

1 Call to Order – Carla Funk

[Call to Order, Special Thank-yous and Introduction of Emcee Bill Bowe]

Welcome – Bill Bowe

Thank you, Carla. It's been my privilege to introduce our annual meeting since I was President of the Club in 2007. That was 15 years ago in the period many of you remember as the **Golder Era**. When Carla asked me to do this again, she told me that I needed to keep **doing this until I got it right**. **If I'm going to get it right this year**, I need your help. May I remind you that it is a violation of Club decorum to **yell** at the speaker, **throw missiles** at the podium or **drop silverware**. Thank you for your support.

In our 115th Annual Members' Meeting tonight, you'll get some news. I'll give you some old news with a bit of **Club history**, and I'll give you current news, with some observations on the continuing pestilence of **Fake News**. Finally, Carla and our Committee Chairs will give you some future news on what the Club has planned for the coming year.

First, we have some generational history to cover. Over the years The Cliff Dwellers has had more than its **fair share of architects** as members. **Bill Hasbrouck**, the Club President when women were first admitted as members in 1984, was unique among them. He set a record when he attended 53 consecutive Annual Members' Meetings. His son Charlie oversaw the renovation of our space here several years ago.

Architect Doug Schroeder is also with us tonight. We have Doug to thank for the establishment of the Club's first reserve fund. It came in the nick of time and we all owe you a great debt of gratitude Doug.

Walker Johnson is another architect here tonight. Walker was Club President right before our 1996 move to this space from next door. **Walker's son, Ben** is also here. Ben Johnson is a Club Director, and has been the point person responsible for the design and installation of our new audio/visual system. Thank you, Ben. **We now have the new 150-inch screen here**, and the formerly comatose screen by our fireplace has, like Lazarus, been miraculously brought back to life. We also have new projectors and state-of-the-art cameras around the Club. The new system will let us record programs. As we're doing tonight, we can also stream our events live on the internet for remote viewing. Along with other Club records, they will also be archived at The Newberry Library. The project is a **big step forward** for the Club.



During our Christmas break when the Club was closed, you see Ben here working on his laptop trying to determine the precise distance between the new screen and its projector.

I'm shaky on my high school math, but I think the formula has something to do with either the square root of a prime number or the radius of a trapezoidal triangle.



I want to talk for a moment about the Club's *Squirrel Boy* and *Bird Girl* sculptures.

Both Club sculptures have interesting histories and you see them here supervising our valued contractor, **Chris King**, as he was installing the new screen.



Squirrel Boy was created in 1908 by **Leonard Crunelle**. In the late 1800s, Crunelle was a young miner's son and immigrant from France living with his family in Decatur, Illinois. He spoke only French and was known locally for carving artistic pieces out of blocks of coal. When the great Chicago sculptor **Lorado Taft** came to Decatur to give a lecture, he was introduced to the budding sculptor.

Impressed, Taft subsequently arranged for Crunelle to come to Chicago to work on the decorations of the Horticultural Building of the World's Fair of 1893.

Before long, Crunelle became a student of Taft's at the School of the Art Institute and both master and protégé became charter members of The Cliff Dwellers in 1907.

Three identical bronze figures of Squirrel Boy were made the next year. One was quickly snapped up by the Municipal Art League for \$1,000. That was a pretty penny in those days. The second went to The Union League Club, and the third has graced The Cliff Dwellers ever since.

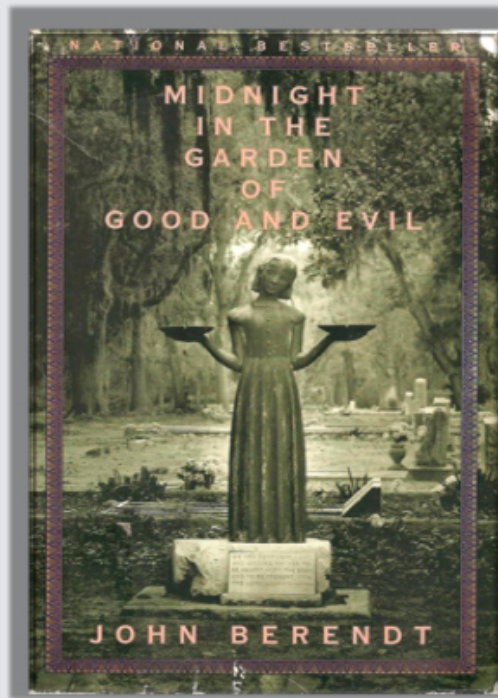


This picture was taken back when *Bird Girl* was next to the Members' Table. That's **Bill Hasbrouck** sitting in his usual spot.

The original bronze *Bird Girl* was sculpted in 1936 by **Sylvia Shaw Judson** at Ragdale, her family's Lake Forest summer home.

Sylvia was the daughter of **Howard Van Doren Shaw**. Like Lorado Taft, Shaw was another charter member of The Cliff Dwellers and the designer of the original Kiva on top of Orchestra Hall.

Besides the original Cliff Dwellers' space, Shaw designed the **Fourth Presbyterian Church** on North Michigan Avenue across from the Hancock Building, and **Market Square in Lake Forest**. Market Square is noted for its design as both a town green and the **first American shopping center designed for automobiles**.



Bird Girl stood for many years unnoticed on a cemetery plot in Savannah, Georgia. However, it suddenly achieved fame when it was featured in a photograph on the cover of this 1994 book set in Savannah, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*.

The Club's epoxy copy of the original bronze was created to promote Clint Eastwood's movie of the book.

Now take a closer look at the Club's *Bird Girl*.



If you look at her carefully, you'll notice something amiss. ***Bird Girl's* right thumb is facing us**, instead of her right little finger.

This wasn't **Silvia Shaw Judson's** anatomical error. The statute was broken as it was being shipped back to Chicago from Hollywood. Like Humpty Dumpty, she couldn't be put back together again, at least not correctly.

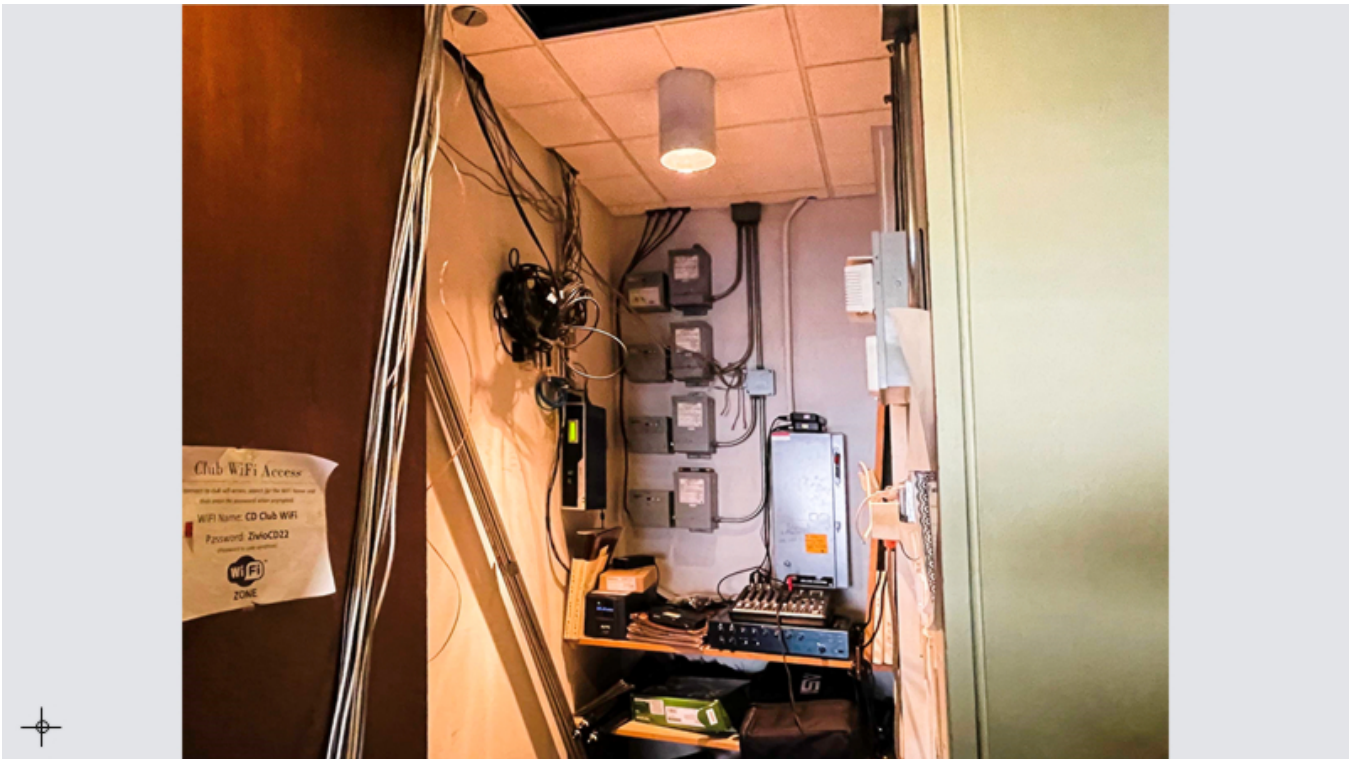


Installation of the new audio/visual system directed our attention to **two other bits of Club history**; the fireplace lounge and our foyer's electrical closet.

Note here the ceiling slot that holds a dropdown screen installed in 1974. Before the Club occupied the 22nd floor, in 1996, this space was the Borg-Warner board of directors' room. The most artistic things that ever appeared on this screen were **statistics on automobile transmission sales**.

We have **Ben Johnson's agility on a ladder** to thank for rediscovering and reviving this long dysfunctional Club asset.

On the far right here, you can just see the **electrical closet off our foyer**.



This nook and cranny **now houses the Club's new audio/visual equipment.**

Back in the Borg-Warner days, this space was part of a two-story, **private elevator** shaft that took company executives up and down between their executive offices on the floor below us and the board and dining rooms here on the 22nd floor.

So much for Club history.

Before turning to the Club business on our agenda, I'd like to offer you a few observations about the **curse of Fake News** and the never-ending **news stories last year featuring people wearing masks.**

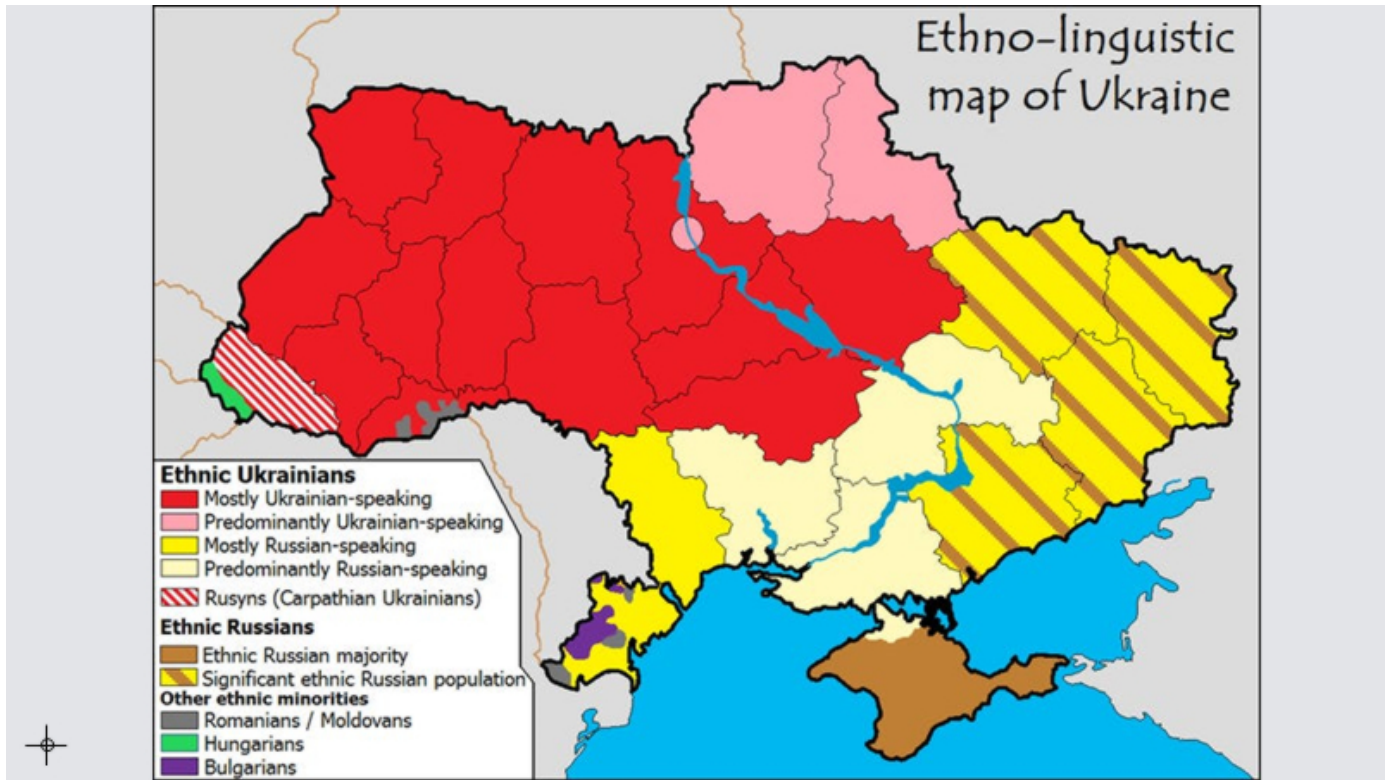
Perhaps last year you missed the Fake News that Trump really was a Russian stooge after all.



This Fake News story was horsing us around and **Putin us on.**



I don't know the state of Putin' health, but this is certainly an example of shaky reporting.



This map was in an article saying Putin wants to invade Ukraine to save its Russian-speaking population from NATO aggression.



My own view is that Putin really wants a lasting peace in Eastern Europe, starting with another piece of Ukraine.



Chinese tennis star Peng Shuai said she was sexually abused by a high Communist Party official, but Party Chairman Xi [Jingping] said it never happened.

This wasn't the usual he said, she said case. There you automatically know which gender is telling the truth.

This was a she said, Xi said kind of thing, so I don't know who to believe.



This prominent mask story last year said that Germany's leader for almost two decades was being elbowed out of office.

Personally, I think the fact that she lasted for so long as she did was nothing short of a Merkel.



Then there was a torrent of false stories a year ago after the national disgrace of the Capitol Building being taken over by a mob with Poor Boys in it.

More than one bogus story said that the rioters were simply visitors to the Capitol from the Great Plains.

These stories said that those who came to the Capitol were there merely to observe their government at work and were properly outraged when police tried to cut their visit short just because they weren't wearing masks.

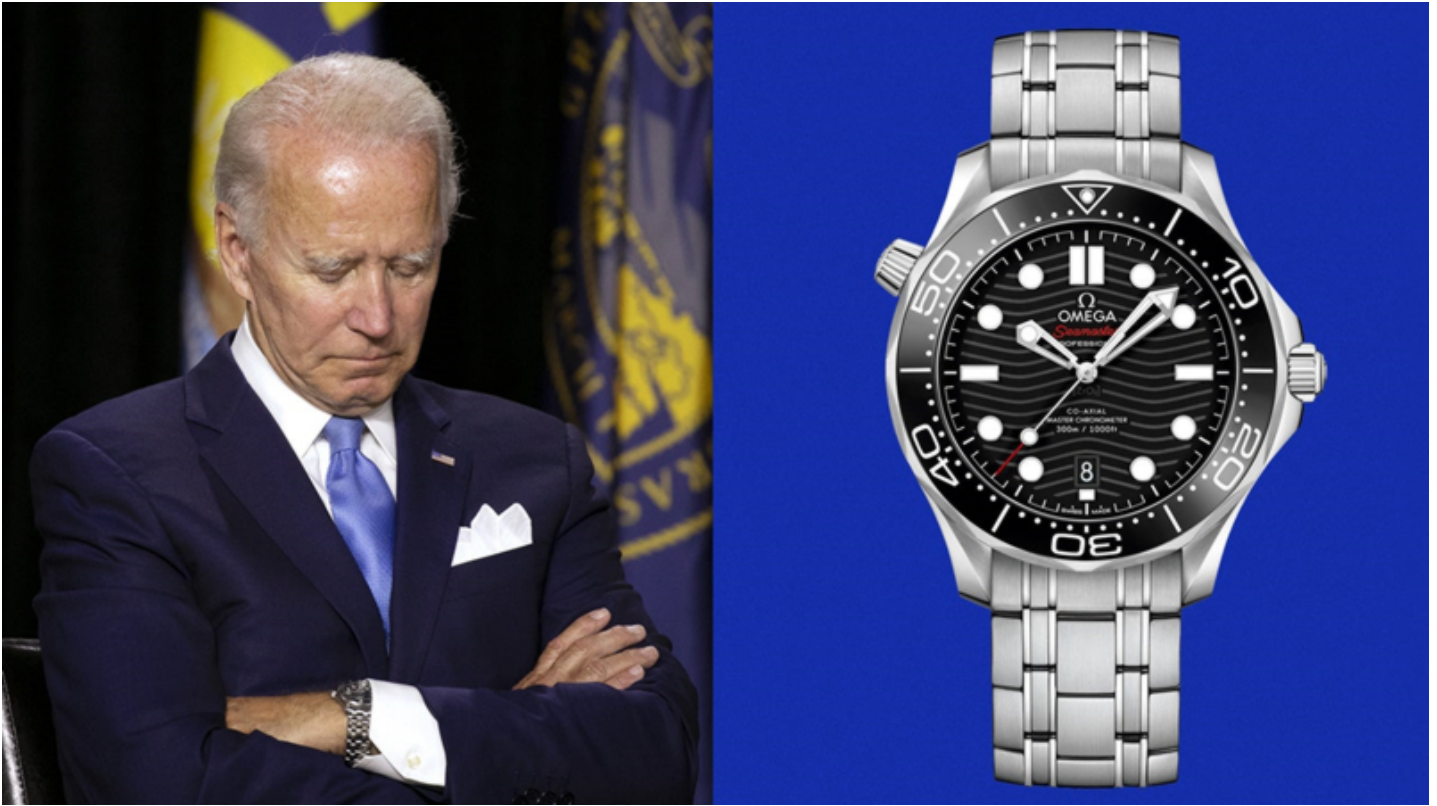


One story even went so far as to say that this photo captured the precise moment a proud plainsman realized he'd left his mask back home --- in his mother's basement.



Senator Joe Manchin is seen here in a mask right after saying “No!” to President Biden’s Build Back Better plan. . He had just tied one on, so to speak, before leaving the Capitol for his car.

Immediately, the usual Fake News outlets kicked in and said Manchin was not wearing the mask to protect himself from the virus. They said he was disguising himself so he wouldn’t be recognized and carjacked by AOC and the Squad.



Since Manchin's, "No," the President has been deep in thought over what to do next.

Some say he's asleep at the switch, but I think he's just Biden his time.



The President spent the holidays here at his mansion in Wilmington, Delaware.

One news story this morning says he's going respond to Senator Manchin by signing an Executive Order this week on housing. It will provide money to build more housing for the poor, but none for the rich.

The report says the President thinks cutting the rich out will prevent more Manchins.

And that the Order will grandfather upgrades for his own mansion.



Which brings us finally to the mask story of the NFL's most valuable player, Green Bay Packer quarterback and anti-vaxxer Aaron Rogers. Here he is last year at Walt Disney World Resort in Florida with his fiancé, movie star Shailene Woodley.

Will you just look at her get up.

Quite frankly, who would have thought a star NFL quarterback hunk like Rogers would fall for such a mousey looking thing.

Agenda

Call to Order & Introduction.....	Carla Funk
Welcome.....	Bill Bowe
President's Report.....	Carla Funk
Treasurer's Report.....	Ed Gordon
21 st Century Fund.....	Ed Gordon & Leslie Recht
Membership Committee.....	Bill Drennan
House & Communications Committee.....	Mike Deines
Programs Committee.....	Joan Pantsios
The Cliff Dwellers Arts Foundation.....	Trish VanderBeke
Directors Nominating Committee.....	Leslie Recht
Zivio!.....	Mike Deines
Adjournment.....	Bill Bowe



Well, that's enough of Fake News and mask stories. This is our agenda for tonight.

In good and bad times, the Club functions well only because so many of you devote your time, talent and energies to our various committees. Tonight, our President and our committee chairs all get a chance to bring us up to date and let us know what's up for this year.

We now have a vaccine, booster shots, and a therapeutic pill all going for us, so my guess is that this year is going to be a better year than last for both us and the Club. . With luck, maybe the virus will finally depart the way General Douglas MacArthur said old soldiers leave. Mac Arthur said, "Old soldiers never die, they just fade away."

Anyway Carla, you've had the unfortunate lot of leading the Club in not one, but two years of a once in a century global pandemic. What is the State of the Club today and what lies ahead?