

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Annual Meeting, New Board

By John Poole

How quickly the year has passed! I look forward to welcoming you to the annual meeting of the CPHS membership at the Broadmoor on May 19, where we will elect our new board for 2009-2010. Bonnie Lepard, Executive Director of the Tregaron Conservancy, will be talking about historic preservation that is going on right in Cleveland Park.

Last month CPHS held its first Preservation Café event at Ardeo. There were many compliments from the capacity crowd about Ardeo's food and the illustrated talk by Bruce Wentworth, a Chevy Chase architect and remodeling contractor. I invite you to visit Bruce's website [www.wentworthstudio.com](http://www.wentworthstudio.com).

Then, in your next stroll around the neighborhood, check out some of the houses and styles that Bruce talked about, including Queen Annes and Colonials. I once heard a member of the Historic Preservation Review Board say that Highland Place is the loveliest street in Washington. And to me, the most exotic residence in our neighborhood is the vine-covered bungalow secluded in a garden at 3615 Macomb; it could be an illustration for a fairy tale.

The Historical Society continues to look for ways to maintain the vitality of the Connecticut Ave. shopping strip, to support our local merchants and attract new ones. This was the subject of a very interesting panel discussion May 7, sponsored by the Cleveland Park Citizens Association. CPHS is already discussing plans for another Cleveland Park Day, a celebration of the neighborhood that was so popular some years ago. And we urge you to support our merchants in what is an integral part of the historic district and neighborhood.

## First Preservation Café Rated a Big Success

By Lar Ann May

A sell-out crowd of more than 50 CPHS members and guests enjoyed good food, drink, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn about historic architecture at the inaugural CPHS Preservation Café on April 28 at Ardeo's. "What was great about the evening," said one long-time resident,

"was not only the subject, but the chance to meet so many new neighbors."

Guest speaker was architect Bruce Wentworth, AIA, of Wentworth Studio, who has worked in the Washington, DC area for more than 20 years. With an enlightening PowerPoint presentation featuring the homes of Cleveland Park, Mr. Wentworth discussed the various types of architecture in the neighborhood and fielded questions from the crowd. For information on residential architectural styles in the DC metro area online, see his website at [www.askthearchitect.org](http://www.askthearchitect.org).

The May Preservation Café will be held in conjunction with the CPHS Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 19, at 7 p.m. at The Broadmoor. The speaker will be Bonnie LePard, Executive Director of the Tregaron Conservancy, who will discuss the Conservancy's progress and plans for restoring the



*Café Society, starring architect Bruce Wentworth*

historical woodland gardens and its many architectural features. In addition, she will update us on the Conservancy's most recent discoveries.

Future Preservation Café topics will include Tips for Improving Garden Walls, Walks, and Steps; Container and Outdoor Gardening; Windows, Walls and Wood Floors; and How to Research Your Home's History. If you know of a speaker or a topic you think might be of interest to our membership, please let us know.



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VOICES designed by Melissa Allen Design

# A Nostalgic Walk with Captain Lynn

by Rhona Hartman

To stroll through the streets of Cleveland Park with "Captain" South T. Lynn is to go on a tour with a guide who has lived through much of the neighborhood's history.

"In 1927 I was born in a house on Quebec Street [3700] and lived there until 1956 when I got married," said Lynn, tall and muscular, with a thatch of snowy hair and a youthful face that belies his 82 years.

Lynn regularly takes a nostalgic walk through Cleveland Park, meandering from his business, Universal Floors, which he runs with his sons on Wisconsin Avenue and 41<sup>st</sup> St., to a Bank of America branch on Connecticut Avenue across from the Uptown. "Not much has changed," he continued, "since most of the houses and other buildings are low and as they were then."

He recalls fondly his life as a child in Cleveland Park. In 1932, he was in the first kindergarten class at Hearst School. Children played on a field that FDR's Depression-era Works Progress Administration (WPA) built on property that had belonged to an Admiral Grayson. Later, Lynn and his buddies delivered groceries for the Sanitary Market (later Safeway, and now Brookville). He hawked newspaper "Extras" in front of the Uptown on Dec. 7, 1941, the day Japan bombed Pearl Harbor.

After serving in the Navy for two years, he returned home at the end of WWII. He and his buddies hung out in the Zephyr, Devonshire, and Four Seasons neighborhood bars. They heard Nat King Cole at the Brown Derby on Connecticut, a few doors north of



Posed amidst their stock in trade are (L-R) "Capt." South T. Lynn and his sons, Sprigg and South, Jr.

Macomb, ate at the Roma Restaurant and went to the movies at the Uptown. And sometimes they sat on the curb to watch TV in the corner window of Sears, Roebuck and Co. (on Wisconsin Ave.) or took the streetcar to Glen Echo to dance at the Spanish Ballroom.

Lynn comes by his honorary title as a captain in Company G of the 18<sup>th</sup> Regiment of Virginia through regular participation in Civil War battle reenactments at Gettysburg. His passion is shared by his sons and a daughter, who have been Civil War reenactors as well. Some years ago, he purchased the Kennedy Farmhouse near Harper's Ferry, which was the staging area for John Brown's raid in 1859.

His father, David Lynn, was an architect of the United States Capitol, where young South spent time at the Capitol Page School and worked as an elevator operator. His mother collected historical information, which Lynn has transferred to a website on the family tree.



## CPHS WANTS YOU!



For membership, go to [clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org)





By Robin Berrington

If you want to get in touch with your inner artist, try All Fired Up on Connecticut Ave. First, you select a ceramic item or an unfinished bisque plate, say, or perhaps a figurine of a dog. Then, with a rainbow of paints and stencils, you dab away. The staff adds a protective glaze and then fires the product. A week later, *voilà!* You have a work of art. You pay the cost of the unfinished item, from a high of \$60 for a large platter to a low of \$2 for small accessories.

The clientele is mainly kids, of course, but adults have a fine time, too. Thursday night is women's night. Friday includes a happy hour, from 6 to 9 p.m., when people may bring in food and drink. There have been office parties and fundraisers, as well.

The store opened in May 2004. Owner Liz Winchell is quick to credit her staff, an enthusiastic bunch of arts education students from Montgomery College, AU, UDC and Wilson High School who thrive on creativity. A few months ago, a man painted a ceramic box in which he placed an engagement ring. Others have decorated ceramic Oscars to honor local thespians. The shop stocks Obama busts so you can create your own version of the new president.



Everyone's an artist at All Fired Up

## Book Clubs for Speedy Readers

By Danny Ince

Two exceptional book clubs exist in Cleveland Park. One neighbor calls them the "touchy, feely book clubs" because its members touch and feel the books and pass them along in a week or two. No meetings. No discussion.

The first of the two pass-around book clubs began at the home of Mrs. Joseph Fairbanks, 3319 Newark Street on Feb. 3, 1932. Records from 1952 say that the 64 books circulated that year included *The Caine Mutiny*, *East of Eden* and Ansel Adams' *My Camera in the National Parks*. Good picks!

The club became so popular that, in 1977, people who could not get in started Cleveland Park Book Club II. This year's list includes *The Bishop's Daughter*, *Franklin and Lucy*, *Neerland* and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*.

Members say that while they miss the intellectual discussion, they're nudged into books that are new and outside

their usual interests. Besides, said one resident, "We don't need the excuse of a book club to get together. We're always meeting to discuss some project or problem."

Here's how the clubs work: Between October and June 1, members pass books to the next house on the list—two books a week for Club I (32 households) and two books every two weeks for Club II (18 households). Every spring, each club meets (at last!) for a book auction. The proceeds, plus small annual dues, buys the books for the next year. For more information, contact BCI president

Ruth Caplan  
at 244-8566

or BCII  
president  
Susan Lenderking  
at suechan57@  
yahoo.com.





## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Art for Adults Sunday, May 31

Attention artists. Here's a chance to sharpen your skills. CPHS is offering a special drawing class for adults, Sunday, May 31. Taught by experienced architect and drawing instructor Rick Vitullo ([www.vitullostudio.com](http://www.vitullostudio.com)), the class will meet at 12:30 p.m. at the Washington International School's dacha. Students will sketch some of the neighborhood's outstanding treasures, then return to the dacha to have their work critiqued by Vitullo.

This class is open to students with some experience with art,

drawing or watercolor—it is not a class for true beginners. Students will draw the subject first freehand before painting. Supply lists will be distributed to registrants in advance of the program. There is a \$40 fee. Please mail your registration checks to: Cleveland Park Historical Society, P.O. Box 4862, Washington, DC 20008.



### Exploring Architecture with Kids Saturday, June 6

Attention kids. Join us for a new CPHS program, Neighborhoods of Washington, DC — Cleveland Park, for children age 6-12 and their parents. The program is \$15/per child and is presented in conjunction with the Washington Architecture Foundation of the Washington chapter of the AIA (American Institute of Architects). Participants will tour the neighborhood and learn about basic architecture, then have a chance to design and build their own model home. There is only space for 15 children, so get your reservation in soon.

For additional information, please get in touch with the Cleveland Park Historical Society at [staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org) or 202-237-2538 or see our website: [www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org)



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