



Historic Pleasant Home

217 S. Home Ave., Oak Park, IL 60302

Ph: (708) 383-2654

Fax: (708) 383-2768

www.pleasanthome.org

Laura Thompson, Executive Director
mahergw@sbcglobal.net

Georgia Braun, Program Manager
Carol Garman, Volunteer Coordinator

About Pleasant Home

Pleasant Home is a National Historic Landmark building designed in 1897 by noted Prairie School architect George W. Maher for investment banker and philanthropist John W. Farson. Pleasant Home is one of the earliest and most distinguished examples of Prairie architecture in the country and has one of the best-preserved interiors of that design era. Visitors experience the extraordinary art glass, custom furniture, intricately carved woodwork, and unique design details in this historical and architectural treasure through guided tours. The Pleasant Home Foundation, a non-profit organization established in 1990, is dedicated to restoring, preserving, and operating this 30-room architectural landmark as an historic house museum.

Tours

Tours are offered year-round to individuals and groups. School groups are welcome. Our tour program is the perfect "hands-on" learning experience to complement a curriculum encompassing history, arts, or architecture. Pleasant Home can also provide breakfast, lunch, tea or dinner for group tours. The first floor is wheelchair accessible.
General tours: Th-Su: 12:30pm, 1:30pm, and 2:30pm (Dec 1-Feb 28: 12:30pm and 1:30pm only. Closed major holidays.)
PHF members: Free Individuals: \$5 Students: \$3
For group tours and rate information, please call Georgia Braun at (708) 383-2654.

Rental Opportunities

The many spacious rooms, layout, and expansive windows looking onto the four-acre park make Pleasant Home a truly wonderful setting for the most intimate meetings or festive affairs: corporate meetings, luncheons, private parties, wedding ceremonies, and receptions. John Farson, a civic leader in the Oak Park community, was the original owner of the home and frequently opened his residence and grounds for grand gatherings. We welcome your event to Pleasant Home. Call Georgia Braun at (708) 383-2654 for rental information.

Pleasant Home 2009 Lecture Series

"Beyond Burnham - Historic Town Planning"

In celebration of the centennial of Daniel Burnham's 1909 Plan of Chicago, Pleasant Home Foundation and the Oak Park Library present an intriguing lecture series "Beyond Burnham - Historic Town Planning." The lecture series will be presented free-of-charge at 7pm on the following dates at the Oak Park Public Library. Join us as we look at how great designers planned communities here and around the world.

For more information, contact Pleasant Home Foundation, (708) 383-2654, mahergw@sbcglobal.net or visit www.pleasanthome.org.



Thursday, March 5

George W. Maher's Village of Kenilworth, 1889, 1896
Donald Aucutt, Maher architectural historian, editor of PRAIRIE magazine

Thursday, March 12

Walter Burley Griffin's Rock Crest Rock Glen, Mason City, Iowa 1911-1917; and Canberra, Capital of Australia 1911-1917
Paul Kruty, Professor of Architectural History, University of Illinois at Urbana

Arts programming through Pleasant Home Foundation is sponsored in part by grants from the Oak Park Area Arts Council and the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.

Pleasant Home Special Events

Festival Theatre

"Arms and the Man" by George Bernard Shaw at Pleasant Home, dates below

Pleasant Home is the perfect setting for Festival Theatre's in-the-round production of George Bernard Shaw's witty "Arms and the Man". Set in the late 19th century, it is a satire on the foolishness of romanticizing war -- and romance itself. Along the way, Shaw comments on social class and its foibles. The play will open on Monday, March 9, and will be presented Wednesdays through Sundays until March 29. The curtain goes up at 7:30pm except for the Sunday matinees at 4pm. Contact 708-445-4440 or visit www.oakparkfestival.com for tickets and information.

Exploring a Landmark: Design and Detail at Pleasant Home For Ages 8-12

Architectural Educator, Chris Payne will lead a two-day class at historic Pleasant Home teaching students age 8-12 to experience and appreciate the work of architect George Washington Maher. This class includes the basics of architectural design and drawing, "treasure hunt" to find and sketch various motifs in this historic mansion, and an interactive lecture to help students age 8-12 "really see" architecture design and detail.
F, Jun 19 and 26 \$45
9am-1pm
Register through Pleasant Home, (708) 383-2654

Things to Do At Pleasant Home

PLEASANT HOME GIFT SHOP

We have books, jewelry, pottery, scarves, stationery, wrapping paper and lots more! You'll find a unique gift for yourself or someone else! All proceeds go toward the restoration of Pleasant Home.

GIFT SHOP HOURS:

Th - Su 12:30-3:30pm or any time by appointment

Thursday Afternoon Tour & Tea

Thursday Afternoon Tour & Tea at Pleasant Home is a great way to catch up with friends and tour Pleasant Home! Come for the 1:30pm tour and stay for tea and light sandwiches immediately following. Reservations required at least one day in advance.
Th, 1:30-3:30pm \$20 includes tour