



CPHS Presidential Update

By Kathy Wood

President, Cleveland Park Historical Society

Jemal Park and Shop Opens in Fall
Restoration and expansion is under way on the Jemal Park and Shop, due to reopen this fall at Connecticut and Ordway. Douglas Jemal, owner of The Wiz and a local developer, hired Cal Bowie of Bowie Gridley Architects to design a one-story extension of the existing building and prepare drawings for its restoration (see below). The Jemal Park and Shop will again house seven to ten shops providing neighborhood services. Parking, free for shoppers, will be retained in front of the building. In planning the project, Mr. Jemal met with neighborhood groups and Cal Bowie presented his plans to CPHS's Architectural Review Committee and the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board.

This is truly a great victory for our Cleveland Park neighborhood! We had a vision and helped realize it through our pursuit of historic district status and rezoning on Connecticut Avenue. Restoration of neighborhood shopping at the Jemal Park and Shop will support

revitalization of the Cleveland Park shopping area on Connecticut.

Connecticut Avenue Revitalization

The half-year's hard work of CPHS's Connecticut Avenue revitalization committee, chaired by Jane Hardin, is showing results. Sam Friedman, CPHS's Administrative Coordinator, is now a familiar figure to the shopkeepers and restaurant owners. His first major task was a merchant's survey to identify projects that might help revitalization of the shopping area. Several proposals emerged: a "designated shopper" program; commercial and storefront signage guidelines; a mid-block crosswalk for shoppers to cross Connecticut between Newark and Ordway; and demographic analysis of the neighborhood population.

The CPHS committee members were quick to follow up. Ron Hoffer prepared a demographic analysis based on census data, which showed a 1970-80 trend toward younger residents in Cleveland Park. He will update this with 1990 census data. Susan Hornbostel helped Sam organize a Designated Shopper Program to inform

merchants on their customers' likes and dislikes. Some 30 neighbors agreed to shop primarily on Connecticut for two weeks, answering preliminary questionnaires before and detailed ones after this period. Cathy Armington analyzed the questionnaires and wrote a report. Sam, along with Kathy Wood, attended the February 6th meeting of the Cleveland Park Merchants Association at the Roma, where he presented preliminary findings of the survey. Sam then visited merchants individually to give them copies of the report and specific comments about their businesses.

Synopsis of Survey Findings: The volunteer "designated shoppers" ranged in age from the thirties to the seventies. About half lived in apartments and half in houses. Apartment dwellers, primarily older and younger participants, tended to shop on foot; the middle group, usually representing families, often drove to shop on Connecticut. Most shoppers live within four blocks of the shopping area.

Vace and Calliope were most enjoyed by the designated shoppers. *Brookville*, *Crown Books*, *Yes!*, *Transcendence-Perfection-Bliss*, and *Cleveland Park Valet* were also highly favored among retail shops and services. Respondents were

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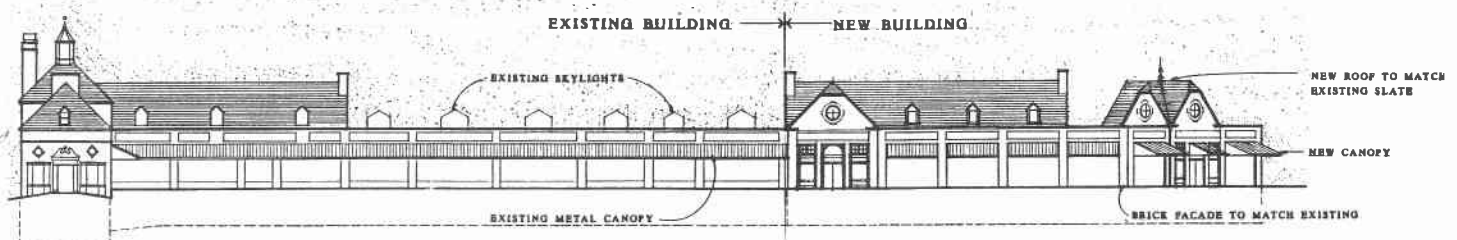




Photo by Jean van der Tak

Suprabha Schechter

Our Neighborhood Shopkeepers

Suprabha Schechter of Transcendence-Perfection-Bliss of the Beyond

By Rives Carroll

Suprabha Schechter, born Amy Beckjord, is calm, gentle, and takes her time as she talks in her sunny one-room store, Transcendence-Perfection-Bliss of the Beyond, at 3428 Connecticut Avenue. Her serene manner masks her busy life which centers around running: running her store, running with her marathon team, and running meditation classes. When she answers the phone, she simply asks, "May I help you?" since the caller may want information about any of her three interests.

The daughter of an engineer and a counselor, Suprabha lived in Palo Alto, California, Pittsburgh, and Brussels, Belgium, with her family, including two brothers and a sister. In 1978 she graduated from Bennington College, where she studied painting. Following a year of graduate study at Boston University, she worked at the Phillips

Collection and at a frame shop in suburban Maryland. By this time her parents had moved to Cleveland Park and Washington felt like home.

Thirteen years ago Suprabha went to India and subsequently joined a meditation group whose leader is Sri Chinmoy, an Indian now living in New York. It was he who gave Suprabha her Bengali name, which means Light and Soul Beauty. The group offers classes at the Cleveland Park Library and at the Oneness Family School, a Montessori-based school in Bethesda.

The group is also a marathon team. Their spiritual and physical lives are strongly connected. The team sponsors monthly two-mile runs for the public around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, chosen for its inspiring location. The team's meditation leader encourages physical fitness to further spiritual growth. At the same time, meditation improves the ability to perform and endure in races.

Suprabha is an outstanding member of the team. She runs about ten miles a day and is currently training for an ultra marathon, a seven-day race held during May at Flushing Meadows Park in Queens. Her goal is to beat her own record: 521 miles. Contestants bring tents and camp out. A small house is constructed for Sri Chinmoy, who encourages and supports the runners. Food and medical services are available on the premises. Of the race Suprabha says, "It's kind of like going on a spiritual journey. Usually the races are around a one-mile loop. You have a lot to do within yourself over those days. I get a lot of inspiration from it and a sense of satisfaction. We don't have a competitive attitude; you're competing against yourself."

Suprabha's first long race was a 200-mile run to celebrate Sri Chinmoy's achievement: lifting a 200-pound weight. She placed second, with a time of 69 hours. That is the only race where her feet complained by swelling enormously. Since then her body has adjusted; she is mainly tired after an ultra marathon. It's not surprising. In the fall of 1989, she ran 1,000 miles in 14 days, 20 hours and 18 minutes.

Running the store must seem like a breeze after this kind of challenge. Suprabha opened Visions of Beauty (Gifts for All Ages) in June 1983 in a second-floor room one block north of the present location. She chose Cleveland Park because she lives here and it

is "a real neighborhood, with a small-town feeling and the advantages of the city." Within the next two years, Sri Chinmoy, here to inaugurate a meditation group in Congress, gave her store its current name. Transcendence-Perfection-Bliss of the Beyond refers to her teacher's philosophy of self-transcendence and man's search for perfection.

Some suggested that the name might be off-putting, but, to the contrary, people used to climb the stairs to the second-floor store just to see what was there. Children who liked the secretiveness of the upstairs location were disappointed when the store moved. But older residents and stroller-pushers find the ground floor more convenient. The light and spaciousness of the new location invite customers off the street to browse among the colorful items that line the shelves and decorate the store.

Suprabha likes "to offer fun, cute things that give people joy— something for everyone." Although greeting cards sell best and her supply of gift wrap, bows, stationery, invitations, and mailing envelopes is increasing, customers can find a wide range of gifts, from baby presents to wedding presents, and imported necklaces to books on mediation.

Stop by any day of the week for party favors, toys, a picture frame, or a decorative ceramic dish. Suprabha will help you. She's the one with soft red hair, clear blue eyes, and a peaceful demeanor.

Rives Carroll, CPHS's Director of Programs, leads walking tours of Cleveland Park for the Smithsonian, runs the summer day camp at the Cleveland Park Club, and teaches geography at John Eaton School.

**Cleveland Park House Tour
Sunday, May 19th
1-5 pm**

Sponsored by and starting from the National Child Research Center, 3209 Highland Place. Tickets are \$10 in advance; \$15 on the afternoon of the tour. Call 363-4070 for tickets and further information.

Presidential Update*Continued from page 1*

not asked to comment on restaurants.

The dedicated work and remarkable accomplishments of this CPHS committee are much appreciated. Also, we are lucky to have Sam Friedman as our Administrative Coordinator. He inspires us all and is a joy to work with.

CPHS Annual Meeting

CPHS's Annual Meeting this year will be Thursday evening, April 18th, at Tregaron. Dexter Lewis, headmaster of the Washington International School, graciously invited us to hold a reception, beginning at 7:15 pm, in the dacha (see photo at right), followed by our meeting at 8 in the school's new auditorium. Dr. Henry M. (Marc) Cathey, director of the National Arboretum since 1981, is our featured speaker; his topic is "Trees for the 90s." Directed by Dr. Cathey, a widely recognized horticultural scientist, the Arboretum has been focusing on "Tough Plants for Tough Times." This is an issue that concerns us all as trees and plants battle increasing pollution and neglect in our urban settings.

Wisconsin Avenue Rezoning

Diane Olsson, CPHS Vice-President, organized our presentation to the March 18th hearing of the D.C. Zoning Commission to consider rezoning of two small Wisconsin Avenue areas between Massachusetts Avenue and Macomb Street in order to help preserve the Washington Cathedral's setting and views and to implement the city's Comprehensive Plan. TACPEC (Tenley & Cleveland Park Emergency Committee), ANC-3C, and the Cathedral asked the Commission to establish R-5-A zoning, which would limit heights to 40 feet and reduce the building density. This would help preserve the views to and from the Cathedral and preclude a canyon-like effect opposite the open plaza at the Cathedral's entrance.

CPHS testified at the hearing on the historic preservation benefits of the proposed zoning. Numerous volunteers supported this effort, especially CPHS Board members Lee Sturtevant, Margaret Lenzner, and Davis Marlin, and CPHS members Alice and Charles Ritcheson, Ellen Bates, and Eleanor Granger. Phil Mendelson of TACPEC and Joel Odum from ANC-3C stirred up support from all quarters of our

expanded Wisconsin Avenue neighborhood.

Bicentennial Celebrations

Bicentennial activities for the city of Washington have begun. George Washington proclaimed the exact federal district site on January 24, 1791; Pierre L'Enfant arrived March 9th to begin designing the city; and the new federal city's first boundary stone was laid on April 15th.

Uriah Forrest, an original landowner in the federal city, built the farmhouse at Rosedale in 1793. Cleveland Park will celebrate the bicentennial of its oldest house, Rosedale, in 1993 and the centennial of its first suburban house, 3607 Newark, in 1994. CPHS's lecture series this year has featured 200 years of history in Cleveland Park. A tour of Rosedale on April 13th and a lecture on Cleveland Park's oldest shops on April 22nd will complete the series.

The series' popularity has spawned plans for next year. Two suggestions are: panel discussions of long-time residents' memories of Cleveland Park and illustrated lectures on innovative renovations and additions to neighborhood homes.

Please contact Kathy Wood (244-1276) if you would be willing to share your reminiscences of Cleveland Park in days past. She is also seeking old photos of Cleveland Park and its residents engaged in various activities for a proposed pictorial history of Cleveland Park to celebrate its bicentennial and centennial. She will copy your photos and return them to you.

Libby Rowe

I regret to report the death on March 11th of Libby Rowe, a founding Board member of CPHS. Mrs. Rowe, a native Washingtonian, was a long-time leader in the city's planning and preservation (see "Cleveland Park Personalities," *Voices*, Fall 1987).

CPHS Annual Meeting
Thursday, April 18th
Washington International School
at Tregaron

3100 Macomb Street

7:15 pm: Reception in dacha

8:00 pm: Meeting in
auditorium

ARC Preservation Awards

Dr. Marc Cathey on

"Trees for the 90s"

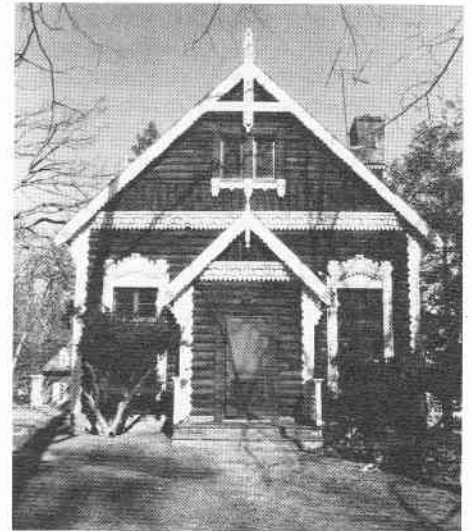


Photo by Kathy Wood

The Russian-style dacha (small country house) at Tregaron, site for the opening reception of CPHS's April 18th meeting, was built by Marjorie Merriweather Post and her husband Joseph E. Davies in 1945, following their 1936-38 stay in the Soviet Union where he was posted as U.S. ambassador. Tregaron, now home of the Washington International School, was originally the Causeway, a 20-acre Cleveland Park estate bought by Ohio financier James Parmelee in 1912. Charles Adams Platt, then the foremost country-house and landscape architect, designed the Neo-Georgian mansion and its setting, which the Davies bought and renamed (Tregaron is Welsh for "village of the three wells") in 1940.

CPHS Lectures on 200 Years of History in Cleveland Park

Saturday, April 13, 10-12 am
Rosedale: A lecture and tour by
Louise Mann-Kenney at Rosedale
(Youth for Understanding)

3500 Newark Street,
Reservations required: Phone Rives
Carroll (363-6556)

Monday, April 22, 8 pm
Cleveland Park: The Growth of
Neighborhood Shopping on
Wisconsin and Connecticut Avenues,
by Kathleen Sinclair Wood at the
Cleveland Park Congregational
Church, 34th and Lowell Streets

Tastes and Sounds on Connecticut Avenue

By Samuel W. Friedman

During February's unseasonably warm days and evenings, I talked with owners, managers, bartenders, and musicians in the Connecticut Avenue restaurants and taverns of Cleveland Park. Without stepping onto a plane, train or bus, I embarked on a world tour of food and music that stopped in places as diverse as southern France, Buffalo, Indonesia and South America. In our own back yard, we have 18 establishments in which to eat, drink, and be merry.

Some of them, like the Roma, have been in the neighborhood with the same family ownership for as long as most of us can remember, while other long-standing names, such as L'Escargot, have new owners. A second group, including Club Soda, Gallagher's and Caffè Italiano, has been here for nearly a generation. The "post-Metro" generation of the 1980s includes McDonald's, Ivy's Place and Wingmaster's. Lavandou, Los Amigos and a new bakery are among the "Recent Arrivals."

Here as Long as I can Remember

The Roma at 3419 Connecticut has been in Cleveland Park since 1932 and in the Abbo family since 1920. Spaghetti, manicotti and linguini a la pesto are popular and Mrs. Abbo still grows fresh basil for the restaurant in the front yard of her Newark Street home. The Roma's garden, famous for summertime meals since it opened in 1952, has a grape arbor older than many Cleveland Park residents. The garden is home to the celebrated annual grape-stomping party on the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday after Labor Day weekend. Take off your shoes and join the fun! Poor Roberts, a sports bar connected to the Roma, presents sporting events from around the world on wide-screen TV.

The Yenching Palace at 3524 Connecticut features its popular Peking Duck, meat dumplings, orange chicken and a notorious Palace Soup. This soup, originally known as ling ling and flavored by bamboo shoots, pork, mushrooms, chicken broth and tiger lily, gained its notoriety back in 1956 with a lawsuit over its name. Van S. Lung,

Yenching's owner since 1955, was born in China's Yunnan province.

L'Escargot, near Macomb Street, became the fourth restaurant of Yves and Clelia Courbois on January 1, 1991. The Courbois also preside over Au Pied de Cochon and Aux Fruits de Mer in Georgetown and Montego Bay Cafe in Adams Morgan. They appointed Alain Biancheri as general manager to assure that French home-style cooking is served in a comfortable, neighborly setting. Open from 11:30 a.m. until evening, L'Escargot offers everything from just coffee and a basket of freshly baked bread to a full-course meal. Soon to be introduced is an early-bird dinner special for senior citizens.

The Next Generation

It was a warm Thursday evening when I met Charlie Barnett setting up for his band's weekend performance at Club Soda, downstairs at 3433 Connecticut. A 1975 graduate in English from Cornell, Charlie is a composer by day and is currently completing the score for a documentary on crack babies. His credits include a soon-to-be-aired PBS documentary, "Journey to Augustow," about a Polish town during the Holocaust and the TV show, "America's Most Wanted." Charlie's band, The Correctones, is one of several popular groups performing at Club Soda. Though The Correctones specializes in "world-beat" sound, an amalgam of Afro-Cuban, Caribbean and Brazilian rhythms, Club Soda is noted for its rock-and-roll oldies from the 1950s and 1960s.

Down the sidewalk at 3319 Connecticut is the quintessential neighborhood bar, Gallagher's Pub, featuring an easy atmosphere, eclectic music and beer. Jazz trios, folk singers and singer-songwriters serve up a menu of mostly original live music, occasionally supplemented by rock-and-roll bands. According to bartender Steve Erwin, popular performers include country blues singer Bill Baker and Jeff Felster who plays jazz standards along with his own music. Steve himself is a musician-composer with 17 years of professional guitar experience; his quintet also performs at Gallagher's.

Ireland's Four Provinces across the avenue opened as an Irish pub on Friday, January 13, 1977. Known for its Irish music, its two current favorite groups are the Shawn Fleming Trio and Brendan's Voyage. Shawn Fleming is from Ireland and now stationed in New York. The electrified sound of his Trio features a keyboard, several guitars, an Irish drum (bodhran) and a tin penny whistle with six holes, from which a good player can produce two or three octaves of sound. Equally popular is the quite different traditional Irish music of Brendan's Voyage, whose members are former Cleveland Park residents.

In the neighborhood for 15 years, Caffè Italiano at 3516 Connecticut is popular for its veal and seafood selection. Manager John DeSouza described the appetizing Osso Buco: braised shank of veal in sauce, served with saffron rice. The popular Pescatora Supreme includes fresh clams, mussels, calamary and baby shrimp, served in a bed of linguini with a lobster sauce. For des-



The Roma (here since 1932), McDonald's (1986), and 16 other old and new establishments offer a wide variety of savory tastes and sounds along Connecticut Avenue in Cleveland Park.

sert, try the cannoli with ricotta cheese and chocolate chips.

1980s: The Metro Age

Indonesian food was introduced to Cleveland Park when Ivy's Place opened at 3520 Connecticut. Gado Gado, a vegetable dish with a peanut sauce, and Nasi Goreng Sayur, an Indonesian fried rice, are special favorites. Other delights are Ayam Panggang, grilled chicken with soy sauce or a spicy sweet sauce, and Rendang, spicy beef cooked in coconut sauce. Thai cuisine is also featured at Ivy's Place, with much praise for Kug Pad Prik, stir-fried shrimp with garlic, vegetables and green peppers, and Kang Kai, a spicy chicken curry.

Kyoko has been serving fresh Japanese sushi at 3333A Connecticut since 1982. Popular selections are the California roll and the innovative Chesapeake roll. The Chesapeake includes soft shell crab, lettuce and a homemade sauce along with rice and seaweed paper, all rolled into the shape of an ice cream cone. Kyoko also features Thai cuisine.

For those happy to eat chicken every night, step across to Wingmaster's at 3514 Connecticut. Owner Joel Applebaum indicated that Buffalo-style chicken wings are his most popular item. The wings are fried, tossed in a spicy sauce, and served with blue cheese dressing and celery. Joel says to (1) dip a wing in the sauce and eat it; (2) lick your fingers; (3) do the same with the celery; (4) have a drink. Then, repeat steps 1 to 4. Joel first experienced Buffalo-style chicken wings as a student at New York State University at Buffalo and opened his first Wingmaster's in Baltimore's Harbor Place in 1980. Before entering the restaurant business, he was principal for seven years of a special-needs high school in Natick, Massachusetts.

For dessert, take a few steps to Bob's Famous Ice Cream, where Oreo flavor is still number one, closely followed by Java light coffee and chocolate mousse. New partner and owner Timothy Jawarish introduced hot coffee to go with his increasingly popular blueberry, banana nut and carrot raisin muffins.

Almost next door is the Madras Indian Vegetarian Restaurant, to be renamed Indian Kitchen and renovated by Mr. Tutul, one of the new owners.

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The Sherman Cottage, built 1902-1909 in a style specific to Cleveland Park, displays delightful details like ornaments of rope dipped in plaster. Drawing by John Wiebenson.

Architectural Corner

By Cherrie Anderson

Sherman Cottage

This is a third example of the ten house styles featured in CPHS's forthcoming Guide to Cleveland Park House Styles. Cherrie Anderson, author of the guide, is an interior designer and member of CPHS's Architectural Review Committee. Illustrator John Wiebenson is an architect.

Sherman cottage is a style specific to Cleveland Park. These houses generally date from 1902 to 1909, the second phase of construction by John Sherman, who was president of the Cleveland Park Company from 1895 to 1909. Often they were designed by Sherman's wife, Ella Bennett Sherman. Their basic form is simplified from the earlier Queen Anne style. They display a wealth of delightful details, many of which reflect the Craftsman influence, most distinctively ornaments of rope dipped in plaster. The Shermans themselves referred to these houses as "cottages." Examples can be seen at 2929, 2945 and 3031 Macomb Street.

Basic Form

- Simple rectangular massing;
- Front gable roof with side dormers; broad overhanging eaves;
- Off-center front entrance, with asymmetrically placed windows of

various types;

- Full or partial front port, often wrapping around side.

Materials

- Narrow wood clapboard or pebble-dash stucco siding on first story; wood shingles on second story and attic gable;
- Originally wood shingle roof;
- Wood porches, doors, windows and trim;
- Rope dipped in plaster ornament.

Details

- Double-hung windows, usually on lower stories;
- Casement windows, usually in dormers or attic gables;
- Modified Palladian windows where round top and side panels are decorative wood rather than glass;
- A variety of window sash styles, including one-over-one (one glass pane above and below), one large diamond, small all-over diamonds, horizontal rectangles at top of window, and small all-over rectangles;
- Gabled or flat-roofed porches;
- Square porch columns with heavy spandrels (triangular supports) between column and pediment;
- Tuscan porch columns (the simplest classical order);
- Square porch balusters (handrail supports);
- Sloping, shingled, eave-like projections separating stories;
- Exposed rafter ends supporting eaves;
- Ornamental brackets at eaves.



Drawing by Susan Hornbostel

Our trees need individual care. Would you like to adopt a small, newly planted oak tree on Connecticut Avenue between Macomb and Porter?

This means working with a local merchant to be sure the tree gets enough water during our hot dry spells, and just generally keeping your eye on the tree's health and progress.

If you would like to take this on as a family effort, a school project or by yourself, we'll show you how to take care of our trees.

Call Susan Hornbostel, 966-3107, and help new trees put down root in Cleveland Park.

John Poole's Tree Update

Interest is increasing in privately funded programs to replant city trees in Washington and other cities where budgetary problems have led to cutbacks in this area. Tree replanting, however, is just one step toward protecting and preserving Washington's great urban forest. Removing dead trees and stumps is also important—and costly—and it is here that the city's tree program seems to have fallen behind in areas like Cleveland Park. We are updating the city's census of Cleveland Park trees with a view to sponsoring a tree replanting program, perhaps this fall. But to be effective, a major effort must first be made to remove the large dead trees and stumps in our neighborhood.

City tree officials tell us they have

resolved some contracting problems and plan to resuscitate the tree renewal program. This includes Connecticut Avenue where many trees planted last spring died over the summer, evidently from lack of water. City replanting contracts typically require contractors to replace, at their own expense, trees dying within a year of planting. It is not evident how this was, or can be, enforced unless the neighborhood itself keeps a close eye on replants.

Susan Hornbostel is organizing our effort for Cleveland Park. See her call for volunteers on this page. Thanks!

Tastes and Sounds

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He is adding Tandoori specialties like marinated chicken and lamb, grilled over an open flame and served with homemade bread. Mr. Tutul, who studied hotel and restaurant management in Switzerland, will also introduce a carrot and milk Indian soup popular in Europe.

For those who don't want to leave home, the Peking Cafe specializes in carry-out and will deliver. Their extensive menu includes Szechuan and Hunan Chinese cuisine.

Completing the Metro Age is McDonald's, which arrived shortly before Cleveland Park's December 1986 designation as an historic district. This store at 3407 Connecticut demonstrates how renovation of a commercial building can successfully preserve the original architecture. Ray and Marsh Hicks purchased the Cleveland Park franchise from McDonald's in December 1990. Already owners of McDonald's in Adams Morgan and at 17th and Corcoran Streets, they appointed Brigitte Hughes as supervisor and Kevin Scott as manager in Cleveland Park. Approaching its 30th birthday, the Big Mac—two beef patties, sauce, cheese and pickles on a sesame seed bun—continues number one on McDonald's menu.

Recent Arrivals

Los Amigos, at the corner of Ordway and Connecticut, has served many Mexican Fajitas and Chimichangas since opening in January 1989. The Fajitas consists of slices of marinated flank steak or chicken breast with onions and green peppers, cooked and served in a cast-iron pan and garnished with fried beans, sour cream, tomatoes, avocado and a tortilla. General man-

ager Rolando Farias indicated that executive chef Sylvia Henriquez uses only fresh ingredients. To complement her cooking, two guitar players serenade on Friday and Saturday nights.

Popular at Eleni's Deli at 3414 Connecticut is the Greek Gyro platter, with lamb or beef, lettuce, tomato, onions, and gyro sauce, served on pita bread. Also mentioned was the homemade Italian lasagna with three layers of meat, ricotta, mozzarella and provolone cheese and tomato sauce.

The youngest of our sit-down restaurants is Lavandou at 3321 Connecticut, which Francis and Florence DeVilliers opened in November 1990. Although Francis, the chef, is Parisian, his family is from southern France and he attended cooking school in Nice. The cuisine of light sauces, garlic, olive oil and black olives reflects the taste of southern France and is often known as country-style. Favorites identified since November include beef casserole with walnuts and zest of orange in red wine and grilled fish of the day with fennel and tomato. Spinach and egg soup and clams with warm garlic vinaigrette are other palate pleasers.

By the time you read this, our most recent arrival, Uptown Bakers, will be open at 3313 Connecticut. Owners Lou Statzer and Peter Carley are enthusiastic about the high-quality breads they will be baking. They will also serve cappuccino, a simple stand-up breakfast and sandwiches for lunch.

My "world tour" of Cleveland Park's restaurants and taverns on Connecticut Avenue revealed a basket of ever-changing musical and culinary surprises. Even if the sign has stayed the same, it is probable that the management and menu have changed—and we always hope for the better. Like our retail and service business merchants, these owners, managers and bartenders are eager to please and serve the neighborhood. Whether it has been ages or just a week since you dined, there is always another taste or sound to be savored on Connecticut Avenue.

Samuel Friedman, CPHS's Administrative Coordinator, is also Grants Administrator and Voluntary Resources Coordinator for the D.C. Preservation League and a consultant in visual merchandising and retail store planning.

Cleveland Park Personalities

Persis Joan Herold

By Ann Crittendon

She may be one of the most interesting personalities in Cleveland Park, although she complains that she doesn't know anyone in the neighborhood anymore.

"You have to be as rich as Croesus to live here now," she adds.

The daughter of the dean of an Episcopal seminary and an English mother who graduated from Cambridge, Persis Joan Herold seems more British than American. She was brought up in New England and graduated from Radcliffe. Her parents spoke Latin and Greek, and she speaks with refreshing candor. She has the confident, tart-tongued manner of an intellectual aristocrat and the didactic certainty of a headmistress, which, in a way, she is. An attractive, gray-haired woman with a voice made husky by years of smoking, she suggested that we describe her age as "the late sixties."

Persis (an old Bible name meaning "Persian woman") runs the Math Center out of her home on the corner of Macomb and 34th Streets, across from John Eaton Elementary School. During a recent interview, she offered a visitor coffee in an office-reception area converted from a dining room, now filled with stacks of books, a long table with learning materials, and a bulletin board covered with announcements and cartoons ("If God wanted us to use the metric system, he would have given us ten fingers").

The Math Center does diagnostic testing and remedial tutoring of students having difficulty with arithmetic, algebra and geometry, and runs a group-tutoring program every summer. The Center also runs training classes for teachers of mathematics from such schools as Maret and Georgetown Day. And when she can find a suitable instructor, Mrs. Herold runs an after-school enrichment program for fourth and fifth graders ("junior greenhorns"), who know that math—which Mrs. Herold defines as "anything but arithmetic"—can be sheer fun.

What some people have described

as "Mrs. Herold's method" of teaching math, is not her method at all, she points out, but a national method first developed in the 1960s and now accepted by the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. Rejecting the old reliance on rote memorization and calculation, it emphasizes the use of concrete materials, games and puzzles, or what some instructors call "manipulatives," a term Persis Herold scorns.

"I don't like the term; it's not even a noun," she says in disgust, rising to find a dictionary. She looks up the offending word. "It's listed only as an adjective," she declares triumphantly. Case dismissed.

Whatever the nomenclature, the "new math" as taught at the Math Center is hands-on, spatial, brain-teasing, mind-bending thought play, involving pattern and symmetry, probabilities, mazes, curve stitches, and pentominoes. It does look like fun, and Persis Herold's advice to parents is that if their child's school is teaching math the way they learned it, they had better do something about it. Things have changed.

Mrs. Herold moved to Cleveland Park in 1963 with her late husband, then employed at the State Department, and three young sons. Those were the early days of the civil rights movement and the Cleveland Park she remembers was full of "Kennedy Democrats and liberals." (Her memory is accurate. At one point, four high officials in the Kennedy-Johnson Administration — George Ball, William Bundy, Walt Rostow, and Ellsworth Bunker— all lived near the corner of Lowell and 35th Streets, not to mention Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach on Highland Place.)

Mrs. Herold was president for a year of the Episcopal Society for Cultural and Racial Unity, which visited area churches advocating civil rights. She proudly recalls that the organization was so controversial in the Deep South that members wearing a button she designed — with a white cross on a black background — were arrested and jailed just for having the button on. Many of her neighbors shared her commitment to integration; she remembers one house that sat on the market for months while the owner sought, unsuccessfully, to sell it to a black family.

Much of her Cleveland Park experience revolved around John Eaton, which was then very much a neigh-



Persis Joan Herold

Photo by Christian A. Herold

borhood school, with a large active group of volunteer parents. Among them she remembers particularly Sturgis and Hilda Warner, Cleveland Park residents since the early 1950s, who worked for home rule and drove around with a license plate spelling VOTE. Mrs. Warner also helped establish the Sundial program at Macomb playground. (The couple have recently moved out of the neighborhood into an apartment.)

In 1970 Mrs. Herold, who was working on a master's degree in mathematics, began tutoring her own children. Gradually that expanded to include children of her friends and the Math Center was born. "I was getting so much business; there was so much inferior math teaching going on," she explained. "There still is; you wouldn't believe it. I get algebra students who don't know what equals means. Joan Habib and a couple of other people asked me to teach them how to tutor, so I started training teachers, who were then mostly housewives."

One of these was Judy Ain, who is now a math resource teacher at John Eaton and part of a team designing a new mathematics curriculum for the D.C. public schools. Eight years ago Mrs. Ain was a volunteer math tutor with a son in first grade at Eaton and when she approached Persis Herold about her training program, Herold allowed her to take the course for free, because she was not earning a salary from Eaton.

Today Math Center graduates are in many if not most of the area's primary schools and Mrs. Herold's network has

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Persis Joan Herold

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expanded to include educational consultants of all kinds. In 1982 she helped found Washington Independent Services for Educational Resources (WISER), a non-profit membership organization providing a referral network for educational professionals, including diagnosticians, psychologists, speech therapists, and tutors. She is happy to provide information on WISER or the Math Center to anyone who is interested.

Ann Crittendon is a non-fiction writer and a resident of Cleveland Park.

1991 Decal



CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY 1991

CPHS's 1991 membership decal, again created by Di Stovall, depicts the Sears Roebuck bungalow erected in 1921 at 3035 Rodman Street, one of the four Sears houses identified among Cleveland Park's eclectic architectural mixture. Following his wife's drawing, noted Washington printmaker Lou Stovall prepared the decals, which will go to everyone renewing membership in or joining CPHS in 1991.

Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

The Cleveland Park Historical Society, founded in 1984, won its initial battles to have our neighborhood declared a historic district and protect the low-rise commercial sections along Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues.

Now we are focusing on increasing neighborhood interest in historic preservation, as with our lecture series and guidelines on getting a D.C. building permit in Cleveland Park, and other community projects, such as saving our trees and helping to revitalize our shopping areas.

If you are not a current member, please join or re-join us now. Membership also assures you regular mailings of our newsletter *Voices* and other materials to keep you up to date on neighborhood development and preservation news, plus invitations to special events and programs.

Send your check for \$25, payable to Cleveland Park Historical Society, to:

Kathe McDaniels
Membership Chair, CPHS
2952 Newark Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C. 20008

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