

The HP Community House: From Clubhouse to Cultural Center

In its early years, the Highland Park Woman's Club held its meetings at the Young Men's Club, the library, and local houses, churches, and schools. It was not until 1914 that the group began raising money for its own clubhouse. The original home of the Highland Park Woman's Club, completed in 1924, is now the Highland Park Community House.

Located at 1991 Sheridan Road, the building is in the city's Linden Park Place-Belle Avenue Historic District. Arthur G. Brown, an architect of note, designed the clubhouse in the Georgian revival style.

In 1985, an increase in the property tax assessment coupled with the rising expense of building operations made Woman's Club members realize they could not continue to retain ownership of the building. Longtime community resident and attorney Marvin Marder proposed that the group give the building to Highland Park for use as a cultural center, which they did in 1994. The result is the Community House, a non-profit organization that receives no financial income from the city.

"Today, this facility serves as a venue for public and private cultural and intellectual events. It is an ideal setting for wedding receptions and ceremonies, Bar and Bat Mitzvahs, corporate programs, holiday parties, fundraising events, and personal celebrations," said Community House Director Wendy Horwitch. She added that the space can accommodate up to 200 seated guests with a dance floor or as many as 300 people for a more informal standup affair.

The Woman's Club is a frequent guest at its former clubhouse. The Club

meets there for tea on the Tuesday of each month, and also for bridge on the first and third Monday of each month from October through April.

For additional information about the Community House, call 847-432-1515, or email Horwitch at wendy@hpcommhouse.org

