CPHS President Reports

By Kathy Wood
President
Cleveland Park Historical Society

1990 is the Consecration Year of the Washington Cathedral. The last stone, the pinnacle of the Southwest Tower, will be set in place on September 29th, marking the completion of this remarkable structure after 83 years. The Cleveland Park Historical Society is fortunate to have been invited again to hold our Annual Meeting in the Cathedral’s Pilgrim Observation Gallery on Tuesday, April 24th. There will be a reception before the meeting, from 7:30 to 8 pm, so members and friends can enjoy the sunset and spectacular view over the city from the gallery’s vantage point on the seventh floor of the West towers.

Richard T. Feller, our speaker this year, has overseen the Cathedral’s construction and artwork since 1953. His dedication to this task has earned him the title of Canon of the Cathedral and a citation for Excellence in Architecture from the Washington chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In his illustrated talk on “The Architecture of the Washington Cathedral,” he will describe the architectural traditions and the architects involved in the complex building of this medieval cathedral in the 20th century.

New Board Members
This year, many founding members of the Cleveland Park Historical Society will retire, as required by the bylaws. Many of them have worked long and hard for the successes we have achieved in CPHS’s short life. A fine slate of nominees to positions as new Board members will be voted on at the start of the April 24th meeting.

Building Permit Guide
CPHS’s Architectural Review Committee has prepared a guide to “How to Get Your Building Permit.” Washington architect John Wiebenson worked closely with me to design the instruction sheet inserted into this issue of Voices, which I hope you will find both informative and fun. For a more detailed instruction sheet, call the CPHS office (363-6358; leave a message when the office is closed).

Cherrie Anderson is preparing a detailed “Guide to Cleveland Park House Styles” to help you in learning more about the architecture of your own house and in designing compatible alterations or additions. See page 2 for a sample page, with a drawing by Wiebenson. We plan to publish this guide as soon as we can afford drawings for the additional 11 styles. Meanwhile, Cherrie’s information with photos of houses illustrating the styles is located at the CPHS office in the Cleveland Park Congregational Church, 34th and Lowell Streets (open Wednesday mornings, 9 to 12). Please stop by to consult it when planning work on your house.

CPHS members and friends are invited to the
Annual Meeting
of the
Cleveland Park Historical Society
in the
Pilgrim Observation Gallery
of the
WASHINGTON CATHEDRAL
7th floor, enter at West front
Tuesday, April 24th
7:30 pm, reception
8 pm, meeting and talk
featuring
Richard T. Feller
on “The Architecture of the Washington Cathedral”

Richard T. Feller has overseen the construction and artwork of the Washington Cathedral since 1953. He will describe the complexities of building this “medieval” cathedral, to be completed this year after 83 years, in the midst of the 20th century.

Park and Shop
The fate of the Park and Shop site at Connecticut and Ordway continues high among CPHS members’ concerns. Co-owner Ted Pedas assures me that an architect is working on a design, but we have not yet been approached to view and comment on it. I call Pedas monthly to remind him of our interest and concern.

Continued on back page
Architectural Corner

By Cherrie Anderson

Queen Anne Style

This is a sample from a forthcoming guide to basic house styles found among the historic, exuberant architectural mixture that characterizes Cleveland Park. Author Cherrie Anderson is an interior designer and member of CPHS's Architectural Review Committee; illustrator John Wiebenson is an architect.

The oldest houses in Cleveland Park were built from 1894 to 1901 in the highly eclectic Queen Anne Style, which is widely regarded as quintessential late Victorian. Queen Anne fuses seemingly disparate elements from many styles and periods into a coherent, instantly recognizable whole. Its varied form and profuse detail present a wonderful and formidable challenge to the owner seeking to maintain or remodel one of these grand old homes. Good examples of predominantly Queen Anne residences can be seen at 2941, 3035, and 3149 Newark Street.

Basic Form
- Irregular, asymmetrical massing, with many wings and bays;
- Complex roof, with steep gables, dormers, towers, and turrets;
- Off-center front entrance and irregularly placed windows of many types;
- Expansive wraparound porches and second-story balconies.

Materials
- A variety of sidings, often all combined on one house: narrow wood clapboard, wood shingles, pebble-dash stucco, and fieldstone;
- Originally slate or wood shingle roof;
- Wood porches, doors, windows, trim, and gingerbread;
- Plaster ornament, such as swags and garlands, and rope dipped in plaster, coiled into designs.

Details
- Window types and shapes: double-hung (usually on lower stories), casement (usually in dormers or attic gables), bays (on ground floor), oriel (projecting bay windows on upper story), Palladian, half-round windows, elliptical "oculus" windows, eyebrow-shaped (in roof), fanlights and transoms;
- Sash (holding windowpanes) set with panes in large or small diamond shapes;
- Sash set with stained or clear leaded glass in geometric or organic patterns;
- Triangular pediments (usually located over front entrance);
- Classical, turned, or spiral columns on porches;
- Turned or square posts supporting handrails on porches and balconies;
- Open fretwork between porch columns;
- Ornamental brackets supporting eaves;
- Swags and garlands;
- Baroque cartouches (scroll-like tablets);
- Half timbering;
- Tall ornamental brick chimneys.

Cleveland Park Historical Society

OFFICE
Cleveland Park Congregational Church
34th and Lowell Streets N.W.

Open Wednesday mornings, 9-12
Caroline Rosell—secretary

Telephone: 363-6358. Leave message when office is closed.

Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

The Cleveland Park Historical Society, founded in 1984, won its initial battles to have our neighborhood declared an historic district and protect the low-rise commercial sections along Connecticut and Wisconsin Avenues.

Now we are focusing on consolidating our position, monitoring the design of new development, especially at the Park and Shop site, and increasing neighborhood interest in historic preservation and other community projects, such as saving our trees and helping to beautify our commercial areas.

If you are not a current member, please join us now. Membership also assures you regular mailings of our newsletter Voices and other materials to keep you up to date on the latest neighborhood development and preservation news, plus invitations to special events and programs.

Send your check for $25, or more, payable to Cleveland Park Historical Society, along with your name and address, to:

Kathe McDaniels
Membership Chair
Cleveland Park Historical Society
2952 Newark Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
Cleveland Park
Personalities

Celia Faulkner Clevenger

By Rives Carroll

"Rosedale was the most wonderful place to grow up. I really feel as if I had a Wordsworthian childhood," says Celia Faulkner Clevenger. Celia is the granddaughter of "Queen" Ferry Coonley and Avery Coonley, who moved in 1917 to this 18th century farmhouse and grassy estate in Cleveland Park. She is the daughter of Elizabeth Coonley Faulkner and Waldron Faulkner, who built their own stylized brick house on the Rosedale grounds in 1937. Born in 1936, she was raised in this unconventional house, designed by her architect father, which faces 36th Street at No. 3415. Recently, Celia has returned to live in the small house next door at the northwest corner of the original Rosedale grounds, bounded by Ordway, 36th, and Newark Streets and 34th Place residences.

Celia, the youngest of Waldron and Elizabeth Faulkner's three children, has lived most of her life in Washington. Unlike her older brothers Avery and Win, both Washington architects, she did not attend John Eaton, where her mother was president of the PTA. Celia went to Beauvoir, Potomac, and Madeira Schools. Following in the footsteps of her mother and her maternal grandmother Queen Ferry Coonley, Celia attended Vassar College.

After graduating in 1958, she spent a year in San Francisco working for two architectural firms. "I loved California. I loved getting away from home. I think it's something everybody needs to do—the sooner the better." But Celia soon returned to Washington, lived at home, and taught English at Madeira. After her marriage in 1961 to Ray Clevenger, they lived for two or three years each in New York, New Haven, and London. But Washington is where they raised their two sons, now 22 and 24, who attend Yale and Vassar. Now divorced, Celia says, "During my married years, I lived in Forest Hills. Although it is only about 12 minutes away, it felt like another world."

A great deal of Celia's world was, and is, Rosedale. Her formative years were spent surrounded by her extended family there. Her powerful, independent, and yet somewhat shy maternal grandmother, Mrs. Coonley, ruled the roost from the yellow frame farmhouse on the hill. "My ambition as a child was to grow up to be an old lady, because I had an image of old ladies as being independent and having a good time."

Her paternal grandmother, less of a force, lived with the Faulkners until she moved to the house next door, Celia's present home. Living so close to her grandmothers, two very different women, "was one of the most important features of my whole growing-up experience."

The entire family ate Sunday lunch together, alternating houses each week. And the grandchildren had Sunday breakfast with Mrs. Coonley for years. Rosedale "was a fascinating place. It was a beautiful, warm, welcoming house. I just loved the house. I could have spent any amount of time over there. I really loved the kitchen. It was generous, sunny, and full of people. There was a big staff. It was basically my grandmother and a few of her old lady friends rattling around in this big house. They followed the 19th century custom of coming and staying for seasons. This was 40 or 50 years ago. They came and just settled in."

Mrs. Coonley was one of three daughters of Dexter Ferry, a Horatio Alger figure, who made his fortune in the Ferry Seed Company in Detroit in the late 19th century. After marriage to Avery Coonley, she moved to Chicago. Her energy was focused on three strong interests: education, architecture, and the Christian Science Church.

It was Avery Coonley's appointment as director of the Committee on Publications for the Christian Science Church that brought the Coonleys and 14-year-old Elizabeth to Washington and Rosedale in 1917. Within three years, Avery Coonley had died of cancer and Mrs. Coonley, widowed at 47, had "retreated into a quiet, toned-down widowhood."

She continued to be active in education on the boards of Madeira and Vassar but no longer initiated projects.

However, she still had the ability to "make things happen." When the Coonleys moved to Rosedale, the grounds were neglected and the buildings in disrepair. Mrs. Coonley transformed the estate into "a beautiful place kept in mint condition." The house standing alone today is a mere remnant of the collection of buildings and gardens that gave the land its beauty and character while Celia was growing up there. On the grounds were a stable, a greenhouse, a vegetable garden, a huge potting shed, a coal house, a large cutting garden, a small pool, and a long grape arbor that ran down the middle of the rose garden. "I prefer to think of it with no specific history attached—just a great sense of mystery and past."

To the Cooley-Faulkner family, Rosedale was almost a way of life. "We were very self-sufficient here. We had all of this land and all of this life, really, more than the land. The life at my grandmother's house was very compelling and interesting." When Celia was a child, "I didn't know a lot of our neighbors. Our parents did, because they were wonderful public citizens. My life in the neighborhood was to some extent circumscribed by the four streets of this block."

One phrase Celia uses to describe Cleveland Park is "socially unconventional," a feature that appealed to her parents, who were "not interested in a conventional life in any sense—particularly in social convention." Their unusual and some-

Continued on next page
what forbidding house facing 36th Street was “probably another isolating feature about living in this neighborhood—that the house I grew up in was so different from anybody else’s house. It was a way in which my parents expressed their difference, which I feel separated me, in particular, and us as a family from the neighborhood.”

A cab driver once mistook the Faulkner house for a foreign embassy. Celia thinks the “house reflects a well-repressed love of the exotic” hidden in her father’s European past. The house does have an international flavor. “It was a fascinating house to grow up in—cold and rigid in many ways. I’m very attached to that house.”

Now settled in Cleveland Park once again, Celia can see her childhood home from her kitchen window. Like her mother and grandmother before her, she has given many volunteer hours to the boards of the schools she attended. She particularly likes to work with organizations that are small and developing. She discovered St. Francis Center at the time of her father’s death and “knowing Bill Wendt [its founder] was one of the great experiences of my life.” Celia was a board member and president of this organization that addresses the concerns surrounding death and dying. She was also on the board of Hillcrest Center for disturbed children.

“My life has been filled with unconventional people. I’m attracted to unconventional people—not if they are doing it for the sake of being different but if they are doing it out of conviction. One of my mother’s strongest terms of non-approval was to say that someone was very conventional. She wasn’t so much interested in being different with a capital D as simply in not conforming for the sake of conforming.”

It is not hard to see a thread of strength and individuality in the Cooley-Faulkner-Clevenger tradition. The land and the life may have been isolating, but clearly the family reached out to others beyond. “It gives me a lot of pleasure today to see Rosedale being used by dogwalkers and neighbors just enjoying that land, which should always have been public property, in my opinion.”

Indeed, it is a special place. Welcome back, Celia.

Rives Carroll, author of the profiles of Celia Faulkner Clevenger and Val and Blanca Calcagni, is CPHS’s Director of Programs. Among her other current activities, she leads walking tours of Cleveland Park for the Smithsonian, runs the summer day camp and organizes the lecture series at the Cleveland Park Club, and teaches geography at John Eaton School.

Celia Faulkner Clevenger
Continued from preceding page

Designed in 1937 for his family by architect Waldron Faulkner, the unconventional house at 3415 36th Street on the original Rosedale estate in Cleveland Park was one of the earliest “modern” buildings in Washington.

**To Save Our Trees**

By John Poole

Washington’s trees, essential to its beauty and quality of life, are falling victim not just to age, pests, and environmental stresses, but also to the City’s financial crisis. While CPHS has lobbied and will continue to lobby for more funds for the City tree program, it is evident that neighborhoods will have to become more actively involved in caring for and replanting City trees.

Some Cleveland Park citizens have already replanted City tree boxes in their neighborhood. CPHS is forming a permanent committee which, among other activities, would conduct a tree survey and collect information about optimal tree types and replanting conditions, organize tree replanting and an adopt-a-tree program to ensure that new trees receive proper care, and work with the City tree department and Pepco to improve tree maintenance.

We need your time, information, and ideas. Please call Ruth Hunsberger (362-5191) or John Poole (966-8329, home; 724-5774, work) for details.

John Poole has spearheaded the battle to save Cleveland Park trees from the gypsy moth scourge.

**Wesley Heights Garden Tour**

**Sunday, May 13 (Mother’s Day)**

12–6 pm

The Wesley Heights Historical Society invites its Cleveland Park neighbors to their first annual garden tour, featuring gardens designed by leading landscape architects such as James Van Sweden and Wolfgang Oehm, Joanne Lawson, Michael Bartlett, and Denzil Jenkins and Charles Fenyvesi (the “Ornamental Gardener” of the Washington Post). Proceeds will benefit the preservation efforts of the Wesley Heights Historical Society.

Tickets are $12, purchased in advance ($10 each for groups of 10 or more); $15 on the day of the tour. Refreshments at the Chancery of Finland ($5 per person; reservations necessary).

For tickets and further information, call 364-1034.
GETTING A BUILDING PERMIT

INSIDE WORK

1. Check DC Building Code if your project involves doors, stairs, walls, etc. Get copy of code at the district building or ask an architect.

2. Bring 4 sets of drawings and a blank.

   CH 4 ST NW 2nd Floor

3. Hand permit application in at information desk... (they have forms)

   They'll give you a routing slip that will get you from desk-to-desk (2-3 hours) or they will send you at one of the desks & send you away to change your drawings...

4. When you pass all the desks, fill out check & pick up permit & 2 sets of stamped drawings.

5. Put permit in your window. Keep drawings handy & get to work! (& read permit about inspections, etc.)

   (for a more detailed description of these procedures, please call the C.H.S. Office at 365-6389)

PHONE NUMBERS

- DC Historic Preservation Office (Nancy Withersell) - 727-7360
- DC Code - 727-7360
- DC Surveyor - 727-1121
- DC Zoning - 727-7350
- DC Lot & Square - 727-5204
- Cleveland Park Historical Society - 365-6389, 244-1276

OUTSIDE WORK

Your project will have to respect this historic district -- having an experienced architect or builder is recommended.

A new or adding-on project (pool, deck, fence, room, etc.) will involve both zoning and history.

Zoning and History

Check zoning rules... (at GH 4 ST NW or call 727-7360)

If your project doesn't fit, then change it... (or try for exception through board of zoning adjustment 727-6615) -- might take 6 months.

If your project is OK bring 2 sets of drawings showing what's there now & what you want to put in...

Get blank plans from the DC surveyor's office on pl - GH 4 ST NW.

Also bring 2 sets of drawings and at least 3 clear photos:
- One showing where work will be
- One showing entire facade of your building
- One showing setting with adjacent buildings

Get permit application at information desk -- fill it in & hand back at desk...

You'll be sent to room 204 (landmark liaison office) to get HPA case number & transmittal sheet...

Then they'll ask you to get zoning & basic structural reviews at other desks there & to leave everything at room 204 until the historic preservation review is complete...

A HPRB (historic preservation review board) staff worker will write a report with the Cleveland Park Historical Society's architectural review committee for use at the HPRB's monthly meeting (3rd Wednesday each month)...

When your project is approved at the monthly HPRB meeting, then follow steps 1-6 as shown for inside work...
BUILDING PERMITS

Here are some of the things that require a building permit in Washington, D.C. (and, many of them can't be built where they can be seen from a street in a historic district like Cleveland Park.)
Our Neighborhood Shopkeepers

Val and Blanca Calcagno of Vace

By Rives Carroll

Vace. The name comes from Val and Cesare, the two partners who opened this small, unassuming Italian delicatessen and homemade pasta shop at 3504 Connecticut Avenue in September 1977. Inconspicuously tucked into the row of shops above the Cleveland Park Metro station, Vace offers quality food, friendly service, and a refuge from the hustle and bustle of the world outside.

Vace’s customers receive a warm welcome and personal attention, reminiscent of the Old World, from Val Calcagno, his wife Blanca, and their various brothers and sisters who prepare, sell, and deliver their food. In April, due to a rent increase, the store will move one block south and across the avenue to 3315 Connecticut, near Peoples. This store is one of three Vaces in the Washington area. The second to open is on Wisconsin Avenue in Bethesda. The third is in Gaithersburg, where most of the fresh and frozen food is prepared.

In 1935, when 17-year-old Val arrived from Genoa, Italy, to join family members in New York, he began many years of cooking in Italian restaurants. He moved to Washington in the 1960s to become manager and cook at Luigi’s in Bethesda. There he met Blanca, who had come from Bogota, Colombia, in 1969. Always interested in owning his store, Val decided to start his business after marriage to Blanca. Dino of Caffe Italiano helped him locate the Connecticut Avenue space, conveniently across the street from their Odwyer Street apartment.

“I have been in the food business since I was eight years old,” explains Blanca. “We were poor. I used to help my mother all the time.” At age 21, Blanca came to the U.S. with a two-year contract to babysit for a Maryland family. She did not plan to stay; she had never left her country or family. “But when you need to, you leave everything. I took my chances and I think it was a nice chance to take.” Although she is not yet a U.S. citizen like Val and still refers to Colombia as “my country,” she believes that “everything I have, this country [the U.S.] gave to me. This is my country.”

While she was still living in Colombia, coincidentally two of Blanca’s three jobs were with Italians, one in a bakery where she sold bread and made pizza. She has been to Italy twice and has learned to speak Italian from Val, his friends, and family. But Val and Blanca communicate primarily in English, while their children, ages 15, seven, and three, speak both Spanish and English.

Blanca has brought her mother, sister, and four brothers to this country. They have all worked at Vace. Val’s sister comes from New York to take over when the Calzagno go on vacation. Not surprisingly, the store is like a family. Blanca would like her son and daughters to keep the business going, but she hopes that they will have more time with their children than she has. With only eight employees in the three stores, the hours are long.

Vace is open from 9 am to 8 pm on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Saturday and from 9 am to 9 pm on Thursday and Friday because of the large number of pizza orders. Says Blanca, “We used to close at 8 o’clock, so we said the last pizza order was at 7:30. Everybody called at 7:30, so we never finished at 8 o’clock. We do every pizza by order, nothing ahead of time. We make it one by one.”

Pizza is the one prepared food they make which Blanca thinks has been Americanized, an improvement over the cracker-like pizzas she has had in Italy. But she says, “We sell good pizza. Every single day we have a customer tell us that our pizza is the best. And we agree with that.”

Although the human scale, colorful labels, and mom-and-pop coziness of Vace make it feel like a piece of Italy, Vace carries less packaged dry pasta and more fresh and frozen prepared dishes than its counterparts in Italy. Vace’s busiest time is between 4:30 and 7 pm, which indicates that many people stop by on their way home. Says, Blanca, “You come home from work and you’re not going to start making lasagna. So it’s ready; just warm it up.” Some buy as little as a quarter pound of fettucini or spaghetti; others stock up their freezers with tortellini, ravioli, cannelloni, and agnolotti (Blanca’s and my favorite). Most of their packaged foods are from Italy, but a few are from California, Argentina, and Greece. “Whatever we put here, the people like it.”

Individuals of all ages, including children, return to the store because of their satisfaction. Even a taxi which crashed through the front window in December 1981 didn’t interrupt the steady flow of customers. In addition, many hotels and restaurants in the area buy from Vace, such as the Hilton hotels, the Shoreham, Caffe Petitto’s, Pleasant Peasant, Filomena’s, Leonardo da Vinci, Clyde’s, and Ridgewell’s Caterer.

When the Pope visited Washington, Vace’s sausages were ordered especially for him. President Carter ate their pasta in the White House. The Washington Star and the Washingtonian have given them favorable coverage. And their proximity to the Metro has boosted their business.

When they move to 3315 Connecticut, “we’re not going to change. We’re going to put in a little bigger counter, and that way the customers can put their stuff there and they won’t get too tired.” There will be a block to walk from the Metro, but Blanca encourages customers to work up an appetite one way and wear off calories the other way.

Cleveland Park is proud to be home to this gem of Italian cuisine. And says Blanca, “We’re proud of what we do, because we know everything is really good.” We do too.
President Reports
Continued from front page

Connecticut Avenue Spruce-up
The planting of new trees is a more positive development along the Connecticut Avenue commercial blocks of Cleveland Park. CPHS has formed a beautification committee to work with shopkeepers in the area, headed by Anne Clark. Please call her (363-0784) to offer your help and expertise. We need to make sure the new trees survive the long hot, dry summer.

New Simeon’s Owner
In Cleveland Park’s Wisconsin Avenue shopping community, we welcome Janie Hulme, the new owner of Simeon’s Book Shop at 3706 Macomb Street. She is a Cleveland Park resident and is delighted to be continuing the tradition of a neighborhood bookstore, as a gathering place for Cleveland Parkers and an outlet for neighborhood authors. Please stop by to say hello and let her know your particular interests in books. She is taking an informal poll on changing the name of her shop and would be happy to have your input.

New Books from CPHS Authors
Three founding members of CPHS have published books this spring.

CPHS Vice-President Peggy Robin’s new book, Saving the Neighborhood: You Can Fight Developers and Win! (Woodbine House, $16.95), features Cleveland Park battles and photos to illustrate some of her points.


I have completed Clues to American Sculpture, which is illustrated by Margo Klass and published by Cleveland Park’s own press, Starrhill Press (P.O. Box 32342, Washington, DC 20007; $7.95).

We will have a book-signing party on Sunday, May 20th, 5 to 7 pm, at my house (3101 Highland Place). These books will be on sale, with a small portion of the proceeds to go to CPHS. Please call me (244-1276) if you know of other Cleveland Park authors with recent publications who would like to participate.

Tilford Dudley
I regret to report the death on January 18, 1990, of Tilford Dudley, staunch supporter of CPHS since our founding. A well-known activist before his retirement, Tilford will be missed in the Macomb Street community near Connecticut Avenue where he lived for well over half a century (see “Cleveland Park Personalities,” Voices, Spring 1987).

Announcements
CPHS plans a series of eight lectures on the history of our neighborhood from before the founding of the Federal City to the present, to be held at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church on the third or fourth Monday evening of the month, beginning in the fall.

A major restoration project is being planned for Rosedale. Please call me (244-1276) if you can help.

Cleveland Park House Tour
Sunday, April 29th
1–5 pm

Sponsored by and starting from the National Child Research Center, 3209 Highland Place, this year’s Cleveland Park House Tour features eight neighborhood homes and gardens.

Tickets are $10 in advance; $15 on the afternoon of the tour. Call 363-4070 for tickets and further information.

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