

# ViewPoints <br>  

December 2009
Vissitit Onurn $\mathbb{W}$ Velbsiitie!!
www.ghmchs.org

## n OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dear Society Members,
I hope all of you are enjoying this wonderful time of year. All the shops, businesses and homes are dressed in their holiday decorations and twinkling lights. I find that the bolidays are especially busy and stressful at times, but I am reminded of what is important when I see the decorations glowing:family and friends. That really is the essence of the holidays for me. My favorite part is Christmas night - when all the presents have been unwrapped, the roast eaten, the dinner guests back in their own bomes....... I usually dim the living room lights, have a glass of champagne, and gaze at our tree and relax by the fire, and think of how lucky I am to have such a wonderful family and live in such a great place as Grandview. I wish all of you a happy and safe holiday!
We have begun our new practice of using occasional "eblasts" for all members who wished to receive them. For those persons, I sent out a "tester" and received responses from most of you.This eblast system will keep all of you informed of last minute speaking engagements, projects and other news of interest - in between our issues of ViewPoints newsletter. We bope you enjoy!
Kudos to Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson, for their new feature to our This Week column "Moment in Time". Each month, there will be the usual photograph and accompanying article, but in addition to that, a link has been added to our website: www.ghmchs.org, wherein you can click on "Grandview Reminiscences" for a more in depth and detailed bistory of items from the column. There will be things such as personal writings, additional photographs, and more. We hope you enjoy this new venture in history!
The Board has been busy planning our next big project: The Home Tour. As usual, it will be held this spring on Mother's Day.This is our biggest fundraiser and attendance seems to rise every time. I would like to extend an invitation for any of you who might be interested in becoming more involved, to please contact me. We need all sorts of extra help for this, such as docents, coordinating putting out signs and information, door sales, and other things. I will be sending an "eblast" to all of you with regard to this.
On December 12, the Society was a presence at the 1st Annual GHHS Holiday Craft and Art Show.We were extremely successful in our sales of pre-wrapped playing cards and bundles. Many thanks to Ruthanne James for continuously wrapping up such lovely packages and setting a very attractive holiday booth. We will be selling the gift wrapped cards and publications in the library soon. Not only are they wrapped and ready to go, but they make excellent last minute gifts for that hard to shop for person!
Once again, may your holidays be merry and safe! Enjoy your loved ones! Sincerely,
Tracy Liberatore, President


## MEMORIES: a Reprise

The end-of-year always generates memories: sweet and bittersweet, sometimes challenging, and often beartwarming. Herewith are a few memories gleaned from a long-running, fondly remembered Tri-Village News Christmas tradition: The Tri-Village Christmas Family.

rom 1956 until 1985 the Tri-Village News, published for many years from offices on Grandview Avenue south of West Third Avenue, chose a multigenerational family from the area as a front-page feature for the issue closely preceding Christmas Day.

The roster includes, in chronological order from 1956, the following families: Trautwine-Mulholland; Kelley; Laylin; Aschinger; Niple; Smith; Rader-Rankin; Murphy-Long; Postle; Hadley, Cameron; Bricker; SayersThompson; Lawyer-Cavendish; Edwards; Wiltberger; Folkert-Tice; Guthrie, Poulton; Pickett; Lorenz; Abbot; Glass; Riley; Alban; Martina; France; Todd; Antolino; and Hord.

Most years, a TVN reporter conducted extensive interviews with the "Christmas Family."Because multigenerational families were always chosen, the resulting articles are a wonderful blend of Christmas memories (some extending back more than a century from 2009), family history and tradition, professional and business connections, and even family jokes.

# "Christmas $\mathscr{F}_{\text {AMILI }}$ 

## 66

## The Earliest Memory

In 1982 the TVN Christmas Family was that of Claudine Urlin France, born before 1900 in the "Urlin Mansion" to George Cambridge Urlin, founder of Grandview, and his wife,Alice. The community's name came from Alice Urlin's exclamation at the view from the top of the tower,"What a grand view!" Shortly thereafter, her husband filed a development plat, Grandview Plat No. 1. Claudine Urlin married


Urlin Mansion Milton France in the tower room of the house. A home was built for them in "the north pasture", now 1042 Urlin Avenue.

In 1982, Mrs. France was living in Summit Chase, 1000 Urlin Avenue, on the site of her birthplace, where an Urlin descendant still lives today. She reminisced,
"I remember Christmas when my sister Margaret and I were young. Our tree was lighted with candles, topped with an angel, and trimmed by Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. We hung our stockings on the big fireplace in the reception hall, and Christmas morning we'd look over the balustrade to see what toy was peeking out of the top.

Then we'd wait until mother and father took us downstairs, past the double sliding doors into various rooms, to the dining room for breakfast. After breakfast father would slide open the doors with a flourish to the room containing our tree. There was always a little village spread out under the tree with houses and a church, cows and horses inside a fence, and a lake made of a mirror."

## Music for Christmas



Lowell and Beth Riley and their family were chosen as the Christmas Family in 1979. We quote:
"The music of Christmas - choirs singing, the sound of bells, the peal of an organ - has always been an important part of that celebration for Lowell and Beth Riley, and Christmas Eve services
at First Community Church are what the Riley children, Marianne, "Gunner," and T. J. remember most.

Lowell was organist and music director at First Community from 1941 to ‘ 71 . He originated the Christmas Eve service in the ‘40s, which became so popular it was increased to two services, and then to three, and he started the Children's Choir, in which both Marianne and Gunner sang."

Lowell Riley founded Vaud-Villities in 1942 and by 1979 he was still writing, arranging music, rehearsing and directing, and Beth had appeared in every performance. Lowell's career began at WBNS Radio in 1934, shortly after he and Beth graduated from Ohio Wesleyan University.

The carol reproduced above is from the Riley's 1957 Christmas card.

## Family Photo



Seated: Rose Peacocke (Marlene's mother), Lisa, Amy Williams, Lindsay, Ralph, and Marlene with Marisa on ber lap; Standing: Jobn, Brad and Teri Williams, and Ralph, Jr. and Cindy.

We were fortunate to locate an original "glossy" of one of the "Christmas Families." Marlene Peacocke Antolino, who was born on Oxley Road and grew up on Elmwood Avenue, had framed the photo above in 1984 when her family was chosen. They are identified in the photo caption.

Teri Antolino Williams features in one of her father, Ralph's, Christmas memories:
"...the year Teri asked for a highchair and playpen for her doll. She had such confidence that Santa would always fill her request that I was so furious when I learned that Marlene hadn't been able to find them that I stormed out of the house and got lucky...bought both at Western Auto on Fifth Avenue.

The trip was worth it when I saw Teri's face on Christmas morning."

# 2008－2009 GH／MCHS Report to Members 

Here are highlights of another good year！2008 Annual Meeting on Monday，October 26，featured board member Jeri Diehl Cusack＇s presentation ＂Reminiscences of the Roosevelt＇s，＂drawing on her longtime interest in collecting books about Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt and their families．

At the business portion of the Annual Meeting a slate of board members was approved．Current GH／MCHS board members are：Wayne Carlson，Jeri Diehl Cusack，Tom DeMaria，Jane Hess Harris，Ruthanne James，Win Keller， Sally Kosnik，Tracy Liberatore，Patrick Mooney， and Karen Riggs．The society gratefully accepted a presentation copy of member Jacqueline Day Cherry＇s recently published Reflections on Our Heritage：A History of First Community Cburch．

Tom DeMaria and Wayne Carlson continued their popular regular photo feature，＂Moment in Time，＂in ThisWeek Grandview．

Work continued on restoration of Grandview Heights High School class photo composites，and on digitizing recent donations and acquisitions of historical material．

圈 The Society was highly visible at summer events in the community through the dedication of Win Keller，Ruthanne James，and Jeri Diehl Cusack．Sales volume of our publications continues at a profitable level．

Publication of our occasional newsletter，ViewPoints， continued under Patrick Mooney＇s editorship．We are again grateful to Melissa Rady for her provision of layout and production gratis to the Society．

Treasurer Tom DeMaria certifies that the society is in excellent financial health．

Membership chair Karen Riggs reports a current membership of 171 individuals， 89 annual and 82 life memberships．Society membership includes individuals in Florida，Texas，Indiana，Kentucky，North Carolina， Washington and Michigan，as well as across Ohio．

## BOARD MEMBER PROFILE JANE HESS HARRIS

have been a Buckeye from Day One．I was born in Cincinnati，educated all 12 years in Grandview Schools，graduated from the Ohio State University，and now reside happily in the historic home built on the bluff by Harry Freeman in 1897，all of which sustains my interest in Grandview history．Ron Harris and I were GHHS＂steadies＂and have recently found each other and married three years ago．I have a daughter and son－in－law and two grandgirls in Kirtland，Ohio．Ron has children in Boston and Sitka，Alaska．In 2010 I will be chairman of Docents at the Columbus Museum of Art，Secretary of the GHHS Alumni Association，Secretary of Buckeye Ranch Sustaining Board I，and Docent of the Ohio Theatre Backstage Tours．I look forward to supporting Grandview history through the Grandview Heights／Marble Cliff Historical Society．

## TOUR OF HOMES 2010

Mark your calendars for Mother＇s Day，Sunday， May 9，2010！Plans are underway for Grandview Heights／Marble Cliff Historical Society＇s triennial major fund raiser and favorite community event． The theme for 2010 is＂Take a Broad View＂and will feature early homes on Broadview Avenue， one of Grandview＇s most historic neighborhoods． Many helpers are always needed，especially as docents in the homes on the tour．We invite you to consider how you might help．Details will be in the next issue of ViewPoints．

PAGE 4

| 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 |  |
| NAME |  |
| SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) |  |
| ADDRESS |  |
| CITY/STATE/ZIP |  |
| PHONE |  |
| EMAIL |  |
| Please check the appropriate membership box: |  |
| ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP |  |
| YEARLY DUES (OCT. 1-SEPT. 30) $\square$ Single \$10.00 | ONE-TIME PAYMENT |
| $\square$ Single \$10.00 | $\square$ Single \$100.00 |
| $\square$ Couple \$15.00 | $\square$ Couple \$150.00 |
| $\square$ Organization \$25.00 | $\square$ Organization \$500.00 |
|  | $\square$ Benefactor \$1000.00 |
| ViewPoints is an occasional publication of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society | E-MAIL REQUEST |
|  | We are compiling e-mail addresses to improve our communications. |
| 1685 West First Avenue Columbus, Ohio 43212 | Please include your e-mail on membership renewal form, or |
| EDITOR <br> Patrick Mooney | send your e-mail address to President Tracy Liberatore at: |
| DESIGN/PRODUCTION Melissa Rady | President Tracy Liberatore at: tliberat@wowway.com. Please let us know if you would prefer to |
| Contact Editor Patrick Mooney (614-225-0130) for any interesting article ideas or to discuss photo contributions. | receive ViewPoints in PDF format rather than paper copy. Thanks! |

## GRANDVIEW YARD

ur many out-of-town members might enjoy an update on the transformation of the 90-acre tract at Grandview's eastern edge, between Goodale Boulevard and West Third Avenue, most of which was occupied for many years by Big Bear
 Stores warehouses. Big Bear is history, and Nationwide Realty Investors has committed hundreds of millions toward developing a mixed use community there. Phase I construction began a few months ago with a class A office building, a state-of-the-industry fitness facility, a parking garage, and a six-story Hyatt hotel. Go to: www.grandviewyard.com and have a look.
(By the way, many now read the Tri-Village News online at www.snponline.com/tri-village news and ThisWeek Grandview at www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/grandview)


## TO ALL MEMBERS:

In the interest of going "green" - for the holidays and beyond - and to reduce costs, we'd like to offer GH/MCHS communications to our members via email. If you'd prefer to receive Society notices, and the newsletter (PDF format) via email, please send an email letting us know to: kariggs@sbcglobal.net. Thanks for your assistance with our "green" efforts!

Karen Riggs, Membership Chair


