



## CHEVY CHASE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Fall 2001

### Best Selling Author and Chevy Chase Resident, Jay Winik, to Address Fall Meeting

CCHS is delighted to announce that our Fall Meeting speaker is local writer and historian Jay Winik, talking about his recent best seller, *April 1865: The Month That Save America*. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 7, 2001 at the Chevy Chase Community Library at 8005 Connecticut Avenue at 7:30pm.

April 1865 is a fresh new look at the Civil War's final days. In a superbly told story, Mr. Winik captures the epic images and extraordinary history of these thirty pivotal days of US history including the fall of Richmond, a daring Southern plan for guerrilla warfare, Lee's harrowing retreat, and then Appomattox. It includes Lincoln's assassination, a near-successful plot to end the Union government, chaos in the North, collapsed negotiations and continued bloodshed in the South, and finally, the beginning of national reconciliation. Here are some of the comments about April 1865:

"Readers will come away with a new appreciation for that momentous month and a sharp understanding of why and how the Civil War was fought." — John J. Miller

"April 1865 is a superb piece of history. Jay Winik is a master storyteller with a remarkable tale to tell—full of tragedy, treachery, ambition, nobility, defiance and courage. He carries the reader with him . . . through one of the most monumental months in American History" — Doris Kearns Goodwin



Jay Winik

The last days of the Civil War come alive again...A gripping page-turner of a book." — Douglas Brinkley

Mr. Winik has had a distinguished career in government that put him in the thick of several civil wars abroad, from Cambodia to the former Yugoslavia. He is now a senior scholar at the University of Maryland's School of Public Affairs. A graduate of Yale (BA, PhD), he also has a Masters from the London School of Economics. He lives in Chevy Chase with his wife, Lyric, the writer and columnist..

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**Membership Time**— Memberships for the Chevy Chase Historical Society run October to October, so now is the time to renew your membership: \$15 annual membership, \$100 sustaining membership, \$500 lifetime membership. Contributions are, of course, always welcome. See page 4.

If you have friends, relatives or new neighbors who are not on our mailing list and you would like them to receive a copy of this newsletter, please let Helen Secrest know by calling her at 301-652-4878, or by e-mail at: [hpsecrest@aol.com](mailto:hpsecrest@aol.com).

“ Please take a moment to look at your address label and let Helen know if it is not correct.

We are so pleased that Mr. Winik will join us to discuss his new book. He has also kindly agreed to sign his book, which may be purchased at the meeting. Light refreshments will be offered. An exceedingly short business meeting will be



## The Thornapple Street News

*Published Every Saturday, 1931-1935*  
*Chevy Chase, MD*

If this headline has a familiar ring to you, you'll be sure to want to read this article. It's about a unique newspaper that was published at 128 East Thornapple Street by three boys, Larry, Leonard and Richard Williams. To be sure, their dad, Lawrence Williams, with the pioneer wholesale firm of Fries, Beall & Sharpe, and their mom, Louise Williams, a biology major in college and staff at the Smithsonian butterfly collections, aided in the venture. Leonard Williams II gives major credit to his mother for cutting the stencils and encouraging the staff in their work. But it was the boys who wrote, edited and published the weekly paper. The reporters also served as carriers and collectors – the price was a reasonable 10 cents a month or 15 cents by mail.

The first paper was published on October 10, 1931, and ran with few interruptions until June 6, 1936. Seventy years after its start, we thought it would be fun and instructive to look at some of the writing from that children's paper. We thank Mr. Wallace F. Janssen for binding the papers in 1987 and donating the book of bound papers to the Archives of the Chevy Chase Historical Society.

What is remarkable about the News is the breath of its coverage, spanning foreign news, local news, science and human interest. Here are some excerpts from weekly issues originally published in October 1931:



The fountain at Chevy Chase Circle with October 1999 early morning sunlight capturing its beauty.

### Foreign and national news:

*Mr Ghandi (sic) lives in India. He is trying to get his country free from England without war, and he has gone over to England to try to free his country. He won't drink anything but goat's milk so he had to take big cans of goat's milk along with him. He knits his own clothes, and he wears nearly nothing.*

*America had joined in with the League of Nations to try to stop a war between Japan and China. Nobody here wants war any more and we hope that the other countries don't.*

*Did you hear the news over the radio about Mr. Edison dying? He was a very great man and smart. He was trying to find a plant that would make rubber. He found one plant; but it would not make enough rubber to satisfy Mr. Edison. He was a poor boy and could not go to school; but he read many books and that is how he became so smart. The electric bulb which gives us light so easily and costs so little is his greatest invention. He is the greatest man who ever lived, I think.*

*Mr. Gandhi's goat, that he took to England along with his cans won first prize at the dairy show in England, and they named him "Mahatma." Mr. Gandhi has just had a birthday and it was his 62<sup>nd</sup>.*

On October 26, 1863, the Red Cross was started at Switzerland, and many poor people have been helped by it, and



The fountain today, after the accident in January 2001, crumbling sides and silent waters.

they have never stopped yet. Like the Chinese, Lindbergh helped them recently. If you will join the Red Cross, you will also be able to help those who need it. Next week is the time that people are s'posed to join.

#### **And on the local front:**

*The Brownies had their first meeting at the Chevy Chase School on Tuesday. Catherine Fowler belongs to the Brownies. She has a brown uniform that makes her really look like one.*

*We had a frost last week and it killed some of the people's flowers in their gardens. It is growing cold and the leaves are falling gradually. Rock Creek Park is beautiful now because the leaves are turning such bright colors.*

*There was a terrible fight over at school and one boy was nearly killed. He was knocked unconscious; but if it had not been for the bell ringing he probably would have been killed because the other boy was chocking (sic) him.*

*Mr. Gross cut his grass at four o'clock in the morning last week. Did you hear him?*

*A white dog came in the Shultz yard and took half the feathers off the back of one of the turkeys.*

*Mr. Gross (probably the same one who*

*cut his grass at 4am, ed.) has a television set. Have you seen it running? It looks like a moving picture being shown only not so clear. You see it through a lens about as big as you (sic) head if it is big, and you can see the sound waves in it.*

*Won't the new Chevy Chase Elementary School be fine? It will be ready to move into on the tenth of November. The boys fight in the woods near the school where they think the teachers can't find them. We think the woods will be made into a playground when the new school is finished, and the children will find more to do and will not fight so much of the time.*

If anyone has an original copy of the Thornapple News, the CCHS would love to add it to our Archives. Also, if anyone knows what happened to the Williams boys, we will share that information in our next newsletter.



## **CCHS to Establish New Headquarters**

The Historical Society is planning to move its extensive collection and archives to the Chevy Chase Community Library this fall. Space housing the collection and an office will be renovated in the lower level of the Library. Months of negotiation and planning with the Montgomery County Library System's personnel have resulted in a giant step forward for our plan for a public space. A formal agreement between the Montgomery County Library System and CCHS has been signed, and a contract with Ralph Smith of Architectural Design and Construction Services has been approved by the CCHS Board. The starting date for construction of CCHS space at the Montgomery County Library at 8005 Connecticut Avenue will be decided upon soon, and the renovation work will begin.

Our Board is 100% behind the project both in participation and in generous financial support. We are honored to have received significant support from prominent community friends to start a Capital Campaign drive that we will be reporting to our membership in the near future. You will be hearing more from CCHS as the project develops. We want to keep you informed as we enter this exciting new era.

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Please fill out the membership form below and return it with your check to the Chevy Chase Historical Society, P.O. Box 15145, Chevy Chase, Maryland 20825. Also, we would welcome your thoughts and suggestions on topics for Society lectures and its Newsletter. Please jot down your ideas on the membership form when returning it to the Society.

I would like to join/renew membership in the Chevy Chase Historical Society

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (Home): (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ Office (     ) \_\_\_\_\_

New address? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Family Membership (\$15)

\_\_\_ Sustaining Membership (\$100)

(become a Life Member in five years)

\_\_\_ Life Membership (\$500)

\_\_\_ Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestion Box



Checks should be made out to **Chevy Chase Historical Society** and mailed to:

**Box 15145,  
Chevy Chase, MD 20825**