November 1917 through March 1922, which **chronicled early suburban life** in the Upper Arlington, Grandview Heights, and Marble Cliff areas.

The magazine essentially **served as the first newspaper to focus on the northwest suburbs** of Columbus, Ohio, and is a rich resource for historical, cultural, architectural, and genealogical information.



Our friends at the Upper Arlington Historical Society scanned **multiple**

issues of The *Norwester* which can be viewed online [here](#).

---



1685 W. First Ave.  
Grandview Heights, OH 43212  
[\*ghmchs@gmail.com\*](mailto:ghmchs@gmail.com)

Contact Us



Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society | 1685 W. First Ave., Grandview Heights, OH 43212 [www.ghmchs.org](http://www.ghmchs.org)

[Unsubscribe ghmchs.1@gmail.com](mailto:ghmchs.1@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by ghmchs.1@gmail.com powered by



Try email marketing for free today!