

ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

Volume 42, Number 4

July-September 2020

President's Update: **MANY THANKS!**

We're almost six months into the pandemic and we are learning how to cope. The Cliff Dwellers re-opened on July 8th and is now, finally, open for lunch and dinner Tuesday through Friday; reservations are required for staff planning. We are dealing with a variety of challenges and have members and staff to thank for helping get the Club through these times.



Many thanks to:

- The almost 150 members who took the time to fill out The Cliff Dwellers and COVID-19 Member Survey to help us move forward. See the summary of results below.
- The Program Committee, other members and staff who initiated and participated in our virtual programs that we've been enjoying over the past few months and will continue to offer- a Club first!
- The Art Committee and Michael Young for his wonderful sculpture exhibit, currently on display at the Club. We weren't able to have our traditional art opening due to pandemic restrictions, but please stop in to view them.
- The Chicago Literary Club for hosting its Summer Reunion Lunch at the Club in August with appropriate social distancing and staff for making sure that "Everything was perfect!" according to the organizer. The Literary Club plans to continue having its dinners and programs as usual at The Cliff Dwellers beginning in October.
- Those members and guests who have been able to return to the Club to dine and enjoy the terrace. As one member noted, "Our site on the 22nd floor has to be one of the safest spots in Chicago to enjoy a meal with friends and other members."
- Those members who have donated to our staff fund and also to the 21st Century Fund to help support staff and the Club. The 21st Century Fund initiative was begun before there was a pandemic, but will be essential to helping the Club successfully weather this current situation.
- To all our members who continue to support the Club through their dues, even though they aren't able to return as yet for a variety of reasons. We hope you will participate virtually for now.

Zivio and many many thanks!

Carla

Programming the Pandemic

By Joan Pantsios CD'14 Club Program Chair

On March 16, 2020, the weekly eBlast was sent out to the members of The Cliff Dwellers. It described a varied and interesting group of events scheduled for the remainder of the month, including our monthly Book and Film Clubs, cabaret and jazz performances, and an evening with Chicago mystery writers.

One week later, before any of these took place, our eBlast announced “The Cliff Dwellers Closed Through April 7th,” and, as a result, the cancellation of the events.

As we all know, the hope that we would re-open in April was wildly optimistic. The Club closed entirely into July, and, as of this writing (late September), although we can come to the Club for dining and drinks, we still are not having in-person events, nor do we know when that will be possible. And yet, Cliff Dwellers love coming to programs. We are a curious bunch; learning, discussion, music and all the arts, are among our favorite things. Our art openings, Jazz at the Cliff, the architectural lecture series, and author events always draw a crowd.

So what’s a poor Program Chair to do? I started gathering links to streaming programming from cultural institutions such as the Metropolitan Opera and the Chicago Symphony, films available on line, virtual museum tours, and the like, and included those in the eBlast. Immediately, though, my fellow Cliff Dwellers really stepped up. **Bill Bowe** had videos of one of his presentations and also of **Wilbert Hasbrouck’s** memorial service, and he got those up on YouTube for us. **Eve Moran** started **The Cliff Dwellers Cook & Bake** feature, gathering recipes from our members that we put in the eBlast.

And then came Zoom! In May, the Book Club, moderated by **Richard Reeder**, went virtual, and in June, when we discussed Carol Anshaw’s novel, *Right After the Weather*, the author was able to join us. Also in June, **Ed Gordon** presented his program, *The Monuments Men*, about efforts to recover art stolen by the Germans during World War II and retribute it to the rightful owners. Since then, Ed has given us a program every month, and we are recording them. We had a meeting of the new Theater Club, organized by **Rosina Neginsky**, and we hope that this will become a regular event in the future. **Stephanie Schrodt** put together a program for the centenary of Women’s Suffrage, featuring Mark Dvorak from the Old Town School of Folk Music, and our own **Eve Moran**. Programs planned for September include an author event with former Artist-in-Residence **Kathleen Rooney**, and a program for Hispanic Heritage Month organized by **Isabel Fischbein**.

I cannot say “Thank you!” enough to the resourceful and generous members who are sharing their interests, time, and expertise to ensure that, if we cannot be physically together at events, we can, nevertheless, continue to enjoy virtually the kinds of programs that have always been a hallmark of The Cliff Dwellers.

Zivio to All who are staying in touch!

Songs of Hope and Struggle: A Celebration of Women's Right to Vote

August 19, 2020 (Zoom Program)

By Eve Moran CD'10 & Stephanie Schrodt CD'18

Unable to stage this event Live at The Cliff Dwellers, we gathered on Zoom. And, to our delight, the program drew an audience from across the country. We welcomed attendees from Florida, Indiana, Maryland, New Mexico, Ohio, and Texas to reflect on the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment. It was a memorable evening of story, music, and poetry.

Highlights of Opening Talk by Eve Moran:

In 1848, a “Declaration of Sentiments” was introduced at the Women’s Convention in Seneca Falls, New York. Within its preamble were these words:

All men and women are created equal

Inspiration for this proclamation came from the Haudenosaunee women, who were living as equals in their sovereign nations. It also arose from the work of anti-slavery societies and the ideas of women, such as Maria Stewart, and men, such as Frederick Douglass.

So grew a movement to transform a woman’s place in society and make her equal to men. To gain equality, women needed voting rights. This meant that those in power (men) had to be persuaded to give up some of that power. This was no easy task and women’s battle for the ballot would span over 70 years.



Eve Moran CD
President 2018-19

- The soldiers in the fight were from all parts of the country and diverse in many ways. They were physicians, lawyers, teachers, emancipated slaves, authors, poets, artists, newspaper publishers, editors, playwrights, journalists, factory workers and more. Some were rich and privileged, others poor and struggling. There were married women, single women, gay women, religious women and yes, free-thinkers. Many were accomplished “intellectuals” in a time of few opportunities.
- Putting aside the most familiar names, we celebrate and elevate the many remarkable “hidden figures” that were essential to the story. Path-breaking suffragists Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, Matilda Joslyn Gage, Harriet Jacobs, Zitkala-Sa, Mary Ann Shadd Carey, Anna Julia Cooper, Mary Church Terrell, Ida B. Wells, Dr. Mabel Lee, Sarah Parker Redmond, Maria de Lopez and Sara Estela Ramirez are but a few. Many of these voices were women of color (fighting the dual wrongs of racism and sexism) and often sidelined from a movement that was itself demanding fair and equal treatment. They were not, however, silenced.
- The women’s suffrage movement had wide geographical and cultural breadth. In New Mexico, for example, devoted suffragists, such as Nina Otero-Warren, were critical to the push for the 19th Amendment and made it their mission to have campaign materials printed in Spanish as well as English. In California, Maria de Lopez travelled the state speaking about women’s voting rights in both Spanish and English. (Notably, when the US entered World War I, she set off to NYC and became an ambulance driver). In nearby Texas, Jovita Idar helped to form the League of Mexican Women. Writing for Spanish-language newspapers, she advocated for women’s rights

and education and further condemned the awful violence against Mexican-Americans in South Texas.

- At the other end of the country was Dr. Mabel Ping-Hua Lee (1896-1966). Born in China, Lee likely knew that her advocacy for women’s voting rights would not give her the ballot. Yet, at age 16, she was already a known figure in the NY suffrage movement. While studying at Barnard College, she wrote essays stressing that suffrage for women was necessary for a truly successful democracy.
- In between, and coming from the Yankton Indian Reservation in South Dakota was Zitkala-Sa, a writer, musician, and opera composer. She advocated for the preservation of Native American culture and strongly maintained that Indigenous people in America should be US citizens, and as citizens, should have the vote. Another voice from South Dakota was Mary Louise Bottineau Baldwin. A prominent advocate for Native-Americans, she became the first woman of color to graduate from the Washington School of Law. Baldwin ignored the racial segregation that organizers of the large 1913 suffrage parade had proposed, and marched instead alongside white women, within the group of her fellow female lawyers.
- While fighting for the vote, many suffragists were bringing other social wrongs into light. For example: *Ida B. Wells* (1862 -1931) was absolutely fearless in ferreting out and reporting on the true causes of lynchings; *Helen Hamilton Gardner* (1853-1925) took it upon herself to debunk the biased thesis of a notable authority that women’s brains were inherently inferior to men’s brains; *Matilda Joslyn Gage* (1826-1898) documented many previously unacknowledged achievements of women in an 1893 essay protesting the then-common belief that women have no inventive or mechanical genius; *Rose Schneiderman* (1882-1972) worked tirelessly to improve conditions for working women.

While a significant milestone on the path for equality, the 19th Amendment (ratified August 18, 1920) did not secure voting rights for all women. It took further struggles and additional federal laws to set things right for African American women, Native American women, Mexican American women, Asian immigrant women, and others. Even then, however, some states still devised ways to exert unfair control over the ballot. Hence, it is equally important to celebrate the courageous women (and men) who continued the suffrage struggle in the decades after 1920, and those who fight even today, to ensure fairness and voting rights for all.

Indeed, the struggle for a more perfect union--true to the early vision that “all men and all women are equal”--still continues. And to our time, the words of suffragist Frances Ellen Harper (first spoken in 1866) speak loudly, to wit:

“We are all bound up together in one great bundle of humanity.”

Music Performance - Mark Dvorak

There was no better way to tie us together than with song. Mark Dvorak, from the legendary Old Town School of Folk Music, had the requisite gifts for the job.

Named “Chicago’s Official Troubadour,” (by WFMT’s Rich Warren), Mark brought us the timeless songs of Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie. He performed the beloved folk classics, *If I Had a Hammer* and *This Land is Your Land*, and had many of us singing along (from our own homes).



Folk Singer Mark Dvorak

Also included in his set were *Bourgeois Blues*, a song by American folk musician Lead Belly, that recounts some of the pain of discrimination and racism, and *When God Made Me*, where the lyrics by Neil Young raise the question: “Did he give me the gift of compassion to help my fellow man?” Mark closed his show with the title song from his new album, *Let Love Go On*.

Poetry and Song - Kimberly Jones

Soprano Kimberly E. Jones is an alum of the Ryan Opera Center with the prestigious Lyric Opera of Chicago. She has captivated audiences locally, nationally, and internationally. And, we were moved by her performance this night.

Kimberly gave a dramatic reading of the poem “Bread and Roses.” This poem was penned by James Oppenheim and published in 1911. It was set to music in 1917 and recorded, in later years, by musical artists such as Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and John Denver. Over the decades, this poem/song has never lost its appeal.



Soprano Kimberly Jones

As Kimberly moved to the last stanza she raised her powerful voice in song. It was a beautiful tribute to all the women who marched for decades with purpose and passion to create a more fair world.

*Hearts starve as well as bodies;
Give us Bread, but give us Roses.*

- James Oppenheim

Doing Good

This program, a collaboration between The Cliff Dwellers and Potlucks & Music, raised funds for Beyond Hunger. www.gobeyondhunger.org “Thank You” dear members and friends for your generosity.

Cliff Dweller Endowment Fund Grows

By Ed Gordon 21st Century Reserve Fund Co-Chair

Since the 21st Century Reserve Fund’s kick-off dinner in September 2019, this fundraising campaign has received very strong support from our club’s membership. By mid-September 2020 we have received \$200,000 in pledges from 51 members toward our 2019-2020 goal of \$250,000. Thank you for this stellar support!

An important part of this fund is The Cliff Dweller Endowment Program to help guarantee the Club’s long-term survival. It involves adding a bequest in your estate plan for The Cliff. To date our members have included about \$100,000 in bequests to the Club. We hope to build up a significant endowment that will help us in future negotiations on renewing the Club’s lease and other extraordinary expenses as they arise.

Our committee wishes to thank all the members who have pledged or are now considering a contribution and/or bequest in their will. We hope to receive a contribution—whether large or small—from a majority of our members. Pledge forms are available at the Club.

At 113 years, The Cliff Dwellers is a premier participant in the cultural life of Chicago. Through our combined efforts we can continue sponsoring events and exhibitions that make important contributions to Chicago’s vibrant literary and artistic communities.

The Grant Park Advisory Council Gathers Testimony Concerning the Christopher Columbus Statue in Grant Park

By Leslie Recht CD'03

The Grant Park Advisory Council (Council) was organized under Chicago Park District rules to make recommendations concerning Grant Park. Leslie Recht, CD'03, is currently President of the Council. In June 2020, the Council created its Committee on Art, Monuments & Markers to make recommendations to the Council concerning existing or proposed art, monuments or markers in Grant Park. This Committee is chaired by Jim Wales, the Vice President of the Council, and it is composed of individuals with expertise in the arts, history, cultural affairs and also members of the Council. The Committee includes Charles Bethea, Chief Curator of the Chicago History Museum; Julia Bachrach, former archivist and historian of the Chicago Park District; as well as several Cliff Dwellers including preservation architects Walker Johnson CD'84, and Ed Torrez CD'17, and historian Ed Gordon CD'00.



Due to the protests concerning the Christopher Columbus sculpture in Grant Park, the Committee took up the review of this sculpture as its initial concern. In its principles for its review process, the Committee recognizes that any discussion must include an historical analysis, a review of the reasons for the initial installation of the sculpture, and, also, a consideration of current ideas of equity and justice. The Committee's process includes discussions among Committee members and also requires public input through oral and written testimony. The Committee plans to take oral testimony from 6-8pm on September 8 over Zoom, https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlkcurqj0pGNVwOKaWkq6kOWuccOt_QWo-. All oral presentations require registration prior to September 8 at this zoom site. Written comments can be submitted until September 25, 2020, to Jim Wales at vpgpacchicago@gmail.com.

The Committee will review all comments and will make its written recommendation to the Council by early October. There may be a majority and a minority recommendation. The Council will vote on the recommendation of its Committee and will pass along its own recommendation to the Chicago Park District.

This process will allow the public to be heard on an issue of importance. Grant Park is Chicago's public square, a place where symbols are placed that have local and national meaning. The conversation about these symbols and their meaning is being done in a very heated atmosphere. An article in this newsletter by Ed Gordon addresses the purpose of monuments and the need to acknowledge history, both good and bad. I am proud to be facilitating this important conversation and I encourage Cliff Dwellers members to take part.

Rethinking Monuments

By Edward E. Gordon, Ph.D. CD'00

The current wave of vandalism of monuments and the demand for their removal require a thoughtful response. A simple test might include these questions:

1. What was the purpose of this monument?
2. What was it intended to honor?
3. Has that purpose been overshadowed by subsequent history but is non-controversial (such as Robert Fulton, steamboat inventor) or is the purpose still valued (such as Abraham Lincoln's efforts to end slavery in the United States)?

Today much attention in the public arena is being devoted to ending inequities, racism, and prejudices. Monuments are meant to commemorate the historic achievements of individuals who also were imperfect people. They should be honored for these achievements, not denigrated for their failure to rise above what were often the common standards of the time in which they lived. Historical presentism—the imposition of today's values or standards on past personages or events—completely distorts the historical record.

Consider the following historical figures whose monuments have been attacked in this new wave of outrage over exclusionary practices in today's America.

Christopher Columbus lived in the 15th century when slavery was still widely spread across Europe. His voyages of discovery to the Americas changed Europe's world view and began a chain of historical events that eventually led to the formation of the United States.

George Washington was a slaveholder, but he led the colonial forces that won the United States its independence. As the nation's first President, he established crucial precedents for the conduct of the executive branch of the federal government and its relations with the Congress and the judiciary.

Abraham Lincoln had racial prejudices, but he guided the nation through the Civil War and fought for the 13th Amendment that ended slavery. His efforts led to the emancipation of four million formerly enslaved peoples.

Teddy Roosevelt was an Imperialist at a time when many European nations were seeking to acquire colonies in Asia and Africa. But he championed many Progressive reforms including fighting against monopolies and trusts, establishing national parks, and enacting pure food and drug laws. Roosevelt invited Booker T. Washington to dinner with him at the White House—the first time an African-American received this distinction. This was at a time when it was hard for Washington to get a meal at most restaurants.

Our nation is facing a stark choice. Is our public space to be shaped by a tide of outrage? In that case little will survive the assault of those who want to tear down anything that does not meet their version of political correctness. We need to push back against mob action that seeks to obliterate important milestones of our nation's and the world's history. We do not want to find ourselves in a contemporary recreation of George Orwell's *1984*.



Demonstrators surrounded the statue of Christopher Columbus this summer in Chicago's Grant Park.

Another Eureka! Moment with a Mathematician

By Margery al Chalabi CD '85

Three years ago, I invited a colleague from my alma mater, Carnegie Mellon University, to speak to Club members and to expand their interest in the Arts to the Art of Mathematics – the art of thinking in mathematical terms. Here are the photos and a brief introduction to Dr. Po-Shen Loh from that June 2017 encounter.

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

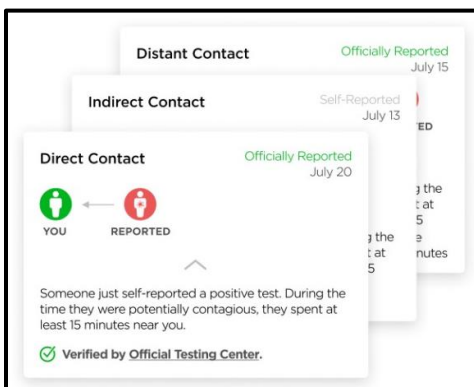


Margery al Chalabi CD'85
with Dr. Po-Shen Loh

In 2007, as its national coach, Po had just led Team USA to back-to-back International Math Olympiad victories, definitively breaking a 20-year winning drought. As coach of CMU's Math Team for the William Lowell Putnam Competition, the premier mathematics competition for undergraduate students in North America, CMU took top place that Spring, extending its top-five streak for the sixth year – not bad for a coach who had arrived at CMU, in 2010, with his PhD from Princeton.

During the three years, since that presentation, Po has been doing much more than winning math competitions. He has joined the many physicists, epidemiologists, and mathematicians in searching for means to counter the devastating pandemic COVID-19. Po explained, "I had an idea of how to help the world return to normalcy. And the Carnegie Mellon and broader Pittsburgh community had everything I needed to start making that idea into reality." Using social media and crowdsourcing, Loh brought together a team, including many CMU students and alumni working in mathematics, human-computer interaction, app development and information security — all areas where CMU excels — to develop NOVID, which can anonymously and reliably trace people's exposure to COVID-19. It works by allowing users to self-report if they have tested positive for the coronavirus, **without requiring or recording any personal information.**

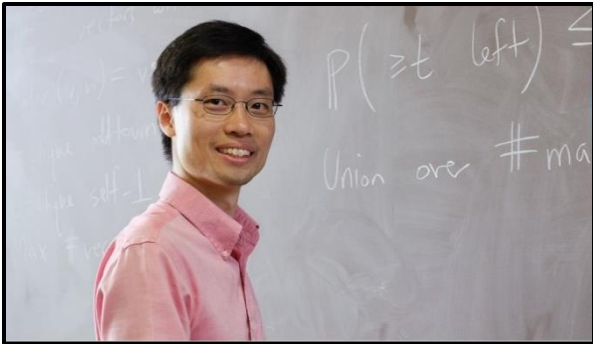
All you need is your smart phone and the free NOVID app. When I installed NOVID on my iPhone, I could see it had 182 Apple iOS users, almost all of whom rated it a 5 for an average of 4.8 out of 5 stars. Android users (131) gave it a 4 out of 5 stars. The app detects when you are close to other NOVID users. If someone reports as positive in the app all



other NOVID users who have been in contact will receive a notification. NOVID uses Bluetooth, augmented with ultrasound, soundwaves with frequencies just outside the range of human hearing, which modern mobile phones can emit and record. The principle is the same as telling how far away a thunderstorm is by counting the seconds between a lightning strike and a thunderclap. Because today's mobile phones have this capability, Loh leveraged this to allow NOVID to measure distances at the ranges most relevant to contact tracing. At these close ranges, ultrasonic signals can also be detected through bags and pockets; and can go around obstacles by reflecting off ceilings without significantly affecting distance measurement.

The app is made for individuals, communities, organizations, institutions, and geographic locations. NOVID enables hospitals and health authorities to anonymously verify self-reported cases of COVID-19 from the applications. Users will receive exposure notifications that specify whether an exposure is verified or self-reported. The app also tells you the length of time spent with or near someone with a self-reported positive test.

Based on this information these authorities may prompt the individual users to self-isolate or get tested even before they may experience symptoms.



Communities can create check-ins and positive cases linked to specific locations using NOVID QR codes, called “GeoTags.” Admins and community members with access to GeoTags can view them in an interactive map interface to see buildings or places with positive cases, and buildings that need to be sanitized.

In all, this app seems to be a significant step in the fight against COVID-19. It appears to solve the distancing and privacy issues presented by other apps. If you want to check it, yourself, go to:

<https://www.novid.org/>

At Last—Black Hawk Restoration Completed!

By Mike Deines CD'03

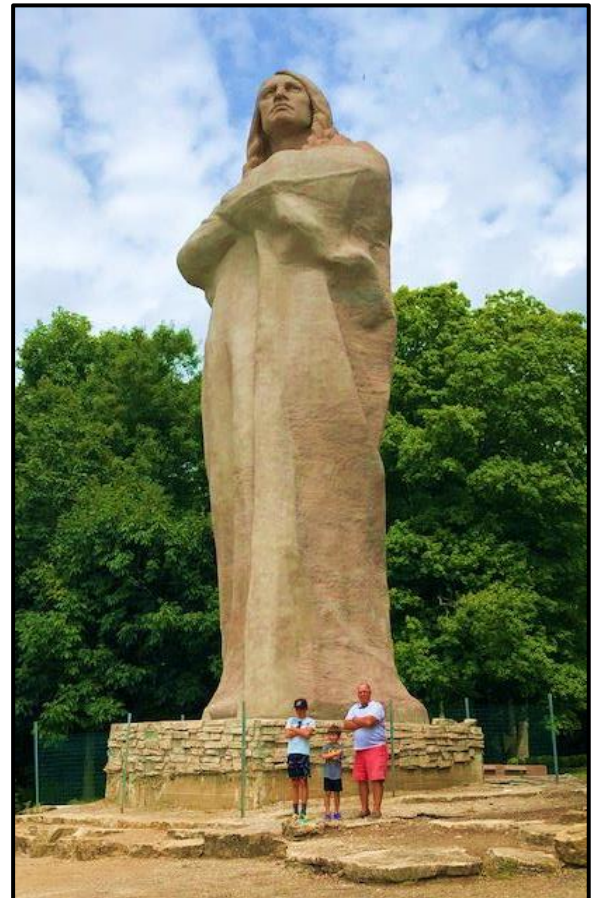
After nearly five years of --“Go. Stop. Okay, go again. No, Stop or Wait” efforts—the patience and planning and persistence of the nonprofit Black Hawk Restoration Team finally paid off. Lorado Taft’s 48 foot tall concrete statue officially known as the *Eternal Indian* again stands tall overlooking the Rock River valley in Lowden State Park near Oregon, Illinois.

The statue had deteriorated quite severely by 2015 when an effort to restore began in earnest. Slabs of its concrete skin loosened from its framework needed to be removed and then repaired. Funds were short for the project and restoration slowed to a halt. For nearly two years the statue was shrouded in a black tarp. Waiting.

Finally, in 2018 a jump-start effort by the Black Hawk Restoration Team raised about \$270,000 in private donations from across Illinois. Then, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources awarded a \$350,000 grant to assure that the project would be completed. For our part, along the way, a number of Cliff Dwellers made contributions to help the restoration of this iconic statue created 110 years ago by Lorado Taft, one of the key founding members of our Club.

What now? You might consider an autumn outing.

If the beauty and colors of fall inspire you: gather a few CDs, take I-90 to Rockford, turn south on I-39, find Rte.2 along the Rock River headed towards Oregon, Illinois, and enjoy spending...



Mike Deines CD'03 with grandsons Kaleb and Jakob recently visited Taft's restored *Eternal Indian* along the Rock River near Oregon, Illinois.

[Lorodo Taft & The Eternal Indian - Black Hawk ... - YouTube](#)

An Article from the Archives

A Day in Lorado Taft Country

By Harry W. Malm CD'69

Initially printed in the July 1991 OOC

(Editor Malm's Note): Donald Amidei CD'84, (was) a member of the Archives Committee. His hobby is photography and he has devoted much time to photographing a collection of past presidents. He also photographs sculptures in the Chicago area, many of which are works of former CD members.

On Tuesday, April 30, 1991 Cliff Dwellers Gerry Heing CD'84, Ernest Slotar CD'86, and Don Amidei, led by Harry Malm, left Chicago at 7:30 a.m. to Lorado Taft's Eagle's Nest in Oregon, Illinois, on the banks of the scenic Rock River.

The trip was inspired by an article in the *University of Chicago Magazine* (February 1991) entitled "A Matter of Time." The article dealt with Lorado Taft's classical sculpture called the *Fountain of Time* which is located at the west end of the Midway in Chicago's Washington Park. The article inspired us to travel to the area known as "Taft Country" in Oregon, Illinois, where Taft founded the group known as the "Eagle's Nest Art Colony."

Trips such as this one were not uncommon in the early days of The Cliff Dwellers, but, unlike this one-day affair, they were summer vacations spent on the old Heckman estate, later to become Lowden State Park, the home of Taft's first monumental sculpture in concrete, called the *American Indian* or *Blackhawk*. This impressive statue was dedicated on July 1, 1911 and many dignitaries and friends of Taft were in attendance.

After a pleasant three hour drive through western Illinois, with short stops at Dixon, Illinois, (Reagan Country), and Tower State Park on the Rock River, we arrived at Oregon, Illinois where we photographed two small concrete sculptures, the counterparts of which may be seen in bronze, flanking Taft's statue *Great Lakes*, on the southwest wall of the Art Institute. Pictures were also taken of Taft's war memorial done in 1916 for the town of Oregon.

We then crossed the river and drove into Lowden State Park to find the colossal Blackhawk statue covered with scaffolding and in the process of being renovated after years of neglect. However, the renovators gave us a "Cooks Tour" of the statue, including its interior, as well as an interesting explanation of their work.

Following the lecture and photo sessions at the statue, we went to the site of the Eagle's Nest Art Colony, founded by Taft around 1900 and comprised of future Cliff Dwellers Lenard Cruenelle, Hamlin Garland, Ralph Clarkson, Charles Francis Browne and Nellie Walker to mention a few. Although he never became a Cliff Dweller, Henry Fuller was often part of this group of writers and artists.

We found remnants of the original tree which held the eagle's nest from which the group's name was derived, overlooking the Rock River as well as Taft's studio which is now part of the Northern Illinois University School of Art.

We came upon the plaster cast of Taft's *The Funeral Procession* in the woods and, in true Cliff Dwellers traditions of pageantry, Heing, Malm, and Slotar reenacted the roles of pallbearers (this slide may be viewed upon request).

After a pleasant two hours at the Eagle's Nest, we had lunch across the river and went on to the town library, where there is housed an impressive collection of art donated to the library by members of the original Eagle's Nest group. A Catalogue of the Gallery can be purchased from the Oregon Library and such a purchase is highly recommended. We had an informative conversation with the librarian regarding the collection, as well as the Eagle's Nest group.

We concluded our pilgrimage to Taft Country and, after conferring upon ourselves the titles of "Haj," we headed home.

An Article from the Archives**A Letter from Cyrus Colter to The Cliff Dwellers**

Initially printed in the May 1989 OOC

(Editor Malm’s Note) Cyrus Colter CD’67 Emeritus, Former member of the Illinois Commerce Commission, and also a well-known writer. The author of several novels and books of short stories, some of his writings are in the Club library.

Dear Mr. Malm:

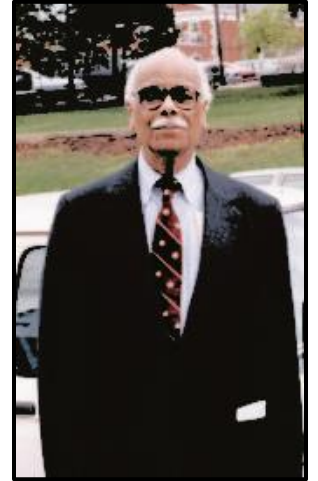
In response to your phone call the other day about my recent books, let me say the following (which is, in large part, “self-puffery). I’ve had two works of fiction (a novel and my collected short stories) published during the past year. The novel is *A Chocolate Soldier* and the stories are entitled *The Amoralists and Other Tales*, both published by Thunder Mouth Press, New York.

As you know, I began writing in my middle fifties. I’ve published six books of fiction—four novels and two books of short stories—and am working on a seventh, another novel.

I’ve been a member of The Cliff Dwellers for many, many years and am now an emeritus member (or whatever it’s called). Years ago I was much influenced to write by the lengthy and stimulating conversations I listened to, and participated in, at the luncheons in the kiva. Although I live just south of the Loop, in the Printer’s Row area, I’m sorry to say I don’t get to the Club as often I’d like, but I write during the day from about nine to three, which keeps me pretty well engaged during the middle of the day. But before my wife of many years died recently, we frequently attended the evening affairs at the Club, especially the Thursday evening dinners before the Chicago Symphony concerts downstairs. I’m a life trustee of the Symphony and was present (in April, 1941) at the concert commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Orchestra. Toscanini conducted. I hope to be present (if I’m still around, I’ll be 81 then) at the 100th anniversary of the Orchestra in 1991. So, you’ll see, I’m an old-timer and The Cliff Dwellers has played a big part in my life, especially, as I say, before I lost my wife. But the Club has a long and distinguished history and I’ve met and know many fine people in the Kiva---It’s all been a great experience, which I cherish.

And let me add a final personal footnote: You and I, fellow Cliff Dwellers, have known each other a long time. I especially remember when you were Chairman of the Library Committee of the Chicago Bar Association and hosted a book luncheon for me when my first book came out in 1970, *The Beach Umbrella*.

All best wishes, to you and the Club.
Ever sincerely, Cyrus Colter



Cyrus Colter

An Article from the Archives**Settling the Issues of the Mounted Beast***By Tom Buck CD'72*

Initially printed in the May 1989 OOC

(Editor Malm's Note:) There has long been considerable speculation within the Club as to the shaggy, dust laden, horned beast that glares down upon us from the north wall of the club dining room. Thanks to the diligent research of Tom Buck CD'72 a former board member, retired Chicago Tribune newsman and lecturer in Journalism at Loyola University, we have come to a definitive history of this animal and its zoological classification. *Bubalu Babalix* or Water Buffalo.

The election of Mayor Richard M. Daley as the son of a father-son set of Chicago mayors has prompted comment by old-timers at The Cliff Dwellers about an earlier mayoral son of a mayor.

The first father-son mayoral set were Carter Henry Harrison I and II, the latter having been a long-time Cliff Dweller and Club president in 1929. His portrait hangs just to the left of the Club's eighth floor entrance.

The Harrisons served as mayors for 20 years and seven months, or about a year less than the record-setting service by the later Mayor Richard J. Daley. The Harrison dynasty in City Hall fell within a span of 36 years, from 1879 to 1915.

A former Club president, architect Paul D. McCurry, recalled that Carter Harrison II enjoyed lunching at the members' table reserved for artists, some of whom were also teachers at the Art Institute.

"Harrison developed a collection of American Art which he left to the Art Institute," said McCurry.

McCurry also recalled that Harrison and his long-time outdoor partner, Oscar Mayer, went off on frequent hunting trips, to the West, Alaska, and many other places.

"Every once in a while The Cliff Dwellers would get a quarter of deer, elk, or some other game meat from this pair of hunters," he said. "But, the meat often would have to be marinated for a long time and even then it might have to be camouflaged as stew."

"There was a day," McCurry recalled, "when the art committee of the Club was taken by surprise by the delivery of a large crate about 4 feet by 4 feet that had been shipped from Africa."

"Inside was a large head of a water buffalo that Harrison had sent back as a gift," McCurry said. "We had it mounted immediately on the north wall so that it was sure to be up when Harrison and Mayer returned."

Next year (1990) it will be half a century that that water buffalo with its kind and gentle expression and sparkling eyes has looked down on Cliff Dwellers and their guests.

Another former club president, Leo Heim, pianist and educator, reported that some members have long been mystified by the water buffalo.

"We have wondered how fast it was going when it hit the wall," said Heim.



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

EDITOR MIKE DEINES by email mjdeines@yahoo.com

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

Cliff Notes—

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

ZIVIO!

- Richard Reeder, the moderator of The Cliff Dwellers book club, is teaching two upcoming Zoom seminars. One is Ben Hecht's *1001 Afternoons in Chicago* which he is presenting for the Newberry Library. The first of three sessions begins on September 23. The second is on Ralph Ellison's novel, *Invisible Man*, which is being sponsored by the Friends of the Glencoe Library. The first of five sessions begins on October 1.
- Daniel Burnham deep-dish pie (apple, blueberry, cherry, and/or peach) ala mode optional is waiting for you at the Club.
- MESSAGES OF HOPE is a collaboration with The Cook County Forest Preserve, Little Red School House Nature Preserve, Enlace, Quetzal Xochitl Aztec Dance, and 60 artists from 15 Chicago neighborhoods and 5 additional states. **Including some Cliff Dwellers!**

August 1-- September 30th

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE NATURE PRESERVE

9800 Willow Springs Rd., Willow Springs

708-839-6897

8am-4pm 7 DAYS A WEEK

[View in browser](#)

- **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 11:00 A.M. NOTE DATE CHANGE!** The Cliff Dwellers Book Club - *The World is Always Coming to an End*, by Carlo Rotello (via Zoom; link info below) The Cliff Dwellers Book Club will read and discuss *The World is Always Coming to an End*, Carlo Rotello's memoir of growing up in South Shore in the late 1960s and 1970s, "a place of neat bungalow blocks and desolate commercial strips, and sharp, sometimes painful social contrasts"

Carlo Rotello will join us via Zoom.

To join the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87876813137?pwd=U1Y3eGV5ZUw0N1poTXloSkIjRFIGQT09>

In Memoriam

- **Dr. Jack C. Oberhart CD'** was born August 29, 1919 in Oak Park to John and Anna (nee Durschmidt) Oberhart and passed away July 31, 2020 at age 100.

Hi, Cliff Dwellers team,

I wanted to pass along that my grandfather and fellow Cliff Dwellers member Jack Oberhart passed away on July 31, 2020.

He was always incredibly proud of his membership with The Cliff Dwellers, and had many, many happy memories of spending time there with his friends-- which is why he pushed me so hard to seek membership myself.

I know you do an In Memoriam section in the newsletter sometimes, and it would mean a lot to my mother and her siblings if he could be included on the next issue.

Thank you all, and I hope you're holding up well during these difficult times.

Best,

Sydney Smith CD'18



Jack was the beloved husband to the late Mary Lu; loving father of Jack C. (Mary) Oberhart Jr., Anne (Scott) Bieda, Michael (Ly) Oberhart, Ellen Oberhart and the late Wesley Oberhart; cherished grandfather of Eric (Kirsten Rhude) Oberhart, Meghan (Alex) Rucks, Colleen (Daniel) Ludwig, Caitlin Bieda, Joseph (Amber Tenuta) Bieda, Philip Oberhart, Sydney (Rory Preston) Smith, Griffin (Carli Evans) Smith and Sloane Smith; and great-grandfather of Madelyn, Henry, Nora, and Daniel.

- **Glen Wiche CD'95 LIT** passed away August 28, 2020, age 70.

Glen was an active Cliff Dweller and for many years a Saturday lunchtime regular. He would arrive late mornings fresh from his exercise routine wearing his pristine open-collar white dress shirt.

As an antiquarian book dealer Glen was very well read especially in history.

One of his special interests was 17thc. British writer Samuel Pepys who was famous for his *Diary* which included his first-person account of the Great Fire of London in 1666 as well as the inner workings in the courts of Kings James II and Charles II. One evening Glen presented a very interesting illustrated lecture about Pepys career.

In 2008 Glen published *Dispatches from Bermuda*-- a Civil War-era history about the U.S. Consul at Bermuda who spied on British ships which were running the U.S. blockade to supply the Confederacy.

Glen and his wife travelled widely focusing on visiting islands including the Falklands, Prince Edward Island, and their favorite Bermuda.

Glen's interesting insights have been missed at the Members' Table.



Who are these Masked Members?



Photo by Bill Bowe

Try It, You'll Like It

Wednesday lunches have become popular among members wanting to sample Chef Victor's menu and again share tales with each other.

Deidre, Chris, Richard, and Joan have become "safe-distancing" regulars.

We hope to see you on 22 soon!
Be safe and well.

Ziviol