



Voices

The Newsletter of the Cleveland Park Historical Society

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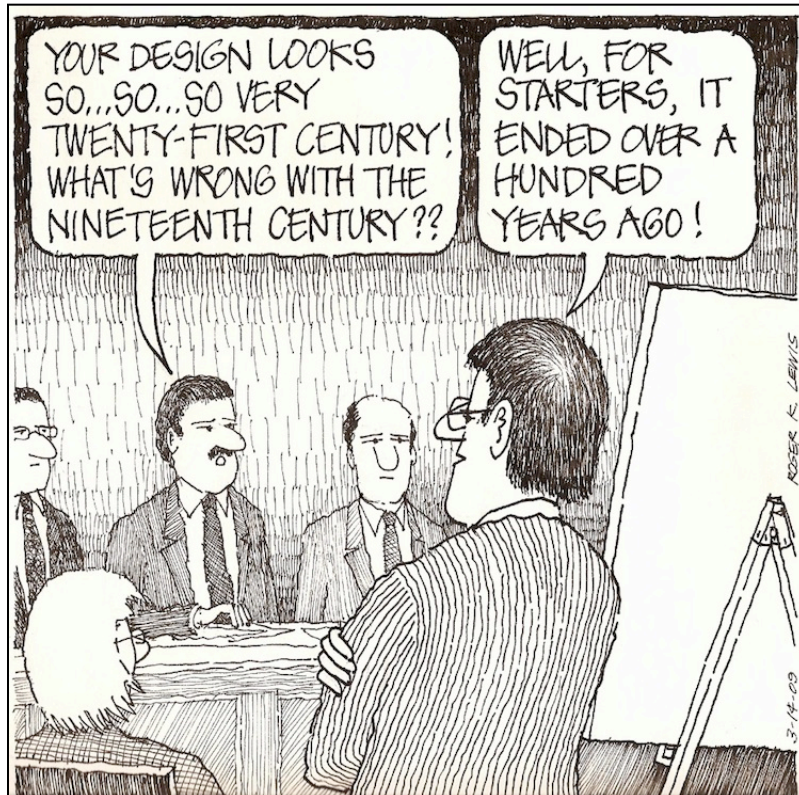
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Roger K. Lewis to Speak at Annual Meeting May 21st

CPHS is thrilled to announce that the featured speaker at our annual meeting will be Roger K. Lewis, "Shaping the City" columnist for *The Washington Post* and regular guest on the *Kojo Nnamdi Show*. Professor Lewis will explore the nature, purpose and value of urban design and architectural design guidelines in cities and suburbs, for both existing and new development. He will discuss the importance of having a formalized, rigorous design review process for achieving aesthetic goals embodied in such guidelines.

Why design guidelines? The CPHS Board and the Architectural Review Committee have formed a working group to explore the creation of design guidelines for the Cleveland Park Historic District. **Turn to page 5 to read more about this initiative.**

Join us for the meeting! Current members should have received an invitation by email with all the details. Missed the invitation? No problem! **See all the details on page 5.**

Cartoon copyright Roger K. Lewis, used with permission.

Neighborhood News & Notes

Oh Deer!

by Jennifer Hamilton

Time was when a deer in Cleveland Park was a rare event. But no longer. A request for sightings posted on the Cleveland Park listserv brought a slew of responses. Here are some of them:

"This morning I watched a small herd of deer on the Twin Oaks property. And deer come regularly to the Newark Street Community Gardens. One doe left her fawn and walked right up to within three feet of me."

From Porter Street: "The day before my wife's surgery she saw an eight point buck standing on our neighbor's yard. She took this as a good omen, and it was."

"My neighbor saw a deer on my porch at 11 pm," writes a Rowland Place resident. "A dog scared the deer and it ran toward Quebec Street."

"I was standing in my kitchen," related a basement dweller, "and a stag came right up to the window and stayed looking while I took his photograph."

One observer witnessed a stag and doe, oblivious to passersby, mating on the lawn of the Fanny-Mae building. Another, a resident of the Kennedy-Warren, reports he was pulling out of the building driveway when he encountered a five point buck. "I couldn't believe how big his antlers were. We stared at each other for a second and then he just bolted forward towards Connecticut Avenue, did a fast U-turn and went back into the Zoo."

While many sightings have been calm and lovely, there were several reports of accidents.

"It was as if the deer had suddenly appeared in front of the car," wrote one driver. "He went flying upward in the direction he had been running, and tumbled down an ivy-covered hillside."

"The deer made a mad dash across the avenue...he hit the hood of a sports car and miraculously landed on his feet," wrote another.

"I have seen deer on 34th Place on a number of occasions," reported another observer. "Including one that died slowly between two parked cars."

While some gardeners complained about deer eating hostas and day lilies, one vegetable gardener declared she gladly forgives their depredations. The current Park Service program to cull the deer by shooting has stirred up considerable public controversy, so it remains to be seen how long our new neighbors stay with us.

Cleveland Park Village Names Director; Ready to Launch May 1st

by Rhona Hartman

Cleveland Park Village, a nonprofit organization to enable area residents to "age in place," has named Susan Hester its founding executive director and is set to begin operations May 1.

One of more than 200 similar "Villages" nationwide, the Cleveland Park version will provide services like transportation, shopping and small household repairs to its members in their own homes and help keep them involved in area events, using a network of trained volunteers from the community.

Hester, 63, is a veteran health and education activist and longtime Cleveland Park resident. She says her top priorities will be to reach as many Cleveland Park residents as possible with the news of the Village's arrival and to recruit them as members and volunteers.



**Susan Hester, Cleveland Park Village's
Founding Executive Director.
Photo by Sandy Douglass**

"So many of us love our homes in Cleveland Park and hope we never have to leave," she said. "Cleveland Park Village will help keep its members secure in our homes and engaged in city life. It will be neighbors helping neighbors to make aging in place feasible and meaningful."

Cleveland Park is already very much a community, she said, and the Village concept is designed to build on that sense of belonging so as to help keep the neighborhood vibrant and welcoming to all its residents.

Cleveland Park Village, one of more than twenty Villages in the D.C. metropolitan area, will serve people in Cleveland Park and parts of Woodley Park, the area bounded roughly by Upton Street on the north, Massachusetts Ave. on the west, Rock Creek Park on the east and Cathedral Avenue on the south.

For more information, or to ask about joining as members or volunteers, email info@ClevelandParkVillage.org or visit ClevelandParkVillage.org.

VOICES is published twice a year by The Cleveland Park Historical Society.
Contact VOICES editor Rhona Hartman at rhona.hartman@gmail.com or (202) 537-9575

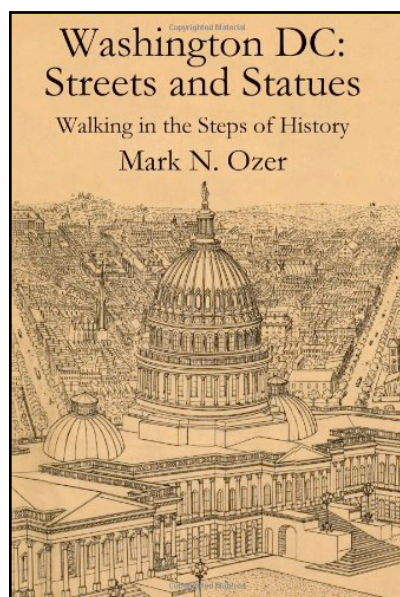
The earliest issues of VOICES are now available on our website at clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs/voices. The first issues, from 1987 and 1988, document the steps CPHS took shortly after its founding to secure protection for the historic district and the Connecticut Avenue commercial strip. They include a notice of the founding of our Architectural Review Committee, emphasizing CPHS's commitment to continuing the neighborhood's history of innovative architecture. There are also articles by Kathy Wood, author of our National Register nomination, on aspects of Cleveland Park's historic architecture, including Palladian windows, rope designs, and bungalows. They make very interesting reading!

Book Review: Mark N. Ozer, *Washington, D.C.: Streets and Statues: Walking in the Steps of History*

by Rhona C. Hartman

Mark N. Ozer has done it again! He has brought to light another aspect of our city in his newest book, ***Washington, DC: Streets and Statues***. His subtitle says it best, ***Walking in the Steps of History***. This is Ozer's fourth book on the subject. This time he focuses on the political and geographic bases upon which the development of D.C. was built. Unlike most other cities, which grew from original clusters of inhabitants, this capital city was created, according to Ozer, to reflect the political independence and individual liberty symbolic of the founding principles of the newly-created Constitution.

Ozer covers the early years of the city's growth – late 1700s through L'Enfant's grand plan in the 1790s – and focuses on how the streets and other places were named, primarily after the Civil War nearly a century later. Particularly intriguing is how avenues nearest the Capital and the legislative branch of government and radiating from it were named. Ozer notes that it was not until the early 1900s that the “rules” of streets took place (letters and then two-syllable and three-syllable names in alphabetic order), which required the renaming of some streets to incorporate these rules.



Ozer devotes about 40% of the book to providing thumbnail (or longer) sketches of the political leaders, military figures, and other famous people for whom such places are named. Readers of *Voices* are already familiar with how Macomb, Porter, Newark, and other streets in Cleveland Park got their names, and these are incorporated in this book. Outdoor public spaces – parks, statues, circles, and squares – are named overwhelmingly for military leaders. Ozer groups these by war, rather than by geography. Most such statues were created after the Civil War and after the technology of casting equestrian statues came to our shores.

This is a book which long-time residents, newcomers, and visitors can enjoy as they encounter particular neighborhoods. Those traveling to visit family and friends can give *Washington, DC: Streets and Statues* as a house gift with pride, as a gift from home. The book, published by Garden Publishing, is available from Politics and Prose at 5015 Connecticut Avenue, where Ozer has given talks about his books to full houses.



Want to keep track of historic preservation news in Cleveland Park and all around D.C.? We post news of preservation and D.C. history events on Facebook.com/ClevelandParkHistory.

Members Visit Historical Society of Washington's Kiplinger Library

by Carin Ruff

The Historical Society of Washington's Kiplinger Library is a treasure trove for anyone interested in the history of the District and its neighborhoods. The library is particularly important for Cleveland Park, since HSW holds the Cleveland Park Historical Society's own records for the first twenty years, from our founding in 1985. This includes the extensive photographic collection of CPHS founding member Kathleen Sinclair Wood.

In March, a group of CPHS members visited HSW to learn about its collections. Anne McDonough, the Library's new Collections Manager, introduced the photographic, real estate atlas, and city directory collections, and showed parts of CPHS's own papers. McDonough says the Kiplinger Library is eager to have volunteer help processing its collections, and CPHS would love to have more Cleveland Parkers get involved in helping make our papers and the Wood photographs more available. If you would like to volunteer, email Anne McDonough at amcdonough@historydc.org.



John Steadman and other CPHS members discuss their neighborhood history interests at the Historical Society of Washington, March 19th

The library, which is on the second floor of the old Carnegie Library in the middle of Mount Vernon Square, is open by appointment on Mondays and with no appointment from 10 to 4 on Wednesdays. Appointments can be made by emailing library@historydc.org, and the library staff appreciate advance notice for Wednesday visits, too. HSW expects to add an extra open day starting in June; check their website for details. The library catalog is available online at historydc.org, so you can check the catalog and let the library know in advance what you would like to see. Many photographs are digitized and available online; try searching for your street in Cleveland Park and see what treasures turn up!

We will be planning a repeat of the special library visit for CPHS members in the coming months, since many more people were interested than the library could accommodate. Watch your email for the invitation.

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 structures within the Historic District; to instill a sense of pride 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 Landmark Company of Columbia, PA. They cost \$175 for members and \$200 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. If you are interested in ordering a marker, email Carin Ruff at staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org.

Springland Farm Community: The Cleveland Park Historic District's Northern Neighbor

by Carin Ruff

"We are using our common history to organize ourselves. If we didn't have this history, we'd just be Springland Lane, Tilden, Reno and Upton — four city streets. But with the history, we have an identity. And that has led us to work very closely with one another."

So writes Chuck Ludlam, former Peace Corp volunteer and indefatigable community organizer. Ludlam and his neighbors in the small group of streets that run west off of Reno Road just north of the Cleveland Park Historic District have organized themselves to share and preserve their history and reclaim public spaces for nature.

The northern boundary of the Cleveland Park Historic District runs along Quebec and Rodman Streets west of Reno Road and Tilden Street east of Reno down to Connecticut Avenue. At the time Cleveland Park was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1986, that was judged to be both a significant natural boundary and the historic northern limit of Cleveland Park's early development as a prewar "suburb". Just to the north of that boundary, however, lies a small enclave with a strong sense of its own history and direct ties to Washington's 18th-century past.

Reno Road used to dead-end at the estate of John Adlum (1759-1836), Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veteran, surveyor, and vintner. Adlum settled at the end of the 18th century on the estate he called "The Vineyard," where he grew grapes and made wines that Thomas Jefferson admired. Adlum wrote the first American treatise on viticulture, in 1823. His estate stretched north of Rodman from the Nourse property, where Sidwell Friends is now, on the west, down to Connecticut Avenue on the east. The south-facing slopes above Tilden east of Reno where diplomatic missions now sit was the site of the vineyards.

In the early 1840s, one of Major Adlum's daughters and her husband built a house at 3550 Tilden Street, which still stands and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Springland Farm springhouse is



Springland Lane's historic springhouse, a D.C. landmark, dates from the 1840s.

now in the side garden of 3517 Springland Lane, and has been designated a D.C. historic landmark, with the support of CPHS and thanks to the advocacy of Chuck Ludlam and the Springland neighbors.

In the first decades of the 20th century, the large Adlum estate was divided. The eastern portion was acquired by the federal government in 1903 as the site of the National Bureau of Standards, which became an important driver of the development of Cleveland Park. West of Reno, the family built houses in the 1930s and '40s, some on spec and some for family members. There were so many widowed daughters of the family living on Tilden Street that it was known as "Aunt Hill"! Descendants of the Adlum family continued to live in houses on the old estate grounds until 2007, when Adlumia Hagner died at age 91. Adlumia (a name given several daughters of the families descended from John Adlum), attended



3530 Springland Lane, built in 1940 and home of Adlumia Hagner, the last Adlum descendant to live in Springland Farm

National Cathedral School and was an important local leader in the Mount Vernon Ladies' Association. Her longtime home at 3530 Springland Lane is now threatened with destruction. In response, several neighbors have formally incorporated the Springland Farm Historical Society and Conservancy and are in talks with the owners about preserving several large trees on the property.

Neighbors were also behind the reclamation of the small, triangular traffic island at Upton and Reno. What used to be a turning lane that encouraged cars to zoom onto Reno at unsafe speeds has, after great labor and seemingly-endless negotiation with the District government, been turned into a lane just wide enough for bikes and pedestrians, sheltered by a lushly-planted garden. The new lane also channels stormwater. Chuck Ludlam reports that the community would like to organize similar improvements for the traffic island in the middle of Reno where it meets Springland and Tilden. That, however, is National Park Service land, so it is not clear at this point what will be possible in the way of privately-sponsored improvements. The Springland Farm Community's record of successful neighborhood activism bodes well for an eventual solution that will improve the land for everyone.

Roger K. Lewis to Speak at CPHS Annual Meeting May 21

Join us for the Annual Meeting!

Where?

The Tregaron Mansion at the Washington International School, 3100 Macomb Street, N.W. Enter via the gate at 3100 Macomb and drive to the top of the hill. Plenty of parking will be available.

When?

Tuesday, May 21st. 7:30 p.m.: refreshments and a brief business meeting; 8:00 p.m.: Roger Lewis's talk.

How to sign up:

The evening is free and all CPHS members are welcome, but we need a headcount for seating and refreshments. Please visit our website, ClevelandParkHistoricalSociety.org, to sign up online, or call Danny Ince at (202) 966-4622 to RSVP.

Need to join or renew your membership?

No problem! Bring the form at the back of this issue to the meeting.

About Roger K. Lewis

Roger K. Lewis, a fellow of the American Institute of Architects, is a practicing architect and urban planner; a professor emeritus of architecture at the University of Maryland College Park; and an author and journalist.

After earning architecture degrees at M.I.T. and serving as a Peace Corps volunteer architect in Tunisia, Lewis helped start the architecture program at the University of Maryland School of Architecture, Planning and Preservation, where he taught architectural design from 1968 to 2006. In the 1990s he helped launch the university's National Center for Smart Growth.

Since 1984, *The Washington Post* has published his thematic, illustrated column, "Shaping the City," about architecture, planning and urban development. His columns and cartoons have received numerous awards and have been republished nationally and internationally. In his *Washington Post* column, Professor Lewis writes about principles, policies and practices related to architecture, smart growth, sustainability, land use planning and regulation, transportation and infrastructure, building codes, construction technology, security, housing and real estate development. Since 2007, he has been a regular guest on WAMU's *Kojo Nnamdi Show*.

Board Examines Zoning Update, Explores Design Guidelines

The Cleveland Park Historical Society's board and Architectural Review Committee have been busy this spring working on two issues that have a direct impact on preservation in our historic district. Board committees have been formed to examine the effect of the DC Office of Planning's proposed update to the District's zoning code and to explore the possibility of creating design guidelines for the Cleveland Park Historic District.

Zoning:

The board's committee on zoning and sustainability has been keeping a close eye on details of the proposed zoning changes as they are released. The committee determined that it was within CPHS's remit, as defined by the revised mission statement adopted by the board in spring 2012, to examine the effect of the zoning update on matters relating to preservation. (Read CPHS's mission statement at clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/about-cphs.) With that in mind, the committee determined that the one potential area of concern was the status of the commercial district overlay for Connecticut Avenue. CPHS board members met in April with Office of Planning and Historic Preservation Office staff, as well as CPHS founding member and past HPRB chair Tersh Boasberg and representatives of the Cleveland Park Citizens Association. Those who attended the meeting were reassured that **all of the language defining each current special neighborhood overlay will be present in the revised zoning code, including a statement of the preservation purposes behind the overlays.** CPHS will continue to examine the language of the proposed code as it is made public.

Design Guidelines:

The CPHS board's major project for 2013 is the creation of design guidelines for the residential, single-family portion of the Cleveland Park Historic District. A committee of board members and Architectural Review Committee members is working on this project in consultation with Historic Preservation Office staff and the Historic Preservation Review Board. Why design guidelines? This initiative is designed to address several persistent issues that arise in reviewing projects in the historic district:

Clarity: Everyone involved in stewardship of our historic resources would benefit from greater clarity about what we are trying to preserve and how to conduct the review of projects in order to advance that goal. Design guidelines will provide much-improved guidance for homeowners and architects planning additions, alterations, or new construction, as well as for those reviewing proposed projects.

Priorities: This is an opportunity to take stock of preservation priorities a quarter century after historic designation. The design guidelines process is expected to identify our most important historic resources as distinct from buildings that are characteristic of the historic district's housing stock but not of exceptional importance. Standards of design review can then follow those priorities. The guidelines committee is also examining the role of open spaces in the historic character of the neighborhood.

Special characteristics of our historic district: The District of Columbia has detailed design guidelines for technical aspects of preservation and restoration, covering things like windows and doors, as well as general guidelines for additions and new construction. (For a link to the existing guidelines, visit clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org/historic-district/arc.) These work well in DC's largely homogeneous rowhouse historic districts. Cleveland Park, however, has been eclectic from the beginning and was recognized as such when it was designated in 1986. New design guidelines would address that eclecticism explicitly and guide review authorities in making appropriate preservation decisions for an eclectic historic district.

Roger Lewis's presentation at the Annual Meeting will address the nature and role of design guidelines and provide an opportunity for discussion.

◆ Stay tuned for much more information about this project later in the year. Your input as members and residents will be crucial to the process. ◆

What Draws People to Cleveland Park?

by Jennifer Hamilton and Mary Anderson Cooper

Those of us who have lived in Cleveland Park for a long time have fairly well developed ideas about what keeps us here, but the authors of this piece thought it would be interesting to find out what it is that draws new people to the community that we enjoy so much. So we conducted a completely unscientific survey of a handful of recent arrivals that we know to see what had attracted them to this neighborhood.

Perhaps not surprisingly, we found that many of the things that draw new people to Cleveland Park are similar to those that have kept us here. The single thing mentioned the most in this admittedly limited survey was natural beauty – trees, greenery, and park land. A close second was a grouping of items in the general category of “livability” – safety, quiet, walkability – although the need for improvement in pedestrian crossings on Wisconsin Avenue was noted. Following are comments from some of those interviewed.

Jeremy and Dena Sher live in a duplex on Macomb Street. They came to Cleveland Park seeking something less urban than Adams Morgan but not suburban, where they could enjoy long walks with their dog. The proximity to Metro and the neighborhood shops and restaurants is a big plus. They enjoy having a front porch and the big beech tree in their garden.

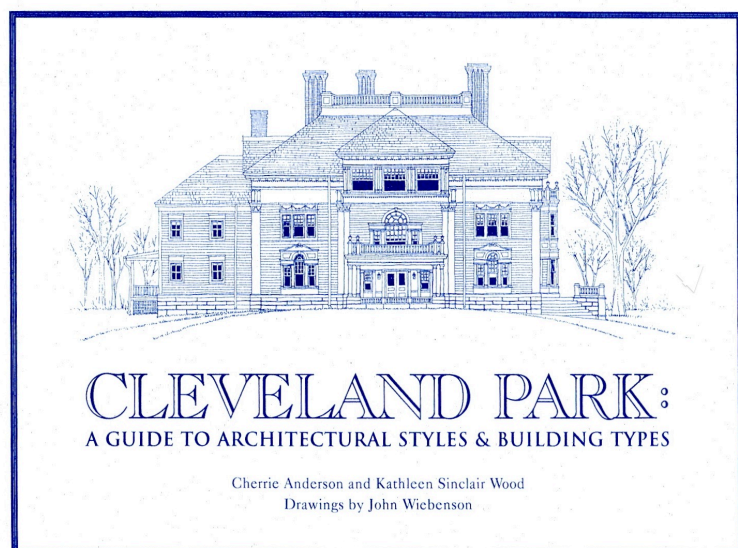
Pam King Sams, a Newark Street resident, moved here from Columbia to escape the long commute to and from her job at Children’s Hospital. She, too, mentioned the greenery, safety, shops and restaurants as particular attractions, along with the friendly people. She likes to entertain and enjoys having a place to display her art and furniture.

Elizabeth and Martin Ferenczi are recent arrivals on Newark Street, along with their son and Elizabeth’s mother. Before moving to Washington, they lived in Paris. They feel that housing in Cleveland Park is a good investment and expect the Giant development to increase property values. Elizabeth cited their proximity to Tregaron and public transportation as attractions.

Peter and Cathy Toren have recently returned to Cleveland Park. Previously residents of Lowell Street, they have come back from New York to a home on Newark Street. Cathy said that when they moved from the neighborhood years ago, she left “kicking and screaming” because she loved Cleveland Park so much. The quiet and the greenery in the area are things they particularly appreciate.

Richard Townend and Alexandra Wisotsky moved to their home on 34th Street from Adams Morgan. As parents of two small children, they were in search of a community with good school and playground opportunities. They did not have a car when they arrived in the neighborhood and so developed the custom of walking as much as possible and using public transit, something they particularly appreciate. Closeness to the Zoo and Rock Creek Park are also advantages, along with easy access to excellent shops and eating places.

Taken together, the favorable aspects of the neighborhood mentioned by these recent arrivals seem to suggest that Cleveland Park is a comfortable place to come home to, and that is a characteristic that only gains in value over time.



Available from CPHS:

Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles & Building Types

by Cherrie Anderson & Kathleen Sinclair Wood
with drawings by John Wiebenson.

This 28-page booklet, published by CPHS in 1998, describes and illustrates thirteen house styles found in the Cleveland Park Historic District, from Queen Anne to Modern, and sets those styles in the context of the neighborhood’s history.

\$8 for CPHS members, \$12 for non-members.

To order, send a check to Cleveland Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862, Washington, DC 20008
or order with your membership on the form in this issue.

2 0 1 3 M E M B E R S H I P

Please complete the following form and send it with a check payable to C.P.H.S. to:

CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, P.O. BOX 4862, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Note! Please be sure we have your current email address so that you do not miss important announcements. We will not spam you with too many emails, but we are now conducting most of our routine communication electronically, which saves us money and allows your membership dollars to go further.

Membership level:

☐ \$50 Household ☐ \$100 Sponsor ☐ \$250 Patron ☐ \$500 Angel

☐ Please send me a copy of *Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles and Building Types* at the \$8 member rate

Total enclosed: \$ _____

I would be interested in volunteering in the following areas:

☐ House and garden tours ☐ Tree planting, beautification ☐ Membership, mailings

☐ Event planning ☐ Historic Preservation, Architectural Review Committee

☐ Oral histories, local history research ☐ Writing for the newsletter or website

☐ Other: _____

CPHS is a member-supported, 501c3 not-for-profit organization. Membership dues are fully tax deductible. Members receive priority registration for public events, invitations to member-only events, and discounts on event fees, house markers, note cards, and CPHS publications.

CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOICES

MAY 2013

C P H S A N N U A L M E E T I N G

Roger K. Lewis, “Shaping the City” columnist
for *The Washington Post*,
will be the featured speaker
at our annual meeting,
Tuesday, May 21st, 7:30 p.m. at Tregaron.

— See inside for more details! —