



Voices

VOL. 19, No. 1 • NEWSLETTER OF THE CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPRING 2005

Cleveland Park Turns Out In Force For Cherry Tree Planting April 10

by Susan Lynner

On a glorious spring afternoon April 10, a shovel-bearing throng of Cleveland Park neighbors and their friends turned out to plant seven 12-foot Okame cherry blossom trees in the triangle at 34th Street between Ordway and Porter Streets. CPHS, based upon its application submitted last January, was selected by the National Cherry Blossom Festival to receive the three cherry blossom trees for Ward 3. The Festival awarded 3 trees to a neighborhood group, based upon applications from many groups, in each of the City's eight wards. The CPHS Board, subsequent to

learning of the award, decided to purchase four more trees through the Cherry Blossom Festival, especially since the four trees could be purchased at a very reasonable price. The award included not only the trees, but also their delivery, mulch, gator bags, and a brief on-site workshop about tree planting and subsequent care of the trees. The Festival was represented on April 10 by Ashley Neeley, its program coordinator. CPHS applied to the Festival at the suggestion of ANC Commissioner Nancy MacWood, who spoke at the tree planting celebration as did ANC Commissioner Bruce Beckner.

DC Greenworks Community Outreach Organizer Bethie Miller, who was instrumental in making arrangements for the tree delivery and many related activities, was



Christine Rose, Claudia Alderman, Patrick Gonzales and Lois Orr at the April 10 tree planting

on hand to instruct the volunteers, and helped throughout the several hours of planting. Bethie did a great job. DC Greenworks Executive Director Dawn Gifford also offered expertise and encouragement, along with longtime Cleveland Park resident Sally Boasberg, President of Green Spaces for DC, who made a substantial contribution by developing the landscape design plan for the triangle and assisting CPHS in many ways. Bethie told us that the CPHS project has inspired the city government's tree planners to think about extending cherry tree plantings along more of 34th Street. So in the years ahead, we may see a cherry tree corridor wending through the neighborhood and beyond. CPHS member Claudia

2006 Garden Tour

The last garden tour in Cleveland Park was 2003. We have some garden tour workers, and we even have some potential gardens, all we need now is an organizer to pull it all together. Traditionally, the garden tour is held on Mother's Day which next year will be Sunday, May 14th. So please mark your calendars, spend the next year preparing your garden, and call Judy Hubbard Saul, CPHS Outreach Coordinator, to volunteer your garden or to be the organizer at 363-6358.

Inside

The President's Letter.....	2
ARC Update.....	2
CPHS May 1 Tree Planting.....	3
Peirce Mill & the Bucket Brigade.....	4
Firehouse Update.....	5
Charlie Atherton Reflects.....	6
On the Avenues.....	7
Re-R.O.M.P.....	7
Kathy Smith Retires.....	8
Museum Closed; Library Open.....	8
Apartment House Tour.....	8
New Contacts for Hist. Pres.....	10
Kathy Wood Receives Award.....	10
Historic Call Box Project.....	10
CPHS Reference Shelf.....	11
Historic Marker Order Form.....	11
Join CPHS.....	12

...continued on page 5

Claudia Alderman
34th Street

Andrew Aurbach
Ordway Street

Alison Barr: Secretary
Lowell Street

Roz Beitler
Connecticut Avenue

John Buchanan
Newark Street

Camilla Carpenter
34th Street

Maria Casarella
Quebec Street

Eleni Constantine
Newark Street

Phil Eagleburger/Jane Treacy
Macomb Street

Ana Evans: VP, Programs
Ashley Terrace

Michael Goldstein: VP, Legal & Regulatory
Affairs
Lowell Street

Patrick Gonzales/Christine Rose
Rodman Street

Joan Habib
Woodley Road

Ann Hamilton
Newark Street

Diane Hartley
Rodman Street

Christine Hobbs: ARC Co-Chair
Norton Place

John Kuhnle
Newark Street

Margaret Lenzner
Macomb Street

Rachelle Levitt: Treasurer
Springland Lane

Susan Lynner: Voices Editor
Newark Street

Danna McCormick
Porter Street

continued on page 3

The President's Letter

by Lois Orr

Kudos are in order for the great work CPHS members have done this year, especially during the past couple of months. As a result of planning work done earlier this year, we sponsored two major plantings of trees, one in April and another in May. CPHS also sponsored a walking tour of six great apartment buildings and their lobbies on Connecticut Avenue in and near Cleveland Park in mid-May, just a few days after our annual meeting on May 11.

For the first time in our 20-year history, the annual meeting was held at the Broadmoor in its handsome meeting room with refreshments in the Art Deco bar area. Many thanks to Roz Beitler for all her work in making this happen. She also made the arrangements to have Mr. James M. Goode, author of "Best Addresses" and "Capital Losses", as our speaker. In his excellent presentation he shared with us a history of the Kennedy-Warren, including the recent research he has been doing on the building, illustrated with many relevant slides.

At the annual meeting we welcomed new Board members Claudia Alderman, Patrick Gonzalez, and Christine Rose. And we thanked retiring Board members Sarah and Ed Burger for their six years of helping with the newsletter.



James M. Goode, author of Best Addresses: A Century of Washington's Distinguished Apartment Houses, spoke at the CPHS annual meeting and on the May 15 apartment tour

Back to our spring plantings. The articles in this issue about the plantings tell it all. But I personally want to thank all the CPHS members and neighbors who volunteered and got these trees planted. And I appreciate the commitment from folks to take care of the trees during these next two critical years.

I am very upbeat about our year ahead. We have a great membership and Board. We will continue to represent CPHS regarding issues as they arise in the neighborhood, support our Architectural Review Committee, and participate in City preservation activities. I encourage all members to go to our website (clevelandparkdc.org) to review the proposal and related materials regarding our historic callbox project, which is basically to restore the abandoned fire and police call boxes in Cleveland Park and transform them into artifacts combining art and heritage. Another item on the agenda for the year ahead is producing a guide to Cleveland Park merchants. And finally, if you have been planning to buy an historic marker, this summer is a good time to do so before the price increase this fall.

ARC Update

ARC Co-Chair Nancy Skinkle reports that since the fall of 2004, the Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has reviewed 20 projects within the Cleveland Park Historic District. The most active streets for renovation projects were Newark, Porter and Quebec streets, and most projects were rear additions with kitchen and family room renovations. The ARC would like to remind everyone planning renovations to notify your neighbors about your project. An informed neighbor is a happy neighbor (and a happy ARC).

Cleveland Park Turns Out for Second CPHS- Sponsored Tree Planting On May 1

Just three short weeks after CPHS sponsored its first tree planting in more than ten years, many Cleveland Park neighbors and friends rallied for another tree planting on May 1. Again the weather cooperated; it was a sunny spring day with the temperature just right for the heavy duty hole digging and planting of ten trees in street tree spaces on Lowell and Macomb Streets between 34th and 36th Streets.

Based upon an application that CPHS submitted last January, the Casey Trees Endowment Fund awarded CPHS ten trees, mulch, tools, and assistance for the May 1 planting. CPHS tree chair John Poole spearheaded the application and the many subsequent steps, with substantial assistance from CPHS Board members and foresters Patrick Gonzalez and Christine Rose.

At the planting, Patrick, Christine, and two other Casey Trees Citizen Foresters each led a group of volunteers and showed them how to dig the holes and plant the trees, many of which replaced 100 or so year old trees that had been felled during Hurricane Isabel. Alongside the Cleveland Park neighborhood volunteers, Casey Trees forester Jim Woodworth led a team of Casey Trees staff and AmeriCorps volunteers to help with the planting. Lots of muscle was required to dig the holes for the large root balls.

Seven of the new trees are Nuttall oaks, a type of red oak, and the other three are Yoshino cherries, each 6-8 years old. These species can tolerate city street conditions, but their survival depends on proper watering and care, especially for the next two years. Each tree is fortunate to have a committed neighbor who has pledged to provide that care.

Special thanks are due Robert and Jacque Alvord who made their home the central gathering point for the planting as well as the site for refreshments and especially cool water to drink. And many thanks also to the Alvords, John Poole, and Michael Goldstein for providing the refreshments, which everyone appreciated and enjoyed.

Casey Trees deserves special recognition for its contribution to Cleveland Park this spring. Not only did they provide the ten trees and planting assistance for the CPHS May 1 afternoon planting, but on the morning of May 1 they did the same in response to an application from John Eaton School for 10 trees to be planted in the tree spaces near the School. And it is important to note that the since last fall the City has planted forty or more trees in public tree spaces in the Cleveland Park Historic District.



A crew digs in at CPHS May 1 tree planting ...

Board of Directors 2005-2006 cont'd

Kathe McDaniels: Membership Chair
Newark Street

Rick Nash: VP, Preservation Issues
Newark Street

Amanda Ohlke
Reno Road

Lois Orr, President
34th Street

Neil Payton
Porter Street

John Poole: Trees
Newark Street

Peggy Robin
Ashley Terrace

Nancy Skinkle: ARC Co-Chair
Connecticut Avenue

Derek Wilkinson
Porter Street

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Maria Casarella
Quebec Street

Steve Cohen
Devonshire Place

Phil Eagleburger
Macomb Street

Anne Grimmer
Porter Street

Joan Habib
Woodley Road

Christine Hobbs, ARC Co-chair
Norton Place

Leslie London
Ordway Street

Richard Molinaroli
Ordway Street

Lois Orr
34th Street

Nancy Skinkle, ARC Co-Chair
Connecticut Avenue

Claire Starr
35th Street

Outreach Coordinator

Judy Hubbard Saul
Newark Street

Care of Street Trees

The Cleveland Park Historical Society and the City of Washington have planted new trees along streets in our neighborhood. Your care can help to ensure the survival and healthy growth of these trees. The following information will help you care for the tree in front of your house.

Protection The tall stakes installed at planting protect the tree from car doors, lawn mowers, weeders, and other hazards. Take care to protect the base of the tree from scrapes. Prevent compaction of the soil by maintaining a layer of mulch (see below) and by not walking at the base of the tree. Remove the guy wires six months after planting, but keep the stakes installed.

Water For at least two years after planting, young trees require 10-20 gallons (40-80 liters) of water each week during the warm months of the year, generally from May to October. During times without rain, water your tree by pouring slowly at the base using a bucket or soak the tree slowly using a garden hose or fill a 20 gallon (80 liter) tree gator bag.

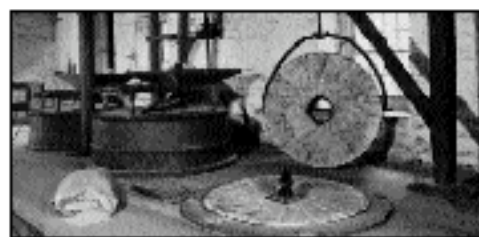
Mulch Mulch conserves water, protects the base of the tree, and reduces weeds. Keep a 2-3 inch (5-7 cm) layer of shredded hardwood bark mulch around your tree. Make sure that the mulch does not touch the trunk because mulch can burn the bark.

Pruning Only the DC Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) is authorized to prune street trees. Residents can contact UFA to request pruning. Residents who wish to hire an arborist to prune a street tree or skilled residents who wish to prune a street tree can apply for a permit from UFA.

Contacts John Poole,
Cleveland Park Historical Society
(202) 966-8329,
clevelandparkdc.org

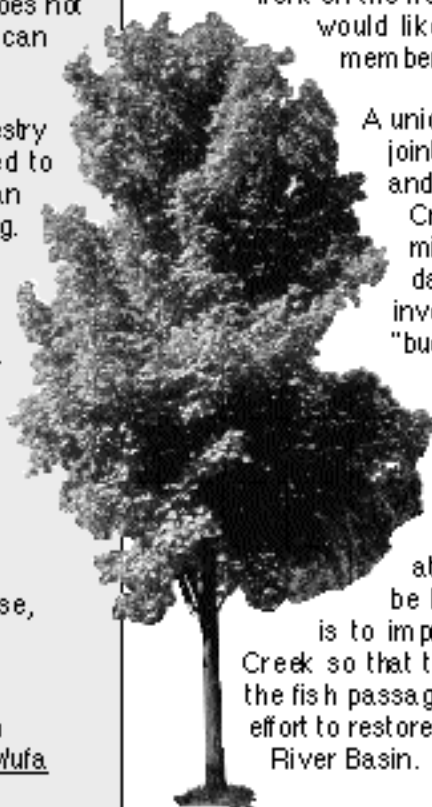
Patrick Gonzalez, Christine A. Rose,
Cleveland Park Historical Society,
foresters (202) 364-3658

DC Urban Forestry Administration
(202) 465-6140, <http://ddot.dc.gov/ufo>



Peirce Mill and the Bucket Brigade

There was a recent posting on the Cleveland Park email list regarding the correct spelling of Peirce Mill. Steve Dryden and Richard Abbott, board members of Friends of Peirce Mill, helped Judy Hubbard Saul catch up on the mill's history and recent developments. The family did change the spelling of the name over time, beginning as Pearce, then later Peirce. After the National Park Service took over the mill, the spelling somehow got changed to Pierce, perhaps by an editor who insisted on sticking to the old rule about e's and i's. A few years ago, that mistake was corrected when it was shown that the spelling on the family tomb was Peirce, so that is now the official National Park Service spelling. Between 1794 and 1800, Isaac Peirce purchased all the land along Rock Creek from what is today the National Zoo all the way up to Chevy Chase, except the land around the Blagden Mill. A grist mill stood on the property. In the 1820s, Peirce built the present mill using granite stone from a local quarry. The solid building still stands, though work was required on the floors during the present restoration. A local non-profit, The Friends of Peirce Mill, is carrying out the restoration, in partnership with the Rock Creek Park unit of the National Park Service. To date, the Friends have raised \$355,000 toward a total estimated restoration cost of \$1 million, and have completed roughly 25% of the restoration. Currently their objective is to raise another \$300,000 over the next eighteen months so that work can begin on making a new water wheel and a number of gears and shafts inside the mill. The Friends website, <http://www.peircemill-friends.org> tells the whole story of the history of the mill and the restoration project, including photographs of work on the floors and the removal of the water wheel. Those who would like to support this work are encouraged to fill out a membership application on the website.



A unique event took place at Peirce Mill on April 20. In a joint operation between the DC Department of Fisheries and the National Park Service, migrating herring in Rock Creek were lifted from below the dam adjacent to the mill and released at a point about 300 feet above the dam. The event, which was called "Herring Aid", involved about a hundred volunteers who formed a "bucket brigade" to pass the fish along the creekside. Each of the 150 buckets contained a single fish of about 8 inches in length, almost all of them Alewife, a close relative of the herring. The National Park Service had previously removed all obstacles to migration from the Potomac River up to the headwaters of Rock Creek, leaving only the dam at Peirce Mill. A Denil fishway (a type of fish ladder) will be built there starting in June. The motive for the project is to imprint on the fish a spawning location in upper Rock Creek so that they will return next year and, it is hoped, negotiate the fish passage and find their birth location. It's all part of a major effort to restore the traditional fish migration patterns in the Potomac River Basin.



DC Greenworks' Bethie Miller supervises a tree planting

Alderman plus Brookville and Magruder's donated the refreshments on the tables near the planting site, aided by neighbors Kathleen Kaye-McKean, Andrea Hatfield, Howard O'Leary, Gil Strobel, and Janine Goodman, who either donated food or the space for the refreshment tables in front of their homes.

This kind of project only comes together with a lot of drive and generosity. The day was truly a community event, with a huge and enthusiastic turnout of volunteers of all ages. While space does not permit us to list all the volunteers, their efforts are truly appreciated. And Cleveland Park owes a debt of gratitude to several individuals in addition to those mentioned above.

First, a heartfelt thanks is owed to Claudia Alderman, whose home on 34th Street overlooks the triangle. Claudia's energy and dedication were major factors in this initial effort to transform the 34th Street triangle into a neighborhood treasure for years to come. *But we will reap the benefits of all of April 10's hard work only if we all continue to maintain the plants.* As Bethie and Dawn told us, planting is the easy part. Watering, weeding, pruning, and mulching are necessary to make the triangle into the gem that we want it to be. You may well hear from Claudia as she contacts neighborhood volunteers to take turns with watering and otherwise caring for our new green charges. Several families have already signed up to help care for the trees. If you would like to help, please contact Claudia at calderman2@verizon.net or 202-362-6979. The trees must be watered once a week by refilling the "gator bags." Claudia hopes to sign up enough families for the once-a-week project so that each individual family need volunteer only once or twice from now until October,

when the "gator bags" will be removed and new mulch laid down for the winter.

We are greatly indebted to landscapers Joan and Wayland Stallard, owners of Four Feet to the Yard, LLC, and their son Carter, who very generously had the seven holes dug for the trees in advance of the tree planting. Four Feet to the Yard is a family-owned business that works extensively in Cleveland Park. The



Joan and Wayland Stallard, owners of Four Feet to the Yard, whose firm dug the holes for the cherry trees

Herculean digging task that preceded the tree planting would have daunted even the most enthusiastic volunteers, given the massive size of the tree root balls and the compactness of the soil. Joan and Wayland, who joined us for the tree planting, first met in 1966 when Wayland lived in a group house just across from the 34th Street triangle. The Stallards' first house was on Norton Place NW. Then they lived again on 34th Street across from the triangle, and their two sons went to John Eaton Elementary and other local schools. So their donation continues a longstanding relationship with the neighborhood. They remain DC residents, though not in Cleveland Park

Nine cherry red "Knock Out" rose bushes, suggested by Sally Boasberg in her landscape design plan and purchased by CPHS, were planted at the bottom tip of the triangle as 34th Street descends toward Porter Street by a stalwart band of late-staying volunteers and provide a lovely grace note to the tree project. If all goes according to plan, the City will plant several crape myrtle trees in the fall along the east side of the triangle to complete a remarkable transformation from a sad piece of urban neglect often used as nothing more than a staging area for street construction equipment into a beautiful park offering months of striking color and foliage. On the other hand, at least for this year, we still have to figure out how to get the grass cut on the triangular park on a regular basis. It does take lots of efforts to enhance DC neighborhoods.

Note should also be made of the initial planning work and application preparation done by CPHS President Lois Orr, tree chairperson John Poole, and new board members and foresters Christine Rose and Patrick Gonzalez.

FIREHOUSE UPDATE

CPHS board member Michael Goldstein, who has been tracking efforts to renovate the Cleveland Park Firehouse on Connecticut Avenue, recently received an update on the firehouse project from Richard G. Sterne, Battalion Fire Chief, Facilities Maintenance Division, DC Fire and EMS Department. Chief Sterne said that Cleveland Park's Engine 28 has been held up awaiting completion of the long delayed Engine 20 rebuilding project, since multiple stations in an area cannot be closed without compromising public safety. He anticipates that Engine 20 will be done by the end of this year. In the meantime, design work on Engine 28 is nearly complete, and the department is going to start the permitting and procurement process so it will be ready to proceed with Engine 28 once Engine 20 is done. If all goes as planned, work on Engine 28 should begin early next year.



Charlie Atherton Reflects on His Long Career with the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts

by Judy Hubbard Saul

Charles and Mary Atherton came within minutes of missing the opportunity to buy their Newark Street house in 1971. The two were living with their infant daughter in a tiny rented Dupont Circle house on Florida Avenue when Mary began looking for a larger home. Charles walked to work at the U.S. Commission on Fine Arts on Jackson Place across from the White House and wanted to continue to walk from a new home. He drew a circle around his office on a map, and said he was willing to move anywhere within or on the perimeter of that circle, but no further. Mary found a house on Newark Street she liked and arrived first at the open house. She was upstairs when Charles arrived. Even though he had lived in Washington, D. C., since 1960, Charles had never been on Newark Street. He drove up the street on a beautiful spring day and was overwhelmed with the street's natural beauty and its historic architecture. He walked in the front door and without seeing the rest of the house or consulting Mary, he told the realtor they'd take the house. Luckily he didn't wait for Mary to come down stairs, because just then, another purchaser was prepared to make an offer. (Mary, a gracious Southern lady, died in 1991.)

Charles knew good design, having graduated from Princeton University with a B.A. in architecture. He stayed on at the university and received his M.F.A. in architecture in 1957, a total of seven and a half years on that historic Gothic campus. He began college majoring in aeronautical engineering, not architecture. At home in Wilkes-Barre, PA, Charles lived near an airport and always liked watching the planes. But two events during his sophomore year in college changed his major and his life forever. First, one evening in New York City he and his sister dined in the famous Oak Room of the Plaza Hotel and then attended a play, *The Moon is Blue*, about an architect. On the train back to Princeton he chatted with a classmate from Alabama who was happily playing his banjo. Charles asked the young man why he was so happy. His classmate replied he was happy because he had just switched his major from aeronautical engineering to architecture. That was enough for Charles. Back on campus he called his parents to tell them he was switching majors. He thought his father, an architect, would be pleased with the news, but over the phone he just got a ho-hum reaction from him. Years later, Charles' mother told him that his father literally jumped for joy with the news that his son was going to follow him in the architecture profession.

After graduation in February of 1957 Charles came to Washington to fulfill his three-year Navy obligation. His office was in a temporary building where the FDR memorial now stands. From his window he had a wonderful view of the Washington Monument. Memorials seem to run through Charles' life. His thesis for his M.F.A. at Princeton was a war memorial on the island of Corregidor in the Philippines. It was the Princeton connection that got him his job at the

Commission on Fine Arts. A former Dean at the School of Architecture called Charles while he was employed at the Navy to inquire if he would be interested in a public service job with the Commission. The requirements for the job were an architecture degree and some knowledge of Asian art (more on that later). Charlie had both, having taken courses in the latter at Princeton.



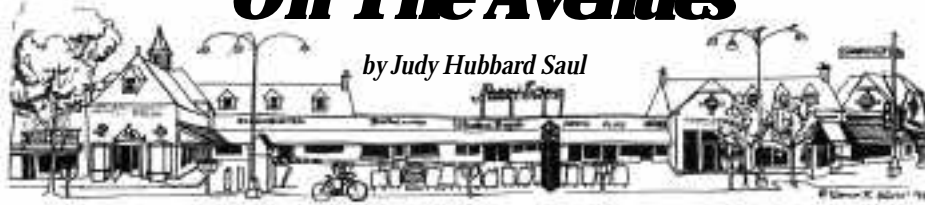
David Finley, the Chair of the Commission on Fine Arts, hired Charles in 1960.

Charles digressed from his own life to tell me the fascinating story of his first boss at the Commission. Mr. Finley was a soft-spoken York County, SC, native who was the author of both the legislation which created the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949 and the Old Georgetown Act of 1950, which created the only federal historic district in the country. Mr. Finley worked behind the scenes with President and Mrs. John F. Kennedy to restore the buildings around Lafayette Park. Mr. Finley was also the first director of the National Gallery of Art. It was Mr. Finley who arranged the famous meeting between Andrew Mellon and art dealer Joseph Duveen. Mr. Mellon owned an apartment in the Beau Arts building on Massachusetts Avenue which now houses the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Mr. Duveen rented an apartment in the same building and filled it with his priceless paintings. He gave Mr. Mellon a key to the apartment in the hopes that he would visit the apartment at his leisure and decide which paintings he wished to purchase. Mr. Mellon purchased all the paintings in the apartment, and that was the beginning of the collection that would become the National Gallery of Art.

Charles is a virtual walking text book of city planning in the Nation's Capital and the men and women who were involved. The Commission on Fine Arts was established in 1910 to carry out the grand plan of the McMillan Commission for the monumental core. The job of the seven presidentially appointed commissioners is to give design advice to the federal government, the district government, historic Georgetown, and all private construction that abuts the monumental core. It also gives advice to the U. S. Mint on their circulating coins, commemorative coins, and medals. The Asian art requirement was important, because the Commission also advises the Freer Gallery on their acquisitions. Charles' job as Secretary of the Commission was to coordinate all this with a staff of only from three to six people! The budget was small as well, only recently rising to a million dollars. Charles said his architectural background helped enormously in his job because he understood the design process: the final product often takes a long time, going through many stages. Charles Atherton was certainly a witness and a participant to this city's architectural and planning history during his forty-four years at the Commission. We wish him well in his retirement.

On The Avenues

by Judy Hubbard Saul



Greg Miller, the manager of **California Tortilla** at 3501 Connecticut Avenue, knows Cleveland Park and what people like to eat. He knows Cleveland Park because he lived on Porter Street in the mid-1990's and was a frequent diner on our commercial corridor.



He knows what people like to eat, especially young people, because he was the beloved "Pizza Man" to legions of George Washington University students. From 1992 to 2000 he was the outdoor Pasta a la Carte vendor at the corner of 21st and H Streets. California Tortilla opened in the Park and Shop on November 1, 2004. There are now fourteen restaurants in DC, Maryland, and Virginia, and the owners of the chain live right here in Cleveland Park, on Porter Street. The food is good, plentiful, and reasonably priced. You can eat inside, outside on their patio, or carry-out. They also do catering. California Tortilla has perfected its own culture with includes some goofy promotions and their fun monthly newsletter, Taco Talk!

(Hours: Monday-Saturday 11:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m.; Sunday 11:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; telephone: 244-2447; fax: 244-2441; email: pfelix@californiortortilla.com)

If you want to get a tan and can't make it to the beach, go to the Park and Shop! **Casa del Sol Tanning Club**, next to California Tortilla, also opened in November 2004. Like its neighbor, it too is a local chain, having opened in the late 1980's. There are now seven locations in DC, Maryland, and Virginia, to get that perfect tan. Besides getting a tan, the sun is relaxing and good therapy, especially in the winter months. Ms. Eve Qureini, the manager, worked at the Georgetown location for two years and suggested to the owner that Cleveland Park would be a good site for a new branch. And she was right. This location has ten rooms with nine beds and a vertical tanning SunCapsule. A session generally runs 10 minutes, the equivalent of 1 1/2 hours of sun at



the beach. Seeing is believing, so one cloudy day I experienced the Orbit, the most popular bed at CDS. The warmth and sun felt good, but next time I'd enjoy the silence and not use the headphones.

(Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.; Saturday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; phone: 364-0600; www.casadelstanningclub.com.)



Hair Color Express, 3504 Connecticut Avenue, opened on April 12th with a whole new look, more services, different products, and new management. It soon will have a different name as well. Lloyd Shipley has been in the business for 40 years as an owner, educator, and hair stylist. Lloyd, a Maryland native and DC resident, chose Cleveland Park because the area is underserved for his caliber of salon. It will be a full service hair salon doing hair cuts for men and women, color, hi-lites, lo-lites, waxing, manicures, and pedicures. The separate waxing room was under construction during our interview. Bridal parties are his specialty. He can provide hair, make-up, nails, pedicure, and waxing services either at the bride's hotel or in his shop, "ins and outs," as he called them.

(Hours: Monday and Friday 10:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Saturday 9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sunday 12:00 noon-6:00 p.m.; phone: 895-3934. Appointments are preferred but he will accept walk-ins.)

The Cleveland Park Library is now open six days a week. The hours are: Monday and Tuesday from 1:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. and Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. The library sponsors many events for kids and grown-ups, books signings, lectures, and even a knitting class. Call the library 283-3080 or go on line to www.dclibrary.org.

We are proud to announce that Bobby and Laura of **Cleveland Park Valet** had a baby girl on May 10th. Her name is Jessica. Bobby has been our friendly, neighborhood merchant for 23 years, first as employee with Seymour and Fran Weinstein and now as the owner.

Re-R.O.M.P

In the late 1990's, a number of Cleveland Park residents spearheaded a campaign to renovate and reinvigorate the Macomb Playground. Dubbed R.O.M.P (Rehabilitation of Macomb Playground) the group, headed by Steve Turow and Laine Kaufmann, successfully raised funds to create the excellent play space the neighborhood enjoys today. However, there are a number of items on the wish list created at that time which could still be implemented at the playground. As a result, the CPHS is undertaking to re-ROMP, and further the mission of R.O.M.P to create and maintain a play space for neighborhood and city children to play, learn and grow. We need your help. If you have young children who use the playground, we would like your input, and more importantly, your participation on a committee to oversee this effort. If you are interested in helping to re-R.O.M.P, please contact us at ROMP@clevelandparkdc.org.

FORMER CLEVELAND PARKER KATHY SMITH RETIRES

Another founding vice president of CPHS has moved on professionally. Kathy Smith, the founding executive director of Cultural Tourism DC, retired in April after leading the organization for nine years. Kathy's successor is Angela Fox, originally with a marketing firm. CPHS was a founding member of the organization which was originally called the DC Heritage Tourism Coalition. Kathy and her husband Sam Smith were long-time residents on Newark Street. They now reside on Capitol Hill and are still involved in city issues. Kathy is currently a National Trust for Historic Preservation Advisor.

CITY MUSEUM CLOSES, BUT THE LIBRARY REMAINS OPEN

The Historical Society of Washington, DC, recently closed the City Museum portion of their building at 801 K Street, NW. Attendance was lower than expected and expenses are high to maintain the 1901 Beaux Arts building. The extensive library and archive remain open to visitors and scholars. (phone: 383-1850; email: library@citymuseum.org.) Accessions for the library continue to be received. In May new collections were being processed by American University interns. The beautifully restored building is also available for rent for private parties. The historical society continues to offer walking tours and lectures. In May, there was a walking tour of Rock Creek Cemetery, a workshop on conducting oral histories, and a lecture on the Dupont Circle neighborhood. Their monthly newsletter can be accessed through <http://www.citymuseumdc.org/pdf/Newsletter.pdf>. (If the link does not operate, please cut and paste the URL into your web browser.)

CPHS Apartment House Lobby Tour Illuminates a Gracious Past and an Active Present

by Susan Lynner



**Judy Hubbard Saul and Roz Beitler kick off
May 15 apartment house lobby tour**

A sell-out crowd of almost 40 people spent a lovely Sunday afternoon May 15 with CPHS Outreach Coordinator Judy Hubbard Saul and CPHS board member Roz Beitler visiting six outstanding examples of apartment house lobbies in the Cleveland Park neighborhood. The tour was immeasurably enriched by the gracious representatives of the buildings whose lobbies we toured, as they combined personal reminiscences of life in the buildings, with the histories, architecture and explanations of recent and planned renovations to keep the buildings and their grounds fresh while recalling their impressive origins. CPHS is especially

indebted to James M. Goode, whose invaluable *Best Addresses: A Century of Washington's Distinguished Apartment Houses* provided the historical background for the buildings, both on the tour and in this article, and who was the tour's final speaker at the newly expanded Kennedy-Warren, as well as the featured speaker at the CPHS annual meeting on May 11.

The tour started at the **Broadmoor**, which Judy Hubbard Saul said epitomized the early 20th century vision of apartment houses as grand hotels. Nancy Skinkle, an architect and CPHS ARC co-chair who recently bought a unit in the Broadmoor, said that the lobby was initially designed in a Tudor Revival style, but was changed over time to incorporate Art Deco effects, such as the cove lighting, fluted columns and geometric wainscoting. Colonel Claudius Easley, the Broadmoor's second-longest resident, recalled the building's colorful occupants, including Louisiana Senator Huey Long. Col. Easley recounted the frantic purchasing activity triggered by the unexpected August 1948 announcement in the Washington press that the building was converting to co-ops in November 1948, with 100 apartments bought in the first four days following the announcement, and most sold by October 1948.

Both the building and the lobby at **3901 Connecticut Avenue** have been designated as historic landmarks, with the lobby especially notable for its intricately decorated plaster ceiling—part original and part reconstruction, resident Rob Walton told us. The building converted from rentals to condos in 1999, with significant interior renovations completed in the spring of 2001. Rob and his wife Jessica are particularly fond of the building's original wall sconces (including examples in the lobby), which have been liberated from layers of paint and restored to their original finishes. Past residents of 3901 Connecticut include Gen. George C. Marshall, political cartoonist James T. Berryman, and Baseball Hall of Famer and Washington Senators manager Bucky Harris.



3901 Connecticut's ceremonial entrance

The six freestanding buildings, two of which are independent co-ops, which make up **Tilden Gardens** are sympathetically interrelated by their Tudor Revival architecture, placement on their triangular lot, and the lovely gardens and paths that form the serene interior of Tilden Gardens. Our host Susan James told us that the buildings have been undergoing significant interior renovations, always with an eye toward their place in the historic district. Tilden Gardens is also in the midst of a four-year, six-figure garden restoration project, involving restoration and/or original construction of two roof gardens, walkways, rose bushes, an Arts & Crafts outdoor fountain, pergolas, and a charming brick birdhouse built into a brick column set into a semi-circular wall at the end of the garden path leading down to Sedgwick Street.



Tilden Gardens' central entrance on Connecticut Avenue

In *Best Addresses*, Mr. Goode writes that **Sedgwick Gardens**, affectionately known as "The Queen of Connecticut Avenue," is distinguished by its Art Deco porte-cochere, flanked by "a pair of high-relief female figures above the entrance," and a "wonderfully eclectic Moorish-inspired octagonal lobby." Our host Judy Catlin told us that the garden plots on Sedgwick Street just beyond the building were originally VE Gardens; now they are controlled by the National Park Service. During World War II, the building had a bomb cellar stocked with canned goods, and she recalled the roles assigned residents by the Red Cross during the war: women learned first aid and to attend to births, while men were air raid wardens.



The chandelier & ceiling medallion in the renovated Woodley Park Towers lobby

Characterized by Judy Hubbard Saul as "restrained Art Deco," the façade of **Woodley Park Towers** and its lobby sport unusual Aztec-inspired motifs. Steve Cohen, an architect, former CPHS board president and a WPT resident, pointed out elements of the lobby's recent renovation, particularly the striking overhead nickel chandelier, with its ceiling medallion, originally designed for private banks, as well as the newly restored marble dust scagliola walls, which had been wallpapered in the 1970. Longtime WPT resident David Taylor told us that the building's original developers were five Jewish brothers who had been denied homes in other Washington buildings, and so built their own, reserving the five largest WPT units, stacked on top of each other in the corner of the building farthest from Connecticut Avenue, for themselves.

James Goode told us that the recent addition to the **Kennedy-Warren** carried out Joseph Younger's original vision, which was interrupted by the Depression and the bankruptcy of developers Edgar Kennedy and Monroe Warren. Mr. Goode, who is a Kennedy-Warren resident and who is writing a book on the building for B.F. Saul, said that the new addition incorporated many of the original building materials, including buff-colored brick, aluminum, and Aztec motifs. Mr. Goode also noted that the newly restored lobby boasts beautiful faux veneer wall squares by Valley Craftsmen of Baltimore that imitate the original 1931 veneer wall squares, sconces based on the building's original drawings, mirrors that copy the originals' aluminum frames, and painted ceiling motifs that incorporate real gold leaf, as did the originals.



Top to Bottom: The renovated lobby at the Kennedy-Warren with gold leaf ceiling motifs, Judy Catlin in the lobby of Sedgwick Gardens, A fierce sentry stands guard at the Kennedy-Warren

Kathy Wood Receives Preservation Award

CPHS nominated Kathleen Sinclair Wood for a National Preservation Volunteer Award during May 2005's celebration of Preservation Month. She was one of four awardees to receive this honor at a gala event at the Arts Club of Washington on May 12th. The award was given by a consortium of preservation groups: the Association of Preservation Technology, the DC Chapter of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the DC Historic Preservation Office, and the DC Preservation League. Judy Hubbard Saul accepted the award on Kathy's behalf. After 33 years in Cleveland Park, Kathy and her husband Joe had moved to Hyannis Port, Massachusetts, just days before the presentation. Kathy expressed her great appreciation for this award before she left.

Kathy was a founding vice president of CPHS and critical to the organization's founding in 1985. She assumed the presidency in 1989 after Tersh Boasberg, and also served as the first executive director of CPHS. Kathy researched and prepared the Cleveland Park application for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, which resulted in Cleveland Park's designation as an historic district in 1987. She prepared landmark applications for Tregaron, Twin Oaks and Springland. She was a key player in the fight to prevent the demolition of the Park and Shop and was substantially involved in the successful rezoning of Cleveland Park's commercial areas. She co-authored CPHS' first publication, *Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles and Building Types* (1998) and wrote the chapter on Cleveland Park for Kathy Smith's book, *Washington at Home: Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital* (1988). In addition to her work for CPHS, she was involved with Friends of Tregaron and CPHS' predecessor organization, Citizen for City Living. Kathy was THE person to go to for information on this neighborhood during her long residency in Cleveland Park. The fall 2004 issue of *Voices* did an extensive interview with Kathy. Her importance to this community cannot be overstated.

CPHS Seeks Input for Historic Call Box Project

A coalition of civic organizations and the DC government is sponsoring a city wide effort to restore abandoned fire and police call boxes to transform them into artifacts combining art and heritage. The program is called Art on Call. The Cleveland Park Historical Society (CPHS) is spearheading our neighborhood's effort.

There are two parts to the project, just as there are two parts to the call box. The top part of the box, which originally contained a telephone to connect the caller with the police or fire department, is now open space. We would use that space to house a plaque with a photograph and/or text, or other suitable medium, to describe something of historic interest in the area immediately surrounding the call box.

The call boxes will be painted. The Architectural Review Committee of the CPHS considered several design options and recommended that we recreate the original design of the call boxes, that is, the lower half of the call box would be painted blue-grey and the top part would be painted red. The Board of the CPHS endorsed that concept. The work will probably be executed by volunteers, so it is practical to choose a streamlined design.

The selection of historic information, and the manner in which it will be presented, is the second part of the project. We seek input into the decision of using picture and text, or just text, to convey the historic message. Please share with us any information which you believe would be appropriate for this project. The Cleveland Park Historical Society (<http://www.clevelandparkdc.org>) welcomes comments from the community. To view the location of the call boxes please go to <http://www.clevelandparkdc.org/history/call.asp>.

We are particularly interested in hearing from neighbors who have material that could be used to refer to the history of the area surrounding specific call boxes, including events, notable individuals, or information of architectural interest. Also let us know if you are interested in serving as a call box sponsor.

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR THE DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Contact information for Emily Paulus, the Historic Preservation Planner for the Cleveland Park Historic District is:

Phone: 741-5248

Fax: 741-5246

Email: Emily.paulus@dc.gov

Contact information for Steve Callcott in the DC Historic Preservation Office is 741-5247 or Stephen.callcott@dc.gov

The telephone numbers for the two historic preservation inspectors remain the same:

Ms. Toni Cherry can be reached at 442-8844 and Keith Lambert can be reached at 442-8837. Their email is historic.preservation@dc.gov or Toni.cherry@dc.gov and Keith.lambert@dc.gov.

The main phone number for the DC Historic Preservation Office/Office of Planning is 442-8818. Their address is 801 North Capitol Street, NE, Suite 3000, Washington, D.C. 20002, two blocks from the Union Station Metro Station.



**CPHS Historic Markers' Price to Increase in
September 2005**

If you have been intending to buy a CPHS historic marker for your home, now is a good time to do so before the price increases effective September 2005. Since CPHS established the historic marker program several years ago, the price for a marker has been \$100 for CPHS members and \$135 for nonmembers. Largely reflecting higher costs for materials, the producer of the markers has increased the price CPHS must pay for the markers. CPHS does not break even with the current price we charge unless we place a very large order, which then provides a modest quantity discount. The price for a marker effective September 2005 will be \$125 for members and \$160 for nonmembers.



Please use the historic marker application form in this newsletter for ordering your marker this summer before the fall price increase, or download the form from the CPHS website at clevelandparkdc.org. And please remember to include your payment. Since each marker is made to order, based upon the year in which your house was built, CPHS only orders markers for which we have received payment.



Historic Marker Program

To educate the community about the age of various structures within the historic district, CPHS sells 5" x 7" solid brass oval plaques. Each plaque bears the structure's date of construction & the words "Cleveland Park Historic District." Structures listed on the original National Register nomination form are immediately eligible for recognition. To find out if your home/building is listed, call Steve Cohen at 234-7954 or email SLCMVM@Starpower.net. Structures 75 years or older are also eligible with documentation verifying the age. Submit a copy of the original deed, tax bill, utility bill, or other official document attesting to the age of your structure. Markers are \$100 for CPHS members and \$135 for non-members*. Orders for markers are taken any time during the year, but due to fabrication and shipping costs, plaques will be ordered in bulk. CPHS will send a letter confirming that your structure is eligible and the approximate delivery date. Markers come with installation instructions.

NAME _____

STRUCTURE ADDRESS _____

YEAR STRUCTURE WAS ERECTED _____

ARCHITECT(IF KNOWN) _____

TELEPHONE _____ EMAIL _____

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO **CPHS** & MAILED TO CPHS, P.O. BOX 4862, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008.

***The price for a marker effective September 2005 will be \$125 for members and \$160 for nonmembers, so order now for the best price!**

The CPHS Reference Shelf

Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles and Building Types is a 1998 publication developed by CPHS with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and written by Cherrie Anderson and Kathleen Sinclair Wood, with drawings by John Wiebenson.

Tregaron: A Magical Place is a 2002 publication by long-time Washington International School employee Kirstine Larsen.

Images of America: Cleveland Park by Paul K. Williams and Kelton C. Higgins is a 2003 publication from Arcadia Publishing containing a sweeping pictorial history of Cleveland Park.

Rosedale, The Eighteenth Century Country Estate of General Uriah Forrest, Cleveland Park, Washington, DC, is a richly illustrated, definitive history of Rosedale by Louise Mann-Kenney, published in 1989.

Cleveland Park is a 1904 real estate brochure reprinted in the 1980s by the Columbia Historical Society (now the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.) with fascinating photographs of the neighborhood's historic houses and Connecticut Avenue in that era.

The CPHS Reference Shelf Order Form

Please send me:

___ copy/copies of Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles and Building Types \$8 CPHS members; \$12 non-members; postage & handling: \$1.50 per copy

___ copy/copies of Tregaron: A Magical Place \$16 CPHS members; \$22 non-members; postage & handling: \$3.00 first copy; \$1.50 each additional copy

___ copy/copies of Images of America: Cleveland Park \$16 CPHS members; \$20 non-members; postage & handling: \$3.00 first copy; \$1.50 each additional copy

___ copy/copies of Rosedale, the Eighteenth Century Country Estate of General Uriah Forrest, Cleveland Park, Washington, D. C. \$16 CPHS members, \$22 non-members; postage & handling: \$3.00 first copy; \$1.50 each additional copy

___ copy/copies of Cleveland Park (1904 reprint) \$5 for CPHS members and non-members; postage & handling: \$1.50 per copy

___ **TOTAL**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Checks should be made out to **CPHS** & mailed to CPHS, P.O. Box 4862, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

CPHS was founded in 1985 by concerned residents seeking to prevent overdevelopment of Cleveland Park's commercial corridors and to preserve the character of this historic neighborhood. It continues to be active in preservation, beautification, public education, and community betterment. To join us in this work, please send this coupon, along with a tax-deductible contribution, to:

Kathe McDaniels, Membership Chair
Cleveland Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862
Washington, D.C. 20008

Please make checks payable to the Cleveland Park Historical Society. Many employers provide matching grants for employee contributions to qualified 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organizations. If your employer does so, please consider including your employer's matching grant form with your contribution.

Thank you!



Cleveland Park Historical Society
PO Box 4862
Washington D.C. 20008
(202)363-6358

Yes! I wish to: join renew my membership in
CPHS at the following level:

- | | |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Angel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

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- Newsletter
- Tree Planting
- Other _____
- I am interested in being considered for the CPHS Board of Directors as openings become available

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