

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** **Volunteers/Drafts/Suggestions**

Well, it is hard to believe that we have completed over 50% of the program year. The variety, the number and the depth of programs City Club puts together is truly amazing. And, this year, we did it with no paid staff help. At various times, each board member was very busy with their own business and personal issues, but everyone volunteered to help the Program Committee chaired by Steve Wright and Jack Maloney to put together another stellar year of programs. And, we still have over three months of great programming to look forward to. However, that brings us to the end-of-the-year question which is on Matt Hogan's mind – how do we do it again next year. Matt as past President must trouble himself with nominations for the board and some suggestions as to next year's officers.

When Matt called me last year to suggest that I get involved (out of the normal rotation), I was enthusiastic, but reluctant. I knew that it was a huge amount of work. What I did not know is how many people pull together and work to get all of this done. If you are on the board, it also nudges you to attend almost every meeting, meet interesting people and hear great speakers. (Have we twisted your arm yet?)

We will have three board vacancies at the end of the year. Jack Maloney, Martha Devine and Cherie Fisk are leaving the board. Each one of them has made a unique contribution to City Club over their terms and have also been willing to jump in and help on any task. We need volunteers, drafts and/or suggestions. We need people who are, first of all, willing to work, who have ideas, contacts and chutzpa, meaning you are willing to pick up the phone and call people, even people you do

please do that also. Matt's contact information is: Sherman & Howard, LLP, 633 Seventeenth Street, Suite 3000, Denver, Colorado 80202, e-mail [mhogan@sah.com](mailto:mhogan@sah.com), telephone 303-298-0940.

Frances Koncilja  
President, City Club of Denver

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

**February 21** - Michael Fine, Canadian Consul General, will be speaking about Canada-US relations, focusing in particular on our joint efforts in the areas of security (the fight against terrorism and Middle East instability) and on energy (the global picture and Canada's role in North American energy security).

**February 28** - Karen Mathis, President-Elect of the American Bar Association

**March 7** - George Sparks, President and CEO, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. Mr. Sparks will speak on current and future museum programs, events, and exciting developments, including the exhibit Body Worlds 2 opening at the museum on March 10. Please note the City Club Special Event focusing on Body Worlds 2 in the following article.

**March 14** - John Scully, CEO, Denver Botanic Garden

**March 21** - Legislative Roundtable

**March 28** - Steven E. Foster, Senior Rabbi, Congregational Emanuel, Denver: "Concerns of a Jewish Liberal"

## **UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENT: BODY WORLDS 2**

Denver Museum of Nature & Science  
Tuesday, March 14, 2006

6:00 pm – Introduction by Dr. Bridget  
Coughlin

6:30 pm – Tour of Body Worlds 2 Exhibition  
\$14.00 (Under 65) \$12.00 (65 & over)

Members are invited to attend a City Club special event on Tuesday evening, March 14 at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science centered on their forthcoming exhibition, *Body Worlds 2*. The exhibition, coming to the Museum on March 10, was created by [Dr. Gunther von Hagens](#) using a process called [Plastination](#) to preserve its anatomical specimens. It features over 200 real human specimens to present a one-of-a-kind anatomy and physiology lesson. The inter-relationship of body systems and the impacts of different lifestyle choices are graphically illustrated in this innovative exhibition. The event begins at 6 pm with an introduction by Dr. Bridget C. Coughlin, Curator of Human Health. Then the City Club group will tour *Body Worlds 2* at their leisure with audiocassette guides. The Museum is extending their member prices for the tour to the City Club membership for this special event. Please also note that George Sparks, President and CEO of the museum, will be speaking about this exhibition at City Club on March 7th.

**To sign up for this special event, please mail your check along with your name, addresses (street & email), and phone number to Nancy Widmann, 703 Ash St., Denver CO 80220. Payment in full is required to hold your reservation. The sign-up deadline is February 28, 2006.**

### **REPORT ON THE NATIONAL WESTERN RODEO SPECIAL EVENT**

Nancy Widmann, our Special Events Chair, reports that thirty-three City Club members and guests enjoyed a visit to the National Western Rodeo on Friday, January 20th. This City Club special event started in the National Western Press Room where Public Relations Director, Kati Anderson, started our special tour of the National Western Complex. Kati's tour narration included the history and architecture of the complex as well as focusing on the numerous functions served by both the rodeo and the stock show. The one-hour tour concluded with discussions of the need for expanding the complex and the impact of two proposed highway plans on the complex. The decisions about those highway

plans will be made in Washington, DC, in summer 2006.

After the tour, the group attended a spectacular afternoon rodeo. Besides featuring all the traditional roping, wrestling, and riding events, there were demonstrations of exceptional horsemanship and performances by the Westernaires and the One-Armed Bandit and his two buffalos. Nancy notes that this was a terrific way to celebrate the National Western Stock Show's 100th anniversary and to get in touch with our cowboy heritage.

### **WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Please join us in welcoming the following new City Club of Denver members:

**Michael L. Barry** - Retired, Telairity Semiconductor, Inc.

**Gregory M. Diamond** - District Director, Office of Congresswoman Diana DeGette

**William Lynton Edwards III** - Edwards Executive Search

**Gertrude Grant**

**Richard Harris** - President, The Harris Law Firm, P.C.

**Claudia R. Hill** - Retired Marketing Consultant

**Joseph Michael Keane** - Attorney, Koncilja & Associates, P.C.

**Mike Pritchard** - Development Director, Major Gifts, Mile High United Way

**Gerald G. Rehkow** - Broker/Owner, Rehkow Realty

**Jean Richards** - Financial Professional, Strategic Financial Partners

**Zeb G. Schorr** - Attorney at Law, Koncilja & Associates, P.C.

**Allen Sparkman** - Sparkman Shaffer Perlick LLP

**Ted Trimpa** - Attorney, Brownstein, Hyatt & Farber

**Mary Ann Valeska** - Director of Resource Development, Senior Housing Options

### **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

The membership committee would like to

remind you that the City Club is very active in recruiting new members. With a roster over 300 strong, we are one of the largest City Clubs in the U.S. and our membership numbers are historically at a high point. If you would like to refer someone for membership or if you would like to join the membership committee please contact Craig Mills at [tc Mills@aol.com](mailto:tc Mills@aol.com). The committee is particularly interested in identifying people who can serve as “greeters” at the luncheon check-in table. The greeters add an important personal touch to our member relations, helping Nicole direct guests to the sign-up sheet, welcoming new members, and assisting with member and guest badges. If you are interested in becoming a greeter, please contact Craig.

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**THE CITY CLUB OF DENVER'S**  
**FOUNDING FATHERS**

We are delighted to introduce a series of *Chronicle* articles on the early history of the City Club of Denver, contributed by City Club member Nancy Widmann. In addition to serving on the City Club Board of Directors, Nancy works as an independent consultant in historic preservation and public history, focusing mainly on Denver history, neighborhoods, and buildings. Here she turns her research talents to profiles of City Club's first directors, who gathered together 84 years ago to found our organization.

We hope you will enjoy this historical sketch as well as those to follow in future *Chronicle* issues. If you happen to find any ties between the names and places in these articles and your own family's history in Denver, please let us know.

**Chester Graham Weston (1886-1973)**  
*by Nancy Widmann*

Although the names of City Club's 25 charter members have been lost over time, sources do reveal the names of the first Board of Directors elected on March 3, 1922. This is the first in a series of articles that will give 2006 club members a look at the lives of these directors, the club's 'founding fathers.'

**The City Club of Denver**  
**First Board of Directors**

**Berlin Boyd**  
**Russell F. Burton**  
**Richard M. Crane**  
**Harry E. Fontius**  
**Robert E. Gentry**  
**Leslie R. Kendrick**  
**James Grafton Rogers**  
**Charles N. Smith**  
**Chester Graham Weston**

In March 1922, the Board of Directors held their first meeting and elected the club's first officers. The officers were: James Grafton Rogers, president;

Chester Graham Weston, vice-president; Charles N. Smith, treasurer; and Russell F. Burton, secretary. Rogers is honored every year when the club presents the James Grafton Rogers Award to an outstanding philanthropic individual or nonprofit organization. Past *Chronicles* and the club's 1999 history, *The City Club of Denver; 1922-1997*, by Barbara Gibson, have presented biographies of Rogers in the recent past.

Who was Chester Graham Weston, the first vice-president? Chester Weston was born in Greene, Iowa, on December 13, 1886. He was an 8th generation direct descendant of Edmund Weston, born in Warwickshire, England, in 1605. Edmund Weston was a member of the 1600s Plymouth Colony in Massachusetts. Chester's parents, Frederick and Margaret, were married in Iowa in 1880 where Frederick was in the grain and lumber business. After residing many years in Diamond Lake, Iowa, the family, including brother Marsdon and sister Prudence, moved to Denver in 1906. The Westons lived in a red brick Foursquare at 1833 Clarkson St. In Denver, Frederick first partnered in a realty firm, Weston & Hoffman, and then became president of Scientific Ranch & Improvement Company. Frederick and Maggie Weston later moved to a farm near Yuma, Colorado.

On September 20, 1911, Chester Weston married Grace Russell in Denver. The couple lived briefly at 3556 Clay St., before moving to an apartment at 1560 Downing St. Chester was an accountant with Elwood Fink. Chester's brother, Marsdon, was employed first by Federal State & Savings Bank and in 1915 by Live Stock & Loan Company. Marsdon went on to serve as president of the American Institute of Banking and as a frequent author/editor for insurance journals. Chester's sister, Prudence, married Frederick Clark, a Denver minister, in 1908.

No photographs have been located, but Chester Weston's June 1917 draft registration card describes him as having brown eyes and brown hair. He was of medium height and medium build. This source noted that he was part owner of Weston Crane, a CPA firm. "Crane" probably referred to another City Club 1922 board member and the second City Club president, Richard M. Crane, who will be profiled in a later article.

By 1920, Chester Weston was the business manager for Gano-Downs Company, a downtown Denver retail clothing store. He and Grace and their 7-year-old daughter, Dorothy, lived at 1324 E. 8th Avenue in the Neoclassical Revival 1908 Lafayette Square Townhomes designed by architect Audley W. Reynolds. Living with the family was their servant, Texas-born 16-year-old Lois Sheth. In 1924, the family, now including daughter Grace, moved to a Willis Marean and Albert Norton-designed 1909 home at 1601 E. 3rd Ave. in Country Club.

At the age of 36 in 1922, Chester Weston became a founding father of The City Club of Denver, serving on the first Board of Directors. By 1924 he was no longer on the Board, but serving on the Marketing Committee. It is interesting to look at the functioning of the club in those early years. In 1924, in addition to the 9-member board, an additional five members served as officers, and the club had 12 standing committees. A few other committee names: City Council,

Public Buildings, Zoning, and Radio Section. Each committee had from five to 12 members. The 1924 club directory offers this explanation of the committees:

"Like Luther Burbank ... we plant the seeds of various committees. We expect that some of them will fizzle, and that some of them will fructify. We know from experience that some of them will be important . . ."

And the Marketing Committee's description: "Denver has become largely dependent on the agricultural prosperity of Colorado, and this committee is concerned with the question of marketing, which is of great current interest. It has arranged several of the Club's meetings during the past year."

In 1924, Chester Weston was promoted to treasurer of Gano-Downs Company. Four other Gano-Downs men were City Club members by that time, including Merritt W. Gano, William H. Downs, E. M. Munn, and George E. Whitman. In 1927, Weston was promoted to vice president, but he had probably risen as far as he could in this family-owned Denver company. In 1928 the family moved to The Georgian Hotel in Evanston, Illinois. By 1930, Chester was head of the industrial department of a Chicago bank.

The only other written record of Chester Weston in Denver was in November 1934, when he attended his brother Marsdon's funeral. Marsdon's obituary noted that Chester was living in Chicago. It is hoped that Chester did visit his several Colorado family members during his decades of residence in Chicago and that he occasionally enjoyed a City Club lunch with old friends. Grace Weston died in Florida on January 7, 1972. Chester Weston died in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in June 1973.

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