

ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

Volume 37, Number 1

January–February 2015

108th Annual Meeting of The Cliff Dwellers

Respectfully submitted by, William J. Drennan, Secretary

Keeping with Club tradition and in accordance with the by-laws, the 108th Annual Meeting of The Cliff Dwellers convened on January 12, 2015, “the first Monday after the Twelfth Night.”

Members gathered at 5:30 for cocktails and conversation. A string trio led by Dominic Johnson CD’12 provided beautiful melodies for members’ enjoyment.

A traditional steak dinner accompanied by wine was prepared by Chef Victor Perez and enjoyed by all.

At 7:10 the business portion of the meeting was called to order by Club President Charles Hasbrouck. President Hasbrouck outlined the agenda for the meeting stating with confidence that members would be attentive “with all of the seriousness consistent with our solemn traditions.” He then cautioned “against throwing anything that could cause permanent injury to any of the speakers.”

Hasbrouck recalled the negotiation of the Club’s new lease led by Brian Bernardoni, and the major renovation of the Kiva overseen by Leslie Recht.

Hasbrouck went on to note that this year the Club “is in the best condition we’ve been in for some time, but challenges remain.” The primary challenge is maintaining financial stability. As of October 1 the Board adopted a balanced budget and is now working on adjusting and adhering to it.

Virginia Harding was recognized for her outstanding work as Program Chair.

On the horizon are continuing talks with the new building management which has approached the Club about establishing a win-win agreement which would make better use of Club space by building tenants while providing assistance for further improvements of our space. It is hoped that improvements will commence this spring.

Treasurer David Chernoff asked members to do two things: 1) pay your bills on time; 2) use the Club more often. If each resident member added one more lunch and one more dinner per month the Club would see \$35k increase in revenue.

Membership Chair Bill Drennan reported that total Club roster is 437, of whom 117 are non-resident. In 2014 the Club added 25 new resident members and 6 new non-residents. In addition there are currently 41 3-month members whom we hope to convert to full membership.



Drennan then read the necrology and asked members to observe a moment of silence:

Steve Casari CD'99 John Faulhaber CD'08
Jamie McKechnie CD'86.

Drennan then introduced Wilbert Hasbrouck CD'64 who was attending his **50th consecutive Annual Meeting!** Bill Hasbrouck then shared a few stories including his nomination to the Club by original Club member Ralph Fletcher Seymour.

House Chair Paul Hamer noted the new deck furniture donated by a number of members led by Ted Wolff. Hamer also noted that Virginia Harding researched and found dining chairs to match those in the Club.

Program Chair Viginia Harding noted that programs are the life of the Club and that her committee has been working hard to sustain that life. She encouraged members to propose ideas for future programs and to read the weekly e-blast announcements.

Arts Foundation Chair Trish VanderBeke reported that the charitable giving branch of the Club continues to award grants for the encouragement of the arts.

Nominating Committee Chair William Bowe introduced the slate of nominees for the Board. To serve a full 3-year term: **Alan Alongi CD'12, Erin McCarthy CD'13, and Eve Moran CD'10.** To fill out two years on the term of Robert Miller, **Jonathan Miller CD'14.** To complete the final year on the term of Tim Herwig, **Ted Wolff CD'00.** The slate was approved by acclamation.

Richard Eastline then led the Club in wishing Dieter Kober CD'59 a happy 94th birthday. Eastline recorded the greeting to be sent to Kober at home in Germany.

With a final raucous rendition of ZIVIO, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.



**Presidents attending The Cliff Dwellers'
 108th Annual Meeting**

Leslie Recht CD'03	2012-2013
Bill Hasbrouck CD'64	1984-1985
Charles Hasbrouck CD'09	2014-2015
Larry Lund CD'02	2008-2009
William J. Bowe CD'97	2006-2007

Two Past Presidents, Walker Johnson CD'84 and Bill Cuncannan CD'75 slipped into the night before the annual President's Photo could be snapped. Hamlin, as always, looked a bit grim.

President's Report: Reflections Following the Annual Meeting

Charles R. Hasbrouck
President, The Cliff Dwellers

Just three years ago, we received an eviction notice from our landlord. Brian Bernadoni, then president, reported at the 2012 annual meeting that the Board was working to ensure the survival of the Club and in the process of negotiating an agreement for a new space. A farewell party was planned for March 31 of that year. As it turned out, we did have a party that day, but it was to celebrate a new lease, rather than the end of our time here atop 200S. Michigan.

2 years ago, in 2013, President Leslie Recht announced that we were closing for a major renovation, made possible by generous donations from our members. We reopened in April of that year, with the renovation on budget and substantially complete (although countless members quietly reminded me then that there really should have been be a mirror in the ladies room). The mirror is now in place.

Last year, at the 2014 meeting, Leslie was justly proud to report on the accomplishments of her two year tenure, and I think we should all thank her for the hard work that she did on our behalf during a very challenging time.

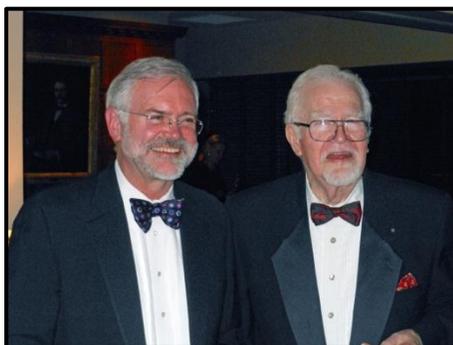
We began this year in the best condition we've been in for quite a while, but challenges remain. The first and foremost of these is financial. For the first time since I've been on the board, the financial situation is stable enough this year to actually put together a budget. It doesn't balance, but we have a pretty good idea of how much we are likely to lose.

Last September, the board approved a balanced budget for this fiscal year. We are now in the process of making the adjustments required to reflect the actual results of our first quarter. There is a quote from a history of the Club published in 1947, included in our current directory, that says "how the club survives has never been fully ascertained," but I can assure you that we will continue do what it takes to survive.

Membership is up and still growing. This year, through close coordination with the CAF at Open House Chicago, we generated a sizable new pool of trial members, and will be working hard to convert them to regular members. We will continue to recruit artists and patrons of the arts, the kind of people that make this club unique and special. Now is a great time to get involved in Club activities and committees, to meet other members—both old and new, and through all of our positive participation, to influence the direction of the Club's future.

Finally, I want to mention one more exciting new opportunity. As some members may know, the tenant that previously occupied the 20th and 21st floors of this building is vacating them. In mid-December I was approached by the new building owner who was contemplating building out a new multi-use common space on level 21 open to all the building's tenants. He realized that there was already a spectacular meeting space on level 22. We met and he told me that he wanted to work out a "win-win" situation that might make better use of our existing space, while respecting and maintaining our traditions. Some of the other officers and I met with him again in mid-January to continue discussions, and on January 22 we received an initial proposal from the new building ownership. Items proposed included upgrading our electrical and AV systems, creating a fitness facility available to CD members, providing lockers and a dressing area for our staff, and generating additional clients for events and meetings at the Club.

I believe this kind of cooperative arrangement really does have the potential to be a win-win situation, and I look forward seeing the Club become even more vibrant and interesting, while maintaining our traditions and values. Zivio!



The Hasbroucks--Charlie and Wil—
enjoyed the 108th Annual Meeting.

50 in a Row and Still Counting

By Mike Deines CD'03

Diverging from the staid, spooning-dropping seriousness of committee reports at our recent annual meeting, Membership Committee Chair Bill Drennan brought to our attention a living link between our Cliff Dweller forefathers who gathered in 1907 to form the Attic Club (renamed The Cliff Dwellers two years later) and the seventy-some members dining together at the Cliff on a blustery 2015 January night.

Among those 208 original members was a 31 year old artist, author, and publisher by the name of Ralph Fletcher Seymour whose address was listed as 1035 Fine Arts Building. Bill noted that “the last remaining link with Ralph Seymour and the last remaining Cliff Dweller to be nominated for membership by an original member is with us in the person of Bill Hasbrouck.” Hasbrouck, who joined the Club as a young man in 1964, on the evening of January 12, 2015 was attending his 50th **consecutive** Members’ Meeting. As Hasbrouck came forward, Drennan noted, “I feel safe in saying that he has probably met and known more Cliff Dwellers than any man alive.”

At the podium, with the same wry, easy-paced delivery we have so often heard during lunches at the members’ table, Bill Hasbrouck offered several remembrances:

“My memory goes back into the old club building atop Symphony Hall. The entire evening was free in those days. Nearly all our members attended the annual meetings. We all told many stories—many of which were lies.

“Tonight my memories are of the early Club and Ralph Fletcher Seymour—not a founder but an original member. At that time in 1964, I worked for the Illinois Central Railroad. I was interested in architecture and had heard that Seymour knew a great deal about architecture in the city. I had never met him. But, one day on my lunch break, I decided to walk over to Steinway Hall to see if I could find him.

“I walked up a number of flights of stairs, found a door with his name attached, and knocked. A man answered, looked at me and asked, ‘What do you want?’ ‘I’m looking for Ralph Seymour,’ I replied. ‘Well,’ he answered, ‘you’re looking at him’ and asked me to come in.

“He had books and papers stacked everywhere. His furniture was all Frank Lloyd Wright. Tall backs and pieces I had seen in books. He had books and books. Some he had published and written. In fact, I still have a few of those books by Louis Sullivan and Wright.

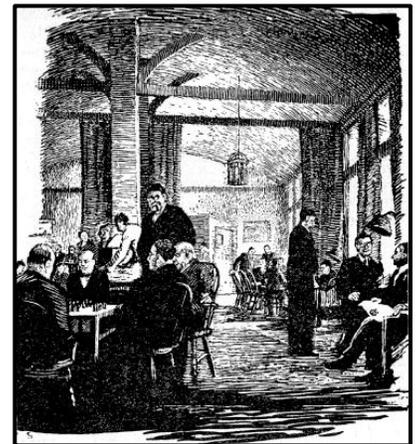
“After we had talked for quite some time he announced that ‘We should go to lunch.’ But, where should we go? ‘To The Cliff Dwellers, of course.’ So, we did, and for weeks we did it again and again. Although I enjoyed the people and the conversation and the excellent food at the Cliff, I started to feel guilty that we always met at his club, so I offered to take him to lunch and suggested we meet across the street at the Art Institute. It was busy and crowded. Everybody seemed to know Seymour and wouldn’t leave him alone. Worst of all, the food was awful. We left and went back to the Cliff Dwellers.

“When we got up to the Club, Ralph shook his head and said to me, ‘You have to become a club member. I’ll nominate you.’

“Jack Brownson overheard our conversation and added, ‘You can’t do that. You’re an Honorary member; hell, I’ll co-sponsor him!’ And that was it. I became a Cliff Dweller.

“I attended my first Annual Meeting in 1965, and I’ve been here for the next 50 years.”

Hasbrouck turned and headed back to his chair, then paused and added, “I’m the oldest member of everything I belong to....” Not a single spoon hit the floor.



Ralph Fletcher Seymour's etching
"The Cliff Dwellers"
from *Some Went This Way*

The Months Ahead: Scheduled Programs & Need for More Volunteers

by Virginia Harding CD'08

Programs and activities held at the Club inject life, bring members into the Club, give members an opportunity to get to know other members and generate revenue. With his upcoming move to Colorado, this is the time to recognize and thank Bob Miller for the many programs he made happen in the last year and especially for last Friday's Big Bands Program which not only filled the Club but saw members actually dancing in the Kiva! Bob and Mazy Miller will be missed when they.

The Movie Series, Book Club and the monthly tours by CAF which will soon resume have helped to make the Club active on Saturdays. The Cultural Mile Second Fridays have brought live music back into the Club. More is needed.

A number of programs have been suggested but lack someone to make them actually happen. **Here are some program ideas that need a volunteer to make them happen:** Art or Craft Classes on Saturdays; the Cliff Dweller Players; Dinners Featuring Interesting Members ("A dinner conversation with"); and/or wine tastings. An upcoming e-blast will include a call for volunteers.

Art Openings	Cultural Mile's 2 nd Fridays	Saturday at the Movies	Art Foundation's 3 rd Tuesdays	CD Book Club
First Wednesday Art Exhibitions. Artists and Sculptors in attendance. A cash bar and dinner buffet are available.	5:30-8:30 Program A cash bar and dinner service are available. \$5 cover charge for Cliff Dwellers and their guests.	Films are shown Saturday in the Sullivan Room at 10:30 and discussions continue over lunch. Unless alternate dates are noted.	Evening programs in the Kiva. A cash bar and dinner service are available. Reservations requested.	Discussions take place on the 4 th Saturday beginning at 11:00 and continue over lunch.
2/4 Art Exhibition Opens featuring artists Laura Cerf-Dahl and Robbie Malkin On display through March 27.	2/13 2 nd Friday Program featuring CYSO Chamber Music Wind Ensemble. Enjoy live music and Chef Victor's Special Valentine's Day Buffet dinner (\$25) Make reservations.	Wed. 2/11 <i>The Lives of Others</i> is the feature film debut of filmmaker Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck 5:30--comments by Eve Moran. Dinner available before 6:30 showing.	2/17 <i>Ragdale</i> Jeff Meeuwssen, executive director of Ragdale, the artists' residency in Lake Forest, will give an overview of their program. Digital Storytelling projects will be shared.	2/28 <i>47th Street Black</i> by Bayo Ojikutu The author will attend. Bayo Ojikutu (born 1971) is a Chicago-based writer of Nigerian and Afro-American parentage.
March Cerf-Dahl and Malkin Art Exhibition continues.	3/13 2 nd Friday program featuring music by members of CYSO.	3/7 <i>Au Hazard Balthazar</i> directed by Robert Bresson	3/17 New Millennium Orchestra	3/27 <i>Never Come Morning</i> by Nelson Algren
4/1 Art Exhibition Opens	4/11 2 nd Friday Program co-sponsored with the Jazz Institute of Chicago	4/11 <i>Tokyo Story</i> directed by Yasujiro Ozu	4/21 Erica Mott Productions	4/25 <i>Shall We Not Revenge</i> By D. M. Pirrone

Tgi2ndF—Music and Friendship at the Club

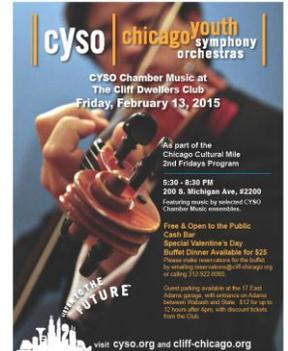
By Leslie Recht CD'03

On Friday, January 9, the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestras (CYSO) provided four of its high school students, who gave a stirring string performance as part of the Club's participation in the Cultural Mile's 2nd Friday Program. CYSO gives musical and performance training to students from ages 6-18 from all over the Chicago area. These gifted students often go on to professional music careers. The Cliff Dwellers has partnered with CYSO to give these students the opportunity to perform and to give our members and guests the treat of hearing and supporting new talent. The selections on January 9 ranged from Bizet and Puccini arias to Beatles favorites, all of which were done with skill and good cheer,



despite the very cold weather.

On Friday, February 13, the students from the CYSO will return to The Cliff, this time with a wind ensemble, to entertain us with selected pre-Valentines Day music. Please make plans to come and bring guests to hear these young musicians, and to enjoy a special \$25 Valentines buffet prepared by Chef Victor. Reservations for the buffet are requested. Learn more about the CYSO at their website, cyso.org.



Saturday at the Movies

By Eve Moran CD'10

Doesn't everyone love the movies? We sit in the dark and immediately the excitement builds. What story will unfold? How will it play out? What might it mean? As the screen lights up, we quiet such questions and surrender to a deep sensory experience.

Film watching is a complex art. A movie floods the eye with movement, composition, texture and color. It engages the ear with language, sound and music. And, it plants us firmly in a certain time and place. We are not passive. Intrigued by the narrative and style of performance, we swiftly begin to evaluate the "truths" in the fictional world portrayed or bear witness to the reality being revealed. But, there is much more at hand.

We live in a box of space and time. Movies are windows in its walls. They allow us to enter other minds, not simply in the sense of identifying with the characters, although that is an important part of it, but by seeing the world as another person sees it. - Roger Ebert

A good movie has the power to change us, if ever so slightly, in a typically short span of 120 minutes. The characters we observe stay with us long after the credits roll past. We will have walked in their shoes and assessed their choices. We will be put to examine our own beliefs, actions and backgrounds in the process. We may, at times, laugh or cry or gasp in horror. We may seize upon select language spoken by one of the characters and make it part of our own vocabulary. We might be moved to action or to simply reflect in silence. We may feel joy or pity, bewilderment or contempt, or simply be struck by sheer wonderment. But, we will feel something and we will learn something of another's concerns, failings, triumphs and possibilities. This emotional intersection of art and life makes movie-watching an intensely rich experience and moves discussion into fields such as ethics, morality, culture, philosophy and psychology.

- **Film Society at the Club**

On March 1, 2014, the popcorn filled a large bowl outside the Sullivan Room. The seats were welcoming. The company was good. And, the curtain went up for the screening of *Gates of Heaven*. This documentary, directed by Errol Morris and awarded four stars by Roger Ebert, was the inaugural feature for Saturday at the Movies. In subsequent months, we watched *The Third Man* (dir. Carol Reed) and were stirred by the zither score as much as the appearance of the notorious Harry Lime. Another feature, the first installment of *The Decalogue* (dir. Krystof Kieslowski), brought forth plentiful discussion of the Ten Commandments. We were thrust into *The Belly of the Architect* and the unique vision of its director, Peter Greenaway. The haunting music, Brahms Opus 25, lent a certain sadness to the anti-hero in *Monsieur Hire* (dir. Patrick Leconte). We observed the power of *Burden of Dreams* and were introduced to the indomitable force that is the director Werner Herzog. A screening of *The Exterminating Angel* by the surrealist master Luis Bunuel connected us more closely to the Magritte exhibit then-showing at The Art Institute. In closing out the 2014 series, we considered *The Man in the Glass Booth* (dir. Arthur Hiller), a seldom seen film of the play by Robert Shaw that was produced in the 1970's by the American Film Theatre and starred Maximilian Schell.

On January 10, 2015, we were intrigued by Alfred Hitchcock's *Vertigo*, ranked as the best film of all time in the British Film Institute's 2012 Sight & Sound poll. But, many more movie adventures await. So, join with The Cliff Dwellers Film Society as we continue with this exciting film journey. Each movie program begins on a Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and features: (1) an opening presentation; (2) the film showing; and (3) an audience discussion of the movie during lunch.

Our movie list for the first part of 2015 appears in the attached chart of events at the Club. In future months, we will consider films by Milos Foreman (*The Firemen's Ball*); Martin Scorsese (*Raging Bull*); Spike Lee (*Do the Right Thing*); Baz Luhrmann (*Strictly Ballroom*); and Stanley Kubrick (*2001: A Space Odyssey*). Of course, your suggestions are welcome and can be sent to Eve Moran at evemoran128@gmail.com

- **Special Film Event: "The Genius of Rosebud & Roger" (March 27, 2015)**

In 1941, Orson Welles released *Citizen Kane* a film ranked No. 1 on the American Film Institute's list of the 100 greatest American movies of all time.

In 1991, the Pulitzer award-winning and much beloved film critic, Roger Ebert (CD'76 Honorary), wrote of *Kane* that: "Fifty years later, it is as fresh, as provoking, as entertaining, as funny, as sad, as brilliant as it ever was."

On Friday, March 27, 2015, The Cliff Dwellers enter the conversation by presenting a special screening of *Citizen Kane* (2 hrs.) with recorded commentary by Roger Ebert. A stimulating audience discussion is sure to follow.



Third Tuesday--February 17

The Cliff Dwellers Art Foundation has invited members of the Ragdale artists' community to discuss what is new and happening in 2015 at Ragdale. Executive Director Jeffrey Meesuwesen and Regin Igloria, Director of Residencies and Fellowships will introduce the new Ragdale website and describe the Digital Storytelling Project—a video series of stories and reflections by artists-in-residence—sponsored in part by the CD Foundation.

The evening will begin at 5:30 with appetizers and a cash bar. The program will commence at 6:15. Following the program, the Club will serve a

moderately priced dinner. Reservations for dinner are required.

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO *ON AND OFF THE CLIFF*

CAN SUBMIT STORIES, REFLECTIONS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS TO
NEWSLETTER EDITOR MIKE DEINES by e--mail mjdeines@yahoo.com

Share Current, Past, and Future Stories about The Cliff Dwellers.

Cliff Notes—

- Since our last publication six individuals interested in literature and the arts have become members of The Cliff Dwellers.

**Natalie McFadden, Frederick E Rafferty, Ray Yozwiak,
Pasquale Laurino, George K. Sargent III, Richard A. Wilson.**

We welcome them and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.

- **The holiday festivities** in December were wonderful and well-attended. Thanks are extended to all members, staff, and Santa for sharing your good will and friendship.
- **Saturday, February 21- A Magical Saturday- A Family Friendly Event with Magician Brian Rudolph**
Advance reservations are needed for this Event which includes a buffet lunch, magic show and presentation about Chicago's magic community. This event which is not suitable for children 5 and under begins at 11 and will end by 2.
The price for children is \$15 and the price for adults is \$25.
- **Friday, February 27- Dinner and Program Celebrating Saul Bellow's Centenary- Organized in Partnership with the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame**
This event is a lead up to a Celebration of Bellow's 100th Birthday at the Harold Washington Library on June 10. The event begins at 5:30 and will conclude by 9:00. The per person price for the Dinner and Program is \$40 with a cash bar.
- **Tuesday, March 10** – International Women's Day Lunch Program . Mark your calendars.
- **Congratulations** to our newly re-elected officers: Charles Hasbrouck, President; Virginia Harding, Vice-President; David Chernoff, Treasurer; William Drennan, Secretary. Thank-you for your service and leadership.
- **Photos in this issue** of *On and Off the Cliff* were contributed by Larry Okrent CD'93, Robert Hunt CD'13, Bill BoweCD'97, Pam Cabrera, and Tom Rossiter. We appreciate your time and skill. Thanks to all.
- **Where's Don?** Remember the 5th worst snowstorm in Chicago history? Club Manager Don Santelli will. He injured his left calf shoveling heavy, wet snow for himself and a couple of the "old-timers" on his block. When his leg felt worse the following morning, he went to see his doctor at Lutheran General and was told he had a "compartment syndrome" in his lower leg--a situation far more serious than Don had imagined. He needed immediate surgery. Since then he has been rehabbing, and he claims to be getting an A+ from his doctors. Now, two weeks after the mishap and still at home, Don continues to stay in touch with Vivian (who is doing yeoman's work at the CD), Victor, and our clients for CD events.



The Loss of Two Good Cliff Dwellers:

- John FaulhaberCD'08 died unexpectedly on December 24, 2014. John and his wife Diana most recently visited the Club to enjoy shared friendship and fellowship at the holiday luncheon. He was a good friend to all who knew him.
- Andrew Patner CD'94, a critic and interviewer on WFMT and a lifelong observer of the arts in Chicago, died February 3. Patner was 55 and died at St. Joseph's Hospital in Chicago. The cause of death was a bacterial infection that overwhelmed his body, according to Tom Bachtell CD'96, his longtime partner.

