

# ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

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## THE CLIFF DWELLERS BEGINS MUSIC ON SECOND FRIDAYS

By Leslie Recht, CD'03

On Friday, May 9, The Cliff Dwellers hosted the Jazz Institute of Chicago's Jazz Links Ensemble as part of the first Chicago Cultural Mile 2nd Fridays. Cliff Dwellers and their guests were treated to an outstanding performance by students from Whitney Young High School in Chicago. The Ensemble's performance was organized by Diane Chandler-Marshall, Education Director of the Jazz Institute, and Lindsay Huge, CD '08 and CD Board member. The Cliff Dwellers was honored to partner with the Jazz Institute of Chicago, which has been promoting and nurturing jazz in Chicago for 45 years by developing new talent, sustaining active artists, supporting the creation of new work and making jazz available to all. See [www.jazzinchicago.org](http://www.jazzinchicago.org).

The Cliff Dwellers will be hosting musical performers on the 2nd Friday of the next two months, June 13 and July 11, as a sponsor of the Chicago Cultural Mile Association. The Chicago Cultural Mile runs along Michigan Avenue from the Chicago River to Roosevelt Road and East to the Lake, to include the Museum Campus. The Chicago Cultural Mile is a not for profit organization consisting of business and cultural institutions that have joined together to raise awareness of the unique cultural opportunities in this area. Their website, [www.chicagoculturalmile.org](http://www.chicagoculturalmile.org), lists the wide range of activities featured on the 2nd Fridays each month.

The Cliff Dwellers is one of the sponsors of the 2nd Fridays, along with many other cultural and business organizations along Michigan Avenue and on the Museum Campus. The President of the Cultural Mile Association is J.R. Davis, CD '12, who has taken a major leadership role in supporting the cultural life along Michigan Avenue. Leslie Recht, CD'03, and Past President of The Cliff Dwellers, has become the Club's liaison with the Cultural Mile Association. Leslie says, "The programs of the Cultural Mile Association mirror many of the purposes of The Cliff Dwellers: to encourage businesses to support the arts in Chicago. We are proud to be able to participate in these wonderful events."

A good crowd of over 70 individuals attended the initial 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday event on the Cliff. Mark your calendar to attend the next two musical evenings at The Cliff Dwellers, June 13 and July 11, from 5:30pm to 7:30. The Club will have a \$5 cover charge for members and their guests, to support the cost of the performances.



## Sharing the Cliff: Recent Visitors

### A Good Day to Dine

By Eve Moran, CD'10

On April 11, 2014, Eve Moran hosted an impromptu luncheon at the Kiva for a group of visiting Polish Ministry of Justice Officials (whose mission was to build ties and cooperation between the Illinois courts and the Polish courts). Eve extended the invitation through Marta Almodovar, who had organized numerous high-power events for our distinguished visitors.

Seated at the Kiva table were: Undersecretary of State – Wojciech Wegrzyn; Chief of Political Staff in the Ministry of Justice - Marcin Walag; Director of Department of Courts, Organization and Analysis of Justice-Waldemar Szmidi; Chief of Protocol Unit, Cabinet of Minister – Grzegorz Kielb; Department of International Cooperation and Human Rights (International Law Division)-Hon. Anna Wilk-Michalczywska; and, Interpreter-Ms. Magda Fitas-Dukaczewska.

Also joining the lunch table, were CD members Leslie Recht and Virginia Harding, and Bogdan Dola (TVP Chicago).

Lots of interesting stories and ideas were shared. There was much laughter and, thanks to the musically-talented Undersecretary Wegrzyn - a good amount of singing! Indeed, Eve says, each of our distinguished guests was a perfect candidate for Cliff Dweller membership. They showed themselves to be real "Cliffies."



### And Did I Mention Pie?

By Trisha Ricketts, CD'14

So yesterday was a blast! It was my first time to hang at the Cliff with guests, and I loved it. We all had a great time. We sat in front of the fireplace before lunch was ready, and Bill Bowe greeted us, which was very nice. We walked about the balcony for a few minutes until it got too cold, but I wanted the girls to see the view from up there. It didn't disappoint. Could it ever?

The food was fabulous, Rosie so cute and helpful ["You should have ice cream with that pie!"], and the company the best. We ate from the buffet, at Vivian's suggestion, and she directed us the right way. I am so glad we lunched on the lox, bagels, capers, grilled veggies, salads [one with fresh marigolds!], and beef or fish or chicken. It was a magnificent spread and we're already talking about doing it again.

Over homemade Burnham pie [with ice cream!] and coffee, we discussed this month's selection, *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd, which is a wonderfully researched historical-fiction novel set in early 19th century Charleston and Philadelphia. Its shifting POVs--between Sarah, the white plantation-owner's daughter, and Handful, Sarah's slave and friend-mentor--made it meaningful for many reasons.

Our *Southern Comfort* Book Club [which we don't drink except on rare occasions] is fabulous because everyone reads the novel so carefully each month, then prepares interesting observations, or meaningful excerpts which we read aloud, and/or thoughtful questions to pose to the group. We are small but mighty: Rose [who was absent as she was in FL yesterday], Victoria, Lauren, Cathy, and I have been meeting for about a year and a half; usually we meet in rotating homes. But we talked about meeting at the Cliff again, and I'm hoping it's sooner rather than later.

What fun!



## House Repairs

By Paul Hamer, CD'05--House Committee Chair

The House Committee has indeed been busy these past two months dealing with all sorts of club mayhem! Unbeknownst to us, our guests have been wreaking havoc on some of the most valuable pieces in our collection of collection.

The first thing that came our attention was that someone sat on, leaned on or was found to be otherwise engaged on, a corner of the desk that old Louis Sullivan wrote his Autobiography of an Idea at, causing said corner to collapse.

Suffice to say we were shocked! And not in a good way!

Well, it's not too often that you can say the words *great* and *inexpensive* in the same sentence, but the wonderful folks at Toomey Gallery in the infamous Western coal mining region of Oak Park, and in particular their brilliant antiquarian furniture restoration expert RADEK (who prefers to see his name in all caps) came to our rescue. Old Louis's desk is back in place and the better for it. Check it out next time you visit the Club.

Another situation that was brought to our attention was that it appears someone with either a heavy hip pocket wallet or a sharp purse, took on Carter Harrison's oil portrait in our hallway. Carter lost that bout and is now in Conservation mode at a local painting conservator. Look for Carter to reappear soon and maybe with a smile this time, just to be different.

Should anyone else want to break something and admit to it (i.e. pay for it), Don says feel free to take a whack at our refrigerator. We need a new one.

Zivio!

## Friends of Downtown Awards

The Cliff Dwellers has been nominated for Best Renovation! The Friends of Downtown's annual awards honor all the various things that make Downtown Chicago one of the world's unique places. Take a look at the nominees that represent the best Downtown plans, public spaces, renovations, new buildings, and events in 2013. The Cliff Dwellers renovation by Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP is among the best renovations in Chicago this year. The polls closed on Friday, May 9, 2014 with much enthusiasm for the Cliff as the front-runner for the 2013 award.

The Best of Downtown Awards will be held Tuesday June 3, 6:00 PM at The Cliff Dwellers, 200 South Michigan Avenue. Complimentary admission to Friends of Downtown members. Questions call Vivian at 312-922-8080. Let's have a great turn-out to support one of our most forward looking projects of recent years.



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](mailto:mjdeines@yahoo.com)

## Our Friends in the Foyer, Part 1

By Mike Deines, CD'03

*The Members' Table* painted by Bob Guinan graces the west wall of the Club foyer, welcoming members and visitors to enjoy the hospitality and camaraderie of the Kiva. All are welcome. All can share in the beauty of the view and the warmth of good friendship. Then, as we turn towards the lake we are greeted by a group of friends in the foyer just hanging around, seemingly waiting to join in the dialogue of the day at the luncheon table, perhaps, curious to know a bit more about the current members on the Cliff and the tales they are ready, as always, to share with one another. Nearly every day our greeters are the same group of friends—founders some, civic leaders others, all like-minded people in their spirit and passion for the arts and each other.

Say hello to this groups at the Club and the artists who captured them in oil on canvas.

### Ralph E. Clarkson

In 1907 Ralph Clarkson hosted the founding meeting of The Cliff Dwellers at his studio in the Fine Arts Building. During the next 35 years he would serve the Club as a member of the founding committee, Club Secretary, Board Member, and from 1922-1923 as its Sixth President.

Clarkson, a talented, Paris-trained artist, established his reputation as one of Chicago's most respected portraitists. His sitters included prominent members of the city's culture: society women, men of business, university dignitaries, as well as emerging local artists and architects. Of equal importance to the art he created were his efforts in promoting art within Chicago. His studio became a center for emerging artists such as Charles Francis Browne, Oliver Dennett Grover, and Lorado Taft—all Cliff Dwellers who also founded The Eagle's Nest Camp, an art colony in Oregon, Illinois. Additionally, he taught at the Art Institute, was president of the Chicago Society of Artists, compiled one of the first histories of painters in Chicago, and was elected as a member of the National Academy of Design. At his death in 1942, Clarkson was hailed as "the helmsman" for his tireless leadership in the Chicago art world of his day.



The portrait of Ralph Clarkson was completed in 1917 by Kenyon Cox, a well-known painter and magazine illustrator from New York. He travelled to Chicago to participate in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition. He and his wife executed the murals that decorated the Liberal Arts Building at the Fair. The acclaim he achieved from the Fair opened his career as a muralist; Cox painted murals in several Midwest state capitol buildings; various courthouses, libraries, and college buildings; as well as murals in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

### Karl E. Harriman



A founding member of The Cliff Dwellers, Karl E. Harriman served as the Club's Eighth President from 1925-1926.

In the early 1900's, just before radio and motion pictures captured the public imagination, Karl Harriman became editor of *Redbook* magazine and promoted it as "the largest illustrated fiction magazine in the world." Under Harriman the magazine featured short fiction and weekly novels by influential authors such as Jack London, Sinclair Lewis, Hamlin Garland, Edith Wharton. With a series of stories ranging from Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan to F. Scott Fitzgerald's flappers, Harriman, as an editor, made his publications staples of popular entertainment in the 1920's.

James Allen St. John, also a Cliff Dweller, was the portraitist for Karl Harriman. A noted American author, artist, and illustrator, St. John taught at the Art Institute but is especially remembered for his illustrations for the novels written by Edgar Rice Burroughs. He is considered by many as "The Godfather of Modern Fantasy Art."

## Frederick Stock

A founding member and, from 1927-1928, the Ninth President of The Cliff Dwellers, Frederick Stock enjoyed the special pleasure of having his favorite club and his place of employment as music director for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra reside in the same building, Orchestra Hall.

During his thirty-seven seasons, from 1905 until his death in 1942, under Stock's direction the Chicago Symphony Orchestra became one of America's top orchestras. In his first year as conductor the Orchestra began performing at Ravinia Park. The 1916 recording of Mendelssohn's *Wedding March* was the first such recording ever made by an American orchestra under its music director. In the 1920's he inaugurated a regular subscription series of youth concerts and expanded the Popular Concert series which featured then modern compositions ranging from Mahler to Strauss, Tchaikovsky to Stravinsky. Stock was an inspirational force, continuing in the tradition of Theodore Thomas and truly becoming the orchestra's "second father."

Elmer Forsberg, the portraitist for Frederick Stock, was also a Cliff Dweller. A graduate of the Art Institute of Chicago, he became a member of its faculty as an instructor and lecturer for over forty years. Among his students and associates were Grant Wood, Walt Disney, and Frank Lloyd Wright.



## Thomas E. Tallmadge



Thomas E. Tallmadge served The Cliff Dwellers as a Board Member and from 1932-1933 as the Club's Twelfth President.

Tallmadge began his architectural career as a draftsman in the office of Daniel Burnham and Company before establishing a partnership with Vernon Watson in 1905 and then developing a significant reputation for designing prairie style residences primarily in Evanston and Oak Park as well as over thirty churches, including the First Methodist Church in Evanston.

Tallmadge became widely recognized for his activities as an architectural historian and teacher. In 1906 Tallmadge became an instructor of architectural design and history at the Armour Institute, a position he held for twenty years. In 1908 he coined the term "The Chicago School" in an article of the same name written for a magazine called *Architectural Review*. The term was used to describe Frank Lloyd Wright and his contemporaries who designed primarily prairie style residences in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

The portraitist for Thomas E. Tallmadge was Edgar Miller, one of the most well-known Chicago artists of his time and a significant contributor to the modern art movement in Chicago during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

## Charles L. Hutchinson

Charles L. Hutchinson, a Founder, the Second President of The Cliff Dwellers, and a Director of The Cliff Dwellers until 1920, was, from its inception until his death, an officer of the Corn Exchange Bank, which he controlled, and the President of the Board of Trustees of the Art Institute of Chicago which, from its founding in 1882 until his death in 1924, became his greatest passion. It was Hutchinson who reached out to friends such as Bertha Palmer and convinced her to leave her collection of Impressionists to the Institute.

Hutchinson played a significant role in the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition and was later instrumental in the founding of the University of Chicago. In addition, under the Presidency of Martin A. Ryerson, Hutchinson was the Treasurer of the University of Chicago and responsible for its contacts with John D. Rockefeller and his son.

The portraitist, Ralph E. Clarkson, too, was a Founder of The Cliff Dwellers and a Director and its Secretary off and on throughout Hutchinson's life. --John Notz



## Great Moments at The Cliff Dwellers

(One of what may be a series)

By *Richard L. Eastline, CD '73*

Among the remembered ha-ha, rah-rah moments at Chicago's century-old arts-loving club, there are undoubtedly quite a few that deal with sudden bursts of high expectations. If nothing else, these events probably parallel the kind of free-wheeling inspirations that afflicted coffee houses in the days when philosophers, musicians, artists, and other outcasts from the common citizenry would gather for their routine discussions, proclamations, and pleasures.

At the Cliff Dwellers—as elsewhere—practiced civility has been the routine decade after decade. Private clubs have been an endangered species for some time and perhaps the cloak of cordial discourse is needed to assure continued longevity. But every now and then there's a rupture in the fabric wrapping our conventional behavior structure. What a breath of fresh air! These are the small events that forever embellish the club with a personality that is special if not unique. These are the moments that are re-told again and again, much like a clan that recites its past to every new generation. Whether humorous or tragic or simply odd, the small dramas live on as a sure testament to the club's strength, accumulating notoriety and even admiration as the years go by.

The occasion for one such episode was at the annual meeting within the recent past. It is customary for the gathered members to salute our heritage with the singing (preferably as loudly as possible) the official anthem of The Cliff Dwellers, consisting of somewhat peculiar verses to a pedestrian Balkan tune. Singing "Zivio!" is not a formidable task—at least in terms of proclaiming the text. The primary verse and chorus use all of two words. (There are additional verses of greater literary diversity but they have not been promoted, an appropriate gesture given the apparent difficulty in getting through the first one successfully on a regular basis.)

So, when the time came for the attending members to stand and pour forth their heartfelt pride, the output was deficient both in vocal volume and textual clarity. Under ordinary circumstances, this act would be politely overlooked and the evening's activities would resume. But not this time. As others began sitting down, a lone figure rushed from his table and took a stance next to the speaker's rostrum, saying aloud "No, no, no—that's not good enough!" (Or words to that effect.) "Do it again and this time do it right!" The chastisement came from a spry, almost 90-year-old senior member

of the club, someone with a respected musical reputation. It was Dieter Kober, the founder and conductor of the Chicago Chamber Orchestra.

Well-meaning but inadequate delivery was not for him. He signaled to the astonished pianist (Arnie Lanza, I think) and immediately called upon the assembly to



rise once more and professional hand audience with a more concluded and once participating members



after this next repeat, simply rebelled and sat down. "So, how did it go?" was the question put to the now-vanquished director afterward. "Better," he concluded, "but they need more direction."

sing. Directing the members with gestures, Dieter attempted to infuse his robust outpouring. "Still not there," he again called for another effort. By now, the had recovered from the intrusive shock and

Keep this in mind, fellow Cliff Dwellers, when you are next commanded to do the Zivio bit.



## Special Movie Showings at The Cliff Dwellers

**Saturday, June 7, at 10:30**  
**Preview Showing on Wednesday, June 4 at 6:30**

Cliff Dwellers and their friends are *invited* to this special showing of: *William Le Baron Jenney: Boston, Paris, Chicago* has been organized by Cliff Dwellers John Notz and Walker Johnson and is co-sponsored by the Alliance Francaise of Chicago and by The Chicago Literary Club.

While both showings at the Club will be in French, copies of a competent translation of the script into English will be available, on site, and are, now, available in the Web Site of The Alliance Francaise of Chicago, via its Library Page.

This film was written and filmed at the direction of the Alumni Association of the Paris university (The Ecole Centrale des Arts et Manufactures) attended by William Le Baron Jenney in connection with Jenney's being named by it as "*Centralien*" of the Year 2012. Just as Jenney followed Gustave Eiffel through the Ecole Centrale, Jenney's designation, as *Centralien* of the Year followed that designation of Eiffe.

John Notz will provide an introduction at each showing. Remarks by Walker Johnson will precede the June 7 showing.

You are invited to make reservations prior to the showing on June 4. Attendees are invited to stay for lunch *after* the showing on Saturday, June 7. A discussion of Jenney's life and his career will continue over lunch.

Make reservations by e-mail to [reservations@cliff-chicago.org](mailto:reservations@cliff-chicago.org) or by calling 312-922-8080.

Both showings will be in the Sullivan Room, for which there is irony, as Mr. Sullivan did not care for or admire Mr. Jenney. Space is limited so make reservations right away. The April showing at the Alliance Francaise sold out. See you at the movies.



**--Zivio! John Notz & Walker Johnson**

## An Art Foundation Tradition Returns

*By Dominic Johnson, CD'12*

The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation music competition, a tradition of many year's standing that had gone dormant for a few, received a reboot on Saturday, April 12. Competitors were solicited from Chicago-area music schools and their performances were reviewed by a trio of distinguished judges: Desiree Ruhstrat of the Lincoln Trio, Katinka Kleijn from the Chicago Symphony, and CDAF's Dominic Johnson of the New Millennium Orchestra.

A challenging and beautiful piece was composed specifically for the event by recent Guggenheim-award winner Marcos Balter. This new aspect of the competition is intended to create a body of work associated with the Cliff Dwellers that might be played in concerts or recitals by other artists.

2014 Winners were:

- 1st prize, Lena Zeliszewska, violin, Northwestern University
- 2nd prize, Andrii Isakov, violin, Roosevelt University
- 3rd prize, Dmitri Yanov-Yanovsky, cello, Roosevelt University

**Cliff Notes—**

- Since our last publication 5 individuals interested in literature and the arts have become new members of The Cliff Dwellers. We welcome them and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.  
**Carl Adrianopoli, John R. Daley, Michael Filar, Paul A. Karas, Kevin O. Pritchett, Susan Schultz**
- As we celebrate Memorial Day and move towards the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, new Cliff Dweller Robert Hunt, CD'14 offers us food for thought about the organization called "Honor Flight Chicago." Wrote Bob, "I'm wondering if there isn't some way Cliff Dwellers could be involved. They are asking for the names of WW II vets in the Chicago area. Honor Flight isn't asking for money. Given the age bracket of our CD membership, I thought maybe we could use the members to collect names. Another idea about the Honor Flight is they are painfully aware how quickly their pool of WW II Vets is disappearing; so, they are beginning to amass the names for Korea Vets for the same purpose. Maybe Cliff Dwellers could help there, too. Honor Flight's purpose will end with the Korea Vets. Their website is: <http://honorflightchicago.org/mnu-home>. Take a moment to read about it, and I feel you will be on board, too."
- Let's spread the word. A very logical suggestion has been made that--member spouses/partners as well as other friends of the Club should receive weekly program blasts, event notices, and their own digital copy of *On and Off the Cliff*. We will gladly accommodate any requests. Send your e-mail addresses to Vivian, and you will become part of our e-mail family.
- "Green Thumb" inclined members who have an hour or so to share planting the deck for the coming summer are invited to meet on Saturday, May 31 at 9:00 on the Club deck. Join us for a bit of floral fun and share a little lunch, a beautiful view, and a vista that we have just made more appealing. Bring your own gloves, modest planting skills, and love of nature. All are welcome. Let Vivian know that you will be joining the other "Green Thumbs" on Saturday. Did we mention, "All are welcome?"
- Also on May 31 – The Cliff Dwellers' Book Club will meet at 10:30 and discuss William Hazelgrove's *The Pitcher*. The author will be present. The discussion will continue at lunch. Encourage others members and friends to come and experience The Cliff Dwellers. Reservations encouraged.
- The Club is the perfect venue to hold summer parties. June and July are busy months with many club events and private parties. When you get an idea for a program or want to hold a party, the first thing you need to do is contact Don and find a date that is open.
- June 16 is Bloomsday at the Club. Join in the annual celebration of James Joyce with your friends and fellow members.
- Friends of the Parks is honoring sculptor Richard Hunt, CD'90 June 12, 2014 at the Bridgeport Art Center. Hunt's sculptures are located throughout Chicago's parks and public spaces. The non-profit organization will celebrate his "talent, creativity, and vision and his contributions to Chicago's parks" at its Annual Benefit Celebrating Arts in the Parks.
- Enjoy the Summer.