

# Voices

## The Newsletter of the Cleveland Park Historical Society

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### The 2012 Cleveland Park House Tour

Save the date! Sunday, October 21st brings an easy-on-the-feet house tour focusing on the variety of Cleveland Park's architect-designed residences. A preview party will be held Thursday, October 18th.

See page 5 for a preview.

### Geology Tours

Geologist and Cleveland Park native Tony Fleming returns to the neighborhood October 13th for a full day of walking tours of the Cathedral Close, Cleveland Park, Tregaron, the Klinge Valley, and the Zoo, focusing on geology and the natural environment.

Turn to page 6 for details.

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## Reception at the Indian Ambassador's Residence Marks the 25th Anniversary of the Cleveland Park Historic District

by Carin Ruff



Roz Beitler and Ambassador Nirupama Rao

On the last day of April this year, CPHS members were guests of the Ambassador of India, Her Excellency Nirupama Rao, at "The Homestead", the Cleveland Park estate that has been the residence of India's ambassadors since India's independence. The occasion marked twenty-five years almost to the day since Cleveland Park was designated a National Register Historic District. The event was made possible by the generosity of the Ambassador and the hard work of CPHS founding member Roz Beitler (pictured together at left).

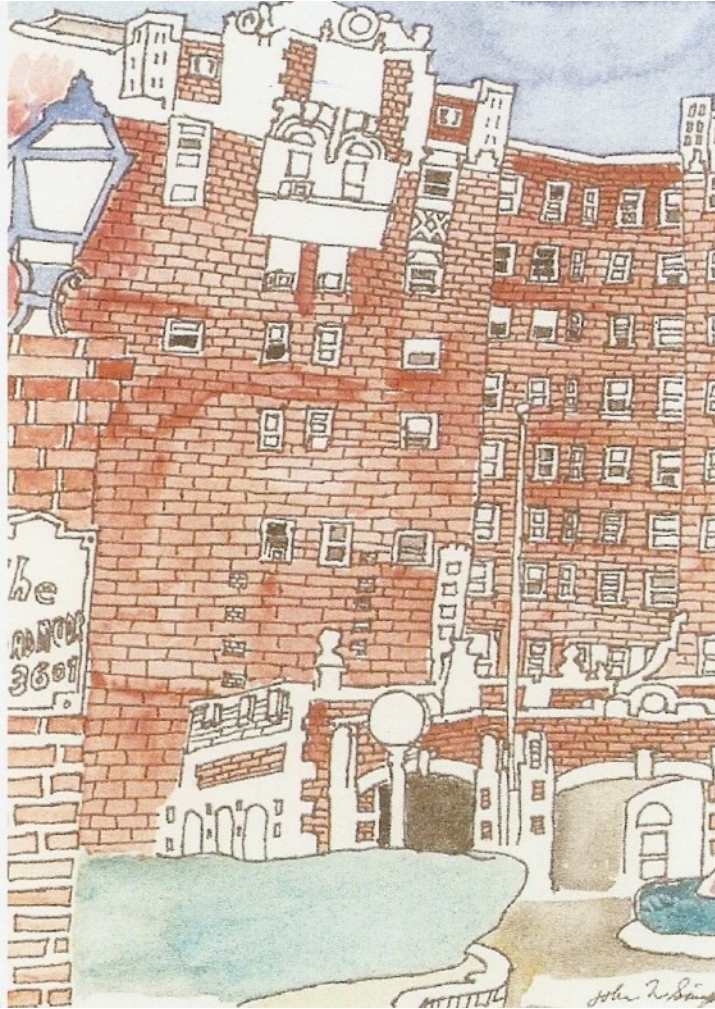
### "The Homestead"

The Ambassador's residence sits at the end of Macomb Street east of Connecticut Avenue.

(Continued on page 7)

## Art on Call: The Story Behind the Broadmoor Call Box

by Rhona C. Hartman



In 2009 the Cleveland Park Historical Society completed the conversion of antique fire and police call boxes into public art. Each of the 15 call boxes in our neighborhood now has distinctive artwork. The call box on Connecticut Avenue near Porter Street – at the top of the Broadmoor Cooperative Apartment garage driveway – has a back story:

When Roz Beitler, resident of the Broadmoor and then on the CPHS Board, was asked to coordinate the Call Box Project, she put up a notice in the laundry room of the Broadmoor asking for ideas. Anne Ford Doyle, then a Broadmoor resident and a professional photographer, came forward to suggest that Art Enables, on whose Board she sat, be contacted to create a piece of art for this call box. Art Enables is a non-profit agency that focuses on people with disabilities who are better able to express themselves in images than in words. (See their website, [art-enables.org](http://art-enables.org), for more information.)

Anne took pictures of the Broadmoor's architectural elements, and sent them to Art Enables. John Simpson, an artist there who specializes in drawing buildings, worked with Anne's photographs to produce the art that is now installed on the Broadmoor Call Box.

CPHS is producing a new set of notecards featuring John Simpson's Broadmoor Call Box art. Look for them to be for sale at our events later this fall.

## Board Members for 2012-2013

At the Annual Meeting in May, CPHS members elected four new members to the Board of Directors: Winthrop Brown (Springland Lane); Judy Levin (The Broadmoor, Connecticut Avenue); PJ McCann (Macomb Street); and Abigail (Abby) Porter (35th Street). Biographies of the new members are on our website at [clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs/board](http://clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs/board)

The CPHS Board of Directors and Officers for 2012-2013 are:

Dandridge Ince, Highland Place, President

Tina Mead, 34th Place, Treasurer

Robert Jenkins, Newark Street, Secretary

Gwen Wright, 34th Street, VP for Preservation, Co-Chair of ARC

Winthrop Brown, Springland Lane

John Buchanan, Newark Street

Anne Clark, Macomb Street

Ana Evans, Ashley Terrace

Sherry Floyd, Porter Street

Christine Colby Giraudo, 34th Street

Mike Goldstein, Lowell Street

Wendy Gray, Newark Street

Rhona Hartman, The Broadmoor, VOICES Editor

Judy Levin, The Broadmoor

Drew Maloney, Macomb Street

PJ McCann, Macomb Street

Lois Orr, 34th Street

Marylyn Paige, Lowell Street

Susan and Jamie Parkinson, Newark Street

Abby Porter, 35th Street

Anne Hatfield Weir, Garfield Street

Margot Wilson, Macomb Street

## Historic House Markers



The Cleveland Park Historical Society offers historic markers to homeowners whose houses are at least 75 years old or are listed in the original National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Cleveland Park Historic District. The purposes of the historic markers program are to educate the community about the age of various structures within the Historic District; to instill a sense of pride and respect in the neighborhood; and to educate the public at large to the extent of the Historic District and its boundaries.

Markers are forged to order for CPHS by the Erie Forge Company of Columbia, PA. They cost \$150 for members and \$175 for non-members. We normally wait till we have several orders to submit at once, but we try to submit an order at least twice a year.

Before issuing an historic marker for your home, we will need to verify the age of your house – not least because that date is going to be cast in bronze! If you would like to check on the eligibility of your property, please email Carin Ruff at [staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org).

## The Friends of the Cleveland Park Library

by Mary Anderson Cooper

For over three decades the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library have performed a wide range of vital services for both their local community and the entire city. Founded in 1980 by Anne Swearingen, the Friends have received donations of books from the neighbors and conducted book sales ever since.

With the proceeds from membership fees and two large sales a year, plus periodic smaller sales and a sale room that is open daily at the Library, the Friends have conducted book discussion groups; supported the summer reading program for children; supported the library's children's programs, including the popular crafts programs; purchased computers for several branch libraries; bought reference materials for the Martin Luther King Library and books for several other branches; and purchased chairs, bookshelves and other furnishings for the Cleveland Park Library. In addition, the Friends provide free books to teachers and tutors in the DC Public Schools and to inmates at the DC Jail. They also have contributed to other book drives in the city

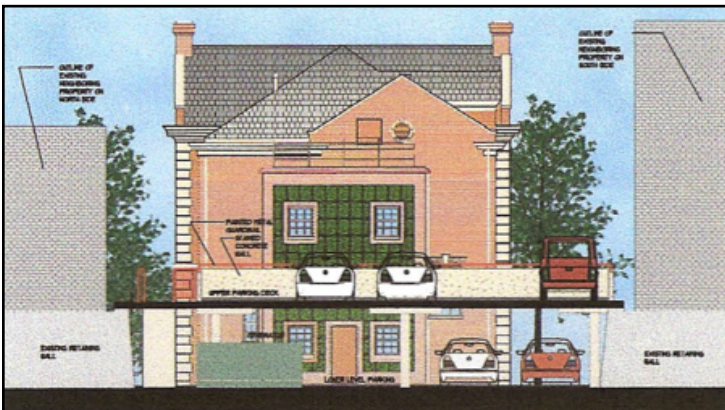
People who wish to donate books in good condition for the next sale can take them to the Library and deposit them in the designated bins. For more information, or to volunteer to help with sorting, shelving and selling, contact Jill Bogard, President of the Friends, at [jillbogard2755@gmail.com](mailto:jillbogard2755@gmail.com) or Nathalie Black at [nvblack@earthlink.net](mailto:nvblack@earthlink.net).

## Cleveland Park Village to Launch This Fall

by Elizabeth Fox

Over the past ten years, communities all over America have been opening a new type of neighborhood organization, called a "village." Its purpose is to help residents "age in place" through services delivered by screened and trained volunteers. It is credited with strengthening neighborhood ties and helping older adults maintain healthy functioning longer.

The Cleveland Park Village was the subject of living room conversations for several years before a committee was formed to determine whether to go ahead with this new grass roots organization. They knew that Cleveland Park has many older residents who could use and give help.



But to plan carefully, they conducted a survey that reached over 2500 households. Over 350 were returned, with specific answers indicating the services needed and the services volunteer wanted to provide. This positive response led to the enthusiastic decision to proceed.

The Cleveland Park Village will initially be open to residents in the area bounded roughly by Upton Street on the north, Massachusetts Ave on the west, Cathedral Ave. on the south and Rock Creek Park on the east. Those interested in joining as members or signing up as volunteers may

get more information by emailing [cpvillagedc@gmail.com](mailto:cpvillagedc@gmail.com). The Village expects to provide transportation, minor home maintenance and repair, help with computer and phone use, social and cultural events and opportunities to volunteer.

The Cleveland Park Village Board of Directors is seeking help from residents of all ages to launch the program. They welcome people who will: sign up as members and volunteers; publicize the Village to neighborhood groups, including apartment buildings; provide donations and do fundraising; and generally spread the word. The Village expects to accept applications for membership and volunteers in October and provide services early in 2013. All Cleveland Park residents are invited to sign up for updates on the Village progress at [cpvillagedc@gmail.com](mailto:cpvillagedc@gmail.com). The CP Village offers a terrific way to build our community ties and loyalties.

## Fire Station Renovation Update

by Rhona C. Hartman

Fire Station #28, at 3522 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., has been closed since November 2010. The D.C. Fire and EMS (FEMS) Department now houses Engine #28's vehicles at a nearby station farther north on Connecticut Avenue, and in Adams Morgan, and will do so until renovations to the station are complete.

"Great news for Cleveland Park residents," said David Foust, Deputy Fire Chief, Facilities Management Office, DC Fire & EMS Department. "Demolition phase has begun [as of June 1, 2012]. The scheduled completion date is July 5, 2013. I am looking forward to future updates to the residents of Cleveland Park. I plan to set up a time for members of the community to inspect...the renovation project....We have moved mountains for this renovation project to begin. Allowing the necessary time to complete may be the most difficult phase of this project," said Chief Foust.

Renovation has been halted by various controversies, including one that pitted those wishing to maintain the historic architecture of the Fire Station (built in 1916 and part of our Cleveland Park Historic District) against the need to meet current standards for new fire-fighting equipment that is too large to pass through the existing doors. In early April 2012, the Mayor's Agent granted permission to widen the doorways so that modern equipment can pass through.

Another issue that delayed the renovation was the proposed metal parking structure to accommodate cars for 14 of the firefighters. Neighbors feared that the mechanical lift which would move cars up and down a two story structure would be unsightly as well as produce unnecessary noise as shifts change at the station. In late May 2012, according to Chief Foust, "The ANC 3C did review and approve [a] new design...The parking structure was replaced with a parking deck. The proposed parking deck will support parking for approximately 5 cars on the top surface...and 5 spaces are available on the south side of the Fire House, entering on Connecticut Avenue. ... This new design will provide the necessary spaces for the members assigned and working each day."

Behind the new chain link fence, progress is being made to complete the long-awaited renovation of Fire Station #28.

Elevation of rear of Engine 28 showing revised plan for parking deck

**Want to keep track of historic preservation news in Cleveland Park & all around D.C.? [ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org](http://ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org) has a page on Preservation News & Issues, and we post news of preservation and D.C. history events all the time on [Facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory](https://www.facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory).**

# Mrs. Oliver, Where Have You Been?

by Mary Anderson Cooper

Eleanor Oliver was greeted with that question at a local dry cleaner on the west side of Connecticut Avenue, near what is now the Cleveland Park Metro station when she and her husband Len returned to the neighborhood after a six-year sojourn in Chicago. It is that sense of community that lured the Olivers to the neighborhood in 1962 and brought them back ten years later. Eleanor was a homemaker after her children arrived and Len, who worked for the National Endowment for the Humanities for several years, spent the last 30 years of his career as a free-lance consultant on public policy issues. A soccer fanatic, he was a member of the 1964 U.S. Olympics team.

The Olivers are veterans of many of the struggles that have taken place in the neighborhood over the years, including the effort to reopen Klinge Road, getting the area designated as a historic district, and the campaign to preserve Rosedale. Their daughter wrote her senior paper at Bryn Mawr on the campaign to save the Park and Shop and prevent its being massively developed.

Their children attended local public schools, graduating from Wilson High School. The Olivers are active supporters of the city's public schools. At one point in the mid-'80s Eleanor helped to run a cultural enrichment after-school program at John Eaton for children up to sixth grade level who needed a safe place to be until their parents finished their work day. This program was funded in part by funds raised at the annual Newark Street Block Party.

There were also morning "Front Porch Summer Camps" staffed by neighborhood teen-aged girls who would offer games and crafts and walk children to the playground so that mothers could have a few hours to get their own work done while the teens earned pocket money.

Reflecting on the fact that the city's schools did not always enjoy community support, Eleanor recalled once being asked, "Your children are in public school? Don't they have further academic aspirations?" Both children graduated from top colleges.

The Olivers found Cleveland Park to be a great place to raise children because the schools are excellent and their children could play safely outdoors all day. Their neighborhood on 34th Place "felt like home," perhaps in part because of the custom of holding "porch parties" several times a year, usually on Friday evenings after dinner, where neighbors get together to share news and welcome newcomers.

Asked how she had seen the neighborhood change, Eleanor said that when they first arrived, it was rather run down and unfashionable. The businesses were far more service oriented, with less emphasis on dining out. The Roma, Yenching Palace, and Hot Shoppes at McLean Gardens (now all gone) were nearly the only restaurants, and the buildings that are now mostly food service establishments then included barber shops, a hardware store, independent pharmacies, clothing shops, small Giant and Safeway stores, a furrier, several dry cleaners, shoe repair shops, a Chinese hand laundry, and a laundromat. Especially missed are Howie's Chicken Bucket on Connecticut Avenue, Murphy's 5¢ and 10¢ Store on Wisconsin Avenue, and Young Playways in the parking area next to the former 4Ps. Merchants knew the names of their customers, and offered more personal service than is available now.

Asked if there was anything she would like to see changed about Cleveland Park, Eleanor said she thought the neighborhood was getting "a bit precious" because people no longer do their

own yard work or paint their own houses.

She would welcome having neighbors be "more bold about living in the city" and "be creative about how they paint their houses." She would like to see more fruit trees planted and wishes that there were some beekeepers. Given the rich history of the community before it was Cleveland Park, she wishes that the former names of streets and neighborhoods were shown on street signs, beneath the present names. For example, 34th Place was once called Folsom Street, in honor of Grover Cleveland's wife.

Eleanor also cautions against rushing into any plan to close the service roadway on Connecticut Avenue since many people with mobility problems cannot walk to the shopping area and need to have parking available if they are to shop there. Also, given that Washington's weather is often either too hot or too cold to enjoy being outdoors, she thinks the desire for sidewalk dining is more wishful than practical. The service drive is there at the instigation of the shopkeepers, who wanted the parking.

Among Eleanor's many contributions to the community is the creation of a series of note cards showing a variety of scenes from Cleveland Park. While the cards are no longer available, their sale contributed to the budget of CPHS, which now owns the rights to the drawings. She also painted the picture of the Park and Shop that is inside the call box in front of Medium Rare at the corner of Connecticut Avenue and Ordway Street. Originally conceived as a monochrome illustration (reproduced below), but later colored at the insistence of the Call Box Project director, the picture is so accurate that it even includes the area's omnipresent pigeons.



## C P H S F A L L E V E N T S

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13  
TREGARON

GEOLOGY TOURS OF CLEVELAND PARK &

*See overleaf for more details. We will confirm details by email in late September.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14

CLEVELAND PARK DAY

*Noon–4pm on Connecticut Avenue between Macomb and Porter. See CPDAY.ORG for details.*

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18

HOUSE TOUR PREVIEW PARTY

*Invitations will be mailed to members in late September.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21

CLEVELAND PARK HOUSE TOUR

*Preview below! Details and ticketing information will be announced in late September.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9

GINGERBREAD HOUSE DECORATING PARTY  
& AUCTION

*An annual CPHS tradition. Invitations will go out by email in November.*

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## The 2012 Cleveland Park House Tour

PREVIEW PARTY THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18TH; TOUR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST

*The Cleveland Park House Tour on Sunday, October 21st will be especially interesting and especially easy on the feet this year. All the houses will be along the 36th Street corridor between Woodley Road and Ordway Street. The houses vary in size and architectural style and make a very interesting array within a short walk from each other. Watch for ticketing information later this month. CPHS members will receive a discount on tickets. We will send out formal notices and update our website with details soon.*

*A preview party the evening of Thursday, October 18th will celebrate both the upcoming house tour and the 25th anniversary of the Cleveland Park Historic District. Members, watch for your invitations in the mail!*

*If you are not a member and would like to join in time to receive discounts and priority registration, you may do so with the form inside the back cover of this issue. Questions about membership? Email Carin Ruff at [Staff@ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:Staff@ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org).*

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A full calendar of events is always available on our website, [CLEVELANDPARKHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG](http://CLEVELANDPARKHISTORICALSOCIETY.ORG).

Check there for the latest details, maps to venues, &c.

# Geology Tours of Cleveland Park and Tregaron

*A full day of walking tours with geologist Tony Fleming on Saturday, October 13th*

*co-sponsored by CPHS and The Tregaron Conservancy*

**NOTE: Mark your calendar and plan to join in all or part of the day of tours. The following schedule is correct as of press time, but we will be posting updated information and confirming details by email later in the month. Watch your email and look for notices on the CPHS website ([ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org](http://ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org)) and the Cleveland Park listserv.**

## Geologic Foundations of Cleveland Park: A Walking Tour from the Top Down

**9:30 am – noon**

Did you know that Wisconsin Avenue marks the ancient channel of the Potomac River? Or that many neighborhood structures are made from local building stone that was quarried where the Cleveland Park commercial district now stands? Why does this plant grow here but not there? Should I purchase earthquake insurance? Join us for a casual walking tour to learn how geology influenced the development of Cleveland Park and continues to affect everything from engineering and architecture to drainage and ecology.

The morning tour will start at the west front of the Cathedral and visit Olmsted Woods and the Beauvoir playground on the Close, for a view of the city's topography from the eastern edge of the Wisconsin Avenue Ridge. It then moves on to Rosedale and the Cleveland Park Spring just below Macomb Playground. A stop at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church and John Eaton allows a look at the use of local stone in neighborhood buildings. A walk down Macomb Street leads into the Klinge Valley and a discussion of water-management issues in this urban ravine. The morning ends at Tregaron, where participants may stay for a...

## Picnic Lunch at Tregaron

**noon – 1:00 pm**

Enjoy a casual picnic at the top of one of DC's finest sledding hills, where a commanding vista provides the backdrop for an "overview" of the property, its natural history, and significance, and a chance to talk with the trip leader and others in a casual setting.

## Environmental Geology and Natural History of Tregaron: A Hands-On Tour

**1:00 – 3:30 PM**

Tregaron is a historic 20-acre estate located between Macomb Street and Klinge Road, west of Connecticut Avenue. The property adjoins the Klinge Creek unit of Rock Creek Park. Perhaps best known as the home of the Washington International School, Tregaron is an incredible neighborhood resource. With its deep ravines, old woods, and elegant landscape architecture, Tregaron is singularly responsible for much of the environmental ambiance that defines this section of Cleveland Park. In 2007, the Tregaron Conservancy ([TregaronConservancy.org](http://TregaronConservancy.org)) assumed responsibility for preserving and maintaining the natural and historical attributes of the property, the culmination of decades of effort by hundreds of residents to prevent the property from being developed and protect it in perpetuity.

Tregaron is a veritable showcase of geologic and ecologic features and processes that include outcrops of some of Washington's oldest rocks, unusually large crystals, an ancient channel of the Potomac River, architectural use of native building stone, a biologically diverse landscape, and many environmental issues related to the interface of water and infrastructure in the urban environment. Join the afternoon tour to explore the natural features of the property, learn why they are significant and how they can be maintained, and discuss their relationship to the larger urban environment.

This leisurely loop hike will showcase a wide variety of natural features, landscape architecture, and environmental issues, with time for questions and discussion. Did you know that the local bedrock was not originally part of North America? That giant crystals of hornblende and staurolite occur on the property? Can you tell the difference between native plants and invasive non-native ones? Why is Klinge Road so flood-prone? The tour will highlight all of these topics and more!

## Earthquake Tour

**3:30 – 5:00 pm**

The "earthquake walk" at the end of the day will look at examples of ancient and modern faults and their effects in Washington, D.C. This will be a loop walk down Klinge Valley to Rock Creek and the Zoo, and back via Connecticut Avenue and Macomb Street. We will visit the classic "Darton's Fault" exposure, a quintessential example of a young, active fault.

*Tony Fleming grew up in Cleveland Park. He graduated from Beloit College, where his senior thesis was focused on the geology of Rock Creek Park, and received advanced degrees in geology and water resources management from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is the author of several major geological studies on the greater DC area, including the modern geological maps of the District and the City of Alexandria. He discovered the Rock Creek Fault, a first order tectonic structure with miles of displacement and several periods of motion. Tony has resided in the Great Lakes region for more than 25 years, where he works as a glacial geologist/hydrogeologist, and in the emerging field of natural-areas geology. He returns periodically to the Washington area to continue his professional research. He credits his lifelong career in geology to frequent childhood expeditions to nearby Tregaron and Klinge Valley, which led to an early interest in rocks, water, and all things nature.*

*(Reception at the Indian Ambassador's Residence, continued from p. 1)*

It is one of the last of the estate properties remaining in Cleveland Park, along with Tregaron and the preserved portions of Rosedale. The Homestead is unusual in that it was built in 1914, when the large estates in the area were already being sold off for the development of Cleveland Park as a streetcar suburb. The house in its wooded grounds has been largely closed to the public for the last sixty-plus years. Guests at the Ambassador's reception were thrilled to find it both a splendid historic architectural treasure in a lovely setting, and a comfortable family home.

In 1930, Walter Schoellkopf and his wife Anna Johnston Schoellkopf bought The Homestead from its original owner and commissioned architect Ward Brown to expand the house and turn it into a Georgian-style mansion. As was the fashion at the time, they imported parts of rooms from Europe: the house features a marble mantelpiece from Verdun; 200-year-old parquet flooring from a French chateau; and a fireplace from Dorchester House, London, which stood on the site of the



present Dorchester Hotel. The current



ambassador has filled the house with art representing not only India itself, but other countries where she has served. In her welcoming remarks, Ambassador Rao observed,

"Our residence has witnessed the growth of the India-US relationship over six decades now, and welcomed to its portals so many key players in that relationship. This lovely house has weathered the years well – its walls have taken on a beautiful patina with age, and it has stayed that wonderful home on a hill, with its cloak of beautiful, strong, upright trees."

The Ambassador further noted on her blog, "As our cities grow and overflow, the preservation of the old, particularly buildings of artistic and architectural value, is an issue that should concern us all. The Cleveland Park Historical Society is clearly aware of the need of such preservation. They are setting an example that is worthy of emulation."

CPHS President Danny Ince promised Ambassador Rao a Cleveland Park Historical Society Historic House Marker dated 1914 for The Homestead.

Gwen Wright, CPHS board member and co-chair of the Architectural Review Committee, spoke about the history of the estate and its relationship to the natural landscape:

*So much of Cleveland Park's history is interrelated with the natural landscape. This historic neighborhood is special not only for its fine collection of turn-of-the-century architect-designed homes, but also for how the suburban development of the area that began in the 1890s was superimposed on a number of significant estates with rolling hills and beautiful grounds. A number of these estates still exist: Rosedale, dating from 1794; Twin Oaks, built in 1888; and Tregaron, which is 100 years old in 2012. The last of the great estates to be built was The Homestead, which was designed in 1914, with renovations in 1930. The Homestead was built on a five acre tract overlooking Rock Creek Park. It was originally the home of merchant and philanthropist David Joseph Kaufman and his wife Clara J. Luchs Kaufman. The architect, Frederick Pyle, was regionally prominent. Some of his more notable buildings include the Equitable Cooperative Building Association at 915 F Street, NW, the clubhouse for the Columbia Country Club in Chevy Chase, the southern end of the Woodward and Lothrop building on F Street, and numerous homes in the Cleveland Park area. One of his most famous protégés was Arthur Heaton (architect of the Park and Shop) who started his architectural career as a draftsman in Pyle's office.*

*Unlike some of the other estates of the same period, the Homestead has remained relatively untouched by surrounding development. Thanks to the stewardship of the Indian government, we are able to step back in time and experience our neighborhood as it was nearly 100 years ago. The house's relationship and orientation to Rock Creek remain as originally planned. The gardens and open space around the house recall the earlier rural character of Cleveland Park. It is a very special place and a perfect site to celebrate not only the 25th anniversary of the Cleveland Park Historic District, but also the very characteristics that make Cleveland Park the historic jewel that it is.*

*A special surprise was the presence of Henry and Ann Schoellkopf, grandchildren of Walter Schoellkopf, The Homestead's former owner.*

#### *Statues in the Residence's garden*

CPHS looks forward to a closer relationship with the Embassy in the years to come, and we hope more Cleveland Park residents will have a chance to visit this beautiful property.

## Saving or Replacing Historic Windows: Advice from the Historic Preservation Office

by Carin Ruff

On June 12th, Cleveland Parkers met at the Cleveland Park Club to hear a presentation from Amanda Molson and Anne Brockett, Cleveland Park specialists with the D.C.'s Historic Preservation Office (HPO). Amanda and Anne presented HPO's revised guidelines for window repair and replacement in historic districts and shared some of their accumulated wisdom about replacement products and weatherization strategies. (You can download the complete guidelines from <http://planning.dc.gov/DC/Planning/Historic+Preservation>.)

Here are some of the most important take-aways from the presentation:

First of all, Amanda and Anne are helpful, friendly, knowledgeable, and ready to answer your questions! They can recommend specific products, provide suggestions for saving your windows and saving you money, help walk you through the permitting process, tell you what *doesn't* need a permit, visit your building to offer an on-site evaluation – you name it, just ask! They are the first people you should contact if you are planning any kind of work on your historic district property. Email Anne at [anne.brockett@dc.gov](mailto:anne.brockett@dc.gov) or call her at (202) 442-8842; Amanda is [amanda.molson@dc.gov](mailto:amanda.molson@dc.gov) or (202) 442-8827.

Anne and Amanda are eager to save you time and money. Did you know that screens and storm windows

don't even require a permit? Storm windows are a great way to extend the life of your historic windows while increasing energy efficiency. The new window guidelines provide suggestions on choosing the right storms and screens for your historic home.

It's no longer true that all-wood windows are the only option for window replacement in historic districts. HPO staff continually review new products as they come on the market to evaluate their quality and suitability for use in historic properties. Staff are now routinely approving the use of some aluminum-clad or fiberglass replacement window products, rather than requiring wood windows across the board. Some of the newer products do an excellent job of simulating the look of wood while providing better quality and longer lifespans than lower-quality modern wood windows. Anne and Amanda have recommendations for specific product lines; give them a call and they'll give you the very latest information.

That said, HPO staff are looking with increased scrutiny at any application to replace original windows in an historic property. If your house has its original wood windows, the quality of the original materials almost certainly means that they can be rehabilitated and made weathertight at much lower cost than that of new windows. HPO staff will want to see evidence that your windows are severely deteriorated before

approving replacement. If your windows can be repaired and weatherized, they will work with you to find the best way to save and restore your windows while improving the energy efficiency of your home.

One option for upgrading the energy efficiency of older windows is to have double-paned glass installed in your historic window frames. A company called Bi-Glass ([bi-glass.com](http://bi-glass.com)) specializes in this kind of retrofit. Not all windows have muntins thick enough to accept double panes, but this can be a good solution for larger-paned historic windows.

Large apartment buildings have more leeway in terms of permitted materials and justification for replacement of windows. The preservation of the building as a whole, in terms of both appearance and integrity of the historic fabric, is sometimes best served by installing lower-maintenance replacement windows. Contact Anne or Amanda for details.

A directory of tradespeople experienced in historic home restoration work, including windows, is available on the D.C. Preservation League's website at [dcpreservation.org/contractors](http://dcpreservation.org/contractors). The listings are a collaborative project of DCPL and HPO. If you're looking for the right person for your project, start with that database and then check with Anne or Amanda for their latest intelligence.

## Adas Israel Congregation: A Synagogue Moves Uptown at Mid-century

by Carin Ruff

Adas Israel Congregation sits just east of Connecticut Avenue, where Quebec and Porter Streets meet, its imposing front looking towards the avenue. The Cleveland Park Historic District takes a westward bend at that point and excludes the synagogue. In 1987, when the boundaries were drawn, Adas Israel's 1951 building, designed by the Newark firm Frank Grad & Sons, was well under the 50-year mark required for National Register nomination, and few recognized the importance of mid-twentieth-century architecture. However, Adas Israel is an important part of Cleveland

Park, and its story mirrors the larger story of Washington's Jewish community at mid-century.

In the 20th century, Adas Israel became Conservative. Its rabbis, Ozer says, "were trained at the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) in New York, the center for the idea of a historically evolving Judaism but less radical than either German or American versions of Reform Judaism. Solomon Schechter, the scholarly Reader in Rabbinics at Cambridge University, was recruited in 1902 to lead the JTS in a direction blending tradition and innovation that was characteristic of

American Conservative Judaism. Schechter recruited a faculty that were products of East European rabbinical schooling but had continued their studies in more modern German or American universities. The goal was to help immigrants cross over to the American mainstream from Orthodox Judaism toward a form of Judaism more compatible with their background. The JTS began to shape its own identity and, in 1913, formed the United Synagogue of America, composed of Conservative congregations such as Adas Israel compatible with its principles."

The evolution of Washington's Jewish community is reflected in the successive moves of Adas Israel. Ozer writes, "Its first building was in the midst of the then Jewish immigrant community. Its small two-story building, the first constructed specifically as a synagogue in Washington, was rescued from demolition and reincarnated as the Jewish Museum." The rescue involved moving the building three blocks

from its original location at Sixth and G Streets, NW, to its current location at Third and G. (You can see a picture of the move in progress at [jhsqw.org/about](http://jhsqw.org/about).) Ozer continues, "Adas Israel's second, substantially larger building at Sixth and I Streets, built in 1908, complete with dome suggestive of Byzantine influences, reflects a second and more prosperous generation. It also remains, now restored, to serve an expanding non-denominational in-town Jewish community. The present-day, very large art deco building was built in 1951. It reflects the move of its congregants to the more fashionable upper northwest and a large expansion in synagogue



Park, and its story mirrors the larger story of Washington's Jewish community at mid-century.

Washington's first synagogue, founded in 1852, was Washington Hebrew Congregation, which now also stands just outside the Cleveland Park Historic District. Mark Ozer, author of *Northwest Washington, D.C.: Tales from West of the Park*, writes that Adas Israel was founded in 1869 by members of Washington Hebrew Congregation who wished to maintain an Orthodox

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