

## **They Came, They Saw--We Conquered**

**2019 Open House Chicago at The Cliff Dwellers**

*By Richard Eastline CD'73 Emeritus*

As the saying goes when describing a phenomenal event---You had to be there. That was never more true than being at the Club over the Open House Chicago weekend on October 19 and 20. It was this year's version of one of the most popular free events this city offers. Produced by the Chicago Architecture Center (formerly the Chicago Architecture Foundation), the look-see annual festival began in 2011 and now encompasses around 40 neighborhoods that are home to nearly 350 sites. These include churches large and small, "hidden" museums, hotels, office buildings (some seemingly jammed with architects' offices), theaters, and residential towers.

Naturally, there are returning participating sites for the benefit of new spectators as well as seasoned gawkers who come year after year as an annual pilgrimage to favored locations. You will always find long lines waiting to enter the Rookery or the Driehaus Museum at any time during the seven-hour viewing period each day. And among those star attractions happens to be The Cliff Dwellers. Visitors have numbered into the thousands every year, an almost-impossible volume of camera-laden creatures to fit comfortably into the available space. It is at least a bit surprising that the load-bearing limits of our terrace deck can accommodate these body-to-body packed groups—all vying to get a spot along the east railing to photograph that ever-spectacular view that we inherited with the clubhouse. The head count for visitors during the two-day event surpassed 5,000, a Top-5 number among OHC sites. More than once the check-in table in the lobby called, no doubt imploring for a faster turn-around because the wait line kept getting longer at four-abreast.

As you might well conclude, with the bar being open for business, the alcoholic consumption reached record volume (fortunately, the supply withstood the test). If medals were to be given for service beyond the call of duty, bartender Michelle would head the list. But, credit also the squad of member-volunteers who were there to talk about the Club, answer questions, and not so subtly preach the values of a Cliff Dweller membership. This arrangement did away with the customary policy of having Open House docents on hand reading basic information from a printed sheet of statistics. It was not unusual for visitors to be drawn to areas where a member was speaking—with a level of enthusiasm you wouldn't encounter otherwise—about amenities such as the book club sessions (with author present), the film club (with Roger Ebert's notes), jazz ensembles from Columbia College, and talks on architecture by active personnel, all of which support our attachment to the arts. And, that's in addition to the Arts Foundation and Artists-in-Residence programs.

Our guests did listen and express amazement at the vitality of the Club and always expressed recognition of the pleasant informality and friendly engagement of new and veteran members. The procedure did pay off. There were many there who took interest in the 90-day trial membership offer and at least one who paid the fee immediately so as to be an instant Cliff Dweller. All in all, what would appear to be a scene of congenial pandemonium to a typical outsider was, in fact, multiple gatherings of delighted visitors (and potential members). It was a tiring experience for Cliff Dwellers, but it deserves to be credited as a success in creating more awareness of the Club itself and the positive feelings about the character of its membership. Truly, a Zivio moment.

Continued on p.2

**A Few Cliff Dweller Volunteers  
Volunteer Comments about 2019 OHC**

**Edward Torrez--**

Good morning everyone!

I would like to thank everyone who volunteered to make the Club's Open House a success! It would not have happened without all of you and your commitment to the day's success. You really made us shine and I hope we receive a number of new member requests, be it 3-month trials or full memberships pledges. As suggested by Leslie, let's harness our experiences and stories of the day and share them with others by way of a newsletter or perhaps a special issue that tells the stories of the day.

I worked the Saturday afternoon shift on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor where we had nearly 3000 visitors come through between 12:00pm-3:15 pm. I was amazed how many people had not been inside our space when I would ask the crowd waiting in line. I hope some of them decided to join our Club after experiencing it and talking with some of you upstairs.

Recap on the 2019 attendance for the weekend:

**Saturday: 2,942 + Sunday: 2,127 = 5,069** (2018 attendance: 4,304)

Thanks again!

**Pat Savage--**

Happy to help!

**Diane Chandler-Marshall**

It was fun! Congratulations to all on our success!

**Janette Tepas--**

Hi, all,

It was great! I just thought you might like to hear this: As a regular Exhibit Host at the Chicago Architecture Center, the Center sent us lots of different emails about volunteering. It seems that The Cliff Dwellers is in the *TOP 5* of locations that guests want to visit during the Open House. *We are that hidden gem.*

**Abir Clark--**

Enjoyed it! I think we had a great turnout....hope those turn into membership dollars!

**Isabel Lara Fischbein--**

It was a real gas, thanks to everyone who organized and volunteered for OHC

For anyone who might have been as intrigued as I was on the previously lost history of the Squirrel Boy statue, I did some research on Sunday night and found him - he is a triplet. :-) The sculptor is Leonard Crunelle, a charter member of the Club and former pupil of Lorado Taft. Attached a few references for now as I research more details about the Club's copy.

**Eve Moran--**

Abir Clark, Janette Tepas, Diane Chandler-Marshall, Andrew Elders, Bill Drennan, Carla Funk, Charlie Hasbrouck, David Mann, Don Santelli, Edward Torrez, Elizabeth Buckley-Geer, George Gabauer, Joan Pantsios, Leslie Recht, Rick Lightburn, Mike Deines, Paul Kaufman, Patrick Savage, Robert Deem, Rosina Neginsky, Stan Cielec, Vivian Gutierrez, Yolanda Deen

**Thanks, to you all--! You are fabulous!**



Photos by Abir Clark

## Looking Ahead to a Vibrant Future (with your help)



### September 17, 2019

#### A Party to Celebrate the Future of The Cliff Dwellers!

2019 is the 110th anniversary of the official naming of the Club as The Cliff Dwellers. And so a full house of members gathered to celebrate our Club's history, its heroes, and the loving bond we all share.

High energy and good fellowship filled the Kiva. The buzz of interesting conversation grew as member greeted member with cocktails in hand.

Beautiful flowers, kindly donated by George Manning CD'13, graced each of the dining tables. Individual letters of congratulations to the Club from the Honorable J.B. Pritzker and the Honorable Lori Lightfoot were prominently displayed. (Thank you, Tim Walser CD'16 for inspiring these exceptional gifts).

Our own piano man, Ed Torrez CD'17 thrilled us with his musical selections adding yet another level of gaiety. Hidden away in a closet was a special cake because we wanted to surprise Chef Victor on his 15th anniversary of service to the Club.

There were also words of welcome and reflection.

## Love the Club!

### *Remarks by Eve Moran CD'10 President of The Cliff Dwellers at the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Fund Event*

Welcome everyone to this very special evening. It is a time where we celebrate our Club's history, its heroes, and the loving bond we share with each other.

My dear Fellow Cliff Dwellers--We are, jointly, the "caretakers" of a great legacy.

In its founding days, the Club was shaped by Hamlin Garland, Lorado Taft, Howard Van Doren Shaw, Charles L. Hutchinson, I.K. Pond, Ralph Clarkson, and others who represented the artistic and culture leadership of Chicago.

At the January 1909 meeting in the Kiva, and in a city much different than today, author and University of Chicago professor Robert Herrick profoundly stated that:

The opening of this club has very real significance for the community of Chicago. It means that those of us who are engaged in the practice of the arts, who are interested in the expression of our national life in something other than material accomplishments and mere efficiency, are to have a home.

The Club's building committee had Daniel Burnham create the facade and Howard Shaw design the interior at the Club's old Orchestra Hall space. And, in 1910, Charles Hutchinson presented the Cliff Dwellers with an exquisite silver punch bowl, created by member Robert Jarvie. We celebrate the beauty of this great and enduring Club treasure each time we enter The Cliff Dwellers.

The Cliff Dwellers did become a "home" for artists, writers, and architects including Jens Jenson, Frank Lloyd Wright, Ralph Fletcher Seymour and Carl Sandburg.

But, I submit, the "very soul and spirit" of The Cliff Dwellers showed itself in the care given to Louis Sullivan. In the early 1920's, this great architect fell upon hard times. Sick and frail, he was living in a small room in a seedy hotel when the Club came to his rescue. Projects were found to keep his talent alive and a group of architects surreptitiously paid his bills. Sullivan spent his evenings writing his memoirs at a desk at the Club. This desk remains today another of the Club's great treasures. It serves as a both a reminder, and an inspiration, of our goodness and kind values.

The Club survived through the Great Depression and other hardships with its mission intact. There were afternoon teas, musical performances, and Harvest Home dinners. There was no issue with bringing an African-American friend to the Club. While woman were invited to most afternoon and evening events, the barrier to actual membership was unanimously lifted in 1984. And, in 1988, the fabulous Gertrude Kerbis became Club president.

When the Club lost its decades-long retreat atop Orchestra Hall 23 years ago, it found a new home in our current space. Roger Ebert, Andrew Patner, and Bob Guinan were among the artists and writers who brought great wit, energy and gaiety to The Cliff Dwellers. We still mourn their loss.

### *Old History gives way to Recent History*

Know that, having a physical home, a place to gather, is an important thing for The Cliff Dwellers. The loss of our long-time perch at Orchestra Hall, in 1996, was a devastating event. But, yet another crisis struck in 2013, when we were put in imminent danger of making yet another move out from this precious space.

This was a time of both heartache and financial worry. Where would we go and how would we carry over our historic treasures?

Well, two exceptional members had been busy preparing for just such a crisis. Yes, we must stop for a minute here in order to give high praise to Doug Schroeder and Ed Gordan.

For more than 10 years, they spearheaded the Club's Millennium Fund, a reserve that would provide The Cliff Dwellers with the funds necessary to *either* manage a move or to renovate the Club's space. After many nail-biting twists and turns, the Building management finally gave us a new lease. And so, Doug and Ed's fund-raising effort, provided important funding for the Club's renovation. Theirs was a labor of love.

Doug and Ed are Club heroes. But so are each of the many Cliff Dwellers members who contributed money to the Millennium Fund. So too, are the many members who sit with us today and have given both time, and a variety of purchased gifts, to further our enjoyment of the Club. We celebrate them all!

Know, too, that they follow a long tradition of giving to our Club home. Indeed, Henry Regenery's history of the Club, *The Cliff Dwellers* tells us that:

In the early years...

Charles Hutchinson included The Cliff Dwellers in his will for \$5,000 plus.

(This was in addition to the silver Jarvie bowl, butter, flowers and fish that he'd provided for years).

A gift of \$5000 from Mrs. Wentworth G. Field was recorded in the 1926 minutes.

George Porter gifted the Club with a new grand piano.

A bequest of \$5,000 to the Club from Horace S. Oakley, was recorded in the 1931 minutes.

These are among the gifts from "member heroes" who helped the Club survive the Great Depression.

As Regenery points out: **"These various gifts reflect not only loyalty to the Club, but also recognition of what it stood for."**

So here we are today, taking lessons from the past and thinking of the future.

What each of these devoted Club members teaches us is that we must prepare for unforeseen events. We must hold dear our legacy. We must value the intense joy that comes from entering our Club home and being welcomed by our fellow members. We must appreciate the arts programming that the Club offers and nurture the young artists that come into our fold. At bottom, we must celebrate the Club in all its glory--because today, as in the past, it truly matters.

Our Club received a letter from Governor J.B. Pritzler congratulating The Cliff Dwellers on the 110th anniversary of its naming. (Thank you Tim Walser, Chair of the Young Member's Committee for making this happen!). I note that this letter contains two deeply meaningful sentences, to wit:

1. "Your longevity is truly a testament to the relationships you have developed through the years." (I submit that nothing could be truer. It is, and has always been the people that make our Club so great!).
2. "This is an excellent opportunity to reflect on all you have accomplished during the past 110 years and to make plans for the future that build upon that success." (Here, I submit, the key words *are to make plans for the future*. We must always be forward thinking!).

Now, our Club additionally received a letter from City of Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot warmly welcoming all of us who gather here today in celebration of The Cliff Dwellers. Her letter takes note of some of our historic members, our innovative programs, and the support we give young artists through our artist-in-residence program. Mayor Lightfoot observes that today's anniversary event provides us with the opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of The Cliff Dwellers over the past 110 years, celebrate the love of the arts, and look ahead to a vibrant future.

Here again, I seize upon the words, "looking ahead to a vibrant future." Yes indeed, a vibrant future full of growth, innovation, and security is precisely what we want for our dear Club!

Our 22<sup>nd</sup> floor perch is much more than a mere club, this is our home!

A home with majestic views, a venue for stimulating art and cultural programs, and a place for deeply rich conversation. A home full of ideas, interesting stories and traditions, with many more yet to come. And, a home of comfort. Yes, indeed, we've never had anything as silly as a dress code!

As with any other home, however, our Club needs loving care and attention from each of us, and in our own way. So, as we celebrate our past, as we engage in the rich offerings of the present, we must also stand together and prepare for the future.

My term as your President ends in January. But, my love for The Cliff Dwellers, my admiration for its mission, my delight in engaging with fellow members and learning new things, has no such expiration date.

I will continue to nurture "our dear home." Yes, it is yours, and it is mine.

So I raise this toast: **May The Cliff Dwellers grow and prosper for the next 110 years! Zivio!**

## The Cliff Dwellers 21<sup>st</sup> Century Reserve Fund Needs Our Support

The Cliff Dwellers is a place for artists and patrons of the arts to come together and share common interests, through collegial interaction and lively conversation during meals, Arts Programs, and Cultural Events. The Club has played a significant role in Chicago's rich and diverse cultural history. In fact, The Cliff Dwellers is one of only a few such clubs that still exist in Chicago. We have survived the past two decades in large part due to the foresight and stewardship of the members who established and supported the Club's Millennium Fund and Renovation Fund, both of which allowed the Club to continue operating during difficult times and made the renovation of the Club's current space possible. Without those funds, the Club simply would not exist as it does today.

The Cliff Dwellers faces new challenges today and will no doubt continue to do so in the future. The Officers and Board of Directors are committed to improving service, enhancing programs, increasing membership, and operating the Club in an efficient manner; however, the past has proven that the Club also needs a separate reserve fund, not for day-to-day operations, but rather for the special circumstances that inevitably arise.

Members who care about and believe in the Club have started preparing and planning for the future now. The Cliff Dwellers Board has established the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Reserve Fund with the goal of raising \$250,000 in cash, pledges, and planned gifts over the next several years as a reserve for the Club. Key to that goal is to have all active members contribute to the extent that they can so that we continue to build on this reserve over time and ensure The Cliff Dwellers' continued presence in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. To date, pledges to the Fund during the next five years total \$60,000 and donations in hand total \$15,000. Bequests are estimated to be in excess of \$70,000. The Fund will be used at the Board's discretion, but only for purposes that relate directly to the continued existence and quality of the Club.

Contributions can be made in various ways, as a lump sum, a monthly charge on your invoice, or through estate planning. Pledge forms are available in the Club or online in the Members section of the Club's website. The Officers, the Board, and your fellow Cliff Dwellers need your support and appreciate your generosity. Zivio!

## Artist Talk: Photography at The Cliff Dwellers

By Steve Geer CD'17

Photographer Juan Fernandez gave an inspired and inspiring talk at The Cliff Dwellers on the afternoon of Saturday, September 21. The talk was arranged and promoted as part of the annual *Filter Photo Festival* which takes place in Chicago over four days in September. The festival is a big deal for the local photography community, bringing photographers from across the country to Chicago for portfolio reviews, workshops, and artist talks.

Juan's talk at The Cliff Dwellers, titled "Façade," detailed much of his artistic process and complemented his current exhibit on the Kiva walls. Our members along with the other attendees (including the Filter Photo Festival organizers) were delighted with the depth of Juan's presentation. We saw his artworks with new eyes.

Our collaboration with the Filter festival organizers has yielded other notable successes in recent months. For example, during February and March, the photographs of Barbara Karant showed us the interior of the former headquarters of the Johnson Publishing Company, creators of the iconic *Ebony* and *Jet* magazines. I also had the pleasure of bringing a group of local photographers to the Club to meet Barbara and discuss her work, and so, a few more photographers were introduced to the Club. Notably, too, our collaboration with the Filter organization ultimately resulted in the inclusion of one of two photographers in the recent class of new Artists-in-Residence: Jessica Sladek. We look forward to seeing Jessica's work on our Club's walls in the future.



From the series "Façade"  
© Juan Fernandez

## Chicago Literary Hall of Fame 2019 Induction Ceremony

Thursday, Oct. 24, 2019

By: *Don Evans, Founding Executive Director CLHOF & CD AIR'11*

Just before Michelle arrived to refresh the bar, Dee Brennan and her husband Keith lounged on the leather chairs, dozing. Dishes clacked faintly from the other end of the room. Alondra Medrano, stationed at the front check-in counter, glanced at the tidy papers before her. The elevator dinged.

The portrait of the bow-tied Hamlin Garland appeared ready to preside over a quiet late fall evening, with the skyline already darkening against the rough greenish-brown lake.

Don Santelli popped over from the kitchen, cupping a cigarette and eyeing the balcony door. “We’re ready,” he said.

Soon, Chicago Literary Hall of Fame President Randy Albers, closing remarks tucked in his blue suit jacket, arrived with his wife Annie. Then CLHOF board member Mary Livoni made her entrance. Cliff Dwellers President Eve Moran followed. Soon, Kayla Gonzalez bubbled past the piano, and one after another Rivera relation and friend joined her at the family table. Pemon Rami, dapper as always with his crooked hat, motioned to Masequa Myers, who’d just flowed into the room. Beth and Rebecca Charlton, fresh off flights from Hawaii and California, took advantage of the club’s splendid views to take in the panorama of a city in which their father led a poetic revolution but which they had never before seen.

The room went from serene to abuzz, just like that, and when you turned your head there was Chicago Public Library’s Director of Cultural and Civic Engagement Craig Davis talking to Poetry Center Executive Director Beth Sampson. Renowned preservationist architect and CD History Chair Walker Johnson, along with wife Carolyn, glad handing their way through familiar territory. Authors Rachel Swearingen and Eileen Favorite holding court on their bar stools. Photographer Don Seeley and videographer Rana Segal assessing the light. Laughter. Stories being swapped.

The celebratory mood spilled into and through another Cliff Dwellers buffet-style dinner definitely worth the hit on your diet—just a couple scoops of those mashed potatoes, maybe a thin slice of the carved roast beef to go with the chicken, maybe half an apple pie and half a cheese cake—that’s just one dessert, right? No bread, though: okay maybe just one roll.

Then, more guests, like Guild Literary Complex President Andrea Change, joined the party as Eve regaled the audience with an elegant introduction that led into a chain of dramatic readings and funny stories, scholarly overviews and appraisals, and just plain smart, heart-filled tributes.

This was the ceremony to honor Chicago Literary Hall of Fame’s ninth induction class: Frank Marshall Davis, Sam Greenlee, and Salima Rivera. These are not easily recognizable names like early inductees Gwendolyn Brooks, Saul Bellow, Lorraine Hansberry, Carl Sandberg, Richard Wright, Studs Terkel, Ernest Hemingway, Harriet Monroe, or Richard Wright. But like all the inductees who came before, these three writers made enormous impact on Chicago’s cultural life, literature, and civic identity.

The speakers lit up the dais with eloquence, intelligence, and passion; cumulatively, they left no doubt as to the worthiness of the inductees as generational talents and profound literary contributors. Essentially, the program divided into three segments, and for each segment there was an overview, a performance or two, and then an acceptance speech. There was astute scholarship offered from the likes of Kenneth Warren, the Fairfax M. Cone Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago and an inductee to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Personal stories drawn out of long friendships from the likes of Pemon, whose

legendary work as an actor, director, and producer has earned him, among many accolades, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the African American Arts Alliance. Dramatic readings from superb actors and performance artists like Timothy David Rey, Masequa, Marta Collazo, Lillian Aguiano, and Johanny Vásquez Paz, rendering works like Davis’s “Chicago’s Congo” in such a way as to leave guests dazzled. Insight into the way the honored authors’ work reverberated throughout and empowered whole communities, from the likes of Eduardo Arocho, a leading teacher and poet who walked along a path to success blazed by an inductee. Then there were the family members, like Beth and Rebecca, and Kayla and Jaime Rivera, painting for us the most intimate portraits.

Even when it was all over, it wasn’t all over. A few guests headed for the coat room or elevator, but most lingered—there was Margery al Chalabi drawing a crowd with her story of befriending Sam Greenlee in Athens, and there was Daniel Huerta promising to keep in touch with new and old friends, and there was June Sawyers and Barry Benson and Amy Danzer and Pete Anderson recalling their favorite moments, and there was a group photo being posed against the backdrop of the chilled Art Institute, Bean, and Ferris Wheel.

It was one of those nights.

As the elevator dropped 22 floors to the cold ground level, the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame’s inductee list had swelled to 48 authors, The Cliff Dwellers had, once again, shown its heartbeat as an important arts institution, and the collective crowd had a renewed sense of what a treasure it can be to participate in our city’s life.

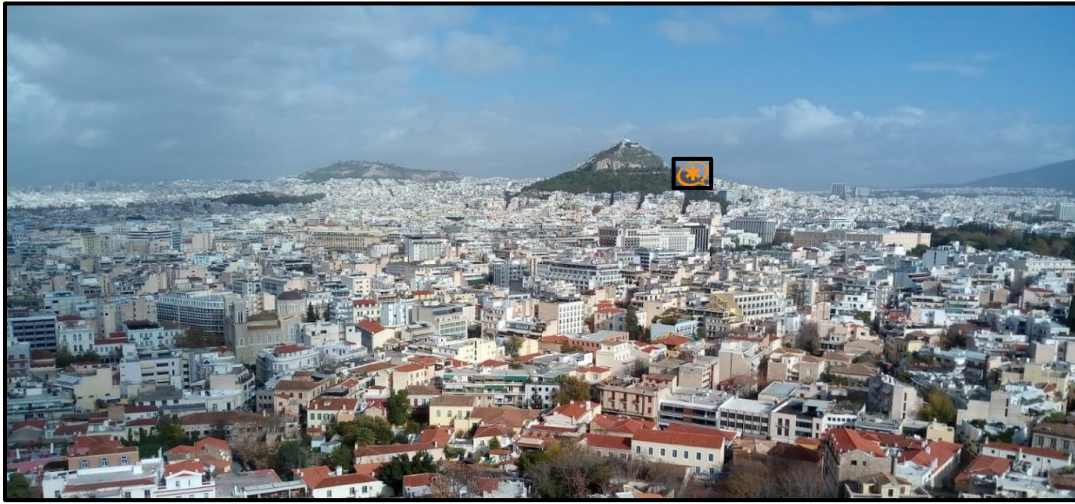


Don Evans and Eve Moran mingle with friends and family members of new Chicago Literary Hall of Fame inductees.

## An Anecdote from Athens

*By Margery al Chalabi CD '85*

As many Cliff Dwellers know, my husband, Suhail al Chalabi, and I met in Athens, Greece in the Autumn of 1962. By Spring of 1963, we had moved into a typical Greek house at the highest building level, midway up Mount Lycavittos. It was a typical house; but, it had a glorious view--down, over the Acropolis, and to the Saronic Gulf. It was--by virtue of being unserved by new streets and water mains --low-cost and affordable to the international student body, consultants, and artists--and minutes from the posh neighborhood of Kolonaki and the center of the city. But, the last three blocks, up Ploutarchou, were stairs, and the last half block to our house were stepstones into the rock of the mountain.

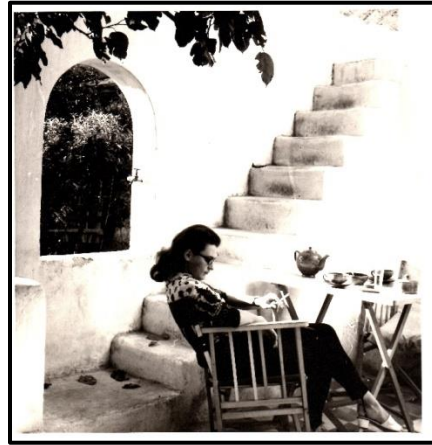
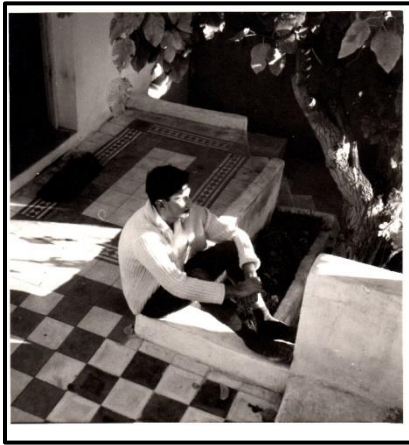


Athens was, at the time, at the crossroads of East and West. It had a reputation, among the student/consultant group we mixed with, as a center of spies. So, when we met our new neighbor, a mysterious African-American writer, we speculated that he, too, could be a spy. Artists, after all, lined their living spaces with artwork; Sam Greenlee had only a typewriter, as proof of his calling. Furthermore, he drank and offered us real Kentucky bourbon--which was very rare and expensive and available, primarily, to embassy and military staff.

We developed a casual relationship, meeting at one another's residences, and enjoying easy conversation. Suhail



was from Baghdad and his large family was in both government and business. Sam was interested in discussing the home that Suhail had left, abruptly, to return to MIT after a summer visit and to celebrate his birthday, on July 14, 1958, the day of the Revolution from which Saddam Hussein eventually took power. Later, we learned, that Sam had been there, in Baghdad, at the same time.

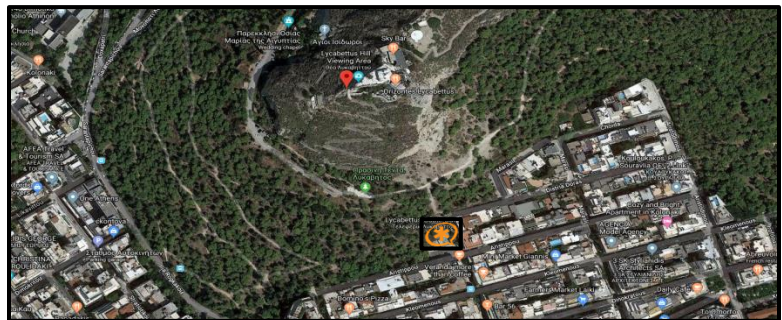


But an earlier revelation came when we decided – when our studies were concluded and our theses accepted – that we would marry before leaving Greece. There was a major problem – Greece had no civil weddings. And, while I could claim to be Protestant; Suhail was still a Pagan to the various local priests, both Greek and foreign. We were offered a civil ceremony at the Iraqi Embassy. We decided to visit the American Embassy to discuss our options. We were cautioned that the Greek government would not look kindly on our accepting the Iraqi Embassy’s offer; but, to seek another solution. As we returned home, we ran into Sam, who congratulated us on our planned wedding. Speculation confirmed!



**Note:** I designed and hand-stitched the coat from fabric used for drapes in our house –

Our marriage problem was solved when one of our professors told us of an agreement between the Turkish and Greek governments, following the Greco-Turkish war and the Treaty of Lausanne, that permitted Moslem weddings on the island of Rhodes. It was easier for me to become a Moslem than for Suhail to become a Christian, even though his high school in Baghdad was a Jesuit institution. And, so we left Greece, having married, in the Spring of 1965. I understand that Sam left Athens, too, to continue writing – principally, “The Spook Who Sat by the Door” – in Mykonos. The hilltop houses – ours, our landlords’, and Sam’s – were demolished to make way for a cable car so that many could enjoy our spectacular view.



After a search for jobs – that took us to Washington, D.C., Pittsburgh, and Detroit – we ended up in Chicago. Urban Planning was the purview of governments – Federal, State, local – and no one wanted to hire someone with a Green Card. Suhail went to work at SOM – where many architects start – and I started at HUD.

The late 1960's was a period marked by civil unrest. Chicago was on fire after the assassination of Martin Luther King, in April 1968. That August there were political protests against the Vietnam War at the Democratic Convention. I don't know whether we saw Sam, in person or on TV, during the latter riots; but, it prompted Suhail (who was then working for the regional agency NIPC) to seek him out. And, we did have a meeting or two. Much later, in the late 70's or early 80's, Suhail would visit Sam to see if he could get a copy of the film that was made of Sam's book, *The Spook Who Sat by the Door*. Sam told him that both the book and the film had been embargoed – and had disappeared from distributors, bookstores, and theaters. He said it was, however, used as a teaching tool at the FBI Academy in Quantico.

Shortly after that, we lost touch. Although our meetings had been brief and far between, they left an indelible impression--one that soon may find a larger audience. On September 24, 2019, it was announced that Fox 21, will be developing a series for FX, based on Sam's novel and film.

## ***One-Sixth of a Second and the Poetry of Motion***

Photographs by Steve Geer CD'17

By: *Eve Moran (CD'10)*

Cliff Dweller Steve Geer is a most interesting fellow. His youthful passions--photography and science--have remarkably remained with Steve into his adult life. Today, Steve is both a noted physicist and an imaginative photographer.

Steve's artwork is, in a word, exciting. The photographs recently on exhibit at the Club offered us glimpses of people and motion on the streets of Chicago. These energetic black and white artworks are at once timeless and seriously of the moment. Notably, photographs from this series have been published in various photography books and magazines.



Regarding his very moving exhibit Steve stated:

When we walk some parts of us move more rapidly than other parts. One leg, for example, will be stationary while the other is in full swing. Motion-blur renders human movement in graceful arcs and soft brush strokes. In ancient times, the Roman poet Horace famously said: "A picture is a poem without words."



In that sense, motion-blur renders the poetry of motion. Some photographs in *One-Sixth of a Second* are single shots. Others are combinations of two or more exposures. These highly structured compositions encourage viewers to invent a story and, by inventing a story, create a meaning.

Photographer and filmmaker Elliott Erwitt once said of photography: "I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them."





## ***The Cliff Dwellers and Chicago Literary History***

*By Richard Reeder CD'13*

Liesl Olson (second from the right in the photo), the director of Chicago studies at the Newberry Library, joined us at The Cliff Dwellers Book Club on October 26, for the discussion of her book *Chicago Renaissance: Literature and Art in the Midwest Metropolis*. As the discussion ensued in the Sullivan Room, we were reminded by Ms. Olson of the significance of The Cliff Dwellers in the context of Chicago's rich literary history.

In fact, her book concludes with the great literary gathering held at The Cliff Dwellers on March 1, 1914, sponsored by the guarantors of Harriet Monroe's *Poetry Magazine*. Among the literati in attendance was the Irish poet, William Butler Yeats, who spoke and encouraged Chicago poets "to strive to become very simple, very humble." Illinois poet Vachel Lindsay performed his dramatic, and controversial, poem "Congo" that evening. He recalled this event at The Cliff Dwellers "the literary transformation scene of my life."

Harriet Monroe also experienced the power of that evening. She wrote in her autobiography that the evening was "one of my great days..... which comes to us as atonement for long periods of drab disappointment or dark despair." Among the other literary notables at The Cliff Dwellers that evening were Henry Blake Fuller, Carl Sandburg, and Maxwell Bodenheim.

The Cliff Dwellers remains literary active as we continue to host events and presentations of The Chicago Literary Club, Society of Midland Authors, and the Chicago Literary Hall of Fame, as well as having an occasional literary salon of our own.

Since 2014, The Cliff Dwellers has had a book club that reads and discusses Chicago-themed classics as well as the works of contemporary Chicago writers such as Ms. Olson. In all, twenty-six writers have been our guests at the book club, which meets at The Cliff Dwellers usually on the fourth Saturday of the month at 11:00 am. The discussion ends about noon and is often continued over lunch at the Club. Although the core of the club consists of Cliff Dwellers members, we encourage all to attend who are interested in the book and/or the author. The 2020 reading list will be coming out soon.

## Authors Stuart Dybek and Dominic Pacyga Engage in Lively Conversation at The Cliff Dwellers

By Leslie Recht CD'03



Stuart Dybek



Sandra Colbert



Dominic Pacyga

On October 8, The Society of Midland Authors hosted a wonderful event focusing on Polonia in Chicago. It featured Stuart Dybek, CD'08, an honorary Cliff member, and Dominic Pacyga, both esteemed Chicago authors who have concentrated their work on ethnic neighborhoods in Chicago, especially in Polish areas. The Club was filled. We enjoyed appetizers of pizza and pierogis, and enjoyed a conversation moderated by Sandra Colbert, author of several books including *Chicago Bound*. Society of Midland Authors has encouraged authors in the Midwest since 1915, and has been meeting at The Cliff Dwellers for many years, holding their annual awards dinner at the Cliff every June. This event was one in a series of stimulating Society programs with Midwest authors sharing their own materials.

Dominic noted that sometimes, a book topic just presents itself and the subject picks the writer. His intention was to write something about the history of Chicago Polonia, the Polish diaspora, and his most recent book, *American Warsaw: The Rise, Fall and Rebirth of Polish Chicago* is part of that effort. Dominic has been writing about Polonia for the last 40 years. Stuart agreed that writing about Polonia was not a conscious choice. Stuart has written extensively about Chicago, including *The Coast of Chicago*, *I Sailed with Magellan*, and *Childhood and Other Neighborhoods*. Stuart said that “It just kind of happened. It was the world I grew up with. And...I had the huge privilege of watching it change...I watched one virgin-worshipping culture be replaced by another virgin-worshipping culture.” These writers were both commenting on how they approached their cultural roots and how their heritage was a basis of their inspiration and writing. This program was an opportunity to hear great Chicago writers engage, discuss how they came to their work, and fascinate the audience.

Midland Authors had CAN tv record this wonderful program, so if you would like to see it at <https://youtube/PLNn8gwMHE>.

## A Screening of the Documentary *Concrete Dreams*

Review By: Eve Moran (CD'10)



All eyes on the screen!

Thank You, Nick Nummerdor (*Artist in Residence CD'19-20*), for a fun and entertaining October evening! We enjoyed your talk, and the screening of your documentary, *Concrete Dreams*, had us riveted to our seats.

The film was insightful, inspiring and sprinkled with great comic moments. While it ostensibly showed us the construction of a skatepark, the human element was profound. Indeed, the passion and resolve of Paulina Jimenez, in getting the skatepark built, showed her to be a perfect hero for your story. We cheered her efforts. And, we applaud your gifted work. Zivio!

## A CD Reciprocal Report



### London Clubbing

*By Philippe Tapon CD'18*

After checking into our room we took a walk around the neighborhood, strolling around Whitehall and snapping pictures of the London Eye, a red-lighted circle in the dark and cloudy sky. Passing by Whitehall Plaza, I recognized a building from a Wikipedia photograph: it was the National Liberal Club, with that distinctive corner tower.

The Cliff Dwellers don't have a reciprocal relationship with that club, but inside, contained within it, like an organism inside of another organism, is the Savage Club, with which we do have reciprocal rights. The door was swarming with dinner jackets and evening gowns, but my partner Gary was undeterred, and we went past the door and asked if indeed the Savages were in place.

The doorman, Louis, said indeed they were, but could we visit tomorrow, as today was busy?

And so we did return, the next day, wearing blazers, with ties in our pockets, in case the dress code demanded it; we again explained our situation and were led downstairs, past a cordon saying Members Only, and I rang a buzzer.

I was greeted by another fellow in black tie, to whom I explained my situation, and he acknowledged straight away that The Cliff Dwellers do have a reciprocal relationship, and we were from Chicago, were we?

We were.

Did I have my club card?

I did. Paper thingie, nicely decorated, and valid.

We were led to a room filled with portraits, and two others were holding the bar.

The all-male club (sharing that distinction with White's and only a few others), allows women to visit on Tuesdays, and we were hoping their club would welcome a gay couple. Oh, did they.

I learned the club specialty was a White Lady, which had a very sweet and understated appearance but was quite strong; I put away more drink than I have in a long time, with excellent companions, the Brother Savages; we closed out the place at 11:30.

Thanks to Don I'd made previous arrangements with the Lansdowne, and there things were more formal.



**Philippe Tapon and Gary Tinnin in London**

### **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO *ON AND OFF THE CLIFF* CAN SUBMIT STORIES, REFLECTIONS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS, ARTIFACTS, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS TO NEWSLETTER EDITOR MIKE DEINES by email [mjdeines@yahoo.com](mailto:mjdeines@yahoo.com)  
Share Stories and Photos--Current, Past, and Future-- about The Cliff Dwellers.

## Architectural Lecture Series at The Cliff Dwellers

Lee Bey presents

### **Southern Exposure: the Overlooked Architecture of Chicago's South Side**

Thursday, November 14, 2019

The Cliff Dwellers and the Chicago Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians, in co-sponsorship with the Friends of Downtown and the Chicago Chapter of the AIA, are pleased to present another in their series of architectural events on Thursday November 14, 2019: Lee Bey presents, “Southern Exposure: the Overlooked Architecture of Chicago’s South Side.”

*Southern Exposure: The Overlooked Architecture of Chicago’s South Side* is the first book devoted to the South Side’s rich and unfairly ignored architectural heritage. With lively, insightful text and gallery-quality color photographs by noted Chicago architecture expert Lee Bey, *Southern Exposure* documents the remarkable and largely unsung architecture of the South Side. The book features an array of landmarks—from a Space Age dry cleaner to a nineteenth-century lagoon that meanders down the middle of a working-class neighborhood street—that are largely absent from arts discourse, in no small part because they sit in a predominantly African American and Latino section of town that’s better known as a place of disinvestment, abandonment, and violence.

Inspired by Bey’s 2017 Chicago Architecture Biennial exhibition, *Southern Exposure* visits sixty sites, including lesser-known but important work by luminaries such as Jeanne Gang, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Eero Saarinen, as well as buildings by pioneering black architects such as Walter T. Bailey, John Moutoussamy, and Roger Margerum. Pushing against the popular narrative that depicts Chicago’s South Side as an architectural wasteland, Bey shows beautiful and intact buildings and neighborhoods that reflect the value—and potential—of the area. *Southern Exposure* offers much to delight architecture aficionados and writers, native Chicagoans and guests to the city alike.

Lee Bey is an Architectural Critic, Photographer, and Writer. His work documents and interprets built environments and the political, social, and racial forces that shape spaces and places.



### **Lunch with Author Suzanne Hinman**

Monday, October 28, 2019

By: Eve Moran CD'10

Suzanne Hinman was visiting Chicago to give a talk at the CAC on October 30. But, she had heard about The Cliff Dwellers and expressed interest in visiting the Club.

So, on October 28, we quickly gathered to have lunch with the author of *The Grandest Madison Square Garden: Art, Scandal, and Architecture in Gilded Age New York*. While Suzanne’s book tells the story of Stanford White’s fabulous 1890-1891 Garden, a large section is devoted to the creation and impact of Augustus Saint-Gaudens’ nude Diana that crowned America’s tallest tower. Suzanne reveals that, after the second, smaller Diana was cast in 1892, the 1891 version was shipped off to crown McKim, Mead & White’s Hall of Agriculture at the Chicago World’s Columbian Exposition. The Hall bore architectural similarities with the Garden, Charles McKim was intimately involved in the design of the fair’s Court of Honor, and Saint-Gaudens served as the fair’s sculptural advisor. And so, a full chapter in her book is devoted to the story of “The White City” and their involvement in its creation. Further, a chapter in the book’s final section deals with the enduring mystery of the first Diana’s fate in Chicago and perhaps survival, amidst the destruction that followed the end of the Fair.

Lunch with our interesting author was a splendid affair. Margery al-Chalabi CD’85, Bill Bowe CD’97, Andrew Elders CD’17, Charlie Hasbrouck CD’09, Deidre McCloskey CD’02, John Notz CD’97, and I engaged with Suzanne in deep conversation about artistic interests we commonly shared. Isabel Fischbein, famed muralist Marcos Raya, and my





guest Susan Ohde, added their voices to the lively discussion. Ed Gordon CD'00 stopped by the table for an even more personal chat with Suzanne. Also joining the talk were Jan Silverstein and Suzanne's sister, Judith Golden, an artist that splits her time between New Hampshire and California.

Suzanne lives in New Hampshire. She holds a PhD in American art history and has been a curator, gallerist, museum director, and professor. Suzanne served as the director of galleries at the Savannah College of Art and Design and was the associate director of the Hood Museum of Art at Dartmouth.

Upon her return home, Suzanne sent this note:

Just wanted to say thank you again for the invitation to "Lunch with the Author"! So enjoyed meeting you, chatting with members, seeing the clubhouse (and the view), lunch, etc.!

If only I lived in Chicago--My sister and I absolutely fell in love with the city!

*The Cliff Dwellers sends thanks to you, Suzanne Hinman, for enriching our literary life!*

### The Cliff Dwellers End-of-Year Calendar of Events

- ❖ **Wednesday, November 27 - Club closes after lunch for Thanksgiving and will re-open for lunch on Saturday, November 30.**
- ❖ **Saturday, November 30 - Members Trim the Tree and Decorate the Club for the Holidays.** All elves are welcome—and stick around for lunch at the Members' Table.
- ❖ **Friday, December 13 - Holiday Lunch.** Chef Victor will be serving a Fabulous Cliff Dweller Luncheon Buffet. This is an opportunity to have lunch and share holiday cheer with fellow Club members.
- ❖ **Saturday, December 14 - Children's Party.** The Annual Children's Holiday Party features holiday entertainment and food that children of all ages will enjoy.
- ❖ **Tuesday, December 17 - It's a Wonderful Life.** You know the story. You loved the movie. Re-visit Bedford Falls with friends on top of the Cliff. Listen for Clarence's Bells.
- ❖ **Thursday, December 19 - A Dickens Dinner.** No Humbug here. Chef Victor is preparing a Holiday fare beyond compare! Indulge yourself with festive cheer and comraderie.
- ❖ **Club Closed for the Holidays: December 21 at 2PM; Re-opens Monday, January 6, 2019 for lunch.**
- ❖ **A reminder looking forward—The Annual Meeting will be held on January 6.** For Long-standing members and those who are quite new to the Club, this is an evening of positive traditions and an affirmation of our support for the Arts in Chicago. Brief, but high-spirited reports will be offered by our officers and committee chairs. We'll toast the Past! And, we'll toast the Future! The food will be splendid; the friendship, fine! **Truly, this is a must attend event!**

In Closing**December: A Time to Thank Our Staff***By Eve Moran CD'10*

Perhaps the most wonderful thing at the Club is that all of our staff, regardless of position, are willing to pitch in and lend a hand for the greater good. In short, we have a truly dedicated team. They are our Cliff Dwellers family.

Here, at The Cliff Dwellers, we enjoy fabulous food and drink, exciting programs, art exhibits and a wide variety of member events. And, we are grateful to have a caring staff that works hard each day to make sure the Club is a warm and inviting place for all of our gatherings.

The Club's annual *Holiday Fund* is the means by which we collectively show appreciation for the good and solid work of all our staff. These fine people--those who serve in the dining room, but also those who work behind the scenes in the kitchen and in our office, provide excellent service and help in maintaining the Club throughout the year.

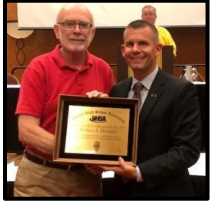
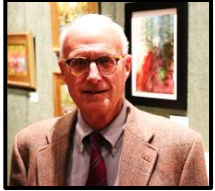
**As we all continue our Cliff Dweller holiday traditions, please be generous with your Holiday Fund contributions. They deserve our thanks and the knowledge that we appreciate each and all of them.**

**Cliff Notes—**

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

**Mat Lingel, David Quinn, Donald Renfrew  
Chris Barbauld, Lynn D. Hodges,  
Nicholas Poplawski, Tori Simms, and Jack Zimbell**

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

- Congratulations to Bill Drennan CD'02 for his service to the world beyond the Kiva. While we know him as our Club Secretary and a truly good friend to all, Bill, since his retirement from teaching English and coaching track and cross country for over 30 years, has spent some of his spare time becoming one of the finest and most respected track officials in Illinois. This past July the Illinois High School Association honored Bill as their 2019 Boys Track Official of the Year. Zivio, Bill. 
- George Kimball (Kim) Sargent III passed away on June 6, 2019. Upon completing college, he enlisted in the [US Navy](#) and later attended Officer Candidate School. While deployed to Vietnam, in 1970 LTJG Sargent distinguished himself valorously earning the [Bronze Star Medal](#) with "V" Device. Upon separating from active duty in 1972, Kim continued to serve his country as an officer with the United States Navy Reserve. Within the private sector, Kim led the technical coatings division at Benjamin Moore in Pittsburgh and later built a successful practice as a Senior Financial Adviser with Prudential Bache in Chicago. In retirement, Kim continued to serve his community on multiple levels, most recently on the Board of Directors for the Porchlight Music Theatre in Chicago. Kim joined The Cliff Dwellers in 2015 and served on the Board of Directors. Kim left a lasting legacy of service and commitment to all those who knew him. A private family service was held this past summer. 
- Oscar Anderson, CD'15, was a graphic designer for many years in Chicago, including acting as the brand manager for LaSalle Bank. Oscar died on October 30, 2019, of lung disease. Oscar was a proud alum of the University of Chicago, majoring in Near Eastern languages and civilizations, and did graduate studies at IIT in design and visual communications. Oscar used his graphics skills on behalf of The Cliff Dwellers, creating by hand an electronic version of our Dancing Monkey logo. Oscar was a great supporter of Cliff Dwellers and he will be missed.

*Enjoy the Holidays!*