



GRAYCLIFF
CONSERVANCY, INC.
6472 Old Lake Shore Road
P.O. Box 823
Derby, NY 14047

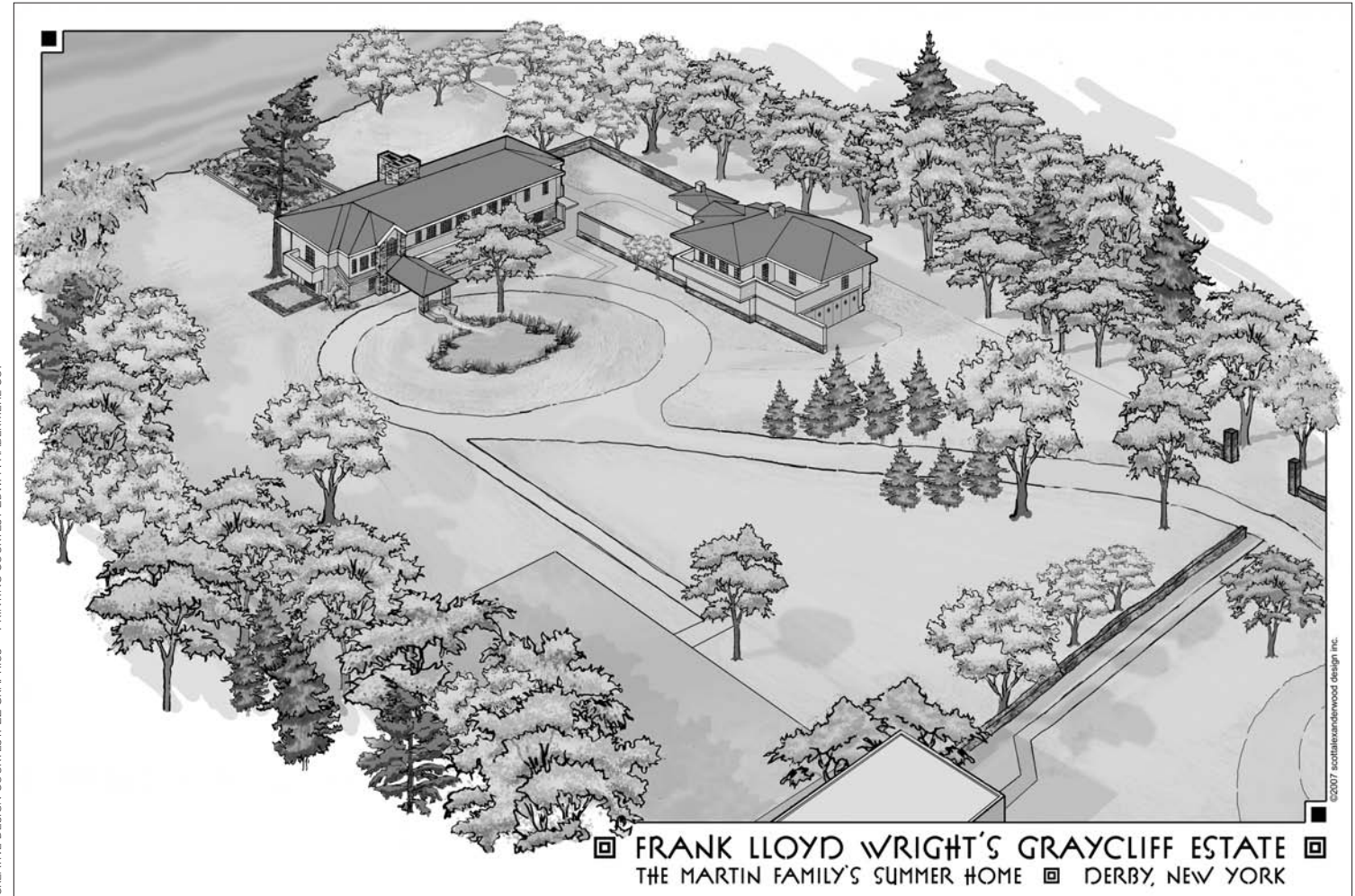
NEWSLETTER • FALL - WINTER EDITION • 2009

GRAYCLIFF WRIGHT ON THE LAKE
CONSERVANCY, INC.

ESTABLISHED TO PRESERVE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF ESTATE



DISCOVER GRAYCLIFF • "Located along the Seaway Trail, New York State's only National Scenic Byway"
National Register of Historical Places • New York State Landmark • Save America's Treasures - Official Project



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FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF ESTATE
THE MARTIN FAMILY'S SUMMER HOME
DERBY, NEW YORK

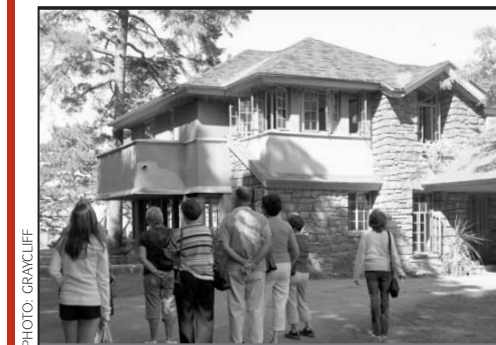


PHOTO: GRAYCLIFF

Join the Graycliff Conservancy
and Enjoy Free Tours for 1 Whole Year

"Wright was inspired...
Spectacular lakefront site..."
Town & Country magazine

"Surprisingly Beautiful...
I was very impressed"

Dr. Neil Levine - Wright Scholar

RATED ★★★★★ F.L. WRIGHT FIELD GUIDE

FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S
GRAYCLIFF
ESTATE

6472 OLD LAKE SHORE RD., DERBY, NY
20 mins. south of Buffalo on the cliffs of Lake Erie

Tours Available Year Round by Reservation 716-947-9217

- e-mail: graycliff@verizon.net • Web: <http://graycliff.bfn.org>
- Martin House - Graycliff Joint Tour Packages also available...call for details

Call For Volunteers • Join us... and discover Graycliff!

- **Tour Guides and Chaperones**-The Docent Committee provides training for interested volunteers.
- **Gift Shop**-Discover the fun of working with people and the many items in our specialty shop
- **Green Teams**-Maintaining the house, gardens and grounds
- **Special Events**-Both onsite and off.

Interested in helping? Please call us at 947-9217 or by e-mail at graycliff@verizon.net

Thanks to the following businesses/organizations for their support:

EZ Graphics, Edw. A. Habermehl Co., Lauer-Manguso & Associates, Hadley Exhibits, Scott Wood Design, Insty Prints, BCO Industries, Custom Tee Activewear, Artvoice, Explore New York Magazine, Buffalo News, Botanicus, The Turf Doctor, Arbdorale Nurseries, Chiavettas Greenhouse, The Roycroft Inn, East Aurora Advertiser, Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society, Western New York Heritage Magazine, Carl Schmitter Photography, Avenue Art & Frame, Forest Lawn, University at Buffalo Archives, University at Buffalo, Buffalo Rising, Pat's Pizza The Bee Publications, The Arts Council of Buffalo and Erie County, Buffalo Niagara Convention and Visitors Bureau, Town of Evans, Jim Bush Photography, Susan Eck, Chateau Buffalo Wine Shop, BRD Construction, Premier Wines City View Properties The Larkin Building at Exchange, Cannon Design, Redwood Creek Winery, Jubilee Markets and Mark Hertzberg Photography.

M&T Bank Funding support provided by M&T Bank and the County of Erie

Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo Awards Major Funding Toward Landscape Restoration

Graycliff has been seeking matching funds for a New York State grant for the restoration of Graycliff's historic grounds and gardens – and our friends at the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo stepped up to help. Their generous grant of \$50,000 is actually worth double that, thanks to this matching funding. It will help Graycliff enormously when we begin the implementation of our Cultural Landscape Report, which covers the restoration of our 8.4 acres of historic gardens and grounds. As we have learned from research for Graycliff's Cultural Landscape Report by Heritage Landscapes, Inc., Graycliff's landscape is a masterpiece designed by two titans of 20th century design: *Frank Lloyd Wright* himself, as well as *Ellen Biddle Shipman*, known as the "Dean of American Women Landscape Architects."

The Graycliff Conservancy is very grateful to the Community Foundation for their significant funding for this important work. We were proud to welcome the Community Foundation to help celebrate their 90th birthday at Graycliff on June 30th. Underwritten by Community Foundation Board member and Graycliff neighbor *Katie Schneider*, the celebration included a twilight tour and refreshments as the sun descended over the lake (see photo page 4). Since 1919, the Community Foundation has helped Western New Yorkers make the most of their generosity by maximizing the power of their charitable giving during and beyond their lifetimes. Congratulations to the Community Foundation for ninety years of commitment to the Buffalo community, and to Graycliff itself.

TOUR SCHEDULE EXTENDED FOR THE HOLIDAYS & WINTER SEASON



PHOTOS: M. HERTZBERG

From the Lake Side: A Message From The Executive Director

How to describe all the wonderful things that transpired this year? Especially when, today of all days, the leaves at Graycliff are glowing in their brilliant hues in the rich autumnal sunshine, and it's so hard to remember the many good things that have happened during this extraordinary year.

Board President *Diane Chrisman* continues her stellar leadership, guiding the Conservancy with a steady hand, and serving on all committees. Vice President *Patrick Mahoney* and Design Committee members *Joe Blatz*, *Sandy Brant*, *Tom Carleton*, *John Conlin*, *Diane Schrenk*, *Greg Bernas*, and *Lester Rickard* supervised continuing restoration work on the Foster House, as well as the forthcoming restoration of Graycliff's historic grounds and gardens.

Buildings and Grounds co-chairs *Richard Minekime* and *Clifford Whitman* worked closely with Green Team co-chairs *Kathy* and *Dale Marriott* and Green Team volunteers, and our grounds looked particularly lovely all season thanks to their efforts. Dick is a firm believer in getting his hands dirty, and at various times they were covered with dirt, gravel dust, mechanics grease or paint. Truly a man for all seasons and reasons!

Development Committee Chair *Craig Harris*, with the assistance of *Stanton Hudson*, *Jessica Hearst* and *Antoinette Forth*, produced the Summer Concert on August 1st – fortunately, the first day of sunshine after a very rainy July. *Exactly how did you do that, Craig?* Please see page 6 for more information about this unforgettable event. The Committee also assisted Board member Russell Maxwell, owner of the Walter V. Davidson House, with a special benefit for the Graycliff Conservancy at his enchanting residence (see page 5).

Graycliff's Advancement Committee members *Stanton Hudson* and *Catherine Schweitzer* work quietly and effectively behind the scenes as they advise, steer and provide hands-on assistance with Graycliff's goal of funding for restoration and operations. They have the golden touch! *Barbara Harder* has been working effectively on Graycliff planning; please see the Message from the President for more details.

Diane Schrenk, chair of the Education Committee, worked closely with Education Committee members *Pat Mahoney*, *Joe Blatz*, *Lynn Tranchell* and *June Crawford* to develop a new Graycliff Speakers Bureau. More on this in the next issue! The Education Committee also worked closely with Docent Co-Chairs *Scott Schultz* and *Cheryl Lickfeld* to provide new and specialized training for Graycliff's Master Docents. Master Docents lead Graycliff In-Depth Tours, which were greatly expanded this year. Scott and Cheryl also worked with the Education Committee on training for new docents, and "refreshers" to keep returning docents up to date – and in turn, our stellar docents led tours that were both informative and enjoyable for our thousands of visitors.

Graycliff Treasurer, *Chuck Wilson*, assisted by Finance Committee members *Chuck LeFevre*, *Richard Minekime*, *Steve Musso* and *Lester Rickard* kept us financially on track. New federal regulations meant many extra hours spent compiling all information required—so kudos all around!

The Pavilion Gift Shop has its own committee, too, co-chaired by

Jessica Hearst and *Marcy Workman*. *Katie Hennenberg*. *Emily O'Leary* and *Ashley LaRocque* assisted with the development of several new products, especially our new Graycliff signature necklace (see article page 11) A subcommittee of *Judy LaFlamme*, *Corinne Arcangel*, *Marcy Workman* and *JoAn Howe* have volunteered to create new retail displays, making the Pavilion Shop more entrancing than ever.

The Governance Committee, chaired by our own *Catherine Schweitzer*, and facilitated by members *Mary Ann Kresse*, *Harvey Garrett*, *Barbara Nevergold* and *Neil Melbrod*, saw through the passage of new By-Laws, an important step in Graycliff's steady growth.

Russ Maxwell, Chair of Governmental Relations, assisted by *Sandra Brant*, worked closely with elected officials for the betterment of Graycliff. Their efforts resulted in productive visits by several governmental leaders. Please see articles on page 4.

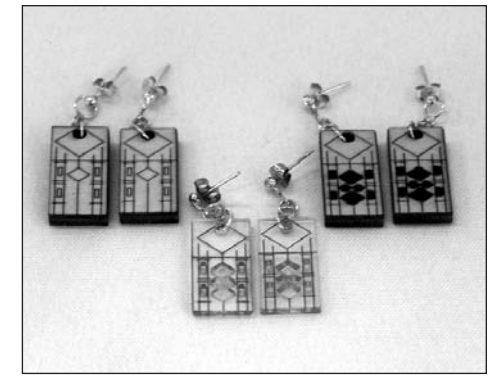
The Human Resources Committee focused on the creation of a new Employee Handbook, designed to provide guidance and direction to Graycliff's several part-time employees as well as the Executive Director. Chaired by the indefatigable *Barbara Nevergold* and Graycliff Founding President *Carol Bronnenkant*, the handbook is nearing completion.

Bill Wisniewski, chair of the Marketing Committee, produced a new brochure concerning the history of the Graycliff Conservancy itself – now that the organization actually has a history! In addition to creating print ads and design of all types, Bill and Marketing Committee members *Stanton Hudson* and *Scott Wood* oversaw the creation of new displays for fairs and festivals, new pages in *Facebook* and on *Twitter* (please look us up and "friend" us!) and much, much more.

Volunteer Coordinators *Marion Schmidt* and *Carol Wahlenmayer* are truly Graycliff angels. Organizing volunteers for a myriad of tasks, ranging from a new Housekeeping Crew, to volunteers for all special events, to volunteers to assist in the office and the Pavilion Gift Shop, to representing Graycliff at fairs and festivals – *Carol* and *Marion* do it all. They keep track of contact information, provide orientation for all volunteers, and in general, wear well burnished halos. A special thank you to former Board member *Cheryl St George*. After several years of excellent service as a Board member, Cheryl continues to assist in large ways and small, including organizing Graycliff's Annual Spring Clean-up and our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner.

Kudos to everyone for their dedication, hard work and sheer passion for Graycliff. It has resulted in restoration moving forward swiftly, continually increasing visitation, national attention this year in both the *Wall Street Journal* and *Newsweek* as well as publications of more focused interest such as *Style 1900* and the *Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly*, and the success of Graycliff generally. These are just a few of the many, many people who have contributed to Graycliff in the past year. We are deeply grateful to everyone for whom Graycliff is an abiding passion, and who share our belief that Graycliff is worthy of great effort and commitment.

–Reine Hauser
Executive Director



FRANK
LLOYD
WRIGHT

Holiday Shopping at the Graycliff Pavilion Shop

OPEN
YEAR
ROUND

It can be easy or difficult to find just the right thing for everyone on your shopping list during the holidays, but rest assured, *the Graycliff Pavilion Shop has it!*

A Graycliff membership is always the right size and color—and the grateful recipient will enjoy free tours for a year and this very newsletter, among other benefits!

If something more tangible is desired, may we recommend a scarf or tie, a business card case; or perhaps something for the home; from a cozy throw, a table runner or placemats, glassware or Graycliff china? How about something for sheer enjoyment, like wind chimes, a great book, or our wide assortment of jewelry, in a wide array of prices? All are available in the extraordinary designs of the master himself, Frank Lloyd Wright. There are also notecards, garden tools (for the season ahead) or desk accessories by William Morris, the founder of the Arts & Crafts movement.

What about something *Exclusively Graycliff?* There's apparel, of course..sweatshirts and tees in rich hues, baseball caps and boating caps (although gardeners tend to think this last are

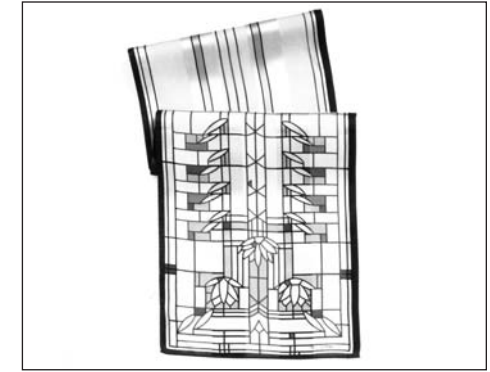
actually gardeners caps, and fishermen find them useful, too!) There are Graycliff bookmarks, our very own china created and locally made by *Buffalo China*, and a wonderful paperweight in a box that is just perfect for gift giving.

The most exciting new thing is our own *Graycliff Necklace*. Designed by *Amanda Beaulieu* at *Annie Adams Design*, to emulate Graycliff's signature Diamond Window. Beaulieu handcrafts each necklace in either sterling silver (\$55) or sterling silver and copper original to Graycliff (\$100), both with sterling chains.

Small sections of copper were removed during restoration, and this has now been used to craft this limited edition necklace—allowing the recipient to actually wear a piece of Graycliff.

You may wish to ask Santa to bring one just for you!

Pavilion Gift Shop purchases not only delight the recipient—they also further the important work of the Graycliff Conservancy. We are happy to ship orders; so please feel free to stop in to shop (call 716-947-9217 or email graycliff@verizon.net) and we'll be happy to help you.





1928



2009

Martin Family Reunion at Graycliff Estate

Several generations of descendants of Isabelle R. and Darwin D. Martin gathered for a family reunion in late May, and it was such fun to have them at Graycliff. Margaret Foster, the irrepressible granddaughter of Isabelle and Darwin, was accompanied by her daughter Betsy, son-in law Rick, and their daughter Jamie and son-in-law Brian Porter; as well as Margaret's son Brian Holcombe & his wife, Laurie. Betty Kilgore, Margaret's roommate/care giver was also in attendance. The debonair Darwin Martin Foster, the grandson of Isabelle & Darwin Martin, and Dary's lovely wife Hannelore, were accompanied by their daughter Denise and friend Lou Vilchez. Mark Armesto, Jr. and his wife, Lou, ably represented their great grandfather, Darwin R. Martin, the son of Isabelle and Darwin Martin. Martin Family reunion tee shirts, created especially for the occasion, were required attire—absolutely charming!

A few weeks later, Dary Martin and Hannelore Foster returned, accompanied by numerous friends from Michigan, where they reside. In July, Betsy and Rick Mudra arrived from Texas for a private visit, with their daughter Kristen and her husband Travis Cowan (Kristen is the twin sister of Jamie, who had visited earlier.) Betsy and Rick's friends, Diane & Paul McPheeters, and Rick's brother Tom Mudra also accompanied the family for their visit to Graycliff.

It was such a pleasure to be able to spend time with Martin family relatives, each of whom has been so supportive and generous to Graycliff. Sharing family stories of life at Graycliff is very helpful and deeply meaningful to us; and their good humor, kindness and joie de vivre are an inspiration. We hope they continue to visit often in the future.

During the reunion, amidst laughter and grace, family members agreed to recreate the pose of a photograph of the Martin family originally taken at Graycliff in 1928.



PHOTOS: M. HERTZBERG



A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Restoring & Preserving Graycliff Estate

For Future Generations as a World Class Heritage Site

Graycliff's Annual Membership Meeting in September was an opportunity for Conservancy members to celebrate a successful season that boasted ever-increasing visitation despite a rainy, cool summer.

During the meeting, six Directors were elected to new three-year terms. *Greg Bernas, Joe Blatz, Pat Mahoney, Barbara Nevergold, Lester Rickard* and *Bill Wisniewski* will continue their service to the Conservancy.

At the recent annual conference of the *Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy* (which is reported in detail on page 5 in this issue) several Graycliff Directors played significant roles: *Pat Mahoney* was elected to the organization's Board of Directors; *Sharon Osgood* was a Conference Chair; *Lester Rickard* served on the Conference Committee coordinating transportation; and *Russell Maxwell* opened his home, the beautiful *Davidson House*, for an elegant Leadership Circle reception. In addition, *Pat Mahoney* and Executive Director *Reine Hauser* were featured speakers during the morning presentations. *Diane Schrenk* chaired the conference attendees' tour of Graycliff, which included an afternoon tea. Even as Directors continue their participation in the activities of the broader preservation community, they continue their dedication to securing Graycliff's future through focused committee work as evidenced by two new ad-hoc committees.

Two Ad-hoc Committees Appointed

One of two new committees, the *Site Usage Committee*, chaired by *Barbara Harder*, is charged with examining existing Graycliff policies on use of the historic buildings and grounds. The committee, which includes *Jessica Hearst*, will assess current practices and propose plans to increase earned revenue by offering a variety of income generating events, such as corporate meetings or other activities that are appropriate for Graycliff.

The second committee is broader in scope and will look at strategic directions to ensure Graycliff's sustainability, incorporating the findings of the Site Usage Committee into its deliberations and recommendations.

The Strategic Operating Plan Committee is chaired by Director *Dick Minekime* and includes *Chuck Le Fevre, Chuck Wilson, Harvey Garrett, Jessica Hearst* and *Pat Mahoney*.

Graycliff's restoration and preservation for future generations as a world-class heritage site is made possible by the commitment of the Board, volunteers, docents, members and staff. Further, the efforts of these dedicated individuals are encouraged by support from the Western New York community, by the recognition received from Frank Lloyd Wright scholars throughout the country and by the enthusiasm of visitors from around the world who come to Graycliff and delight in its beauty, grace and serenity.

Diane Chrisman, President

GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY, INC.

WRIGHT ON THE LAKE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Diane Chrisman
President
- Patrick J. Mahoney, A.I.A.
Vice President
- Stanton H. Hudson, Jr.
Vice President
- Lester Rickard
Recording Secretary
- Charles Wilson
Treasurer
- Gregory Bernas
- Joseph A. Blatz
- Sandra L. Brant
- Thomas J. Carleton, P.L.S.
- Charles A. LaFevre, ASA
- Harvey Garrett
- Barbara Harder
- Jessica Hearst
- Russell Maxwell
- Richard E. Minekime
- Steve Musso
- Sharon Osgood, Esq.
- Diane Schrenk
- Catherine F. Schweitzer
- Barbara A. Seals Nevergold, Ph.D.
- Clifford E. Whitman
- William A. Wisniewski

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

- The Rev. Margaret R. Foster
- Darwin Martin Foster

ADVISORS

- Jason Aronoff
- Carol A. Bronnenkant
- John H. Conlin
- Jack Quinan
- Marjorie L. Quinlan
- Douglas Swift

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reine Hauser

GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY, INC. *Your membership is an investment in Graycliff – help us keep up the momentum! Members are vital to restoring and preserving Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff Estate.*

Members enjoy free admission for Graycliff tours, a 10% discount on gift shop purchases, a free subscription to our twice annual newsletter and advance notice and/or free admission to special events. Best of all, you are engaging in an active role in saving a masterpiece of Frank Lloyd Wright.

BASIC MEMBERSHIP

All Conservancy Members enjoy the following benefits:

- 10% discount at Gift Shop
- Subscription to the Graycliff Conservancy newsletter
- Discounts on educational programs and lectures

INDIVIDUAL — \$35

Free admission (all year) for 1 adult for Standard Tours.

FAMILY — \$60

Free admission (all year) for 2 adults and 2 students for Standard Tours.

FRIEND — \$75

Your choice of free admission (all year) for 4 adults for Standard Tours *or* In-Depth Tours for 2 adults.

SUPPORTING — \$100

Your choice of free admission (all year) to 4 adults for Standard Tours/In-Depth Tours; *or* Master Architectural Tours for 2 adults.

SUPPORTING PLUS — \$150

All SUPPORTING benefits *plus* a complimentary gift membership (individual or family)

Membership is tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

GRAYCLIFF'S "WRIGHT CIRCLE" OF LEADERSHIP

The Wright Circle is a dedicated group of individuals whose generous contributions are essential to restoring and sustaining this historic landmark.

Wright Circle benefits include All Basic Membership Benefits, *plus...*

SUSTAINING — \$250

- Invitation to Wright Circle receptions and events
- Complimentary gift membership (individual or family)
- 2 free admissions for special architectural tours, lectures or educational programs

CONTRIBUTOR — \$500

- All of the above "Wright Circle" benefits, *plus...*
- A total of 4 free admissions for special architectural tours, lectures or educational programs

BENEFACTOR — \$1,000

- All of the above "Wright Circle Contributor" benefits, *plus...*
- A private architectural tour for 6 (by reservation) with the Executive Director and/or Board President

YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS CRUCIAL TO SECURE GRAYCLIFF'S FUTURE

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Please list my/our name as follows in any donor listing: _____

Please check box next to Membership Level Amount enclosed \$ _____

VISA MasterCard CHECK ENCLOSED Checks payable to: Graycliff Conservancy

CARD # _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

If you are interested in more information about other gift opportunities at Graycliff, please call 716-947-9217 and ask to speak to the Executive Director.

■ A SPECIAL NOTE OF THANKS ■

THE GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY APPRECIATES THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-SAVE AMERICA'S TREASURES PROGRAM, THE NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION FUND, NEW YORK STATE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND THE NEW YORK STATE CLEAN WATER/CLEAN AIR BOND ACT, THE COUNTY OF ERIE, AND TOWN OF EVANS AS WELL AS SIGNIFICANT FUNDING FROM THE BAIRD FOUNDATION, EAST HILL FOUNDATION, FIRST NIAGARA BANK FOUNDATION, GANNETT FOUNDATION, HODGSON RUSS ATTORNEYS LLP, SEYMOUR H. KNOX FOUNDATION, SAMUEL H. KRESS FOUNDATION, JAMES H. CUMMINGS FOUNDATION, THE MARY K. MAHLEY FAMILY FOUNDATION, M&T BANK, THE JOHN R. OISHEI FOUNDATION, PHYLLIS W. PIERCE CHARITABLE LEAD ANNUITY TRUST, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR GREATER BUFFALO, THE MARGARET L. WENDT FOUNDATION, DOROTHY PAYNE FUND, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION THE PAUL J. KOESSLER FOUNDATION AND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF GREATER BUFFALO.

■ THANK YOU ■

BURNISHING THE JEWEL

Your Financial Support is Vital!

Funding—already secured—**must be matched with private contributions** for Graycliff's restoration to continue apace.

Crucial Projects in need of Immediate Funding:

Restoring the Interior of the Isabelle R. Martin House

•
Procuring Interior Furnishings

•
Strengthening On-Site Operations

Please contribute—all donations are tax-deductible

**For information:
716-947-9217**



Cover Story: Katie Schneider and Clothilde Dedecker at the twilight tour



Assemblyman Quinn with Executive Director Reine Hauser



Senator Thompson with Diane Chrisman and Russell Maxwell



Congresswoman Slaughter touring the Estate



Members of the Preservation League of NY



NYS Funding Secured by Assemblyman Quinn

It was a lovely August morning when *New York State Assemblyman Jack Quinn III*, a long-time Graycliff supporter, toured Graycliff to see the progress since his last visit. Assemblyman Quinn, who assisted Graycliff with funding for marketing assistance this year, has been a stalwart supporter of Graycliff. Quinn is dedicated to economic development in Western New York, and has been impressed with the growing impact of Graycliff on heritage tourism in the region. Kudos to Assemblyman Jack Quinn III for securing additional and much needed funds which will allow Graycliff to advance this initiative

Senator Antoine Thompson at Graycliff

New York State Senator Antoine Thompson visited Graycliff in late June, enjoying lunch in the Martin family's dining room with Graycliff Board President *Diane Chrisman*, Governmental Relations Committee Chair *Russell Maxwell*, and Executive Director *Reine Hauser*. Senator Thompson expressed great enthusiasm for the efforts of the Conservancy and the significance of the estate. A lively discussion about historic preservation and tourism ensued as we shared information and objectives. The Graycliff Conservancy is very grateful to Senator Thompson for taking time to visit, tour Graycliff and discuss concerns of mutual interest. We look forward to working closely with the Senator on these matters in the months ahead.

US Congresswoman Louise Slaughter at Graycliff

US Congresswoman Louise Slaughter toured Graycliff in the spring. Accompanied by Board member *Catherine Schweitzer*, Board President *Diane Chrisman*, and Executive Director *Reine Hauser*, Congresswoman Slaughter greatly enjoyed Graycliff's architecture. All were very pleased by her responsiveness, as Congresswoman Slaughter's role as Co-Chair of the House of Representatives Caucus on the Arts gives her a broad perspective on art and architecture in the United States. She is deeply committed to economic development in Western New York, and the quartet spent much of the visit in a discussion of economic development through cultural and heritage tourism, and Graycliff's important role in tourism in the region.

Preservation League of New York Returns for a Visit

Members of the Preservation League of New York returned to Graycliff for the first time in several years in mid-June. Among our very first donors, the Preservation League was instrumental in the preservation of Graycliff. Shortly after the Graycliff Conservancy was formed, the League provided funds for Graycliff's Historic Structures Report. This in-depth report, several hundred pages in length, has served as our guide to the restoration of all three of our historic buildings ever since.

Their visit this year allowed members to see – and enjoy – the tremendous progress the Conservancy has made in the intervening decade. Following a tour on a sunny Sunday morning, members noshed on a light repast of blueberry scones and coffee, hosted by the Baird Foundation. Many thanks to the Preservation League for their very early and important support.

A Special Salute to the Graycliff Volunteer Docents

2009 has been a very busy year and we are so proud of all our docents have accomplished. Thank you to everyone who stepped up to conduct the many tours—it wouldn't happen without you! Many docents have given multiple tours on the same day, going above and beyond to ensure we have been able to offer as many tours as possible to our ever growing number of visitors. You handled large tour groups with patience and grace, and thanks to your flexibility and smooth control, we were able to accommodate a record number of visitors in 2009, with an expanded Standard Tour schedule and additional In-Depth Tours on Fridays.

Additional thanks to those who dedicated their time and talents in planning new programs and revamping current ones. We have instituted two new programs this season. The first is a Master Docent discussion group that was developed by Diane Schrenk, Joe Blatz and Patrick Mahoney. Master Docents will lead our In-Depth Tours throughout the season. The group has expanded their knowledge of Frank Lloyd Wright and Graycliff through reading materials and discussions led by Pat and Diane that have been held at Graycliff on several Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. It takes a special person to be up and ready for discussion at that time of the day! Many thanks to our original group of participants: Tom Alcamo, Tom Browne, Irene Cuddihy, Matthew Guerin, Angela Hintz, Cheryl Lickfield, Anita Mitchell, Beverly Nenzo, Margaret Santi, Marion Schmidt, Carol Wahlenmayer, Jerry Wahlenmayer, Phyllis Weyer, Marcy Workman, Loretta Worth and Janet Utts for expressing interest in the program.

Our second new program is a Docent Training Self-Study curriculum. In the past some potential docents were unavailable during regularly scheduled training sessions. This new self-study program will allow those with interest to complete a structured self-study program that aligns with the current training process. The program includes multiple reading assignments, videos and podcasts as well as tour shadowing, touring other sites and a certification process. This program is currently being piloted to evaluate its success, and we hope to offer this program to an expanded number of potential candidates in 2010.

We were also fortunate that our family grew by four members this season. These special people: Antoinette Forth, Kay McNaney, Renee Stonitsch and Darlene Wierzba successfully completed their exacting docent training sessions and certification earlier this year and are now actively giving tours. We began our course five weeks earlier this year and were able to certify all of these trainees before our busiest time of the year. Thank you for sitting through that first very cold day at the site in mid-March! Congratulations to you all and welcome to our docent family.

As part of this year's training we were able to expand our lecture topics. Patrick Mahoney, Anita Mitchell, and Eric Jackson-Forsberg (Staff Curator of the Martin House) all volunteered their time to create and present wonderful lectures to new and returning docents on the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright, the Martin Family and Frank Lloyd Wright in Buffalo. These presentations were given at the historic Larkin at Exchange Building for the first time in our history. A true highlight of this year's training was a visit during our Spring Clean-Up from Conservancy founder Carol Bronnenkant. Carol spoke about the earliest days of the Conservancy to the delight of all.

Our trainees also enjoyed expanded site visits as part of training this year. Along with our visit to the Martin House which was expertly lead by Margaret Stehlik (Director of Martin House Volunteers) we were able to add a tour, the Roycroft Campus, lead by our very own Tom Alcamo.

Additional thanks go to those docents who volunteered their time to assist with docent training this season. Tom Alcamo, Matthew Guerin, Angela Hintz, Cheryl Lickfield, Janet Utts, Phyllis Weyer, Marcy Workman and Loretta Worth all selflessly gave of their time to lend a hand with docent training by offering feedback on trainee presentations. Our gratitude also is extended to the many docents who offered advice and guidance to our trainees when they shadowed your public tours.

Many heartfelt thanks go out to all our docents for constantly checking facts, asking questions, supplying feedback and continually expanding our collective knowledge. Thank you for giving your time, energy and enthusiasm to Graycliff. You are the face of Graycliff and are at the core of what makes Graycliff the special place that it is.

So have you ever considered joining our docent team? Scientific studies have pinpointed certain health benefits as a result of volunteering. Among those benefits are a life span up to eight years longer than non-volunteering people, a lower rate of depression, an expanded social network, stress reduction, the release of "feel good" endorphins and even fewer colds and stomach aches. Are you interested in some extra health benefits? We have the remedy! Contact us by calling (716) 947-9217 or emailing us at graycliff@verizon.net today to become a part of our exciting 2010 season. – *Scott Schultz, Chair, Docent Training, Graycliff Conservancy*



Docent Trainees tour the Estate in early spring 2009



All Docent Meeting 2009 - Class photo on the North Terrace



Corinne Arcangel leading a tour



Scott Schultz conducting a training tour



Docent Trainees touring the Estate





Kathy Marriott planting ivy



Beverly Nenzo cleaning windows



Richard Minekime painting the floor



Ed Qualey helps with the paint project



Marcy Workman helping in the gift shop

Graycliff's Green Team: The Beauty of Nature

On May 30th, six Green Team members joined forces to plant annuals for the summer. The pansies were removed from the raised beds by the kitchen window and replanted into containers to be placed around the pond. They were replaced with bright yellow and orange marigolds and cheery green sweet potato vines.

The window box placed at the top of the stairs contains colors to harmonize with the house. At the suggestion of *Jeff Salmon*, the two planters by the rose garden and two by the sidewalk into the visitors center have lantana and English ivy to match the plantings at the Martin House. The idea was that the Martin's gardener may have grown and planted similar items at both homes. The ivy reappears in the two planters placed near the entrance to the house and the four planters on the terraces.

On June 6th, four Green Team members replanted the white garden by the kitchen entrance. The area had been prepared by Board member *Richard Minekime* and staff. Three types of fern were planted as a background, and green and white hostas filled the front of the garden. An edging of sweet woodruff gives definition to the space. A layer of mulch accentuates the plants and keeps in the moisture. Weeding, watering and trimming of all of the plantings continued throughout the summer and autumn.

Kudos to Green Team members *Barbara* and *Lester Rickard*, *Beth Bloomquest* (and her brother), *Danielle Keveny*, *Jill Barille*, *Mary Ellen Hana*, *Marilyn* and *Peter Hasenpusch*, *Ed Qualey* and all other Green Team members for their wonderful work this year. *Kathy Marriott*

Graycliff Volunteers Works the Festival Season

The festival season of 2009 saw some new venues and approaches this year.

Our festival season started early with *Amherst Celebrates the Arts* on May 30th. Our indoor location proved fortunate since the day was cool and, at times, rainy. We were located right outside the door of the performance area, providing a lot of traffic. *CK Hennon*, *Mary Jane Kibbey*, *Matt Guerin*, *Phyllis Weyer*, *Jerry* and *Carol Wahlenmayer* participated in the event and the comments were unanimous. There were many people in this location who'd HEARD of Graycliff, but had not visited. They were anxious to know more, and 388 pieces of literature were distributed.

The Hamburg Art Festival took place on July 12, a lovely Sunday afternoon. We used our park location to showcase our literature and Graycliff posters. *Marion Schmidt*, *Sheila Flint*, *Corrine Arcangel*, *Carol Keiner*, *Darlene Weirzba*, and *Carol Wahlenmayer* manned our tent, encountering people they knew who wanted to talk about Graycliff at length. Again, there was high interest in our progress: over 250 flyers were distributed. Additionally, we received 3 volunteer applications.

Margaret Santi and *Lorraine Sandow* got us started at the Lancaster Art Festival, on July 19th, the last of our new venues. Volunteers *Tammy Yekich*, *Sally Dondero*, and *Mary Ellen Miller* told the art-lovers about our own piece of art. *Dale* and *Kathy Marriott* ended the day and returned all our belongings to Graycliff. All reported keen interest among the participants. Again, close to 250 pieces of Graycliff literature got into the hands of interested attendees.

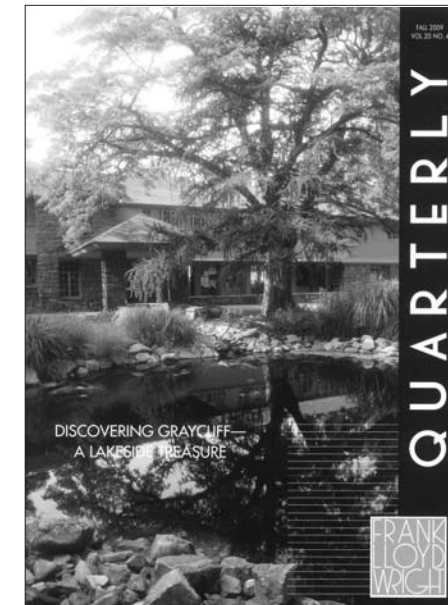
Through a reciprocal arrangement with *Todd Mitchell* from *Preservation Buffalo Niagara*, we were also able to exchange literature, providing each organization with a presence in venues we weren't visiting this year. As a result, 400 more Graycliff advertisers were distributed at the *Roycroft Festival* in June and the *Elmwood Avenue Festival of the Arts* in August by *Buffalo Tours* volunteers. Graycliff volunteers returned the favor at our venues, handing out 400 Buffalo Tours flyers.

Overall, it was a season of broad geographic presence, wonderful volunteer participation, multi-cultural collaboration, and a record 1274 pieces of Graycliff literature in the hands of an interested public. Thanks to everyone who made it work! *Carol Wahlenmayer*

Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly Issue Features Graycliff

The Autumn Issue of the Frank Lloyd Wright Quarterly, a full color magazine published by the *Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation*, is devoted to Graycliff. Architectural historian and author *Kathryn Smith's* essay, "The Earth, Air, Light, Water: Graycliff" and "Graycliff Emerging" by *Patrick Mahoney*, AIA are graced by numerous historic and contemporary color photographs.

This issue of the Quarterly, ably edited by *Suzette Lucas*, is 39 pages long, and features approximately fifty entrancing photographs, plans, sketches and other visual representations. Copies of the publication are available free with membership in the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, or by special arrangement through the Graycliff Pavilion Gift Shop for \$6.



National Conference of FLW Building Conservancy

From October 7-11, 2009, the National Conference of the Frank Lloyd Wright Conservancy was held in Buffalo. The Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy, an international preservation organization, was founded in 1989. Its mission is to facilitate the preservation and maintenance of the remaining structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright through education, advocacy, preservation easements and technical services. The conference, which last met in Buffalo in 1997, focused on "Wright in the Drafting Room: Drawings for the Built and Unbuilt." Lectures and panel discussions on this subject, as well as on specific Wright designs for Western New York such as Graycliff were featured. *Patrick Mahoney*, AIA and Graycliff Vice President and *Reine Hauser*, Graycliff Executive Director were among the featured speakers, which included scholars and experts of renown from across the nation. A number of Graycliff Board members actively aided the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy with their conference; please see details in the Message from the President.

Tours of Wright properties and other architectural landmarks in Western New York were among the highlights of the conference, and at Graycliff a lovely mid-afternoon tea, organized by *Diane Schrenk*, was served at the conclusion of their tour. Despite the uncooperative weather, attendees were greatly impressed by the progress the Graycliff Conservancy has made in restoration.



Diane Chrisman and Chuck LaChuisa during the National Conference tour at Graycliff

Second Annual Graycliff Benefit at Davidson House

The Davidson House, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for Larkin Company executive Walter V. Davidson was the beautiful location of a benefit for the Graycliff Conservancy in mid-September. Following on the heels of a highly successful identical event last year, Board member extraordinaire *Russell Maxwell*, owner of the Davidson House, offered to host the event again this year.

Guests enjoyed a rare opportunity to experience a Frank Lloyd Wright architectural masterwork that is a functioning home today, and not generally open to the public.

Constructed in 1908 for Walter V. Davidson, an executive with the Larkin Soap Company in Buffalo, the Prairie-style Davidson House includes banded casement windows and a stucco exterior. It features a two-story living room illuminated by an enormous art glass bay window. Belying its simple exterior, the interior of the house is divided into multiple floor levels. As noted in *Buffalo Architecture, A Guide* (Cambridge, M.I.T. Press, 1981): *Spatial grandeur is cleverly played off against intimacy, while even the smallest of spaces is opened up through Wright's use of banded window sequences.*

Amidst the warm autumn light glowing through those windows, guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as they marveled at Wright's architecture. Allowed free reign throughout the residence, the spacious screened patio quickly became the focal point for conversation and merriment.



Graycliff's favorite couple, FLW Building Conservancy President Susan Jacobs Lockhart with husband, internationally renowned scholar Dr. Neil Levine



Senator William Stachowski with guests at the Davidson House



Barbara Nevergold & Sharon Holley at the Graycliff Benefit



Stanley Hooper, Thomas Jambro, and Scott Schultz enjoy the party





The Outer Circle Orchestra at Graycliff



Conga line around the pond

Double-Header Summer Concert

Some folks know how to celebrate the summer...they attended a double-header concert performance by jazz greats the *Barroom Buzzards*, followed by the renowned *Outer Circle Orchestra*, with a wine tasting sponsored by *Redwood Creek Winery* at Graycliff on Saturday, August 1, 2009.

The benefit concert, organized by Graycliff's Development Committee, raised funds to further the work of the Conservancy. Committee members *Antoinette Forth* and *Jessica Hearst*, led by Chair *Craig Harris*, worked with numerous Graycliff volunteers on the successful event. Volunteers who made this event possible included: *Ed Qualey*, *Carol* and *Jerry Wahlenmayer*, *Corinne* and *Wayne Arcangel*, *Jeannie Barrett*, *Mary Kay DiPaolo*, *JoAnn Howe*, *Judy Jones*, *Joan Osborne*, *Mary Ellen Miller*, *Lorraine Sandow*, *Margaret Santi*, *Darlene Ungaro*, *David* and *Nina Smeltz*, *Kay McNaney*, *Sally Dondero* and *Marion Schmidt*.

It may have been the first time—in history—that a conga line of dancers moved rhythmically around the pond, snaking under the porte cochere...and a few Graycliff volunteers even joined in!

In addition to the delectable wine donated by *Redwood Creek Winery*, pizza was also donated by *Pat's Pizza* and *Jubilee Market*.

The *Barroom Buzzards*, whose appearance was underwritten by the *Baird Foundation*, is a swinging jazz combo, with *Paul Preston* on clarinet and soprano sax, *Lewis Custode* on trumpet, *Warren Stirtzinger* on guitar and banjo, and *Paul Zapalowski* on bass and tuba. Long time heroes of jazz, the Buzzards were inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame in 2002. They have performed throughout the region for over 28 years, and nationally on PBS's long-running *Mark Russell Comedy Hour*. The Barroom Buzzards have also been heard at jazz festivals in New Orleans, San Diego, Savannah, Georgia, Indianapolis, and Columbus, Ohio.

Following the Buzzards in their Graycliff appearance was the *Outer Circle Orchestra*—an ensemble noted for their Afro-Caribbean or world-beat music—got everyone's toes a tappin'. Outer Circle's performances are a mixture of structured and improvised music, featuring trombones, djembe, electric and acoustic guitars, saxophone, and keyboards. At Graycliff, their lively performance inspired the entirely spontaneous conga line, dancing in a weaving line across the grounds.



A 1950's card of Graycliff lakeside, published by the *Piarist Fathers*, showing the chimney prior to stone restoration

Historic Postcards



A rare tudor inspired Wright design for Nathan Moore, ca. 1907



Taliesin I, Wright's Wisconsin home prior to its destruction by fire in 1914



A guest room of Tokyo's Imperial Hotel, with its delicate furnishings, ca. 1924



Taliesin's Exhedra, a reflective seating area reinterpreted into Blue Sky Mausoleum, ca. 1913



A card of Buffalo's Gates Circle written from Dorothy Martin to her cousin Bernice Martin, ca. 1906

Frank Lloyd Wright, Built Works in Historic Postcards

The Visitors Pavilion is currently featuring a temporary display titled "Frank Lloyd Wright, Built Works in Historic Postcards." Designed to interpret Graycliff in the context of Wright's other work and world events, the show displays many similarities between Graycliff and other Wright designs. It is divided into two sections. The first section displays actual cards framed by subject including the Imperial Hotel from Tokyo (demolished in 1967), and the Lake Geneva Hotel from Lake Geneva, Wisconsin (demolished in 1970). The second part of the show includes approximately 200 images of structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright and arranged generally according to the date of their design. Included are images of about 66 structures designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Major sections of the exhibit feature *Real Photo Postcards & Linen Cards* as well as previously unpublished images. Wright's own Wisconsin home, Taliesin, is well represented in the exhibit.

Many of the images depicting Wright's home, Taliesin, are Real Photo Postcards. Postcards of Taliesin are of particular interest in this exhibit as it was the source of many of the decorative details Wright used for Graycliff. The angular shingled roof ridges at Graycliff were modeled on those from Taliesin I & II. This roof detail was lost at Taliesin after a 1925 fire destroyed the house. The large curved moldings at the base of the outside walls at Graycliff and inverted at the roofline are very rare in Wright's work, having been first used at Taliesin as only a base molding. Scholars have suggested that one reason Wright used this molding at Graycliff was to have access to build Taliesin III with moldings not used at Graycliff.

Real Photo Postcards (RPPC) are actual photographs (as opposed to lithographic reproductions) printed in postcard format in very limited numbers. They record daily life at a time when photography was still novel. Later cards are termed 'Chromes', a name derived from the first color film developed by Eastman Kodak, Kodachrome. By 1906, postcards became very popular ways to send short messages because postage for a postcard was only one cent, compared with two cents for a letter in a sealed envelope.

Structures featured include Taliesin I, the Hillside Home School, The Larkin Administration Building, Unity Temple, The Imperial Hotel, The Fred Jones Residence, The Nathan Moore Residence, Graycliff, Rocky Roost, Florida Southern College, The Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, The Sutton Residence, The Heurtley Residence, The Fricke Residence, The Rookery Building, The Bradley Residence, The Robie House, The City National Bank and Hotel, and The Frank Smith Bank.

The Fred Jones Residence is located on the south shore of Lake Delavan, a summer community in Wisconsin. It was built as one of a group of the most elaborate summer homes Wright ever designed. The Jones estate known as 'Penwern' was the most extensive of the homes and is the only summer home rivaling Graycliff in scope. Built before the development of the automobile, 'Penwern' is very different than Graycliff, although both were intended to frame dramatic water views. Due to the time it was designed within Wright's career, the various buildings at 'Penwern' are spread out throughout the estate in an effort to reduce the risk of fire and to isolate the stables from the residence. Regardless, it is a striking complex well represented in turn-of-the-century postcard views.

The Nathan Moore Residence was a Tudor inspired Wright designed residence. It was built before the turn of the twentieth century and was the scene of an extensive fire in December 1922. Mr. Moore asked

Wright to redesign the house after the fire and Wright complied, using elements of a design proposed for a Buffalo home for Dorothy Martin Foster. Although never built, it had been proposed as a wedding gift from Darwin D. Martin to his daughter Dorothy for a corner site on St. Catherine's Court. Drawings of this home are currently on display at Buffalo's Anderson Gallery in a show mounted by Wright scholar Jack Quinan titled "Frank Lloyd Wright's Buffalo Venture from the Larkin Building to Broadacre City."

Individual cards are from the collections of Patrick J. Mahoney, Randolph C. Henning and George Shutack. Several cards reference historical figures including Wright apprentices William Wesley Peters, Edgar Tafel, Alan Lape Davison, Wright Clients Darwin D. Martin and William Martin, and Catherine Wright, the daughter of Frank Lloyd Wright and mother of motion picture star, Anne Baxter.

Wright apprentice Alan Lape Davison sent two of the featured cards to his family in Pittsburgh, noting small houses under design whose drawings would soon be completed. Davison remains one of the most famous delineators within Wright's office, having been responsible for several stunning night renderings of Pittsburgh projects and Madison, Wisconsin's recently executed Monona Terrace.

A rare card within the display is shown on both sides. It is a card of Wright's own Wisconsin home, Taliesin I. It is particularly rare because Taliesin existed for only three years before being destroyed by a 1914 fire that tragically killed seven. This card is even more rare having been sent eight days after the murders with a message describing the event. Other cards in the show illustrate Taliesin II, the rebuilt version of the house, which burned for a second time in 1925 after a lightning strike. Taliesin III is also shown.

One oddity within the display is a card featuring Buffalo's Gates Circle, a public space not designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The card is included as it was sent by a resident of one home designed by Wright (Darwin Martin's daughter Dorothy) to a resident of another home designed by Wright (William Martin's daughter Bernice /Oak Park, Ill.). The card mentions Wright's own daughter Catherine arriving for a visit in Buffalo, and was sent to and from cousins. This card was acquired at a local postcard show in Cheektowaga several years ago for one dollar. Once the postcard dealer was informed of the connections to Frank Lloyd Wright, he acknowledged he would have re-priced the card if he had been aware. The Buffalo Postcard Club organizes its show each year in March. The show for 2010 is set for March 28 in the Masonic Lodge at 2379 Union Rd., Cheektowaga, N.Y.

Several recent visitors to the site as part of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy conference closely studied parts of the display. Jack Holzhueter, former Wisconsin State Historian and Wright Boathouse scholar, was particularly impressed by the comprehensive views of the Imperial Hotel. Several of the interior views of the hotel illustrate Wright designed furniture of the 1920s, lightly framed furniture that is very similar to that designed by Wright for Graycliff. Vintage postcards of Graycliff itself are very rare. The exhibit features two historic images and a current sunset view available in the gift shop.

The display is in the flexible exhibit area of the Pavilion, a space that has shown Larkin exhibits since the building opened in 2001.

By Patrick J. Mahoney, AIA
Chairman Design Committee