



# ViewPoints




July 2017

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

**P**RESIDENT'S LETTER 

*Dear Society Members,*

*Summer greetings to everyone and I hope you are all having a wonderful summer.*

*It certainly has been a very warm one already, but I personally love summer and my home grown tomatoes! The Board has been contemplating hosting "open hours" in our room at the Library. This gives the members and public a chance to see our collection and ask questions about anything in particular they might be interested in. Once we have details firmly in place, we will be sure to notify you. If you have any comments or suggestions for this, we would certainly like to hear from you in our general mailbox!*

*Because I don't thank them enough, I'd like to recognize the various committees of the Board. I try to do this at the annual meeting, but many of you don't frequently attend those. This will also familiarize members with "who does what".*

*Archives Committee: Jill Kuyper and volunteer Debbie Farynowski. Jill and Debbie are in the Library room at least once a week, tirelessly scanning and filing our collection for Timeline updates. Be sure to visit the Timeline in the Library next to the reference desk!*

*Grandview Avenue Breezeway: Ruthanne James and Jane Harris. The breezeway has been updated many times so be sure to visit the latest installment on your way to wherever you might be headed on the Avenue.*

*Our Website: Created and maintained by Dr. Wayne Carlson. This is a lot of work. The site has been newly updated with many new features, so please check it out!*

*Facebook Page and High School display case: Tom DeMaria. Many of you frequent the Facebook page, and we'd love for you to "frequent" the high school display case. It is updated regularly!*

*Newsletter: Karen Riggs is our newsletter chair. She's doing a wonderful job. Karen took over after the loss of Pat Mooney, and it's quite an undertaking.*

*Finally, welcome new Board Members Teri Alexander and Kim Sides. Teri has always been a friend to the Society and has much to offer all of us with her experience not only in the business world, but in historic preservation. Kim has also worked with the Society on home tours and will surely bring some new life to new events we are discussing.*

*As always, I welcome your thoughts, suggestions or comments.*

*Sincerely,*  
*Tracy Liberatore, President*

## A Society Founding Father

By Jackie Day Cherry

I recently spent a fascinating afternoon reminiscing with Dirk Voelker, one of the original founders of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society (GH/MCHS). In fact, Dirk's affiliation goes back even farther in the organization's history as he, along with Ann Larrick, Virginia Abbot and Win Keller were designated to act as a steering committee to investigate what steps were necessary to organize a historical society. On February 22, 1974, they met with Daniel Porter, director of the Ohio Historical Society. Less than five months later the Articles of Incorporation as a not for profit corporation had been approved for filing with the State of Ohio so July 17, 1974, is considered as the birth of the GH/MCHS. At the first Annual Meeting on September 18, the constitution drafted by Dirk was approved and the original four steering committee members plus former Grandview Heights Mayor Joseph Wyman were elected as trustees.



*Society's founding personage in 1974, with Dirk Voelker at bottom left.*

Another interesting facet of my conversation with Dirk involved his memories of what it was like to grow up in the hacienda designed by noted architect Frank Packard which Theodore Lindenberg began occupying in 1906. Nearly everyone referred to the Voelker house at 1087 Lincoln Road as "the Spanish House." Dirk recalled sitting on the indoor patio with his mother shortly after they bought the house in 1941 as she looked up at the leaky glass ceiling and wondered aloud if perhaps they hadn't made a mistake in acquiring a house that needed so many repairs after sitting empty following Lindenberg's death in the 1930s. Did even the Tiffany chandeliers and hardware or the unique design of this house make it a worthwhile investment when so much work was involved? Obviously their endeavors to restore the house to its original beauty were extremely successful. Thousands of people lined up for a chance to view this spectacular structure when it was on the Columbus Museum of Art's Decorators' Show House tour in 2003.

Dirk told me that during the war years his family had a large vegetable garden as well as an apple orchard on the property. Since his mother had grown up on a farm, she was able to supervise the garden as well as the production of cider from their very own cider press. They also kept chickens and raised a calf, so were quite self sustaining. He always knew that their house was different from those of his friends, but for the Voelkers, it was just "home."



*Dirk and his wife Sharon in front of their former Marble Cliff home.*

The GH/MCHS is deeply indebted to Dirk for his early efforts in helping to channel the enthusiasm of volunteers to create this organization and for his continuing assistance over the years with our legal affairs. Thank you, Dirk Voelker!





## The Grandview Café – Past and Present

The Grandview Café, although officially located just inside City of Columbus borders, has been a mainstay for Grandview Heights and Marble Cliff residents since 1925. Notable property and restaurant owners, funky furnishings, and the nostalgic feel, along with a major renovation and re-opening in May 2017, prompted a closer look at its history by the Society.



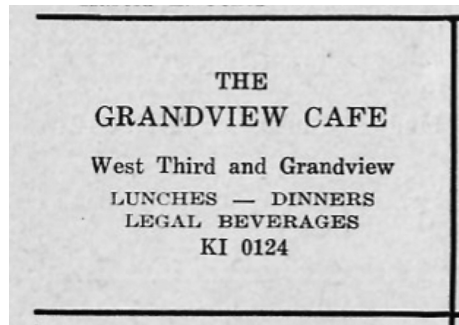
Wedding reception at Grandview Café circa 1930s; windows at back of the room in this photo are second story windows that remain at the Third Ave. front of the building today.



Former Grandview Café property owner, Emily Platt Benua, crossing footbridge over Clear Creek in Hocking County, 1931 (from University of Wisconsin Milwaukee Digital Photo Archives).

The property (Lot 229, 1455 West Third Avenue) was bought for \$1 and “other valuable considerations” by Maybelle R. Casbarro from a California “unmarried man” – Blaine Galloway in 1924. Maybelle and her sons (Nicholas and John J. Jr.) held the property through the late 1930s. John J. Jr. was the owner of the Jewelry Department in the John J. Carroll Store in Newark, Ohio.

After the Casbarros, the Benua family owned the property upon which the Grandview Café is located from the late 1930s through the early 1990s. Family members listed as property owners at var-



1949 Ad for the Grandview Café from the Grandview Business Association's Business and Professional Directory – “Legal Beverages” denotes alcohol was sold at the Café; KI 0124 is restaurant's phone number.



1959 Ad for the Grandview Café.

ious times during this period included:

- Emily Platt Benua (b. 1906 – d. 1989)
- William E. Benua (Emily's husband; b. 1900 – d. 1992)
- Anne Benua Udy (Emily and William's daughter)
- Polly Benua Lindemanm (Emily and William's daughter)

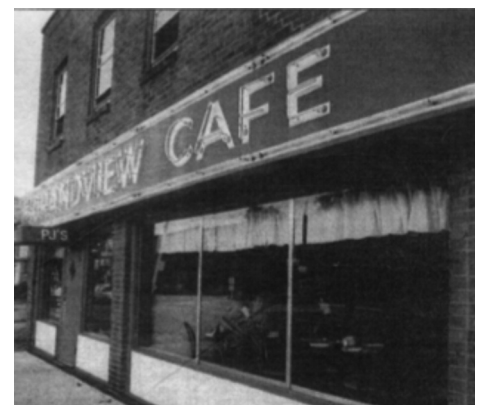
The Benuas were active in conservation activities for many years in Fairfield and Hocking Counties. The Benua family donated 661 acres to Franklin County; that acreage became part of Clear Creek Metro Park in Hocking Hills in 1995 and includes Benua Lake.

Dean P. Close, owned and operated the Grandview Café from from the late 1940s through the '70s along with the Flame (in Columbus near the corner of Fifth and Grandview Avenues) and the Four Winds (in Hilliard) restaurants. A featured menu item at The Flame (sister restaurant to the Grandview Café) was the “Chuck Wagon,” a kabob of beef tenderloin and mushrooms, along with deviled eggs, shrimp, bologna, Swiss cheese, celery,



Former Grandview Café's owner – and accomplished musician and artist – Dean Close.

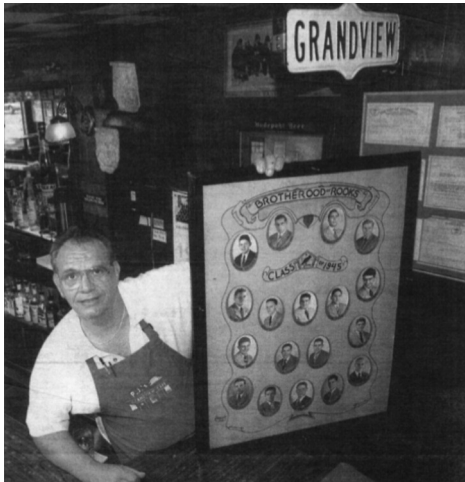
olives, and radishes. The “Chuck Wagon” was only served after 10 p.m. Before his restaurant career, Close was a jazz musician who played with many of the big bands of the 1920s through 1940s. Close was listed for 40 years in Who's Who In American Art and won numerous awards for his art. He owned the Crown and the Farr-Close art galleries in Columbus, and he retired as director of the Fifth Avenue Galleries. While Dean was Grandview Café owner in August 1949, a fire of undetermined origin caused extensive damage to the walls and burned about one half of the bar in the Café.



Front of Grandview Café circa 1997; the neon sign is now displayed in the back of the building on the upper patio.

In 1993, the Grandview Café was given new life when it reopened as PJ's Grandview Café, specializing in American and Greek fare. Peter Drevonas honored the building's history during his ownership with pictures and memorabilia of Grandview to decorate the space. Some of the pictures included the 1921 Grandview High School's basketball team; Grandview's first high school, circa 1895; and Heisman





*Grandview Café former owner Pete Drevonas with Grandview Heights High School Brotherhood Rooks poster featuring Class of 1945 members (photo from Columbus Dispatch, 8/11/97).*

Trophy winner Howard “Hopalong” Cassidy running behind Hubert Bobo in the undefeated 1954 OSU football team’s national championship season. A March 1994 Columbus Dispatch review of the new PJ’s Grandview Café cited the “Greek lemon chicken soup prepared with homemade chicken stock and orzo boiled in the stock”



*Menu items from PJ’s Grandview Café including pork kebobs, stuffed grape leaves, home fries, and Greek salad (from 1994 Columbus Monthly).*

as a favorite dish. Larger entrees on the PJ’s menu included a 12-ounce, \$9.45, “thick and juicy” pork chop. A Café furnishing that left with Drevonas was an illuminated globe holding plastic replicas of the Budweiser Clydesdales pulling a beer wagon with Dalmatians yapping behind.

Brothers David and Richard Dick, bought the building in September 1997 and spent the following months rebuilding. Improvements included up-to-date rest-



*A Budweiser Clydesdale illuminated globe, similar to this one, was a fixture in the Grandview Café for many years.*

rooms, new kitchen equipment and two bars — one upstairs and the main one on ground level. The menu was centered on so-called comfort food — lots of noodles, beef tips, potatoes and gravy. There was a daily lunch special, always \$5.95. Jerry Glenn, a veteran of Jimmy’s Place Upstairs, was the opening chef.

The owners of Grandview Café from 2001-2007 were Ed Gaughen and Bob Kline.



*The Grandview Café (Grandview Ave. side) has even been memorialized in art. (2004, image of painting from Michael S. McGinn website).*

Bill Cosgrove and Brett Holland took over in 2007 with plans to make the café more of a destination spot rather than a place for people to visit on the way to another restaurant or bar. Their vision was to turn the Café into an upscale place with more draught beers, a designer cocktail menu and expanded entertainment.

Brian Swanson purchased the Grandview Café in 2016. Major renovations were undertaken by Swanson, including moving the kitchen upstairs, adding windows along Grandview Ave., updating bathrooms, adding a staff staircase, and reconstructing the outdoor patio and bar area. Swanson notes “We are proud to be part of this historic landmark and strive to continue



*Columbus and Grandview Heights firefighters battle 2010 blaze at Grandview Café. (photo from Columbus Dispatch)*



*Tin ceiling tiles were retained by current Grandview Café owner.*

helping our guests build lasting memories with friends, family, and coworkers.” He retained ceiling tile, layers of wallpaper, and other features to maintain the nostalgic feel. A late 1800s-era chandelier added to the two-story foyer of the restaurant was resurrected from a Broad Street mansion. Swanson installed vintage suitcase fronts as the base of the bar on the first floor. Unfortunately the old suitcases may have pre-dated flame retardants - many caught fire as the fronts were cut off! Swanson continued his nod to nostalgia by labeling specialty cocktails with names of former Grandview Café owners and local prominent citizens.

With its distinguished past and promising future, the Society looks forward to many more years of memories and history for GH/MC residents at the Grandview Café.



*Contents of time capsule buried in Grandview Café by Swanson.*



## 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/MCHS**

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 (SEPT. 1 – AUG. 31)	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 Karen Riggs  
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## RENEW YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

Annual members will be getting a renewal notice soon via regular mail or email. If you are an annual member and do not receive a renewal notice this Fall, please contact Tracy Liberatore at [tracyliberatore1@gmail.com](mailto:tracyliberatore1@gmail.com)



Bob and Marnie Hoag

## New Life Members Enthused About Historical Preservation

Marnie and Bob Hoag are new Life Members of the Society with a passion for historical preservation. They both grew up in south Upper Arlington and have lived in Marble Cliff for almost 10 years. Marnie has been a member of Columbus Landmarks Foundation.

The Hoags live in the Manor House of #10 Arlington Place in Marble Cliff. The Manor House is part of the mansion designed by Frank Packard and built in



Staircase newel posts in the Hoag home carved into armor helmets evoke the castle comparison.

1908 for Sylvio Casparis, the owner of Marble Cliff Quarries. When the Hoags first moved to their home, they were pleased to find many of the features of the original mansion intact - including fireplaces, light fixtures, and stained glass windows. They have worked to preserve the home's features - for example, original window coverings were found in a closet by the Hoags and re-installed on the back picture windows. The Hoags appreciate the quality of their home's original construction such as unusually thick walls and ceiling details. The mansion was said to be a copy of a Scottish castle; the Hoags have original architectural drawings for the mansion framed and on display in their home.



1950s aerial view of Casparis mansion; the mansion was split to establish two current homes (including the Hoags).

Bob recalls visiting a childhood friend at #10 Arlington Place in the late 1960s/early 1970s. His friend's father was Byron Ireland, the renowned Ohio architect. Ireland is best known as the architect of the Ohio Historical Society building (1969) that can be seen off I-71 in Columbus, Ohio.

The Society welcomes the Hoags among our new Life Members!

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE  
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

