

2010 Preservation Awards Ceremony

Peerless Rockville will host its 31st Annual Preservation Awards on Thursday, October 14 at 7 pm in the Mayor and Council Chambers at Rockville City Hall. This year's guest speaker is Robin Ziek, historic preservation planner for the City of Rockville. Ziek will speak on the history and development of Rockville Park.

The Peerless awards program honors individuals, institutions, organizations, and businesses that have made outstanding contributions to Rockville's historic and/or architectural character. Award categories include preservation and restoration, compatible additions, landscape and gardens, new and "green" design and construction, heritage education, among many other categories. The awards ceremony is free and open to the public. Visit PeerlessRockville.org or call 301-762-0096 for a complete list of this year's awards recipients.



The U.S. Pharmacopeia building is one of Peerless Rockville's 2010 award recipients for outstanding new design and construction. Completed in the fall of 2008, the new building is located at Twinbrook Parkway and Fishers Lane.

Upcoming Events

Community Service Day

Saturday, October 23 from 9-11 am
Baptist Cemetery, at the corner of Great Falls Rd., and W. Jefferson and S. Van Buren streets.
Bring work gloves, clippers, and rakes to help trim shrubbery, pull weeds, and remove leaves and trash.

Six Feet Under: Death and Dying in Rockville

Saturday, October 30 at 5 pm
Red Brick Courthouse, 29 Courthouse Sq.
\$5 members; \$7 non-members
Join Peerless for a walking tour on death and dying in Rockville.

New Signs for Montrose School

The Maryland State Highway Administration recently closed the entrance to Montrose School from Randolph Road as part of the construction of a new interchange at Randolph Road, Montrose Parkway, and Rockville Pike. To reach Montrose School, the SHA constructed a new road in the Montrose Crossing Shopping behind the Old Navy clothing store. However, visitors had a difficult time finding the school due to a lack of directional signs. With the help of Senator Jennie Forehand, the SHA responded to our request for signs and installed them this summer. Thank you, Jennie.



Support Peerless! Donate today and play a valuable role in helping Peerless Rockville promote and preserve Rockville's history and historic places. We rely on individuals, businesses, corporations, organizations, and foundations to champion our vital work.

Annual Report

Fiscal year 2009-2010 was a banner year for Peerless Rockville as the organization continues to promote and preserve Rockville's history and historic places. We hope that reading this report highlighting our activities will move you to continue to support us in our efforts to safeguard and foster Rockville's heritage.

Community service remains central to the mission of Peerless Rockville. On a daily basis, Peerless responded to inquiries from the public who contact Peerless through the internet, telephone, in person, and by mail. This year, Peerless had approximately 125 research requests. Moreover, Peerless offered several volunteer opportunities to Rockville residents including hands-on preservation workshops, community service days, and ongoing administrative and collections activities.

Working with Rockville neighborhoods and associations, Peerless Rockville encouraged and supported research topics and projects, neighborhood histories, historic district nominations, and responded to preservation issues. For example, Peerless supported the historic designation of 224 Elizabeth Avenue and 602 Great Falls Road—both designated as local historic districts by the Mayor and Council.

Rockville's Recent Past continued as a focus for Peerless research, educational programming, and advocacy. This year we identified and documented thirteen mid-century buildings.

The Museum Collection continues to grow as Peerless staff catalogued approximately 135 new acquisitions and scanned over 1,500 photographs into our collections database system.

At the beginning of the year we introduced a new series of ornaments devoted to Peerless Places,

starting with Chestnut Lodge. These commemorative ornaments are unique gifts and beautiful reminders of the places that make Rockville a special community. The sale of these valued heirlooms also helps diversify our sources of income. We will release a new ornament annually and 2011 will feature the Red Brick Courthouse.

In June, Peerless' Executive Director Mary van Balgooy developed and produced a new publication guide, *Women Who Dared: A Guide to the Places in Rockville Where Women Dared to Challenge Expectations Both in Society and in Themselves*. Publicized by the *Gazette* and *Washington Post*, Peerless has distributed over 100 booklets in the last month.

And throughout the year, Peerless Rockville presented and participated in approximately 22 programs and events, many of which were in conjunction with the City of Rockville's 150th anniversary, including:

- New walking tours about East Rockville and remarkable women of Rockville.
- Hosting a New Year's Day Brunch and Homes & Hospitality Tour.
- A presentation on the history of Twinbrook Library, two cemetery preservation workshops, and a tour of historic St. Mary's Church.
- Participation in "Rockville Celebrates 150 Years," painting a fire hydrant to celebrate the Sesquicentennial, and providing images and objects to the City for their "Then and Now" photography exhibit, Web site, publications, and programs.

Peerless thanks its supporters for making all of this possible. It is through your generosity that we accomplished so much!

News & Notes

Structural Repairs to Red Brick Courthouse: Structural repairs to the Courthouse have been completed and the Peerless office and staff are back in Room 110 and ready to serve the community's research needs.

Welcome New Board Members: Jane Hoddinott, a self-employed accountant; John Hall, Jr., a lawyer for NASA; and Patrice Lucid, a product support specialist for CCH.

Thank You to: Summer collections interns Aaron Weinstein (Julius West MS) and Sarah Weinstein (Richard Montgomery HS) for their hard work in digitizing a large portion of Peerless' collection of photographs.

Facebook: Join Peerless Rockville on Facebook for the latest updates on special events, programs, and interactive discussions.

New Publication: Peerless is pleased to announce the publication of a new booklet, *Women Who Dared: A Guide to the Places in Rockville Where Women Dared to Challenge Expectations Both in Society and in Themselves*. Researched and written by Peerless Rockville's Executive Director, Mary van Balgooy, this guide highlights the lives and achievements of six women who made a difference in Rockville. If you would like a free copy, please contact Peerless or visit PeerlessRockville.org.

Peerless Places

New St. Mary's Catholic Church

It's hard to imagine the crossroads of Veirs Mill Road and Rockville Pike without the imposing white dome of St. Mary's Catholic Church. Planted squarely adjacent to its dainty Gothic predecessor—the 1817 Chapel of Our Lady, St. Mary's Catholic Church was completed in 1967 and quickly became a new home for parishioners and a modernist Rockville landmark. Then as now, it dominates its site visually and architecturally, encircled with a series of soaring parabolic arches and a towering steeple. Despite its familiar presence, St. Mary's still manages to command attention with its space-age profile and dramatic starkness. It stands in bold relief to other buildings on the site, St. Mary's School (1951) and Rectory (1967). One of Rockville's most innovative architectural structures, St. Mary's eloquently expresses the City's dramatic post-World War II growth and the vision, energy, and dedication of its parishioners.

Established in 1813, St. Mary's is one of the oldest parishes in Montgomery County. Its picturesque vernacular Gothic church was altered and enlarged throughout the 19th-early 20th century, but by the 1950s, the small church was inadequate to meet the needs of a burgeoning family-oriented population boom. Like other congregations in the area, St. Mary's launched a building campaign to construct a spacious modern church. Under the auspices of the Washington Archdiocese, committees were organized to raise \$680,000 in construction funds, adopting the slogan, "The Cost is Not in Building, But in Failing to Build." The architectural firm of Johnson and Boutin designed the new St. Mary's in accordance with the liturgical guidelines of the Second Vatican Council. Under the supervision of construction manager Thomas Yoder, a Rockville resident and St. Mary's parishioner, the immense domed church took shape, supported by a 12-sided masonry base and illuminated by 8 parabolic arches



with stained glass windows decorated with scenes from the life of Mary, the parish namesake and patron saint. Installation of the steel spire completed the aerodynamic design.

The use of modern materials and construction technology provided an open unobstructed interior space within the central plan church. In accordance with modern Church guidelines, the altar faced the congregation and was designed to bring parishioners together "as a family ... as close to the altar of sacrifice as possible and with equal views of the tabernacle." Original plans called for a Baptistry connecting the new and old St. Mary's churches, but this was abandoned as too expensive. When the Archdiocese announced plans to demolish the old church, parishioners and Rockville residents waged a protest campaign, drawing support from *Washington Post* architectural critic Wolf von Eckardt who lamented the potential loss of the City's "historic legacy." Public opinion prevailed and the old church, renamed Chapel of Our Lady, was listed in the National Register and designated a Millennium Church by the Archdiocese—today a local landmark and one of Rockville's first historic preservation projects. Like other mid-century churches in our City, St. Mary's is an enduring and eloquent reminder of Rockville's recent past, an era that embraced the optimism, vision, and architectural spirit of the times.



HISTORIC PRESERVATION LTD
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Rockville, MD 20849

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Mission

Peerless Rockville safeguards and promotes Rockville's past by preserving buildings, spaces, objects, and information important to our city's heritage. Peerless Rockville advances its goals through education, example, advocacy, and community involvement.

Contact Us

T: 301.762.0096
F: 301.762.0961
E: info@peerlessrockville.org
Surf, Point, Click, and Discover at PeerlessRockville.org

Hours

Resource Center,
Library and Peerless Store:
Monday-Friday,
10 am-1 pm
and by appointment
Office:
Monday-Friday,
9 am-3 pm

2010-2011

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You're Invited!
Preservation Awards Ceremony
Thursday, October 14

Join Peerless Rockville Today!

- Membership:** Sign me up to be a new member. Renew my membership.
- Individual—\$35/\$25 for Senior/Student Family—\$60/\$50 for Senior/Student Family
- Friend—\$250 Sponsor—\$500
- Benefactor—\$1,000 Patron—\$2,500

Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution to be applied toward (please specify amount):

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