

What's New? New Members, New Look, New Film

By Joan Habib, CPHS President

CPHS has been busy-busy the last few months. We've added 65 new members and persuaded most, new and old, to coordinate their membership fees with our fiscal year, January 1-December 31. This makes bookkeeping much simpler.

VOICES has (another) new look, redesigned to more closely resemble its electronic sister publication at www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.com. Click to get the latest updates.

Mark your calendars now for the premiere of the video, "I Am Cleveland Park" (right), at our Annual Meeting, May 31, 8 p.m., John Eaton School. Meet the slate of new Board members and reconnect with neighbors after a long winter. Refreshments will be served and the video will be on sale.

The CPHS nominating committee is interviewing for Board openings. If you're interested or know someone you believe we should approach, please e-mail me at CPHSPresident@aol.com. Board members are elected to three-year terms, which may be extended once. We expect to offer an outstanding roster at the Annual Meeting May 31.

Do you have a few hours to volunteer? We are looking for members to work with the following committees: Administration; Fundraising; Mailings; Membership; Merchants; Projects (Home Tours, Garden Tours, Antiques Appraisal, and others). I encourage you to sign up at CPHSPresident@aol.com or call 237-CLEV (2538).

The CPHS Architectural Review Committee (ARC) continues to evaluate proposals, including changing Yenching Palace to a Walgreens Drugs.

INTERESTED IN MEMBERSHIP?

Go to our website
www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org



President Grover Cleveland, wife Frances, and their home, built in the 1800s on 26 acres, roughly at 36th and Newark. Called "Red Top" for its red roof and gables, it was razed in 1928.

Cleveland Park: The Movie

by Peggy Robin

Cleveland Park has been many things and now it's a motion picture, a fast-paced half-hour tour through some 200 years of neighborhood history. Join us for the world premiere at John Eaton School on May 31 during the Cleveland Park Historical Society's Annual Meeting.

"I Am Cleveland Park," produced by filmmaker and neighbor Ruth Pollak and her team at Educational Film Center (EFC), captures the spirit of our small town within the city. It stars our homes, schools, green spaces, kids, parents, and merchants, along with a couple of cute pets.

The documentary traces the neighborhood from its beginnings as Uriah Forrest's Rosedale Farm in the 1790s through its days as a turn-of-the-century streetcar suburb to its present status as a D.C. Historic

District. There are moments of suspense: Will the highway lobby succeed in putting an interstate through the heart of Cleveland Park? Will a concrete mini-city overwhelm leafy McLean Gardens? Will the East Coast's first shopping center be replaced by an 11-story office tower?

We know the answers now, but the film is both a visual experience and a guide to citizen action, revealing how neighbors banded together, organized, strategized, marched, lobbied, and testified to preserve what we have today.

Sponsored primarily by CPHS, it will be made available to other preservation and community groups. PBS may be interested, too, reports Ruth, whose Newark Street residence houses EFC (<http://efcvideo.com>). Producer Bonnie Nelson Schwartz and Director/Editor Ira Klugerman also worked on the film.

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2nd Annual Appraisal Day Amazing and Amusing

By Amanda Ohlke

Ivory chess sets, crazy quilts, and handsome hunting prints are just some of the treasures brought to the Cleveland Park Historical Society's second Annual Antiques Appraisal Day on February 24.

Elizabeth Wainstein, President of the Potomack Company, an antiques and fine arts auction gallery in Alexandria, assembled a team of experts to assess antiques and oddities. Around 40 hopeful owners, who had paid \$15 for the privilege, gathered at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church to learn about their valued possessions.

Objects ranged from the amazing to the amusing. A wooden paddle inscribed with the ABCs seemed to be a teaching tool. When asked about its history, the owner gleefully sang "Reading and 'riting and 'rithmetic, taught to the tune of a hick'ry stick!" (No value was assigned to the paddle...or the singing.) Competing sets of champagne glasses apparently had been the cause of a long-running debate for one couple over which set was more valuable—the lady was correct. "Every appraisal day is always a little different,

THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Battling Bamboo

By Chris Rose

If you are leafing through plant catalogs or dreaming of flowers, read this delightful and funny book about gardening, The Essential Earthman, by Henry Mitchell. A former Washington Post columnist, he writes with a touch as fresh as spring.

Q. Do all kinds of bamboo go berserk? What kind will remain an orderly border without sending shoots into the neighbor's yard? Is there one good for a long planter on the deck?

A. Bamboos are grasses (not trees) from China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. While some are tropical, there are species that do well in temperate zones. Most bamboos like full sun and good soil. They have a lovely form and

are often used as screens. Bamboos are divided into two growth types: running and clumping

Running bamboos are well named—they are extremely fast growing and highly invasive. Their runners will easily escape their planted areas and overtake other plants, like a scene from "Little Shop of Horrors." Clumping bamboo is better behaved (though it should be monitored) and both types work well in large containers.

Both the National Arboretum and the Maryland Home and Garden Information Center recommend *Fargesia* bamboos for our area.

Have a question? E-mail CPHSPresident@aol.com and write "Outdoors" in the subject line. Chris Rose was one of the first women forest managers in the USDA Forest Service.



Appraiser Elizabeth Wainstein chats with Cliff Hardy about carpets he purchased in Baghdad in the 1950s. One has the royal coat of arms, another Hardy's own name.

reflecting the heritage and interest of each community," said Elizabeth Wainstein, president of the Potomack Company and a generalist appraiser.

"We were honored to evaluate such interesting objects, ranging from an 18th-century miniature portrait of George Washington's personal physician, Dr. Craik, to a modernist table by the recently deceased designer Hans Wegner, to carpets made during the 1950s by inmates in the Baghdad jail."

The appraisers and their specialties included Anne Craner, formerly with the Metropolitan Museum and the Phillips

Collection (paintings and drawings); Ellen Jenkins, former head of porcelain for Christie's North America (porcelain/ceramics) and Frances McCord, former director of European works of art, Christie's (sculpture).

Board member Danna McCormick's contact with Wainstein led to the event, which was arranged by CPHS President Joan Habib and board member Amanda Ohlke. Others who helped make it happen were staff member Kimberly Durham Bates and volunteers Howard Berger, Rick Busch, and Kathy Erickson.



"He was top of the line," says Lee Harvey (right) of former Brookville manager Jim Shipman.

Brookville's Best

By Robin Berrington

Not too long ago markets were at the geographic center of a town. In Jim Shipman's view, the Brookville Supermarket, which he managed for 21 years until retiring in 2006, should also be at the center of Cleveland Park—not just in location, but in terms of community spirit as well. He succeeded in doing just that.

Brookville Supermarket opened in 1985. Jim was its first manager, working seven days a week to make Brookville a focal point of Cleveland Park. According to Lee Harvey, once a co-worker and the new co-manager along with Rick Potter, Jim saw the neighbors as part of "his extended family." He often hired local youngsters, allowed Girl Scouts to sell their cookies there, and joined in fund-raising for the fire department and John Eaton School. And if a customer failed to have the cash on

hand, Jim extended credit. "They always paid later," he recalled.

He reached out to the down-and-out, too. He gave a homeless person a job as a bagger, which helped turn the man's life around, prompting the rabbi at nearby Adas Israel synagogue to feature Jim in one of his sermons. He started a delivery service.

"We were always open," he said, "even when it snowed 40 inches or more back in the '90s."

Jim still takes pride that Brookville is a neighborhood grocery store, not a supermarket. He regrets that the effort to organize a Cleveland Park Day never took off, but says the neighborhood is "better, more modern."

Brookville provided Jim with much more than an income. It also gave him a wife. He met Yolanda, a customer, there; they married four years ago and now live at the Broadmoor, a few minutes walk away. Since his retirement, they've been traveling. He underwent quadruple bypass surgery last fall but by November was climbing the Great Wall of China.

"Jim Shipman was definitely top of the line," Harvey said about his friend. "We want to keep that personalized touch that he started here." That's not a bad legacy at all.

NEIGHBORHOOD TOURS



Sidwell Goes Green, Wins Platinum June 9 Tour Planned

Drawing on such humble materials as recycled wine barrels and ancient timbers dredged up from Baltimore Harbor, Sidwell Friends School has created one of the greenest buildings in the world.

Sidwell's new middle school building, which also includes student-maintained rooftop gardens that will supply the cafeteria with organic vegetables and herbs, won a platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council. This ranking, the Council's highest, has been awarded to only 32 buildings worldwide and is the first in the Washington, D.C., area.

Sidwell and CPHS are planning an interpretive tour of the new facility on Saturday, June 9 at 10 a.m. Neighborhood

residents are encouraged to stop by and have a look. Here's what you'll see:

A tiered wetland, constructed on the Wisconsin Avenue property, filters wastewater and returns it to the building for use in toilet and cooling systems. Gutters and downspouts direct rainwater to a biology pond, which supports a native habitat. Western red cedar from the wine barrels are used for the building's exterior; Baltimore Harbor's greenheart pilings made walkways in the lobby. The building uses 60 percent less energy than a conventional structure of its size and 93 percent less city water.

"This building turns the 'out of sight, out of mind' mentality on its head," said Sidwell's chief financial officer, Mike Saxenian. "What we usually don't see at all and don't want to think about now becomes the centerpiece for something beautiful. We realize that we are part of nature and we need to treat it gently."

Rosedale House Tour Set for May 6

Mark your calendar for the Rosedale House Tour, Sunday, May 6, 2-5 p.m. The tour will begin at the Farmhouse, 3501 Newark, where tickets will be sold. Included will be the Farmhouse and the six recently constructed houses nearby.

For details, or to pre-order discounted tickets, contact Jill Hall at 363-4229, or visit the website at www.RosedaleConservancy.org. All proceeds benefit The Rosedale Conservancy, providing funding support for ongoing maintenance and improvements on the Conservancy grounds, also known as Cleveland Park's Village Green.

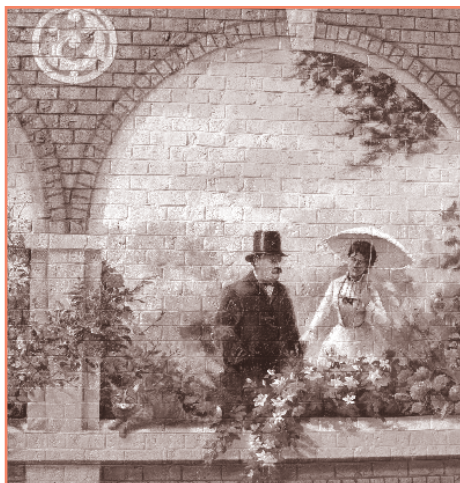
If you would like to participate in the CPHS 2008 House Tour, please contact Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford at 966-1611.

Downstairs, Upstairs

By Cissie Coy and Roz Beitler

Did you ever wonder who's strolling in the sun-dappled garden beneath an incongruous 7-Eleven sign on Connecticut and Porter? It's President Grover Cleveland and his much-younger wife Frances Folsom (right). Perched at the opposite end of the garden wall, a man reads a newspaper dated December 2005. Local artists Brenda Gordon (bgordon5@cox.net.) and Armen Gyulamirian painted the trompe l'oeil summer mural in that wintry month, integrating it with the five stories above with faux bricks.

The mural occupies a corner of The Monterey, a 31-condominium building that reopened in 2004 after extensive renovations. "The building's Board



proposed the mural to the condo owners," said Board member Sean Mullen. The residents felt the corner should be as unique as the neighborhood. And, it is.

History buffs shouldn't delve into presidential lore for links to the cat at the President's side. He belongs to The Monterey's owner.

Upstairs, on Connecticut Avenue are a variety of offices buzzing with activity that would surprise many passersby below. Among them:

Treacy & Eagleburger Architects, PC, at 3335 Connecticut, sits atop Spices. The firm specializes in custom, single-family residential design. A six-person firm, led by the husband-and-wife team of Jane Treacy and Phillip Eagleburger, it was cited by *Washingtonian Magazine* in 2003 and 2006 for outstanding residential design.

Chatelain Architects, PC, at 3516 Connecticut, over Sorriso, moved here in 2002. This nine-member firm specializes in construction and renovation of schools, restaurants, and institutions. In 2006, Chatelain received the Presidential Citation Award for the Asia Trail at the National Zoo, a project that architect (and ARC co-chair) Nancy Skinkle says will help raise the zoo's standard of exhibits.



CPHS ANNUAL MEETING
Thursday, May 31, at 8 p.m. at John Eaton School



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