



*Organized to preserve the work of Minnesota's most important architect.*

## MEET THE OFFICERS AND BOARD FOR 2005

According to the by-laws of the Cass Gilbert Society, the Society is required to hold an annual board meeting during the month of November, at which time officers and board members are elected for the coming year. This year the board held its annual meeting on November 4, 2004, at the University Club.

Marjorie Pearson, Ph.D., was elected for another year as president. Marjorie, vice president of Hess, Roise and Company, a historic preservation consulting firm based in Minneapolis, gained much of her experience with the architecture of Cass Gilbert while serving as director of research at the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Betsy Bradley, Ph.D., has assumed the position of secretary. Betsy is senior architectural historian with the 106 Group, a cultural resources management and planning firm in Saint Paul. Like Marjorie, Betsy came to know Cass Gilbert's New York City work while on the staff of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

Troy Musel is continuing as treasurer for another year. Troy is an officer at Western Bank of Saint Paul, although temporarily assigned to the Prospect Park office while a new bank headquarters is under construction.

Mary Michael Connolly has stepped down as secretary, but is remaining on the board as the member-at-large. Mary Michael, an administrator with the Minneapolis Public Schools, will be retiring in January 2005.

Jean Kyle and Joan Wilkosz, Ph.D., joined the board in 2004. Both are educators. Jean is an administration specialist in adult and career education for the Minnesota State Department of Education, and Joan is a consultant in policy and planning.

Cindy Stephani and Wendy Weimer are joining the board for 2005. Cindy leads architectural tours at the Minnesota State Capitol, while Wendy, a longtime resident of Saint Paul, serves as a *guardian ad litem* for Spanish-speaking families in Ramsey County.

Jim Hirsh, a retired attorney with the American Express Company, remains the board's legal advisor. Jean Velleu, president emerita, will continue her board participation. Jean also serves on the Capital Area Architectural and Planning Board.

Linda Bjorklund will head up our development and fundraising efforts. Lana Mahoney has agreed to continue coordinating our lecture series, while Sheila Meyer will again maintain our membership database and mailing list. The position of vice president is currently vacant, as Dewey Berscheid who was elected for 2004 had to step down for reasons of health.



Cedarhurst Gardens  
Photo courtesy of Herb Grika

SAVE THE DATE! May 8, 2005, Mother's Day. Because of the remarkable success of our Mother's Day tea at Cedarhurst, the board voted to hold the event again this coming Mother's Day. Details will be announced in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.

# REPORT BY THE PRESIDENT TO THE BOARD

By Marjorie Pearson, November 4, 2004

The Cass Gilbert Society has had an active year in 2004 with a wide spectrum of activities. We thank the Minnesota Humanities Commission for its support of our programs, including continued funding of our lecture series in 2004-2005, in cooperation with the National Endowment for the Humanities.

## Lecture Series

April 20, 2004 Lance Neckar, Associate Dean of the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture, CASS GILBERT AND THE NORTHROP MALL: PRECEDENTS, METHODS, AND IMPLICATIONS. The lecture was held at the University of Minnesota and also included viewing of Cass Gilbert's plaster site model for the University campus.

September 14, 2004 Patricia Murphy, Executive Director, Oberlin Heritage Center, CASS GILBERT: MIDWESTERN ORIGINS, ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION, AND EARLY CAREER. The lecture was held at the University Club.

October 5, 2004 Helen Post Curry, great granddaughter of Cass Gilbert and founder of the Labyrinth Society, CASS GILBERT IN CONNECTICUT: A PERSONAL VIEW. The lecture was held at the University Club.

## Special Events

March 18, 2004 A visit to the Theater de la Jeune Lune to see a production of THE BALLROOM and tour the building during intermission. Cass Gilbert designed the building in several stages between 1895 and 1908. Tom Blanck prepared the background notes. These were published in the August 2004 *Newsletter*.

May 9, 2004 Mother's Day Tea at Cedarhurst, Cottage Grove, the country home of Cordenio and Mary Harriman Severance. Cass Gilbert added the ballroom wing to the house in 1917. Following tea, guests toured the house and

grounds. Tom Blanck prepared the background notes.

October 17, 2004 Fall Tour: CASS GILBERT ON SUMMIT HILL AND RAMSEY HILL. This tour was adapted from the first Cass Gilbert stroll given in July 1999 with background notes by Tom Blanck and Charles Locks. Copies of the tour notes will be available for purchase at Cass Gilbert Society events.

## Communications

Four issues of the *Newsletter* were published that featured upcoming events and contained items of interest and news pertaining to Cass Gilbert and his work.

An improved and updated website is available at [www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org). The site is maintained by Factorof4.

## Minnesota Capitol Centennial Activities

The Cass Gilbert Society is partnering with the University of Minnesota College of Architecture and Landscape Architect to develop a symposium to be held in October 2005 at the Minnesota Historical Society. The symposium will focus on the architecture, meaning, and image of the Capitol to citizens across the state.

The board has authorized the funding of shipping costs up to \$3000 to enable portraits of Cass Gilbert and Julia Finch Gilbert to be placed in the Minnesota Capitol on a one-year temporary loan from the Smithsonian Institution. The portrait of Cass Gilbert dates from 1927 and was painted by the American artist Ernest L. Ipsen (1869-1951), a member of the National Academy of Design. Julia Finch Gilbert's portrait was painted by the British painter Arthur Stockdale Cope (1857-1940).

*Note: It is now anticipated that the portraits will be installed in February 2005. A special event is being planned in conjunction with the unveiling. More*

# Membership Form – 2005

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to become a **new member** of the Cass Gilbert Society \*

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to **renew** my membership for **2005**.

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to make a **tax deductible contribution** of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a member but would like a **gift membership** for a friend, listed below

Enclosed is my check for \_\_\_\_\_ \$25.00 / Household or \_\_\_\_\_ \$50.00 /Business made out to Cass Gilbert Society, Inc.

**Member's Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Gift Recipient** \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

\* CGS is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and contributions are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Send check and form to: Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., P.O. Box 4066, St. Paul, MN 55104-4066**

information will follow in an upcoming issues of the Newsletter.

### Video and Film Projects

The Cross Family Foundation has provided funding to Eyepop Productions to develop a proposal, intended for fundraising purposes, for a video about Cass Gilbert and his work that would be aimed at schoolchildren. The video may be distributed on DVD or be web-based or both.

*Note: Since writing this report, circumstances have changed regarding this project. The Cass Gilbert Society will be issuing a broader Request for Proposal for an interactive media project for distribution to children in the upper elementary grades.*

Helen Post Curry is acting as executive producer for another, longer film about Gilbert that is being developed by Eyepop Productions.

### Preservation Issues

The West Street Building in lower Manhattan which suffered serious exterior damage in the collapse of the World Trade Center towers is

continuing to be rehabilitated for conversion to apartments.

The Austin, Nichols and Company Warehouse on the Brooklyn waterfront, designed by Cass Gilbert in 1909, has been threatened with an inappropriate rooftop addition. A required zoning variance is still pending, as is a request for a public hearing for local landmark status from the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission.

### Thank you

Let me offer my thanks and appreciation to our outgoing officers and board members: Dewey Berscheid, Eva Cross, Perrin Lilly, and John Lynden. Eva will continue to work with the board on fundraising for the interactive media project. We also appreciate the willingness of Jim Noonan to sponsor us for our meetings at the University Club. Herb Grika continues to record our speakers to provide a permanent record of our lecture series.



Portrait of Cass Gilbert by Ernest L. Ipsen  
Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution



Portrait of Julia Finch Gilbert by Arthur Stockdale Cope  
Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.  
P.O. Box 4066  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104-4066  
www.cassgilbertsociety.org



The  
**minnesota**  
**humanities**  
COMMISSION

Place  
Stamp  
Here

**Our Mission**

To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Officers and Board**

Marjorie Pearson, *President*  
Dewey Berscheid, *Vice President*  
Mary Michael Connolly, *Secretary*  
Troy Musel, *Treasurer*  
Betsy Bradley  
Eva Cross  
Jean Kyle  
Perrin Lilly  
John Lynden  
Jean Velleu, *President Emerita*  
Joan Wilkosz  
Linda Bjorklund, *Fund Raising*  
Jim Hirsh, *Advisor*  
Lana Mahoney, *Programs*  
Sheila Meyer, *Membership Coordinator*

---

**Welcome to the following new members this fall:**

Dorothea and Gordon Anderson  
Mark Larson and Mary Kennedy  
Nick Marcucci and Ann Schroder  
Katherine Solomonson  
Cindy Stephani  
Dan Wagers

It is time to renew your membership for 2005. See the form in this Newsletter.

**The following have already renewed their memberships for 2005:**

Linda Bjorklund and Tom Blanck  
Joan Freese Grant  
Roger and Peggy Johnson  
Sheila and Ray Meyer  
Donald Moe