

# The Innkeeper

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER HOTEL

spring 2018



**EDUCATION** The mission of the Friends of the Page-Walker is to enrich the community by serving as  
**HISTORIC PRESERVATION** guardian for the Page-Walker Arts & History Center, by advocating preservation of Cary historic  
**CULTURAL ARTS** sites, by archiving history and facilitating history education, and by promoting the cultural arts.



## Kay Struffolino Park Opens!

Town Honors Friends Board Member

On February 27, 2018, friends of Kay Struffolino, including the entire Cary Town Council, gathered to honor Kay with the renaming of Meeting Place Park as Kay Struffolino Park. This park on the outskirts of downtown Cary, on Kildare Farm Road, is one of Kay's "adopted sites".

Kay is an active member of the Board of Directors of the Friends and she chairs our Garden committee. Kay has volunteered for decades in Cary, mostly but not exclusively with Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources programs, including at the Koka Booth Amphitheater, where she was the driving force behind making that venue the summer home of the North Carolina Symphony.

As CaryCitizen noted in their [article](#) about this event:

*Struffolino is one of Cary's most active volunteers, if not the most active, serving on a number of advisory boards, and can be seen working at most large town events. Among Struffolino's awards are the Hometown Spirit Award and the title of Cary Cultural Arts Volunteer of the Year, the Herb Young Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Volunteer of the Year and the Rayburn "Rip" Jackson North Carolina Citizen of the Year. ...*

Council member At-Large Ed Yerha gave the final speech and said naming a piece of Cary after a person ensures their place in history, citing Koka Booth, Herbert C. Young, the Page and Walker families and others as examples. Yerha said citizens for years to come will know about Struffolino from the name of the park.

"It's a reminder to all citizens present and future of the impact of volunteer work," Yerha said.

We are proud and fortunate to have Kay as a Friend. Please join us in congratulating her for this significant honor!



## 2018 Activities Highlight Page-Walker Sesquicentennial

Since our last issue of the *Innkeeper*, we have had many exciting events at the Page-Walker. Jordan Kirk (right), a junior at Green Hope High, became our second candidate for the **Presidential Volunteer Service Award**. She is working hard, putting in her hours to qualify, and is making good progress. Our winter concert series began in December with a performance by Gregg Gelb, followed by a second with Dave DiGiuseppe, and the third with Brian Reagin. It was another very successful concert series in our wonderful main gallery [see page 8]. The annual **Holiday Open House** was held on December 2, 2017 with beautifully decorated rooms, costumed carolers, horse and carriage rides and cookies.



Our 9th annual Herbfest was held in the Page-Walker gardens on May 5 [see page 12]. We hosted a booth at both Spring Daze and will also host a booth at Lazy Daze again this year. We will soon award our annual scholarship. We continue to maintain our historic herb garden and our pollinator garden; and we also maintain the White Plains cemetery. And the Friends continue to support historic preservation with our focus on the Ivey-Ellington house, Nancy Jones house, Sams-Jones house and our most recent focus on the farm-life school barn on Walnut Street, among other properties throughout Cary.

Our big focus in 2018, which is the **150th anniversary year of the Page-Walker**, which started out as a railroad hotel to provide services to train passengers. It was built and opened in 1868. To celebrate this momentous milestone, the Friends are hosting several events throughout the year. We started out with our **Historic Preservation Program** series in February, "Giving the Page-Walker a New Life." Speakers from Preservation North Carolina as well as the architects who saved the hotel from imminent collapse told the story of saving this treasure and repurposing it as a community venue and museum. The next program, scheduled for May 22 and called "Exploring the Page-Walker's People and its Past," will tell about all those who owned and/or managed the building throughout its history. On April 29, the first **Cary Trolley Tours** took place [see next page]. Finally, on Saturday, September 15, the Friends and the Town of Cary will hold our BIG all-day event, **Bygone Daze: Celebrating the Page-Walker at 150** [see page 14].

The Friends are staying very busy and excited about all of our activities and focus throughout the summer and fall of the record year, 2018.





## CARY TROLLEY DEBUTS Inaugural Historic Downtown Tours

**A**pril 29, a beautiful sunny day, was a perfect backdrop for Cary's first historic trolley tours, part of the year-long celebration of the Page-Walker 150th anniversary. The brainchild of volunteer John Lytvinenko, who is a driver for the Raleigh Trolley, this joint effort between the Friends and the Town of Cary supports our mission of history education.

Three separate tours sold out quickly. The Trolley took riders through the downtown Cary area, visiting seven local historic landmarks and many points of interest, including places unfamiliar to some people, such as Cedar Street (once known as Railroad Street), Cary First Christian Church Cemetery and Gray Street.

Friends volunteer Brent Miller served as tour guide while John Lytvinenko drove the trolley. Other event organizers were Jennifer Hocken from the Town and Friends volunteers Barbara Wetmore and Kerry Mead, supported as always by Kris Carmichael and the Page-Walker Arts & History Center Staff. Volunteers Pat Fish, Carla Michaels, Kirk Fuller, Andy Kirk and Jordan Kirk welcomed riders to the Page-Walker for tours and refreshments provided by the Verandah restaurant at the Mayton Inn, one of the tour sponsors. Other sponsors were Ashworth Drugs, The Perfect Piece, Modern Service, Academy Street Bistro, Annie's Attic and Everything's Better Monogrammed.

Future trolley tours are being planned, so be sure to register for emails (send request to [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org)) and watch our [website](#) for announcements.





## MEEKINS FARM LIFE SCHOOL

### Friends Learn More About Education in Cary, Walnut Street Barn, Dunham Family

*compiled by Anne Kratzer*

As part of an effort led by Friend Ed Clayton to develop a presentation about the Dunham family for Glenaire's 25th anniversary, the Friends learned much new information about the Dunhams, the Meekins Farm-Life School and the barn from that school that still stands on Walnut Street. A summary follows.

Our research and recollections of the Dunhams turned up other interesting topics. One question that arose was if the offspring of Rachel and "Dad" Dunham, Rufus Sheldon Dunham Jr. and his sister, Susan, were twins. Thanks to our research expert, Carla Michaels, we discovered that they were not. Although there were two years between them, they both graduated in the class of 1952. As Carla said, Susan must have been brilliant!

Probably the most thrilling result of this inquiry is the discovery that the century-old barn that was used by Dad Dunham to teach agriculture as part of the Meekins Farm Life School at Cary High School is still standing and seems to be in amazing, solid condition. Friends and Town of Cary representatives were able to visit the barn.

From *Around and About Cary* (Tom Byrd & Jerry Miller), we learned that in 1914, Dr. James M. Templeton, Jr. donated 15 acres on Walnut Street to the Trustees of the Cary Public High School District for a model farmstead, which would enable boys to learn scientific agriculture in a hands-on manner. The General Assembly created two bills, in 1911 and 1913, to promote the teaching of agriculture in the public schools. The program at Cary High School was named the E.N. Meekins Farm Life School. The boys built the house first, followed by the barn. The dates attributed to the

building of the barn and house are not definite. Real estate records indicate that the house at 510 Walnut Street was built in 1910 and the barn in 1913; however, the deed between Templeton and the Trustees was 1914. The boys would rise early, milk the cows and deliver the milk in horse and wagon to the dining hall in time for breakfast.

Unfortunately, the farm wasn't as practical as hoped and reverted back to the Templetons in the mid-1920s. On May 22, 1931, Alfred Templeton, a lawyer and James Jr.'s brother, sold the land to Benjamin and Sallie Allen. Mrs. Allen lived there until she died in 1991. Margaret Allen Morgan, Sallie's daughter, inherited the property and still lives there.

*Article contributions from Anna Readling, Kris Carmichael, Ed Clayton, Anne Kratzer, Peggy Van Scoyoc, Bob Myers, Brent Miller, Carla Michaels, Pat Fish, Barbara Wetmore, Kay Struffolino and Camille Lambe.*



BY ED CLAYTON





## FRIENDS SHOW LOVE FOR HISTORIC BUILDINGS

### Cary Gets National Recognition for Preservation

The National Trust for Historic Preservation celebrated February, the month of love, by inviting citizens across the country to show love for historic properties in their communities. How? With valentines, of course!

Friends board member Barb Wetmore and Farmers Market volunteer Mary Collins got together and put the word out to Cary residents to take photographs with their messages of love in front of their favorite historic buildings and sites. Mary created a special Facebook page to which folks posted their pictures and shared their memories and knowledge about Cary history.

The Friends submitted their photo showing their love for... what else? . . . the Page-Walker to the National Trust. And it was one of 22 photos from around the country displayed on the Trust's web site.. Click [here](#) to see our photo (#17) and the others from around the nation.







ANNE B. KRATZER  
EDUCATIONAL  
*Gardens*



## Weather Challenges Overcome, Gardens in Bloom

by Kay Struffolino

Mother Nature threw a number of challenges in our path all winter and early this spring, but we finally managed to schedule our Planting Day on April 14th! The planting effort continues as plants that need to be purchased become available. Because of the weather extremes, a few more plants needed replacing but most of the perennials are flourishing!

On Earth Day, April 20th, we hosted 4th-grade students from Cary Elementary (see next page). Our garden project, which has several benches, provides a great respite for the town staff to do a bit of laptop work or just enjoy their lunch, and we encourage everyone in our community to stop by and enjoy this beautiful setting.

Brochures, with details about herbs currently in the garden as well as those that were part of the old days in Cary gardens, are available in the container under the fig tree. Our garden volunteers explained the information in those brochures and offered guided tours of the gardens during Herbfest.





[HISTORIC PRESERVATION]

**Friends Celebrate 150 Years of Page-Walker History**

*by Bob Myers and Brent Miller*

As part of the Page-Walker 150th anniversary celebration, we heard from preservationist Myrick Howard and architect Norma Burns at our February 27 program. Myrick and Norma were instrumental in saving and restoring the Page-Walker Hotel. Their program, “Giving the Page-Walker New Life,” described the history of saving and re-purposing the Page-Walker and similar historic buildings. See the full program on our *Cary History* YouTube channel [here](#).

On April 4, the Friends and guests were treated to a fascinating history of the Meekins Farm-Life School Barn [see page 4]. Town of Cary Senior Planner Anna Reading shared what she has learned while studying the history of the barn located at 510 Walnut Street, and how it came into being as part of the Cary Farm Life school that predated Cary High School. See the full program on our *Cary History* [here](#).

**Join us!**

We will continue our programs that celebrate the Page-Walker’s sesquicentennial on May 22, when Carla Michaels will present “Exploring the Page-Walker’s People and its Past”. Discover some of the names and faces of those who created, managed, and lived in the Page-Walker over the years. Hear some of their fascinating stories; for example, did you know that one owner used to repair circus wagons on site? This program begins at 7:30 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

[HISTORY EDUCATION]

**Town & Friends Partner for Earth Day Programs**

*by Kay Struffolino*

Earth Day was celebrated April 20 at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center and Educational Herb Gardens. Cary Elementary 4th-graders walked from Cary Elementary in groups to participate in making crafts and taking a tour while learning some history in the garden. This annual event is an opportunity for students to learn about how early Cary residents lived, with regard to their food, home gardens and what they had to do to keep their food safe to eat.



## CARY NEEDS YOU!

### Help plan the future of three historic treasures

*from the Town of Cary*

The Town of Cary currently owns several historic properties, three of which are being considered for public and/or private use: The A.M. Howard Farm (circa 1910) currently operated as Good Hope Farm, 1580 Morrisville-Carpenter Road; the C.F. Ferrell Store and Warehouses (circa 1928), 1928 Morrisville-Carpenter Road; and the Barnabus Jones Farmstead (circa 1830), 9701 Penny Road (next to Jack Smith Park).



Citizens are invited to share their ideas for the future development of these properties. There will be a meeting on May 17 at Good Hope Baptist Church, 6630 Good Hope church Road,

focused on the A.M. Howard Farm and the C.F. Ferrell Store; and there will be a second meeting on May 31 at the Barnabus Jones site, 9725 Penny Road. The sites will be open for visits on the dates of the meetings from 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. and the meetings will start at 6 p.m.

For more information, please visit [www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org) and search “Historic Structures”.



Top: Barnabus Jones Farmstead; above: C.F. Ferrell Store and Warehouses; left: Good Hope Farm.



## [PERFORMING ARTS ]

### Wonderful Winter Concert Music in 2017–2018, More Next Season

*by Trish Kirkpatrick*

This season celebrated the combination of outstanding musicians and the acoustically amazing Main Gallery in the Page-Walker and included performances of “Holidays in Rhythm” with the Gregg Gelb Jazz Quintet on December 10, “Musique Accordeon” with David DiGiuseppe on January 14 and North Carolina Symphony Concertmaster and First Violin Brian Reagin on February 18.

We are pleased to announce the performances and dates for the upcoming 2019 series:

**Symphony Spotlight featuring Erik Dyke** double bassist with the North Carolina Symphony since 1978

Sunday, January 20, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

**Carole J. Wright Memorial Concert with Brian Reagin**

North Carolina Symphony Concertmaster and First Violin

Sunday, February 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

**St. Patrick's Day Celebration with Bill Leslie**

retired WRAL news anchor and Celtic musician  
Sunday, March 17, 2019, 4:00 p.m.

Visit our [website](#) and for up-to-date event information and ticket purchases.



# Treasures FROM THE VAULT



Left to right, architects Scott Crow and Norma DeCamp Burns of Burnstudio check the progress of construction with Grover Edwards of Edwards Construction

## Restoring the Page-Walker

*Ed. Note: Researcher and historian extraordinaire Carla Michaels offers "Treasures from the Vault" on a recurring basis as a way to share interesting historical artifacts with the community.*

by Carla Michaels

The Raleigh News and Observer is the source for these "treasures from the vault." Myrick Howard and Norma DeCamp Burns recently reunited to present a program about their efforts as preservationist and architect 30 years ago to save and restore the Page-Walker Hotel to its current use as the Arts and History Center for Cary. During a lively presentation, Mr. Howard and Ms. Burns walked down memory lane to recount their efforts. [see page 7]. The newspaper article underscores how the structure we see today is proof of their vision and hard work, along with that of so many others, resulting in a structure that adds immensely to the cultural and historical life of our town.

## Hotel

Continued from page 1T

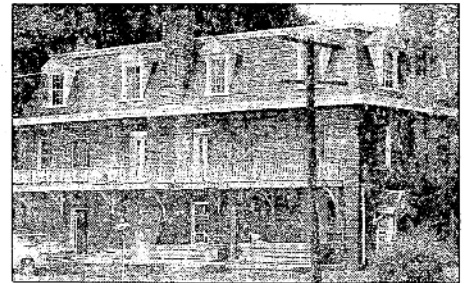
J. Scott Crow, an architect in training with Burnstudio, the project architect, said the plans for restoration and conversion of the hotel had been a challenge to the firm.

"The existing building was in a very advanced state of deterioration," he said. "It's taken a lot of work to get it back where it is now."

He also commended the Friends of the Page Walker Hotel for their persistence. Many volunteer preservation groups lose heart when they see how many dollars they have to find, he said.

Crow said he and other professionals working on the project had joined the ranks of its cheerleaders. "It sort of has a life of its own," he said. "You hate to see anything bad happen to it."

David C. Fischetti of Cary, the



Page-Walker Hotel in midst of renovations

project engineer, said the hotel seemed to touch something nostalgic in his fellow Caryites. Much of Cary's population is several times removed from childhood home-towns. "You leave a lot behind when you do that," he said.

Because of that, and because of the plans to put the hotel to work as an arts center, he thinks its success is inevitable.

"It's a place everybody can focus on," he said. "I think when the project's finished, the town will have something all the citizens can be proud of."

## Cary hotel restoration anchors older identity

By JULIE POWERS RIVES  
Staff writer

Cary is not a town that brings history to mind. At first — and second — glance, the town seems to be all shopping centers and subdivisions, most of them less than 10 years old.

But behind the new construction, Cary has a rich past that begins more than 120 years ago.

The Page Walker Hotel, near the railroad tracks in the Cary downtown business district, is one of few reminders of Cary life before planned-out development.

"We're not just new," said Anne A. Kratzer, president of the Friends of the Page Walker Hotel. "We're old too."

The group has rallied around the dilapidated, vandalized structure with a dream of restoring its old glory and giving it new life as a history and arts center.

The group sees the hotel as invaluable for the sake of history because it was built by Cary's founder and first mayor, three years before the town was incorporated.

The group also evvisions it as an important tool in establishing an identity for the fast-growing town whose population now is 40,000. When completed in 1990 or 1991, much of the three-story building will host drama, dance, music and other art classes and presentations.

Though Cary is fast leaving behind its former dependence on Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill for jobs and shopping, it still must turn to those cities for the arts, Mrs. Kratzer said.

"Now we are a community trying to start its own cultural heritage," she said. "We have talented citizens. We have well-educated citizens. We don't have magnet schools here. So our kids particularly need these kinds of programs."

The hotel is on the Cary Town Hall campus, fronting Ambassador Street, which runs between the Town Hall and the railroad tracks. The hotel will be joined by a nearby community center this year. The combination of the center and the restored hotel will increase the usefulness of both buildings, Mrs. Kratzer said.

The first and second floors will be filled with meeting rooms, classrooms and galleries. The hotel's third floor will become a tribute to Cary's history, eventually housing some of Cary's historic artifacts and perhaps a revolving historic exhibit.

"We have a whole generation of real Caryites, who were born in Cary," she said. "They have in their possessions letters and documents that relate to Cary's history, and I might not have nowhere to put them."

The town bought the building for \$255,000 in 1985 from its last private owner, then leased it to the N.C. Historical Foundation, which in turn handed it over to the local group.

The building is listed on the National

"We're not just new. We're old too."  
— Anne A. Kratzer  
President, Friends of the Page Walker Hotel

Register of Historic Places, which deems that any work on the exterior must be toward restoring its original appearance. The requirement does not apply to the interior of the building.

Cary's first mayor, Allison Francis Page, built the hotel in 1866, shortly after the end of the Civil War, to serve rail passengers.

Page's son, Walter Hines Page, was a U.S. ambassador to England. He was one of the founders of Doubleday, Page and Co., which later became Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, edited the Atlantic Monthly and also edited the State Chronicle, one of two predecessors to The News and Observer.

The hotel's handsome brickwork was fashioned in an architectural style called Second Empire, and Cary's specimen of this style is among only a few left standing in the Cary area.

The Page hotel became the Walker hotel in 1904, when Page sold it to J.H. Walker. It remained a hotel until 1916. Later, it served as a boarding house and then a private residence.

Page's family home, destroyed by fire, stood nearby on the Town Hall property. The Page family farmhouse had survived on the front lawn of the Town Hall, thanks to a last-minute salvation by the Cary Historical Society when the Town Hall was built about 25 years ago. The town recreation department maintains a park-like herb garden around the smoke-house.

The piece-by-piece restoration of the hotel began in 1983. The price tag on the restoration plans is estimated at \$750,000, not counting \$20,000 the group has spent on initial work.

Last year, the Cary Town Council voted to provide \$25,000 for the project, if the group raises a matching amount.

So far, members have donated up to \$164,000 of the needed cash with flea markets, T-shirt sales, ice cream socials and corporate contributions. The group plans another fund-raising drive this fall.

The rolling roof and the third floor dormer window have been replaced. Workers are now replacing the rotted wood sills in the interior.

The restoration of the exterior is expected to be finished by the end of this year.

To accommodate a kitchen, toilets, elevators and other facilities required in a public building under Cary's town code, a red brick addition in similar style will be added to the rear of the building after the exterior is completed.

The new few phases will involve finishing the interior of the hotel, floor by floor, starting with the first.

See HOTEL, page 5T

## The News and Observer People



## Group to stem Cary landmark's decay

By STEVEN LEFF

CARY — The marriage of cooling agents and dripping water reminiscent inside the once Cary Page Walker Hotel. A rain leak of not only the air block itself cascades across peeling wallpaper and plaster ceilings to the floor, where rain drips drip from pipes of dirty water.

It is here there was a perfect setting for a lecture series, this is it. In fact, a group of local high school students embarked on just such a project last year.

Some went to each building's floor to be torn down. The contrast between the hotel and the rest of the town is especially stark because just a few steps away is a new shopping center, but the hotel is a growing group of friends who want to save the old Cary landmark. They see a different hotel — a building filled with community activities and memories.

The Cary, a quickly growing town of subdivisions and malls, the Page Walker Hotel is one of the few things left to the past.

It is extremely important to our community and the future," said Anne A. Kratzer, an art teacher at the elementary school. She is one of the leaders of the Friends of the Page Walker Hotel and is the group's secretary. "They're just people in such a rapid state, it seems if we don't have some structure that's a link to our past, we become just a barren, unexciting, and we lose our own heritage."

Under a series of partnerships, the town of Cary bought the hotel and 10 acres of land for \$250,000 from its previous owner, Cary District of Historic Places. The town now plans to lease the building at \$1 a year for 25 years to the Historic Preservation

## Wednesday, August 21, 1988 Raleigh, N.C. Lifestyles/Personalities/Activities



## Group to stem Cary landmark's decay

By STEVEN LEFF

1,300 square feet almost are made of handmade bricks in a striped-down condition, of the French Second Empire style. Essentially shaped like a rectangular box, the building's style is marked by its almost

standard roof and dormers, its flat-crowned windows and its ornate, built with light-colored woodwork panels and moldings as the boys known as Cary.

Remnants of the Second Empire style are rare in North Carolina. Even still, the Cary, when North Carolina's assembly was anything but robust, perhaps the last well-known example of the style in Wake County is the 1867 Cary Hotel, first owned by Raleigh's Eugene Vance Mall.

Howard said that the hotel is a good candidate because it has been vacant and largely unattended for almost eight years. A vacant building deteriorates about three times as fast as a occupied building, he said.

The preservationists had tried for several years to buy the building and to see them offered an option to buy the structure and use some of that money to pay the structure and use some of that money to pay the structure and use some of that money to pay the structure.

Over the past few years, the building has been a regular haunt for students and vagrants. Nevertheless, it is one of the few important, pre-World War II buildings in Cary. Howard said. It is a three-story,



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NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING. PLEASE JOIN US!

The Publick will kindly take notice that the Friends of the Page-Walker shall meet assembled on the 6th day of June of the year Anno Domini Two Thousand and Seventeen, at six and Thirty o'clock in the evening, in the Parlour of the Grande Hotel of the Page Family in Cary, North Carolina, located in particular on the way known as Ambassador Loop, next to the Iron Horse tracks near the centre of towne.

The business to be transacted shall include the election of a board of directors and officers of the corporation, and such other legitimate business as may be laid before the body assembled by the President, who shall preside at the meeting.

***Yes, our annual general membership meeting is June 6, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. at the Page-Walker Arts & History Center and all members and prospective members are invited and encouraged to attend. Celebrate the year with us and enjoy some delicious sweet and savory treats. We hope to see you there!***



**FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER HOTEL**

**CONTACT THE FRIENDS**

Friends of the Page-Walker  
 Box 4234, Cary, NC 27519  
 (919) 460-4963 program information  
 email: [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org)  
[www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org)

**Information about the Friends**

President Peggy Van Scoyoc (919) 461-0443

**Plan a Visit**

The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is located at 119 Ambassador Loop. Directions: Located on Ambassador Loop on Town Hall Campus. The campus is off North Academy Street, between Chapel Hill Road and Chatham Street in downtown Cary.

**Hours of Operation**

Monday – Thursday: 10 am – 9:30 pm  
 Friday: 10 am – 5 pm  
 Saturday: 10 am – 1 pm  
 Friday Evening – Sunday by reservation

*The Page-Walker Arts & History Center is closed on all official Town holidays.*

It's easy to become a member! You can join the Friends, make a donation and purchase tickets, all online using your favorite credit card. We greatly appreciate the support of our loyal membership. We couldn't continue to provide the variety of services that we do without you! And you can also connect with us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.



## RACHEL AND RUFUS “DAD” DUNHAM

by Peggy Van Scoyoc

**Rachel Dunham:** As a child, I attended Cary High School and boarded at the Page-Walker Hotel. I graduated in 1924, then had a year of teacher training. I taught school in Goldsboro for two years, and then came back to Cary in 1927 to teach at Cary High.

**Carl Mills:** I was the principal of Cary High School, beginning in 1953. At that time, we only had two vocations, agriculture and home economics. We needed to offer vocational training so our seniors would not move away to find work, so we had to keep the agriculture program. Dad Dunham was the guy who made that move.

**Clyde “Sonny” Keisler:** Mr. and Mrs. Dunham lived on Kildare Road, where Glenaire Retirement Community is now.

**Isobel Stephens:** My husband had Dad Dunham as the agriculture teacher at Cary High. Mrs. Dunham and I became very close friends when I was an adult.

Material from the book, *Just a Horse-Stopping Place, an Oral History of Cary, North Carolina*, published in August, 2006.



Rachel and Dad Dunham



### White Plains Cemetery

CARY HISTORIC  
LANDMARK

The White Plains Cemetery (also known as Nathaniel Jones Graveyard) received a special designation by the Town of Cary in November 2017. Along with the Cary Arts Center and the Sams-Jones House, the cemetery was named a Cary Historic Landmark. A sign noting this designation will be erected at the cemetery in the future by the Cary Historic Preservation Commission. The Town of Cary designates Cary Historic Landmarks as a way to preserve buildings and sites that are historically, architecturally or culturally significant to our community.

An active group of Friends volunteers and neighbors continues to care for the cemetery in partnership with the Town of Cary Public Works department. You can visit the cemetery on Tolliver Court in the Maynard Oaks subdivision.

The White Plains Cemetery, named for the white fields of cotton owned by the Nathaniel Jones family of the late 1700s, was covered with a different coat of white after a January snow storm this past winter. The cemetery is now a Cary Historic Landmark.

PHOTO BY BARB WETMORE





# Herbfest

FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER

9th Annual Herbfest is Another Hit!

Sunny skies greeted visitors on Cinco de Mayo for the 9th annual Herbfest, sponsored by the Friends and the Town of Cary. Vendors, old and new alike, filled the Page-Walker lawn and parking area. The popular silent auction, Young Friends bake sale, butterfly releases and tours of the herb garden and pollinator garden all returned this year. New attractions this year included Ty's All Natural food truck and music by the Carolina Pea Pickers.

The Friends are grateful to Pat Fish, who led the organization and execution of this fine festival and to Town of Cary Staff—Public Works for setup, takedown and infrastructure and of course Kris Carmichael, Jennifer Hocken and all the Page-Walker Arts & History Center staff.

See you in spring 2019!







## Friends in the Community

### Holiday Celebrations, Spring Daze & More

The Friends and Town of Cary hosted our annual Holiday Open House in December 2017. Hundreds of visitors came to the Page-Walker for tours, refreshments and carriage rides. As is our custom, volunteers decorated the Page-Walker in grand holiday trimmings. Friends also served as volunteer gift wrappers at Barnes & Noble during their busy holiday season and decorated our holiday tree as part of the Town’s Gifting Tree project along Academy Street.

On December 6, 2017, members of the Friends held our annual holiday potluck party in the main gallery at the Page-Walker. After a wonderful meal, we were spectacularly entertained by 13-year old Shreya Sahoo, a gifted pianist who played a selection of her favorite music. We contacted Shreya after receiving a high recommendation from to us from the Cary Apex Piano Teachers Association (CAPTA). Shreya has an 8-year old sister who also is learning to play the piano, and Shreya is one of her teachers. She is truly gifted and we were blessed to be her audience.

In February, The Friends also participated in “Show Love for Historic Buildings,” a nationwide initiative sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation [see page 4]. And as always, we hosted a booth at the Town of Cary Spring Daze festival where our information cards for September’s Bygone Daze event were snatched up like hotcakes, [see next page].





# BYGONE DAZE

## A Celebration of the Page-Walker At 150



**M**ark your calendars for Saturday, September 15, 2018, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm, for this exciting, not-to-be-missed event! Beginning with a proclamation by Mayor Weinbrecht, the celebration will include activities throughout the day. The celebration will take you back to the hotel's early days in the Victorian Age, and will be filled with opportunities for both entertainment and enlightenment. Planned activities include:

- Music by Huckleberry Brothers Band
- Carriage Rides
- Food Trucks
- Craft Demonstrations
- Old Fashioned Games
- Scavenger Hunt
- Music by Triangle Mountain Dulcimer Association
- History Displays
- Costumed Personalities from the Past and so much more!

We also will have food trucks on site throughout the day. This event will be educational and fun for the entire family. Don't miss this special big event!

### [NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS ]

#### **Downtown Doings**

*by Kay Struffolino*

- The Heart of Cary Association is accepting nominations for their Board of Directors.
- The Downtown Farmers Market held its grand opening on April 14 to kick off another season on Chatham Street in front of the historic Ivey-Ellington house.
- The Cary Police Department will partner with the town's Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department for Public Safety Day and Wheels on Academy on May 19, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- After some delays, construction on the new parking deck on Walnut Street is due to begin soon.
- With the arrival of spring, concerts and other activities are being scheduled at the fountain area of the downtown park – check the Town of Cary website calendar for dates and times. [link [www.townofcary.org](http://www.townofcary.org)] <-- ?
- Cary Chamber of Commerce:
  - The annual member / guest golf tournament is June 11.
  - The Chamber's annual planning conference will occur July 19 and 20 in Pinehurst.
  - The 40th annual Cary Road Race was held April 14, when it returned to downtown where it originally was held, with over 1,000 participants.
  - The annual Small Business Excellence Awards recognize local companies who make a significant impact on our business community and the people that they work with. The Chamber will honor the Small Business of the Year and other award recipients Thursday, May 17, 2018, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Embassy Suites Hotel, 201 Harrison Oaks Boulevard. Registration starts at 11:30 a.m. and the program begins at 12:00 p.m.



## [MEET THE BOARD]

*Our board of directors serves as the governing body of the Friends of the Page-Walker, a non-profit corporation and award-winning partner organization of the Town of Cary. Many of our board members have served for several years (two are life members), and others joined us recently.*

*We continue our series in which we'll feature some of our board members to help you get to know them. And if you'd like to get to know these folks better, consider volunteering with the Friends. We have a variety of volunteer opportunities. Contact us at [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org) to learn more or volunteer.*

### Meet Barbara Wetmore



Barb Wetmore is a long-time member of the Friends, having been drawn to the deteriorating Page-Walker building when she moved to Cary in 1981. She responded to the call in the *Cary News* from a grass-roots group of citizens looking for volunteers in the mid-1980s, and has been involved ever since. She now serves as Secretary on the board.

- Barb grew up in Endicott, New York, the oldest of seven children.
- She graduated from Clarkson University in 1979, married Nelson (whom she met at college) in 1980, and moved to North Carolina to work for IBM in the Research Triangle Park. She worked for IBM as a technical writer and editor for 35 years and retired in 2014.
- Barb and Nelson have two great kids, Nathan and Hannah. Nathan lives in Corning, New York with his girlfriend Lois and dog Loki, and works for the Corning corporation. Hannah lives in Sunnyvale, California with her boyfriend Daniel, and works for the Stanford Medical Center in Palo Alto. Barb and Nelson enjoying visiting their far-away children.
- Barb is also a member of the Cary High School Business Alliance, helping students prepare for life after high school. She also volunteers with Cary Youth Voices, helping to write scripts for their performances.
- Barb loves yard work, knitting, ink stamping and die cutting, exploring North Carolina history, silent movies (anything Charlie Chaplin [City Lights is her favorite]), good conversation, quiet walks in the woods, and just hanging out with family and friends.
- Barb is an active member of the Taylor Family YMCA, and many people might not know it, but she loves to jump rope and can walk on stilts!

### Meet Paulette “Pat” Sweeney

Pat has served on the Friends board for several years.

- Class of '64, The Woman's College of UNC
- American Red Cross Clubmobile Program Specialist (South Korea)
- American Red Cross School Co-Ordinator (Washington DC)
- Child Development Classroom Teacher (Bethesda MD)
- Montclair, NJ, Junior-League Community Volunteer
- International Student-Life Advisor (Caldwell College, Caldwell, NJ)
- The Cary Woman's Club, Third Vice-President, Ways & Means
- and more, in her own words:



Marsha Paulette Smith was never a name I used for daily living, except as required for Uncle Sam's records, like payroll, taxes and passports... Growing up a mulberry tree climbing tomboy, the nickname "Pat" was my more well-suited moniker – and still is today, with the addition of an Irish married name: Sweeney.

My interest in the work of the Friends of the Page-Walker began some fifty years after my coming-of-age childhood residency in Cary. I lived in Downtown Cary, as Cary was enjoying its bloom as a 'bedroom' community. Cary was for the some 500 families a real-life, black and white Mayberry-like small town. The Lumbee Smiths from Pembroke, NC were Cary's first non-Caucasian high school family. We were celebrities, of a sort, in a town with an identity of Cary's founding couple: Frank and Katherine Page.

*continued next page*

[MEET THE BOARD] *continued*

Truth be told, I graduated from CHS without much knowledge about the Page family. As a returned resident, I was drawn into the commanding presence and aura of the Page-Walker building to learn Page family history its' walls could teach me.

Five years later my curiosity and investigation of the founding Page family culminated in my recently self-published, historical novella titled *WAT, A Son of the Civil War*. Wat is the family nickname for Walter Hines Page, the eldest of 8 siblings born and bred in Cary from 1854-1881.

Interpretative of an era as is *Gone With the Wind* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Wat, A Son of the Civil War*, breathes life into Walter Hines Page as a boy of Cary, NC, formed and forged by his war-influenced childhood home, hopefully, seeding the reader's imagination to see the Page-Walker building as a gateway into deeper individual exploration and appreciation of Cary's history-making Page Family, both its' statewide, international influence and continuing inspiring legacy.

A reach out to me via e-mail ([flsunkissed@hotmail.com](mailto:flsunkissed@hotmail.com)) can put a copy of *WAT A Son of the Civil War* onto your reading nightstand...

## Meet Ed Yerha



Ed is a past President of the Friends and has served as Town Council Liaison to the Friends for several years (he's also the Town Council Liaison to the Historic Preservation Commission and previously served as Council liaison to the Environmental Advisory Board). He has served as an At-Large representative on the Cary Town Council since 2012

and as Mayor Pro Tem from 2015 - 2017.

- Ed was born in Paterson, NJ and also lived in Haledon, NJ and New York City. He has lived in Cary since 1995.
- Ed's past public service positions include Chairman, Cary Planning & Zoning Board; Vice-Chair, Cary Sister Cities Commission; Cary Zoning Board of Adjustment; Town Center Area Plan Citizens Advisory Committee; Downtown Parking Committee; Historic Resources Master Plan Advisory Committee; Historic Preservation Survey Committee
- He received a B.A. from New York University where he studied English, Linguistics and Metropolitan Leadership
- Ed worked for IBM from 1974-2005 and Lenovo form 2005-2015
- Ed is married To Carolyn and has two children and two grandchildren
- In addition to the Friends, Ed is a member of the Sister Cities Association, Heart of Cary Association, Friends of Hemlock Bluffs and his church, Resurrection Lutheran Church
- Ed has passed the tests and auditions to be on the television game show Jeopardy! three times but has not been selected — but he will audition again this month!



## Listen Up!



**B**eing a member has its benefits! The Friends accomplish our mission of preserving the Page Walker Arts & History Center and other Cary historic sites, history archival and education and promoting cultural arts through member participation.

Thank you for your continued support, and please begin or renew your membership. If you haven't renewed for 2017, please do so **today**.

We have migrated our membership management to our web site. You will receive an email notification when your membership is due for renewal. You can check, begin and renew your membership online through our web site, [www.friendsofpagewalker.org/](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org/). Our new membership management system now sends annual renewal reminders.

Alternatively, you can renew by mail. A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears on page 18. Please print, complete and return it today!

### THANKS TO OUR LIFETIME, COMMUNITY PARTNER, SUSTAINING & SILVER SUSTAINING MEMBERS

|                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Ralph Ashworth      | Carla Michaels     |
| Hal Bowman &        | Brent Miller       |
| Mercedes Auger      | Bob Myers          |
| Leesa Brinkley      | Kay Struffolino    |
| Jim Bustrack        | Pat Sweeney        |
| J. Michael Edwards  | Wil Trower         |
| Charlotte Ellington | Peggy Van Scoyoc   |
| Pat Fish            | Ed & Carolyn Yerha |
| Camille Lambe       |                    |
| Jack Leavell        |                    |

## Kudos to...

The Friends thank and recognize many people who make great things happen with their hard work:

- **Peggy Van Scoyoc** for serving another term as President; **Michael Edwards** for serving as our vice president; **Barbara Wetmore** for serving as secretary; and **Pat Fish** for serving as treasurer. Their leadership resulted in another great year for the Friends. We will soon welcome **John Loyack** as our new president.
- **Mary Collins** from the Cary Farmers Market and **Barb Wetmore** for posting about Cary's history on social media.
- **John Lytvinenko** for planting the seed that became the Cary Trolley Tour and to **John, Jennifer Hocken, Barb Wetmore, Leesa Brinkley, Kerry Mead, Pat Fish, Brent Miller** and **Kris Carmichael** for making the idea a reality.
- **Anna Readling**, for presenting a program about the importance of the Farm Life School barn, located right in the heart of Cary (and for all that Anna does to promote historic preservation and history education in Cary!)
- **Nelson Wetmore** for capturing and posting video of the Friends historic preservation and history education programs (see Nelson's work [here](#)) and for serving as photographer for so many of our events.
- **Ed Clayton**, for initiating research on the Dunhams and the Farm Life School and to **Anna Readling, Carla Michaels, Kris Carmichael, Brent Miller, Tom Byrd, Anne Kratzer, Peggy Van Scoyoc, Bob Myers, Camille Lambe** and **Kay Struffolino** and **Jerry Miller** for contributing to that research.
- **Pat Fish**, for applying for grants to keep the mission of the Friends viable, and for her tireless work on Friends and Town festivals and other events.
- **Trish Kirkpatrick**, for another great winter concert season and an upcoming season.
- **Kay Struffolino** for...well, everything, including leading the Friends' Herb Garden volunteers and serving as our liaison to our partner organizations.
- **Bob Myers** for his sustained, tireless leadership for historic preservation in Cary, including serving for many years as chair of the Friends historic preservation



## Speakers Bureau On Tour

### Free Presentations to Community Groups

On October 8, 2017, Peggy Van Scoyoc gave a program at the Western Regional Library about the history of Cary, focusing on the western side of town. It was well received by the small audience.

On February 12, 2018, Peggy returned to the Western Regional Library to give a second program, this one about Cary's black history. This program was based on her book, *Desegregating Cary*, history taken from oral history interviews conducted by the Friends. This program had a larger audience and was enthusiastically received. There were three children in the audience and they stayed fascinated, claiming that they had learned so much from the program.

### Popular Topics

- **The Page-Walker Hotel**, a local historical landmark: how this gem was nearly lost to the ages and how "it took a village" to save it to become one of Cary's most valuable assets. Includes our new video presentation!
- **Cary Before it was Cary**: how our town came to be, and who started it
- **How Cary got its Name**: founder Frank Page looks beyond our borders for our town's namesake
- **Keeping up with the Joneses**: odds are that your house sits on "Jones land" – but which Jones?
- **Cary's Most Famous Native Son**: the life and times of Walter Hines Page, son of the town's founder
- **Just A Horse-Stopping Place**: Peggy Van Scoyoc discusses the amazing stories about businesses, schools, families, ghosts and more, from her first book of Cary oral history compilations
- **Desegregating Cary**: Peggy Van Scoyoc discusses early African-American life, Cary's leadership in desegregation and more, from her second book of Cary oral history compilations
- **The Friends of the Page-Walker**, a Town of Cary partner: the mission and accomplishments of our non-profit organization, the recipient of the 2011 Town of Cary Partner Organization of the Year
- **Mysteries and Secrets of Local Cemeteries**: excerpts from our annual presentation about the history and mystery of selected local cemeteries
- **What Have We Got to Lose?:** excerpts from our annual presentation about historical structures in and around Cary

### Schedule a talk

Do you need a speaker for monthly meetings, luncheon programs or special gatherings? Presentations can range from 20 minutes to an hour and can be tailored to fit the interests of your group. Please contact us at [info@friendsofpagewalker.org](mailto:info@friendsofpagewalker.org) if you would like to have someone speak to your community group about Cary's history.







LET'S BE  
FRIENDS!

The Friends are pleased to remind you of our presence on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!

We invite you to visit our web site, *like* us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter. It's the best way to stay up-to-date on all the Friends happenings.

We also post many of our program videos on YouTube, including ceremonies at White Plains cemetery and the Desegregating Cary panel discussion.

Find us online today!

[www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org)  
[www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel](https://www.facebook.com/PageWalkerHotel)  
[www.twitter.com/FriendsofPW](https://www.twitter.com/FriendsofPW)  
<http://www.youtube.com/caryhistory>

## BOARD MEMBERS

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are these volunteers:

John Loyack (incoming president)  
Peggy Van Scoyoc (outgoing president/  
incoming vice president)  
Michael Edwards (outgoing vice president)  
Barbara Wetmore (secretary)  
Pat Fish (treasurer, life member)

Lisa Banks  
Bryan Craddock  
Kirk Fuller  
Jimmy Gibbs  
Andy Kirk  
Trish Kirkpatrick  
Anne Kratzer (life member)  
Camille Eckerd Lambe  
Kerry Mead  
Carla Michaels  
Brent Miller  
Bob Myers  
Ariana Purifoy (Teen Council liaison)  
Cathy Richmond  
Jack Smith (Cary Town Council liaison)  
Kay Struffolino  
Pat Sweeney  
Ed Yerha (Cary Town Council liaison)

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members Lyman Collins, Robbie Stone, Kris Carmichael, Jennifer Hocken and Matthew Champagne.

If you are interested in serving on the Friends board in the future (or if you have served in the past and would like to contribute again), please contact any board member or see the "Contact the Friends" information near the end of this issue.

## ABOUT THE INNKEEPER

*The Innkeeper* is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker. First published in 1985, and restarted in 2003 after a hiatus, the newsletter offers member and community outreach communication. *The Innkeeper* is a team effort of the Friends. **Brent Miller** edits and **Leesa Brinkley** designs the newsletter. We welcome your contributions to *The Innkeeper*. The following contributed photos for this issue: Carla Michaels, Nelson Wetmore, Barbara Wetmore, Leesa Brinkley, Anne Kratzer, Kay Struffolino, Peggy Van Scoyoc. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent at [brent@posmoroda.com](mailto:brent@posmoroda.com).



# Begin or Renew Your *Membership* Today!

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, visit [www.friendsofpagewalker.org](http://www.friendsofpagewalker.org) or fill out the form below and bring it to the Page-Walker or mail it with your contribution to:

**Friends of the Page-Walker**  
Box 4234  
Cary, NC 27519

All members receive a complimentary copy of *The Innkeeper* newsletter and discounts for many Town-sponsored Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources department programs held at the Page-Walker. Non-business donations of \$100 or more and business donations of \$500 or more will be recognized in the newsletter.

## Individual, family, and civic group memberships:

- Individual \$30
- Family \$50
- Community Partner \$100
- Sustaining Member \$150 (Includes your choice of *Around and About Cary* or *Just a Horse-Stopping Place* book)
- Silver Sustaining Member \$250 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series season tickets)
- My employer, \_\_\_\_\_ has a matching gift program.

## Business memberships:

- Business Member \$250 (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)
- Business Partner \$500 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)

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**NAME/ORGANIZATION**

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**ADDRESS**

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**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

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**TELEPHONE**

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**E-MAIL ADDRESS**



# COMMEMORATIVE BRICK ORDER FORM

## Be A Part Of History And Make Your Mark

You have the opportunity to leave your mark on history by having your name inscribed on a brick that will be placed in the courtyard or walkway at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center. You may also choose to honor a family member, friend or a business. Not only will you be making a mark on history, you will also contribute to the future of your community by playing an important role in the preservation of the Page-Walker Arts and History Center.

Please make checks payable to the Friends of the Page-Walker and mail along with this form to:

**Friends of the Page-Walker**

**Box 4234**

**Cary, NC 27519**

- I wish to order (\_\_\_) (Quantity) of Bricks at \$50 per brick. Enclosed is the total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- I do not wish to have a brick inscribed but enclose \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help in your effort.

Please print the name or message to be inscribed with a limit of 2 lines and 15 spaces per line.

### Brick 1:

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### Brick 2:

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Please call Pat Fish at 919-467-5696 if you have any questions.  
Please note that brick orders are placed when a cumulative total of 10 brick orders have been received.



\_\_\_\_\_  
**YOUR NAME**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**ADDRESS**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**TELEPHONE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**E-MAIL ADDRESS**