



*Frieda in her kitchen*

## Frieda Would Be Proud

Dr. Frieda Fromm-Reichmann would feel right at home again at 19 Thomas Street thanks to the numerous contractors and volunteers who worked hard this spring and summer to return the interior of Frieda's Cottage to stunning shape. Decades of old vinyl flooring and carpets were pulled away to reveal beautiful oak floors, which were repaired and refinished. Walls were stripped, scraped and

painted. The original bathroom sinks were resurfaced and returned to working order. The kitchen transom was rebuilt, the stair banister and floor thresholds repaired, and many other carpentry items were completed. Fire alarms and a new boiler were installed and the fireplace inspected. And thanks to our volunteers, all of the post-1957 wiring, built-ins, furniture and signage were pulled out of the house while the overgrown plants and bushes were pruned.

Our next steps are to complete the kitchen and upstairs bathroom—installing retro appliances, flooring, and countertops—install air conditioning, and finish painting, plumbing, electrical, and carpentry work. By

the end of October, we expect to have 90% of the restoration of Frieda's Cottage completed and to rent the property as a private residence.

Peerless thanks everyone who has helped so far on this project to make it such a success—contractors, volunteers, neighbors, and donors. Frieda would be proud.



*Refinishing the floors at Frieda's Cottage*

## Calendar

For updates, check our website at:  
[www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org)

### September

**Exhibit: "John H. Sullivan, Architect of the Recent Past"**  
Aspen Hill Library

### Saturday, Sept. 6

**Frieda's Cottage Open House, Restoration Workshop and Work Day**  
9 am–noon, Frieda's Cottage,  
19 Thomas St., Free admission

### Sunday, September 7

**Happy Birthday, Montgomery County**  
2–5 pm, Beall-Dawson House  
3–4 pm, Rockville's Civic  
Architecture Walking Tour  
Free admission

### Saturday, September 20

**Recent Past Advisory Committee Meeting**  
10 am, Red Brick Courthouse

### Saturday, October 18

**Underground Railroad Tour**  
1–2:30 pm, Red Brick Courthouse, RSVP in advance  
Suggested donation: \$10/person

### Saturday, October 25

**13th Annual F. Scott Fitzgerald Literary Conference**  
Montgomery College, Rockville  
Info & registration: [www.montgomerycollege.edu/potomac-view/fscott/](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/potomac-view/fscott/)

### Saturday, October 25

**Montgomery County Community Service Day**  
9 am–noon, Montrose Schoolhouse

### Sunday, October 26

**The 90% Party at Frieda's Cottage**  
2–4 pm, Frieda's Cottage,  
19 Thomas Street

## WANTED

Hoosier-type cabinet/hutch for dining room in Frieda's Cottage. Contributions of donated items are tax deductible and will be greatly appreciated. Please call 301-762-0096 or [info@peerlessrockville.org](mailto:info@peerlessrockville.org).

# Montrose Schoolhouse

Peerless Rockville is proud to announce that the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) has just awarded \$24,000 from their Capital Grant Program to fund Peerless' effort to replace the tin roof of the Montrose Schoolhouse – just in time to help celebrate the school's 100th anniversary!

The school, located at 5721 Randolph Road, has stood since 1909 and held classes for over 60 years. Peerless has worked tirelessly to preserve the school since 1977, and with the help and contributions of the community the once dilapidated building has now been renovated and restored. However, the original 1909 patterned tin roof has reached the

end of its functional life and must be replaced in order to prevent water damage to the structure. With these grant funds, Peerless will be able to install a new metal roof matching the original later this year.

Each MHT Capital Grant award is contingent upon the contribution of matching funds from the winning organization. If you would like to contribute to the future of historic Montrose Schoolhouse, please see Peerless' donation form on the back page.



Photograph by Max A. van Balgooy

*Historic Montrose Schoolhouse*

## Open House at Frieda's Cottage

Please join Peerless at Frieda's Cottage on Saturday, September 6. See how much progress we've made, explore the house and grounds, attend a workshop, and work a bit.

9 am Workshop: How to look at the interior of an old house you'd like to restore, led by Oak Grove Restoration. Sponsored by Rockville Rotary Foundation.

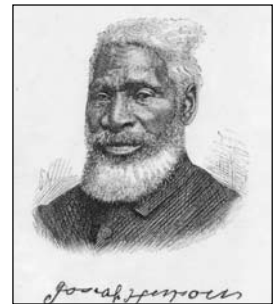
9 am–noon: Open House: Tour the cottage to see the progress made on the interior. Ask questions and hear plans for future work.

9 am–noon: Work Session: Bring gloves, clippers, and lots of energy. Move out unwanted furniture, clean windows and bath fixtures, trim shrubbery, and pull weeds.

Frieda's Cottage is located at 19 Thomas Street, Rockville.

## Underground Railroad Walking Tour

"In Their Steps: A Guided Walking Tour through Rockville Sites on the Underground Railroad" explores slavery and escape in Rockville. Learn about Josiah Henson, the model for the title character of Uncle Tom's Cabin, Ann Maria Weems, who escaped dressed as a coachman, and more on Saturday, October 18, 1–2:30 pm. The program, co-sponsored by Peerless Rockville and The Menare Foundation, is part of the National Park Service's prestigious Network to Freedom. Space is limited, and a donation of \$10 per person is requested. For more information and reservations, call 301-762-0096 or email [info@peerlessrockville.org](mailto:info@peerlessrockville.org).



*Josiah Henson, Uncle Tom's  
Story of His Life*

# Peerless People & News

### Thank you to:

Retired architects **John H. Sullivan** and **John S. Samperton** for sharing their memories, insights, and experiences of Rockville's recent past. Their interviews have enabled us to understand a critical period in local history and the individuals and institutions that shaped Modern Rockville. Mr. Sullivan has generously donated drawings, maps, photographs, and other materials to the Peerless Rockville collection during the past year. A program featuring these two outstanding architects is being planned for later this year.

Our summer volunteers, including **Katie Hirabayashi** (Richard Montgomery HS), for helping with collections and administrative tasks.

**Connie Ward Woolard** for her beautiful watercolor of Frieda's Cottage.

### Volunteers Needed:

**Museum Collections Volunteer:** Organized, detail-oriented person with good computer skills to help with Peerless' collections. Work with old photos and artifacts chronicling Rockville's history.

**2009 Homes & Hospitality Tour:** Help plan for Peerless' annual home tour.

If interested, call 301-762-0096 or email [info@peerlessrockville.org](mailto:info@peerlessrockville.org).

# Peerless Places

## Carl Sandburg Elementary School

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) are renowned for the quality of education they provide, and credit is rightfully due to teachers, administrators and staff for their tireless dedication. However, one important aspect of the success of MCPS that is often overlooked is the school buildings themselves, many of which enjoy their own unique history and proudly display distinctive, often progressive designs of notable architects. Examples of Modernist schools are found across Rockville; one of the best maintained is the Carl Sandburg Elementary School (currently the Carl Sandburg Learning Center), located at 451 Meadow Hall Drive in the Twinbrook neighborhood.

In 1955, Joseph Geeraert and his Twin-Brook Development Corporation acquired the land, once a part of Samuel Clark Veirs' Meadow Hall Estate, to create Twinbrook Forest, a sister subdivision to Twinbrook, south of Veirs Mill Road. Like its predecessor, Twinbrook Forest adeptly filled the postwar housing needs of returning veterans and young couples purchasing their first home. Recognizing the need for additional schools to serve the rapidly growing population, MCPS bought 7.8 acres from Geeraert for a new school to relieve overcrowding at the existing Meadow Hall Elementary School. On the advice of the MCPS School Name Committee, the new school was dedicated in



Photographs by Max A. van Balgooy

*Bust of Carl Sandburg*

honor of Carl Sandburg, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet and historian.

Architect Arthur L. Anderson (1894–1980) was selected to design the new school. A baker turned self-taught architect, Anderson was nearing the end of his three-decade career which included: Wheaton Plaza Shopping Center (then the 6th largest in the country), the Suburban Trust Company Building in Rockville (the “Pink Bank” at the corner of North Washington Street and Beall Avenue, now occupied by Bank of America), several sleek, mid-century automobile showrooms, and numerous residences and commercial developments across the area. From 1958 to 1965, Anderson built six elementary schools in Rockville, but today Sandburg stands as one of his best preserved and least altered designs.

Like much of Anderson's work,

Sandburg features striking horizontal lines, suggestive of an austere, mechanical interpretation of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie Style. The school's most distinctive features—the highly structured, rhythmic curtain walls of horizontal glass panes, the entrance recessed beneath the dramatic, zigzagged underside of a cantilevered canopy, and the structure's precisely arranged, asymmetrical massing—are emblematic of the Modern aesthetic of the early 1960s. The interior spaces are maintained meticulously; the prominent multi-purpose room retains its original wood stage, and the conference room features photographs and relics donated to the school by the Sandburg family.

After opening in the fall of 1962, the enrollment of Sandburg soared and the school quickly became an anchor for the community, hosting countless Little League games and PTA bake sales. For years Sandburg welcomed neighboring residents to its end-of-year picnics and the community returned the school's generos-

ity, collecting their S&H Green Stamps and redeeming them for a riding lawnmower to donate to the school's custodian.

The building's tenure as an elementary school was short-lived however, owing to Twinbrook's demographic shifts. Those who moved there in the 1950s and 60s matured, children graduated, and the expansion and renovation of Meadow Hall Elementary alleviated the need for a second neighborhood primary school. Sandburg Elementary closed in 1977, reopening the following year as the Carl Sandburg Learning Center dedicated to providing a highly structured learning environment, designed to meet the educational needs of children from across Montgomery County. Today, faculty and staff cherish the school and embrace its unique architecture and history.

*Written by Justin Kockritz, a Peerless Rockville intern and graduate student in the University of Maryland's Historic Preservation Department.*

The Peerless Places series highlights Rockville's historic sites. Contact us for more information.

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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.

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Surf, Point, Click,  
and Discover at  
[www.peerlessrockville.org](http://www.peerlessrockville.org)

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and Peerless Store:  
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10 a.m.-1 p.m.  
and by appointment**

Office:  
**Monday-Friday,  
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**DESIGNATED FUNDS:**  Frieda's Cottage  Eileen McGuckian Preservation Fund  Montrose Schoolhouse  
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