



Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff House & Estate

■ WRIGHT ON THE LAKE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick J. Mahoney, A.I.A.  
President

Russell Maxwell  
Vice President

Stanton H. Hudson, Jr.  
Vice President

Diane Chrisman  
Recording Secretary

Gregory Bernas

Joseph A. Blatz

Sandra L. Brant

Charles A. LeFevre, ASA

Harvey Garrett

Barbara Harder

Jessica Hearst

Steve Musso

Sharon Osgood, Esq.

Lester Rickard

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 Eric Bry

John H. Conlin

Jack Quinn

Douglas Swift

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Reine Hauser

September 28, 2012

**Maria R. White**  
**Commissioner**  
**Department of Environment and Planning**  
**Erie County**  
**95 Franklin Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Fl**  
**Buffalo, NY 14202**

And

**Robert Graber**  
**Clerk of the Erie County Legislature**  
**92 Franklin Street—4<sup>th</sup> Fl**  
**Buffalo, NY 14202**

**Re: Legislative Resolution COMM. 18E-21**

**Dear Ms. White, Mr. Graber, and Erie County Legislators:**

**On behalf of the Graycliff Conservancy, Inc., thank you very much for the grant of \$40,000 for capital projects in 2011.**

**We are proud to tell you that the entire amount of \$40,000 was used for the purchase of a building and ½ acre of land, at 6482 Old Lakeshore Rd, Derby, NY. This property is located immediately adjacent to the Graycliff Estate at 6472 Old Lakeshore Rd., Derby, NY, and was originally the Caretaker's Cottage of the Graycliff Estate. Although not designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, it was originally part of the Estate, and for this reason is included within Graycliff's National Register of Historic Places designation.**

**Thanks to your far-sighted and timely financial assistance, the Graycliff Estate is now complete and entire for the first time in more than fifty years. The Cottage was offered for sale to Graycliff by the heirs of the previous owner, prior to a listing for the general public. For this reason, time was of the essence for this purchase, or it would have prevented the return of Graycliff to its original contours, quite possibly for decades.**

**Interestingly, the Cottage was constructed in the very early years of the Martin Family's residency. It is composed of the same materials as the Wright-designed buildings at Graycliff, and incorporates many of the same architectural details. These include a fireplace designed like that of the Wright-designed Foster House, as well as both interior and exterior finishes.**

■ 716-947-9217

6472 Old Lake Shore Road

PO Box 823

Derby, New York 14047

e-mail: [graycliff@verizon.net](mailto:graycliff@verizon.net)

Website: [GraycliffEstate.org](http://GraycliffEstate.org)

Comm. 17M-14

Page 1 of 8

Erie's County's funding significantly defrayed the total purchase cost of \$136,145.31 (including related fees, etc.) which in turn allowed the Conservancy to proceed with the purchase. The purchase was completed on or about September 30, 2011. There is no remaining balance of funds.

Please see attached closing statement, and a Graycliff newsletter with a front page article both announcing the acquisition and acknowledging the support of Erie County.

Thank you again for your tremendous assistance in preserving one of Erie County's most significant architectural landmarks. We are very grateful.

Sincerely



Reine Hauser  
Executive Director





**GRAYCLIFF**  
CONSERVANCY, INC.

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



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



**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](mailto:graycliff@verizon.net) • Web: [www.GraycliffEstate.org](http://www.GraycliffEstate.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](mailto:graycliff@verizon.net)*



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

NEWSLETTER • SPRING - SUMMER EDITION • 2012

**GRAYCLIFF**  
CONSERVANCY, INC.

WRIGHT ON THE LAKE

ESTABLISHED TO PRESERVE FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT'S GRAYCLIFF ESTATE

Announcing the 2012

**GRAYCLIFF GALA**

to benefit  
the Graycliff Conservancy

**Friday, April 27, 2012**

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.



Wine • Beer • Hors d'oeuvres  
Dining Stations



Master of Ceremonies  
Steve Cichon, WBEA Radio

Jazz by keyboardist Van Taylor

Live & Silent Auctions  
with Stellar Items

Exclusive Gift Basket Drawings

Raffle for  
Larkin Company Collectibles



Diamond Window Awards  
2012 Presentations



Larkin Center of Commerce  
701 Seneca St., Buffalo

See articles & photos  
on pages 8 and 9



**Graycliff's  
Visitor Center  
renamed  
M&T Bank Pavilion**

See Article & Photos on Page 3



*Graycliff: The Natural House • The Genius of Architecture & The Beauty of Nature*

## Graycliff Conservancy Acquires Caretaker's Cottage

*The first time in more than half a century that the Graycliff Estate has been returned to its original contours*

The Graycliff Conservancy is proud to announce that it has acquired a cottage originally part of the Graycliff Estate. The Caretaker's Cottage is located on Old Lakeshore Rd, just south of the entrance to Graycliff.

The Cottage and garage were built during the early years of the Martin family's residency. It served as housing for the caretaker for the property. Although not designed by Wright, the buildings are composed of the same materials as the Wright-designed buildings at Graycliff, and incorporate many of the same architectural details. These include a fireplace designed like that of the Foster House, as well as both interior and exterior finishes. The acquisition will permit additional research, which the Conservancy hopes will prove to be as interesting as that of the other Graycliff buildings and grounds.

This is the first time in more than half a century that the Graycliff Estate has been returned to its original contours. The Cottage was purchased with financial assistance from Erie County, which contributed approximately 30% of the total \$135,000 cost.

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the acquisition, took place on Wednesday, October 26th at 1:30 pm. In attendance were former County Executive Chris Collins, as well as former owners of the Cottage, Sandra Czora Blizniak and Denise Czora Flitton. Blizniak and Flitton, sisters, grew up in the house. Their father, James D. Czora, Jr., a good neighbor of Graycliff, had been watching the efforts of the Conservancy over the years as the estate was restored. Mr. Czora asked his daughters to offer the cottage to Graycliff in the event of his death, which occurred in November of 2009.

*"We are delighted that the Graycliff Estate is whole once again. We are very grateful to Erie County and the Czora family for their instrumental assistance. The Conservancy would also like to thank Melanie C. Marotto, Esq., of Colucci and Gallaher, P.C. for providing pro-bono legal services."*

*Graycliff Board President Patrick J. Mahoney, A.I.A.*



*The Caretaker's Cottage*

[www.GraycliffEstate.org](http://www.GraycliffEstate.org)





From The Lake Side: A Message From The Executive Director  
Planning for 2012 Season :: “Behind the Scenes”

You would think that winter is a quieter time at Graycliff. And in some ways, it is...there are far fewer tours; the Green Team has little to do, there are fewer tourists, and some volunteers even head south for the winter.

Yet that seeming quiet is quite misleading. There are all kinds of things happening “behind the scenes.” Much planning for the other three seasons takes place in the winter. This is exactly when plans are laid for new programs, such as *All Wright, All Day* – a new all day trolley tour that involves Graycliff, the Martin House, the Fontana Boat House and the Blue Sky Mausoleum at Forest Lawn, as well as lunch at the Buffalo Yacht Club. It’s also when *Wright At the Water* was organized....a “drive-yourself” joint tour of Graycliff and the Fontana Boat House, plus lunch at the Yacht Club (all three of which are right by the water, of course! ) For more details on either of these programs, please see the Graycliff website at [graycliffestate.org/tour\\_descriptions](http://graycliffestate.org/tour_descriptions).

Graycliff Committees usually lay the groundwork for what will happen the rest of the year during the winter months. President *Patrick J. Mahoney* ably guides both the Board and the Executive Committee, while Secretary *Diane Chrisman* deserves a special shout-out for her superb record and minutes keeping. Treasurer *Chris Merry* chairs the Finance Committee with members *Charles LeFevre*, *Christine Collins* and *Steve Musso*, which in turn reviews all things financial as well as the annual audit. Great work, everyone... another solid gold audit!

The Design Committee, with *Pat Mahoney*, *Sandra Brant*, *Gregory Bernas*, *Joseph Blatz*, *John Conlin*, and *Diane Schrenk*, steer the restoration of the Estate, behind the scenes...and we anticipate a particularly active year for restoration! A special thank you to *Sandy Brant* for sharing her expertise and sound advice this year.

This spring, the Gala Committee, chaired by *Sharon Osgood*, with *Edla Collora*, *Diane Chrisman*, *Pat Mahoney*, *Diane Schrenk*, *Chris Merry*, *Bill Wisniewski*, *Sharon Metz*, *Jerry Puma*, *Greg Bernas*, *Andrea Starks*, *Susan Herold* and *Antoinette Forth*, began gearing up for the Graycliff Gala, to be held on April 27th....and it promises to be very exciting and a great deal of fun. (see pages 8 & 9.)

The Education Committee, chaired by *Diane Schrenk*, organized a series of lectures for the coming year, focused on landscape design. The extraordinary lecturers are truly leaders in the field, and each lecture promises to be absolutely fascinating. *Just Wright for Kids*, the summer program for middle-school age children, is being

expanded this year. And *Wright on the Road*, organized by *June Crawford* and *Wendy Duignan*, with *Dick and Priscilla O’Brien*, *Anita Mitchell*, and *Phyllis Weyer* is growing as well, with lectures last year extending for the first time into Canada!

The Governance Committee oversees things that are vital but often invisible, such as completing Graycliff’s third strategic plan last autumn; supervising the updating of By-Laws last year, and shepherding the Board nominating process. Many meetings take place during the winter months, when close attention is paid to matters significant to the functioning of the Conservancy. Thank you to *Diane Chrisman*, *Catherine Schweitzer*, *Mary Ann Kresse*, *Nancy Brock* and *Barbara Seals Nevergold* for their diligence in these important areas.

The Human Resources Committee, chaired by *Barbara Seals Nevergold*, with members *Diane Chrisman*, *Susan Herold*, and *Chris Merry* working behind the scenes on opportunities and issues related to personnel. Thank you to each for their dedication in this area.

Winter is the time the Gift Shop Committee, chaired by *Marcy Workman*, develops new products for the coming season. This winter was no different, with some new and wonderful things planned for this season....among them, the introduction of the Graycliff Yoyo! (see page 11)

Volunteer Co-Chairs *Phyllis Spears* and *Carol Wahlenmayer* track each Graycliff volunteer, meet and greet new volunteers, arrange special events (especially related to community outreach,) historic housekeeping and many other things. Meanwhile, *Marion Schmidt* and *Marcy Workman* co-chair Docents, and they will be inaugurating a new class of docent training on April 28th. They also organized two special discussion groups for docents, focusing on the architecture of Wright, in January and February. *Kathy and Dale Marriott*, like the green growing things of which they are so knowledgeable, let the Green Team of gardening volunteers lie fallow during the winter. But they are already planning ahead for spring clean up and maintenance, working in tandem with the landscape restoration planned for this season. A huge thank you to all Graycliff volunteers, especially the Team Leaders mentioned above, for their extraordinary dedication and hard work. A special thank you to *Cheryl St. George*, who so beautifully organizes Spring Clean Up and the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner each year.

The season is now upon us, and it will soon bear the fruits of the “dormant” winter... *we hope that you will come see for yourself!*

—Reine Hauser

FRANK  
LLOYD  
WRIGHT

New in the Graycliff Gift Shop



The Graycliff Cutting Board



Graycliff’s signature Diamond Window china to Grace Your Table...or make the Perfect Gift!



Ginkgo Tree Plants



The Graycliff Gift Shop has wonderful new items this season, and truly something for everyone: a wide variety of jewelry; Buffalo cutting boards for your favorite cook, Ginkgo trees to plant yourself; Graycliff yoyos for the child in us all, and Wright-inspired switch plate and outlet covers in copper for your home. Stop by and take a look, or check out some of the things we now have on-line.

[www.GraycliffEstate.org](http://www.GraycliffEstate.org)



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

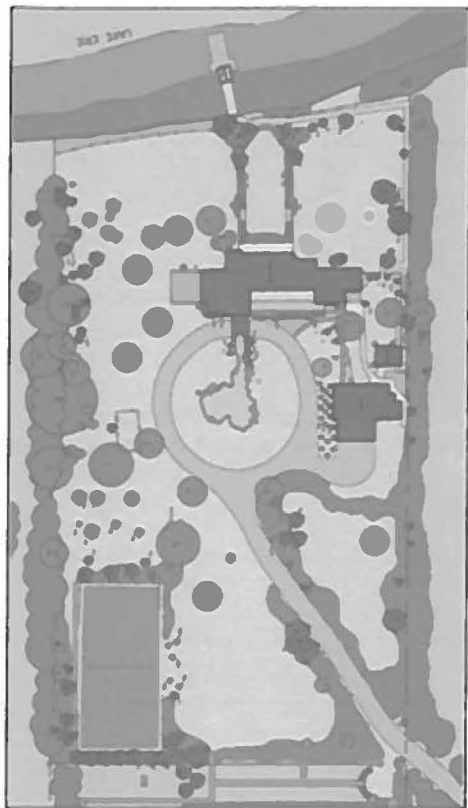
CARD # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

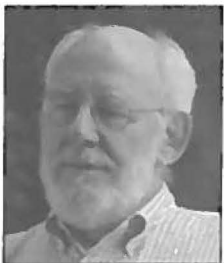
Thank You for Your Generous Support!

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.





1931 Period Plan  
Frank Lloyd Wright's Graycliff Estate



Dr. Charles Beveridge



Charles Birnbaum



Just Wright for Kids

## The American Spirit of Landscape :: Lecture Series

Graycliff is proud to announce a four part lecture series in 2012; each will be held at the Burchfield-Penney Art Center. *The American Spirit of Landscape* is a series of four lectures focusing on the landscape designs of *Frederick Law Olmsted*, *Frank Lloyd Wright*, and *Ellen Biddle Shipman*. *Olmsted*, in the nineteenth century, based his designs for NYC's Central Park and Prospect Park; Buffalo's entire park system; the Niagara Reservation in Niagara Falls; and Rochester's Emerald Necklace on the principles of the English Picturesque while also emphasizing a specifically American experience of nature and scenery.

Following *Olmsted's* retirement in 1897, these precepts continued to ground a new generation of American landscape architects for the next four decades, a time of rapid economic, social, and cultural change. In the early twentieth century, new fortunes made it possible for wealthy Americans to commission country estates; *Frank Lloyd Wright* and *Ellen Biddle Shipman* among them.

Although *Wright* is best known for his residential design, he also created landscape designs, particularly and extensively for Graycliff. *Ellen Biddle Shipman*, known as the "Dean of American Women Landscape Architects," was renowned for her Arts & Crafts-style designs. *Biddle Shipman* created more than 400 landscape designs throughout the US, with several still extant in the Buffalo and Rochester areas, including that of Graycliff.

*The American Spirit of Landscape* will highlight some of the seminal figures in the field of landscape architecture, and focus attention on landscape architecture in WNY. Among the speakers will be **Charles E. Beveridge on Friday, May 9th** at 7 pm. Dr. Beveridge is considered the foremost scholar on *Frederick Law Olmsted* and author of *Frederick Law Olmsted: Designing the American Landscape* (Rizzoli) and the editor of the *Frederick Law Olmsted Papers*, Vols. 1-7.

On **Wednesday, May 23 at 7 pm**, **Charles A. Birnbaum**, FASLA, FAAR will speak. *Birnbaum* is the President of the Cultural Landscape Foundation and author of *Design with Culture: Claiming America's Landscape Heritage*. He is also a regular contributor to the *Huffington Post*.

The series will conclude with two lectures in the autumn, with a look at Graycliff landscape design by two geniuses of twentieth century design, *Frank Lloyd Wright* and *Ellen Biddle Shipman*. *Judith Tankard*, author of *The Gardens of Ellen Biddle Shipman* will focus on the designs of *Shipman*. A speaker to be announced will discuss *Wright* and his designs for Graycliff.

## Just Wright for Kids :: Program Expands for 2012

After two previous sold-out seasons of Just Wright for Kids, Graycliff is proud to announce that this year, there will be three sessions, and one additional advanced session of Just Wright for Kids. The hand-on workshop for children aged 11 to 14 will focus on the architecture of *Frank Lloyd Wright*. All four sessions will be held during the summer months; please check the Graycliff website at [graycliffestate.org](http://graycliffestate.org) for dates, times and other details.

Led by *Douglas Kohler*, Chair, History Department of Clarence Middle School, and a seventh grade history teacher, each Just Wright for Kids workshop will involve hands-on activities related to Graycliff, *Wright* architecture in Buffalo and beyond. Each workshop is limited to fifteen participants.

Reservations and pre-payment are required. Admission is \$8.

The workshop will include working with Pentomino puzzles, Art Glass, and Pop Up architecture. It will be held outside under shade trees if weather permits, with views of Graycliff and its cantilevered balconies and of Lake Erie. In case of poor weather, the session will be held in the Isabelle R. Martin House.

A tour of Graycliff for adults (parent/guardians) will be available during each program, with an admission of \$15. Reservations are required. NOTE: Graycliff tours are not appropriate for children under age ten.

In addition to his distinguished career as an educator (and kids just love him!), *Doug Kohler* is also a long-time trustee of the Clarence Historical Society, the author of four books on the history of Clarence, NY, and a forthcoming book on Hull House, the historic site in Lancaster, NY. He has been the Erie County Historian since March, 2009, and was educated at Canisius College, where he received his BA in History and MS in Education.

Look for dates and times to be posted on our website [www.graycliffestate.org](http://www.graycliffestate.org) or contact the Graycliff office at 947- 9217 for more information.

## A Message From The President:

An Exciting Season of Landscape & Interior Restoration Projects, Special Events & Membership Growth

The 2012 season promises to be an exciting one at Graycliff with restoration continuing on the buildings and grounds at Graycliff and some spectacular events in the planning.

The fifth phase of restoration (Interior Restoration) began inside the main house with the family sun porch restoration sponsored by the *Hooper Family Foundation*. The restoration was seventy-five percent complete last fall to welcome the *National Trust for Historic Preservation* at their annual conference's first visit to Western New York. On April 20th of 2012, the Conservancy will celebrate the completion of the Family Sun Porch project with a special tour and reception for Graycliff Docents and the *Hooper Family*. The docents will learn about the history of this space and its historic contents in order to expertly interpret the room to future visitors.

The Sun Porch was initially conceived as a screened room for the Martin family's use and was glazed in the second season of residency by the family. This restoration restored the rubber floor, colored stucco ceiling and walls, historic lighting, French doors and cypress woodwork within the space. The restoration also returned a striking library table designed by *Frank Lloyd Wright* for the house to the porch. The table spent many years in the Rocky Mountains in Colorado after being sold to an art collector by the *Piarist* fathers in 1995. The restoration of the Sun Porch also marks the first portion of the installation of the sophisticated Italian based fire protection system now used in many historic properties.

Continued interior restoration will begin this year with work on the first floor of the main house living and dining rooms. Two grants from New York State totaling \$175,000 will restore the cypress plank floors in these spaces. The drainage system at Graycliff failed in the 1940's, which led to decay and eventually the collapse of the living room floor. The floor was replaced with concrete plank prior to the property's sale to the *Piarist* fathers in 1950. Previous phases of restoration have corrected the drainage system failure, which has resulted in a dry basement under the house. Under this project sponsored by former *State Senator Antoine M. Thompson* and current *Senator Mark J. Grisanti*, the original heating systems (hidden below the living room floor) will be restored, paving the way for complete restoration of the first floor. *Frank Lloyd Wright* designed many heating systems below floors but few were installed per his plans.

*Wright* restoration expert *John Eifler*, FAIA will consult with architects from *Chaintreuil, Jensen and Stark* on this project. The unique heating design explains the unusual furniture placement visible in the many historic photographs on display at the site. Work is expected to be started this year and completed by next year. This project involves some creative challenges in keeping the house open for tours as the floor is removed in stages and returned to its historic appearance. This season may be the only opportunity a visitor will have to look directly into the basement from the living or dining rooms (*Frank Lloyd Wright* always wanted a two-story living room; he never guessed it would be a basement).

*Landscape restoration is expected to continue this season with heavy restoration around the drive and ornamental pool in the circle. Historic finishes matching the iron tinted gravel will restore the color palette to the most prominent views of the house this year.*

The third consecutive Graycliff Gala is set for April 27th at the Larkin Center of Commerce at 701 Seneca Street in Buffalo. This is a new venue for the gala, moving across the street from last year's location at the Larkin at Exchange Building. This year's event will take place in a sprawling building that once housed Larkin Soap production facilities and is easily over one million square feet in area. *Frank Lloyd Wright* last visited this building in 1936, accompanied by the late architect *Edgar Tafel* who was the last living person to accompany *Wright* to Graycliff on the same trip. *Wright* dined in the executive dining room and, according to *Tafel*, enjoyed the asparagus. As in past years, the gala offers Graycliff not only the ability to raise needed operating funds but also an opportunity to thank and recognize some of the many people whose work and effort has allowed the conservancy to flourish. Please support the Conservancy by attending this stimulating event. (See pages 8 & 9) for details about the gala and some of the unique opportunities offered at the gala auctions).

Graycliff expects to have an enjoyable and productive season in 2012. Membership is strong and is the heart of this organization; please help us make it more so by becoming a member or giving a gift membership to the friend you think will appreciate it most. We hope to see members on the Member's Lawn on select days this season and I also would love to share these changes this season with you on an architect tour.

– Patrick J. Mahoney, AIA, Board President

# GRAYCLIFF

## CONSERVANCY, INC.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Patrick J. Mahoney, AIA  
President

Diane Schrenk  
Vice President

Diane Chrisman  
Recording Secretary

Chris Merry  
Treasurer

Gregory Bernas  
Joseph A. Blatz  
Sandra L. Brant  
Charles A. LeFevre, ASA  
Harvey Garrett  
Susan J. Herold  
Michael A. Longo, RA  
Sharon Osgood, Esq.  
Jack Quinn III  
Catherine F. Schweitzer  
Barbara A. Seals Nevegold, Ph.D.  
Clifford E. Whitman  
William A. Wisniewski

HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

The Rev. Margaret R. Foster  
Darwin Martin Foster

ADVISORS

Jason Aronoff  
Carol A. Brannan  
John H. Corbin  
Jack Quinn  
Douglas Smith

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Reine Hauser

Comm. 17M-14  
Page 5 of 8



A detail of the Graycliff dining room floor showing the transition from the stone fireplace hearth to plank cypress.





The new name and new sign at the Visitor's center



Assembled guests at the unveiling ceremony

## 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:

- Misting Fire Protection
- Restoring the Interior of the Isabelle R. Martin House
- Strengthening On-Site Operations

**Please contribute—all donations are tax-deductible**

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

## M&T Bank Pavilion :: Graycliff Visitor's Center

Graycliff is proud to announce that Graycliff's Visitor Center will be known as the M&T Bank Pavilion, in gratitude for M&T Bank's long-time support of the Graycliff Conservancy.

A new copper-colored sign, emulating the designs of Frank Lloyd Wright, was unveiled in November

This unveiling topped off an extraordinarily successful autumn for the Graycliff Conservancy. In three months last fall, the Conservancy :

- Actively participated in the national conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation
- Acquired a Caretaker's Cottage original to Graycliff
- Broke ground for the restoration of Graycliff's historic landscape.

The Graycliff Conservancy was happy to crown these extraordinary accomplishments with a tangible reflection of the importance of Graycliff's longtime partnership with M&T Bank.

"Graycliff treasures its relationship with M&T Bank," says Graycliff Board President Patrick J. Mahoney, A.I.A., "The Graycliff Conservancy wishes to extend our heartfelt thanks by recognizing our long-term relationship with the creation of the M&T Bank Pavilion."

M&T has provided more than \$135,000 in funding to Graycliff over the past 14 years, which includes assistance with visitor services, accessibility, restoration and most vital of all, operating support.

Michael Longo, R.A. a Graycliff Board member, Scott Wood of SAW Design and Bill Wisniewski of EZ Graphics, were responsible for the design of the attractive building signage. Uniland Development and Longo himself graciously provided funding for the fabrication and installation.

The M&T Bank Pavilion is entirely handicapped accessible, and features an exhibition area, work space for employees and volunteers, and a lovely gift shop.



### 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. OISHEI FOUNDATION, DOROTHY PAYNE FUND,  
PHYLLIS W. PIERCE CHARITABLE TRUST, SAPERSTON FAMILY FOUNDATION,  
SIMPLE GIFTS FUND, AND THE MARGARET L. WENDT FOUNDATION.

THANK YOU ALSO TO PREMIER WINE AND SPIRITS AND LIBERTY LIQUORS IN DERBY.

## GRAYCLIFF DIAMOND WINDOW AWARDS 2012

### COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTOR: Burton Notarius

Since acquiring what would eventually become Prime Wines Corp in 1969, Burton Notarius has expanded the enterprise substantially, making it one of the largest wine and spirits complexes in the nation. In addition to growing a major business, Notarius is highly regarded throughout the region for his community involvement as a Board member of Studio Arena, Musicalfare Theater, Darwin Martin House, Dean's Advisory Council for the School of Management for the University of Buffalo and Visit Buffalo Niagara, and much more. He has been a long-time support of Graycliff.

### ORGANIZATION: Forest Lawn

One of the most famous Victorian cemeteries in North America, Forest Lawn is home to a U.S. President, 47 Buffalo mayors, and many other worthies, including Louise Blanchard Bethune, the first professional woman architect and Isabelle and Darwin Martin. A New York State landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Forest Lawn's commitment to historic preservation was enhanced in 2004, when the Blue Sky Mausoleum, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright for Darwin and Isabelle Martin, was constructed; and then followed by an official marker for the Martin family gravesite—both impressively concluding the association between Wright and his patrons. Forest Lawn has been a wonderful friend of Graycliff.

### CORPORATE: M&T Bank

One of WNY's premiere corporate citizens, M&T Bank has long had a strong commitment to architecture, the community, and, of course, Graycliff. M&T Bank's headquarters in downtown Buffalo was designed by renowned architect Minoru Yamasaki in 1967, at approximately the same time he was designing the World Trade Center in NYC. M&T Bank's many, many contributions to the WNY community have proven vital to the flourishing of the region. It has been unstintingly generous to Graycliff, and as a result, Graycliff's Visitor Center was renamed the "M&T Bank Pavilion" last autumn.

### BENEFACTOR: The John R. Oishei Foundation

John R. Oishei was the founder of Trico Products Corporation, one of the world's leading manufacturers of automotive windshield wiping equipment. Mr. Oishei established his family foundation in 1940 and served as President of the Foundation from its founding until his death in 1968. Under his leadership, the Foundation supported hospitals and schools in the Buffalo area, as well as cultural and social service needs. Today, the John R. Oishei Foundation continues his work, contributing to the well-being of citizens throughout the region in many, many ways. The John R. Oishei Foundation is the second-largest donor to Graycliff's extensive restoration efforts.

### THE LESTER RICKARD MEMORIAL AWARD FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:

#### Edward O. Smith Jr., Ph. D.

Dr. Smith joined the faculty of Buffalo State College, a SUNY college, in 1963 as a professor of history. Dr. Smith was instrumental in the formation of the Monroe Fordham Regional History Center, has been active in many college organizations and boards, and served on a number of community groups and boards that provided services to the greater Buffalo region. For these reasons, Smith was named SUNY Distinguished Service Professor of History. Dr. Edward O. Smith is renowned for his commitment to education, dedication to regional history, his intellectual curiosity, enthusiasm and generosity of spirit. We are proud to call him a Friend of Graycliff.

### INDIVIDUAL BENEFACTOR: W. Stanley Hooper

There's nothing like a good neighbor, and that certainly describes W. Stanley Hooper. The patriarch of a wonderful family, as well as of a family foundation, Hooper is a successful entrepreneur, sailor, pilot and philanthropist. The founder (with his late wife Lois) of Hooper Handling Inc., in nearby Hamburg, NY, Stan Hooper is also the proud father of two grown children: Linda Ward, who gives generously of her time to therapeutic equestrian programs (her husband Doug ably assumed the reins of Hooper Handling upon Mr. Hooper's retirement, keeping it all in the family ) Meanwhile, son Keith Ward is, like his father, a Renaissance man: an oboist, historic preservationist and entrepreneur, who lives in Chicago. In the early 1970s, Stan Hooper founded the Hooper Family Foundation, funding merit-based college scholarships. Lois Hooper's involvement with Young Audiences in the early 1980s led to donations in that arena, and sadly, due to Mrs. Hooper's illness, to support for Hospice and to Alzheimer-related charities. Graycliff has been a departure for Stan Hooper and his Family Foundation, which recently funded the restoration of the first interior room of the Isabelle R. Martin House. Linda Ward explains that her father's charitable philosophy is to set an example for others to emulate; by funding the restoration of the Family Sun Porch, others may follow Stan Hooper's lead to fund other interior rooms. True believers in giving back to the community, Linda Ward describes her parents as "the coolest people in the world." We couldn't agree more.



## Isabelle R. Martin Society TO BENEFIT THE GRAYCLIFF CONSERVANCY

Our gifts can last beyond our lifetimes, and one way to do so is through Graycliff's Isabelle R. Martin Society. As a member of the Society, your gift made through estate planning will allow you to join a select group of individuals who are committed to helping the Graycliff Conservancy to preserve and restore the Graycliff Estate through the years to come. Your contribution will provide an enduring legacy and will ensure Graycliff's continued success. Please help assure our future by making your estate plans today.

Anyone can leave a legacy as a member of the Isabelle R. Martin Society. Meaningful donations can come from anyone, not just the very wealthy, and in any size. Members of the Society, regardless of means, include charitable requests when they draw up a will.

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

The decision to tell us that you have included the Graycliff Conservancy, Inc. in your will, and membership in the Isabelle R. Martin Society is up to you. But we'd like to know, so that we can express our appreciation to you during your lifetime through Society events and offerings.

The following are members of the Isabelle R. Martin Society:

Carol and Jerry Wahlenmayer  
Russell Maxwell

We invite you to consider joining the Isabelle R. Martin Society, and join other likeminded individuals in this important mission. Please call (716) 947-9217 for further details.



A serene summer day at Graycliff





Graycliff Gala Volunteers, Phyllis Spears, Antoinette Forth and Diane Schrenk



Board members Catherine Schweitzer and Sharon Osgood at the 2011 Diamond Window Awards presentation



Forest Lawn Executive Dir., Joseph Dispenza and organizer Sandra Starks look forward to the 2012 Gala

Excitement is growing in anticipation of Graycliff's third annual gala. While some features of it are traditional, there is a lot new and compelling.

We are holding the gala in a new site yet keeping with tradition by locating it in the Larkin District. Scheduled for April 27, 2012 at 6:30 p.m., our host this year is the Larkin Center of Commerce, 701 Seneca Street. Owners James Cornell (Praxiis Business Advisors), Peter Krog (Krog Corp.) and Gordon Reger (Reger Holdings, LLC) purchased the 1.3 million square foot Larkin Soap Co. manufacturing building a little over a year ago, embarking on a major rehabilitation project to create high class office space. Its parking lot between Seneca and Swan streets had been the location of Frank Lloyd Wright's Larkin Administration building, tragically torn down by the City of Buffalo in 1950. Its one remaining vestige, a brick pier, has been maintained and memorialized for years by a group of volunteers, with the permission and assistance of the owners.

Keeping with the Larkin theme, Jerry Puma, President of the national Larkin Collector's Group, will be presenting an exhibit of Larkin related items and posters. Significantly, he will be showing a brief silent movie "infomercial" filmed for the Larkin Soap Co. in 1910 for use on a rare projector designed by Thomas Edison. The film was recorded at 701 Seneca Street, documenting Larkin products, their manufacture and marketing. This rare and historic film is not to be missed! Nor is the opportunity to meet John E. Larkin, (the great great grandson of John D. Larkin) who is coming from Boston, Mass, to attend the event.

A further Larkin touch will be the raffling of a "Larkin Collector's Starter Kit" of Larkin Soap Company and Buffalo Pottery Co. (a Larkin subsidiary) items.

One of our sponsors, Entercom (Vice President/General Manager, Larry Robb, is a Larkin family member,) is not only broadcasting "plugs" for us on several of its radio stations, but also loaning us its WBEN News Director, Steven Cichon, as our guest emcee and auctioneer. Steven is a talented, dynamic broadcaster, who also has a keen interest in the history of Western New York, frequently presenting lectures on local historic topics.

Entercom also loaned us its Director of Regional Marketing, Sharon Metz, to add her creative genius to the planning committee. One of many benefits was her solicitation of some wonderful live auction items such as an overnight at the Sterling Inn and dinner at its restaurant, AG, in Niagara Falls, Canada; a Niagara-on-the-Lake package of a Vintage Hotel stay, winery visit and Shaw theatre tickets; and a stay at Carl Paladino's new hotel, The Giacomo, with a dinner at a nearby restaurant.

A very exciting auction item is an overnight stay at the Gardener's Cottage along with an in-depth tour of the entire Martin House complex. The cottage is not generally available for such a stay, so this is a rare opportunity.

An equally rare auction item is a wine and cheese reception for 20 at the privately owned FLW designed Davidson House. Owner, Russ Maxwell, has also arranged for our own Patrick Mahoney to be present to autograph his recently released book on the Davidson House. Each participant will leave with a book in hand!

Providing music throughout the dining portion of the evening (during which guests will be circulating through the many offerings being presented in the basket auction) will be Van Taylor, from the Colored Musician's Club, on keyboard.

A primary purpose of the Gala is, of course, to honor the recipients of this year's Diamond Award Window winners. They include Community Contributor Award: Burton Notarius; Organization Award: Forest Lawn; Corporate Award: M&T Bank; Benefactor Award: the John R. Oishei Foundation; Lester Rickard Memorial Professional Award: E.O. Smith, Jr., Ph.D., Director of Monroe Fordham Regional History Center of SUNY College at Buffalo; and Individual Benefactor Award: W. Stanley Hooper, Hooper Family Foundation.

Sponsors, as of March 21, 2012, include M&T Bank; Entercom; Larkin Center of Commerce; Sharon Osgood, Esq.; Gregory Photiadis, Esq.; The Krog Group, Marsh Ziller, Attorneys; Sand Hill Investments; Diane and Frederick Schrenk; Harter Sechrist and Emery; Diane Chrisman; Kromac Design; and Chaintreuil | Jensen | Stark Architects, LLP.



The Family Sun Porch Room: set up for an afternoon event

## Family Sun Porch: First Interior Room Restored

The first interior room of the Isabelle R. Martin House, the largest of the three Wright-designed buildings at Graycliff has been restored, President Patrick J. Mahoney, A.I.A. announced today.

"Thanks to the Hooper Family Foundation, the Family Sun Porch was restored in time for the national conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation," Mahoney said.

Work included installation of that portion of a fire protection system, restoration of stucco walls and ceiling; restoration of historic lighting fixtures and installation of historically accurate rubber floor tiles. The restoration was performed by BRD Construction, with supervision by Chaintreuil | Jensen | Stark Architects.

The Hooper Family, which provided funding last year for the re-acquisition of a library table original to Graycliff, generously underwrote restoration of the Family Sun Porch as well. "We're are very grateful to the Hooper family, particularly Stan Hooper, for his enthusiasm for Graycliff. He is truly a wonderful neighbor and a treasured supporter," said Reine Hauser, Executive Director.

The Family Sun Porch, with windows on three sides, features striking views of the grounds, a sunken garden and Lake Erie. Margaret Foster, granddaughter of Isabelle and Darwin Martin, for whom Frank Lloyd Wright designed Graycliff, has said that the room was used often to play board games, do jigsaw puzzles, and listen to the radio during the evenings and on rainy days.

## 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



Archive Photo: The Family Sun Porch, 1928



The Sun Porch set up for a reception



Stanley Hooper inspecting the Family Sun Porch Project

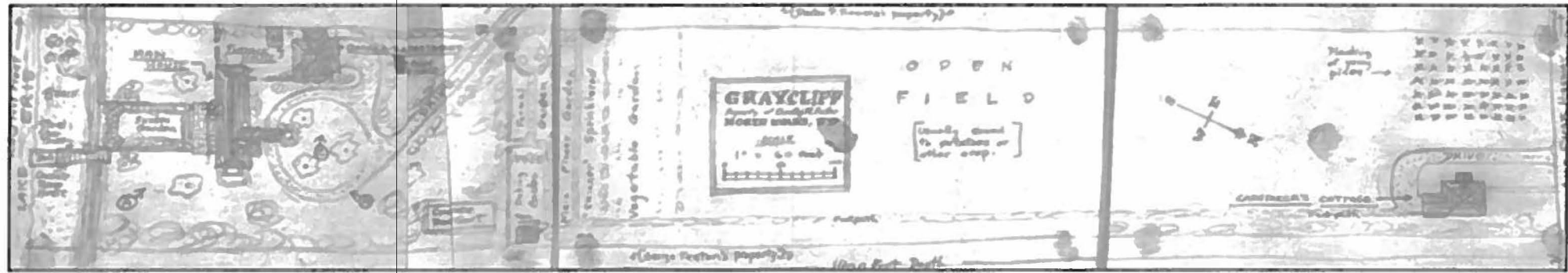


An exterior photo showing the sun porch room windows with its views of the lake and lawn





From the Archives: The Isabelle R. Martin House



A primitive Graycliff Estate Map (anonymous origin) created for Dorothy Martin Foster circa 1936-1938



From the Archives: The Caretaker's Cottage

## Graycliff Docents

Graycliff docents are the backbone of Graycliff. They make Graycliff and the Martin family come alive for visitors. Rather than simply visit a building, the docent gives visitors the experience of visiting with Wright the artist, the Martin family enjoying the ease of summer at the lake and their wonderful country home.

A Graycliff docent is not only knowledgeable about the estate and the Martins, but comes to feel as if they may have known this place as it was known to the Martin family. They are committed to the restoration, they are admirers of Frank Lloyd Wright and his work, they enjoy meeting new people and of being a part of a project that has grown to an internationally known tourist destination.

There is no easily defined profile that describes a Graycliff docent.

They come from all walks of life. Many had careers as teachers, others worked in industry, in the legal profession, social work, interior design and so on. Graycliff docents are both men and women and are all ages; some are in their thirties while others are in their seventies. Some are still employed and others are enjoying retirement. Some are at the site multiple times a week and others come in only once a month. What the docents do have in common is a love of Graycliff and they are eager to share it.

Should a conversation between docents be overheard, one hears of interesting people they met on their tours, friends they made with other Graycliff volunteers, Wright sites they visited, sharing of new information they recently learned about Graycliff, the Martins or Wright and their excitement over the latest piece of restoration underway at Graycliff.

As Graycliff continues to grow, so does the need for volunteers and especially for docents. You may be just the person that the next group of visitors would love to meet. They will be eager to hear you share your knowledge and fondness for this beautiful site. If you are looking for an experience that will enrich your life you may want to join the 2012 docent family. New docent training begins the end of April.

Marion Schmidt, Docent Co-Chair

## The Work of Volunteers Makes Graycliff Work

No mention of volunteers would be complete without an enormous thank you to the people who give their time and efforts to Graycliff. These are the volunteers who weed the gardens, present the house for visitors, lead the tours, help in the pavilion, attend to our functions, and represent us at fairs, festivals and group meetings.

In 2012 again we will be looking for volunteer help. Graycliff will be at the Elmwood/Bidwell Market with Buffalo Tours on June 2nd. Help is needed to pass out literature and acquaint people with the Graycliff story. Additional summer venues are being considered as well. If you can help with a shift, please call Graycliff at 947-9217.

In the past two years Graycliff has had a Garage Sale. It presents an opportunity to raise some funds for Graycliff and distribute literature as well. We are currently looking for someone to host our garage sale for 2012. Call 947-9217 to offer your help and you will be called about details.

There are openings on both the Friday morning and Saturday morning Housekeeping teams. This job entails about 2 hours one day a month. Saturday is also Green Team day- the day the gardens are cared for. It is possible to do both, if you have the time to stay until one on Saturday. Make your availability known to Graycliff 947-9217. We will look forward to hearing from you.

Are you available to help with phone calls, mailings? You would be a welcome addition to the Graycliff family. Volunteers will also assist at the Graycliff Gala, being held this year on April 27th at the Larkin Center of Commerce Building. This is a major fund raiser for the year.

Many hands make light work and many volunteers make a good time. Please join us.

Carol Wahlenmayer, Phyllis Spears, Volunteer Coordinators

## In Memoriam :: Father Kalman

Father Kalman Miskolczy, the Superior of the Piarist community when Graycliff served as the motherhouse for the order, has died. Born in Hungary in 1921, he entered the novitiate in 1939, was ordained in 1945, and obtained his doctorate in theology in 1947.

In 1956, he joined the Piarists in the United States, and taught at Devon Prep, a private Roman Catholic college preparatory school in PA from 1965-70. He was a resident chaplain in a Buffalo hospital in the early 1970s, then was assigned to Fort Lauderdale, where he taught until 1981. After serving in Ohio and New Jersey, Father Kalman moved to Graycliff in 1987. Carol Bronnenkant, founding President of the Conservancy worked closely with Father Kalman, and says "Fr. Kalman was the Superior of the Piarist Order at their Derby Motherhouse (Graycliff) at the time the property was listed for sale. The Conservancy's interest in purchasing the Estate drew national attention and an array of prospective buyers. Fr. Kalman faced the difficult task of advocating for his Order's benefit, while sympathetic to preserving Graycliff's historic significance."

"Months of negotiations with the fledgling Conservancy assured the Piarists of our singleminded intention to preserve this community treasure. From that trust, Fr. Kalman generously allowed unprecedented access to Graycliff, where he and two other priests were still in residence, as part of the Conservancy's efforts to fund the purchase. He allowed a small army of volunteers to make the Graycliff Estate "visitor ready" with a major clean-up of the house and grounds, and then opened the doors for several thousand visitors to tour the house over the course of several months. It was a stressful time, both for the priests who were losing their well-loved home, and for the Conservancy that was in a race against time to complete the purchase. Throughout these extraordinary circumstances, Fr. Kalman remained a gracious and equable ambassador." Following the Conservancy's purchase, Father Kalman moved to nearby Lackawanna, NY with Father Nicholas Fodor in 1999. There, he served as Administrator of the Assumption Parish in Lackawanna until his retirement and return to the Devon community in 2006. In the summer of 2010, he returned to his native Hungary, and died peacefully on January 30, 2012. Father Kalman's diplomacy, leadership and exceptional kindness are forever a part of Graycliff's legacy.

## Conservancy Membership :: Let's Be Friends

To paraphrase Tennessee Williams, Graycliff "depends on the kindness of strangers." Of course, even more so, Graycliff depends on the kindness of its friends! Friendship can be as simple as visiting once a year and introducing out-of-town guests to Graycliff; or it can mean extending and enriching your experience as a volunteer. Friendship can also mean becoming a member of the Graycliff Conservancy. Although there are concrete advantages, like the 10% discount in our gift shop, free or discounted admissions on tours, and invitations to special events and programs, the real benefit is to become a part of something bigger. Membership helps the Conservancy meet its twin goals of preserving and restoring Graycliff, and making it accessible to people both locally and from across the globe. If you are already a friend, please consider renewing or upgrading your membership. Renewing members are offered special privileges, like Member's Lawn, when on certain days throughout the year, members can simply relax at Graycliff. Graycliff's friends provide real and lasting support to historic restoration in progress. Graycliff owes its success to friends like you!

Shannon Lyons, Graycliff Membership Coordinator

## Graycliff Volunteer Dinner

The annual Graycliff Volunteer Dinner was held on November 12, 2011. A number of volunteers were lauded for extraordinary service, a few were teased with amusing anecdotes, and a terrific time was had by all. Loretta Worth received special recognition for joining the ranks of those volunteers who have devoted ten years of service to Graycliff. Thank you to former Board member Cheryl St. George for coordinating the dinner...and a BIG thank you to all Graycliff volunteers



Volunteers Wendy Duignan and June Crawford at the Lewiston Art Festival



Volunteer Co-chairs Carol Wahlenmayer and Phyllis Spears at Volunteer Dinner 2011



Father Kalman Miskolczy



The Piarist Fathers on the stone bench at Graycliff



Pat Mahoney and Marion Schmidt at volunteer Dinner 2011



Wendy Duignan with Volunteer Co-Chair Carol Wahlenmayer