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Cheney Mansion History

In 2007, Cheney Mansion was renovated in cooperation with the Infant Welfare Society Designer Showcase. A 1970 Survey of Historic Buildings in Oak Park describes Cheney Mansion as a "simplified rectilinear design of first rank in architectural quality, significance, and originality." The architect, Charles E. White, Jr., a graduate of MIT, came to Oak Park after marrying local resident Alice Roberts. For two years, beginning in 1903, White worked in Frank Lloyd Wright's studio, and was strongly influenced by Wright's credo that a building should express the spirit of its natural surroundings. White also designed a number of Oak Park residences and the Oak Park Post Office. Jens Jensen, a well-known landscape architect, worked with White on several projects.

One of White's most important works, the 12,000-square-foot Cheney Mansion, designed in 1913 boasts many handsome reception rooms, six bedrooms, seven bathrooms, and separate servants' quarters. The two acres of beautifully-landscaped grounds also include a coach house and a greenhouse. Located in the Historic District of Oak Park, the home was built for the Sharpe family. In 1922, it was purchased by Andrew and Mary Dole. Their niece, Elizabeth Cheney, inherited the mansion in the late 1940s. Though she deeded it to the Park District of Oak Park in 1975, no funding was designated for its support.

A Perfect Setting

The Mansion, with its spacious rooms and landscaped grounds, is available for your most special occasions: weddings, private parties, recitals, memorial services, luncheons and tours. It provides the perfect setting for corporate seminars, meetings and receptions. For more information, please visit our website: www.cheneymansion.com.

Find Kids Cook! on page 38 and Cheney Cooks! on page 65.

The Park District of Oak Park's Cheney Mansion provides a unique venue for recreation programs, special activities and community events for the enjoyment of Oak Park residents and is a distinctive locale for private meetings and celebrations.

Classical Recital: Krasnova & Kaler

Su, Mar 1 at 3pm at the Mansion

Pianist Svetlana Krasnova and violinist Ilya Kaler perform Mozart, Tchaikovsky, Leclair, Ysaye, M. de Falla, Kreisler and Wieniawski. Mr. Kaler is the only violinist to win Gold Medals at all three of the world's most prestigious competitions. Ms. Krasnova, who currently teaches at College of DuPage, has a Masters degree in piano performance and a Doctorate of the Musical Arts degree in collaborative piano from the Gnesin Academy of Music, and has performed as a soloist and chamber musician in Russia, Canada and the U.S. \$15 at the door. Call (708) 383-2612 for more information.

Special Sunday Tours

Su, Mar 15, 1-4pm
Hoping to book an event at Cheney Mansion, but having a tough time finding a way to visit during the week? Call (708) 383-2612 to schedule an appointment for your event rental tour on March 15 between 1-4 p.m.

Walk-In Wednesdays

**Wednesdays, 11am-4pm
Apr 1 - May 20**
Open House! Explore the mansion on a self-guided tour. Light refreshments. No admission fee, but please bring a non-perishable food item for donating to the Oak Park Food Pantry.

Spring Plant Sale

Su, May 17, 10am-3pm
Cheney's annual sale featuring a wide selection of perennials, hand-raised heirloom tomatoes, peppers, and unusual flowering vines.

Friends of Cheney

Get involved! Interested in sharing your time and talent with a supportive group of Cheney Mansion enthusiasts? Call the mansion at (708)383-2612 for further information.

GREEN Sunday: Community Open House

Su, Apr 19 from 1-4pm
Think Green! Think spring! Enjoy a Sunday afternoon of environmentally-friendly activities and demonstrations. We're talking gardening, composting, worms, nature prairie gardens, and respect for the planet. Please bring the kids to decorate their own reusable cloth lunch bag, and the whole family can participate in the Garden Scavenger Hunt and other fun projects. Then come inside to watch a cooking demo, visit with our eco-friendly vendors, check out the Event Rental area, and take a self-guided tour of the mansion.

Mother & Daughter Scrapbooking at Cheney Mansion (Ages 5+)

Moms, spend quality time with your daughter creating a beautiful paper album keepsake of favorite memories. Albums also make great gifts for family members and friends. All supplies and tools will be provided by Oak Park Independent Creative Memories Consultant Kari Harris, who will guide you in crafting your 14 page album and embellishing it with stickers, title sticker sheets, die cuts & more. Bring 25-30 photos, 4" x 6" or smaller. Light refreshments are included, and each Mom-Daughter duo will receive a goody bag. Includes light refreshments.
Sa, Apr 4 \$40 per pair
(cost includes one album, \$25 for each add'l album)
10am-Noon #271175-01
Min 5 pairs(10 people) /Max 15 pairs (30 people)

All Day Scrap at Cheney Mansion (Ages 16 & up)

Sa, Mar 21, 8am-4pm
Looking for a quiet, well-lit local setting which allows you to leisurely work on your latest scrapbooking project? Choose your work space from a variety of round and rectangular tables placed in the spacious, airy rooms on the first floor. Consultant Kari Harris will be on-hand to help you if needed, and give free demonstrations on digital photo organization and digital scrapbooking using Creative Memories software. Door prizes will be awarded throughout the day, plus each attendee receives a goody bag. Convenient, free parking.
Sa, Mar 21 Fee: \$85
8am-4pm #241185-01
Min 10/Max:20