THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY AT 15:
Activism and Advocacy Protect Our Neighborhood
by Steven L. Cohen, CPHS President

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1985, THE CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY (CPHS) has been a key player in protecting the architectural, cultural, historic, and environmental fabric of this community. CPHS members were instrumental in creating two of the regulatory mechanisms that protect our neighborhood. First, and most important, is the Cleveland Park Historic District itself, which was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987. In 1989, we helped create the Neighborhood Commercial Overlay District, which affects the scale of development and the range of uses that can be implemented along both Connecticut and Wisconsin avenues.

Today, as our neighborhood faces a flurry of new development proposals, these regulatory protections enable us to negotiate with developers from a position of some strength. In January,
KUDOS TO HARDY BEAUTIFIERS

On March 11th, armed with shovels and pruning shears, a selfless band of CPHS volunteers defied unseasonable cold to clean up, dig up, and mulch along Connecticut Avenue. Warm thanks to:

- Catherine Armington
- John Buchanan
- Betsy and Warren Clark
- Sam Hastings-Black
- Susan Lynner
- John Poole

ANOTHER CHANCE TO PITCH IN

Plenty of work remains for any and all who can envision Connecticut Avenue looking less littered and threadbare, more loved. Tops on the to-do list are creating two planting areas in the large tree box by the parking lot at Connecticut and Newark and “adopting” prepared boxes near the Uptown Theatre. To get involved, please contact Betsy Clark at (202)537-1279 or, by e-mail, at warclark@erols.com.

CPHS at 15 (continued from page 1)

Committee for compatibility with the existing historic architecture.

Similarly, CPHS has been in contact with Giant Food Store Realty, Inc., to assure that neighbors are kept informed about the company's intentions for the block at Wisconsin Ave. and Macomb Streets. As plans are now configured, Giant will need a zoning adjustment to build the proposed underground parking garage. Look for news of a CPHS sponsored public forum on the project.

In November, CPHS sent a letter to the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board that caused them to revisit their approval of renovations to the Exxon Station at Connecticut Ave. and Porter St. While negotiations are continuing, Exxon has agreed to tone down lighting and signage to make them more suitable for a historic district.

Looking back over the years, we have been involved with many other critical issues affecting the historic district.

- We were instrumental in protecting the Park and Shop from the many proposals to develop a high-rise there.
- Our concern over the years for Tregaron (originally known as The Causeway and now the site of the Washington International School) has included financial sponsorship of a historic survey of the property. With this document in hand, we are well equipped to fend off any potential development of this very significant landmark within our midst.
- Through our subcommittee Renovation of Macomb Playground (ROMP), we raised more than $250,000 to renovate and improve these much-neglected recreational facilities.
- Through the Architectural Review Committee (ARC), we constantly have input to proposed projects both within our district and along our borders, including National Cathedral School, Beauvoir School, and commercial developments along Connecticut Avenue and Wisconsin Avenue.

In addition, CPHS supports other preservation groups, such as Preservation Action, the national lobbying organization that is currently pushing for federal legislation to create homeowner’s tax credits for rehabilitation work. Locally, we are members of the D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition and founding members of the Coalition for Greater Preservation Enforcement, which recently brought about the hiring of a historic preservation inspector by the D.C. government. Thus we help to affect positive change for historic districts on both a local and a national level.

Depending on the issue at hand, CPHS may act in various ways. Sometimes we hold meetings or simply send letters. Other times we meet with government officials or talk directly with members of the business community. We make known our concerns to the people who can actually make a difference and affect some good for the neighborhood.

Through our community liaison, Judy Hubbard Saul, we keep abreast of ongoing and upcoming changes affecting our community. She regularly attends the Advisory Neighborhood Commission meetings. In addition, she meets monthly with a group composed of representatives from Advisory Neighborhood Commission 3C, the Cleveland Park Business and Professional Association, and the Cleveland Park Citizens Association. These are just some of the ways in which our organization works with the community to be proactive and create solutions.

With the exception of the editor of this newsletter, however, we do not have any volunteers concerned with publicity or public relations. We go about our mission quietly and without fanfare. Our bylaws and articles of incorporation dictate how we operate as an organization. Oversight of our activities is the responsibility of the Board of Directors, which meets every other month to act on issues of concern to the community and to develop activities benefiting its residents. In addition, the executive committee of the board meets during alternate months to oversee the society’s administrative agenda. The volunteers on the ARC meet monthly to review proposals for new construction and renovation in the historic district. Although all our meetings (including ARC meetings) are open to the public (all activities are announced on our answering machine), they generally are not well attended.

Our deeds become known only by word of mouth, or to those intimately involved with (continues on page 3)
specific issues. For those neighbors who are not actively involved with CPHS, the publication of VOICES is our only official opportunity to spread the word about what we have done and what we continue to do. With this issue we hope to enumerate the many ways in which our efforts benefit the community.

The Cleveland Park Historical Society is a community-based organization made up of more than 600 members. Most of our members live right here in Cleveland Park. However, we also have members who live as far away as California and Arizona. By making an annual contribution, each of our members has acknowledged that they care about Cleveland Park. Those on the Board or the ARC, as well as a handful of other general members, provide additional support by giving their time and energy to implement the organization’s various activities. All of us share a common interest in the vitality of this special community and the many different issues which affect our historic district.

Without your financial support, we cannot continue to do the good works described in this issue. (Publication and distribution of this newsletter alone cost more than $4,000 per year.) It is my hope that after reading this issue, you will be more convinced than ever that the Cleveland Park Historical Society is an important organization to support. CPHS members will receive renewal letters soon. If you are not currently a member, or have let your membership lapse, I urge you to join and support our very important mission.

Please let me know of any issue that concerns you which we have yet to address. You can leave a message anytime at (202)363-6558. The likelihood is that we are quietly working on a solution already. ☺

SECOND ANNUAL GARDEN TOUR LEADS THROUGH 10 PRIVATE CLEVELAND PARK GARDENS

A Japanese garden and an artfully reclaimed swamp will highlight the Cleveland Park Historical Society’s second Mother’s Day garden tour, scheduled for May 14th from 1 to 5 p.m.

Last year, sunny skies and balmy temperatures enticed some 350 people, including many multigenerational groups, to stroll through gardens from Macomb Street to Rowland Place. The event raised some $3,200 to support historical society activities.

This year’s self-guided tour will begin at the Cleveland Park Club (built in 1900), located at 3433 33rd Place, off of Highland Place. Maps of the tour route will be provided, and tea will be served.

Tickets cost $10 in advance for CPHS members, $15 for nonmembers. To order, send the form below, along with a check made out to Cleveland Park Historical Society, to Mary Jane Glass, 3110 34th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008. Your tickets will be waiting at the Cleveland Park Club on the day of the tour. Advance tickets also are available through the Cleveland Park Bookshop, 3416 Wisconsin Avenue. On tour day, a ticket will cost $15. For more information, call Mary Jane Glass at (202)686-3082. ☺

Please reserve ______ tickets for the Cleveland Park Garden Tour at:
☑ $10 for members ☑ $15 for nonmembers _______ Total enclosed

Name

Address

City, State, and Zip Code

Daytime Phone Evening Phone

IDEAS WANTED FOR IMPROVING MACOMB PLAYGROUND PROGRAMMING

In an effort to gather input from area residents concerning the programs and activities they would like to see at Macomb Playground, the D.C. Department of Recreation and Parks recently organized the Macomb Playground Advisory Counsel. The MPAC has already developed a short list of activities and events that might be well suited to our community, and a summer twilight picnic and sing-along are in the works. But more ideas and more input are needed. To join the Counsel, or to discuss your ideas, please call Steve Turow at (202)219-6655, ext. 147.

SUMMER LIFEGUARDS NEEDED AT CLEVELAND PARK CLUB POOL

Take advantage of a great opportunity to learn life-saving techniques and earn summer cash. Anyone 15 or over who is reasonably fit and willing to complete a life-saving course may apply. Contact Mike Ladarola at (202)537-1419.
### Community Calendar

**April 8**

**John Eaton Fund-Raising Auction**

John Eaton School
34th & Lowell Streets, NW
6-10 p.m.
Contact Margot Berkey, (202)232-1810.

**Beginning April 10**

**Growing Up in Washington**
Exhibition of photos, artifacts, and oral histories
The Historical Society of Washington, D.C.
1307 New Hampshire Avenue, N.W.
Contact the Society at (202)785-2068.

**April 16**

**District of Columbia Emancipation Day**
For information about events celebrating the 138th anniversary of the end of slavery in the nation's capital, contact the Historical Society of Washington, D.C. at (202)785-2068.

**May 5 & 6**

**National Cathedral Flower Mart and Fair**
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Cathedral Grounds
Contact Julie Cook, (202)686-0261

**May 6**

**Flea Market and Flower Mart to benefit John Eaton Afterschool Program**
9 a.m.-4 p.m.
(Rain date May 13th)
John Eaton School
34th and Lowell Streets, N.W.
Contact Consuelo Neuman, (202)745-3906.

### On the Avenues

**News from the Outreach Coordinator**
by Judy Hubbard Saul

Action on the avenues has lately shifted from the proposed Giant food store expansion on Wisconsin Avenue to the recent purchase of the Mazza Row on Connecticut. Sale of the red brick Colonial Revival-style buildings across from the Park & Shop had been rumored for months and was not unexpected.

With the renewal of the city in general and the popularity of Cleveland Park in particular, it was just a matter of time before these deteriorating buildings were bought and renovated. The buildings were originally built as townhouses in 1921 by local developer Harry Wardman. Mrs. Olga Mazza is said to have grown up in the corner building now occupied by Yanni's and Alero. Over the years, the ground floors went commercial, with the shopkeepers living upstairs. Eventually all the buildings had first-floor storefronts, but some still retain the original two-bedroom-plus-bath configuration on the top floors.

I meet a lot of interesting people and become involved in exciting projects as the part-time staff for CPHS. It was at an ANC meeting that I met Woodley Park native Mary Conley and heard her idea for restoring our sadly deteriorated police and fire call boxes. Mary and I were distraught when the D.C. Department of Public Works (DPW) spirited away the fire call box next to the Park & Shop.

In January we practically kept a vigil to protect the rare police call box that had been removed from the service road in front of CVS and lay hidden under the snow at the bottom of Newark Street. When the snow finally melted and a DPW crew came to remove it, I persuaded them to wait long enough for me to find a tow truck to transport it across the street for safekeeping in my backyard. Fortunately, and in the nick of time, Kathy Smith and the D.C. Heritage Tourism Coalition completed negotiations with the city to undertake a restoration project that will preserve fire and police call boxes in six neighborhoods—Cleveland Park included! Presumably our beloved police call box is now keeping company with the Taft Bridge lions in some D.C. storage space.

For months last year I received copies of letters sent by a Mr. Merritt Drucker, the self-appointed champion of our beautiful but sadly neglected Klingle Bridge, to DPW, the D.C. Historic Preservation Division, the City Council, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. His comprehensive list of needed improvements included removal of lead-based paint, restoration of the building stones and of original iron light poles, and relighting of the urn lamps. The bridge was built in 1931, designed in the Art Deco style by French-born architect Paul Phillippe Cret, whose distinguished career made him a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects.

Soon another bridge enthusiast, Carol Vance, lent her voice to the outcry. We met, where else but on the bridge, to map out a strategy. I told them about other bridge advocates. CPHS founding president Tersh Boasberg lobbed the city beginning in 1987 to restore the bridge and relight the urns, but to no avail. We hope to see some action now that Tersh is the chair of the Historic Preservation Review Board and the Historic Preservation Division has committed itself to adding the bridge to its inventory of Historic Sites. The Art Deco Society has undertaken the necessary research into the bridge's architectural history.

Recently I had the pleasure of giving a walking tour of our neighborhood to a group of ninth and tenth graders from the Cesar Chavez Charter School for Public Policy. The students

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were studying the demographics, culture, and racial make-up of three neighborhoods—Anacostia, Columbia Heights, and Cleveland Park. When I visited their school a few days later, I read a startling question on their chalkboard: Why is Cleveland Park a paradise and Anacostia is not? I thought about their choice of a word for Cleveland Park and had to admit they weren’t far off. I invited the students to join us for Cleveland Park Day 2000—scheduled for Sunday, October 1st.

Speaking of which, a group of Cleveland Park Day organizers (Did I say this already—It’s planned for October 1st) met informally over brunch at the Park Bench Pub not long ago to begin serious planning. We had a hilarious time thinking up this year’s tag line. (A package of Cleveland Park stationery goes to any reader who can call me with the correct tag lines for 1998 and 1999.) The one that got the most laughs, but didn’t win, was “Cleveland Park Has Everything (except a hardware store).” With a hardware store, it truly would be paradise.

**THE NATIONAL CHILD RESEARCH CENTER: Washington’s Oldest Preschool Turns 72**

by Gretchen Hall

Tucked into the middle of Highland Place in a Georgian Revival building, the National Child Research Center has been part of the Cleveland Park neighborhood for seven decades. NCRC, as it is affectionately known, is the oldest preschool in the city. The center opened its doors on February 22, 1928, at 1828 Columbia Road, N.W. Two years later the school relocated to its present home, the three-story brick structure with an adjacent playscape.

The property at 3209 Highland Place, designed by the architects Hunter and Bell in 1905, served as a private residence until the summer of 1930 when it was converted to a preschool. It was the first brick house in Cleveland Park, built at a cost of $18,000 for Bates and Lisette Warren. In 1931, NCRC incorporated as a nonprofit, independent school with a Board of Trustees. The Board promptly purchased the building for $32,500.

Over the decades, numerous renovations have improved the main building and the playhouse, once called the Little House but originally a garage. The bucolic playground of the 1930s was rebuilt in 1978 and again in 1990. Concerns for safety and developmental appropriateness guided each version of playground rebuilding. Today’s playscape is open to all neighborhood children and their families after school hours and on weekends. As neighbors all know, it has a great sledding hill, too!

The attributes of an NCRC preschool education have been as constant to the center’s history as the house on Highland Place. Originally the school was cosponsored by the American Home Economics Association, the Bureau of Home Economics (USDA), the American Association of University Women, George Washington University, the University of Maryland, the U.S. Bureau of Education, and the U.S. Public Health Service. In the early years research was a major emphasis of NCRC. Many of the research topics sound very contemporary: the acquisition of motor skills, factors influencing play, spontaneous drawings, emotional development, and—best of all—how children annoy adults.

(continues on page 6)
The National Child Research Center (continued from page 5)

The children have been the most important part of NCRC through all 72 years. From the original group of 20 to today’s 171 students, the emotional, social, intellectual, and physical development of each child has been the centerpiece of their nursery experience. Teachers continue to employ developmentally appropriate practices in their classrooms, emphasizing the whole child. Children with special needs are now part of the mix, as are children with richly diverse heritages. Teachers, now as then, are highly trained professionals who thoroughly enjoy their young students.

NCRC continues to provide a rich curriculum that includes music, art, science, motor skills, speech, and language skills, all geared to the age and stage of each child. Most of all, the children learn through play. Dress-up clothes, blocks, sand boxes, swings, books, paints, and many more items provide the “tools” through which young children learn to relate to the world and one another.

Among the generations of NCRC children, many have come from the Cleveland Park neighborhood. Some families claim two or three generations of NCRC “graduates”! Because the archives and historical records are incomplete, the school is vigorously collecting names and addresses of everyone with NCRC connections: alumni, former parents, and former teachers and staff. If you have NCRC connections or know of others who attended the school, or if you have photos or documents, please contact Gretchen Hall at (202) 563-8777 or fax (202) 244-3459. Or come by the school to visit with her about “your” era at NCRC! ©

Gretchen Hall is the director of development at NCRC.

Make a Difference . . . Plant a Tree!

Since 1985, when the Cleveland Park Historical Society was founded, CPHS and Cleveland Park neighbors have planted some 100 street trees in the neighborhood. If you’d like to add a tree to your streetscape, CPHS can help, and spring is the time to do it. All that’s involved are these four simple steps, and CPHS will do as much or as little of the work as you’d like.

1. Get permission from the city. The city has identified what type of tree should be planted on what blocks. This assures the use of varieties appropriate to our climate and leads to pleasantly uniform blocks. You (or CPHS for you) contact the Landscape Division of the D.C. Department of Public Works. Bill Beck, the chief there, will tell you what kind of tree to get and will make a site visit to be sure it will be placed correctly—not too close to corners, driveways, hydrants, or other trees. He may even mark the correct spot with paint. If you ask, he’ll supply lots of other helpful advice as well. Then Bill will issue a planting permit—free! It may be mailed or faxed to you or to CPHS. Step one usually takes about two weeks.

2. Contact Gordon Sheridan at Johnson’s Flower & Garden Center, (202) 244-6100, and tell him what you need. Johnson’s has supported CPHS’s tree-planting program for years by making trees available at wholesale prices. A tree of the right size and kind (usually oak or maple) runs about $90. You pay for it, but if CPHS orders it, there is no sales tax. Johnson’s will deliver the tree to your site, along with bags of soil conditioner and mulch.

3. The fun part! You, your friends, and/or friendly CPHS volunteers dig a hole twice the size of the root ball, mix in the soil conditioner, and plant. Cover the soil with mulch when you’re done and give your new tree its first thorough watering.

4. Keep watering. It takes three years to plant a tree, according to Bill Beck. That’s because regular watering is essential for the tree to take root and thrive. Especially during the hot, dry months of summer, make sure your tree gets a regular soaking. Spring and fall feedings help, too. Tree fertilizer spikes are an easy and handy method.

To set up a planting, or for more information, please call CPHS Tree Committee Chair Warren Clark at (202) 537-1279.
ARCHITECTURAL CORNER
NEWS OF THE ARC
by Nancy L. Skinkle, ARC cochair

The Architectural Review Committee (ARC) of the Cleveland Park Historical Society continues to meet regularly on the second Monday of every month at the Cleveland Park Congregational Church. Since last fall, the ARC has reviewed eight proposed construction projects in the Cleveland Park Historic District. Additionally, the ARC gave two informal reviews for projects not yet submitted to the city for permitting. The reviews provide property owners with general guidance on the designs of their projects and whether they meet ARC guidelines for respecting the existing house’s historic character.

Interestingly, three-quarters of the projects reviewed during the fall and winter are located west of 34th Street. The ARC is seeing an increase in the number of large additions being planned; more than half of the projects reviewed were additions, located predominantly on Newark and Rodman streets. And in a rare turn of events, the ARC reviewed the planned vertical expansion of a popular restaurant in the Connecticut Avenue commercial corridor.

All the projects submitted were approved with recommendations. Many recommendations related to improving the transition between the existing house and the new construction. Although the transition from old to new is not required to be seamless, the new addition must be compatible in scale and materials with the old. Other typical comments concerned the scale, size, and types of new windows as they related to existing windows. Most of the projects submitted revealed themselves clearly as additions that deferred to the original house.

Homeowners submitting projects for ARC review are encouraged to provide ample documentation for their proposals. Even though ARC members visit the house in question before they meet, it is helpful to have on hand photographs of the house and the areas to be altered. Site plans, building plans, and elevations of existing and proposed construction help greatly to orient ARC members during the discussion. Better project documentation always allows a more thorough and complete review.

Finally, ARC members are extremely enthusiastic about the level of support that Cleveland Park has received since the arrival of new D.C. Historic Preservation Inspector Toni Cherry. On three separate occasions she has helped the ARC challenge projects that had not received the proper city and community reviews. We salute the city for investing in a position of this stature and hope it marks the beginning of a more thoughtful dialogue between Cleveland Park and the District government. ✪
Join The Cleveland Park Historical Society

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

Barbara Stout, Membership Chair
Cleveland Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862
Washington, DC 20008

Please make checks payable to the Cleveland Park Historical Society. All but $4.00 are tax deductible as allowed by law.

YES! I wish to become a member of CPHS at the following level:

☐ $35 Individual  ☐ $250 Patron
☐ $50 Household  ☐ $500 Angel
☐ $100 Sponsor

Name (please print)

Address

City, State and Zip Code

Daytime Phone     Evening Phone

I would like to volunteer to help with:

☐ Tree planting  ☐ Fund raising
☐ Neighborhood beautification  ☐ Architectural Review Committee
☐ Special event planning  ☐ Clerical/mailings
☐ Photography/graphic arts  ☐ Macomb Playground Rehabilitation
☐ Newsletter  ☐ Other ________

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Cleveland Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862
Washington, D.C. 20008
(202)363-6358

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Join the Cleveland Park Historical Society

Forget chatting over the back fence. Now Cleveland Park neighbors can chat online.

Cleveland-park@egroups.com is a new list serve set up for Cleveland Parkers who want to know what's happening in the neighborhood, or want to spread some news of their own.

This is an unmoderated list, so when you send a message to Cleveland-Park, it is instantly sent to all subscribers.

To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to Cleveland-park-subscribe@egroups.com or visit www.adlerbooks.com/cleveland-park.

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Don't Miss...

☑ CPHS Annual Meeting
  May 10, 7-9 p.m.
☑ Cleveland Park Garden Tour
  May 14, 1-5 p.m.
NATURE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

FAMILY WALKING TOURS

SUNDAY, MAY 21  
2:00-3:30 PM
THE GRAND ESTATES:  
ROSEDALE & TREGARON
Tour the landscaped grounds and learn the fascinating history of two of Washington’s last remaining estates with Richard Ashley of Youth For Understanding, the owner of Rosedale, & Kirstine Larson of the Washington International School, part owner of Tregaron. One of these estates has the oldest existing building in Washington, DC, older than the Old Stone House in Georgetown.

SUNDAY, JUNE 4  
2:00-3:30 PM
WATERSHED & WILDLIFE #1:  
THE KLINGLE VALLEY TRIBUTARY
This 1 1/4 mile round trip tour will follow the old Klingle Valley Road which parallels the Klingle tributary, a major watershed for Rock Creek. We are fortunate to live near Rock Creek Park, planned by visionaries in the 1880’s. Led by our neighbor Isabel Furlong who has lived next to the park for 27 years and is founder of the Klingle Valley Association. Count how many old growth trees you spot on your walk.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11  
2:00-3:30 PM
SACRED SPACES:  
THE CATHEDRAL’S OLMSTED WOODS & BISHOP’S GARDEN
Visit the five acre Olmsted Woods as it undergoes a multi-year restoration emphasizing native trees, shrubs, and ground covers. Top off your visit with a tour of the Bishop’s Garden, a walled medieval garden originally intended as a private retreat for the Bishop. Led by Dede Petri, Chairman, All Hallows Guide Garden Committee. See a structure composed of stones from President Grover Cleveland’s razed summer house.

SUNDAY, JUNE 18  
2:00-3:30 PM
WATERSHED & WILDLIFE #2:  
MELVIN HAZEN TRAIL
This tour will take you down the steep grade on this little-known trail to see the native flora and fauna, ending up at Peirce Mill, where you will hear about exciting plans to bring it back as a working mill. Led by Steven Dryden of the Friends of Peirce Mill & the Audubon Naturalist Society. Who were Messrs. Hazen and Peirce anyway?

The walking tours are $6 for CPHS members and $10 for non-members. Children under 12 are free and must be accompanied by an adult. CPHS membership is $35 for an individual and $50 for a household. (All but $3 of your membership is tax-deductible by law.)

ORDER YOUR TICKETS TODAY. SPACE IS LIMITED & RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. Please complete the form below and mail your check made out to “CPHS” to the Cleveland Park Historical Society, PO Box 4862, Washington, DC 20008. Questions? 363-6358.

NAME(S):  
ADDRESS:  
TELEPHONE:  

SUNDAY, MAY 21  
May 21:  Rosedale/Tregaron  _ticket(s) at $6/$10 (circle one) $ 
SUNDAY, JUNE 4  
June 4:  Klingle Valley  _ticket(s) at $6/$10 (circle one) $ 
SUNDAY, JUNE 11  
June 11:  The Cathedral  _ticket(s) at $6/$10 (circle one) $ 
SUNDAY, JUNE 18  
June 18:  Melvin Hazen  _ticket(s) at $6/$10 (circle one) $ 

The starting location of the tour will be on your ticket.  total $