VOL. 16, NO. 1 • NEWSLETTER OF THE CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPRING 2002

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**



### Come One! Come All! CPHS ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, April 30th
7-9 p.m.
with special guest
Barbara Deutsch
of the
Casey Trees Endowment Fund
Refreshments served
Cleveland Park
Congregational Church
Lowell and 34th Streets
Contact Judy Hubbard Saul,
(202)363-6358.

### TREGARON LANDSCAPE TOUR

Sunday, June 9th 2-3:30 p.m. Led by EDAW landscape architect David Bennett See enclosed flyer.

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## NEW RESEARCH REVEALS HISTORIC ORIGINS OF ROSEDALE LANDSCAPE

VER WONDER ABOUT THE UNUSUAL CONTOURS OF THE LAWNS AT Rosedale, the property on Newark Street at 35th Street that has been since 1977 the home of Youth for Understanding? The pleasant open space, a favorite of exercising families and romping dogs, displays the slopes and terraces of a rare 18th-century "falling garden," according



Slopes and terraces leading up to Rosedale's historic house date back some 200 years.

to a historical study recently completed by architectural preservation consultants Robinson and Associates. The landscape form was favored by owners of Tidewater manor houses in early America.

"Situated on an 'eminence' or naturally elevated grounds, the Rosedale property commands a stunning view of the environs southward to Georgetown and the Potomac River," the study says. "It retains the pastoral quality of the 'gentlemen's seats' or country retreats occupying the 'Heights of Georgetown' until the late 1880s. The principal dwelling, a colonial-

era frame and stone house–portions of which date to ca. 1794 and perhaps as early as 1740– openly displays its evolution from two simple stone cottages to a larger wood-frame dwelling. The house sits on a central axis relative to a terraced landscape, which displays important characteristics of an eighteenth-century 'falling garden.' The site, which currently consists of 6.0 acres, also incorporates an early twentieth-century landscape overlay by noted landscape architect Charles Freeman Gillette. House and grounds...are rare survivors of the earliest periods of the evolution of the cities of Georgetown and Washington."

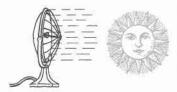
The study was commissioned by the Cleveland Park Historical Society and the Friends of Rosedale, a grassroots neighborhood organization that sprang up in Fall 2000 when it was learned that Youth for Understanding planned to sell the Rosedale property. The new historical information is included in applications to amend the historic landmark designations already in place for Rosedale at the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board and the National Register of Historic Places.

In April 2001 Special Olympics International won the right to purchase the Rosedale property, but the nonprofit organization withdrew from the deal this February, leaving the future of the historic property uncertain once again. At press time, a number of schools and developers were considering it, while Friends of Rosedale continued to watch the situation closely.

"Any changes at Rosedale must be approved by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board because it is a D.C. Landmark," said Andrew Hamilton, the president of the Friends of Rosedale. "The application for amendment greatly expands recognition of the historic nature of

(continues on page 2)

### STAY COOL THIS SUMMER



A relaxing retreat for Cleveland Park neighbors since 1922, the Cleveland Park Club is now seeking new members for the 2002 swim season. Among the offerings:

- Swimming lessons and recreational swimming at the pool
- \* Summer day camp
- Life-guard training and jobs for teenagers
- \* Exercise classes
- Lecture series

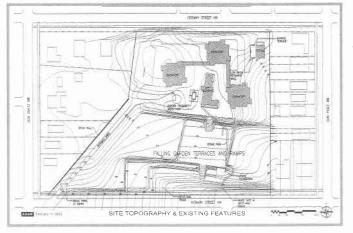
The club is located at 3433 33rd Place, just off Highland Place. For more information, contact Patti Franco at (202)362-7231.

# RELIGHT THE URNS ON THE KLINGLE VALLEY BRIDGE!



CPHS advocates restoration of our neighborhood gateway.

#### NEW RESEARCH (continued from page one)



Topographical map of Rosedale shows ramps and terraces that formed the backbone of gardens and orchards created by the family of Uriah Forrest, the prominent patriot and politician who made the property his home in the 18th century. The historic house is the L-shaped building at center, with modern buildings wrapped behind it. The "falling garden" made a foreground for southern views to Georgetown.

the landscaping as well as of the house." On February 25 the Cleveland Park Advisory Neighborhood Commission unanimously passed a resolution "strongly supporting" the amended application.

For more information, contact Andrew Hamilton at (202)537-3536.

#### PRESIDENT'S NOTE

CPHS members and the Cleveland Park community owe a debt of gratitude to Steve Cohen, who served us faithfully and effectively in many ways before his resignation as CPHS president in January. Prior to his election as president in May 1999, Steve chaired the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), one of the important safeguards of Cleveland Park's architectural integrity. While president, in addition to guiding the full range of CPHS programs, he conceived and launched the historic house marker program. Luckily for us, he will continue to be a member of the ARC and to assist with the marker program.

Steve's decision to resign reflected a principled disagreement with the board of directors' vote (10 to 6) to support the historic landmark application for the Wisconsin Avenue Giant submitted by the Cleveland Park Citizens Association. At this writing, whether the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board will approve the application remains to be seen, and many people hope that a satisfactory new plan from Giant will make an HPRB vote unnecessary.

The Giant project is just one of several recent proposals that could significantly affect the historic district. Rosedale, Tregaron, and the Starwood project on Connecticut Avenue are other examples. With some of these—the Giant being a prime example, and the NCS athletic center another—no broad consensus emerged within CPHS or the broader community about the significance or impact of the proposals. We live in a dynamic community inhabited by active individuals with sometimes divergent opinions. Given that reasonable people can disagree, a lack of consensus occasionally is inevitable.

What has been ever present is a strong consensus that the essential nature of the Cleveland Park community should be protected, consistent with its designation as a historic district. Thus, although the community has not always spoken with one voice, discussion and negotiation often have resulted in project proposals that have been materially changed for the better.

Perhaps the most important mission of CPHS is to provide a forum for the careful consideration of such issues and, where reasonable consensus exists (as with Rosedale), to take steps to ensure that the community's views, and its historic preservation values, are heard and respected. Of course, we cannot fulfill this mission without an active membership. The board hopes to see an increasing number of volunteers, enthusiastic and committed, so that CPHS can continue effectively to represent the best interests of the historic district.

Than Halvorson

Acting President

ON THE AVENUES

#### NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

by Judy Hubbard Saul

The first issue of this newsletter was published in the spring of 1987. That issue contained an interview with Tomas and Hajina deKun, who have operated deKun Photo at 3708 Macomb Street since 1969. Sadly, the deKuns will be closing their store this spring as a result of new photo technology and rising rent. Fortunately, they still will be able to provide studio and processing services for their many loyal customers at their home nearby. (Open Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Telephone 966-3220. At their home studio, 3828 Garfield Street, the telephone number is 965-4275.)

Next door to deKun Photo in the space formerly occupied by Cleveland Park Sports, Diane Monash opened **River House Antiques** on November 1, 2001. The shop specializes in affordable painted European farm furniture and New England accessories. Most of the furniture is priced at \$500 or less and is originally from Belgium, France, Holland, and Germany with some pieces from



Russia. Diane grew to appreciate these old pieces when she and



Tomas and Hajina deKun are closing their Macomb Street shop after more than 30 years.

her husband were stationed in Europe with the Navy. Now settled in this area, they recently completed renovating a 1903 farmhouse on River Road in Maryland. Preservation and the love of old things runs in their family. Their son recently bought the deteriorating 1897 Burroughs House on River Road just inside the District line and plans to restore it as his primary residence. (Open Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5 p.m. Telephone 237-8511.)

Frank Stovicek, president of the Cleveland Park Business and Professionals Association, keeps me abreast of the latest developments on Connecticut Avenue. At press time he reported that the Starwood property across from the Park & Shop is fully leased. A hair salon, an Indian restaurant, and an architectural firm will be moving in between May and July.

Speaking of the Park & Shop, Chevy Chase Bank will be taking a space previously a part of Blockbuster Video. Desert Moon Cafe will be closing this spring. Up the street from the Park & Shop, Jerry's Sub Shop at the Exxon station has closed, but sub lovers will be able to satisfy their cravings across the street at a new Subway, scheduled to open in the former home of the Bella Roma restaurant.

Meanwhile, the neighborhood mainstay **Brookville Supermarket** just gets better and better. They now boast butcher Pamela Ginsberg. She's from the old school, buying beef on the hoof, not prepackaged. Pamela was born into the food and catering business. Her father was for many

years the president of the corporation running Eastern Market on Capitol Hill. She "broke her first side of beef at age seven, standing on a milk crate" and watching him, she says. Since then she has experienced every aspect of the business,



including a stint at the Fulton Fish Market in New York City. She provides recipes and advice, oversees the creation of fresh, ready-to-eat foods including chili, soups, and roast chicken, and also does catering.

#### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

#### MAY 4

#### Cleveland Park Citizens Association Monthly Meeting

10:15 a.m. Cleveland Park Library Contact Isabelle Furlong, (202)244-6046.

#### MAY 10 & 11

Book Fair to Benefit John Eaton School



Politics & Prose 5015 Connecticut Ave. 20% of sales go to John Eaton School when you notify the cashier. Contact Linda Adams, (202)244-6240

#### MAY 12-18

#### National Historic Preservation Week

Nationwide celebration Visit the National Trust for Historic Preservation Web site: National Trust.org/ preservationweek.

#### **MAY 20**

#### Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C Meeting

7:30 p.m. 2nd District Police Headquarters Idaho Ave. at Newark St. Contact (202)232-2232

#### **MAY 21**

Historical Society of Washington, D.C., Library Workshop: Researching Neighborhood History

6-8 p.m. Reservations required. Contact (202)785-2068, ext. 111

#### **MAY 31 & JUNE 1**

Guys and Dolls

(G-rated)
John Eaton
Spring Musical
Lowell and 34th Sts.
Contact (202)282-0103.

## WHAT TO BRING TO AN ARC REVIEW



**T**o make an informed decision, ARC members need to see:

- Exterior photos of the house and adjacent house(s)
- ✓ Plat plan and/or site plan
- Existing floor plans and proposed floor plans
- Existing elevations and proposed elevations describing materials old and new
- Any additional details to help explain the project.

## KEY CONTACTS AT THE D.C. PRESERVATION OFFICE



Steve Callcott has replaced T. Luke Young as the staff member in charge of Cleveland Park. You can reach him by e-mail at Scallcott@aol.com or by phone at (202)442-8846.

To report construction projects that may not be properly permitted, contact **Inspector Toni Cherry**. Her e-mail is hp\_inspector@hotmail.com, and her telephone is (202)442-8844.

#### ARCHITECTURAL CORNER

#### NEWS OF THE ARC

by Nancy L. Skinkle, ARC co-chair

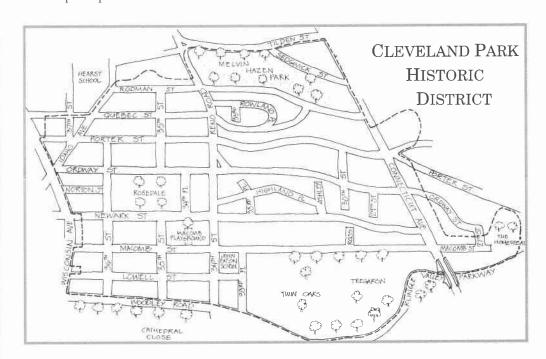
It has been another mild winter for both the neighborhood and the Cleveland Park Historical Society Architectural Review Committee (ARC). Only a handful of projects, most of them rear and side additions, were reviewed during the last few months.

A notable project on the horizon is the addition and alterations to the National Child Research Center (NCRC) at 3209 Highland Place. While we have been contacted by the school, it is not clear at press time when they will present schematic designs to the ARC for review. The school would like to add administration areas, classrooms, and interior play areas while maintaining a nurturing environment for their young students.

Neighbors have expressed concerns about traffic, building scale and massing, and school population size, and school personnel have been meeting with them to try to work out their differences.

Working with the community...It's a familiar concept around Cleveland Park, and something we all want, expect, and even demand at times from our larger institutional and retail neighbors. One need not look far to find many examples—Giant, Rosedale, even Starwood. But do we—the residents of Cleveland Park—extend the same courtesy to our own neighbors? The answer appears to be disheartening. With increasing frequency, people are proceeding with construction projects without ever a mention to their neighbors.

As one of Washington's earliest suburbs, Cleveland Park is composed of wonderful houses along beautiful streets that follow the natural fall of the land. This magnificent topography allows us all to enjoy truly grand vistas while capturing splendid seasonal breezes. These vistas, however, can be easily obscured when a house is altered. The preservation of light and air are important to all of us, and we should be considerate enough to help our neighbors understand our intentions before we pick up the hammer.

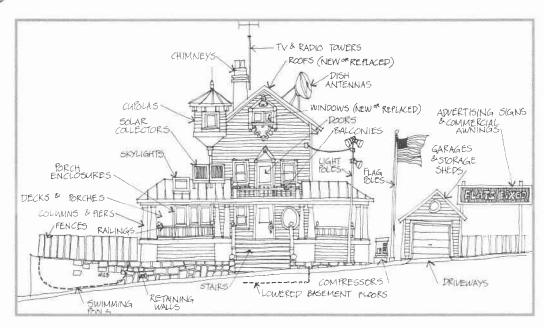


Please remember that living in a historic district entails certain special responsibilities. While occasionally irksome, these responsibilities have kept Cleveland Park the delightful and historic neighborhood it is today. That is something we can all share for years to come.

#### "EXPEDITED REVIEW:"

#### A FASTER WAY TO GET YOUR BUILDING PERMIT

The D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB) has delegated to the staff of the Historic Preservation Division authority to review property alterations it considers to be "minor." Unlike



major exterior alterations and additions in the Cleveland Park Historic District, which must be approved at monthly HPRB meetings (and must be submitted by the end of the previous month), building permits for these activities can be approved "over the counter" at the Historic Preservation division, at the staff's discretion.

To qualify for an expedited review the proposed work must be properly documented and consistent with D.C. Historic Preservation Guidelines. The guidelines are available on line at www.dchistoric.org/guidelines and at the Cleveland Park library.

Examples of minor work include:

- Removal of incompatible minor additions
- > Window and door replacements that duplicate all details of the historic originals
- Inconspicuous plumbing and exhaust vents
- Rear yard fences up to seven feet high
- Sidewalk furniture
- Signage.

The following may qualify for expedited review if they are not visible from the street:

- New window or door openings that are compatible with original openings
- Removal of window or door openings with appropriate infill
- Installation of appropriate siding materials
- Skylights, roof decks, or roof replacement
- Air conditioning equipment
- Mantennas and satellite dishes
- n. Retaining walls.

For more information, contact Steve Callcott at the Historic Preservation Division: (202)442-8846.

## HEARTFELT THANKS TO ARC VOLUNTEERS



- Maria Casarella
  Quebec Street
- Steve Cohen
  Devonshire Place
- **Ed Cohn**Lowell Street
- Phil Eagleburger Macomb Street
- Anne Grimmer
  Porter Street
- Joan Habib
  Woodley Road
- Christine Hobbs (co-chair) Norton Place
- Leslie London Ordway Street
- Lois Orr
  34th Street
- Nancy Skinkle (co-chair)
  Porter Street

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Michael Johnson 34th Street
- Richard Molinaroli Ordway Street
- Claire Starr 35th Street

#### **Cleveland Park Voices**

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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, D.C. 20008.

## THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR MAILING LABEL

I goofed! The date on your label indicates the last time you paid dues, NOT the date your membership expires (as reported in the last issue of Voices). Loyal readers who thought they were behind in their payments and sent additional checks have been contacted. Sincere apologies for the confusion and inconvenience. —ed.

## DON'T MISS SPRING WALKING TOURS!



**H**ow well do you know your next door neighborhoods?

This spring, CPHSsponsored tours focus on three fascinating areas adjacent to the Cleveland Park Historic District.

- Sunday, May 5 2-3:30 p.m. Woodley Park
- Sunday, May 19 2-3:30 p.m. International Chancery Center
- Saturday, June 1 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. McLean Gardens at 60

For more information, see enclosed flyer.

#### 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:

Nancy Skinkle, 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. Many employers provide matching grants for employee contributions to qualified 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organizations. If your employer does so, please consider including the employer's matching grant form with your contribution. Thank you!

○ \$35 Individual	O S250 Patron	
○ \$50 Household	○ \$500 Angel	
O \$100 Sponsor		
Name (please print)		
Address		
City, State and Zip code		
Daytime phone	Evening phone	
,		
I would like to volunteer to he		
I would like to volunteer to he	elp with:  O Fund raising	
I would like to volunteer to he	elp with:  O Fund raising	
	on O Fund raising O Architectural Review Committee	

#### CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 4862 Washington, D.C. 20008 (202)363-6358 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION U.S. POSTAGE PAID WASHINGTON, D.C. PERMIT NO. 1415

#### Spring Walking Tours sponsored by the Cleveland Park Historical Society

#### **CLEVELAND PARK'S NEIGHBORS**

How well do you know the neighborhoods that surround the Cleveland Park Historic District? Join us and explore the oldest neighborhood of the three with its stately brick townhouses, tour the newest neighborhood with its fascinating modern architecture, and help celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a multi-unit residential complex. For more information call CPHS 363-6358.

Sunday, May 5th 2:00-3:30 p.m.

#### Woodley Park:

Philip Barton Key's Federalist-era mansion (now the Maret School) gave the name to this early 20<sup>th</sup> century "suburban" development. Stroll through the shopping district housed in "French Classical" town houses, stop by Harry Wardman's "folly" of an uptown hotel, and learn more about Wardman's collaboration with other architects which filled the neighborhood with comfortable town homes and apartments. Tour led by Woodley Park Community Association members Judy Waxman and Martin Murray.

Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup> 2:00-3:30 p.m.

#### International Chancery Center:

In recent years the former site of the National Bureau of Standards on Van Ness Street has been transformed into a true international community. The Center is located on 47 acres and consists of 19 separate lots that are leased by the State Department. Fifteen Chanceries have been constructed and one, Pakistan, is currently under construction. Countries are required to design their buildings to reflect their traditional architecture. Donna Mavritte, Property Manager of the complex, will lead the tour.

Saturday, June 1st 11:00-12:30 p.m.

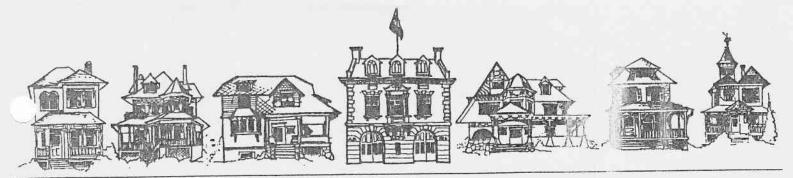
#### McLean Gardens:

McLean Gardens is proudly celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It would have succumbed to the wrecking ball if not for the efforts of many long-term residents, including DC Council member Phil Mendelson. Join McLean Garden's residents for a tour of the architectural and tenderly maintained flora of this 43-acre condominium community that was formerly the grand home of Evelyn McLean Walsh. Enjoy the day's cultural fair and the opening of a permanent exhibit of artifacts and archives related to McLean's history.

The starting location for each tour will be on your ticket.

Each tour costs \$5 for CPHS members and \$10 for non-members. All proceeds benefit the Cleveland Park Historical Society, a (501)(c)(3), charitable organization. The CPHS membership year is May 2002-May 2003. Membership in CPHS is \$35 for individuals and \$50 for households.

Name(s): Address:		Phone:  E-mail:
May 5 <sup>th</sup>	Woodley Park	Please reserve # of tickets @ \$5/\$10 each (circle one) \$
May 19th	Chancery Center	Please reserve # of tickets(@)\$5/\$10 each (circle one) \$
June 1st	McLean Gardens	Please reserve # of tickets @ \$5/\$10 each (circle one) \$
		Total: \$



CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY P.O. BOX 4862 CLEVELAND PARK, D.C. 20008 (202) 363-6358

## WALKING TOUR: HISTORIC LANDSCAPE OF THE TREGARON ESTATE

### SUNDAY, JUNE 9, 2002 10:00-11:00 a.m.

#### PLEASE NOTE CORRECTED TIME

#### Led by David H. Bennett

The Tregaron estate between Macomb Street and Klingle Road is one of the jewels of the Cleveland Park Historic District. The original buildings on the estate were designed from 1912-1914 by Charles Adam Platt, the premier architect at that time of the American Country House Movement. Ellen Biddle Shipman, a noted landscape architect of the time, collaborated with Platt on the gardens and surrounding grounds. Many of the designs by Platt and Shipman still exist.

Documentation of the original buildings was recently completed by the architectural and historical research firm of Robinson and Associates. Documentation of the historic landscape was recently completed by David H. Bennett, AIA, ASLA, of EDAW, Inc., a multi-disciplinary landscape architectural and land planning firm with offices in Alexandria, VA, and around the world. We are pleased to have Mr. Bennett lead us around the estate. To quote from Mr. Bennett's report:

"The natural features include mature woodland associated with steep slopes and stream valleys that have been intentionally preserved and maintained. The cultural landscape features include open spaces, specimen trees, and views to and from the site. The designed landscape...by Platt...and landscape architect... Shipman...is closely integrated with these natural and cultural landscape features."

The Washington International School has owned approximately seven acres of the Tregaron estate since 1980, and we are grateful for their assistance in helping to organize this tour.

The starting location for the tour will be on your ticket. For more information: 363-6358.

The tour cost \$5 for CPHS members and \$10 for non-members. All proceeds benefit the Cleveland Park Historical Society, a (501)(c)(3), charitable organization. The CPHS membership year is May 2002-May 2003. Membership in CPHS is \$35 for individuals and \$50 for households.

Name:	Phone:
Address:	E-mail:
Please reserve # of tickets @ \$5/\$10 each (ci	rcle one) \$