This unexpected time at home, away from routines and social activities, brings with it no small amount of anxiety. But, being at home doesn’t mean you can’t be connected to Denver’s past, and there is joy to be found in understanding the people that have come before us and the places they built, the times they lived in, and the hardships and challenges they endured that have shaped our current neighborhoods and city.

As we think of today’s medical professionals with gratitude as they take risks and make sacrifices for our collective health, Discover Denver can help us look back at their predecessors, the medical pioneers of earlier generations.

Now in its sixth year, Discover Denver is a city-wide building survey that identifies the buildings that help tell our city’s story. Led by Historic Denver, the project is a partnership with the City and County of Denver with funding from Colorado’s State Historical Fund. With the help of more than 70 volunteers, Discover Denver documents the city’s individual buildings, the histories of its neighborhoods, and the stories important to its communities. Surveyed neighborhoods to date include Capitol Hill, Globeville, Cheesman Park, Virginia Village, City Park West, and many others. When complete, the project will have documented the historic buildings in every neighborhood in our city.

While buildings are interesting in their own right, they also serve as a jumping-off point for other records, such as city directories, census records, and property deeds, that help us piece together the stories of the people associated with them. As Discover Denver volunteers research the history of buildings throughout the city, surprising themes come to light. One such theme is of strong Denver women who overcame adversity and seized opportunity in the early decades of Denver history.

Women found particular traction and opportunity within medicine. Through the hard work of organizations such as the Black American West Museum, the lives of some physicians, such as Dr. Justina Ford, are now more commonly known and celebrated. But Discover Denver has uncovered many remarkable untold stories, including one that was hiding in plain sight! The surprising story of the early occupants of a 128-year-old duplex across the street from Historic Denver’s office was largely forgotten until Discover Denver volunteers researched its history.

The building at 1457-1459 Ogden St. was designed by the architectural team of Balcomb & Rice, known for designing many other Queen Anne...
Dear Members,

In March I sent an e-mail to many of you with the news that for the first time in our nearly fifty-year history we’d closed the Molly Brown House Museum indefinitely, as we sought to help protect our community from the COVID-19 pandemic. In the weeks since we have all had to find a new rhythm and a new routine, and we hope you are staying healthy, seeking small joys in being more home-bound, and finding space to reflect on the historic events swirling in our city, our country and our world.

In times like these, I take comfort in reflecting on the things that endure - including our beloved historic places. From the Molly Brown House to Union Station, to your local library or school, our landmarks have borne witness to our collective triumphs and trials, and they will still stand to tell Denver’s stories tomorrow, next week, next year and beyond.

You are helping to make that happen, and we are grateful for your continued support as members and patrons. We see the vital effects on our organization now more than ever. In this issue we’ve also included a number of other ways you can support Historic Denver through this period, and we appreciate your gifts and notes of encouragement.

While the Molly Brown House Museum remains closed, and our spring events on hold, we’re committed to keeping you connected to the places you love. Each Monday we’re sending all our members a special e-mail with fresh content and invitations to members-only virtual experiences. So far we’ve hosted a historic home Q&A with our Deputy Director John Olson, released a segment about Art Le Isisring’s recently donated scrapbook by our Molly Brown House Museum Curator Stephanie McGuire, and hosted a home research segment with Director of Discover Denver, Beth Glandon. More programs are planned each week, and we’ve been extra active on social media with fun content and family-activities.

Plus, as we enter May you can look forward to our annual photo contest, check out page 4 for details, and be sure to take a snap and share shots of the places you love close to your home.

Our staff and board remain committed to our mission, working from home as advocates, stewards and educators. Please reach out to us with any questions or needs; we are available by email and looking forward to engaging with you in new and creative ways. Stay healthy, wash your hands, and we’ll hope to see you soon.

Best,

Annie Levinsky
Executive Director
Discovering Hidden Stories of the Medical Pioneers of the Past

cont.

Newton Bolles began renting the Ogden Street building, eventually purchasing it in 1907. Nettie was a member of the first graduating class at the American School of Osteopathy (ASO) in Kirksville, Mo., in 1894, setting a precedent as the first female osteopathic physician in the country. Newton followed his wife into osteopathy, graduating from ASO in 1898.

After moving to Denver in 1896, Nettie founded the Western Institute of Osteopathy, an osteopathic college, at 832 E. Colfax Ave. (The location is now a parking lot.) She was the first osteopathic physician of either gender in Colorado! Her husband joined her a year later, and after several name changes the couple continued their practice under the name Bolles Infirmary of Osteopathy, both living and practicing out of the Ogden Street duplex. The couple had two daughters, and divorced in 1909. Nettie remained at 1457-1459 Ogden St., while Newton relocated downtown. Nettie’s numerous accomplishments are a testament to her ambition and capability as a practicing physician and teacher. Among other accolades, she became the first osteopathic physician to serve on the Colorado Board of Medical Examiners, and in 1925, the governor of Colorado chose Dr. Bolles to be one of only 10 women to represent the state at the International Council on Women in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Bolles’ daughter, Esther, followed her into osteopathy, graduating from the Andrew Taylor Still College of Osteopathy and Surgery in 1924. She married classmate C. Robert Starks, and the couple practiced out of 1457-1459 Ogden St., alongside her mother. Dr. Nettie Bolles died in 1930, and members of the Bolles family owned the building until the 1970s.

City Park West neighborhoods, respectively.

Dr. Hedge’s home at 601 Cook St. is a quaint storybook English Norman Cottage with a sweeping catslide roof. While the architect is unknown, records show it was built for Dr. Hedge in 1923. Dr. Hedge graduated from West Denver High School and initially went into teaching. Disenchanted with that profession, she soon became a dental assistant, perhaps introduced via Edwina? Mary appears to have been strong-willed; she defiantly challenged Denver Post reporters in 1928 when asked about plans for her dental practice after marriage: “I should say I’m not going to give up my practice! What for?”

DO YOU HAVE INFORMATION YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE?

You can upload photos and share stories about a person or building directly at the website by clicking “Map” on the home page. Learn more about becoming a Discover Denver volunteer on our website or by contacting Beth Glandon at bglandon@historicdenver.org.

MEET OUR VOLUNTEERS

Turn to p. 10 to meet a few of our enthusiastic Discover Denver volunteers!

Studies prove that non-profits do a community good economically. Historic Denver sets a high bar. Thank you fellow sponsors and donors for making a difference.

City Park West volunteers work their way across the city, we will continue to report on the surprising stories they find, of both women and men, that helped make our city what it is today.

- the only woman in her class. Dr. Hedge even opened her own practice, an unusually bold undertaking for a woman of her time. The Denver Post noted in 1903, “It is predicted that she will have a large practice. She is careful and possesses unlimited nerve. She is devoted to the work and does not think it odd that a young woman should take up dentistry as a profession.”

Like many families in the early 20th century, Edwina’s parents lived with her in the Cook Street house after it was constructed. Upon her sister Dottie’s death, her widowed brother-in-law, Bert Laws, moved into the home, and Edwina legally adopted Dottie and Bert’s daughter. Interestingly, Bert remarried another dentist named Dr. Mary Hotaling - perhaps introduced via Edwina? Mary appears to have been strong-willed; she defiantly challenged Denver Post reporters in 1928 when asked about plans for her dental practice after marriage: “I should say I’m not going to give up my practice! What for?”

Dr. Edith Pearle Bishop’s home at 2225 Vine St. in the City Park West neighborhood is a unique Dutch Colonial Revival style with a striking stepped parapet. The home was built in 1901, and designed by notable architect John J. Huddart, an Englishman who was the chief draftsman in the offices of another important Denver architect, Frank Edbrooke, until opening his own practice in 1887.

Dr. Bishop was not the first owner of the house, purchasing it in 1921. She first worked in the University of Denver dental laboratory before entering dental school there in 1917. Despite her duties as a mother of two, a lab assistant, and student, she graduated in 1921 at the top of her class. Her son, Donald, later became a dentist and joined his mother in her practice.

Doctors Bolles, Hedges, and Bishop are just a few of the many remarkable women that made their mark on Denver’s history, but have largely been forgotten. As Discover Denver’s volunteers work our way across the city, we will continue to report on the surprising stories they find, of both women and men, that helped make our city what it is today.

Another sub-field of medicine that attracted women in Denver was dentistry. A 1930 full-page Denver Post article features several national and local female dentists, albeit with the flippant headline, “And it Won’t Hurt,” say these women dentists to their patients.” In the accompanying photo, we can see Dr. Edwina W. Hedge and Dr. E. Pearle Bishop, both of Denver, posed in their Sunday best. Discover Denver volunteers came across these physicians while surveying and researching the history of buildings in the Congress Park and - the only woman in her class. Dr. Hedge even opened her own practice, an unusually bold undertaking for a woman of her time. The Denver Post noted in 1903, “It is predicted that she will have a large practice. She is careful and possesses unlimited nerve. She is devoted to the work and does not think it odd that a young woman should take up dentistry as a profession.”

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STATE HISTORICAL FUND GRANT WINS

By Shannon Stage, Preservation Coordinator

We are pleased to share that our partner projects - the Black American West Museum & Heritage Center (BAWMC), and Agape Christian Church - were awarded restoration funds from History Colorado's State Historical Fund earlier this year! At BAWMC, the funds will match the Partners in Preservation grant from the National Trust for Historic Preservation (awarded last October, thanks to your online votes!) to take on critical window and masonry restoration. At Agape, funds will restore window frames and stained-glass windows on the east facade. We are excited to see construction begin on these important gathering spaces so they can continue to serve our community well into the future!

OTHER SHF GRANT PARTNER PROJECTS UNDERWAY

Fitzroy Place - Front porch stone restoration project. A pre-construction meeting occurred recently to kick-off the physical work.
Capital Heights Presbyterian Church - Roof and parapet restoration; with the architectural drawings completed, this project will also begin physical work in the next month.
Trinity United Methodist Church - Stained glass window restoration; team will be meeting soon to kick-start this project.
First Church of Divine Science (Althea Center) - Roof restoration (phase 2); the architectural construction drawings are underway.

HOWARD MORTUARY ON PATH TO PRESERVATION

By John Olson, Deputy Director

The Howard Mortuary was constructed in 1959 from a design by the prominent architect, J. Roger Musick, to satisfy a need for a funeral home closer to the families of the northwest Denver Berkeley neighborhood. Its modern take on traditional elements resulted in a one-story brick building with a steeply pitched gable at its chapel and terra cotta ornament featured in its prominent arcades at the corner of W. 46th Ave. and Tennyson St.

In June 2019, the owner of the property since 1971, Service Corp. International (SCI), allowed for a search for a preservation-minded buyer who could not only meet the price expectations, but also commit to the restoration and reuse of the chapel. The parties ultimately agreed to a pause, which allowed for a search for a preservation-minded buyer who could not only meet the price expectations, but also commit to the restoration and reuse of the chapel. The pause was successful when, in February 2020, a new owner with substantial experience in repurposing historic buildings closed on the property: GM Development of Northwest Denver. While the earlier landmark designation application was withdrawn as part of the pause agreement, the new owner intends to submit an application for landmark status to ensure its preservation as a part of their new development.

HISTORIC DENVER WINS AWARD

On Jan. 31, Historic Denver was honored with a History Colorado Stephen H. Hart Award for our work to secure and manage a State Historical Fund grant that helped save and rehabilitate the Bosler House at 3209 W. Fairview Place. We were recognized for our leadership in the restoration of the home, Steve and Jan Davis - who, in particular, helped turn a dire situation into an outstanding success; Denver Landmarks staff; and other partners. Our deputy director, John Olson accepted the award on behalf of the project team.

LA ALMA LINCOLN PARK - STEPS TOWARD A HISTORIC CULTURAL DISTRICT

For the last two and a half years, Historic Denver has partnered with neighbors of the La Alma Lincoln Park (LALP) community on an Action Fund project to explore the possibility of creating a historic cultural district. Historic Denver’s Action Fund is a donor-supported fund that provides both technical and financial assistance to grass-roots community preservation efforts.

In La Alma Lincoln Park this has included in-depth research and survey work, numerous community meetings and feedback sessions, and the identification of new tools to acknowledge the particular and diverse stories of one of Denver’s oldest neighborhoods. The neighborhood tells a layered story of Denver’s history: Native American tribes that called this land home; the earliest permanent homes developed by A.C. Hunt; early residents who worked for the nearby railroads and other industries; and the Chicano Movement of the 1960s and ’70s. The neighborhood’s built environment reflects these layers of history, and the community’s evolving cultural significance.

Updates to the Landmark Ordinance, approved by Denver City Council this past fall, included cultural heritage criteria. This will help move this community along forward. Customized design guidelines are needed to address the specific needs of the potential district and its layers of significance developed over a century. The community has been engaged with Historic Denver and the Denver Landmark Preservation staff in a working group to brainstorm and help create the guidelines. After this stage of the project is complete, the community can submit an official historic cultural district application to the city for review and consideration by the Landmark Commission and ultimately Denver City Council.

You can stay informed about this project through our emails, publications and social media. The Historic Context document, which details over 100 years of neighborhood history, is available on our website at historicdenver.org.
PHOTO CONTEST!

May is Historic Preservation month! Help us celebrate our nearly 50 years as your preservation advocates by sending pics of places in Denver that represent little known or untold stories. We encourage you to safely walk your neighborhoods or submit photos you’ve taken in the past. It can be a building, art piece, bridge, park or anything else that you want Historic Denver to know about, love and help take care of. More info on rules and submissions at historicdenver.org

LORETTO HEIGHTS: SAVING A CORNERSTONE OF THE SOUTHWEST DENVER COMMUNITY

By John Olson, Deputy Director

The Loretto Heights campus began in 1888, when the Sisters of Loretto purchased the property in what is now southwest Denver on Mt. Sheridan, later to be renamed Mt. Loretto. The initial use for the campus was the Loretto Heights Academy, a school for elementary and high school girls. The Academy officially opened when the iconic Administration Building was completed, designed and erected under the supervision of prominent Architect, Frank E. Edbrooke, in 1891. In the 132 years since its purchase by the Sisters, the campus evolved into a college for women, a co-ed university and, later, a university specializing in the education and promotion of international students.

Since the closure of what was most recently known as Colorado Heights University in the fall of 2017, and the eventual purchase of the site by master developer Westside Investment Partners, Inc. in June 2018, the campus has been the subject of major planning initiatives at the City of Denver. Historic Denver was an active participant in the 17-member steering committee for the Loretto Heights Small Area Plan, beginning in October 2018 and completed with the adoption of the plan by City Council in September 2019. Our participation was of the highest priority for our organization and our Board, given the historic and architectural heritage of the campus. We believe that this plan, and the future redevelopment of Loretto Heights, is a unique opportunity to build on the site’s legacy as the cornerstone of the southwest Denver community.

Throughout the Small Area Plan process, during both community-wide meetings and steering committee meetings, participants and stakeholders emphasized and prioritized the preservation of the unique assets and qualities of the campus, principally the 1891 Administration Building, the 1929 Pancratia Hall, the 1963 Library/Theater complex, and the campus cemetery. Recommendations in the Small Area Plan call for individual designations and the exploration of tools such as historic districts to protect these assets. As a response to the community, Historic Denver and Westside Investment Partners, Inc., have been in ongoing negotiations to provide immediate protection to the most significant buildings through a conservation easement - a tool that would prevent demolition and help maintain the building’s historic integrity. A commitment to these easements was provided to Historic Denver by Westside Investment Partners at the time of the Small Area Plan adoption, and the negotiation and drafting of these documents continues now as other plans for the campus move through the city processes.

This, coupled with the upcoming development of Pancratia Hall into affordable housing and the exploration of cultural uses for the theater building, give us hope that the future of Loretto Heights will honor and celebrate its productive and colorful past.
By Jen Kindick, Museum Education Specialist

In 1918, World War I was ending. The Armistice was declared on November 11, 1918 and the Treaty of Versailles, officially ending the war, was signed seven months later, but before the end was in sight, French and American troops were being killed by a benign influenza. By the summer of 1918, the virus had become extremely virulent.

The influenza made its first appearance in Colorado that fall. On September 21, 1918, Blanche Kennedy, a young Denver University student died of pneumonia after returning from a trip to Chicago. This was Denver’s first influenza related death. Dr. William H. Sharpley, the Manager of Health and Charity, took action in Denver. He had proactively formed an influenza board on September 26 and he urged social distancing and other preventative measures such as covering coughs and sneezes and keeping homes and offices well-ventilated.

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By October 4th, the number of cases and deaths had rapidly climbed. Denver Mayor W.F.R. Mills drafted an order closing all Denver schools, business colleges, Sunday schools, clubs, lodges, pool halls, movie theaters and any other building that encouraged public assembly. As a result, the population of Denver began to go outdoors, congregating in shopping districts and holding outdoor religious services. Realizing that gathering outdoors was just as harmful as being indoors, outdoor funerals and other congregating in shopping districts and holding outdoor religious services. Realizing that gathering outdoors was just as harmful as being indoors, outdoor funerals and other outdoor assemblies were also prohibited. By October 15, the total number of cases stood at 1,440. Further restrictions were put in place including limited store and office hours and isolation orders were made more robust.

By early November, the restrictions seemed to be working as the number of cases decreased. City officials met to discuss the end of the closures and began to allow some movie theaters and other large gathering places to open as long as they were not in a neighborhood where the epidemic were still raging. The immigrant neighborhoods of Globeville and Little Italy were still suffering, leading to immigrant backlash and scorn. Although restrictions were lifted, the city still warned citizens to limit gatherings.

The restrictions in Boulder and Denver were lifted on November 11, 1918 for Armistice Day. Thousands of Colorado residents celebrated the end of war in the public auditoriums, hotels, theaters and movie theaters. In Denver, 8,000 attended the celebration in the city auditorium. An article in the November Municipal Facts, “The Day of World’s Liberty as Observed in Denver,” also describes the celebration:

“The news reached Denver in the dead of night after the city had gone to sleep. Suddenly a great clamor broke forth; whistles blew, bells rang, and the harsh calls of newboys brought citizens to bolt upright in bed with one word upon all lips—Peace! People poured from hotels and rooming houses downtown; automobiles, piled high with their shouting human freight, came honking from the residence districts into the business section, and a celebration had started that lasted with little intermission for forty-eight hours. Awakened by the tumult in the early morning hours, Mayor Mills proclaimed a public holiday and day of thanksgiving.

The celebrations resulted in an uptick in influenza cases as the desire for festivities superseded the need for caution. As the number of infected grew, doctors and nurses were soon overwhelmed with patients. At Denver’s St. Joseph’s Hospital, half of the nurses caught the flu and were taken to a separate ward. Buildings in towns across Colorado including schools, churches, rooming houses and city halls, were being repurposed into emergency hospitals. At the height of the epidemic, Denver reported as many as 200 deaths a week.

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The city attempted to close public gathering spaces again, but the owners of the movie theaters and other public entertainment venues protested this plan. As a result, all Denverites were ordered to wear face masks when leaving their house and entering any building. Due to confusion and a lack of masks, the general public, however, did not heed the order and many maskless residents conducted their business in downtown Denver. Threats of fines and arrest were impossible to maintain with a population of almost 250,000 people. By November 10, the mask order was annulled, and quarantine and isolation orders were made more robust.

Although new cases were reported through December, the infection rate was far less than in the previous months and life began to return to normal. Schools reopened in Denver on January 2, 1919. When the dust from war and disease settled in 1920, it was a whole different world. “No more war, no more plague, only the dazed silence that follows the ceasing of the heavy guns; noiseless houses with the shades drawn, empty streets, the dead cold light of tomorrow Now there would be time for everything.” - Pale Horse, Pale Rider- Katherine Anne Porter.

You can read additional details and learn where the members of Margaret Brown’s family were living in 1918 on the Molly Brown House Museum blog, Between the Lions, www.mollybrown.org/between-longs.
JOIN OUR HISTORIC DENVER HOME-OWNERS FACEBOOK GROUP!

This informal group includes owners of historic homes and buildings in Denver to ask each other questions, share lessons learned, resources and cool discoveries. Historic Denver also provides news and tips as well. Come join the conversation!

NEED HELP WITH HISTORIC HOME CARE?
Get answers online!

As part of our special members-only content in March Deputy Director John Olson did a live Q & A online to answer frequently asked historic home care questions. You can watch the recording on YouTube, just search for Historic Denver’s channel.

HISTORIC DISTRICT ROUND-UP JULY 21

In July 2019 Historic Denver hosted the first-ever historic district round-up, as invitations went out to all homeowners in Denver’s 55 historic districts to gather and learn about pressing preservation issues, attend how-to sessions, and share stories and successes. We will repeat this gathering in 2020, this time at the Central Branch of the Denver Public Library where sessions will include using the library’s archives for home research, ADU construction in historic districts, tips for design review, tax credits for historic homes, and more. This event is free and open to anyone interested in knowing more about living in Denver’s beloved historic districts.

RSVP to asalutz@historicdenver.org.

RESCHEDULED!

2020 WALKING TOURS
TELL THE STORIES OF SUFFRAGE IN DENVER, EXPLORE NEW NEIGHBORHOODS

By Alison Salutz, Director of Community Programs

What do Elizabeth Piper Ensley, Libby Byers and Ellis Meredith have in common? They are all extraordinary women who will be featured on Historic Denver’s newest walking tour for their contributions to women’s suffrage in Denver.

In honor of the centennial anniversary of the 19th Amendment, this tour will include several significant women’s history sites in Denver and discuss how the buildings were used in the fight to secure voting rights. The tour will launch as a specialty tour when our season kicks off this summer. Come discover the remarkable contributions of women who worked to make Colorado women the first in the nation to earn the right to vote through a ballot referendum!

In addition to this new tour, we are working on bringing a historic walking tour to the Potter Highlands neighborhood. This tour will highlight the history and wonderful architecture found in what was originally its own town, Highland, and discuss several of the families who were seminal in its creation.

Tours of LoDo, Capitol Hill, Larimer Square and the Daniels & Fisher Clock Tower, Historic 16th Street, Mansions of Quality Hill, Five Points and Curtis Park will all be offered again this season. These tours are a great way to explore in your own back yard, or in a neighborhood about which you’ve always been curious.

WALK WITH US!
Experience Denver in a new and engaging way!
Tickets are available at historicdenver.org.

A Titanic Dinner with the Unsinkable Mrs. Brown

July 17
7–10 p.m.
Avoca Lodge, 7595 West Yale Ave.

Join us for a unique opportunity to visit the Browns’ country home, Avoca Lodge, where we’ll get a “Mrs. Brown” upon her return to Denver and meet her special guest, great-granddaughter Helen Benziger McKinney. A delicious dinner of Mrs. Brown’s favorite dishes will be paired with good company and live music from the Gatsby Gang Jazz Band, which will play a toe-tapping combination of ragtime and jazz! With this new summer date, we’ll be able to take full advantage of the grounds at Molly Brown’s Summer House and celebrate Margaret’s birthday (July 18) in style!

Visit historicdenver.org to buy tickets.
HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM

MOLLY BROWN HOUSE MUSEUM: MARGARET BROWN SET HER SIGHTS ON A SENATE SEAT TO PUSH FOR WOMEN’S SUFFRAGE

By Andrea Malcomb, Molly Brown House Museum Director

One way in which Margaret Brown did her part for suffrage was to aim for one of Colorado’s U.S. Senate seats – a bold step for a woman in 1914 – Jeannette Rankin wasn’t elected to the U.S. House until 1916 and Hattie Caraway to the U.S. Senate in 1932. To a New York City Mail reporter Brown said, “The right woman in Washington would do more to convince men of her ability to stand beside them in the Senate than twenty men favorable to suffrage.”

Margaret Brown’s campaign to take U.S. Senator Charles Thomas’s seat illustrates the nuanced final push for national woman’s suffrage. Despite Democratic Senator Thomas serving as chairman of the Committee on Woman Suffrage, Alice Paul’s Congressional Union (CU), later known as the National Women’s Party, maintained a “punish the party in power” tactic. In a letter to CU’s Doris Stevens, Colorado suffragist Ellis Meredith replied, “Now about Mrs. Brown... She is a good sort... only please refrain from campaigning against Senator Thomas; he was our friend before we had the suffrage, when friends were scarcer and more valuable.” Dr. Anna Shaw, President of the National American Women’s Suffrage Association (NAWSA), told reporters that Brown’s bid was nothing short of “treason, and that ‘Miss Paul and Miss Burns have the greatest lack of political sagacity.”

Ultimately, Brown decided not to run. Her political advisors, including Senator Robinson, listened to Meredith’s advice to not upset the applecart back in Colorado. Senators Thomas and Shafroth were friends to suffrage and were sponsors of suffrage bills: The Bristow-Mondell, nicknamed the Susan B. Anthony Amendment as it had been drafted by Anthony in 1874, would directly grant the vote by act of Congress. The Paul-Spencer amendment but the Senate refused to debate it until October, where it failed by two votes. In 1919, the House and the Senate both passed the suffrage amendment, sending it on to the states for ratification. On August 26, 1920, the needed three-quarters of the state legislatures ratified the 19th Amendment granting women full voting rights. This was a huge win for generations of women who had boldly marched, been arrested and suffered, and persevered to gain women’s suffrage.

The Molly Brown House Museum’s summer 2020 exhibit, “Fierce Foremothers, Steadfast Suffragists,” will highlight the stories of all the women, including Margaret, who were forces in the national suffrage movement, and connects with statewide and national efforts to commemorate the women’s suffrage centennial. Follow us on Facebook and check our website often for exhibit updates and to discover ways to explore this century-old story empowers us to meaningfully champion democracy today.

Wilson stated that he agreed with her views for, “…democratic reconstruction of the world for which we are striving, and which we are determined to bring about at any cost, will not have been completely or adequately attained until women are admitted to the suffrage.”

Catt’s support of Wilson during the war was in contrast to Paul and the NWP. The Silent Sentinels protested in front of the White House to criticize Wilson’s lack of support for suffrage and his war policies. Police arrested protesters throughout 1917 on charges of obstructing traffic, including Colorado’s own Caroline Spencer. Protesters were sentenced to either jail time or a fine – they all chose jail. Police arrested Paul in October, 1917, while she carried a banner that quoted Wilson’s position on entering the war: “The time has come to conquer or submit, for us there can be but one choice. We have made it.” She was sentenced to seven months in prison at the Occoquan Workhouse. Paul began a hunger strike, and others joined her. In response, the prison doctors force-fed the women by putting tubes down their throats. One physician reported that Paul had “a spirit like Joan of Arc. She will die but she will never give up.”

By 1918, the House of Representatives narrowly passed the Susan B. Anthony amendment but the Senate refused to ratify it, where it failed by two votes. In 1919, the House and the Senate both passed the suffrage amendment, sending it on to the states for ratification. On August 26, 1920, the needed three-quarters of the state legislatures ratified the 19th Amendment granting women full voting rights. This was a huge win for generations of women who had boldly marched, been arrested and suffered, and persevered to gain women’s suffrage.

The Museum is currently closed as a result of COVID-19, so visit MollyBrown.org or the Museum Facebook page often for updates on when we will reopen to the public.
By Heather Pressman, Director of Learning & Engagement

Every year, the Molly Brown House Museum educates 8,000-10,000 school kids on field trips and in-classroom programs. You may wonder why these programs are so popular - what is so important about teaching kids about historic places?

We all have connections to historic places and, according to scholar Mindy Thompson Fullilove, these places are the “mazeways” of our daily lives. Dr. Fullilove spoke in Denver at the National Trust conference in October, and her decades-long analysis of the connections between people and place hits at the heart of the purpose behind the museum’s education programs.

To paraphrase Fullilove’s words, buildings, neighborhoods and cities are not simply bricks and mortar; we dance in a ballroom, parade in a street, smell chalk on the chalkboard, meet friends at a bar – these cues from place dive under conscious thought and awaken in our sinews and bones. When a place is ripped away, we don’t simply see it, we FEEL it. This importance of place is a key element of all of our education programs. By engaging with not only the past, but also the present and future, the Museum connects young Denverites to what makes Denver, Denver.

Students today may feel like the life and times of Margaret Brown are far removed from the times we live in, however, our programs and tours show students that their lives, in many ways, are no different than those of past generations. Issues such as voting rights and immigration were just as much a part of dinner conversation in 1920 as they are in 2020. Preserving historic places is a way of keeping the connections—the sniffs that hold our city together intact, and restore the threads that have broken as we seek to understand the full and diverse story of our city.

Through our outreach programs and tours of the Museum, the Molly Brown House works to inspire students to know and love their local history. In addition to learning about historic preservation and mining, students dig deeper into Margaret’s history as an activist, and learn about other important and influential people in Colorado’s history.

A frequent comment we hear from visitors is, “I remember coming to the Museum on a school field trip!” Do you think those same visitors can name anything about the War of 1812 or remember exactly what President Monroe is best-known for during his presidency? Chances are, even if they are history buffs, probably not. Experiential, place-based learning, where history actually happened, is so much more memorable.

While we weren’t able to host students at the Museum in April and May school visits, our education team has worked hard to provide teachers with digital resources, a virtual tour of the Molly Brown House Museum, and even facilitated on-line programs usually presented in the classroom. Looking for something for your students to do for the remainder of the school year? Follow the Molly Brown House Museum Facebook page or send a note to education@mollybrown.org to get access to content and activities for your young preservationists.

By inspiring the students of today to recognize the importance of place, we are creating the historic preservation stewards of tomorrow, ensuring that the places that are important to the history of a community - whether it’s a house, an old department store, or even a restaurant - will remain for the next generation. 

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**THE ‘MAZEWAYS’ OF OUR LIVES: CONNECTING KIDS TO A TANGIBLE PAST**

By Daria Castiglione

Historic preservation and sustainability are natural partners. The preservation and reuse of existing buildings and retrofitting them to be “green” reaches for new heights of fiscal and environmental responsibility.

Daria Castiglione

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HISTORIC PROPERTIES deserve an EXPERT

Casey Miller

DENVER’S HISTORIC HOME EXPERT

Successfully Selling Denver’s Historic Homes

Pictured Above: The Richthofen Castle in Montclair, Sold by Casey in 2012.

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**ENGAGE WITH US ONLINE!**

We know our city’s students are learning at home right now, so check-out the content we’re creating just for them, including a virtual tour of the Molly Brown House and craft and activity suggestions — available on Facebook and mollybrown.org/learn-with-us.
HISTORIC DENVER NEWS

HISTORIC DENVER INC.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: DISCOVER DENVER VOLUNTEERS
By Leslie Krupa, Survey Coordinator

DID YOU KNOW?
Discover Denver has more than 70 volunteers who help with building research and documentation of buildings. Many have been involved for years.
Judy Trompeter (photo, right) has been volunteering weekly since the project’s inception five years ago, fulfilling her love of architecture and gardens. Susan Grey (photo, left) has an architecture degree from the University of Colorado at Denver and has also been volunteering since the beginning of the project. She has surveyed weekly as a way to put her architecture degree to unique use. Kevin Kelly (photo, center) signed on to volunteer after Discover Denver project director Beth Gandon, spoke to the Capitol Hill United Neighborhood Preservation Committee about the program. He was drawn to surveying because of his background in environmental design.
Judy, Susan, and Kevin recently sat down with us to discuss what keeps them involved in the project and to share some of their favorite experiences.

Q: Why do you continue to survey?
Judy: It’s a puzzle and interesting! It is also outdoors. And I like to see a neighborhood up close and not from a car.
Susan: I spent 30 years working in offices and at a desk. Now I just want to be outside. Other retirees will understand!
Kevin: I love the architectural connection to old Denver and I just love houses.

Q: What are some of the favorite discoveries you found while surveying?
Judy: I loved finding the little frame homes with unique dormers in Globeville and Elyria-Swansea. Even though the homes were modest, these details reflected their Eastern European roots.
Susan: In Globeville, there was an owner whose grandfather owned his house and became the unofficial banker of the neighborhood because the residents didn’t trust banks at the time. He even built a vault into the house, eventually, to safeguard the money.
Kevin: A house on the 1200 block of Pearl that turns out was a Fisher & Fisher house, and the owners even had the original plans framed on the wall!

Q: What is your favorite building form and style that you’ve encountered while surveying?
Susan: I like big, rambling Arts and Crafts bungalows with lots of bays and projecting parts.
Kevin: Edwardian (1900-1910) and Tudors.

Q: What advice do you have for prospective or new volunteers?
Susan: It is great to walk around and be outside. And sharing and socializing is a big part.
Kevin: I can now give tours to friends! It makes you also get involved in the community where you live.

Judy: Do it!! You’ll love it!

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Sopra Communities has a new home!
We are so pleased to have moved to the historic Denver Rowing Club Building at 1790 Platte Street to be closer to so many of our clients.
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1790 Platte Street • Denver, CO 80202 • Tele: 720.432.4604
sopracommunities.com

Discover Denver volunteers Susan Grey, Kevin Kelly, Judy Trompeter.
Thank You
To Historic Denver’s
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[List of names and organizations]

[For more names and organizations]

[Thank you message]

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Please make all checks payable to Historic Denver, Inc. Historic Denver is a 501(c)3 organization and a portion of your contribution is tax deductible. Please visit historicdenver.org/support to learn about the benefits at each membership level.

[Contact information and website]
We’ll be Right Here Waiting for You

We know this is an unsettling and uncertain time. The COVID-19 pandemic impacts each of us and will become a part of our collective story.

Our city’s landmarks have borne witness to our trials and triumphs before, and they will still stand to tell Denver’s stories tomorrow, next week, next year and beyond.

Historic Denver and the Molly Brown House Museum will also be here tomorrow, as we have been for 50 years, as advocates, educators and stewards for the places you love.

We are grateful for the many ways you support Historic Denver as members, volunteers, friends and citizens.

But with the Museum currently closed, and having cancelled spring events and tours, we can use your support now more than ever.

How to Support Historic Denver

Become a member or upgrade your membership today, and receive special members-only content.

Sign up to give $5, $10, or $20 each month as a Keystone Member.

Donate your state tax refund to Historic Denver when you file your return, using our registration number 20033002551.

Order your Amazon deliveries through Amazon Smile and pick Historic Denver as the beneficiary of your purchases.

Pre-purchase tickets for a summer walking tour, a visit to the Molly Brown House Museum, or our fall line-up of events.

Keeping You Connected

We know you miss getting out to the places you love as much as we do, which is why we’ve created this opportunity for you connect to our work and the stories that matter to you and our city.

Our social media @HistoricDenver and @Molly Brown House Museum is full of fun trivia, engaging content, and interactive activities, including Find it Friday.

Plus, we’ve recently added virtual tours to our website and YouTube Channel, just search for Historic Denver.

For Students & Teachers

Are the students in your life missing out on the flurry of spring fieldtrips?

Check out our new Digital Resources page at www.mollybrown.org/digital-resources to find hands-on activities, word searches, coloring pages and our brand-new virtual tour.

Know teachers hunting for engaging online learning options? Our education team is ready to help with virtual outreach programs about Denver history, preservation and Margaret Brown. E-mail education@mollybrown.org for details.

You can support Historic Denver right now.

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