

Dear Joe and Shirley, Bridget and committee members,

Last week, I had an opportunity to sit down with Laura Foster to talk about our Quick Draw. After our meeting I feel certain about the path for the event this year. After the last meeting, I woke up at 4 am with the idea to key into what is special about this particular site (The McDonald home, previously the home of Charles Chapman). I printed out some information about Charles Chapman, and am now chomping at the bit to get Ada Chapman's book of remembrances and read it before then.

In other words, I am excited to help run and judge the quick draw event this year.

When we first had our quick draw, the idea was to stay on the bayside of the property, so as to have the artists memorialize our village in their paintings. Unfortunately, some artists inadvertently strayed away and their entries weren't able to be used.

It occurs to me that this particular site has not only beauty, and history, it is the ground upon which Charles Chapman himself painted that iconic picture of Morristown from the shore.

Maybe we could upload an image of his painting with information about this years quick draw.

Think too, about the years that painters spread across the yard with their easels, while Charles instructed them how to draw and execute different scenes and structures on the Looking out beyond it to the beautiful scenes offshore is a bonus.

To my mind, a heightened sense of reverence is an appropriate response for all of us for the gift of this remembrance of our own artist.

Did you know that Charles Chapman has a painting that belongs to the New York Metropolitan Museum or Art?

Have you seen the paintings by Charles inside Joe and Shirley's house? I am not sure if it would work this year, but other years, visitors have been welcomed inside to view this very historical, well-preserved home, with Charles Chapman's paintings. Most thrilling to me several years ago, was to go up to his studio on the top floor. Now, I understand that circumstances won't allow us to go up there. But still, just knowing it is there is like knowing that Remington's Inglewood studio is just up the river a piece! And Charles and Frederic Remington were fellow artists, interacting with each other!

This is all to say that it is my hope that this year the artists will draw on the spirit of this wonderful property and to look at it's various aspects as if through Charles Chapman's eyes. If Charles were here with us today, what would attract his eye for a painting?

The opportunity to judge these paintings through the lens of the specialness of the Chapman-McDonald property gives me goose bumps. It's like it is a brand new painting venue.

Please be excited with me for this new way of seeing our community and one of it's treasures.

Sincerely, Kathleen Kelly