

A Half Century of Devotion and Hard Work



Debra Partrich (at podium), chair of the MPSI board, introduces the many accomplishments of guest of honor Phebe Goldstein (photo at rt).

Phebe Vandervort Goldstein, a founding member of the Freer House board, was guest of high honor at a recognition luncheon held in fall of 2015. About 60 guests, including several family members, gathered at the Village Club in Bloomfield Hills to celebrate Phebe's spirit of commitment and passion spanning more than 60 years.

Phebe's interest in Freer House began in 1951 when she attended Merrill Palmer Institute (housed there) as a senior intern from Cornell University. Her mother had also attended Merrill Palmer in 1925. Phebe joined Merrill Palmer's board in 1996 with continuous membership to this day.

For decades, Phebe has championed for the care and restoration of Freer House and the work of the Merrill Palmer Skillman Institute to promote child and family well-being. "We never, in our wildest dreams, thought we would be as successful as we have been," she said of her Freer House committee work. "We fill the lecture halls at the DIA with our Sunday programs, which the DIA has liked as much as we have."

Dr. Lichtenberg and MPSI Board Chair Debra Partrich presented Phebe with a personalized crystal vase engraved with a drawing of the Freer House. She gave a nod to her husband Dr. Sidney Goldstein as she accepted. "We have some vases at home," she said admiringly of the gift, "but they say 'Sidney' on them. It's nice to have a beautiful one of my own."

Phebe thanked several Freer supporters, including Doug Peters who "found a source to reproduce the paintings that had originally hung in the Freer House," and Ann Nicholson, a long-time board member of MPSI and Freer House, who "was with us from the beginning."

"It was all fun and most rewarding," Phebe said. "And I did learn a lot about Charles Freer. I thank Merrill Palmer for the education, and I thank my friends who still play duplicate bridge with me to keep my mind sharp."



THE FREER HOUSE