

# ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

Volume 39, Number 4

The Midsummer Issue

July-August 2017

## Summertime!

The weather has warmed. Living is easy. Folks from the Club have been staying pretty busy both *On and Off the Cliff*.

In this issue our members share:

- A piece of our Club history gleaned from our archives at the Newberry.
- The state of CD affairs reported by Club President David Chernoff.
- A discussion about Chicago City Halls with Alderman Edward M. Burke.
- An overview of AIR member Keanon Kyles' vocal performance at the Club.
- An update on two AIR members' recent successes.
- The logic of a man who reasons that "math should be fun and accessible for everyone."
- A glimpse of Ireland with our CD librarian.
- An invitation to Jazz Night in July on the Cliff.
- A call to help Good Books get another reading.
- And odds and ends in Cliff Notes....

*Read on and Enjoy!*

## The Celebration of Independence Day...

inevitably reminds us of the contributions our forefathers gave for the benefit of our young nation. In a similar spirit, I recently went searching for one of The Cliff Dwellers' forefathers and found Edward Everett Ayer a 1907 Charter Member of the Club who then at the age of 66 appears to have been our Benjamin Franklin, the oldest member of a group of like-minded men who wanted to form a club where they might share their enthusiasm for the Arts.

In The Cliff Dwellers 1927-28 Yearbook, I found his obituary—modestly written and humbly offered by a fellow member "W. O. G." highlighted a most remarkable biography of a man pursuing life, liberty, and happiness.

### Edward Everett Ayers 1841—1927

Edward Everett Ayer, long a distinguished citizen of Chicago and a valued member of The Cliff Dwellers, was born in Kenosha, Wis., November 16, 1841.

At the age of eighteen he joined an overland expedition to California. On the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted in a California regiment of cavalry.

During his service he was at one time stationed on the Mexican border where he had access to a few books, among them Prescott's *Conquest of Mexico*, which he read twice, and as soon as possible acquired a copy for himself.

These volumes afterward were beautifully bound and Mr. Ayer delighted to refer to them as the beginning of the Edward Everett Ayer collection of the Newberry Library.

One of Mr. Ayer's outstanding characteristics was his love of collecting objects of interest and beauty. The Field Museum, The Art Institute, The Newberry Library, as well as other public institutions have all been greatly enriched by his generous gifts.

Mr. Ayer possessed a most lovable personality. It was a rare treat to sit by his hospitable fireside and hear him recount his early experiences, and tell the number of miles he had travelled by stage, train or motor car, and give the number of times he had heard Galli Curci sing.

In Pasadena, California, on May Third, 1927, Edward Everett Ayer passed from this life and lies in the burying ground of the little town of Harvard, Illinois, where much of his early life was spent.

--W.O.G.

## President's July 2017 Report

It's Summer and hot outside, but our new air-conditioning system is working well and things are proceeding nicely at The Cliff Dwellers.

- We're adding new trial members.
- The Building owners plan on commencing construction of the new exercise facility during the 3rd Quarter of 2017, and hope to complete it by year-end.
- We are extending our Affiliation Agreement with the Union League Club.
- We've added another reciprocal club, The Wellington Club, Wellington, N.Z.
- Lately, we've enjoyed *Naked Lunch: The Musical*, Bloomsday, Wednesday night fireworks from the patio, an art opening, and other Club events.
- The patio is open for drinks, lunch and dinner (except Monday nights, when the Club is closed until fall). And don't forget about the Wednesday night fireworks.

Thanks to our Program Committee, we have a number of Summer events planned, including:

- Thursday, July 13 - *Jazz Night*, featuring vocalist Alyssa Algood, with Dan Chase on the piano and Joe Policastro on bass.
- Wednesday, July 19 – Dinner & program featuring author William Hazelgrove and his latest book, *Forging a President: How the Wild West Created Teddy Roosevelt*.
- Tuesday, August 1 – Dinner & program featuring author Richard Cahan and his latest book, *Chicago: Classic Photographs*.

Once again, we will participate in the Chicago Architecture Foundation's *Open House Chicago*. Specifically, the Club will be open to visits from CAF members from 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m. on Saturday, October 14 and Sunday, October 15. In order to show the Club at its best, we will need volunteers both days. Please contact either me at david.s.chernoff@gmail.com, or Charlie Hasbrouck at charlie.hasbrouck@gmail.com if you will help us on either of those days. Let's take full advantage of this opportunity to add new members.

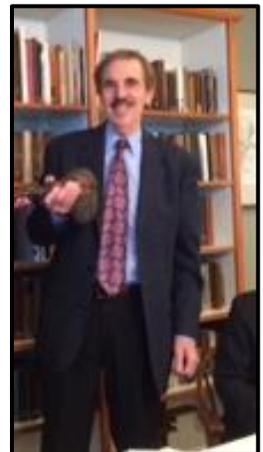
For those of you having out-of-town guests, I remind you that well-priced hotel rooms are available at the Union League Club. In order to put up guests at ULC, if you haven't already done so, you will first need to complete ULC's credit card form—which is available from Don or Vivian—and, after it's processed, go over to the Union League Club and pick up an ID card.

I encourage you to continue to recruit new members--the lifeblood of the Club--and to use the Club facilities more often, including parties and events. More members and more meals served (especially in the evening) will not only make the Club even more enjoyable for all, but will also allow us to operate in the black. Each of us can help.

If you have any suggestions about new members, events, or how to improve the Club, please let me know.

*Zivio!*

David S. Chernoff CD'09, President



## Ed Burke Shares His City Halls Book at The Cliff Dwellers

By *Lindsay Hugé CD'08*

To commemorate the centennial of Chicago's current and seventh City Hall, Alderman Edward M. Burke co-authored a beautiful book in 2009, *Glory and Government: Chicago's City Hall at 100*. The book, rich in photography, illustration and history, tells the colorful stories and architectural details of all seven Chicago City Halls in addition to brief biographies of many of their notable occupants. First elected in 1969, and now long-serving chairman of the City Council Committee on Finance, Edward Burke is also a local historian and author and as much a Chicago institution as our grand municipal headquarters at Randolph and LaSalle. On April 25, we were fortunate to have him share his book and Chicago history with us at The Cliff Dwellers.



**A panel discusses the history and cultural significance of Chicago area architecture, including, from left, Dr. Robert Bruegmann of UIC, Chicago Alderman and author Ed Burke, Dr. Kevin Harrington of IIT, and Columbia College history professor Lindsay Huge.**

*Photos Courtesy of Steve Graue*

Ed Burke began the presentation by telling of the stories and sometimes unfortunate politics behind the architecture of all of Chicago's City Halls. The first City Hall (1837-1842) was The Saloon Building, which was not a tavern, but "derived from the French word *salon*, meaning a place for wit and wisdom." Alderman Burke also noted that Abraham Lincoln later argued and won a case for the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad in the Saloon Building. The second city building (1842-1848) was a two-story frontier frame structure with an outside staircase called Widow Chapman's. Both were rented by Chicago.

Chicago's third municipal seat (1848-1853) was on the second floor of Market Hall. "Here stood the first fully dedicated City Hall, and it featured council offices and a library on the second floor as well as market stalls at street level. It was designed by Chicago's first great architect, John Van Osdel," Chairman Burke told our audience. The fourth Hall (1853-1871) was a stately building, also designed by Van Osdel, which additionally housed the County Courthouse, held President Lincoln's laying-in-state, at which "7,000 mourners per hour paid their respects." Sadly, the fourth City Hall was consumed in the Great Fire of 1871.

Our fifth City Hall (1873-1884) was temporarily built around a reservoir and unofficially housed Chicago's first public library, consisting of books donated by the Queen of England after the fire. "Described

as an ‘undistinguished pile of brick and mortar,’ the Old Rookery was fully operational in 1873. The name, it is believed, derives from the birds that roosted there,” Alderman Burke shared.

Bad politics, poor project management and weak materials dangerously compromised the sixth Hall (1885-1908), resulting in its partial collapse and a fatal explosion. The building was problematic in construction and design from the beginning. As author Burke explained, “It emerged as a poorly designed, odd amalgam of dimly-lit corridors, poorly ventilated offices and thoroughly inadequate space to accommodate the needs of a fast-growing city approaching the one-million mark in population.”

A design competition led to our current City Hall, but the second-place firm, Holabird and Roche, was chosen. “Possibly because it was a local firm with a distinguished track record of blending superior functionality with design efficiency, reflective of the many achievements of the first Chicago School of Architecture in the post-Fire era,” Burke observed, “their final design provided the city and county with a building that became a monumental civic structure and an efficient office building.”



“Our City Hall,” he shared, “has been a second home to me for nearly forty-eight years of my life. Inside the corridors and chambers of this venerable building, I have been privileged to witness and participate in some of the defining moments of our time.”

The panel also spoke of Chicago architecture generally. Responding to whether there truly is a Chicago school of building design, Dr. Bruegmann offered to our audience that the term was “invented for polemical reasons” but has now “lost all of its specific meaning.” However, he allowed that recognizing a Chicago School of Architecture “is a fine way to give the city a famous brand.” Professor Bruegmann praised City Hall for being a “utilitarian building and dignified public structure.” Considering other local government architecture, Professor Harrington commended the Daley Center as excellent in design and function, and Bruegmann agreed, ranking it above Mies designs as “the most convincing piece of postwar modernism in Chicago.”

Discussing how this City Hall has “stood the test of time” and noting renovations, Chairman Burke indicated leading local preservation architect and Cliff Dweller Walker Johnson in the audience. Mr. Johnson worked for Holabird and Root, the firm that designed the building, from 1966 to 1992, and directed a major renovation in the late sixties, right after Alderman Burke’s election. The city commissioned Mr. Johnson to do ADA compliance rehab and electrical and HVAC updating. He also designed renovation of the entrances and new lighting of the beautiful lobby. “The amazing cast bronze chandeliers were over-amped and couldn’t be seen,” he told me after the event. He designed illumination for the ceiling mosaics and reinstalled the directory boards with improved backlighting. Aside from the 1950’s council chamber renovation, Mr. Johnson designed the most significant updating to City Hall in 100 years. He believes that, architecturally, City Hall is “a great space and can remain another 200 years. It’s extremely well-built and very reusable.”

Chairman Burke concluded with apt and eloquent reverence, “After more than a century of continuous service, it remains a treasured public landmark that encompasses the unity of both form and function. Its strength, dignity and vigor symbolize the resolute spirit first expressed in the Chicago city motto, “I Will.”





## “A Summer's Night Interlude” with Keanon Kyles

By AIR Committee Chair Eve Moran CD'10

At the The Cliff Dwellers we have a vibrant Artist-in-Residence program. It introduces young artists, working across many different fields, to the culture, traditions and camaraderie of the Club. As importantly, it provides a venue for these artists to showcase their talents. On June 20, 2017, we were treated to a musical performance by AIR recipient Keanon Kyles who was accompanied on piano by the very accomplished Dr. Charles Joseph Smith.

Keanon is an opera singer. His love of music grew early. As a young child, he studied and sang with the Chicago Children’s choir. That experience stirred his passion and inspired Keanon to receive his B.M. degree from Columbia College. Over the years, he has performed on stages locally, nationally, and internationally.

The program, of Keanon’s own design, began with a pair of art songs. We were introduced to “Amarilli Mia Bella” (Guilio Caccini) and “Letter du Font” (Pierre Vellones). Keanon graciously provided written translations of these works, the ear stayed focused on the range and depth of his interpretations.

Opera was well-represented on the program when Keanon performed “Madamina” from Mozart’s *Don Giovanni* and “Vecchia Zimarra” from Puccini’s *La Boheme*. Keanon set the stage for each of these arias before lending his rich and passionate voice.

Keanon reached deep and touched the room with the spiritual hymn, “Give Me Jesus.” This was followed with a haunting and heart-wrenching rendition of “Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child.” In Keanon’s hands, the gospel song, “Lord Prepare Me/Swing Low Sweet Chariot”, was part prayer, part meditation, and all powerful.

The lyrics to “Impossible Dream”, a song from the Broadway musical *Man of La Mancha*, hold special meaning for Keanon, and he gave strong voice to the truth and inspiration behind Joe Darion and Mitchell Leigh’s every word:

*And the world would be better for this  
That one man scorned and covered with scars  
Still strove with his last ounce of courage  
To reach the unreachable star*

A bit of history and a lot of soul flooded the Kiva when Keanon turned his talents to sing “Georgia On My Mind.” Many of us softly sang along to this Hoagy Carmichael classic made widely popular by the great Ray Charles. Then Keanon shook us with Sam Cooke’s mighty “A Change Is Gonna Come” as the room fell silent.

In closing, Keanon Kyles performed “Parisiamo” from Verdi’s *Rigoletto*. It reminded that this July, Keanon will be performing in Glasgow, Scotland in the Clyde Opera Group’s production of *Rigoletto*.

Such an honor, however, requires financial support. And so, we were donating \$10 from each dinner cost and the full \$15 from the performance-only fee to Keanon to help pay for his travel expenses. But, there was an additional surprise. At the evening’s program Walker Johnson CD’84, a board member of our Arts Foundation, announced that The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation ( P.K. “Trish” VanderBeke CD’96, President) had recently voted to award Keanon Kyles \$500 for his upcoming travel. Many of the attendees that night also reached into their pockets and made additional gifts. Thanks to all for showing such splendid generosity!



Cliff Dwellers Keanon Kyles, Walker Johnson, Steve Munro, and Vida Hotchkiss shared a wonderful evening of music at the Club. A Summer Delight!

When introducing Keanon Kyles, I had announced that an incredible sense of joy, depth, warmth, and connection emanates from a Keanon Kyles’ performance. We had just such an experience on this midsummer’s night on the Cliff.

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## More Good AIR News

In a kick-off event at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Pilsen on Thursday, Mayor Rahm Emanuel named **Erica Mott AIR CD’17** as one of the awardees of the 50x50 Neighborhood Arts project. From nearly 270 applicants citywide, Erica was selected to collaborate with 11th Ward Alderman Patrick Daley Thompson to create a neighborhood public performance spectacle at Palmisano Park in Bridgeport. Utilizing the park’s unique landscape and history as a former quarry and landfill in the flight path of Midway Airport, the event will incorporate walking tours, large-scale video projection, site-specific dance theater, remote control helicopters, kite flying, paper lantern lighting and stargazing. Created in close collaboration with community groups from Bridgeport and Canaryville, **ELEMENTAL** will premiere in autumn 2017 as part of the fifth annual Bridgeport Air and Water Show.

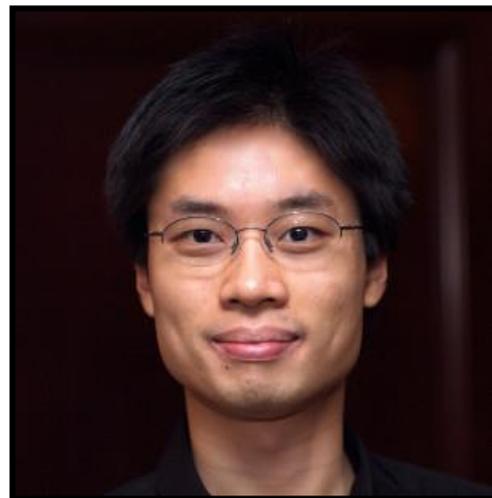
**Jonathan Mayo AIR CD’17** recently received an Individual Artists Program grant from the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events with the City of Chicago. The grant will be used to produce an iteration of his ongoing oral history project “Cleaning Closets.” This project is based on a collection of true coming out stories from both sides of the closet door. It includes the perspective of the LGBTQ+ individuals as well as that of the friends and family to whom they come out. This particular iteration of the project will be a devised work with local high school students based on their own stories. In partnership with the Illinois Safe Schools Alliance, Jonathan will be able to connect to all the GSAs across the city. The performance will be presented at UIC in the fall. Specific dates are still being determined. To find out more about the project, check on [www.CleaningClosets.org](http://www.CleaningClosets.org).

## A Eureka! Evening with a Mathematician

By Margery al Chalabi, CD '85

On Tuesday, June 13, Club members expanded their interest in the Arts to encompass the Art of Mathematics – not just numbers, but the art of thinking in mathematical (rational) terms, and doing it with enthusiasm and humor.

The Cliff Dwellers, in association with the Andrew Carnegie Society, invited Carnegie Mellon University's Associate Professor of Mathematical Sciences, Dr. Po-Shen Loh, to speak on one of his favorite topics – encouraging the public, especially young students – to expand their interest in and knowledge of math. Po – as he likes to be called because he wants to be approachable – believes that “math should be fun and accessible for everyone.”



Po was introduced by Margery al Chalabi a graduate of Carnegie Mellon's College of Fine Arts, in architecture – and, an enthusiastic alumnae and supporter of CMU, the City of Pittsburgh, and its back-to-back Stanley Cup winning Pittsburgh Penguins.

The back-to-back reference was apt as Po-Shen, as its national coach, had just led Team USA to back-to-back International Math Olympiad victories, definitively breaking a 20-year winning drought. He also coaches CMU's Math Team for the William Lowell Putman Competition, the premier mathematics competition for undergraduate students in North America. This Spring, CMU took top place, extending its top-five streak for the sixth year – not bad for a coach who had arrived at CMU, in 2010, with his PhD from Princeton.

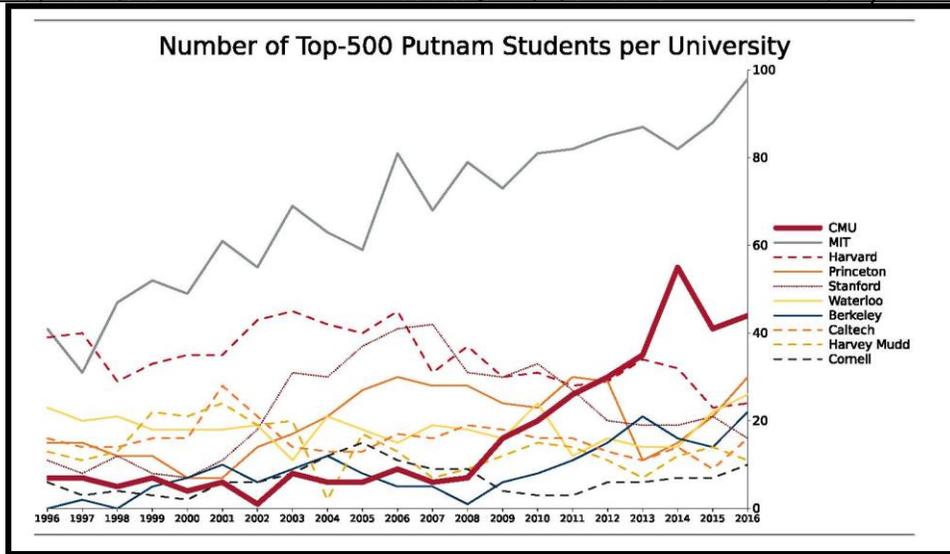
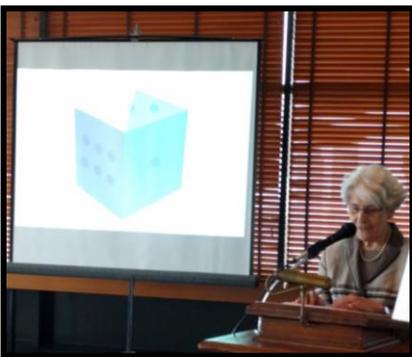


Image courtesy of Carnegie Mellon

In applying his self-proclaimed profession as math enthusiast and evangelist, Po has extended his activity to the “global mainstream” through his educational start-up company, expii.com, which delivers free personal learning and creative math puzzles on every Internet device. He wants your smart phone to be your tutor; and has developed an app (similar to that of Wikipedia) to help.



Po is an enthusiastic advocate of math and the probabilities and creative reasoning that are part of the solution of math problems – or more widely – math encounters. He entertained and enlightened his audience with a simple, but engaging, discussion of a die (as in “a die is cast”) and why, among other things, its opposite sides add to seven.

Professor Po and CMU’s able Senior Associate Director of Development, Lisa Georgi, and Associate Director, Advancement Events, Katie Restori, joined us for a sumptuous buffet from Chef Victor, which ended with – of course – the Club’s famous Deep Dish Pie.

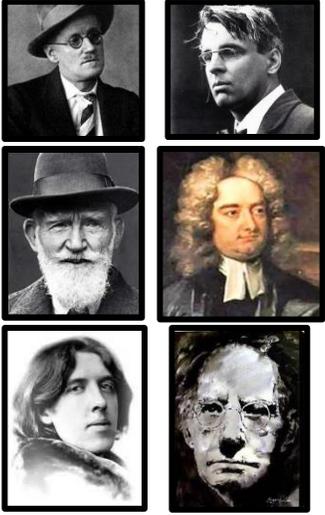
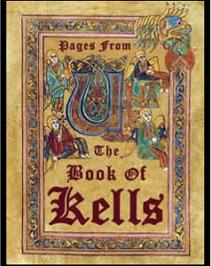
**WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

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](mailto:mjdeines@yahoo.com)  
Share Current, Past, and Future Stories about The Cliff Dwellers.

# Report from Ireland

By Carla Funk, CD'16

Chair, Library & Website Committee

<p>I recently travelled to Ireland with my family and, as Chair of The Cliff Dwellers Library/Website Committee and a retired librarian, I wanted to visit library sites in Dublin.</p>	
<p>Dublin-- birthplace of Joyce and Yeats,  Shaw and Swift,  Wilde and O'Casey  to name just a few--  has no shortage of literary places of interest.</p>	
<p>These include the Abbey Theatre, the Writers' Museum, various authors' homes and monuments, the Chester Beatty Library (fantastic), and Trinity College's Old Library that houses the Book of Kells (from about AD 800).</p>	
<p>The Long Room in the Old Library and the Book of Kells didn't disappoint. It was encouraging to see that some of the books in the Long Room wore the same condition problems as books in The Cliff Dwellers' library and to examine the way librarians and preservationists had dealt with them.</p>	
<p>The town was filled with banners announcing the celebration of Bloomsday—  Unfortunately, we left the day the festivities began, but we'll plan better the next time.  There's so much more to see and do there!</p>	



## The Cliff Dwellers

### Live Jazz on the 22nd Floor

200 South Michigan Avenue

Thursday Night, July 13, 2017

5:30 – 9:30 p.m.

\$10 cover charge

Cash Bar

\$25 buffet dinner (optional)

To have dinner, please call ahead and reserve with Cliff Dwellers

by July 10th at: (312) 922-8080

for any additional questions or comments, contact:

Lindsay Hugé, [lhuge@aol.com](mailto:lhuge@aol.com) / 773-972-1110

*New Chicago jazz vocalist Alyssa Allgood with Dan Chase on piano and Joe Palicastro on bass. Alyssa recently won the first Ella Fitzgerald vocalist award and is a 2016 LuminArts Jazz Fellow. Neil Tesser calls her voice “radiant, strong and coolly expressive.”*

*Alyssa has already sung at all Chicago major jazz clubs and her 2016 recording debut was ranked one of last year’s best jazz releases by several publications.*

## A Good Book Should Have Many Lives

By Leslie Recht CD'03

The Cliff Dwellers again is serving as a drop-off point for the American Association of University Women's Used Book Sale. To make it easier for members who wish to donate, books can be placed the designated box in the cloakroom. Include a list of your donations with your name and address or see Vivian and you will receive a tax donation form.

Books will be taken to Lombard and sold during the Lombard Chapter's annual sale which will run from August 2 to August 5 at the First Church of Lombard, 220 S. Main St, Lombard, IL. For more info: [lombard-il.aauw.net](http://lombard-il.aauw.net). In line with AAUW's Mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research, proceeds from the book sale are used to fund scholarships

The deadline for bringing in books is Saturday, July 22. Text books and encyclopedias are not accepted. Need someone to pick up your books? Contact Leslie Recht at [leslie.recht@gmail.com](mailto:leslie.recht@gmail.com).

### Scheduled Programs & More

As the weather warms and Summer awaits, make your way to the Club to enjoy the season, good friendship, and the delight of food and fun with other Cliff Dwellers.

Art Openings	Saturday at the Movies	Art Foundation's 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays	CD Book Club
First Wednesday Art Exhibitions remain on display for two months. Artists and Sculptors attend openings. A cash bar and dinner buffet are available.	Films are shown Saturday in the Sullivan Room at 10:30; discussions continue over lunch. Alternate dates are noted.	Evening presentations in the Kiva by CDAF grant recipients are free and open to the public. A cash bar and dinner service are available. Reservations are encouraged.	Discussions facilitated by Richard Reeder CD'13 take place on the noted Saturday beginning at 11:00 and continue over lunch.
July Continuing  <b>Bob Guinan's</b> Final Seven Paintings Rita O'Hara Paintings Marshall Svendsen Sculpture	July Off the Cliff Month  Find a Drive-in	The Art Foundation will be on Summer Recess.	7/29 <b>Love and Shame</b> By Peter Orner
August 2  Adam Clement CD'13	The Theater is closed.	The Art Foundation will be on Summer Recess.	8/26 <b>Good Kings Bad Kings</b> By Susan Nussbaum
	9/9  <b>28 Up</b>	TBA.	9/23 <b>Prairie Avenue</b> By Arthur Meeker*

## Cliff Notes—

- Since our last publication 6 individuals interested in the arts have become new members of The Cliff Dwellers.

**Susan Benjamin, Sandra Brennan, Andrew Elders,  
Joseph Goldkamp, Bruce Oltman, Monica Rodriguez**

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

- **Wednesday, July 19 - Dinner & Program featuring author William Hazelgrove & his latest book: *Forging a President How the Wild West Created Teddy Roosevelt*.** Reservations are recommended.
- **Club Fundraiser!** Cliff Dweller bow ties.  They are \$100.00 each. When we reach the minimum of 40 we will be able to order them! Please order through House Committee Chair Paul Hamer via email: [paul@fwchicago.com](mailto:paul@fwchicago.com) *The bow tie is NOT really a camera.*
- **Around the Town 1: *The American Writers Museum*** at 180 N. Michigan Ave. This new museum, a quick walk from the Club, is a celebration of American voices and talent and well worth a visit. Nike Whitcomb CD'14 has been integral to the museum's development.
- **Around the Town 2: *Our Miss Brooks 100*.** Gwendolyn Brooks' Centennial year is being celebrated with a series of events offered through the Poetry Foundation and other outlets in the city. The Chicago Literary Hall of Fame in particular has already done several events honoring one of Chicago's most celebrated poets—including a recent tour and discussion of her life and world in Bronzeville. Check with Don Evans CD'11 for upcoming events and tours.
- **In and Out of Town 3: FLW 150.** June 8 marked Frank Lloyd Wright's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday. With so many architects in the Club, we have a plethora of FLW information at our disposal, but when the guy turns 150 new things turn up. Try a roadtrip this summer, perhaps, to Taliesin in Spring Green, Wisconsin.
- **"W. O. G."** the Cliff Dweller who penned Edward Everett Ayer's obituary turns out to be William O. Goodman.
- **Ayer made his fortune in lumber**, specifically railroad ties telegraph poles for most of the roads west of the Mississippi; however, he devoted much time and money to collecting books of history and science, antiques, and art objects. He was one of the founders as well as the first president of the Field Museum of Natural History. He urged Marshall Field to utilize the collections left from the Columbian Exposition as the nucleus of the museum and persuaded the merchant prince to endow its future with the admonition--"You can sell dry goods until hell freezes over, but in 25 years you will be completely forgotten." Field contributed nine million dollars. Additionally, Ayer was a charter trustee of the Newberry Library; in 1897 he donated approximately 50,000 pieces from his private collection. He was truly an avid patron of education and the arts.
- **Amelita Galli-Curci**, hailed as "the world's greatest coloratura soprano" in the 1910's and 20's, made her Chicago debut, November 18, 1916. Performing in the mid-1920's with the Chicago Opera Company as well as the Metropolitan Opera Company in New York she received fees of \$2500 an appearance, an income rivaling Caruso's.



**Edward Everett Ayer**