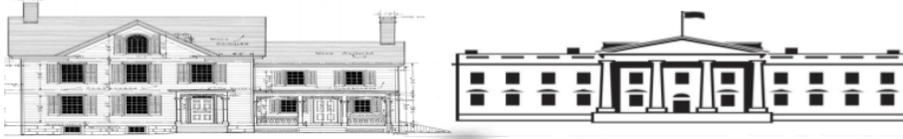


The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association



The US President from Caldwell, NJ

Newsletter Issue #1

Progress on the Building of the New Visitor's Center

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association is proud to announce current developments on the building of the new Grover Cleveland Birthplace Visitor's Center. For several years, the GCBMA has been working with various agencies of the State of New Jersey on a new Visitor's Center on the Grover Cleveland Birthplace grounds which will be part of the existing Carriage House. The State of New Jersey and the GCBMA will soon be approving a bid for the building of the center. This approval includes the involvement of the New Jersey State Historic Preservation Office to make sure the building is in compliance with the U.S. Department of Interior Standards for historical structures. The Department of the Environment approved the funding. The NJ Department of the Treasury and the Division of Building and Construction approved the construction in late August and has granted necessary permits for the bidding process. The Division of Building and Construction will oversee the construction.

The GCBMA has already paid for all architectural design, surveys, permits, soil testing, stabilization, and other planning costs, and will be in charge of furnishing and equipping the center once the building construction is complete. The funds for these construction expenses were raised through donations, membership fees, and our fundraising activities. Ongoing fundraising continues in order to fund the interior displays. Stay tuned for further developments.

Grover Cleveland Inaugural Ball Celebrates New Jersey History on November 10th Experiential Fundraiser Features Celebrity Chef and The Montclair Orchestra

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association and the Montclair Orchestra are pleased to invite the public to an interactive and opulent ball celebrating the 1883 Inauguration of President Grover Cleveland at the Upper Montclair Women's Club in Montclair, N.J. on Saturday, November 10th, 2018.

Playing the President during the reenactment of the inauguration will be Cleveland's grandson, George Cleveland and playing Vice President Adlai Stevenson, will be his great grandson, US Ambassador Thomas Robertson IV. John Elliott of the WCBS Morning News along with former White House pastry chef to five presidents, Chef Roland Mesnier will serve as

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Masters of Ceremonies. Mesnier's appearance will include a book signing, the sharing of humorous stories about his life and time in our nation's presidential residence.

Inaugural Gala Chairperson, Alice W. Gibson notes, "We've planned an evening that will feel like you are stepping back into a moment in time and I am personally very excited to witness this historic event".

To relive the romance of the late 19th Century, guests may purchase tickets for \$300 per person and \$500 for Patrons, who will receive a copy of Chef Mesnier's book and preferred ballroom seating. Sponsorship opportunities are also available and all proceeds benefit the Grover Cleveland Birthplace. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [www. Presidentcleveland.org](http://www.Presidentcleveland.org) or contact 973-226-0001.

Some Famous Firsts about Grover Cleveland

Cleveland was the only President born in New Jersey, (in Caldwell, N.J.)

-- Cleveland won three elections by popular votes but was elected only twice, (1884, 1888, 1892).

-- Cleveland was the only president to be married in the White House. Frances Folsom Cleveland was 21 years old when becoming the youngest First Lady. Parts of their wedding cake are on display at the "Birthplace".

Who Are the Board of Trustees of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association?

Here are biographical summaries of the GCBMA Board Members and their involvement in our many programs. The GCBMA is proud of their past accomplishments and are looking forward to many new opportunities in the near future.

Akiko Axe: Mrs. Axe is in charge of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Museum Shop (Grover's Corner) and is one of our Facebook administrators. She regularly attends trade shows to find unique "Presidential Gift Items" to sell in our shop and hopes to expand "Grover's Corner" at our new Visitor's Center. Mrs. Axe also sees how the new Visitor's Center will attract people of all ages, especially school groups. The planned availability of public restrooms and a place to eat a bagged lunch will help attract new visitors. Mrs. Axe is always a "public face" for the GCBMA with her promotion of the birthplace at the Memorial Day Parade, the Annual 4th of July Social, the Annual Caldwell Street Fair, the Caldwell National Night Out, and other events in the community.

David Cowell: Our President of the GCBMA has been a major force in planning for the building of the Visitor's Center. Dr. Cowell has been a Trustee since 2000 and the President (with Irene Gibbons early on) since 2004. He is a former Social Sciences Department Head and now Professor Emeritus at Drew University. Dr. Cowell is a former Town Councilman and former President of the West Caldwell Historical Society. He has been President of Advocates for New Jersey History, a member of the Drew University Mead Hall Restoration Committee, President of Associated Antiques Dealers of New Jersey, President of the Summit Antiques Center, President of Advocates for New Jersey History, and a member of the Task Force on New Jersey History. He is a Vestryperson at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Dr. Cowell has extensive knowledge of local history and hopes to resume writing and research and be a docent for the Birthplace.

Greg Cowell: Mr. Cowell serves as Treasurer and is involved in many of the activities of the GCBMA. With the finances of the gift store, various fundraising activities, grants, and other programs,, Mr. Cowell and the Finance Committee play a big part in our organization. He holds an AB from Lafayette College and an MBA from Indiana University. He has a great interest in all historical knowledge and has a special affection for antique clocks.

Beverly Crifasi: Dr. Crifasi joined the Board in 2009 and has participated on the Interpretation, Development, and History & Archives Committees. With the encouragement of her cousin Dorothy Budd Bartle, Dr. Crifasi has done extensive local history research for the West Caldwell Historical Society and the Grover Cleveland Birthplace. She

also wrote and administered grants for the GCBMA Traveling Trunks program and the Visitor's Center. Dr. Crifasi hopes to help with the improvement of the community learning more about Grover Cleveland's contributions in history through the Birthplace and on our website. Dr. Crifasi is a School Psychologist and is very interested in our educational programs.

Roxanne Douglas: A former Social Studies and Title I Teacher, Mrs. Douglas has been a Board Member for the last 6 years. She is on the Interpretation Committee and also serves as the President of the West Caldwell Historical Society. Mrs. Douglas is President of the West Essex Women's Club and has served as leader of two local Girl Scout Troops. She is very proud of "inheriting" an interest in History from her father and enjoys reading about the past and watching films which are historically based.

Alice Gibson: Mrs. Gibson has been a Board Member since 1995. As Chairperson of our Development Committee, Mrs. Gibson is currently overseeing the planning of our upcoming 1893 Inaugural Ball. Well known in N.J. state historical organizations, Mrs. Gibson is a Trustee of the Victorian Society of America and the League of Historical Societies of New Jersey. She is a member of the West Caldwell Historical Society, the National Trust of Historic Preservation, Preservation New Jersey, the Montclair Historical Society, the Women's Association of NJPAC, and the Art on the Avenue Association. She is President of the University Women of West Essex Board of Trustees. Mrs. Gibson is also an Elder at the First Presbyterian Church of Caldwell.

John Hamilton: A Board Member since the late 80's, Mr. Hamilton oversees our Building and Construction Committee. Not only is Mr. Hamilton looking forward to the building to the Visitor's Center but also the hope of having a Presidential Library on the site. He is quite proud of being born and raised in West Caldwell and is a member of First Presbyterian Church. Mr. Hamilton was on the original organizing committee to build the new Visitor's Center.. He has a love of all things which are "old and ancient" which is shown in his devotion to the GCBMA and the Birthplace.

Bunny Jenkins: A Board Member since 1985, Mrs. Jenkins is a former GCBMA Secretary and currently serves as our Vice President. She is active with the Eagle Rock Cranetown Daughters of the American Revolution and the Junior Women's Club of West Essex. She is also a member of the North Caldwell Historical Commission, the North Caldwell Historical Society, "Friends of Walker's Pond", the West Essex Animal League, and the Suburban Sports Car Club. Mrs. Jenkins is a Vestryperson at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. She is the "backbone" of many of our GCBMA activities and leads our nomination committee.

Paul Maloney: Mr. Maloney is currently serving as Board Secretary and is overseeing the Education Committee. A Board Member since 2015, he has been very active in all GCBMA programs including the promotion of the "Traveling Trunks" program and the development of new education displays such as the "History of the Frisbee" and "Presidents and Baseball". Mr. Maloney is a long time Cranford 8th Grade Social Studies Teacher. He is a former Union County Teacher of the Year (2002-03), received state teaching awards from the DAR and Freemasons, and was most recently honored as the Union County VFW Educator of the Year (2017). He has a special interest in impersonating U.S. and World historical figures for his classroom and other venues. Mr. Maloney is also very active with the St. Aloysius Church Choir and the Essex Running Club.

Janet Markman: Mrs. Markman has been the Official Photographer for the Borough of Caldwell for the last eight years. She currently serves as webmaster for the GCBMA and oversees our Facebook page. She is also involved in many civic, art, and photography organizations. She recently had photographic work on display at the Caldwell Public Library. Mrs. Markman is also a member of the Audubon Society. She says, "I hope that, through my work, people will better appreciate the Grover Cleveland Birthplace and its rich history".

Robert Markman: Mr. Markman has been on our Board since 2015 and serves as Membership Chairperson. He is involved in many areas of the GCBMA including videoing guest speakers and helping with marketing/public relations.

Mr. Markman serves as a Trustee of the Caldwell Public Library Foundation and a board member of the West Caldwell Historical Society. He is a member of his local Ministerial Association Interfaith Committee. He is also a member of the Grover Cleveland Park Conservancy and the Congregation Agudath Israel Environmental Committee. Mr. Markman is looking forward to seeing the Birthplace keep improving as an educational focal point.

Evan McLaughlin: Mr. McLaughlin has taught history in Mendham for seven years and has just begun teaching history at James Caldwell High School. A graduate and Valedictorian of Muhlenberg College, he has earned a James Madison Fellowship (New Jersey's representative) to study Constitutional Law at Georgetown University and Seton Hall University. The GCBMA is thrilled that a local teacher is on our board. He is looking forward to the new Visitor's Center opening and is working to connect our site with local high schools so students can enjoy local history and better appreciate Grover Cleveland's role in American History. Mr. McLaughlin oversees the Mock Trial Club and coaches Lacrosse at JCHS.

Louis Picone: Mr. Picone is the author of Where the Presidents Were Born: The History and Preservation of the Preservation of the Presidential Birthplaces, and The President is Dead: The Extraordinary Stories of the Presidential Deaths, Final Days, Burials, and Beyond. He has served on the board of the Roxbury Historical Trust and as a member of the Author's Guild. Mr. Picone recently represented the GCBMA at the 2018 Presidential Sites Summit in Washington D.C. which included meeting the President and First Lady at a White House reception. He has also given talks about presidential birthplaces at the James Garfield Historical Site and the international conference "U.S. Presidents and Russian Rulers" at the Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow.

Matt Rollins: Mr. Rollins has been a Board member and active with our Development Committee for many years. Mr. Rollins organizes our Memorial Day Parade Float and our Fourth of July Ice Cream Social where he is quite visible as the GCBMA "Grover Cleveland Impersonator". He has acted in one of our Grover Cleveland informational videos and often offers original "historical tidbits" to our board. As the owner of "Rollins Lawn Care", Mr. Rollins offers his expertise in advising our Building and Grounds Committee.

Patricia M. Ruiz: Dr. Ruiz is the Director of the Montclair State University Health Center. She is responsible for directing all areas of the University Health Center including clinical care, regulatory compliance, fiscal responsibilities, and overseeing the public health of the students and campus. Dr. Ruiz enjoys art, antiques, cooking, and American History. This appreciation of American History is what drew her to seek a role as a board member of the GCBMA. It is her goal to raise awareness of local history and preserve the life and legacy for President Cleveland through collaborative community based initiatives. Dr. Ruiz has been recently involved in revising our Board by-laws.

Bruce White: A Board Member since 2012, Mr. White serves on the History & Archives and Development Committees. He has enjoyed raising awareness of the birthplace through various programs and events. Mr. White curated Grover Cleveland's near accident by an apple cart (and a larger discussion of Essex County Agriculture during the early 1800's) for a display in our carriage house. A nationally known and respected photographer, he gave the first in a series of author lectures on history related subjects when speaking about his book At Home in the President's Neighborhood, A Photographic Tour. Mr. White is an "unofficial" liaison between the GCBMA and the White House and the Morris County Historical Associations. He is also excited to work on a new orientation video on Grover Cleveland and the GCBMA. Locally, Mr. White has been active with the Caldwell Public Library, Camp Wyanokie, and Boy Scout Troop 9.

The Grover Cleveland Birthplace, 207 Bloomfield Ave., Caldwell, N.J. 07006, 973-226-0001. The birthplace is open year round, Wednesday-Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. It is open to the public free of charge and is closed for all State and Federal holidays. The address of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace Memorial Association is PO Box 183, Caldwell, N.J. 07006. For more information, see www.PresidentCleveland.org.