Our former print newsletter, *The Glessner Journal*, is no longer being produced. In place of that publication, we started issuing an e-newsletter in April 2020. Since we do not have an email address for you (or you indicated your preference for a print copy), we are summarizing some of the highlights of the issues published from mid-February through early May. We hope you enjoy reading through the articles and will go online to read our blog articles and other web content and look at our YouTube videos. The e-newsletter is currently being issued via email on the first and third Wednesday of each month. If you would like to start receiving our e-newsletter, please send your email address to William Tyre at wtyre@glessnerhouse.org.

**Glessner House adopts statement of Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Inclusion**

At a meeting held on February 8, the board unanimously adopted a statement expressing the organization's commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. Although Glessner House has operated with the underlying ideals of this commitment for years, there was general agreement of the importance of putting this commitment into writing and posting it on the website for all to see. The statement reads as follows:

*Glessner House celebrates and respects the unique perspectives and attributes that make each person who they are. Our strength is based on a pledge to continually strive for the broadest possible diversity of participation, thought, and action amongst staff, board, volunteers, and guests. We believe this commitment creates an environment where difference is valued, and a higher level of excellence and innovation is the result.*

The board and staff will take this commitment seriously in all matters relating to anyone and everyone who interacts with the organization, and how we plan and execute our programs and other offerings.

**Geothermal project underway!**

Installation of the second and final phase of our geothermal heating and air conditioning system kicked off on Monday March 29. The first stage of the current project, involved the digging of four 500-foot-deep wells in the courtyard. A six-inch-wide drill bit was used to bore each hole, and casing was inserted to keep the hole intact until solid bedrock was hit at a depth of about 90 feet. Loop tubing, measuring 1-1/4" in diameter, was then run down and back up the well, which was then filled with grout, after which the casing was removed. The courtyard was then trenched to create the loop field, where additional tubing was run from the wells into the building through a series of holes cut through the 22-inch-thick solid limestone foundation. The courtyard has been resodded with no visible evidence of what lies beneath.

We are deeply grateful to the National Endowment for the Humanities for providing a grant of $350,000 making this important project possible. Stay tuned for updates as we proceed with the interior work. A special online presentation in early fall, and limited hard-hat tours are also in the works for those anxious to learn more about this successful combination of historic architecture and green technology.
50 Years Ago

Our docent program had its origins in this small article which appeared in the *Chicago Tribune* in March 1971. Executive Director Jeanette Fields and Board Chair Marian Despres developed an intensive training course that prepared individuals to give tours of both Glessner House and downtown architecture. The model was later copied in other cities. Thirty-three students completed the class and graduated in June 1971. Look for more information about this milestone anniversary as we salute our docents, past and present!

55 Years Ago

On April 16, 1966, a resolution creating the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation was signed by a dedicated group of architects, preservationists, educators, and architectural historians who were committed to the purchase and preservation of Richardson’s urban residential masterpiece, Glessner House. Those who signed the resolution were: Carl Condit, Richard Nickel, Herman Pundt, Earl Reed, Wilbert Hasbrouck, James Speyer, Joseph Benson, Clement Sylvestro, George Danforth, Maurice English, Phyllis Lambert, Dirk Lohan, Paul Lurie, Richard Wintergreen, James Schultz, Dan Murphy, Wayne Benjamin, Ben Weese, Harry Weese, and Irving Berman. $35,000 was raised over the next several months, and the purchase of Glessner House was finalized in December 1966.

The photograph above shows (from left) founders Ben Weese, Wayne Benjamin, and Paul Lurie at the 50th anniversary celebration *Peace, Love, and Preservation* held in April 2016.

Courtyard Jazz Concerts announced

We are pleased to announce the return of our courtyard jazz concerts, sponsored for the third year in a row by Lakeside Bank. These intimate concerts in our beautiful private courtyard, are the perfect alternative to the crowds at Grant Park and Ravinia. Pack your picnic basket, grab your chairs and a blanket, and join us for a wonderful evening of music under the stars. Concerts take place on the fourth Wednesday of each month, June through September. Doors open at 5:30pm and music begins at 6:00pm. Look for the concerts on our website soon and we hope to see you there!

2021 Courtyard Jazz Concerts:
June 23 - Second City Jazz
July 28 - Wayne Messmer
August 25 - Suneetha Vaitheswaran
September 22 - Elaine Dame
Morris & Co. drapes installed in George’s Bedroom

We are very pleased to announce that the reproduction Morris & Co. drapes in the "Tulip" pattern were installed in George's bedroom (and the adjacent The Rocks Gallery) just in time for our reopening in early March. This represents the final step in the restoration of this room, which was started last year in memory of our beloved docent, Karen Oliver.

Our thanks to Trustworth Studios for digitally reproducing the fabric, to the anonymous seamstress who spent many hours sewing the drapes, and especially to the many donors who contributed in Karen's memory to make this project a reality. We hope you will visit soon to see the completed room in person!

A new rug for the Main Hall

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we were recently able to place a beautiful antique rug in the main hall. The new rug, which has been placed in front of the fireplace, is a close match to the original rug visible in the historic photos of the room, both in terms of size and design. The rug was made about 1910 in the Karabagh region of the southern portion of the Caucasus mountains in present-day eastern Armenia and southwestern Azerbaijan. The most prominent feature of the rug is the central field of "boteh," a precursor of the Indian paisley. The boteh represents a sprouting seed which symbolizes potential growth and abundance.

Many thanks to our friends as Oscar Isberian Rugs and K. A. Pridjian Rugs for researching an appropriate rug, making the necessary repairs, and having it installed on April 29.

In Memoriam: Richard H. Driehaus

This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the late Richard H. Driehaus, who passed away on March 9, 2021 at the age of 78. A life-long Chicagoan with humble beginnings, his extraordinary success in business provided him with the opportunity to make a significant impact on his beloved city through his exemplary support of art, architecture, and design. When asked once about his generosity, he noted, "Giving was part of my lessons in grammar school. The nuns had three instructions for us: continue to learn, be responsible for your own actions, and give back." His willingness to give back will be his enduring legacy in Chicago through the many cultural organizations and institutions he supported personally, and through the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation and the Driehaus Charitable Trust. His generosity to Glessner House extended over twenty-five years and that support was, and is, a critical part of our success.
Secrets of Glessner House
Part 15: The Roof Tiles
One of the most distinctive features of Glessner House is its clay tile roof, a design element found on several Richardson-designed buildings. Although it has long been known that the tiles came from Akron, the exact manufacturer remained elusive until recent research confirmed its identity. In this installment of Secrets, learn a bit about the history of clay roof tiles and the company that made the tiles that adorn Glessner House.

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 16: The Masonry
Braggville granite is one of the most iconic features of Glessner House. But did you know this was not the first stone selected for the structure? And what lies behind those fortress-like walls? Get the answers to these burning questions and more in the newest installment of Secrets of Glessner House.

Secrets of Glessner House
Part 17: Underground
Recent construction projects have yielded some interesting discoveries underground. In this installment of Secrets, learn about a long-forgotten seepage pit and an unknown cistern that provide clues to how the Glessners conserved and reused rainwater.
TAKE A DEEP DIVE INTO THE HISTORY OF THE CHICAGO WOMEN’S PARK AND GARDENS WITH THIS THREE-PART SERIES ON THE GLESSNER HOUSE BLOG!
Visit glessnerhouse.blogspot.com

Part I: Beginnings
The Chicago Women’s Park and Gardens, located immediately south and west of Glessner House, was created to honor important women in the city’s history. In Part I, we will reveal what originally stood on the site, with a particular focus on the development and decline of Indiana Avenue. We will also share an extraordinary set of photos by Richard Nickel, taken in the late 1960s, that show the depressed state of the future site of the park and the neighborhood in general.

Part II: Planning
In this second installment examining the history of the Women’s Park, we explore early efforts from 1968 through 1989 to acquire the numerous vacant lots and parking lots using city, state, and federal funds, the move of Clarke House into the park space, and the solicitation of proposals for creating an architectural fragment park.

Part III: Implementation
In our third and final installment examining the history of the Women’s Park, we start with the mid-1990s, a period of rapid growth for the Prairie Avenue neighborhood that resulted in the long-planned park finally coming to fruition. Learn about the 1997 dedication in honor of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, why her name was later removed, the Helping Hands sculpture in honor of Jane Addams, and more!

This 1911 map shows the houses which stood on the present site of the park. Buildings in yellow were still standing in 1950. Glessner House and Keith House, shown in green, are the only buildings standing today.
In 1888, just two years after Richardson's untimely death at the age of 47, Mariana Griswold Van Rensselaer published *Henry Hobson and His Works*, the first monograph of this important and influential architect. For decades, it has been considered an essential work for anyone wishing to learn more about Richardson as architect, artist, and teacher. Architectural historian Henry-Russell Hitchcock noted that "the foundation of all study of Richardson is Mrs. Van Rensselaer's monograph."

Mariana Griswold was born in New York City in 1851, married Schuyler Van Rensselaer in 1873, and began writing in 1876. She was the first female architecture critic, and her reputation had grown considerably by the time she published her Richardson monograph. Her articles for Century Magazine advocated for the recognition of the architectural firm as a whole (as opposed to just its named partners), and architectural training in colleges (as opposed to on-the-job training common up to that time). She published numerous books focusing on her interests in art, architecture, and landscape, significant titles including *Book of American Figure Painters*, *American Etchers*, *English Cathedrals*, and *Art Out of Doors*. Her largest scholarly work was the two volume *History of the City of New York in the Seventeenth Century*, published in 1909. She was given an honorary membership to the American Institute of Architects about 1890.

The 1967 reprint was published by The Prairie School Press, owned and operated by Wilbert and Marilyn(275,226),(731,270) Hasbrouck. Wilbert Hasbrouck was one of the people who formed the Chicago School of Architecture Foundation in 1966 to save Glessner House, so the reprint was well timed, helping to raise the awareness of Richardson, and introducing a new generation to Van Rensselaer's monograph. It was published in the same large format, nearly 11 by 15 inches, and was identical to the original except for the addition of an introduction by James D. Van Trump. Our thanks to Jean Follett who recently donated her copy to our archives.
The Glessners’ son-in-law on the subject of psychic phenomena

One of the newest items in the Glessner House collection arrived in early April - just in time to celebrate its centennial! The item is an original 1921 reprint of the article, *Psychic Phenomena and the Law*, written by the Glessners’ son-in-law, Blewett Lee. The article originally appeared in the April 1921 issue of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Blewett Lee was born in Columbus, Mississippi on March 1, 1867, the only child of Stephen Dill Lee and Regina (Harrison) Lee. He graduated from Mississippi State University, where his father served as president, and then earned a second degree from the University of Virginia and his law degree from Harvard Law School - all by the time he turned twenty-one in 1888. He spent the next year studying at universities in Freiburg and Leipriz, Germany before returning to the U.S. to serve as a clerk for United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Horace Gray.

In 1893, Blewett moved to Chicago where he taught law at both Northwestern University and the newly opened University of Chicago. He also began working for the Illinois Central Railroad, rising to the position of chief legal counsel. In February 1898, Blewett married Frances Glessner in the family home on Prairie Avenue - he was 30 and she was 19. The union produced three children - a son John Glessner Lee, and two daughters, Frances and Martha - but ended in divorce in 1914. He had a strong interest in two somewhat unusual areas of law at the time - aviation and spiritualism. He was familiar with railroad law and quickly realized that legal issues involving air travel were very different. In 1913, he published an article, "Sovereignty of the Air," encouraging the American legal system to address the complexities of aviation law. Although written just ten years after the Wright Brothers’ first flight, his work in this field had a lasting impact on aviation laws for decades to come.

Blewett Lee also published several articles on spiritualism, including the one recently acquired by Glessner House. In these articles, he attempted to reconcile law, science, and human nature, and suggested that mediums and spiritualists should be considered more seriously by the legal system. In his article for the *Harvard Law Review* he argued that "the main difficulty about psychic phenomena is not the law, but with the facts, and what is worse, the explanation of them. The law we have already."

Soon after his divorce, he married a childhood friend, Delia Foreacre, and they moved to Atlanta. He continued to practice law there for many years and died in April 1951 at the age of 84.
Ongoing ways to support and engage with Glessner House

Face masks will be a part of our daily lives for a while longer. For a donation of $25 or more to the Glessner House COVID-19 Relief Fund, you will receive your own Morris face mask, which combines safety and style into one. To make your donation and receive your face mask (we will select the pattern for you), simply mail a check made payable to “Glessner House” or make your donation online. Your mask will ship within 24 hours of the receipt of your donation. Masks are also available in our shop, open during regular public tours.

Take a virtual tour of the house online! The link is permanently posted at the top of our home page.

Make a gift to our annual fund to provide ongoing operating support. Or become a member or renew your membership to receive valuable benefits and show your support for Glessner House.

Our online store offers a variety of publications that provide perfect reading material to learn more about Glessner House. Browse our shop online today.

Select Glessner House as your charity of choice while shopping on Amazon. Select Glessner House on the AmazonSmile page, and then continue shopping as you normally would.

Our best wishes to you for continued good health. We look forward to resuming more in-person events and hope to see you soon!

Bill Tyre, Executive Director & Curator