

CLEVELAND PARK

Voices

VOL. 12, NO. 2 • NEWSLETTER OF THE CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY • FALL 1998

UPCOMING EVENTS



FALL WALKING TOUR

for CPHS members only
Centennial Houses
in Cleveland Park

Led by architectural historian
Kathy Wood

Saturday, October 17, 1:30 p.m.
(rain date Oct. 18)

Reservations required
\$15 per person

Call Judy Hubbard Saul
202/363-6358

ROMP WORK DAY

Sunday, October 25
9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Help install playground
equipment at
Macomb Playground

Hot lunch dishes also needed
Call Laine Kaufman
202/362-6812

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CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT MACOMB PLAYGROUND

by Rachel S. Cox

AUTUMN FINDS THE REHABILITATION OF MACOMB PLAYGROUND proceeding in high gear, as the Cleveland Park Historical Society's Committee for the Rehabilitation of Macomb Playground (ROMP) works to complete Phase One of the project in time for the annual Halloween party and parade.

Groundbreaking occurred during the first week of September, when Fort Myer Construction Corp. began a complete overhaul of the playground infrastructure, following plans developed by landscape architects Jonathan Fitch and Jeffrey Lee. Their design envisions a playground that



A new retaining wall, better drainage, and new walkways are among the infrastructure improvements currently under construction at Macomb Playground.

aesthetically balances the diverse needs of many users, providing separate areas for athletic activities, children's play, and leisurely pursuits. When completed, the playground will feature two fully renovated play areas with new equipment, one for young children and one for older children; new walkways, landscaping, and fencing; a resurfaced basketball court; and a whimsical central gazebo designed by neighborhood sculptor and architect Dickson Carroll.

"We are thrilled with the manner in which Jonathan, Jeff, and Dickson have worked to transform such a small piece of land into a playground that is both functional and beautiful," said ROMP cochair Laine Kaufman. "They have taken input and ideas from people in the neighborhood and have added their own expertise and talent to create a wonderful resource that

(continues on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Despite the usual hot and unusually dry summer, Cleveland Park has survived mostly green and well flowered, with painters', plumbers', and renovators' trucks along most streets. In this spirit of autumn renewal, CPHS continues to try to keep your neighborhood almost the same, but better.

This summer Judy Robinson, the consultant hired by CPHS, began documenting the significance of the Tregaron estate as a hedge against development threats. And we look forward to working with neighbors of the National Cathedral as they address issues arising from possible new construction and increased tourism.

We are now making our annual call for membership dues and donations to keep our work going. I hope you can see and feel a sense of community in our volunteer efforts and that you will generously invest in your homeland.


Sheldon Holen

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Comments, suggestions, questions, compliments, and criticism are all welcome. Please send them to the Editor at P.O. Box 4862, Washington, DC 20008.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AT MACOMB PLAYGROUND *(continued from page 1)*

everyone will enjoy for years to come."

The rehabilitation project will be completed in two distinct phases. In Phase One, ROMP will complete renovation of all the infrastructure, erect the gazebo, install several pieces of playground equipment, feed and prune existing trees, and plant some additional trees and shrubs. Also during Phase One, the D.C. Department of Recreation and Parks will resurface and fence the basketball court and improve the park's drainage system.

Completion of Phase Two is expected during the summer of 1999. After raising the necessary \$40,000, ROMP plans to add additional playground equipment and complete the landscaping. "We have had great success raising money for the project," said ROMP cochair Steve Turow. "However, given the quantity of work that was required to improve the playground's infrastructure, ROMP cannot complete the project with the amount of money raised so far. Since we believe it is essential for the neighborhood to have a functioning playground, we decided to begin work on the most significant parts of the project while we continue raising funds to complete the project."

The success of Phase One is due in large part to the generosity of neighborhood residents, area merchants, and several private foundations, project organizers said (see list, opposite). Contributions to date exceed \$150,000. In addition, the D.C. Department of Recreation and Parks has provided invaluable assistance and advice, has paid for improvements to both the basketball court and the storm drainage system, and will supply several park benches.

"One of the greatest rewards of this project has been the opportunity to work with so many talented and generous members of the Cleveland Park community," said Steve Turow. "Laine Kaufman has provided the inspiration and dynamic leadership which has propelled the project from its inception, while a host of other committed people have volunteered their time and abilities at each stage of the way."

And while construction is proceeding, volunteers are still needed. To push Phase One to completion, ROMP seeks volunteer workers on Sunday, October 25th, to help install the playground equipment. Those unprepared to take on construction work can help out by bringing lunch for the workers. In the weeks ahead, volunteers also will be needed to pursue Phase Two of the project. In particular, the ROMP steering committee seeks a volunteer coordinator to orchestrate the fundraising effort and work with other volunteers.

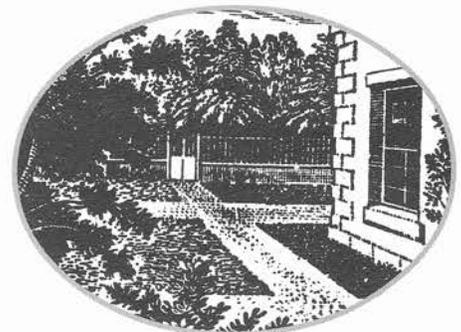
"We are extremely pleased with ROMP's accomplishments to date," said Sheldon Holen, the president of the Cleveland Park Historical Society, "and we are confident that the community will continue its outstanding support. Ultimately, we will have a wonderful playground, a centerpiece of the Cleveland Park community."

Anyone interested in participating in any aspect of ROMP should contact Judy Hubbard Saul at (202)363-6358.

Rachel S. Cox is the editor of Cleveland Park Voices.

SHOW OFF YOUR GARDEN FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

Cleveland Park's backyard gardens are among the glories of the neighborhood. This spring we hope to share some of them with the community, as we raise needed funds to support CPHS activities. If you would consider showing your garden as part of a May garden tour, or could volunteer to help with organizing the event, please call Mary Jane Glass at 686-3082.



ON THE AVENUES

by Judy Hubbard Saul

The turnover of merchants and businesses on Connecticut Avenue continues apace. The sudden departure of **Wrap & Roll Cafe** from the corner of Connecticut and Ordway left me without ever having tasted a "wrap." We recently bid farewell to Betty and Herb Chapnick of **Parcel Plus** and welcomed new owners Julia and Michael Finley. The Chapnicks set off this summer for retirement bliss in Las Vegas. **Nationsbank** also has new front-office staff, Leonard Pilarski and Roy "Todd" Rovin.

Anyone who doubts the importance of healthy, community-oriented businesses to a vital neighborhood need only have noted the many messages of appreciation and affection posted on the front window of **Quartermaine** coffee shop the weekend of September 26th, following notice of its impending closing. Quartermaine's won a Preservation Achievement Award from the Cleveland Park Architectural Review Committee in 1996 for its attractive and appropriate facade renovation.

But while we miss those who have left, we also celebrate the vitality of those remaining; witness the excitement surrounding Cleveland Park Day on October 4th—the first such effort by a newly energized, and organized, group of Connecticut Avenue merchants.

On March 24th **Firehook Bakery** opened at 3411 Connecticut Avenue, completing the transformation of the former Roma Restaurant quarters. This is the third location of owners/partners Kate Jansen (pastry chef), Gene Gathright (baker), and Pierre Abushacra (general manager). They aim to be a neighborhood bakery with a full line of bakery products rather than a complete restaurant. They chose Cleveland Park because it is a dynamic urban neighborhood and the store site because of the large, vine-draped garden in back, once the site of harvest-time grape stompings. The garden will be put to good use with special events in collaboration with **Cleveland Park Liquors**. The garden is also available for rent. (Open Sun.-Thurs., 7:30 a.m.-8 p.m.; Fri. and Sat., 7:30 a.m.-10 p.m. Telephone 362-2253.)



The sleek new restaurant **Ardeo** opened in May at 3311 Connecticut Avenue and has appeared at least twice in the pages of *The Washington Post*, beginning with the President's visit in August. It is part of the same family of restaurants as the Bombay Club, 701 Pennsylvania, and the Oval Room. At last, Cleveland Park/Connecticut Ave. has a place for Sunday brunch! Chef David Nugent came to Ardeo from the Occidental Grill at the Willard Hotel. He has also worked at Restaurant Nora and the prestigious French Laundry in Napa Valley, Calif. The general manager, Kurt Masse, is a Cleveland Park resident, having moved recently to McLean Gardens. (Opens every night at 5:30; closes Sun.-Thurs. at 10:30, Fri. and Sat. at 11:30. Open Sunday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Reservations suggested. Telephone 244-6750.)



Also in May **Lisa Design, Inc.**, moved into the second floor of 3518 Connecticut Ave., near the Metro stop. Nivia Howell, the owner, worked previously in Adams Morgan. She liked the Cleveland Park space because its previous occupant was also a hair salon (although the space has been completely remodeled) and for the excellent location and the Metro access. In addition to hair care, the salon offers manicures, pedicures, waxing, and massages. Nivia hopes to sell women's clothing on the top floor of the salon in the near future. (Open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Sun. 12-5 p.m. Telephone 364-6642.)

LISA DESIGN, INC.

August 22nd saw the opening of **Kohr Brothers/Twist Again** at 3507 Connecticut Avenue, in the Park and Shop. Archie Kohr invented frozen custard in 1919 when he added eggs to his homemade ice cream so the product would stand up better to the salt breezes at his small stand on Coney Island. The company is now expanding beyond its seaside venues (some may know it from trips to Maryland beach towns), and this is the first store in Washington, D.C. Twist Again Pretzels are made from an authentic

(continues on page 4)

HEARTFELT THANKS TO ROMP SUPPORTERS

Participating businesses
and foundations:

American Association of
Homes & Services
for the Aging

Ardeo Restaurant

Kathie Kenety, Realtor

Atomic Billiards

Child's Play Toy Store

Cactus Cantina Restaurant

Cafe Deluxe Restaurant

Cheshire Cat Children's
Book Store

Cineplex Odeon &
Uptown Theatre

Cleveland Park Bookshop

Cleveland Park Kinderhaus

Dalton Brody, Ltd.

Discovery Channel

D.C. Cable Television

The Eugene & Agnes Meyer
Foundation

The Fannie Mae Foundation
First Hospital Corporation

The George Preston Marshall
Foundation

Giant Food, Inc.

The Harris & Eliza
Kempner Fund

The Kellogg Collection, Inc.

Mirabella Salon

NationsBank

Parks Fabricare Center

The Porter Family Charitable
Foundation

Ritz Camera Centers

Sullivan's Toy Store

The AES Corporation

The Bench Trail Fund

Tree Top Toys...and Books

Uptown Bakers

Wake Up Little Suzie

What's-A-Bagel of
Cleveland Park

Yenching Palace Restaurant

The Fitch Studio,
Landscape Architects

Coppi's Vigorelli Restaurant

The Mark Restaurant

Long & Foster Realtors

Lee & Liu Associates, Inc.,
Landscape Architects

Cleveland Park Sports Store

R.C. Kelly & Associates

Dickson Carroll,
Sculptor and Architect

WELCOME NEW CPHS BOARD MEMBERS

Betsy and Warren Clark
Macomb Street

Mary Jane Glass
34th Street

Patsy Scanlan
35th Street

Jenny Schifter
Macomb Street

Serena Wiltshire
Rowland Place

Bruce Uliss
Connecticut Avenue

HATS OFF TO NEW ARC MEMBERS

Steven Cohen (cochair)
Connecticut Avenue

Maria Casarella
Quebec Street

Ed Cohn
Lowell Street

Pie Friendly
Macomb Street

Jerry Nisenson
Ordway Street

FOND FAREWELLS AND MANY THANKS TO DEPARTING BOARD MEMBERS

Judy Sabella
Macomb Street

Alison Steadman
Newark Street

**Martha and Gordon
Sheridan**
Macomb Street

Kenneth Fuller
Wisconsin Avenue

Wilma Wood Pechacek
Macomb Street

ON THE AVENUES *(continued from page 3)*

Amish recipe that owner Kathy Miller discovered at an Amish Market in 1993. (Mon.-Thurs. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Sat. 8 a.m.-11:30 p.m., Sun. 8 a.m.-10:30 p.m. Telephone 686-2910.)

Not all the action is on Connecticut Avenue. On August 1st Eyeglass Repair opened upstairs at 3711 Macomb Street. Bill Hall, the owner, had worked for many years for a leading optician and saw the need for eyeglass repair rather than expensive eyeglass replacement. A former D.C. resident currently living in Maryland, Bill has been very happy with his new venture in our friendly neighborhood. (Hours generally 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; Sat. 11-4, but it is best to call first. Telephone 364-9616). ☺



CHILDHOOD REMINISCENCES WANTED

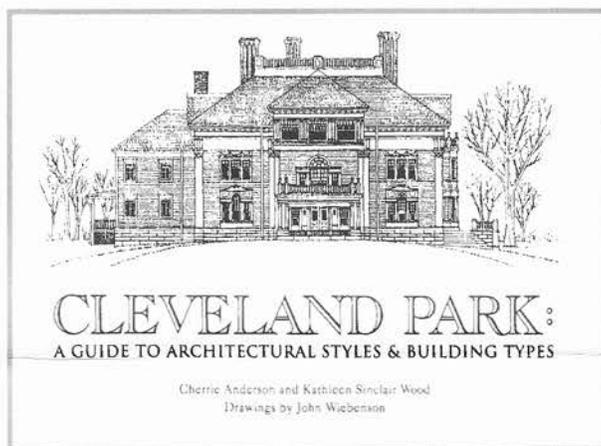
For an upcoming exhibition on Childhood in Washington, the Historical Society of Washington, D.C., seeks residents' memories of growing up in the district. Write them down and send them to HSW, Attention: Curator, 1307 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20036. Photos, letters, oral histories, and other memorabilia are also welcome. ☺

FOR CHRISTMAS AND CHANUKAH...

Give Them a House in Cleveland Park. Better still, give them a guide to ALL the houses in Cleveland Park!

Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles & Building Types, published this year by the Cleveland Park Historical Society, makes a great gift for neighborhood residents and admirers past, present, and future. Written by Cherrie Anderson and Kathleen Sinclair Wood, with drawings by John Wiebenson, the 27-page, softback book illustrates and explains characteristic building styles and types, identifies examples, and places them in historical context.

The cost is \$8 for members, \$12 for nonmembers, plus \$3 postage and handling for one copy, \$1 more for each additional copy. To order, use this form. Mail it, with a check made out to CPHS, to CPHS, P.O. Box 4862, Washington, DC 20008. The book also is sold at Cleveland Park Bookshop and at Transcendence Perfection Bliss of the Beyond. ☺



Name _____	
Address _____	
City, State, and Zip Code _____	
Daytime Phone _____	Evening Phone _____
Number of Copies _____	Total Price _____

NEIGHBORHOOD SHOPKEEPERS VIC DAUMIT DANCE STUDIOS

For 44 years, dancer, teacher, and choreographer Vic Daumit has added a grace note of romance to the businesslike commercial face of Connecticut Avenue north of Macomb Street. His ballroom dancing studios' big, mirrored rooms above Spices restaurant have seen engaged couples preparing for their first dance as man and wife, diplomats hoping to make a good impression at a gala, older couples polishing their steps after years of partnering, and competitive ballroom dancers preparing for a meet.

"I've taught them all," said Vic Daumit (rhymes with "comet"), one quiet afternoon as he sat in his office in a corner of the main studio. Pressed for details, he laughs. He seems to have done almost anything a dance master could. He flies to Hollywood to choreograph films. He frequently leads master classes for other dance teachers in New York. He instructs groups at country clubs, government agencies, and schools (including the U.S. Naval Academy, where ballroom dancing is required for graduation). Covering one wall of the studio are photos of his more illustrious pupils—ballplayers, generals, newscasters, presidents. Among them, Betty Ford looks like Ginger Rogers in a pantsuit, posing in a White House hallway.

His most unusual recent gig was teaching the waitresses at a Fort Lee, N.J., nightclub called "The Roaring Twenties" how to Charleston. "The owner acted surprised when I asked if any of the girls had danced before," he recalls. "But I taught them."

The Cleveland Park studio opened in 1954 on the heels of two other



A "Washington institution," Vic Daumit has taught ballroom dancing in his Connecticut Avenue studios for 44 years.

successful ballroom dancing studios—the first in 1948 on Columbia Road in Adams Morgan followed by another at 14th and I Streets. Daumit and his stable of dance teachers have weathered the advent of the twist and the wane of "touch dancing," which spelled the demise in 1970 of the two other studios. They endured the brief, tawdry flowering of disco by learning to teach it and now are reaping the fruits of a "touch dancing" revival—first the tango was in, now swing is the rage—which has produced a 6-week wait for private lessons.

Climb the long, narrow stairway to Daumit's studio on a Tuesday night, and the joint is jumping. Scores of young men and women—some singles, some arriving in couples—learn the basic "hold...hold...step, step" of swing dancing. Waltz, foxtrot, and other "slow dances" are taught later. Wednesday nights the walls resound with the complex Latin rhythms of the mambo, the merengue, the tango.

"It's a lot better than hanging out in a bar," comments instructor Mark Gustafson, as the teacher on the floor commands "Ladies, move down one please," and everyone shifts partners. "Vic's an institution in Washington." 🍷

Rachel S. Cox is the editor of Cleveland Park Voices.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

OCTOBER 17

John Eaton School Annual Block Party

11 a.m.-4 p.m.
John Eaton School
Lowell and 34th Streets
Contact Betsy Vieth
202/364-0831

OCTOBER 20

Book Talk and Signing
Anthony Pitch, author of
The Burning of Washington:
The British Invasion
of 1814,
7:30 p.m.
Cleveland Park Library
202/727-1345

OCTOBER 24 & 25

Friends of Cleveland Park Library Annual Fall Book Sale

12-4 p.m.
Cleveland Park
Library
Contact Jill Bogard
202/966-2847



OCTOBER 26

ANC 3-C Meeting

8 p.m.
The Advisory Neighborhood
Commission meets on the
fourth Monday of the
month, except in May and
December, at the
2nd District Police
Headquarters on Idaho Ave.
Contact Carolyn Gutowski
202/232-2232

OCTOBER 30

Annual Children's Halloween Party and Parade

Macomb Playground
Contact Juanita Peterson
202/282-2199



DECEMBER 5, 6, 12, 13

John Eaton Christmas Tree and Wreath Sale

10 a.m.-4 p.m.
John Eaton Playground
34th and Lowell Streets

CLEVELAND PARK QUILTS



An exhibition of old and new quilts loaned by Cleveland Park neighbors will be part of the Cleveland Park Church's 80th birthday celebration. A children's corner features books and design activities.

- October 31-November 8
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-7 p.m. daily
- Tea served from 4-5 p.m.
- Cleveland Park Congregational United Church of Christ
- 3400 Lowell Street, NW

JOHN EATON NEEDS TUTORS

Share the gift of literacy. Help a child discover mathematics. John Eaton pupils meet with tutors between 7:45 and 8:45 a.m. or 3:15 and 6:00 p.m. at the school, 34th and Lowell Streets. To volunteer, call Kathryn Horlick, (202)337-0550.

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:

Barbara Stout, Membership Chair
Cleveland Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862
Washington, DC 20008

Please make checks payable to the Cleveland Park Historical Society. All but \$4.00 are tax deductible as allowed by law.

YES! I wish to become a member of CPHS at the following level:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> \$30 Member | <input type="radio"/> \$250 Patron |
| <input type="radio"/> \$50 Friend | <input type="radio"/> \$500 Angel |
| <input type="radio"/> \$100 Sponsor | |

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, and Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

I would like to volunteer to help with:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Tree planting | <input type="radio"/> Fund raising |
| <input type="radio"/> Neighborhood beautification | <input type="radio"/> Architectural Review Committee |
| <input type="radio"/> Special event planning | <input type="radio"/> Clerical/mailings |
| <input type="radio"/> Photography/graphic arts | <input type="radio"/> Macomb Playground Rehabilitation |
| <input type="radio"/> Newsletter | <input type="radio"/> Other _____ |

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