

# *Celebrating 130 Years*



## *THE GLENDALE LYCEUM*

*Tradition – Friendship – Community*

## *Special thanks ...*

*This document was originally created and distributed by the 2002 Board of Directors and 2002 Director's Ball Committee. We are grateful for their hard work in preparing such a thorough and thoughtful account of the Lyceum's history.*

*Many thanks to the 2002 Board & Director's Ball Committee:*

*Chuck & Carol Poston*

*Michael & Ashley Todd*

*Angie & Tom Larimer*

*Jim & Donna Wesselman*

*Elizabeth & Steve Goldman*

*Rick & Lisa Spaulding*

*Candi & Bob Caress*

*John & Beth Smith*

*John & Caroline Schiff*

## *Welcome!*

What first comes to mind when you think of the Glendale Lyceum? Is it a son or daughter's wedding, dinner of the month, the annual tennis tournament, or the many summer evenings spent at TGIF with friends and family? Perhaps it's the wonderful Director's Balls or the many springtime events you and your friends have attended over the years.

Whatever comes to mind is sure to include happy occasions with friends and family. This year we celebrate the Lyceum's 130th anniversary. Founded by Robert Clarke, the Lyceum has played host to countless special events in each of your lives and those of your ancestors. What fun and excitement every generation has had over the last 130 years!

At the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Director's Ball, we invite you to view the early days of the Lyceum, learn the challenges under which the founders worked, the trials they faced and trace the traditions established for all to enjoy. Photos of the founders, minutes from their meetings and many other mementos from the early days will surprise and delight you.

*The 2012 Board of Directors would like to thank you for making the Lyceum a part of your family tradition, and we wish you a fun and memorable evening!*

# *Our Founder*

## *The Glendale Lyceum*



**Mr. Robert Clarke** [May 1, 1929 – August 26, 1899] is considered the father of the Lyceum. He was its first president and was active in its management during the remainder of his life. At his memorial service, October 2, 1899, held in the ballroom of the Lyceum, the stage was flanked with palms and in front on an easel stood a portrait of Mr. Clarke framed in autumn leaves. The Chairman of the service was Mr. Robert P. Hargitt, who said of Mr. Clarke: “Mr. Clarke was the founder of the Lyceum, its earliest, best and staunchest friend. The library, consisting of nearly 5,000 volumes, has been in large measure Mr. Clarke’s personal gift... Reuben Springer loved music, and he gave Cincinnati her Music Hall; McMicken loved learning, and he endowed a University; Henry Probasco was a philanthropist and loved the artistic, and he presented the Queen City with a bronze fountain, unequalled in the world... Robert Clarke loved Glendale, books, and literary culture, and he founded the Glendale Lyceum... I really believe that it was the proudest moment of his life, when after years of work and waiting, he, with his

own hands, on that glorious Fourth of July, 1891, laid the cornerstone of this building, which was to be the realization of his hopes and consummation of his original plans..."



## *The Lyceum is Born 1882 to 1914*

In 1882 Robert Clarke asked a few Glendale gentlemen to meet at his home for the purpose of establishing a non-profit organization. The constitution they adopted stated that the object of the Lyceum was “...to promote higher education, to promote social and friendly relations among its members and to provide literary, musical and social entertainment for them...”

After several meetings in his home, the Glendale Lyceum was formed in the fall of 1882. After nearly 18 months of planning, the first formal meeting was convened on November 3, 1883 at Glendale Town Hall. The primary service provided its members in the early years was that of a lending library. A full time librarian was employed. Mr. Clarke, who was a prominent local publisher, presented many of the fine volumes still on display in the front library.

Glendale was a very different place to live back then...no phones, no cars nor buses...only horse-drawn carriages and the train. In the words of Mr. Clarke: “When we want to go to the city to a concert or a play, it is quite an undertaking. The CH&D Railroad has only two evening trains from Cincinnati to Glendale, the 9:30 and the 11:45. Well, the one is too early and other made for a long wait. I sought to find a solution to the problem and on October 2 called a meeting of Glendale men with like concerns.” Clarke’s Roll Call, as recorded in the minutes, included the following

gentlemen. You may recognize the names of some of our current members who are descendants of these founders.

Mr. H.W. Hughes

Mr. Walter St. John Jones

Mr. Samuel H. McMullin

Mr. Mortimer Matthews

Mr. C. W. Withenbury

Mr. Alfred Allen

Mr. Edwin L. Lowenree

Mr. George K. Thompson

On December 4, 1883, a committee appointed by the President closed the lease for the lower part of the Town Hall at a rental of \$1.00 per week including heat; they further requested that \$250 be raised immediately for furnishings. These quarters were used for three years, and then in December of 1885, \$5,000 was raised to buy a lot and build the Lyceum's current building. The work went on for some years the Glendale Lyceum was completed and furnished for \$22,015.73.

The money proved to be somewhat difficult to raise. In the mid-1880's, as today, the Lyceum was seeking new members and encouraging existing members to "pay-up". A letter sent to members read: "To join or not to join, that is the question. Whether it is nobler in the mind to suffer the lack of books and sweet companionship or pay up our \$2 like a man." [214 members paid their dues for the year.]

“This amount, along with dividends from our Little Miami RR stock and income from our entertainments, has out total available assets at \$925.33.” – Mr. John Moores, Treasurer, 1887

Constructing the Lyceum was fraught with problems. Mr. Graveson, the contractor and a member of the Lyceum, was charged with having done the work incorrectly. The cost exceeded the bid by \$7,000. Compounding the problem, the architect, Mr. H. Neil Wilson had moved to Pittsburgh. The controversy raged on until Samuel Hannaford, the renowned architect who designed Music Hall and Cincinnati City Hall, was engaged as arbiter and settled the dispute.

In a spectacular Fourth of July celebration in 1891 Mr. Clarke proudly laid the cornerstone. The headline of the local paper, the Glendale Monitor, proclaimed: “A day of Glory! Lyceum Cornerstone Laid on a Brilliant Sunny Day!”. The day’s festivities began with a baseball game between nine married men and nine bachelors. The outcome was not reported.

Through the 1880’s and the “Gay ‘90’s” the club’s activities covered a broad range of interests indicative of the times...lawn tennis, annual country fairs, billiards, children’s events, Saturday night assemblies, the Operetta “Penelope” (for the benefit of the piano fund), “Hunt the Slipper” (a farce performed by the Dramatic Club), a minstrel show by the men, and tableaux by the women.

Until 1899 the Lyceum Board was comprised entirely of men. The solution was addressed in the Board's minutes: "It has been suggested that the ladies should be given places on the Board of Directors. In compliance with this suggestion, a ticket is now presented composed entirely of ladies." – Mr. Robert Clarke, Secretary January 1899

Six male directors resigned *whose terms had not yet expired*. Six ladies were elected to fill the vacancies thus created. Mrs. Alfred Allen was elected the Lyceum's first woman president. It should be noted that from 1899 until 1907 women ran the Lyceum. In 1907, it was once again turned back to the men and the ladies with unexpired terms resigned. The men immediately revised the constitution to hopefully head off a future problem. The next woman elected was Mrs. William Duffield Shardelow (Peggy) in 1983...76 years later! Since that time, several women have served as President and Members of the Board of Directors.

Another significant event occurred in 1908. It was moved and seconded on March 6 that the investment fund acquire 10 shares of Procter & Gamble stock. Needless to say, that humble investment proved to be most wise.

In 1908, the Lyceum offered its members a facility for athletic activities, enlarging its already popular lecture and musical series. Following a national trend, a bowling alley was constructed in the basement. The original plans and pricing for the bowling alley

are on display at the Director's Ball. Tennis courts were constructed in 1910 and tennis has remained one of the Lyceum's most popular sports. Indoor badminton in the meeting hall became a rivaling activity in the early 1930's, but over time waned in popularity.

In 1912, the athletic grounds west of the Lyceum were purchased with the aid of a generous donation from William Cooper Procter to complete the site of our existing Lyceum.

## *Lyceum Highlights 1915-1925*

As the second decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century waned, war clouds were gathering in Europe and its effects were felt by our membership. On June 5, 1917, ten million Americans registered for the Army draft. From a Lyceum membership of only 176, twenty members enlisted:

Marston Allen

George Merrill

Ward Buchanan

Roland Richardson

Harry Brown

Stuart Thompson

Mary Johnston

Harold Libble

Robert Green

Robert Richardson

Milton Brown

R. K. Rogan

Mrs. Horace Gray

Dr. Rufus Southwirth

Dr. Robert Allen

William Matthews

Charles Burchenal

Alvin Schoeff

John Darnell

Maurice Wilson



“Our past year has not been one of very much gaiety, but rather, our minds and our resources have been turned to those things whereby we could best help and serve the country at large. Each of us has been called upon either to fight, to give, to work, or to lend.” *From the Annual Report in 1919*

Then came the Roarin' Twenties. Prohibition was passed. Skirts were short and hair was bobbed. At the assemblies, our members were dancing the Charleston, the Black Bottom and the Shimmy.

On May 31, 1920, the Lyceum sponsored its first children's party on the Lyceum grounds. Everything was free. Professor Stock, the world famous magician entertained while the children enjoyed a shooting gallery, doll babies, pony cart rides and ice cream cones. There was music all afternoon and evening and a May pole dance. The evening culminated with a picnic supper after which the children of all ages went home exhausted.

IN 1927, much of the North end of Glendale was deluged when the water tower on Sharon Road collapsed. Not only did the water tower collapse, so did the Stock Market! And the Roarin' Twenties screeched to a halt

## *Lyceum Highlights 1930's*

Despite the Depression, attitudes of our members remained positive. Life, sports, fun and assemblies continued. In November 1933, a grand celebration was held to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Glendale Lyceum. Almost the entire membership was in attendance. In addition to a "Special Tea Table," a lovely dinner was held, a string orchestra played old fashioned music and a golden anniversary birthday cake was enjoyed by all. In 1934, the annual party was put on by the wives of the Directors, hence, the name of this even was changed to the Director's Ball.

At the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Reverend Dill Wilson, Pastor Emeritus of Glendale Presbyterian Church gave the following invocation: *"Almighty God our father, we thank thee that as generations come and go, we who come last become heirs of the past and its treasures with duties and responsibilities to preserve and increase and pass on that which is committed to us. We pray that all members may feel the responsibilities to nurture the institution committed to our trust. Amen."*

During the following years, regulation Badminton courts were installed in the "assembly room." Meal service was prepared every Thursday evening and a table "Summer Bachelors" was reserved during the summer. The custom of serving tea and sandwiches at the tennis courts on Saturday afternoon was revived. The Lyceum was remodeled

and redecorated and the Dramatic Club put on the play, "The Perfect Alibi" by A. A. Milne.

## *Lyceum Highlights 1940's*

The Lyceum changed radically with the advent of the Second World War. In a Board meeting on December 7, 1941, it was resolved: "Any member who is away from home on active duty with the armed forces...of the United States or her allies will upon action of the Board be continued in membership without payment of dues."

By 1944, 62 of our members were serving in the Armed Forces. Their names are inscribed on an Honor Roll at the Lyceum. When you read the plaque, you will recognize many of the names of these men and women who served our country. Several of them were sons and daughters of those members who served in the First World War and some are the ancestors of current members. Major James Carruthers wrote to the Board of Directors, reminding members to treat the American flag with the proper respect and ensure its being lowered each evening at sunset from the Lyceum flagpole.

## *Lyceum Highlights 1950's*

This was the decade of Sputnik and Sinatra, Elvis and the Baby Boom, Bing Crosby and the Big Bands. Many well-known entertainers appeared at the Lyceum such as Duke Ellington, Lionel Hampton and Louis Armstrong.

The Lyceum had its own band: Carl Lehmann on piano, Pat Johnson on drums, Bob Thompson on clarinet, Louis Allen on bass, and the talented Grace Hamilton as vocalist. There were theme dances and Rock 'n Roll jitterbug dances for teens.

The fifties brought us the first children's bicycle parade on Memorial Day, our first swimming pool and the paddle tennis courts.

The 1958, the Lyceum turned 75 and the occasion was again celebrated with a gala dinner and dance. Entertainment was provided by the Glendale Men's Chorus, vignettes from 1882 and 1883, as well as a Diamond Jubilee of Fashion.

The silver-toned program states: "...the general character of the Lyceum has not changed much. It was organized to be a family gathering place, and to provide literary, musical and social entertainment. Seventy-five years later it still tries to provide much the same."

## *Lyceum Highlights 1960's and 1970's*

Early in the 60's, much progress was made at the Lyceum; two new all-weather trampoline tennis courts were constructed; new blacktop parking lot was laid; and a sparkling new upstairs kitchen was built to replace an older one on the lower level.

The 70's was a time of great turmoil within our country; Vietnam, sit-ins, protests, defiance of authority, and a general feeling of unrest. The Lyceum was not totally immune. Vandalism became a major problem...breaking and entering, broken lights, broken doors, and defacing of the property. The pool was the focus of many protests as well as practical jokes. One morning the children arrived for their swimming lessons to find the pool full of frogs. The kids had a ball! One of the lifeguards quit.

During those years, Jackie Knapp directed our young people in "The Mikado" and "Student Prince". She added a new dimension by combining adults with children in the production of "Oliver". Other dramatic pursuits included: "Sound of Music", "On a Clear Day", "Peter Pan", "Dames at Sea", "Parcifal" and "Damn Yankees"... and those were only the musicals.

Lynn Murray was out talented choreographer. Patsy Cockerill was out set designer extraordinaire. Tom Ratliff was our master electrician. Like today, these major productions required a major investment in time and effort on the part of the many

Lyceum members. These musicals and plays produced by the Dramatic Club were continuous from the 1880's into the 1980's with "South Pacific", "Black Comedy", "The Mouse Trap", "Where's Love" and many more.

Parents were on stage with their children, grandparents with grandchildren and on several occasions, three generations were performing together as occurred in the more recent production of "Carnival".

The 70's brought us the Silver Screen dance with the Tom Todds costumed as Clark Gable and Carole Lombard...and who could ever forget Howard Ecker bearing his torch into the Olympic Ball...or the Disney Party with hosts Minnie and Mickey Limbocker. Grace Hamilton and Tom Allen got their golf clubs together and started a Lyceum 9-hoel twilight league...Peg and Duff Shardelow ran the annual college paddle tennis tourney between Christmas and New Years to encourage the college set to get together after being scattered across the country.

As it is today, the Director's Ball was open to our young people when they reached the age of 16. For many of them it was their first formal affair. They came with their parents, displaying their best manners and firmest handshakes. Fathers danced with daughters, mothers with sons, grandparents with grandchildren. It was an event looked forward to with great anticipation by all. Sometime in the 80's, the tradition stopped and then was reinstated several years later.

## *Lyceum Highlights 1980's and 1990's*

In 1983, the Glendale Lyceum celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. David and Grace Hamilton chaired the Centennial year. It seemed somehow fitting that Peggy Shardelow (our first woman President since 1907) was presiding at this momentous occasion. There were many parties and events, all of which carried themes from the earliest days of our history...even a Fourth of July tennis match played in period dress with 1880 racquets. *(Yes, some of our members still had these heirlooms.)* On October 22, the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ball featured a memorabilia exhibit, dinner and dancing with a program of sketches and songs, all with the theme of "Looking Back". A giant birthday cake with 100 candles was the centerpiece of the evening.

The decade of the 90's has left its own mark...our beautifully remodeled facility, new pool, wonderful multi-purpose building, refurbished and heated paddle courts, the rebirth of our wonderful Dramatic Club...all accomplished through countless hours of volunteer help from our membership in the true Lyceum tradition.

How can anyone forget the climactic end of this decade? People throughout the world waited in anticipation for the birth of not only a new century, but a new Millennium. Not to be outdone, the Glendale Lyceum set to work months in advance planning and executing the most spectacular New Years' Eve Ball we've ever seen.

Under the direction of Nicholas MacConnell, a ground-breaking multi-media production was designed and executed so that we were able to watch the beginning of the New Millennium as it occurred around the world.

## *Lyceum Highlights - The Second Millennium*

130 years have passed since the founding of The Glendale Lyceum, and what a blessing it has been. Many of our members can trace their lineage back to the founders of our club. Friends and families continue to make the Lyceum the wonderful place it is. Many activities have quickly become tradition.

Kids Camp, going strong after many years, is where the tradition begins for the newest generations. Six weeks of summer fun guided by a Camp Director, tennis coaches, teen and pre-teen camp counselors as well as parent volunteers bring crafts, tennis lessons, swimming and off-site field trips to life as the beginning of lifelong friendships blossom in our youngest members. As the kids become teens, they teach the young ones, and the tradition is passed along about what it means to be a part of the Lyceum family.

The Lyceum Pavilion, build in 2009 holds weekly TGIF Cookouts throughout the summer kicking off on Memorial Day weekend and ending on Labor Day weekend. TGIS's highly anticipated Friday evenings are full of lively conversation, laughter, dance parties for the

kids, socializing, fun and swimming 'til dusk. The Pavilion is also host to numerous parties including family reunions, birthdays and other social events.

Cheers! 2013 will see the unveiling of a completely renovated basement in the “English Pub” style (*currently under construction*). Lyceum members will be able to come together all year long in this new gathering space. Certainly it'll be a place where everybody knows your name! We are grateful for the time, skill and labor donated by a host of our talented members to make this happen.

The Lyceum has experienced tremendous growth and welcomed so many wonderful families into its history, yet it remains true to its founders' ideals and vision: “...to promote higher education, to promote social and friendly relations among its members, and to provide literary, musical and social entertainment for them...”

Let us come together once again as the guardians of this truly remarkable tradition and celebrate what these founding visionaries set into motion as we wish the Glendale Lyceum a Happy 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.