

New Initiatives for a Rejuvenated CPHS

By Dick Jorgensen

President, Cleveland Park Historical Society

A profile of Dick Jorgensen, elected by the CPHS board at its February meeting to be CPHS's fifth president, appears on page 6.

Ever since the New Deal—with FDR, WPA, CCC, etc.—it's been an alphabet-soup world, at least in Washington and for many of us in Cleveland Park. The National Archives may say it best: "What's past is prologue." Thus since I am neither an architect nor a lawyer (Don't ask how it is that a Newark Street resident isn't a lawyer) but "just" an historian, I'm taking a page from the history of the 1930s to bring to CPHS members and friends in Cleveland Park this digest of current and planned CPHS activities. Let's call it an abbreviated report on ARC, PSF, LQ and NI, and CPHS and REJ.

First, ARC—the Architectural Review Committee and the "open space" issue. This is of special concern to folks living in historic districts such as ours. CPHS's ARC has been functioning on

the cutting edge of the open space issue since its inception shortly after the 1987 designation of Cleveland Park as an historic district. In recent months, ARC's deliberations over some controversial aspects of several homeowners' plans for additions and/or alterations to their property have intensified and even been called into question. There appears to be the misconception—blown way out of proportion—that ARC is or should be something that it is not—or not meant to be. As Sam Friedman, our Community Projects Coordinator, stresses in his article on page 5, ARC is an advisory body of Cleveland Park residents and CPHS members established to review projects and provide recommendations to the staff of the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. The process and procedures of ARC are being reviewed and will be on the agenda at upcoming board meetings. Meanwhile, there is the task of educating the CPHS membership and the community at large on the processes of ARC at work in this historic district. ARC has been—and still is—there to guide anyone in Cleveland Park with plans to rehabilitate their property. ARC functions under the guidelines determined and approved by the CPHS board. This board in turn deliberates with full knowledge of the benefits and responsibilities of living in an historic district (not to mention the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation in Historic Districts).

Second—PSF and our quest for

grants to support new CPHS initiatives in the months ahead. Our recent application to the National Trust for Historic Preservation for one of the Preservation Services Fund awards has been placed "on hold" as we work with staff in Washington to refine an already highly-regarded proposal for resubmission by June 1st. The PSF is a matching grant program that fosters an increase in skills and confidence among private and public groups undertaking preservation activities. Our proposal is for assistance in the completion and publication of a *Guide to*

Continued on next page

May Day! May Day! May Day!

Come early, stay late, to meet your neighbors, friends and CPHS members at the

**Cleveland Park Historical Society
1996 ANNUAL MEETING**

Monday, May 6th, 5 to 8 pm

**Cleveland Park Congregational Church
34th and Lowell Streets (363-8211)**

5 pm: Congregate in parlor
CPHS exhibits, refreshments

6 pm: Meeting (sanctuary)

• Welcome and update on "New Initiatives for CPHS"

• Service to the community cited

• Preservation Achievement Awards

• Lawrence Mirel, President, Committee for the Capital City, on "The Retrocession Idea"

7 pm: More refreshments in the parlor

Inside:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Volunteers and Donors | 2 |
| Brookville Supermarket | 3 |
| Stephen Koczak: Activist | 4 |
| CPHS's ARC | 5 |
| Dick Jorgensen | 6 |
| Sam Friedman | 6 |
| Preservation Awards | 7 |
| Cleveland Park Church | 9 |

New Initiatives for CPHS

Continued from page 1

Cleveland Park House Styles. As we know, Cleveland Park is an area of varied and distinct architectural styles, both residential and commercial, which have taken shape over the last 100 years. These eclectic but harmonious styles greatly contribute to the charm and small-town character of Cleveland Park. The Guide will consist of a series of 12 "Architectural Corners" published in *Voices* since spring 1990. These pieces have come from the skilled hands of architect/illustrator John Wiebenson and interior designer Cherrie Anderson. Architectural historian and former CPHS president Kathy Wood, who originated the series, will provide the introduction. When completed—hopefully by September 1996—the Guide will have a lasting historical value as a record of the marvelous architectural history of Cleveland Park. It will serve laypersons and professional homebuilders alike and inspire Washingtonians to pay due respect to the work of architects and builders of other times.

Third—the new and possibly elusive LQ. That's L for Livability and Q for Quotient. In an area that abounds in high-IQ types—of which there's almost an embarrassment of riches in Cleveland Park—we're determined to undertake **New Initiatives** that help raise the community's LQ. A publications committee will be established to oversee the production of the Style Guide and embark on new initiatives in print—e.g., a pocket guide to the area, an oral history project, directories of shopkeepers and services in Cleveland Park. Community-oriented materials (in print, photos, graphic arts) and events like our wonderfully successful

fall 1995 tour of century-old houses that enhance residents' knowledge and appreciation of Cleveland Park can significantly affect the LQ of the historic district. By the way, we've recently completed for deposit in libraries and other public places bound volumes of the first 18 issues of our newsletter *Cleveland Park Voices*. It compiles much of our community's history. Another new LQ initiative is an expanded beautification effort throughout Cleveland Park. And thanks to the John Poole-Gordon Sheridan CPHS tree-planting team, there'll be more new trees to hug—at least to admire—this spring. The spring lecture series on *Buildings, Building and Rebuilding in Washington* is coming off well as this is written. Attendance has been varied, but members and friends who've come are savoring a rare opportunity to get better acquainted with one another as well as with the guest speakers' topics. "Literary Cleveland Park" may be the theme of a proposed fall lecture series.

Last—CPHS and REJ. The latter initials may be on my brief case but here they stand for **Rejuvenation**. We're committed to the concept and I look forward to working with a new board and serving all the good members of the Cleveland Park Historical Society in the months ahead. We're at an all-time high in devoted membership, and intend to keep it that way.

Hope to see you—CPHS members, neighbors, and friends—at our annual meeting on May 6th (see page 1).

Many Thanks to Our Volunteers!

Barbara and Dick Jorgensen, CPHS Membership Chair and Acting (then) President, thank the many volunteers who hand-delivered the CPHS 1996 calendar (conceived by Dick) over New Year's to CPHS members.

Catherine Armington
Jane Biltchik
Jill Bogard
Charles Brown
John Buchanan
Rives Carroll
Anne Clark
Sarah Ellis
Joan Farrell
John Fowler
Ken Fuller
Mary Jane Glass
Barbara and Jim Goff
Joan Habib
Justis Hanks
Jane Hardin
Louise Harper
Rich Jensen and Beth Goodrich
Elizabeth McElroy
Esther Namian
Ann Marie Plubell
John Poole
Lee Porter
Judy Hubbard Saul
Molly Schuchat
Gordon Sheridan
Alison Steadman
Barbara Stout
Stephen Turow
Jean van der Tak
Lindsley Williams
Sam Friedman, CPHS Community Projects Coordinator, delivered the calendars to businesses on Connecticut and Wisconsin.

And Thanks to Our Donors!

CPHS Boardmember Jane Biltchik and husband David recently donated a fax machine to the CPHS office. We are grateful!

Water Our Glorious Trees!

Cleveland Park's streetside trees are among our greatest glories. But to thrive, they need watering during the long, hot, often dry, growing season, just like our gardens, even if technically these trees between the sidewalk and the street—most planted by the city but many by CPHS tree-planting teams—are on D.C. land.

Gordon Sheridan, CPHS tree com-

mittee chair and general manager of Johnson's Flower and Garden Centers, recommends for trees up to three years of age letting a hose run a stream of water slowly into the roots for half an hour, once a week. For older trees, a similar soaking up to an hour, every other week. Between soakings, enjoy the shade!

Our Neighborhood Shopkeepers

Brookville Supermarket

By Jean van der Tak

"Roquefort cheese? Don't have it. How about Danish blue, \$5.39 a pound?" Cellular phone to his ear, Brookville Supermarket Manager Jim Shipman rounds the end of Aisle 4 at a clip, filling one of the 10 to 15 phoned-in orders Brookville gets on a typical weekday. With the blue cheese okayed and checked through with the rest of the order, he shunts another basket of plastic-bagged items into the cluster at the front of the store, awaiting delivery to homebound, often elderly customers—promptly, by foot, bus, Metro, car, whatever it takes, at \$3 per delivery, "flat rate."

Next time that customer wants Roquefort, Jim and his boss, Mike Shirazi, are likely to have it, squeezed in somehow. This family-owned neighborhood supermarket at 3427 Connecticut Avenue, one of a "chain" of just two, has only 7,500 square feet of display space, compared to the 35,000 plus feet of a typical suburban chain-store market. But the Roquefort will join the "14 to 15 thousand" items it carries, nearly up to the 17,000 or so stocked by suburban behemoths. As Mike puts it, "fulfilling the needs of the people of Cleveland Park" is the Brookville's top priority.

Which it has been since the store's newsmaking, ribbon-cutting opening on December 16, 1987, with Mayor Marion Barry and Ward 3 Councilmember Jim Nathanson there. That opening came a scant ten days after Safeway—then, like Brookville now, the only full-range market on this stretch of Connecticut—moved out. Safeway had announced its departure in September. Hundreds of neighbors, led by ANC member Roger Burns and CPHS Board member Margaret Hare, mounted a "Save Our Supermarket" campaign to find a replacement for this "vitally needed service." Enter the three Shirazi brothers, owner-operators of Chevy Chase's Brookville Super Market. The Shirazis had been looking for another store site, Mike says; that and Cleveland Park's search were "the perfect match." So they took out "a big loan," bought the site, and worked "24

hours a day" to open the store with minimal "lapse time."

Our Brookville has lately been in the news again, with the rumor of Magruder's plan to open a branch in the space vacated by The Wiz and Kenny Rogers at the nearby Park & Shop. The ensuing brouhaha—Magruder supporters vs. neighbors determined to fend off a rival to Brookville, recruited by Roger Burns in another "Save Our Supermarket" campaign—made even the Washington Post ("Food Fight Brewing in Cleveland Park"). Brookville seems to have won out there too. (At press time, early April, Park & Shop's new owners, Federal Realty, could not say who's coming in but indicated that they're looking for a solution to satisfy Brookville supporters.)

That fight is evidence of what Brookville has come to mean to the neighborhood in the past eight years. Stories abound of how it puts itself out for customers, whom "we consider part of our family," Mike says—wheeling a customer home when the battery of her wheelchair ran down; slogging through January's blizzards to deliver orders; being open full time during those blizzards and expecting all employees to be there (not so easy, some implied). Mike emphasizes, "We're open 8 am to 9 pm [Sundays till 7 pm], 365 days a year—sunshine, rain, snow."

Mike and his brothers Jake and Yash arrived in the U.S. from their native Iran in 1966, "to get an education." Mike graduated from the University of Maryland and has a master's in telecommunications from George Washington. Their father and uncle had been in the grocery business back in Iran. When they bought into Cleveland Park, Mike took over while Jake and Yash stayed with the original Brookville, though Yash "sometimes" relieves Mike here. Mike used to be at the store 9 to 9, six days a week. That's down to five days since last September when his wife Nazzie gave birth to triplets—two



Jim Shipman and Mike Shirazi

boys and a girl—added to an older daughter, and he is needed at home to help out. Even then he's on the phone "constantly" with Jim Shipman. Jim, who's been manager since 1988 and some customers claim is never absent, says his schedule is "from B to B: Be there when we open and be there when we close." He does get two half days off in the seven-day week, but rarely takes both.

Other "key" employees are similarly loyal, Mike says, which is "not common for a small company" nowadays and he attributes to the store's "family atmosphere." These he cites as produce manager Angel Ochoa; "capable" Edward Davis, the dairy and frozen food manager "who's been with us 14 years, used to work at the other store"; cashier Ruth Brown, once employed at the old Woodley Market in the Park & Shop; cashier Maria Laboy, on the left as one enters the store, who also does phone orders; cashier Jean Jones who "takes care of the health and beauty items"; and Osmar, also a former Chevy Chase employee and meat manager at the Cleveland Park Brookville since its deli opened last year.

Consistent with the family atmosphere and noticeable to a new customer, none of the staff wears a uniform or name tag. "We give them freedom," says Mike, "and our customers have been here so long everybody knows them and calls them by their first names." A newcomer might also be struck by the store's somewhat cramped appearance—neater and far more appealing than the "Soviet Safeway" that preceded it, but still no-nonsense.

The offerings on display, however, are lavish. Osmar's department includes a full range of Boar's Head "top-

Continued on page 8

Cleveland Park Personalities

Stephen Koczak: Citizen Activist

By Jean van der Tak

Stephen Koczak wishes he could get on with the book he's writing on changes he's seen in a colorful lifetime that began the same year, 1917, as that of the late Soviet Union and has converged with Soviet history at times. But his concern for community problems keeps pulling him back to the public arena. He's been president of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association in eight years since 1977—recalled to his current term when nobody else would step in—and president of the D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations in 1974-82 and again in 1991-95. He's even run for president of the U.S. (as a Democrat in 1988 and Republican in 1992, in several state primaries).

It was the threat of a Soviet embassy at Tregaron, up the hill from his Macomb Street backyard, that got him involved in Cleveland Park affairs in 1969-70. As a Soviet expert and foreign service officer with the State Department, he knew that could mean a formidable "city within a city."

His foreign service years were filled with drama, as he recalls. In Hungary in 1949, he was accused of conspiring with Cardinal Jozsef Mindszenty to overthrow the Communist government, given 48 hours to leave the country, and escaped with future wife Anna and two others hidden in the trunk of his car. In Tel Aviv in 1956, he accurately foresaw—though his superiors squelched his warnings—the Israeli/French/British attack on Egypt in response to Nasser's nationalization of the Suez Canal. In Berlin in 1961, he predicted the building of the Berlin Wall, again challenging the official U.S. line. And in the late 1960s and 1970s, as research director of the American Federation of Government Employees, he successfully defied the "selection out" procedures of the State Department, his old employer, and helped rewrite the laws governing employees at that agency and USIA and AID.

Koczak was born and grew up in the politically-minded Hungarian immigrant community of Trenton, New Jersey. After parochial elementary and high school, he worked four years in a factory office while boning up for and winning a scholarship to Harvard. There he aimed to become a poet but switched to philosophy after long talks "on the meaning of life" with a doctor who nursed him through bouts of tonsillitis and mononucleosis.

Wartime drew him into the army when he graduated in 1942. He served in Europe as an officer and after the war, in 1946, on General Lucius Clay's staff in occupied Berlin, writing highly praised reports on Germany's financial situation. His army discharge came on condition that he'd return to Washington to become a foreign service officer. His first overseas posting took him back to Berlin, though he'd chosen Budapest and the U.S. legation there wanted—and finally got—him. After the dramatic two years in Hungary, he went to Bonn where he supervised the reestablishment of Germany's diplomatic and consular services.

He and Anna were married in 1954 and settled in Cleveland Park two years later when they got back from Tel Aviv with newborn daughter Andrea. Christina and Gabriela were born in Washington, before and after another stint in Berlin. All three attended the German school. Between them, there are now ten grandchildren. Anna is renowned among neighbors for her creative backyard puppet shows while the girls were growing up and as the first on the block to shovel the sidewalk after January's blizzards. She is a realtor associate with Weichert.

The episode that drew Koczak onto the local hustings came when Senator Joseph Tydings proposed to sell Tregaron, his family's estate, to the Soviet Union. To defeat that plan, Koczak rallied the support of Congress, where he was well known for his simultaneous battle on behalf of aggrieved State Department employees, the Cleveland Park Citizens Association (initially in favor of the embassy), and many organizations around the city.

Among these organizations was the D.C. Federation of Citizens Associations. Set up in 1910, the Federation was still hewing to a "whites only" policy dating back to the 1920s when D.C. was segregated, largely under the influence of President Woodrow Wil-



Stephen Koczak

son, Koczak claims. He got that policy eliminated and became Federation president following the Soviet embassy battle. At the same time, Arthur Meigs, another longtime Cleveland Park Citizens Association president, became president of the D.C. Federation of Civic Associations. That is the umbrella organization of largely black—but never discriminatory—civic associations set up round the city in the 1920s in response to the "whites only" policy. Both federations still exist, in tandem, and Koczak is a delegate to both.

Reflecting on getting things done in D.C. and the role of citizens associations, Koczak says it was easier under the "commission form of government" before home rule. You went directly to one of the "five or six" congressmen who ruled the city's affairs or one of the three administering commissioners, who could pick up a phone and get a problem fixed promptly. Adding clout was the old Washington Star's full coverage of Federation meetings where city issues are thrashed out. To deal with today's "disrupted" city government takes more devious means, he says. People tend to hire lawyers to argue their case on a personal basis, bypassing citizens associations.

But he feels the associations still have a place, providing they reach out for broad involvement, including young people. It's true the turnout for our neighborhood association's first-Saturday-of-the-month meetings at the Cleveland Park Library is often sparse. Koczak says that dual-worker couples, for instance, tell him they're interested but too busy with the kids or taking courses to attend on a Saturday morning. But he persists with his fine programs, covering citywide problems and

Continued on page 8

CPHS's Architectural Review Committee: Nine Years of Education and Review

By Sam Friedman

Sam Friedman was CPHS's Community Projects Coordinator from September 1990 until April 1 this year.

As my five-and-a-half-year tenure with CPHS wound down, President Dick Jorgensen asked for my insights on the operations of CPHS's Architectural Review Committee. I offered also to answer the question "Does it work?", for I feel the ARC undoubtedly *does* work. In this response, I describe how the committee was set up, what makes it work, and where I feel more attention by CPHS can make a difference to its constituents.

At the outset, I emphasize that the ARC, as do similar bodies in other D.C. historic districts, serves only in an educational and advisory capacity regarding issues of architecture and historic preservation. The ARC does not address zoning issues or provide design services. It reviews applications at its regular monthly meetings and makes recommendations to the staff of the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board.*

The ARC's initial operating procedures were established by CPHS at its February 17, 1987, board meeting. The board decided that the president should appoint co-chairs (one from each side of 34th Street) from the board and board members should make up one-third of the ARC. Bryan Leithauser and Whit Peters were the co-chairs who convened the first ARC meeting on May 11, 1987. The minutes also indicate that at least one member should be an architect and that a brief written record of the ARC's decisions and its reasons be kept. While the ARC would meet monthly or as needed, larger development projects, like the Park & Shop, would be reviewed by a long-range task force. Peters and Leithauser, as ARC co-chairs, were also charged with developing a mission statement and guidelines for the committee, requiring approval by the CPHS board. These were prepared and approved and have weathered the test of time, for better or worse.

After five years, ARC members felt compelled to reexamine the committee's procedures. The board, at its meeting of March 11, 1992, approved

the policy of inviting homeowners to present their plans at ARC meetings, but for the committee to deliberate and vote in private.

What Works

The Cleveland Park Historical Society has a listed phone number, 202-363-6358, and we have been in the phone book for years. Callers are greeted by a pre-recorded message that reports the dates of board and ARC meetings as well as other events, such as lecture series. At least three days before the ARC's monthly meeting, a list of projects being reviewed is added to the message. The committee co-chairs and I respond to all calls by property owners, neighbors, and others seeking information and guidance. The response usually includes the mailing of printed information on CPHS and the ARC. While people are encouraged to contact the ARC co-chairs and myself, they are strongly urged not to contact committee members as we discourage lobbying. To further protect ARC members from neighborly pressures and allow them to focus on issues relevant to ARC's mission, ARC deliberations are held in private.

Also important in what works are the ARC's Preservation Achievement Awards. As design and permit review processes are more complicated if your property is in an historic district, we feel it important to recognize commercial and residential property owners for their efforts. This year's awards are highlighted in this newsletter (page 7) and will be presented at CPHS's annual meeting on May 6th.

What Needs More Attention

I feel that every property owner in the Cleveland Park Historic District is a constituent of the Cleveland Park Historical Society. Thus I also feel it is CPHS's responsibility to continuously educate the community about what it means to own property in an historic district and provide information and guidance concerning the design review and building permit application process. The story on the Preservation Achievement Awards and this article are good examples of how CPHS can continue to serve its constituents. (Ear-

lier ARC stories appeared in the *Voices* of spring 1993, fall and spring 1992, fall 1990, and fall 1989.)

We will all be better-educated consumers if we remember that the historic district is eclectic and the CPHS board-approved guidelines for the ARC stipulate that "the intent is not to freeze the neighborhood in time." This article does not address the many benefits and responsibilities of living in the Cleveland Park Historic District. CPHS constituents also need to understand what is and what is not within the jurisdiction of the ARC and CPHS regarding the review process.

Specific Suggestions

I suggest that every issue of *Voices* should include an article on some aspect of the Cleveland Park Historic District, such as protections afforded, preservation success stories, and the design review process. The next couple of issues, for example, might outline how our commercial areas are protected by special zoning regulations and the responsibilities of owning property in an historic district. *Voices* readers also need to be reminded of the design review process (described in earlier issues of the newsletter and in material available from the CPHS office) and who the players are in that process: the D.C. Preservation Review Board and its staff and CPHS and Cleveland Park neighbors. Already under discussion is to have a "public notice" in each issue of *Voices* listing ARC meetings for the year and reminding readers that the ARC agenda is on the answering machine.

With these thoughts in mind, I ask that we salute the Architectural Review Committee's dedicated work in the nine years since its birth on February 17, 1987. I also ask that we acknowledge that—as with any human being or relationship—there are ups and downs and ups again. Change and growth is ongoing. The ARC is the child of the Cleveland Park Historic District, which itself came into existence under D.C. law on April 27, 1987. Happy ninth anniversary and may you have many more successful years!

*Under the laws of the District of Columbia, the decision-making authority for building permit applications for alterations, additions, demolitions or subdivisions in historic districts is held by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board. For information on this body, contact Steve Raiche, Chief of the D.C. Historic Preservation Division (the office that provides staff support) at 202-727-7360.

Dick Jorgensen New CPHS Leader



When Janie Hulme unexpectedly resigned as CPHS president last November, Dick (Richard E.) Jorgensen—then CPHS's co-vice president (with John Buchanan) and co-membership chair (with wife Barbara)—graciously agreed to be acting president until a successor to Janie could be found. In the next couple of months, he stirred up a storm—organizing the spring lecture series, conceiving and producing CPHS's first, charming calendar, bombarding the board with lists of proposed "new initiatives" (see page 1), and much more. By "election night," the board's February 26 meeting, there was no doubt who should be CPHS's fifth president. Dick—unopposed—won in a landslide.

CPHS is very lucky to have as its new leader this historian (PhD/Georgetown and MA/University of Michigan in history; BA/Carleton in sociology and American studies) and 30-year resident of Cleveland Park, who has enthusiastically embraced "new challenges" since his retirement from the Department in Education in 1982.

Dick "grew up Midwestern." Born in Kenosha, Wisconsin, he attended college in Minnesota and Michigan, interspersed with a stint in the navy. An early career highlight was his two years (1954-56) teaching English at Hiroshima University in Japan in a "pre-Peace-Corps-type program." (He's writing a book about that experience; he and Barbara have a stunning Japanese room and garden at their Newark Street home.) Then followed ten years in the California Bay Area where he worked for the Asia Foundation, taught U.S. history at Berkeley High School, trained history teachers at the University of California, Berkeley, and—"most importantly"—met Barbara (also a Carleton graduate but they hadn't met as undergraduates there) and they married.

They and daughters Susan and Anne arrived in D.C. and moved into their Newark Street home on January 1, 1966, when Dick joined the Department of Education. There he coordinated the Peace Corps/Teacher Corps

program and administered international education programs, with time out to earn his PhD at Georgetown, while Barbara worked for the D.C. Institute of Mental Health. Susan and Anne attended John Eaton, Maret, and the Field School. Susan and her husband now live in Santa Barbara; Anne and her husband in Vienna, Virginia. There are four grandchildren between them—"all outstanding," their Grampa says.

Dick happily took an "early out" from federal employment in the early Reagan years. He and Barbara returned to their alma mater, Carleton, where Dick served as director of alumni affairs. Back in Washington, he taught English composition at the University of D.C., where, he says, "In seven years, I went from full professor to associate professor to assistant professor; they do things differently at UDC." Now he's seeking new challenges with CPHS. Stay tuned!

—Jean van der Tak

Sam Friedman Departs



Sam Friedman, CPHS's Community Projects Coordinator until April 1, is moving to Philadelphia to join his bride-to-be, Marcey Peyser, and hopefully to apply his talents to letting the world know more of Philly's recent revitalization successes. In the past five-and-a-half years, those talents have played a major role in CPHS's revitalization projects in Cleveland Park.

It was Sam, on behalf of CPHS, who took the lead in reactivating the Cleveland Park Merchants Association, producing the Cleveland Park Days of 1991, 92, and 93, and introducing the Main Street revitalization concept to our commercial areas on Connecticut and Wisconsin. While the merchants have not continued these efforts as much as expected, Sam feels those areas are now seen as "great places to do business," as witness the minimal vacancies despite high and rising rents.

CPHS's tree planting program is flourishing. And the catalyst for that, Sam feels, was the Tree Planting Event of March 28, 1992, launched by Sam

and led by then-CPHS Vice President Susan Hornbostel, which he sees as one of his chief accomplishments in Cleveland Park. Over 40 volunteers, including merchants, planted trees along the commercial strips and erected a first tree box on Connecticut in what Sam recalls as a fun, community-wide effort, "like a barnraising." Sam has also been point man and the "institutional memory" for the ongoing important work of CPHS's Architectural Review Committee (see his article, page 5). And he has been a key in maintaining CPHS's ties with both Cleveland Park—merchants, property owners planning renovations, students "of all ages" researching local history—and organizations across the city, working part time from CPHS's office above NationsBank on Connecticut that he set up in 1992.

Sam's "interdisciplinary" background equips him well to pursue his goal of "enhancing life in the city." Born in Monticello, New York—capital of the "borscht" summer resort area of the Catskills that once spawned "great entertainers"—he studied urban history at Northwestern and architecture at the University of Wisconsin. After coming to Washington in 1978, he worked in real estate, retailing, store design, fundraising at Arena Stage and TV; recently on Arlington's Channel 33 he did a series of "Magical Moments with Sam Friedman," talking with people about "something they were doing in the community." Since 1990 he's worked for the D.C. Preservation League as well as CPHS and lately also for the National Trust for Historic Preservation. As a Woodley Park resident in the 1980s (He now lives in Cleveland Park), he was an elected member of ANC 3C, active in the Woodley Park Community Association, and helped establish the Woodley Park Historic District.

He will be missed in Cleveland Park. Philadelphia—and Marcey—are lucky to get him.

—Jean van der Tak

CPHS Seeks Computer and Printer

CPHS seeks a donation to upgrade our office's now antique computer system. We'd like an IBM-compatible computer—186, 286 or 386—and a printer, preferably laser, with automatic feed. Also technical help to set up this system. All donations to CPHS, a nonprofit, charitable organization, are tax-deductible. Call 363-6358 if you can help us out. Many thanks!

Architectural Corner

ARC Preservation Achievement Awards

By Susan Foster

In the past several years, the streets of Cleveland Park have seen many improvements thanks to a number of commercial and residential architectural projects that have been cited by CPHS's Architectural Review Committee to receive Preservation Achievement Awards. Awards for the ten projects in three categories, all completed in 1993 through 1995, will be presented and slides of each shown at CPHS's annual meeting on May 6th (see page 1).

Commercial

On the commercial front, both *Quartermaine Coffee Roasters* at 3323 Connecticut Avenue and *Starbucks*, across the street at 3420 Connecticut, underwent facade restorations that provide the block with two very attractive new storefronts. George Suyama of Seattle designed the facade at *Quartermaine*, which is owned and run by Roger Scheumann. The builder was Reiss Construction. Starbucks's District Manager Madeline Mulcahy accepted the award for that facade restoration, which was carried out by Wheeler & Guay, Architects, PC.

Residential Restoration

Two residential restoration projects were cited. Elinor and Harry Sachse's restoration at 2934 Newark Street was designed by architect David Van Duzer of Falls Church and constructed by Lamberton & Associates. At 3324 Newark, Judy Sabella and Tom Flanagan of Erinn Construction Company designed and rebuilt Penelope and Jacques Feuillan's porch, which had been demolished by a severe storm.

Residential Addition/Renovation

Six awards were given for residential additions or renovations. Bryan and Mark Leithauser designed a two-



ARC's Preservation Achievement Awards of 1996 include a major renovation at 3415 Woodley Road.

story addition to the back of their home at 3614 Idaho Avenue. Built by Gilday Design & Remodeling of Silver Spring, the addition accommodates a sitting room on the first floor and an extension to the master bedroom upstairs. The rear of 3502 Macomb Street received an impressive facelift designed by Ben Van Dusen and built by Peter Lustig. Owners Linda and Fred Wertheimer are undoubtedly enjoying the new porches and additional space the addition provides.

At 3210 Newark, Sybil and Steven Wolin repaired and extended their wraparound porch with the help of Skip Maginnes of B M K Architects of Alexandria. Wayne & Sons of Accokeek MD completed the construction, which also entailed rebuilding the retaining wall and front walk, as well as replacing a casement window on the side of the house with an attractive diamond pane window. Linda and Gerald Stern put an award-winning two-story addition on their home at 3322 Newark, designed by architects Scott Strumwasser and Matash Rahbar of Los Angeles. Bill Cochran of Accent General Contracting deserves credit for the construction.

A rear addition on Battina and Christopher Stern's residence at 3425 Quebec Street, designed and built by Ed Pawlowski of Lamberton & Associates, also received an award. And an award went to Helen and Charles Steele, whose residence at 3415 Woodley Road underwent a major renovation designed by Dickson Carroll and built by Erinn



Also cited was a two-story addition at 3322 Newark Street.

Construction's Judy Sabella and Tom Flanagan. The living room was extended east to fill in the side leg of a wraparound porch and a new porch and side entrance from the east were added to the house.

Congratulations to the proud owners, designers, and builders of these beautiful new/old buildings!

Susan Foster, a researcher at the National Portrait Gallery, is a member of CPHS's Architectural Review Committee.

Brookville Supermarket*Continued from page 3*

of-the-line" deli items—roasted hams, turkeys, chickens—and his own gourmet specialties—Florentina chicken (stuffed with herbs, spices, cheeses), stuffed flank steak, leg of lamb, and pork, or "anything a customer's heart could desire." There are shelves full of Hispanic palate-pleasers by Goya—dried beans, chickpeas, all kinds of rice, Taco sauce, salsa—and Middle Eastern exotics—tabouli, babaganoush (egg-plant salad), stuffed grape leaves, hummus of many flavors. And the fruit and vegetables are reasonably priced—and fresh, Mike stresses. "We get fresh produce delivered every day except Sunday. I don't think Safeway and Giant do." And produce manager Angel sends back any he feels isn't fresh or best quality.

Truckloads of orders are delivered from the alley at the back of the store, smaller ones out front from the "commercial-vehicles-only" unloading zone that CPHS Community Projects Coordinator Sam Friedman helped get when parking grew tight as "more and more restaurants" came in. Jim Shipman is often out front hustling those deliveries along and keeping an eye on the outdoor produce and fresh-cut flower stands

Brookville introduced recently. "People are attracted to it; they like to come and touch it themselves," Mike says.

Any shoplifters? Rarely since the closed-circuit TV monitor was installed after an early incident: employees chased a "customer" exiting with a jacketful of steaks, most of which he lost as he fled to a pickup car at the corner that backed into another car and got a flat tire; the shoplifters still got away. Besides, says Mike, "We know our customers." Any non-Cleveland-Park-like person comes in and "the bells are ringing; we know."

Busiest times? Four-thirty to 7:30 weekdays; "young professionals" stop by on the way home from work. And Saturdays, 10 in the morning to 1 pm and again from 4 to 7 pm.

Has the business come up to expectations? Absolutely, says Mike. "We appreciate the loyalty and friendship we've received from Cleveland Park citizens." If you're not a regular customer, drop in and introduce yourself to Mike or Jim if they're not too busy in their cluttered front "office." If they are, speak to another employee, who'll be glad to show you around.

Jean van der Tak is editor of *Voices*.

Judy Hubbard Saul
New CPHS Outreach Coordinator

Succeeding CPHS Community Projects Coordinator Sam Friedman, Judy Hubbard Saul became CPHS Outreach Coordinator on April 1. Her résumé includes:

- Founding member of CPHS.
- First secretary to the CPHS Board of Directors (1985-89).
- CPHS Membership Chair, early 1990s.
- Activist for historic preservation in Washington since the early 1980s.
- Community organizer known to residents and merchants of our historic district.
- Cleveland Park resident since 1973.

Stephen Koczak*Continued from page 4*

attracting speakers who can do something about them. This year, for example, his February and March meetings dealt with crime in Cleveland Park and how to organize grassroots support of our fire and police stations. Ward 3 Councilmember Kathy Patterson was there, as she often is, plus Inspector Jacqueline Barnes of the 2nd Police District, Captain Patrick Johnson of our local fire station, and heads of the friends of the Zoo, of the library, and John Eaton's Home and School Association.

To rally young people and advertise the Cleveland Park Citizens Association throughout the city, Koczak, as president, organized what he recalls as the city's first highly successful bicycle race, in Rock Creek Park. That was back in 1977 and took "hundreds of hours." So did his almost daily phone calls to get nighttime pounding stopped and shopfront debris cleared when Metro construction reached our stretch of Connecticut Avenue. Nowadays, few people are willing to commit that much time to their communities, he says.

Cleveland Parkers can be grateful that Stephen Koczak still does, though he'd like to get back to his book-writing. Come to the Citizens Association meeting (open to all, though a \$5 annual membership gets you a program mailed in advance): first Saturday of the month, October through June, 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Cleveland Park Library community room. It's a lively forum. And you might just want to get involved.



House Tour Celebration: Homeowner Carolyn Patterson (left) and architectural historian Kathy Wood (right) were in high spirits on the first afternoon of CPHS's walking tour of century-old Cleveland Park houses, which Kathy led, October 28-29 last fall. Carolyn and her husband Frederick, whose 1894 home at 3607 Newark Street was the first built in Cleveland Park as it became a "streetcar suburb," were celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary that day and invited the whole group (50 people) to share in a champagne toast "to our marriage and the neighborhood." The highly successful house tour was organized by CPHS secretary Alison Steadman, who plans another for the fall of 1996. Photo by Enid Thompson.

Cleveland Park Congregational Church: Village Church in the City

By Dick Jorgensen

I'd put on my Sunday best when a glance out at the Blizzard of '96 told me I should forget about the Cleveland Park Congregational Church's Epiphany Sunday service of January 7th (with a special performance of Handel's Messiah); better stay home by the fire. But another look at what God had wrought that morning convinced me that this furious, magnificent snowstorm was historic—quite possibly the snowfall of the century. So I donned my Minnesota winter garb (long stashed in the attic) and ventured forth to the regular 10:30 service in the landmark building at the corner of 34th and Lowell Streets.

Trudging through deep drifts and howling winds up Newark Street—beautiful in its pristine whiteness—I thought the hymn of the day should be "Onward Christian soldiers, Marching as to war." A normally 10- to 15-minute stroll past stately houses of "the Queen of Washington suburbs" became a 35-minute adventure by the time I reached the church. The handsome structure, built 73 years ago of stone from a quarry where the Uptown Theatre now stands, could never have looked more impressive. Clearly the first to arrive, I plowed through three-foot drifts and unlocked the parlor door into the peace and warmth inside. The phone rang: Would there be a service this morning? I didn't think so, but who was I to say? Then Philip Olsson of Lowell Street—a pillar of the community and fellow parishioner—showed up with a shovel and his dog Rosie. Together we managed to clear a path to the street just as Reverend Fuller arrived. (A graduate of Davidson College and Harvard Divinity School, Kenneth Fuller served churches in New England before coming to Cleveland Park in 1994. He is a fellow of the College of Preachers at Washington National Cathedral.) On his heels came intrepid Macomb Street neighbor/parishioners Helen Sandalls and son Alec Lesby. What a fellowship!

We built a fire and gathered around the parlor fireplace. We savored Reverend Fuller's mini-sermon and prayers; then marveled at the wonders of Mother Nature and our experiences in over-

coming adversity. And we exulted in singing—you guessed it—"Onward Christian soldiers" and "What a fellowship." The Order of Service for Sunday worship at the Cleveland Park Congregational UCC (United Church of Christ) includes an organ or piano prelude and postlude. (Music plays a large role at this church; music director Roger Roszell is a talented musician and organist and enthusiastic choir director.) This Sunday we skipped the prelude, but thanks to Alec Lesby's extraordinary talents at the piano, our unconventional, joyous service ended with a spirited "postlude"—"Lulu's Back in Town"!

In my 30 years as a Cleveland Park resident and member of this congregation, I'd never seen anything like that blizzard or experienced a church service quite as memorable. All of us there that morning were "of the community." In a way it resembled the situation in 1918 when residents of this growing community (the Newark Street houses I passed that morning had been built a decade earlier; those on Lowell in 1915) founded the church as "a fellowship devoted to worship, teaching and service." It was then—as today—very much a community church. The Congregational Church Board, headquartered in Boston, determined in 1917 that "due to the rapid growth of the national capital" (during World War I), it would be "of strategic importance" to "widen" the field of the denomination there. In October 1917 a real estate broker named Mr. Thrift (who, it was said, "knew values") spotted a site at 34th and Lowell Streets ("diagonally across from John Eaton School which was already a neighborhood center") and negotiated with the Washington Congregational Church fathers to establish "a temporary wooden chapel" on the two 50' x 150' lots. In February 1918 "cards and bulletins were sent to every home in Cleveland Park inviting people to cooperate in establishing a community church." Later that month



The venerable Cleveland Park Congregational Church at 34th and Lowell Streets. Photo by Dick Jorgensen.

there was a meeting in the "little brown wooden chapel" of "nearly everyone in the immediate neighborhood," presided over by the pastor-to-be and a Mrs. Yung Kwai. The first regular service of the Cleveland Park Congregational Church was held March 3, 1918. By mid-1918 the congregation had grown so much (Sunday School enrollment alone exceeded 100) that "they began to have visions of a permanent church edifice." The corner lots were bought—from Woodward & Lothrop at 50 cents a square foot, totaling a bit over \$7,100. Begun in 1922, today's beautiful building was completed and dedicated in April 1923.

One more historical fact of note: 35 years ago—April 1961—the Cleveland Park Church took the final step in its union with other Congregational churches and those of the Evangelical and Reformed denominations by approving the constitution of the United Church of Christ. The UCC's roots go back to the pilgrims in New England and the Congregational churches they founded. Today—as in 1961—it is a "mainstream" Protestant denomination "with a heritage of learned preaching, social service, informed faith and local church autonomy." It has no bishops or hierarchy; each church is responsible for its own decisions and support.

On my way home that morning, I thought about the Cleveland Park Church's history of fellowship and reaching out to neighbors. In later interviews with fellow parishioners (and CPHS members) Wilma Wood Pechacek and Arthur Smith—two more community pillars who as youngsters attended Sunday school in that wooden chapel on unpaved Lowell Street—I

Continued on back page

Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

The Cleveland Park Historical Society, founded in 1985, achieved its initial aims to have our neighborhood declared an 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, raising Cleveland Park's "Livability Quotient" through new initiatives in programming and publications, and undertaking community beautification and tree planting.

If you are not a current member, please join us now. Membership includes our newsletter, *Cleveland Park Voices*, an annual calendar and other publications, and invitations to special programs. Send your check for \$25, payable to Cleveland Park Historical Society, to:

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Cleveland Park Church

Continued from page 9

learned of the early, close, and very special relationship that developed between the church and Cleveland Park entities like John Eaton School. From the mid-1960s into the 1970s, the church housed what became the famed Lowell Street School, now moved across town. More recently, it has provided meeting space for CPHS, Lawyers at Home, Alcoholics Anonymous, and operating space for Shalem and Kinderhaus Child Care. Since the mid-1970s, neighborhood gardeners have had plots in its community garden on Lowell Street. And its lovely memorial gardens on Lowell (since May 1987) and 34th Street (October 1991) constitute esthetically pleasing respites for Cleveland Parkers of all ages. All this and more makes this what members of the caring congregation like to call "the village church in the city."

Dick Jorgensen is president of CPHS.

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For Information on the Cleveland Park Historical Society

For information on CPHS activities, membership, or the architectural review process, please call our office at 202-363-6358. Judy Hubbard Saul, CPHS Outreach Coordinator, will be happy to assist you. Leave your name, phone number, and a brief message for her at this number. Your call will be promptly returned.

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