



Volume 37, Number 2

March-April 2015

International Women's Day Luncheon Returns to the Cliff

By Mike Deines, CD'03



Hamlin Garland joins students from area schools attending IWD on the Cliff.



Illinois Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti delivered an inspiring keynote speech.



Jones HS students and their teacher enjoyed the view from our deck.

For the third consecutive year The Cliff Dwellers marked International Women's Day in early March to honor the social, political, and economic achievements of women. Hosted by Eve Moran CD'10, this year's special luncheon program brought together nearly one hundred women to share their unique stories and the challenges they have encountered in their education, careers, and lives.

Celebrating Women's History: Moving It Forward, this year's IWD theme, provided a launching point for discussion: each person in attendance has contributed to "herstory" and will be integral in moving the story forward. Hence, in addition to inviting women and retired women from the larger Cliff Dweller community, young girls and women studying at nearby schools and colleges were invited to attend as special guests of members.

The Honorable Evelyn Sanguinetti the newly elected Lt. Governor of the State of Illinois presented the keynote address. She described her humble beginnings growing up in a poor area of Hialeah, Florida, where public aid was the safety net for her family. She stressed the importance of her mother's sacrifices and support in helping her achieve her dream of becoming a concert pianist. She affirmed the importance of empowering women to move beyond the challenges and limitations they encounter to improve their own lives and the lives of others. Drawing from her own life experiences, Sanguinetti puts education and opportunity at the forefront of her vision for Illinois. As Illinois' first Latina Lieutenant Governor she is committed to fighting for all Illinois residents.

Returning again this year to address the IWD gathering was Mary Ann Johnson, President of the Chicago Area Women's History Council. She screened a sequence of historical photographs featured in *A Paradise of Exceptional Women: Chicago Women Activists and Leaders 1790-2000*. Putting faces and identities with the names and causes that Illinois women have fought for, Ms. Johnson affirmed that the cause for women's rights has always been about improving the quality of life, health, safety, and opportunity in our communities. By knowing the past, we can inspire, guide, and lead the next generation—many of whom were in the Kiva to hear the message and accept the challenge.

History Committee Helps Us See Our Past

The History Committee with Walker Johnson's guidance and efforts has created two installations from some of the archival material gleaned from the recently acquired Don Amidei Collection of Cliff Dweller Memorabilia. Copies of original material were produced by color copier on archival paper. The result is a surprisingly realistic display of historical documents. Three foot lengths of ¼ inch tempered glass covered with UV film protect the documents, are easy to handle, and afford rapid change as future documents and photos are presented.

The series of replicated artifacts located on the north-wall counter near the fireplace show original incorporation papers, 1907 as the Attic Club and the acknowledgment of our name change to The Cliff Dwellers, 1909. All were signed by the Illinois Secretary of State. New incorporation documents as a Not-For-Profit, 1966, were signed by Paul Powell, Illinois Secretary of State.

A second set of replicated artifacts located on the south-wall counter in the Sullivan Room contains the complete program of "Farewell to the Kiva," the final act of The Cliff Dwellers before leaving their orchestral home on top of Symphony Center and moving up the street to 200 S. Michigan.

History Committee member Richard Eastline CD'73 noted, "Including the farewell-to-the-old-kiva souvenir program made me think of that event and especially the logistics of copies produced and delivered in time for personal distribution. It was the closest deadline I can recall facing in all the years I had behind me in advertising and marketing. A batch of finished copies wasn't ready for the arriving guests until only a little more than an hour before they appeared and the balance was being assembled even as guests were enjoying pre-dinner cocktails. It's a story in itself and I've now begun writing about the frantic conditions characterizing the committee's work for that final Club event at the old site."

Don Amidei would be very pleased to know that documents he salvaged have returned to the Club and will go on to the Newberry Library where other valued Cliff Dweller artifacts are kept.



Historic documents related to the founding of The Cliff Dwellers are on display in the Kiva.



The program from the "departure dinner" served at the Club site atop Symphony Center appears in the Sullivan Room.

From the Art Foundation

We are hoping to finish out the season with a recital by last year's CDAF Music Competition winner, Lena Zeliszewska, violin, Northwestern University, on May 19, but have not yet confirmed her availability.

The 2015 CDAF Music Competition will be held from 9-11 am on Saturday, May 2. It is a rather sober but often moving affair with competitors, jury, and spectators giving the music their utmost concentration. Members of the Club are, of course, welcome to attend, if they choose, stay for lunch afterwards. We are grateful to Don for squeezing us in before another event being held that day.

Celebrate Spring and National Poetry Month with Poet Francine Sterle

By Steve Granzky CD'08



Come to the Cliff
Thursday evening, April
30 to celebrate poetry,
warm up a Chicago spring
and say a last good-bye to
the cold, as Minnesota
Poet Francine Sterle reads

from her book *Nude in Winter* and presents slides of the paintings and art that inspired the poems.

Francine holds an MFA degree in poetry from Warren Wilson College and studied writing in a variety of settings, including Oxford University and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference.

Her poems have been published widely in such literary journals as Poetry International, The North American Review, Ploughshares, Nimrod, CutBank, Great River Review, The Beloit Poetry Journal, Atlanta Review and have been anthologized in To Sing Along the Way: Minnesota Women Poets from Pre-territorial Days to the Present and The Cancer Poetry Project.

Her poetry collections include *The White Bridge* (Poetry Harbor, 1999), *Every Bird is One Bird* (Editor's Prize, Tupelo Press, 2001), and *Nude in Winter* (Tupelo Press, 2007).

Copies of *Nude in Winter* can be purchased ahead of the evening online at **Tupelo Press**. A new collection of poems, titled *What Thread?* won the 2014 David Martinson—Meadowhawk Prize in Poetry and will be published by Red Dragonfly Press in April, 2015.

Renoir

Serenity that only instinct can provide.
Charm, impulse, sensuality: the world
all dappled light and pretty flesh: the subtle
tilt of a head, the tender tipping of a foot.
Everything lush, mature, romantic.
Consider the pale-primed canvas,
the flake-white undercoating
thinned by linseed oil and turpentine.
And color, a strong, bright palette.
I want red to sing out like a bell.
Small dabs across the surface of a face.
A feathery, delicate touch in ivory black,
cobalt blue, raw sienna. A sunny world.
An uncomplicated attitude
toward that chorus of lumpy, luminous women.
Even in the end, although crippled by arthritis,
weakened by bronchitis, paralyzed in his legs,
an invalid in a chair who could not prepare
his colors, could not pick up a brush,
who had to have it tied in his hand with a rag,
Renoir painted, experimenting with flattened
perspectives, a simplified color range, softer,
more expressive brushstrokes. Even in the end.
The body is entitled to some lyricism.
I want to say this in front of everyone.
The body is entitled.



"Poetry proves again and again that any single overall theory of anything doesn't work.

Poetry is always the cat concert under the window of the room in which the official version of reality is being written."

--Charles Simic

....and the People We Will Meet

By Mike Deines CD'03

Visitors to The Cliff Dwellers come and go.

They arrive, browse, linger, perhaps share a bit of food and drink, relax, smile, and depart—taking the essence of their visit with them.

Often they return. Sometimes they even reappear frequently. Occasionally, they come back over the course of their lives because of family connections to the Club.

Recently at the Club, I met and talked at length with one such individual—Mary Seyfarth, currently a Professor of Art and Design at Columbia College Chicago.

My German ancestors came to America as anarchists in 1848. They settled in Blue Island and worked in dry goods and horses and real estate. My grandfather Robert Seyfarth, who we called “Father,” became an architect after attending the Chicago School of Manual Training. Over the years he came to know many of the important architects of the time—Howard Van Doren Shaw, George Maher, Jens Jensen. Some of them were Cliff Dwellers. Father would have lunch with Jens Jensen and others at the Cliff Dwellers; he said they read poetry together. Who reads poetry at lunch anymore?

He knew Helen Morrison, the photographer who took the photo of Jensen hanging in your Sullivan Room. She also took one of Father who designed and built her house in Northbrook. He built homes up and down the North Shore—especially in Highland Park—where there are over seventy of his houses. Grandfather was always working. From conception to completion, he did it all. To acknowledge the importance of his architectural contributions Highland Park declared last October as Robert E. Seyfarth Month with tours, lectures and celebrations of the homes he had built.

The family link through architecture probably is what led my father, Hugh Seyfarth, to join The Cliff Dwellers in the Kennedy years. He worked in the R.R. Donnelly tower on 22nd overlooking Prairie Avenue. My dad knew the Club through the Donnellys who he went duck hunting with and his membership in the Caxton Club which held its meetings at The Cliff Dwellers. He commuted about an hour every day from Highland Park: a continental breakfast coming in and two martinis in the Bar Car and playing gin rummy on the way home. Of course, he lunched at The Cliff Dwellers most days.

The old Club was at the Symphony Center. As a child I went there with our family for dinner or other occasions. I remember the steps up the stairs (31 I think) and the rickety chairlift for the infirm or the really old guys. We had to sign in at the bottom of the stairs with one of two women—Grace or Wilma. Bob Thiebout knew my dad and greeted us when we got up to the Club.

The Cliff Dwellers was not arrogant about it, but it was definitely a men’s club in those days. Families were welcome but no running around. There were so many things to see: lots of newspapers and racks of magazines; the big Acoma Pot that you, unfortunately, sold off; on top of the shelves were all sorts of pots from the Arizona and New Mexico tribes.



Mary Seyfarth has been a long time friend of The Cliff Dwellers.



The Cliff Dwellers deck atop Symphony Center.

Dad smoked a pipe and always used Cliff Dweller matches to light his pipe. You don't have any of those black and orange-brown matchbooks anymore.

We could sit outside at the old Club on Symphony Hall. They had 5 or 6 tables. At the end of the deck on the south wall was the word *ZIVIO*, not engraved, just painted in white, memorable letters. Whenever we sat out there my father would call out, "Zivio." I hope somebody took a picture of that wall.

When we were at the Club I remember the singing of songs! People would let their hair down, and enjoy the friendship, the camaraderie. Women could come if escorted by a Club member and there was no talk of having women in The Cliff Dwellers. That was those times.

You know what was great about that old club—the steps: significantly worn by the hordes of men, even before The Cliff Dwellers, who tromped up and down to that space above Grant Park to be with each other. There should be a Club excursion to visit that high, old space that was your Club. Maybe Open House Chicago could get into some such old historical spaces in the future.

My father was very comfy here. He enjoyed the friendship, the environment....It meant a lot to him.

I've been coming here for a long time—on and off most of my life. Columbia College has held some Christmas Parties. Sometimes the Classical Art Society holds meetings here. I attend Art Openings. I knew Billie and some of the other Pullman Porters. I know Ms. Washington. People are friendly.

It's the place isn't it—and all the people.

Two Recent Major Installations of Sculpture!



Flamenco Revisited
by Ruth Aizuss Migdal
Champaign, Illinois



Whirling Dervish
by Ruth Aizuss Migdal
Douglas Park
Chicago, Illinois

Zivio! Ruth

Springing Ahead: Scheduled Programs & More

Snow may still be piled up in Boston, but Spring has arrived in Chicago and with its warmth our artistic spirits and sensibilities start to soar.

The Movie Series, Book Club, and the monthly tours by CAF which will soon resume--all are helping make the Club active on Saturdays. The Cultural Mile Second Fridays are bringing live music back into the Club. More is needed!

As the weather warms and Spring awakens, make your way to the Club to enjoy the season, good friendship, and the delight of food and fun with other Cliff Dwellers.

Art Openings	Cultural Mile's 2nd Fridays	Saturday at the Movies	Art Foundation's 3rd Tuesdays	CD Book Club
Art Exhibition Opening Reception every other First Wednesday. Artists and Sculptors in attendance. A cash bar and dinner buffet are available.	5:30-8:30 Program A cash bar and dinner service are available. \$10 cover charge for Cliff Dwellers and their guests.	Films are shown Saturday in the Sullivan Room at 10:30 and discussions continue over lunch. Unless alternate dates are noted.	Evening programs in the Kiva. A cash bar and dinner service are available. Reservations requested.	Discussions take place on the 4 th Saturday beginning at 11:00 and continue over lunch.
4/1 Selected Works by Project Onward Artists <i>Master Builders: Architecture, Art, and Autism</i> Sculpture by Lloyd Mandelbaum	4/10 An evening of 50's Rock and Roll—live music by the Don Mormon Group. 50's Favorites Buffet available!	4/11 <i>Tokyo Story</i> directed by Yasujiro Ozu	4/21 Erica Mott Productions will present excerpts from their techno-opera <i>3 Singers</i> .	4/25 <i>Trumbull Park</i> By Frank London Brown
5/6 Project Onward Artists and Mandelbaum Exhibition continues.	5/8 2 nd Friday Program featuring live jazz by Larry Brown Trio. Co-sponsored with the Jazz Institute of Chicago.	No Movie in May	5/19 TBA Final AF event prior to Summer recess	5/30 <i>Shall We Not Revenge</i> By D. M. Pirrone
6/3 Michael Thompson will be showing sculpture and mixed media.	No 2 nd Friday at the CD due to Blues Fest in Grant Park	6/6 <i>Firemen's Ball</i> Directed by Milos Freeman	The Art Foundation is on Summer Recess.	6/27 <i>Years of Grace</i> By Margaret Ayers Barnes

WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

MEMBERS WISHING TO CONTRIBUTE TO **ON AND OFF THE CLIFF**

CAN SUBMIT STORIES, REFLECTIONS, ARTICLES, POEMS, PHOTOS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE ARTS TO
NEWSLETTER EDITOR MIKE DEINES by e--mail mjdeines@yahoo.com

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



Ladies at the Cliff:
Leslie, Connie, Eve, Ruth, and Virginia
enjoying an Art Opening.

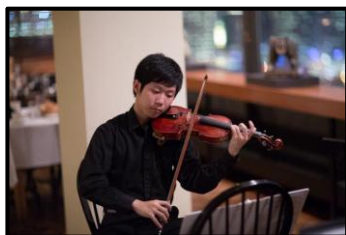
"Thousands of Words"

**show some of the things
that have been
happening on the Cliff**

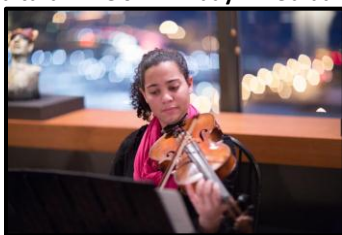


On International Women's Day
Ruth Migdal, Dr. Karen Cichon and Leslie
Recht on the deck with *Hearts*,
Ruth's sculpture.

**A Trio of Talented Students
filled the Club with music during the
Cultural Mile's 2nd Friday in February.**



Tim You (violin)



Kayla Cabrera (viola)



Giacomo Glotzer (cello)



**Artist in Resident Steven Solomon
entertained at the Club.**



Ever wonder what's on the back of a bass?



**Sculpture by Lloyd Mandelbaum
surrounds the Kiva.**



**Who's got the swing?
Walker and Virginia!**



**The Don Morman Family Band
had the 22nd Floor
"Rockin Back to the 1950's"**



**We all saw a man dance with his wife.
They wound up havin' the time of their lives
In Chicago.....**

Cliff Notes—

- Since our last publication 14 individuals interested in literature and the arts have become members of The Cliff Dwellers. We welcome them and look forward to their active participation in Club activities and events.

February 2015

**Brenda K. Ashley Lay, Albert J. Davis NR A, Larry Little Mus, Richard Previdi NR A,
David Rockenbaugh Lit & Mus, Max Ryan NR A, Milton Sees NR Lay,
Steven Solomon AIR M (freshman), Thomas Thorson A.**

March 2015

**Michael Gilfillan A, Susan Manos Lay, Paul OConnor AA, Donna Salvatore Lay,
Gregory Story Sculpture.**

- Richard Eastline received this from Dieter Kober today (March 27, after a two-month silence) in reference to his being honored at our Club's Annual Meeting in January.
"Fellow Cliff Dwellers: You make my day. Thank you so much for your kind wishes on my 95th birthday. They helped to exceed the magic total of one hundred plus. Thank you so much."
- With the arrival of warmer weather and the desire to get out of the house more frequently, the Club is returning to its regular evening dinner hours. Take advantage of a chance to meet with and dine with friends on the Cliff. Reservations are encouraged.
- The Chicago Architecture Foundation (CAF) is doing 10 tours of The Cliff Dwellers over the next year, focusing on the architecture of the Borg Warner Building, and then highlighting the architecture and history of The Cliff Dwellers club. The tours are entertaining and informative, with some great stories about the Club and its famous members, present and past. Plan to attend one of these tours, and stay afterwards for lunch at the Club. Reservations for the tours need to be made through CAF, and can be done on their website, www.architecture.org. Reservations for lunch should be made with Vivian at The Cliff Dwellers, reservations@cliff-chicago.org or 312 922-8080. The next tours will be April 18 & May 16 at 11:15.
- Worth Attending--April 23 - UNESCO World Book Fundraiser - presented in partnership with the Caxton Club and the International League of Antiquarian Bookseller with cost of the appetizers paid for by the Caxton Club. Taking place across the Globe, this is an International Event scheduled to take place at the Club from 5:30 to 7:00.
- In conjunction with the 2015 Society of Architectural Historians Annual International Conference: Chicago at the Global Crossroads, The Cliff Dwellers will be the site for the April 15 showing of the documentary *Olmsted and the Making of Brookline, Massachusetts*. The program begins at 3:45 with a cash bar & appetizers; the film will be shown at 5:00; the event will conclude at 7:00. Dinner is available with reservations.
- **The Loss of Another Good Cliff Dweller:**
Seymour Persky, CD'85, a Chicago real estate mogul and architectural preservationist, died Sunday, March 22, at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. He was 92. A regular at the members' table and a colorful storyteller, Persky enjoyed The Cliff Dwellers and on several occasions offered support that kept the Club afloat during difficult times. Rest in Peace.

