



# ViewPoints



April 2011

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*A* N OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER



Dear Members,

*I am eagerly awaiting a constant stream of pleasant weather. How disappointing to wear shorts one day, then a parka the next! It always amuses me to think spring is "here" the first time it warms up and how it then, in turn, always becomes cold again. However, the daffodils are in bloom on Westwood hill above Goodale Boulevard, as they have been for 100 years.*

*I've lived in Columbus my entire life. I sometimes wonder why I am so surprised at the weather this time of year! I cherish the days when it becomes warm for good, and hanging ferns begin to appear on porches all over Grandview – a favorite sight of mine!*

*The Board has been very busy in reorganization mode. We have a full-time Archives Committee. Co-chairs are Jeri Diehl Cusack and Win Keller. They have put in many hours, including attending an archival workshop and have consulted with professional archivists.*

*We are now in the full throes of it, and have rearranged our room in Grandview Heights Public Library to accommodate more change, including additional archival storage. With recommendations from Board member and web master Wayne Carlson, we have purchased new equipment for scanning and archival storage. We will soon welcome a graduate student intern in archival techniques to help us begin reorganization of our collections.*

*It is very exciting and I am happy for the Society to be moving along with preserving our history and memories. The improvements have been made possible through the several recent significant anonymous monetary donations.*

*My personal thanks goes to Jeri and Win for their creative leadership and the vast amount of time they have committed towards this endeavor.*

*We hope you will enjoy the feature article on longtime Grandview Heights resident Helen Winnemore.*

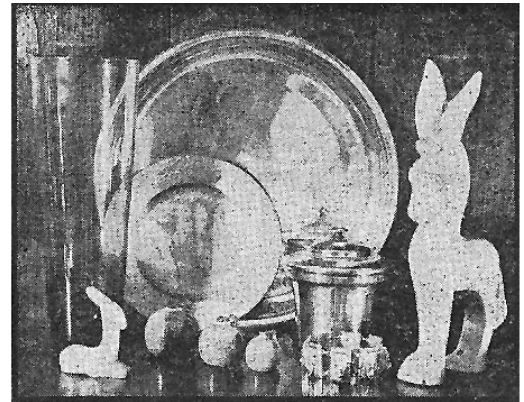
*In closing, I wish you a relaxing and fun spring and summer, and perhaps I will see you at Music on the Lawn!*

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore  
President

## Gentle Determination and a Discerning Eye: *The Helen Winnemore Story*

*helen Winnemore's*



*arts and crafts*

*1367 north glenn avenue*

*H*elen Winnemore (1901-1996), a Glenn Avenue resident for more than fifty years until her death at age 95 in 1996, is today considered the founder of the craft shop movement in the United States.

The Winnemore family had moved from Pennsylvania about 1860 to Muscatine County, Iowa, where Helen was born March 23, 1901, the second of five children of Christian K. and Louise Beatty Winnemore. The Winnemores were farmers and Quakers (Society of Friends).

Helen and her older sister, Charlotte, attended Penn Academy and from there entered William Penn University in

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## The Helen Winnemore Story

(Continued from page 1)

Oskaloosa, Iowa, where Helen received a BA degree in 1928 at age 27. Plagued with fragile health for much of her early life, Helen in later years realized that she had suffered from numerous allergies. Her university transcript shows classes in religion, French, German and Greek, as well as the more common courses.

Charlotte Winnemore received an MD from the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania (the country's oldest medical school for women, now part of the medical school of Drexel University in Philadelphia) in 1926 and became an instructor at Ohio State University. In 1930 she earned a Certificate in Public Health from MIT.

Dr. Charlotte Winnemore worked for OSU student health services, and in 1945 resigned from OSU and worked for the American Red Cross and Planned Parenthood in Columbus until her death in 1965.

At some time in the 1930s Helen Winnemore joined her sister Charlotte in Columbus. They lived first in the area of Indianola Avenue north of Arcadia, then on West 7th Avenue in the neighborhood now known as Dennison Place.

Charlotte and Helen were active members of North Columbus Friends

Meeting. In 1941 the sisters purchased a home at 1367 Glenn Avenue in Grandview Heights. They were joined there by their mother, Louise, who died in Columbus in 1954.

Helen began taking classes in Fine Arts at OSU, and developed friendships there. While teaching small children at Friends Meeting, she wished for child-size chairs for her students. A trip was made to the woodworking shops at Berea College in Kentucky. While there she was asked to take home on consignment some items of woven goods. In November 1938 she invited artist friends to display and sell their work in the living room of her home at 394 W. 7th Avenue, open afternoons only. Participants included Andrew Pereny (ceramics), Ralph Fanning (watercolors and woodblocks), Marjorie Batchelder (puppets, carved wooden animals and toys), Paul Bogatay (miniature ceramic animals and buttons), Carolyn Headly (miniature watercolors), and Harold Mills (oil paintings). (Some items were in drawers that visitors were invited to investigate.

"Going through the drawers" became a tradition of visits to her shop.) The work of several of these artists is in museums and collections and brings good prices on the internet market today.

In an interview at age 85 Helen confided that when she began her business she was so shy that she found it difficult to speak to callers. So she offered each visitor a cup of tea as an opening. This became a trademark experience, a custom that continues to this day with the current owners of Winnemore Crafts.

Winnemore's Quaker commitment led to her learning of the work of the American Friends Service Committee in cooperation with Eleanor Roosevelt in the New Deal's



Helen Winnemore in the Broad Street store.

first homestead community. Arthurdale, established in 1934 in Preston County, West Virginia was built to provide homesteads and employment for out-of-work mining families, and included craft shops in wood, metal, and fabric. Helen began in 1938 to offer Arthurdale woven, wooden and pewter objects in her living room shop. Relationships developed with various mountain craft guilds, and Helen's regular trips South for many years brought a variety of carefully-chosen, finely hand-crafted items to Glenn Avenue and Winnemore Contemporary Crafts' later locations.

In 1951 Winnemore Contemporary Crafts moved from Glenn Avenue to 721 East Broad Street at Parsons Avenue, in the first floor of a former residence. In 1964 freeway construction and the widening of the Broad and Parsons intersection brought about a move to the corner of Mohawk and Kossuth in German Village, an area then just redeveloping.

During World War II Indiana native Bob Stocksdale (1913-2002) was a conscientious objector and was assigned for volunteer service in western forests. While in CO camp in 1943 he acquired a table saw and lathe and began carving wooden bowls. After the war, Stocksdale moved to Berkeley, CA, where he continued his "quest for the perfect wooden bowl" until his death at age 89. Helen Winnemore is credited with helping to bring Stocksdale's work to national attention, and Winnemore Contemporary Crafts carried Stocksdale bowls for nearly 50 years. Stocksdale worked in teak, Indian rosewood, pistachio, and other rare woods. Stocksdale bowls are today bringing high prices at Christie's and other such venues.



Helen Winnemore, 1938





In a 1979 interview Helen estimated she then had at least 50 craft-creator sources. By the 1970s, beginning in November, much of the shop space was given over to Christmas items. "An ornament from Helen's" perhaps one shaped from glass, wood shavings, or beeswax, or out of several European traditions, became a Columbus holiday expectation. At age 85, and needing two canes to walk, Helen was attending only about three big wholesale shows a year. She said, "When I do go, I know exactly where I'm not going to stop." She also stated, "I am now into my third or fourth generation. I don't have a clientele, I just have people." Winnemore explained, "I want people who buy here to have the

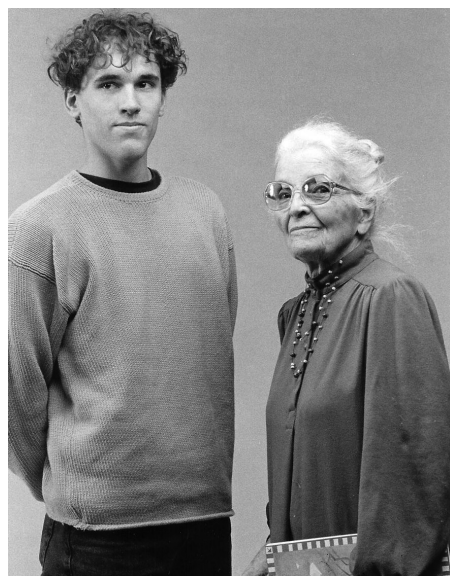


*Helen Winnemore in the German Village store.*

enjoyment of picking things out. I have been doing this for 50 years because I think it makes people happy. As long as I live this will be my daily work."

In 1965 Helen was married to Stefan Horvath, who predeceased her in 1992.

Jack Barrow (1931-1998) became a shop associate in 1960. In the 1964 move to German Village, Barrow built the shallow wooden drawers which hold jewelry and other small items. For many years he was store manager, and in later years became part owner, and then full owner. After Helen's death in 1996 Barrow had reached retirement age and quietly let it be known the shop was for sale. The owner since 1997 is Sarah Kellenberger Harpham, who works to maintain a welcoming environment, while continuing to introduce new work from talented American artisans.



*Helen, with Thomas E. Miller, the first recipient of Winnemore's Columbus College of Art and Design Scholarship in 1993. Miller is now an artist and sculptor in New Mexico.*

*Appreciation to Sarah Kellenberger Harpham and store manager, Stephanie Shining, who generously shared material from the Helen Winnemore Craft scrapbook.*

## Dogwood

In May have you seen  
Earth wedded to the sky?

Trees and trees of tenderest green;  
Tips of trees of golden sheen,  
Beside the dark of winter pine,  
Etched black against the line of sky.

Oaks of rose and metal fire;  
Each leaf aflame with earth's desire  
To know the touch of soft May air.  
The bride among the other trees  
Is dogwood veiled in holy white.  
Maiden tree so very fair,  
You are too sweet a sight!

Who has seen in May  
Earth wedded to the sky?

I have seen the bride,  
The dogwood veiled in white;  
I have seen the trees on fire  
With the surge of their desire.

The moon and I  
Have watched their marriage night.

Who has seen in May  
Earth wedded to the sky?

Ah, I have seen;  
Ah, I; Ah, I.

—Helen Winnemore, May 1937

*Helen was a lifelong poet, writing in small notebooks, never published. After her death, by a provision in her will, a small selection was printed for friends.*

## Memories of Helen Winnemore:

### Dorothy Woldorf:

Dorothy, now a Westminster Thurber Community resident, was active in North Columbus Friends Meeting in the 1940s and 1950s. She knew the Winnemore family and worked for Helen in the shop in 1951-1952. Dorothy remembers Helen's eye for detail and the care with which everything in the shop was placed to best advantage. Even the wrapping of gift packages required careful attention. Dorothy once asked Helen how she could bear to part with such beautiful objects as they were sold. Helen's answer is recorded in Dorothy's journal: "When you have seen a beautiful sunset, it is yours forever!"

### Patrick Mooney:

In the summer of 1953 *ViewPoints* editor Patrick Mooney was asked by Ohio University ceramics instructor David Hostetler to take a box of his art pottery pieces to Helen for possible consignment. She studied the pieces thoughtfully and then said, "Please tell Mr. Hostetler that his glazes are too commercial."

*Today David Hostetler (1926- ) is Professor Emeritus at Ohio University and nationally known as a wood carver in indigenous hardwoods and exotic woods, and a sculptor in bronze, of works which capture the female form.*



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*of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society!*

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Contact Editor Patrick Mooney  
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 ideas or to discuss photo contributions.

## A REQUEST

Our web site makes accessible a great deal of historical material. If you wish to publish any of our material please do us the courtesy of crediting your source. A call to us to clarify any possible copyright issues would be appreciated.

## Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt

One of our Society's Trustees, Jeri Diehl Cusack, has been asked to form a Midwest chapter of the Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt organization, which currently operates out of Boston, NYC and Washington, DC. Perhaps you will remember Jeri's presentation at the October 2009 GH/MCHS Annual Meeting on the



*ER, FDR, and JDC at Hyde Park, New York*

occasion of the 125th anniversary of Eleanor Roosevelt's birth.

Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt is a project which raises money to preserve Eleanor Roosevelt's Val-Kill Cottage in Hyde Park, NY. It is associated with *Save America's Treasures*, a National Trust for Historic Preservation program which is "the driving force in the effort to protect the places that tell our nation's story."

Jeri, a retired librarian, is eager to share her interest in and knowledge about both Eleanor and FDR. She has a private collection of over 200 books on the Roosevelts and currently has two upcoming presentations scheduled - one at a women's guild at First Community Church and another in Delaware OH for the Alzheimer's Association.

Anyone interested in learning more about Honoring Eleanor Roosevelt or in setting up a speaking engagement is welcome to contact Jeri at [jdc@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org](mailto:jdc@honoringeleanorroosevelt.org) or 614-488-5376. Feel free to share this information with others!

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