Major Historic Landscape Restoration Underway!

The restoration of Graycliff’s historic landscape is now underway, and is slated to be completed quickly—before June 30th, 2013—and quite possibly even sooner.

The work will include removal of the bridge connected to the stair tower, which connects the Estate to the beach below. The bridge will be safely stored elsewhere on the grounds, until such time as Graycliff, in partnership with the NYS Office of Historic Preservation (SHPO), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, and the Army Corps of Engineers completes studies in this environmentally sensitive area, and we can go forward with full restoration in a responsible manner.

In the meantime, this temporary removal will secure the tower itself, which will be reinforced to remain standing. Our concern, which was shared by SHPO, was that if a major storm arose over the lake, the bridge might be torn away, and demolish the tower itself. This work will ensure that the tower remains standing, and permit Graycliff to fully research the best way to approach complete restoration.

The pond will be fully restored, including a permanent liner and new piping to ensure the fountain continues bubbling and the pond water circulates. Major grading will take place around the pond and near the Foster House, which is below grade, potentially causing damage to the building due to rain water and its drainage. This aspect of the project will preserve the building, while also returning the ground its original height and the lawn to its original condition.

Removal of non-historic trees, and installation of new trees of the type and location as they were at Graycliff in mid 1931 (the date of significance for Graycliff’s historic landscape) will be undertaken as well. Catco Construction will be performing the work, under the guidance of Pressley Associates, the landscape architects who prepared the treatment plan.

Perhaps most dramatically, the drive and circle, which are currently asphalt, will be replaced with a synthetic material that simulates the original stained, crushed shale. This new material will look like the original, but be much firmer, allowing vehicles such as fire trucks to enter the area if an emergency occurs. We certainly hope it never does, but we’ll be well prepared if needed.

We wish to thank those who have made this project possible: The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature; Erie County, The Pierce Charitable Trust, The Community Foundation of Greater Buffalo, M&T Bank, The Western New York Foundation, Saperston Asset Management, the East Hill Foundation, Schichtel Nurseries, the Simple Gifts Fund, the Balbach Family Foundation; Dr. Claire Schen and Dr. Gregory Cherr; and the Cameron Brown Fund.
From The Lake Side:
A Message From
The Executive Director

“Behind the Scenes”
The 2013 Season

As we look forward to the 2013 season, rich with restoration, tours, lectures and many more activities, it’s time to reflect on the winter months, when so much planning took place for the season ahead.

With the leadership of President Diane Schrenk, Graycliff Committees were re-energized. The Governance Committee, with the guidance of chair Diane Chrisman, and members Barbara Seals Nevergold, Catherine Schweitzer, Mary Ann Kresse and Nancy Broek, was particularly active, recruiting several excellent new Board members. (see article page 9) The Special Events Committee, and its co-chairs Kevin Hoffman and Antoinette Forth, worked closely on several upcoming events for 2013, most especially the Graycliff Gala (see article page 4), which in turn is chaired by Sharon Metz, who has been working tirelessly this winter with the support of the Gala Committee.

Volunteer Co-Chairs Phyllis Spears and Kathy Mehlretter revised the Volunteer Handbook and, working with chair Grace Struebel, inaugurated a new Graycliff Volunteer Blog. The Marketing Committee, guided by chair Jim Charlier, continued the expansion of marketing efforts, particularly digital, with website improvements, design of the volunteer blog, and a dramatic expansion of Graycliff’s Facebook page. Take a look at it here https://www.facebook.com/Graycliff for frequent updates and wonderful photos, both new and historic.

Restoration is moving along nicely, thanks to the help of Patrick Mahoney, Larry Cobado, Michael Longo and Sandra Brant. Scheduled for this summer is the restoration of the floor of the living room of the Isabelle R. Martin House as well as the long awaited landscape restoration.

Upgrades to the M&T Bank Pavilion (special thanks to Michael Longo for his design services) at Graycliff are slated for this coming winter; thanks to Uniland Development, and Alpha Contract flooring, we expect the Pavilion to be refreshed in a few months.

The Human Resources Committee, led by Barbara Seals Nevergold, with the assistance of Susan Herold, Chris Merry and Diane Chrisman, is undertaking a major review of personnel matters this season. In addition to reviewing the employee handbook, it will standardize performance reviews and review job descriptions.

The Isabelle R. Martin Society will gather for the first time this summer (see article page 5.) If you have remembered Graycliff in your will, please let us know... you won’t want to miss this party!

The Education Committee has created a wonderful lecture series for this year, focusing on Wright’s Porches, Porticos and Terraces, thanks to support from the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature. Introducing the lectures will be Dr. Ben Christie, a new Graycliff Board member who is Dean of Arts and Humanities at Buffalo State College.

Some of Graycliff’s most dedicated Board members work quietly and masterfully behind the scenes. Among them are Treasurer Chris Merry and Charles LeFevre who chair and serve on the Finance Committee respectively. In addition to preparing monthly financial statements, Chris also guides the annual auditing process, and the Finance Committee in longer range planning. Charles has been instrumental in assisting in the budgeting process. Terry Robinson, another new Board member, works with elected officials to introduce and/or update them about Graycliff and its progress.

As we look forward to an exciting spring and summer, filled with events and tours, restoration, lovely days spent along the lake with magnificent architecture, it is because of the dedication of so many, to efforts large and small, that make Graycliff the Jewel on the Lake.

—Reine Hauser

A Special Note of Thanks

The Graycliff Conservancy appreciates the generous support of Save America’s Treasures, National Parks Service, US Department of the Interior; US Department of Transportation, the New York State Environmental Protection Fund, Strategic Investment Program, Clean Water-Clean Air Act, Council on the Arts; The County of Erie, Town of Evans, as well as significant funding from the Baird Foundation, Balbach Family Foundation, the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo, James H. Cummings Foundation, the East Hill Foundation, First Niagara Bank, the Fund for the Arts, Gannett Foundation, Hooper Family Foundation, KeyBank, Seymour H. Knox Foundation, Samuel H. Kress Foundation, M&T Bank, National Fuel, Preservation League of New York, John R. Deshei Foundation, Dorothy Payne Fund, Phyllis W. Pierce Charitable Trust, Saperston Family Foundation, Simple Gifts Fund, Estate of Marion Zimmerman and the Margaret L. Wendt Foundation.

Thank you also to Premier Wine and Spirits and Liberty Liquors in Derby.

Special Thanks to Carl Schmitter for Graycliff Photography.
A Message From The President:

“In the coming months, Graycliff will continue to capitalize on opportunities, and expand its profile internationally.”

In the Graycliff Conservancy’s short history, three illustrious people: Carol Bronnenkant, Diane Chrisman, and Patrick Mahoney have served as president since 1997.

It was a pleasure and honor for me to accept the position of President in the autumn of 2012. With this responsibility in 2013, I see a Graycliff recreating itself, inspired to new levels of excitement in its mission.

In the coming months, Graycliff will continue to capitalize on opportunities, and expand its profile internationally. Please see our website (graycliffestate.org) for a link to an excellent article on the recent 20th Century Society of Great Britain’s designation of Graycliff as the “Building of the Month” for March 2013 (see article page 10.)

Graycliff committees have been re-energized and better coordinated; and are working together on programming, restoration, fund raising and outreach, rather than as independent entities.

In 2013, I also look back as a founding member to the very first year of the Graycliff Conservancy, 1997. What was planted then has taken root, produced seeds, and now blooms fragrantly—involving all who were involved then, and those who have joined the effort since.

This year, we will celebrate the 85th summer of Graycliff. Recently, I re-read Darwin Martin’s 1928 journal and imagined the excitement of that first summer spent in this Frank Lloyd Wright designed home.

In March 1928, Martin writes of purchasing furniture in Chicago for Graycliff. In April, both Isabelle and Darwin Martin visited Graycliff in preparation for their first summer. June saw the contract for the steel stair tower and the opening of the home for the first time. The Martin family, and their descendants, the Foster family, spent the summer of 1928 at Graycliff, and often dined at the nearby Wanakah Club.

Many of their close friends, such as the Harshs and the Barcalos, visited that first summer.

It was during Paul Harsh’s stay in September of that year that he suggested that the estate be given the name of “Graycliff.” It has been called that ever since.

What Frank Lloyd Wright designed in the 1920s took root and now blooms. With your continued support in membership, events, and volunteering, Graycliff will continue to expand its roots and mature long after we are gone.

See you at the lake, this 85th summer!

—Diane Shrenk
As this newsletter goes to press, Graycliff is gearing up for the fourth annual Graycliff Gala on Friday, April 12, 2013... and we expect everyone to have a splendid time! The Gala will be held at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum, allowing attendees a sneak peek at the new Frank Lloyd Wright Filling Station.

The evening begins with mingling with wine (donated by Premiere Liquor,) ale (contributed by Dundee Ale) and hors d’oeuvres, amidst a silent auction and basket raffle. The lovely décor is designed and underwritten by Trillum Courtyard Flowers. Dinner will follow, and then an extraordinary “live” auction.

The annual Graycliff Diamond Window Awards for 2013, will be presented to Russell Maxwell (Individual); the Roycroft Inn (Organization); Lauer-Manguso Associates (Corporate); Doug Swift (Professional); and the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo (Benefactor). Proclamations from Senator Mark Grisanti and County Executive Mark Polancarz will also recognize their achievements.

Terry Robinson, a Graycliff board member, will serve as M.C. for the evening. Among the auction items both silent and live confirmed at press time are: gourmet dinners at the Buffalo Yacht Club, or at the Niagara Falls Country Club (both members-only clubs, donated by Dr. Thomas Jambro); three nights for two people at the other Graycliff...in Nassau, the Bahamas, and including a Chocolate Experience at the new Graycliff chocolate factory; a cocktail reception at the Walter V. Davidson House, with a talk and copy of the book on that subject by Patrick Mahoney, A.I.A.; a private tour for 8, followed by a reception at the Burchfield Penney Art Center; tickets to hear chef and author extraordinaire Anthony Bourdain, and dinner at the Buffalo Chop House for two; a mini-spa treatment with Swedish massage and facial at Excuria Salon and Spa; and a Niagara on the Lake package that includes a night for two at one of five properties of the Vintage boutique hotels group of properties, photographic portraiture and a hand embellished canvas portrait by Tantallo Photography, a two night celebration package at Sterling Inn and Spa in Niagara Falls Ontario, including dinner for two and wine pairing, chocolate covered strawberries, and breakfast in bed each morning and much more.

The superlative music of The Party Squad, one of Buffalo’s most highly recognized and well respected music groups, will enliven the Gala.

Dress is business casual (although you can be more adventuresome if you choose...)

The Gala benefits the Graycliff Conservancy and its mission of restoring the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed summer estate of Isabelle and Darwin Martin, a New York State Landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The 2013 Gala is chaired by Graycliff Board member Sharon Metz, and assisted by her superb Gala committee of Kevin Hoffman, Diane Schrenk, Diane Chrisman, Jim Charlier, Terry Robinson, Patrick Mahoney, William Wisniewski, Phyllis Spears, Antoinette Forth, Kathy Mehltretter and Reine Hauser, have organized an extraordinary evening.

A special thank you to the Media Sponsors of the Graycliff Gala 2013: Business First, Entercom and WBEN Radio.

See the Graycliff website for more information about the Gala, and the Fall/winter Graycliff newsletter for a complete report.

Special Thanks to our Gala 2013 Media Sponsors
Isabelle R. Martin Society
Plans Special Evening at Graycliff

Have you remembered Graycliff in your will? If so, you can be considered a member of the Isabelle R. Martin Society. If you let us know, you will be among the select members of the Society invited to gather this summer for a very special, private evening at Graycliff.

Our gifts can last beyond our lifetimes, and one way to do so is through estate planning. As a member of the Isabelle R. Martin Society, your gift will help the Graycliff Conservancy preserve and restore the Graycliff Estate through the years to come.

Anyone can leave a legacy as a member of the Isabelle R. Martin Society. Meaningful donations can come from anyone, not just the wealthy, and in any size.

Some Society members specify a certain dollar amount to leave to Graycliff, and other leave a percentage of their estate or a specific asset. In addition to leaving money, you can leave such things as real property, life insurance, retirement funds, stocks, bonds, or part or all of an IRA.

Your contribution will provide an enduring legacy and will ensure Graycliff’s continued success and assure its future.

We invite you to consider joining the Isabelle R. Martin Society, with other committed, likeminded individuals in this important mission. And please let us know, so that you receive an invitation to this very special evening. Please call 716-947-9217 or email Graycliff@verizon.net for further details.

In Memoriam: Robert J. Blatz (1934-2012)

Robert J. Blatz, a longtime Graycliff volunteer has died. Mr. Blatz who with his son, Joseph Blatz (one of the founding members of the Conservancy and a former board member) spent many hours volunteering on the site from the earliest days of the Conservancy. His efforts were especially meaningful during the time that his son’s health was poor, when he would escort Joe to the site in order that he could to remain appraised of the restoration in progress.

Robert Blatz’s last visit to the site came last year when he reviewed the recent efforts to restore the family sun porch project funded by the Hooper Family Foundation. Mr. Blatz had hoped to visit the site one last time but his deteriorating health did not allow for that final visit. The Conservancy wishes to express our deep sorrow at Mr. Blatz’s passing and our sympathy for the family.
Graycliff’s Volunteers Are the Greatest!

A huge thank you goes out to all of the volunteers who continually give their time and efforts in support of Graycliff. Graycliff simply would not exist without its many, wonderful volunteers.

Docents have continued to lead tours over the winter months, including yuletide, Master Architectural, Valentine’s Day, and group tours. Thank you to all of the docents who came in for these tours.

Speaking of yuletide, several volunteers assisted with decorating the Isabelle R. Martin house for the holidays and then taking the decorations down after the holidays. Thank you to Barb Abbatoy, Mary Kay DiPaolo, Christine Salzmann-Gallant, Susan Havey, Judie LaFlamme, Melissa Peters, Karen Procknal, David & Gail Solowski, and Gary Tornquist for a fabulous decorating job.

Since the last newsletter, Deborah Kane staffed the Graycliff table at Star 102.5’s Pink Party, aka “Cocktails and Cupcakes,” a breast cancer fundraiser at Statler City. Thanks Deborah!

Graycliff has plans for several special events this year. The first is the annual Graycliff Gala, being held on Friday, April 12th, at the Buffalo Transportation Pierce-Arrow Museum. Plans are well under way, and volunteer Susan Havey has already been busily picking up and delivering gift baskets for the Gala auctions. She and other volunteers will also be helping out with the event by setting up, checking people in, and assisting with the auctions. Several volunteers have recently come into Graycliff to assist with mailing out the invitations for this event including Judy Jones, Diane Keller, Judie LaFlamme, Maureen Meyers, Joan Osborne, Jerry and Karen Procknal, Margaret Santi, George Struebel, and Stacy Tuberdyke.

Volunteers will be needed to help set up, staff, and clean up after other events in the coming season. Planned is a series of three lectures at the Burchfield Penney Art Center on Opening the Envelope: Porches, Porticos and Terraces. The first of the lectures will be on Wednesday, May 1st, beginning at 7 PM. The remaining two lectures are scheduled for October. Assistance might also be needed with the luncheons that follow Insiders Tours on May 21st, June 19th, July 17th, August 14th, September 11th, and October 9th. Graycliff will be sharing a table with volunteers from Buffalo Tours at the Elmwood-Bidwell Farmers Market on Saturday, September 7th. We plan to sell merchandise and distribute Graycliff literature on one or more Wednesday evenings this season at the Larkin Square Marketplace, although specific dates have not yet been confirmed. In addition, the Summer Solstice Party will be held this year on Friday, June 21st, for Wright circle members. If you are interested in signing up to volunteer for any of these events, please let one of us know, or you can call 947-9217 or email graycliff@verizon.net. We will plan to have sign-up sheets in the Volunteer Lounge as well.

The Green Team that cares for our grounds will be gearing up for another season on Saturdays, beginning Apr. 6th, weather permitting and under the direction of Dale and Kathy Marriott. Our Housekeeping Teams that keep the house looking clean and tidy are also getting under way. The Housekeeping Teams, now under the direction of Linda Weyand, meet the first Friday and the second Saturday of each month during the season. Call Graycliff at 947-9217 if you are interested in joining one or both of these teams.

Something new for Graycliff volunteers in recent months is their very own Graycliff blog, administered by George Struebel. Many thanks to George for agreeing to take this task on. Despite the fact that George claimed to be deficient in his computer skills, he has done a wonderful job thus far with the blog.

However, the blog will be only as good as the volunteers make it. If you have any suggestions, questions, information, etc. that you’d like to see posted or addressed, please pass it on to George. If you’re a current volunteer, then you should already have George’s personal contact information and the URL for the blog. If you somehow missed this, then please call the site, and they will give it to you. This is a blog for volunteers only. Meaningful dialogue is encouraged.
Graycliff has welcomed some new volunteers since the last newsletter. Welcome to Eicheldinger, Erin Hicks, Elaine Hunter, Jane Jacobson, Tom Janicki, Michael Kushner, Jeff Leyonmark, Marilyn McCann, Dale Nason, Christine Salzmann-Gallant, Margaret Stefanaki, John Stoklosa, Susan Wells, and Laura Wiltse-Tibbetts.

To all of Graycliff's volunteers, again, thank you. We hope we have not overlooked anyone. The problem is that Graycliff has so many wonderful volunteers performing so many tasks, that it is easy to overlook someone. This is a great problem to have, but if we've overlooked you, we'd like to know about it. Also, if there is anything that we can do to make your volunteer experience a better one, we'd like to know that too. To any member who is not currently a volunteer but is interested in becoming one, there are many opportunities. We'd love to have you join the Graycliff volunteer family. Graycliff's volunteers are simply the best!

*Kathy Mehltretter, Phyllis Spears, Volunteer Co-Chairs*

**Graycliff's Volunteer Blog**

Calling all volunteers—Graycliff now has a blog just for you! Updated frequently by our own George Struebel, it’s filled with quizzes, advance info on Graycliff activities, trivia, photos, and much more. After a very simple sign up, you will receive emails whenever there is a new post...and you can designate how often emails are sent. Stay in the loop...you can sign up here: [http://graycliffvolunteers.blogspot.com/](http://graycliffvolunteers.blogspot.com/)

**Graycliff Docents**

It’s that time of year again when Graycliff welcomes the excited group of volunteers who will train to become docents.

For seven weeks they will come to know the Martin family and to better understand the work of Frank Lloyd Wright at Graycliff. They will set their nerves aside as they present portions of the tour to their classmates and instructors. Experienced docents will welcome the newcomers to shadow their tours, providing a flavor of how the tour text becomes personal to each individual docent.

They will become the face of Graycliff. It will be these fine people who will meet our visitors and send them off, having experienced the best tour they have ever taken. Oh yes, that is a comment made frequently by Graycliff visitors. It is a reflection of the welcoming, knowledgeable volunteers who serve as Graycliff docents.

There is plenty of room in the class of 2013 for you. Classes begin at Graycliff Saturday, April 27 and continue to Saturday, June 15 from 9 am to 12 (no class Memorial Day weekend). All materials are provided at no charge. Call Graycliff at 947-9217 to register.

Before this summer ends you could have the joy of meeting visitors from around the world and giving them the Graycliff experience.

*Marion Schmidt*

**Do you LIKE Graycliff?**

If so, you’ll love the Graycliff Facebook page. Filled with trivia, inside info, amazing photographs, and much more, it’s easy to see why Graycliff on Facebook is soaring in popularity. You won’t want to miss the colorful, engaging posts on all manner of subjects: Graycliff history, stunning new photos, inside info ahead of the curve, before and after photos, and much more. Go ahead... “Like Us”... [https://www.facebook.com/Graycliffestate](https://www.facebook.com/Graycliffestate)
Opening the Envelope: Porches, Porticos and Terraces
Graycliff Lectures Series 2013

Join us for a series of three lectures on Opening the Envelope: Porches, Porticos and Terraces this year. All will take place on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the auditorium of the Burchfield-Penney Art Center at 1300 Elmwood Ave in Buffalo, NY.

The first, Inside/Outside: Transitional Space in the Work of Frank Lloyd Wright will be presented by Scott Perkins. As he notes:

Frank Lloyd Wright’s appreciation of nature is well documented, with his architecture, furniture, and finishes drawn from “organic” sources. This talk will explore those areas that serve as transition spaces—porches, porticos, and terraces—in Wright’s work, on themes ranging from his breaking of the Victorian-era architectural “box,” to how changes in social norms affected his work. It will illustrate Wright’s views, as well as his clients, on outdoor space and feature examples from all chapters of his career.

Scott W. Perkins was the Curator of Collections and Exhibitions at Price Tower Arts Center, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, from 2006 to 2012. The Arts Center is housed in Frank Lloyd Wright’s 1956 Price Tower, the architect’s only realized skyscraper design.

Perkins was co-author (with Pat Kirkham) of an essay on Frank Lloyd Wright’s interiors, furniture, and fixtures, Prairie Skyscraper: Frank Lloyd Wright’s Price Tower (2005), and on the interiors and furnishings of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum for its 50th anniversary publication, The Guggenheim: Frank Lloyd Wright and the Making of the Modern Museum (2009). His recent book, Building Bartlesville, 1945-2000 (2008), explores the post-World War II architectural impact of Frank Lloyd Wright, Bruce Goff, and William Wesley Peters upon the community, and in 2013 his essay on Zaha Hadid’s 2002 museum expansion project for the Price Tower will appear in Richard Longstreth’s Additions, Subtractions, and Adjacencies: Preserving While Modifying the Work of Frank Lloyd Wright (University of Virginia Press).

Exhibitions curated by Perkins include Wright Restored: Frank Lloyd Wright’s Price Tower Interiors (2006), Setting the Table: Designs in Mid-Century Dinnerware (2008), Imaginative Qualities of Actual Things (with Michaela Merryday, 2008), UK/OK: Exploring Traditions in Contemporary Design (2009), Lights! Camera! Fashion: The Film Costumes of Edith Head (2010), Fellowship: 75 Years of Taliesin Box Projects (2010), Once Upon an Island: Twin Towers Rising (2011), and Frank Lloyd Wright’s Samara: A Mid-Century Dream Home (2013), a look at a Frank Lloyd Wright Usonian design still occupied by its original owner.

His 2006 exhibition, Karim Rashid, the first US museum exhibition dedicated to the designer’s work, is the basis for the nationally-touring Designocracy: Karim Rashid’s Designs for Living (2011-2015).

A Wisconsin native, Perkins is a PhD candidate in Design History at the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture in New York City, where he received his MA in the same field. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building Conservancy.

In the autumn, we will welcome two additional lecturers on the same topic. On October 2, Dr. Dale Gyure will speak. Gyure is Associate Professor of Architecture, Lawrence Technological University, MI, and adjunct associate professor at Goucher College and Wayne State. He is the author of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Florida Southern College (2010) and the forthcoming A History of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Affleck House.

The following week, on October 9th, Keiran Murphy will take the podium. She is the Principal Historic Researcher for Taliesin Preservation, and has lectured widely on Wright’s work. Interestingly, Murphy created a 3-d virtual tour of Taliesin.

This lecture series is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, and with the cooperation of the Burchfield-Penney Art Center, and the Richardson Restoration Corporation. Special thanks to Embassy Suites Buffalo.

Admission for each lecture will be $10; or $5 for Graycliff and/or Burchfield Penney Art Center members and volunteers. No reservations are necessary, and we hope to see you then.
Introducing Graycliff Insider’s Tour and Luncheon

Want to know the scoop, and have a lovely luncheon, too? You can do so with Graycliff’s new Insiders Tour and Luncheon. Offered monthly—Tuesday, May 21, and Wednesdays, June 19, July 17, August 14, September 11 and October 9, this special tour and luncheon is hosted by Reine Hauser, Executive Director of Graycliff. You’ll hear insider info, stories about Frank Lloyd Wright and the Martin family, and be able to ask questions if you’d like. Following the tour, guests will enjoy a glass of wine and a casual, picnic-style luncheon. Please reserve early; space is available for only a select few. Admission is $60 for the general public; $55 for Conservancy members. Insider’s Tours are not appropriate for those under age 21…you just never know what you might hear!

Graycliff Conservancy Welcomes Larry Cobado

In last autumn’s newsletter, Graycliff welcomed new members of the Board of Directors. These highly qualified individuals were identified as being able to assist the Conservancy in reaching specific goals and objectives outlined in Graycliff’s most recent Strategic Plan. They are: Jim Charlier, an award-winning graphic designer who now Chairs Graycliff’s Marketing Committee; Kevin Hoffman, a Graycliff neighbor and assistant manager of the Wanakah Country Club, who now co-chairs Graycliff Special Events Committee; Sharon Metz, the Chair for the Graycliff Gala 2013; who is Director of Regional Sales for Entercom; Terry Robinson, community activist deeply engaged in historic preservation, who serves on Graycliff’s Governmental Affairs Committee; and Dr. Ben Christy, Dean of Arts and Humanities at Buffalo State College, who serves on Graycliff’s Education Committee.

We now welcome Larry Cobado as a new Graycliff Board member. Cobado is an active volunteer with the Friends of the Edward M. Cotter, the oldest working fireboat in the world and a Historic Buffalo Landmark. He has been involved with the redevelopment of the Union Ship Canal, including utility relocation requirements for the Inner and Outer Harbor Developments, with preservation restrictions. Larry Cobado is a Construction Manager for Verizon, and just for fun, pilots small planes. A resident of Hamburg, Cobado is a professional project manager, serves on the Advisory Board of Canisius College, from whom he received his M.B.A. with a concentration in marketing. Cobado’s bird’s eye view photograph of Graycliff graced the cover of the last newsletter.

WRIGHT on the ROAD ✈ FREE LECTURE PROGRAM

Frank Lloyd Wright’s Graycliff Estate

Wright on the Road is a free one hour program of beautiful photos and commentary that explains the history of Graycliff and the historical restoration process. To arrange a free presentation on Graycliff for your organization, please contact us at graycliff@verizon.net • 716-947-9217
Check out our website: GraycliffEstate.org
It’s always a pleasure to receive international recognition. So we were delighted in March, when Graycliff was selected as the “Building of the Month” by the 20th Century Society of Great Britain. An excellent article by Stuart McKenzie accompanied the honor (or “honour” as they say over the pond.)

In it, he says: Within his lifetime’s work, Graycliff marks a point of departure from the suburban villas and more truly encapsulates an architecture of nature. The total integration with site and landscape can also be read as a precursor to his later, more intense and much more famous Fallingwater, PA (1937). Graycliff itself, however, is undergoing something of a renaissance and it should soon be more widely recognised and respected.

The entire article is available to read here: graycliffestate.org/articles.cfm.

Do take a look…it’s fascinating to read a perspective from Great Britain.

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 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.

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

Please check box next to Membership Level

☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ CHECK ENCLOSED

Checks payable to: Graycliff Conservancy

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

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE E-MAIL

Amount enclosed $ EXP. DATE

SIGNATURE

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.
New in the Graycliff Pavilion Gift Shop...and On-Line, Too!

Spring has sprung at Graycliff, and summer is “Wright” around the corner. The Graycliff Pavilion Shop and web store are stocked with a great selection for everyone under the sun. The Graycliff Pavilion Shop is proud to announce that we have vastly increased the number of products that are made here in the USA or are fair trade products made throughout the world. Check out the beautiful, new Janet Ontko Arts & Crafts tiles or our handmade Tree of Life and Coonley Mini Light Boxes. Our new Altiplano fair trade jewelry is sure to catch anyone’s eye and is handmade by artisans.

Feeling adventurous this summer? Stop in and pick up a copy of the New York Times 36 Hours: 150 Weekends in the USA and Canada. Then start your adventure right here at Graycliff with a wonderful tour (featured on page 92). We will be open daily, except Wednesdays, through spring, and then every day throughout the summer and fall.

A few other special highlights:
- Frank Lloyd Wright’s Darwin D. Martin House: Rescue of a Landmark - The author, Marjorie Quinlan recounts the untold story of the abandonment and saving of one of Buffalo, NY’s many treasures.
- Graycliff Sand Necklace - A sophisticated sterling silver necklace made for Graycliff exclusively, handcrafted with sand right from Graycliff’s shore on Lake Erie! Quite difficult to describe...you’ll have to see it for yourself to appreciate its beauty.
- Graycliff T-shirt - Perfect for a casual day at the beach or a tour of Graycliff! Available in gray, moss green, and pale yellow this season!
- Buffalo: Good Neighbors, Great Architecture - Covering the time span from the Iroquois Confederacy through the modern revitalization of Buffalo, author Nancy Blumenstall Mingus provides insights on the people, events and architecture that helped shape Buffalo and the region.

And much more, coming soon:
A limited edition, signed print by artist Richard Kegler of the Western New York Book Art Center. The latest addition to their Letterpress Architecture Series, this print will showcase the full front view of the Isabelle R. Martin house, is limited to 100 hand-set, artist-signed prints, and will never be produced again! Available in early-summer, a new, colorful set of earrings and a pin, based upon Graycliff’s iconic diamond window. These custom-designed earrings and pins will be available (exclusive to Graycliff, of course) in one of two color combinations: either Frank Lloyd Wright red and Graycliff orange, or Lake Erie blue and Grass green.

Can’t make it to the Pavilion? You can find exclusive Graycliff and Buffalo merchandise in our webstore: www.graycliffestate.org/shop_Graycliff.cfm.

Don’t forget, Graycliff memberships, a gift certificate, tour tickets, or special event admissions make the perfect gift for those who have everything!

Shop online: www.graycliffestate.org/shop_Graycliff.cfm.
Join the Graycliff Conservancy and Enjoy Free Tours for a Whole Year

The house and its lakeside setting are inspiring.

The New York Times

RATED ★★★★★
Frank Lloyd Wright Field Guide

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20 mins. south of Buffalo on the cliffs of Lake Erie

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- e-mail: graycliff@verizon.net • www.GraycliffEstate.org
- Martin House - Graycliff Estate 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 on site and off.

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

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