



HOUSE KUDOS

902 Madison Street

by Jacqueline Frank and Jennifer Nehring

When Paul Ebel, Joe Aprile, Rick Koenig, and Jim Neceda decided to purchase a home together in the Astor Historic District, all four wanted a large home to accommodate their interests and a desire for personal space. The men looked at several homes within the area, but none appealed to them in the way that the home at 902 S. Madison Street did. The three-story home had been cut into three apartments over time as the building changed owners. However, they saw that the home had the space and the "good bones" that they were seeking, and purchased it with the intention of restoring the building to its original brilliance.

It has been 105 years since the home was completed after two years of construction. It has been called the Joannes' House by those familiar with its history, and the Castle by those admiring its size and Chateausque style

exterior. Owners date to John Jacob Astor in 1846, who then sold it to John S Horner. In 1894, Mitchell Joannes, an owner of Joannes' Brothers dry goods store on Washington Street, purchased five lots from Olive Sherwood and her daughter, Fannie Gilbert. This tract extended from the corner of Madison and Portier Streets towards the Fox River.

Five years later Joannes commissioned Henry A. Foeller to design a home that would span two lots of this property. Foeller, founder of a well-known Green Bay architectural firm established in 1895, apprenticed under William Waters, known at the time as one of the most prominent architects in Wisconsin.

The Joannes' home reflected Foeller's skill. As originally built, the Romanesque Queen Anne style interior has a first floor with music, dining, and sitting rooms, a library, butler's pantry and a formal entrance hall with a separate cloak room that contains a waist-level slipper closet for shoes. It also houses a three-story grand staircase of carved oak with similar wainscoting throughout the lower level, as well as ornate wood floors. The second floor originally contained six bedrooms. The third floor contained a ballroom as well as an additional coatroom and other areas for entertaining. In fact, the house was "built for parties," said Paul Ebel, as it could easily accommodate both guests and servants, and often did while the Joannes' family lived there.



Over the years three portions of the property were sold, beginning in 1926 when J.M. Conway gained possession of the carriage house which was reconstructed as a home and is now located at 915 S. Jefferson Street. The home was also divided into apartments. When Joannes' daughter Arleen married Dr. Arthur J. McCarey in 1919,

an addition to the west side of the building was made. The existing building was then divided, forming two households for the Joannes and McCarey families. By the time the house was sold in 2006, a wall had been built at the top of the grand staircase, a section of the back apartment had been made into a hall leading to the back staircase, and the ballroom was converted into a third apartment.



Since the most recent sale, Paul, Joe, Rick, and Jim have worked extensively to bring the home back to its original state. Paul is by trade a designer specializing in residential and health care interiors as part of his business, Ebel Gentile Interiors, Inc. The changes have been largely by his design and love of working with homes in the neighborhood. To date, work on his own home has focused on the exterior, including painting the exterior trim a deep chocolate brown to highlight the leaded glass windows, a new roof, copper gutter work featuring dragon water spouts, a lush evergreen garden and the addition of detailed exterior lighting over the entrance.

The four owners have removed many of the walls that transformed the home into a multi-family dwelling, and plan to update electrical and heating systems over the fall and winter. Future projects include a complete update of the kitchen and restoration of the butler's pantry. Paul plans to work from the third floor to the first, allowing the upper story to be used for entertaining once again. Most rooms will be redecorated in a way both tasteful and suitable

to the historic structure, including using appropriate, historically reminiscent lighting, colors, and other details. Other rooms will be updated to accommodate modern needs, such as the addition of a washer/dryer to the furnace room on the second floor.

Through Paul's vision and the dedication of Rick, Joe, and Jim, the home will once again be used as it was built, with a full, functional restoration. They all deserve a "Thank you" for the work that truly represents the best of the Astor Historic District.

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The mission of the ANA is to maintain the integrity, vitality, and diversity of the Astor community through the protection and preservation of its history, neighborhoods, and architecture.

ANA Board meetings are 6 pm the third Monday of each month at the Howe Resource Center, open to all Astor neighborhood members. Please submit House Kudos suggestions to Erik Hoyer at 437-3671 or erikh@astorneighborhood.org.

Advertising: Postal regulations prohibit the Astor Neighborhood Association, a not-for-profit entity, from advertising the phone number and address of any for-profit entity. The cost of an advertisement in our bimonthly publication is \$30 per business card-size ad. For info, contact Mike Van Handel, 430-1378 or vanhandelm@schneider.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the past few years, the Astor Neighborhood Association has provided numerous social events to bring together our neighbors, we have volunteered within the neighborhood and community, and we have worked to increase lines of communication throughout our neighborhood. However, at a recent meeting of the board, two neighborhood components were identified as needing renewed focus by the association board: neighborhood safety and historic preservation.

The safety we feel as we walk through our neighborhood and the safety of our children should not ever be taken for granted. Participating in Project Porchlight (there are still a few lights left – contact me) and our being mindful of our driving habits as we drive through the city are just two ways to boost safety. If you have other ideas, contact a board member. Better yet, get involved to help find out ways to implement your ideas.

Historic preservation has always been an integral part of the ANA; it's a key component of our mission. When historic preservation and social events mix, such as during the wine tasting, the events are wildly popular (last year the wine tasting event sold out, so this year, get your tickets early). But are there other ways that we can stress this part of our neighborhood, such as lectures about how best to renovate a historical home or developing a network of contractors who specialize in older home restoration?

As we continue to plan and execute social events and try to bring a renewed sense of safety and historical preservation to the board and the neighborhood, it is through your support, ideas, and involvement that we can move forward, follow through, and continue with our successes as a neighborhood.

Erik Hoyer, ANA president
erikh@astorneighborhood.org

Astor Neighborhood Association, Inc.

526 S. Monroe Ave
Green Bay, WI 54301

Christmas Memories

by Jessie Sharp

What were your first memories of Christmas? In 1971 I was four years old; I lived in a small house on an island a short drive across a bridge from St Petersburg, FL. I remember my mom told me that Santa Claus delivered toys to all the boys in girls in a speed boat. I remember watching Christmas boat parades and seeing palm trees decorated with Christmas lights. These are my first memories of Christmas.

When I started high school my family moved to New Orleans. Kids in New Orleans grow up watching huge bonfires on the Mississippi river levees that light the way for Papa Noel. Instead of a sleigh and reindeer, Papa Noel is often depicted in a boat in the middle of a swamp being pulled by a host of alligators. (search "Papa Noel" on amazon.com) Five years ago my wife and I moved to Green Bay and we wondered what special Christmas traditions they practiced in packerland. Christmas trees carved out of cheese? Stocking stuffed with bratwurst? Santa delivering presents in a snow plow? In fact we were in for a lovely surprise; simple but beautiful luminaries decorating elegant old houses in our neighborhood. We knew it would be a tradition that we would look forward to every year.

Like I was in 1971, our oldest child is now four; this year will likely be the first memories of Christmas that will last her lifetime. I wonder what she will remember. I hope that one of her memories will be of the luminaries that light the sidewalks in our neighborhood. In an age that many have forgotten the traditions of the past, it will be a wonderful for her to remember the elegance of simple luminaries in front of beautiful old houses.

Please join your neighbors this year in celebrating this Astor Park tradition.

Here's how: Luminaries can be as simple as a brown paper bag filled with a little sand or kitty litter and votive candle. But there are many more ideas. For a no flame version you can use electric luminaries or even battery powered luminaries. For one of the more elaborate versions you can make ice luminaries. Other options include flame retardant bags or painted tin cans punched with creative designs.

Mark your calendar for luminary nights:

Saturday 12/1/07
 Saturday 12/8/07
 Saturday 12/15/07
 Saturday 12/22/07
 Christmas Eve 12/24/07
 Saturday 12/29/07

Here are some links you might find useful:

Electric & Battery Luminaries:

www.simplyluminaries.com

Fire Resistant Containers & Electric Luminaries:

www.flicluminaries.com

Ice Luminaries:

www.theheartofnewengland.com/LifeinNewEngland-Ice-Luminaries.html



CALENDAR



DECEMBER

6-8	Carriage Rides Down Frosty Lane	Voyageur Park, De Pere
7-8	Holiday Pops Concert	Weidner Center
7 & 8	Holiday-Fest at the NEW Zoo	NEW Zoo
7-9	Green Bay Nutcracker Ballet	Meyer Theatre
7-9	WPS Garden of Lights	Green Bay Botanical Garden
8	A Heritage Hill Christmas	Heritage Hill State Historical Park
8	Christmas Tea Party	Hazelwood Historic House
9	Breakfast with Santa	National Railroad Museum
12	A Christmas Carol	Weidner Center
12-16	Walking with Dinosaurs-The Live Experience	Resch Center
13-15	Carriage Rides Down Frosty Lane	Voyageur Park-De Pere
13-15	London Suite	St. Norbert College-Webb Theatre
14 & 15	Holiday-Fest at the NEW Zoo	NEW Zoo
14-16	WPS Garden of Lights	Green Bay Botanical Garden
15	A Heritage Hill Christmas	Heritage Hill State Historical Park
15 & 16	Breakfast with Santa	National Railroad Museum
15 & 16	Here Comes Santa Claus!	Hazelwood Historic House Museum
17	ANA Board Meeting	Call 437-3671
18	Tomaseen Foley's a Celtic Christmas	Weidner Center
21 & 22	Holiday-Fest at the NEW Zoo	NEW Zoo
21 & 22	WPS Garden of Lights	Green Bay Botanical Garden
22, 23, 26 & 30	Here Comes Santa Claus!	Hazelwood Historic House Museum
28	The BoDeans: Home for the Holidays	Weidner Center
28 & 29	WI Gun & Knife Show	ShopKo Hall
28 & 29	WPS Garden of Lights	Green Bay Botanical Garden

JANUARY

4 & 5	The Wedding Show	ShopKo Hall
6	Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Resch Center
9	NEW Truck Show	Brown Co. Arena/ShopKo Hall
12	Einstein Science Expo	ShopKo Hall
17	Gallery Night	Various Art Galleries in downtown Green Bay
17-20	WBAY RV & Camping Show	Brown Co. Arena/ShopKo Hall
18 & 19	Ikebana Show	Green Bay Botanical Garden
20	The Wood-Baer Family Organ Concert Series	Weidner Center
21	ANA Board Meeting	Howe Family Resource Center
24-27	All Canada Sport Show	ShopKo Hall
26	ANA Wine Tasting	Astor Park Homes
26	Every WEDDING Expo	SC Grand
26	Winterfest on Broadway	Broadway District

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Do you need someone to shovel the sidewalk during the wintertime? Would you be willing to rake leaves for a neighbor who cannot? One of the ways the Astor Neighborhood Association would like to strengthen our "neighborly" bonds is to connect the people in our neighborhood with needs to those in our neighborhood that can help them. Jacqueline Frank, one of the newest board members, has offered to oversee a "Neighbors Helping Neighbors" program. As she develops a

"need" pool and a "help" pool, she will be able to give volunteers assignments that meets the needs of others. So if you are willing to help out and join the volunteer pool, please contact Jacqueline at 445-0402 or email her at jdfrank@nationalrrmuseum.org to let her some of the activities that you will participate in. Additionally, if you have any needs (raking, shoveling, picking up groceries) that the program can fulfill, please contact her, as well. She will do her best to find someone to help out.



SAVE THE DATE!

9th Annual ANA Wine Tasting

A Progressive Wine Tasting Party
 Saturday, January 26, 2008 7:00 pm
 2008 Destinations: Chile,
 New Zealand, and Germany!

We're hoping to repeat the success of last year's progressive format! This year's neighborhood host homes will feature native wines and foods of Chile, New Zealand, and Germany, for what will surely be another memorable evening.

Please save the date, and look for our registration flyer to be delivered in December!

"FROST FEST"

December 8 from 1-3:30

Howe Resource Center is sponsoring an open house and afternoon of fun "winter" activities for its neighbors. All are welcome to attend. Volunteers are also needed to help the afternoon run smoothly. Games, music, crafts, snacks, prizes and fun for all ages. For more information call the Resource Center at 448-7340



WineStyles

Stop by and visit John, your Astor Park neighbor, at his new wine store near the Barnes and Noble Book Store in Ashwaubenon.

Complimentary wine tasting every Saturday from 11am-6pm, and Thursday from 3pm - 6pm.



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St. Vincent Hospital Café Latté Da

Stop in on your next neighborhood stroll for a gourmet coffee, smoothie, panini or the daily special!

Located in the 1st floor lobby off of Van Buren Street entrance. Open M-F from 5:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.



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