At CPHS's Annual Meeting, Tersh Boasberg Urges CPHS to Craft CP Guidelines and to Work with Other DC Historic Districts

by Susan Lynner

The Washington International School kindly lent CPHS the use of Davies Hall in the WIS mansion for the 2006 CPHS annual meeting on May 23. A great member turnout on a beautiful spring evening saw the installation of new board members, led by incoming CPHS president Joan Habib, who takes over from Lois Orr, as Lois moves to vice president/programs, and a warm send-off to retiring board members. Nominating committee chairman John Buchanan remarked that the quality of the new members testifies to the continued support CPHS enjoys among an incredibly talented pool of neighbors. CPHS outreach coordinator Judy Hubbard distributed 28 historic markers to Cleveland Park neighbors for homes throughout the historic district, bringing the number of Cleveland Park historic markers bought since the program’s inception to 158, according to former CPHS president Steve Cohen, who originated the program. Retiring membership chair Kathe McDaniels reported that 482 households in the historic district belong to CPHS. Danna McCormick, incoming membership chair, has assembled a new database with help from an American University student that should help us reach out for more members among the approximately 1,309 households in the historic district, including apartment residents.

...continued on page 3
The President’s Letter
by Joan Habib

I am so delighted to be able to work on the substantial and vigorous foundation that you and all the previous Officers, Board Members, ARC and CPHS Member/Supporters have built for the Cleveland Park Historical Society over the past 20 years. Special thanks to Lois Orr for her efforts over the last three years and to John Buchanan and the Nominating Committee for adding truly stellar folks to the Board, and especially to Tersh Boasberg for getting it all started and continuing to care.

In my opinion, Cleveland Park is the best place in the world to live. We have been successful in maintaining that reputation. In conjunction with several other equally dedicated neighborhood organizations, CPHS has done much to ensure that it continues to be the best. Together we have added two huge public green spaces to our neighborhood which might otherwise have seen unsatisfactory development. With your help we will continue to provide services to our membership, meet our obligations to historic preservation, and have some fun along the way.

We'll be planting more trees, having house and garden tours, and planning other events for your participation. If there are activities you'd enjoy, issues you'd like us to address, products you'd like to see, or other ways in which we can make your membership in the organization more satisfying, give me a call. You are the Cleveland Park Historical Society.

Thank You, Lois Orr!
by Judy Hubbard (on behalf of all CPHS members)

We all owe a debt of gratitude to Lois Orr for her three years of service as CPHS president. Lois assumed the presidency after retirement from the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Even while she was employed, Lois was the CPHS VP for Programs and a member of the Architectural Review Committee, on which she continues to serve today.

It hasn’t been much of a retirement for Lois. In three years, she has chaired a dozen board meetings and more than a dozen executive committee meetings. The next time you see the Okame cherry trees in the triangle at 34th between Porter and Ordway Streets, know that Lois made that happen. Lois was also a key player in the formation of the city-wide Historic District Coalition. Along with many others she put in countless hours on the final resolution of the Tregaron estate. Lois talked of a house tour from the moment she became a CPHS member and in the fall of 2003 she succeeded in helping to organize the first neighborhood house tour in over 15 years. For our recent Garden Walk when docents were scarce, she did double-duty on two gardens, half the time standing on the sidewalk in the rain. She will continue on the board as VP for Programs so expect more good things from this hard-working woman.

To contact members of the CPHS executive committee, the Architectural Review Committee, the Tree Committee, Voices editors, or Outreach Coordinator Judy Hubbard, please go to the CPHS website at clevelandparkdc.org, click on Directory in the top bar, and then click on the person you wish to contact.
Nancy Skinkle, co-chair of the CPHS Architectural Review Committee, said that only about 13 projects were submitted for ARC approval in the past year, about half the number of projects from the year before.

Guest speaker Tersh Boasberg, CPHS founding president and current chairman of the city’s Historic Preservation Review Board, began his keynote remarks with a salute to the early foot soldiers in the campaign to establish the Cleveland Park historic district, many of whom who were in the audience, and the ongoing work of the CPHS ARC under co-chairs Nancy Skinkle and Christine Hobbs. He also led a heartfelt round of applause honoring Bonnie LePard, our Macomb Street neighbor whose Herculean efforts as president of Friends of Tregaron have finally yielded a workable plan for limited Tregaron development and the preservation of 13 acres of the estate in a new Tregaron Conservancy. Tersh also cited the hard work and support for Tregaron’s preservation by CPHS, the ANC, including Commissioner Nancy MacWood, and George Idelson, Cleveland Park Citizens Association president, both of whom were at the meeting (for more on Tregaron, see page 4 of this newsletter). And Tersh recognized the successful efforts to establish the Rosedale Conservancy, with a particular nod to Eleni Constantine and Jonathan Abram for their restoration of the Rosedale Farmhouse.

With Rosedale and Tregaron rescued from inappropriate development, the two great greenswards of Cleveland Park are now secured, he said. So, what’s next for Cleveland Park? Tersh urged us to keep a vigilant guard over the vulnerable “edges” of the historic district. And he asked us to think about the relationships between the “built” and natural environments in an historic district. Tersh said that HPRB understands that homeowners who can afford to buy a house in Cleveland Park and other sought-after neighborhoods will want to build additions, which may cause tensions between neighbors. Interestingly, he said that HPRB prefers additions that do not attempt to mimic the original structure, but are distinguishable from it, and said that modern notes are not rejected out of hand. He also urged CPHS to develop building guidelines with a particular Cleveland Park flavor, which might offer criteria with respect to the size of an addition (for instance, should 50% be a working cap?). He strongly suggested prior consultations with neighbors and working with an architect before approaching the ARC and HPRB.

Tersh introduced Anne Brockett, an architectural historian who is the HPRB staff person for Cleveland Park, Takoma Park and Capitol Hill. Tersh asked CPHS to support more funding for HPRB, noting that HPRB has only five professional staffers to process 4,500 permit applications annually—contrasted with New York City’s 25 professional staffers. And Tersh urged us to participate in the DC Historic District Coalition, an effort to work for comprehensive preservation policies among the city’s 27 historic districts, covering about 25,000 properties.
"At Last, Tregaron Belongs to Us"

by Susan Lynner

The Causeway, Tersh Boasberg, chairman of the city's Historic Preservation Review Board, applauded Bonnie, Greg, CPHS, CPCA, Nancy MacWood and the other ANC commissioners, and all the other hard workers who helped secure Tregaron's happy future, along with HPRB planner Steve Callcott and Ellen McCarthy, Director of the DC Office of Planning. Tersh said that his wife—and gardening/greenspace authority—Sally Boasberg reminded him incessantly that Tregaron was a property worth saving, since Tregaron is apparently both the sole remaining extant landscape design by Ellen Biddle Shipman and the only known pairing of Shipman's work with a residential design by architect Charles Adams Platt.

So began the invitation to join the Friends of Tregaron and the Washington International School on a crystalline Sunday evening May 21 to celebrate the successful conclusion of Tregaron's odyssey from imperiled landscape to a new Tregaron Conservancy and a park open to the public. FOT President Bonnie LePard deserves the entire neighborhood's thanks for the years of work that yielded the HPRB-blessed arrangement that will put 13 acres of Tregaron in a conservancy, while allowing the construction of two homes on Macomb and one on Kingle. But Bonnie is the first to say that the devotion of many volunteers over more than two decades led to this happy result—and the first to remind us that the success of the conservancy will require much more sustained dedication in the years to come. Some of those volunteers led us through the overgrown bridle paths and near the now-obscured lily pond to give us a sense of the immense job involved in rehabilitating these 13 acres. It may take upwards of $100,000 a year to do the conservancy's work annually, once the initial work is done, we were told.

But that Sunday evening was a time to savor the present and the deal that will preserve Tregaron. WIS board chairman Greg Schmidt welcomed the gathering on the mansion terrace. With children happily playing on the lush green lawn that falls to...
**Beautification Committee Needs Volunteers**

For many years Cleveland Park neighbors Kathleen Kaye, Catherine Armington, and Linda Greensfelder have been tending several of the tree boxes on Connecticut Avenue. They would love some help from other neighbors. Please email Kathleen at kmkaye@aol.com if you can provide some assistance with the Connecticut Avenue Beautification Project.

Here is Bonnie LePard’s look back at the campaign to save Tregaron and FOT’s vision of Tregaron’s future from the invitation to the FOT/WIS reception:

**“At Last, Tregaron Belongs to Us”**

Over the past 25 years, the Friends of Tregaron, along with the Cleveland Park Historical Society, the Cleveland Park Citizens Association and a multitude of neighbors in Woodley Park, have banded together to stop many massive developments that have threatened historic Tregaron Estate. Thanks to overwhelming community support, we have successfully fought off projects that ranged up to 200 houses.

With the landscape deteriorating by decades of neglect – and with the Historic Preservation Review Board giving concept approval to houses on the site – neighborhood organizations realized a global resolution was needed. One year and thousands of hours later, we completed a detailed and extremely protective settlement. In exchange for very limited development on the property’s edges with minimal impact on the historic integrity, the owners will donate 13 acres to the new Tregaron Conservancy. Those 13 acres will never be developed. Instead, the land will remain as open space and open to the public.

Soon, the Conservancy will begin clean-up and stabilization of the property. Eventually, there will be new plantings and landscaping. We will restore the extensive bridle paths and pedestrian trails throughout the Estate. The meadow around the twin oak tree and the lily pond will be rehabilitated. In the future, the Tregaron Conservancy will host lectures, guided walks, and cultural events – all open to the public and at no charge.

None of this preservation would have happened without the neighborhood’s stalwart support. We want to thank you by holding a party to celebrate this historic triumph!

Anne Brockett, the HPRB staffer responsible for Cleveland Park, may be reached at 202-442-8842 or anne.brockett@dc.gov. To report construction projects that may not be properly permitted, please call one of the city’s historic preservation building inspectors, Toni Cheri, 202-442-8844, or Keith Lambert, 202-442-8837, or email them at historic.preservation@dc.gov. Give the inspectors the address of the property in question. You do not have to leave your name, but leaving contact information allows inspectors to follow up and respond to callers if warranted.

One year later, the cherry trees in the Orway/34th Street triangle are flourishing

**The Tree Care Column**

CPHS Tree Committee: Patrick Gonzalez, John Poole, and Chris Rose

Our neighborhood has been fortunate to have had so many street trees planted in the last three years. The rainfall of 2004 and early 2005 gave trees a great boost. This year, however, the dearth of rain in March and low rainfall in May have stressed trees planted last fall and this spring. In addition, the prediction is for a hot and dry summer. Here’s what we can do to help the street trees take root and grow:

- once a week, water trees that were planted in the last two years.
- water slowly and use 10 to 20 gallons if there has been no rain.
- water the whole area that is shaded by the tree’s branches.
- a gator bag is fine but take the bag off when you are done watering so the tree trunk can breath.
- adopt a street tree if your neighbors can’t take care of it.

If you see street trees that you think are hazardous, call 202-727-1000 or e-mail the DC government’s service request center (Tree Maintenance) on the http://dc.gov homepage website. In your report, give the address or location where the tree is located.

CPHS is interested in knowing about city spaces where neighbors would like to have trees. Please contact John Poole, Patrick Gonzalez or Chris Rose with that information or if you have questions about trees.
Connecticut Ave/Klinge Bridge Contractor Wants Cleveland Park Input

We are reprinting this letter from the contractor for the Connecticut Avenue bridge spanning Klinge Road to keep you abreast of impending work on the bridge.

Dear Cleveland Park Residents,

My name is Fariborz Navidi-Kasmai, P.E., and I am the project manager for A&M Concrete Corporation. Our company is the low bidder for the Rehabilitation and Replacement of The Connecticut Avenue Bridge Over Klinge Valley with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT). We have established a website for the project, www.klingevalleybridge.com, and welcome you to visit it and provide any comments that may help us in communicating with you, and making it an effective tool for executing the project. We have placed a copy of the project's plans and specifications on the website for everyone's perusal. DDOT will also be launching a public media campaign regarding the project as the start date draws closer.

We are hoping to start construction activities in about two months, and hope to be a good neighbor while rehabilitating this historic bridge in your neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Fariborz Navidi-Kasmai, P.E.
Senior Project Manager
A&M Concrete Corporation
7202 Arlington Blvd., Suite 208
Falls Church, Va. 22042
Tel: (703)876-0634
Fax: (703)876-0636
Cell: (703)675-1024
eFax: (240)337-0407

In Memoriam: Charles Atherton

Charles Atherton

It was with great sadness that this past winter we lost our friend and Newark Street neighbor, Charles Atherton. I was fortunate to have conducted a three-hour interview with Charlie for this newsletter last spring. The interview can be found in the spring 2005 issue of Voices.

- Judy Hubbard
**WASHINGTON CONSIGNMENT**

**A CAPITAL CLASSIC**

Washington Consignment is an upscale, high-end consignment establishment with three branches, two of which are in Cleveland Park: 3226 Wisconsin Avenue opened in February 2005; 3418 Connecticut Avenue opened in November 2005, and a third store opened in Rockville in January 2006. Washington Consignment's Connecticut Avenue store was the site of the historical society's President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland exhibit in September 2005.

Washington Consignment is owned by a very interesting young man named John Coon. A little over a year ago John needed to furnish his new home in Wesley Heights. He started making the rounds of consignment stores, got hooked on the business, and in just twelve months he owned three consignment stores! Besides juggling the three stores and a family, he owns a construction company, Household Inc., which he has operated for eleven years. That could explain the beautiful yellow walls and faux finishes on the two Cleveland Park stores.

Items sell very quickly according to Judith Carrig, the Operations Manager for all three stores. There is a 94% sales rate before the first mark down. Judith and John met at another consignment store when she sold him a zebra-skin rug which he still owns. John loves animals and each store has its resident mascot. The Wisconsin Avenue store has a bird named Q.T. and the Connecticut Avenue store has Lord Cameron, a sphinx, a rare breed of hairless cat. (3226 Wisconsin Avenue: open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sunday 12 noon-4:00 p.m.; telephone 363-4626; 3418 Connecticut Avenue: open Tuesday through Saturday 12 noon-7:00 p.m.; Sunday 12 noon-4:00 p.m.; telephone 364-2495; both stores are closed on Mondays; consignments by appointment at the Wisconsin Avenue store Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; washington-consignment@verizon.net)

**Imaj Hair Salon**

Imaj is a full service salon offering hair cuts for men, women, and children; one process hair color; highlights (full, partial, low); evening style updo and wedding updo; permanents, etc. Rukiye runs the nail and waxing services of the salon. She also does eyebrow and full face threading. Before opening Imaj, she was at Okyo in Georgetown and the two men were at Macomb Hair Salon across from Two Amys. Recep, Rukiye, and John all knew each other when they worked in hair salons in their native Ankara, Turkey. The three live in Virginia now but were familiar with the Cleveland Park neighborhood. The name Imaj is a derivation of the word “image” in Turkish. They continue to improve and upgrade the interior of the salon and have settled nicely into the community. Imaj is now my salon of choice. (Open Monday 10:00-7:00; Tuesday through Friday 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m.; and, Saturday 8:30 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; telephone 966-7979 or 966-7980; fax 966-4343).

**The New Metro Canopies**

Like them or hate them, the canopies covering the entrance to our Metro stations are here to stay. All the Metro canopies throughout the Washington, DC region have the same design. The Commission on Fine Arts spent a great deal of time on their design, which did not undergo the DC Historic Preservation Review process and so did not come before the CPHS Architectural Review Committee.
170 Hardy Souls Braved Threatening Skies for CPHS's Fifth Garden Tour

by Susan Lynner

CPHS held its fifth garden tour (the first was in 1999) under threatening skies that turned into a downright downpour on Mother's Day, May 14. Despite the gray skies, CPHS sold about 170 tickets to the stalwart souls who turned out to view 11 very individual and beautiful gardens in Cleveland Park, raising about $1,500 for CPHS. In addition, a terrific crew of docents fielded the two two-hour shifts at the gardens. CPHS is very grateful to those who opened their gardens to the tour and for the write-ups that each garden owner composed for the tour brochure. Thanks, also, to the Cleveland Park Club, which was the starting place for the tour. As then-CPHS president

Above: Sally Boasberg's shade-tolerant "Silver Moon" clematis
Top Right: Down into the depths of the Newlin garden
Bottom Right: An inviting entrance to the Barr/Lazerwitz garden
Facing Page:
Top: Celtic influences in the Crittenden/Henry garden
Center: The Christenberry garden frames Bill Christenberry's studio
Bottom: Susan Talley's green and gold "vertical" garden
Lois Orr noted in the garden tour brochure, special thanks are also due to CPHS outreach coordinator Judy Hubbard for organizing the tour, and to Jane Treacy of Treacy/Eagleburger Associates, who contributed her time and that of her staff toward the brochure's production, and to the contributions of artists Dina Sage and Pat Sacks for the sketches in the brochure.

The gardens featured on the tour were the Talley Garden on Highland Place, the Crittenden/Henry Garden on Lowell Street, the Barr/Lazerwitz Garden on Lowell, the Boasberg Garden on Newark Street, the Lynner Garden on Newark, the Newlin Garden on Newark, the Cox/Berger Garden on Newark, the Christenberry Garden on Macomb, the Nisenson Garden on Ordway, the Graham/DiCarlo Garden on Ordway, and the adjacent Leader/Aurbach Garden on Ordway. All the gardens offered different perspectives and/or solutions to Cleveland Park's steeply raked hillsides, shade, and oddly-shaped lots or just the expression of personal preferences. The Crittenden/Henry garden, for instance, embodies a truly unique Celtic sensibility in Cleveland Park, contrasted with the emphasis on native plants in the Nisenson garden designed by Newark Street neighbor Susan Hornbostel. The two side-by-side Ordway gardens offered clues to dealing with Cleveland Park's hillsides. Artist Bill Christenberry opened both his garden and his studio to the tour. And Sally Boasberg's garden, an extraordinary creation that fuses vision with terrain, shade and an eye for the unusual, is an inspiration to the green thumb in all of us.
March 18 Appraisal Day
by Judy Hubbard

I wish we could have called it the Cleveland Park Antiques Road Show, because that is what it was, but a certain TV show might get upset. Appraisal Day was originally scheduled with three Weschler’s appraisers for Saturday, March 11. Weschler’s Auctioneers and Appraisers has been a family-owned business since 1890; currently 10 family members work for the firm. The firm has three appraisers, two generalists and one with a specialty in jewelry, watches, and coins. They do weekend appraisal days frequently, set the two-hour limit, and do not charge for their services. Weeks before the event, the appraisers had to change the date to March 18 and said they could only provide two appraisers. I returned home after the event to find a startling phone message from Stephen Ackerman, the collector of the Cleveland memorabilia that was on display in September of 2005. March 18 was Grover Cleveland’s birthday! He was born March 18, 1837. What a marketing tool that would have been.

Thirty-five people pre-registered and approximately 85-100 attended. Yes, people waited in line but that is how it works, according to the appraisers, brothers John and Bill Weschler. We made about $700 for the historical society; people got up to three appraisals for their entrance fee and had fun. It was a real community event with neighbors in the kitchen for the food and beverages and to swap stories of their high (or often low) appraisals. We may change the format a bit, but we do plan to have another Appraisal Day in the future.

Editor’s note: After four years as editor of Voices, I am handing the job over to Lewis and Carol Simons, Macomb Street neighbors who are both veteran journalists. Lewis is a Pulitzer Prize winner, and Carol is an executive editor of the AARP Bulletin. CPHS is very lucky to have the benefit of their experience in the next chapter of Voices. My thanks to everyone who has helped me with Voices over the years, but especially to Judy Hubbard whose contributions are essential to each issue.

— Susan Lynner

New DC Homeowners Center
to Help with Permit Approvals

The January 6, 2006 press release from the DC Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs about the new Homeowners Center to help DC resident get building permits is excerpted below; the full press release is also on the CPHS website at clevelandparkdc.org; for more information, please go to the DCRA home page at http://dcra.dc.gov/dcra/site/default.asp.

New Permit Procedure from DCRA
January 6, 2006

The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs has developed an exciting new resource to help homeowners get building permits more easily in Washington, DC. The Homeowners Center will provide prompt and expert assistance to DC homeowners who are seeking building permits for home improvement projects.

The expert staff is ready to provide clear information about permitting regulations and the permitting process, inform homeowners about permit requirements for their specific projects, conduct plan reviews, and issue permits. All this is designed to make getting a permit as convenient as possible. On-site kiosks will help make the permit process easier for homeowners.

The Homeowners Center will serve District residents by appointment and by walk-in. In addition, the Homeowners Center offers the Permit Wizard, a user-friendly computer program that will make paperwork a snap.

DCRA’s Homeowners Center is located in Suite 2102 at 941 North Capitol Street Northeast. It is open to the public 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Homeowners Center will serve homeowners by appointment and by walk-in.
The CPHS Reference Shelf

Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles and Building Types is a 1998 publication developed by CPHS with support from the National Trust for Historic Preservation and written by Cherrie Anderson and Kathleen Sinclair Wood, with drawings by John Wiebenson.

Tregaron: A Magical Place is a 2002 publication by long-time Washington International School employee Kirstine Larsen.

Images of America: Cleveland Park by Paul K. Williams and Kelton C. Higgins is a 2003 publication from Arcadia Publishing containing a sweeping pictorial history of Cleveland Park.


Cleveland Park is a 1904 real estate brochure reprinted in the 1980s by the Columbia Historical Society (now the Historical Society of Washington, D.C.) with fascinating photographs of the neighborhood's historic houses and Connecticut Avenue in that era.

The CPHS Reference Shelf Order Form

Please send me:

[ ] copy/copies of Cleveland Park: A Guide to Architectural Styles and Building Types $8 CPHS members; $12 non-members; postage & handling: $1.50 per copy

[ ] copy/copies of Tregaron: A Magical Place $16 CPHS members; $22 non-members; postage & handling: $3.00 first copy; $1.50 each additional copy

[ ] copy/copies of Images of America: Cleveland Park $16 CPHS members; $20 non-members; postage & handling: $3.00 first copy; $1.50 each additional copy

[ ] copy/copies of Rosedale, the Eighteenth Century Estate of General Uriah Forrest, Cleveland Park, Washington, D.C. $16 CPHS members, $22 non-members; postage & handling: $3.00 first copy; $1.50 each additional copy

[ ] copy/copies of Cleveland Park (1904 reprint) $5 for CPHS members and non-members; postage & handling: $1.50 per copy

[ ] TOTAL

Name
Address
City, State, Zip

Checks should be made out to CPHS & mailed to CPHS, P.O. Box 4862, Washington, D.C. 20008.
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:

Danna McCormick, Membership Chair
Cleveland Park Historical Society
P.O. Box 4862
Washington, D.C. 20008

Please make checks payable to the Cleveland Park Historical Society. Many employers provide matching grants for employee contributions to qualified 501 (c)(3) tax-exempt organizations. If your employer does so, please consider including your employer’s matching grant form with your contribution.

Thank you!

Yes! I wish to: □ join □ renew my membership in CPHS at the following level:

□ $35 Individual □ $250 Patron
□ $50 Household □ $500 Angel
□ $100 Sponsor □ Other $

Name (please print)
Address
City, State & Zip Code
Daytime phone __________________ Evening phone __________________
E-Mail Address __________________

□ Architectural Review Committee (ARC)
□ Beautification
□ House & Garden Tours
□ Mailings
□ Membership
□ Newsletter
□ Tree Planting
□ Other __________________
□ I am interested in being considered for the CPHS Board of Directors as openings become available

Cleveland Park Historical Society
PO Box 4862
Washington D.C. 20008

(202)363-6358