



CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

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

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY TRAVELERS TO TELL TOUR TALES ON FEBRUARY 12, 2008

Join participants in the **Cass Gilbert Society tour to New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut** on Tuesday, February 12, 2008, at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, at 7:00 P.M.

Members of the group, including Tom Blanck, Jim Law and Jean Velleu, Nick Marcucci and Ann Schroder, Marjorie Pearson, and Cindy Stephani, will present an illustrated talk about the October tour.

Society members from Connecticut, California, Minnesota, Maryland, and New York, met in New York City at the U.S. Custom House on Bowling Green on October 11, 2007, to begin an intense five-day tour of Cass Gilbert sites. Organized by Helen Post Curry and Steven Flanders, the tour was also guided by Barbara Christen and Marjorie Pearson. When Gilbert relocated from Saint Paul to New York at the beginning of the twentieth century, he applied the lessons he had learned in Minnesota to the design of public, institutional, and commercial buildings. Tour highlights included the Brooklyn Army Terminal; the West Street Building and

Woolworth Building in lower Manhattan; the newly restored Essex County Courthouse in Newark, N.J.; the Cass Gilbert Historic District in Waterbury, Connecticut, where the city approved restoration of the City Hall; and Cass Gilbert's country house and the local cemetery in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

Admission is free to Society members. There is a \$5.00 charge for nonmembers. Refreshments will be served after the presentation.



Cannonball House, Cass Gilbert's country house in Ridgefield, Connecticut
Photograph by Ellen Fridinger

MINNESOTA STATE CAPITOL AND MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY EVENTS

The 2008 Minnesota legislative session begins on February 12. A visit to the capitol is always in order during the session to experience the building "at work." The Minnesota Historical Society continues its regular tour schedule. Of special interest:

Civil War Tour, Saturday, February 16, 1 P.M.

A special tour of Civil War art, artifacts, and memorials, with an account of Minnesota's role in the war. Admission fee. Reservations required; call 651-296-2881 or www.mnhs.org/statecapitol.

History Matters Day at the State Capitol, Monday, February 25, 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Rally in the rotunda and let your legislators know that you support funding for history.

MN 150, featuring notable people, places, and events that helped form the state, continues at the Minnesota History Center, 345 Kellogg Blvd., Saint Paul. Admission fee for non-members; closed Mondays.

UPDATE ON THE CASS GILBERT SOCIETY OFFICERS AND BOARD

Sonja Sudheimer, an architect in the office of Thomas Blanck, joined the board at its annual meeting on November 13, 2007. Sonja did her graduate work at the University of Minnesota.

Betsy Bradley has resigned as secretary because she has relocated her residence to Taylors Falls, Minnesota. **Don Ostrom** has also resigned from the board. The Society expresses its thanks for their participation in our work.

For a complete listing of officers and board members see the back cover.

REPORTS ON RECENT EVENTS

Larry Millett, architecture critic and author of the *ALA Guide to the Twin Cities*, presented a very enthusiastically received talk to the Cass Gilbert Society on November 13, 2007. He spoke about the background and organization of the *ALA Guide* and then focused on the works of Gilbert in Saint Paul and Minneapolis that are featured in the *ALA Guide*. The talk was recorded on DVD by Herb Grika. For information on purchasing a copy, contact Herb: herb@grika.com.

Professor Kristin M. Anderson of Augsburg College gave a talk on historic Twin Cities baseball parks at the Minnesota Society of Architectural Historians **Works-in-Progress** session on November 27, 2007. An early baseball park in Saint Paul was designed by Cass Gilbert of Gilbert and Taylor and built on the West Side. Gilbert was an avid amateur sportsman, so his involvement was not surprising. The baseball park was short-lived being supplanted by a park on Lexington Avenue in 1897. She and co-author Christopher W. Kimball published "Designing the National Pastime: Twin Cities Baseball Parks," in *Minnesota History* 58 (Fall 2003).

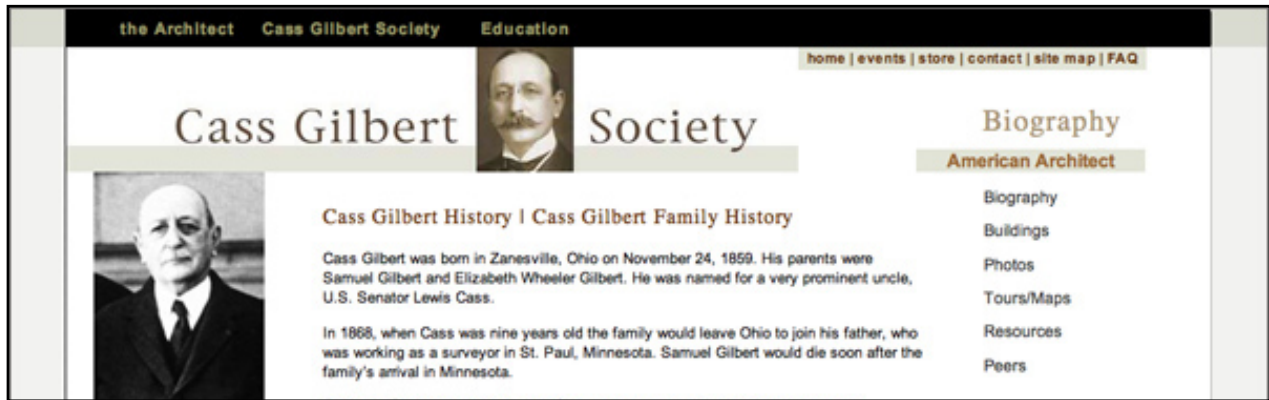


Larry Millett answers a question after the lecture
Photograph by Marjorie Pearson

NEW CASS GILBERT SOCIETY WEBSITE

Thanks to a **State Grant-in-Aid** awarded to the Cass Gilbert Society by the Minnesota Historical Society, the Society website has been redesigned by Factor of 4, working with board members Bonnie Alton, Nick Marcucci, Marjorie Pearson, and Cindy Stephani. The revised website was available for review at the November 13 meeting, and it will be fully launched by March 1, 2008.

The initial \$3000 grant was successfully matched, thanks to member contributions, dedicated fundraisers, and special donations, but we are continuing to raise funds to add more comprehensive information to the site, including a searchable database of Gilbert's works. If you would like to donate money or information, please contact the Society by mail, telephone, or email via the website.



New Cass Gilbert Society website banner

CASS GILBERT IN THE NEWS

Cedarhurst, the mid-nineteenth-century country house in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, transformed by Cass Gilbert into a Colonial Revival mansion in 1911 and 1917 for Cordenio and Mary Severance, was profiled in the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, January 6, 2008. In "Rescued by Refugees," writer Bob Shaw tells the story of the Thao family, Hmong immigrants, who purchased the house and grounds in 2000 and have spearheaded a restoration campaign while opening the building for conferences, receptions, and similar events. Members of the Cass Gilbert Society enjoyed Mother's Day teas at the house in 2004 and 2005. The house is regularly open for afternoon tea on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and for Sunday brunch. Reservations are required. Call 651-769-8918 or see www.cedarhurstmansion.com for more information.

After a two-year loan, the **portraits of Cass Gilbert and Julia Finch Gilbert** that have been on display in the Minnesota State Capitol outside the Supreme Court chamber have been returned to the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution. Conservation concerns regarding fluctuating humidity and temperature in the building necessitated the return of the oil-on-canvas paintings.

Rose Kubiawicz, assistant registrar for the Minnesota Historical Society, and Carolyn Kompelien, site manager, note that many thousands of people from Minnesota and beyond saw the portraits during the 2005 Minnesota Capitol Centennial Celebration and in subsequent programs at the Capitol.

CASS GILBERT SOCIETY, INC.
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www.cassgilbertsociety.org

Place
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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

Wendy Weimer, *President*
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Vacant, *Secretary*
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Renew your membership for 2008. See the expiration date on your mailing label. Would you like to renew your membership or join the Cass Gilbert Society? See the form enclosed with this Newsletter or the Cass Gilbert Society website, www.cassgilbertsociety.org.

MEMBER LIST FOR 2008

The following have paid their membership dues for 2008. Membership is recorded by calendar year, from January through December. However, if you join in the fall for the first time, your membership will be carried through the end of the following year. Your membership expiration date is noted on your Newsletter mailing label. If you have not yet renewed your membership for 2008, please use the enclosed form to do so.

Bonnie & Brian Alton, Kristin Anderson, Donald Bergmann & Willie Meadows, Marion Bjorklund, Richard & Catherine Black, Thomas Blanck & Linda Bjorklund, Margaret Bostelmann, Frank R. Braun, Peter Butler, Darlene J. Carroll, Mary Sue Comfort, Mary Michael Connolly, John & Eva Cross, Sandra S. Engquist, JoAnn & Woody Erickson, Peter Erickson, Mark & Marsha Gorman, James Groskopf, James & Debra Hirsh, Virginia Anne Housum, Sharon Irish, Holly & Earl Joseph, Dr. Winston Kaehler, Allan Klein & Harriet Lansing, Alice Larsson, Ted & Ona Lentz, Lana Mahoney, Nicholas Marcucci & Ann Schroder, Patty McCartin & Paul Luttio, Mary Ann McCoy, John McNeil, Sheila & Raymond Meyer, Jim Miller, Donald Moe, Dan Nepp, James & Ardis Niemann Noonan, Don & Florence Ostrom, Marjorie Pearson, Nancy G. Peterson, Judith M. Pfankuch, Julian G. Plante, Vincent Platt & Carolyn Nayematsu, Charles Post, Charlotte Prentice, Ann H. Rest, Charlene K. Roise, Paul Schmidt, Sheila Smith, Cindy Stephani, Sonja Sudheimer, Edith Thurber, Jean Velleu & Jim Law, Andrew VonBank, Ken & Shirley Wahlborg, Wendy Weimer, Joan Wilkosz, Julienne Wyckoff, Ron Zweber