

The Amazing Karen Skubish (1944-2010)

Tom Joyce recounts the life of the many-talented former Caxton president

Logic suggests that the leading Midwestern city should be found at the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, which is to say St. Louis. If not there, then geographical logic next suggests the southernmost tip of the southernmost Great Lake, which is to say the site of Gary, Indiana. Instead, America's second city is located an extra 25 miles northward up the west strand of the lake, at the mouth of the Chicago River.

Instead, Gary, Indiana was created by the confluence of John "Bet-a-Million" Gates and J. P. Morgan. It was Gates from Turner Junction (now West Chicago), who envisioned the consolidation of hundreds of small steelmakers into a giant amalgam. He wanted his attorney, Judge Elbert H. Gary, of Wheaton, to head the new corporation. But Gates lacked sufficient funding to pull it together. J.P. Morgan liked the idea, but did not like John W. Gates.

He liked Judge Gary, so he appropriated the idea from Gates, hired Gary, bought up steel producers, set up the United States Steel Corporation, and, in 1906, created U.S. Steel in the Indiana sand dunes and named the surrounding town in honor of Gary himself.

Gary became an instant city, and a place where hard-working people worked hard, and, with the backing of a giant corporation, formed a remarkable community at the southern tip of Lake Michigan. It flourished, becoming Indiana's second largest city. Among the people who have called Gary their home are actor Karl Malden; sports stars Alex



At the podium during the opening of the Leaf Book exhibition in 2005.

Karras, Fred "The Hammer" Williamson (both actors too!), and Glenn Robinson; economists Paul Samuelson and Joseph Stiglitz; astronaut Frank Borman; and all of the singing Jackson family.

I do not feel that I am exaggerating the point, because Gary, Indiana was also "home sweet home" to Karen Ann "The Harpist" Skubish. Less than two generations after its founding, despite any and all appearances to the contrary, and in spite of the ups and mostly downs of the city, and whether or not she was a resident, Karen was rooted in sandy, steely soil and the gritty air of Gary, Indiana.

Skubish is not a common name, and Karen

did not have a lot of relatives. Karen was the only child of two parents of Ukrainian ancestry. She grew up in a small house on Ohio Street, just yards from a main entrance into the U.S. Steel property, near the Dunes Highway. Her father worked at the steel mill and played the horn in swing bands on the weekends for extra money. Young Karen was drawn by the music, too, and, at age 11, started lessons to play the concert harp.

Her other lifelong love was of reading and books. She discovered a haven in the branch library of the Gary Public Library which was within walking distance, westward on the Dunes Highway, a.k.a. U.S. Highways 12 and 20. Before long she became the Candy-Striper equivalent of a librarian, a career move from which she never strayed very far. She loved that library. In the 1990s, long after the branch had been closed due to the diminishing tax base, Karen dreamed about buying that old building of Indiana limestone. The city would have let it go cheaply, but the repairs would have been too much for her to handle. Then she focused on

obtaining just the bas relief decorations in the facade, images of children happily reading books, but she had nowhere to use them nor to store them. In that same era, Karen thought about buying a property in the beachfront neighborhood on Gary's east side, but it, too, was too pricey on a librarian's salary, and too far from work in Chicago.

Italy and Greece were a long way from the sunny shores of Lake Michigan, but they seemed closer from Bloomington, Indiana, where Karen went to college at Indiana University. The Lilly Library was a second

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CAXTONIAN

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KAREN SKUBISH, from page 1

home to her, and she graduated with a bachelor's degree in Library Science, and a double major in classical languages, Ancient Greek and Latin. Clearly, this long-haired beauty of the sixties had not spent all of her time in the library: about this same time Karen married a young photographer and, together, they moved to Chicago and found work in the world of magazines.

For the decades after World War II, the near north side of Chicago has been annually renewed with a fresh crop of newly-minted college graduates. They flock to the small apartments of the big city, drawn like moths to the bright lights of Rush Street and Michigan Avenue. Karen landed there too, but soon shed both her husband and the editorial job. Once again, Karen was drawn like a moth to an academic flame, and once again she became a volunteer at a library, The Newberry Library. Don Krummel hired her as the evening desk supervisor. Before you could say "Lawrence Towner," Karen was appointed the head of the reading room. Hers was not just a pretty face, but became a very public face for The Newberry Library, near the end of that era when it was still a limited, academic, by-permission-only scholarly redoubt.

Mirabile dictu! – Latin for "It is wonderful to say it!" Karen's Greek studies paid off, not only while traveling in Greece and appreciating its culture, but also by meeting more Greek-Americans. She ended up marrying one of them, Taki Theotokatos, which resulted in the birth of Karen's only child, her daughter, Tessa.

In the interim, the Irving Apartments at Maple and State Streets had been sold by the Newberry Library. The many staffers who called the place home had to relocate while the developer engaged in urban renewal by creating the half-block-sized property that became the 40-plus floors of Newberry Plaza. Karen found a new nest at 1020 N. Dearborn, on the second floor of a brownstone even closer to the Library, but with access to a garden apartment where she could practice her harping.

Now she had two reading rooms. In the first, she worked long hours as head of the Newberry's reading room, and managed all the pages who fetched the books for patrons. One of among dozens of pages was Tom O'Gorman, author and professional Irishman. The other reading room was curling up with baby Tessa, and reading to her all

the childhood classics including the works of Laura Ingalls Wilder. It was among her greatest pleasures in her life, sharing the joys of reading with her own daughter. Another pleasure was doing volunteer work at the Christian Industrial League, where her landlords, Karl and Laura, both worked.

As a single mother needing more money, and,

hearkening back to hosting experiences in her youth, Karen grabbed the opportunity to create a new role for herself at the Newberry. When the new closed-stack addition was built in the early 1980s, and rows of books were moved inside, it yielded open spaces for galleries as well as meetings and events. Karen stepped forward to direct the new Office of Events. Karen was not content with spending her days scheduling and organizing academic conferences and guiding tours of the Library...no. She realized she could capitalize on the Library's marbled halls and grand staircase, central location, parking lot, and proximity to Washington Park (a.k.a. Bughouse Square) to rent the



facilities for weddings and receptions. It fit a niche in the market.

With its stately architecture, affordable prices, and horse-drawn carriages at the entrance, brides were drawn to the Newberry like pigeons to the park. Sometimes they would hire Karen to play her harp for the wedding ceremony or during the catered dinner.

Before long, Karen became a victim of her success. One wedding a weekend became two and, not unusually, even three. After working Tuesday thru Saturdays in the days for the librarians, she stayed on – often until long after midnight – to supervise the nuptials and the cleanups after the wedding party left. Through it all, she continued with poise and determination, a warm, beautiful, toothy smile, and the work ethic of a Ukrainian peasant. The rental fees were badly needed to support the other Library functions.

For over 20 years she was aided by Karen Smith. They became the dynamic duo known far and wide as "The Two Karens." To themselves they were Lucy and Ethel. The way they had to cope (often unseen and behind the scenes) with the crises of balancing the intricacies of caterers and bridezillas, inebriated partiers, drunken custodians, and absentee coat checkers, reminded them of Lucy Ricardo and Ethel Mertz working in the candy factory.

As Tessa grew and flourished as a reader, a suit-



Karen tells a story at the final dinner meeting held at the MidDay Club in 2007.

able school was paramount. Tessa joined the first class of the start-up Catherine Cook School in Old Town. Her mother, of course, having already been named by *Today's Chicago's Woman* magazine as one of the 100 Chicago Women Making a Difference, had to join the Cook School Board to help it through its infancy.

In a proverbial triumph of hope over experience, in the late 1980s, Karen fell in love and married a visiting Newberry scholar attached to its D'Arcy McNickle American Indian Studies Center. Sadly, it was not many moons before she had to toss his moccasins out of the Dearborn Street wigwam.

Bowling was a popular pastime among Gary-ans, and Karen was a pretty good roller. Carmen Salvino was one of her heroes. She had her own pink bowling ball with her name engraved in it. Did I mention that for a while she considered joining the women's professional bowling association?

Meanwhile, daughter Tessa grew in age and grace, and attended several high schools, including Chicago's "Fame" equivalent on Chicago Avenue. In addition to dance classes at the school, Tessa signed up with the Joel Hall Dancers, instead of the famed Ruth Page School of Dance – which was directly across Dearborn from their front door! That would have been too logical and too convenient. Who would expect that from a teenager? So, as a good mother, Karen frequently had to leave work in the evenings to drive Tessa and friends to and from the distant Joel Hall classes.

Karen drove, but she was fearful of driving on the expressways, preferring to drive local routes, even to distant suburbs or back to northwest Indiana. This became an extra challenge when, in order to earn addition funds for tuition, she was hired to play her harp for corporate events, dinners, and especially weddings. Eventually she promoted herself as "The Happening Harpist." On

one website she stated, "I play for all sorts of occasions, with a wide repertoire to suit your wishes. I perform all over the metropolitan area and in nightclubs in Europe. My specialty – romantic music, jazz, show tunes, and customizing your ceremony. Your special requests are my pleasure." She eschewed the classical pieces most identified with harpists. From sheet music, she reworked romantic ballads, pop tunes, etc., into her own stylings, which surprised and pleased her auditors and created repeat demands for her talents. And the packaging was not too shabby. Karen would arrive to perform in one of her fancy gowns – suited for the occasion – with her blonde hair beautifully coiffed, set up her black music stand, lean into her crowned, golden concert harp and pluck from it unforgettable music.

Not infrequently Karen performed for special occasions for the Caxton Club, such as the 100th Anniversary Dinner, or the Holiday Revels, although in the post 9-11 era, getting a full-size harp into and up to the 57th floor of the Chase Bank Tower was no mean feat. That was why she rented a harp in France for her two trips to Provence, where she was the toast of the town for her performances at the edgy nightclub, Le Jogging Rose, just outside of Marseille. After her last trip to Europe, determined to show off her music, Karen filmed a "Happening Harpist" half-hour video focused on her Christmas holiday music. I doubt that it ever made YouTube, but I believe it was played on some cable TV stations.

Karen was involved with recording club

meetings before there was an established Audio Visual committee for the Club. It was she and I who went out and purchased the first video camera when Tom Drewes donated the cost, and the rest is – quite literally – history.

Marseille was a quick hop from Monaco, northern Italy, and the French Riviera. Karen was able to pass by Cap Ferrat on the French Riviera. It was the villa of Somerset Maugham, one of her favorite writers. [Interested fans can see and hear Karen's remarks when she opened The Caxton Club's gala celebration of the centennial anniversary of Maugham's first book, *Liza of Lambeth*, which was held at The Arts Club in 1997]. British writers always had an attraction for Karen. Among her favorites too were Jane Austen, Barbara Pym, D. E. Stevenson, and P.G. Wodehouse. One of the perks of working at The Newberry was access to some of their discards, and, later, being able to buy at the annual book fair inside her workplace. One activity that was resuscitated was the free speech atmosphere and debates of Bughouse Square, the park opposite the main entrance to the Newberry. Early in her career, Karen and Will White resurrected the debates, and Karen nurtured them when they became permanently attached to the annual July book sale. Also, coordinating the volunteers for the book sale and Bughouse Square was another of her responsibilities as Head of Events and Volunteers.

Yet one more British enthusiasm was Karen's fondness for the adventures of Sherlock Holmes. Karen kept copies of his works in her office. She was an officer in The Criterion Bar Association, one of the many Chicago Sherlockian societies. Vincent Starrett, author of *The Private Life of Sherlock Holmes*, and the first among equals of The Baker Street Irregulars, composed his autobiography, *Born in a Bookshop*, on a fellowship from The Newberry Library. Starrett died in 1974, and was buried in an effectively unmarked grave in Graceland Cemetery. In the mid 1980s, Karen played a key role in a worldwide fundraising effort to get a suitable tombstone for Starrett. Her efforts were recognized when she was named "The Yeoman's Daughter," which meant that, until midnight, she was an honorary member of The Hounds of the Baskerville [*sic*], a men-only group and Chicago's second oldest society for Sherlockians. She missed a few of their annual meetings, because she almost always had to check in on a wedding at the Newberry before she could "call it a night."

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Karen was quoted by the *Chicago Tribune*, in 1985, as saying, "There's so much more to Sherlock Holmes stories than the stories themselves. There's history, symbolism, allusions to the happenings during that time." That is why she took an especial interest in the donation of rare Conan Doyleiana to the Newberry's existing holdings by Fred Kittle.

On October 8, 2010, at its annual meeting, the past and present Masters of The Hounds of the Baskerville, Messrs. Robert Mangler and Donald Terras, in recognition of Karen's contributions to the Chicago Sherlockian community, posthumously named her a permanent honorary member of The Hounds.

Enchanted by a monthly Caxton Club program about the firm of P. F. Volland, a Chicago firm which first published Johnny Gruelle's *Raggedy Ann* series and other books for children, Karen became friends with the speaker and began a new collection of Volland books.

When her landlords had to sell the brownstone building at 1020 N. Dearborn, half a block north of the Newberry, Karen and friends carted her books and belongings back to 1030 N. State Street, into the Newberry Plaza building, built on the site of her previous apartment. For many reasons this was a good move. Not least of the reasons was the indoor/outdoor swimming pool. In the summer months it was a daily goal to soak up some mid-day sun poolside, and conveniently only a block from her office.

Another daily goal was to start the day with some music from her favorite rock band, The Rolling Stones. Among the highlights of her life were attending several live concerts by the Stones at Soldier Field. At least once she bumped into band members on the street in the neighborhood. She shared her birthday with bassist Bill Wyman and corresponded with him at least once. A photo of Brian Jones was framed on her office wall despite the fact that their music does not readily lend itself to being performed on a concert harp.

A woman's work was never done, especially at the Library. Certain deficiencies in the rentability and utility of the public spaces in the Library were addressed when Ruggles Hall was renovated. In the process, the first and ground floors were expanded on the northeast corner of the building, creating new classroom space below, new events offices and a sizeable catering kitchen adjacent to the hall. This provided immediate storage and access for caterers. Previously, they had to unload into the dock at the west side of the building, then roll

their supplies and food through public spaces and into what was then the East Hall, and the cramped events offices off the gallery. Karen advised the architects for her needs throughout the design and execution of the spaces.

For years the northeast rear entrance to the Library was directly accessible to the events offices, and Karen could often be seen on the bench or the sidewalk enjoying a cigarette, either alone or most often with one or more staffers or visitors – some bumming a smoke or two from her. She loved her cigarettes and was firm in her belief that no harm would come to her. After all, she had been working out at the nearby health club, too.

In 2009 Karen was diagnosed with spots of breast cancer and lung cancer. She determined to quit smoking immediately. Per orders, she began a regimen of treatment, with no pain, and only confidence for a cure and long life. She told few people, and she maintained her rigorous work schedule around the clinic visits. More tired than usual, she was there to help at the Caxton auction and holiday revels. In the new year, things became more serious. On Valentine's Day, a long-time friend from Gary took her to City Hall where they were married before a judge. This time it lasted until the lung cancer finally bested her on

August 26, 2010.

On September 7, Newberry President David Spadafora convened a memorial service for Karen Skubish in that same Ruggles Hall where she had spent countless hours. It was a Tuesday night and a room that could seat 300 people had standing room only. Coworkers, family, friends, and people whose lives had been touched by Karen's personal warmth, intelligence, beauty, dignity, smile, and caring watched an extensive slide show of photographs and listened to the testimony of multiple speakers who had experienced the privilege to know this beautiful soul who was taken from us before she was ready to go, and before we were ready to let her leave.

Due to circumstances, Karen's daughter was unable to be present for the service, but her remarks were recited by a friend. I believe that Karen would have gladly undergone the cancer treatment a second time if she could only have heard for herself the loving, filial message from Tessa, Karen's most important first edition.

In her memory, contributions can be made to the Newberry Library's Karen A. Skubish Fund.

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How Karen Became a Caxtonian

Dan Crawford tells the real story

An article earlier this year covered the events which led up to the admission of women to the Caxton Club. A story which has never been written down is the negotiation – the screaming, backstabbing, underhanded deals, and threats – which went into deciding WHICH five women would be included in that historic first group. The Council wanted to allow only five women at a time, at delicately spaced intervals, so as not to shock the old-timers with a flood of femininity. I do not know, but I get the impression that there was less argument about voting in Karen Skubish than about the other women on the list. This was because:

a. They knew her for a bookwoman (a kid who corresponds with Somerset Maugham bears watching).

b. Karen had already been an important part of the Club for years.

Coming to the Newberry Library in the 1960s, Karen's duties included those of gofer. (For those who don't know, this is usually

the youngest person on staff who, when they need someone to gofer coffee, gofer pens, gofer paper clips, gets to go.) She said this was an education, for Streeterville in those days was a wild and woolly place, where you had to watch your step.

But working for Newberry President Bill Towner was also an education. To hear people tell it, the man was a walking seminar on how to deal with donors and prospective donors. The men he was dealing with were primarily businessmen of an earlier age, prewar giants – some said dinosaurs – of the type who simply assumed, when they came for a meeting, that there would be Scotch on the sideboard and cigars on the table. Well, these are consumables: somebody has to gofer them. Karen got the job, and she learned quickly that just ANY Scotch and cigars wouldn't do. It had to be the Good Stuff. So she learned where to go, and what to get. (This was a preview of her later career, when she would counsel people on the Right Wine, the Right Caterer, the Right

Florist....) The men in the Board meetings came to associate that smile with the arrival of fresh cigars and aged Scotch, and knew things would be all right. In fact, she learned how to reassure an edgy trustee, telling him, "It'll be okay. It'll be FINE."

Now, at this time, the Caxton Club was going through a transition. Run for years at R.R. Donnelley & Sons, it was now being run from the President's Office at the Newberry. Not that the CEO at Donnelley or the Newberry President did the day-to-day work; that was handled by an executive secretary. What resulted was perhaps inevitable. Caxtonians would arrive at the Mid-Day Club and find, to their horror, that they were short on cigars. A call would go to the President's Secretary at the Newberry, and that Secretary, knowing Karen already knew how to buy cigars, would pass the message.

Many a time, Karen said, she'd jump in a cab, ride out and buy cigars, and continue to the Mid-Day. Many of the same men she met at the Newberry would be waiting. Her smile

and the box under her arm would soothe them, and Karen would explain, "It'll be okay. It'll be FINE."

Knowing her from the Newberry, and knowing she liked books, they would allow her to stay to listen to the talk...from the kitchen. (Since, of course, women weren't allowed at the table.)

This eventually changed. So did the menu at the Mid-Day Club. For years, the Caxton Club entrée was prime rib. If you had enough clout with the kitchen, you might get a steak instead, but beef was what's for dinner. At about the same time women were allowed to join men at the table, the menu was liberalized, allowing for chicken, fish, and vegetarian alternatives. A member signified his choice to the waiter with a little ticket by his or her plate. This meant somebody had to sit at the entrance to every meeting and hand out tickets. That job went to Karen. This had its boring moments, but she liked having the information: this member liked chicken, this one ate fish but only during Lent, this one

insisted on traditional beef...it was all more information on keeping people happy, making them comfortable, making sure they had a good time. If they weren't having a good time, she'd find a way to fix that, assuring them meanwhile, "It'll be okay. It'll be FINE."

The comfort of others was always her focus, which she proved when she became the second female president of the Caxton Club and instantly cut the number of Council meetings from monthly to bimonthly. (She was aiming for quarterly, but never managed that.) Even after her presidency she always tried to keep an eye on whether people who came to meetings were having a good time. This was so much her focus that people have asked me how she can get along where she is now, where you never have to gofer anything because it's there already, and nobody has to ask for their favorite because it's there already, and there are no weddings to run...because so few wedding planners ever get there.

I think I have the answer. "It'll be okay. It'll be FINE." §§

Karen Skubish: Club Pioneer and Friend of All

Robert Cotner remembers the exciting years of the Centennial

When Karen Skubish and I first met in 1990, we were both living lives eternal.

This beautiful, gifted, compassionate young woman would never die.

And I would never be sitting at a keyboard writing her obituary.

But she did.

And I am.

I grieve with others who knew Karen, who worked with her, who enjoyed her buoyant company – many longer than I.

I knew Karen well as a superb musician. As an executive with Chicago's Salvation Army for 15 years, I hosted luncheons and dinners for hundreds of people each year – at the Drake, the Sheraton, the Hilton, the Palmer House. And I always invited Karen to be with us, to provide her special elegance on the harp for our guests. She would come early, set up a few feet from the dinner tables, and play until dinner was completed, and then silently disappear. She seldom accepted payment – "It's for the Salvation Army," she would say, smiling her lovely smile.

But our greatest accomplishments together came in a brief span of time, during the Caxton Club Centennial, 1993-1995. It was my



honor to serve as the club's Centennial President. And it was my pleasure to have Karen as the Co-Chair, with the late Frank Williams, of the Centennial Committee. What we did during those year has had important influence on the organization since then.

The Caxton Club Centennial! What a celebration it was! As an organization, we put our hearts, minds, and efforts in unison, as seldom is done, to honor those who came before and to give to those who follow a worthy model.

We moved our dinner venue around the city during our Centennial year, and Karen and I shared the responsibilities for each of the celebratory events. There were locations to arrange, dinners to plan, speakers to schedule. Karen, Frank, and I would meet to discuss each meeting. Karen would determine which appropriate Caxton gift book to present to each speaker; she and I would go the Newberry vault to find the book, and I would have an artist-friend do the calligraphic inscription. Not a hitch occurred during this complex schedule throughout the Centennial year.

In addition to the dinner schedule, the Centennial Committee, under Karen's and others' leadership arranged for 22 Caxton Club

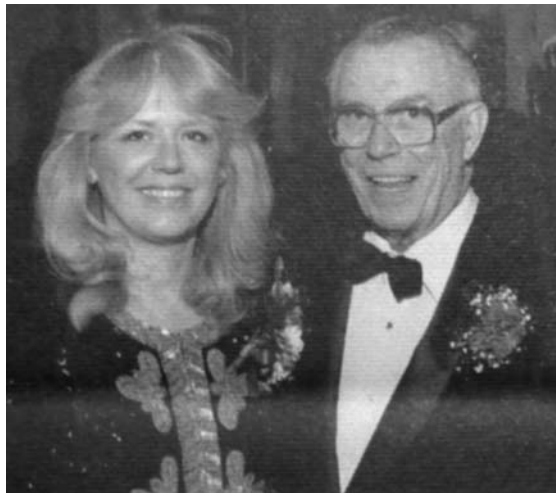
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exhibitions to be held in 15 different Chicago institutions, around our theme, "Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago, 1895-1995." Mayor Richard M. Daley proclaimed 1995 as the "Year of the Book" in Chicago. Karen's hand was in all these activities.

In the crowning achievement of the Centennial, Karen was our host for the Centennial Gala, in the East Room of the Newberry, January 26, 1995, where 300 guests gathered to hear Neil Harris speak on "High Culture and High Ambitions: Chicago of the 1890's." There was an exhibition of favorite collectibles of Caxton Club members that evening in the Hermon Dunlap Smith Gallery, and the *Chicago Tribune* carried a page-one story of the event on January 27, 1995, which Karen had arranged. The Caxton Centennial was truly a high-water mark in the club's history. The late Frank Piehl, Caxton historian, wrote of Karen, "her leadership and drive made the centennial a smashing success."

Frank produced for the Centennial the definitive history of the club, *Celebrating a Century of the Book in Chicago: The Caxton Club, 1895-1995*, and, under the splendid leadership of Susan Rossen, the book was published and presented to the guests at the Centennial Gala. During the Centennial Gala, I introduced Susan to present to the audience our new Centennial history. Susan whispered to me as I left the platform, "This wouldn't have happened if it weren't for you!" Those are the very words I would use about Karen Skubish and our Centennial – *It wouldn't have happened if it weren't for her*. Karen offered the finest summation of our Gala and our Centennial, saying, "At the end of the gala, we all glowed."



Karen with Frank Williams, from the *Caxtonian*, February 1995.

There are significant milestones achieved during our Centennial year. We rewrote our Constitution and By-Laws – thanks to Gene Hotchkiss – we brought the book into focus for Chicago and beyond, and we created the *Caxtonian*, which continues. Karen touched all of these accomplishments. A signal achievement of our Centennial was Karen's emergence, leading to her election as our second woman president in 1997, a tribute to her devotion and her extraordinary leadership. Frank Piehl wrote, "Over the years no woman has contributed more to the Caxton Club than Karen Skubish."

My favorite memory of Karen is her coming down the marble stairs of the Newberry to greet Norma and me in the lobby, with her smile, cheerful greeting, and a hug. She fit so naturally into the elegance of the Newberry Library and embodied its grace so perfectly.

In her final illness, I called Karen, and we talked briefly. I then sent her a note, affirming

Norma's and my great appreciation of her gifts, our delight in having worked so closely with her over the years, and our abiding love for her as a human being. This was my way, I suppose, of confessing to the shortcomings of living lives eternal, while putting a claim on those precious essentials that approximate what is lasting in the human circumstance.

I've written a brief verse in Karen's memory. I don't know if she'd like it or not, but I do know this: Upon reading it, she would have smiled, said, "I love it!" and hugged me. Such was the nature of our friendship – such is the essence of Karen Skubish.

Of Harp, of Resonance

*In Memory of
Karen Skubish*

We met in grace –
of smile, of books,
a friendship cherished.

We walked a moment,
friends of literature,
nurtured in infinite –
of word, of mind.

We hear hints
of great silence,
but soul holds
valiantly a timbre –
of harp, of resonance,
eternal.

§§



She Had a Sense of Humor, Too

Oh, dear, I felt so close to Karen!

One of the things Karen and I shared was a love of music. We went to musical events together, and I dropped by to hear her play at Piazza Bella Restaurant in Roscoe Village on many occasions.

I do remember being with her one night at the Chicago Symphony. The opening piece was a world premiere of one of those avant garde squeak-thunk-buzz-whonk pieces with no discernible melody, harmony or rhythm. When it was over, the audience applauded wildly – a severe case, I felt, of the Emperor's New Clothes – and Karen just leaned over to me to say it all in her inimitable way – "You wanna hum that one back to me?" Nailed it cold.

– Bruce Boyer

As Yule Recall

Dan Crawford

Yes! The final month of the year, when all outside is dark and cold, and the pale ghosts of broken resolutions whistle woefully through our minds. This, this is the time when humans come together: for warmth, for conviviality, and for murderous competition over books, prints, and Chinese baskets. Why the entire city doesn't crowd in merely mystifies me; surely nothing shouts the joys of December like the annual Caxton Club auction.

As usual, the Caxton Club's statistics-geek was on hand, and has tossed us these crumbs of data, so that you can reminisce and/or plot your strategy for THIS year.

Items for sale: 421 in 227 lots

Largest number of books donated by one person: 53

Attendees: 82

Attendees who demanded the return of the background music from March, 2008: 0

Bidders: 68

Bidders who won something: 62

Chance of taking something home if you bid: 91.18%

Bidders who bid on 10 or more items: 16

Items won by the bidder who did not lose a single thing he bid on: 11

Bidder who bid the most: One person bid on 27 lots, and won 12

People exclaiming "Are you SURE I bid on that?" 2

Number of people who referred to the opposite of the Live Auction as the Dead Auction: 1

Items in the Treasure Box at the end (the last item sold, which contains the items not bid on in the silent auction): 30

Items bid on by the people who donated them, so they wouldn't wind up in the Treasure Box: 4

Biggest category: Literature, with 40 lots

Caxtonians who, in response to a request, donated books they had written, edited, designed, or printed: 27

Items by Caxton Speakers from 2009 and 2010: 5

Books by, about, or otherwise connected to Caxtonians (aside from donors) 65

Oldest item: 15th century manuscript leaf from a Book of Hours (donated by Junie Sinson)

Oldest book: Thomas Moore's *Irish Melodies*, 1821 (donated by Susan J. Keig)

Newest Item: Ten items published in 2009 were donated, so we'll call it a tie

Most Self-referential Item: Ten Years of Books We Finished, a compilation, with prices realized, of all previous Caxton auction catalogs

Items with Thrifty Alternatives: Bruce Boyer's *The Solstice Cipher* was available in hardcover (donated by Bruce Boyer) or paperback (donated by Bob Karrow), as was Lise McKean's *Divine Enterprise* (donated by Lise McKean)

Most obscure Chicago Historical item: An empty carton of Dave Mathews Band Magic Brownie Ice Cream (donated by Helen Sclair in memory of a widely-publicized incident on the Michigan Avenue Bridge)

Anonymous Donors: The shy and self-

effacing this year included

"A Shy

Maplover",

"A Scrooge

Fancier," "The

Nameless

Stratford-

ian," and "An

Eternal Opti-

mist" (that

was the deck

of Chicago Cubs playing cards)

Chances to Be Part of the Auction 100

Years from Now: You could have bid on the services of Riva Feshbach in historical research to write your own book, or on a chance to be a character in one of Diane Gilbert Madsen's upcoming novels

Chances to keep your book collection out of the Auction 100 Years from Now: Bruce Barnett's counsel on how to handle your collection as part of your estate was also offered for bids

Item Printed Farthest North: Sun Signs from a Polar Star (donated by Susan Hanes) was published in Sitka, Alaska

Prettiest Item: The Limited Editions Club edition of *Tom Jones* was rebound in full red morocco (donated by James Donnelley)

Prettiest Practical item: A wicker Chinese basket (donated by Wendy C. Husser)

Items which complemented each other:

Levenger's donated pens and Anthony J. Mourek donated book-shaped erasers; we also had Percy Muir's *Victorian Illustrated Books* (donated by Bernie Rost) and a memorial book catalog in honor of Percy Muir (donated by Alice Schreyer and Tony Batko)

Item With the Best Rebate: *A Few Quotations Attributed to Mr. Lincoln* (donated,

designed, bound, etc. by Muriel Underwood) included a Lincoln stamp and a Lincoln penny

Best Use of Natural Ingredients: *Hiawatha's Canoe* (donated, designed, and bound by Jeanne Goessling) was bound in birchbark

Best Buy for Handwriting Analysts: A special 1905 edition of Eugene Field's *Love Songs of Childhood* (donated by Rick Ashton) was a facsimile of a copy of the book Eugene Field wrote out in longhand for a friend

Most Appropriately Caxtonian items: Either *The Literary Gourmet* (donated by Evelyn J. Lampe) about books and food, or *A Life Uncorked* (Donated by Steve Tomashefsky) about the literature of wine

Most Historical Caxtonian Items: Either Joutel's *Journal* (donated by Adrian Alexander), the first major publication of the Caxton

Club, or the set of 42 issues of *The Caxtonian* (including two issues now out of print; donated by Jeanne Goessling)

Most Books by a Single Author: The

P.G. Wodehouse Collection (donated by John Chalmers) included some 38 books

Heaviest book: Either *Selected Essays on the History of Letter-Forms* (donated by Steve Tomashefsky) or *The Oxford English Dictionary* (donated by John Chalmers). These were two-volume works. Purists who want the heaviest single volume should choose among *Walter Frazier* (donated by Kim Coventry), *Women Building Chicago* (donated by Mary Ann Johnson), and *Edgar Miller and the Handmade House* (donated by Bill Locke)

Lightest item: There were 11 miniature volumes in the sale; the statistics-keeper, who is also the book-hauler, would like to see this trend continue

Most bid-upon items: A Robert Hunter Middleton printing of Thomas Bewick's *The Bittern* (donated by Bernie Rost) and the Chicago *Tribune's* deluxe edition of its Chicago in 1833 map (donated by "A Shy Maplover") each had 12 bids

Dollars raised: About 7000

Most Ridiculous Statistic of the Evening: Only 82 in attendance? With all this fun going on? Don't tell me you were at home reading a book!

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Looking forward to “Other People’s Books”

Association Copy Book and Symposium Set for March

Kim Coventry

The Caxton Club, Chicago, opened its third exhibition February 1st. It was believed by the committee having the matter in charge that there were among the club’s members in Chicago a sufficient number of *ex-libris* books of an “association” interest to make a credible showing, and it is about some of these books that I am asked to gossip with the readers of *The Bookman*.

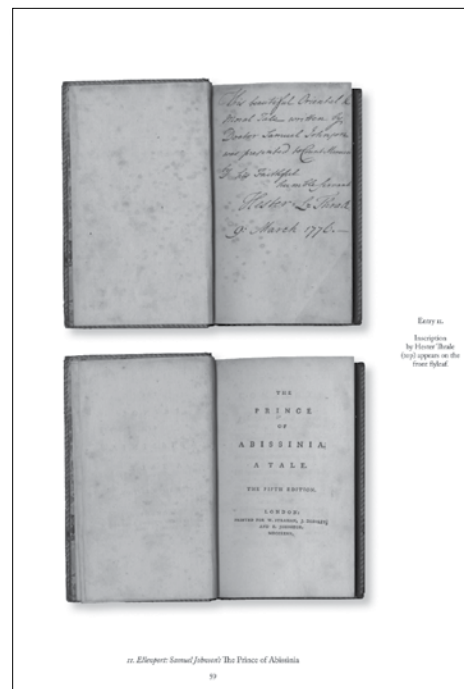
So reads the lead of club officer, librarian, and publication committee member W. Irving Way’s story in the March 1896 issue of *The Bookman*, published 115 years ago. The Caxton Club was in its infancy, having been founded only fifteen months earlier, on January 30, 1895. By the end of that year, the membership had grown to about 140. According to an article in the December 27, 1895 *Chicago Daily Tribune*, “Next month the club proposes to hold an exhibition of books of associations, volumes that were the cherished companions of great men.”

The exhibition opened with a thirty-seven-page, paper-covered catalogue listing each book (regretfully, without owners’ names). Six weeks later, a letterpress announcement brought news that the committee would “shortly issue a large paper edition of the Catalogue of its recent Exhibition of Books Interesting Through Their Associations”: one hundred twenty-four copies on handmade paper and three on Japan vellum. The subscription price was \$2.50. Fortunately, the ledger recording the subscribers’ names survives in the Caxton Club Archive at the Newberry Library, Chicago. It is a who’s who of Chicago bibliographic elite. The fifty-four-page version differs from the original, smaller one in several ways, including the addition of several books and illustrations of many of the inscriptions. The catalogue sold out before it was issued.

One can imagine the thrill of the club’s membership when a five-column story appeared in the *Chicago Evening Post* on January 29, 1896. The article reads, in part:

The announcement of the exhibition has already excited interest to the pitch of enthusiasm among Chicagoans of bookish taste; but the event has significance to every citizen of intelligence and culture in that it will do much toward calling public attention to the fact that the city is making strides in the acquirement of those riches which are the sure proof of a broad and ripening interest in things of an ultra literary and artistic character.

What more could a young club ask than to be credited with the “ripening” of its city?

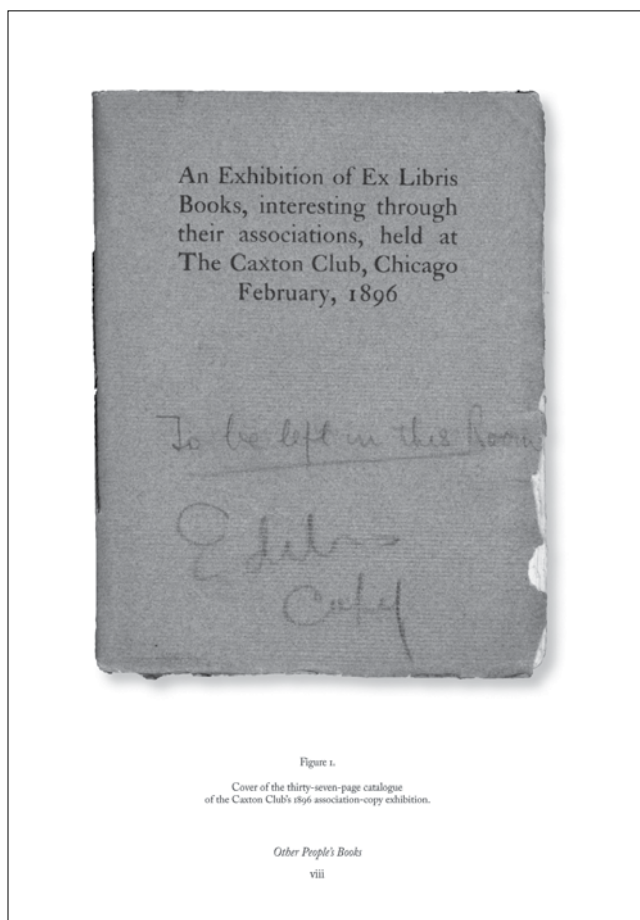


While it may have been “ultra literary,” the term “association copy” was not then nor is it now an everyday term or a subject that has received much published attention. I first heard it in 1998 from the noted curator

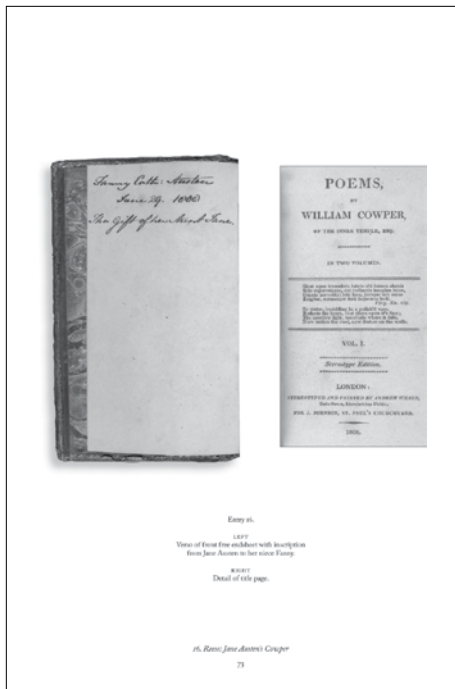
Robert Rosenthal while under his tutelage in the Department of Special Collections at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago. Eleven years later, I read with excitement the chapter on the late Jay Fleigelman in Nicholas Basbanes’ *Patience & Fortitude*. At the time of his death in 2007, Fleigelman was preparing a book based on the some five hundred association copies in his collection. He told Basbanes,

What I’m doing here is writing a kind of cultural history of America disguised as a fully illustrated catalog of my own library. . . . I’m telling stories about individual books, and linking them in a way so that they can be read as a continuous narrative. . . . In every case, the story is tied to a specific book, with specific signatures, annotations, and inscriptions inside. Each of these books stands as a kind of witness to something.

Ever since reading about Fleigelman’s intention to use association copies as a storytelling device, I have thought they would be an



Cover of the thirty-seven-page catalogue of the Caxton Club’s 1896 association-copy exhibition as it appears in *Other People’s Books*.



FAR LEFT *Inscription by Hester Thrale (top) appears on the front flyleaf of the Club of Odd Volumes' copy of Samuel Johnson's Prince of Abissinia.* NEAR LEFT *Garth D. Reese, Jr. writes about the Morgan Library & Museum's copy of Jane Austen's Poems by William Cowper.*

the country and to custodians of special collections at major North American research libraries. A number of the authors are Caxtonians. And club officers and board members approved the funding of the project from our coffers. The book has been edited, proofed, designed, and indexed by members, each generously lending their publishing expertise to the project.

The book, printed in Italy, will be hard-bound; with 216 pages and 112 color illustrations, it will sell for \$75 and will be distributed by our longtime partner, Oak Knoll. We will launch the volume at the Newberry Library on Friday, March 18, with a dinner, book signing, and short program, to be followed on Saturday by a symposium: "Other People's

excellent topic for a Caxton Club publication. After looking for a bibliography, I realized that this was a sorely under-published subject.

Thus, it is with great excitement that we announce the next major Caxton Club publication, *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell*, scheduled to appear in early March 2011. Thomas Tanselle, a leading expert on association copies, traces the history of the term in his informative and lively introduction to this book. The volume includes essays on fifty-two association copies. As he details,

The... accounts included here (twenty-four dealing with books in institutional collections, twenty-eight in private hands) are set in England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Sweden, and the United States; the books involved date from 1470 to 1986. More than half derive from presentation inscriptions, generally from the authors but sometimes from others closely connected with the authors. In several cases the primary interest is in the owners of the volumes – famous names in history and literature, important scholars, and prominent collectors. The fields covered run from astronomy and ornithology to political science and psychology, from art and film to history and literature.

Many Caxtonians worked diligently and with great passion toward the realization of this volume. A jury of members selected the essays that appear here from about eighty we received in response to a request for submissions we made to bibliophilic clubs across

Books: Collecting Association Copies," also at the Newberry. We hope that Other People's Books will open the door to more research, discussion, and publications devoted to the fascinating and important topic of the association copy.

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This essay was adapted from Kim Coventry's "Preface and Acknowledgments," in *Other People's Books: Association Copies and the Stories They Tell* (Chicago: The Caxton Club), forthcoming (March 2011). She is cochair of the club's Publications Committee.

Gerald Fitzgerald '81

died on October 30.
A remembrance will appear in a future issue of the *Caxtonian*.

How to use the Caxton Club web site to register for meetings

The Caxton Club is moving towards an on-line system for maintaining its membership records and for allowing people to sign up to attend events. (For now, the system does not involve money.) For those members with computer access, we encourage that you give our new system a try. Here's how:

Follow these steps to register for any event which we have put into our system:

- 1) Go to the Caxton Club web site, www.caxtonclub.org, and click on "member services" at the bottom.
- 2) In the top right corner, key in your email address and password. For those who have not yet used the new website, and so have not created a password, the temporary password for you will be the domain name of your email address. For instance, if your email is johnjacobsmith@gmail.com, then the default password will be gmail

If you still cannot log on, then click on the "Forgot password" link, and follow the instructions. You will be asked for your email address, and an email with further instructions will be sent to you. Be patient; this could take a few minutes. Click on the link in the email, key in a new password twice, save it and

then try to log on again. Everything should be fine now.

3) If you used the assigned password of the domain name from your email address, change your password to one only you will know. You'll find the link in the upper right corner of any member-services page. Make a note of your new password.

4) There are two choices under the heading – "Members-only section" from the members-only home page. They are: – "Meetings and events," and – "Member directory." At your leisure, look around, but for now, click on "Meetings and Events."

5) On the next page, you will see the list of "Upcoming Events." Either click on the Register button, or "Show Details" link to see more of the description. Then just follow the screens to complete your registration.

6) You will automatically receive an acknowledgment email.

Payment will be the same as in the past, that is, it will continue to be made at either the lunch or dinner.

As simple as that.

– Charles Spohrer
Web Site Chair

Book and manuscript-related exhibitions: a selective list

Compiled by Bernice E. Gallagher

(Note: on occasion an exhibit may be delayed or extended; it is always wise to call in advance of a visit.)

Art Institute of Chicago, 111 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-443-3600: "Richard Hawkins – Third Mind" (early collages by the artist in book form, encouraging a rethinking of representation and presented in conjunction with the current gallery exhibition), Ryerson and Burnham Libraries, through January 16, 2011.

Chicago Botanic Garden, Lenhardt Library, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 847-835-8202: "Bibliotheca Sylva" (rare books depicting historic uses of trees as food products and in forestry, featuring fine illustrations, photographs, and wood samples), through February 6, 2011.

Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington Street, Chicago, 312-744-6630: "Louis Sullivan's Idea" (photographs, drawings, documents, and artifacts relating to Sullivan's life, writings, and architectural works, presented by Chicago artist Chris Ware and cultural historian Tim Samuelson), Chicago Rooms, through January 2, 2011.

Harold Washington Library Center, 400 S. State Street, Chicago, 312-747-4300: "Golden Legacy: Original Artwork from 65 Years of Golden Books" (sixty original illustration art masterpieces from the children's book series Little Golden Books, chosen from the Random House archive and on loan from the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature), Special Collections Exhibit Hall, Ninth Floor, through January 7, 2011; "Alfred Appel on Classic Jazz" (works by the late Alfred Appel, Northwestern University English professor for over thirty years, who wrote widely on the history of jazz in its larger context of 20th century art, with special focus on Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, and Fats Waller), Upright Case, Eighth Floor, through June 30, 2011.

Lake Forest-Lake Bluff Historical Society, 361 E. Westminster Avenue, Lake Forest, 847-234-5253: "Nature by Design: Drawings of the Foundation for Architecture and Landscape Architecture, 1926-1935" (a collaborative project with Special Collections at Lake Forest College, featuring watercolors, measured drawings, sketches of estates and gardens at home and abroad, drawn by students from Midwestern universities who participated in an innovative summer program founded over seventy-five years ago by renowned landscape architect Ferruccio Vitale and housed at the College), through December 16.

Loyola University Museum of Art, 820 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, 312-915-7600: "Contemporary Arabic Calligraphy by Nihad Dukhan" (a postmodern interpretation of Arabic letters, contemporary designs expressing the Islamic spirit and using classical styles to create an abstract yet readable representation of words), through January 16, 2011.

Newberry Library, 60 W. Walton Street, Chicago, 312-943-9090:

"Marbled Papers and Fine Bindings by Norma B. Rubovits" (nineteen fine bindings and sixty sheets of Rubovits' own marbled paper, chosen from 5000 items that make up the Rubovits collection and paying tribute to her forty-year career as the creator of original, imaginative art), Hermon Dunlap Smith Gallery, through December 31; "Approaching the Mexican Revolution: Books, Maps, Documents (documents and books, both scholarly and popular, as well as maps illustrating American interventions in Mexico during the Revolution and U.S. business interests in the region), Spotlight Exhibition Series, R. R. Donnelley Gallery, through January 8, 2011.

Northwestern University, Charles Deering Library, 1970 Campus Drive, Evanston, 847-491-7658: "Global Health: Access and Information" (materials relating to the themes of this year's One Book, One Northwestern selection, *Mountains Beyond Mountains: The Quest of Dr. Paul Farmer, A Man Who Would Cure the World* by Tracy Kidder, including the papers of Dr. Quentin Young, national leader of public health policy and social justice; rare documents from the 18th to 21st centuries, focusing on efforts to alleviate poverty and disease among the global poor; books on global health initiatives in Africa; books, reports, and journals describing emergency transportation and evacuation in the wake of natural disasters), Main Library, ongoing; "From the Heroic to the Depraved: Mainstream and Underground Comic Books at Northwestern University Library" (featuring comic books from the Pre-Golden, Golden, Silver, Bronze, and Modern eras, as well as the Underground; including a selection of Big Little Books, dime novels, woodcuts, and engravings that chronicle the beginning of comic books as they are known today), Special Collections and Archives, through March 26, 2011; "Burnham at Northwestern" (documents, photographs, blueprints, and sketches of Daniel Burnham's 1905 "Plans of Northwestern," a redesign of the University's Evanston campus), Special Collections and Archives, ongoing.

Oriental Institute of Chicago, University of Chicago, 1155 E. 58th Street, Chicago, 773-702-9514: "Visible Language: Inventions of Writing in the Ancient Middle East and Beyond" (illustrations of new research on the origins of writing: artifacts from the four "pristine" writing systems of Sumer, Egypt, China, and Mesoamerica; examples of the forerunners of writing, such as rock paintings and pot marks, photographic tablets from Uruk/today's Iraq, seal impressions from the tombs of early Egyptian kings, and oracle bones used in Chinese rituals; examples of early alphabetic texts in Proto-Sinaitic, Old South Arabian, and Hebrew, all of which re-evaluate the origins of the alphabet; a video kiosk demonstrating how photographic techniques can examine sealed clay Tokens ca. 3350-3100 BC, whose previously unread contents are thought to be the ancestors of Latin letters), through March 6, 2011.

University of Chicago, Regenstein Library, 1100 E. 57th Street, Chicago, 773-702-8740: "&#;! Graphic Novels as Social Commentary" (featuring a specific type of graphic novel that discusses violence, war, the experience of the "other," feminism, and social tension, and tracing its evolution from earliest versions through to the present day when format is enhanced by and enhances different media), First, Third, and Fourth Floors, through December 10.

Until a replacement exhibit editor is found, please send your listings to bmccamant@quarterfold.com, or call 312-329-1414 x 11.



Cultural Center: Louis Sullivan's Idea
FROM THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE WEBSITE.

Caxtonians Collect: Peg Lee

Interviewed by Robert McCamant

Peg Lee got her masters and PhD from the University of Chicago where she was a Ford Foundation Fellow and a Woodrow Wilson Dissertation Scholar. Norman Maclean was her academic advisor. In the late 70s and 80s, she was an instructor at Alpena Community College (Michigan); a position as dean of liberal arts opened up and she was appointed to the position. Lee happily took it, because it meant less driving from campus to a satellite site sixty miles away, four nights a week. She called Maclean to report her good luck. "I'll never forget what he said to me," she says. "He said 'What a shame! Good teachers are hard to find, but administrators are a dime a dozen. Your pig farming experience will be a big help to you.'"

Peg Lee is the president of Oakton Community College and has been since 1995. She served as academic vice president from 1985. Perhaps in deference to her late advisor as well as her love of teaching, Lee has taught a class for many of the years she has been in administration. "Most often I've team-taught Shakespeare. But sometimes it has been solo: composition or British Literature or introduction to the humanities. It's really the best way to keep in touch with what the students are like," she explains, adding that she often taught with a faculty colleague because then the students don't suffer when she's called to other responsibilities.

What about the pig farm? It's the reason her office is filled with stuffed, ceramic, and plastic pigs in a wide range of sizes. It goes back to when she had finished her PhD course work but not her dissertation. "I got a \$2000 annual stipend, a Woodrow Wilson fellowship, to help cover expenses while I finished the research and writing it," she explained. "And that was our household income. My husband had just closed down a project for the OEO. We had to live simply, so we moved our four boys, two dogs, and two cats to a farm in Michigan that had been his father's. We started with a couple of sows, and before long we had 60 pigs. (Two of the boys were paid with two feeder pigs for helping a local farmer during haying.) And the rest is history." And since she was still working on her dissertation,

she had reason to speak with Maclean, so he had heard about the challenges of the eight-year adventure of pig farming.

In fact, however, Lee has enjoyed being a college administrator. "I love my job. I wouldn't trade places with anybody," she asserts. Arguably, it has gone well. Oakton has a solidly balanced budget and a national reputational study of community colleges by the *New York Times* ranked Oakton among the top ten in the nation. Lee is proud of having been able to maintain a low tuition rate, currently \$91 per



credit hour, thanks in part to good property tax support in the district, which includes many north shore suburbs.

Lee focuses on the specific role of a community college in the present educational system. Interestingly, there is a University of Chicago connection to community colleges. The first community college was established in 1903 in Joliet by then U of C president William Rainey Harper. He saw the institution providing the first two years of baccalaureate level education. Today, she explains, community colleges have a three-fold mission. "First is to provide a stepping stone to a four-year degree. We have GED courses, and a large range of pre-college courses which help the ill-prepared get a foothold. And then we offer fully transferable first two years of baccalaureate-level work. Our credits can be transferred to almost any college or university in the country. Second is to prepare people for careers. Our nursing program has 300 more applicants than we can admit each year. And third, we have a community function. More than a quarter of our students already have a bachelor's degree, but they need to come back for continuing

education, or they're retired and they want to learn how to use a computer or try writing a short story."

Right now Lee is in the initial planning stages for a new science and allied health building. "Our building is approaching its 36th birthday," she says. "For things like science and nursing, that's a long time. If we're going to be able to keep up with new ways of student learning, we need to have facilities that are current." The hope is to finance the building project with reserves, state matching funds,

and donations to the school's foundation. An additional challenge is environmental: Oakton is built on a flood plain, and the goal is to use things like permeable paving and green rooftops to more than mitigate any problems the new building might introduce.

Lee joined the Club in 1997, nominated by Peter Stanlis and seconded by the late Ned Rosenheim. "Stanlis came to give a lecture at Oakton. After a lengthy conversation about our mutual interest in the poetry of Robert Frost, he mentioned the Club to me. It sounded like fun. I wish I could get to more meetings," she says.

She has a large house in Wilmette which is made less empty by the presence of a daughter and her husband. "They're both starting out as schoolteachers, so it helps them financially and I'm very glad to have them around." Thanksgiving meant the gathering of all her nine children and stepchildren plus 13 of the next generation.

When there's free time, Lee always enjoys a quiet day reading. She has a collection of college textbooks that were in use at the time she was an undergraduate at Regis College in Massachusetts. Among the smallest but most prized of her collections are letters from Norman Maclean as well as a copy of part of the working version of *A River Runs Through It*. She also has collections of Frost, Eliott, Yates, and Auden. Her late husband's collection is of socially-conscious theology. "Much of the collection is at our house in Michigan, though," she says. Another spare time activity is keeping up with sports, including a fantasy football team. "And time spent with family and friends is the greatest pleasure."

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Photograph by Robert McCamant



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Bookmarks...

Luncheon Program

Friday, December 10, 2010, Union League Club

Celia Hilliard

"A Most Outstanding Caxtonian:

Charles L. Hutchinson"

Speaking about her hot-off-the-press book: *Prime Mover: Charles L. Hutchinson and the Making of the Art Institute of Chicago*, author, cultural historian, and Caxtonian Celia Hilliard will tell us who Hutchinson was and how he qualified for the above accolade. She will also tell about his remarkable role in the Caxton Club. Come and learn how a bookish grain merchant/banker envisioned, maneuvered, cajoled and oversaw the creation of the Art Institute, then making it into a world-class institution during his 42 years as President. See the Art Institute building as it developed, in never-before-published archival images. Hear about Hutchinson's friendship with Martin Ryerson and John J. Glessner, his dealings with Bertha Palmer and his artistic foresight involving the fantastic Demidoff Collection acquisition and hosting the controversial Armory Show in Chicago in 1914.

The December luncheon will take place at the Union League Club, 65 W. Jackson Boulevard. Luncheon buffet (in the main dining room on six) opens at 11:30 am; program (in a different room, to be announced) 12:30-1:30. Luncheon is \$30. Details of the December dinner: it will take place in Ruggles Hall at the Newberry Library. Timing: spirits at 5:00.

Beyond December...

JANUARY LUNCHEON

"An R-rated Blockbuster" is the tentative title of Club General Manager Dan Crawford's address on January 14, 2011 at the Union League Club.

JANUARY DINNER

We will meet on Wednesday, January 19 at the Cliff Dwellers. Speaker to be announced.

Dinner Program

Wednesday, December 15, 2010, Newberry Library

Holiday Revels and Auction

Reserve Now!

Come one, come all to our annual Holiday Revels celebration, (begun in 1939 by William Kittredge, designer and typographer at R.R. Donnelley and Sons). There will be merrymaking, energetic bidding at our 12th annual live and silent auction, and dancing (by Pullman Morris and Sword, one of Chicago's great Morris Dancing troupes). Leave with a warm glow in your heart and auction items-to-treasure tucked under your arm. Proceeds from this fun and fascinating evening will benefit our Scholarship winners and our 2011 Symposium. Check out the periodically-updated Auction Catalogue at www.Caxtonclub.org.

Reservations are very important for events at the Newberry, where the Club contracts with an outside caterer. We want neither to pay for unused seats nor to have attendees go hungry.

Dinner at 6:00, followed by live auction and entertainment. Dinner is \$48, drinks are \$5. For reservations call 312-255-3710 or use the newly improved Caxton web site (see instructions on page 9); **reservations are needed by noon Tuesday for the Friday luncheon, and by noon Friday for the Wednesday dinner.**

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON

The luncheon will take place at the Union League Club on February 11, with the speaker to be announced.

FEBRUARY DINNER

Christopher Woods of the Oriental Institute will talk February 16 about new discoveries on the origin of written language, highlighting an exhibit at the Institute.