



# CASS GILBERT SOCIETY

*Organized to preserve the work of Minnesota's most important architect.*

## U.S. SUPREME COURT TURNS 75 The Washington--Baltimore Report

Join the Cass Gilbert Society on **Tuesday, February 15, 2011**, at the University Club, 420 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, at 7 P.M. Members of the Cass Gilbert Society who toured Washington and Baltimore in mid-November will report on their experiences.

The presentation will focus on the U.S. Supreme Court, which celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary last fall. The group was welcomed by curator Catherine Fitts and given a wonderful behind-the-scenes tour of the building and the exhibit that had been organized by Catherine and her staff. Before our visit, the group met with C. Ford Peatross at the Library of Congress who displayed a variety of Cass Gilbert drawings, including some of the Supreme Court.

The group also toured the historic Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress with its extensive mural program, many by painters who also worked with Gilbert; the White House; and the U.S. Capitol, which helped establish context for the Minnesota Capitol.

Other Cass Gilbert structures in Washington, D.C., include the Treasury Department Annex, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Building, and the First Division Monument. Gilbert spent a fair amount of time in Washington while he was president of the American Institute of Architects and a member of the Fine Arts Commission. William Bushong of the White House Historical Association presented a lecture on Gilbert's role in helping to establish and promote the McMillan Plan for Washington in the early years of the twentieth century.

The last day of the tour was spent in Baltimore with Barbara Christen. We focused on the work of McKim, Mead and White, especially the Ross Winans House. Gilbert was the superintendent for the construction of the house in 1881, the year before he returned to Saint Paul. Other highlights included the multistory cast-iron library of the Peabody Institute and the Baltimore Cathedral.

Participants will talk about various aspects of the tour, providing personal perspectives and relating the buildings and sites to Cass Gilbert's larger career. Several of the group have provided photographs for the presentation. Refreshments will be served following the lecture. Admission is free to members and students and is \$5.00 for non-members.



Members of the Cass Gilbert Society at the 75th Anniversary Exhibition at the U.S. Supreme Court.

*Photo: Andrea Hackman, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States*

## CELEBRATING THE TEMPLE OF JUSTICE

On December 27, 2010, the *New York Times* celebrated the U.S. Supreme Court anniversary in an editorial titled, **Temple to Justice**: “Seventy-five years ago, the Supreme Court heard the inaugural arguments in its new building across from the United States Capitol. The architect, Cass Gilbert, designed a Greco-Roman temple, with imposing marble columns and immense bronze doors. He intended it to be a monument to justice, and he succeeded.”

The editorial also cites Judith Resnik and Dennis Curtis who have co-authored *Representing Justice: Invention, Controversy, and Rights in City-States and Democratic Courtrooms* (Yale University Press, 2011). It is a comprehensive review of the iconography of justice, its architecture and the law, spanning a period of 1500 years and all continents. One chapter focuses on William Howard Taft and his role in transforming the role of the U.S. Supreme Court and the creation of the Cass Gilbert courthouse, which they describe as a major symbol of the essential role of American courts in our democracy.

## ANNUAL MEETING NEWS 2010

The Cass Gilbert Society board held its annual meeting on December 5, 2010. Officers for 2011 are: Ted Lentz, president; Cindy Stephani, vice president; Sheila Terryll, secretary; and Carolyn Nayematsu and Vincent Platt, co-treasurers. Board members are Nicholas Marcucci, Sonja Mason, Marjorie Pearson, Jean Velleu, Art Weeks, and Wendy Weimer. Wendy has completed two terms as president and joins Marjorie and Jean as a *president emerita*. Background information about Ted and Carolyn was published in the September 2010 Newsletter. Jim Hirsh remains the general counsel and has been joined by Nathan Stone Buttleman as associate counsel. Linda Bjorklund remains as fundraising coordinator.

Bonnie Alton, Charles Neimeyer, and Jane Tschida have stepped down from the board. We are appreciative of their service over the years.

At the meeting, the board also adopted changes to the by-laws to simplify some of the language and clarify the length of the terms of officers and board members. The text of the by-laws is available at [www.cassgilbertsociety.org](http://www.cassgilbertsociety.org).

## RENEW YOUR SUPPORT FOR 2011

Please use the enclosed form to renew your Cass Gilbert Society support in 2011. Our records are maintained on a calendar year basis, with the expiration date noted on your address label. We encourage you to provide your email address if you have one. It will only be used to send out announcements between publication dates of the Newsletters.

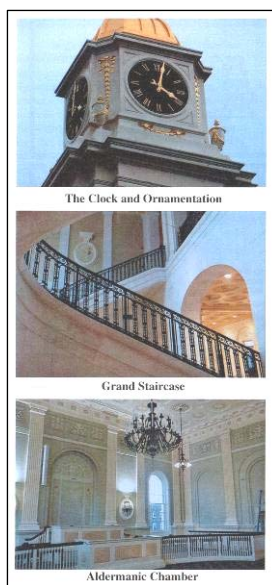
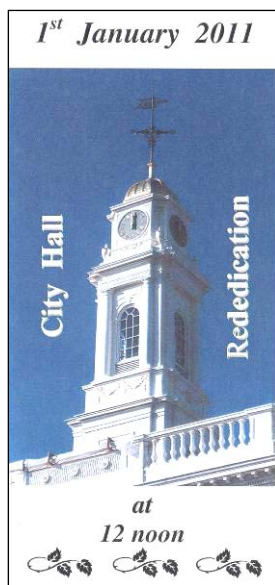
You can show your support at various levels and any contributions above the basic level are much appreciated. Your support ensures that you will receive our quarterly Newsletter via U.S. mail, free admission to lectures, reduced fees for local tours, and eligibility to participate in regional tours. Your contributions are the major source of funding for operating expenses for our all-volunteer organization.

You may also donate online through **GiveMN.org**. Click on “Donate” and enter Cass Gilbert Society in the search box.

## WATERBURY CITY HALL REDEDICATION, JANUARY 1, 2011

The renovation of the Waterbury City Hall was celebrated on January 1, 2011, with a public celebration on the steps of City Hall. **Helen Post Curry**, Cass Gilbert Society member and great-granddaughter of Cass Gilbert, represented the Society. Waterbury mayor Michael J. Jarjura issued an invitation in the *Waterbury Republican-American*: "Today, as we see the building revealed in its original splendor, we can all take pride in what we have accomplished. I invite residents to walk the newly restored, gleaming marble halls; to gaze at the delicately painted pastel ceilings; to climb the grand staircase lit by the tall stained-glass windows; and to sit underneath the restored brass chandeliers in the Aldermanic Chambers. It will take your breath away!"

The citizens and public officials of Waterbury are to be commended for restoring an important part of the city's heritage. The architects for the renovation were DeCarlo & Doll of Meriden, Connecticut. The Waterbury Development Corporation was the project manager.



Helen Post Curry speaking at the rededication  
*Photos: City of Waterbury*

## CEDARHURST MANSION FOR SALE

**Cedarhurst**, the historic estate of Cordenio A. and Mary Harriman Severance in Cottage Grove, Minnesota, is on the market through Coldwell Banker Burnett (MLS# 3994394). Between 1911 and 1917, Gilbert enlarged the house that Mary Severance had inherited from her grandfather and added the magnificent ballroom wing with its giant columned portico. Because of Severance's political connections, the house was visited by many prominent guests. In recent years, it has been in use as center for conferences and special events. For more information about the house and site, please contact Donna Preston, 651-336-2084.





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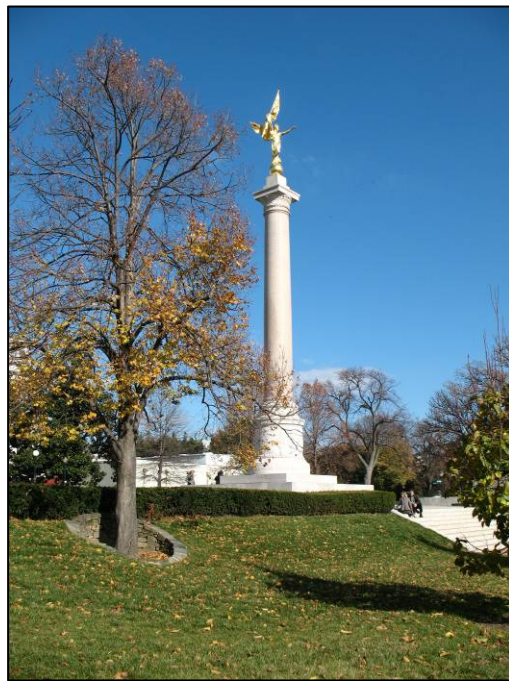
**Our Mission**

To preserve our cultural heritage through advancing scholarship in and appreciation of Cass Gilbert's influence on American architecture.

The Cass Gilbert Society, Inc., is a non-profit tax-exempt organization under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. All contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

**Officers and Board**

Ted Lentz, *President*  
Cindy Stephani, *Vice President/Programs*  
Sheila Terryll, *Secretary*  
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Linda Bjorklund, *Fundraising*  
James Hirsh, *General Counsel*  
Nathan Stone Buttleman, *Associate Counsel*



U.S. Supreme Court (top)  
First Division Monument (right)  
*Photos: Marjorie Pearson*