

## President's Letter

### CPHS Annual Meeting Set For Tuesday

By Joan Habib

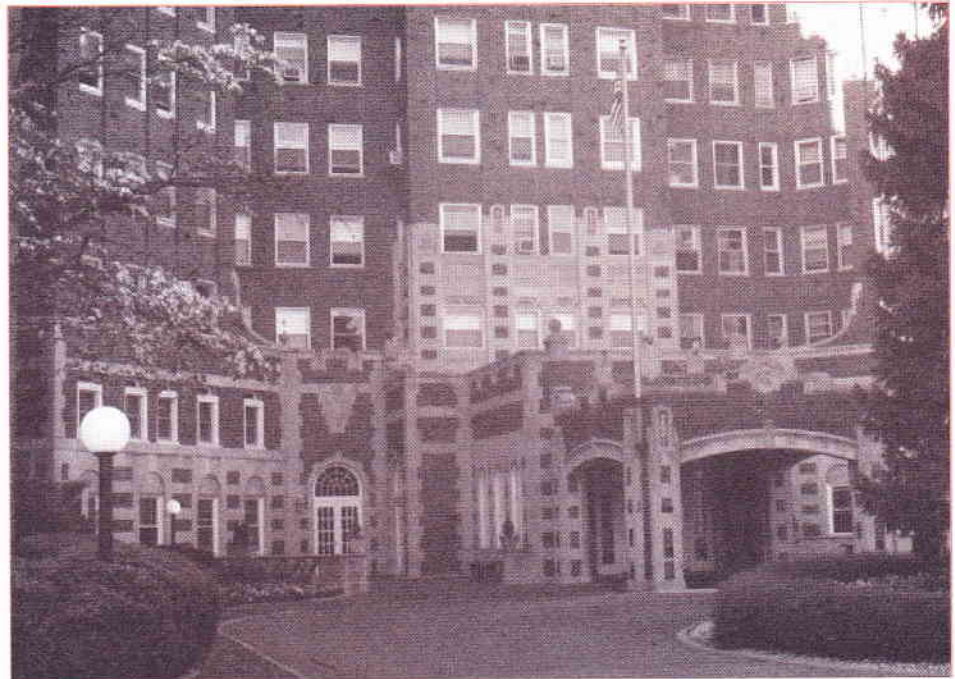
Cleveland Park Historical Society begins its 23rd year with the 2008 Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 20 at 7:30 p.m., at the Broadmoor on Connecticut Ave. and Porter. Brendan Meyer of the District's Historic Preservation Office, will present a short, informative talk on the architecture of the great apartment buildings of the early 20th Century in the District of Columbia.

At the meeting, CPHS members will be asked to vote for our new Board Members to replace those leaving their posts. (Terms for Board Members may not exceed six years.) Our nominating committee has come up with the following list of potential new Board Members.

- Aurora Ferrari *Rodman Street*
- Kitty Forest *Woodley Road*
- Thor Halvorson *Lowell Street*
- Rona Hartman *The Broadmoor*
- Paul London *Ross Place*
- Sarah Mathias *Highland Place*
- Marilyn Page *Lowell Street*
- Margo Wilson *Macomb Street*

On a personal note, at long last, houseguests are welcome to stay in my home again. CPHS has rented a small commercial space as an office in the Broadmoor at 3601 Connecticut Ave. (See page 4.) I am thrilled to have our files, computers, phone, books, photos and other paraphernalia moved to a more appropriate place. Please take a look when you come to the annual meeting.

Even more thrilling was the hiring of a new Administrative Director for CPHS. Lou Ann May will be working in our cheerful new location and we look forward to seeing all of our material updated, appropriately filed and professionally maintained by this talented woman.



*The Broadmoor*

## CPHS Office Opens In Historic Broadmoor

After more than two years of encroaching on President Joan Habib's spare bedroom, the CPHS office has a real home, an appropriate one, in the historic Broadmoor apartment building, at the corner of Connecticut and Porter.

The new office is located on the ground floor midway down the hall to the left of the lobby—visitors must announce themselves at the front desk. It will house a library of publications and various items for sale, including the CPHS DVD, "I Am Cleveland Park," which traces 200 years of neighborhood history. The phone number is 237-2538; the office will be open from 10 a.m.-noon Monday-Friday.

Built between 1927 and 1929 in the eclectic style typical of the period, the Broadmoor was one of Connecticut Avenue's first luxury rental apartment

buildings. It became a residential cooperative in 1948 and remains one of the capital's most distinguished residences.

The 194-unit, red-brick structure stands on five acres of handsomely manicured land. It is one of the District's rare self-managed co-ops.

Hired just in time to launch the new office is Lou Ann May, who worked with several human services organizations in Colorado before her two children came along. Now they're teen-agers and she is delighted to be back in the workforce. "I know Cleveland Park well," said May. "And I find the people here friendly."

**CPHS WANTS YOU!**

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

## CPHS Board 2007-08

Joan Habib, President

John Buchanan,

Vice President, Legal & Regulatory Affairs

Eleni Constantinou,

Vice President, Historic Preservation

Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford, VP, Programs

Rachelle Levitt, Treasurer

Alison Barr, Secretary

Lewis & Carol Simons, Editors, VOICES

Roz Bejtler, Tony Bullock, Camilla Carpenter,

Anne Clark, Phil Eagleburger & Jane Tracy, Patrick

Gonzales & Christine Róse, Michael Goldstein,

Ann Hamilton, Christine Hobbs, Caroline Krass,

Kay Kohl, Drew Maloney, Danna McCormick,

Kathe McDaniel, John Poole, Peggy Robin,

Anne Hatfield Weil, Gwen Wright

### ARC

Nancy Skinkle, Chair

Christina Hobbs, Co-chair

Anne Hatfield Weil, Gwen Wright, Clair Starr,

Lois Orr, Joan Habib, Maria Casarella,

Phil Eagleburger, Steve Cohen, Anne Grimmer

Lou Ann May,

Activities and Administrative Coordinator

Cleveland Park Historical Society

PO Box 4852, Washington, DC 20008

202-237-CLEV (2538)

email: [CPHSPresident@aol.com](mailto:CPHSPresident@aol.com)

The Cleveland Park Garden Tour : June 8

# Nine Spectacular Gardens

By Barbara Goff

*Cleveland Park, a retreat laid on ridges and rills that still trickle down to Rock Creek, a varied ménage of the small and grand on slopes, valleys, cul-de-sacs, and quiet streets where one can create a garden refuge and disbelieve there is a city nearby. L'Enfant and Washington once sat on a porch here and dreamed of the grandeur to come in the lowlands below.— J.F. Goff*

As many of our giant oaks have died and the disappearing canopy has brought more light into gardens, we gardeners receive new challenges to creativity. As new additions to homes have been added, what once was a bright area may not get much sunlight. Private spaces may now be invaded by overlooking new deck areas and big windows.

How have gardeners met these challenges? You may visit 10 of our neighborhood gardens on Sunday, June 8, from 1 to 5 p.m. Two are built in cul-de-sacs and on slopes. You hear the sound of water, both natural and man-made fountains in several. Formal patterns



and a slight romantic disorder are garbs worn by some. One gardener mixed flowers and veggies and built wooden boxes on the perimeter for sitting while tending the plots.

In past years, this tour has taken place on Mother's Day, but this year it will be a month later, one week before Father's Day, making the plant material more typical of summer than spring. The garden tour is planned to be a relaxed outing, a time for family walking when you can forget your cell phone and day-to-day hassle. Comfortable shoes are a good idea.

The garden tour begins at the CP Congregational Church, 34th and Lowell. Tickets are \$15 for members in advance, \$20 for non-members, and \$20 for all on tour day. For tickets, go to [cphspresident@aol.com](mailto:cphspresident@aol.com).

You will pick up your tour booklet there, which is your ticket to the gardens. A map at the centerfold of the booklet shows tour sites and gives a description of each garden.

Proceed at your own pace. Cookies and tea will be served at the church until about 5:30, so you may stop in whenever you need a break. The church's former victory garden is now a grassy lawn where you and your children may relax. Children 12 and younger are free.

Docents are needed to watch each garden in shifts, 1-3 and 3-5. If you volunteer, you get a free ticket. Call Barbara Goff, 244-6867.



GARDEN TOUR TICKETS are \$15 for members if purchased in advance, \$20 for non-members, and \$20 for all on tour day. To reserve tickets, contact [cphspresident@aol.com](mailto:cphspresident@aol.com).

# John Eaton School: Something Worth Celebrating

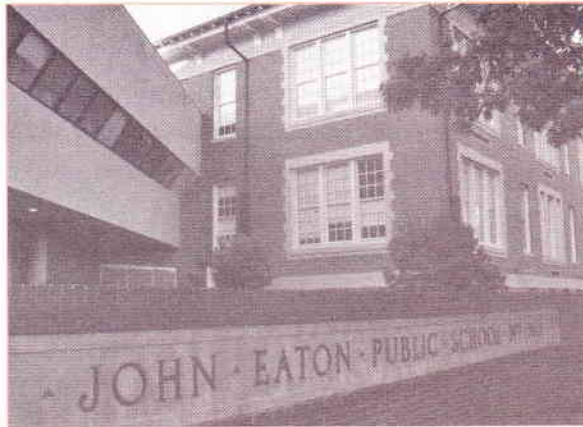
By Robin Berrington

John Eaton School, which celebrates its centennial in 2011, is not your father's elementary school. The Eaton family comprises 411 kindergarteners through sixth graders, more than half of them coming from homes beyond the immediate area. Staff and pupils alike say that every day there is something worth celebrating.

"We aim to create a responsive classroom, that is respectful of individual students and encourages them to think critically," says Principal Jacqueline Gartrell. "We may be diverse, but we share our cultures."

You notice it the minute you pass through the tall front doors on Lowell, just off 34th Street, and see the array of distinctive signs and pictures. Some promote tolerance and diversity ("We are all different but equal.") Some are written in Chinese. On a recent visit, one wall was decorated with Native American themes and designs done by fourth grade students. Nearby were letters and drawings by second graders addressed to Gretchen Groundhog, offering advice on what to do (or not do) on her big day.

Eaton's teaching staff of 40 includes several Eaton parents, computer and



John Eaton School, Lowell and 34th St.

physical education teachers and a librarian. There's also a nurse, counselor, special education coordinator and a kitchen crew that prepares lunch and free breakfasts for some of the children.

The school's volunteer program—mostly parents but also interested neighbors—is what truly sets it apart from many other schools. One of the most successful programs is "Reading Boosters," organized by teachers Laura Broach and Jeanie Mah, which focuses on first graders. Volunteers work once a week with individual students for 45 minutes. Others volunteers help with

"Clean Up Your School Day" and the after-school program from 3:15 to 6:30. All volunteers undergo a security check and a TB test. If you're interested, contact the school at 363-5847.

The Home and School Association (PTA in your father's day) promotes various activities, including an annual auction, a "Back-to-School Barbecue" and a Christmas tree sale in December. HSA funds help support art and

music teachers as well as an annual Halloween parade and musical: this May it will be "Seussical."

"The HSA does a great job of bringing people together, of fostering that sense of community," Gartrell said.

If you're wondering about those Chinese signs, Eaton boasts an elementary Chinese language program for grades four to six that is facilitated by the DC Public Schools with the assistance of the Embassy of China. A native speaker works with the students and, on occasion, an embassy chef treats students to Chinese food.

## The Great Outdoors



# A Time To Prune

By Chris Rose

The tulips and other bulbs were beautiful this spring. With that picture fresh in mind, now is a good time to order bulbs from a good supplier for fall planting.

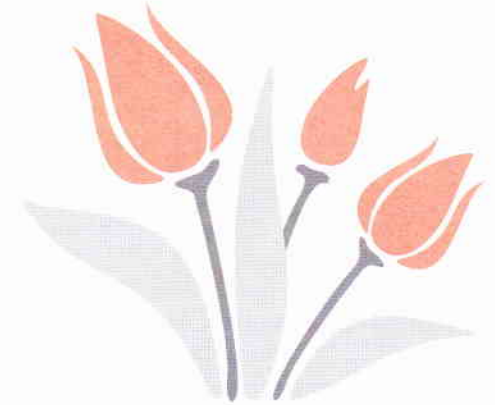
We planted white tulips last fall and almost immediately suffered a squirrel digging frenzy. Despite the attack, this spring the flowerbed was full of white tulips. However, we gained additional colors, similar to those in a neighbor's yard. This could have been the result of a mix-up at the nursery—or a particularly industrious squirrel.

Now that blooming is over, our very large camellia is in need of shaping. I'll leave the pruning to my husband, who

is a more artistic pruner than I am and I'll content myself with the azaleas. A good time to prune flowering shrubs like azaleas is just after spring blooming, so no flowers are sacrificed. For everything you ever wanted to know about azaleas, go to [www.azaleas.org](http://www.azaleas.org). Click on FAQ on the left side.

The Arbor Day Foundation, at [www.arborday.org/trees/](http://www.arborday.org/trees/), is a treasure trove of information about the selection, planting, care, pruning and identification of trees plus the importance of trees in fighting global warming.

The trees originally planted in Cleveland Park have been slowly disappearing over the years. We are fortunate in the city's



emphasis and that of organizations like Casey Trees in planting new ones. Many young trees have established themselves, thanks to the care that residents have given newly planted trees during past droughts. Life in the city is tough and stressful on trees. You can do your part by adopting and caring for a newly planted tree if your neighbor cannot—we all benefit from strong, healthy trees.

# Third CPHS Antiques Appraisal Day Reaps Rich Rewards

By Joan Habib

Neither chill nor drizzle could keep antique-owning Cleveland Parkers from learning the value and authenticity of their treasures at the third annual Antiques Appraisal Day, Saturday, March 8. The Washington International School's Davies Hall, in the old mansion at Tregaron, provided an appropriate backdrop for the fantastic array of collectibles they presented to the

appraisers of the Potomack Company of Alexandria.

Fifty or so collectors arrived in a steady stream for their designated appointments with the experts—Anne Craner, whose specialties are prints and paintings; Ellen Jenkins, ceramics, porcelain and silver; Pamela Cole, who does silver as well as decorative arts; Pietr Palowski, furniture; and Therese Hillyer.

Among the many unusual items were a Victorian silver candlestick in the form of a running woman in a flowing gown holding a candle, an intricately inlaid Jacobean chest and a large bronze casting depicting a group of people. Perhaps the most pleasantly surprised presenter



was Kitty Forest, who learned that day that the small paintings she had inherited from her Russian-born father were considerably more valuable than she presumed. She quickly arranged to have them insured.

Preliminary planning is already underway for the fourth annual Appraisal Day, next year. It's not too soon to begin checking the back of the cupboard or the basement closet for the piece that may stun the appraisers in 2009.



**MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDAR!**

## **BE THERE!**

**CPHS ANNUAL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 20, 7:30 p.m.

At The Broadmoor, Connecticut and Porter

## **GARDEN TOUR**

**Sunday, June 8, 1-5 p.m.**

To reserve tickets, go to  
[CPHSPresident@aol.com](mailto:CPHSPresident@aol.com)



Cleveland Park Historical Society  
PO Box 4862  
Washington, DC 20008  
202.363.6358

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
WASHINGTON, D.C.  
PERMIT NO. 1415