

# Cedarburg...NOW AND FOREVER

A Newsletter for the Friends of the Cedarburg Foundation

Sixth Edition — Fall 2005

## Foundation Celebrates its Fifth Birthday

The Cedarburg Foundation was five years old this fall and so, appropriately, it held a birthday party at a wonderful, historical place.

Invited guests included Founders, Legacy Society members and board members. Founders are those who donated at least \$10,000 in the initial fund campaign. Legacy Society members are those who have made a gift of \$10,000 or more or who have named the Foundation as a beneficiary in a will, annuity, insurance policy or other device.

The idea of a foundation for the Cedarburg area came to Jim Coutts

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Photo Courtesy Paul Hayes

**Foundation President DUEY STROEBEL and Board Member JIM CHMIELEWSKI celebrate the Cedarburg Foundation's fifth year at a party held for board members, founders and major donors at Hamilton's restored Turn Halle.**

## Foundation's Annual Fund Drive Begins

The Greater Cedarburg Community Foundation is celebrating its fifth anniversary this year. Our Annual Campaign starting this November provides the perfect opportunity to mark the five-year milestone with a gift to the Foundation. Because this is a special year, we hope to exceed last year's record contributions to the annual campaign.

"Five years of funding local community projects is a major accomplishment for both the Foundation and the many Cedarburg-area residents who have benefited from our support," said Todd Roberts, co-chair of the annual campaign committee. "We began in 2000 with just a small amount of seed money that has now grown to an endowment of over \$600,000, thanks to the help of many residents and area families who believe in our mission."

Roberts reminded donors that money raised in the Annual Campaign is not used to increase the endowment. Annual Campaign gifts are distributed as grants to support community projects in 2006.

"This fund-raiser is valuable to donors because they will see an immediate impact from their contribution," said Bob Chmielewski, committee co-chair. "People who donate this year will see their contributions go directly to a community project. In addition,

donors to our Annual Campaign will be recognized in our spring 2006 newsletter and will be honored guests at our annual Civic Award event in early 2006."

"This year, our contribution levels will start at \$50. We believe this starting contribution level will be appealing to members of the community. Our goal is to increase the number of sustaining donors who contribute to local community projects, and all donations are important in funding community projects in 2006," added Chmielewski.

Last year, proceeds from the fund-raiser helped pay for an extension of the Cedar Creek Walkway in downtown Cedarburg. The walkway provides pedestrian access to the historic district and takes advantage of our distinctive natural landmark, the creek. Funds collected from the 2005 campaign also went to local organizations including the Cedar Creek Repertory Company, the Fine Arts Institute Drama Program, North Shore Academy of the Arts, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Ozaukee County and the Cedarburg Cultural Center.

Chmielewski and Roberts are proud of the work that is being done through funds collected during the Annual Campaign. "It takes time to grow a

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## Foundation Birthday (from pg. 1)

while he was mayor in 1999. He invited a number of citizens to a meeting at City Hall that December to present the idea, and then he named a steering committee to consider the concept.

In 10 meetings in 1999, the steering committee, headed by H. Robert Fuller, surveyed other southeastern Wisconsin foundations, then decided that a foundation serving the greater Cedarburg area was feasible and that it should have an endowment.

That fall, the Greater Cedarburg Community Foundation, Inc., was organized with John Stevens as its first president. Under Stevens' leadership, the foundation was registered as a tax-exempt charity and it was affiliated with the respected Greater Milwaukee Foundation. The first funds were raised in the community.

Under Mal Hepburn, the foundation's second president, the foundation exceeded its goal of raising \$500,000 for its endowment and began making grants to local projects and organizations. Separately from the endowment, the foundation raised more than \$330,000 to pay off the mortgage of the Cedarburg Cultural Center.

Under the current president, Duey Stroebel, the foundation's endowment now exceeds \$600,000 and the Legacy Society was organized with 10 members in its first few months.

So there was much progress to celebrate. The setting of the birthday party was the historic Turn Halle of Hamilton, restored in 1979 by the Cedarburg Landmarks Commission.

The rubble-stone building now houses part of the antique racing automobile collection of David Uihlein. (See next page for a painting of Turn Halle). Turn Halle ("turnhalle" is German for



Photo Courtesy Paul Hayes

Bassist Vic Di Cristo and accordionist Tony Gorenc provided quiet jazz among the vintage automobiles as Cedarburg Foundation founders, board members and Legacy Society members celebrated the foundation's fifth anniversary at Hamilton's 1867 Turn Halle.

**Cedarburg Foundation board members Ben Levy and John Stevens and Dale Stevens, creator of the Cedarburg Foundation's handsome website are set off by this bright red Alfa-Romeo at the foundation's fifth birthday party. About 60 people attended the party in October at the 1867 Turn Halle of Hamilton.**



Photo Courtesy Paul Hayes

gymnasium) originally was the home of the Hamilton Turners Society and served as dance hall, social center and gymnasium for the people of the crossroads settlement. Later it was used for storing grain, as a shoe factory and as a cider press.

Vic Di Cristo and Tony Gorenc treated party participants to gentle jazz amid shining race cars from the 1920s and 30s. An entourage from Kevin Miller's Cedar Creek Repertory Theater presented a segment of Miller's version of Huckleberry Finn, which played successfully in Cedarburg during the summer.

Duey Stroebel, Foundation president, reported on Foundation progress, noting that the Foundation had

accumulated an endowment in excess of \$600,000, while retiring the Cedarburg Cultural Center's mortgage of more than \$337,000, and making other grants totaling about \$45,000 to worthy projects.

In his brief talk, Stroebel said that the future of the Foundation depended greatly upon an expansion of the Legacy Society. "That is really how the Foundation will grow," he said.

Guests enjoyed wines from the Cedar Creek Winery and a full menu of appetizers and a sit-down banquet catered by the Prime Minister restaurant of Thiensville. Ozaukee Bank underwrote the evening. ■

# From Count Dracula to Christmas Carol, Grants Support Local Drama

The Cedarburg Foundation again has supported the Cedar Creek Repertory Company as it strives to become a pre-eminent performing arts institution in the community.

The Board of the Foundation approved a grant of \$3,000 in response to a request by Kevin Miller, executive director of the Cedar Creek Repertory Company.

"I don't think we could exist" without this support, Miller said. "It doesn't seem like a lot of money to some people, but all those grants add up and it shows the kind of support that comes from our own community."

Cedar Creek Repertory Company was founded in 2000 as a professional theater company with a mission to bring performance art and art education to Cedarburg and surrounding communities.

In the spring of 2005, the company moved its venue to the Rivoli Theater, Cedarburg's old-time movie house on Washington Avenue, where it staged two productions, Eugene O'Neill's

"The Glass Menagerie" in March and Steven Dietz's adaptation of Bram Stoker's novel "Dracula" in October.

Miller blends professionals with local amateurs in his casts. Chike' Johnson of Milwaukee starred in consecutive plays, as the slave Jim in Kevin Miller's version of Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" and as Count Dracula.

Although "Glass Menagerie" involved a simple set, "we got a little crazy doing 'Dracula,'" Miller said. "Technically it's was a more advanced show than anything we've every done."

The company's next performance will be "Jacob Marley's A Christmas Carol." Unlike the elaborate holiday classic performed by the Milwaukee Repertory, this version is an adaptation of Charles Dickens's famous story by Tom Mula. Mula uses only four characters on a bare stage to play all of the characters in the Christmas Carol story.

"It harkens back to Story Theater in the tradition of Dickens," Miller said. "The actors come out as themselves

telling the story and then they become the different characters during different moments in the show."

The company will end its 2005-2006 season with "Harvey" in March. Next summer, the company again will offer arts education through its Fine Arts Institute. Students who attend a camp called "Shakespeare in the Barn" will work with teachers at the Wisconsin Museum of Quilts and Textiles in Cedarburg for four weeks rehearsing "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

The classes will be followed by a performance with the students and teachers in late August. "This is a camp where the kids are relied upon and have a job to do," Miller said. "The model for society is if one of us drops the ball, it creates problems for everyone else, and those are the lessons we are trying to instill in the kids."

Miller said his goal is to become one of the country's major theater companies. "We've already done it by bringing artists from New York Los Angeles and China, and many of the finest actors in the Milwaukee area," he said. ■

## Hamilton's Turn Halle: Built 1867, restored 1979, going strong in 2005.



Painting Courtesy Orzaukee Bank

*This is the third in a series of paintings to be featured from time to time in this newsletter.*

Joe Cmeyla painted this water color of Hamilton's 1867 Turn Halle (left) and its neighboring stone residence and tavern in 1977, when Cmeyla, his wife and child lived above the Corner Store at the Cedarburg Settlement at Bridge and Washington Streets. "Cedarburg affected my life as an artist," Cmeyla, now 70, said recently. Because he had many inspirational vistas to paint, it was a time of high productivity. Cmeyla was born in Algoma, was brought to Milwaukee as a boy of 5 years, where he attended Juneau High School and the Layton School of Art. He lived in Cedarburg from 1974 through 1978. He and his wife now live in Washington County, where, after some health problems, he has returned to painting. In this painting, Turn Halle still had its shingled roof and cupola, both of which later caved in. The Cedarburg Landmarks Commission restored the building in 1979, said Don Levy of the Landmarks Commission. A visit today shows much change, especially in the growth of trees that now obscure the view of the house from the road.

## Fifth Fund Drive (from pg. 1)

community foundation, and over the past five years the Foundation has tried to integrate the community in its efforts, both from an awareness standpoint and through participation. Our goal is to truly make a difference, and after five years, we are really beginning to see results," Chmielewski said.

"We are excited to celebrate our fifth anniversary, but there is still a greater need that has to be met," said Roberts. "The Annual Campaign allows Cedarburg residents and area families to meet the needs of local organizations today. As part of the greater Cedarburg community, I know residents recognize the special aspects

that make this an exceptional place to live and work. The Foundation hopes this year the campaign will continue to make an impact on Cedarburg and many local projects within the community."

"I want to thank everyone who has contributed to the Foundation over the past five years," added Chmielewski. "We appreciate your continued support of our mission. We couldn't have accomplished all we have without your donations and commitment to our community. It is residents like you who make Cedarburg truly special."

For more information on the Foundation's Annual Campaign, call (262) 377-4050. ■

## New Members Join Foundation Board

The Greater Cedarburg Community Foundation elected two new members, Vicki Capadona and Chris Smith, to its board of directors.

Vicki Capadona and her husband James live on Cedar Creek parkway in the town of Cedarburg. They have four children, all of whom attended Cedarburg High School. Their youngest will graduate this year.

Chris Smith, who works for Robert W. Baird in Milwaukee, has been a life-long Cedarburg resident except for seven years spent in Milwaukee. A 1988 graduate of Cedarburg High School, he and his wife Sara have three children. They live in the Georgetown subdivision.

Smith and Capadona replace Directors Bob Fuller and Dick Janssen, whose terms expired last summer. ■

## Foundation Hosts Fourth Professional Event

The Cedarburg Foundation's fourth professionals' event for attorneys, trust officers and financial planners was held at 7:30 a.m. June 15 at the Cedarburg Cultural Center. Some 24 persons attended the hour-long seminar.

The program focused on the legal and technical aspects of charities accepting gifts of real estate. Kathy Schrader, director of financial and estate planning of the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, led the discussion.

The most important message at the program was that the Cedarburg

Foundation is now in a position to accept non-traditional gifts such as real estate, said Duey Stroebel, Foundation president. Vice President Donald B. Rintelman hosted the event.

The event drew several new faces. The underlying aim of the professionals' events is to familiarize financial advisors with the Cedarburg Foundation so that they can help their own willing charitably-minded clients set up funds at the foundation. ■

## ABOUT THE FOUNDATION

### Board of Directors:

John Armbruster	Ben Levy
Vicki Capadona	Al Lorge
Tim Carr	Sandy Pape
Jim Castle	Bruce Prom
Bob Chmielewski	Todd Roberts
Peg Edquist	Chris Smith
Tom Frank	John Stevens
Paul Hayes	Bill Taylor
Ellen Haynes	Marilyn Vollrath
Chad Koehler	Bill Wernecke, Sr.

### Foundation Officers

Duey Stroebel  
*President*

Donald B. Rintelman  
*President-Elect*

Jim Coutts  
*Vice President & Secretary*

Dick Dieffenbach  
*Treasurer*

Mal Hepburn  
*Immediate Past President*

### Cedarburg ... Now and Forever

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The Greater Cedarburg Community Foundation is a community trust that establishes endowments and administers the income thereon for the betterment of the greater Cedarburg area. The Cedarburg foundation works closely with the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, where it maintains an affiliation. Gifts to the Greater Cedarburg Community Foundation are tax deductible to the extent applicable under relevant tax law.



[www.cedarburgfoundation.org](http://www.cedarburgfoundation.org)