The Historical Society has found a future home!

The Historical Society recently purchased the former Church of Christ, Scientist at 509 East Deerpath, Lake Forest to renovate as a permanent history museum for the community. See page 2 for more information about this exciting endeavor.

Join the Historical Society on Sunday, May 17 for a special program about mid-century architects Keck and Keck. Architect Stuart Cohen will lecture about this celebrated firm and then guests will visit the Bertram J. Cahn house.

The lecture will start at 2 pm at Lake Forest Country Day School. It is then a very short walk over to the Cahn house where refreshments will be served. Tickets are $45 for members of the Historical Society and $55 for nonmembers.

When Mrs. Bertram (Irma) Cahn wanted to build a summer home in Lake Forest, she contacted architect George Keck to design the house. Known for his work designing one of the “Houses of Tomorrow” at the 1933 Century of Progress Fair in Chicago, George Keck was well versed in “modern” architecture. But Mrs. Cahn was even more forward thinking. She told the architect that she didn’t want the house of tomorrow, she wanted “the house of the day after tomorrow”!

Although the Cahn house has been added on to significantly, it is a splendid example of mid-century modern architecture. Special thanks to the homeowners for the opportunity to tour this home. Guests will be provided with boots for the house tour – please wear flat shoes.

This is one of several programs the Historical Society is putting on this year in connection with The Gem mock newspaper, which will feature all the local news of 1933 and appear in your mailboxes in April.

Keck and Keck Architects Lecture and House Tour
Sunday May 17, 2015
Tickets:
$45 for Members
$55 for Nonmembers
Learn about these Mid-Century Modern Masters!

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I am absolutely thrilled to announce that the Historical Society has found a future home. We have purchased the Church of Christ, Scientist at 509 East Deerpath, Lake Forest to use as the home of the Historical Society. The Historical Society has outgrown its current space in every way imaginable. Our programs have been selling out, research requests continue to climb dramatically, our membership is at the highest level ever and our collection of artifacts is bursting at the seams. This purchase follows years of strategic and thoughtful planning to find a location that is not only historic, but fits our programmatic needs.

Plans are in development to turn this building into an amazing history center with improved exhibit and program space, a state-of-the-art research center and climate controlled collections storage. The new building will allow us to reach a broader audience, including school groups and families, strengthen our commitment to historical research and provide space for deeper collections.

Stay tuned in the coming years as our plans advance for the new museum.

Warmly,

Janice C. Hack

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**Collections corner**

**New in the Museum collection**

We recently received a wonderful donation from William Ferry, of Nashville, Tennessee, of photographs, books and archival materials related to his family's long history in our community. Mr. Ferry is a descendent of the Ferry-Farwell family of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff. Processing of these materials is ongoing.

Other recent donations include O’Neill family photographs, from Jane O’Neill; an O’Neill’s Hardware ash tray, from Carolyn Wells; archives of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff American Association of University Women (AAUW), from Eleanor McMurrin; and the Lake Forest High School Class of 1958 50th Reunion binder, from the LFHS Class of 1958 via Richard Nelson and Sara Mahler.

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**Oral history update**

Our 2014 Oral History Project wrapped up in November and now the oral history transcripts are undergoing editing. Our interviewers, members of Dr. Holly Swyers’ anthropology class at Lake Forest College, interviewed 11 Lake Forest Country Day School alumni and staff about the school’s history – including some alums of the pre-merger Bell School and Lake Forest Day School. Thank you to Bob and Sally Bullard, Clarissa Chandler, Charles Clarke, Nancy Clifford, Tom Crofts, Madeleine Dugan, Terry Haight, Gwen Lincoln, Robert Spiel, and Fred Wacker for participating.

A big thank you goes to the sponsors of this year’s oral history project: Katie and Tim Hale, Teresa Janeck, Joan Shannahan, Sandy and Robin Stuart, and Fred Wacker.

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**Looking for 1960s/1970s telephone directories**

We are trying to fill in our extensive collection of Lake Forest/Lake Bluff Telephone Directories in our Research Center. Did you save your phone books from the advent of the dial system and “CE 4” telephone numbers? Or from the early days of touchtone dialing and “234”? We’d love to add them to our archives. Please contact Curator Laurie Stein at 847-234-5253 or lstein@lflbhistory.org.
**Movie Premiere:**
**The Scots of Lake Forest**

Saturday April 11, 2015 2:00 pm  
Lake Forest Academy,  
1500 W. Kennedy Road, LF  
Tickets: $10, Reservations Requested

In collaboration with the Illinois St. Andrew Society, we are pleased to present the premiere of the movie *The Scots of Lake Forest.*

The hour-long video touches on many of the almost 1,000 native born Scots and their children who helped establish Lake Forest. You’ll learn about the Scots who founded Carson, Pirie and Scott as well the Scots who ran Quaker Oats and Zenith Corporation. The video also recognizes the hardworking Scots who paved our streets, built our schools, dug our sewers and ran many of the original stores in town. Over 2,000 old photographs were collected for this project from many private collections and the Historical Society’s photograph collection.

The premiere takes place at Lake Forest Academy, home of Scotsman J. Ogden Armour. Refreshments will follow the movie. Signed copies of Eddi Reader’s CD *The Songs of Robert Burns,* music which accompanies the film, will be for sale for $20.

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**A Century of Progress: The Revolutionary Fair**

Tuesday April 28, 2015  
Lecture at 6:30 pm, Refreshments at 6:00 pm  
Dickinson Hall, 100 East Old Mill Road, LF  
Tickets: $10

Chicago’s reputation as a crucible of modern design is renowned. The Century of Progress Fair, held in Chicago in 1933–1934, was a game-changer in design, content and consumer orientation including the introduction of plastic and the promotion of the Streamline Moderne style. Lecturer Keith Bringe, Director of the Chicago Art Deco Survey, has lectured widely on architecture and design. This event is co-sponsored with the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center. Refreshments generously provided by The Private Bank.

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**Presentation: Lake Forest During World War I**

Tuesday May 5, 2015 7:00 pm  
Lake Forest College – Meyer Auditorium  
Free

Join us for a free program by museum intern Amber Craghead as she presents her research on Lake Forest in the World War I era. With Great Lakes Naval Station to the north and Fort Sheridan to the south, it is no surprise that the towns of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff were highly active during America’s involvement in WWI. From sending soldiers overseas to dedicating Market Square, Lake Forest and Lake Bluff were witnesses to years of sacrifice and change. Their efforts did not go unnoticed, as *The Chicago Daily Tribune* would eventually label Lake Bluff as “the most patriotic town of its size in America.”

Amber, a senior at Lake Forest College, is the inaugural Leslie T. Chapman Museum intern named in honor of our former treasurer. Contact us for parking information.

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**Centennial Family Awards/Annual Meeting**

Sunday May 3, 2015 2:00 pm  
Dickinson Hall, 100 East Old Mill Road, LF  
Free and open to the public

The 2015 Centennial Family awards will take place at Dickinson Hall, home of the Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Senior Center. This popular annual event highlights the contributions of a few families and weaves their personal stories with that of the history of the community. Among the honorees this year will be the Foster-Stirling family.

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**Annual Spring Tour of Crab Tree Farm**

Saturday May 9, 2015 10:00 am and 1:00 pm  
Tickets: $20 for members, $30 for non-members

This annual spring event to visit Crab Tree Farm is a must-see for anyone interested in history, architecture or the decorative arts. Crab Tree Farm was designed by architect Solon Beman as a model dairy farm for Grace Durand. The farm buildings have undergone extensive renovation and now house the finest collection of English and American Arts and Crafts furnishings in the country. A tour of Crab Tree Farm makes a great Mother’s Day present! Advance reservations are required. Parking instructions will be given at time of ticket purchase.

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Founded by Dr. Elva Wright over 100 years ago, the Lake Forest Woman’s Club has continually provided a way for its members to give back to their community. The Club recently asked Heritage Heirloom Books of Lake Forest to help them fully grasp and better define Dr. Wright’s legacy. Understanding how a woman in the late 1800’s found the opportunity to attend college and continue on to medical school was central to that legacy.

Elva Wright was born in 1868 in the rural coal mining region of Western Pennsylvania, not into a world of privilege, culture, and comfort. Her family had settled in Pennsylvania many generations before as part of the earliest wave of German immigrants fleeing the war-ravaged Palatinate region west of Bavaria.

The Wrights lived off of the land as subsistence farmers on small plots hewed out of Pennsylvania’s mountainous terrain. Her parents were illiterate yet she was able to attend a one room schoolhouse that only went up to the 5th grade. The single teacher was spread thin across all grades yet she was able to instill a lifelong love of reading and learning in Elva.

The next step in Elva’s education was provided by a man with the pioneering vision for a no-frills, affordable higher education made available to both men and women alike. Henry Baker Brown rallied an entire community to support that dream. The City Council and County of Valparaiso, Indiana donated money for the building of Valparaiso University. Enrollment quickly swelled making the school the largest of its kind in the nation, often called the “Poor Man’s Harvard.” More importantly, they offered the preparatory courses that exceptional students, coming with little prior formal education, would have needed to succeed. Elva graduated in 1894.

A pioneer in medical education for women was instrumental in providing the next opportunity for Elva. At that time, traditional medical colleges restricted their enrollment to males. Moreover, there was widespread prejudice against women physicians; neither of Chicago’s two hospitals permitted women to serve on their staffs and one of them wouldn’t even admit female patients. Mary Thompson founded the Chicago Hospital for Women and Children in 1865 to provide medical care to indigent women and children. She also established an affiliated medical school for women. Thompson recruited women from wealthy Chicago families to raise funds and manage administrative duties at the hospital and college.

Elva was an intern, resident and eventually a practicing physician at the Chicago Hospital for Women before moving her practice to Lake Forest at the corner of Deerpath and Western. For the next ten years she was a practicing obstetrician/gynecologist and became a leader in our community. She rallied other women and soon formed the Lake Forest Woman’s Club to support improvements in education and health care for the area. Today they continue Dr. Elva Wright’s legacy by having established a new memorial scholarship to assist young women seeking an education in the field of science.

Heritage Heirloom Books, heritageheirloombooks.com, creates presentation-grade coffee table books that reveal how your family’s tree intertwines with history.

For more information about the history of the Lake Forest Woman’s Club, contact club historian Suzanne Laundry at mlaun1008@aol.com or see the book Lake Forest Day: 100 Years of Celebration which is available for sale at the Historical Society.
Volunteer spotlight

Amber Craghead,
Leslie T. Chapman
Museum Intern

Our inaugural Leslie T. Chapman Museum Intern, Amber Craghead, is currently a senior at Lake Forest College double majoring in History and Biology. The internship is named in honor of the Historical Society’s former treasurer, Leslie Chapman, who was Vice President of Business Affairs and Treasurer of Lake Forest College for 22 years.

Amber’s love for history was evident as a child; growing up in Auburn, New Hampshire, she was constantly surrounded by historical colonial sights that motivated her to learn more about United States history. Throughout her career at LFC, Amber has focused on U.S. history, along with taking courses in ancient civilizations, British culture, and Indian history.

She was excited to learn about this internship and hopes to use the experience to learn more about the historically rich towns of Lake Forest and Lake Bluff while also learning how to conduct formal historical research.

In addition to her role as an LF-LBHS intern, Amber is the captain of the nationally-ranked Lake Forest College Varsity Women’s Handball Team, a member of the LFC Women’s Rugby Team, and a member of Beta Beta Beta Biological Honor Society.

Following her college graduation this May, Amber will marry her fiancé Justin Smith in August and will then attend Sam Houston State University next fall to obtain her Master’s Degree in Forensic Biology.

Welcome, New Members

James Ahr and Mary Dwyer
Jan Awad
Thomas Benandi
Marie and John Biggs
Sharon Borg
Marguerite Burke
Mary Fasel
Steve Frisk
Donna Hartigan
Susan Ipsen
Susan and Tom Kearney
Frank Klepitsch
and Heather Pflanz
Mary Kneibler
Nareg Korogluyan
Richard Kosmerl
Marilyn and Jim Lovell
Barbara and Karl Nagel
Mary Ann Phillips
Elizabeth Pierret
Kate Wolf
Gwen Sommers Yant

New Board member welcome

Welcome to new Board Member Ron Taylor. Ron, a retired businessman, is a 30 year resident of Lake Forest. He joined the Historical Society board because he believes strongly in community involvement. He is also a Board Member of the Career Resource Center and a volunteer at Cristo Rey High School. Ron is already active on the Facilities Committee.

Revealing East Lake Forest: Early plat maps decoded

Thursday April 23 at 7 pm
City Council Chambers,
Lake Forest City Hall

New findings about the 1857 original east Lake Forest plan and plat are the subject of a program by David Mattoon and Arthur Miller on Thursday, April 23, at the City Council Chambers, Lake Forest City Hall. The program is free and takes place at 7:00 pm.

A 1943 composite of 1857 plans in City and County records was photographed early last year. David Mattoon manipulated this to show comparisons with current satellite views to highlight changes — he also shows which of the original lots were kept by the Lake Forest Association and which were deeded to Lind University, now Lake Forest College. Arthur Miller will talk about the background of the 1857 plan, why it is nationally significant, and how it has impacted development from the Knollwood Club and Mettawa to the Lasker estate.

Turned up in the search was the original July 1857 surveyor’s plat plan, with the official autographed approval texts and signatures. This has been restored by the City with help from the Lake Forest Preservation Foundation and will be shown and discussed.