

Voices

VOL. 19, No. 2 • NEWSLETTER OF THE CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY • FALL 2005

Editor's Note: As CPHS founding president Tersh Boasberg notes below, CPHS is celebrating its 20th birthday this year. This issue of Voices honors the founders of CPHS and their efforts to preserve the comfortable, welcoming, village-like beauty of Cleveland Park.



The threat to the Park & Shop started CPHS rolling

A Look Back...and Forward

by Tersh Boasberg

It is hard to believe that it's been 20 years since the Cleveland Park Historical Society was formed to combat inappropriate development in the neighborhood. It is also hard to believe that, because all our neighbors agreed to pull together, our beloved historic area actually looks even better today than it did 20 years ago. The once forlorn Park & Shop site is vastly improved; the NCS dorms have been torn down and Rosedale's green is forever preserved; residential development, for the most part, has been appropriate.

We forget what might have been. Twenty years ago, there was (as there is today) massive commercial pressure on both Wisconsin and Connecticut. The nursing home had just been constructed on Wisconsin near Macomb. MacMansions were going up all over NW. And in the summer of 1984, the college-age daughter of an active Cleveland Park citizen worked as a summer intern at Skidmore, Owings and Merrill, where she saw the draft plans for a massive 11 story, 210,000 square foot office building slated to replace the soon-to-be demolished Park & Shop.

...continued on page 6



Membership Reminder

CPHS members who did not renew in the spring will have another chance to renew their membership in December. Look for a membership renewal form in the mail.

Inside

The President's Letter.....	2
ROMP Update.....	2
Looking Back at CPHS.....	3
For the Record.....	4
Historic Properties Disclosure.....	4
Trees.....	5
On the Avenues.....	7
Grover Cleveland Exhibit.....	8
Church Renovation.....	10
CPHS Reference Shelf.....	11
Historic Marker Order Form.....	11
Join CPHS.....	12

Claudia Alderman
34th Street

Andrew Aurbach
Ordway Street

Alison Barr: Secretary
Lowell Street

Roz Beitler
Connecticut Avenue

John Buchanan
Newark Street

Camilla Carpenter
34th Street

Maria Casarella
Quebec Street

Eleni Constantine
Newark Street

Phil Eagleburger/Jane Treacy
Macomb Street

Ana Evans: VP, Programs
Ashley Terrace

Michael Goldstein: VP, Legal & Regulatory
Affairs
Lowell Street

Patrick Gonzalez/Christine Rose
Rodman Street

Joan Habib
Woodley Road

Ann Hamilton
Newark Street

Diane Hartley
Rodman Street

Christine Hobbs: ARC Co-Chair
Norton Place

John Kuhnle
Newark Street

Margaret Lenzner
Macomb Street

Rachelle Levitt: Treasurer
Springland Lane

Susan Lynner: Voices Editor
Newark Street

Danna McCormick
Porter Street

The President's Letter

by Lois Orr

This year the Cleveland Park Historical Society is celebrating its 20th anniversary. After extensive research by the newly formed CPHS in 1985 (with a special nod to Kathy Wood's preparation of the historic district application), Cleveland Park was designated a local historic district in November 1986 by the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board; in April 1987, the Cleveland Park Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Today the Cleveland Park Historic District is one of 27 residential historic districts in the District of Columbia. Please enjoy the articles in this newsletter that capture some of the early activities of CPHS and reminiscences of neighbors who were involved in the founding of CPHS.

As in the past, CPHS never lacks for opportunities to promote interest in the history of Cleveland Park, to encourage preservation of its architectural heritage and character as a neighborhood with a strong sense of community, and to support preservation generally. In late summer CPHS sponsored the Grover Cleveland Exhibit on Connecticut Avenue, which was very well attended by Cleveland Park residents as well as folks from many other areas of the City. Within the next several months, CPHS will issue a directory of Cleveland Park merchants and other community resources. This fall we contributed to the special fund established by the National Trust for Historic Preservation following the hurricanes in the Gulf area to help restore historic properties in the storm-ravaged areas. Many other activities and projects are underway, a number of which are described in this issue of Voices.

I look forward to and appreciate greatly your continued support.



The Macomb Street Playground is a neighborhood jewel

ROMP Update: Helpers Wanted

by Andrew Aurbach

One of the jewels of our neighborhood, the Macomb Street Playground, is preparing for some updates. The Renovation of Macomb Park (ROMP) group is reorganizing for the next phase of playground renovations. Juanita Peterson, Macomb Playground supervisor, has identified several items that need to be added or updated within the park. ROMP will spend the next months working with local residents, the DC Park Service, and Greenspaces of DC to identify and design the new equipment for the children's park. If you are willing to volunteer your time or resources, please contact the new ROMP president, Sabra Klein Maloney at ROMP@clevelandparkdc.org.

Looking Back: Three Cleveland Parkers Recall the Historic District's Early Days

by Susan Lynner

Editor's Note: Twenty years ago, a group of Cleveland Park residents rallied to fight the threatened demolition of the Park and Shop and its replacement with a massive office building. In his contribution to this issue of *Voices*, Tersh Boasberg, the founding president of the Cleveland Park Historical Society and current Chairman of the Historic Preservation Review Board, recalls that the Park and Shop campaign began an enduring effort to preserve and protect a uniquely beautiful and architecturally rich neighborhood. As Tersh notes, Judy Hubbard Saul, Peggy Robin and Rives Carroll were three of the early foot soldiers in that campaign. Judy, Rives and Peggy shared their memories of those early efforts with *Voices* during a recent mid-October evening. Their enthusiasm for that work, a residual surprise that they accomplished so much so quickly, their warm regard for others who made important contributions to those early efforts, including Kathy Wood, Kathy Smith, Cherrie Anderson and Ned Dearborn, and their abiding love and devotion to Cleveland Park still shine through.

In 1983-84, Rives Carroll began her Cleveland Park Neighborhood History Project with John Eaton students, which became the basis for a book of oral histories called "Cleveland Park Voices" and an original musical performance at the school. The fruits of Rives' research helped awaken Cleveland Park residents to the richness of the neighborhood's heritage, Judy recalled. As an inspiration for her work, Rives pointed to the D.C. history curriculum developed by Kathy Smith, whose early ground-breaking research on Washington's history is reflected in "Washington at Home: An Illustrated History of Neighborhoods in the Nation's Capital" (1988), a comprehensive collection of essays on Washington neighborhoods

edited by Kathy. Kathy Smith's tireless efforts to create city-wide school programs on that history and heritage were reflected in the courses Rives taught at John Eaton. Peggy recalls this as a time of rampant and unchecked development, with little thought given to preservation — as long as some "amenity" was given back to the community, developers generally received D.C. government approval to build. Peggy, then an ANC commissioner and chair of the Historic Preservation Committee, began early neighborhood soundings about the creation of an historic district. Then, in the summer of 1984,

Cleveland Parkers got wind of the plan to replace the Park and Shop with a massive 11-story office building. The news about the Park and Shop galvanized the neighborhood and sparked the two-year effort to save the Park and Shop and establish the historic district. The goal, all three recalled, was to preserve a scale of building that bespoke neighborhood, accessibility and the "small town feel" that still exists and which visitors still notice, marveling (as I know from experience) at the village-like sensibility that permeates an area so close to the halls of Congress.

1985-86 was a time of remarkable activity in the neighborhood. In 1985, CPHS filed its articles of incorporation, obtained its 501(c)3 status, began soliciting members, and determined the boundaries of the historic district. The indefatigable Kathy Wood wrote the

...continued on page 6

Board of Directors 2005-2006 cont'd

Kathe McDaniels: Membership Chair
Newark Street

Rick Nash: VP, Preservation Issues
Newark Street

Amanda Ohlke
Reno Road

Lois Orr, President
34th Street

John Poole: Trees
Newark Street

Peggy Robin
Ashley Terrace

Nancy Skinkle: ARC Co-Chair
Connecticut Avenue

Derek Wilkinson
Porter Street

Architectural Review Committee (ARC)

Maria Casarella
Quebec Street

Steve Cohen
Devonshire Place

Phil Eagleburger
Macomb Street

Anne Grimmer
Porter Street

Joan Habib
Woodley Road

Christine Hobbs, ARC Co-chair
Norton Place

Leslie London
Ordway Street

Richard Molinaroli
Ordway Street

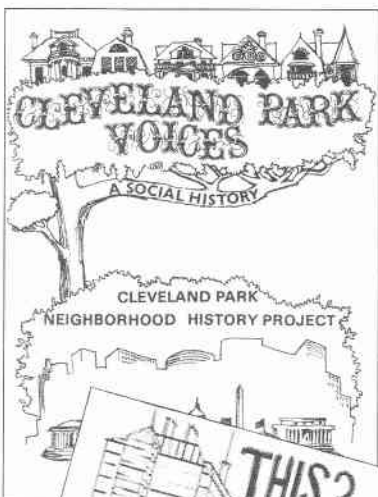
Lois Orr
34th Street

Nancy Skinkle, ARC Co-Chair
Connecticut Avenue

Claire Starr
35th Street

Outreach Coordinator

Judy Hubbard Saul
Newark Street



Above: Rives Carroll's oral history project helped awaken the neighborhood to its heritage

Below: The Park & Shop campaign galvanized the neighborhood

For the Record:

On September 20, 2005, the full board of CPHS approved the following resolution.

CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON DRAFT TRAFFIC STUDY - WISCONSIN AVENUE CORRIDOR

Whereas, the Department of Transportation of the District of Columbia (DDOT) has commissioned a draft traffic study of the Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. corridor and sought public comment on the study;

Whereas, one of the recommendations of the study is to install projecting overhead mast arms for traffic signals, overhead lane markings and large, directional lane marking signs on certain streets of the Cleveland Park Historic District where such streets intersect Wisconsin Avenue;

Whereas, the Cleveland Park Historical Society believes that such infrastructure may detract from and be incompatible with the streetscape in and adjacent to the Cleveland Park Historic District;

Whereas, the Cleveland Park Historic Society notes that the use of mast arms and lane signage was largely avoided in the recent "Georgetown Project" to rebuild arterial streets and infrastructure, which suggests that their detrimental impact on the visual streetscape in the Georgetown Historic District outweighed any traffic efficiency benefits on Georgetown's arterial streets;

Now therefore be it Resolved:

That the Cleveland Park Historical Society generally disfavors the installation of overhead mast arms, overhead lane markings and large, directional lane signage at Wisconsin Avenue intersections as detracting from and being incompatible with the visual streetscape in and adjacent to the Cleveland Park Historic District, and

That in proposing any changes in or improvements traffic signals, control and signage, DDOT consider the impact of such changes or improvements infrastructure on the character of the Cleveland Park Historic District and neighborhoods abutting Wisconsin Avenue and in doing so utilize designs that are consistent with the maintenance of the character of the Historic District; and

That in considering any such changes or improvements DDOT seek the advice and guidance of the Cleveland Park Historical Society, as the officially-designated advisory body on matters pertaining to the historic nature of the Historic District, and of the District of

Columbia Historic Preservation Review Board, respecting the harmony of such changes or improvements with the character of the Historic District.

and be it further Resolved:

That any officer of the Cleveland Park Historical Society be and hereby is authorized to file these resolutions with the public comments on the Wisconsin Avenue draft traffic study and to submit comments, provide testimony and send other communications to DDOT, Historic Preservation Review Board, Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C and other agencies of the District of Columbia Government related to the matters set forth in these resolutions.

Passed unanimously by the Board of Directors on
September 20, 2005.

Editor's Note: Below is the city's press release on the new disclosure statement for historic landmarks and properties within historic districts.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES DISCLOSURE STATEMENT NOW PART OF CITY REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

October 12, 2005

Buyers of historic landmarks and properties within historic districts should receive notification of the historic designation before buying the property, according to new requirements of the DC Real Estate Board. Sellers of such properties are now required to disclose that historic designation protection to potential buyers in a real estate seller's disclosure statement. Lisa Burcham, head of the city's Historic Preservation Office, noted, "This is a very effective way to inform buyers of the historic character of their properties. We want to provide them assistance and guidance as they plan the rehabilitation of their properties."

The DC Preservation League (DCPL), Historic Districts Coalition and the DC Office of Historic Preservation have worked with the DC Real Estate Board to produce the new disclosure requirements and form. The three new questions now listed on the Real Estate Seller's Disclosure Statement are: Is the property a DC landmark or located in a historic district? Has the property been cited for a violation during your ownership? Is the property subject to a conservation easement?

Ms. Burcham noted that this disclosure requirement is only one part of a planned three-part notification effort that has been planned by the Historic Preservation Office. It is expected that the February 2006 tax bills will include a letter to owners of landmarks and those with properties in the historic districts reminding them of the benefits of the historic status and of the need for permits. Historic District signs, similar to the ones for the Mount Vernon/Shaw historic districts, are also planned as part of the notification effort.

"This disclosure requirement will alert new owners about the need to obtain permits before embarking on any modification to the exterior of their properties," said Nancy Metzger, coordinator of the Historic Districts Coalition, a city-wide network of neighborhood organizations representing historic districts and neighborhoods considering historic district status. "It is

discouraging for everyone – owners, neighbors, community organizations and city agencies – when owners embark on improvement projects without city review and approval. We hope this will reduce the number of Stop Work Orders that need to be posted,” she added.

Constance W. Maffin, chair of the D.C. Real Estate Board, added, “As both a regulator and a practitioner I was delighted that the Real Estate Board could assist the consumer in better understanding the obligations and responsibilities of owning an historic property. Hopefully, this will result in better informed sellers, licensees, and members of the buying public.”

“The DC Preservation League is very pleased that this disclosure is now a requirement in the city. We and other preservation organizations have testified for years about the need for such notification. We appreciate the work of the Real Estate Board staff, headed up by Cheryl Randall-Thomas, and Chair Constance Maffin, in helping the preservation community achieve one of its notification goals,” said Edwin Fountain, president of DCPL, a city-wide organization that advocates to preserve, protect and enhance the historic and built environment of Washington, DC.

Carol Goldman, president of The L’Enfant Trust an organization that oversees conservation easements mentioned in the disclosure statement, remarked, “The L’Enfant Trust is delighted to see D.C.’s new disclosure requirements. Many of the 900 plus properties protected by The L’Enfant Trust’s conservation easements have been sold and resold since the Trust began its easement program over a quarter century ago and the new disclosure requirements will help ensure that buyers of these properties understand their obligations. We are grateful to the preservation and real estate professionals who worked so hard to effect this important change.” The Real Estate Board is an appointed body that is part of the Occupational and Professional Licensing Administration, DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs. Real estate regulations are currently on www.promissor.com web site. (Go to ‘licensing and certification fulfillment services’; go to ‘DC Real Estate’; click to ‘publications’; and then click ‘regulations.’ It is on pages 129 – 134.)

For more information, please contact:

Lisa Burcham, Associate Director, Historic Preservation Office, Office of Planning, 202-442-8800;
lisa.burcham@dc.gov.

Leon Lewis, DC Real Estate Board: 202-442-4345;
leon_lewis@dc.gov.

Rebecca Miller, DC Preservation League:
202-703-5144; Rebecca@dcpreservation.org.

Nancy Metzger, Historic Districts Coalition:
202-546-1034, nancymetzger@verizon.net.

Carol Goldman, The L’Enfant Trust: 202-483-4480,
info@lenfant.org.



An enthusiastic crowd turned out for the April 2005 CPHS tree planting

Cleveland Park Neighbors Help Local Trees Thrive

by Patrick Gonzalez

The street trees that we planted this spring have been thriving under the care of Cleveland Park neighbors. Despite a few hot periods in the summer, all of the Yoshino cherry and Nuttall Oaks that we planted with the assistance of Casey Trees along Lowell, Macomb, 35th, and 36th Streets NW are growing strong. Neighbors such as the Keller and Alvord families on Lowell St. NW have watered and protected the trees. On the Ordway triangle, five of the seven Okame cherry trees that we planted with the assistance of DC Greenworks are still alive.

Two trees died of unknown causes, but the nursery will provide replacement trees next Spring. CPHS Board member Claudia Alderman has led a group of Ordway and 34th Street residents in keeping the trees watered this summer. Claudia has also donated labor from her landscaping company to mow and care for the entire Ordway triangle.

Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002

Our local efforts reinforce actions that the DC Government is taking to increase and protect trees across the City. For example, on January 22, 2003, the Council and Mayor enacted the Urban Forest Preservation Act of 2002. The Act requires a permit for any person or private organization to cut down a "special tree," defined as a tree with a minimum circumference of 55 inches (140 cm). The City will only allow the tree to be cut if an arborist certified by the International Society of Arboriculture determines that the tree is hazardous to life or property and the DC Urban Forestry Administration (UFA) accepts that finding. Moreover, the applicant must plant new trees whose combined circumference equals or exceeds the circumference of the tree to be removed or pay into a newly-established Tree Fund a fee of \$35 per inch of circumference of the tree to be removed. See the UFA web site <http://ddot.dc.gov/ufo> for details and the Special Tree Removal Application.



Kathy Wood prepared the Cleveland Park historic designation application

nomination for the Park and Shop to the National Register of Historic Places. Kathy's application for the creation of the Cleveland Park Historic District, which received approval from HPRB in November 1986, is a wealth of information on the architectural history of the neighborhood. (*Voices* profiled Kathy Wood in the Spring 1992 issue and again in the Spring 2004 issue, just before she and

husband Joe left Cleveland Park; her contribution to the neighborhood can hardly be overstated.) Important research by Cherrie Anderson and Ned Dearborn on "the chronological development of the combined residential and commercial area of Connecticut Avenue in Cleveland Park" was a key element in making the case for the significance of the commercial corridor, said Judy.

Herculean individual efforts made CPHS possible. Tersh Boasberg, already a well-known preservationist lawyer, drafted residents into an action campaign that included the appointment of block captains to marshal support for creating the Cleveland Park Historic District (Judy recalled that one simply didn't dare turn Tersh down). That effort was aided by the discovery that the Park and Shop was considered historically significant by preservationists. But as Rives and Peggy noted, the effort to establish the historic district was not universally popular. Judy remembers merchants' concern that landmarking the Connecticut Avenue corridor would keep them "stuck in time" and there were some not-so-friendly allusions to "you people on the hill." Some Rodman Street neighbors petitioned to be excluded from the district. But, Peggy said, the block captains and their "coffee sessions" kept channels of discussion open, so that by the time HPRB held its hearing on the Cleveland Park historic district application, there was near unanimity in the neighborhood, which came through at the hearing. Peggy remembers Kathy Wood's appearance before the HPRB on the historic application as "the most wonderful and coherent presentation" and a "symphony" to the progression of buildings of varying height "in waves along Connecticut Avenue."



Rives Carroll, Judy Hubbard Saul and Peggy Robin reminisce

In 1987, CPHS established the Architectural Review Committee; neighborhood artist Eleanor Oliver designed the masthead for the CPHS stationery and the top-of-the-page borders for the early *Voices*; Jean van der Tak began her 10-year stint as editor of the new *Voices* (a record that will likely remain unbroken!); and the Cleveland Park Historic District was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The spirit of neighborhood volunteerism that gave birth to the historic district continues. The strong turnout for CPHS's spring 2005 tree plantings (see the Spring 2005 *Voices* for details) — with leadership, expertise, and lots of hard work from tree program veteran John Poole as well as new board members Claudia Alderman and the spousal team of professional foresters Christine Rose and Patrick Gonzalez — testifies to the continuing commitment to the neighborhood.

So happy birthday, CPHS; may the next 20 years preserve the best of what our first neighborhood activists kept safe for us.

A Look Back by Tersh Boasberg continued from page 1

That did it. Peggy Robin, our indefatigable ANC rep, distributed a flyer all over Cleveland Park, with a hand drawn behemoth of a building, rhetorically asking, "Is this what we want?" Architectural historian Kathy Wood presented a brilliant slide show on Cleveland Park's Victorian and early 20th Century eclectic architecture in November, 1984. The neighborhood was aroused. Over 40 people attended an organizational meeting at my house on December 5th, including the "two Kathys" — Smith and Wood — Peggy, Rives Carroll, and Judy Hubbard. CPHS Articles and Bylaws were signed on March 26, 1985 and the long, tough fundraising, informational, and legal campaigns began.

Because of the tremendous dedication of CPHS volunteers, the neighborhood was literally "saved." The Cleveland Park Historic District (including Connecticut and the east side of Wisconsin) was named to the DC Inventory in December, 1986, and to the National Register the following year. Importantly, the two commercial strips were re-zoned by the DC Zoning Commission, after another long battle, in March and September, 1988.

While I'm sure some people may chafe a bit at the developmental restrictions (on their own residence), most of us are grateful that we live in an historic neighborhood with both residential and commercial design review (on our neighbors). Unfortunately, like the price of freedom, neighborhood character is maintained only through eternal vigilance (and hard work). It's not always easy.

The last 20 years have seen CPHS at its best: an outstanding Board; a professional ARC; an excellent tree program; sympathetic resolution of the Rosedale controversy; and, hopefully soon, a reasonable settlement at Tregaron. Happy 20th CPHS, and thanks for guarding our neighborhood's heritage, beauty, and vitality.

On The Avenues

by Judy Hubbard Saul



Wheat Berry

Wheatberry Market and Deli, which opened this summer at 3313 Connecticut Avenue, offers a healthy, tasty, and affordable salad bar, Dinners To Go, and soon, breakfast, with warm-from-the-oven croissants. Owner Gerald Koh, used the name Wheatberry to convey the idea of healthy, home-made, good quality soups, salads, bread, and desserts. As a health-conscious eater myself, I have been a regular customer. Recent samplings included salads made with lentils, bulgur, or couscous; a delicious soup of butternut squash with caramelized onions; and, vegetarian chili. One night the Dinner To Go menu included chicken Florentine, BBQ chicken or grilled salmon. The space was previously occupied by Amernick Bakery and before that the Uptown Bakery. The place has good bread karma in that Gerald once managed the Bread Line downtown and makes a tasty ciabatta. A few of the furnishings remain from Amernick, but Gerald has added a bit of his own whimsey, plus his own hard labor, to the interior design. Some items on his deli market shelves included olive oil, tins of mussels and baby clams, hot sauces, and imported lemon curd and preserves. **(Open Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.); telephone 237-0160.**



DINO

Dino, the new Italian restaurant at 3435 Connecticut Avenue, opened on July 6th and was an immediate success. Owner Dean Gold loves all things Italian but especially the food and wines of Venice and Montalcino, a region of Tuscany. His appreciation for the specialties of those regions started with a stint at an Italian restaurant in Los Angeles. He came East to work in the main office of Whole Foods. Dean started looking for a restaurant site in the metropolitan area in December 2003 and after being outbid five times, he thinks he has found the perfect spot. Patrons love to eat by windows and this site, formerly Yanyu Restaurant, has a panoramic view on two sides. The menu changes weekly and emphasizes the best offerings of the season. One week, a few of the items on the menu were butternut squash pasta, halibut piccata, and baby octopus. Many items are organic, and Dean supports purchasing from small producers. Neighbors will be pleased that there is no valet parking. Following a growing trend in the area, it is a smoke-free environment. **(Open seven days a week, 5:00 p.m.-10:30 p.m.); telephone 686-2966; fax 686-3761; www.dean@dino-dc.com.**



Cleveland Park Bar and Grill opened on October 7 at 3421 Connecticut Avenue in the space once occupied by Brick's Restaurant and Bar and before that Vigorelli's. Partners Peter Balish, Jeff Holisbaugh, and Patricia and Fabio Beggiano, want this to be the neighborhood's sports bistro. Peter and Jeff have another restaurant/bar downtown and the Beggianos own Sesto Senso in Dupont

Circle. The walls are now painted a lush warm brick red and hung with photographs of Cleveland Park and Washington, DC. The many television sets remain and sports fans will be able to see their favorite teams from all over the world play on weekends. Like restaurant Dino, the CP Bar and Grill features seasonal, often organic, bar food. The menu includes cold cut platters, cheese plates, salads, burgers, fried calamari, vegetarian lasagna and much more. There are a lots of different pizza choices, some made with whole wheat dough, cooked on the wood burning stove. In the winter Patricia will change the menu to provide more comfort foods like good hearty soups. CP Bar has twelve kinds of wines by the glass and twelve beers on draft. There will be lunch and brunch on the weekends. **(Open Monday-Thursday 5:30 p.m.-2:00 a.m.; Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 11:30 a.m.-3:00 a.m.); telephone 806-8940; fax 806-8941; www.cpbargrill.com; info@cpbargrill.com.**



Vic Daumit & Marie De La Peña, partners for 35 years, at a typical Ballroom show.

Friday, October 14th was a sad day in Cleveland Park. The owners of the Vic Daumit Dance Studio at 3333 Connecticut Avenue were evicted, and all the contents from the studio were dumped on the median strip of the service road. Vic was a neighborhood institution who taught many of us the fine points of dancing. He opened his second floor Cleveland Park studio in 1951. Vic died on February 2, 2004 (see Spring 2004 issue of Voices). Several of us, including Jane of Treacy Eagerberger Architects, Dega and Ellie of City Fitness, and Marcus of Byblios Deli hurried over to retrieve some photographs of Vic's illustrious past left outside.



"Mrs Cleveland" (Judy Hubbard Saul) and Tersh Boasberg open Cleveland exhibition

President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland and Cleveland Park, Origins of a Neighborhood, 1886

by Judy Hubbard Saul

I am sorry many of you were not able to see our exhibition on President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland with its rich trove of memorabilia on the Clevelands and their times. We had 492 people sign our guest book, and we know we had many, many more visitors. The exhibition came together very quickly. In early August, Steve Ackerman, the collector of the Cleveland memorabilia, and I looked at all the possible venues in the neighborhood for an exhibition. None of the sites was suitable. And then we walked by the empty storefront for rent at 3418 Connecticut Avenue. It had everything we needed. We are most grateful to Ted, Jim, and George Pedas of Circle Management, Inc., for allowing us to use the space during the beginning of September.

One of the great things about the exhibition was meeting the people who came to view it. Old friends. New friends. The entire third grade class (60 students plus their teachers) of John Eaton School. One new friend, Elizabeth Patterson of Silver Spring, MD, came to the exhibition a second time to loan us a very old White House cookbook which contained a picture of Mrs. Cleveland. Ms. Patterson had purchased the cookbook at a recent sale of the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library. Days later our neighbor Peter Espenschied came to the exhibition and recognized the cookbook he had once owned and donated to the Library.

Cleveland Park marks presidential origins

By VICTORIA SOLOMON
Current Staff Writer

Dressed dashing in a flashy pink dress with ruffles that hearkened back to the 19th century, Judy Hubbard Saul paid tribute last Thursday to the "rock-star-like" fame of first lady Frances "Frank" Cleveland and to Cleveland Park's historic roots.

Saul was decked out in honor of the Cleveland Park Historical Society's 20-year anniversary and for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a special exhibit at 3418 Connecticut Ave, "President & Mrs. Grover Cleveland: Origins of a Neighborhood, 1886."

The exhibit, which opened Thursday and will continue through Sept. 11, includes items on temporary loan from Stephen Ackerman, a private collector who said he has more



Bill Petros/The Current

Judy Hubbard Saul dressed up as President Grover Cleveland's wife Frances at the Cleveland Park Historical Society's birthday celebration.

political memorabilia treasures than he can count.

It came together on the wing of many willing participants. Saul said she contacted Ackerman several months ago and "was overwhelmed by his entire col-

See **History**/Page 24

I'd like to thank the following people for helping to get the exhibition up and staffed on such short notice: Claudia Alderman, Alison Barr, Armanda Bassi of Flather & Perkins Insurance, Roz Beiter, John Buchanan, Camilla Carpenter, Barbara Cox, Jeanene Eau Claire of Circle Management, Inc., Linda Greensfelder, Michael Headley and Robert Perantoni of the Smithsonian Exhibitions Division, Barbara Kraft, Ron Lehker, Susan Lynner, Abby Martin, Mary Ellen Massey, Kathe McDaniels, Amanda Ohlke, Lois Orr, Cedar Phillips, Laine Shakerdge, and Susan Talley.

Editor's Note: Voices is very grateful to Chris Kain, Managing Editor of the Northwest Current, for graciously allowing us to reprint the Current's September 7, 2005, article on the exhibit by Victoria Solomon. It was so thorough that we thought we could not improve upon it.

Pictured at right: Political memorabilia collector Stephen Ackerman at the Cleveland exhibition opening



HISTORY

From Page 1

lection." Then she said she saw the storefront space open on Connecticut Avenue on her way to the Metro shortly after meeting with Ackerman. Owners Jim and Ted Pedas of Circle Management Inc. allowed the group to use the space, formerly occupied by Potomac Video. The Smithsonian Institution loaned the display gear for Ackerman's relics.

A collector since he was 12, Ackerman was more than willing to oblige the historical society, he said in an interview. "It's nice if it means something for people," he said.

Ackerman has displayed items at the Black History Museum in Alexandria and at Washington College in Chestertown, Md. His collection is diverse enough to allow for many different exhibits. "I can cut the stuff a hundred different ways," he said.

Ackerman said he is writing an article about the 120th anniversary of the Cleverlands' wedding. He said the couple was "sort of like Ozzie and Harriet to me; ... sort of sweet."

The president married while he was in office, and the news of his nearly 30-years-younger bride swept through the nation, Ackerman said. He pointed out that the two seemed to love each other deeply

and that their relationship was famous for it.

In 1886, then-President Cleveland bought 28 acres east of 36th Street, between what is now Newark and Macomb streets, for \$21,500. By 1887, he and his wife had expanded the old stone farmhouse on the property to 15 rooms and created a small farm for Frances Cleveland, who loved animals, according to Ackerman's research.

A special portion of the exhibit is dedicated just to Frances Cleveland's life and the fame that surrounded the attractive young bride while she was a first lady.

The home, called Oak View, was intended to be the principal home for the Cleverlands only while they were newlyweds. But rather than moving into the White House several miles south and residing there like most other presidents and first ladies, the couple stayed at their farmhouse nearly year-round from 1886 to 1889. Their presence sparked popularity for the area and booming real estate prices followed.

When Cleveland sold his house in 1889 after losing re-election, he made more than \$100,000. The house was sold again and then razed in the late 1920s, Ackerman said.

Cleveland was re-elected in 1893, making him the 22nd and the 24th U.S. president, but the second time he rented a home in Woodley Park that is now the central building

of Maret School.

By the late 1800s, the Chevy Chase Land Co. had created three divisions — Oak View, Cleveland Park and Cleveland Heights — in the area that is now known just as Cleveland Park.

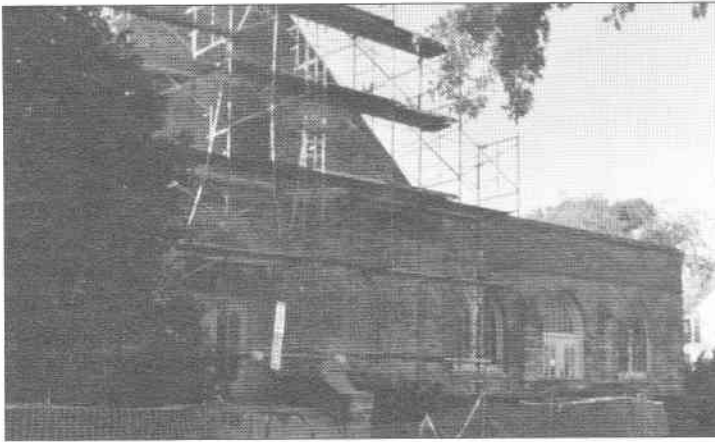
Cleveland Park resident and former Cleveland Park Historical Society president Tersh Boasberg, who has lived in the District for 41 years and chairs the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board, said at the ribbon-cutting ceremony that Cleveland Park's history can be seen just by glancing down Connecticut Avenue.

The Park 'n' Shop center has a unique history, he said. Located on the east side of Connecticut Avenue, the plaza was the first shopping center with off-street parking in D.C.

The historical society itself sprang out of a developer's plan to tear down the plaza. Cleveland Park residents got together and successfully battled the plan, creating the society along the way, said Tersh's wife, Sally Boasberg.

Numerous other buildings still retain original storefront material, some even with decorative urns atop the buildings that can be seen in the old prints and photographs in the exhibit. Most of the buildings were date from 1910 to 1930.

The exhibit is open weekdays from 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 8 p.m.



An old friend undergoes a substantial facelift

Substantial Renovations Afoot at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church

By Richard Jorgensen

The time is 2005. The place is what was called, in the 1890s, Washington's "first suburb": Cleveland Park. And in the heart of this superbly congenial part of our world there stands, on the corner of 34th and Lowell Streets, the venerable Cleveland Park Congregational Church. Yes, venerable and ardently community-oriented – ever since its founding in March 1918 – as "a fellowship devoted to worship, teaching and service."

By mid-1918, this fellowship – residents of the Cleveland Park community who had been gathering for worship in temporary quarters – had grown so large that "they began to have visions of a permanent church edifice." These visions soon took concrete form: the purchase of the two 50'x 150' lots (at 50 cents a square foot, totaling a bit over \$7000) at the corner of 34th and Lowell, and a set of architect's drawings. The plan the architect drew called for a structure situated on both lots: a chapel on the corner lot, a larger sanctuary filling the second lot, with an arcade along Lowell Street connecting the two.

Construction on the new church began in 1922. The building was literally rooted in its Cleveland Park neighborhood: the stone for its walls is believed to have been quarried just down the hill, at the foot of Newark Street. The familiar landmark we all see when we stop at the Lowell Street stop light was completed and dedicated in April 1923. Whether because their funds ran out, or because they decided a green side yard was better than a bigger building, the members of that Cleveland Park congregation of the early 1920's left the proposed "main sanctuary" on the second lot unbuilt.

Fast forward to the here and now – the autumn of '05. Many contemporary CPHS'ers and other readers of Cleveland Park Voices have undoubtedly attended community gatherings, lectures, or board meetings of the CPHS and other nonprofit groups in the parlor of this church. Or perhaps they have attended a concert, a Christmas Eve children's pageant, or a neighbor's wedding, baptism or memorial service in its intimate, yet beautifully grand, sanctuary. Like the Congregational churches established by the early New England colonists, the Cleveland Park Congregational Church still serves not only as a place of worship for its congregation, but also as a place where the local community can come together – to learn, to debate, to make decisions, or merely to commune in joy or sorrow. With its long history of fellowship and support to neighbors and local institutions like John Eaton School, this church is truly a "village church in the city."

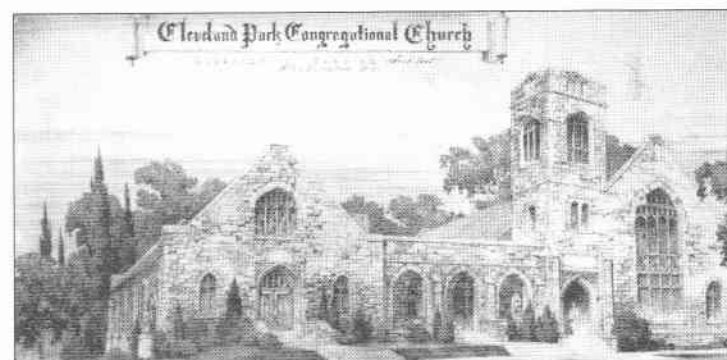
We've all enjoyed our neighborhood church's strong, simple Gothic architecture, with its lovely old stonework and prominent slate roof. Cleveland Parkers walking around the neighborhood – and indeed many other Washingtonians driving the Reno Road route downtown – may have noticed that during much of the year 2005, scaffolding has covered various parts of this historic building. They might well be wondering what is happening at the corner of 34th and Lowell Streets.

Indeed, it is a happening – a rebirth before our very eyes, right here in Cleveland Park. What has made this rebirth possible is the church's fund-raising campaign for building restoration and program expansion, launched in 2004 and co-chaired by neighbors and friends Don Blanchon and Elaine Hubert. The part of the campaign initiative that is most visible to neighbors and passersby is the restoration of the church building's historic fabric. In the year 2005, it takes a true commitment to historic preservation – and a major financial investment – to cover a large roof with real slate instead of asphalt. The church members voted to make that investment, and the historic – but leaking – slate roof has now been replaced with genuine slate indistinguishable from the original.

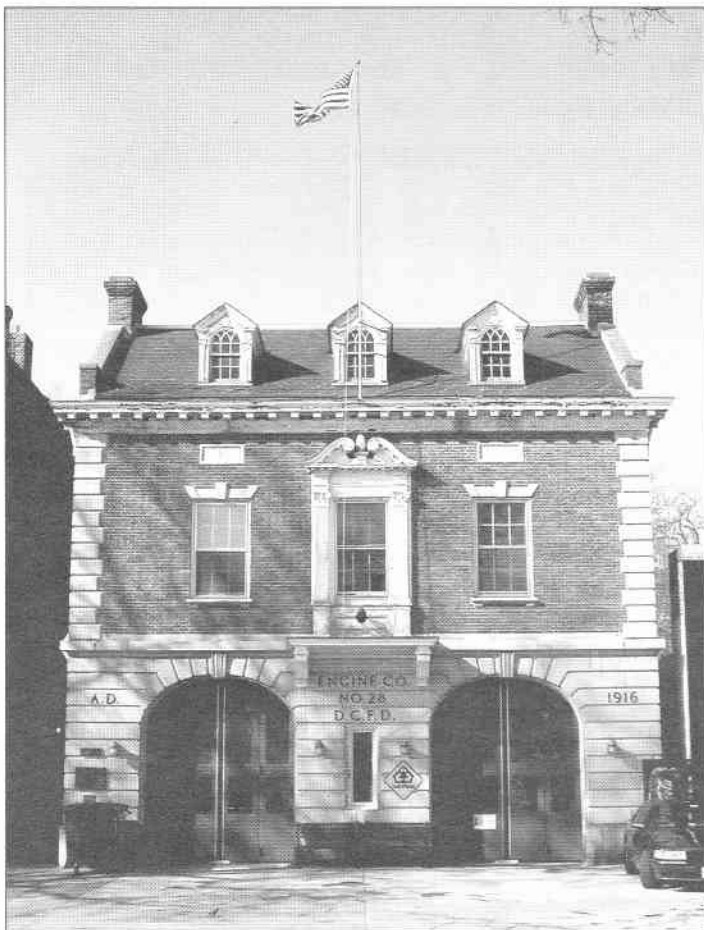
With the roof restored, the church started work this past summer on the next major phase of the building program: repairing the original exterior stonework and capstones. As many Cleveland Parkers learn in restoring their own historic houses – surprises happen! Once the work was underway, the extent of deterioration turned out to be much more serious than anticipated, and the repairs much more costly. Many of the soft local stones were found to be split and leaking after more than 80 years of exposure. Replacing them from the original local quarry was out of the question – for the simple reason that another neighborhood gem, the Uptown Theater, now sits where that quarry once was. After a wide search, compatible stones were found in a Pennsylvania quarry, and 23 tons of them were ordered.

Completion of stonework on just the Lowell Street façade of the church will require \$40,000 more than the \$110,000 set aside from members' donations for the restoration of the entire building. Before the church can proceed with restoring the rest of its historic structure, more new funds will need to be raised. The church would greatly appreciate contributions from neighbors and friends. Checks should be made out to the Cleveland Park Congregational Church, noting that they are for the Gift of Tomorrow campaign. If you have any questions, please call the church at 363-8211, or stop by the office at 3400 Lowell Street.

Editor's Note: Dick Jorgensen is a forty-year resident of the Cleveland Park community, a former CPHS president, and an active member of the Cleveland Park Congregational Church since 1966. CPHS appreciates the church's willingness to make its space available for many years for our quarterly Board meetings, the monthly meetings of our Architectural Review Committee, and special meetings that address community issues.



An architectural rendering of the original church plan



The CPHS Reference Shelf

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

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

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

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

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



Historic Marker Program

To educate the community about the age of various structures within the historic district, CPHS sells 5" x 7" solid brass oval plaques. Each plaque bears the structure's date of construction & the words "Cleveland Park Historic District." Structures listed on the original National Register nomination form are immediately eligible for recognition. To find out if your home/building is listed, call Steve Cohen at 234-7954 or email SLCMVM@Starpower.net. Structures 75 years or older are also eligible with documentation verifying the age. Submit a copy of the original deed, tax bill, utility bill, or other official document attesting to the age of your structure. Markers are \$125 for CPHS members and \$160 for non-members. Orders for markers are taken any time during the year, but due to fabrication and shipping costs, plaques will be ordered in bulk. CPHS will send a letter confirming that your structure is eligible and the approximate delivery date. Markers come with installation instructions.

NAME _____

STRUCTURE ADDRESS _____

YEAR STRUCTURE WAS ERECTED _____

ARCHITECT (IF KNOWN) _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL _____

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

The CPHS Reference Shelf Order Form

Please send me:

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

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

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

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

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

TOTAL

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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

Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

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

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

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

Thank you!

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$35 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 Patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$50 Household | <input type="checkbox"/> \$500 Angel |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Sponsor | <input type="checkbox"/> Other \$ _____ |

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City, State & Zip Code _____

Daytime phone _____

Evening phone _____

E-Mail Address _____

- ☐ Architectural Review Committee (ARC)
- ☐ Beautification
- ☐ House & Garden Tours
- ☐ Mailings
- ☐ Membership
- ☐ Newsletter
- ☐ Tree Planting
- ☐ Other _____
- ☐ I am interested in being considered for the CPHS Board of Directors as openings become available



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

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
WASHINGTON, D.C.
PERMIT NO. 1415