

THE HERITAGE

The following is an excerpted from the Capital Project Plan regarding... The Mansion's Theatre/Ballroom Project

The Mansion's Theatre/Ballroom designed by John Russell Pope will undergo an authentic restoration. The gilded wood wall surfaces are extensive and painted scenes attached to the ceilings give the room its extraordinary beauty and grandeur. The 30 x 70 foot Ballroom has never received any serious attention since 1939 when it ceased to be a private home. The detailed craftsmanship and artistry in the Ballroom sorely needs restoration. The ceilings and corners of the room are still graced with paintings, (now very dirty) in elaborate Regency frames. The woodwork is broken in places and the gilding chipped away. The decorative plaster is cracked, chipped, and broken. The floor requires refinishing and the hardware fixtures need rehabilitation. The damask-covered walls are faded from a deep rose to a pale pink with deteriorated batting. Where a "skylight" once brought light in the room, contemporary tiles and ventilation fixtures are now filling the ceiling. "The Ballroom is the center of so much of activity in the Mansion—dinners, meetings, weddings, and concerts. When I'm in the room, I'm always picturing how the room looked when the Garretts entertained. While it is still grand, time has taken its toll and the grandeur has been greatly diminished.," states Chuck Meyer.



"The intriguing aspect of the restoration has been envisioning how the room was used. What was the lighting like? What were the sounds like? Can we bring back the ambiance that existed for their parties and performances."

**Charles A. Meyer, Sr.,
 GJMETF Board Trustee overseeing
 the Ballroom Restoration**

The project is important because the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion is Baltimore's best architectural legacy of its Gilded Age. Nationally significant, it uniquely combines the work of two of America's most distinguished and influential architects who defined American taste: Stanford White and John Russell Pope. It was built with the wealth generated by the western

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Mark you calendars. Get ready. The Autumn/Holiday Season at the Mansion is Here.



1 East Guitar Quartet's Inaugural Concert Thursday November 12

This guitar quartet is a chamber music assemblage that distinguishes its repertoire from everything outside the common-practice guitar quartet pieces. Contact Patti at 410-539-6914 for reservations.



Crush at the Mansion Friday November 13 6:00 p.m. VIP Tasting \$100 per person 7:00 p.m. General Tasting \$75 per person

This year's Fall Fundraiser to benefit the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund will take you on a tour through

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THE
GARRETT-JACOBS
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ENDOWMENT FUND

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"Heritage" is distributed to members and friends of The Garrett-Jacob Mansion Endowment on a quarterly basis.

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund is to preserve and restore the Mansion as a National Historic Landmark and to share the history, architectural and civic legacy of the Mansion for the benefit and education of the public.

The Theatre/Ballroom Project from page 1

expansion of the B & O Railroad after the Civil War, under the Baltimore City Heritage Plan theme, "Gateway to Possibilities."

John Russell Pope was one of the most influential architects of his era. He went on to become the leading proponent of neo-Classicism—most notably in Washington, D.C., where he designed the Constitution Hall, the National Archives Building, and the National Gallery of Art. In Baltimore, he designed the Baltimore Museum of Art, the Masonic Temple of Scottish Rite, and the University Baptist Church. Pope was responsible for the easternmost part of the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, including the library, a hall paved in tile of buff-colored Caen marble, a supper room, and a great ballroom.

The restored Ballroom will enhance the attractions of the Heritage Area and specifically the Mount Vernon Cultural Tour. The Endowment Fund is committed to strengthening its public programming. An Advisory Council brings together historians, architects, and preservationists to develop ideas for opening the Mansion's history to increased public view and participation and to raise its visibility as an exceptional landmark of Baltimore's 19th century heritage. Through the Endowment Fund, the Mansion is partnered with the Walters Art Museum, Maryland Historical Society, Enoch Pratt Library, and

other institutions in the Mt. Vernon Cultural District, and is planning activities consistent with its heritage to further enrich a visitor's experience of the cultural attractions of Mt. Vernon Place.

The project is currently being broken up into phases which will involve applying for a grant for each phase and fundraising efforts. The total estimated project cost is **\$1.65 million**. The phases are anticipated as follows:

Phase I Skylight Restoration \$300,000
Reopen the three existing "skylight" openings to replicate their historic appearance. Provide new lighting and fire suppression system as well as upgrade existing HVAC and electrical systems to meet current code requirements.

Phase 2 Stage Restoration \$450,000
Restoration of existing stage, lighting, and backstage equipment to make the space available for more functions.

Phase 3 Finish Restoration \$650,000
Structural repairs and restoration of plaster, fabric wall covering, paneling, gilding, and hardware.

Phase 4 Wall and Ceiling Painting Restoration \$ 250,000
Restoration of existing deteriorated wall and ceiling panel paintings. ■

Have You Seen . . .

The new laminated brochure guide, *The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion, Gateway to the Gilded Age in Baltimore* located in the Mansion? This well-written informative six-panel brochure features a short history of the Garretts, a description of each of the main first floor rooms, a

section on the architects, builders, craftsmen, and decorators, ending with details on the Mansion's restoration. The inside panels follow a timeline. This **\$10** brochure is a must-read, must-keep for visitors and everyone else. You'll find it with Patti at the Front Desk.



A Brief Report on the Roof Repairs

The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion measuring 35,000 square feet is, of course, covered by roofs which support 11 chimneys, seven skylights along with rain gutters and downspouts. A new roof membrane over the entire roof is needed. Other related work includes the following items:

- Repair the large skylight over the Tiffany Stained Glass Dome. Clean the Tiffany Dome.
- Repair/Replace the seven small skylights.
- Install lead-coated copper caps over those chimneys with deteriorating bluestone caps.
- Shorten or rebuild two chimneys that have significant lean.

- Repoint the brickwork of 11 chimneys.
- Install new rain gutters and downspouts along the rear of the entire roof.
- Repoint the exterior of the brick walls of the roof access/Tiffany skylight penthouse.
- Patch and Paint the standing seam metal roof of Mrs. Garrett's third floor porch at the rear of Building 11 and install new gutters and downspouts.
- Install rain caps on all 11 chimneys.

There's more.

In order to accomplish the repairs/reinforcement from within the attic space, several preliminary items of work are

required. These items include cleaning the attic of over 125 years of accumulated trash and fine coal dust; removing a maze of abandoned electrical and data wiring and restringing haphazardly placed active wiring; and the removal, reworking and replacement of certain ductwork in the way of the new reinforcement for the planking. Who other than engineers could be the unrivaled stewards of the Mansion? ■

Thank you to Richard Magnani, Board Director and Project Manager, The Engineering Society of Baltimore.

The Fabulous Fouth Annual Golf Outing



The Garrett-Jacobs Mansion Endowment Fund and the Engineers Club held its Fourth Annual Joint Board of Directors' Golf Tournament at The Country Club of Maryland on Monday August 24. This year the tournament remained strong with

98 golfers. This year we raised **\$28,000** for the Mansion. Everyone had a great time and every golfer received a \$100 shopping spree in the Callaway golf tent.

The tournament sponsor was N.H. Yates & Company. Special sponsors were Taco Inc., AO Smith, Burnham Hydronics, Spears/Votta and Associates, Inc., Leach Wallace Associates, Inc., Whitney, Bailey,

Cox & Magnani, Johnson, Kone Elevators & Escalators, Comfort Link, Arundel Inspections, and M. Nelson Barnes & Sons, Inc. Thank you to all who contributed and volunteered their time.

Next year is sure to sell out; so mark your calendars for **Monday, August 23**. Sign up for sponsorships and register your foursome. ■

The Autumn/Holiday Season from page 1

the most well-known wine regions in the world. Excellent light fare from the region accompanies the tasting as well as live music in the courtyard. Bring your friends and join us for a great evening! **Contact Patti at 410-539-6914 for reservations.**



**Christmas Cheer at the Mansion
Concert Artists of Baltimore
Saturday December 12 at 1:00 with an
optional brunch buffet
at 11:30 a.m.
Sunday December 13 at 2:30 with an
optional brunch buffet at 12:30**

This ever-popular, eagerly-awaited holiday tradition returns with two performances on two different days to accommodate the enormous demand. **Maestro Edward Polochick**, CAB's Artistic Director and ESB member will conduct the concert and sing-along with his usual flair. There will be a tree lighting too. You may remember that Mr. Polochick volunteered his time and expertise to search for a piano replacement last year. After a full afternoon of personally trying 20 or more pianos, an excellent six-foot black Knabe grande was chosen. Originally built in Baltimore, it seemed fitting it should live its second life in the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion. The Knabe will be played at the concert.

Come to the Concert, and if you like, the optional brunch for a Christmas afternoon. Concert tickets are **\$25** for adults, **\$22**

for seniors, **\$8** for full-time college students, and **\$5** for children up to age 18. For concert reservations and more information, contact **Cheryl at 410-625-3525**. For brunch reservations, call **Patti at 410-539-6914**. ■

Tiffany Friends of the Mansion may want to use their complimentary brunches.

Coming up in the winter
Fire Ball on February 13, 2010
For more information call Chris
McCarthy at 410-579-8100

In Memoriam

Arthur G. van Reuth



Arthur G. van Reuth – The longest tenured member of The Engineers Club passed away on July 24, 2009. Mr. van Reuth joined the Club in 1935 and was the personification of a faithful club member.

Arthur G. van Reuth was born in Baltimore, Maryland on September 25, 1912. He was a graduate of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute and the University of Maryland where

he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering.

Arthur, or Otts as his many friends called him, was a Fellow and Life Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a Registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor in Delaware and the District of Columbia as well in Maryland where he was also a member of the Christie Society, honoring engineers who practiced their profession in a manner of excellence for fifty years or more.

His career involved working as an engineer with the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, the Baltimore Transit Company, the Pennsylvania Water and Power Company and various consulting firms. Otts started his own firm of van Reuth and Weidner, Inc. in 1957. He subsequently sold the firm and retired in 1977.

He was married to the late Margaret Elizabeth Opitz in 1937. Many good times and fond memories of The Engineers Club and its value to Baltimore were shared with “Marge” as she was called by her friends and family in a happy married life of 66 years. Mr. van Reuth is survived by two daughters, Linda A van Reuth and

Hedy van Reuth Hill, wife of James P. Hill, Jr., and mother of his grandson J. Pearson Hill, III.

Never without a project on an interest, Mr. van Reuth developed a 33 acre parcel of land in Phoenix, Maryland now known as Blendheim Fields; a cul-de-sac of five two-acre homes and a 23 acre conservancy lot developed into a private residence and Angus cattle farm.

Otts attended the 50 year anniversary of the Club in 1955 and often thought about the Club’s leadership which had the foresight to purchase the Mansion from the City when it had previously been scheduled for demolition to make way for an addition to the Walters Art Gallery. Mr. Russell Vollmer was Club President at the time and Otts was instrumental in the decision process. In 2005, he was the honored guest at the 100th Anniversary Dinner of the Club in recognition of his loyal membership and life accomplishments.

Mr. van Reuth was grandson of C.M.F. van Reuth, the painter of “The Disgrace of Columbus” which can be seen on the east wall of the marble stairs next to the Ballroom of the Mansion. The famous painting is prominent in the Club and is on long-term loan from the artist’s descendents. Other works by the artist are owned and now on exhibit by The Maryland Historical Society. Additionally, three paintings are on display in the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

Always interested in sharing a good joke with family and friends, he never liked to say “goodbye” but chose to say “Tootelou” – French slang for “until later”. So, “Tootelou” to Otts van Reuth. We thank you for your wonderful, caring life and for your foresight in encouraging the Club to purchase the Garrett-Jacobs Mansion as its home. We are proud of you for your many professional and personal accomplishments during a full life of 96 years and your loyalty to your beloved Club. ■