



The Newsletter of The Cliff Dwellers

ON AND OFF THE CLIFF

Volume 35, Number 1

January-February 2013

Renovations Are Moving Forward

By Mike Deines CD'03

In a bit more than a month the appearance of The Cliff Dwellers Club has gone through quite a transformation—an un-doing before the final dressing will be done.

All the furniture, artwork, and artifacts have been removed for storage and repair: the Norton Painting is being restored and re-framed and will be re-hung at the Club in early April. Paul Hamer CD'05 is assisting the Conservation Center with the work on the Norton and its new frame. Dining chairs are currently being refurbished as are the small side-tables from the lounge. Bill Locke CD'04 is monitoring the progress of this task. The Jarvie Bowl has made the trip to the Figue Museum in Davenport, Iowa as part of their current Arts and Crafts period exhibit and will remain there through April 14.

A number of changes in the physical appearance are underway:

The bathrooms, as we might remember them, are no more. The old walls and fixtures have been demolished. Old plumbing has been removed. New piping, ventilation, and framing are being installed. All bathroom walls are up and taped, and though the walls are not yet tiled, the floors are.

A sprinkler system has been installed throughout the 22nd floor to meet current standards and codes. Patching and skim-coating of the ceiling in the vault have been done.

A new ceiling is going up in the elevator hallway along with changes to that area's lighting. The gaur is keeping an eye on progress there.

Water lines and drains for the new bar are in place.

The final rendering of the bar has been accomplished: it will be slightly longer than originally envisioned and will accommodate barstool seating for eight. Our view of the lakefront is still spectacular.

New furniture for the fireside lounge has been ordered.

The initial effort at restoring and resealing the teak flooring is moving forward—though more slowly than had been expected. The teak veneer of the tiles cannot stand up to hard sanding, so an alternative method of cleaning the surface is being developed.

Much of the progress that has been achieved to date will not be visible when we have our April 5th "Day of Celebration" re-opening the Club. However, work that doesn't show on the surface is often the most important aspect of a successful and beautiful final product. That is the nature of Art, and that is the nature of the Cliff Dwellers.

So, mark your calendars. Keep sending in your donations to the Renovation Fund. Prepare yourself for a celebration.

CD Art Foundation: 2012 Review

By P.K. VanderBeke CD'96

As we all know and affirm, The Cliff Dwellers Club was founded in large part to celebrate and support the arts in Chicago. Through the generosity and support of our members, The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation accomplishes this goal in many very tangible ways. This past year the foundation awarded grants to a wide-ranging group of recipients.

- Chicago Public Art Group to fund a sample restoration of an important Civil Rights era mural.
- Free Write Jail Arts and Literacy Program to work with youth emerging from the justice system.
- The Moving Architects for the production of an original cross cultural dance composition.
- The Renaissance Society for a site specific installation of the work of artist R.H. Quaytman.
- The Ruth Page Foundation for Dance Chance: a monthly new choreographer's showcase.
- Access Contemporary Music for a concert featuring the music of composer John Adams.
- Dionne Milton in support of arts programs at the Cook County Temporary Detention Center.
- The John David Mooney Foundation for their Apprentice and Internship Program.
- Neighborhood Writing Alliance for poetry workshops in low income communities in Chicago.
- Red Clay Dance for the Transatlantic Project a week long international dance festival.
- Remy Bumpopo Theatre for Translations and Adaptations: a program supporting new works.
- Storycatchers Theatre for Teens Together: a theater workshop for at risk youth.

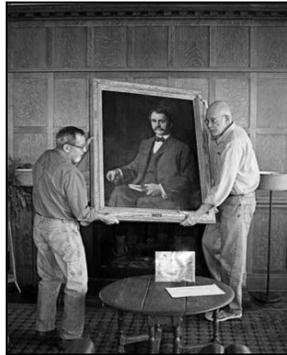
During 2012 the Cliff Dwellers continued to offer grant recipients the opportunity to present their work at the club. Two such events were the engaging rehearsal of a scene from Remy Bumpopo's latest production featuring award-winning actors Annabel Armour and Patrick Clear and an entertaining lecture on Dame Myra Hess followed by a concert of chamber music in honor of the International Music Foundation's 35 years presenting her namesake concerts.

Now that the club has secured our collective home for the next decade and a half, we all look forward to the future with a renewed sense of optimism and possibility. Certainly, the Arts Foundation will continue to support the arts organizations in Chicago whose work enlivens and enriches our lives.



106th Annual Meeting of The Cliff Dwellers

In keeping with tradition, and in accordance with the Club’s by-laws which state “The annual meeting of the Club shall be held on the first Monday after the Twelfth Night (January the sixth) in each year” members gathered in the Kiva at 5:30 P.M., January 7, 2013 for cocktails and conversation. As the evening’s festivities began, members noticed the absence of Hamlin Garland’s portrait over the fireplace. For perhaps only the third time in Club history, the venerable Mr. Garland has been removed from his place of prominence. He currently rests peacefully in storage awaiting completion of renovation of the Kiva.



The string duo of Dominic Johnson CD’12 and Michael Ferry CD’12 entertained as members arrived and enjoyed cocktails. Club members look forward to future performances by these brilliant young musicians.



The traditional steak dinner followed at 6:30. Once again Chef Victor Perez and his staff presented a marvelous repast.

THE DINNER

- Assorted Greens
- with Grilled Pears, Fried Goat Cheese,
Toasted Hazel Nuts, Dries Cranberries, and
White Balsamic Vinaigrette
-
- Grilled New York Strip Steak
With Mushroom Ragout
Truffle Fries and Baby Carrots
-
- Flourless Chocolate Cake
With Raspberry Coulis



At 7:35 P.M. Club President Leslie Recht CD’03 called the meeting to order. She recalled that in late December, 2011, the Club had just been informed by building management that our lease would not be renewed. This news shocked the Club, especially Recht who had just agreed to assume the presidency. She went on to observe how relieved and pleased she is that the Club is still here!

President Recht then introduced Charles Hasbrouck CD’09 “a stalwart” for his continuing efforts to implement Skidmore, Owings, & Merrill’s *pro-bono* renovation plans for the Club.

Director Hasbrouck noted that by now Club members should be familiar with the plans as posted. He is pleased by member contributions thus far which will allow the renovation work to proceed. The building permit is ready to be picked up, and building management has signed a contract with Leopard Construction in the name of the Club.



During renovation members will have reciprocal privileges with The Arts Club, The Standard Club, and The University Club. Director Hasbrouck plans to dine regularly at the University Club’s 8th floor College Hall.



Treasurer Virginia Harding CD’08 joyfully announced, “We’re here!” having avoided the necessity of vacating our current space. She continued, “We have the money” to carry out the renovation work. Combining tenant improvement money from our new lease, funds from the

Millennium Fund, and approximately \$78k in current Renovation Fund donations, the Club is able to begin work. Harding observed the need for continued donations because such work always involves unforeseen expenditures.

President Recht then introduced current Board members who were present: Mike Deines CD'03 who is also editor of *On and Off the Cliff*, Larry Okrent CD'93, Charlie Hasbrouck CD'09, Virginia Harding CD'08, and Eve Moran CD'10. Past President Brian Bernardoni CD'06 was recognized for his two-year service as president and for being instrumental in negotiating the Club's new lease.

President Recht introduced William Bowe CD'97 whom she had named as chair of the Nominating Committee. In accordance with Club by-laws, Bowe gathered a committee consisting of Brian Bernardoni CD'06, William Drennan CD'02, Larry Lund CD'02, and Leslie Recht CD'03 to find candidates to fill 3-year Board of Director terms to expire January, 2016. The following agreed to serve:

Charles Hasbrouck CD'09

Timothy Herwig CD'09

Lindsay Huge CD'08

David Chernoff CD'10 was named to fill out the remaining year on Graham Grady's term. All were approved by a voice vote of the membership.

Secretary William Drennan CD'02 reported that a new print edition of the Club directory, the first since 2007, will be published while the Club is closed for renovation. It should be available to members when the Club reopens. As Chair of the Membership Committee Drennan reported that the Club ended 2012 with 381 members of whom 125 are listed as non-resident. There are also 27 listed as 3-month trial members who may choose to join.

The assembly then rose to remember Cliff Dwellers who died in 2012:

Leonard Foster CD'70

Leonard Linsky CD'02

Chair of The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation Trish VanderBeke CD'96 echoing others said she is "very excited to [still] be in this space." The Foundation continues its work

supporting artists and artistic groups and will continue to host cultural programs in the Kiva. In addition the Foundation is providing about half the funding for a replacement piano for the Club.



VanderBeke then read from a letter she received from Curt Meine CD'96 remembering his mother Evelyn CD'84 who passed away in 2011: "Your work honors the memory of my mom. She is smiling."

President Recht noted that the Club's bar will be returned to Vernon Nelson CD'86 who made it and dedicated it to the memory of Henry Regnery.

In honor of the long and efficient service of the bar Walker Johnson CD'84, Past President, and Richard Eastline CD'73 read original tributes (see p.4). The elegant poetry offered by both bards was well received.

With all décor packed away, President Recht noted that the nearly empty Kiva awaited the beginning of renovation work on the following day.

The finale of a generally high-spirited evening was the



introduction of the staff by Manager Don Santelli. A standing ovation assured staff members of the Club's sincere appreciation of their service and dedication.

A rousing chorus of "Zivio" closed the annual meeting at 8:07 P.M.

--Respectfully submitted, William J. Drennan, Secretary

Cliff Notes—The Cliff Dwellers Gang of 8 Quiz

(Well, what do you know?)

1. What do these Club members share in common?
2. Make a list. Name the Gang and the year each joined the Club.
3. Place them in their proper order.
4. Given the setting of this photograph, which CD member should be "hanging" with them but is not in the picture.
5. Why are they smiling? (Bonus point question)
6. How many years of combined CD membership is represented by this Gang of 8?
7. What is the most probable date on which we will see the Gang reunited again? Be there to witness the party!
8. **Zivio!**



Submit answers to OOC Editor: mjdeines@yahoo.com Prizes awarded at the April 5th Celebration Day Party!

History Committee Seeking Lost and Forgotten Club Treasures

By Richard Eastline CD'73

The formula is simple—scratch memory and search files. Our club's newest organization, the Cliff Dwellers History Committee, was created less than six months ago and its members already have uncovered several pieces of printed material that offer glimpses of past events as well as insights into prior operating procedures. Headed by Walker Johnson, the collective mainly consists of older members who are contributing personal recollections and saved copies of past reports, invitations, programs, or other memorabilia from their own files.

Beyond that, active searches are being made at the Newberry Library, the official custodian of Cliff Dwellers material, and the storeroom at 200 S. Michigan Avenue to where items from the former club site were moved. Supplementing this research will be interviews and Q&A surveys directed to older members and ex-members living in this area as well as distant locales. The first of these efforts yielded some vivid flashbacks from Dieter Kober, CD '59, the founder and music director of the Chicago Chamber Orchestra now residing near Dresden, Germany.

The History Committee's membership is open to all who have an active interest in tracing the activities and issues of the club, primarily during the second half of the last century which seems to have a significant number of gaps (perhaps related to pre-computing records-keeping). One of the tasks now on the agenda is to review the "official" history of The Cliff Dwellers, written and published by Henry Regnery (President, 1975-76), and create an addendum to his document.

Shown adjacent to this article is one of the souvenirs from 1996, the cover of the invitation to the grand opening of the new clubhouse following the move from Orchestra Hall next door.



In Honor of the Long and Efficient Service of the Bar

Ode to The Cliff Dwellers Bar

Some clubs have cocktail lamps,
signaling service when they're lit.
The Cliff Dwellers signal is a small gold cat,
whose left arm waves its mitt.
Wave it does from its copper perch,
atop the blonde oak bar,
Calling to imbibers all,
it's not a bridge too far!

The view over the bar could stand reprieve
From the terra cotta lions on a badly stained frieze.
I wore out several sport coat sleeves ordering vodka gimlets,
And many times I signed for wine to humor Connie's ringlets.

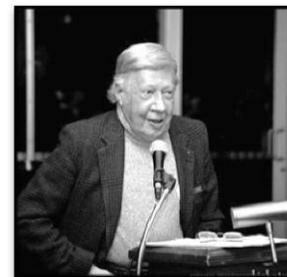
Cliff Dwellers!
The bar and cat must go,
an incompatible pair they make.
The new bar design, best of all,
will have us face the Lake.



Past President Walker Johnson CD'84 reflects upon CD's past and future bars.

Appreciating the Kiva Bar

Oh, I must go back to the bar again,
where the spirits of the past persist.
No, 'tis not one that is fathoms deep
and off the shore of our restless lake,
But rather suspended high in a sky
now crowded with man-made peaks,
Where amongst them hangs a cliff
that is a home to gathered dwellers.
And there the bar presides in pride
of all its warm wood countenance,
Dispensing through its agent Joshua
the tasty serums of pricey tranquility.
When standing there, gazing outward,
I do observe a nestling neighborhood
Spectacular in its twilight illumination,
or gaze down at the polished parquet
To see my solitary self reflected back--
another face on the bar room floor.



Richard Eastline CD'73 notes that a "small bar" merits a "small poetic offering."