

ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

Volume 40, Number 5

September-October 2018

Two New Honorary Members Arrive Atop the Cliff



Welcoming Mark Kelly:

Chicago's Cultural Architect

By *Eve Moran CD'10 & Leslie Recht CD'03*

Mark Kelly has big ideas. He moves swiftly and decisively. He inspires with his words.

This was abundantly clear on August 23, 2018, when The Cliff Dwellers hosted a reception and arts talk by Mark Kelly, the Commissioner of the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) for the City of Chicago.

Perfect weather provided a wonderful opportunity for members to enjoy the Club. Stimulating conversation swirled among artists and art lovers. But, all the buzzing drew to a halt when Club president Moran welcomed Commissioner Kelly to the podium. And, you will soon see why.

Kelly introduced himself as a lifelong Chicagoan. For more than 30 years at Columbia College, he supported students studying the arts. During this time, Kelly also initiated the wall mural program along South Wabash Avenue (*Wabash Arts Corridor*) and created the artistic vision for the spectacular Halloween parade "Arts in the Dark." In describing his current position, Kelly outlined the wide scope of cultural events produced by DCASE, including music fests (Blues, Gospel, Jazz) in Millennium Park, art exhibitions at the Cultural Center, and a host of performances that mark 2018 as the *Year of Creative Youth* in Chicago. His list of programs and events went on and on. (See the DCASE website for information on upcoming events.)

Continued on page 2



Celebrating Richard H. Driehaus:

Visionary and Passionate Patron of the Arts

By *Eve Moran (CD'10)*

From the beginning, The Cliff Dwellers members (e.g. Lorado Taft, Louis Sullivan, Jens Jenson) recognized the universal need for beauty and celebrated this value in their respective arts. On August 28, 2018, The Cliff Dwellers gathered to embrace into our fold, a person who understands that beauty is the very food of the soul. And, gifted with this insight, Richard H. Driehaus has provided for the public's nourishment in great abundance.

With these words, Club president Eve Moran warmly welcomed Mr. Driehaus, members, and guests to the Kiva. Red, white and purple flowers dressed the tables and a program booklet, designed by Richard L. Eastline CD'73, was placed at each setting. George Manning CD'13 played beautiful music at the piano. The evening began with a delicious dinner, lovingly prepared and served. Our Club was alive with good conversation. The atmosphere was joyful.

At the start of the program, Rolf Achilles CD'96 paid tribute to Mr. Driehaus with a presentation he titled *Balance*. Achilles noted that "balance" is both a business and an aesthetic tool in the often chaotic business, architectural, and urban planning worlds that Richard H. Driehaus inhabits. It is something, Achilles explained, that Richard has incorporated into his daily life, both business and philanthropy. Achilles compared Richard's actions to the caduceus carried by the Roman god Mercury, a staff whose two facing snakes represent

Continued on page 3

Kelly Continued from page 1

Kelly's talk was inspiring on many levels. He reminded us that Chicago is the birthplace of, among other things, the skyscraper, urban Blues, modern Gospel, improv, storefront theatre, poetry slam/spoken word, stepping and footwork. Much revered, and art legend, is William Walker's *Wall of Respect* (1967) and Mario Castillo's *Peace* mural (1968) that strongly ushered in the public art movement. Significant, too, is art and community practice as pioneered by Jane Addams. And, the untitled Picasso, once controversial, now challenges us to fill other public spaces.

According to Kelly, it is a wonderful mix of architecture, landscape design and public art that defines our city. We are a skyscraper city, Kelly noted, and a place where world-shaping architects such as Louis Sullivan, Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies van Der Rohe created an enduring legacy. A city beautiful, Kelly said, that is ever appreciative of Daniel Burnham's big plans, Montgomery Ward's vision of a protected waterfront, Jens Jenson's prairie inspired landscape designs, Lorado Taft's striking sculptures and Olmsted's urban parks.

But, Kelly stressed that a city must always be evolving and welcoming of new and different canvases. Effectively, the 606 rose out of the ashes of an old rail line and increased the expanse of living green space. Millennium Park blended architectural and landscaping design with art to create a recreational wonderland. A rough blank wall on the Cultural Center, put into the hands of renowned artist Kerry James Marshall, has become a captivating monument to Chicago women of culture. Bold landscapes bring play and delight at Maggie Daley Park, and Chicago's Riverwalk offers yet another thrilling recreational stage. The highly anticipated *Art on the Mart* will launch soon, Kelly said, and for this exciting project, a series of digital artworks will be projected across the Merchandise Mart facade.

Kelly emphasized that art is of the moment. And, in this moment, young artists in all fields are bringing fresh new ideas and energy to established forms. Historic and limiting demarcations of race, class, and gender, he emphasized, are rightfully falling away.

Kelly pointed to the breadth of cultural richness that sprang from Chicago's Black Renaissance in the 1930's. Here was a dazzling surge of artistic creativity in literature (Richard Wright, Gwendolyn Brooks, and Lorraine Hansberry); the visual arts (Charles White, Archibald Motley, and Margaret Burroughs); dance (Katherine Dunham); and music

(Louis Armstrong, Lil Hardin, Earl Hines, Thomas Dorsey, Mahalia Jackson, Muddy Waters, Howlin' Wolf, Little Walter, Willie Dixon, Bo Diddley, Herbie Hancock, Curtis Mayfield, the Staple Singers, Earth Wind & Fire, Frankie Knuckles, Common, and Kanye).

Today, Kelly suggests, we are experiencing a new renaissance. Celebrated artists Theaster Gates and Kerry John Marshall are doing big and bold things. Chance the Rapper is inspiring with both his philanthropy and his music. Amanda Williams is inventively integrating art and architecture. And, Lena Waite is winning awards for her gifted screen writing. Each of these beautiful minds, as Kelly noted, raises new and higher levels of artistry.

In further remarks, Kelly drew our attention to Chicago's lively theatre scene. He branded Chicago, along with New York City and London, as the great theatre capitals of the world. Kelly noted that Chicago theater is especially robust, with more than 250 theaters now operating in our area. Arts and culture are vital to a City's health and prosperity and Commissioner Kelly is intent on spreading the word about the rich and diverse cultural opportunities our city offers.

Kelly is not content. In neighborhoods across our city, he said, are many small but important arts venues. These cultural gems, Kelly asserted, need our full and continuing support. So too, young creatives in all fields must be nurtured. Further, we must bring fresh eyes and explore new synergies among arts producers. We must re-imagine art as play to increase participation by both visitors and city dwellers. We must honor the past but work to heal old fractures. We must take an interdisciplinary approach and seize every opportunity to re-imagine, repurpose, and revitalize.

It is impossible to cover all of the elements of Kelly's talk. It is impossible to capture his passion and drive. It is impossible to describe the impact of his words. But, we will record the Club moments that followed his highly-stimulating presentation.

The Cliff Dwellers Board voted to give Commissioner Kelly an honorary membership in the Club, as "a person of reputation for distinguished service in the field of the arts for his leadership in enriching the artistic vitality and cultural vibrancy of the City of Chicago." So, on this day, and to great applause, Mark Kelly became a Cliff Dweller.

When an opening on his busy schedule presents itself, we will celebrate with vigor the creativity, values, and performance of the inspiring man who is helping to build Chicago's cultural future.



Eve Moran, Mark Kelly, and Leslie Recht

Driehaus Continued from page 1

give and take, buy and sell, or, in a word, balance. In another example, Achilles offered that a Tiffany lamp or stained glass window that is brighter than intended is unbalanced. So too, he said, there is an imbalance in either an over-lit or an under-lit room. Neither serves the beauty of the art. Achilles emphasized that Richard Driehaus always seeks to balance the light of a lamp or window precisely as the artist originally intended. His business models are similarly balanced resulting in gains that Richard then converts to philanthropy.

Next, Walker Johnson CD'84 took the stage. Johnson's talk, *A Passion for Architecture*, highlighted some of the stellar funding initiatives in design excellence and historic preservation that stem from the vision of Richard H. Driehaus and the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation. He praised a generous donation from the Richard H. Driehaus Courthouse Initiative (administered by Landmarks Illinois) that resulted in grants to 17 different counties around our State for important courthouse restoration. Johnson further spoke of the world-wide acclaim given to The Richard H. Driehaus Prize at the University of Notre Dame. Established in 2003, this Prize is awarded annually to a living architect whose work embodies the highest ideals of traditional and classical architecture in contemporary society, and creates a positive cultural, environmental, and artistic impact.

It was a history-making moment for the Club when Leslie Recht CD'03 stepped up to the podium and called Mr. Driehaus to the stage. She presented him with a certificate showing that The Cliff Dwellers Board had unanimously voted to award Richard H. Driehaus an honorary membership in the Club, as "*a person of reputation for distinguished service in the field of the arts for his transformational philanthropic gifts that have touched countless lives.*"

The audience spontaneously rose to its feet and gave Mr. Driehaus a rousing ovation. But, as he began to speak, the Kiva grew silent. It was a touching moment as Mr. Driehaus expressed his delight and gratitude to The Cliff Dwellers. He then shared with us his personal story:

Richard grew up in Chicago's Brainerd neighborhood and had no connection to art or architecture. But, in grade school, Sister Henrika was always telling her second-graders that: "You are responsible for your actions." For Richard, these six words would have a profound and lifelong effect. Richard noted that he grew up in a comfortable bungalow and that he, his parents, and two sisters (Elizabeth and Dorothy) enjoyed a modest life. But, in

the early 1950's, his dad wanted to upgrade to a Tudor-style home. Yet, even though his father earned a good salary and held some 27 patents, the \$50,000 estimate for the house was more than the family could afford.

Sister Henrika's words came strongly into his mind. Richard began to understand that he alone could determine his own destiny. By 4th grade, however, he already knew that conventional jobs such as doctor, lawyer, etc., did not appeal to him. So, in 5th grade Richard got his first job, as a newspaper boy for the Southtown Economist. He delivered over 100 newspapers and that earned him about \$23.00 per month. Richard began "investing" his earnings in hard-to-find coins and subscribed to Coin World Magazine. He bought rolls of nickels, i.e., 10 rolls for \$38.00, and then sold them for \$52.00. Richard was learning about quotes and price changes.

Then, in 7th grade, Richard was browsing through the Chicago Daily American when he noticed pages of corporate names, numerous columns and lots of fractional changes in small print. His father explained that these were listings of the New York Stock Exchange. Richard began to study these pages. While in the 10th or 11th grade, Richard recalled a neighbor, Mr. O'Toole, saying to him that he, Richard, had neither enough money nor the connections to get into a prominent school like Harvard, Stanford, or Princeton.

Richard's high school grades were below average. He attended the University of Illinois at Navy Pier, for one semester before dropping out because of insufficient grades. Richard then enrolled at DePaul University. After many job rejections, he was hired by Rothschild & Co. Richard was on his way. Eventually, he gave \$30 million to DePaul for a new business college. In total, Richard H. Driehaus has given away some \$180 million.

Many of us paused to reflect that this amazing story all began with "six simple words" from a 2nd grade teacher. Powerful words that inspired a life of masterful work and remarkable generosity.

In the great spirit that The Cliff Dwellers share, Moran raised a welcoming toast to Richard H. Driehaus. Zivio! Then, in quick succession around the room, other Club members including Robert Jordan CD'14, Bill Drennan CD'02, Joan Pantsios CD'14, Mike Deines CD'03, and Tom Thorson CD'15, stood up to individually toast our Honoree. It became even more exciting when George Manning CD'13 toasted Mr. Drehaus with a special poem he wrote for the occasion.

The program concluded with a song. Edward Torrez CD'17 took to the piano (complaining that Moran had asked him, sometime near midnight the previous

night, to learn a new set of lyrics). But, Edward played brilliantly, and we all joined to sing the following lyrics:

(With apologies to Cole Porter)

You're the top! You're a great Cliff Dweller,
 You're the top! You're a spiffy feller,
 You're a hero from a novel written by Blake, -
 You're a Sandburg verse, and nothing terse,
 You're our Michigan Lake -
 You're a classic, You're a Burnham pie
 You're a dreamer, and we toast you high.
 We're a happy bunch, even in a crunch, a blop
 But if, Richard, we're the bottom
 Gee, if we're the bottom
 Oh no, if we're the bottom--
 You're the top!

With this bit of light fun we ended a wonderful evening on the Cliff!



Thanksgiving in September



Joanne and Doug with Ed and Elaine honored in the Kiva.



Doug and Ed--always on deck for the Club

“The Cliff Dwellers’ story is told in chapters. And, each chapter has its heroes: members who did remarkable things in their respective times--All for the love of our Club!” began Club President Eve Moran on the recent evening of September 12. The Members’ Table stretched the length of the Kiva as nearly forty members and friends gathered to share a Thanksgiving feast and offer a well-earned but long overdue “Thank-you” to Doug Schroeder CD '65 and Ed Gordon CD '00—two Cliff Dweller heroes who spearheaded the Millennium Fund created nearly a decade ago to provide The Cliff Dwellers with the funds necessary to either move the Club to a new location at the end of its lease or to renovate the Club's space were we lucky enough to re-new our lease. Ed and Doug were highly successful in their efforts, gathering important funding for the Club's renovation. And, we are still here on top of our Cliff.

Past President Bill Bowe often refers to an old CD annual report that hangs on the Sullivan Room wall. It says, “How the club survives has never been fully ascertained.” The financial stewardship of Doug and Ed was a huge factor.

To the evening’s group, Past President Charlie Hasbrouck noted, “The Millennium Fund was crucial to maintaining our operations, negotiating with potential other spaces, and building out the new space. In a very real sense, Doug Schroeder and Ed Gordon made tonight possible. Without their hard work preparing for the future, we wouldn’t be here.”

From a letter written by Past President Brian Bernardoni, Bill Drennan read, “I saw and came to realize the work of the Club was so critically reliant on the members-- members like our honorees tonight who had the foresight, the passion, the commitment to maintain the Club not just for now but for the future. Often, and regrettably, as it should be told, the work was theirs and theirs alone. But to their credit, and for all our benefit, they persisted.”

Chef Victor carved the Thanksgiving turkey. We all shared stories, raised toasts to a pair of heroes--Ed and Doug, and expressed deep gratitude for the contributions of all the Club members who supported the Millennium Fund and the Renovation Fund—then and in the future as an emerging chapter of our story unfolds. **Zivio!**

The Spirit of Django Reinhardt Visits The Cliff Dwellers

By Lindsay Huges' CD'08

Samuel Shepard, who led his gypsy jazz group Djanghost at the recent Live Jazz on the Cliff on July 19, bought and began operating Caravan Guitars in Chicago several years ago. Caravan specializes in gypsy jazz—selling books, music, guitars and lessons. To Chicago's benefit, Mr. Shepard practices this beautiful genre of acoustic jazz as both merchant and artist.

Samuel, now 30, began teaching himself guitar at 15. He was a fan of Led Zeppelin, and read an interview with Jimmy Page who extensively praised the work of Django Reinhardt as an influence. Shepard then delved into the music of Reinhardt and fell in love with the mystifying art of the legendary guitarist. He began deeply studying manouche guitar when he bought Caravan in 2015 and practiced the rest stroke technique under local progressive jazz artist Dani Rabin. Samuel has been a devotee and now leader in gypsy jazz ever since.

Samuel formed Djanghost at the beginning of this year. The group's other guitarist is Nico DiDonna, also self-taught. Nico recently studied under Chicago gypsy jazz leader Alfonso Ponticelli, who told Nico after a couple months of sessions that there was nothing else he could teach him. Jordan Maier, the new group's bassist, joined after extensive audition. Yali Malit, Djanghost's violinist, has been playing professionally in Chicago for over 40 years and is also a statistics professor at University of Chicago.

Djanghost recorded their first demo songs just prior to their performance at The Cliff Dwellers. They will soon return to the studio with some original gypsy jazz material. Samuel, Nico, and Jordan will all contribute to composition. Djanghost's next show is for the Illiana Jazz Club on November 18. The Cliff Dwellers was fortunate to host these young jazz artists and their newly formed group, Djanghost. Those who enjoyed their July 19 presentation in the Kiva heard swinging, mature music with developed technique. Djanghost performed a wonderful show of this vintage, moving style of jazz.



Shepard wants listeners—whatever their age or exposure to gypsy jazz—to readily connect with and relate to the music. He desires Djanghost to be accessible and enjoyable. Shepard is aware of the undeserved but widely felt intimidation factor for jazz to reach the general audience. “A lot of contemporary jazz can only be understood by competent musicians,” he observes. “Djanghost hopes to be an experience that everyone from the random passerby to well-versed musicians and connoisseurs can enjoy.” Samuel seeks to maintain the popular aspect of 1930s hot jazz, while “incorporating the elegance and virtuosity which the music demands.” Admirable aims, certainly, and The Cliff Dwellers audience enjoyed the results this July, on a beautiful Chicago summer evening at the filled club.

Samuel reports that he and Nico, Jordan and Yali greatly enjoyed performing one of Djanghost's first shows for Live Jazz on the Cliff. He notes that they played their rich rendition of “September Song” because it was his grandfather's favorite. With their traditional devotion to this timeless, exotic form of jazz, Samuel felt that Djanghost “fit right in” at The Cliff Dwellers. He says they also enjoy performing at more modest venues like neighborhood taverns. “We play the same show at either type of place,” Shepard notes. “We feel that what we do should be fun for everyone. To change what we play based on where we are would be insincere to the art.” Samuel Shepard, Nico DiDonna and Djanghost are an exciting new entry on the rich Chicago jazz landscape. The Cliff Dwellers were happy to have them this year and look forward to their



return.

The Eternal Indian - Black Hawk (and Why It's Important to The Cliff Dwellers)

By Margery al Chalabi, CD '85

We Are Alerted

On April 9, 2018, an article, by Ted Gregory¹, in the Chicago Tribune, alerted us to the fact that, "the 48-foot-tall, 270-ton national landmark, designed by renowned sculptor Lorado Taft, has been wrapped in black protective covering since a restoration effort that started five years ago fell apart. Bureaucratic red tape, the failed promised state funding, and a dispute on the restoration team have turned a cultural attraction...into an eerie eyesore."

"Dedicated in 1911, The Eternal Indian...is thought to be the second-largest concrete monolithic statue in the world." Taft, who "...also designed the Fountain of Time on Chicago's South Side, and Alma Mater, a statue at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign...", chose an outer layer made from 20 tons of pink granite chips to give the statue brightness and sheen. The statue, on a high bluff, overlooking the Rock River in Lowden State Park, in Oregon, Illinois, is an Historic Landmark.



"Keeping the Eternal Indian Eternal", Anthony Souffle,
Chicago Tribune, July 20, 2015.

The video version of this Tribune story featured Jan Stilson, Oregon writer and historian², who stated that she was frustrated that a restoration effort, started five years ago, had fallen apart with \$350,000 of promised state money failing to materialize." Privately-raised funds of \$500,000, were used to initiate the restoration effort; but, after three years, only \$40,000 remains.

The Cliff Dwellers React

Based on the above article, a proposal to assist the effort to continue the restoration of the statue was taken to The Cliff Dwellers Board on April 20, 2018. There was good reason to involve The Cliff Dwellers.

The Cliff Dwellers' association with this statue and its sculptor is multi-faceted. Lorado Taft was a charter member of The Cliff Dwellers Club. It is said that he modeled the face of Chief Black Hawk on that of Hamlin Garland, the Pulitzer-winning author and first President of The Cliff Dwellers. Garland was also Taft's brother-in-law and an active advocate of Native American rights. Taft was assisted by John Prasuhn, a young sculptor from the Chicago Art Institute.

¹ "Saving Landmark Eternal Indian statue may hinge on 1 or 2 charitable angels..."

² Jan Stilson, Art and Beauty in the Heartland: The Story of the Eagles Nest Art Colony at Oregon, Illinois.

The Eagles Nest, the artists' colony, nearby in Oregon, was founded by Taft and early artists and members of The Cliff Dwellers, as a Summer refuge from Chicago's heat and stale air. This is where the inspiration to sculpt the Eternal Indian was born. At the time, "Black Hawk served as a living embodiment of the 'noble savage' myth."³

At the meeting of its Board, The Cliff Dwellers agreed that we have a responsibility to aid in the effort to continue (or jump-start) the rehabilitation effort for this landmark statue. We organized the presentation with Jan Stilson, whose knowledge of the statue, the Eagles Nest, and the statue's stalled rehabilitation effort, is considerable.

The Presentation - July 27, 2018

Jan Stilson was invited to make the presentation; to help in organizing the event; and to provide a list of invitees. She asked Eric Schenck, Executive Director of the Illinois Conservation Foundation to assist in the presentation and add to the list of invitees. Joan Pantsios facilitated the reservation announcements and e-blasts; Chef Victor suggested a buffet of native American foods – bison stew, corn and squashes, and wild rice. As the event grew near, the Club's Internet failed, and we had the almost-inevitable concern that we had not connected with enough members and invitees. We redoubled our efforts. By the beginning of the week of the event, we were safely in buffet-serving territory.

Before the presentation guests enjoyed the perfect summer weather on the deck. Then, Jan opened with an introduction describing the importance of Black Hawk, the statue, and its relevance to its site – and to The Cliff Dwellers. Eric Schenck made the formal PowerPoint slide presentation concentrating on the financial basics.



Jan Stilson

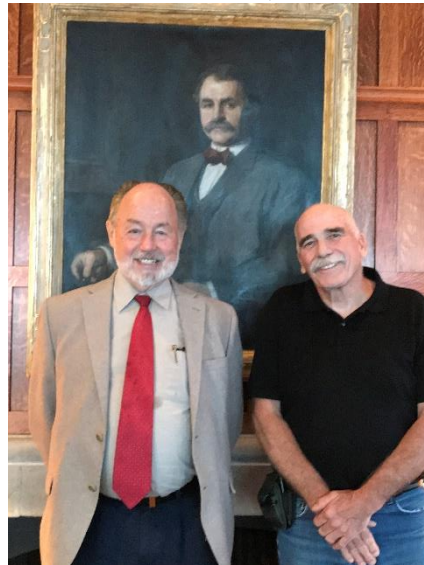
Two impersonators, Ron Colson and John Tuttle, as Taft and Prasuhn, respectively, gave a fact-filled description of the building of the statue during the cold of Winter; hauling gravel and water up the bluff; and filling molds with concrete to assemble the finished sculpture. They were terrific, supplying a great deal of detail amid the laughter! The construction effort is fascinating. See also, the YouTube video⁴, noted below.

³ Kerry Trask, [Black Hawk: The Battles for the Heart of America](#), 2006.

⁴ YouTube.com, 8/16/2013, Illinois Adventure #1803, "Lowden State Park's Indian Statue".



Jan and Eric



Ron and John

The presentation went well; the audience learned a lot; and, Chef Victor earned kudos for a creative and tasty menu. Guests were reminded to consider making a contribution to this important landmark sculpture with donation forms left at the door.

As the guests left, a few of us – presenters, organizers and friends – stayed to watch the full moon rising from the lake. The Blood Moon began as a barely visible, pale disk above the horizon, turning pinker as it rose; and then becoming a silver saucer in the black night. And, we all went home.



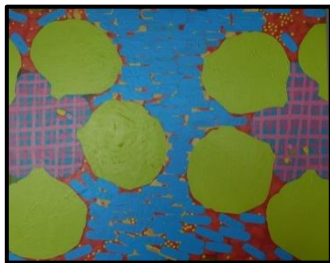
You also can send donations to:
Eric Schenck, Executive Director
Illinois Conservation Foundation, Inc. (ICF)
One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, Illinois 62702
eric.schenck@illinois.gov
or visit ICF at <https://www.ilcf.org/portal/fundraisers?PFR=852>

It's All About Art—Recent Exhibits and a Member's Efforts

Scott Mossman

Though quite different visually, Mossman's decidedly post-minimalist sculpture and maximalist painting (though both quite painterly) share an emphasis on relationships - formal and contextual. In his 3D work, his architecturally-influenced forms, flavored by trips to Asia (China, Japan and Tibet) and Europe as well as a passion for pre-gothic and early modernist forms (Corbusier, Loos, and Wright) comment on the creation and purpose of sculpture and its relationship to architectural forms in a space and other objects (security alarms, hand dryers, heating and cooling units) that inhabit a space.

<https://scottmossman.wixsite.com/scott>



Raúl Ortiz

Ortiz, an artist-in-residence at The Cliff Dwellers in 2005 has exhibited in numerous venues in the greater Chicago area. As a process painter, his goal is to create a poetically contemporary landscape that captures an array of subtle shapes, textures, gestures, light and vibrant color relationships derived from the tradition of abstraction. This exploration is executed by juxtaposing colorful expressive brushstrokes with patches of flat spaces for contemplation, and randomly framing areas by the use of a silhouetted images, e.g. a tree, flora. These images are derived from photocopies of photographs taken on walks, during trips, or around town.

<https://raulortizartist.wixsite.com/raul>

Diane Ponder CD'12

Ponder studied Art History, Anthropology and Linguistics as an undergraduate at the University of Chicago, earning a Visual Arts certificate through the University of Chicago Graham School. Her art encompasses painting in the abstract and figure drawings. Each work is a link of thought and feeling expressed through line and color. Her technique has developed over many years of experience and study of contemporary art and art history. She has shown art in many galleries in New York City and worldwide. She has held performances in many iconic buildings. Her work is in many private collections.



Jack Simmerling: Preserving Chicago's Architectural Legacy

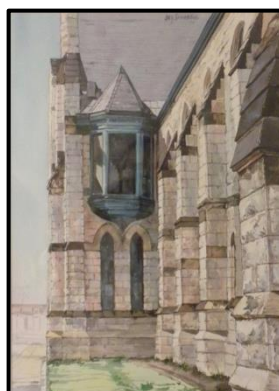
By Andrew Elders CD'17

I'm excited to be bringing a collection of Chicago Architecture-themed artwork to the Cliff Dwellers in October, for display during Open House Chicago. The works were created by the late Chicago artist Jack Simmerling and are now part of the permanent collection of Glessner House. I will be present at the Cliff for two festive occasions to discuss the collection: an Art Opening to be held the evening of October 3, and for the entire Open House Chicago weekend of October 13-14, when the Club will be open both days from 10:00 to 4:00. Please plan to attend!

Jack Simmerling was a graduate of Notre Dame University, where he studied art. Talented in many mediums, his style evolved over the course of his career from early, abstract depictions of building demolitions, to his later works which showed an almost photographic level of detail. He painted buildings long-demolished from memory and photographs, and created works representing Chicago's iconic structures such as Wrigley Field, Navy Pier, and the Chicago skyline. Jack sold his artwork through his Heritage Gallery in Beverly, which is still in operation. The items displayed at the Cliff will represent some of his best and most unique works, and highlight the scope of his technique. Not content to confine himself to artwork, he also co-authored two books on Chicago architecture with Wayne Wolf.

Jack was a preservationist of Chicago history, not only through his artwork, but through architectural salvage as well. He became interested in Chicago's vanishing architectural legacy as a boy, when he visited Marshall Field's mansion with his father. By the time he was 16 years old, he was giving public lectures about the Chicago architectural landscape and the people who built it. Realizing he couldn't halt demolition of so many of these buildings, Jack would often join the demolition crews and request only architectural fragments as payment, resulting in a collection of woodwork, tiles, art glass, and decorative elements from some of Chicago's finest mansions. A part of this collection was shown at The Cliff Dwellers this past January, in conjunction with the program "Rescuing the Artistry of Architecture: The John J. "Jack" Simmerling Collection", presented by Glessner House Executive Director William Tyre and myself.

Realizing the importance of his collection and the narrative of the vanished Prairie Avenue district it told, he bequeathed the parts of his collection of artifacts and artwork related to Prairie Avenue and the Glessners to Glessner House upon his death. Glessner House, located at 1800 S. Prairie Avenue, is one of the few remaining examples of the opulence of 19th Century Prairie Avenue. Built for industrialist John J. Glessner (an original Cliff Dweller – he donated our beautiful fireplace!) in 1887 by famed architect Henry Hobson Richardson, Glessner House is the only remaining work by Richardson in Chicago. The house and its collection has been open to the public since 1971 and has been named one of the top 20 architectural attractions in Illinois by the *Chicago Tribune*, and one of the best house museums in the United States by *Curbed*. The house is open for tours Wednesday through Sunday weekly and hosts a wide variety of programming for all ages, which can be found online at www.glessnerhouse.org. Glessner House keeps many Simmerling pieces on permanent display and is planning an eventual, larger permanent gallery to display the entire collection.



Andrew Elders has been an enthusiastic Cliff Dweller since 2017. After a 15-year career in corporate finance, he came to Chicago in 2016 to enter the Master of Science in Historic Preservation program at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He came to know the Simmerling Collection through his internship at Glessner House in the summer of 2017, whereupon the collection and the museum quickly and cheerfully dominated his thoughts for months.

Music and Stories about Chicago's Record Row 1950-1970

By Edward Torrez CD'17

Edward is an Architect and president at Bauer Latoza Studio, Chicago. He is also a musician having toured and performed in numerous venues throughout the region and across the US. Coincidentally, in 1996 his firm restored the site of Chess Records which now serves as home to the Blues Heaven Foundation and is owned by the Dixon family.



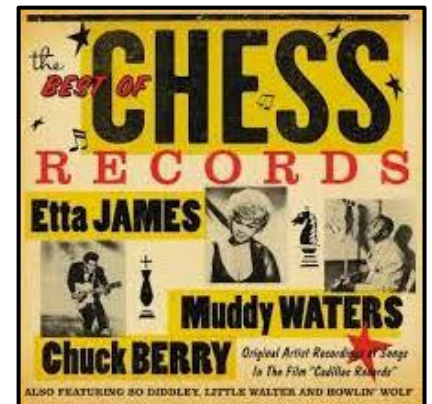
This past spring, a fun night at the Cliff Dwellers was highlighted by stories and select songs regarding the musical legacy of Chicago during the 1950's and 1960's. Edward presented how Chicago served as a major influence in the development of rock and roll, R&B, and soul music.

Moving from South Cottage Grove, Chicago's Record Row was re-established to South Michigan Avenue where more than 20 record distributors were located and up to half a dozen independent recording companies such as Chess Recording Studio, One-derful Records!, United Distribution, and Vee-Jay Records helped spread the popularity of urban electrified blues, rhythm and blues, and soul music to national and international audiences.

Ed explained how Chicago Record Row became the production, distribution, and marketing center for a new sound and style of music. He played some of the early tracks from artists such as the Spandials who were discovered in a record store by Vivian Carter and James Bracken, the founders of Vee Jay Records; Jerry Butler, who recorded one of the earliest songs credited as the first soul song; and Little Walter and Chuck Berry who provided Chess Records with numerous blues and rock & roll hits.

During his presentation Ed also discussed other early independent recording studios and record distributors and shared stories about how they influenced the music industry and in some ways provided an avenue for Black professionals to emerge within the music industry in a segregated society. One notable studio, which is now a museum, included Chess Records Studio which created a unique sound of recording called the "Chess Sound." Recording artist such as Muddy Waters and Jimmy Rogers and the great Etta James, Willie Dixon and The Rolling Stones all recorded music at Chess Records. Edward included soundtracks of some of these great artists.

Working with the City and other agencies, Edward hopes one day that Chicago Record Row can become a true heritage district honoring the legacy of Chicago's contributions in American music.



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 email mjdeines@yahoo.com
 Share Current, Past, and Future Stories about The Cliff Dwellers.

Our next issue of *On and Off the Cliff* will arrive in mid-November.

Cliff Notes—

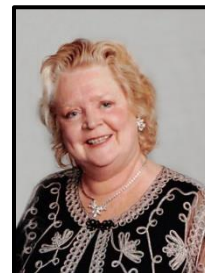
- Since our last publication 8 individuals interested in the arts have become new members of The Cliff Dwellers.

**Curtis Smith, Terrence Deneen, Philippe Tapon, Todd F. Hoadley,
Sandra Biedron, Bryan Cressey, Mark Kelly, and Richard H. Driehaus.**

We welcome them all and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.
ZIVIO! To Cliff Dwellers who sponsored resident and trial members during the first months of 2018.

- **September 27, 6:00 p.m. Architecture Series.** Robert Benson of CannonDesign presents “An architecture of Civility: Creating Hope in a New Society.”
- **Saturday, September 29, 11:00 a.m. The Cliff Dwellers Book Club.** Reading *The Lazarus Project* by Aleksandr Hemon. Rich Reeder facilitates discussion. *The Lazarus Project* is a fictionalized account of the 1908 shooting death of an Eastern European Jewish immigrant at the home of Chicago's chief of police. Discussion continues over lunch.
- **Wednesday, October 3: Art Opening, 5:00 - 8:00: Architectural models, and the Jack Simmerling Collection.** In conjunction with Open House Chicago, this Art Opening will feature items from the Jack Simmerling Collection of architectural artifacts and drawings from Glessner House, with descriptions by Andrew Elders, CD '17. The Cliff Dwellers annual exhibition of architectural models will also open on October 3. Prominent Chicago architectural firms, including those of several members, will be represented.
- **Tagore: Poems, Songs and an Indian Dinner on October 10.** Rabindranath Tagore was one of India's foremost thinkers and influencers of social thought in the 20th Century. He was a polymath, a poet, musician and artist. Tagore has been called the Shakespeare of India. His prose and poetry represent an amalgam of ancient and modern Indian thought and wisdom. Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913, the first non-European to win. Tagore's artwork was recently exhibited at the Art Institute of Chicago. This program will be presented by Abir Clark CD'16 and Sudeshna Khan, who are Bengali. They will seek to shed light on Tagore's philosophy of life, which is intricately woven throughout his literary works, music, poetry, and paintings.
- **Open House Chicago: Saturday and Sunday, October 13 and 14 (10 a.m. - 4 p.m.). - Be a Volunteer!** The Cliff Dwellers is once again opening its doors for *Open House Chicago*, the Chicago Architecture Center's annual extravaganza of open architectural gems in Chicago. This is our annual opportunity to show our Club to those interested in architecture in Chicago. We will showcase items from the Jack Simmerling Collection of architectural artifacts and drawings from Glessner House, with descriptions by Andrew Elders, CD '17. Docents from the Chicago Architecture Center will be available to describe the history of the Club. This effort is being coordinated by Leslie Recht, CD '03. We are asking for Club members to volunteer on these two days to welcome visitors to the Club, answer questions and encourage them to join the Club. Please contact Vivian at reservations@cliff-chicago.org with the time and day that you are able to volunteer to help. (A buffet lunch and cash bar will be available on Saturday, cash bar only on Sunday).

- **Thursday, October 18 at 6:00 pm, The Cliff Dwellers Club** will be hosting author **Donald G. Evans** and illustrator Hannah Jennings for the launch of Evans' short story collection, *An Off-White Christmas*. Don will read a story excerpt, and Hannah will show slides of some of her artwork. Books will be available for sale, and Don and Hannah will be happy to sign. Go to this website for more details about the collection: <https://donaldgevens.com>
- **Save the Date: Tuesday, October 23, The Cliff Dwellers will celebrate the Hunter's Moon** with a Native American themed wild game dinner and entertainment.
- **Thursday, October 25: Live Jazz on the Cliff** showcasing the Chris White Piano Trio--with Chris on piano, Mark Sonksen on bass, and Terry Bartolotta, guitar.
- **Saturday, October 27 (11:00 a.m.): The Cliff Dwellers Book Club.** Reading *The Logic of a Rose* by Billy Lombardo. Rich Reeder facilitates discussion.
- **Wednesday, October 31: Halloween Party**
- At the request of several Cliff Dwellers who are seeking safe refuge as they wander the world, we are reprinting **The Cliff Dwellers Reciprocal Club List** which appeared in an issue of *On and Off the Cliff* earlier this year. Print the list. Save it. Enjoy visiting our fine friends scattered about this good planet.
- **Noting a friend in Passing: Abigail K. Spreyer, 72, of Chicago**, was born on October 14, 1945 in Hollister, CA to the late Frank and the late Wilma Spreyer and passed away on August 7, 2018 due to complications following hip replacement surgery. Abigail was the sister of Frank "Chip" (Mary Alice Mandarich) Spreyer and Mark (Susan Allman) Spreyer; proud aunt of Jacob Spreyer. Early in 2003, she stepped off the cliff into retirement at the age of 57. And, in her retirement, became an avid member of The Cliff Dwellers Book Club. Abby did take over a firm that was founded in 1972 at the time of her father's retirement and had a 100% equity position with Doolittle, Livwell & Sitmor. (Read it aloud). Abby was born to be an aunt. Following the development and exploits of her nephew Jacob (on whom the sun rises and sets) gave her a lot of pleasure. Abigail traveled a bit, but not a lot. She spent much of her time serving as executor/trustee of the estates of various relatives in the generation before us. Going to the theater, caring for her cats, watching basketball games, playing bridge, reading, and dining with friends were her main pastimes. A Celebration of Abby's Life was held on Friday, September 7, at the Cliff Dwellers Club.



President's Note:

Each month, on designated Saturdays, The Cliff Dwellers Book Club meets in the Sullivan Room at 11:00 a.m. to participate in lively discussions facilitated by Richard Reeder, and generally, the discussion continues over lunch. All of the books are by Chicago authors or concern Chicago. Some are classics by authors like Dreiser. About half of the books are by living authors, and on occasion, Richard even arranges for the author to join the meeting.

We are highly grateful to Richard Reeder CD'13, for developing and producing this outstanding Club activity. Yes, Richard, your service to The Cliff Dwellers is greatly appreciated!

*Zivio,
Eve Moran*



The Cliff Dwellers Reciprocal Club List

If you want to visit a Reciprocal Club contact Don or Vivian and they will write a letter of introduction or contact the other Club directly to make sure the door is “open.” Have fun with this new opportunity and let’s continue adding to our growing list of Reciprocal Clubs. Those marked with an **X** are new clubs, recently added.

X ALTA CLUB 100 East South Temple Salt Lake City, Utah 84111 801-322-1081 Fax: 801-322-1083 http://www.altaclub.org	THE ANVIL CLUB 309 Meier Street Dundee, Illinois 60118 847-426-7710 Fax: 847-426-3386 www.theanvilclub.com	ARTS AND LETTERS CLUB 14 Elm Street Toronto, Ontario M5G 1G7, Canada 416-597-0223 Fax: 416-597-9544 www.artsandlettersclub.ca
CACTUS CLUB 1621 Blake Street Denver, Colorado 80202 303-623-4009	CITY UNIVERSITY CLUB 50 Cornhill London EC3V 3PD, England 020-76-26-85-71 Fax: 020-76-26-85-72 www.cityuniversityclub.co.uk	COFFEE HOUSE 20 West 44th Street New York, New York 10036 212-391-5609 http://www.coffeehouseclub.org
COSMOS CLUB 2121 Massachusetts Avenue Washington, DC 20008 202-387-7783 Fax: 202-234-6817 www.cosmosclub.org	X THE CUMBERLAND CLUB 116 High Street Portland, Maine 04101 207-773-6402 http://cumberlandclub.org	DUNHAM WOODS RIDING CLUB 33 W. 333 Army Trail Road Wayne, Illinois 60184 630-584-0045 www.dwrclub.com
FRANKLIN INN CLUB 205 South Carmac Street Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107 215-732-0334 http://www.franklininnclub.org	LANSDOWNE CLUB 9 Fitzmaurice Place London W1X 6JD, England 011-44-207-629-7200 http://www.lansdowneclub.com	X MARINES’ MEMORIAL CLUB AND HOTEL 609 Sutter Street San Francisco, California 94102 415-673-6672 Fax: 415-441-3649 http://hotel.marineclub.org
MELBOURNE SAVAGE CLUB 12 Bank Place Melbourne 3000, Australia 011-61-03-9670-0644 Fax: 011-61-03-9600-1176 www.melbournesavageclub.com	THE NATIONAL ARTS CLUB 15 Gramercy Park South New York, New York 10003 212-475-3424 Fax: 212-475-3692 www.thenationalartsclub.org	ONTARIO CLUB 30 Wellington Street P.O. Box 7, Commerce Court South Toronto, Ontario M5L 1A1, Canada 416-862-1270 Fax: 416-363-9717 www.ontarioclub.com
THE PLAYERS 16 Gramercy Park South New York, New York 10003 212-475-6116 Fax: 212-473-2701 www.theplayersnyc.org	QUADRANGLE CLUB 11155 East 57th Street Chicago, Illinois 60637 773-493-8601 http://quadclub.uchicago.edu	QUEEN CITY CLUB 331 East Fourth Street Cincinnati, Ohio 45202 513-621-2708 Fax: 513-621-0802 www.queencityclub.com
ST. BOTOLPH CLUB 199 Commonwealth Avenue Boston, Massachusetts 02116 617-536-7570 Fax: 617-267-0925 www.saintbotolphclub.org	SALMAGUNDI CLUB 47 Fifth Avenue New York, New York 10003 212-255-7740 Fax: 212-229-0172 www.salmagundi.org	SANGAMO CLUB 227 E. Adams Street Springfield, IL 62701 217-544-1793 Fax: 217-544-1795 www.sangamoclub.net
THE SAVAGE CLUB (located in the National Liberal Club) 1 Whitehall Place London SW1 2HD, England 011-44-171-930-8118 Fax: 011-44-171-839-4768 www.savageclub.com	X SCOTTISH ARTS CLUB 24 Rutland Square Edinburg EH1 2BW Scotland +44(0)1312298157 http://www.scottishartsclub.co.uk/	X SQUADRON A ASSOCIATION 3 West 51st Street New York, New York 10019 212-245-7468 http://www.squadrona.org
UNIVERSITY CLUB OF PALO ALTO 3277 Miranda Avenue Palo Alto, California 94304 415-493-3972 Fax: 415-493-0479 www.ucpalalto.com	THE UNIVERSITY CLUB OF WASHINGTON DC X1135 16th Street, NW Washington, DC 20036 202-862-8800 https://www.universityclubdc.com	VALLEY LO SPORTS CLUB 2200 Tanglewood Drive Glenview, Illinois 60025 847-729-5550 Fax: 847-729-0216 www.valleylo.com

Compiled by Alan Alongi CD’12