



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD

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NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK STATUS CONFERRED UPON SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *by William Tyre*

It is with great jubilation that Friends announces the designation of Second Presbyterian Church as a National Historic Landmark by the U.S. Department of the Interior. National Historic Landmark status represents the highest recognition for buildings and sites that are determined by the Secretary of the Interior to possess national significance in American culture and history. It is the only church in Chicago and one of only three in the entire state of Illinois to be so designated. Other National Historic Landmarks in Chicago include Hull House, Glessner House, Crown Hall, Robie House, and the Pullman Historic District. The program, administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, was established in 1935. There are currently 2,540 buildings and sites listed.

A press release announcing the designation of 13 new landmarks nationwide was issued by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar and Director of the National Park Service Jonathan B. Jarvis on March 11, 2013. The statement noted that "Second Presbyterian Church represents the visual and philosophical precepts of the



turn of the century Arts and Crafts design movement. Its interior, the masterwork of noted architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, presents some of the finest examples of Arts and Crafts mural painting, sculpture, stained glass and crafting in metals, fabrics, wood and plaster."

Although the 1874 Gothic Revival exterior of the church building, designed by noted architect James Renwick Jr., survives largely intact, it is the sanctuary design by Howard Van Doren Shaw that was deemed to be most significant. The carefully conceived space retains a remarkably high degree of integrity and virtually all of its

distinguishing characteristics remain intact. This is especially important in an Arts and Crafts interior where the designers strived for a unity of design with each element carefully considered as part of a larger whole. As noted in the landmark application:

"The beautiful proportions and shallow arches created by Shaw's redesign of the roof continue to provide the scale and form that define the space. The structural bays and arches organize the interior and present the setting for the proliferation of stained glass, murals, lighting and carved details that ornament the surfaces. Original materials remain throughout the church, down to the original carpeting on the stairs and balcony."

Shaw's significance should not be underestimated. Every element of the design either came from his own hand or would have been carefully reviewed by him. As a serious student of the English Arts and Crafts movement, Shaw made several trips to Great Britain, including an extended journey during 1900 while he was preparing the designs for the sanctuary. However, Shaw did not simply transplant the English style in Chicago; he

took the various elements and combined them with his own ideas and those of the Chicago School (of which he was an influential member) to create an American version of the style, which included the use of modern materials and techniques. About Shaw, the landmark application says in part:

“Unlike Wright, Shaw took a pragmatic, rather than intellectual, approach to his work. He was known to pay particular attention to his clients’ needs and requirements, and was admired for his ability to fulfill the client’s program in a creative and thoughtful way. His design philosophy was to focus on proportion, interior arrangement, light and detail. He was also obsessive about his work. His wife Frances noted that he ‘wished to do every detail himself,’ which led to his overworking and probably contributed to his delicate health. In 1926, the year of his death at the age of 57, Howard Van Doren Shaw was awarded the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Architects, the highest honor the Institute bestows on its members ‘in recognition of a significant body of work of lasting influence on the theory and practice of architecture.’ Shaw was only the fourth American architect to be recognized in this way by his peers.”

Shaw also assembled an impressive group of artisans to carry out his vision for every last detail from the wood carving to the carpeting. Chief among



these was his close friend Frederic Clay Bartlett, the creator of a series of 13 pre-Raphaelite murals including the massive Tree of Life mural on the front wall of the sanctuary. It was Bartlett’s first major commission, having returned to Chicago in 1900 after studying in Europe for several years. The two-dimensional quality of the murals integrates seamlessly with the architecture, and the style, coloration and motifs harmonize with the decoration throughout the space. Other artisans involved in the project include lighting designer Willy H. Lau, sculptors Carl Beil and Max Mauch, furniture makers A. H. Andrews & Company, and the decorating firm of Almini Company. Stained glass windows, which as a body constitute a “museum of stained glass” include important examples by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company, Tiffany Studios, Sir Edward Burne-Jones for Morris & Company, Louis J. Millet, Giannini & Hilgart, McCully & Miles, and William Fair Kline for the Church Glass and Decorating Company.

The landmark application sums up the significance of the church in the following statement:

“The collaborative group of artisans and craftsmen brought about Shaw’s Arts and Crafts vision for Second Presbyterian Church. The church stands today as it was constructed – one of the important and significant contributions to the nationally important expression of Arts and Crafts design in America.”

Note: Susan Baldwin Burian of MacRostie Historic Advisors wrote and presented the National Historic Landmark application.



Photos by James Caulfield

FRIENDS WELCOMES NEW PRESERVATION MANAGER

In January, Friends hired Lisa Napoles as the new Preservation Manager to fill the vacancy left by Katy Gallagher, who had held the position since 2010. Like Katy before her, Lisa Napoles attended the graduate program in Historic Preservation at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Previous to coming to work for Friends, Lisa worked for Landmarks Illinois, and served internships with Partners for Sacred Places, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the City of Chicago Historic Preservation Division. Lisa first visited Second Presbyterian Church as an undergraduate at Northwestern University, and attended many of Friends' lectures in the following years. Since arriving at Friends, Lisa has had the opportunity to organize the first lecture in the 2013 series and supervise the plaster repair in the northwest corner of the church.

Friends of Historic Second Church gratefully acknowledges the following memberships, donations, and contributions from December 1, 2012 – March 31, 2013.

Sanctuary Paint & Plaster Project:

Dayna Bateman
Clifford & Barbara Crawford
John Cramer &
Nate Lielasus
William Denis
Luann Elvey
Edwin Ferguson
Nicole Janas
Karen Oliver
Darlene Pollard
Kay Razzari
In honor of Ann Belletire
Marilyn Scott
William Tyre

\$5,000 - \$9,999

The Donnelley Foundation
(for the Peace Window)

\$1,000 - \$2,499

Scott Vandermyde
Chad & Lorien Yonker
Jeanne Zasadil

\$500 - \$999

Jim Barnes

Janelle Hoekstra &
Jamie McMullin
Linda Miller

\$250 - \$499

Luann Elvey
Ernie Hodge
Dale & Diane Hoekstra
T. Rand

In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Belletire

\$100 - \$249

Susan M. Aldridge
Ross Anderson
John A. Bross
Mary Bucaro
Anna Cooper-Stanton
Nan M. Drummond
Floyd & Shirley DuBois
In memory of Naomi E. Gaines
Edwin Ferguson
Elizabeth Greene
Carol J. Hall
T. Gunny Harboe, FAIA
Bill Hinchliff
Darleen & Jim Jackson
Tom Johnson &
Barbara Chasnoff
Virginia Kerr
Sandra Lancaster
William & Judy Lussie
Anne S. Martin
Rev. David Neff
Beverly K. Offen
Darlene Pollard
David & Lois Rakov
Hilda Robinson

In honor of Ruth E. Sharpe

Robert M. Sedgwick
John Vinci
Mary Kay & Stephen
Wysham

Under \$100

Gail Atkins
Steve & Kathy Belletire
Lynda S. Brodsky
Marilyn Cantisano &
Donald Southworth
Madelon Clymo
Rochelle Davis
In memory of Lorraine Coles
William Denis
Margaret Denny
Donna & Glenn Gabanski
Katy Gallagher
Richard Bremer &
Loretta Gratiot-Bremer
Kevin Hall
Allen & Mary Hoberg
Manon Kavesky
Winifred Leaf
Edward Mazur
Frank Nims
Raisa Montero
Mary E. Morton
Belle Radcliffe
In memory of Richard Radcliffe
Shelley & Liz House Reither
In honor of Belletire's 43rd anniversary
Michelle Rudnick
Joan Stinton
Linda & Daniel Tretter



Photo by Martin Cheung

**Second Presbyterian
Public Tour Schedule:**

Wednesdays
1:00-3:00pm, Free

Saturdays
1:00-3:00pm
Suggested donation \$5.00

Sundays
(after worship service)
12:15pm, Free

Friends of Historic Second Church is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Friends has welcomed four new members to the Board of Directors in the past several months. **Kurt Hyzy** is a practicing attorney and Property Committee Chairman on the Board of Elders for St. Luke Presbyterian Church in Downers Grove. He also serves as Recording Secretary of the Chicago Presbytery's Property Ministry Team. **Michael L. Shawgo** is Organist and Choir Director at Second Presbyterian Church and Manager of Technology Support Services at the law firm of Jones Day. He previously spearheaded obtaining funding and managing the

restoration of the 1925 Skinner organ at First Methodist Church. **James T. Barnes** is a lawyer with his own boutique law firm specializing in commercial litigation. A resident of the South Loop community, he has a strong interest in preservation and history. **Susan Baldwin Burian** has been a historic preservation consultant for over thirty years and is currently a Senior Affiliate of MacRostie Historic Advisors. She researched, wrote and presented the successful National Historic Landmark application for Friends of Historic Second Church on behalf of Second Presbyterian Church.

2013 LECTURE SERIES

Friends held the first lecture of the year on March 7, 2013. The lecture was given by Mel Buchanan, Assistant Curator for 20th Century Design at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Ms. Buchanan presented on the work of Grete Marks, a ceramic artist who studied at the Bauhaus and established her own factory in Germany before being forced to relocate to England during World War II. Friends would like to thank the Chicago Art Deco Society for co-sponsoring the lecture and for bringing so many CADS members to Second Presbyterian for such an enjoyable evening.

The next lecture in the 2013 series will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013. Peter Copeland will present a lecture on the Tobey Furniture Company of Chicago. Established in 1854, Tobey was one of the premier furniture manufacturers and retailers in the city for nearly one hundred years. The Edward Burne-Jones windows found in the narthex were purchased from the William Morris Room at the Tobey store. Mr. Copeland is an avid collector of Arts and Crafts furniture and the proprietor of The Parchment Press, which publishes books about the Arts and Crafts movement, including reproductions of historic furniture catalogs.

Please join us at Second Presbyterian on June 13 for Mr. Copeland's lecture, co-sponsored by the Historic Pullman Foundation. The lecture will begin at 7:00pm, with a reception offering light refreshments beginning at 6:00pm. Suggested donation is \$5.

DOCENT TRAINING 2013

Friends of Historic Second Church invites participation in its 2013 Docent Training Program. The training includes five 1-½ hour sessions beginning at 6:30pm on Wednesday evenings May 29, June 5, 12, 19, and 26 at the church.

Topics discussed will include the Arts and Crafts movement, the church's American and English stained glass windows, the Pre-Raphaelite murals, Gothic Revival architecture, architects James Renwick and Howard Van Doren Shaw, artists Frederic Clay Bartlett and Louis Comfort Tiffany, and preservation philosophy and techniques. Please visit www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org and click "Become a Docent" under Get Involved, and download the application form. Completed applications can be emailed to historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com. Call (800) 657-0687 for additional information.



Photo by Martin Cheung

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Friends of Historic Second Church invites all readers to join the campaign to restore Chicago's newest National Historic Landmark by becoming a member today. For our current members, we thank you for your past support and ask you to consider renewing your membership. Your support results in important progress being made at the church with restored Bartlett murals, historic light fixtures, doors, plaster, painting in historic colors, and more. Plus you also support Friends' educational and cultural programs including the annual lecture series and regular tours which have now reached guests from thirty-five countries worldwide. Be a part of the restoration history of this "crown jewel" of fine art and architecture. Simply complete and mail the form below or renew online at www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org.

Annual Membership Levels and Benefits

All members receive the newsletter *The Herald* and are recognized as donors in the newsletter.

Tiffany Circle: \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

Benefits include: Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise.

Arts & Crafts Circle: \$100 and above

Benefits include: Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise, and invitations to special members-only tours and programs.

I/We wish to become a member of Friends of Historic Second Church or renew a current membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for membership at the following level:

☐ **Tiffany Circle:** \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

☐ **Art & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

☐ Yes ☐ No You may acknowledge my contribution in Friends' publications.

☐ Yes ☐ No I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.

☐ Yes ☐ No I am interested in volunteering for Friends' activities.

If you wish to discuss sponsoring a restoration project, contact Friends of Historic Second Church at 1-800-657-0687.

Please return completed form with check made payable to:

Friends of Historic Second Church, 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616

Or renew online at www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org.



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1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 1-800-657-0687

E-mail: historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com

Web: www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org

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Graphic Designer: Lisa Napoles

Contributors: Bill Tyre, Ann Belletire, Lisa

Napoles, and Linda Miller.

SOUNDS OF THE SOUTH LOOP

A new musical series sponsored by the Men's Association of Second Presbyterian Church is bringing fine musicians into the sanctuary for performances twice a month. Kim Diehnelt, Artistic Director of the program, is the visionary who identifies talented musicians and unites them with the local community so that attendees can not only hear but also get to know the musicians, their instruments, and the music. Ms. Diehnelt is a conductor, composer, and artistic coach who is currently Music Director for the South Loop Symphony. She spent much of her adult life in Finland where she studied and taught; she is intent on identifying fine musicians in Chicagoland and ensuring they are seen and heard.

The Sounds of the South Loop musical offerings have varied from virtuoso violin to gospel trio to string quartet with music styles from classical to gypsy jazz to rock. Sunday concerts begin at 2:30pm and Wednesday concerts at 6:00pm. The final concert of the spring season will feature the Zephyr Ensemble on Wednesday, May 22nd. Tickets by donation can be obtained at the door or online at www.2ndpresbyterian.org/sounds-of-the-south-loop. Friends of Historic Second Church is supporting the program by offering free tours beginning 45 minutes before each concert. Concerts will resume in September.

Mission Statement

The mission of Friends of Historic Second Church is to preserve and restore the art and architecture of Chicago's landmark Second Presbyterian Church, educate a worldwide audience about its historical and cultural significance, and share those resources with the community.