

Progress Through Preservation Annual Meeting  
Thursday, March 24, 2022  
Akron Woman's City Club



John S. Knight Home



Grey Lodge

The 2022 Annual Membership Meeting of Progress Through Preservation will be held on Thursday, March 24 at the Akron Woman's City Club, 732 West Exchange Street in Akron. Doors will open at 6:00 and dinner will begin at 6:30. Our speaker, Dave Lieberth, will present on the topic: ***A Romance on Perkins Hill: The Gatsby Era in Akron.*** Dave is a native Akronite with a life-long interest in history. He joined the Summit County Historical Society while still in high school has twice served as the Chairman of its Board of Directors. He is now the Chair Emeritus. Other past roles include broadcast journalist, lawyer, civic activist and from 2002 - 2012, Deputy Mayor of Akron. In 2019, the Akron Community Foundation awarded him the prestigious Bert M. Polsky Humanitarian Award for his countless volunteer hours to Akron civic, cultural, and charitable organizations. Among other accomplishments, he was the founding president of the National Inventors Hall of Fame board and is a charter member of the LeBron James Family Foundation Advisory Board. In 2020, Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan tapped Dave to oversee the planning for Akron's Bicentennial celebration in 2025.

His presentation will focus on the Perkins Hill neighborhood during the 1920s. While describing numerous homes in the area that were all connected to BF Goodrich executives, he will highlight the recent restoration of the home John S. Knight and his wife, Katharine, lived in from 1923 until her untimely death in 1929. In 2020, the Knight Foundation granted funds to restore the historic house to its former glory. The house is now the headquarters of Summit County's Land Bank. After extensive research, he was able to include rare archival photographs of Knight and his young family and excerpts from Katharine's daily diaries from 1924-26.

Our venue, the Akron Woman's City Club, known as Grey Lodge, was originally the home of Goodrich president, Bertram G. Work, and will be included in Dave's presentation. Built in 1901 in the Georgian Revival style, the house originally faced South Portage Path (the street has been rerouted). The home remains as an example of the beautiful mansions that once graced the original "West Hill". For those who would like to learn more of the history of this elegant building and see the first and second floors, a tour will begin at 5:30.

For dinner, **PTP Members and their guests** have the choice of three entrées: Beef Tips with a Red Wine Glaze, Chicken Marsala, or Eggplant Parmesan. Dinner includes salad, entrée, rolls, coffee, tea or iced tea and dessert. A cash bar with beer and wine will be available. The cost of dinner is \$40 per person. Please **RSVP** to Alice Christie [achristie@malone.edu](mailto:achristie@malone.edu) or 330-864-8364 by Sunday, March 20 and indicate your choice of entrée and whether you would like to join the tour. Space is limited, so make your reservation promptly. Parking is available onsite. After Mr. Lieberth's presentation, we will hold our annual business meeting including the election of officers and new board members.