



VOICES

CLEVELAND PARK HISTORICAL SOCIETY



www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

By John Poole

I hope to see you and your friends at our Home Tour on November 1. Many of the houses on the Tour are on or near Highland Place, which is one of Cleveland Park's, and the City's, great treasures. I once heard a member of the Historic Preservation Review Board (not a resident of our neighborhood) tell a crowded hearing room that it was the loveliest street in Washington. You may well agree.

We have the good news that, after much effort and perseverance, our Call Box Committee has found a way to deal with the last of the many technical and financial issues that were involved to complete the Project. The remaining two of the original 15 crumbling ancient call boxes in Cleveland Park will soon be fully rebuilt, restored and decorated with art by one of our neighbors. These beautiful and instructive objects will need attention and maintenance in the future to ensure that they stay beautiful; CPHS is committing time and funds to make sure that happens.

ROMP, now led by Leah Thayer, is another neighborhood program that CPHS originally started. Working with the City as we have on Call Boxes, ROMP was responsible for transforming another aging landmark in Cleveland Park, the Macomb Street Playground, into a beautiful and bustling place for children and families.

We like to hear from you and get your feedback; feel free to contact me or Lou Ann May in the CPHS Office with your questions or suggestions. Romp will launch a project to ensure that the playground remains well cared for. It deserves our support.

Cleveland Park Home Tour Set for Nov 1

By Melanie Gibbons

For years, Cleveland Park has opened its doors for what is one of the area's most historic home tours. This year, the Cleveland Park Home Tour will be held on Sunday, November 1 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and will begin at the newly renovated National Child Research Center Preschool (NCRC) at 3209 Highland Place. NCRC's extensive renovation, completed this past December, is a wonderful example of integrating modern necessities and safety features within an historic structure. For young students and neighbors alike, the renovation is a great success and a highlight of the house tour. We welcome you to start the tour at NCRC, where refreshments will be served.

Tickets can be purchased in advance by check or at NCRC the day of the tour. Ticket prices are \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members.



If purchased the day of, all tickets prices will be \$30. Proceeds from the tour benefit CPHS.

Please join us for this chance to peak inside Cleveland Park's finest homes. See for yourself how these beloved historic homes have changed over time to accommodate modern lifestyles, while still maintaining their historic integrity.

For more information, please email staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org, call 202/237-2538 or visit www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org

Homes on the tour include:

- 3100 Highland Place
- 3209 Highland Place
- 3220 Highland Place
- 3225 Highland Place
- 3250 Highland Place
- 3301 Highland Place
- 2941 Newark Street
- 2957 Newark Street
- 3307 Newark Street

For more information, please email staff@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org, call 202/237-2538 or visit www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org

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Giverny in Cleveland Park

by Lou Ann May

Close to thirty CPHS members and guests arrived at Café Deluxe on Wisconsin Avenue for the September CPHS Preservation Café. They were transported to the gardens of France, courtesy of landscape architects Leslie Gignoux and Scott Fritz of the firm Fritz & Gignoux. Ms. Gignoux's Powerpoint presentation illustrated the use of color, hardscape, metal work, and water features throughout some of the most beautiful and noteworthy gardens of Europe such as Versailles and Giverny. She then showed color photos of homes and gardens in Washington to demonstrate how characteristics of those remarkable gardens can be scaled to meet the confines of a more typical residential garden.

Following the presentation, guests peppered Ms. Gignoux with questions specific to our area, while enjoying a delicious three-course meal in the private dining room of Café Deluxe. For additional information on Fritz & Gignoux, see their website at www.fritzgignoux.com.

Upcoming Preservation Cafes will focus on the History of Washington's Streets and Neighborhoods; Windows, Walls and Wood Floors; and A "How To" Guide to Researching Your Home's History. Watch the CPHS website www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org and your mail for a postcard with details. If you know of a speaker or a topic you think might be of interest to our membership, please let us know.

Exploring the Architecture of Cleveland Park

by Lou Ann May

Last June, in conjunction with Washington Architecture Foundation of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, CPHS presented "Exploring Architecture with Kids: The Neighborhoods of Washington, DC – Cleveland Park". 16 children had the opportunity to learn about their neighborhood through its

unique architecture. Led by architect MK Lanzillotta (who voluntarily created the fabulous guidebooks), the children and their parents enjoyed a guided walk through Cleveland Park where they learned about basic architecture and looked at their built environment from a new perspective. The tour concluded with a snack and an opportunity for participants to create a unique city.

Thank you to MK Lanzillotta for donating her time, expertise and sketches, the WAF's Beth Judy and CPHS's Board Member Carol Lynn Ward-Bamford for bringing this program to our attention, Washington International School for donating the space and Gwen Wright for her assistance in underwriting the program!



Call Box Artists and Volunteers in Ward 3 Honored

By Rhona C. Hartman

D.C. Councilmember Mary Cheh, on May 5, 2009, recognized and honored the artists and neighborhood volunteers in Ward 3 who worked on the District-Wide Art on Call Project. Pictured above with Ms. Cheh is Roz Beitler, Cleveland Park Historical Society Board Member and Chair of the CPHS Call Box Project. Representatives of Cathedral Heights, Forest Hills, Glover Park, McLean Gardens, Tenleytown, and Woodley Park were also present.

Ms. Cheh presented to each neighborhood a Ceremonial Resolution which summarized the Art on Call Project initiated in 2001. Fifty-seven of the 19th century abandoned and deteriorated cast iron police and fire call boxes in Ward 3 were transformed into permanent public art.

Each neighborhood conducted successful fund raising campaigns to supplement the funds provided by Cultural Tourism DC; selected a distinctive color scheme to identify its call boxes; and tapped local artists to illustrate a theme reflecting the rich architectural, historical, and cultural history of its location. The Ceremonial Resolution has been published in the District of Columbia Register.

The Great Outdoors Street Trees of Cleveland Park

By Chris Rose

Our neighborhood has been fortunate to have so many street trees planted to replace those that have been lost to age, wind, and storm. Here are some suggestions to ensure the survival and healthy growth of newly planted trees as well as our aged giants:

Tree trunks are tough but can still be injured. Protect the base of the tree and exposed roots from scrapes. Nails injure trees; look for other places to hang signs rather than on a tree. The tall stakes installed around young trees at planting protect the tree from car doors, lawn mowers, weedwhackers, and other hazards so keep stakes in place as long as you can.

Water - Young trees require 10-20 gallons (40-80 liters) of water each week during May to October. When there are weeks without rain, soak the ground around the tree. Gator bags are a great option but be sure to remove the bag during the winter or when not in use so the tree trunk can get sunlight and air. Generally trees are established three years after planting and do not need the gator bag. During drought, even big trees benefit from a good watering.

Preserving the Character of Cleveland Park

by Tony Bullock

We all know that Cleveland Park is a very special place. And keeping Cleveland Park special is what the Historical Society is all about.

Though we are better known for our more public activities—such as our House Tour, our Antiques Appraisal Day, our Garden Tour, the renovation of Macomb Playground, the historic Call Box restoration project, our new "Preservation Cafes"—our important work, to preserve the historic character of

Mulch - Don't be a volcano mulcher! Keep a 2-3 inch (5-7 cm) layer of shredded hardwood bark mulch around your tree leaving about 10 inches around the trunk free from mulch to prevent burning.

Pruning - Residents can request pruning of street trees through the DC Service Request Center. Only the DC Urban Forestry Administration can authorize pruning or removal of street trees. This is for your safety and the health of the trees.

To request or track your request to have a street tree planted or pruned or to report a damaged or fallen street tree, contact the DC Service Request Center via the web: <http://dc.gov/contact/index.shtm>. You can also call the DC City Service Center at: 311 and provide your request. The case number they give you will allow you to track the progress of your request.

To find out more about trees, check the DC Urban Forestry Administration website: <http://ufa.ddot.dc.gov/ufa/site/default.asp>.

The Tree Committee is happy to talk with neighbors about trees.

the Cleveland Park Community, is a day-to-day effort. The CPHS Architectural Review Commission (ARC) reviews and offers recommendations on all projects within the Historic District that come before the D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board.

There is no group in Washington, D.C. that is more active and more committed to maintaining the historic character of Cleveland Park than the Cleveland Park

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Ginger Bread Houses and Sugar Plum Fairies

by Kitty Forest

Sunday, December 6, 2009 - CPHS is sponsoring a Gingerbread House Decorating Event this holiday season for children of all ages. Come by yourself or bring members of your family and plenty of friends. The event will be held at the Cleveland Park Club (3433 33rd Pl) starting at 1:00. Children are not required to accompany adults, if the adults are of an artistic bent or just want to have some fun! Constructed Gingerbread Houses will be available as will all the decorations necessary to create your own house design - from Victorian to Industrial Modern!

This event is an opportunity for family and friends to create a decoration to be used at home during the holiday season.

For full details, check the CPHS website, www.clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org.



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Historical Society. And that commitment is essential to maintaining our quality of life and preserving the property values we all enjoy.

Please remember to renew your membership to CPHS when it arrives in the mail and get involved in the Cleveland Park Historical Society -- it's a small price to pay to help preserve our community.

For information on membership and volunteer opportunities, contact CPHS president at president@clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org or call the CPHS office at 202/237-2538.

CPHS WANTS YOU!

For membership, go to clevelandparkhistoricalsociety.org



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