



The Innkeeper

Fall 2005

Newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel, Cary, NC

President's Message

By Julia Morrison

I look forward to an exciting year as your new president. It's hard to believe how much is happening!

We have formed a **Museum Task Force Committee** to investigate expanding the third-floor arts and history museum. If you're interested in participating, please contact me. We are always looking for new ideas and energy.

Anne Kratzer, Peggy Van Scoyoc and I have produced a **history of the Friends of the Page-Walker** from its conception until today. It was exciting to see all of the steps, volunteer hours, blood, sweat and tears that have gone into the preservation of the Page-Walker Hotel. All of this information has been placed on CDs for public access and will be housed in our expanded museum. We also plan to have CDs for **oral history**, the meeting minutes of the **Cary Historical Society** and the **Friends of the Page-Walker**, *The Innkeeper* newsletters and important papers such as "**the Templeton Papers**".

Carol Aupperle has assumed the role of liaison with the **Cary Chamber of Commerce** and will be attending Chamber general meetings and other functions. She will share, with many business associates, information about the Friends of the Page Walker and our goals and how we might help each other.

The next time you drive by the Page-Walker, take note of the **gardens**. They are really going to be special. Planting will begin

this fall and the **educational herb garden** will be planted in the spring.

Be sure to read about the **Historic Preservation Committee** happenings. We plan to have speakers who will tell us about all aspects of preservation, and anyone is welcome to attend our meetings. We are also working on a project to procure plaques to identify historic properties in the **Town Center Historic District**, to educate and remind the public about our heritage.

Finally, we are looking forward to our "**Big Event**" fundraiser. We have rescheduled this event to next spring to avoid conflict with the Town Hall Campus construction.

Enclosed in this newsletter is the **Friends membership Form**. This form is for both new membership and renewals. Now, with a Friends Membership, you are entitled to a **10% discount** on all classes offered at the Friends of the Page-Walker facility!

Also enclosed is the information for our fabulous **concert series**. It is going to be quite an exciting series. Come join us!

Please complete and return the **membership form** (for both new memberships and renewals) and the **concert series ticket order form today!**

The Board represents you. Please let us know what you would to see the Friends do. Thanks to everyone who has helped to make the Friends successful over the years. I look forward to working with each of you this year.

Membership Has Its Privileges!

From the membership committee

When you become a Friend of the Page-Walker, you support historic preservation and cultural arts right here in our own community.

The Friends appreciate your support, and membership does have its privileges! Every member receives this *Innkeeper* newsletter.

In addition to the newsletter, **Individual (just \$30)** and **Family (just \$50)** members receive discounts for our winter concert series.

For \$100, individuals, families and civic groups can become **Community Partner** members who receive two free tickets to our winter concert series.

A gift of \$101 - \$249 secures a **Sustaining** membership, with a complimentary copy of the wonderful book of Cary history, *Around and About Cary*, along with a discount on winter concert series tickets.

Silver Sustaining memberships (\$250-\$499) include two winter concerts series tickets.

Businesses can become Friends through a **Business** membership (\$250 -\$499) or a **Business Partner** membership (\$500 or more). Both include two complementary winter concert series tickets, and Business Partner members are recognized right here in our newsletter.

We also recognize all of our Community Partner, Sustaining and Silver Sustaining members here in The Innkeeper, too, like this:

The Friends thank our Community Partner, Sustaining and Silver Sustaining Members:

Kurt & Lee Alcorn, Michael Longmire, Ralph & Daphne Ashworth, M. M. Deaton, Phyllis Eller-Moffett, R. B. Heater, Dick & Jean Ladd, Carroll & Sheila Ogle, Dean Teitelbaum, Peggy Van Scoyoc, Brent & Laurie Miller, Bryan & Carol Aupperle, Jerry & Jean Harris

A membership form (for new memberships and renewals) appears later in this newsletter.

As you can see, for as little as \$30, you can support the mission of the Friends.

Please complete and return the **membership form** (for both new memberships and renewals) and the **concert series ticket order form today!**

Oral History Update

By Peggy Van Scoyoc

In March, we completed a fabulous interview with our own **Anne Kratzer**. She gave us a nearly flawless account of what took place to save our treasured Page-Walker Hotel from the wrecking ball (be sure to see Anne's article, "A Look Back", later in this newsletter for more insight into one period of the restoration).

The project began in 1976, completing restoration in 1994. It required many more years and many more dollars than originally estimated. Many people got involved, sharing ideas, energy and commitment, including raising money in some very creative ways. It is impressive to know that local businesses and Cary citizens raised more than **\$425,000** toward saving the hotel before the Town assumed the financial burden to finish the restoration.

Anne Kratzer spearheaded the project and led the team from the very beginning until it was completed. Since then, she has also led the development of the **Cary Museum** that opened in May, 2000, on the third floor of the Page-Walker Hotel.

It should be no surprise that Anne is a Life Member of the Friends of the Page-Walker board; her contributions are immeasurable.

Our interview with Anne brings our total count of oral history interviews to **45**. We look forward to hearing more Cary stories in the future.



The Big Event!

By Michael Longmire

The Friends will host our **Big Event** in **Spring 2006** to highlight the Page-Walker Hotel and the mission of the Friends.

We're still planning the particulars, but we hope to bring back old supporters and introduce the Page-Walker to thousands of new Cary residents who might not be aware of the historic significance of the Page-Walker family and the work that the Friends do in our community.

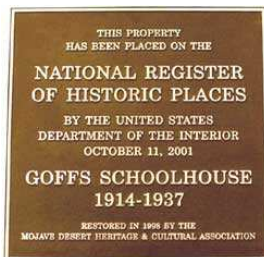
If you are interested in helping to put this event together, please join in our efforts to celebrate the history of this grand old building.

Contact **Michael Longmire** (mlongmire@nc.rr.com or 851-2560) if you have any ideas or if you would like to serve on the steering committee for this event.

Historic Preservation

From the Historic Preservation committee
Bob Myers, chair

The **Historic Preservation Committee** is excited about our speaker series planned by members **Pat Fish** and **Marla Dorrel**. Recently, we heard the details of the Town of Cary's **Carpenter Area Plan**, presented by Town Planner **Don Belk**. In the future, representatives from other preservation organizations and government agencies will discuss their methods and successes with our committee. Speaking engagements will be scheduled every other month at the Page-Walker at 6:00 p.m. and will be open to interested Cary residents.



The committee also is developing a plan to recognize contributing historic structures in the Town Center (a **National Register of Historic Places Historic District**) with plaques. We are seeking donations to purchase the plaques for this important project.

The Historic Preservation Committee meets from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Page-Walker.

A Look Back “A Seed Begins to Germinate” 1979-1983

Anne Kratzer continues her series of the history of the Friends of the Page-Walker

The effort to save the Walker Hotel illustrates the psychological challenges associated with preservation: moments of great expectations are often offset by the despair of apparent failure. These mood swings certainly characterized the effort to save the Walker Hotel, no more so than in the period from 1979 – 1983.

In 1979, the **Cary Historical Society** continued to raise awareness of the importance of a community's heritage through walking tours of the historic structures in downtown Cary, annual herb sales at the Page Smokehouse, an oral history program and presentations at civic organizations. The society's **Preservation Committee** worked in collaboration with **NC Archives and History** and Cary property owners for designation on the **National Register of Historic Places** for three Cary structures:

- the Nancy Jones House (ca. 1803)
- Lane-Bennett Place (1775)
- the Walker Hotel (ca. 1868)

The **Walker Hotel** was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1979 because of its importance in the town's early



history and its architectural significance for the town and the state. **Frank Page**, the town's founder and an astute businessman, built the hotel in 1868. The hotel was Page's response to the economic engine for change in post-Civil War Cary: the railroad. Passengers on the **North Carolina Railroad** needed a place to stay in Cary; the conveniently located hotel met this need. Page, whose business interests subsequently shifted to the Sandhills (Aberdeen/Southern Pines area of NC) sold the hotel to **J.R. Walker** in 1884. It remained a hotel until 1916 and was sold by the Walker family to **R.J. Coburn** in 1926. In 1941, **John F. Williams**, who passed the building frequently as a railroad employee and had always admired it, purchased the hotel. The architectural style of the hotel, known as *French Empire*, was most unusual for a town with a population of 300. Only a few such buildings remain in North Carolina.

Bob Strother purchased the hotel for his private residence in 1971 from Mr. Williams. Mr. Strother had planned to buy the adjacent **Page home** as well, to use it for his florist shop, but the home was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1970 before the purchase could be completed. In this excerpt from *Around and About Cary* (Tom Byrd and Jerry Miller), Mr. Strother conveys his feelings for the hotel: **"I felt it was worth saving, and I knew if someone didn't buy it, it was going to be destroyed."** The Strothers stabilized the building and welcomed guests to their home. **Cary High School** graduates tell of wonderful reunions at the Strother's home. But the cost of upkeep proved to be too great, so the Strothers offered the hotel to the Town in 1979. However, the Town could not afford it, and the Strothers moved, placing the building and more than three acres on the market in 1980.

The hotel deteriorated rapidly during the next five years (1980-1985). The roof leaked, causing major interior water damage. After each rainstorm, my family, "the bucket brigade," would bail out the third floor. There was so

much water damage on each floor that a second-floor bathtub dropped through the ceiling into the room below. Despite, or perhaps because of, its forlorn state, the hotel served as a magnet for every pigeon in Wake County and for some aspiring graffiti artists. The exterior suffered a different fate: it was becoming invisible behind a wall of overgrown shrubs and trees. By 1985, the building was valued at \$4000 and many in the community thought it was beyond repair.

Several inquiries from the business community were received during the early 1980s. Unfortunately, the condition of the building and the fact that half of it sat on the railroad right-of-way discouraged potential buyers. The Preservation Committee of the Cary Historical Society maintained contact with Mr. Strother, as well as with **Myrick Howard** of **Preservation NC** during this period. Preservation NC is a statewide organization dedicated to preserving the architectural heritage of the state. Mr. Howard had been very instrumental in working with the Cary Historical Society to save and relocate the Lane-Bennett House in 1980.



More ups and downs, including how the Friends came to be, will appear in the next issue of *The Innkeeper*!



Winter Concert Series

By Michael Longmire

A series of intimate Sunday **concerts in the Main Gallery at the Page-Walker Arts and History Center**. Tickets are by subscription or as available at the door on the date of the concert. All concerts begin at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings (dates are listed next). Contact Michael Longmire at 851-2560 or mlongmire@nc.rr.com to reserve your season ticket package or to purchase individual tickets.

October 16, 2005 - Carolina Clarinet Quartet
Presenting a program of lively and entertaining clarinet music, with a variety of music styles from French impressionist to New Orleans Dixieland jazz and much more. Works of the great French composers Milhaud, Debussy, Gound, Bloch, Deboise and others will be featured.

November 20, 2005 - Deborah Trauley and Friends
Cary's own Deborah Trauley will return to the Page-Walker for another intimate, musically eclectic cabaret performance, including jazz standards, Latin and torch classics, folk favorites and original material. Get your tickets early, this show was a sell-out the last time!

January 22, 2006 - A Grand Time for Singing
Whether it's classical, ballads, folk music or jazz, this group of talented artists is guaranteed to entertain you. Join us for a performance that will feature several local artists brought together for an evening "variety show."

March 19 , 2006 - Diversions
Local artists will present a chamber music recital that will include the works of Brahms, Massella, Jacob ter Veldhuis, Betty Jackson King and Maurice Ravel. Flute, piano, cello and two mezzo-sopranos will delight us with their music.

April 9, 2006 - Montana Skies
Jennifer and Jonathan Adams return to present another dynamic program of cello and guitar. This duo performed to a sell-out crowd two years ago and they have arranged to stop by the Page-Walker again this season while on their cross-country tour.

Season Ticket Prices:

Member of the Friends of the Page-Walker	\$40.00
Senior Citizens	\$45.00
Others	\$55.00
Individual tickets (if available)	\$15.00 each at the door

Discounts and free tickets with some membership levels! (see article and membership form in this newsletter)

All events are held at the **Page-Walker Hotel** unless otherwise specified. For more information about events, please contact the **Friends** (see contact information later in this issue).

The Resurgence of the Page Educational Gardens and Arboretum

By Anne Kratzer

We are thrilled that the **Page Educational Gardens and Arboretum** will once again provide a unique opportunity to share the knowledge and lore of past generations through plant materials. The **smokehouse**, which provides an anchor for the garden area, is the only remaining structure from the Page estate, which was once the current Town Hall property. The smokehouse was moved from its original location to the north lawn of the **Page-Walker Arts & History Center** in 1991. In 1995, the Town and Friends celebrated the formal dedication of the gardens that surround the



smokehouse, as well as the town campus arboretum. A dedicated group of volunteers designed the gardens to achieve maximum educational potential for visitors and school groups. The gardens were divided into four different herb categories: culinary, medicinal, industrial and ornamental. The volunteers participated in a spring planting day, maintained the plant materials over the summer, and enjoyed the traditional "Putting the Garden to Bed" party in the fall.

Owing to the recent town hall construction and reconfiguration of the garden areas, the herb gardens were "erased", with the exception of two bay bushes and one rose bush. Plants and people move in different ways. Not only did the plant materials move, but so did **Shaub Dunkley**, Town Horticulturist, who was a strong advocate for the gardens, an invaluable resource and effective teacher. We wish him well in his future endeavors.

Happily, the Town has hired a landscape specialist, **Carolyn Lewis**, who will guide the Town and volunteers in the design and planting of the new educational gardens. We will work on the design during the winter months and then, with the Town's assistance, plant the gardens in the spring. The gardens now have an irrigation system so maintenance will be minimized. We are very thankful to the Town's "ambassadors" (**Steve Boles, Lyman Collins, Sara Maultsby, Darrel Stover and Carolyn Lewis**) for their support of this educational opportunity.

If you are interested in participating in the **Garden Task Force** that will provide recommendations and occasional assistance, please contact **Anne Kratzer** at 467-8887.

Kudos To...

The Friends want to thank and recognize immediate past president **Michael Longmire** for his years of service to the Friends of the Page-Walker.

In particular, Mike continues to arrange the winter concert series, including the 2005 – 2006 season (details reported earlier in this newsletter). Mike searches far and wide to find unique talent and spends countless hours scheduling the concerts and handling ticket sales. Packed houses and smiling faces at every concert attest to the success of Mike's efforts.



Kudos to Michael Longmire!

About *The Innkeeper*

The Innkeeper is the newsletter of the Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel. After a period during which the newsletter was "on hiatus", the Friends have brought the newsletter back as a way to communicate with and reach out to our membership and the community.

The Innkeeper is a team effort of the Friends; editorial and production staff consists of Brent Miller and Michael Longmire.

We welcome your contributions to *The Innkeeper*. If you have articles, suggestions or ideas to share, please send them to Brent (brent@posmoroda.com).

Electronic Newsletter

You can receive your copy of *The Innkeeper* electronically. This offers convenience for you and helps the **Friends** reduce postage costs.

If you elect to receive our newsletter electronically rather than on paper, please contact Brent Miller (brent@posmoroda.com). You will receive future issues via e-mail.



Begin or Renew Your Membership *Today!*

To join the Friends, or renew your existing membership, fill out the form below and mail it with your contribution to:

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

All members receive a complimentary copy of *The Innkeeper* newsletter. Non-business donations of \$100 or more and business donations of \$500 or more will be recognized in the newsletter.

Individual, family, and civic group memberships:

- Individual \$30 (Winter concert series ticket discount)
- Family \$50 (Winter concert series ticket discount)
- Community Partner \$100 (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)
- Sustaining Member \$101 - \$249 (Includes *Around and About Cary* book, winter concert series ticket discount)
- Silver Sustaining Member \$250 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)

My employer, _____ has a matching gift program

Business memberships:

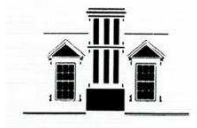
- Business Member \$250 - \$499 (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)
- Business Partner \$500 or more (Includes 2 winter concert series tickets)

Name/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail address _____



Order Concert Series Season Tickets *Today!*

To order winter concert series **season** tickets, fill out the form below and mail it with your check to:

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

Note: Some membership levels (see the membership form) include discounts or free concert tickets.

Please send me:

Of tickets at \$ _____

Total \$ _____

(Number)

(see price list below)

Price List:

Members of the Friends of Page-Walker: \$40

Non-Member Senior Citizens: \$45

Other Non-Members: \$55

Name/Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone _____ e-mail address _____



Board Members

Your Friends of the Page-Walker Hotel board members are the volunteers listed next (bold type indicates new board members being welcomed this year).

Serving on the board are Mary Adcock, Lee Alcorn, Mercedes Auger, Carol Aupperle, Cindi Baker, **John Duncan**, Winnie Ferguson, Pat Fish, Ruth Guthrie, Anne Kratzer, Mike Longmire (immediate past president), Melvin Matthews, Joy Mellon, Brent Miller, Julia Morrison (president), Bob Myers (Vice President), Olene Ogles, **Roy Perry**, Cathy Richmond, Julie Robison, Dean Teitelbaum, **Renata Thompson** and Peggy Van Scoyoc (Secretary).

The board is also fortunate to have the participation of Town of Cary staff members Lyman Collins, Sara Maulsby and Darrell Stover.

If you are interested in serving on the Friends board in the future (or if you have served in the past and would like to contribute again), please contact any board member or get in touch with us as described in the "Contact the Friends" article later in this issue.

→ [Call for Volunteers](#) ←

The Friends are seeking volunteers to help with our **Big Event**. If you can spare a little time, please contact the Friends (contact information appears later in this issue)

Calendar of Events

- **Sep. 7, 7:00 p.m.:** Board meeting
- **Oct. 5, 7:00 p.m.:** Board Meeting
- **Winter Concert Series** (see details elsewhere in this newsletter):
 - ❑ **October 16**
 - ❑ **November 20**
 - ❑ **January 22, 2006**
 - ❑ **March 19**
 - ❑ **April 9**

→ Please share this issue of *The Innkeeper* with a friend! ←



Contact The Friends

By mail:

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

By telephone:

Information about the Friends:

President Julia Morrison: (919) 469-0044

Information about Page-Walker programs: (919) 460-4963

By e-mail:

President Julia Morrison:
jkm Cary@earthlink.net

On the Web:

<http://www.friendsofthewalker.org>

Visit the Page-Walker Hotel:

Address: 119 Ambassador Loop

Directions: Located on Ambassador Loop on Town Hall Campus. The campus is off North Academy Street, between Chapel Hill Road and Chatham Street in downtown Cary.

Hours of Operation:

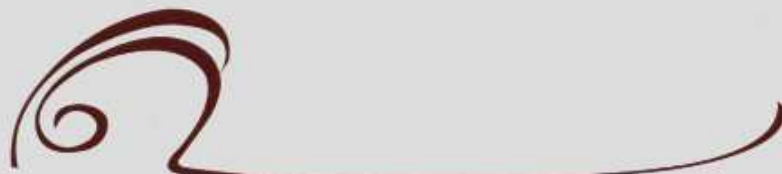
Monday – Wednesday: 10:00AM – 9:30PM

Thursday: 10:00AM - 5:00PM

Friday: 10:00AM - 1:00PM

Friday Evening - Sunday: by reservation

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



FRIENDS OF THE PAGE-WALKER HOTEL

