



ViewPoints



Winter 2019

Visit our website and Facebook page!

www.ghmchs.org

<https://www.facebook.com/Grandview-Heights-Marble-Cliff-Historical-Society-120249178081561/>

AN OCCASIONAL NEWSLETTER OF THE GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS/MARBLE CLIFF HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Dear Members,

Post Holiday Greetings to all! Such a busy time of year, but the feelings they evoke are warm and wonderful. I always think of Christmas's past and cherish all the family traditions. I hang the colored lights (the big old fashioned ones) in the dining room - the exact same spot, because our daughter loves them there. It's the first thing she looks for when she knows I started decorating. I make pizzelles like Jack's aunts and Nonna always have, and I make the same Christmas Day dinner that my mother did. I hope the traditions go on and on in our family.

You will see photos in this issue about our successful Annual Meeting, but on a personal note – I was truly surprised at the activity and successful re-development of Franklinton, and even more impressed by the history involved. I learned a lot of new things that day.

Welcome new Lifetime members:

Raymond and Candace Tesner

John and Cheryl Zeiger

Al Cincione

Susan Neff

Dr. Edgar and Elizabeth Shaudys

And welcome new Life and Patron members:

Mike and Sharon Curtin

Our heartfelt thanks. These memberships mean so much to the Society, and will help us grow, update and expand, while continuing our regular activities. We are currently working on the 2019 Tour of Homes, as well as possible extra activities for members to enjoy. We love the idea of general membership involvement!

Sincerely,

Tracy Liberatore, President

Tour of Homes

The Society is busy planning our triennial Tour of Homes which will be held **Sunday, October 6, 2019**. We are looking for GH/MC residents to volunteer for the following lead roles for the tour:

- Docent Chair
- Sponsor Chair

Your strong interest in preserving and promoting our historically significant and beautiful homes is the most important qualification. Please contact the tour at ghmctourhomes@gmail.com or 614-315-1770 for more information about the tour, the responsibilities associated with these roles, or to volunteer for a chair position. Chair persons receive a free ticket to the Tour of Homes and a 1-year membership to the Society.

We are also looking for volunteers to serve as house docents on the day of the tour. Docents will receive a free ticket to the tour. Shifts will be just 2 or 3 hour long, leaving sufficient time for volunteers to tour homes.



Grandview Heights / Marble Cliff

Memorable Musicians

Grandview Heights Schools' Performing Arts program has historically been nothing short of remarkable. A large percentage of students typically participate at all grades, and teachers are dedicated, enthusiastic, and innovative. Marching and concert bands, choral ensembles, musicals, coffee house performances, and other groups and events are prevalent in our communities. From such great small town roots, several GH/MC residents have made their mark in the music industry.



GRANDVIEW HEIGHTS PERFORMING ARTS

Christi Gehrish

A 2002 graduate of GHHS, Christi Gehrish was a regular in the school's plays and music programs. She was a "Most Improved" field hockey athlete and voted "Most Likely to Date" in the senior class. After studying Music and Theatre at Indiana University, Gehrish moved to New York City where she performs music of the 1920s, 30s and 40s, including New Orleans Jazz, Swing, and the American Songbook.

She regularly appears with The Lowdown Stompers and The Mike Sailors Swing Orchestra, and has been a featured performer at events for The National Down Syndrome Society, Common Ground, The American Heart Association, and the Global Missions Health Conference. In 2013, Gehrish debuted her original music at The Whitney Museum's Blues for Smoke exhibit. She is a regular performer at The Carnegie Club lounge in New York.

In addition to singing, Gehrish helped establish and curates the music for Luca's Jazz Corner on the Upper East Side.

Source: <http://www.christigehrish.com>



Gehrish in New York.



Gehrish takes a bow at the end of the GHHS Musical "Crazy for You" (2001 Highlander).

*Memorable Musicians Continued***Theresa Cincione**

Hailing from a long-standing Grandview family, Theresa Cincione's singing has been notable near and far. Theresa's father, Al Cincione, recalls that she showed talent for singing when she was very young. She came by her talent naturally as many in the Cincione family were accomplished musicians. A 1982 graduate of Grandview Heights High School (GHHS), Cincione was involved in every musical group at the school. In 1981, the school's band of which she was a part won "Superior" at a state contest. She received her undergraduate degrees from Ohio State University, and holds her Master of Music degree from Manhattan School of Music.

She has appeared in the Opera/Columbus production of Carmen and also had a leading role in their production of Faust. She has sung Handel's Messiah with the Columbus Symphony. More recently, Cincione sang the national anthem at a 2015 GHHS football game as part of Alumni Night.



Cincione can claim comedic talent too (1982 Highlander).

Beyond our local environs, Cincione has sung leading roles at Opera companies around the world. Some of the roles she has performed are Mimi in La Boheme, Micaela in Carmen, Margerite in Faust, Liu in Turandot, and Susanna in Le Nozze di Figaro with the New York City Opera, Seattle Opera, Houston Grand Opera, Vlaamse Opera, Tai Pei Symphony Orchestra, Opera Carolina, Opera Festival of New Jersey, Opera Grand Rapids and Indianapolis Opera.

She has sung principal roles at the Metropolitan Opera from 1991 - 2003, including: Elektra, Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg, Carmen, Manon, Stiffelio, Death in Venice, Ghosts of Versailles, Idomeneo, War and Peace, Jenufa, Rigoletto and Lady MacBeth of Mtsensk. Her Lyric Opera of Chicago debut was as Greta Fiorentino in Kurt Weill's Street Scene where she also has covered Renee Fleming as Alcina in Alcina and the role of Eva in Die Meistersinger von Nurnberg.

She has performed as Pamina in Magic Flute and La Contessa di Alamaviva in Le Nozze di Figaro, Cio-cio San in Madama Butterfly and Fiordiligi in Cossi fan tutte with the Granite State Opera.

Source:

<http://theresacincione.com/Pages/bio.html>



Cincione (center) in Madame Butterfly.

*Memorable Musicians Continued***Evan Oberla**

Evan Oberla is a third generation GHHS graduate, graduating in 2005. He began his journey in music with the piano and guitar at a young age and in school band in 5th grade he picked up the trombone. During high school he participated in multiple jazz ensembles including the Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra. Evan graduated from The Ohio State University in 2009 with a degree in Jazz Studies performance.



Oberla (center with trombone) plays with other Grandview musicians at the 2005 Bike Race on Grandview Ave.

Evan is a musician, performer, bandleader, producer and composer. Even though his degree is in jazz, Evan plays all kinds of music.

During his time in Columbus, he created two bands, the RFG Quintet and EOP (Evan Oberla Project). He could be found playing trombone all over the city, sliding comfortably into hip hop, Latin, reggae, singer songwriter acts and full-fledged rock bands. This musical chameleon habit turned into a weekly Jam Session he hosted where musicians of all genres would come to play together. This was held first at Rumba Cafe, and subsequently at Ruby Tuesday's on Summit. It would take up a lot of space to list all the acts he was associated with, but a couple names that you might recognize include Mojoflo, Hoodoo Soul Band, Columbus Jazz Orchestra, Vaughn Weister's Big Band, and the Floorwalkers.

On the national touring side of things, Evan has toured extensively across the country with O.A.R., Allen Stone, and Elle King and through these travels has been able to share the stage with artists including Wyclef Jean, Dave Matthews, Spoon, and Walk the Moon.

Evan has produced Morgan Treni's colorful record, 'Alphabet City' (2018) and Sheldon Whiteside's dynamic EP, 'All For You' (2014).

Evan has two records of original material, the hip hop driven "Here" from EOP, and the jazz oriented "May Your Vice Be Nice" by RFG Quintet. He will be releasing his third EP of original music this year.

Currently based in New Orleans, Evan plays locally and continues touring with multiple bands, including Brass Lightning, Sexual Thunder, and Miss Mojo.

Source: www.evanoberla.com



Oberla enjoying life and music in New Orleans.

*Memorable Musicians Continued***Lowell Riley**

One of the GH/MC areas most talented and versatile local musicians was Marble Cliff resident Lowell Riley. After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan he joined the staff of radio station WBNS and soon became musical director. In 1941 he was hired by First Community Church where he served until his retirement in 1983. During those years at various periods he was organist, choir director and director of bell choirs. At one time during the late 1940s, his Cloister Choir of high school girls was the largest choir in the city of Columbus.



As a GHHS music teacher, Riley had 145 students participating in chorus (1945 Highlander).

For three years beginning in 1944, Lowell was the beloved choral music teacher at both Grandview and Upper Arlington High Schools. At GHHS, he organized a swing band and arranged popular music which led to the annual Talent Shows, written and produced by students. He organized elite choral groups, one of which sang regularly on a weekly radio broadcast.

The men's chorus from the church produced a minstrel show in 1943 that grew into Vaud-Villities, an annual musical variety show that for many years featured a cast of nearly 400 local

singers and dancers. It was a community event in which many Tri-Village residents participated. Lowell wrote the vocal and orchestral arrangements and was the musical director for 50 years. Vaud-Villities staged its 76th show in 2018, quite a legacy.



Riley at his beloved pipe organ.

He composed church music and scored arrangements for groups throughout the country in addition to organizing and directing choruses for several local businesses. At First Community Village Lowell also directed a bell choir. He served as Dean of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists. With wife, Beth, he traveled extensively in the U.S. and Europe recording and photographing 650 pipe organs and later presenting their multi-media programs.

His wife and children were active participants in his many musical activities. In 1995 Lowell Riley was one of the first inductees into the Columbus Senior Musicians Hall of Fame. As a musician he was respected for his talent and versatility and for the gift of music that he brought to so many.

Source: Jackie Cherry, Society Trustee

Society's Annual Meeting, November 2018



The Society's Annual Meeting was held at the historic Grandview Theater & Drafthouse.



Guest speaker, Leslie Blankenship, addresses questions on her Franklinton History presentation.

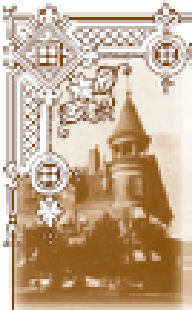
Joint Meeting of Central Ohio Historical Societies, November 2018



GH/MCHS Board members Jill Kuyper and Teri Alexander (third and fourth from right) discuss marketing/PR/social media efforts with other historical societies.



GH/MCHS Board member Brian Kuyper (third from left) joins the digital archiving discussion.



The Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society

1685 WEST FIRST AVENUE
COLUMBUS, OHIO 43212

BECOME A MEMBER

of the Grandview Heights/Marble Cliff Historical Society!

Please complete the information below and send with your check made out to: **GH/MCHS**

Mail or drop off at the **Grandview Heights Public Library, 1685 West First Avenue, Columbus, OH 43212**

NAME _____ DATE _____

SPOUSE (IF COUPLE MEMBERSHIP) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

Please check the appropriate membership box:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

YEARLY DUES (SEPT. 1 – AUG. 31)

- Single \$20
 Couple \$30
 Organization \$50

LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

ONE-TIME PAYMENT

- Single \$100
 Couple \$150
 Patron \$500
 Benefactor \$1000

ViewPoints is an occasional publication of the GH/MCHS.

EDITOR

Karen Riggs

Society Seeking New Board Member

The Society is seeking one new Board member. Responsibilities of Board members include:

- attending monthly meetings of the Board;
- assisting with Society's events;
- leading at least one Society activity area/effort; and
- positive promotion of the Society's mission.

Of particular interest are candidates with skills in marketing, event planning and coordination, and/or newsletter editing. An in-depth knowledge of GH/MC history is not necessary; however, a strong interest in learning about our communities' history is important. Computer proficiency is required. Board members receive no compensation and serve a three-year term which can be renewed. If you have interest in serving on our Board, please send an expression of interest, contact information, and a short summary of your skills and background to Tracy Liberatore, President, at tracyliberatore1@gmail.com by April 1, 2019.